



PETERSHAM CURLING CLUB

Catch the Fever Sweeping the Nation!

Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 – NO. 20

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

Wendell and New Salem Criticize the Donelan-Kulik Amendment

BY KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – Representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) discussed the superintendency union amendment to the recently enacted Education Reform Bill with Wendell and New Salem officials and citizens at a meeting on Saturday, February 13th.

At the meeting, which took place at the Wendell town offices, Kulik heard criticism of the amendment he and representative Chris Donelan (D-Orange) sponsored. The Donelan-Kulik amendment, which was signed into law with the rest of the education reform bill last month, makes it easier for an individual town to leave a superintendency union, such as the K-6 superintendency Union 28, consisting of New Salem, Wendell, Erving, Leverett, and Shutesbury.

Dick Baldwin, a member of the Wendell and Mahar school committees, characterized the process by which the amendment was formulated and passed as “hurried, opaque, and with no hearings.” He added, “This has potential serious effects for Union 28.”

Wendell school committee member Kevin Skorupa commented that not enough people knew about the amendment before it was inserted in the bill.

Wendell finance committee member Doug Tanner said, “The school committee is too small a group to make that decision [to leave a superintendency union]. It is possible to hijack a school

committee, and the implications for the finances of the town are dense and deep and difficult to undo.”

Tanner suggested revising the amendment to develop a method for broadening the number of decisionmakers.

New Salem selectboard member Tony Palmieri said an individual town leaving Union 28 could have an effect on long term contracts, such as a superintendent’s employment contract or teachers union contracts. He said the legislation could wind up “creating a problem we are going to have to hire lawyers to resolve.”

Wendell finance committee member Michael Idoine asked whether there was anything in the amendment that would preclude towns from revising superintendency union governance structures to make it more difficult to leave a union.

Kulik replied he would have to check on that.

Wendell school committee member Ray DiDonato suggested that a revised amendment could require unions to have an agreement that would spell out how towns could leave unions. DiDonato said he felt a town meeting vote should be required, because of the financial implications, saying “If Shutesbury left [Union 28], it would make it very difficult for the other towns.”

Baldwin added, “And that would force regionalization with Mahar, underlined, capital let- see **CRITICIZE** pg 14



Vermont Yankee Vote Next Week

The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, on the banks of the Connecticut River, 3 1/2 miles north of Massachusetts

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTPELIER – In a decision that will impact residents and towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire within the evacuation zone of the troubled Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant – and may reverberate to the halls of the

White House, where the Obama administration plans to pump billions of taxpayer dollars into construction loan guarantees to revive a moribund nuclear power industry – Vermont state senate president pro tem Peter Shumlin (D-Putney) announced this week

he will call a vote on Wednesday, February 24th to determine whether the Vermont plant will be given a 20-year extension on its operating license, or retired on schedule by March of 2012.

“It’s not in Vermont’s best see **VOTE** pg 11

New Director for Equity Trust

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – In the run-up to the Great Recession, Americans used their homes as ATM machines, removing well over a trillion dollars in cash-out refinancing and home equity loans as housing prices marched steadily upward through 2006.

In the years since, the housing market tanked and debt-fueled consumer spending crashed with it, bringing the U.S. economy to its knees and prompting trillions

in federal bailouts to prop up major lending institutions.

Now, as we pick up the pieces, one of the many organizations working to change the way Americans hold property happens to be based here in downtown Turners Falls, and has just hired a new executive director. Equity Trust is a small national non-profit working for economic justice, with an emphasis on access to land, and Jim Oldham has been at

see **EQUITY** pg 5



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jim Oldham

Theater Review

Ja'Duke Presents *Fame* at the Shea



DETMOLD PHOTO

The cast previewed a scene from 'Fame' at the 'I am the Shea' benefit on January 31st.

BY SUDI NIMMS

TURNERS FALLS – *Fame* is a musical set in the 1980s at the New York City High School of Performing Arts where young hopefuls, with stars in their eyes, learn it takes hard work and plenty of it to turn their names into household words.

Ja'Duke, one of three resident companies at the Shea Theater, will serve up three final performances of *Fame* this weekend, transporting you into the young actors' lives of hope, struggle, disappointment, and triumph.

And so it is with this production we experience all of the above.

All theater-goers hope. We hope we like the show, we hope the actors are ready, and in fine

see **THEATER** pg 13

The Occasional Diner

Coffee and Books on a Cold Winter Morning



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

David Pontius serves regular customer Mary Kuzontkoski at Northfield Coffee & Books

BY IVAN USSACH

NORTHFIELD – It's 8:51 on a cold and sunny Thursday morning when I walk into Northfield Coffee and Books through the side entrance. Immediately, the

mellifluous strains of Caribbean music, simultaneously hot and mellow, catch my ear and warm me up. Walking past a wall of books, it's a Piers Anthony science fiction novel that first catches my eye. I continue undeterred, a man on a mission, and make my way to the comfy couch to plug in my laptop and pour a cup of steaming java. It is a good start to the day.

David Pontius, proprietor of

see **CAFE** pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK

Charmingly Shy



Kelly

My name is Kelly and I'm a five-year-old female domestic shorthair cat in need of a good home. I'm very charming, though a tiny bit shy... Just at first! I not only like to be petted but I also like it when you talk to me. So when you come to meet me, talk to me first... and soon you'll realize what a great feline friend I can be! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Correction:

In the story in last week's issue about Eugene Klepadlo running for the seat on the Erving selectboard currently held by Andy Tessier (*Tessier Says: "I'm Not Running": MR VIII #19*), we reported that Klepadlo was the former owner of Geka Brush, at the Turners Falls Industrial Park. He was the plant manager at Geka Brush, not the owner.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Dominic McLellan

Grade 7

Natalie Torres

Grade 8

Robert Reed

Tyler Peters

Please shop locally. Support our advertisers, and thank them for advertising in the Montague Reporter

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday, (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666

FAX (413) 863-3050

reporter@montaguema.net

Postmaster: Send address changes to

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Two Films: Documentary Friday, Science Fiction Saturday

The film *The World According to Monsanto* will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Friday, February 19th, at 7 p.m. The documentary traces the history and politics of the Monsanto Corporation, including its production of PCBs, creation of Agent Orange and Bovine Growth Hormone, and genetically modified seeds. After the movie, there will be a discussion of the film and its implications. This is the second in a monthly series presented by the Wendell Agricultural Commission. The event is free. For more information, call (978) 544-8604.

Another movie in the Science Fiction and Horror movies on or about the new moon at the

Wendell Free Library will be *The Andromeda Strain* on Saturday, February 20th, at 7:30 p.m. Free Admission (but seating is limited). Directed with clinical precision by Academy Award winner Robert Wise, this compelling account of the earth's first biological crisis is perhaps the most chillingly realistic science fiction thriller ever made. The suspense will last through your lifetime!

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

A Tale of Ten Towns

What if everyone in Deerfield, Erving, Greenfield, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Wendell, and Whately read the same book?

The idea behind A Tale for Ten Towns is to create a kind of community-wide book club throughout our ten towns. Reading great books provokes us to think about ourselves, our environment and our relationships. Talking about great books with friends, family and neighbors often adds richness and depth to the reading experience. We hope you will read and enjoy "Julie & Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously" by Julie Powell, and...

- Talk about it with your friends and neighbors.
- Attend the book discussions and related programs.
- Share thoughts about communicating across barriers.
- Read more for pleasure and encourage your children to do so.
- Meet new people and share ideas.

All programs are free and open to the public, and continue through March 20th..

Be sure to stop by any one of the ten town libraries to pick up a copy of "Julie & Julia" in hardcover, paperback or audio. Discussion guides will also be available, along with a list of related programs in the ten towns. Among the many Tale for Ten Towns activities at the libraries are these:

Erving Public Library

- Community Book Discussion, *Julie & Julia* – cooking demonstration by Carol Gregory; Sunday, March 14th; 4 to 6 p.m.

Montague Public Libraries

- "Behind the Scenes on Food TV" with Lou Ekus; Wednesday, March 3rd; 7 p.m., Montague Center Library.

- Community Book Discussion, *Julie & Julia*; Tuesday, March 9th; 7p.m., Millers Falls Library.

- Community Book Discussion, *Julie & Julia*; Monday, March 15th; 7p.m., Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Wendell Free Library

- Movie Night, *Julie & Julia* (and movie/book comparison discussion), Friday, March 5th; 7p.m.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – Feb 22nd to Feb 26th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must 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 Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. The Friday afternoon Writing Group is continuing and has room for new members. Thursday Morning Tai Chi is free and open to the public. Feel free to call the senior center for information on any programs.

Monday, February 22nd
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, February 23rd
9:00 a.m. Walking Group,
10:30 a.m Chair Yoga

1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, February 24th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m.. Monthly Health Screenings
1:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 25th
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, February 26th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the center for information on Flu Clinic, pneumonia shots and



Snakes Alive! at the Carnegie Library

TURNERS FALLS – Lillian Porier of Turners Falls held a corn snake at the Carnegie Library's Live Animal Show on Tuesday, February 16th. Rick Roth of

Meals On Wheels Benefit Concert

NMH School is very excited to once again welcome people from all over Franklin County to their Meals on Wheels Benefit Concert. It will take place on Sunday, Feb. 21st at 3 p.m. in the Rhodes Center for the Arts at Northfield Mount Hermon School, Gill.

Groups that will be performing are the Concert Band, the Symphony Orchestra, and the Jazz Ensemble.

Highlights of the program will be: Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, featuring Sojin Kim (winner of the concerto competition), and two famous Count Basie tunes: "Cute" and "Kansas City." The concert is free and open to the public. A donation will be accepted to benefit the Meals on Wheels program.

For more information contact Anna Viadero at aviadero@fchcc.org, or at (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259.

Creature Teachers in Littleton also brought out an opossum, a raccoon, a grey fox, a flying squirrel, a snapping turtle, tree frogs, a cane toad, and ended with an alligator.

Eighty six people came to the program, sponsored by the Gill-Montague Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program.

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850

Ed's Barber Shop
Now Featuring
Men's Crew
Hair Care
Products
also
Gift Certificates

74 Avenue A • 863-2085
Ed, Denise & KariAnn
"54 Years on the Ave"

LIVE IN
EST. 1754

MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

(413) 773-3622



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – The *Montague Reporter* has been working hard in recent weeks to increase our subscription base, as the best means of ensuring the long-term well-being of the newspaper. Now, for the next four weeks, we will be working to secure the well-being of our neighbors at the same time.

From now through the last day of winter, March 19th, the Reporter will donate **25% of each new subscription** we receive to the Franklin County Interfaith Council on Homelessness. This donation will help support the new **Warming Center** in Greenfield, the existing shelter in Montague City and a new homelessness prevention program being developed by the Interfaith Council.

Father Stan Aksamit, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls, and a member of the Interfaith Council's board, thanked the *Montague Reporter* for sharing the common wealth and supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

If you would like to buy a **gift subscription** for a friend or family member, this would be an ideal time to do so.

The Friends of Gill will hold a **Pasta Cook-Off** on Friday, February 26th, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the **Gill Congregational Church**. Contestants are invited to bring their favorite pasta dish. All are welcome to sample and judge for a minimal fee: \$5 for adults, and \$2 for children 10 and under. A prize will be awarded to the winner. For more information, call 863-2970.

The next **Montague Family Dance** will be happening on February 28, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Happy dances paced for little feet. Dances are always on the **last Sunday of the month**, from September through April.

Regular admission is \$4 per person, or sliding scale \$7 to \$12 per family, and includes a healthy snack at the break. All dances are taught and are geared toward the whole family, so no experience is necessary. Put on your dancing shoes and shake off the winter blues!

Join Jim Legacy, of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Game, and the staff of the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge for a free and fun **ice fishing clinic**. Meet at the Barton Cove nature area on Wednesday, March 3rd, starting at 3:30 p.m. and continuing until 6 p.m. The picnic area is .8 miles east of the Gill-Montague Bridge; follow the signs to Barton Cove.

All are welcome, and Scouts can fill their requirements for the fishing badge. For more information, call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221.

The Greenfield Savings Bank will be moving to their **new branch office** in Turners Falls on March 1st. Their new office is located between Miskinis TV and Food City.

The second semester has started at Turners Falls High School, and the two new Reconnecting Youth classes have chosen their **volunteer**

projects. The first class will be back volunteering at the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry each Thursday morning, and at the Sheffield Elementary School's before school program.

The second class will return to volunteer at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, along with supporting Griffin's **F r i e n d s** (www.griffinsfriends.com) an organization helping young people dealing with cancer.

While listening to the radio one evening I heard about a relatively new government website: www.distraction.gov. The U.S. Department of Transportation really has its sights set on informing citizens about the **dangers of distracted driving**, with the use of cell phones at the top of the list.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, February 6th, I decided to sit on the bench near the corner of Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls and count how many people drove by chatting on their cell phones. In one hour I noticed 27 drivers, and I'm pretty sure I missed a few. One can only imagine the number of distracted drivers on our interstate highways and congested urban centers.

European countries long ago banished the use of cell phones while driving. Could individual states in the U.S. be far behind? This question is coming up for debate in the Massachusetts legislature the coming session.

Send items for local briefs to reporter-local@montagueuma.net

Spring Comes Early at Smith Conservatory

NORTHAMPTON – A spectacular array of blossoming crocuses, hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips will provide an early glimpse of spring at Smith College's Lyman Conservatory from Saturday, March 6th, through Sunday, March 21st. The opening lecture, offered Friday, March 5th, will be presented by New York City Public Garden designer Lynden Miller.



Sugar Blues Workshop

Do you and your family ever get the sugar blues? Presentation by Sarah Patton LICSW, HHC answers the question "Is sugar really bad for you?" and discusses why we crave sweets and how we can easily gain control without deprivation on Thursday, February 25th at Swift River School, 201 Wendell Road in New Salem Join us for pizza at 5:30 p.m. and workshop and

childcare from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. To register call or email Gillian Budine by Tuesday, February 23rd at (413) 423-3180 or budine@erving.com. Include your name, home phone and email, number of children in need of childcare and their ages, and how many adults and children for pizza and salad.

Sponsored by Community Network for Children.

War Tax Resisters Film Showing

GREENFIELD – Three local war tax refusers are among 28 from across the U.S. featured in the just-released half-hour film, "Death and Taxes," about how people refuse to pay for war and redirect their federal taxes toward peace.

Produced by the National War Tax Resisters coordinating committee, the film will be shown Saturday, March 6th at 4 p.m. at the Green Fields Market community room, 144 Main Street, Greenfield. Free and open to the public, though donations will be gratefully accepted to defray film production costs.

Local resisters featured in the film are Bob Bady, who has never paid federal taxes, and Ellen Kaye, both of Brattleboro, VT, and Juanita Nelson of Deerfield, MA, a war tax resister since 1948.

Some of the trio will join other resisters for discussion after the Greenfield film showing. Nelson invites community members to "come learn about how you can withhold your support from the military. Put your money where your conscience is." The film is available for showing by other groups. For information, call (413) 775-3007 and (413) 397-8976.

Accessible Winter Recreation at Wendell State forest

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Universal Access Program will offer cross-country skiing, kicksledding, snowshoeing, ice skating, sled hockey, and snowmobile rides for individuals with disabilities, their families, and friends. Free use of accessible equipment and staff assistance are available. Pre-registration is required. Call (413) 527-8980.

Activities are scheduled to take place March 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wendell State Forest in Wendell. For Wendell

State Forest information call (413) 659-3797.

Directions: Route 2 west to Route 63 south through Millers Falls. Take Wendell Road over the railroad bridge, pick up Montague Road, and follow the signs. For more information on DCR's Universal Access Program and a schedule of activities, and to confirm program status, call (617) 626-1294 (voice) or (413) 577-2200 (TTY), or visit www.mass.gov/dcr and click on "universal access program."

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, INC. Insurance

Monthly Premium Plans

- Monthly Premium Plans are available to Everyone.
- Call or stop in today if your company is demanding a Full Annual Premium Payment!
- Read more online at www.pzinc.com



ARBELLA
INSURANCE GROUP

25 MILLERS FALLS ROAD
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

PHONE: (413) 863-4331
FAX: (413) 863-9426

Great Rates, Fully Insured!



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



Gerri Johnson

CBB, CRS, GRI



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



LAPINE MULTIMEDIA



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

Bill & Kathy White
413-773-7747

Leaf Busters

Gutter Cleaning and Repairs, Snow Removal, Ice Dam Removal, Roof Raking, Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs



Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553



COUNTRY CORNER STORE

44 Church Street
Bernardston
phone: 413-648-9340

Email: countrycornerstore@verizon.net

Fresh Meats
Deli
Grocery
Produce
Beer & Wine...and much more!

open seven days, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

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

Propane Filling Station

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

The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design

Claudia Wells
Boysen Hodgson
Katren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow-Cobb

Photography

Joe Parzych
Shawn Woolsey
Claudia Wells
Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Corr
David Brule
Michael Jackson

"The Voice of the Villages"

Circulation
Suzette Snow-Cobb
Janel Nockelby

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Technical Administrators
Michael Muller
Michael Farrick

THE EARNINGS REPORT FOR MAIN STREET

BY PRAKASH LAUFER

TURNERS FALLS – To add insult to injury to working America, in came the earnings reports from Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase. At these mega banks, balance sheets are healthy, profits are up, and bonuses for top executives are bigger than ever. JPMorgan Chase just reported \$11.7 billion in profits and \$26.9 billion in compensation and bonuses. Goldman Sachs made a record-high profit of \$13.4 billion in 2009 and is slated to hand out \$16.2 billion in compensation and bonuses – the equivalent of \$500,000 per employee.

These are some of the same institutions whose predatory and unethically risky actions brought our economy to its knees. But, thanks to billions of dollars in government resuscitation, they seem to be recovering nicely from their near-death experiences.

The "earnings report" for the rest of the U.S., however, includes – drum roll, please – higher unemployment and continued foreclosures, with no relief in sight. It sounds like a raw deal because it is. Big banks and Wall Street financiers ignited the foreclosure crisis, setting our economy ablaze, resulting in the loss of millions of homes and jobs.

While Americans everywhere are suffering, not all are suffering equally. Communities of color are, once again, experiencing the brunt of this recession. The unemployment gap between African-Americans and whites has grown wider this past year, jumping from a 5.4 percent spread to 7.2 percent. The unemployment rate among African-Americans now stands at 16.2 percent, higher than any annual rate in 27 years. The unemployment rate among Latinos is 12.9 percent. Both are far higher than the 9 percent rate among whites.

While these racial disparities are deeply troubling, inequality is a challenge facing every American. It weakens

our nation's economic foundation and tears communities apart. Before this recession even began, income inequality was at its highest level since just before the Great Depression.

As of two years ago, the top 1 percent of Americans took home as much income as the bottom half of Americans together. These inequalities are likely to grow as mass layoffs continue and homes are lost in unprecedented numbers.

Unfortunately, the policies coming out of Washington are not targeted well enough to support those struggling the hardest. Most job-creation projects to date, including those in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have been broad-spectrum, "universal" initiatives like rebuilding transportation infrastructure and core funding for schools.

Despite the merit of these investments, jobs being created are disproportionately in areas where they are least needed. One study showed that communities with the lowest unemployment rates were getting 50 percent more per capita in job creation funds than communities with the highest rates of unemployment. But, while an un-targeted approach to job creation is failing to adequately serve communities in the direst straits, the big bank bailouts are proving to be even less effective.

The evidence is clear: a rising tide does not lift all boats, and it never will. When Congress bailed out the banks, the understanding was that by returning them to solvency, they would start lending again and all Americans would benefit. Instead, the banks cleaned up their books, patted themselves on the back, stuffed their pockets with fat bonuses, and then failed to provide significant lending to working Americans. The stock market posted huge gains last year and bank profits are up, but foreclo-

sures and unemployment continue to grow at alarming rates. So far, the rising tide has lifted a few gilded yachts, while others are left gasping for air.

In a new report, "State of the Dream 2010: Drained" (www.faireconomy.org/dream/) United for a Fair Economy documents the need to prioritize and target limited economic recovery spending toward communities hardest hit by joblessness and foreclosures. The Put America to Work Act is one bill that aims to do just that. Even with limited economic recovery dollars available, we still have choices. We know what doesn't work – putting our trust in the big banks and Wall Street in the hopes that by helping them, they will in turn help the rest of America. Fat chance. The large-scale job-creation programs of ARRA for "shovel-ready" projects are certainly a step up from the bank bailout strategy, but are still not focused enough to reach those communities needing it most.

A targeted strategy offers our best hope for a robust economic recovery. It will help ensure that communities in greatest need are receiving the greatest support. At the same time, it will help narrow the vast disparities of income and wealth – including those drawn along lines of race – and will strengthen our economic foundation.

Prakash Laufer is president of the board of United for a Fair Economy (UFE), and director of the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls.



2010 Dog Licenses Available Now! at your Town Clerk's Office

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

Salmon Program Benefits All Migratory Fish

BY CALEB SLATER

WESTBOROUGH – The February 4th editorial by Karl Meyer (*MR VIII #18: \$47,000 per Salmon?*) outlined his perspectives and concerns about the status of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. While the members of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) share his desire to see greater numbers of returning sea run salmon, we do not believe this is the appropriate time to abandon the effort. The fact that we have regular annual returns of sea run salmon is a testament to the success of the core strategy of the program. However, the low numbers of salmon returning to the Connecticut River must be looked at in a larger context.

First, the original Connecticut River Atlantic salmon stock is extinct, exterminated by overfishing and dam building in the eighteenth century. Through applied genetic science the program has been able to develop a Connecticut River strain of salmon that is distinct from other rivers, including the original donor stocks. These fish were not bred in test tubes or designed by computers – the program allows natural selection to act on the fish that are stocked; those that survive and return as adults pass their genes on. It is not a process that happens quickly over a few years or even reasonably within a few decades, as one salmon generation takes four to five years. This is not an effort that can be undertaken without substantial dedicated resources directed at hatchery facilities.

Second, salmon returns to the Connecticut River are following broader North American population trends. Most Atlantic salmon runs in North America have been in decline for the last 20 years. In fact, wild salmon runs in eight Downeast Maine rivers were listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 2000, and Maine's remaining salmon runs (Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin) were all listed in 2009. These declines have been occurring in spite of the fact that ocean intercept fisheries in the North Atlantic have been closed, virtually eliminating the fishing related mortality that used to harvest as many as half of the fish destined for our rivers.

How is this possible? A very dramatic and well-documented decrease in marine survival has occurred throughout the range of Atlantic salmon. Since the 1990s, marine survival rates have declined tenfold. In plain English, we could reasonably expect return rates ten times greater than what we have been experiencing if marine survival rates returned to what they were in the 1980s.

Research has implicated large scale changes in ocean currents and sea surface temperatures that correlate with the observed declines in marine survival. Scientists believe these changes are cyclical and we can only wait for ocean conditions to change and again become favorable for salmon.

The salmon restoration program was designed to benefit all migratory fish in the Connecticut River. Far from being ignored, the American shad has been the greatest beneficiary. Fish passage, built as part of the salmon restoration program, now allows free access from the Atlantic Ocean to above Bellows Falls, Vermont. American shad numbers in the Connecticut River are lower than their historic highs of the 1980s, but the population is stable and persists in numbers higher than would be possible without the

see SALMON pg 7

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local)

\$25 out-of-area subscribers

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 2/11/10

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
as of this date
4376

Afghanistan 973
Wounded in Action 31,648

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

We Welcome Your Letters!

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

EQUITY from pg 1

the organization's helm since the beginning of the year.

"Equity Trust is working to really address questions of equity and ownership of land, connecting individual rights, benefits and contributions with communities' rights, benefits and contributions," Oldham said.

"Historically, Equity Trust came out of the Community Land Trust movement, helping communities figure out ways to provide affordable housing by balancing interests between individuals and communities."

A common approach pioneered by the CLT movement is to help secure the long-term affordability of housing by forming a land trust to hold land in common, while providing long-term leaseholds to individuals who own units of housing on the communally owned land. There are approximately 160 land trusts operating now in the United States, controlling thousands of units of housing.

As the CLT movement has matured, Oldham said, "Equity Trust evolved to focus on agricultural land. In the mid-'90s, we began getting requests for help from the early community supported agriculture (CSA) movement, and recognized the danger of farmland disappearing to development.

"Now, we have a Farms for Farmers program with a focus on technical assistance to farmers, land trusts and community groups to preserve and help keep farmland affordable to farmers. The early attempts at farmland preservation focused on purchasing development rights, which keeps subdivisions off farmland. But this approach doesn't insure that the land remains working land, producing food and providing employment."

Oldham said too often "gentlemen farmers," private estates, second homes and retirement homes crop up on former farms where the development rights have been sold, supposedly to keep the open land in agricultural production. Massachusetts is a leader in the effort to make sure farms in the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program remain working farms, by using deed restrictions to prohibit any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

But Oldham said, "Even in Massachusetts, there is the issue of making sure the infrastructure is available to farmers," including the availability of a farmhouse.

He explained that even after preserving their farmland, farmers may sell off their farmhouses to the highest bidder, making it difficult for the next generation of young farmers to continue working the open land. "We work with farmers and land trusts to encourage them to find ways to preserve the whole farm, combining the state APR with local sources of funds. We also want to make sure whatever community investment goes into this is preserved," over time, using deed easements or the CLT model of property ownership. By so doing, Oldham said, the aim is to "get a young farmer on the land now, but make sure the next young farmer can also find it affordable."

Equity Trust also maintains a loan fund program, with almost \$2 million in assets, to support the mission of the organization. Recent loans have gone to Alice Acres, a small CSA farm in eastern Connecticut, and Just Food, a New York City organization linking farms with urban communities. Local beneficiaries of the fund include the Brookfield Farm CSA in Amherst, the Farm School in Athol, and Real Pickles, a local business using lacto-fermentation to pickle vegetables bought from nine Western Massachusetts family farms. The loan to Real Pickles enabled the young company to purchase their own production facility on Wells Street in Greenfield.

Oldham said the loan fund relies mainly on loans and donations from people who want their money invested in things they value - in this case, ensuring the long-term affordability of land, housing and working farms. Some loans are interest free; others earn a modest rate of interest, and Oldham said Equity Trust has lately been hearing from appreciative investors who are thankful that the "unspectacular, but very stable" loan fund has remained so consistent through the recent years of stock market turbulence. To find out more about the loan fund, contact Oldham at (413) 863-9038.

"There is an increasing openness to these ideas," said Oldham, as the society as a whole reappraises the concept of using property as "a bank machine."

"The drop in speculation has opened up opportunities and alerted people to the problems in other models. We're finding funders are very interested. Coincidentally, there is less competition now for some of this land. It's a good time to think about holding land differently."

Oldham explained, "When property equity does increase, it's not just because you deserve it or have earned it. It's partly speculative, and partly because of things a community has done: building infrastructure and schools, all of which raises the value of an individual's property. As we become more attuned to the falseness of speculative property gains, this makes people more attuned to other aspects of property, and encourages people to think about donating back some of the value they have gained in their property since they bought it."

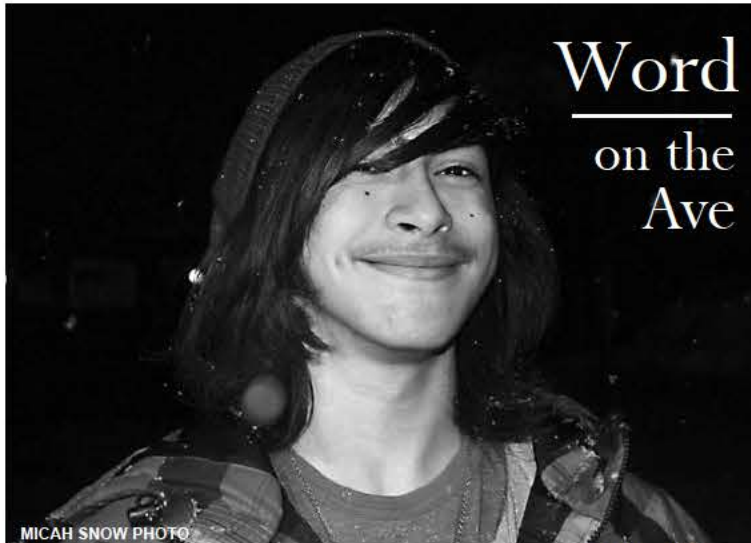
Oldham, who lives in Amherst with his wife and two children, comes to his new job in Turners Falls after working with indigenous people in Ecuador for the last 12 years, through an organization he helped to found called Las Lianas Resource Center. This group works with tribal people in Ecuador whose land and way of life were being threatened by development from oil companies like Texaco and Occidental Oil.

"Texaco dumped millions of gallons of toxic wastes into unlined pits," in indigenous regions, which make up 15% to 20% of the land in Ecuador, Oldham said. "It spilled out into streams - oil spills amounting to millions of gallons," worse than the Exxon Valdez disaster.

Oldham, who ran Las Lianas on his own before it grew to the size where he was able to hire Ecuadorians to run it, started a fish farming program in Ecuador, and helped indigenous people gain national and international recognition of their rights and their decision-making process.

"The constant factor, when indigenous people deal with oil companies, is the inequality of relationships," Oldham said. He explained oil companies would often gain the permission of the national government, or perhaps the permission of a so-called tribal leader, before entering an area to look for oil, in much the same way as indigenous lands have been exploited worldwide. "We tried to equalize the relationship."

Word on the Ave



Danny Rivera

What do you think of the winter so far?

COMPILED BY MICAH SNOW

"The weather is making me tired. It makes me want to stay inside."

- Danny Rivera
Turners Falls

"The snow is having no impact on me. If anything I want more. I work at the Bement School. We have no winter break. But I am having no trouble driving to school."

- Louis Smith
Montague

"It's been fine weather to walk, and hike around with my dog.

I have relatives who ski and

snowboard, and there hasn't been enough snow for them to even go out."

- Laurie Callahan
Turners Falls

"I could've taken the bus home, but I took a taxi instead. I didn't want to wait an hour in the snow."

- Monique (last name withheld)
Turners Falls

This weather feels like spring compared to where I'm from."

- Joe (last name withheld)
Greenfield

(It must be a lot colder across the river.)

In one instance, Oldham said, Las Lianas developed a code of conduct for Occidental Oil in its dealings with the Secoya people, one small Amazonian group. After resisting the code of conduct through more than a year of negotiations with Las Lianas, Oldham said that Occidental, concerned about international opprobrium, finally came to accept most of the practices set forth in the code.

"The laws were so weak. But the people refused to accept that the oil companies had the right to enter their territory without their consent. It's hard to fight in the court of international opinion."

Among the legal issues Las Lianas took up in Ecuador were questions surrounding the communal rights to indigenous land. So, in some sense, his work with Ecuador has prepared Oldham for his new job at Equity Trust.

"Equity Trust is one of the few organizations that have real-

ly recognized many of these same elements in ownership of land. The common, capital-based ownership of land ignores the cultural aspects of land. In New England culture, farms are the heart of the community, with shared benefits and the shared contributions to these lands. Working, local farms are really part of a network of relationships that benefit us all.

"Land ownership is a crucial piece of this relationship," said Oldham. "Especially since the places where the most people live who consume the food are the same places where land values are the highest."

As the local food movement gathers strength in New England, and around the country, the preservation of working farms and the question of the community's stake in the ownership of farmland will rise to the fore, and Equity Trust will be there to help.

Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

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

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net

About Face Computer Solutions

413.367.0025

- Computer Repair
- Custom PCs
- IT Support & Consulting
- Network Installation/ Maintenance

info@about_facecomputers.com

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1893

We engrave memories that last forever

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

- Gary and Nancy Melen

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

"The perfect remembrance"

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Tracey Kuklewicz Vice President 863-4373

Four Winds School

Cogito ergo periculosus sum.

www.fourwindsschool.info 863-8055

The Gill Tavern

Come for a drink, stay for a meal

The Tavern serves fare made from fresh ingredients (mostly locally produced) in an atmosphere that fosters friendship, community, and respect for our environment. Full bar ♦ Great wine list ♦ The People's Pint beer on tap!

Open Wed-Sun at 5 pm
www.thegilltavern.com

326 Main Rd, Gill, MA
413.863.9006

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

One Year Later: New Front End Loader Coming Soon!

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – The town of Gill will soon own a new Komatsu front end loader.

Meeting on Wednesday morning after the Presidents Day holiday, the selectboard approved highway superintendent Mick LaClaire's request to spend Chapter 90 (state aid for roads and bridges) funds on a new front end loader, after ongoing mechanical problems made it apparent the end is near for the 18-year old Case loader the department uses now.

"It's our work horse," LaClaire told the board. "When that machine breaks down, we're out of business."

LaClaire said the front end loader has an external coolant leak and a leaking main gasket, needs four new tires because the radial belts are shot, and has a sluggish transmission that has begun to fail in the middle of jobs, like loading sand. Not long ago, the loader's center bearing carrier broke off on Hoe Shop Road.

LaClaire had hoped to purchase a new loader last year; town finances would not allow it. He has kept the old machine under constant repair since, and spent more than \$2,000 on parts and two used tires.

LaClaire had looked into buying a new loader from five differ-



Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire by the town's 18-year-old front end loader.

"If it breaks down, we can't do anything."

ent manufacturers: Caterpillar, Volvo, Case, John Deere and Komatsu, but price and proximity for parts and service narrowed the list to the final two.

John Deere had a front end loader to meet the department's specifications for \$130,000, and offered Gill \$16,500 for trading in the old vehicle. A similar machine from Komatsu priced at \$118,290; that company offered \$18,290 for the trade-in.

No town meeting vote is needed to spend Chapter 90 funds, which can be expended for road maintenance or for equipment purchased to maintain town roads. LaClaire said he presently has \$218,000 set aside from Chapter 90 funds, and expected to receive approximately \$155,000 more in state aid in the coming fiscal year.

Gill had set aside a large amount in Chapter 90 funds to deal with possible cost overruns or town repairs needed on the recently completed Main Road project. That project wound up coming in under bid, and so those funds are now able to be spent to meet other department needs.

The new front end loader should be delivered within a month to six weeks, LaClaire said. The selectboard also gave

approval for LaClaire to purchase a power angle broom as an attachment for the new loader, for a price of about \$13,800. LaClaire said the new broom should reduce the number of days the department needs to rent a pick-up sweeper for spring street cleaning, and should pay for itself over time by sharply reducing this \$3500 to \$3800 annual expense.

In other news, the selectboard accepted the resignation of Ken Sprankle, chair of the conservation commission, with regret.

The board agreed to renew a three-year lease with Frank Zak for \$50 a year on a two-acre parcel of town-owned land on Boyle Road. Zak pays the acreage, which the selectboard had proposed selling off as surplus land last year. Town meeting voters unanimously rejected declaring the parcel surplus. It had originally been donated to the town for use as a school building lot.

The board approved spending \$6,000, from the public television access fund, to purchase a portable video camera and related equipment to televise selectboard meetings and town meetings, and to be used by any trained resident to videotape events such as the concerts and picnics on the town

common, the Riverside craft fair, or elementary school activities. Free trainings are available through Montague Cable Television (863-9200).

Rick James, who presently volunteers to videotape selectboard meetings, made the proposal to purchase video equipment with the backing of public access committee member Lee Stevens. The account, which is replenished with quarterly payments from ComCast, from a surcharge on cable subscribers' monthly bills, has more than \$10,000 in accumulated funds to be used for equipment purchases and stipends to provide cable access programming in Gill.

The selectboard is considering using the fund to purchase wall mounted cameras and a switching board to better capture the action at town meetings, in the future. They offered thanks to MCTV for allowing the town to use video equipment to tape meetings until now.

Gill's assessment to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments will rise next year by \$8,338. According to town administrative assistant Ray Purington, "The two primary causes for the increase are the cooperative building inspection

program [a \$4,667 increase, expected, mainly due to extra inspections associated with building projects at Northfield Mount Hermon] and health inspection [an unanticipated \$2,510 hike]. The coming fiscal year is the last of three years that uses the FY '07 spike in Gill building permit activity as part of the town's assessment calculation, so the inspection program assessment should drop for FY '12."

Purington added, "The increase in the health inspection assessment is largely due to extra time needed for the summer camp program at NMH, and for a lead paint issue at an Oak Street residence."

Purington said he would review the fee schedule for health inspections, to see if an increase is warranted.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said the town had put away sufficient funds to deal with the spike in building inspection assessments. She recommended billing NMH separately for the summer camp inspection.

Doug Smith, of the Bernardston-Gill-Leyden Snowmobile Club asked the board for permission to continue using a trail across the Mariamante property, to provide club members access to the gas station at the bottom of Main Road.

The board approved the request for the current winter, but noted ongoing concerns from Native American tribes that the land may contain ancient graves.

"The tribes were willing to not raise objections this year," said Banash. "But they feel it is a property that has been potentially identified as containing ceremonial remains, like any other cemetery."

"We knew for years there were Indian artifacts there," said Smith, "and at the Kuzmeskus land across the road." He said nothing the club members would do would affect subsoil remains.

Banash encouraged Smith to seek alternate routes to get to the gas station for next winter. "We should have this situation resolved by then," she added, referring to the status of the Mariamante parcel itself.

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

BURRITOS,
BOWLS,
SOFT TACOS,
QUESADILLAS

Now serving
People's Pint Beer
on tap!

(413) 772-2531

10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

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

ICOUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer
Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary
1910 - 2010
One Century. One Family
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Doug Sena
Fine Custom Carpentry and
Contracting
(413) 367-2606 MA. Lic. 111073
visit: dougsena.com

Locally owned since 1941
FOSTERS SUPER MARKET
Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

T.L.C.
TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.
Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center
Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

Sound Health Bodyworks
Muscular Therapy
Sound Therapist
Doula Services
413-658-5782
kayoungsoundhealing@wildblue.net
Kerry Alisa Young LMT

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured
Montague, MA 01351
EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
and Vinyl Replacement Windows:
Toll Free 866-262-5361 413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212

Debra Smith: Lucky 800!



Debra Smith

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

ERVING – Meet Debra Smith and her husband Jake, the *Montague Reporter's* lucky new subscribers.

Reviving our popular promotional campaign from years past, the *Montague Reporter* will give a \$50 gift certificate for an advertiser of their choice to every 50th new subscriber. That's how Erving's Deb Smith became our lucky number 800!

We are now rapidly approaching our 850th subscriber (hint: less than two dozen to go!) so soon, very soon, you too (or someone you love!) could be lucky winner number 850. Tired of schlepping to the store to get

your favorite weekly newspaper? Have us deliver it to your door! And maybe, just maybe, *win big!*

You may already know Deb. She was raised in Greenfield, and her husband Jake grew up in Wendell. They chose to live in Erving to be close to both of their families, and just over a year ago they purchased their first home there on High Street. Deb is a homemaker and Jake works at Argotec Inc. in the Greenfield Industrial Park.

Deb was enticed to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter* when she received a complimentary issue at her door. "Up until then I had not heard about the paper," she recalled. "I noticed right away your paper covered Erving. There were selectmen meeting updates, articles about the senior center, Route 2 construction work, and so forth.

"It seems to be a well rounded paper that covers various issues, news, current events, and human interest stories. I was hooked from that first issue. Jake, who is more of an internet news person, also took to reading it."

Deb regularly consults the Arts and Entertainment section of the paper, dutifully compiled each week by Turners Falls resident Suzette Snow-Cobb. But

she said, "I truly enjoy the whole paper," noting most recently that she enjoyed stories about Smith College's greenhouse and Sheffield School's multicultural storytelling projects.

So where is Deb going to spend her loot from her subscription prize? She has three pooches, so the natural choice was to select a gift certificate to Dr. Lauralyn Brown, DVM in Turners Falls.

"Dr. Brown and all of the staff are the most caring and compassionate veterinary office we've ever worked with! I would highly recommend her to anyone."

A trip or two to the vet should come in handy to make sure the Smith's dogs, Dakota, Finnegan and Duke, are healthy to enjoy their many walks in the Erving and Wendell State Forests.

For your chance to be the next winner, you must be a new subscriber! Subscription rates are \$20 for locals and \$25 for out-of-towners. *Plus!* for the last four weeks of winter, the *Reporter* will donate 25% of proceeds from all new subscriptions to the Interfaith Council of Franklin County's homelessness programs and Warming Center. So, why wait? Use the subscription form on page 4 and send in your subscription today, or call (413) 863-8666 for more information.

SALMON from page 4 access to spawning and rearing habitat provided by these fishways.

The prospect of salmon restoration precipitated the formation of the CRASC; a multi-agency state and federal partnership that continues to work for the restoration of all of the migratory fish in the Connecticut River. The CRASC is committed to a system management approach that considers the entire complex of migratory species in the watershed. Meyer's contention that we should now ignore salmon and concentrate on shad perpetuates a discredited single-species model of management that leads to the sort of myopic approach that, ironically, he accuses us of.

American shad, Blueback herring, and alewife are also all experiencing declines in abundance throughout much of their range. The causes of these declines are also not well understood; bycatch mortality from other fisheries, increased predation, and loss of access to or degradation of habitat in both the freshwater and marine environments are all possible.

The CRASC member agencies will continue to work toward

the protection of all migratory fish in the Connecticut River. We are planning a new trap and transfer project with the goal of increasing herring production upstream of the Holyoke Dam. We continue working toward the resolution of the fish passage issues at the Turners Falls dam.

In fact the poorly performing Cabot ladder will be replaced with a fish lift (like the very successful one at Holyoke) when the project gets a new federal hydroelectric license in 2017. The fishery agencies are working with the utility to get this project completed well before then.

In the interim we will continue the existing shad trap and transfer program to maintain production upstream of the Turners Falls dam. And we plan to continue the salmon restoration program; stocking millions of fry and thousands of smolts with the goal of returning a healthy run of sea run Atlantic salmon to our river.

Dr. Caleb Slater is the chair of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's technical committee. He works as the Anadromous Fish project leader for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.



Jessica Harmon Illustration

Dear Amy,

Is it OK to place Rubbermaid laundry and waste baskets in the trash?

They don't seem to be recyclable, according to your useful website.

Thank you!
Lorraine

Dear Lorraine,

Thanks for checking the recycling guides on our website (www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/recycle.html). Our "What Do I Do With...?" page is especially helpful when disposing of unusual items. (Go to [## ASK AMY: Recycling Plastic](http://www.franklincountywastedis-</p></div>
<div data-bbox=)

trict.org and click on "What Do I Do With...?")

Plastic items such as five-gallon pails, laundry baskets, wastebaskets, and other containers over two and a half gallons are too large to go through the sorting equipment at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), the facility where recycling from our region is processed. Including these large items in your curbside or transfer station recycling can cause the processing equipment at the Springfield MRF to jam or potentially break.

Reuse is the best option for these large containers. Kitty litter pails can make great compost collection buckets, sand holders, and more. Try posting items which are in usable condition on Freecycle: www.freecycle.org.

If the containers are too damaged to be reused, they can safely go into your bagged trash. Any larger items (such as a kiddie

pool) should go into a bulky waste dumpster at your transfer station. If your town does not have a transfer station or a bulky waste dumpster, they can be taken to the Solid Waste District's "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Collection. We are now holding two annual collections; this year's dates are May 8th and October 16th. For locations and more information, see: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html.

Thanks for recycling,
Amy

Amy Donovan is the program director at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and also represents Franklin County on the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) advisory board. She can be reached at (413) 772-2438 or amy@franklincountywastedistrict.org. Please send her your recycling questions for future articles.

Public Service Notice

TOYOTA RECALL

Surcharge Appeal Deadline...



Consumer Alert


If you were involved in an accident while driving one of the recently recalled Toyota vehicles and incurred a surcharge... **CALL US, WE CAN HELP!**

You have less than 60 days left to appeal, customers & non-customers welcome to call us!

**GREAT RATES
DEDICATED STAFF
UNEQUALLED SERVICE**

863-4373

159 Avenue A, Turners Falls • www.AHRist.com



A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

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

Dealer in used
Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite! **Open 7 Days a Week**

GOOD USED USABLES

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

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

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies



Gift Certificates **Open 7 Days**

Saturday Fish Special

44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5&10) Greenfield MA **Pet Grooming by Appointment**

MONTAGUE INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

Dr. Emily Maiella
Naturopathic Physician

432 Greenfield Road Montague MA 01351
(t) 413.230.4462 (f) 978.544.0240
Valleynaturopathic.com

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks



Debbe Dugan
863-5030

Your Pace at Your Place

the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

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

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno and Janel Nockleby

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

Bring your camera

The tulips are challenging one another
They are shouldering up bigger and magenta
The branches are shaking green afro's
Disrupting the tattoo of wood and wire

It's pure balance
From the knees
I spend a long time under the table gum
It's my teeth in the darkness
I won't be descending soon

The city is a strip tease
Slowly shedding protection
Until she's just the elements
Alone and shaking herself
A giant orange monarch
Snuggling up to the speakers
Wishing everyone else fit into her portrait

-- Mariana Ruiz Firmat
Brooklyn, NY



The Kitchen Makes You

"You want an apple or a foot?"
remarks my thighs
from the backseat

Working a common language
Is full of piss and vinegar

it's just a puzzle
how traffic
walks in the apartment

rubber embers
hitch like
olive branches

cat stretches
the kitchen wall

water under the bridge
for one toothy pleasure

It's been so long

dangling hands
kiss flowers in the crack

traffic adjourns
the sound of his death
chasing the bucolic shadow
of a screened in night

-- Mariana Ruiz Firmat
Brooklyn, NY

EdgeWise

I was asleep and dreaming
That I was
Asleep and dreaming
A dream of being
Asleep and dreaming
Of someone over me
Telling me,
Urging me
To "Wake up,
Wake up
It's coming."

I wanted to ask
"What?"

--Doug Turner
New Salem



Glue Family

Rocking chairs
are old

Watch
A car explode from too much needing
hot mess stacks up
cup cakes to flower pots

What theater is plant life

Shimmy up-sides
Coax snake to burst six feet

In my best shorts
I'm armed
with rubber

showing off his final lust
The fur is fired
And pig lands everywhere

Goes up in smoke

the burn
like salting
flicks

A soft bee working it off
burrowing a belly cloud
teemed with ponds

Milkweed
Iris
Bachelors
Buttons

We are a collective
We are lovers

-- Mariana Ruiz Firmat
Brooklyn, NY

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Mariana Ruiz Firmat is a Brooklyn based poet. During the summer of '99 she rode her bicycle cross-country and moved to New York City. She is considerably busy between her work as a union organizer and as a poet/publisher. Mariana is the editor and publisher of 3 Sad Tigers Press. She is the author of, Another Strange Island, published by Open 24 Hours Press. Her poems can be found in IXNAY, 6 x 6, and on-line at Tool A Magazine

and PoEP. Her work is forthcoming in the Brooklyn Rail. Her non-fiction can be found in Clamor Magazine, Make/Shift Magazine and on-line at Altemet.org.

William Corbett is a poet, memorist and writer on art who lives in Boston's South End and teaches writing at MIT. He has published a book on Philip Guston and edited the letters of the poet James Schuyler. Corbett directs the small press Pressed Wafer and serves on

the CUE Art Foundations advisory board. His current books are Opening Day (Hanging Loose) and Poems on Occasion (Pressed Wafer.) In May his book on the painter Albert York will appear.

Sally Pick is a closeted English major disguised as an environmentalist, occasionally inspired to put words to verse. And a lover of fresh-picked gifts from my garden.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.

Doug Turner, married to Sue, father of two, granddad, housepainter, reporter, writer, poet, Navy veteran, has been a resident of New Salem since 1987.

Diemand Farm

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

Products Vary Weekly

Farm Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

Jack Nelson

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

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

BAKER Office Supply

New and Used Off-Lease Copiers

We Service Everything We Sell

All Inclusive Maintenance Agreements

310 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-2345

HOPE & OLIVE

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

homegrown, farm-inspired
food and drink

PHONE 413-774-3150 • 44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD
WWW.HOPEANDOLIVE.COM

SOLAR STORE

SOLAR ELECTRIC
SOLAR HOT WATER
SOLAR HOT AIR

Solar PV/Thermal System REBATES and TAX CREDITS
R-3 Inserts for Single Pane Windows • 13w Pellet Stoves
Lighting • Heating • Books • Gifts • Education

Solar Store of Greenfield
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield • 413-772-3122
Email: info@greenfieldsolarstore.com • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

Two Glasses of Malt Scotch in the Rain

The hot pink peony
Looks like a handshake.
There's more than one.
Like several handshakes.
Why? I made it up
Listening to Jim Palmer
Extol Jim Rice, Hall of Famers.
The malt scotch is Oban
Gift of S. Campbell Proehl.
S for Sarah. Campbell
Is her writing name. Where
She is tonight I know not.
Scotch for me, bowl of peonies
For her, dripping rain drops,
And raise the second glass
To Hedy Lamarr who wrote
Franz Kline, "One of your
Paintings. I had to sit down
Because it did something to me."

-- William Corbett
Boston

Saturday Night Wrestling

policemen and ambulance drivers
scream across the street
emergency flashers
wail like drunken cannibals
blood escapes
unnoticed around
a crowd welded
under a neon stage crew
the limbs of
an automobile ripped
from body barely
recognizable a passenger's
bones are shattered glass
automatic eyes
flashback saturday night forever
complete with the scrap metal
crowd drawn to a magnet

--Kevin Smith
Turners Falls



Fall Colors

I taste the end of summer
In the crisp snap of yellow pepper.
I feel the cool nights in the tough skin
Of a not-so-sweet tomato,
In the bitter freshness of
An heirloom zebra stripe,
Flesh green as kiwi.

I see the coming winter
In the frantically feeding chickadees.
And anticipate nostalgia for summer
In the delight of tomatoes
Canned by friends.

--Sally Pick
Montague Center

ALL SMALL CAPS

A night of spoken word

Mariana Ruiz Firmat



William Corbett



MONDAY FEBRUARY 22nd * 7-10 p.m.

Open mike 7:30-8:30 * Sliding scale admission \$1- \$5
All comers are invited to read from their own work or the works of others, poetry or prose

DEJA BREW PUB & CAFÉ * 57 Lockes Village Road, Wendell, MA E: allsmallcaps@gmail.com
Ph: 978.544.2739 * http://dejabrewpub.com W: http://allsmallcaps.blogspot.com

This program is supported, in part, by the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency, The Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

A Vegan's Nightmare

Out of unadorned
treasures, the soul
waits, pounces; hungry
tiger must eat
to live. One long
bound from craggy steep,
sleek vision
unhurried by anything but
a grumbling call
for basic survival.
The gazelle is fast,
but not fast enough to evade
the primal persistence,
the slow wearing down;
stark terror
in a scalding sun,
and then rest,
from the frenzied flurry
of moments before. The fall
is hard, decisive,
and fast,
like the speed which could not save
its moving form. The meat
is sweet, to carnivores for whom
spirit is no feast,
just a banquet of hot air
and parched, disfigured silhouettes
in a lush tropical oasis
which will burn
your brain in its reality
if your feet ever touch
the ground.

--Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Shays

What possessed
the man?
The thought
Of losing
A dream...
After beating
Down the land,
Making it with
His hands.
The gathering
Of dreamers
Dreamt
Of taking
A stand.
An army
Of dreamers
Pushed to
Take up arms
Marching off
To Springfield
Before being
Marched
Upon...
But -
To lose all -
All for naught
These dreamers
Fought?
Though dreamers
Dreamt again.

--Doug Turner
New Salem


Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638
413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

daily soups and lunch specials!

dynamic caffeination
warm friendly service
brown bag catering
Mon - Fri 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
4 Main Road, Gill 413-863-0033


LIVING ROOM YOGA
Programs now in
Turners Falls,
Montague & Leverett
CLASSES ~ WORKSHOPS ~ PEACE
LISA ENZER, M.ED., RYT
WWW.LIVINGROOMYOGA.NET
413-367-2658

HOMESPUN By Andy's
329 Deerfield St., Greenfield 413-773-3911 www.andysoak.com

Come In To See Our Everyday Specials
And Ask Us About "Try Before You Buy"

It Figures!
Kate McGrath, MBA
413-768-9095

Income Tax and Accounting
Specializing in QuickBooks


RISTORANTE DiPAOLO
Wednesday Wine Specials Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10
GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday
413-863-4441

Entering a Hidden World Just Outside Our Doors

BY REBECCA RIDEOUT

ATHOL – As I speed past trees and fields on my way to work, it's easy to forget the ancient patterns of wildlife that are taking place amid my own human patterns. I was happily reminded of these during a recent animal tracking workshop offered through the Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, led by tracker Paul Wanta.

Wanta's experience in tracking extends over 24 years. He teaches for several nature schools and programs including the Open View Farm in Conway.

Our group of 20 aspiring trackers began the morning of January 29th by tromping through the field behind the Mt. Grace Trust's farmhouse headquarters, on the conserved land of Skyfields Aboretum in Athol. One of dozens of tracts of land that have been conserved by the trust, Skyfields is a 40-acre parcel adjacent to the 440-acre Lawton State Forest.

In this undisturbed wildlife corridor, I was not only reminded of the natural world, I was immersed in it. With enthusiasm and humor, Wanta imparted volumes about the staggering diversity co-existing mere yards from the farmhouse. Evidence of coyote, red fox, weasel, mink, snowshoe hare, deer, fisher cat, squirrel and mice abounded. Indeed, the preservation of this land is not only (or not mainly) for humans' enjoyment, but as a sanctuary for animal life as well – signs of their entire life cycles appeared before our eyes.

Upon a wooded knoll we found a deer lay, a patch of snow packed down with the impressions where their spindly legs sprawled as they slept.

Scattered among the trees, we found middens created by dozens of squirrels – heaping piles of pinecone husks, left like the remains of peanut shells at a local bar.

We followed a red fox path as it darted through the meadow past the homes of field mice, examining the beaten down snow where he had captured dinner.

In perfectly preserved tracks on the ice of a woodland stream, we discovered an animal highway where coyote tracks crossed with tracks of mink, and weasel prints shot off into the brush not far away. The lacy trails of wood mice and vole's tunnels wove among the tree trunks.

The ground was literally covered with an array of signs, each telling a story about the secretive lives of wild animals. As Wanta cautioned at the outset of the hike, "You'll all soon be infected with the tracking virus – it's incurable, I'm sorry. The only way to deal with the symptoms is to keep tracking."

I was hooked. Growing up in rural NH, I had my share of tracking lessons from my enthusiastic mother and grandfather. We'd trek through the woods on snowshoes or cross country skis, coming to a screeching halt when they spotted a track. But I'd forgotten how detail-oriented the tracker needs

nibble marks left by snowshoe hares on low growing twigs, and drag marks created by a tail, or a predator's catch dangling from its mouth. We took note of the stride (length of gait) and straddle (width between paws or hooves).

"Tracking is about putting yourself in the mind of the animal," Wanta explained; "what it eats, its expectations, and its cycles." Our group of adults and children were soon creeping around the winter woods with new eyes.

Trackers are their own breed, to be sure. They are known to squat and sniff animal excrement, inhaling long breaths of fox urine or fisher cat scat, taking in loads of information about the animal's diet and the freshness of the trail. Wanta and his cohorts have been known to spend an entire day tracking a bobcat by scent alone: a group of grown adults sniffing stumps for urine as they tracked the cat for miles. He recounted a friend's awkward story, in which he proudly presented weasel scat from his freezer to a new girlfriend as a form of endearment.

He admitted that trackers tend to "lose perspective" if they spend too much time together. Their tendency to dig around in fresh animal scat may make others back away in disgust.

As if on cue, we came across a pile of deer scat that appeared to be too fibrous for their winter diet. Wanta stopped the group and we gathered around. It was also too big for wintertime deer scat, but too pelleted to be any other type of large animal, so he knelt and poked it with a stick (no one backed away in disgust – the group was quite captivated). Could a deer have gotten into someone's hay, or eaten some other sort of plant material? Their winter diet normally creates dense, dehydrated pellets that smell mostly of concentrated hemlock (their main form of calories). Could it be an older pile



REBECCA RIDEOUT PHOTO

Tracker Paul Wanta pointing out a deer rub, where male deer rubbed their antlers during mating season.

of deer pellets that had been softened by the weather, since deer excrement is known to last for years on the forest floor?

At times like this, Wanta would remind us of the bigger picture of tracking. "It's about not knowing, the ambiguity." He smiled and shrugged, "It keeps me humble". He advised us to tuck questions like these away, these unanswered animal mysteries, in case we come across the answer sometime later in our tracking careers.

Squatting near a particularly deep track that seemed to be made from a deer's leap across a ravine, Wanta snatched something and stood up with a smile. He held a single hair in his hand. Snapping it, he showed us that its hollow insides made a perfect coat of insulation against the cold. Learning moments like this left me feeling like a walking nature encyclopedia by the end of the morning.

We stood in the fifteen degree weather for three hours, and although my wrists ached like an ice cream headache, I wasn't ready to go inside. I felt quite the opposite – the longer I stayed in the woods, the longer I wanted to soak in the essence of the wild. I wanted to stare at the crisp lines of snow on fallen logs, the intricate patterns of piled leaves frosted with ice. The more details I soaked in, the more comfortable I felt in this foreign land of frozen

forest. I now knew that red foxes travel with their mates, traversing the woods together as they search for food for their kits, born in February or March. Chipmunks stay in their dens all winter, making separate rooms for sleeping, food storage, and latrine. Owls can often be seen high up in canopy branches, swaying in the winter winds as they doze.

In talking with a fellow tracker who has attended Wanta's workshops for over three years, I discovered that the same animal species have been making the same patterns in the same locations year after year. A well-hidden world was opening up to me. As we walked back to the Mt. Grace headquarters, Wanta agreed: "It really is like entering another universe."

That evening, I'd thoroughly defrosted and put my notes away on my desk – moving on to dinner, and the rest of the weekend's plans. I shoved on my boots to grab some cordwood from the backyard. As I crunched out to the covered wood pile, I spotted a track – and instantly knew it was a rabbit, perhaps a hare. I squatted to see if any twigs had been nibbled nearby. The square shape of a gray squirrel's bounding gait crossed the yard, and a few neighborhood cats' paths circled the garden bed. I smiled – I had indeed been infected by the incurable tracking virus.

United Siding & Window
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • SIDING • ROOFING

Since 1970

FREE ESTIMATES
Liscenced & Insured
MA Reg # 105027
MA Construction
Supervisor's Liscence # 7543

Bob Edwards
603.239.8389
413.834.3902

to be. Wanta described the tracker's mentality as similar to a detective's. We were taught to notice

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Peace Restored

Tuesday, 2/9 10:02 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for trespassing on Fifth Street.	8:00 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating an uninsured, unregistered vehicle.	intimidating a witness. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery, wanton damage or defacement of property, and intimidating a witness.	domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and	Peace restored. 7:23 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Peace restored.
Wednesday, 2/10 1:24 a.m. Report of larceny at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road.	9:11 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration.	4:18 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Dewolf Road. Peace restored.		Monday, 2/15 8:05 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on O Street. Report taken.
Thursday, 2/11 5:30 p.m. Hit and run accident at Turners Falls High School. Investigated.	Saturday, 2/13 12:11 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for	Sunday 2/14 11:43 a.m. Larceny at Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery on Turners Falls Road, investigated.		4:25 p.m. Larceny at St. Mary's Cemetery on Turners Falls Road. Referred to an officer.
Friday, 2/12 7:23 p.m. Missing person at Farren Emergency Shelter. Returned to home or family.		6:44 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Federal Street.		4:28 p.m. Larceny at Our Lady of Czestochowa on Turners Falls Road. Referred to an officer.
				Tuesday, 2/16 3:35 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.

Your clear choice for
QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
SUNRISE
(413)498-4318

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Honest Work
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg.#107141
Mass. License #059565

JOE GRAVELINE

Totally Free Checking!

Free Gift!

Love it!

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK
Linda Ackerman
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls
413-863-4316
www.greenfieldsavings.com
Member FDIC ■ Member DIF

NOW BOOKING WEDDING AND SENIOR PORTRAIT SESSIONS!

BRITTNEY LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHY
PORTRAITS & WEDDINGS

\$10 OFF IF YOU MENTION THIS AD

413-563-6229
GREENFIELD
BRITTNEYLEIGHPHOTOGRAPHY@YAHOO.COM

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS

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

VOTE from pg 1

interests to run the plant beyond the scheduled closing date of 2012," Shumlin said. He was flanked by three senators from key committees: Virginia Lyons, chair of the natural resources committee (D-Chittenden), majority leader John Campbell, (D-Windsor), and Ann Cummings, chair of the finance committee (D-Washington).

For Entergy Vermont Yankee to prevail in its bid to secure a 20-year extension on its license, a yes vote would be needed in both houses of the Vermont legislature, to instruct the Vermont Public Service Board to certify the license extension is in the "public good." A no vote in either chamber would forbid the issuance of the certificate of public good Vermont Yankee needs to continue to operate past 2012, and a no vote would be impervious to a veto from Republican governor Jim Douglas, a major supporter of Vermont Yankee.

Recent revelations of radioactive tritium leaks to the groundwater at the reactor site and, probably, to the Connecticut River, have caused a public relations nightmare for Vermont Yankee in the weeks leading up to the vote. Douglas, who began the legislative session calling for a quick vote on Yankee's license extension, has recently switched and called on legislators to hold off on the VY vote for another year, until emotions cool.

But Shumlin, who is running for the governor's seat Douglas will vacate in November, said Tuesday the time had come for legislators to take a stand. "We have a responsibility to provide Vermonters and Vermont businesses a direction for our energy

future."

Douglas issued his own statement Tuesday, saying, "The legislature can do what it wants," and warning that the November election could bring in a different group of lawmakers who could reverse any decision made about Vermont Yankee this session. Douglas also implied the federal government could step in and reverse a decision state legislators make about whether Vermont's sole nuclear power plant will remain in operation.

Meanwhile, representative Patricia O'Donnell (R-Vernon) called for Vermont Yankee to keep running until 2015, to give enough time for a new nuclear plant to be built at the reactor site, to take the place of the 38-year-old reactor. She cited Vermont's need for reliable baseload power and jobs.

But House speaker Shap Smith (D-Morristown) said if the Senate rejects Yankee's bid for a license extension on Wednesday, there will be no reason for the House to take any vote on Vermont Yankee this session.

In the 30-member Senate, 16 votes are needed to pass a bill. A poll in the Barre-Montpelier *Times Argus* on Wednesday found only two senators supporting continued operations at the plant, and 19 on record to retire it on schedule in 2012.

Senator Edward Flanagan (D-Chittenden) said, "I don't know how anyone could vote for it now. Our worst fears have been realized."

Randy Kehler, of Colrain, MA an organizer for the grassroots Safe and Green Campaign, which sponsored town meeting resolutions in 14 Franklin County towns in 2008 to decommission Vermont Yankee by 2012, said,

"It looks like we are about to harvest the fruit of many, many years of work to make sure this old reactor is shut down on schedule. This vote represents an historic event, because no other state legislature in the United States has given itself the authority to shut down a nuclear reactor. When they actually do it, it will have repercussions not only for our area, but for the whole country and for the nuclear industry.

"What's happening now is in line with the tradition that began back in 1974, when Sam Lovejoy toppled the weather tower and citizens rose up to make sure the twin nuclear reactors planned for the Montague Plains never got built. It's also consistent with the successful citizen effort in western Franklin County to terminate the Yankee Rowe reactor, which was plagued with design flaws and operating problems."

Among the 12 Franklin County towns that voted in 2008 to shut down Vermont Yankee on schedule were Montague, Gill, Leverett and Wendell.

"People in Montague and surrounding towns will be able to breathe a huge sigh of relief," said Kehler, if the vote in the Vermont Senate goes against Vermont Yankee next week. "On the other hand, we still need to get this reactor shut down right now, until they find and fix the massive tritium leak contaminating the groundwater and our river."

A carpool will leave the Greenfield Home Depot parking lot on the Mohawk Trail, at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24th to travel to Montpelier to observe the vote, if the senate holds to its schedule. For more information, call: (413) 625-6967.



**LEAKS AND LIES
PUBLIC FORUM ON CLOSING VERMONT YANKEE**

For anyone wanting to join the call to close the Entergy corporation's Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor – or anyone wanting to find out why it should be closed – downtown Brattleboro on Sunday, February 21st, is the place to be. At 1:00 p.m., people will assemble at the Grove Street parking lot behind the Brattleboro Post Office for a rousing procession to the Latchis Theater where a public forum will begin at 2:00 p.m.

The forum will address the leakage from the reactor of ever greater concentrations of radioactive tritium into the groundwater adjacent to the Connecticut River, the Vermont Legislature's response to Entergy's loss of public confidence, the importance and feasibility of replacing Vermont Yankee's electricity with power from safe, renewable sources, and the impact of the Vermont Yankee debacle on the larger debate in the U.S. about nuclear power.

These and other topics will be discussed by a range of public health, environmental, and nuclear experts including: Paul Gunter, executive director of the Washington D.C.-based nuclear watchdog group, Beyond Nuclear; David Dean, Vermont State Representative and Riverkeeper for the Connecticut River Watershed Council; Clifford Hatch, organic farmer in Gill, Massachusetts; Dr. Ira Helfand, co-founder and past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility; Deborah Katz, executive director of Citizens Awareness Network; Clay Turnbull, staff member of the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution; and Chris Williams, organizer, Vermont Citizen Action Network.

This event is being sponsored and organized by the Safe & Green Campaign, which was responsible for organizing last month's 126-mile "Step It Up to Shut It Down" walk from Brattleboro to Montpelier. Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and Vermont Citizen Action Network (VCAN) are co-sponsoring the event.

In order to protect the health and safety of the people and environment surrounding the reactor, the Safe & Green Campaign is calling for an immediate shutdown of Vermont Yankee until the current tritium leak is found and fixed. The Campaign is also calling upon the Vermont Legislature to permanently retire Vermont Yankee no later than the expiration of its original 40-year license in March of 2012.

**For more information, go to
www.SafeAndGreenCampaign.org.**

Paid advertisement: Bob Bady, Brattleboro, VT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IRVING POLICE LOG

Two Car Accident

Tuesday, 2/9

6:25 p.m. Orange police requested assistance with foot pursuit of subject. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 2/11

10:25 a.m. Report of male party threatening to harm himself at a North Street residence. Transported to FMC.

3:22 p.m. Assisted motor vehicle owner

with lockout. Entry gained.

4:37 p.m. Two car motor vehicle accident on West Main Street at Arch Street. No injury.

8:20 p.m. River Street resident advised of noise complaint for playing music outside loudly. Area checked, all quiet.

Spoke with resident, advised was installing car

stereo, will keep it down.

Friday, 2/12

9:50 a.m. Report of truck on fire at High Street. Erving Fire Department handled it.

Sunday, 2/14

6:20 p.m. Suspicious vehicle on Arch Street. Subject was lost. Gave directions and moved along.

Quilt Raffle to Benefit NELCWIT

A lap quilt, machine pieced by Sara Cohen and quilted by Barbara Fortin, is being raffled to benefit the New England Learning Center for Women In Transition (NELCWIT). The multi-colored quilt, described as having "churn dash squares," can be seen at The Textile Company, 21 Power Square in Greenfield.

The raffle also includes two

other prizes: a hat-knitting kit donated by Irene Woods, and an original pastel painting donated by local artist Margaret Soussloff.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and are available at The Textile Company between 9 a.m. and 5:20 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and until 8:20 p.m. on Fridays. Tickets are also available at NEL-

CWIT, 479 Main Street in Greenfield, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays, or by sending a check to: NELCWIT, PO Box 520, Greenfield MA 01302.

The drawing will be held on March 8th, 2010. All proceeds will benefit NELCWIT's services for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

For more information, call (413) 772-0871.

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

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT
COME SIT BY THE FIRE!
Hot Soups, Cold Beer
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
7 days a week
All Winter Long
Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

**COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY**
MA Reg #RS2066
48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780
Mike Fuller, Owner

The Whole Tree
The Art and Science of Tree Care
• Removals
• Structure pruning
• Shrub pruning/rejuvenation
• Planting/transplanting
• Insect/disease treatment
Andrew Young (413) 387-8678
notreeleftbehind23@yahoo.com

Unique Gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India starting at \$10!
PLUS Local Artisan Gallery
665-5550
HIMALAYAN VIEWS
Just south of Magic Wings on Rts 5&10 • tibetanplaza.com

**YARN VACS
BACCI'S**
SALES AND SERVICE
on Call 24/7 for Repairs
All Makes & Models
114 Wells Street
Greenfield 773-1805

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
• full color offset printing
• digital copies
• oversize copies
• files accepted via email
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!
24 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!
up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service
180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

FIELD NOTES FROM THE WENDELL ENERGY TASK FORCE

Wendell Town Hall to Be Outfitted with 'Winserts'

will involve applying foam tape and plastic sheeting to pre-made frames and installing them.

The town hall's energy performance was recently improved with insulation blown into the walls and ceiling. This latest project will tighten the building's 14 windows, including the four six-

foot high windows of the main hall.

The workshop was arranged by the Wendell energy task force and will be led by Winsert expert Brian Nugent of Athol.

To RSVP or for more information: call Laurie DiDonato at (978) 544-8270 or Jonathan von Ranson, (978) 544-3758.

Eagle Watch: Camera Repairs Ongoing; Nest Activity Picking Up



installed above the nest several years ago, sent by District Manager Ralph Taylor.

The camera appeared to be functioning properly on battery power, but the solar panel and the wiring to the solar array that normally powers the camera will need further attention.

The first eagle nest in Barton Cove was built in 1989, in a big white pine. It came down in a storm. The eagles immediately built a second nest in the "old dead tree," which came down on July 27th, 2008, after one chick fledged successfully.

The eagle parents returned to the present nest - nest #3 - in 2009. We watched nest activity, but there were no eggs or chicks last year.

This nest is hidden from view once leaves appear. We will watch for brooding and feeding activity - we hope! - next month.

I have been very lucky to observe our resident eagles, adults and young, since the first pair arrived in 1989. They have changed partners and remained on Eagle Island on Barton Cove ever since. Soon, with the help of First Light Power, US Fish and Wildlife, and MCTV Channel 17, with any luck, you will be able to observe them again too!

BY PAT CARLISLE

GREAT FALLS - Eagle parents are busy. The newest nest in Barton Cove is very active. Our local pair of eagles are busy rearranging twigs and sticks to prepare for eggs and chicks.

In past years we have watched an egg crack open and a chick hatch on March 4th or 5th. We are hopeful again this year.

My telescope is kept aimed at Eagle Island, and what a surprise I saw last week under the nest tree!

A crew from the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife has come out to the island to assess the condition of the camera that had been

number of areas where changes need to be made."

For one thing, Dubai said, "We need to deal with the Usher plant. The selectboard is taking action to clear the lot and have it over with." But Dubai said the brick building that contains the old boiler room is in good shape, as is the landmark water tower, and these and other structures could form the nucleus of a center for ecotourism to access the whitewater potential on the adjacent Millers River.

"It's a beautiful part of town, at the confluence of the Keyup Brook, south facing, facing Bear Mountain." He added, "People who have never been out on the river, or up to the Hermit's Cave," or the Metacomet and Monadnock Trail, "are missing the boat on the tourist industry and what it means for our area. We're at an important crossroads.

For thousands of years it's been a trail; for hundreds of years we've made our living off the turnpike and highway."

Dubai said besides developing Erving's potential as a center for tourism, he would like to see Erving Center put in a municipal water supply to replace private wells and provide a source of water pressure for hydrants and conventional commercial sprinkler systems. He also recommends seeking funding sources to develop the former International Paper mill in Erving into a business incubator.

"Since 1960, there have only been two new commercial buildings put up in town - the former steel stamp plant in Erving, now the post office, "and the pallet shop my father put up on North Street. Only two new commercial buildings in town in 50 years. That's a scary thought."

Dubai Enters Race for Selectboard

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING - Last week, three-term selectboard member Andy Tessier took his name out of the running for the May 3rd town election, and Eugene Klepadlo tossed his hat into the ring. This week, former selectboard member and current planning board chair Jeff Dubai announced his intention to challenge Klepadlo for the three-year term.

"I've taken out papers," said Erving Center native Dubai, whose brother Bert preceded him on the selectboard. When his brother declined to run again in 2005, Jeff Dubai ran as a write-in candidate in a four-way race and won. Three years later he lost a reelection bid to Andrew Goodwin.

Dubai, who has served on the planning board for over 25 years, said "I think I have a unique vision for Erving. There are a

Towns Receive Energy Conservation Grants

BY DAVID DETMOLD

FRANKLIN COUNTY - The towns of Gill, Erving, Leverett and Montague are among a num-

ber of Franklin County towns that succeeded in securing energy conservation grants from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources this week.

Gill, Leverett and Montague all received the maximum grant award, \$150,000, through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program; Erving received \$81,000 to replace inefficient windows and insulate the town hall, for a potential \$1400 annual savings on utility bills.

Gill will use its grant money to pay down the cost of an ener-

gy performance contract to improve efficiency in six municipal buildings, for a potential savings of 152,384 pounds of carbon dioxide, annually, according to the DOER website.

As part of their energy performance contract, Leverett will use their grant to replace two aging oil furnaces and the electric heating system at the town hall, saving an estimated 166,441 pounds of CO2 annually. Montague will replace the inefficient boiler at the town hall, saving 308,539 pounds of CO2 annually.

GREENFIELD - Siren Cafe and PowerTown Music will present a fund-raising concert on Saturday, March 6th, featuring North Poletapes (J.D. Hairston), Brian Phantom Fairlane, Simon Eaton, Luke Eaton, Dakota Roberts, and Eric D'Ambra. The concert will start at 7 p.m., and a donation of \$3 to \$5 will be accepted.

All proceeds will go to benefit The Brick House Community Resource Center and its mission to support individual, family and community well being through collaboration on economic development, youth development, leadership development and education.

PowerTown Music is a collaboration between The Brick House Community Resource Center and local musicians (based in Franklin County). Its mission is to provide full service musician production and management, with a focus on the growth of the artists served and the workforce that supports them. It does so by employing, empowering, and mentoring young people who have interests and skills in making music and a goal of working in the music industry.

For more information, visit: www.brickhousecommunity.org www.thesirencafe.com www.powertownmusic.com

WRITE NOW!
Creative writing workshops with Edite Cunha, MFA. All levels. Reasonable rates 413-775-3905 editecunha@comcast.net

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

MontagueWebWorks.com

build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

SOUND • STABLE • SOLID
MetLife MetLife Home Loans
TIM PREVOST - Mortgage Consultant
413-773-8984
tprevost@metlife.com
All loans subject to approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. L09086294[exp0909][All States][DC]

LOGOS & BRANDING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
WEB SITES
COPY WRITING
BUSINESS STRATEGY
INTERNET MARKETING
MISSION & VISION
H₂O
BOYSEN HODGSON
413 303 9193
www.h2-om.com

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918
Local Farmer-Owned
Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture
Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard
269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards Certified Arborist
Storm Damage Restoration
Cabling & Bracing
Shade Tree Maintenance
Tree Removal
Stump Grinding
Owner
Climber
Insured
Wendell • 978-544-7452
www.mattedwardstree.com

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
AUDI — VW — VOLVO — BMW
Now Specializing in Toyota and other Asian Cars
413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. Is ginger really good for nausea, or is this an old wives' tale?

Ginger is an underground stem that is beige, thick and knotted. The stem extends roughly a foot above ground with long, narrow, ribbed, green leaves, and white or yellowish-green flowers.

The underground stems of the ginger plant are used for cooking and medicinal purposes. In Asia, ginger is used to treat stomach aches, nausea, and diarrhea. Ginger extract is found in many dietary supplements sold in the United States for digestive ailments.

ments.

Common forms of ginger include fresh or dried root, tablets, capsules, liquid extracts, tincture and tea.

The following are summaries of evidence from the National Institutes of Health about treatment of a variety of ailments with ginger:

Motion sickness

Some studies report that ginger has no effect on motion sickness, and other studies say that ginger may reduce vomiting, but not nausea. More studies are needed comparing ginger to other drugs used for motion sickness

Nausea and vomiting from pregnancy

Early studies suggest that ginger may be safe and effective for nausea and vomiting of pregnancy when used at recommended doses for short periods of time.

Nausea from chemotherapy

Initial research reports that ginger may reduce the severity

and length of time that cancer patients feel nauseated after chemotherapy. Other studies show no effects. More study is required to confirm these results.

Post-surgical nausea and vomiting

Some studies report improvement in nausea or vomiting after surgery if patients take ginger before surgery. However, other research shows no difference. Additional studies are needed.

Migraine

There is not enough available scientific evidence in this area.

Osteoarthritis

Ginger has been studied as a possible treatment for osteoarthritis. Results of these studies are mixed. More research is needed.

Rheumatoid arthritis

There is limited scientific evidence about whether ginger helps people with rheumatoid arthritis.

Weight loss

Ginger has been suggested as a possible weight loss aid, but

more study is needed to make a firm recommendation.

The following are just some uses based only on tradition or theory. They often have not been thoroughly tested in humans. These uses include:

Antacid, anti-inflammatory, aphrodisiac, athlete's foot, baldness, bronchitis, cancer, colds, cough suppressant, depression, diarrhea, high cholesterol, flatulence, flu, headache, heart disease, hepatitis, high blood pressure, kidney disease, low blood pressure, malaria, pain relief, snake bites, psoriasis, stomach ache, sweating, toothache and ulcers.

Few side effects are linked to ginger when it is taken in small doses. Side effects most often reported are gas, bloating, heartburn, and nausea. These effects are most often associated with powdered ginger.

There is a lack of available studies that confirm the long-term, safe use of ginger supplements.

ments.

In theory, ginger may increase the risk of bleeding when taken with blood-thinners such as aspirin, anticoagulants such as warfarin (Coumadin), anti-platelet drugs such as clopidogrel (Plavix), and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) or naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve).

Ginger may also interfere with medications that change the contraction of the heart, including beta-blockers and digoxin.

Before beginning to take ginger for any ailment, you should consult your doctor. Seniors usually take medicines regularly and it's always unwise for them to start a new regimen without the advice of a physician.

Federal regulations for dietary supplements are very different from those for prescription and over-the-counter drugs. For example, a dietary supplement manufacturer does not have to prove a product's safety and effectiveness before it is marketed.

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

THEATER from pg 1

fettle. We hope the dancing, costumes, sets, music, and lights are all set to dazzle.

We struggle with disappointment when things fall short, yet, in the end, we find triumph from their efforts.

One of the best aspects of this particular production is the choreography. There is no choreographer mentioned in the program, so it might be assumed that "Executive Director" Kimberly Williams choreographed as well as directed. In any case, whoever she, he, or they are who choreographed the musical, the dancing numbers are excellent.

The dancers' moves go well with the music, and the dancers

handled all the steps well. There were never too many dancers on stage at a time, another big plus. There can be mini-disasters onstage when community theater companies cast too many actors (particularly children) and the dance/chorus/crowd scenes look too crowded. This can lead to the audience being confused about where to focus, or looking out for mash-ups rather than enjoying a well-done number.

The dancers in *Fame* number just enough so they have space to execute their moves well without jostling others.

There also seems to have been particular care taken in the dancers keeping an even amount of space between them – gener-

ous enough so the dances have the succinctness of a school of fish – rather than a demolition derby. Well done!

The big dance numbers are to "Hard Work," where the newly admitted students are told what is required of them; "There She Goes! / Fame," where Carmen lets us know she's "all that," with the help of her peers; and the toe-tapping "Dancin' on the Sidewalk," a tip-top Tyrone moment where he and the cast show us how it's done.

Ah, then we have the struggles and disappointments. To begin with, the overarching decision to do this show with such young actors presents problems for the audience. Too many of the cast are not yet, or are just barely, teenagers. *Fame* has a lot of adult content in it. There are some very uncomfortable moments where kids who look as though they should still be focusing more on video games rather than the opposite sex are forced to play above their age.

For example, a character named Jose has the hots for Carmen, and he sings a song about his hardening manhood, called "Can't Keep It Down." Actor Jeffrey Koch looked like he would still be more versed in erector sets than erections. In a world where kids are forced to grow up too fast, I cringed in my seat to see this and other examples of pushing kids too fast toward adulthood in the show. I must add, Koch did a great job with his song, and as one of the show's leading characters he is a fine addition to the cast.

There are many good songs in the original show, and one won-

ders why some of the best ones were cut, namely, "I Sing the Body Electric," "What A Feelin'," and "Out Here on My Own." These songs would have deepened the audience's understanding of the teens as they soul-search through the first stage of their adulthood.

The good news is, the songs that stay are well executed, in particular, "Tyrone's Rap," masterfully done by Tyrone himself, Gabe Duska. As "proper" as a white boy can do, he raps this black character's facts with no slack, jack: "Don't need no rich bitch / To tell me which / fork to use / I paid my dues / In a rat trap building called New York / Livin' off beans / greens and pork / In a basement / Tenement..."

In a word, Mr. Duska, Fabulous.

Other commendable performances are turned in by Tyler Conroy and MaryKate Duska, playing Nick and Serena, in "Let's Play a Love Scene"; the adorable Emily Butynski as Mabel, singing "Mabel's Prayer"; and Isabel Margola's portrayal of Carmen, singing the sobering "In L.A."

Most surprising – and leaving us wanting more – was the impressive voice of Kyle Woodcock as Schlomo. He has amazing warmth and depth to his voice for such a young man. Surely his talents will be showcased in upcoming shows, as he matures as an actor. (Such a nice face, Mr. Woodcock, please don't hide behind your gorgeous, curly locks!)

But the prize of the evening for song goes to the lovely Judith Dean Kulp. She has been graced

with a heavenly voice, and shares that gift with us in her rendition of "These Are My Children." Her vocal range is wide, her tonality lovely, and her phrasing delightful.

Her character, English teacher Ms. Sherman, sings of the calling of a teacher and how it is a privilege that God has chosen her to serve. There is a real grace about her as she shares the message of the song. She brings conviction to her every line, and I enjoyed the chills and a tear to the eye. Nicely done, my dear.

So there's the triumph of successful song and dance that makes up for any shortfalls. The experience of live theatre for cast members is a wonderful gift to them and to the community. And the excitement the cast members feel and exude is a palpable reminder of the worth of such an institution as the Shea to Turners Falls.

All in all a worthwhile event for adults and mature adolescents, and some pretty great music that gets stuck in your head so you can sing with your friends on the drive home.

The historic Shea Theater is located at 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The show runs Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20, at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m. For ticket information and reservations for *Fame* and other upcoming events at the Shea, call the Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281, or log on to www.theshea.org. The Ja'Duke website is www.jaduke.com, where you can order your tickets on line and see what else the company has on tap this year. Enjoy the show!



News from Franklin County Home Care

Food Assistance? It's a SNAP

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY – More and more people in Massachusetts have been taking advantage of the SNAP program. In the last year alone the number of people on SNAP has grown from 253,048 to 389,675.

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly the Food Stamp program.

Families with children, elders and persons with disabilities qualify for SNAP. People considered the "working poor" on limited incomes and those temporarily unemployed also qualify.

Today you are issued a debit card to use at check out of your favorite market. You can apply for the program online by going to www.mass.gov and searching on SNAP. Application forms are available online.

Participants in the SNAP program may qualify for a reduced rate on their utilities. They must contact their utility on their own, tell them they are a SNAP participant and ask for a rate change.

If you want help with the application, or to find out if you qualify, you may contact the resource consultants at Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC). They can help you complete the food stamps application form.

Please make an appointment by calling (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259, or by emailing info@fchcc.org. FCHCC is located at 330 Montague City Road in Montague City. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Read more about ways FCHCC can help you at www.fchcc.org.

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

UPINNGIL
411 Main Road
Gill
413-863-2297
Farm store open daily, 8-7
Fresh milk, Farmstead cheese, Upinngil Wheat, Potatoes and Winter Squash
Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.

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

CRITICIZE from pg 1

Wendell finance committee member Jim Slavas said concerns for options for individual towns in superintendency unions could have been addressed with an amendment requiring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to make a study of the status of superintendency unions. Once the issues for superintendency unions were known, then any needed amendments could be written.

He said the process of adopting the amendment "was like the process to appoint the Mahar superintendent."

The vote taken to appoint current Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre last March was not even on the agenda the night the committee voted, without advance warning to member towns, to promote him.

Slavas added that the Donelan-Kulik amendment "seemed aimed at destabilizing Union 28." He proposed that a requirement for DESE review and approval should be instituted before a town could leave a

union. He added, "Union 28 is a jewel, a district that is working very well."

Reviewing the history of the amendment, Kulik said legislators had been aware for several years that some towns were interested in more flexibility in deciding whether to stay in superintendency unions. The legislators felt that a "common sense" process for leaving a union would be an appropriate addition to the Education Reform Bill.

He said that Shutesbury school committee chair Michael DiChiara offered to do some work on it and provided the legislators with draft language. The draft language was modified by legislators before the amendment was added to the bill.

"There are no public hearings for amendments," Kulik told the meeting. "Were you folks at the table? No. And I apologize for that."

Kulik thanked the local officials at the meeting for providing their comments and putting together written recommendations for changes and said, "I do not have antipathy toward Union 28, and I understand the high emotions about community

schools."

He said he was open to working on changes to the amendment and told the meeting, "We'll see about making this [amendment] better."

Kulik also provided an overview of the state budget for fiscal year 2011. He said that it would be "another challenging year, probably more challenging than 2010." He noted the budget presented by Governor Deval Patrick "holds local aid harmless." However, he characterized some of the assumed sources of revenue in Patrick's budget as "speculative."

He said payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) funds for state-owned lands in towns would be cut, a matter of considerable importance to towns like Wendell.

Based on another recent amendment, regional school transportation can no longer be reduced at a greater percentage than Chapter 70 school funding. Cuts to regional transportation primarily affect rural areas, while Chapter 70 funds are used by all cities and towns.

Kulik reported that legislators are working on a local aid resolu-

tion to be voted on in March, so that towns will have reliable guidance on state aid to cities and towns to use in setting their fiscal 2011 budgets.

When asked about the potential cuts in local aid, Kulik said, "It would be prudent to plan on a 5% reduction in state aid."

Idoine provided a brief overview of a model devised by the Wendell finance committee to calculate minimum town contributions for regional school districts. He said the current formula used by DESE results in Wendell paying a higher per-pupil cost for students at Mahar than New Salem, Orange, and Petersham.

According to Slavas, the DESE formula is based on a town's aggregate wealth, as evidenced by its equalized valuation and reported gross incomes as reported to the Department of Revenue, but does not take into account the number of students a town sends to a regional school. Students make up approximately 7% of the population in New Salem, Orange and Petersham, but only 4% of the population of Wendell, resulting in higher per-pupil costs for Wendell.

The Wendell finance committee model adds in a factor for the number of children being educated. They have tested it with data from other regions, such as Lowell, to see if it could be adapted for statewide use. Another "modest tweaking" of the model developed by the finance committee uses gross reported income after exemptions rather than gross reported income for calculating aggregate wealth. Slavas noted that excluding exemptions may harm poorer communities.

The draft models have been submitted to Kulik and the DESE. Kulik said the Education Reform Bill had directed DESE to initiate a comprehensive study of local school funding.

Kulik called the finance committee model "an extraordinary piece of work that puts a good alternative on the table."

He noted changes to the formula would produce "winners and losers" among cities and towns, a fact that could be used to argue against implementing any changes, even when the present model is demonstrably unfair.



CAFE from pg 1

gets to spend six days a week surrounded by coffee and books. It's a dual pleasure he picked up in college, he tells me. And one he's been able to share since opening for business on July 1st of 2009, inside the Green Trees Gallery building at 150 Main Street.

It's a place where people can enjoy lingering, that rarest of pleasures nowadays. For Pontius, getting to know people in town by "giving them a place to sit down and relax" has been the best part.

Of course some folks just need to get their coffee on the run, and it's the coffee that drives the business. But for a

picturesque rural town alongside the Connecticut River, it's great to have a place where people can stop and hang out; maybe read the Greenfield Recorder or a good magazine, always on hand; enjoy some art in the adjacent gallery.

Northfield Coffee and Books has comfortable seating, free Wi-Fi for internet access, and a spacious Children's Corner with toys, games, and a large blackboard. Then there's the wide variety of delicious coffee drinks (Deans Beans), chocolate treats and baked goods - muffins, fruit squares, cookies, turnovers and, yes, Whoopie Pies!

I went for a regular coffee

and a small bag of dark chocolate java drops (50 cents!): "Vienna-roasted, shade grown Guatemalan and Mexican coffees sensuously surrounded by pure dark chocolate." Pontius also brews a mean cappuccino, and offers various syrups (pomegranate or caramel, for example) to add to coffee or soda. Hot chocolate drinks seemed to be the most popular this morning.

Cozy in my perch, I reached for an unusual book on the nearest shelf - *Presidential Doodles: Two Centuries of Scribbles, Scratches, Squiggles and Scrawls from the Oval Office*. When Pontius joined me, I asked him to open the book at random and he landed on Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR loved fishing, and the featured drawing shows three fish connected by fishing line spelling out the words, "The Cruise Ends." I decided on the spot to make the book mine.

The most popular offerings, according to Pontius, are fiction, cookbooks, gardening - and, in response to requests from the people of Northfield, mysteries. Asked what he's been reading

lately, he replied "baby books." He and his wife Kate are expecting their first child by the end of February. They live close by and have been Northfield residents for two and a half years.

At some point the music switches to jazz ballads, and the soulful, mellow vibe continues. In a region known for quaint historic towns, Northfield stands out. Main Street retains the original colonial era linear commons and property lines, and is lined with 19th-century Federal and Greek Revival style homes. You can picnic along the river, and hike in Satan's Kingdom or a portion of the recently designated New England National Scenic Trail. Or you could stop by to rest and refuel during a scenic drive north across the state line. Main Street combines Routes 10 and 63: Route 10 takes you directly to Keene, New Hampshire, while Route 63 meanders along the river to Hinsdale, NH before crossing the Connecticut into Brattleboro, Vermont. Both make great day-trip destinations.

On the way out I stop to scan the Sale Rack. *All You Need to*

Postpartum Support Group Starting

The Franklin County Postpartum Coalition is offering a new support group designed for mothers (with babies up to one year old) who are experiencing a challenging post-partum time. The group meets Fridays, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Community Action Family Center, 90 Federal Street, Greenfield. Expectant mothers are also welcome. The Coalition offers free snacks and child care for children up to age 4 (infants stay with mothers in the group space). For more information on the new postpartum support group or for transportation assistance, contact Pam Baldwin at (413) 774-1000 x2015 or Sandy Clark at (413) 475-1566.

Know About the Movie and TV Business jumps into my hands. Just what I needed!

Northfield Coffee and Books is open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash and checks accepted. Parking is available.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Vandalism In Progress

Tuesday, 2/09

7:39 p.m. Report of elderly subject possibly in distress on French King Highway near French King Bridge. Checked area, unable to locate.

Wednesday, 2/10

4:06 p.m. Assisted resident with restraining

order options on French King Highway.

Thursday, 2/11

3:20 p.m. Report of vehicle operating erratically on Main Road. Checked area.

3:56 p.m. Erratic vehicle complaint on French King Highway. Vehicle stopped in Erving.

Monday, 2/15

12:50 p.m. Request to be on the look-out for despondent subject in motor vehicle. Later located out of town.

Tuesday, 2/16

10:59 a.m. Report of vandalism in progress to residence on River Road. Investigated.

Pam Veith Real Estate

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

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

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

ALL GRADE PLUMBING & HEATING

Brian Bowden-Smith
Lic: PL31465-J
413-863-5218
413-834-2576

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

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

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

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net
863-8316

Beijing Station

Chinese Restaurant Eat In, Carry Out & Catering

Tuesday Special
Buy One Meal, Get Second Meal 50% OFF!

FREE DELIVERY

51 Avenue A, Turners Falls
413-863-8988 | 413-863-2666

MARK OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD WINNER

RON SICARD
Sales Professional

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 MAIN ST
P O BOX 729
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746
DILLON@CROCKER.COM
Toll Free 1-800-698-3678

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Peter Tork* (of the Monkees), *Cliff Eberhardt*, *Ray Mason* and *Brooke Brown Saracino*, *DeAngelo Nieves* and *Katie Sachs*. 7 p.m. \$10 to \$20, proceeds go to the Brick House Community Resource Center. www.powertownmusic.com.

Benefit for Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, 8 to 11 p.m. at The Rendezvous, Turners Falls. Performers include *Higher Help*, *Peter Siegel*, *Ali Schelin* and *Steve Dubuque*, *Matthew Latkiewicz*, and *Crazy Folk*. Raffle prizes from various local businesses, suggested donation: \$5 and up! Contact: MJ Adams, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, (413) 586-5430.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th to 20th
The Glass Menagerie, performed by Northfield Mount Hermon students. 1930s costumes with minimalistic sets for the Tennessee Williams' poignant and dreamlike memory play. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat at 8 p.m. in Raymond Theatre, Rhodes Arts Center. Tickets are \$2 for NMH students, faculty, and staff, \$7 for all others.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *What's Wrong Here?* 10 a.m. Something is amiss at The Great Falls Discovery Center! Use your detective skills to help us solve the problem! Program repeats at 1 p.m.

Community concert with *Moonlight and Morning Star* at the Erving Senior Center, Erving. 1 p.m. Free show sponsored by the Erving Cultural Council.

The *Roots of War* speaker series continues. Organized by the WMass Chapter of the Progressive Democrats, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, and the



Tracy Grammer, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, February 27th at 7:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College Peace and Justice Studies Program. 12:30 to 2 p.m., Michael Klare speaks on *The Global Struggle for Resources*, Stinchfield Lecture Hall, GCC. Free, all welcome.

The film *The World According to Monsanto* at the Wendell Library at 7 p.m. The documentary traces the history and politics of the Monsanto Corporation, including its production of PCBs, creation of Agent Orange and Bovine Growth Hormone, and genetically modified seeds. Discussion of the film and its implications. Free. For more information, call (978) 544-8604.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, singing Johnny Cash tunes, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Punk/Ska/Rock showcase w/ the *Have Nots* coming in from Boston. Rob Skelton's *Pitchfork* opens. 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Levin Schwartz*, *Kate Lorenz*, and friends. \$5, 9:30 p.m.

Faces and Places Gallery, Millers Falls: Singer Songwriter *Heather Maloney* performs 7 p.m. Local jazz singer *Katie Sachs* opens.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19th & 20th
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*, 7:30 p.m. A surrealistic French comedy with Delphine Seyrig, Fernando Rey, directed by Luis Bunuel. French with English subtitles. 1972, PG, color, 101 minutes. Music before the movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
Kim & Reggie Harris in concert at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m. Kim and Reggie have inspired audiences around the world for over 25 years as singers, songwriters, storytellers and cultural advocates to bring new insights to the entertainment and educational

spectrum on a variety of subjects, such as the Underground Railroad, Civil Rights, and African American Music for Social Change. 7:30 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall.

The Andromeda Strain at the Wendell Free Library, 7:30 p.m. Free Admission (but seating is limited). Another movie in the Science Fiction and Horror movies on or about the new moon at the Wendell Free Library. www.wendell-freeibrary.org or (978) 544-3559.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*. Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser and Tina Horn will keep you happy with their amazing sound. 9 to 11 p.m.

The Miro Sprague Trio performs at Faces and Places Gallery, Millers Falls. An evening of jazz, featuring pianist Sprague with a trio from New York City. 7 to 9 p.m. Sliding scale admission: \$10 to \$15. For reservations please contact miro@mirosprague.com.

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: ROCKITQUEER, 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Family Dance 4 to 7 p.m. THEN: TNT KARAOKE w/ Opa Opa specials & swag 8 p.m. free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Acoustic Open Mic Night, 8 to 10 p.m. All are welcome!



Eric Schmider and his new band *The One Smith* play original songs rooted in the classic pop songwriting traditions of *The Beatles* and *The Brill* at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls on Friday, February 25th at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, A Night of Spoken Word. Open Mic at 7 p.m. – Guest Readers 8 to 10 p.m. Special Poetry night menu available, bring a friend and your appetite!

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic. – bring it on down! 8 p.m. (come at 7:30 to sign up to perform). Free.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Knitting & Crafts Night, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome. Get a chance to win our monthly crafty gift with every \$5 you spend at Craft night. Drawings held on

the last Wednesday of the month.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Montague Phantom Brain Exchange.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jim Olsen's Rendezvous Ramble* (honky-tonk DJin') 7 p.m. free. THEN: *Butcher Holler* (Eileen Jewell's Loretta Lynn Tribute) 9 p.m. \$10 cover.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, Harmonic Eclectic Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Boston-based musician *Eric Schmider* and his band *The One Smith* with Warwick singer-songwriter *Santina King*, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse: singer-songwriter *Tracy Grammer*, who's been described by the Boston Globe as "one of the finest pure musicians anywhere in folkdom," will grace the stage with her buddies Jim Henry (mandolin, dobro, guitar) and Guy DeVito (bass). From uplifting to the down-low and back again, expect an evening of delicious music and warm camaraderie. Open Mic at 7:30 p.m. \$6 to \$15. (978) 544-5557, www.wendellfullmoon.org. Partial proceeds to benefit the Spear Memorial Library.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kristen Ford Band*, Indie Rock, 9 to 11p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rik Rolski*, Acoustic Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

Family Dance, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. At the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Simple, happy dances paced for little feet. Perfect for 5 to 15 year olds. Sixteen to 60! Dances are always on the last Sunday of the month, from September through April. \$4 per person, or families \$7 to \$12 sliding scale, and include a light snack.

ONGOING FRIDAYS
Death Metal Knitting at the Brick House, Turners Falls. Every Friday during regular drop-in hours, 3 to 6 p.m. Start a new project, or work on an existing one. Instruction available for all skill levels. 863-9576.

ONGOING
The Gallery at Hallmark, Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Art + Space: Collected Work from Local Artists*. On display through February 28th

Northfield Mountain trails open. Over 25 miles of trails designed specifically for cross country skiing and groomed for both classical and free-style skiing. Some of the finest Nordic skiing in the region. Trails vary from beginner trails to the demanding 800-foot vertical climb of Tenth Mountain Trail. Wed. through Sun, 9 to 4:30 p.m. 24-hour Snow conditions: (800) 859-2960.

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday & Saturday
February 19th & 20th, 7:30 p.m.
THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE
A sweet, charming, slightly offbeat, wistful romantic comedy. Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film. 1972. PG. Color. 101 min.
Music before the movie 7 p.m.
Fri. Jeremy Starpoli – eclectic improvisations
Sat. Michael Nix Banjar – 7-string classical banjo
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for
Fri., February 19th to Thurs., Feb. 25th
1. **PERCY JACKSON: LIGHTNING THIEF** in DTS sound PG DAILY 7 9:30 FRI. SAT. SUN 12 3:30
2. **VALENTINE'S DAY** PG13 DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound FRI. SAT. SUN 12:00 3:00
3. **THE WOLFMAN** R FRI. SAT. SUN 12 3 DAILY 7 9:30
4. **DEAR JOHN** PG13 DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI. SAT. SUN 12:15 3:15
5. **EDGE OF DARKNESS** R DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI. SAT. SUN 12:15 3:15
6. **A SINGLE MAN** R in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 FRI. SAT. SUN 12:30 3:30
7. **SHUTTER ISLAND** R FRI. SAT. SUN 12:30 3:30 DAILY 6:30 9:30 in DTS sound

Draft Beer **Great Food**
Fine Wine

Friday, 2/19 9 to 11 p.m.
Josh Levangie
Johnny Cash Tunes
Saturday, 2/20 9 to 11 p.m.
Blame It On Tina
Sunday, 2/21 8 to 10 p.m.
Acoustic Open Mic
All are welcome!
978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

The Rendezvous
BURGERS! FOR LUNCH!

THURS: 2/18 | 8 PM | \$5 QUARTERLY *4 benefitting Habitat for Humanity
FRI: 2/19 | 9:30 PM | \$5 Levin Schwartz, Kate Lorenz & friends
SAT: 2/20 | 9:30 PM | \$3 Rockitqueer! THE Dance Party!
SUN: 2/21 first Family Dance | 4-7 PM | sugg. donation, then TNT KARAOKE w/ Opa Opa Specials & swag | 8 PM | FREE
MON: 2/22 | 8 PM | FREE Open Mic - bring it on down!

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

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

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

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

LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM
NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Compassionate and Professional Care for Your Small Animal

EXPANDED HOURS WITH DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM
194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls **413-863-0025**

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

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

TALKING PICTURES

This Thing of Darkness



1 eagle = the pits 4 eagles = the heights

BY TODD DETMOLD

CHICAGO – Easily the best movie at the multiplex right now, Martin Campbell's remake of his own 1985 British mini-series *Edge of Darkness* goes down smooth but gives you a bit of cork to gnaw on along the way.

Why is this being dumped in the late winter next to *The Wolfman* and *Valentine's Day*? In his first major vehicle since *Signs* in 2002, Mel Gibson seems bent on revenge not only for the murder of his character's daughter but for whatever it was that killed his career. That he spends most of the film hunched over in a dank trench coat that might as well be woven of shame is only one layer of the joke. As Michael Ian Black would say, Mel Gibson must have terrible PR.

Gibson plays Boston police detective Tommy Craven, whose grown daughter Emma is gunned down on his front porch. What begins as a formulaic revenge thriller quickly spirals into a massive political paranoia yarn full of corporate sleaze, government cover-ups and crooked cops. But it never devolves into

cat-and-mouse hijinks; rather, the bad guys are clearly delineated from the good by the end of the first act and the rest of the film is just one understated moment of quiet after the next, where Gibson and his Shakespearean ensemble try to

Mel Gibson stars in Martin Campbell's *Edge of Darkness*

figure out what the point of it all is.

Examining a crime scene that may or may not involve Emma's killer, a fellow cop offers that Craven is acting pretty calm for a guy in his position. He replies, "It doesn't do me any good not

to be." Later, threatening a lawyer only tangentially related to the conspirators, Craven warns the suit to do what he says or risk upsetting a man with nothing to lose.

Already aged to the point where flipping a table and pinning a crony takes his wind out for the whole five minutes of the resulting interrogation, Craven really doesn't have anything to live for except to dig as deep as he can into the mysteries of his daughter's death. What makes

ethereal or psychological part of Emma speaks to her father in short, monosyllabic sentences. These half-hearted attempts on the part of Craven's broken psyche to keep her alive are juxtaposed with sporadic flashbacks – all of which take place when she was an adorable little girl. There are a couple of holes here (namely Emma's mother and her adolescent years) and their void stings.

The key to the film is Ray Wintsone's Jedburgh, a high-ranking spook who lives in DC, has a thick British accent and tends to pop out of nowhere with a gun, a cigar, a glass of warm booze (or all three).

Jedburgh is the other ghost haunting Craven. He's a man of barely-defined profession who is clearly sent to kill our hero, but instead sets him on the path to uncover the big fish. Jedburgh's reversal (coming early in the film, again, so it can marinate) may be little more than a mid-life crisis of conscience from a middle-aged career hit man, but it's also the film's thematic foundation.

Jack Bennett, played by Danny Huston, an *ur*-sleazy private-sector weapons-developing CEO, also pauses to ask Craven about the loss of his daughter. Bennett, the bad guy, has spent his life creating something made to kill people he doesn't know.

Throughout the film, some

Jedburgh has spent his life killing people for money. They can see in Craven's eyes that all he ever did was create a little girl and they took her away.

In a movie obsessed with mortality, here are three men with nothing substantial to live for. Talk about darkness. Is there an essential goodness to Craven that Jedburgh sees? As a homicide detective, are the two men some kind of photo-negative image of each other? The movie requires some unpacking.

Purportedly an action movie, *Edge of Darkness* features exactly one car wreck, zero explosions and several scenes where guns get aimed and not fired. The tightness of the script impressed me: it's a rare movie with no extraneous scenes or characters that lets drama occur between human beings in a room and moves the story with their choices.

Not only is *Edge of Darkness* a Michael Clayton-esque political thriller tuned to our modern dilemmas (and not only did it predict a Republican Massachusetts Senator), it has the courage to play its game out between its characters rather than extrapolate a lot of nonsense about globo-terrorism. It may be about a government conspiracy, but that's all we need to know. What counts is what it means to a father.

Learn to Curl!

BY SARA CAMPBELL

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Curling Club is celebrating the Winter Olympics by giving the public the opportunity to get "up close and personal" on the ice this week.

If you have ever wondered what the Olympic sport of curling is all about, here's a nearby opportunity to try your hand at this 500-year-old pastime. Shuffleboard on ice? Billiards with 40 pound stones? The Petersham Curling Club, located about three miles south of Route 2 on Route 32, is a social organization which hosts in-house

league play for men and women, as well as traveling to tournaments (Bonspiels) near and far.

The Petersham club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and hopes to further its mission by attracting new curlers, young or old. The two sheets of curling ice can be viewed from the comfort of the



function room, via large windows and overhead cameras. Olympic curling will be featured on TV at the club as well.

From *The Simpsons* to prime time TV Olympic coverage, curling terms are sneaking into the mainstream. Do you know how to "Hurry Hard?!" And who can resist a sport that encourages you to throw rocks at the house?

Curling is a sport for all ages and abilities, including a woman who is five months pregnant on the roster of the Canadian

Olympic team in Vancouver. Curling debuted as a full-medal sport in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. The Canadian men's and women's teams have medaled in every Olympics, and Team USA men took home the Bronze in 2006.

Open House celebrations at the Petersham Curling Club are scheduled on Sunday, February 21st from noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday, February 25th from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests can also drop in to observe league play Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings

from 7 to 10 p.m. An additional "Learn to Curl" session will be held on Sunday, February 28th from noon to 3 p.m.

People of all ages are invited to try their hand at throwing the stones, or just learn more about this sport. Refreshments will be available. Bring clean rubber-soled shoes or sneakers, gloves and layers of warm clothing. You'll find out what all that sweeping is about.

For a full schedule visit www.petershamcurling.org or call (978) 724-3210.

COUNT ON AUTO INSURANCE WITH THE COVERAGE YOU NEED AT A RATE THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

Mass. Personal Auto Insurance is Competitive!



LOW RATES

Additional savings with...

- Any Auto Club Discount
- Our Special Group Discounts
- SBLI A Savings Bank Life Insurance Policy

Auto + Home Combo Credit! **SAVE UP TO 20%**

COUNT ON US FOR AUTO, HOME, AND ALL OF YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS!

413.863.4373 159 Avenue A Turners Falls MA www.ahrist.com

ANATOMY OF A VOO BURGER: 8oz. of juicy ground beef grilled to your liking



bun from
7 South Bakery
fresh
thyme
aioli

grilled
asparagus
smoked
cheddar
chorizo

THE RENDEZVOUS
GREAT FOOD AND DRINKJUICY LOCAL BEEF
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST!Your choice of side, roasted
potatoes pictured here.OPEN EVERY DAY:
LUNCH, DINNER, LATE NIGHT
78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
(413) 863-2866
THEVOO.NET

**MUSIC
&
MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309