



NUCLEAR POWER

Debated in Buckland
Page 5



EAGLE NEWS

From Barton Cove
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 18

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

Another Day, Another Budget Gap

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - "We're in a Depression, never mind a recession," declared selectboard member Lee Stevens on Monday, as the Gill board began to grapple with yet another yawning deficit in the current fiscal year operating budget.

It was barely a month ago, when Gill voters narrowly approved passage of a \$35,000 override to fund town departments on January 6th, that the town finally had a balanced budget and was able to set a tax rate for fiscal 2009.

Last week, with the stroke of a pen, Governor Deval Patrick tipped over the apple cart again, slashing \$26,000 in state aid to the town, more than halfway through the budget year.

"We fought so hard to save everything, and then the governor took it away," griped board chair Nancy Griswold. "We've been cutting and cutting since the very first day. We're still cutting. And the schools respond with a 2.7% increase!"

"There's no place to cut," said board member Ann Banash.

"There's going to have to be some choices somewhere," said Stevens.

"What are the alternatives?" responded Banash. "I don't see any. We can't afford to lay any- see **GILL** pg 12

It's February, and Believe it or not, the World is Heating Up

UMass Professor Speaks on Global Warming

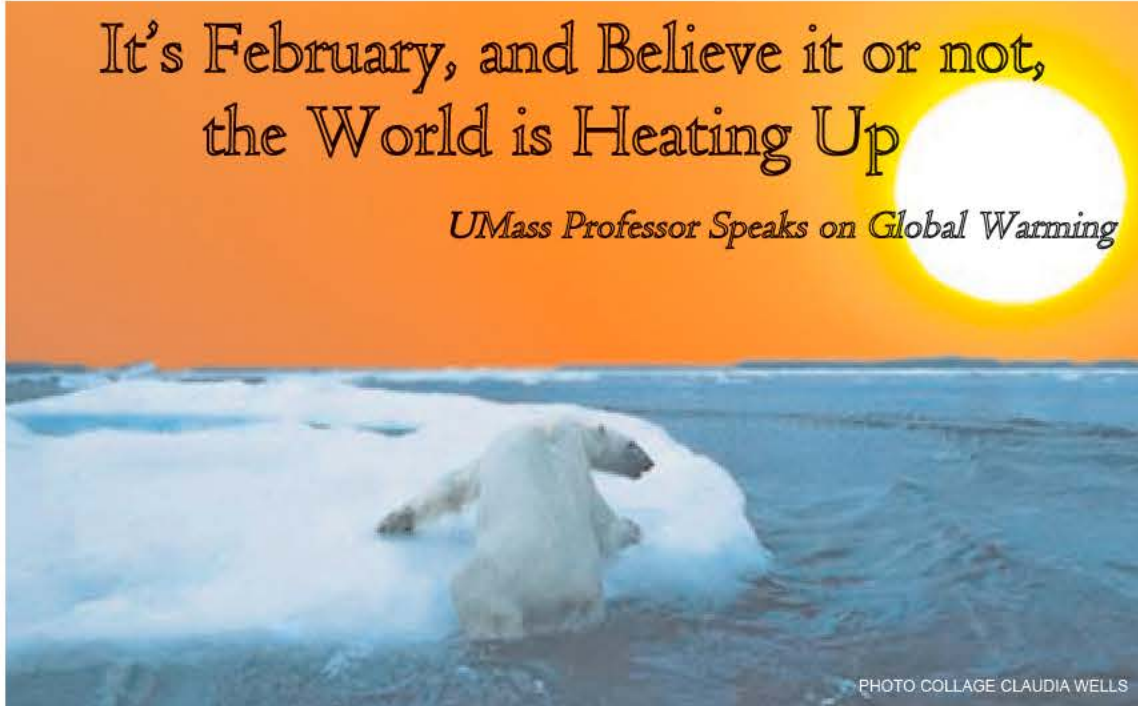


PHOTO COLLAGE CLAUDIA WELLS

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - "I hate to be the skunk at the garden party," said Tom Tolg, of Greenfield, as he rose to question UMass climate researcher Ray Bradley on Monday night at the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield. Bradley had just delivered a chilling PowerPoint lecture on the effects of rising population and fossil fuel consumption on climate change to an audience of 120 who had carefully made their way over the ice-bound roads of Franklin County to hear him speak on Global Warming.

"We should focus on stopping pollution," said Tolg, at the end of the question and answer period, "Not on the possibility of a one or two degree rise in temperature, which not even the scientific community agrees on."

Given the bitterly cold winter, and the piled up snow outside, there may have been more than a few in the audience who were inclined at first to agree with him.

But Bradley was not fazed. "Have you heard of the Flat Earth Society?" he asked Tolg. "You can find people to disagree with every proposition. But global warming is real. It is not something a bunch of scientists dreamed up. I've spent a lot of time talking with Congressional inquisitors who take that line, but I'm convinced they are a dying breed."

If Bradley is correct, and he has reams of scientific evidence to back him up, then Congressional naysayers on the topic of manmade climate change will not be the only species facing extinction in the coming years. As a result of carbon fuel consumption in a world that is adding a quarter of a million humans to the total population each and every day, Bradley predicts a combination of effects — including a rise in mean global temperatures of up to 5 degrees Celsius (or 9 degrees Fahrenheit) within this century, coupled with an increase in the acidification of the oceans, a rise in ocean levels of see **GLOBAL** page 9

Aging Equipment, Multiple Storms, Plowing Problems.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - A combination of bad weather and aging equipment has put the highway department in a jam and left the roads of Montague in tough shape following the last winter storm.

"We've been called out 41 times already this season for sanding and plowing," said highway boss Tom Bergeron. "We were only called out 57 times all last season. And in all of January, there've only been two days when the temperature got above 32 degrees."

The highway department has been fielding a lot of complaints this week about the condition of town roads, potholed and wash-boarded with ridges of solid ice that make travel treacherous. Bergeron reported to the selectboard on February 2nd — Groundhog Day — that this winter's plowing issues show no signs of letting up soon, and a lot of the problem is due to breakdowns of the department's aging equipment.

Take the last storm for example. On January 28th, Bergeron said, "The storm started about four in the morning. We had light snow through most of the see **EQUIPMENT** pg 8

Seniors Brush Up on Money Management

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS - In these tough economic times, handling your money wisely has become an increasingly vital topic. Fortunately for area residents, the Franklin County Home Care Corporation's money management program in Turners Falls and the family self-sufficiency program of the Greenfield Housing Authority are there to help.

The two groups recently combined with the Franklin County Bar Association to sponsor a free, five-part educational program for senior citizens seeking to improve their financial skills. The classes were held at Franklin County Home Care.

"FCHCC felt they had many people who use their services," said instructor Ellen Campbell, "who needed help in managing their budgets in the face of today's difficult economic challenges."

Campbell team-taught the classes with family self-sufficiency program coordinator Melinda Kosterman and Lori Davis, Section 8 home ownership coordinator. The three provide expertise to families who are on subsidized housing with

Section 8 vouchers at the Greenfield Housing Authority.

Psychology plays an enormous role in the use of money, according to Campbell. "We start our classes with how people personally relate to money," she said, "in order to take it out of the purely intellectual realm. Many of our buying decisions are emotional. By being more open and honest with our budget, we can, hopefully, learn to make sounder choices in how we spend our money."

The art of sifting through alternatives is crucial to becoming a savvy consumer, Campbell said. "It's important to consider other options than the first idea that comes to mind in meeting budget needs, especially in contemplating a large purchase."

For example, using newspaper and flyer coupons, buying in bulk, and planning your spending around current sales at the local food stores can all be very simple but extremely helpful means of stretching your food shopping dollars.

Campbell's recent class for seniors see **MONEY** pg 6

GMRSD Budget Process Moves Forward

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL - MONTAGUE - With the preliminary Fiscal 2010 school budget for the Gill-Montague Regional School District now pegged at a 2.7% increase above last year, the process for establishing an actual budget number continues.

The school committee's first step has been to set up a process by which they can meet together with town officials to develop a budget they hope will meet the needs of both the schools and the towns. The school committee has decided to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in between their regular meetings, to work on the budget. These will be public meetings, with members of town government invited to attend.

The first such budget meeting was held on January 20th, with continued discussion in the regular school committee meeting held on January 27th. By holding budget meetings with the

full school committee present, instead of continuing the former system of having the budget sub-committee meet separately to analyze the numbers and make budget decisions to report back to the full committee for a vote, the school committee hopes for more public awareness around the budget development process for residents of the district. All meetings will be posted, open to the public and broadcast live on local access Channel 17 through MCTV.

Addressing the long delay that led to a rushed decision on the preliminary budget last week, school committee chair Mary Kociela explained that the lengthy debate over the FY09 budget had pushed discussion of the FY10 budget off to January. "Ordinarily, we would have started this in September," she said.

Kociela presented the basic process agreed upon by the school committee. They have decided on four main goals for the budget process — to develop an see **GMRSD** pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK

I'm Lovable



Zeus

My name is Zeus and I'm a five-year-old male orange and white cat in need of a good home. I'm sweet, friendly and loveable. I enjoy being petted and rubbed under my chin. I like treats and fishy foods and I absolutely adore catnip! I tested FIV+ in the shelter, and I'm looking for a home where I can be an only cat or live with other FIV+ cats. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

Corrections

The photo for Faces and Places of Joseph A. Parzych last week was incorrectly credited to Joseph M. Parzych. In fact, it was taken by Joseph R. Parzych. Don't know how we mixed that up.

Also last week, on a page 9 preview of a new art show at the Rendezvous, we managed to misspell the name of artist Cathe Janke, whose first name begins with a C, not a K, and for both these errors we do apologize.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Love and Family Stories

BY RUTH O'MARA

TURNERS FALLS - Children and their families are invited to come and enjoy story hour at the Carnegie Library on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m., with stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks. The weekly free series is designed for kids under age 5. This is a great time to meet new people, listen to stories, chat and spend a Wednesday morning. Coffee and juice will be available. Great for home schoolers!

This month's schedule: February 11th - Love and Family Stories, February 18th - Pets, and February 25th - Owl Tales.

Valentine's Party

at the Carnegie Library

On Saturday, February 7th at 10:30 a.m., the Carnegie Library will hold its annual children's Valentine's Party. Children of all ages can come and make fun Valentine inspired crafts, cards and heart themed projects; all materials provided. Parents and other caregivers are welcome to come and create a special Valentine at this free program. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls at 863-3214.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Movement Benefit Social

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE CENTER - There will be an Ice Cream Social at the Montague Center Library on Wednesday, February 11th from 6 - 8 p.m. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are running this fun event, with proceeds going

to help support the Music and Movement weekly series at the libraries. Chances to win Boston Red Sox tickets, donated by Rist Insurance, will also be sold at the social. The drawing will be in March. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Legislative Breakfast

BY LINDA WENTWORTH - Libraries are essential for economic development and strong communities, and especially essential in hard times, when the public depends on them for job-hunting resources, educational materials, free sources of entertainment, money-saving guides, and more.

On Friday, February 13th, from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., the Leverett Library on 75 Montague Road will host the

14th annual library legislative breakfast for the district of state senator Stan Rosenberg (D - Amherst).

Western Massachusetts library lovers are worried that many services, including delivery of interlibrary loans, are at risk. Interlibrary loans have grown at such a phenomenal rate in recent years that C/W MARS has this month been forced to reduce the number of holds patrons can place, and

FACES & PLACES



KAREN STINCHFIELD PHOTO

Stephanie Marshall plays at the dedication of the Brick House Community Arts & Performance Space on Jan. 21st.

Erving Library News

New Hours

BY BARBARA FRIEDMAN - The Erving public library will now be open Sundays! As of February 1st, our new hours are: Sunday 1 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday 1 a.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Thursday 1 a.m. - 7 p.m.

future cuts to the interlibrary loan system are feared.

Library supporters from throughout Rosenberg's district are invited to attend. Among the guests will be Senator Rosenberg himself, Brady Merrigan, legislative aide to state representative Christopher Donelan, and state representatives Denis Guyer, Peter Kocot, Stephen Kulik, John Scibak, and Ellen Story.

PARZYCH ESCAPES

JOE M. PARZYCH GILL - My father, Joseph A. Parzych, better known as the Gill Gourmet, has figured out the code to the lock on the door of the nursing home, and made good his escape. He is expected home sometime this afternoon (Wednesday), and should be lying low for the next few weeks, catching up on correspondence, and perfecting new recipes. Thank you for all your good wishes for his recovery.

Senior Chair Yoga Classes

Chair Yoga classes with Jean Erlbaum will be held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 5th Street, Turners Falls, on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. on the following Tuesdays: March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, April 14th, 21st, 28th, May 12th, 19th, and 26th. These classes offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, oiling for joints and fun! People from all towns and all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs, are invited. There is a discounted price of \$2.00 for each class. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call Bunny Caldwell at 413-863-4500.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Amy Vieu

Grade 7

Tyler Richardson

Grade 8

Rylen Kelly

Hannah Harvey

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Feb. 9th to 13th

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

Monday, 9th

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Tuesday, 10th

9:00 a.m. Walking, weather permitted

1:00 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, 11th

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 12th

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

10:30 a.m. Michelle Miner from Harborside will speak on Sleeping and Insomnia. Learn what is normal, what causes insomnia, and how to deal with it.

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 13th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics
AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will be providing free tax return preparation for Montague and Gill Seniors at Montague Senior Center. Please call to make an appointment. A few openings are still available on March 24th. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers work in conjunction with the IRS to bring you this service. If filing a joint return, both spouses should attend the appointment unless impossible. Call the center for details.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413-423-3308. Lunch

daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Polly Kiely at 413-423-3308.

Monday, 9th

9 a.m. Exercise

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 10th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 11th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12 noon Bingo

Thursday, 12th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics.

Friday, 13th

9 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Lunch:

12:30 p.m. Embroidery

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Kathy Swaim is the director: (978) 544-2020. Call for hours and upcoming programs.

Upcoming writing workshop Monday, February 16th, 7 - 9 p.m. This first meeting of a series is to explore the direction of interests for the program. Please register for the workshop with meeting chairperson Nina Keller at 978-544-2857.

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Director of Assessing Aims for Accuracy



Barbara Miller
Montague's Director of Assessing

JEN AUDLEY MONTAGUE - Barbara Miller, Montague's new director of assessing, landed in the deep end of the town's budget woes when she started work on July 2nd, 2008, and she's barely come up for air since. However, since tax bills finally went out last week, Miller said, "We're still busy — we'll always be busy — but now we're busy in a more normal way."

Miller, who comes to Montague with experience in the assessors offices of Blandford, Easthampton, and, most recently, Hatfield, has nothing but praise for her colleagues in the assessors office, Jessica St. Amand, assessing clerk, and Doug McIntosh,

assessing technician, and for the town's elected board of assessors. "Our job is to ensure fair and equitable values for everyone, and having a strong group with continuity is a key to that."

Miller, who lives an hour away in Chester, applied for the job at the suggestion of her predecessor, JoAnn Greenleaf, who retired at the end of the last fiscal year.

"I thought it was too far away," Miller recalled on a recent snowy day at her office in town hall. The long drive out for an interview confirmed her apprehensions. "And then I saw the canal with the path running alongside it, and I changed my mind. I thought 'I'll walk on that bike path at lunchtime every day.'"

Wintry weather and the town's new half-hour lunch policy have made that more challenging, but Miller looks forward to more time outdoors come spring.

Miller set the FY 2009 tax rate using values set by Greenleaf and sales data from 2007, among other variables, as required by the state Department of Revenue. She said that from what she's seen so far, Montague's property valuations seem to be "in good shape." However, she added several articles to the warrant for the December 2008 town meeting, some of which were aimed at ensuring that elderly and blind property owners would have access to the maximum abatements allowable

under the current state tax code. "I want to do everything I can to help," said Miller, recognizing the financial challenges facing the town and its residents.

Miller said that for the property tax system to be truly fair and equitable, assessments must be accurate. "We do have to measure and look inside people's houses, but not because we're looking for reasons to raise their taxes. Really, our goal is to make sure the record for each property is accurate."

Miller encouraged property owners to review their property record cards and said she's glad to help them do so.

"Anyone is welcome to come in and ask questions or look at their property record card. Our goal is transparency."

Students Donate to Dakin Animal Shelter

BY PAUL COHEN TURNERS FALLS - Students and teachers from the Pre-Employment Program (PEP) at Franklin County Technical School presented Lori Swanson, director of the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett, with a check for \$500, proceeds from a successful December sale of colorful, homemade scarves donated by Charlotte Choleva. Following the presentation of the check, the students were treated to a tour of the shelter and an opportunity to pet the many cats and dogs available for adoption.

The PEP program is a unique, tuition based program designed for students with developmental delays. This small but effective program works with students on many educational and independent living skills. Academic skills such as reading, math and critical thinking are practiced daily. Life skills such as cooking and laundry, and shop



PAUL COHEN PHOTO

Photo: Top Row, left to right: Vocational instructor Guy Lapollo, Anna Dingman from Greenfield, Melissa Coleman from Orange, Nick Pasiencnik from Deerfield, Corey Therien from Erving, Kenny Kulewicz from Montague, Scott Dean from Charlemont, paraprofessional Brittney Foisy. Bottom row, left to right: Academic instructor Charles Choleva, Alicia Rhodes from Greenfield, teaching assistant JoAnn Stafford, Dakin's Lori Swanson.

trade skills such as auto detailing, recycling processing, machine technology, culinary arts, auto technology and office technology are some of the employment skills that offer our students a better

chance toward future independent living and job placement.

For more information about the Pre-Employment Program, please contact FCTS special education director Leslie Brown.

Superintendent Search

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on an advisory committee to assist with the search for a new superintendent of schools. Search committee member must commit to an interview schedule covering five days in March: 3/9, 3/11, 3/12, 3/16 and 3/17, from 6 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. each evening. The search committee will be responsible for narrowing a semi-finalist field of eight to ten candidates to three to five candidates. The committee will be comprised of

teachers, three parents, one administrator, one student, one senior citizen, two town officials, and the special education director, and will be assisted by Pat Correia from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Any interested party who would like to be considered for the advisory committee should notify the school committee in writing by February 20th. Letters of interest can be sent to the GMRSD, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376 Attn: Mary Kociela, Superintendent Search.

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Investing in America

REP. JOHN OLVER

AMHERST - As you may know, on Wednesday, January 28th, the House of Representatives passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by a vote of 244 - 188. Developed with the Obama administration, this job creation package will rebuild America, making us more globally competitive and energy independent, transforming our economy for long-term growth, and investing quickly in the economy.

The need for action is both real and urgent. Banks are not lending; credit is frozen, and a staggering 2.6 million American jobs were lost last year alone. Our unemployment rate in Massachusetts is now at seven percent. We need a shock, an infusion of capital, to keep the economy from flat lining.

This package will provide the jolt necessary to get our economy moving again. And the impact will be seen and felt quickly: the Congressional Budget Office estimates that if this bill is enacted, by the end of this year we will have 3.6 million more jobs than if we do nothing. In fact, the stimulus will bring or save 95,000 jobs in our state alone.

The stimulus plan's provisions are far-reaching, addressing everything from building a green economy to providing tax cuts to 95 percent of American

workers. Here are some key investments I thought you would be interested to hear about:

TAX CUTS:

Tax Cuts for American Families (\$185 billion over 10 years) - will provide immediate and sustained tax relief through a refundable tax credit of up to \$500 per worker (\$1000 per couple filing jointly), phasing out at \$200,000 for couples filing jointly and \$100,000 for single filers. This bill also expands the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, and the credit for first-time home purchasers.

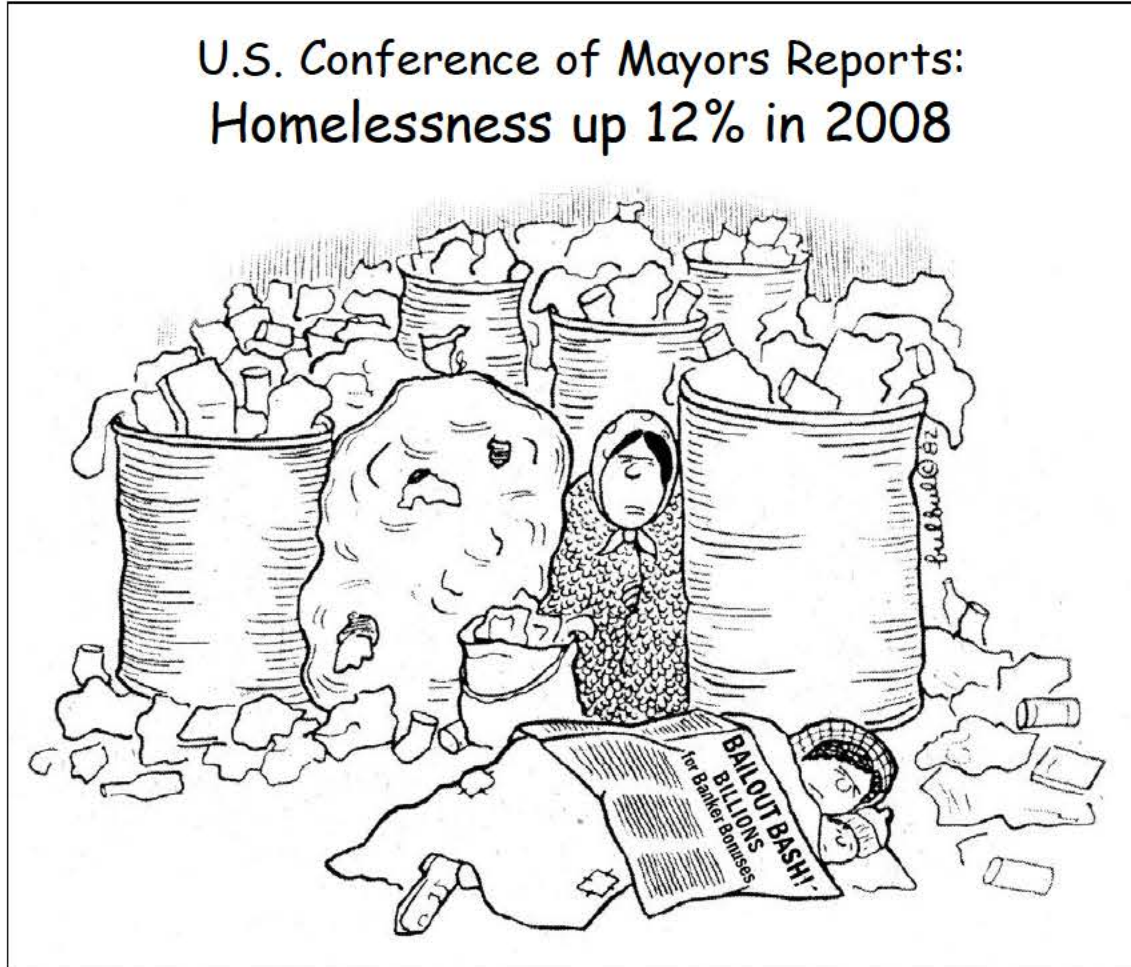
Business Tax Incentives to Create Jobs and Spur Investment (\$20 billion over 10 years) - will provide incentives to create new jobs with tax credits for hiring recently discharged unemployed veterans and youth that have been out of work and out of school for the six months prior to hire; and help businesses quickly recover costs of new capital investment.

Tax Incentives to Spur Energy Savings and Create Green Jobs (\$20 billion over 10 years) - extends the production tax credit for electricity derived from alternative sources (such as wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydropower); expands tax credits for energy efficient investments in homes.

HELPING WORKERS HURT BY THE RECESSION:

- *Helping Workers Find Jobs* - provides approximately \$5 billion for job training and placement services.

- *Extending and Improving Unemployment Benefits* - continues through December 2009 the extended unemployment bene-



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More on Ted Martin

I, too, would like to say you did a wonderful job in the article about Ted Martin (*MR VII #14: Run Down in His Prime*). I didn't have the privilege of knowing Ted, but it is clear that he was a very dedicated officer, father and friend.

My husband, Bob Hunter, was a police officer for many years in Montague and I know what a dedicated department the town has. Montague is very lucky to have a police department like this. Being the wife of a police officer has shown me

what an officer goes through every day they put on their uniform, and also what their family goes through.

Your paper does such a wonderful job of reporting the news, and also getting to the heart of what happens in all of our towns and how it affects the citizens that live here!

- Cindy Hunter
Gill

fits program (which provides up to 33 weeks of extended benefits), thereby helping an additional 3.5 million jobless workers.

- *Increasing Food Stamp Benefits* - by over 13% to help offset rising food costs for more than 31 million Americans, half of whom are children.

- *Increasing Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)* - provides \$1 billion to help low-income families pay for home heating and cooling.

- *Expanding Housing Assistance* - increases support for several critical housing programs, including providing \$4.2 billion to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties; \$1.5 billion to provide short-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services for families; and \$22 billion in direct loans and loan guarantees to help rural families and individuals buy homes during the credit crunch.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE:

- *Modernizing Roads and Bridges* - creates 835,000 jobs through investment in transportation, with \$30 billion for high-way construction.

- *Improving Public Transit and Rail* - creates 200,000 jobs with investments in transit and rail to reduce traffic congestion and dependence on foreign oil.

ENERGY:

- *Smarter Energy Grid* - creates \$80 billion in temporary loan guarantees for renewable energy power generation and electric transmission projects that begin in the next two years.

- *Improving Energy Efficiency in Housing* - invests in energy efficiency upgrades in HUD sponsored low-income housing, public housing, and more than one million modest-income homes.

- *Green Job Training and Energy Efficient Schools* - \$500 million to train workers for green-collar jobs.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & INNOVATION:

- *National Institutes of Health* - \$1.5 billion for biomedical research jobs to study diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease.

- *Broadband and Wireless Service* - \$6 billion for extending broadband and wireless services to underserved communities across the country, so that rural businesses can compete.

HEALTH CARE:

- *Protecting Health Care Coverage for Millions Through Medicaid* - provides an estimated \$87 billion in additional federal funds to help states maintain their Medicaid programs in the face of massive state budget shortfalls.

- *Providing Health Insurance for Unemployed Workers* - provides a 65% subsidy for COBRA premiums for up to 12 months.

- *Modernizing the Health Care System* - provides \$20 billion to accelerate adoption of Health Information Technology systems to save billions of dollars, create high-tech jobs, reduce medical errors, and improve quality.

EDUCATION:

- *Making College More Affordable* - improves current higher education tax credits and makes them accessible to more low-income students

- *Investing in Early Childhood Development* - provides \$2.1 billion for Head Start, thereby providing services for 110,000 additional children; provides \$2 billion to provide child care services to an additional 300,000 children in low-income families.

- *Preventing Teacher Layoffs and Education Cuts by the States* - establishes a \$79 billion State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to prevent teacher layoffs and other cuts in education.

The scope of this package reflects the gravity of the economic crisis. This investment in American infrastructure and American workers will put us back on track and help us lay a solid foundation to build upon.

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Nuclear Power Debated



Moderator Buzz Eisenberg (second from left) keeps Michael Daley (l-r), Howard Shaffer, and Mark Gilmore on track at the Buckland debate on the merits of nuclear power. (Deb Katz is pictured top left, front page.)

BY DAVID DETMOLD

BUCKLAND - The pros and cons of nuclear power in general — and Vermont Yankee in particular — kept an audience of about 40 West County residents captivated on the second floor of the Buckland town hall for three hours on Tuesday night, as moderator Buzz Eisenberg, of Ashfield, tossed questions to a panel made up of two anti-nuclear activists (Deb Katz, of Rowe, director of the Citizens Awareness Network and alterna-

tive energy specialist Michael Daley, of Westminster, VT) and two Entergy Nuclear employees (nuclear engineer Howard Shaffer, of Enfield, NH, and Mark Gilmore, of Deerfield, Entergy emergency evacuation planner). The event was broadcast live on Buckland/Shelburne and Greenfield community television stations.

Although the format had the potential for fireworks, there were few sparks flying in what Eisenberg aptly characterized as

a “civil discourse,” with each side doing their level best to get their points across, and finding a surprising degree of common ground in a call for more energy conservation and alternative energy production. The panelists parted ways when it came to the timetable for bringing enough renewable energy on line to make Vermont Yankee obsolete, with Katz and Daley saying the 37-year-old 620 MW boiling water reactor could be taken off line now — and certainly by 2012 when the plant’s original operating license expires — with no discernable impact to Franklin County ratepayers or the reliable delivery of electricity to New England, and Shaffer and Gilmore saying such a move would cause rates to increase, with no steady base load supply available today to replace the nuclear plant’s output.

In his opening remarks, Shaffer, an engineer with 40 years experience in the field, who helped design Mark I reactors including Vermont Yankee, said, “Radiation and radioactivity are natural forces. The sun runs on a natural chain reaction. Radiation is a natural force of nature, like

fire. Like fire, we have problems with radioactivity sometimes. This doesn’t mean we should give up using it. We get a lot of benefits from radiation and radioactivity,” and he gave examples like ship propulsion, nuclear medicine, and electrical power production.

He quoted Marie Curie (a pioneer in the field of nuclear medicine, who died of radiation poisoning), “Nothing is to be feared; everything is to be understood.”

Deb Katz said, “We’re really at a crossroads in the way we deal with energy at this point. We have monumental decisions to make, and not a lot of time to make them. Vermont Yankee’s license is expiring in 2012. What kind of energy do we want for our children’s future? Act 160, which CAN helped to pass, empowered the Vermont legislature to make the decision on whether to allow Vermont Yankee’s license to be extended for 20 more years;” (that vote is now pending in the statehouse in Montpelier). “That is revolutionary! We have a decision to make. Do we want to continue a legacy of nuclear waste on the banks of the Connecticut River, or do we

want sustainable energy for our future, a legacy we can be proud of?”

Mark Gilmore said he had agreed to speak at the debate because at Vermont Yankee, “You have a lot of people working at a facility that doesn’t have a lot of open press. I interface with the local communities in the emergency planning zone. I’m a firefighter. I know the facts of radioactive material. I’m here to try to get good information into people’s hands who deal with emergency evacuation planning.”

see NUCLEAR pg 10

“The smallest dose of low-level ionizing radiation has the potential to cause an increase in health risks to humans. The health risks — particularly the development of solid cancers in organs — rise proportionally with exposure.”

— from the National Academy of Sciences’ report on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation; June 29th, 2005

Proper Disposal of Household Hazards



Jessica Harmon Illustration

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD - Have you updated your old wall mounted thermostat to a digital one? If so, don’t throw out that old thermostat; it is hazardous waste. The Franklin County Solid Waste District would like to remind Montague residents how to properly dispose of common household hazards. The items below should be kept out of the

trash. Residents of other towns can find information specific to their towns in an upcoming town newsletter, or by contacting the Solid Waste District.

The following items may be properly disposed of, free of charge, by handing them to the Montague transfer station attendant* (due to safety concerns, residents should not deposit items in the shed themselves):

- Cell phones
- Rechargeable batteries: found in cell phones, cordless phones, some cameras, cordless power tools, laptops, etc.
- Alkaline batteries
- Motor oil

Mercury containing items, also accepted free of charge:

- Wall mounted thermostats, non-digital (also accepted at District office, address below)
- Thermometers with silver

liquid (also accepted at District office, address below)

- Button batteries found in hearing aids, watches, calculators, toys, singing greeting cards
- Silent light switches
- Furnace or boiler controls

Other common household hazardous waste, accepted at Montague transfer station for a small fee:

- All fluorescent light bulbs, including the new energy-saving compact fluorescent lights (also accepted at Home Depot and Aubuchon Hardware, free of charge)
- Ballasts from fluorescent light fixtures

The following special wastes may be brought to the transfer stations listed below. Fees may apply.

- Oil based paints, thinners, lacquers, and other paint-related

items (Latex paint can be dried out and put in the trash)

- Transmission fluid
- Anti-freeze

Locations: residents may bring the above materials to these transfer stations at the designated times:

1. **Bernardston Transfer Station:** First Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (Dec.-Apr.); 8 a.m. - 12 noon (May-Nov.) Rt. 91, Exit 28A to 10 N, right on Merrifield, right on Nelson Drive
2. **Conway Transfer Station:** First Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rt. 5/10 to 116N to Whately Rd, bear right at Old Cricket Hill Rd, up hill
3. **Colrain Transfer Station:** Every Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rt. 2 to Rt. 112N, left on Charlemont Road

Hazardous wastes not listed here may be brought to the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection held in Montague, Charlemont, and Orange each September.

Links for more information:
www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/products.htm
www.franklincountywaste-district.org/mercury.html
www.franklincountywaste-district.org/what_do_i_do_with.html: the Solid Waste District’s listing of proper disposal for over 350 items.

* The Montague transfer station is located off Turnpike Road, behind Judd Wire, and is open: Wednesday 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - noon

For more information call 413-772-2438 or visit: www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org

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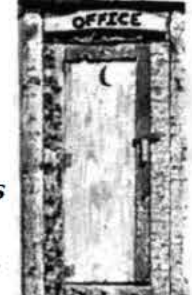
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MONEY from 1 went into depth on ways of making ends meet in a troubled economy. The curriculum offered advice on declaring bankruptcy, the difference between good debt (affordable mortgages that build assets and equity and loans for college) versus bad debt (buying things you can't afford or don't need), learning which bills to pay first, and tracking all expenses.

"It's hard to be realistic and objective about what we can afford," Campbell said. "People have a lot of guilt when they

come to the realization they're spending more than they can afford. This causes stress, and when they have to decide which bill to pay, when they can't pay them all, this is a wakeup call that a person needs to do something differently in their approach to money."

Again, Campbell noted, financial acumen is tied to personal psychology. "We tend to base our self-worth on money," Campbell said, "and the things it can buy. Some people judge others on what they have, instead of who they are. So, if we

have a comfortable relationship with our money and choose our friends based on solid values, we tend to have a better life."

Furthermore, emotional spending is a critical piece of money problems. "Spending just doesn't buy happiness. Mismanagement of money only leads to disaster — debt, regret, broken dreams, and a basement full of junk."

In addition, Section 8 home ownership coordinator Davis added that credit is another important part of sound financial control. Traditionally, credit is granted on the Three C's — capacity, capital, and character.

"Consumers should be fully aware," Davis said, "of how their buying habits will affect their credit. The lower your credit score, the higher your APR (Annual Percentage Rate) will be for purchases. It's very important that consumers obtain their free annual report from one of the major credit reporting

agencies." The Big Three credit agencies are Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

The many topics covered by the financial management class for seniors included learning about attitudes, values, and goals about money; budgeting; banking services, savings, and long term planning; plus money saving tips and how to review a credit report.

Campbell, who is retiring February 27th, said she received a lot of satisfaction by helping people solve their difficulties with money.

"A gentleman in the class volunteered that he had money problems in the past, and was doing much better now as a result of the class. That really delighted me."

On the day of Campbell's retirement, a farewell party is planned in the community room at the Greenfield Housing Authority from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Abolitionist Portrayals

OLD DEERFIELD - The Pioneer Valley Institute will bring Charlemont librarians Bambi Miller and Mary Boehmer and their popular programs on the 19th Century abolitionist movement in western Massachusetts to Old Deerfield on Thursday, February 12th, at 7:00 p.m., when Miller and Boehmer offer "Remembrance of Our Past." The pair take on the personae of cousins Mary Leavitt and Elizabeth Field, members of the well-known abolitionist Leavitt family. The following Thursday, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m., they will again discuss the Underground Railroad and the role that needlework and quilting played in that era in a program called "Hands and Hearts to Cloth". Both programs, which will be held at the Deerfield Teachers Center, are free and open to the public.



Instructors Melinda Kosterman (left) and Ellen Campbell

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Katrina Bergman quit smoking 2 years ago.

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The Neighborhood Toxicologist Going for Peanuts

BY EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE CENTER - Lately, I've been craving peanut butter. Maybe it's because my husband finished off the jar a week or so ago, and didn't put it on the list (grrr), or maybe it's because I can't pick up a newspaper without reading about the great peanut butter recall. Although you'd think that hearing peanut butter linked with Salmonella - as it so often is these days - would be enough to scare me away, you can't reason with a craving.

In the ongoing U.S. Food and Drug Administration case making headlines around the country, contaminated peanut products have been linked to a single peanut processing plant owned by the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) in Blakely, Georgia, now the focus of a criminal investigation.

In the largest food recall to date, over 400 items and 31 million pounds of peanut product have been removed from the shelves of stores and institutions. The recall ranges from Clif Bars and Luna bars that contain peanut butter to Trader Ming's (AKA

Trader Joe's) Spicy Kung Pao Chicken, Big Y Sundae Cones and Famous Amos Soft Batch Peanut Butter cookies. But so far, the only brand of actual peanut butter recalled is King Nut, a brand distributed only through food services.

Plunking a jar of Teddy All Natural peanut butter onto the check-out belt at Stop & Shop, I felt a little sheepish. Was anyone wondering if I'd been in a news blackout for the past few weeks? Who in their right mind would be buying peanut butter when peanut products are the stars of the Federal Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) largest food recall ever? Certainly not Robert Humphrey, the retired insurance executive from Georgia, who according to the Atlanta-Journal Constitution has given up all peanut products (normally a mainstay of his diet). And Humphrey isn't alone. In Houston, schools pulled all peanut products from vending machines and menus, as did school districts in Michigan, Connecticut and California, among others.

While I couldn't find any

evidence of Bay State districts jumping on the peanut bandwagon, according to Jim Loynd, food service director for the Gill-Montague district, "All of our elementary schools are peanut free. At the middle school and high school building we've checked to make sure we don't have products affected by recall. The only peanut butter products we have are from the USDA commodities program," which, according to their website, did not purchase any recalled peanut butter.

Amidst all the furor, the FDA asserts, "major national brands of jarred peanut butter found in grocery stores are not affected by the [Peanut Corporation of America] recall," though they caution that some "boutique brands" of peanut butter may be subject to recall.

Salmonella typhimurium isn't a bug to be trifled with. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported over five hundred cases of illness from 43 states since September, with a 22% hospitalization rate. Eight deaths have tentatively been linked to the outbreak.

Like most bacteria that live in or infect our guts, Salmonella typhimurium, are facultative anaerobic bacteria. That means

that they grow and thrive with or without oxygen. They're versatile, unlike one of my favorites, Clostridium botulinum, a strict anaerobe for which oxygen is toxic. When present in an airtight can, for example, Clostridium may produce botulinum toxin, one of the most potent toxins known. Fortunately for us, it not only produces toxin but also gaseous metabolic byproducts - enough to cause bulging lids in canned goods, cluing us in to its deadly presence. Last year at Stop&Shop, I picked up a nice toxic can of tuna.

Salmonella infections, caused by ingesting contaminated foods like undercooked chicken, eggs, and more recently tomatoes, are the most frequently reported food-related infections in the U.S. While some studies indicate upwards of one million salmonella bacteria are required for you to experience acute onset of fever and chills, nausea and vomiting, abdominal cramping, and diarrhea, some outbreaks may be caused by just a few hundred bugs.

The "infectious dose" varies based on a number of factors, including age and immunity of the host, and the food matrix. According to the USDA, foods

high in fat, (like peanut butter) may protect the bacteria from harsh conditions in our guts.

Wondering about my Teddy peanut butter, I found the American Peanut Council's web page (peanutsUSA.com) which lists links to dozens of company sites whose products have not (yet) been recalled, including the Leavitt Corporation of Everett, MA, that produces the Teddy brand. Teddy, they say, is clean. According to Leavitt's site, they've never used PCA products, and don't use peanut products from outside the company.

While Teddy was clean, cruising the FDA recall site (www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hotspots/salmonellatyp.html) I found reason to pitch the Keebler Toast & Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers that had been sitting in the pantry since last spring.

If you've got peanut products in your house, I'd suggest taking a gander at the FDA site. Of course, if you're in doubt you'd do best to throw it out, especially when President Obama has just promised a complete review of FDA itself.

Oh, and just in case you're wondering, it's been a week since we got the Teddy, and so far so good.

GMRSD from pg 1

educationally sound budget, to build community support for the schools through public communication, to use the state's temporary budget oversight role to share responsibility for the budget,

and to work with town officials to develop a sustainable budget for the district and towns for future years.

In December, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assumed fiscal oversight of the Gill-

Montague Regional School District, following the failure of the towns and the district to reach agreement on an '09 budget.

The DESE appointed associate commissioner Jeffrey Wulfson to oversee district finances, and the school committee agreed to invite him to attend one regular school committee meeting each month. Whatever meeting he attends will be held at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., to allow additional time for discussion of budget issues.

Committee members agreed it was important that they include Wulfson in discussions on an ongoing basis. The chairs of the Gill and Montague finance committees and selectboards will be formally invited to attend these

meetings, to hear updates from Wulfson and to participate in budget making discussions.

Rocke Reports Good News

Ken Rocke reported that the governor's preliminary state budget keeps Chapter 70 funding for the schools in place for FY10 at last year's levels. This is the largest source of state education funding for the district. While this is relatively good news, compared to forecasts for cities and towns, where cuts of 10% or more are predicted for Fiscal '10, Rocke cautioned the budget still has to be approved by the legislature.

Rocke said there is also hope for stimulus money from the federal government to fund school districts. He warned the committee not to count on this

money, or consider it in the budget process.

In a presentation to the school committee, Rocke provided a detailed breakdown of 2008-2009 school expenditures as a starting point for forming a budget for FY10.

Superintendent Rocke stated that a lot of this information will be made available on the GMRSD website, in the "Superintendent's Corner."

There will be a public hearing held next Tuesday, February 10 at 6 p.m. at TFHS with a presentation on the budget and an opportunity for questions from the public. A regular Gill-Montague Regional District School Committee meeting will follow at 7 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Fights and Domestic Violence

Thursday, 1/29

7:41 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a G Street address. Peace restored.

Saturday, 1/31

4:23 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a West Main Street address. Arrested

Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

8:19 p.m. Report of a fight at Millers Pub. East Main Street. Arrested

Charged with disorderly conduct.

Sunday, 2/1

7:25 p.m. Report of a fight at ExxonMobil on Third Street. Peace restored.

Monday, 2/2

12:36 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Bridge Street address. Peace restored.

12:57 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at an Old Northfield Road address. Referred to another agency.

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from **EQUIPMENT** page 1 morning. We sanded our main roads as usual and started plowing about 11 or 12 o'clock. The snow got heavier as the day went on," and freezing rain began to fall on top of the snow. "We continued plowing into the night."

As dark came down, first one plow truck, then a second, were knocked out of commission with broken springs while plowing in Montague Center. Bergeron said this probably happened when the drivers turned too tight while making repeated passes to clear intersections, causing the plow blade to come into sudden contact with the curb, or by hitting a pothole or hidden obstruction, breaking the leaf springs. When a leaf spring snaps, it causes the huge truck to sway to one side.

"My mechanic was plowing with the ten wheeler, and I had to call him in off of his route," to work on the disabled trucks, Bergeron said.

"A little bit later, the 2000 Dodge pickup front drive shaft U-joints went. It's nine years old. That went down and we couldn't fix that until the morning."

That breakdown occurred on the top of the Hill, where, a little bit later during the same storm, the department's 1997 Louisville L-8000 dump truck drive shaft fell out.

That, along with the broken leaf springs, kept the department's mechanic, Steve

Lively, busy all night.

Leaf springs take several hours to repair, Bergeron said, while fixing the drive shaft is a matter of replacing the U-joints.

In the meantime, Bergeron had to bring a driver in from Millers Falls and put him in Lively's 10-wheeler. He redeployed that driver's truck to one of the drivers idled by the spring repairs and sent him back to Montague Center.

In all, Bergeron has 14 plow drivers to keep 108 miles of roads clear in an all day storm like the one that hit town last Wednesday. And with four trucks down, they fell behind.

"All's we could do was play catch up through the evening," Bergeron recalled. "Those that could, went out to help the routes that needed help." One by one, "The trucks got back up and running."

Then, "Our 86 Ford Louisville L-8000, the shifting lever broke, bringing that down for the rest of the night. That put a lot of pressure on the pickup trucks and the trucks that were still running to finish up the rest of the town."

To top it off, "A little later, after midnight, the fuel pump seized up on the front end loader, and it had to sit on the Avenue the rest of the night," parked by the post office where it rolled to a stop.

The department has three front end loaders. "One of them

is down in Springfield being fixed with transmission issues," Bergeron said, a repair expected to cost \$18,000 - \$20,000, reducing the department's discretionary equipment fund to about \$35,000.

Meanwhile, with the string of

third loader that is in even worse condition than the one that wound up parked in front of the post office, and the one under repair in Springfield.

The new machine will cost \$99,584, with trade-in.

The town also had to spend

freezing rain landing on plowed streets caused glare ice to form, "which is what caught us," as one piece of equipment went down after another.

"Keeping our equipment updated is important. An evening like that is a result of having aging equipment," Bergeron said.

Beyond that, "We have to get some warmer weather. Then we could start scraping down some side streets and clearing the ice off."

"I'm amazed you do as good a job as you do," said board member Patricia Pruitt, after Bergeron's presentation on Monday. "I realize corners have to be cut when equipment breaks down."

Bergeron said he had one man out on disability, and was about to lose another for three months to a foot operation.

In the last storm, some of his remaining crew worked 32 hours straight, Bergeron said.



HYRUM HUSKEY PHOTO

It's been a rough road for the DPW's equipment this winter... and it ain't over yet.

storms and icy conditions, Bergeron acknowledged, "We're getting close to the bottom for the snow and ice budget. We'll have about \$28,000 left after the next shipment of road salt comes in. One more good storm will deplete that budget completely."

And, "We don't have a lot on hand with Chapter 90 (state aid for local road repair and infrastructure improvement). But with those funds, the department is purchasing a new front end loader to replace a

\$60,000 of Chapter 90 funds on redesigning the Randall Road intersection with Greenfield Road, which will put the Greenfield Road reconstruction project in the "shovel ready" category in time for a hoped for infusion of federal stimulus money in the weeks ahead. Bergeron said that leaves the town with only about \$100,000 on hand in Chapter 90 funds.

Meanwhile, Bergeron said the mop up from last week's storm has been taking the department all week. The

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GLOBAL from page 1

six to ten feet or more, the loss of rainfall and water supply in the tropics and high altitudes, melting of ice caps and glaciers, increasingly severe weather in formerly temperate climates, increasingly intense hurricanes, and the disruption of ecosystems and habitat worldwide.

In addition, Bradley said, the worst effects of man-made climate change, driven by industrialized societies in the developed world, will fall hardest on the populations of the world that are in the most precarious position to begin with, societies within 30 degrees of latitude of the equator, where the majority lives on less than two dollars a day, and subsists on food they grow, hunt, or catch for themselves. These hundreds of millions are facing coastal flooding, droughts, heat waves, and the precipitous disruption of the growing conditions they depend on for existence due to choices made in countries with far more affluent living standards, Bradley said.

Bradley, who lives in Leverett and has authored 11 books on the subject of climate change, has advised the World Bank and science foundations in the U.S., Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom and studied climate variations for 30 years.

He began his talk, which was sponsored by the Sacred Earth Committee of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County and the Greening Greenfield Energy Committee, by saying, "I know there is a subtext about the moral and ethical issues of global warming, but I am going to focus on the scientific evidence."

His first slides showed the melting of the glaciers and ice cap on Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa. In contrast, a photo taken of the mountain 80 years ago showed the ice at the peak covering at least four times as much mass as the photos taken by his col-

leagues last year.

Bradley pointed out that glacial melt from mountain ranges like the Himalayas and the Andes provides potable water for downstream populations in the Indian subcontinent and South America. "The availability of water becomes a critical issue in the tropics," where more than half the world's population lives, determining "who eats, and what they can grow."

Bradley showed graphs recording the average world temperatures for the last hundred years, pointing steadily upward to 2005, the warmest year on record. "The last decade or so has brought record breaking temperatures year after year," he said.

He pointed out, "Most of the warming takes place at higher latitudes, as ice retreats, exposing darker surfaces which absorb the sun's radiation, multiplying the effect year after year in a feedback loop. The same thing takes place in the tropics at higher altitudes."

Additionally, and alarmingly, the surface of the ocean is heating up, in turn warming the temperatures at lower ocean depths, and causing an overall expansion of the oceans. As well, the oceans have absorbed increasing amounts of carbon dioxide, leading to a rise in acidity, which spells peril for fragile marine ecosystems like coral reefs.

Taking core samples from the ice shelves in Antarctica and elsewhere, Bradley said, scientists have been able to establish a record of the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide over the last 800,000 years. That record shows variations, corresponding to four ice ages, within a relative mean: "Never below 180 parts per million of carbon dioxide by volume, and never above 280 parts per million."

Since 1960, according to the graphs Bradley displayed, the volume of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere has increased from 310 parts per

million to 385 parts per million, and continues an almost vertical climb.

"We're burning fossil fuels, consisting of carbon based plants and animals from hundreds of millions of years ago, and putting that old carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere at a very, very fast rate." Greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide are "transparent to the energy of the sun, but opaque to radiation from the surface of the Earth," said Bradley, trapping a percentage of the heat that radiates off the planet's surface and deflecting it back again.

Bradley said the sudden spike in the emission of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere corresponds to the rise of the industrial age, starting with James Watt's invention of the steam engine in 1784, leading to a demand for coal, and accelerating with Daimler and Benz' patenting of the internal combustion engine in 1886, leading to a demand for oil and gasoline.

At the same time, the world's population, which had remained below the level of one billion people until about 200 years ago, doubled a hundred years later, rose to three billion 30 years after that, and is now pegged at 6.75 billion and rising by about a billion people every 13 or 14 years.

"However you feel about reducing energy consumption," said Bradley, "we have to come to grips with the population problem to maintain a stable planet for everybody."

Bradley is a contributor to the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, a group of thousands of scientists around the world who are studying the problem of global warming. He said the United Nations issued estimates on best case and worst case scenarios for climate change in 2000, and since then the data has showed the planet's climate "tracking the worst of these scenarios."



DETMOLD PHOTO

UMass Professor Ray Bradley. For accurate information on global warming, he suggests visiting the website: www.realclimate.org

Regardless of what skeptics like Tolg might call unproven science or natural variation, Bradley was quite definite in his global forecast.

"It is going to get warmer everywhere on Earth, at all latitudes and in the continental interiors. The warmest years on record will become the coolest years in the next 100 years. This will change the patterns of rainfall. There will be dryer conditions in most tropical and subtropical lands, and wetter conditions in the higher latitudes."

He pointed to computer models showing "certain hot spots: Central America, Eastern Brazil, South Africa and the Mediterranean," which are likely to become "15% dryer for every degree (of Celsius) warming."

Although ocean levels have risen only about eight inches in modern times, Bradley said the models predict sea levels will rise in this century at least three to four feet, or more likely six or seven feet, with catastrophic effect to lands on the Gulf Coast, and the coast of mid-Atlantic states of North America (although not so much in New England, where the land mass is rising), and tropical regions like Bangladesh, the Nile Delta, and the coastal regions of Pakistan, among

others.

If the West Antarctic Ice Shelf collapses into the sea, (it is balanced precariously now), Bradley said ocean levels may rise by "30 or 40 feet" this century. So long, Manhattan.

Over time, Bradley said, the United States, Canada, Australia, Western Europe, Russia, and Japan have contributed 75% of the greenhouse gas emissions that have built up in the atmosphere to cause global warming. It is incumbent on the West to share alternative energy technologies with developing countries like China, where one new coal plant a month is now going on line, he said.

There is no way "to scrub the atmosphere," said Bradley, and even if the burning of fossil fuels were to stop now, the problem of built up greenhouse gas would persist in the atmosphere for centuries, slowly declining.

More immediately, "The consequences of our profligate use of energy are being felt in other parts of the world that had no role in the problem." Maintaining our reliance on fossil fuels, "will affect the people in the rest of the world who still live a hand to mouth existence, dependent on rainfall and temperature," he said.



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NUCLEAR from pg 5
in the 18 towns in the EPZ.

“Everyone who works at the facility understands their jobs. I wouldn’t be working there unless I felt it was a safe process.”

Michael Daley said, “The issues are simple. Are there safer and less costly ways to make our electricity? Does any corporation have the right to create long-lived nuclear waste for which no solution can be found?”

He continued, “Vermont Yankee is dinky. It’s a very small power plant, that provides less than 2% of the total New England grid.” He held up a chart showing electrical usage in New England averaging 22,000 MW, with available reserve capacity of 10,000 MW. Vermont Yankee sells 345 MW to the New England grid, and 275 MW to the state of Vermont (at historically low rates of 4.2 cents per kW/hour). “The cheapest way to replace that power is to use conservation, hands down. The second most effective way is through efficiency. The cost of that is 2 - 3 cents per kW/hour. Few sources can be cheaper than that,” Daley said.

He said the New England region had recently found ways

to conserve 600 MW of electric power (equal to the total power supplied by Vermont Yankee), and predicted a future potential for conserving 3300 MW in New England. He said the Vermont Department of Public Service has estimated savings through energy efficiency of 600 MW in the next five years in that state alone.

In response to a question about recent accidents at Vermont Yankee, Shaffer said, “The recent incidents are a little discouraging and embarrassing, but none of them were in safety systems.” He objected to a comparison to the meltdown at Chernobyl in 1986, saying, “With the type of reactor we have here, such an accident is impossible. Operators bypassed fail-safe mechanisms, a grievous error not possible at Vermont Yankee.”

Katz said the recent collapse of cooling towers, stuck valves, and leaking pipes indicated a lack of adequate maintenance at Vermont Yankee that could indeed affect safety systems.

Gilmore said operators at VY go through a full year of training before they begin the simplest level of tasks. He said the last major accident at a nuclear plant in the United States happened 30 years ago at Three Mile

Island, and 104 plants have been in operation since then without major incident.

Shaffer said there were no technical barriers to safely dealing with nuclear waste, just political ones. “Putting that stuff in tanks and burying it at Yucca Mountain is wonderful,” he said.

Katz countered, “It’s a terrible problem. There is no environmentally sound solution to the nuclear waste problem. Soon we will have 63 high level waste dumps at the 63 operating nuclear power sites in this country.” She implied even that would be preferable to shipping nuclear waste to Indian reservations and majority African American communities like Barnwell, South Carolina, an example of what she called “environmental racism.”

Shaffer said, “The waste is in solid form: fuel pellets inside metal rods, inside concrete containment. It’s a red herring to say it is ‘on the banks of the river.’” If one of the dry casks in which Vermont Yankee’s high level waste is now being stored fell into the Connecticut River, Shaffer said, it would create a navigation problem until it could be removed, but not an environmental threat to the river.

To a question about the vulnerability to terrorism of the seventh story spent fuel pool, where much of Vermont Yankee’s high level waste still lies outside of containment, under a metal roof, Shaffer said the 9-11 hijackers had chosen to fly right over the Indian Point reactors on the Hudson because they would be impervious to attack “because of the massive structure and containment.” He said the TMI accident proved that operators would have time to respond and contain any serious accident or attack.

Katz seemed incredulous. “We’re talking about the spent fuel pool. The National Academy of Sciences stated the Mark I fuel pools were the most vulnerable sites in the country to terrorist attack. If we had windmills, we wouldn’t have to be thinking about this.”

All the panelists spoke highly of the potential of renewable forms of energy like solar and wind power, but differed on how soon, and how reliably, such forms of power production could be brought on line in New England. Daley said investing in energy efficiency would create three jobs per MW of power, compared to one job per MW of power from Vermont Yankee. He said investing in

renewables would create five jobs per MW of power.

Before the back and forth concluded and the audience got in line to ask their own questions of the panelists, Gilmore recalled the words of a local farmer at a nuclear power forum in the 80s at Mohawk Regional High, dealing with the reactor at Yankee Rowe. He quoted the farmer as saying, “Before you throw away the pair of shoes that has holes in it, make sure you have a new pair, because walking barefoot is a hard way to go.”

Author’s Disclaimer: In the interest of full disclosure, I have been actively involved in the effort to shut down Vermont Yankee for the last 30 years, including sponsoring a motion that passed by majority vote at Montague Town Meeting last year, calling for VY to be decommissioned when its operating license expires in 2012. I have requested a copy of the tape of Tuesday night’s debate to be shown on MCTV, Channel 15, to satisfy any doubts that may arise among readers about the accuracy of my reporting on Tuesday night’s debate.



Turners Falls High School 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 12
First Honors
David Bennett
Samuel Colton
Theodore Dunbar
Amber Henry
Kelsey Kane
Sara Pease
Nicholas Skarzynski

Second Honors
Leah Booker
Lacy Cardaropoli
Nicholas Clark
Nicole Dubay
Benjamin Foster
Joshua Gammon
Jodi Hallett
Erin Kelley
Shamari Kelly
Angela Marguet
Kimberly Nelson
Ethan Reipold
Joseph Rinaldi II

Jeremiah Wawrzyniak
Lindsey Wilson
Kevin Wegiel
Samantha Wondoloski

Third Honors
Joseph Auger
Ashley Costa
Thomas Field
Kimberlee Fritz
Tranae Gallagher
Christopher Humphrey
Stephany Lepkham
Jeremy Tetreault

Grade 11
First Honors
Nataliya Buhakova
Megan Grimard
Jacob Lapean
Olivia Nicotra
Tam Roberts
Ashley Sears

Second Honors
Chelsea Bailey
Meagan Benane
Scott Brown
Emma Butynski
Daniel Cruz
Brandon Deputy
Danielle Dolhenty
Lucas Foley
Mackae Freeland
Matthew Garber
Morgan Kyser
Mitchell MacConnell
Justin Pacheco
Carlyn Perry
Evan Pleasant
Kathleen Rinaldi
Dustin Rivard
Elena Rushford
Kimberlee Savage
Sarah Underwood

Third Honors
Juliana Aprileo

Ashley Bailey
Eric Bastarache
Amanda Carlisle
Tia Demers
Lauren Flynn
Oengus Gallagher
Ryley Harriman
Corey Hescocock
Cassandra Kazar
Jacob Lewis
Christopher McMahon
Cayla Pollard
Cassandra Rounds
Matthew Wozniak

Grade 10
First Honors
Zhanna Bocharnikova
McKenna Brunell
Erin Casey
Sarah Foster
Taylor Howe
Katherine Kuklewicz
Kelsey O’Brien

Elysia Ollari
Katarina Palso
Anthony Reed
Kenneth Rounds
Yelena Sherstyukov
Daniel Skarzynski
Taylor Varilly
Cody Wells

Second Honors
Brandon Ambo
Sarah Crowell
Nina Dodge
Makayla Dolhenty
Kristy Dunbar
Jacob Eugin
Uriah Forest-Bulley
Jack Hubert
Nicole Fuller
David Garcia
Brooke Hastings
Krysten Hawkins
Julie Howard-Thompson

Ryan Pelis
Meghan Smith
Andrew Turban
Natasha Vaughn
Kelsey Waldron

Third Honors
Anna Bocharnikova
Kelliann Humphrey
Morgan MacConnell
Cody Pease
Brittany Yolish

Grade 9
First Honors
Jolina-Rose Blier
Samantha Caouette
Daniel Colton
Stephanie French
Mark Hudyma
Jesse Langknecht
Corban Mailloux
Alyssa Nicotra
Haley Ozdarski
Emily Pollard
Todd Richardson

Second Honors
Dakota Albano
Zacharie Boisvert
Jenna Costa
Taylor Croteau
Haley Fiske
Matthew Fowler
Stacy French
Christopher Gordon
Colton Hallett
Alicia Hathaway
Samuel Letcher
Jeremy Mankowsky
Breanna Miller
Quincy Ortiz
Angelica Renaud
Caroline Sena
Samantha Shaw
Kayleigh Turn
Shawna Williams

Third Honors
Trevor Berman
Latisha Felton
Brittany Rawson

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

School Committee Asked to Make Cuts

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The selectboard met with the finance committee and the school committee, with superintendent Joan Wickman and Erving Elementary principal Charlene Galenski, on Monday, February 2nd, to take a look at the preliminary school budget for Fiscal '10. The selectboard has let it be known they expect the budget year that begins July 1st to be a particularly challenging one.

The school committee came prepared for that message, and presented a preliminary '10 budget with a 4.2% increase in the elementary budget (\$2,035,000 last year; \$2,121,256 proposed for '10), and a 16.4% decrease in the secondary budget (\$1,023,358 last year; \$855,446 proposed for '10).

Town administrative coordi-

nator Tom Sharp said the decrease in the secondary education budget was due to an increase in the number of Erving students choosing to go to charter schools, or schools outside the Gill-Montague Regional School District, but he cautioned that these decreases would be offset by charges to the town on the state "cherry sheet" for school choice and charter school tuition.

Selectboard chair Andy Tessier told the school committee he would like to see the elementary school budget come down by an additional \$17,000, to help the town arrive at a balanced budget for next year.

In other news, the town approved a motion to allow highway superintendent Paul Prest to deficit spend on the

snow and ice budget. The town requested an \$8000 allocation, subsequently approved by the finance committee, to pay for fire department overtime in the wake of the December ice storm, which Sharp said he is hopeful the Massachusetts and federal Emergency Management Agencies will reimburse, up to 75%.

On February 19th the planning board will hold a public hearing to consider a request to add nine more antennae to an existing cell tower near the French King Bridge. The request came from Omnipoint Communications.

The board was pleased to learn the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has decided to reduce assessments to member towns by 10%, in

recognition of the mid-year cut Massachusetts cities and towns are receiving as Governor Deval Patrick attempts to close a billion dollar budget gap in the middle of the present budget year. The action by FRCOG will save Erving \$2717 in '09. FRCOG promised to reduce the towns' assessments by 10% next year as well.

In response to a suggestion by Tessier that Erving should pull out of its voluntary mem-

bership with the FRCOG, Sharp sat down with COG administrators Linda Dunlevy and Bob Dean a week ago, and told them the town was seeking a clear, written assessment of what its \$27,000 membership was paying for. They promised to provide that, and to meet with the town to answer any questions the board may have about the work of their organization on behalf of the member towns.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Deer and Weather Dangerous to Drivers

Tuesday, 1/27

8:30 a.m. Report of a dead deer on Route 2 in the Farley area. Notified state highway department who will pick up same.

Wednesday, 1/28

11:10 a.m. Loose Golden Retriever on Route 2 in Farley. Identified owner. Returned to same and advised of leash laws.

2:46 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle crash with no personal injuries on Route 2 in Farley. Assisted state police.

Friday, 1/30

1:28 p.m. Medical assistance to Factory Hollow area of Route 2 in Gill.

9:21 p.m. Report of truck vs. deer accident near Old State Road. Area checked, both truck and deer gone upon arrival.

11:36 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with several motor vehicle accidents including a roll over.

Saturday, 1/31

9:50 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for failure to inspect motor vehicle and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

6:45 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

8:25 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a fight at Millers Pub.

Monday, 2/2

11:50 p.m. Motor vehicle crash with no personal injury on Route 2 at Old State Road. Assisted state police.

MCTV Afternoon/Evening Schedule 2/6 - 2/12

Visit www.montaguema.net for complete listing

Friday, February 6

4:00 p.m. Independent Voices
 4:30 p.m. Into the Way of Peace
 5:30 p.m. Journey to Wissatinnewag
 6:00 p.m. Montague Machine
 7:00 p.m. GMRSD 2/3/09
 10:00 p.m. Over The Falls: Shelburne Senior Center
 11:00 p.m. Overian Cancer Awareness
 Saturday, February 7
 2:30 p.m. The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion
 4:30 p.m. Recovery in The United States
 5:30 p.m. Proud to be a Mason
 6:00 p.m. Seneka Falls
 6:30 p.m. On The Ridge: Coyote Hunting
 7:00 p.m. White House Chronicles
 8:00 p.m. Wisdom Way Solar Village
 9:00 p.m. Women, Girls & HIV: Teen Girls
 9:30 p.m. Valley Idol Semi Finals 2008
 Sunday, February 8
 2:00 p.m. Pat & Tex LaMountain & Russ Thomas & Joe Graveline
 4:00 p.m. Discovery Center Birds

of Prey.

5:30 p.m. Falls Table Michaelangelo "Gnoccki with Shrimp"
 6:30 p.m. FCHC Estate Planning
 8:00 p.m. Franklin County Matters State Government
 9:30 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Big Fat Lie"
 10:30 p.m. Valley Idol Finals 2008 Monday, February 9
 2:00 p.m. They Are Still There
 3:00 p.m. The Western Mass Dem: Chris Forgey
 4:00 p.m. Tapping Maple Ridge
 5:00 p.m. Surviving the Vernon Reactor
 6:00 p.m. They Are Still There
 7:00 p.m. Select Board (Live)
 10:00 p.m. The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
 Tuesday, February 10
 2:00 p.m. Physician Focus Atrial Fibrillation_title2
 3:00 p.m. On The Ridge: Coyote Hunting
 3:30 p.m. Naturalist Laurie Sanders
 4:30 p.m. Montague Update- Susan Shilliday
 5:00 p.m. Bernanke

6:00 p.m. GMRSD Meeting and Public Budget Hearing

Wednesday, February 11
 2:30 p.m. EatonDoRyu 1/15/09
 3:00 p.m. Falls Table 4-14-08
 4:00 p.m. Franklin County Matters Community Based Banks
 5:30 p.m. Women, Girls & HIV: Role Models
 6:00 p.m. Discovery Center-Root Cellar
 7:30 p.m. White House Chronicles #1001-1002
 8:30 p.m. Dodging The Bow
 10:30 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Big Fat Lie"
 12:00 a.m. Encore Body Art #10
 12:30 a.m. Encore Body Art #4
 Thursday, February 12
 2:00 p.m. An Inside Look into Iran
 4:00 p.m. Bernanke
 5:00 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Get a Clue"
 6:00 p.m. Child and Family: Children's Mental Health
 6:30 p.m. On The Ridge: Coyote Hunting
 7:00 p.m. Select Board 2/9/09
 9:00 p.m. 9-1-1 People, Facts & Stories
 9:30 p.m. Coffee House Joe Graveline
 10:30 p.m. On With The Show

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GILL from page 1
body off.

"Absolutely," replied Stevens. "We can't survive if we do."

The Gill police force has been cut to two fulltime officers, the highway department has three fulltime employees; the fire department runs on a call basis.

"We can't afford to lose another person. We have to have people to run this town," said Griswold.

Banash said, "We have to look at how much sand and salt we use. This will mean a cut in part-timers. And a freeze on all spending."

The board noted that some nearby towns have called for a halt to all departmental training, in response to the governor's mid-year cuts.

Griswold said, "We have a fire department that has been trained. They'll have to hold it together for now."

Banash said, "We have to have the big three (police, highway, and fire) in for a discussion. We have to find \$20,000. If they don't come up with suggestions, then we're going to have to. We stop overtime. If you come up with overtime, you take a day off."

It was at this point that Stevens made his comment about the economic situation becoming a Depression.

To which Banash responded, "I think we're all going to have to do with a whole lot less."

Banash said she did not want to see the town dip further into its free cash account, (which presently stands at \$178,000) because the state is forecasting 10% or even 20% cuts in local aid for the budget year that begins July 1st. "We're going to need every penny we have."

The town of Gill is not expecting to receive much in the way of stimulus funding from the package wending its way through Congress now.

"We don't have any shovel ready projects," Banash said, so the town did not submit any projects to the list being readied at the state level for stimulus funding.

The town will make up about \$6,000 of the present \$26,000 deficit with money set aside for Gill in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District escrow account. The board instructed assessor's clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo to bring them firm figures for an amount to be raised by taxing certain utility poles and utility assets within town borders if, as expected, the legislature passes enabling legislation to permit municipalities to do so. The board thought perhaps another \$6700 could be raised this fiscal year by this method.

The board called for a meeting with all departments on Monday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m., and made the meeting mandatory for the police, highway and fire chiefs.

The board plans to delay the annual town meeting this year

until they have firm numbers on local aid.

Following a meeting with Northfield Mount Hermon last December, Banash and town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers said they have heard nothing further about the town's request for the private school to pay for a new \$350,000 fire truck for the town. Banash said the town should begin to plan for the



The Gill selectboard studies the initial report of the Commission for Education in Gill on Monday.
(left to right): Nancy Griswold, Lee Stevens, and Ann Banash

eventuality of reducing the fire department's fleet from three trucks to two.

"It's pretty clear that if Mt. Hermon doesn't buy the truck, we don't buy a truck," she said. "The reason we need three trucks instead of two, according to this 20-year-old study, is because of Mt. Hermon."

Since the time of that study, the private school has consolidated its Northfield campus to Gill and embarked on an ambitious multi-million dollar building program.

Banash and Griswold plan to attend a budget hearing at the Gill-Montague school committee on February 10th at 6 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

"I certainly intend to go to that meeting, when the towns are losing money and laying people off. They [the GMRSD] absolutely have to budget the same way the towns do," said Banash.

Griswold responded, "They have not learned. They live in a bubble. A 2.7% increase in a budget we couldn't afford last year is absolutely wrong. The benchmark should have been zero."

"It should have been minus 10%," replied Banash.

The Gill board late last year asked all departments to prepare budgets at 0% and -10% of '09 figures. However, the board said, only town departments have responded to that request so far.

The school committee presented a preliminary budget with a 2.7% 'placeholder' increase on January 27th. A 2.7% increase over last year's \$16,626,000 budget would equal approximately a \$432,000 increase.

Commission for Education

After the board concluded their budget discussion, Ted Castro-Santos and Dorothy

Storrow, co-chairs of the Commission for Education in Gill, presented the results of their first few meetings to the board.

Castro-Santos said the commission viewed its work as fact-finding, rather than advisory, and said any move the town may contemplate making to change it's current regional school arrangement with Montague is complicated by the fact that town

again from 8th to 9th grade, consistently over time."

He said the commission will try to determine from MCAS scores how Gill students are faring in the district, and will determine how their dropout rate compares to the broader population, and how many Gill students graduate from TFHS to go on to college.

The commission will examine

back to controlling its own elementary school, and tuitioned students into neighboring upper schools?

- How would a move like this affect transportation and state funding for same?

- How would teachers' job security be affected?

- How would such a move affect Montague? "We can't function in isolation, since both towns will be impacted," Castro-Santos said.

- How will the state's push for super-regionalization affect Gill?

Storrow said the commission planned to engage state education officials and neighboring school districts in discussion to further explore Gill's options. The commission will meet again on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Distressed Subjects At Large

Wednesday, 1/28

3:25 p.m. 911 mis-dial on Mount Hermon Campus.

3:28 p.m. Report of distraught subject at French King Highway business with a sledge hammer.

3:55 p.m. Subject taken into custody for involuntary committal and transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

Thursday, 1/29

12:45 p.m. Assisted subject with disabled motor vehicle on Center Road.

Friday, 1/30

1:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on French King Highway.

3:01 p.m. Assisted subject at station with restraining order issues.

Saturday, 1/31

12:01 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police locating roll over motor vehicle accident.

4:02 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for two default warrants during a motor vehicle stop.

Sunday, 2/1

12:35 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road, no injuries. Report taken.

3:23 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Boyle Road, no injuries. Report taken.

5:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Barney Hale Road, no injuries. Report taken.

5:33 p.m. Be On the Look Out bulletin received for distraught subject possibly enroute to French King Bridge. Subject later located, bulletin canceled.

Monday, 2/2

12:50 p.m. Assisted with disabled vehicle and trailer on French King Highway.

1:45 p.m. Assisted with disabled vehicle on Main Road.

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JOE GRAVELINE



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm a 64-year-old woman who is lactose intolerant. Do you think this will put me at risk for osteoporosis?

Between 30 and 50 million Americans are lactose intolerant, which means they have trouble digesting dairy products. Lactose intolerance usually is not dangerous.

Lactase is an enzyme made in the small intestine. You need lactase to digest lactose, the sugar in milk. People who are lactose intolerant don't make enough lactase; after consuming lactose, they suffer from bloating, nausea, stomach cramps and diarrhea. These symptoms usually

begin a half-hour to two hours after ingesting lactose.

Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue. This condition creates an increased risk of fractures.

Osteoporosis is a major public health threat for 44 million Americans; about 68 percent of them are women. One out of every two women and one in four men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

A major risk factor for developing osteoporosis is insufficient calcium intake. Dairy products are significant sources of calcium. It's easy to assume that someone who is lactose intolerant might be more likely to suffer from osteoporosis. However, research into the influence of lactose intolerance upon osteoporosis has produced mixed findings.

People who are lactose intolerant just have to be especially vigilant about consuming enough calcium to maintain bone health. You can maintain a diet rich in calcium by eating broccoli, leafy greens, canned salmon, almonds, oranges, certain kinds of tofu and soy milk, and calcium-fortified breads and juices. In addition, there are supplements you can take to meet your daily requirements of calcium and other nutrients.

Those of us between the ages of 51 and 70 should take in 1,500 milligrams of calcium daily.

People of northern European descent are less likely to be lactose intolerant. However, about 75 percent of adult African-Americans and Native Americans are considered to be lactose intolerant. And, 90 percent of Asian-Americans are lactose intolerant.

There are three types of lactose intolerance:

Primary. This is caused by

aging. The body produces large amounts of lactase during early childhood when milk is the primary source of nutrition. Usually, lactase production drops when you become less reliant on milk. This gradual decline may cause symptoms of lactose intolerance.

Secondary. This type occurs when lactase production decreases after an illness, surgery or injury to your small intestine. This form of the condition may last weeks and be completely reversible. However, long-term illness can make it permanent.

Congenital. You can be born with lactose intolerance, but it happens rarely. Infants with congenital lactose intolerance can't tolerate their mothers' breast milk.

Don't self-diagnose lactose intolerance. If you have symptoms, see a doctor. The symptoms could be caused by something else. There are tests to

determine if you are lactose intolerant.

Most people with lactose intolerance can take some milk products. They may be able to increase their tolerance to dairy products by gradually introducing them into their diets.

However, most supermarkets carry lactose-reduced or lactose-free products.

You can manage your lactose intolerance with lactase enzyme tablets; you can take them just before you eat. These tablets help many people.

Probiotics are living organisms in your intestines that help maintain a healthy digestive system. Probiotics are available as active cultures in some yogurts and as supplements in capsule form. These may also help your body digest lactose.

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

Local Nature Notes



Orion

BY JEN AUDLEY
EAST DEERFIELD

In February, look for:

The full moon on February 9th, and the constellation Orion on any clear night. Two of the brightest stars we can see from Earth - Betelgeuse and Rigel - are among those that make up Orion. Betelgeuse is the left shoulder, and Rigel is the right

hip.

Buds beginning to swell on some trees and shrubs, pussy willows fuzzing out, and the new growth on willow trees shimmering green. You may have to get close to see the first two, but the new green on willow trees can be spotted from afar (even from your car).

Bushes and trees with berries still on them. As wild food becomes increasingly scarce, these become important feeding places for the "mixed flocks of winter," small groups of songbirds such as chickadees, tufted titmice, and nuthatches that band together just for this season.

Signs that, for some, mating season has begun. Listen for barred owls hooting and birds starting to sing. In fields, meadows and woods, if you get a strong but fleeting whiff of "sweet skunk," it's likely you're passing a red fox's scent marker. (On the other hand, if you smell

"regular skunk", look for a skunk and move away slowly!) Skunks, which also begin seeking mates in February, leave distinctively aimless-looking paths with their surprisingly small feet.

Snow fleas, which are not fleas but tiny insects called springtails, peppering the snow near tree trunks on sunny days.

Sap, which usually begins running at the end of this month. Look for tiny icicles at the end of sugar maple twigs.

The sunset, about one minute later each day. Right now it happens at about 5:10, and it's dark by about 5:40, but by the end of the month that will all happen thirty minutes later. The sunrise is coming earlier, too -- now the sun rises at about 7:05 a.m.; on the 28th, it comes up at 6:27.

Learn more:

Fri., Feb. 6, 6:30-9:00 pm
Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

No previous snowshoeing

experience is necessary. (Ages 12 and older, \$7 per person, \$21 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required)

February 7, 5:30-7:30 pm

Family Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

(Ages 6 and older, \$5 per person, \$12 w/ snowshoe rental.)

February 7 and 8

Feeder Watch, an annual event sponsored by Mass Audubon, is a weekend when people from all over the state note and report on the birds they see in their yards and at feeders. www.massaudubon.org

Also, check out www.massaudubon.org/owls to see pictures and hear recordings of all the types of owls that live in our state.

Fri., Feb. 20; 1:00 pm-4 pm

February Vacation Predator/Prey Tracking for Families at Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

Indoor and outdoor activities. (Ages 8 and older, \$5 per person, \$12 with snowshoe rental)

Fire District Nomination Papers Available

BY EILEEN TELA
TURNERS FALLS

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District elections are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the district office, 226 Millers Falls Road.

Open to all district residents, the offices to be decided are prudential committee member and water commissioner, each for three-year terms.

Completed nomination papers (with approximately 32 valid signatures of registered voters within the district) must be returned to the district office no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 10th. The elections are to be held at the above address on April 28th, when polls will be open from noon to 7:00 p.m. All registered voters residing within the district are encouraged to vote. District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the town clerk's office, 1 Avenue A.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th
Family Fun Night at the Unity Park Field House. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Yahtzee@Tournament night. Table tennis and board games. Music, raffles, and refreshments provided. \$5 donation to support Montague Park and Recreation Department programs. Drop-in.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ghost Quartet*, 9 to 11p.m. Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing!

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Short Bus*. 70's funk, dance, rock, 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A Ghost Quartet*, Jazzy Blues, 9 p.m.

Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain with Naturalist Beth Bazler, 6:30 - 9 p.m. For ages 12 & older, \$7 & \$21/snowshoe rentals. Registration required. (800) 859-2960.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street, Turners Falls: Top 40 and hip-hop music spun by DJ Brownie in the Nightclub. 10 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH & 7th
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Eat Drink Man Woman*. Celebrated director Ang Lee tells the story of the relationship between a master chef and his three daughters. Nominated for the Foreign Language Oscar in 1994, Chinese w/English subtitles. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *All About Bats!* Noon to 1 p.m. Learn interesting facts about bats in their natural environment.

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: Artist's reception for Josephine Sacabo, her display *Lux Perpetua* and Susan Bozic: *The*

Dating Portfolio, 1 to 5 p.m. Public illustrated Artists Talk at Hallmark Institute of Photography, 27 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, at 7:30 p.m. free.

Family Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For ages 6 and older. \$5/person, \$10/ snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required. 800-859-2960.

Montague Grange Gender-role-free contra dance. Admission. Open to all. 7 to 10 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Center: *Norman Blain and the Authentiks* at 7:30 p.m. with an open mic 7 p.m. \$6 - \$12 (978) 544-5557. Partial proceeds benefit the Shutesbury Education Foundation. www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Greenfield Winter Carnival day: *Zydeco Connection* plays at St James Church, Greenfield 7 - 9 p.m., \$5.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mass Production*, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Reggae with Simon White, Joe Cunningham & Christian Marano.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Evenspeak*. Classic, southern, modern rock at 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Binary Marketing Show*, jazz & blues, 9:30 p.m.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street, Turners Falls: Top 40 and hip-hop music spun by Mass Mobile DJs in the Nightclub. 10 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th
Reading the Stones: Those rocks that turn up in your garden every year? Learn more about them with Robert Coyle of Athol at the Millers River Environmental Center, Athol at 2 p.m. followed by an outdoor field trip, if weather permits. This event is free and open to the public.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center. Free Films For The Frozen. 7 p.m.: *Eddie Izzard: Dress to Kill*. 1999. Comic and executive transvestite Eddie Izzard takes his outrageous show to San Francisco.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, acoustic trio/warped Americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
Slope Editions presents a FREE poetry reading featuring Colin Enriquez, James Grinwis and Lisa Bourbeau at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10th
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Texas Holdem League every week begins 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting & Crafts Night*, every Wednesday until summer from 7-10 p.m. All are welcome - Any skill level (including none!).

How to Start a Common Good Bank in Your Community a multimedia presentation, a new kind of community savings bank, designed expressly for economic justice, sustainability and strong economies. commongoodbank.com or (413) 628-3336. Forbes Library, Northampton, 7 p.m. Also Thurs. 2/12 at the Jones



Shingle The Roof: Tim Woodbridge, Jerry Devokatis, and Kate Spencer delight audiences with their lively tunes, funny songs, gruesome murder ballads, and historical or imagined tales of life and love. At the Great Falls Discovery Center Coffee House on Friday, February 13th, 7 p.m.

Library, Amherst, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12th
What have you heard about white nose syndrome? Susi von Oettingen, endangered species biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presents an introduction to northeastern bats and this newest threat, white nose syndrome. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Jazz at DiPaolo's, Turners Falls: *Interplay Jazz Band* with John Michaels, guitar; Mark Dunlap, bass; Rick Tutunjian, sax, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic hosted by Peter Kim & Jimmy Arnold 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. no cover. www.r63roadhouse.com.

Pioneer Valley Institute presents *Remembrance of Our Past*, a program on the 19th abolitionist movement here in western Massachusetts. Charlemont librarians Bambi Miller and Mary Bohmer take on the personae of cousins Mary Leavitt and Elizabeth Field, members of the well-known abolitionist Leavitt family. Co-sponsored by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Assoc. held at the PVMA's Deerfield Teachers Center, 10 Memorial Street, Old Deerfield. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th
Great Falls Discovery Center Coffeehouse: *Kate Spencer with Shingle the Roof*, 7 p.m. Donations appreciated, baked goods available, and the Great Falls Discovery Center is accessible. Door open at 6:30 pm

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Dan Lawson Band* at 9:30 p.m. Back by popular demand! Check out: <http://cdbaby.com/cd/danlawson>.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th
American Heritage Chocolate Celebration at Historic Deerfield. Learn all about cacao, taste chocolates and make decorative Valetines. Adults \$14/\$5 youth, under 6 yrs. free.

Great Falls Discovery Center: Artists' Reception for photographer Tom Stratford. 1 to 3 p.m. View photos of local flora, fauna and landscapes.

Jazz at DiPaolo's, Turners Falls: special performance with NYC world class guitarist *Freddie Bryant*, 6:30- 9:30.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Valentines Bash* with Dan Lawson Band 9:30 p.m. Plus free raffles/party favors and of course the "Good Food" Kitchen will be open...bring your heart no matter what shape it is in....

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th & 15th
Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke Productions Presents *Willy Wonka*. 2/14 at 8 p.m. 2/15 at 2 p.m. Tix 413-863-2281, continues 2/20-2/22.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
Mardi Gras Masquerade - Wear a costume of your choice to this festive bowling bash! Super Fun Bowling Club - non-competitive bowling club open to all abilities and ages! 7:30 p.m., French King Entertainment Center, Erving. Visit www.superfunbowling.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
4th Annual Mardi Gras celebration at All Souls UU Church, Greenfield. Doors open at 5:30, jazz pianist Bob Cummings, a full Cajun meal of Jambalaya or Vegetarian Gumbo, wine & beer; children's activities; costume contest; crowning of the King (WRSI's Monte Belmonte), auctions. Rocking Cajun Dance party with the *Magnolia Cajun Band*. Instruction 9 - 9:30, dance till 11 p.m. (Snow date 2/22, 3 - 5 p.m.) (413) 773-5018 or www.uugreenfield.org. \$15 Adults (\$17 at door); \$5 children 12 and under. \$10 for just the dance. RSVP for dinner: (413) 773-5018 or administrator@uugreenfield.org.

THROUGH MARCH 29th
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography: New Orleans photographer Josephine Sacabo, featured in Gallery 56, displays work from three distinct projects on exhibit; "A Geometry of Echoes," "The Nocturnes" and, "El Mundo Inalcanzable De Susana San Juan." Also on display work by Susan Bozic: *The Dating Portfolio* in Gallery 56. Regular museum hours: Thurs-Sun, 1 to 5 p.m.

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THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
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Memorial Hall Theater
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February 6th & 7th at 7:30 p.m.
EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN
The touching, and dryly funny ups and downs of this family relationship between master chef and his three daughters as they prepare meals together. Directed by Ang Lee. 1994. PG. Color. 123 min. Chinese with English subtitles.
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2. **PINK PANTHER 2 PG**
DAILY 6:30 9:10
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
3. **HOTEL FOR DOGS**
DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. **PAUL BLART: MALL COP PG**
DAILY 6:40 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
4. **MILK DAILY 9:20 R**
5. **TAKEN PG13**
DAILY 6:40 9:20
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. **HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound**
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30 PG13
7. **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE R**
DAILY 7 9:30 in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Jazzy Blues: *A Ghost Quartet*
Saturday, 2/7, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Mass Production
Sunday, 2/8, 7:30 - 10 p.m.
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Northfire Brings World Class Recording Quality to Amherst

BY FARRAH ALEXANDER - Behind every number one hit for megastars like Madonna, Kylie Minogue, and Busta Rhymes, there's a state-of-the-art recording studio, and a cast of highly skilled music professionals. You may be surprised to find a cutting edge studio located right here in Amherst, along with an engineer, Angelo Quaglia, who worked with all three of those artists and many more besides.

In late 2005, co-owners Demse Zullo and Berklee College of Music graduate Garrett Sawyer unveiled Northfire Recording Studio; a newly built, avant-garde facility designed by highly acclaimed acoustician Michael Blackmer. Blackmer, an electro-acoustic engineer and audio industry veteran with over 37 years of experience designing and constructing recording studios for the likes of Aerosmith, Tom Waits, Boston, the Cars, Boston Symphony Hall, Bose Corporation and others, is considered one of the top authorities in his field. He said he, "considers the room as an instrument of human experience."

When Quaglia, who had been working in New York City, returned to his native Western Massachusetts and heard about Northfire, he contacted Sawyer and Zullo. They introduced him

to the new studio, and, impressed with Quaglia's credentials, signed him on.

"He has numerous gold and platinum records and a few Grammy nominations, and now we have him at Northfire. We actually have a number of clients who used to go to New York City to record, until they found us, and now they're really pleased that a studio of that caliber's [here], and they book with us," Sawyer said.

"The live room was meticulously designed to have a smooth reverb trail, so there are literally zero parallel surfaces," Quaglia points out.

As an owner, engineer, executive producer, and performer, Sawyer is aware that even in the most sophisticated studio, the quality of a musician's performance depends on the degree to which they can get accustomed to the space.

"When we were designing the studio, we really did everything we could to make it be a comfortable place to work in," Sawyer said. "For some people, it can feel somewhat unnatural to play music in a studio. But we really do a lot of work and put a lot of focus on making people feel at home and feel relaxed and comfortable so they can focus on their art rather than focus on trying to adjust to being in a strange environment."

Singer, songwriter and producer David "Goody" Goodrich, who has been recording the film score for *Earthwork*, a feature film about Stan Herd, directed by Chris Ordal, at Northfire Studio, recognizes how rare studios the size, scale and design of Northfire are.

"These places don't exist anymore. All the big rooms are closing or have closed in Los Angeles or New York. All the big, famous studios are gone. When I first started recording in them like 20 - 25 years ago there were more rooms like this, but they're all gone, because of real estate being what it is. They can still afford to build a room like this here; the rents are cheaper and it's cheaper to live," Goodrich said.

In addition to the scarcity and cost of real estate in major cities, another threat to the commercial studio business is recording software and hardware that's now available to consumers for home set-ups. However, as many seasoned musicians have discovered, it may not be worth the hassle.

"The way I look at it, my job isn't really to be an engineer or to have a space like this," Goodrich said. "[Quaglia] has been fabulous. He's really excellent at what he does. It enables me to relax and just do what I do."

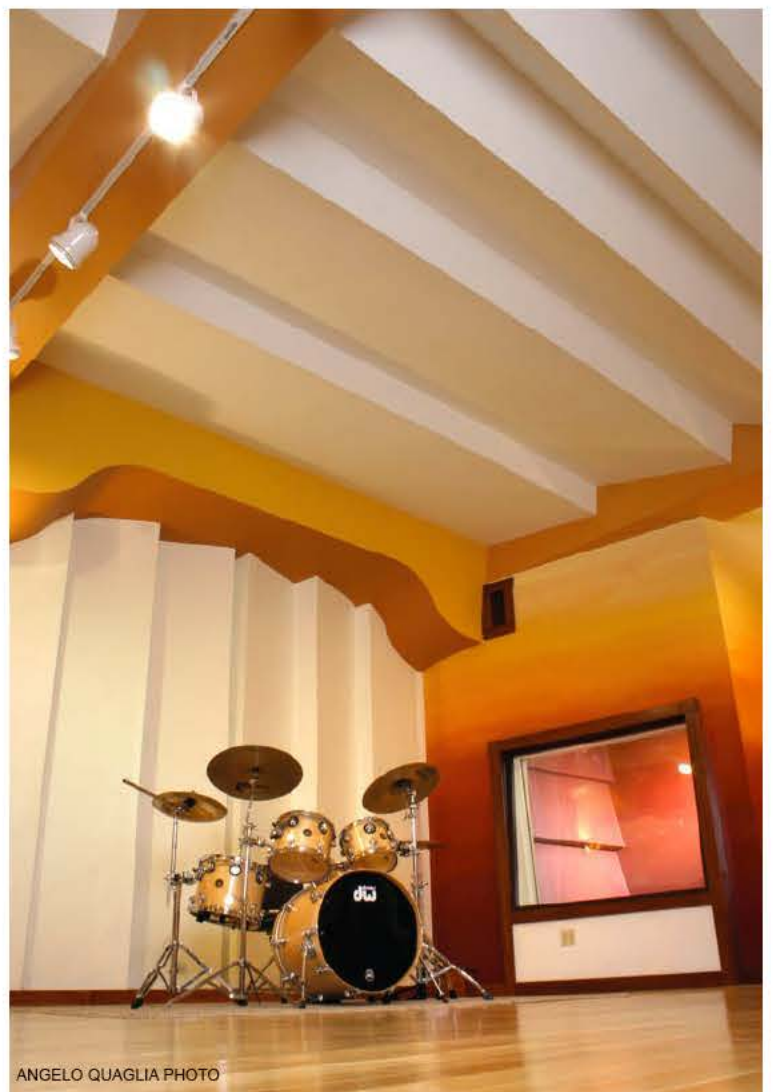
"It's worth it to work less, but more efficiently and work with people who know what they're doing," Goodrich added.

The engineers at Northfire boast the versatility to develop and record a wide range of styles, such as reggae, jazz, rock, metal, classical, alternative, hip hop, dancehall, R&B, film scores, commercials and fiction and non-fiction audio-books.

Undergrowth Farm Presents: *Gaza Strip* at the Brick House

TURNERS FALLS - On Tuesday, February 24th, at 7 p.m., Undergrowth Farm in Gill presents: *Gaza Strip*, at the Brick House, a poignant and timely documentary film on the Israeli occupation of Palestine, with Lana Habash, of the New England Committee to Defend Palestine and Qawem Coalition, providing historical context and answering questions.

Filmed in 2001, *Gaza Strip* pushes the viewer headlong into the tumult of Israeli-occupied



ANGELO QUAGLIA PHOTO

The Northfire Studio

"In the hip hop world, we've done work for Little Brother, and Dead Prez, and in reggae we did some work for Mr. Vegas, who's quite well known," Sawyer said. "We've done work for a lot of world music and folk and recently for New Riders of the Purple Sage, the famous rock band from the 60s and 70s with a bunch of number one hits. They actually started with Jerry Garcia as one of the members. So we've been fortunate. We get a lot of really talented artists coming thru from this area and from outside the area."

"Everybody who works for the studio is a musician and has been playing music for quite a

while, which means we have experience recording as artists as well as recording as engineers. We can really understand the needs of the artist. We speak the language," Sawyer said.

Understanding the needs of an artist, means understanding the need to control costs. Northfire's rates are almost half that of urban studios.

A call or email from an aspiring artist will produce a quick response, after which, a meeting can be arranged to tour the studio, discuss the project, approach, and preparation. From there, artists can book sessions to get the project rolling. For more information visit, NorthfireRecording.com

Gaza, examining the lives and views of ordinary Palestinians, especially those most affected by the violence: children. The Brick House is located at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls; admission is free, and refreshments will be provided.

Donations will be accepted for medical relief in Palestine. This special event is part of the film series, "Movements for Self-Determination," hosted by Undergrowth Farm.

Gaza Scene, after the Israeli Incursion



Eagle Watch: Nesting News



BY PAT CARLISLE

GREAT FALLS - Our eagle family is still at home in Barton Cove. They can be seen rearranging materials in a nest built in a live oak on Eagle Island in 1999, after a scare when a branch and the camera toppled in a storm. This nest was not used for laying eggs; instead the couple returned to raise chicks in the dead tree nest in 2000, where the remounted

camera gave us eight more years of live action eagle viewing.

That dead tree finally blew down last year, in a windstorm on July 27th, well after last year's chick had fledged. The new nest is barely visible in a canopy of live oaks now, before the leaves appear, but the eagles can be watched as they ready their home. Unfortunately, another camera that was put in position to view that nest back in 1999 is not functional at present, and we will not be able to use it to view the nest this year. The boat ramp off Route 2 at Riverside offers a good view, for those with telescopes.

We hope the camera in place above the new nest can be made usable after this season of eaglet raising. We are all hopeful, and will watch and report the Eagle News. Stay tuned to this newspaper for updates.

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