



"ONLY JUST DARK"

Frank Gregory on Federal & Main

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YEAR 9 - NO. 16

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 20, 2011

Turners Falls Woman Hired as Wendell Food Coordinator



DETMOLD PHOTO

Elizabeth Carter

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON WENDELL - Elizabeth Carter of Turners Falls was hired Monday for the new position of local food coordinator for the town of Wendell. The University of Massachusetts soil science major and environmental activist used the words "excited" and "honored" to describe how she felt about joining forces with a community she considers to be

"on the cutting edge, by taking the initiative as a town to support its farmers." The Wendell energy committee that hired her was equally enthusiastic. Following the Monday night vote, she was phoned from the meeting room with the news. Once it was clear she had indicated her acceptance, members applauded and cheered.

see **HIRE** pg 13

Leverett's Tim Bullock Receives Living the Dream Award

BY ALI URBAN GREENFIELD

The diversity officer at Greenfield Community College dreams that some day her job won't be necessary.

Rita Hardiman was one of nearly 60 attendees to discuss their dreams at the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. community observance ceremony at GCC on Monday, January 17th. The annual event recalls the impact of King's work to realize his dream for social justice, and recognizes community members who continue to embody that dream.

"My dream is that the differences among people will be a cause of celebration, rather than fear and hatred," said Hardiman. Her role as chief diversity officer calls on her to build an inclusive, diverse college community.

"We can move forward with (King's) vision and dream by including our own dreams for peace, love and justice," said keynote speaker Dr. Bailey W. Jackson III, founder and chairman of the Social

Justice Education program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He challenged the audience to answer the question, "What is your dream?"

Participants expressed dreams that included a hope for a world in which the doors remain open to quality education, a society in which individuals do not have to choose between financial stability and quality health care, and an end to unofficial segregation and stereotypes that come from a divided society.

Jackson emphasized that the strategies to realize these dreams are also important.

"It is time to update, renew, recommit or restate our dreams," he said.

He added that King's fight for racial justice was part of a larger dream for social justice that addresses such issues as ethnocentrism, ageism, heterosex-



ALI URBAN PHOTO

G.C.C. president Robert Pura (left) presents the community college's annual Living the Dream Award to Tim Bullock on MLK Day.

ism and religious opposition.

"It was a first step when we (didn't) see the whole staircase," he said. "The broadening of issues is the next step or the next set of steps."

The event provided an opportunity for the community to come together to honor King's work "and to ask how are we doing?" said GCC president Robert Pura. "Are (King's) dreams obtainable to all?"

Pura said that at a time

when competition for jobs is more difficult, those without a degree face an even greater challenge in finding a job.

"Those with continue to have, and those without continue to struggle," he said, emphasizing that the the need for accessible, quality education.

Pura also presented two "Living the Dream" Awards to two men for their work to carry on the ideals of Martin Luther

see **AWARD** pg 12

Marion Herrick's House Waits Action by the Town



The Marion Herrick House, one of Wendell's last surviving original homesteads from the 18th century.

BY PAM RICHARDSON WENDELL - It is early morning on what promises to be an unseasonably warm day in late December. A thin covering of snow softens the winter landscape and the old house, its worn red paint glistening in the sun, stands proudly in the wide clearing left by the tornado of 2007. This morning, despite the toppled trees everywhere, the house looks cheerful, even expectant. "What's next?" it

seems to ask.

The house in question is what is today known as the Marion Herrick House, located on Wickett Pond Road. It is one of the last survivors of the original homesteads from the 18th century.

Wendell, at that time, was still the north end of Shutesbury (bordered to its north by Ervingshire). The town has very few homes dating from its early years, and there is as little known about them as about

Wendell's history in general.

It is certainly one of the oldest houses in town, if not the oldest. Now, it is owned by the town, and deliberations about its fate are ongoing. The select-board hopes to meet soon with the conservation commission to discuss its fate.

The property was purchased in the late 1940s by Marion Harrison Herrick and her husband, Louis Herrick, who were then living in Iowa, where Marion was born in 1910, and where Lou, a native of Westfield, MA and graduate of Amherst College, taught French at the small college Marion attended before becoming a teacher herself.

Lou was thirty years her senior and when he retired from teaching, he fulfilled two dreams: marrying Marion and moving back to western Massachusetts.

On June 28th, 1948, they took possession of the house in Wendell and lived a fairly private life there until Lou's death in 1966.

Marion loved books (floor-to-ceiling book-

shelves lined the walls of her living room) and she was a staunch supporter of the Wendell Free Library, doing everything from planting flowers in its front yard to donating 25 years of service as library trustee.

Three months before Marion's death at age 97 on October 27th, 2007, the meeting room in the new library was named in her honor. A portrait of Marion as a child hangs on a wall next to a grandfather clock salvaged from her home.

Who was Marion Herrick? Her neighbors, Dennis Harris and Janet Diani, spent many, many hours with Marion and have many stories to tell about the woman they describe as spunky, independent, generous, romantic and unique, as well as opinionated and, often, eccentric.

Janet laughed as she remembers first meeting Marion shortly after they moved in. "I heard a knock at the door and opened it to find a woman in her seventies wearing a holster hold-

see **HERRICK** pg 7

Piecework at the Shea



KEN BURRIS PHOTO

Abby Paige brings her solo show celebrating French Canadian heritage to the Shea Theater on Sunday, January 30th

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - Abby Paige thought she was going home when she married a Canadian and moved to Montreal in 2008. But she soon found out that being a French Canadian in the United States is not the same as being a French Canadian in Canada.

"When I was growing up near Burlington, VT, my family always called themselves French Canadian. Now that I've moved here, I see of course I'm not

French Canadian. It was quite painful, in a way, because I perceived my moving here as returning home. But I did not speak French, and I just do not have the same cultural references as people growing up here do," Paige said.

The pain of not belonging here, there, or anywhere is a common theme among immigrant populations everywhere. But Paige has done something unusual, and taken the sorrow and the joy of her eth-

see **SHEA** pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK Adopt Adorable



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If you have a barn or stable, you can help save a cat. Sometimes we have cats who cannot live as house pets. Cats in our barn cat program fall into one of three categories:

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Please note that we do not adopt cats who are suitable to be household companions to barns, only those cats without other options. You may be a homeless cat's last chance. For further information please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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Students of the Week**

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Nicole Peralta

Grade 7
Jarod Brown

Grade 8
Cheyenne Edwards
Alexandra Wing-LaClaire

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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
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 1/2 Year

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Wolves For Kids

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- *Wolves for Kids* will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, January 22nd at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to join the Children's Librarian for a fun

informative program on wolves. This is part of a monthly Saturday morning series on animals with Linda Hickman. For more information, call 863-3214.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Story Hour

GILL- Story hour has resumed after a holiday break in the center of Gill at Slate Memorial Library.

Each Friday morning at 10 a.m. families gather on the carpet for stories, fun and popcorn! As the winter months progress

we will hear stories about owls, bears and other furry friends, as well as trolls, monsters and snow. Each week a seasonal craft follows story time, as well as a time to meet and mingle with other families. For more information call (413)863-4235.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Documentary Film, Call For Art Work

- The award winning 2010 documentary *Gasland* will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Friday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. The film explores the horrendous effects of hydraulic fracturing, commonly used in the drilling for natural gas. The free viewing is sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission and the Wendell Engery Committee. For more information, call (978) 544-8604.

- Applications are now being accepted for art displays at the Wendell Free Library. The Library is announcing a call for local artists to submit work for possible exhibition at our Herrick Meeting Room Gallery. A committee appointed by the Library Trustees reviews all submissions. Exhibits run for

two months, and there is no charge for the use of the space.

Please stop by when the library is open to see the present show, the gallery space and pick up a copy of the two-page Gallery Policy/Application form at the library. You can copy and print out an online application as well. Go to wendellmass.us/index.php/wendell-free-library.html. Click on "Policies," then scroll down until you find "Wendell Free Library -Herrick Meeting Room: Application For Exhibit". Copy this, fill out and mail or drop off at the Library.

Library Hours: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.

- Richard Baldwin
Art Exhibition Committee

Gill Montague Senior Center Tax Aide

Since 1968, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers have helped nearly 50 million low - to moderate-income senior taxpayers.

From its modest start with four volunteers, Tax-Aide has grown to become the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance program. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained to assist with filing the

1040 Form and the more standard of the schedules, including Schedules A and B.

AARP volunteers will be available at the Gill Montague Senior Center on February 8th, February 28th, and March 28th by appointment. Call the Senior Center at 863-9357 to make an appointment.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - January 24th - January 28th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. AARP tax preparation appointments are available now for February 8th and 28th and March 28th. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Monday, January 24th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, January 25th
10:30 a.m. Yoga

1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, January 26th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, January 27th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, January 28th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Going the postman's creed one better; neither biting cold nor blowing snow nor freezing rain deters SPS workers from working on the Gill-Montague bridge during Tuesday's nasty snow and ice storm, holding true to early assurances that work would continue throughout the winter. The first two laborers are drilling holes for anchors the third man is inserting into the drilled holes to keep snow plows from moving the Jersey barriers aside.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from the Gill-Montague Bridge dedication booklet, published for the ribbon cutting ceremonies that took place on Saturday, September 10th, 1938.

- Cement mixing equipment and compressed air drills were brought to Turners Falls on May 20th, 1937 to assist with the original construction of the Gill-Montague bridge by D. O'Connell Sons, contractors, along with other large pieces of machinery to begin the excavation of the Turners approach. The rocks at the lower section of Avenue A were drilled and blasted to prepare the roadbed. Brush, scrap and debris in the vicinity were cleared away. At this preliminary stage, hundreds of townspeople gathered to watch the work. They would comment on the future of the town that the new bridge would provide.

More bridge facts next week!

"Libraries enable the past to talk to the future."
~ Edward Cornish

Cardiac Risk Cholesterol Screenings

GREENFIELD - Baystate Franklin Medical Center will hold a Cardiac Risk Cholesterol Screening on Wednesday, February 9, from 8:30 - 10:00 am in Conference Room B. Participants must fast for 12 hours prior to being screened. Test results will be forwarded to participants and their primary care providers. The cost for the screening is \$7.00; pre-registration is required. To register, please call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454 or (800)-377-HEALTH.

sure clinic will be held.

Monday, January 24th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, January 25th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, January 26th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, January 27th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, January 28th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Lunch - Stew

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

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – Did you ever think you were descended from royalty? Have you ever imagined a prince, princess, duke or duchess in your family tree?

Learn how to locate your ancestors with tips from Shari Strahan, a professional genealogist with over 30 years of research experience. Strahan will offer a free talk on **“Locating Your 19th and 20th Century Ancestors”** in the Greenfield Savings Bank community room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Girl Scout Troop 40143 is hosting a **Mystery Dinner** on Saturday, January 22nd, from 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, School Street, in Greenfield. The menu consists of chicken parmesan or veggie lasagna, salad, and dessert for \$20.00. Tickets in advance are available by calling, 413- 773-8072, or emailing Troop143info@yahoo.com. Girl Scout cookies will be available for sale. Proceeds benefit Troop 40143.

About-Face Computer Solutions, now located at 151 Avenue A in Turners Falls, will hold a grand opening on

Saturday, January 29th, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Stop by the new store, and register for door prizes. Snacks and beverages will be offered, and all of the staff will be on hand for questions.

About-Face Computer Solutions is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The store is already open, so drop by if you have any computer needs or questions.

Join educator Rachel Roberts on Saturday, November 29th for a program on tracking animals at the Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, 99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63) in Northfield. Participants will do a variety of hands-on science and art activities connected to animal tracking in the winter. Part of the class will be spent outdoors looking for signs of animals around Northfield Mountain, and playing some tracking games (so dress appropriately). For ages 5 and older. Pre-registration required by calling 800-859-2960.

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

Montague Dems to Caucus

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at the first floor meeting room of Montague town hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 15th, to elect six delegates and three alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, to be held Saturday, June 4th, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, to nominate Democratic candidates for statewide elections in the fall.

This local caucus is open to all Democrats registered in Montague by December 31st, 2010. Delegates must be divided equally among men and women. Candidates must con-

sent to nomination in writing. Candidates may make a one-minute statement to the meeting and may distribute materials. This is a very straight forward and transparent process any in which any registered Democrat may participate, or just come to watch.

There will also be a brief meeting of the Democratic town committee following the caucus, open to any registered Democrat. The meeting place is handicapped accessible. For information, contact Democratic town committee chair Jay DiPucchio, 413-863-8656, or visit the party website at www.massdems.org.

LAPPS Dives into its Fifth Year of Community-Based Water Safety

KATHERINE KUKLEWICZ TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Local Aquatics Program for Personal Safety (LAPPS) has begun preparation for its fifth year of teaching local children water safety and swimming skills. This is my third year in the role as director of the program.

Since 2007, LAPPS has taught more than 80 elementary school students valuable water-safety and swimming skills through the

hard work of more than 75 high school student volunteers. Local businesses, parishes and organizations have donated more than \$3,000 to make the program possible.

Interactive presentations and hands on activities reinforce the water skills. Each day LAPPS addresses a different water safety skill, such as “look before you leap,” to teach students to be aware of their swimming environment.

Through dry-land lessons and time in the water, both volunteers and participants have a great time advancing together.

Mark Hudyma, now a junior, will take over LAPPS upon my graduation. I hope LAPPS will continue to be passed down from student to student, making a difference in our town for years to come.

Katherine Kuklewicz is a senior at the Turners Falls High School.

Gill Highway Crew Fights Storms



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Gill road boss Mick LaClaire checks out the new body on the 1990 Ford single axle dump truck. The equipment has been getting a workout lately.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH – Tuesday was one of those dirty storms that threw a mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain at the Gill highway department crew. While folks are snug at home giving hardly a thought to the snow plow drivers, these stouthearted men drive their rumbling plow trucks all day and all through the dead of the night.

“We work for 20 to 38 hours during a storm,” highway superintendent Mick LaClaire said Tuesday, as he stopped briefly in his office to check weather.com on the computer.

Multiple precipitation storms are tricky. “If the plows clear off all the snow, or pack snow into ‘pack ice,’ freezing rain turns the road into a skating rink,” LaClaire said. “Traffic just blows sand and salt off the road. The trick is to pre-treat the road with sand and salt early, to keep snow from sticking, then leave enough snow on the road so that traffic works the sand and salt into a brine, and turns the snow into a mealy mixture. That way, freezing rain doesn’t have a chance to

turn the road into a sheet of ice.

“We use the usual ratio of sand mix: eight parts sand to one part salt,” added LaClaire. “But we can sweeten it with more salt if conditions warrant.

“The last storm was one of the worst,” LaClaire said, referring to the Nor’easter that dumped about 20 inches of snow on the hills of Gill on the 12th of January. “White-outs were so bad I couldn’t find the road while plowing Ben Hale.” LaClaire had to get out of the truck to orient himself and determine where the road lay beneath the blowing snow.

“Budget-wise, we’re in good shape,” LaClaire added. “We didn’t get any big storms before the first of the year. The trucks are in good shape – no major breakdowns. And salt and sand supplies are good. But who knows what the weather will be?”

Well, Caleb Weatherbee of *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* predicts at least nine more major storms before the end of winter, but that’s no way to plan local snow and ice budgets now, is it? Not with weather.com on the

computer.

An aerial bucket truck is a recent addition to the highway department’s equipment lineup. The truck, shared with Northfield and Vernon, VT, was purchased cooperatively from a dealer in Rhode Island.

“We work with Northfield and Vernon, swapping workers when we need to, so a shared bucket truck made sense,” LaClaire said. “It makes it easier and a whole lot safer when we trim trees.”

Gill has come a long way since the days when the town contracted with just one plow truck, the size of the smallest truck in Gill’s yard today. Local potato farmer Irving Franklin was hired to plow the roads and didn’t begin until the storm was over.

“What’s the sense of plowing during a snowstorm?” Franklin would say. “You just have to plow it all over again. Do it after the storm and you plow it just once.”

It may have been a week or two before the last road in town was plowed. If drifts got too much for Franklin’s 1½-ton truck, Harold Baker would fire up the town’s Cle-trac crawler with V-plow attached, and roar to the rescue with treads clanking. The Cle-trac often arrived late at night because Baker worked days and only plowed nights and weekends.

Franklin sometimes hired a helper to throw off a few shovelfuls of sand from the back of his dump truck on the steepest part of the uphill side of the hill. When driving on the downhill side, it was best to ask God’s blessing before descending.

During freezing rain, Franklin see STORMS pg 4

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Photography

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Distribution Manager

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Circulation

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"The Voice of the Villages"
Founded by

 Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
 August, 2002

Technical Administrator

Michael Muller

Machine Guns aren't Family Entertainment

BY RONALD MECK

SPRINGFIELD - "When did shooting machine guns become family entertainment?" That question preoccupied me as I attended five days of the Hampden Superior Court trial of former Pelham police chief Ed Fleury, charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of eight year old Chris Bizilj at the Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo at the Westfield Sportsman's Club in 2008. The boy fatally shot himself with an Uzi submachine gun at the event Fleury organized.

Why, I asked myself, if allowing minors to shoot machine guns is a safe and legal activity, as presented by the defendant on his website, is everyone trying so desperately to avoid responsibility for anything related to providing a machine gun to that boy?

Fleury's attorney did her best to place the blame on Chris' father. Rightly so, but this in no way absolves Fleury of his part in the tragedy. Clearly, he misrepresented the danger.

I read with amazement of Fleury's acquittal. I wonder who, if anyone, will be held accountable for this "terrible accident."

This was no accident. It was the inevitable result of seven years of astounding lack of judgment and thrill seeking by myriad adults, including the Sportsmen's Club, dozens of police officers, other parents and gun professionals who should have known better than to put machine guns in the hands of children. "Full Auto Rock n' Roll," that's what the advertisement put out by Fleury's company announced. That characterization in itself is incriminating evidence of a cavalier attitude regarding these weapons.

"You will be accompanied to the firing line with a Certified Instructor." This claim was also made in the ad, but on the day Chris Bizilj shot himself to death it was not the case. Michael Spano, a 15-year-old uncertified instructor, was on the firing line with Chris when the 66-pound eight year old lost control of the Micro-Uzi and shot the back of his head off.

How did the jury miss Spano's testimony that Fleury wanted him on the firing line that

day because, "People will be lined up?" In essence, Fleury put this child at fatal risk to avoid the impatience of his patrons.

Testimony from firearms expert and Massachusetts state police sergeant John Crane directly linked the inexperience of the instructor to the fatal shooting. Crane testified that Chris Bizilj did not seat the shoulder rest against his body to control the Uzi's recoil. Crane believed this to be a major factor in the fatal incident.

A Micro-Uzi is widely acknowledged to be difficult to control, given its large 9 millimeter caliber, 20 plus shots per second rate of fire, short length (19 inches) and light weight (about 4 pounds).

Crane also noted that the Uzi the child shot himself with lacked the front stabilizing handle that adds further stability when firing the weapon. Two of the components that facilitate the proper handling of the deadly gun were absent that day. Do we still call this an accident?

I feel the worst for 15-year-old Michael Spano, the uncertified instructor who should never have been put in that position. He was the only one who took initiative to express his concern for Chris Bizilj's safety with the Micro-Uzi in his hands.

Spano testified he advised Chris' father, twice, "It's really not a good idea," stating the extreme effects of recoil with that particular machine gun. Spano's doubts were overruled by Chris' father, who insisted on this gun and was focused on obtaining video of his eight year old shooting it for the family archives.

Now, Spano must live with the lifelong memory of his hand on Chris' back, as he watched him shoot himself in the face.

Adults should have protected Spano. They should have protected Chris. Someone should have challenged the assertions of Ed Fleury, a man who shot a hole in the wall of his own police station in Pelham while demonstrating gun safety. How did such a person get in a position to host this lethal event in the first place? "It's all legal and fun," Fleury advertised and told the Sportsman's Club Officials.

Not really.



Martin Luther King, with his daughter, Yolanda, in an undated photo

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right on, Joe

Joseph A. Parzych's piece on Northfield Mountain, GDF Suez and the Connecticut River was concise, clear and fact filled (MR IX #15). As a former (and possible future) employee at the fish ladder, I don't feel like I should

be publicly saying that Joe's surmises seem right on to me. Also, the folks over at the Conte fish lab did some changes to the entrance at the gatehouse this summer, but I don't know if they finished analyzing their data

about how that might have affected passage as well. That's the one bit he missed. Otherwise, right on.

- Annie Winkler
Montague Center

In Search of Mom & Pop

Independent America: the Two-Lane Search for Mom and Pop is a very informative and open-minded film by a husband and wife team who drove around the country in 2009 interviewing local people and representatives of big-box stores. The film would be important for citizens and for the Greenfield Planning Board to view. You can view it online for free at either the Sundance

Channel or Hulu.

Sundance describes it this way: "Is there room for independent retailers in an American landscape littered with big-box corporate chain stores? Husband and wife TV news veterans Hanson Hosein and Heather Hughes set out on an epic, 32-state cross country road trip to see how independent businesses are faring. Their rules: avoid inter-

state highways and try to patronize only locally owned establishments. In the process, they discover stories of ingenuity, self-reliance, community activism and a growing nationwide opposition to corporate uniformity."

Connect to a link to view the film at <http://independentamerica.net/>

- Paul Dobbs
Montague

from **STORMS** page 3

stayed home until the weather cleared, figuring no one in their right mind would go out on roads of glare ice. With chains, and a benevolent patron saint, adventurous motorists drove at a sensible speed and accidents were rare, since most motorists followed Franklin's example and his sage advice: "Go home and stay there."

So what did motorists do? Some got by with 'knobby tires,' an early winter tire. Knobbies drummed a buzzing beat when driven over 30 miles an hour. Most people put on chains and went clanking about their business.

Gas stations and garages offered their services to those

who didn't, couldn't, or wouldn't put their chains on or take them off by themselves. Driving with chains on a bare road made a frightful racket and more quickly wore the chains out, so they soon broke, leaving the loose ends to clank against the fenders. Motorists carried 'monkey links' to repair broken chains before they beat the car's fenders to death.

There were two types of chains. A single set that encompassed the entire circumference of the tread, and Jiffy chains that attached in three places, held in place by a heavy canvas strap passed through the wheel and secured by a buckle. If the canvas straps got wet and froze, motorists needed to thaw them at a service station to get the damned things off. My father once shamefacedly cut off his frozen Jiffy chains with a pocket knife, never to use Jiffy chains again, rather than suffer

the humiliation of having them thawed out at a gas station.

"I actually enjoy snow plowing, and the excitement of it all," LaClaire said. "Of course, the long hours make it very tiring. Just before daybreak is the worst time, when your eyes just won't stay open. Usually, between 3:00 and 5:00 in the morning, traffic is dead, so, if the roads are clear, it's an ideal time to give the men a break so they don't fall asleep and run a truck off the road."

After this week's difficult conditions and last week's massive snowfall, LaClaire can afford to take pride in the work of his crew. Gill's roads are in good shape, and the snow banks have been pushed well back to the sides, to make room for whatever else Mother Nature has in store for us this winter.

Rejoice with thoughts of gratitude for the men who drive the plow trucks, when you hear them rumble by in the dead of night, bleary eyed and exhausted from working around the clock, fighting to stay awake, snow flying at the windshield like projectiles stinging the driver's eyes, and be glad you're snoozing snug in your bed, perhaps irritated that the rumbling disturbs your blissful sleep.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Clear the Way

BY DON CLEGG

TURNERS FALLS - Well, it's certainly that time of year again: the time when we have to shovel our sidewalks, staircases and driveways.

I have been helping to distribute the *Montague Reporter* for more than four years, and if there is one thing I have learned it is that some folks don't like to shovel a path to their door or mailbox. Spring is only three months away, so why bother?

Just think of all the people that might come to your door. You receive your mail almost every day. Then there are daily or weekly newspapers delivered to your door. Sometimes you might get a package through UPS or FEDEX. And don't forget visits from the Avon Lady, Fuller Brush Man, the local sheriff carrying a warrant or the pizza delivery guy. All these folks need a safe way to get to your door or mail box.

If you are elderly or disabled then ask a neighbor for a helping hand, or hire a youngster to shovel you out. I am certain you don't want to miss any of this important stuff coming to your home. Your mail might get returned, your paper end up in the snow bank, your package returned to the UPS terminal, to then fall into the abyss, and that warrant is now in default, doubling your trouble.

So please clear us a path. I don't bounce, slip, slide or land on my rear end nearly as well as I used to.

Thank you in advance.

Greenfield Winter Farmers Market

The Greenfield Winter Fare Farmers Market will take place Saturday, February 5th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Avenue, Greenfield, followed by a week of Winter Fare events, from February 5th - 13th throughout Franklin County. We can all enjoy locally grown food in February, whether we're preparing meals for a family or friends or attending a community potluck. For more info: contact 413-665-7100.

APPRECIATION

Tony Mathews – Farmer, Builder

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - After battling brain cancer for 20 months, Tony Mathews, 60, died Monday at the Boyle Road home he built with his wife Sue Kramer a quarter century ago.

Mathews was a long time member and chair of the Gill conservation commission, and was a generous patron of raffles for the elementary school near his home, to which he donated beautiful handcrafted end tables of his own



Tony Mathews, c. 1970

design and construction.

He said of his gifts to the raffle, "This is a very tough time for the schools, with their lean budgets. I just wanted to show my support for the schools and the fine work they continue to do."

His handiwork can be seen in many local homes, and in the handsome bar at the Gill Tavern.

A somber selectboard recalled Mathews' many contributions to the town at their meeting Wednesday. They recalled him mapping the wetlands of Gill for the first time with the help of his wife, and working to gain recognition for the geologic wonder of armored mudballs in the abutments of the Old Red Bridge in Riverside. He worked with Teri Rice to successfully preserve those abutments from demolition.

But most of all, his acquaintances in town and around the area remembered Mathews for his love of agriculture, silviculture and the land, along with his love of music and dancing.

"He was the farmer," said Betsy Comer, of Colrain, who first met Mathews at the Ripley Road commune known as the Montague Farm in the early 70s.

"To me, he was the one always working hard in the garden, up on the tractor. Someone has to stay home and take care of the cow and the chickens and get the hay in while everyone else was out there."

A lot of what the communards were "out there" doing was protesting nuclear power, since the Montague Farm in those days was the nerve center of the growing movement to stop the construction of twin nuclear reactors on the Montague Plains, and then in Seabrook, NH.

They batted .750 by the time all was said and done on those four reactors.

Mathews died early on the morning of Martin Luther King Day. Five years earlier on the same holiday, he was a proud witness to his son Cory's arrest at the corporate headquarters of Vermont Yankee in Brattleboro. Cory was 19 at the time.

On October 25th, 2008, Mathews carried a sign at the Safe and Green campaign's Nuclear Free Jubilee on the Brattleboro Common proclaiming that the town of Gill had voted (unanimously, at town meeting) to shut Vermont Yankee down.



Tony Mathews beside one of the handcrafted side tables he donated to the Gill school raffle in 2008.

"He was the first person I met when I came to the Farm," recalled Nina Keller, of Wendell. "He was churning butter on the front step for the bread that was baking inside."

"He planted the first orchard at the Montague Farm, apples and pears. And he planted strawberries. He was from California, and I think he brought fruit in his blood. He was just a very bright spirit."

"Everywhere he went, everybody fell in love with him, and he became part of their family," said Comer. Comer joined more than a dozen other caregivers from Mathews' wider circle to stay with him in his last months, when

his wife was at work.

"His was the most inspiring 20 months of battling an illness," said Gill selectboard chair John Ward. "He refused to give into it; his attitude was so positive."

Rick James recalled Mathews back at work on his tractor only days after difficult hospital stays.

"What was really amazing was to walk with

him at the end, showing off his woods. He was a great woodsman. He and Sue cultivated their woodlot as well as their gardens," said Comer.

Keller called him, "Hugely generous, and kind. He was a real community person. He was involved with Gill, and he was involved with so many people's lives, not just by building very functional and aesthetic homes – just by bringing joy into their lives."

Now, the community is poorer for his passing. We join his wife Sue, daughter Phoebe, and son Cory in bidding Tony Mathews a sorrowful farewell.

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NOTES FROM ERVING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Conservation Restriction Placed on Fellows Property

BY KATIE NOLAN - Verne and Caroline Fellows of Murdock Hill Road have granted a conservation restriction (CR) on 132 acres of their property to the town of Erving. The CR is a legal agreement between the Fellows and the town, in which the Fellows retain ownership but give up the right to develop the land.

Paul Daniello of Mount Grace Land Trust facilitated the agreement, which was signed by the selectboard at its January 13th meeting.

The Fellows will be paid 75% of the fair market value for the land for the development rights through the US Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program.

Although the CR will restrict the types and amount of development possible for the land, Daniello said forestry will still be allowed at the property. The public will have access to the land, which Daniello described as scenic, with a beautiful view of Mount Monadnock.

He said conserving this property was part of the Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy Project that will protect over 1000 acres in six towns in order to provide large tracts of continuous wildlife habitat. According to Daniello, the town will be responsible for annual monitoring of the property and com-

munication with the landowner.

The agreement includes a 3.5 acre exclusion area, where the Fellows' home is located. The CR will remain in effect regardless of whether the land is sold or inherited.

In other news, the selectboard revised the job description for the fire chief to add a requirement that the chief must reside in or relocate to the town within six months of taking the job.

Although the current chief, Bud Meatey, already resides in Erving, the board wanted to have the requirement on record for the future.

Selectboard member James Hackett said he was concerned the new requirement might "limit us to getting qualified people for that position if we were to rehire."

But chair Andrew Goodwin said, "It's a small town and there are certain jobs that should be held by residents."

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo, who is also a lieutenant on the fire department, said, "It's a morale thing," to have the chief living in town.

The board voted unanimously to add the residency requirement to the chief's job description.

The board also agreed to specify the chief should hold regular office hours for ten hours a week, for

4 to 8 weeks per year. They revised the educational requirements section of the job

description to clarify that a combination of work experience and training may be used to substitute for the educational requirements. The selectboard members discussed the upcoming joint meeting with the finance committee on January 20th. Goodwin remarked he felt the selectboard and finance committee should meet separately, working in parallel to develop the town's FY'12 budget, to allow for differing views of how to set the budget. He said, during his term on the selectboard, he had fostered, "a strong finance committee that actually has its own opinion."

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan gave the selectboard spreadsheets showing the bottom line costs for the town if the town's share of health insurance costs were reduced by 1% and by 2%. Sullivan previously provided calculations showing the effects of larger decreases in the town's share of health insurance costs, currently 86% for town employees and 79% for retirees.

The board set February 3rd at 6:45 p.m. as the time to meet with representatives of Erving Paper Mills to discuss revenue sharing for third party wastes at POTW #1.

The selectboard closed the open session and met in executive session to consider the reputation, character, physical condition and/or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints and charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual.

This is the sixth time, in the last nine meetings, that the Erving selectboard has closed portions of their meeting to the press and public.

NOTES FROM GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOLCOMMITTEE

G-M to Vote on Staff Contracts Still No Public Word on Terms

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - Carl Ladd, superintendent of the Gill-Montague regional school district, told the school committee Tuesday night he has heard nothing further from the state about when the report of the district review will be released. Ladd said it is time for the school district to move forward to fulfill obligations, starting by developing the district's FY '12 budget and ratifying union contracts.

The final report of the district review from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was sent to Ladd last year for fact checking, and returned to the DESE before the holidays. But there it remains.

The school committee has been waiting to vote on union contracts since late September, when the DESE cautioned the district to wait until the district review was complete, including the analysis of fiscal capacity, before signing off on teacher and staff contracts.

Karl Dziura, president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, said the contracts were ratified in September by all units of the GMEA representing teachers and educational professionals, administrative staff and food service workers.

Looking to the coming budget process, Ladd said because the district meeting voted in November to approve the current operating budget, the school district no longer remains under the fiscal control of the state, and therefore is free to develop an FY'12 budget without state oversight.

He said the reasons for postponing ratification are no longer in place, there is

no point in waiting for the report from the district review, and so the school committee should now move forward. Ladd also said that he didn't expect the report, when it finally does come, to have anything "earth shaking" in it, nor would there be any "silver bullet" solution to the problems faced by the district. He said based on conversations and interviews that took place during the district review, he felt the administration understood the areas of concern and could move forward with a budget plan consistent with the DESE's concerns.

Ladd presented a preliminary budget that is a level services budget. Ladd used certain assumptions to build the budget, including that Erving tuition numbers will remain comparable, circuit breaker funds will remain at 40%, general transportation reimbursements at 55%, and charter and school choice levels will remain essentially unchanged.

As far as the details of the operating budget are concerned, Ladd presented an overall level services budget of \$16,748,548, an increase of \$340,386 over FY'11. Ladd said he felt the district could come up with enough savings or revenue increases to bring that amount down to a level funded budget, as promised in the fiscal compact with the member towns last fall.

Ladd assumed Chapter 70 state aid would remain level funded. Ladd added that if the state fully funded circuit breaker and transportation to the 100% level the state is supposed to pay, the Gill-Montague school district would see approximately \$600,000 more in state reimbursements. Nobody is holding

their breath on that one.

Ladd said a survey of the teaching staff was conducted by the administration to determine the priorities they would set for the budget. The results showed five top priorities, in order of importance: class size, paraprofessional support, administrative support, teaching materials, professional development. Ladd said that information will help the district to build a budget with the teachers' needs in mind. The survey showed educators felt the district was concentrating too much on administrative support, so Ladd will work to streamline the central office.

Jeff Singleton said he was concerned the budget making process does not include a discussion of the cost of wages and benefits. He said taking half the district budget off the table would not allow the committee to reduce per pupil costs, which are high in relation to state averages, and prioritize resources effectively with an eye to stabilizing enrollment.

Marjorie Levenson of Montague said, "I think it's obvious, we have to revisit the contract."

Joyce Phillips of Montague made a motion to put contract ratification on the agenda for the next school committee meeting. In the discussion that followed, Michael Langknecht, who serves as chair of the contract negotiation team, said the committee can't revisit the contract unless they vote to reject the contract that has already been negotiated. "We have to take the next step, vote on ratification of the contract."

Phillips said the committee had already negotiated the contract in good

see SCHOOL pg 10

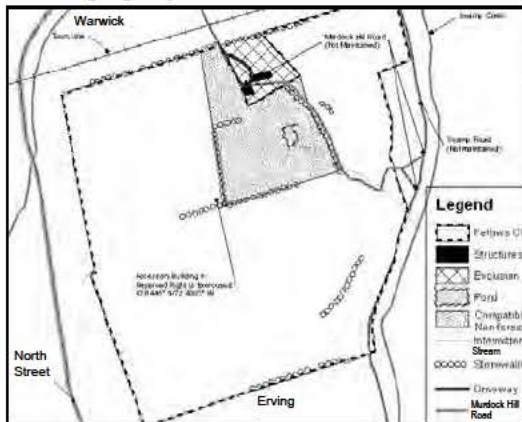


Diagram of the Fellows Conservation Land

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UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
OLD-FASHIONED PERSONAL SERVICE

HERRICK from pg 1
ing a gun on one side and a wooden club on the other; in her arms was a basket of apples."

The "Philippine war club," as Marion described it, and a loaded gun were frequent accessories to her wardrobe. "You can never be too careful," she told Janet.

Janet and Dennis still miss Marion. "She was like a grandmother to me," said Janet, "I don't know that I'll ever meet anybody like her again."

In addition to reading, Marion loved opera and poetry. She gave Janet and Dennis typed poems on their birthdays and, when Lou was alive, the couple would often go to Wickett Pond where they sat on the big rock reading poetry to each other.

"She loved people, animals and flowers," Dennis said, "but not necessarily in that order."

The house was ringed with rose bushes that had sentimental value for her. She never threw out any perennial flower divisions; everything was replanted.

Marion was a consummate letter writer, keeping in touch with former students and other acquaintances, and she took it upon herself to look in on town elders.

Animals, though, were her real love. She kept a succession of cocker spaniels as pets, and

made sure to feed the raccoons, opossums and porcupines living under her bathroom floor. She greatly appreciated "the lovely falsetto voices" of the porcupines.

Marion's house was full of beautiful furniture and fine things like Limoges china, but she was happy to give the mice free range. "They have to have a place to live, too," she said.

Not surprisingly, "All Creatures Great and Small" was one of Marion's favorite TV shows.

Her love for animals was so deep that she wanted her place to become an animal sanctuary after her death, but she never got around to making those arrangements.

Today, when Janet walks by Marion's house, her mind conjures up a peaceful image of flowers run riot in the yard, vines climbing all over the house and animals sheltered in her home.

As Dennis scanned several newspaper articles about the new library and the Marion Herrick Room, he stopped at a line about her "living in one of the oldest houses in town (built in the 1780s)."

"No," he said, "it was 1768."

He remembers standing in Marion's living room and noticing the date "1768" followed by

the initials "N.B." carved into a ceiling beam.

Marion told him the initials belonged to Nathan Brewer, an early resident, one-time town tax collector and, according to Marion, the builder of her house.

Research at the registry of deeds in Greenfield traces ownership of Marion Herrick's lot all the way back to one Jonathan Jackson of Newburyport, and an early map gives the date of purchase as 1787.

Jackson, a wealthy merchant, was second-in-command of a cavalry regiment during the local skirmishes known as Shay's Rebellion in 1787, which may explain how he came to be familiar with and owner of not only this, but many other lots in town.

In 1788, Jackson sold the property to Boston-based land investor Oliver Wendell, after whom the town is named.

And Oliver Wendell did, in fact, sell it to Nathan Brewer - but not until 1796.

The owner of the initials is thus confirmed, but the 1768 date on the beam confuses the story (providing yet another brain teaser for local history buffs).

The original lot as purchased by Jackson, Wendell, Brewer, and later Howe, Davis, Wetherby and so on comprised 100 acres, but sometime in the mid-1800s the land was divided and the approximately forty-acre lot that was to become Marion Herrick's was formed from that division.

The 200-plus year history of the property ends, so far, on a sad note. After Marion was put in a nursing home, taxes went unpaid for many years and in November 2009 the town of Wendell acquired the property through land court.

The current condition of the house is sad although, considering its age and neglect, not as bad as one might expect. The roof line retains its original integrity.

The east wall is entirely compromised, girding beam and sill rotted and open to the weather. There is a telltale bulge in the wall at the other gable end. The north wall that received the kitchen addition is history, as is the kitchen. The dug well under the kitchen floor remains intact.

Outbuildings are down in a pile of rubble, and the barn would, as the expression goes, "take a lot of wood."

For a long while, the house was open to all manner of intruders and, inside, it's been pretty well ransacked - a situation that continues despite the installation of padlocks on the doors.

So, what is next for Marion Herrick's house? While we may never be able to put an exact date on the construction of the house, it is fairly certain from its structure and appointments that it dates from the late 18th century, making it one of the very few old houses in Wendell - a town which has lost many of its antique homes either to fire or to land acquisition by both DCR and the Quabbin Reservoir. The historic value of the house and the palpable texture of the lives lived there are meaningful to many.

Jean Forward of Wendell's historic commission proposed that the house be restored through grant money, set up as a living museum and run as a cooperative. She envisioned it showcasing historically accurate, local cottage industries (straw hat making, food preserving, rug braiding, spinning, and so on) and selling products made by local craftspeople.

But there wasn't enough interest and the selectboard, according to member Dan Keller, worried the museum could become a financial burden to the town if it were unable to generate enough revenue of its own.

Keller said the board has con-

sidered issuing a request for proposals, by which someone might come forward with a proposal to, say, live in the house while restoring it, but issuing an RFP is a complicated and expensive legal process.

Keller's own idea, which he has presented to the selectboard, is sympathetic to the historical value of the house, the conservation commission's interest in conserving the land, and the town's financial picture. His thought is to divide the property into one three-acre parcel containing the house, barn and two hundred feet of road frontage to be auctioned off, and one 30.72 acre parcel to be put into conservation. The hope would be that the buyer of the house would restore it, but of course there could be no guarantee of this.

Wendell has recently been in the news for its focus on local food supply, its decision to hire a farm-food coordinator and its concern about all-around sustainability. Although no one has stepped forward yet, there have been some rumblings heard about town regarding restoring the old property to farmland under an agricultural restriction.

So, although the future picture is yet unclear, the pieces are beginning to come together. Meanwhile, the little red house and its surrounding land wait for news of their next incarnation.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG
Weather Related Accidents

Wednesday, 1/12

3:31 p.m. Report of car vs. plow truck accident on Walnut Street.

Thursday, 1/13

9:50 a.m. Vehicle off of roadway on Boyle Road at Main Road.

6:31 p.m. Unregistered / uninsured vehicle towed from Walnut Street.

10:37 p.m. Restraining order service on Main Road.

Friday, 1/14

1:01 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Main Road and French King Highway. No personal injury.

2:03 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with an accident.

Saturday, 1/15

10:30 a.m. Removed items causing a traffic hazard on French King Highway.

1:33 p.m. Report of possible snowmobile accident on Boyle Road. Rendered assistance.

Sunday, 1/16

1:30 p.m. Attempted warrant service on Mountain Road. Unable to locate subject.

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Only Just Dark

NEW WORK BY FRANK GREGORY



Only Just Dark, oil on canvas, 25" x 25"

BY ANN FEITELSON
GREENFIELD - Artist Frank Gregory describes his paintbrush as "a magic wand." The conduit between what he sees and what he paints, it transfigures the gritty, well-traveled intersection in the center of Greenfield into gem-like, sparkling, amethyst-imbued images.

Gregory gave a talk at Stoneleigh-Burnham school last Friday as part of the opening of his exhibit - mostly paintings, with some monoprints and photographs - titled "Greenfield @ Main & Federal," on view in the Geissler Gallery at Stoneleigh-Burnham through February 22nd.

Gregory's paintings transform a humdrum junction, a space to

hurry through, not a place to be or to linger, a drab void, devoid of color, into vivid, inky blue-violet depth. The paintings are night scenes, but the darkness is not black, or dull. Rather, it is a bright, radiant, shining darkness, transparent yet intensely colored, like the blue of a swimming pool, only deeper in hue.

He says, "Darkness is visually exciting. Colors seem more intense at night."

We know what colors we see in daylight. (Or we think we do.) But we don't know what colors we see in darkness at all as well. It's a deeper investigation for an artist to determine what colors enliven and define a space in darkness or semi-darkness than in daytime.

Gregory talks about the multiplicity of lights on nighttime streets: "Incandescents are yellow; fluorescents are purple." His paintings dazzle with streetlights, stoplights, headlights, and taillights, all glowing intensely in the dark. Signposts are iridescent. The bars of crosswalks on pavement (you thought they were white, didn't you?) shimmer, turning to hyacinth.

His paintings are like a candy box, or a jewelry case, with tempting, delicious jellybean dabs of color, and color effects: glows, gleams, glosses, sheens, haloes, reflections.

When Gregory gestures in front of a painting to explain how he made the sparks of light that splatter from a window onto the

hood of a car, or the marks that define a car, or the bars that transpose a crosswalk into a ladder, his hands speak a sculptural, balletic language. He makes a thumbprint pantomime to indicate a hubcap. A headlight is a personal polka dot; a beam bounced onto pavement a rubbed smear.

"I'm interested in the penmanship. It's my mark. If you painted that mark," he says, "it would be different."

Gregory rotates his wrist back and forth to describe the opposing arrows painted on the asphalt, which tell drivers going up or down Main Street that the left lane is a left-turn only lane. From the perspective of the top floor of the Arts Block at the intersection of Main Street and Federal Street, where Gregory painted, the arrows point both east and west. The accompanying words Only Only, one right-side up, for the traffic heading out of town, one upside down, for the traffic heading downtown, make a whirlpool of street poetry, written right underfoot, glistening.

The lines delineating traffic lanes - double yellow or single white (well, ultramarine blue!) give subtle directions around the works, and are echoed with a sense of absurdity in the titles: "Walk This Way." "Walk That Way." "Up Down Left." "Up Down Right." "Only" shows up with a smile in some titles, such as "Only Dusk."

"Only Dusk" has been purchased, through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, for the Greenfield Public Library, where it will hang.

This body of work, Gregory says, these images of nighttime Greenfield, "represent the cusp of change in Greenfield, which is going to turn a corner and be a better place."

Indeed, Bank Row is up-and-coming, with an airy new coffee shop, a wood-fired pizzeria with a hot reputation, and a new used book store. Since Gregory started painting these scenes, two years ago, the street has been repaved; the lights and the street lines that direct traffic were changed.

Though the paintings might make you think they were all done during rainy weather, since the pavement is so reflective,

Gregory's photographs reveal that taillights really do spread scarlet light on dry pavement for quite a distance. Some of the photos use extended exposures so that headlights and taillights make arteries of light through the streets: car calligraphy.

Tire tracks leave swooping lines on a snowy street in a photo titled "Drawing While Driving."

There is a gentle sense of humor in all of this work. And there is the kind of thing you hope to find in art: meaning shining on neglected corners of the world and our minds.

Gregory has an impressively wide range of talent and experience as an Artist. He painted the 11 murals (a total of 2000 square feet) at the Great Falls Discovery Center, which depict various habitats along the Connecticut River, from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound. The largest is 10 feet high and 60 feet long. The murals took three solid years to complete, from 2000-2003.

Gregory has also done logo design for the People's Pint in Greenfield and Deja Brew in Wendell. He makes frames for the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, where he gets to hold paintings by Degas, Monet and Cezanne in his own hands. He has even illustrated medical textbooks.

Gregory's next large-scale work will be a commission from the state of New Hampshire, a seventeen-foot-long mural in a study lounge at a new community college, the New Hampshire Technical Institute, in Concord. Two hundred and ninety nine separate abstract seven-inch paintings will make merged images of a brain and an iron bridge, metaphors for mind and matter. The exciting proposed mural, and studies for the individual abstract paintings, can be seen on his blog, www.frankgregory.blogspot.co. Images from the Stoneleigh-Burnham exhibit are also on the blog. But go to the campus and see the show.

After you do, you will have a new appreciation for how much can be seen in the dark, and for how enchanting nighttime streets can be.

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Improved Verizon Phone Service in the Offing

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON LEVERETT

Verizon has provisionally agreed to “significantly improve” the quality of telephone service in the 413 area code. A draft settlement intended to assure that result will be aired at a public hearing next Wednesday in Boston. It follows over a year and a half of investigation and litigation led by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office.

Complaints about telephone service are frequently heard in the local area. There have been newspaper accounts of emergency situations where the timing of a phone failure was especially unfortunate.

Some of the repairs specifically promised in the agreement were in Montague, and according to the provisional document were to have happened by December 31st, 2010. Others are to be made within 15 months, including repairs to facilities in Turners Falls and Millers Falls.

Under the agreement, Verizon is agreeing to survey and complete repair work on “its outside plant” in 33 wire centers, and to “improve the condition of its telephone network” in 34 other wire centers. (One report described this as “most of the rural communities in Western Massachusetts”).

To help keep a focus on maintaining and improving its network, Verizon is agreeing to file quarterly reports. It will also give

greater detail in its service quality reporting, and do specific reporting on the Western Massachusetts region – obligations Verizon has made to the Mass. Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) and the Attorney General. The DTC must approve the settlement agreement before it can take effect.

Besides Attorney General Martha Coakley, signatories to the draft settlement are the Towns of Hancock, Egremont, and Leverett and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2324. Asked about the makeup of this list, Dinesh Gopalakrishnan of the DTC explained there was no selection of complainants involved: “When the case was initiated, these are the parties who brought it.”

Leverett selectboard member Peter d’Errico said the board had been receiving complaints – sometimes daily – about the poor quality of Verizon’s telephone service for two years prior to the opening of the investigation by the Attorney General and the DTC.

“As far as I know, we have had very few recent complaints about telephone quality,” said d’Errico, who added the settlement referred to work being completed by December 31st, “which is of course behind us.”

When Leverett became a party

see VERIZON pg 16

Farm Neighbors Bill Burnham is Everyone’s Neighbor

BY STEVE DAMON

GILL - Bill Burnham didn’t realize he would become a farmer when he was growing up in downtown Greenfield.

As a child, his family made trips to his grandmother’s house near the Canadian border in Highgate, VT, where he got to “drive the cows home” for a neighboring farmer. That was when the agricultural seed was planted in his heart, but it would take years for that seed to blossom.

“Like every other kid, I picked tobacco,” Bill lamented. “The tobacco experience did not help the agricultural seed at all.”

When I admitted my summer job was haying and milking at the family farm, rather than picking tobacco, Burnham was quick to reply, “You had the better gig!”

Burnham’s next gig was the US Navy, after graduating from Greenfield High School in 1962. He was stationed in Norfolk, VA, on the destroyer John Paul Jones. He did not spend much time in Virginia, as the ship was often at sea.

Burnham returned to Massachusetts after the Navy to study geography at Bridgewater State College, where he received his degree. He started his teaching career in Dove Plains, NY. He was “not really into farming yet,” when his first beehive was

shipped to the house. The husk of the agricultural seed had finally split open.

That seed did not take root and grow until the New York sojourn was complete. Burnham came back to Franklin County in the early ‘80s, where he taught Social Studies at Greenfield Middle School. This is also the time “sugaring got into [his] blood,”



Bill Burnham at first Farmers Market held in Gill in August, 2009

while Burnham helped Bob Goodnow sugar in Shelburne.

Now was the time for a full blossoming of that seed, instigated by his sweetheart, Betsy. Bill and Betsy Burnham married in 1994 and moved to 12 fertile acres in Gill. Now the couple, on their Turkey Ridge Farm, tends bee hives, a sugarhouse, a barn

full of poultry and sheep, a small pond for ducks and geese, and several hoop houses full of fruits and vegetables.

Surrounded by the farm, Burnham still sees himself as a teacher (he retired in 2006). “I’m not much of a farmer, but I love doing it,” he said.

Burnham sells his honey at area farmers’ markets. The honey, along with maple syrup, are also sold from a small farm stand at the West Gill Road farm. The vegetables, eggs, and meat are raised primarily for the family, but Burnham delivers much of the excess to the Franklin Area Survival Center in Turners Falls, where it goes to help families in need.

When not farming, Burnham is active with the Friends of Gill, the Gill agricultural commission, American Legion Post 81, and the Gill Congregational Church. During sugaring season, Betsy Burnham’s second grade students at Gill Elementary School get into the act by gathering sap at Turkey Ridge Farm.

Knowing Bill Burnham’s commitment to the people of Franklin County, it is not surprising that when asked to define the meaning of life, he answered, “Love thy neighbor.”

Steve Damon is the chair of the Gill Agricultural Commission. Each month, he will highlight a different figure in Gill’s agricultural community in this column.

Laurent-Wood Prides Himself on Timely Work



Some clocks on display in It’s About Time clock shop in Millers Falls

Jonathan Laurent-Wood, a former teacher, has turned a lifelong hobby of clock collecting and repairing into his occupation.

Laurent-Wood operates the new shop in Millers Falls with his business partner, Alexander Sall. “I do clock repairs and he does accounting,” he said.

Their services include house calls for clock repair and even clock moving. The shop also sells antiques – primitives, Americana, Victorian – and collectibles.

A Connecticut native, Laurent-Wood arrived in the area as a child when his father, Chip Wood, took a local job in public education. After college he got a job at the Greenfield Center School, co-founded by his father. After teaching there, he taught in the Greenfield school system, and next in the Gill-Montague system – at both the high school and middle school.

Now he’s coming home to clocks (“It’s about time!” was his father’s pointed suggestion for the name of the company).

Laurent-Wood knows just where his clock fascination comes from. “It’s from age two and three – part of my first memories. My grandparents had a

large grandfather clock in the hallway. It was a routine: grandmother would greet us in the front atrium, then strike the clock. It was how we began the visit. I remember coming in on my father’s shoulder, the same height as clock face. I remember the dial, hands, the sound of the clock. A big thing was to watch my grandfather wind a dwarf clock – very rare – probably made around 1800, that sat on the hearth. It had a crank to wind it. I was about the height of it.”

As a child, whenever Laurent-Wood went to someone’s house, he would “listen to see if they had a clock – a mantle clock, cuckoo clock, chiming clock – I’d always go to find it. I knew my parents’

friends by their clocks!”

On his bicycle, Laurent-Wood would visit the antique shop that used to be located in a trailer on Route 2 near the French King Bridge, and there he found his first clock. It cost \$85, and required him to save up carefully. It was through getting that clocked cleaned by William Olson in Gill that the repair shop image became imprinted on his brain.

When it was time to pick up his clock, Laurent-Wood remembered, “Mr. Olson asked me to come by his shop. He showed me all the clocks, and many more in his house. I said, ‘Someday I’d like to have a house full of clocks like this’.

see CLOCK pg 10

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Coppice Agroforestry: Perennial Silviculture for the 21st Century



IMAGE CREDIT: DOMINIC ALVES, USED UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE

Regenerative Coppice Forestry

**BY CRYSTAL McNEILL
NORTHAMPTON** - *Can coppice agroforestry save the world?*

Coppicing, an ancient and sustainable forest management practice little known in modern America, is slowly gaining momentum as a way to heat our homes, build our furniture, feed our animals, create our fences, and more.

On Saturday evening, January 8th, the Northampton Friends Meeting House was packed with people eager to learn about the

practice of coppice agroforestry and how it pertains to modern forestry. Mark Krawczyk of Burlington, VT, gave the presentation as part of a public lecture series on Permaculture for Social and Ecological Transformation.

Krawczyk and Dave Jacke of Greenfield are co-authors of the soon-to-be-published book *Coppice Agroforestry*, a manual describing the history, ecology, economics, design, and management practices of coppicing.

The word "coppice" comes from the French verb *couper*, which means to cut. Coppicing can be done by cutting sprouts from low-cut tree stumps, from root runners, and from pruned tree branches, also known as pollarding.

Pruning is done in the winter when the plant is dormant, so there is less shock to the plant and less chance of rot. Coppicing stimulates healthy growth, decreases chances of disease, and causes the tree to live two to four

What is Coppicing?

Coppicing is the forest management practice of repeatedly harvesting wood from the regrowth of shoots grown out of tree stumps or roots that sprout from many woody plants. The new growth is called "coppice."

times longer, Krawczyk said. Trees that are best suited for coppicing are alder, basswood, black locust, chestnut, hazel, hickory, oak, red maple, redwood, and willow. In fact, the whole redwood industry is based on coppice agroforestry.

Coppicing has been in practice for thousands of years stated Krawczyk. The earliest known evidence of coppice agroforestry is from the late stone age of 3900 BCE in the coastal plains of South West England. Wattle trackways in the peat bogs show

a sophisticated coppicing system that produced straight sticks of even width of mostly hazel, oak and ash. Coppicing in the Neolithic period was practical since foresters had only stone axes and no motorized equipment to haul the wood. Smaller poles were easier to cut and haul than big tree trunks.

In the United Kingdom, by 500 BCE, half of the old growth forest was cut down and by 1000 CE all of the old growth forest was gone. Coppicing became critical to encourage woodland growth, because pruning and cutting back the trees stimulated

see **COPPICE** pg 13

CLOCKS from pg 9

"I began to buy clocks and fix them up, for friends, just as a hobby. It seemed to be working — each time I learned more. I made friends with different clock repair people; that gave me insight, knowledge in different areas, and it went from there."

Much of his business is devoted to the repair and restoration of old clocks that have been left in a barn or attic. "But people forget that even clocks in homes, running on a regular basis, can wear out if you don't bring them in to be oiled and adjusted, like a car." Every five years is a good rule of thumb, Laurent-Wood said.

When someone brings in a clock, his procedure is to "diagnose, tell them what is needed. A lot of time it doesn't need a whole new mechanism, [but just] one part, some adjustment, and it's up and running."

He also does house calls for a small fee, depending on mileage. "We'll work at their house if they can't bring it to us."

About clock moving: "We can

set up or take down a clock that's antique or fragile, if you want it moved properly. Generic movers don't know clocks. They'll pull it down with the weight, the pendulum in it, and it's broken. We'll even move it for them to another room."

In this line of work, Laurent-Wood is now the only one in the immediate area. He follows former local clock repairers like "Mr. Patch in Greenfield, Mr. Bitzer on Linden Ave. in Greenfield, whose wife took over after he died, and Mr. Thompson, the jeweler on Avenue A in Turners, who did clock and watch repair."

Laurent-Wood said, the British Clockmaker in Newfane, VT is "a master clock man. He does work for museums, and a cleaning can run \$3800. My average is \$75 to \$125 for a cleaning, with adjustment and parts. But every case is different."

He's scrupulous about telling a customer if the shop can't do the work on a particular clock.

It's About Time Clocks does not repair watches, Laurent-Wood said. Nor electrical, battery, or quartz time pieces. "They don't interest me. Mechanical clocks, no problem."

Since he opened shop a month and a half ago, on November 20th, the repairs "have been steady." He prides himself on timely work. "I'm big on communication. I let a customer know what's going on, through every step."

As a teacher, Laurent-Wood said his students knew of his interest in clocks, and that former students of his have stopped by the shop, which is located at 29 East Main Street, between the Millers Pub and Carroll's Market. The main phone is 413-475-0892. A secondary number is 413-768-9557. The shop is closed Mondays and Thursdays, open Tuesday 10-3, Wednesday 3-7, Friday 10-3, Saturday 11-4 and Sunday 12-4.

Stop by whenever you have some time on your hands.



SCHOOL from pg 6

faith and should move forward to a vote.

Levenson then raised the issue of the district being "locked into a two to three year contract," among present budget uncertainties.

Jennifer Waldron of Gill said, "The school district signed a compact with the towns and how we come to that is up to us. As long as we're abiding by that agreement, we're OK."

Singleton said it was a violation of open meeting law to not have a public discussion of wages and benefits. He said the reason for having negotiations in executive session was to pull half the budget out of the public discussions.

Levenson said, "We have a two-tier system. The employees of the town and school are divided unless we have an open discussion."

Waldron responded, "There are two different towns, and a school district. We need to talk like a district. People who work here are not town employees; they are employees of the district."

A vote was then held and the school committee voted 7 to 2 in favor of putting the vote for ratification on the agenda for the next meeting.

After the approval of the agenda item, Singleton continued the discussion of contracts and the open meeting law and asked if the committee could have a discussion in the public portion of the meeting before going into executive session to discuss contract ratification. Levenson asked

that the district's attorney, Russell Dupere, be present to guide their discussion.

The school committee agreed to hold a general conversation about the rules related to negotiations, executive sessions and the open meeting laws prior to going into the executive session to vote on ratification of the contracts.

Asked to comment on the issue of multi-year contracts, Ladd said, "I can certainly understand and appreciate the argument to have one-year contracts, due to the uncertainty of the economy. However, I prefer having fewer unknown variables when developing a budget, and at least with a multiple-year agreement you know what those variables are going to be."

"I'm not sure that having yearly contract negotiations with four bargaining units is the best use of administration and school committee time, as it is a very time consuming effort. I'm also not sure I agree with the argument that a multiple-year agreement takes salary and benefits off the table during the budget process. It is always part of the budget conversation. When you have a labor intensive organization, like public education, labor costs are going to be the lion's share of the overall operating costs."

Ladd added that if the school committee opts for one-year contracts, then the administration will do what they need to do to make that directive work.

The next school committee meeting will be held on January 25th, at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



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SHEA from pg 1

nic pride and transformed it into a work of theater.

Her solo show, called *Piecework: When We Were French* will be coming to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Sunday, January 30th, at 2 p.m. She should expect a warm hometown welcome from Montague's large French Canadian population, and from all who value holding true to ethnic identity within the larger American stew pot.

"In most places in New England," said Paige, "especially in that part of Vermont where I come from, not too many identify with being French Canadian anymore."

Paige has Québécois lineage from both sides of her family tree, and her heritage mattered to her. So she went looking for people who shared her background, and found it in interviews with dozens of people of French Canadian descent throughout New England and New York. She wove these interviews into the weft of her one woman play.

In *Piecework*, brought to the Shea by the Country Players with support from the Carnegie Library's Ten Towns Reading program, Paige plays ten different characters, including a teenage girl, an old man, and a woman who works as a housekeeper for the local parish church.

"My maternal grandmother

was born in Vermont, but conceived in Quebec, and her family was francophone. She considered it was definitely a disadvantage to grow up speaking French, and she didn't teach [the language] to any of her children.

"Speaking French growing up kept her from going to school for a long time. I have heard a lot of such stories of children kept from going to school, or treated as if they had learning disabilities. [Speaking French] was something she was proud of, but it wasn't something that was encouraged," Paige said.

Her family has a dash of English tossed into the mix on both sides, and Paige said her father's side of the family in particular seemed oblivious to their French Canadian heritage. "All of the names had been changed - Anglicized. My father's mother, her last name was Brothers, but before that it had been Brodeur. We had Bakers in the family who had been Belangers before, and there were Benjamins, who did not need to change their names, and then there were some who changed from Chouinards to Swingers."

The way she said this implied Paige thought this last change had not been for the better.

"Those immigrations took place before the border was very well defined between the United States and Canada. They did not go through any formal process to change their names. They

changed them not necessarily to hide the fact they were French, but just because they moved to a place that spoke English."

Paige continued, "There is a history that goes back to the 1600s, when the area was not divided by borders." However, those who later immigrated to America from francophone Canada to find work during the industrial revolution "would have felt more obvious pressure to assimilate," Paige said.

A steady stream of French Canadian immigrants moved to Turners Falls in the late 1800s, joining immigrants from Poland, Germany and the British Isles as the hydropower beneath the dam opened up hundreds of manufacturing jobs in the cutlery, paper and textile mills. In this, Turners is no different from numberless riverside mill towns from Maine to Rhode Island, Vermont to New York, and beyond.

Paige said she wrote *Piecework: When We Were French* at about the time she moved to Montreal from St. Johnsbury, VT, and it premiered in July of 2009 at the Flynn in Burlington, VT at the quadricentennial of the "discovery" of Lake Champlain by the French explorer Samuel de Champlain.

Since then, Paige has toured the play around Vermont, from Montpelier to Bennington, Middlebury to Brattleboro. Sara Campbell, a genealogist who lives in Erving, caught up

with Paige in Tunbridge last year at the Vermont History Exposition. It was Campbell who arranged for Paige to bring her play to Turners Falls.

"I thought it was amazing how she morphed into different people, and the different ways of looking at being French Canadian. Her talent is amazing," said Campbell. "This play will appeal to people of any family tradition." Bakers, Swingers, there's something in it for everyone.

Campbell has arranged to have the local father and son duo of Adrian and Ron Meck play some appropriate fiddle tunes at the Shea matinee, and genealogical material will be on display in the lobby.

"She made it into a cultural event," said Paige. "For me, that's much more exciting. I wanted the play to feel like sort of a kitchen party."

Paige added, "My play is not about the connections my grandmother would feel to Quebec. It's more about the feelings my mother has for Quebec, with cousins she stays in communication with. She thinks of herself as French Canadian in an ethnic sense, but that doesn't really connect her in a significant way to a community either in Quebec or the United States. In St. Johnsbury, they don't get together to celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day."

Paige, who said there will be

a discussion period after the play, said she would be interested to know whether they celebrated this holiday in Turners in bygone years, the way they did in industrial centers like Lowell and Manchester, NH, and Lewiston, ME.

Speaking again of that in-between world where so many immigrants and their descendants live today, Paige said Quebec, outside of the cosmopolitan mecca of Montreal, has a pronounced anti-immigrant sentiment, though a different one than is found here in America. "In the 1960s and 1970s, there was an ethos of protecting the French culture. That has a certain xenophobic ring to it."

Paige lives east of the mountain, in the Plateau area of the city, a heterogeneous zone supposedly in the French section of Montreal, but located hard by Jewish and Greek neighborhoods, and surrounded by Portuguese immigrants. She said, "I don't feel oppressed here. I'm sort of lumped in with the rest of the Anglophones."

She added, "The difficult thing about Quebec is no one would be categorized as French Canadian here unless they really are French Canadian... I'm not sure what we are."

Perhaps we will all find out - next Sunday at the Shea.

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Building Resilience with Chris Martenson

BY ANNE HARDING - Who is Chris Martenson and why should we care that he is making a rare, informal appearance at the Thrive Project to host a talk and Q&A session on "Building Resilience" Wednesday, January 26th at 37 3rd Street in Turners Falls?

A former vice president of a Fortune 500 company, Martenson is a scientist and teacher who became disillusioned with the collegiate tenure track and went back to school to study finance - graduating with an MBA from Cornell. He spent the next ten years successfully enmeshed in the world of corporate America.

He was a 40-year-old professional living in a waterfront, five bathroom house in Mystic, CT, which was mostly paid off. His three young children were either in or about to enter public school and his portfolio of investments was being managed by a broker at a large institution. He did not really know any of his neighbors, and many of his local connections were superficial at best.

He willingly terminated his former high-paying, high-status position because it seemed like an unnecessary diversion from the real tasks at hand. His children are now homeschooled, and the big house in Mystic was sold in July of 2003 in

see RESILIENCE pg 13

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TF High School Students Discuss King's Dream

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - Almost 50 years after its delivery, the words of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech continue to stir emotion.

The fact that we're still reading and listening to it is a testament to its power," said Laurie Devino.

Devino, the Turners Falls High School ninth-grade English teacher partnered with Advanced Placement Language and Composition teacher Megan Rushford to present a special class focused on King's speech, on Friday, January 14th.

Rather than simply read or listen to the speech, the class also examined and evaluated the speech's rhetorical structure, including King's use of logical, emotional, and ethical appeals to persuade his audience. This exercise coincided with the students' study of persuasive speech and writing.

"I can't think of a better speech to teach," Devino said. "We're learning from a master."

After listening to a recording of King delivering the speech, Devino asked how the speech affects the audience.

"It rubs off on them in a good way," explained freshman Malcolm Smith. "They want to do something good about what he's talking about. It's like a pump-up song."

Smith added that King used, "a lot of good metaphors that fit the speech he gave." He cited a section of the speech in which King addressed his audience as "people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice." Smith said that he especially liked that excerpt because it makes King's point more powerful and draws on the

idea of something really grand.

After a preliminary discussion about the speech, students from Rushford's junior Advanced Placement class presented posters they made explaining the three types of appeals. They explained that logical appeals call on the audience through fact, evidence and reason, while ethical (ethos) appeals focus on prior credentials and moral ground. Finally, emotional appeals (pathos) appeal to the emotions and feelings of an audience.

Following these presentations, students broke into groups that combined ninth-grade students with junior AP students.

"We combined classes as an opportunity to share knowledge and acknowledge King for all he did for civil rights," explained Rushford.

In groups of four or five, students discussed examples of the types of appeals in King's speech and made posters explaining these examples.

To find examples of pathos, junior Mark Hudyma encouraged younger students to "think about the most emotional points-when people were cheering the most."

King "inspired emotions of pride," said freshman Tyler Richardson. "You feel like you're part of something really great."

Classmate Alex Osowski agreed, calling the speech inspiring and moving.

"I think the speech is very emotional because it has a hard impact on discrimination," said ninth grader Courtney Eugin. "It's still important today because we may still be segregated if it weren't for him; we treasure what he did."

Switching to a discussion of

see DREAM pg 13

AWARD from pg 1

King Jr. in their community.

Bullock was honored for his work at the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett. He first joined the Peace Pagoda to participate in the year-long interfaith pilgrimage of the Middle Passage to retrace the slave trade from New England to the Caribbean and finally to Africa.

"It changed my life," he said.

The pilgrimage led him to believe in the energy of a driving spirit and the necessity of working for world peace.

In 2005, Bullock joined the Pagoda community, where he now organizes walks and events. He has organized walks to promote prison reform, environmental sustainability, the renunciation of war and the abolishment of the use of nuclear weapons.

He makes presentations at schools and colleges to share his experience completing the Middle Passage pilgrimage. He is also working to establish a town peace commission for Leverett, and to change the Massachusetts state seal that depicts a sword brandished above an emblem of a Native American.

According to his nominator, Bullock is a man who embodies King's principles of peace, truth and justice, coupled with kindness and compassion.

"I stand here very thankful and very grateful," said Bullock. "This has spurred me on to do more."

Pura presented the other

"Living the Dream" Award to keynote speaker Jackson. In addition to his work founding the Social Justice Education program at the University of Massachusetts, he also was recognized for his development of racial identity theory.

His models have been used as the basis for helping educators and social and behavioral scientists understand identity development that faces members of various racial groups in the United States. Jackson has also contributed to the formation and development of local, state and regional networks that support schools of education and education reform.

"We are a part of the kind of community," said Jackson upon receiving the award, "that is the muscle that's going to make these dreams happen."

In related news, 50 Greenfield Community College students, faculty and staff participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. This national event encourages citizens to take an active role volunteering in their communities. The MLK Day of Service is a part of President Obama's United We Serve national call to service initiative.

"The day was fantastic," said Judy Raper, GCC coordinator of transition services and organizer of GCC's MLK Day of Service.

"This is the kind of work that a community college is all about, in my opinion, so I was honored to be part of it. It is important for GCC to extend itself beyond the

walls of the campus."

Volunteers organized books at Newton Elementary School library, led activities for residents at the Arbors assisted living facility, stocked shelves at GCC's food pantry and renovated the offices of Orange's Young Entrepreneur Society.

"I am particularly thrilled that we had seniors volunteering alongside GCC students," Raper said, commenting on the Arbors project.

"The need in the community is great, and service allows students to apply their learning in real life," said Raper. "Many people think of Martin Luther King Day as a holiday, but with the MLK Day of Service we honor Dr. King's legacy by doing good work."

"This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to the community and offer our services to help someone else," said student Kevin Leszczynski.

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day national holiday.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Hazardous Roads, Fire at Old State Road

Wednesday, 1/12
12:30 p.m. Truck into guard rail on East Prospect Street, Erving Center. Report taken.

8:20 p.m. Motor vehicle into snow bank on Paper Mill Road. Assisted same.

Thursday, 1/13
11:10 a.m. Report of distraught female on foot. Located on Dorsey Road. Father arrived on scene. Assisted with same.

Friday, 1/14
8:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with wires down on South Street. Comcast contacted.

1:20 p.m. Report of a disabled van pulling a camper in Farley area of Route 2. Vehicle towed.

3:10 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on North Street. Found to be a vehicle into a snow bank on Gulf Road, Northfield. Advised Northfield police.

5:20 p.m. Fire alarm at Old State Road residence. Fire department on scene.

Sunday, 1/16
11:15 a.m. Report of car off the road. In Millers Falls, Montague police handled same.

Monday, 1/17
10:15 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering and larceny of a motor vehicle on Mountain Road. Report taken.
2:10 p.m. Criminal application issued to

[redacted] for revoked registration, uninsured and uninspected motor vehicle.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Benefits of Chocolate

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I eat a little chocolate every day. How bad is that for me?*

You didn't say how much. If you eat a bunny a day, there is an obvious risk of becoming a major chubbo. However, a little chocolate has health benefits.

A recent Harvard study suggested that a bit of high-quality dark chocolate one to three times a month may protect women from heart failure.

The authors studied the chocolate-eating habits of 31,823

Swedish women, aged 48 to 83. Women who ate about an ounce a month reduced their risk of heart failure by 32 percent. More than an ounce eliminated the benefit. The risk increased with added chocolate.

Other studies have found that moderate amounts of chocolate seem to lower blood pressure. The pressure reduction was considered one cause of the reduced heart-failure risk. The heart benefit of dark chocolate also could be caused by flavonoids, or antioxidants, that can smooth heart function. You can also get flavonoids from citrus fruits, onions, green tea and red wine.

Eating chocolate may decrease your risk of stroke. One study with more than 44,000 par-

ticipants found that those who ate a weekly serving of chocolate were 22 percent less likely to suffer a stroke than those who ate no chocolate.

Here are more health benefits discovered by recent research into chocolate:

A 2008 study found that people who ate a quarter of an ounce of dark chocolate a day had lower levels of a protein that is associated with inflammation in their blood.

Other studies have found that blood platelets clump together more slowly in chocolate eaters. Clumping platelets can lead to the formation of blood clots, which can cause a heart attack.

Chocolate consumption may help prevent formation of artery plaques and improve blood flow.

Chocolate may also have anti-

cancer benefits because the flavonoids in chocolate may help reduce cell damage that can spur tumor growth.

These beneficial flavonoids are bitter, so they are removed from most commercial chocolate. Darker chocolates tend to have higher levels of flavonoids. Milk chocolate has lower levels of flavonoids. White chocolate does not provide flavonoid-related benefits.

By definition, white chocolate is not chocolate. White chocolate contains cacao butter, a product of the cacao bean that produces chocolate. The butter is blended with milk, sugar and often other flavoring ingredients such as vanilla.

A bit of chocolate history:

Many modern historians estimate that chocolate has been around for about 2000 years. For most of that time, chocolate was a

beverage.

Etmologists trace the origin of the word "chocolate" to the Aztec word "xocoatl," which referred to a bitter drink brewed from cacao beans. The Latin name for the cacao tree, "Theobroma cacao," means "food of the gods."

Sweetened chocolate didn't appear until Europeans discovered the Americas. Chocolate didn't suit the foreigners' taste buds, but once it was mixed with honey or cane sugar, it quickly became popular. By the 17th century, chocolate was a fashionable drink throughout Europe.

In 1847, the chocolate bar was invented by Joseph Fry. By 1868, the Cadbury company was marketing boxes of chocolate candies in England. Nestle introduced milk chocolate a few years later.

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

COPPICE from pg 10

new growth and introduced more nutrients for the plants. These coppiced woodlands also became essential to the habitats of wild animals, insects, and wildflowers.

Coppicing was widespread throughout America by the time European settlers began to arrive. Baskets were a central part of Native American culture. Coppicing, especially of willow trees, provided canes for weaving that were straight, small in diameter, free of knots, disease free, and easy to harvest.

Until the mid-1800s, coppicing was a widespread woodland management practice. Coppice provided charcoal that burned hotter and was easier to transport because it weighed less and was a more concentrated fuel than wood. However, with the industrial revolution and shift to fossil fuels for heat and energy, coppicing became a less common practice.

Coppicing in the 21st Century

Today there is an increasing need to move away from fossil fuel dependency toward a post-petroleum world, and a return to traditional forest management practices.

Coppicing is economically viable and creates many products that are useful for today. In the order of increasing monetary value are wood chips, firewood, charcoal, fodder for goats and sheep that also controls intestinal parasites, mushrooms, fencing, building materials, crafts and baskets, furniture, and art. Coppicing creates jobs of many types for foresters, craftspeople, farmers, land managers, and others.

Coppicing can be done at a large industrial scale, like in Scandinavia where coppice biomass is harvested for energy and heat, or in small backyards where a person can grow willow for making baskets or hazels for the nuts.

The uses of coppice are nearly

endless. One famous innovator from France, Jean Pain, composted coppice wood chips to provide 100% of his household's energy needs. With his huge mound of compost, he used the heat produced from the decomposing wood chips to make hot water and collected the methane to provide fuel for cooking and driving his car. Afterward the humus from the compost was used as soil mulch.

For those who want to try coppicing on their own, spacing should be five to six feet for short crop rotation and nine to twelve feet for longer rotation. If plants are too dense, they can simply be thinned later. Soil quality varies, so try different tree varieties and see which do best.

Krawczyk said, "The biggest thing to take away from this is to experiment, cut stuff and see how it does."

For more information, see www.coppiceagroforestry.com.

DREAM from pg 12

ethos, Hudyma noted King's biblical allusions. "It's a good way to get people on his side who share the same beliefs," he said.

"The speech does appeal to a high moral standard," said Christian Connelly, a junior. Students noted King's use of logic when he stated that when the nation's founding fathers drafted the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, "they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

"He's talking about a promise

that's now been broken with segregation laws," said Smith. "It's logical that people would expect others to keep a promise."

Junior Jolina Blier questioned whether the class dynamic would be different when discussing King's speech if the class itself were more diverse. "I think it would be interesting to hear different points of view, to have a wider array of perspectives to add to the quality of the discussion," she said.

Ninth grader Kaylannah Frost concluded, "The speech had to happen for things to be like they are today. I don't think we'll stop learning about it or we may slip back."



RELISIENCE from pg 11

preference for a 1.5 bathroom rental in Montague. He grows a garden every year; preserves food, brews beer and wine, and raises chickens. He has carefully examined each support system (food, energy, security, etc.), and for each of them he's figured out either a means of being more self-sufficient or a way to do without. But, most importantly, he now knows the most important descriptor of wealth is not his dollar holdings, but the depth and richness of his community (www.chrismartenson.com).

Martenson worked with renowned Bernardston videographer Rawn Fulton to produce the "Crash Course" DVD series that explores the critical chal-

lenges civilization faces in the context of the three E's - Energy, Economics and Environment. The DVD was released with critical acclaim in 2009 and Martenson has toured the country discussing his theories on peak oil, exponential economics, climate change, the meltdown of the financial system and many other topics.

Martenson's passion is teaching people to plan intelligently for the future by building resiliency into their lives as well as their communities. Learn what you can start doing now to deepen your understanding and prepare for the challenges, opportunities and widespread changes of the next 20 years.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Assault, Break In, Vandalism, Fire

Tuesday, 1/11
 7:13 p.m. Domestic disturbance on L Street. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

Friday, 1/14
 11:18 a.m. Fire on Walnut Street. Referred to other agency.
 10:32 p.m. Structure fire on Eighth Street. Services rendered.

Saturday, 1/15
 10:42 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Bulkley Street.

10:56 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Millers Falls Road in Millers Falls. Peace restored.

11:43 p.m. Unwanted person on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

Sunday, 1/16
 2:53 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for five counts of vandalism, damage, or defacement of property and three counts of malicious destruction of property less than \$250.

6:51 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, vandalism, damage or defacement of property, and threat to commit the crime of murder on Park Street.

Monday, 1/17
 12:52 p.m. Report of assault and battery on Seventh Street.
 9:06 p.m. Threatening harassment on Randall Wood Drive in Montague. Advised of options.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 41: Greenwashing Guerillas

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – The words “Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie” were painted in huge red letters on a giant swath of fabric draped over the cliffs of Mount Nottawuck, just opposite the Mount Todd coal-fired power plant. The message was clearly visible to everyone driving on Route 91, especially northbound traffic.

With step one of their plan complete, members of Rising Tide’s Greenwashing Guerilla Group reassembled for their second action — a protest in front of the offices of NewLight Power.

Standing at the entrance of the power plant, new member Maggie Dubin pointed her finger

at the recently constructed addition the company had built to house a turbosorp system for removing pollutants.

“NewLight makes a big deal about their ‘state of the art coal facilities.’ They may have reduced some of the mercury and sulfur dioxide emissions, but they’ll never stop the CO2 pollution unless they find a place to put it.” Holding out her wrists, she paused while Jayden’s boyfriend Alex Tinker wrapped a chain around the building’s front gate and Jayden handcuffed Maggie’s wrists to it. Then she continued:

“We can stop releasing CO2 and make our future safe, or we can burn coal. We can’t do both.”

Just then several nervous NewLight officials emerged from the building, one talking urgently into a cell phone.

“Do you think we’ll be arrested?” wondered Alex.

“I hope so,” answered Maggie.



Later ...

“Alex—can I sing you my song?” 10-year-old Ruby pleaded, hoping to distract her brother from the text message he was tapping out with his thumbs.

“Sure—what’s it about?” asked Alex, half listening.

Ruby leaned forward, began tapping her foot, snapped her fingers three times to set a rocking beat, and then sang at full volume:

Your feets *too big*
—you’re usin’ too much carbon

You feets *too big*
—you’re heatin’ up the skies
Your feets *too big*

Tinker Family



Billy, 50
Bus Mechanic



Rita, 49
Yoga Instructor



Alex, 17



Ruby, 10

—better find a way to shrink ‘em

Gotta leave a carbon footprint that’s a *livable* size

“That’s really good, Ruby. You wrote that yourself?” Alex asked, amazed.

“Well, the first line I borrowed from an old song I found on YouTube, but all the rest I wrote, plus there’s three more verses. I want to sing it for the candlelight vigil tomorrow night. A lot of people from church are going,” Ruby explained. “Will you play your guitar while I sing?”

“Sure. Hey—let’s record it.” Alex pulled out his laptop, a microphone and his keyboard. “It’ll really rock if we lay some chords and your vocal down on

top of a hip hop beat — maybe add some horns.”

At Alex’s signal, Ruby sang into the microphone, and Alex forgot all about his text message as he laid down tracks to form a multi-layered, catchy song.

“Ok, Ruby—now we shoot the video,” Alex announced.

Alex filmed his sister as she danced around in different shoes, hung upside down from a tree, pretended to drive a car, and waved giant cardboard footprints in the air. Later that evening they edited the video and synced it to the recording. By the end of the evening, they were ready to upload it to YouTube.

Continued next issue...

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HIRED from pg 1

The vote was unanimous. Carter had been recommended by the local food subcommittee from a pool of six “highly qualified” applicants, to use the words of subcommittee chair Paul Costello. She starts in her new position January 24th.

Carter’s first meeting with the subcommittee will be on January 31st at the town offices to chart the first steps of the effort to significantly restore Wendell’s local agricultural economy - the growing and consuming of local food.

Carter, who hopes to inspire as well as organize, network and educate in her new five to ten hour a week job, said “a thriving, sustainable food culture” is “the single greatest indicator of health in a community - be it a family or a nation.” She called food production “an occupation [that is] both creative and collaborative. It supports the independence of individuals by strengthening connections to place and neighborhood, and is essential to the economic vitality of rural communities.”

The hiring is a key element of a two-year pilot program narrowly approved by voters at a

special town meeting last October that intended to increase local food security by directly committing public funds to that effort. Following passionate debate, voters approved the appropriation of \$5000 to the energy committee “for the purpose of conducting the first year of a two-year pilot project focused on local food production and agriculture.”

The local foods committee discussed options like allying with CISA (Community Involved in Supporting Agriculture), or building infrastructure like a root cellar, but in the end decided on hiring a coordinator to focus the town’s intention to build local food security. The committee’s focus is on Wendell, but it includes surrounding towns.

Carter – whom friends call Liz – has done considerable organizing work in her 24 years. She left Sarah Lawrence College located outside of New York City following Hurricane Katrina to go to New Orleans to see how she could help. There she and her partner (now husband) Chris Pletcher organized more than 2,000 volunteers in the gutting of over 100 homes in previously abandoned parts

of the city’s Lower Ninth Ward.

Carter founded a farm of several acres to supply the Mason Square Farmers’ Market in Springfield and other clients with fruits and vegetables. In addition, she ran an after-school homework and tutoring program in Yonkers, N.Y.

Her other food-related experience includes work at an organic truck farm in Washington State, at Arthur Miller farm in Clinton Corners, NY, and at the UMass Equine Barns in Hadley. She pruned apple and peach trees at Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown and milked and cared for a small herd of dairy goats on Cape Clear Island in Ireland.

Wanting “to become handy,” Carter took maintenance work at the University of Arizona, where she did general plumbing, electrical, carpentry, design and horticultural work. As part of a conscious effort to find her “way of relating to the space that [she] was in,” Carter worked as a back country caretaker doing campground maintenance, hiker education, and search and rescue for the Appalachian Mountain Club in the White Mountains.

Deciding “to get more skills

in farming,” she came back to UMass to study agriculture. But wanting to deepen her scientific understanding of soils, she moved to a program at the University of Arizona that was “better for environmental toxicology and chemistry.” There, in addition to her studies, she worked in a program studying carbon sequestration in desert soils.

One vision she presented in her application to the local food subcommittee was to “facilitate collaborations between startups, existing farms, and consumers.” Another was to “organize a ‘skills share’ to share what we know, and identify what we need to learn (such as dairy processing, food preservation, low-energy greenhouses, grain production).”

In its 2009-2010 report, the Wendell energy task force called for a focus on local food production by means of the hiring of a local food coordinator. The task force identified New England’s vulnerability at the end of a long food supply line as one of the most pressing issues around the impending loss of cheap, plentiful energy.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ings by *Karen and Jim Shepherd*, and music by *John Clarke*. 4 to 7 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Monthly Timebank Orientation / Potluck / mini-workshops to be held the third Sunday of each month. Bring a dish to share if you can. *Nobody* is turned away. This is a free community event. Schedule- Food: 6 to 7 p.m., Mini-workshop - this month, sing along with Marty and Katie 7 to 8 p.m. Orientation for new members: 8 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*, Singing all the tunes you loved in the 60's & 70's just the way you remember them, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls, *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, Jazz Trio, 9 to 11 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Rhythm Inc.*, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jamie Kent with The Options*, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, Harmonic Eclectic Rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Green River String Band*, folk-american, Free, 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *An evening of International Circle Dancing with live music from Noah's Raven Dance Band*. The evening features Celtic, Israeli, Turkish, Arabic, Armenian and American dances which will all be taught. Beginners of all ages are welcome. Donations at the door will be accepted, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Abby Paige performs her one-woman show "Piecework: When We Were French,"* 2 to 4 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 31st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, *A Night of Spoken Word*, Special Poetry night menu available, bring a friend and your appetite, 7 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*, hosted by *Dada Dino*, 8 p.m. Free.

FEBRUARY 2nd Through 27th
Burnett Gallery at Jones Library, Amherst, MA: *City on the Sea: Fragments of (Brief Returns to) Riga, Latvia*, A photographic essay by Anita Licis-Ribak.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Cafe Sun, Sunderland Elementary School: *Free Polka lessons, with Tom and Deb Zimnowski*. Free babysitting available, cafesun.org, 7 to 8 p.m.

THE BRICK HOUSE
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Now Through FEBRUARY 26th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fine Fishing Artwork* by *James Roszel* in the Great Hall. Open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Now Through FEBRUARY 27th
Wendell Free Library: *Herrick Room, Garden Musings*, paintings by *Kerry Stone* of *Warwick*.

Now Through MARCH 6th
Leverett Library: *Bold Vibrant Faces*, an exhibition of abstracts by *Joanna K. Stone* and *Priscilla Ahlert* of *Leverett* and *Shutesbury*, inspired by the later work of *Alexei von Jawlensky, 1864-1941*. Opening reception is on *Saturday, January 29th*, 4 to 7 p.m. in the *Community Room*.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A trip to Alaska*. Come Celebrate the *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50th Anniversary*. Our own *Friends' Board member, Linda Hickman*, will present a program on her guided trip through *Alaska*, highlighting memorable and noteworthy natural and cultural resources, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, Blues based Roots Music, 8 to 10 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nobody's Fat*, 9:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina*, *Folk Rock with Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser, Klondike Koehler, and Tina Horn*, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Becca and Friends*, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd
Mike & Tony's Pizzeria, Colrain: *Zydeco Connection*, 7 p.m.

Wendell Historic Town Hall: *The Gypsy Wranglers play at the Wendell Full Moon Coffehouse*, 7:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Heather Maloney Band*, Singer/Songwriter - Powerhouse Performer, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok with Somerville Symphony Orkestar*, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd
First Church, Deerfield: *Green River String Band, Amandla Chorus, & folk hero Juanita Nelson* present a concert featuring bluegrass, folk wisdom, and choral music at 2 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive: Show!* Performances and cultural exchange, this month featuring read-



Jamie Kent plays with The Options, at The Arts Block in Greenfield, at 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26th
Montague Grange: *Mid-Week Grange Dance*, *David Kaynor*, caller, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Reggae Night*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ellen Cogan*, jazz, 7:30 p.m., Free.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Velocity*, 9:30 p.m.

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3. FIGHTER R
DAILY 4:00 7:00 9:30
4. LITTLE FOCKERS PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. THE DILEMMA PG13
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Leverett Elementary Will Get a Greenhouse

BY LIZ CARTER - The new wellness policy at Leverett Elementary School is coming to life, literally.

This May, a group of parents and staff plan to install a 36-foot greenhouse on school grounds. The greenhouse would then become a living classroom, an opportunity to grow food for school lunches, and a food security resource for the community.

Food writer and local foods activist Susan Chang wrote wellness policies for the Amherst and Union 28 districts as part of a Food and Society Policy fellowship.

"We started thinking about what we wanted for food in the Leverett school system," Chang said. "We ran a food survey, a wellness survey, and what came out of that was that people were unhappy with the selections we had available. There were a lot of different diets and nutritional needs at stake. At the same time, the school lunch program was losing money, so we put together a school lunch study group."

The lunch study group worked with faculty, staff, the school principal and parents.

"We basically sat down to try to figure out what we could do with the budgetary concerns and the needs of the community," Chang said.

The group spent about a year completely analyzing what was going on in the lunch budget, figuring out how money was spent, how much money the government provided, whether this money was actually necessary, and what the group needed to do to achieve its food objectives which include more local foods and increased community participation.

After looking over their

options, and comparing models pioneered by other districts facing similar dilemmas, the lunch study group decided to install a local foods salad bar in the cafeteria. "We were able to bring in a salad bar in the beginning of the 2009 school year," said Chang.

"Participation in the lunch program went up by 20 percent when we added the salad bar, which is better than our wildest dreams, because that not only means that the kids are eating healthier, but also that the lunch program is more financially stable," said lunch study group member Lydia Peterson. "We've also seen a reduction in waste since we implemented the salad bar... The kids take what they want and will eat, so there's less waste." The greens come from Swartz Farm in North Amherst, pretty much year round.

Chang had also worked to install a school garden as part of her fellowship. The "courtyard garden" is an enclosed space where students grow fruits and vegetables. Different grades grow different things (every year the kindergarteners grow garlic, the fourth graders grow tomatoes, etc.), and several teachers have found a way to utilize the space to bring their lessons to life.

Peterson explained that kindergarten teacher Dorothy



A Gothic Style FarmTek greenhouse (above) to be constructed at Leverett Elementary School will supplement both the salad bar and the curriculum

Cresswell teaches a Native American unit, and she does a three sisters garden to teach children about the interdependence of life and the growing of corn and beans and squash together. During her medieval unit, first grade teacher Allison Ellis has students grow herbs in the garden and teaches how those would have been used to season foods in the era before refrigeration.

They also offer an optional "garden recess" in the courtyard garden, where students can opt to weed and plant instead of play. "We were only able to do it three or four times a year, and we can easily get up to a quarter of the school there, staggered in during their recesses," said Peterson.

The school garden also pulls community members into the school. "That's parent run; it's completely volunteer driven," said Chang.

"After having seen all these things that were successful, we started thinking about what would be even better. And we thought of a greenhouse. If we had a greenhouse we could start

to grow lettuce for the salad bar," said Chang.

They studied other schools in the region with greenhouses, such as Amherst High and PVPA, and began to seek funding for the project.

The group tried some local fundraising which did not provide sufficient funds and wrote a few grants but were not chosen. Finally, PeoplesBank decided to completely fund the greenhouse from the bank's community giving program.

The group selected an 18-foot by 36-foot Gothic Style model greenhouse from FarmTek. The structure will need to be irrigated, but they do not plan to run electricity for heating or ventilation. "It will have roll-up polyethylene sides," said Chang, "and the temperature gain is incredible. We looked at it in late winter and it was like 80 degrees in there."

The group has an AmeriCorps Volunteer, Amy Ryan, who is working with teachers to develop curriculum that uses the greenhouse as a tool to enhance, not change, existing lessons.

"We didn't want anybody to view the greenhouse as an extra imposition. Instead, we hoped people would see it as a value-added piece of the school. Amy's plan is to study the state curriculum frameworks, and figure out how the greenhouse could work within those frameworks and the units in the school," Chang said.

They also hope to use it to teach kids about food production. "We're pretty certain that for about two thirds to three quarters of the school year we should be able to produce the lettuce for the salad bar," said Chang. The primary goal is to use the greenhouse as a teaching facility, but there should be some incidental cost saving for the

lunch budget as well.

"We'd love the community to get involved both in the greenhouse and around the greenhouse," said Peterson. "We also have hopes that the greenhouse and the community garden will exist synergistically - that the greenhouse will be available to the public when school is not in session," said Chang.

Chang referred to a community garden which is also proposed for the same location, but this proposal has not yet taken root.

"We're excited about the likelihood the greenhouse will be constructed between the school and the library, and integrated with the school curriculum," said Selectboard member Peter d'Errico. "Our sense is the town is not in a situation financially to support a paid position to work with this project, so we're in the midst of exploring other means, like grants, volunteers, or finding someone from existing staff who could take the lead on it."

Currently, Susan Chang and Lydia Peterson are working together to write grants to fund a part-time supervisor for the greenhouse.

To Chang, the greenhouse is an important component in the comprehensive picture of wellness drawn up by the lunch study group, one that puts stewardship of children's health and their environment in the same frame.

"It was a natural outgrowth of having done the work on the courtyard garden and the salad bar," said Chang. "It was a natural way to teach about food security and food sustainability. It's very common within the food garden movement worldwide. Here in New England, where the growing season is very short, some would argue that the greenhouse is not only a good idea but essential."

VERIZON from pg 9

to the department's investigation, Verizon began doing work on the wire centers, [which were in Montague] right away. Apparently, the way we jumped in with both feet got them energized to address our problems."

D'Errico continued, "Throughout the process, Leverett indicated to all parties how little trust there was in the community for any promises

Verizon made. What we have relied on is the fact of improved quality, not the promises of improved quality."

D'Errico said he is encouraged by the settlement's requirement for increased reporting by Verizon to the DTC, and he praised the intervention of the IBEW and the Attorney General's office, which enabled the intervenors to bring resources and expert witnesses that smaller towns like Leverett

could not have afforded on their own. He said the town of Leverett now has a direct line to Verizon's government affair's liaison for any future complaints.

The electrical workers' union local business manager John Rowley Sr. explained in a news release that his union "intervened along with AG Martha Coakley into the case...to ensure that the consumers of Western Massachusetts will receive qual-

ity service, and we believe that will happen."

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