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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 16

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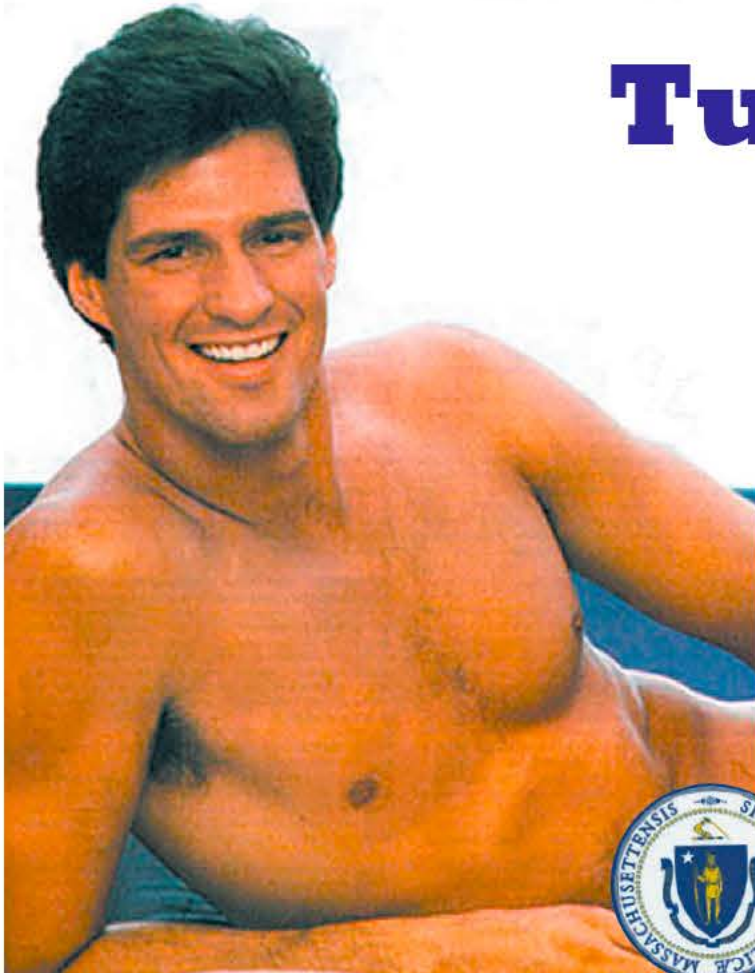
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 21, 2010

## Massachusetts Turns Purple



Before he entered politics, Massachusetts' new Republican Senator posed nude for the centerfold of *Cosmopolitan*. Scott Brown won *Cosmo's* "America's Sexiest Man" contest in 1982. On Tuesday, he won the statewide contest for a seat Democrats have held for the last 64 years.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – On Tuesday, in an election that riveted the nation and divided the Commonwealth in electoral fault lines from west to east, city to suburb, Scott Brown, a Republican state senator hitherto best known outside his Wrentham district for posing nude in the centerfold of *Cosmopolitan*, handily defeated attorney general Martha Coakley to topple the Democrats' dynasty on statewide office and inject a shade of crimson into the bluest of blue states.

Coakley, who ran a campaign called aloof, arrogant, and negative by dyed in the wool Democrats, failed to gain traction in the wake of Brown's pick-up truck. She lost even Ted Kennedy's hometown of Barnstable by almost a two to one margin.

Statewide, with nearly 54% of registered voters turning out, the picture was more mixed, with Brown pulling in 52% of the vote

to Coakley's 47%, and Libertarian Joseph 'no relation' Kennedy bringing up the rear with 1%.

Locally, Coakley supporters drowned their sorrows in beer halls Tuesday night as the results streamed in, and talked about printing "Don't Blame Me, I'm from Franklin County" bumperstickers, while her detractors announced loudly at early morning newsstands Wednesday, "I would have voted for anybody but her!"

Still, if the election could have been limited to Western Mass, Coakley would have breezed to victory without getting her shoes muddy. She took Springfield handily, cleaned Brown's clock in her native Berkshire County, and racked up large margins in Hampshire County towns like Northampton, Hadley and Amherst, where she pulled down 84% of the vote.

Coakley carried every single town in Franklin County except for Hawley, where she wound up

in a dead heat with Brown, at 63 votes each, and Orange, which turned Red on Tuesday, handing Brown 61% of the vote.

Elsewhere, 60% (640) of Gill's 1061 voters came to the fire station polls to cast ballots. They favored Coakley 62% (398) to Brown's 35% (226).

"This is definitely a big voting day in Gill," said town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, who offered one-stop shopping for census forms and dog tags at the voter check-in table. "Anything we can do to save money for the town."

In Erving, voters backed Coakley 58% (296) to Brown's 41% (208), with 47% (512) of the town's 1096 registered voters turning out. In Wendell, turnout reached 73% (424) on a snowy, slushy day, with almost 80% (338) of them supporting Coakley to Brown's 19% (79).

In Leverett, 68% (951) of the town's 1389 registered voters turned out, according to town clerk Lisa Stratford. Of those, 82% (779) supported Coakley; Brown got just 17% (104).

Montague saw a turnout of 52.4% (3015), which town clerk Deb Bourbeau termed "substantially wonderful," for a special election. Coakley pulled down nearly 65% of those votes (1943)

see **PURPLE** page 5

## Strategy Discussed for New Senior Center

BY BILL FRANKLIN

**ERVING** – Members of Erving's senior center committee met with project manager Bruce Hunter, of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and town administrative assistant Tom Sharp on Thursday, January 14th, to discuss options for going forward with the proposed new senior center.

Last June, Erving voters rejected the plan for a 7,000 square foot, 2.3 million dollar senior center to be located just north of the Erving Elementary School on town owned land on Route 63. The proposal failed in a close vote, falling four votes shy of the two-thirds majority that was required to appropriate \$1 million from the town's stabilization fund to finance the new building. The stabilization fund had \$3.5 million at the time.

The senior center committee is now attempting to find a way to place a somewhat scaled back proposal before the voters at a

town meeting to be held in May.

Thursday's meeting took place at the town's current senior center, on the first floor of the former elementary school building in Erving. Those present all agreed the existing senior center is inadequate. The question is: how to go forward with a plan for a new center the voters of Erving will accept?

At the meeting, the committee discussed two main options. The first would be to completely redesign a new senior center from the ground up. The second option would be to modify the existing plan, cutting costs where possible to bring the project in at a lower budget.

The committee considered neither of these options desirable: each has its own weakness. First, a complete redesign would be costly, and would require the town to repay the \$162,839 community development block grant the town received and spent on the existing plan. A complete

see **SENIOR** pg 3

## Benefit at Hope and Olive Nets \$5,500 for Haitian Relief

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GREENFIELD** – On Tuesday, January 12th, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti at 4:53 in the afternoon, 16 miles west of the capital. In Port au Prince, 60% of the buildings were damaged or destroyed, including the Presidential Palace (president Rene Preval survived), Parliament, as well as buildings housing the Ministry of the Interior, the State Department, the Tax Bureau, and the Ministries of Finance, Planning, Public Works and Public Health. Headquarters for the United Nations stabilization mission collapsed, killing Hedi Annabi, chief of the U.N. peacekeeping mission there, his deputy, Luis Carlos da Costa, and acting police commissioner Doug Coates of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Hospitals in the capital were destroyed or damaged, and in



Local author Tracy Kidder speaks at the Hope and Olive benefit.

the early days of the calamity medical supplies were scarce or non-existent.

Other communities near the epicenter of the quake were also badly hit, including Leogane, where 90 percent of the buildings were damaged or

destroyed.

The Haitian interior minister, Paul Antoine Bien-Aime, said Monday that 70,000 bodies had already been buried in mass graves. He feared the death toll could exceed 200,000.

see **RELIEF** pg 13

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Somebody to Love



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## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### Winter Schedule for the Montague Public Libraries

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**MONTAGUE** – There are many exciting special children's programs coming up at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. The Saturday monthly art programs with Ruth O'Mara include making *Snow Globes* on January 23rd, a *Valentine Party* on February 6th, and *Rain Stick Making* on March 13th. All of the Saturday morning programs are at 10:30 a.m.

Also monthly on Saturdays for the winter is *Mother Goose on the Loose* with Michael Nix and Linda Hickman on February 16th and March 20th. Special February school vacation programs include a *Local Live Animals Program* with Creature Teachers at the Carnegie on Tuesday, February 16th, at 10 a.m. During the vacation week, February 13 to February 20, *Crafts To Go* kits will be avail-

able at the Carnegie Library. *Classical Greece and Rome for Homeschoolers* is on Wednesdays at 1:15 at the Carnegie Library through February 24th.

Regular weekly programs include an *Evening Sing-a-Long* at the Montague Center Library on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and the *Millers Falls Library Club* on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. *Story Hour* for young children is on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. The weekly *Music and Movement* program, with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll, is on Thursdays at 10 a.m. It is at the Carnegie Library through February, and then at the Montague Center Library from March to June.

For more information, check [montaguepubliclibraries.org](http://montaguepubliclibraries.org) or call the Carnegie Library. 863-3214.

### 2010 Census Bureau Jobs Available

Available positions are temporary, with full or part-time schedule, flexible hours, pay rate of \$11 to \$17 an hour and reimbursement for car mileage.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age and achieve a passing grade on the government test. The census helps determine how federal funds are spent and helps determine how many Congresspeople are needed to represent our communities. Walk-in applicants with a passport or other forms of picture ID can take the test at the site. For a practice test go to [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) or call toll free 1 (866) 861-2010 to make an appointment to take the free test.

• Sunderland - Testing for the 2010 Census Bureau jobs will take place at the Sunderland town hall meeting room on Monday, February 1st, 8th and 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

• Leverett - Testing will take

place at the Leverett town hall at 10:00 a.m. on February 10th, 24th and March 3rd.

• Hatfield - Testing will take place at the Hatfield town hall, Council on Aging at 2:30 p.m. on January 22nd.

• South Deerfield - Testing will take place at the town hall at 10:00 a.m. on January 26th and February 2nd.

• Shutesbury - Testing will take place at the Shutesbury town hall on January 25th.

• New Salem - Testing will take place at the New Salem Stowell Building, Council on Aging at 10:00 a.m. on February 3rd and 17th.

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### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – Jan 25th to Jan 29th

**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 A.M. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site Manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call 863-9357. Call the senior center for info on any programs.

**Monday, January 25th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, January 26th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Yoga  
12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Canasta  
**Wednesday, January 27th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, January 28th**  
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, January 29th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

**ERVING** Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in



Another scene from Port au Prince?  
No, just a snapshot from the Rod Shop in Montague City.

### Greenfield Library Benefit Concert

On Sunday, January 24th at All Souls Church, 399 Main Street, in Greenfield, a benefit concert will be held to raise money to support programming at the Greenfield Public Library. The concert starts at 3:00 p.m. and features performances by Kris Delmhorst, Amandla Chorus with the community, Green River String Band, and more. The benefit performance also includes readings by Holly Hobbie, Jane Yolen, Heidi Stemple Yolen, Ellen Feld, Jessie Haas & Michael Daley.

Raffles, books and refreshments will be for sale. A suggested per person donation of \$5 - \$20 will benefit the library.

### Psychic Fair

**LAKE PLEASANT** – The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday, January 30th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Thompson Temple, across from the post office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards.

Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will also be available.

advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the center for information on the Flu Clinic and pneumonia shots.

**Monday, January 25th**  
9:00 a.m. Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, January 26th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Christmas Party  
**Wednesday, January 27th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, January 28th**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, January 29th**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch – Pizza

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

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## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** – A crew of busy volunteers gave the interior of the **Shea Theater** in Turners Falls a makeover during the week of January 11th, with a new paint job and color scheme. Gone are the pockmarked beige walls, replaced by a serene blue. The proscenium arch is a rich brown. The Shea Theater board members were joined by painters from The Country Players and Arena Civil Theatre, resident theater groups.

The spiffed up Shea is ready to welcome the community for a free variety show: "I Am the Shea" on Sunday, January 31st, at 2:00 p.m. The performance will include vignettes from TCP and ACT, as well as Celtic Heels and Ja'Duke and comedian Muq Kaplan. Call (413) 863-2281 for advance tickets. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Winners in the **Knights of Columbus** free throw shooting competition held at the Sheffield School on January 16th were James Vaughn for the age 10 group, with Tyler Lavin as runner up. Nathaniel Hurley won for the age 11 group. The winners move on to the district free throw competitions in February. Congratulations to all who participated.

The Greenfield Grille at 30 Federal Street in Greenfield is helping to raise money for a **Warming Center** which will be temporarily available at the Second Congregational Church in Court Square, Greenfield. On January 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. the Grille will donate 10% of the day's proceeds to the Warming Center. Everyone deserves a warm place to stay.

It is getting close to tax time again, and the **Gill Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, will provide free tax return preparation service. AARP tax-aide volunteers work

in conjunction with the IRS to bring you this service. Interested residents should call the senior center, (413) 863-9357, to make an appointment for February 16th, March 16th or March 30th. The Gill/Montague Senior News, available at the senior center, has a complete listing of suggested documents you should bring to the appointment.

The **Downtown Turners Falls Improvement Association** held its second meeting on January 13th. Some fun community activities are in the planning stages. The next meeting will be a working session where volunteers will meet at the Discovery Center parking lot on Second Street at noon on Saturday, February 6th. From there they will head out all around downtown and round up as many shopping carts that can be found and parade them back to the stores at the Food City shopping plaza.

Other activities that were suggested include cleaning up and decorating the alleys between Third Street and Fourth and between Fourth Street and Fifth, helping out with any of the abandoned planters along Avenue A, and finding ways for neighbors to get to know one another better. A safe and clean downtown has a nice ring.

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

### Montague Farm Dance Fundraiser for Haiti on Sunday

On Sunday, January 24th, the Montague Farm Zen House and Zen Peacemakers, partnered with Dance Spirit and the Brick House Community Resource Center, will hold a dance party fundraiser in support of a wonderful organization in Haiti, AMURT (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team).

The event will be held from 7

## Fundraiser for Greenfield Warming Center

The Greenfield Grille at 30 Federal Street will be the site of a fundraiser for the homeless on Monday, January 25th, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ten percent of all proceeds will go to the Interfaith Council Shelter Fund to help pay for a new warming center at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield.

"Right now we are dealing with a raw emergency," said Reverend Stanley Aksamit, shelter committee co-chair. "There are people who are homeless, and there is not enough room for them in the shelters, and it is cold outside,

so we need to help them. The warming center gets them into the system, where we can put them in touch with case workers, and get them more permanent help."

Several rooms at the Second Congregational Church, on Court Square in Greenfield, will be used as a warming center to provide a warm place for some of the homeless in our area each night, from February 1st through March 31st, 2010. Trained ServiceNet staff and volunteers from the community will provide a warm meal and hospitality.

Proceeds from the fundrais-

er, cosponsored by the Greenfield Grille, the shelter committee and ServiceNet, will be used to help meet the expenses of the warming center. Those who are unable to participate by coming out to lunch or dinner on January 25th may send contributions to the Interfaith Council Shelter Fund at Greenfield Savings Bank, P.O. Box 1537, Greenfield, MA 01302.

For additional information, or to become a volunteer, contact Aksamit at (413) 863-2585 or Joan Vander Vliet, Second Congregational Church liaison, at (413) 665-3203.

### SENIOR from page 1

redesign now could cost an additional hundred thousand dollars, Hunter estimated.

A complete redesign would have a qualitative aspect as well, Hunter said, and economies of scale would be lost. For example, the cost of bringing utilities to the site would probably remain the same. This would mean the structure itself would have to undergo severe modifications to come within reduced budget goals.

Hunter added the additional time needed to redesign the building would mean the town might not be able to take advantage of the current, favorable economic climate for construction costs. Many contractors are presently hungry for work and would therefore be more likely to submit lower bids for construction. The existing cost estimate was created last March; it is likely a revised

estimate of the current plan would be less costly.

"We have a better climate now, rather than waiting," said Sharp.

"We would like construction to start in September," Hunter added.

On the other hand, modifying the existing plan presents its own set of problems. For example, the main activity rooms proposed for the new center, along with the large kitchen, were included with a view to future use by the community in general.

"To eliminate the two activity

rooms would make the building useless [to the community at large] – wouldn't it?" asked committee member Collis Adams. "We need a community building available for general use," he said. "Drastic reductions may make it unusable in the future."

Simply reducing the size of rooms would not bring the total cost of the project down by much, Hunter said. "For every one thousand square feet of reduced space, you save 233,000 dollars."

It would take severe cuts in the building's size to bring the plans

see SENIOR page 6



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# WE DESERVE SCOTT BROWN

Hooray for Scott Brown! He has demonstrated how fantastically lame the Democratic Party is by tapping into the deep-seated resentment of the electorate. No one is sure, of course, exactly what voters are resentful about; and humiliating Democrats has become just a little too easy. But hooray anyway.

With that out of the way, Brown now has a relaxing little cakewalk to attend to in the nation's capital.

First it will be up to Brown to help derail national health care reform that might have boosted the U.S. to a standard set by Lithuania. But then again, there really isn't much reform left to derail, is there? Voters have already shown they are deeply resentful on behalf of the big insurance companies, and The Dems have already done the hard work gutting their own vision. Brown won't even break a sweat on this one.

Next, there is Brown's crackpot thinking on global warming, which is bizarre enough to find a sympathetic audience only in the halls of Congress. It will be up to Brown to take some final fatal whacks at climate control legislation that mandates nothing, and seems to do little more than suggest folks think nice thoughts about a tree. This is a suggestion that smacks of a government takeover, which voters deeply, deeply resent. Thus, it is unlikely to appear in the final draft. Again, this is basically a body count and a photo op for Brown.

And then, of course, there is finance reform and the regulation of Wall Street, where the Democrats have tied themselves in knots of indecision while the Republicans and their leering bankers have lounged on the sidelines, giving each other bonuses and waiting for the next stimulus package. Voters, in the

meantime, have let it be known they are angry and they are not going to take it anymore, even if they aren't exactly sure about what they are not going to take – a situation that clearly rattles the lawmakers.

With Democrats retreating at a dead run from the idea of regulating investment banking, it's clear once again who calls the shots in this fine democracy. Reform ain't going nowhere. It's a dead horse, and Scott Brown has a truly historic opportunity to beat it.

In short, there isn't a lot of heavy lifting awaiting Scott Brown in Washington. He simply deserves the job, and we deserve him.

The Senate deserves Scott Brown because its members have long shown themselves to be bloated simps – morally and intellectually incapable of the kind of public policy leadership a liberal democracy requires.

The White House deserves Scott Brown because, in trying not to spark incivility and resentment, the administration has accomplished nothing in its first year – except to feed the deeply uncivil, and truly bizarre, resentment of the electorate.

The Democrats deserve Scott Brown because they have become the necrophiliacs of the body politic, forever embracing their own demise and selecting candidates of the caliber of Martha Coakley.

Finally, the voters deserve Scott Brown because they are entitled to look at someone pretty as they nurse their unfocused resentment and continue the long, and apparently unstoppable, stampede toward the greed, prejudice and rage of the far right.

In the meantime, the rest of us may have to live in this country, but we don't have to love it.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Local vs National Historic Districts

In the January 14th issue of the Reporter, Bill Franklin (MR VIII #15: Leverett, First in Franklin, May Allow Historical Review Prior to Demolitions) did not distinguish between the two types of historic districts: local historic districts and National Register historic districts. Franklin was describing a local historic district when he wrote it is "where owners are not permitted to make any changes within the designated areas without board approval." As the

Massachusetts Historical Commission brochure "There's a Difference!" makes clear, a local historic district may put restrictions on what a property owner may do with their property. A federally designated National Register district is honorary in nature. A listing in the National Register "recognizes the area is important; allows the owners of income-producing properties certain federal tax incentives for rehabilitation; and provides limited

protection from adverse effects by federal or state involved projects." Leverett Center (along with Montague Center, Turners Falls and Wendell Town Common) is listed in the National Register and is not a local historic district.

For more information, contact the Massachusetts Historic Commission or your town's historic commission.

– Tanya Cushman  
Leverett Historical Commission

### RCRHRA Receives Grant

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority has received a grant of \$30,534 from the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General to expand financial literacy programs offered by its Housing and Consumer Education Center. The "Home Economics" grant will help residents of Franklin County increase their understanding of home maintenance, household budgeting and mortgages and loan financing, thus preventing foreclosure.

The Housing Consumer Education Center offers housing-related information and programming for a wide range of audiences. The "Home Economics" grant will support workshops for first-time homebuyers, women homeowners, Greenfield high school seniors and local lenders over the upcoming year. Offerings will include:

- Credit for Life, an interactive, intergenerational financial literacy program for high school seniors and their parents. The

program is designed to help teens understand financial choices, credit and budgeting.

- DO-IT-HERSELF DIVAS, a workshop series for women homeowners scheduled for the spring and fall of 2010. The workshop offers women hands-on experience with small home repairs, financial management education and opportunities for peer networking.

- First Time Home Buyer Workshops, offered six times during the year in cooperation with local lenders. This year, the workshops will include expanded focus on understanding the mortgage financing process.
- Workshops for local lenders

about the Center's foreclosure prevention program and other services that might assist borrowers struggling to pay their mortgages.

This grant became available as the result of a settlement between the Office of the Attorney General and Fremont Investment & Loan, and Fremont General Corporation. For detailed information about the programs, contact Joanne Glier, HCEC Director, at (413) 863-9781, extension 150.

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**American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/20/10**



In Erving, Daniel Willor voted for Martha Coakley because, "She supports the working class."

ported Coakley on health care and women's rights. Pam Richardson also cited support for health care reform as a deciding factor in casting her ballot for Coakley.

Peter Gallant said he backed Coakley, "to support Obama and the Democratic majority and to honor Ted Kennedy's work."

Richardson added, "It seems unbelievable to me - Ted Kennedy's seat going to a Republican."

But down the hill and across the Millers River in Erving, Craig Moore "supported Brown so he could scale down the spending - not like Obama, with all the bail outs and driving up the deficits."

Daniel Willor went for Coakley because, "She supports the working class."

But Carl Longo voted for Brown, "for moralistic issues," and because he wanted someone in office who would "just do what they say they're going to do. Hopefully, this man listens to the constituents who voted him in."

Up in Gill, Todd Giroux, "Voted for Coakley. I want Obama to succeed with health



In Wendell, Pam Richardson and Peter Gallant backed the Democrat in Tuesday's special election.

Jacob Rau, on the other hand, backed Brown, "hoping for better health care reform." He said everyone at his workplace, Valley Concrete Construction, was backing Brown.

Statewide, Democrats lost ground everywhere compared to the November 2008 election that

put Obama in the White House. One of the voters who grew disenchanted with the Dems since that election is Denise Denofrio, of Gill.

"Martha Coakley, I was all for her. But I believe she took on a very negative campaign. I'm all for the health care reform, but there are a lot of things that need to be worked on. It's going to be tough. There need

to be checks and balances."

And Sally Shaw expressed feelings many in Franklin County must have felt as they watched Brown turn their Blue state Purple on Tuesday.

"I'm worried about reactionary politics, more gridlock, and a lack of civility. That's what I think we're seeing with this push to derail Obama, who is working to heal the wounds of the last eight years."

And on a slightly less civil note, Shaw called across the parking lot, "I can't believe Massachusetts would send a reactionary Republican stripper to fill Ted Kennedy's seat!"

Yet when the ballots were all counted, it was Brown who stripped the Democrats of their last feelings of entitlement to the seat which Jack and Teddy Kennedy - the Senate's pre-eminent liberals - had claimed for more than half a century, as if it were theirs by right.



**PURPLE** from pg 1

to Brown's 34% (1014).

Many residents interviewed on the Hill, where Precincts 3 and 4 saw a brisk stream of voters entering the polls at Hillcrest Elementary, reported being put off by Coakley's negative advertising campaign, and said they were heartily sick of robocalls.

Brian Postera said, "It would be a shame to see Ted Kennedy's seat go to someone who is against health care reform - something he worked for."

Sarah Reid of Park Street said, "Coakley brought me out. Fear of Brown brought me out."

But Russel Doel countered, "I don't like Coakley and her advertising."

In Leverett, Jan Wojcik explained her vote this way. "It's time to get rid of the Kennedy dynasty - time for a change. We need a wake-up call to those who take things for granted."

While Jill Roberts said, "I want a Democrat to win. This is an important election. Coakley is a good replacement for Ted Kennedy."

To Larry Farber "Health care and the economy and not allowing the Bush tax cuts to continue," were the main concerns.

While Norma Hallock commented, "We need to follow through on what Kennedy proposed. Coakley was not my choice in the primary. She ran very negative ads, but I'm supporting her now."

Up in Wendell, Jay Krutka stopped outside the town offices to say, "I voted for Martha. I want her to support pretty much everything Obama's got going. I don't want to see a Republican in there."

Snow fell thickly but failed to stick on the town center, where deep silence filled the moments between each arriving or departing car. Deb LaClaire said she sup-



In Gill, Denise Denofrio backed Coakley early on. But negative advertising and a desire for "checks and balances" in Washington changed her mind.

care. It is time for a change. It should be available and affordable for everyone."

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### NOTES FROM GILL SELECTBOARD

# Purington Lands Administrative Assistant Post



Ray Purington was pleased to accept the position of administrative assistant in Gill at the selectboard meeting on Tuesday.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**GILL** – Gill has a new administrative assistant. With little debate and by unanimous vote, the selectboard took the ‘interim’ off Ray Purington’s job title, and made him the town’s full time administrative assistant on Tuesday. Purington, who also chairs the board of assessors, has filled the administrator’s role on a temporary basis since December 14th of last year, when Tracy Rogers departed to take a similar post in neighboring

Northfield. Selectboard chair Ann Banash said the board had conducted initial interviews with a number of candidates for the job, when “It became pretty clear we didn’t need to go to a second round. We are recommending the town hire Ray.” After the meeting, Purington, a resident of Atherton Road, said, “I’m excited by the challenges and the opportunities of the new job. I appreciate the confidence the selectboard has placed in me.” Without further ado, he said he would be buckling down to work on the budget as his first priority. Along those lines, the town’s new administrative assistant will certainly be working with the

board and the finance committee to prepare budget projections for a meeting with their Montague counterparts, along with officials from the Gill-Montague schools, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and aides from senator Rosenberg’s and representative Kulik’s offices. That meeting will take place at the Montague town hall at 1 p.m. on February 3rd. Finance committee chair Tupper Brown said the focus of the meeting will be to come up with a three-year “business plan” for the regional school district that reflects a “sustainable budget” to which all the stakeholders – state, district and towns – can agree. Brown referred to the number the school committee has come up with as an estimate for the district’s structural deficit in FY’10 when he said, “There needs to be \$800,000 in extra revenue in the district just to maintain level services. It’s a frightening number.” The selectboard agreed with him on that point. The board agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with Smart Power to participate in the Western Mass Electric Company’s interactive web program for municipalities called Western Mass Saves. The program will allow consumers to access energy saving tips and measure the success of their con-

servation initiatives throughout town. Purington said the town was on track to set a tax rate and mail out tax bills by the end of the month. He also delivered relatively good news on health insurance premiums for town employees. The town’s provider will be raising rates by 5.9% this year. For the last four years, the rate has risen by an average of 7.5%. He also informed the board of a \$1234 rebate from Hampshire Power, the town’s cooperative purchaser for municipal electricity. The Gill fire department has also received an additional \$908, for a total grant of \$3400, in the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program, Purington said. That money will be used to teach fire safety at the Gill Elementary School. Finally, the board gave preliminary approval for highway superintendent Mick LaClaire to travel to Exeter, RI, along with his counterpart from Northfield, to investigate the possible joint purchase of a used bucket truck for the towns to share. The highway department is responsible for tree trimming along the right of way (opposite the side of the road where the power company maintains lines), and has performed the task in years past by having employees stand in the upraised bucket of the front end loader, a practice the town’s insurer has now proscribed. LaClaire said the town would save on the estimated \$1000-a-day fee of hiring private

tree care companies by jointly purchasing a boom operated bucket truck with Northfield. The town of Vernon, VT is also interested in going in on the purchase. The price tag for the used truck in Rhode Island is between \$3500 to \$4000, but selectboard member John Ward insisted a qualified technician check the vehicle out before the town made the purchase. Banash said a contract would have to be drawn up detailing the joint use and maintenance of the bucket truck, if it passes inspection. down to a target of between \$1.8 and \$2.2 million. Cuts in furnishings, also, would only reduce the overall cost by about \$30,000. Eliminating the fireplace, coffee bar and window seat would cut an additional \$21,000. The present strategy, as Sharp put it, is to hope the current economic slump will result in “a reduced price in construction. Our ultimate goal is to have the ammunition to present to the voters at town meeting in May. We would like to avoid the \$50,000 in interest payments that we would be forced to pay if we had to go to the bond market. We have to find [the financing] within our own resources.” Sharp added, “We need to continue the fight. The existing senior center is just not adequate.”

from SENIOR pg 3

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**  
**Break In on Munn’s Ferry Road**  
Tuesday, 1/12  
9:41 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a prowler.  
11:35 p.m. Investigated a suspicious vehicle at Main Road business.  
Wednesday, 1/13  
2:40 p.m. Assisted party locked out of motor vehicle on French King Highway.  
Thursday, 1/14  
9:50 a.m. Medical alarm at French King Highway residence, all OK.  
10:29 a.m. Subject taken off of Gill-Montague Bridge and transported to hospital for psychiatric evaluation.  
5:03 p.m. Assisted fire department on Grove Street with water main problem.  
10:10 p.m. Investigated a suspicious vehicle on North Cross Road  
Sunday, 1/17  
9:55 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on French King Highway.  
10:20 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Main Road.  
4:58 p.m. Breaking & entering and larceny from a Munn’s Ferry Road residence.  
11:25 p.m. Vehicle accident on Barney Hale Road.  
Monday, 1/18  
8:40 a.m. Neighbor dispute on Horserace View Lane.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**  
**Operating to Endanger**  
Thursday, 1/14  
10:50 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle following another into a driveway at a Montague Road address. Vehicle then left and drove toward the center of town. Officer stopped the vehicle on Montague Road.  
Arrested [redacted]  
Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor and operating to endanger.  
Friday, 1/15  
6:15 p.m. Car vs. tree accident on Juggler Meadow Road. No reported injuries. Driver reported he swerved to avoid a deer and lost control of his vehicle.  
Sunday, 1/17  
8 a.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of North Leverett Road. Vehicle gone on arrival of officer.

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# HOMESCHOOLERS (AND THEIR MOMS) LEARN ABOUT ANCIENT GREECE AT THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – Walking up the wide marble staircase, past the tile mosaic foyer, up the curving wooden stairs where the Greek goddesses Diana and Pallas Athena gaze down from their alcoves, eight young children and their mothers arrived at the second floor of the Carnegie Library to learn about Ancient Greece and Rome on Wednesday afternoon.

Ruth O'Mara, children's programming assistant at the Carnegie, is offering a free eight-week course for homeschoolers, Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. to explore the mythology, art, architecture, food and famous battles of the classical world.

This week, the lesson was on the pottery of ancient Greece.

One of the homeschoolers was still teething, but the older children claimed some knowledge of the subject as the presentation began.

"Pottery is made out of clay," said David Johnson, of Turners Falls. "Sometimes it cracks and breaks."

But nevertheless, it is very durable, and from the reconstructed potsherds and whole vessels archaeologists have unearthed or dredged up from around the Mediterranean we have been able to put together a fairly detailed picture of life in Stone Age, early and late Bronze Age, Mycenaean and Homeric Greece.

O'Mara passed around pictures of double handled amphorae used to carry wine or oil in olden days, and explained about the progression of pottery decoration from the simplest designs to increasingly complex geometrical inlays, to black period and red period paintings on fired clay. Some pots were used as funerary offerings, some served utilitarian purposes, but all told a story to those willing to learn and listen.

The children sat solemnly in a hemi-circle on the floor and passed the copied photos from hand to hand.

Then, the party adjourned to a nearby table to mold their own miniature pots by hand, though snacks and beverages sorely divided their attention.

David Johnson, who

appeared to be about nine years old, said he was interested in the history of Romans and Egyptians, but Greece was a bit of a new topic for him.

"Rome was big. Egypt had pyramids. Greece.... They believed in a lot of mythical gods."

Anyone wishing to join the gatherings at the Carnegie to learn more about the classical world on Wednesday afternoons is welcome to do so, O'Mara said.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Homeschoolers try their hand at Greek pottery under Ruth O'Mara's guidance Wednesday



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# The Road Less Traveled

## CU @ ICA?

### QUESTIONING THE NATURE OF ART

**RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN**

**BOSTON** – What is art? Can something not perceived as art be art? Can something perceived as art not be art? An ordinary snow shovel hanging on a museum wall is an important work of art. Why? Because Marcel Duchamp believed it challenged our preconceived ideas about what constitutes art? Because a gallery owner was convinced that the difference between a shovel used to shovel snow and a snow shovel hanging on a wall is that the latter is seen as a work of art and the former is not? Who determines what is and what is not art? Artists? Curators? Us?

Mexican-born artist Damian Ortega raises these and other questions in his current exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. An ear of corn is an ear of corn, right? But what if the kernels are numbered? At what point does an ordinary object become something more than an ordinary object? And when does that something more become “art”? A fried tortilla is a fried tortilla, but what if a bunch of fried tortillas are constructed to form a cube of fried



tortillas? Art, certainly, but what kind of art is it? Is it good art or bad art? Are these questions even relevant?

Ortega’s most ambitious attempt to encourage us to look at ordinary objects in new ways is his literal deconstruction of an old Volkswagen Beetle – an installation that makes the car look as if it might have been dynamited right out of a comic book and the individual pieces frozen in a perfectly designed flight pattern. It will bring a smile of recognition as well as awe to the face of even the most hardened cynic. Especially if he or she has ever owned one of the little marvels.

Seeing the individual parts

extended from one another and then hung from a ceiling, you can’t help but admire the car’s simple design. And was there ever one that didn’t start the first time you turned the ignition key? As possibly the last of the fix-it-yourself automobiles, the VW Beetle may also have been for many the first opportunity to own a car and enjoy the freedom wheels afford.

Ortega’s idea for creating what he calls “The Cosmic Thing” was to present “a constructed system divided into all of its fragments in order to impose a scheme: not a pictorial representation but a three-dimensional diagram.” He succeeded.

Polish artist Krzysztof Wodiczko also addresses the issue of perspective in his video installation “Out of Here: the Veterans Project” but in a much different way.

Imagine you’re in the empty basement of what might be a warehouse. Running the length of three walls and just below a ceiling that is too high to reach without a ladder are the video projections of industrial-style windows. A soccer ball bounces on one side of the building. Children’s squeals of delight are sometimes punctuated by the voice of a woman who speaks to

the kids, or perhaps a friend, in a language other than English. A military helicopter lands nearby, and the next thing you hear are the voices of American soldiers. Shots are fired; something explodes. You can’t see what’s been hit, but you can see black smoke rising not far from the building you are in. Gunfire seems to surround the building. A woman screams; a soldier has been shot. Images race through your mind as you try to make sense and form some kind of picture in your mind of what’s going on. Were the soldiers able to rescue their comrade? Was a child also wounded? Or perhaps killed? There’s no way to know. Or to know who fired bullets at whom.

Based on conversations with veterans both civilian and military, Wodiczko makes real in a video installation the fear and confusion that results when soldiers on a mission suddenly have to protect themselves from an attack that is complicated by the presence of innocent women and children. The result is an emotional and psychological experience that takes us beyond the physical realities of war. Without being able to see much, an immediate, fearful,

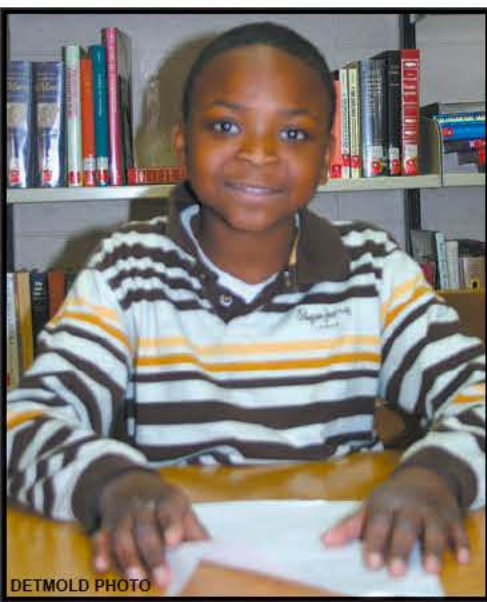
vivid reality is created in our mind’s eye. But what of what we imagine is true? And can we ever really make sense of a reality that is often beyond imagination? Ironically, Wodiczko seems to be saying, the less we know about the ways facts are manipulated to further the agendas of those at war, the better we may be able to understand the impact violent conflict has on everyone involved.

Complementing the perspectives offered by Damian Ortega and the Krzysztof Wodiczko is the building in which their work is currently exhibited. Designed by Diller Scofidio & Refro, the same firm that is leading the current redevelopment at Lincoln Center in New York, the Institute of Contemporary Art boasts the most dramatic and beautiful view of Boston’s harbor. That it appears so unexpectedly and spectacularly from within the museum is a clear example of architecture undoubtedly raised to the level of art.

The ICA is always free for youths under seventeen and for everyone on Thursday nights from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. For further information, see [www.ica-boston.org](http://www.ica-boston.org).



“...Out of Here: The Veterans Project,” installation view, 2009 by Krzysztof Wodiczko



Rodney Duteau

# Haiti’s Youngest Ambassador

**BY DAVID DETMOLD & DAVID BRULE**  
**TURNERS FALLS –**

**A Letter to Sheffield School:**  
*Dear Sheffield School,*

*My name is Rodney and my country, Haiti, had a bad earthquake. Haiti is an island in the Caribbean Sea. Haiti doesn’t have war anymore, but people in Haiti are very poor. Now they are homeless. I need your help that we should pray and give money for the people from Haiti. This is important because if we don’t pray and give out money to them, Haiti could be no more. So I need your help to*

*save Haiti. We kids can ask our parents to donate money to help Haiti. Our job is to find any nickels, dimes, pennies, quarters or dollars to put together and deliver to Haiti. We will put a penny jar for Haiti in the lobby. The grown-ups’ job is to pray and spread the news around the United States to save Haiti.*

**Sincerely,**  
**Rodney Duteau, 3rd grade**

This was the letter Rodney Duteau, an eight-year-old born in America to Haitian parents, wrote in his English as a Second Language class at Sheffield School the morning after a magnitude 7.0 earth-

quake struck the island nation where his grandmother and other family members live. His ESL teacher, Zoe Colby, helped him write the letter, but the words were his own.

Last Wednesday, with the encouragement of Sheffield School principal Elizabeth Musgrave, Rodney read his letter over the elementary school intercom, and soon students and teachers and parents were filling up a large donation jar with pennies and nickels and ten dollar bills.

“We don’t know how much has been collected yet,” said Musgrave this week. see **AMBASSADOR** pg 14

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## FURBISHING THE AVENUE Student Photographers Exhibited at Avenue A Gallery

**BY JOHN FURBISH**  
**TURNERS FALLS** – Here in Turners Falls, we have one of the nation's finest photography schools, the 30-year-old Hallmark Institute of Photography, which has recently re-opened the Gallery at Hallmark at 85 Avenue A.

The Hallmark Institute of Photography educates and trains more than 200 students a year in a ten-month training program at their facility on Industrial Boulevard. The institute's main building is a 50,000 square foot center that includes a 350-seat auditorium, classrooms, faculty offices, and studio space. The commercial shooting area is huge, with three large portrait rooms that divide to nine portrait studios and 16 work bays. Hallmark equips their students with studio flash systems, tripods, light screens and other tools, props, and cameras. After the photos get taken, the students



Paul Teeling welcomes visitors to the Gallery at Hallmark

use two large computer labs with 140 work stations to process and edit images. They also have access to a large research library. (Good photos of all this are on alumnus K. V. Abbott's "Art Blog" at [kvabbottsartblog.blogspot.com/2009/11/hallmark-institute-of-photography.html](http://kvabbottsartblog.blogspot.com/2009/11/hallmark-institute-of-photography.html)). Since last fall, Hallmark has operated a gallery at a prime downtown location at 85 Avenue A. Until recently, Hallmark operated this space as a museum for contemporary photography,

bringing world class photographers and their work to Turners Falls on a regular basis. But last fall, Hallmark adjusted focus to bring in more local artists and showcase the talent of their own students and faculty at the gallery.

Since fall, the gallery has featured three successive shows of Hallmark faculty. Now there will be three successive shows that every Turners Falls resident should see.

The current show introduces

Hallmark students at their best. Usually we only notice the students led along the Avenue by a teacher or going in groups to a café or food store. Now there is an excellent chance to see a photograph or two selected from the work of two and a half dozen of our young neighbors, most of them in their teens and twenties, in the "MySight" exhibit, Hallmark class of 2010.

With this show, we have a dynamic opportunity to expand our horizons vicariously, with 42 images by 35 young people, reflecting their different backgrounds and experiences.

My favorite image is an unusual view of Central Park by Yari Bonanni that looks like a high tech montage but is really just a reflective image from a standing pool. Other thought-provoking pictures were taken by Andrei Popovici, Annie Raftopoulos, Oliver Snurr, Colin Pattison, Travis Robertson, Collette Thomas, and Porter Counts.

My editor won't let me list all the students whose work deserves promoting, but in view of my last column he will let me say that my favorite photos of

rocks are by Claudia Ruff, Blu Hartkopp, Marissa Zarriello, and Isaiah Romero (whose spectacular shot could be another magazine cover). Let me not forget to mention an atmospheric local landmark photographed by David Ducane, which would make a beautiful postcard.

The impressive images by our student neighbors are on view at the Hallmark Gallery from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, until January 31st. The show is superbly mounted and well worth your while to visit.

You certainly will want to find your way to this gallery on the Avenue before too much time passes, because exciting works by local artists in all media, in a show entitled Art + Space, will be featured from February 5th to 28th (with an opening on February 6th, from 1 to 5:00 p.m.). Then, work by world renowned photographer William Wegman will be exhibited from March 5th through May 2nd. So mark your calendars and be sure to check out the Hallmark Gallery as soon as possible.

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## Metal Fest in Millers Falls

**BY TAMI STILES** – Metal music has never been for the weak of heart. It is an unforgiving genre that exudes contempt and induces visions of holocausts. It is never pretty. It never apologizes. It lives on the edge, crosses the lines of madness and anger, and leaves no quarter for redemption.

The Route 63 Madhouse... er... Roadhouse presented a metal showcase this past Friday, and all the freaks, punks, and metal heads came out of the woodwork to show support for local talent. Pinned up in the neon lights against a wall of solid rock albums three bands – Mycomium, Endcount, and Static Age – screamed like a train headed nowhere and left their audience's eardrums blown out and full of distortion. Which is just the way they like it.

First up on stage was



Mycomium (l to r) Scott Malek, Sarah Malek, Taylor Laskoski and Chris Miner

Mycomium. Not only is it a very unpleasant condition of childbirth, but also a full throttle, rhythmic tripping, throat ripping band from Greenfield. Comprised of four members, Sarah Malek lead vocals, Scott Malek lead guitar, Taylor

Laskoski on drums and, rounding out the crew, Chris Madman Miner on bass. As they took the stage, the five-foot, no more than 120 pound, Ms. Malek surveyed the crowd with a black eye stare, then got right down to

see METAL pg 12

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# the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

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

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

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

design by Boysen Hodgson

## Hay (Montague, Sunderland)

After weeks and weeks of rain it's time to cut hay again in Montague, and Sunderland.

Along the way home I see it: fresh-cut, raked and fluffed in rows to dry but still dark-grown green under today's blue sky.

At the end of a half-acre field a small crow stands, watching it.

How odd, then, the new houses, built since last year, staking their claims to land where hay had been grown, and cut, raked up, gathered up, hauled off, put away, for three hundred years, in a belief there was something worthwhile, though maybe un-nameable, to accomplish.

--Michael Mauri  
South Deerfield



## These timeless days of late summer sun (East Leverett)

These timeless days of late summer sun steady, crickets sing all day long ostrich-fern shows golden rust asters, white, in this dry spell's roadside dust under maple trees cobwebs connect every tree and bush mid-day, a world away from nighttime's cooling touch.

Time to reckon up, add up, get out canning jars, cook up, store up, put the season by and let it go by, split and stack up just a little more firewood brush out the black stovepipe and think about what's to come.

--Michael Mauri  
South Deerfield

## Poem Next to Summer

standing next to summer a cigarette and newspaper we stopped being who was standing next to summer

we forgot to read the signs although they could hardly have been larger when you return it's never what I won't tell you

about signs and the lover who wouldn't stop her hair wrapped around the subway calling to Pythagoras

who gleaned what afflicted and didn't dare step away from the yellow line or you'll never see her hair

is a sign wrapped around the hand that wraps the subway around the Ansonia Apothecary bag but Pythagoras didn't care

we didn't stand next to summer just to squash a cigarette out on the lonesome road all the blackberries were eaten by the others

but we could never return because we did not know the taste of charcoal or why Pythagoras didn't care about summer

or newspapers really are the first squash of the pestle that makes what afflicted seem no larger than the others

all of which were in the signs that wrap around her hair and are mortared into summer standing next to stopped being

--John Mulrooney  
Cambridge, MA

## ALL SMALL CAPS

A night of spoken word

John Mulrooney



Mike Mauri



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

## CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Michael Mauri is a forester working in and around Franklin County. Mike's side-of-the-road poetry focuses on interactions between people, seasons, the local landscape, hay, timber, firewood, maple syrup, thunderstorms and the global economy, past and present. His self-published books include Mud Flaps (2006), Any Timber? (2008), The Recession is Fundamentally Sound (2008) and That and a Dollar (2009). These slender, affordable, pocket-sized books are for sale at the Montague Book Mill. Another book, Florida Turnips, was published by Longhouse (2008) (see [www.longhousepoetry.com](http://www.longhousepoetry.com)).

John Mulrooney was/is the originator of the transgressive poetry movement Poet Without Cat. He has no cats and no strong opinions on cats one way or the other. He also has no strong opinions on fountain pen vs. ball point, the Packer's chances, or the efficacy of attempting to legislate the net. Don't get him started on the methodology of sausage making though. Poet Without Cat is destined to change the pet grooming habits of American Poetry. Stay tuned.

Marje Levenson has had two goals in life: to grow to be 5' 1" and to have central heating. She's still working on central heating.



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**Untitled So Far: A Love Poem**

We spent the night in a cheap motel  
Swam in a pool with a bright green bottom.  
You made me laugh telling stupid puns.

Tired from fishing I sit watching you read  
Guidebooks and maps.  
Trip planning I want no part of.

Home the dog and cat snooze in the summer heat.  
The calls from the office, the house left messy, all wait.

Dining on burgers and beer  
We feed coins to the jukebox and dance.

--Marje Levenson  
Lake Pleasant

**Class Struggle**

When I first look at the picture you show me  
I think John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath.  
Then I realize these men are too prosperous.  
The car looks new.  
One man wears a pocket watch.  
Their faces healthy not haggard.  
They haven' been beaten by life's forces.

They are working men.  
They own the fields they stand in.  
The one in the hat is a banker or town lawyer.  
His pants set him apart.  
They are not loose and made of better cloth.  
Pants made for a desk.  
They celebrate an important event:  
The acquisition of a new piece of land, a bumper crop, a town election.

They are all white and look straight at the camera.  
I imagine it is the way they look at the world.  
Head on without a crash.

--Marje Levenson  
Lake Pleasant

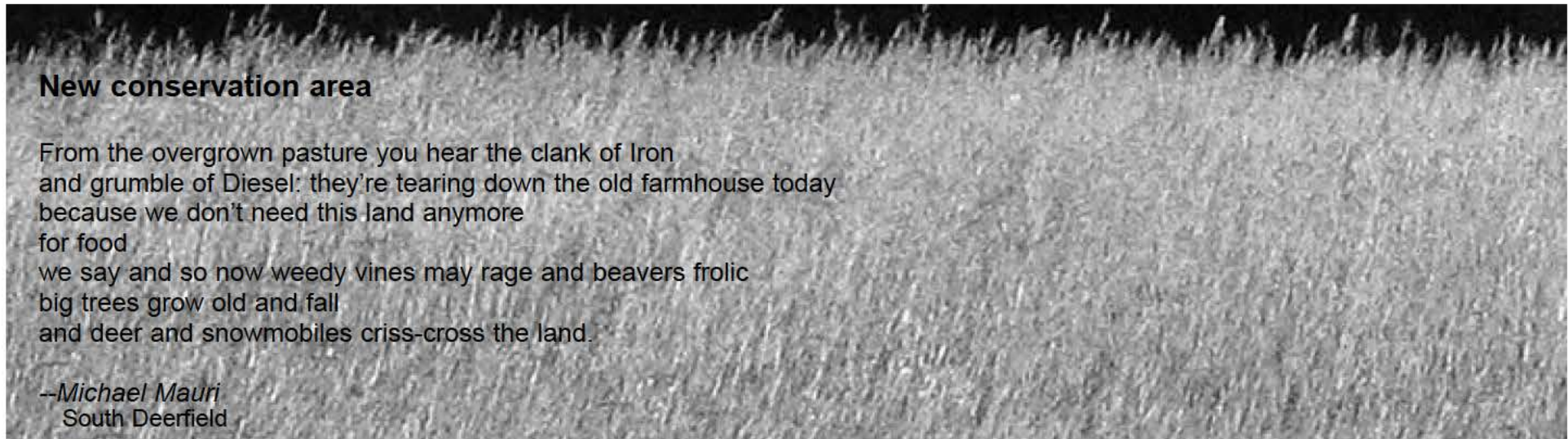
**Leyden nuclear**  
(Leyden)

Can you fire off lots of guns during the dinner hour?  
Can you build nuclear power stations down old country roads?

No, don't fire off lots of guns.  
No, don't build nuclear power stations.

During the dinner hour.  
Down old country roads.

--Michael Mauri  
South Deerfield



**New conservation area**

From the overgrown pasture you hear the clank of Iron  
and grumble of Diesel: they're tearing down the old farmhouse today  
because we don't need this land anymore  
for food  
we say and so now weedy vines may rage and beavers frolic  
big trees grow old and fall  
and deer and snowmobiles criss-cross the land.

--Michael Mauri  
South Deerfield

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KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

# The Rogue Editor Ain't She Tweet

BY NEIL SERVEN

**GREENFIELD** – Last month, Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie, MI) released its annual “List of Words to Be Banished from the Queen’s English for Misuse, Over-use and General Uselessness,” according to the Associated Press.

on the list were “shovel-ready,” highlighted in a past issue of this column, and “czar,” used to refer to a leader or advisor working in a president’s administration. (Although opponents of the current president like to use the word to drive home a connection of his policies to socialism, its use actually dates back to 1919, applied equally to administrations from both major political parties.)

More notable, however, is the fact that a significant number of the words on the list pertain to social media. One was the use of “friend” as a verb, meaning “to add a link to (another user) via a social networking site,” as in “I

friended several of my classmates on Facebook.” This word grates on a lot of people, and that is understandable. The use of the noun as a verb smacks of laziness, and it seems like a poor substitute for another verb that is already well established in our language, “befriend.” In reality, though, “friend” and “befriend” mean two different things, and their distinction drives home a point: that the people to whom we link on social networking sites aren’t always people we consider our friends.

Another notable member of the list was “tweet,” referring to a brief message or notice posted on Twitter, or a verb meaning to send such a message (as in, “She tweeted that she enjoyed the movie.”)

While some of the words on the list might generate legitimate complaint, I think “tweet” deserves some argument in its defense. The word is inspired, obviously, by the name of the site (which has images of little birds next to its logo), and also connotes the idea of communication via a kind of high frequency to which only a select few (those being other people who use Twitter) are privy – just like the way birds communicate via a pattern and frequency of chirps the rest of us cannot understand.

Although I do not maintain a Twitter account, I don’t think the act of tweeting is going away any time soon, which means the word isn’t likely to, either. As people become more adept at multi-tasking, the demand for information received in instant, minuscule bites, rather than fleshed-out articles that have been com-

posed with care and edited, may continue to increase (for better or for worse). The only question may be whether another term other than “tweeting” takes hold for this practice.

Both “Twitter” and “tweet” are proprietary names, just like “Google,” and their staying power may hinge on just how long the service itself stays solvent. (In previous decades, we became comfortable enough using Xerox copiers for “Xerox” to become a generic verb entered in the dictionary with the meaning “to make a copy of (something) on a xerographic copier.”) If popularity is an indicator, I suspect that “tweet” will remain part of our language for a long time, to the point where we are as comfortable with tweeting as we are now with Googling.

Neil Serven is an associate editor for Merriam-Webster, Inc., in Springfield.

## METAL from page 9

business with the first song of the night, “Bumblebee.”

With a twist of the unexpected, this diminutive woman burst forth like a tempest, breaking through the music with guttural lyrics and howling like a fallen angel. Her listeners’ eyes widened in astonishment due to the primal power of her voice.

One audience member yelled, “Rip it!” and touched off a round of applause, whistles and a few, “Omigods!” from the table next to me.

The band as a whole set the

evening careering into a thrashing pile of sound and rhythm which kept on going and going, leaving me to wonder, “Where did I put my seatbelt?”

Next on the stage came the band End Count, also from Greenfield, with Steve Chase on vocals and guitar, Kris Kudukey on drums, Mike Kudukey on bass and Eric Gemborys on vocals and guitar. With slow acceleration the band started up and began to push the threshold of the sound barrier, their keen sense of timing and classic metal riffs soon becoming a free fall of steel and membranes. The

band was like molten lava that oozed in the cracks of my brain and created an immediate rush of impromptu head banging. (Luckily I had found my seatbelt, so I could enjoy the ride without any permanent damage.)

One audience member yelled out, “You’re Awesome!” and Chase responded, “We owe that guy a beer now!”

With a solid performance that shook the walls, the only thing lacking was the mic up of the tom toms. The drums seemed to have gotten lost in the mix of guitars and vocals. However they kept rolling along with that heavy metal thunder and origi-

nal music such as “Question the Fall,” “Truth be Told,” and many others. They ended their set with a classic Slayer cover that yanked the audience up on their feet and hollering for more.

Speaking of the audience, it’s a sad day when there is no mosh pit at a metal show. It was more a bunch of deadbeat punks standing around drinking their frothy beverages. A Celine Dion concert has more movement then what we saw at the Roadhouse Friday night. What’s up with that?

Finally a few minutes before midnight, the band Static Age took the stage, hailing from Northfield with Danny Hescoc-

on lead vocals, Ryan Behan on drums and Doyle Wolfengreg on guitar. As a tribute band to the horror punk originators the Misfits, Static Age came in with drums and guitars blazing. It was a crash and bash in true Misfit style.

The drummer, Behan, was by far the best of the evening. The velocity of his skills on kit was orbital. His bandmates’ vocals and guitars were likewise on point. They sounded more punk than metal, with lyrics that could be semi understood. I wondered, when it comes to this genre of music: Do the words really matter? Is it more the

see METAL pg 14

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Larcenies and Assaults**

**Tuesday, 1/12**  
 3:23 p.m. Fire, illegal burn, on Federal Street, referred to other agency.

**Wednesday, 1/13**  
 1:27 Report of assault at Franklin County Technical School, and arrest.

**Thursday 1/14**  
 12:40 a.m. Medical emergency at a Third Street address. Arrest, and removed to hospital.  
 2:06 a.m. Fight on G Street, arrest.

9:29 a.m. Summons issued, arrest at Turners Falls High School.

10:02 a.m. Visible smoke at L Street address, referred to other agency.

**Friday 1/15**  
 8:10 a.m. Larceny on Turners Falls Road. Report taken.  
 3:22 p.m. Larceny on Federal Street. Caller advised of options.

**Saturday 1/16**  
 9:38 a.m. Hit and Run accident on Fifth Street. Services rendered.  
 12:26 p.m. Trespass issue ordered at Police Department, services rendered.

**Sunday 1/17**  
 12:17 a.m. Domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street, arrest made.  
 11:07 p.m. Suspicious person at the Strathmore. Unfounded.

**Monday, 1/18**  
 3:05 a.m. Accident with property damage near Scotty’s on Unity Street. Report taken.  
 4:32 p.m. Larceny at the Black Jungle Terrarium on Avenue A. Referred to an officer.  
 5:10 p.m. Officer wanted, summons issued, and arrest made on Griswold Street.  
 10:30 p.m. Structure fire on Meadow Road, referred to other agency.

**Tuesday, 1/19**  
 2:41 p.m. Assault on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Report taken.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – [This is the second of two columns on hearing aids.]

About one in three Americans over 60 suffers from loss of hearing, which can range from the inability to hear certain voices to deafness. However, only about one out of five people who would benefit from a hearing aid uses one.

Hearing aids have a microphone, amplifier, and speaker. Sound is received by the microphone, which converts the sound waves to electrical signals and sends them to an amplifier. The amplifier boosts the

signals and then sends them to the ear through a speaker.

It's important to understand that a hearing aid will not restore your normal hearing. With practice, however, a hearing aid will increase your awareness of sounds and what made them.

The two primary types of electronics used in hearing aids are analog and digital.

Analog aids convert sound waves into electrical signals, which are amplified. Analog programmable hearing aids have more than one setting; the user can change the aid for listening in different environments.

Digital aids convert sound waves into numerical code before amplifying them. Because the code also includes information about a sound's pitch or loudness, the aid can be

specially programmed to amplify some frequencies more than others. These aids also can be programmed to focus on sounds coming from a specific direction.

Hearing aids vary in price according to style, electronic features, and local market conditions. Price can range from hundreds of dollars to more than \$2,500 for a programmable, digital hearing aid.

There are many kinds of hearing aids.

Behind-the-ear hearing aids are made of a plastic case with electronic components worn behind the ear and connected to a plastic earmold that fits inside the outer ear.

There are also open-fit behind-the-ear hearing aids. Small, open-fit aids fit behind the ear completely with only a narrow tube inserted into the ear

canal, enabling the canal to remain open. Some prefer the open-fit hearing aid because their voices do not sound "plugged up."

In-the-ear hearing aids fit completely inside the outer ear. Some of these aids may have a small magnetic coil that allows users to receive sound through the circuitry of the hearing aid instead of a microphone. This feature helps with phone conversations.

Canal hearing aids fit into the ear canal and are available in two styles. The in-the-canal hearing aid is made to fit the size and shape of a person's ear canal. A completely-in-canal hearing aid is nearly hidden.

A middle ear implant is a small device attached to one of the bones of the middle ear. Rather than amplifying the sound traveling to the eardrum,

an middle ear implant moves these bones. Both techniques improve sound vibrations entering the inner ear.

A bone-anchored hearing aid is a small device that attaches to the bone behind the ear. The device transmits sound vibrations directly to the inner ear through the skull, bypassing the middle ear.

The following are some important questions you should ask when getting a hearing aid:

- What features would be most useful to me?
- Is there a trial period to test the hearing aids?
- How long is the warranty? What does it cover?
- How long should I wear my hearing aid while adjusting to it?
- Please check to see if my hearing aid works with my cell phone.

If you would like to ask a question, please write [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).

**RELIEF** from pg 1

Hundreds of thousands are sleeping in the streets without reliable access to potable water, food, or electricity. A mass exodus is underway to the countryside to the east, where the quake's effects were less severe.

In the aftermath, a huge, worldwide relief effort has been mobilizing to bring assistance to the shattered nation, which already suffered the worst poverty rates in the Western hemisphere, with more than 4 million people living on less than a dollar a day. Hurricanes and floods have also ravaged Haiti in recent years, making the country appear to be catastrophe's favored Caribbean port of call.

On Monday, Franklin County, Massachusetts heeded the cry for disaster relief for Haiti. More than two hundred local residents turned out for a fundraiser at Hope and Olive restaurant in Greenfield, where more than \$5,500 was raised to benefit Haitian relief through the organization Partners in Health, founded by Dr. Paul Farmer.

Local author Tracy Kidder, author of the book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* detailing Farmer's work battling infectious disease among the world's poor, with a focus on Haiti, spoke at the Greenfield benefit.

"Partners in Health maintains ten hospitals and clinics in the Haitian countryside," said Kidder, standing on the bar in the

center of the packed restaurant. "None of them were damaged in the earthquake. Some of the first medical responders were PIH personnel.

PIH's clinical director in Haiti, Dr. Louise Ivers, happened to be in Port au Prince discussing emergency preparedness with UN staff when the earthquake struck. Ivers told the *New Yorker*, "The shocks came in a wave. At first we stood and looked at each other, confused. Then rapidly, as the ground moved and the building cracked, we ran. We tried to reach the doorway and support columns but were thrown violently to our knees by ever-increasing shocks. In the confusion a voice yelled, 'Get out!' My friend and colleague Kim and I crawled or dragged ourselves terrified to the doorway, calling out for each other as the building swayed and the tilting floors made it impossible for us to stand.

"Outside, as a dense fog of dust and the sound of screams rose from the whole city, it was clear this was a major disaster. A group of us spent the night desperately trying in vain to connect by cellphone with loved ones and friends, in Haiti and outside the country, petrified *en masse* each time an aftershock rocked the buildings around us. Streams and streams of people walked the torn streets, carrying their children, trying to make their way through the chaos, desperately looking for

help."

Kidder said Ivers, "spent most of that night trying to help people, without supplies, using license plates as splints," and t-shirts as bandages to bind up fractures and as tourniquets for wounded limbs.

He said the health care infrastructure in Haiti has been "inundated" with survivors seeking treatment. "Planeloads of trauma doctors and scrub nurses are arriving," now, and fanning out across the capital and the countryside to assist in the earthquake's aftermath.

"Horrible though it is, and Haiti has a long history of vulnerability to natural disaster, PIH has received 90,000 online contributions [for Haiti] in the last several days," Kidder said PIH uses only 6% of money donated for administrative costs. He also said, "Paul Farmer will have a hand in shaping the future of Haiti," as Bill Clinton's deputy for UN relief

efforts there.

Farmer is the chair of Harvard Medical School's department of Global Health and Social Medicine.

Kidder said PIH, the largest health care provider in rural Haiti, was committed to a model of working with and building up the nation's infrastructure and expertise, particularly among its health care providers. "You make your project indigenous. There are 2600 health care workers working with PIH, and all but a handful of them are Haitian."

"This is encouraging," said Kidder. "As horrible as the tragedy is, and it is not the first disaster in the nation's history, I take a little bit of optimism that we're getting to the point where it will be one of the last."

Kidder first met Farmer when he went to Haiti in 1994. Kidder now serves on PIH's development committee.

"Haiti burns itself into your

brain," he said. "The Haitian people are an incredibly strong, hospitable people, even the very poorest. They are very generous; they are very tough. They are the only people in the world who threw off the yoke of slavery," by their own force of arms, "and they've been being punished for it ever since.

"They were isolated in the world diplomatically, though the world powers never stopped using gunboat diplomacy there. The French," Haiti's colonial master, "actually demanded and received reparations," from their former slaves. "Outrageous!"

The United States' own hands are hardly clean where Haiti is concerned, Kidder said. "We occupied the country in the first part of the last century. We proper up the Duvaliers," whose brutal dictatorships defined Haiti from 1957 - 1986.

Nonetheless, Kidder said he see **RELIEF** pg 14

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Assault with a Dangerous Weapon**

|   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Tuesday, 1/12</b><br>1:15 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without registration and without insurance.2.<br>9:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a breaking and entering in progress on Millers Falls Road. Searched area, nothing found. | <b>Wednesday, 1/13</b><br>9:15 a.m. Suspicious person on Moore Street, area checked.<br>3:50 p.m. Caller reports possum trapped in a bin in her garage, stated no signs of rabies and will be releasing same near the river. | <b>Thursday, 1/14</b><br>10:30 a.m. Assisted Gill police with possible suicidal | subject on Gill/Montague bridge.<br><b>Friday, 1/15</b><br>11:20 a.m. Report of non-violent family argument on Warner Street and medical emergency on scene, assisted same.<br><b>Saturday, 1/16</b><br>10:15 a.m. Report of abandoned motor vehicle in Winchester, NH; owner is an Erving resident. Vehicle was stolen previous night.<br>1:25 p.m. Report of an assault from the previous | night on Wells Street. Under investigation.<br><b>Sunday, 1/17</b><br>11:30 p.m. Suspicious person reported in area of Usher Plant. Checked area, no sign of activity or person. Monday, 1/18<br>6:00 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]. Charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and with threatening to commit crime (murder). |
|---|--|---|---|---|

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# News from FCHCC

## Women's Health Care Coordination Program

**BY ANNA VIADERO**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** – Jesse is a 50-year-old divorced woman with two children in high school. She just lost her job and has applied for medical insurance, but is unsure of when she will be approved for coverage. She can feel a breast lump and is worried that she needs to see a doctor and have a mammogram right away. But she doesn't have the money to pay for one.

Sarah is 46 years old and had her yearly physical and mammogram scheduled three months ago. Her husband lost his job a month ago, and just found out the coverage will end prior to her appointments. She doesn't want to cancel her appointments because it takes

too long to re-schedule them. They will apply for insurance, but it won't be in time for the appointments.

"There are so many scenarios, but I think the most common I have heard is the woman has lost her job, her husband has lost his job, or their hours have been cut and they lost their healthcare coverage. Most of these people have had the coverage through their employer. But now they find themselves applying for health insurance, and there is a wait time before covered. It's usually a small window of time, but we've managed to help folks in the interim," said Terrie Edson, director of the Women's Health Care Coordination program at

Franklin County Home Care.

The Women's Health Care Coordination program at Franklin County Home Care (formerly Women's Health Network) is designed to focus on prevention and the early detection of breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, heart disease and stroke. The program helps decrease the rates of mortality associated with these conditions.

The Women's Health Care Coordination program is offered to women between the ages of 40 to 64 who live in Franklin County and the North Quabbin area.

Services covered through the Care Coordination program include a complete physical,

mammogram, PAP testing and clinical breast exam. Cardiovascular screening is provided and risk reduction counseling is offered to prevent and control heart disease and other chronic diseases. Colonoscopies are reimbursed if you are 50 years or older. If you are younger than 50 and have a family history of colon cancer, a colonoscopy is also reimbursed.

We can provide referrals to community resources and local support groups.

Enrollment takes 20 minutes or less and can be done by phone. Contact the Women's Health Care Coordination program at (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or register via email at [info@fchcc.org](mailto:info@fchcc.org).

Read more about this program and others at [www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org).

**METAL** from page 12

feeling of the music, the angst, the madness, the power? I suppose it all depends on the listener, and whether your eardrums are still functioning by the end of the show.

Route 63 Roadhouse is a club that hews to the true roadhouse style. No frills, nothing fancy, just a hub of unique musical experiences, from acoustic, to blues, to hard thumping metal. It's a gathering place for all, with something for everyone each night of the week.

The bands Mycomium, End Count, and Static Age all felt right at home, revving up the volume and leaving no doubt that as far as metal and punk music goes, these guys make you take notice and keep you right at the metal edge of madness.



**AMBASSADOR** from pg 8

"It's still coming in. We will probably send it to the Red Cross for Haiti relief."

Rodney's father, Nemours Duteau, speaks with his family in Port-au-Prince almost daily. Rodney's grandmother and immediate family seem to be all right, although several cousins are still missing, and no one has heard from them. His grandmother and family are living outside in the yard; their house was flattened.

There are about 100 people from the neighborhood who sleep outdoors together for security. Most people are in touch

regularly by cell phone. The communication is now better; the makeshift network keeps everyone in touch: people pass on information about family members, and in this way word reaches those who have not been in direct contact.

But as of Wednesday morning, Rodney's father had had no word of any kind of aid reaching the devastated neighborhood in Haiti where his grandmother lives. The people there are concerned and frustrated. Severe destruction extends about 200 miles into the countryside. Many people in his wife's family have not yet been heard from.

Meanwhile, another Sheffield

school teacher whose son works for CNN reporter Campbell Brown helped Rodney go global with his appeal last week, by forwarding his letter to Brown's attention. On Martin Luther King Day, Brown posted the eight-year-old's letter on her CNN blog, calling Duteau, "Haiti's youngest ambassador."

Two days later, Rodney, undeterred by his sudden media celebrity resulting from Brown's post, was hard at work on a follow-up letter with his ESL teacher.

It read:  
 Thank you, everybody, for donating money to Haiti. I am so proud. My parents found their

family in the North. They have no food or water. The penny jar is in the office. If you go on CNN, on the internet, you will see my letter and it will say that I am an ambassador. An ambassador is a person whose country is in danger, so they are trying to save their country from a different land. I still need your help to keep saving Haiti. The penny jar will be around for awhile, if you're interested in donating money for Haiti. I heard some good news, that people are still donating money, and I could try to donate money too. Because if the penny jar is not filled up, my family could be no more.



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**RELIEF** from pg 13

felt hope for the future of Haiti, primarily from the model of aid championed by PIH, working with Haitians to develop their own infrastructure and capacity.

Jim Zacarra, co-owner of Hope and Olive, called the turnout for Monday's benefit, "a pretty good crowd," though in truth it was hard to imagine how any more people could fit into the space, which has a standing capacity of 250. "We're approaching that," he confirmed.

Café Siren, the People's Pint,

Mesa Verde, the Wagon Wheel, China Gourmet, the Rendezvous, and McCusker's Market all contributed soup or other food to feed the crowd, who made cash donations, bought raffle tickets, patronized a bake sale table, and bought drinks made with Haitian rum, to support the charitable goal.

To contribute to Partners in Health, go to [www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti](http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti), or send a check to Partners In Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578, with the word Haiti in the memo line.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21st**  
Free Polka Lessons for Kids and Adults with Tom and Deb Zimnowski, evenings 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Sunderland Elementary School. Free babysitting services available courtesy of Frontier Regional High School National Honor Society. Info. and registration call (413) 665-1151 or (413) 768-9857 or see: [www.cafesun.org](http://www.cafesun.org). Continues Thursday evenings: January 28th and February 4th.

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd**  
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Love Bomb*, 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Northampton Arson Victims benefit, *Rusty Belle & friends*. Dance party to follow with DJ Bex and DJ Jenny D, 9:30 p.m., \$5 or donation.

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

3rd Annual Science & Nature Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night at Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Featuring poets Sheppard Ranbom & Janet MacFadyen. 7 to 9 p.m. Free and open to the public. Contact Sarah Doyle at (413) 863-9972 or [sarah\\_doyle@prodigy.net](mailto:sarah_doyle@prodigy.net).

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd & 23rd**  
Pothole Pictures at Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Mutiny on the Bounty*. A hearty, engrossing retelling of a historic incident as tyrannically evil Capt. Bligh pushes his crew so far they snap and claim the ship for their own. A bracing tale of the importance of

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respect and duty and an insightful parable on the complexity of human nature. 7:30 p.m., with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd**

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *All about Beavers*, 1 to 2 p.m. What do beavers do in the winter? How do they alter the landscape, and what benefit do beavers have on the environment? Are they making a comeback in Massachusetts? Come join Great Falls Discovery interpreters and find out the answers!

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Opel & King Falcon*, 9:30 p.m. \$5 or donation.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, harmonic eclectic rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Mass Mobile DJs* spin hip-hop, and top 40 beginning at 10 p.m.. No cover.

Travis Ledoyt "The world's best young Elvis" performs at the Orange Town Hall, 7 p.m. with Julie Capone Smith opening. General admission \$15 and \$30; meet and greet, \$50.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24th**  
Greenfield Public Library benefit at All Soul's Church, Greenfield. Amandla Chorus joined by community singers, Kris Delmhorst, Green river String Band, jugglers and authors! 3 p.m. Donation \$5-\$20 suggested. Refreshments.

The Gill Tavern presents Spirits of '76: Tavern, Tippling and Gentleman Topers! 3 p.m. Hear about jovial patriots who gaily shouted 'Innkeeper, more beer and wine for our men and see what the wenches will have!' Kim Gregory brings to life the critical role taverns played during Colonial times and the Revolution. Learn about the many taverns that served Gill's earliest residents and valley travelers. Enjoy syllabus, cyder and finger foods made from 18th-century recipes. Free but reservation needed by 1/22. [thegilltavern@gmail.com](mailto:thegilltavern@gmail.com) / 863-9006.

Dead of Winter Film Series at the Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: *Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion*. Written by Robin Schiff, directed by David Mirkin, 1997. Girly pals Romy and Michelle (Mira

Sorvino, Lisa Kudrow) confront the dark places of the soul and the high school cafeteria on a mythic journey to their ten-year reunion. Let's fold scarves! 7 p.m.

Montague Farm Dance Fundraiser for Haiti! Partnering with Dance Spirit and The Brick House Community Resource Center, funds raised will be for Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team in Haiti. 7 to 10 p.m. at the Zen Peacemakers House of One People, 177 Ripley Road, Montague. DJ Prakash and DJ Ari spin fabulous tunes. We'll have a simple ritual in honor and support of people in Haiti at 8:30 p.m. Questions: call Ari at 367-5269 or Karen: 367-5275.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Art Steele & Myron Becker*, Singin' the Blues, 8 to 10 p.m.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 25th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*, 7 to 10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26th**  
Hui Cox, Heather Maloney, Wes Brown  
Jazz Trio perform at Burrito Rojo,



*The Lonesome Brothers at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House on Saturday, January 30th, 7:30 p.m.*

Turners Falls. Hui Cox is a Grammy nominated multi-instrumentalist. He performs on electric, acoustic, classical, and 7-string guitars. Heather Maloney recently released her debut CD *Cozy Razor's Edge* to rave reviews. She steps back into the role where she started as a jazz vocalist. Wes Brown has toured the world with many acts including the Black Rebels; he is a well known bass player to the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th**  
Montague Phantom Brain Exchange #25 at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls. 9 p.m. Five Bucks! *Form a Log*, Dog Synth, Jackson Hoose, videos by Rose Mackey, lecture by Cloaca, and dj vaporattack.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th**  
The Wendell Full Moon Coffee House: The Lonesome Brothers, 7:30 p.m. Partial proceeds to benefit the Millers River Watershed Council. \$6 - \$15 (978) 544-5557 / [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st**  
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls presents a free variety show, 2 p.m. Featuring performances from The Country Players, Arena Civic Theatre, Ja'Duke Productions, Celtic Heels, the 2009 Valley Idol winners and comedian Muq Kaplan, as seen on Comedy Central Presents and the Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien. Donations requested at the door for fundraising. Reservations: (413) 863-2281 / [shea@valinet.com](mailto:shea@valinet.com). Visit [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) for more information.

Family Dance, Montague Grange, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Bring a new family to the dance and you both dance for \$5/family. Regular admission is \$4/person or sliding scale \$10-15/family, and includes a healthy snack at the break. *Shingle the Roof* concert of children's songs starting at 3:10. Caller Cindy Green.

**THROUGH JANUARY 31st**  
The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: MySight gallery exhibition, featuring work by Hallmark Institute Class of 2010.

**SUNDAY, FEB 7th**  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. screening *Neighbor By Neighbor: Mobilizing an Invisible Community in Lewiston, Maine*. about development, displacement, gentrification, and community organizing in a New England city. communities. sounds pertinent! discussion w/ filmmaker to follow. at The Brick House, 24 Third St. Turners Falls.

**ONGOING FRIDAYS**  
Death Metal Knitting at the Brick House, Turners Falls. Every Friday during regular drop-in hours, 3 to 6 p.m. Start a new project, work on an existing one. Instruction available for all skill levels. Learn how to make your own scarf, cup holder, headband and more. 863-9576.

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DAILY 12:00 3:00 7:00 9:30  
EXCEPT TUESDAY NO 7:00. SHOW  
**4. BOOK OF ELI** R  
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:20  
**5. SHERLOCK HOLMES** PG13  
DAILY 6:40 9:20  
**5. ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 2**  
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
**6. THE LOVELY BONES** PG13  
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – If anyone has had doubts about global warming, this winter's temperatures should be an indicator. Last January was similar: short periods of cold and windy numbing weather such as we experienced in December, moderate snow falls, some ice, but also much thawing.

The recent January thaw was welcome to this gardener, but a bit disconcerting, too. It's much too early for mud time. A recent hike down a woods road adjacent to the railroad yard revealed icy spots but also developing mud ruts.

The gardener hopes for a solid freeze in December and then a good cover of snow to protect the roots of flowering bushes. The freeze and thaw pattern only exposes the ground to further tunneling by voracious voles, which have

not retired this winter but instead are foraging at the base of my bird feeder.

Even without the scavenging voles, freezing and thawing is stressful for plants. They need a period of serious cold to enforce the rest time they need before

regenerating in the spring.

The recent snow was wet and heavy but melted off in the warmth of the Gulf air. While there is a narrow layer of ice pack beneath what snow is left, it's not much insulation for the cold which will surely return.

Still, the thaw is welcome to the gardener's spirit and accelerates the thoughts of planning the garden to come. That's not a bad thing, with planning being the operative word.

In addition to the serious energy I invest into my vegetable patch, I devote great love to my bush roses. Having experimented over the years, I've settled on bush roses, especially hardy, repeating bloomers. I've further narrowed my search to those that bear fragrant blooms.

I have the remnants of a pink beach rose I was able to

start from seed. It's seen better days now, but I begrudge it nothing since once it took hold, it bloomed heartily for a good 20 years or more. I've added a white beach rose from a nursery as a companion. Unfortunately, the Japanese beetles love these fragrant blooms as much as I do.

The other roses of greatest satisfaction are the English roses, which have been brought to this country by a few specialists.

These beauties, if chosen by zone hardiness, do well and offer wonderful scent as well as two blooming seasons. That's not to say they don't expect some pampering. We were given three bushes by one of our daughters several years ago. There was a spot in the yard that had harbored a tree which we cut because it was overshadowing the garden. I thought the rotting stump, mixed with good soil, would provide a rich environment. The rose bushes sulked there, developed mildew and died after giving us one year of tentative blossoming. I later realized the spot was almost perpetually damp and finally cottoned on to the notion of planting some Japanese iris there.

They like their feet wet and have thrived and are making new rhizomes annually.

So much for relying on instinct.

I've decided that while the natural green thumb and a general instinct for gardening are a fine thing, there's also much to be said for doing a little research in advance of planning.

There are two spectacular English roses which I planted some time ago near the house because I love their scent. I dug holes in the lawn and treated them to compost, manure and good soil as well as regular feeding. They are spindly at best. I suspect they are struggling to compete with grass roots. They have also been vigorously attacked by voles each spring.

Now I place my new plants in the tilled edges of the garden plot. They do better and have time to settle, lay down strong roots and prosper before the voles investigate. These locations at the edge of the garden allow me to give them regular attention. I believe they benefit, as do other crops, from the vibrating mole and vole chasers which decorate the garden beds.

When the ground softens up in March, I'll move those two struggling veterans to the edge of garden and see if I can bring them back to life.

Two roses that have done well in the edges of the yard are the hearty Fairy rose and another similarly growing plant I brought back from my trips to Maine. Both of these plants spread by underground root systems that throw up stems at intervals. While they are less fragrant than the English roses and do not repeat in bloom, they are incredibly hardy and indeed have to be mowed so they do not take over the yard.

This season is a great time to mull over the catalogues of English roses. The largest purveyor is David Austin, whose nurseries are in Texas. The company provides plenty of information regarding zones and hardiness as well as a few varieties selected especially for the traditional New England winter. Let's hope we will still continue to enjoy traditional New England winters.

Meanwhile, enjoy some soul fulfilling beauty and fragrance in your garden this summer.

*Happy garden planning!*

## February Programs at Northfield Mountain

### Snowshoeing by Moonlight

The mountain is a magical place on a moonlit evening. Join Northfield naturalist Beth Bazler on Saturday, January 30th or Friday, February 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to explore how to best navigate at night, and take a short "solo" walk by moonlight. No previous snowshoeing experience necessary. Wear wind pants or gaiters if you have them, and dress in warm layers that can be shed as we get moving. This program is for people ages 12 and older and costs \$5 per person or \$17 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

### Snowshoeing for Seniors

Learn to snowshoe with other active seniors on Wednesday, February 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. New lightweight snowshoes are the perfect tools for gaining grip on snowy or icy terrain, and using ski poles gives extra contact points to further increase stability in a variety of winter conditions. After an indoor introduction to equipment, participants will practice techniques on flat terrain and gentle hills. This program is

for people ages 50 and older and costs \$5 per person or \$12 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

### Vacation Porcupine Tracking

How does an animal that eats mainly leaves make it through the winter? How pointy are those quills? Which animals eat porcupines? Families will work together on Friday, February 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to discover the answers to their stickiest porcupine questions. After an indoor exploration session, we will head outside to look for tracks and other sign of porcupines. No previous snowshoeing experience is necessary. This program is for people ages 7 and older and costs \$5 per person or \$12 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Additional program information available at [www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/publicprograms.asp](http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/publicprograms.asp).

## ANATOMY OF A BRUNCH (PART 1)



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