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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 5, 2006



RACING INTO THE NEW YEAR

PHOTO: LISA DAVOL

Kulik Fields Local and National Concerns

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER - Representative Steve Kulik got high marks for accessibility from nine of his constituents in Montague Center, who turned out for an up close and personal discussion of the issues at the fire station Wednesday night (1/4). The meeting was prompted by a call from Audrey Reipold, a Newton Lane resident who works as a visiting nurse. She told Kulik she had some things on her mind, and wanted a chance to speak to her state representative about them. When Kulik invited Reipold to open the night's discussion, she launched into a long list, beginning with the war in Iraq, winding through the spiraling cost of living, the lack of opportunity for young people, rising crime, illegal immigrants, and the scarcity of

decent single men to choose from in the area. "And what are you going to do about that?" his audience demanded.

Kulik handled the minefield of hot button topics like a seasoned pro, pointing to local and state initiatives where appropriate and laying blame at the feet of the Republican administration in Washington for issues beyond state legislative control. He did not have a solution for Reipold's dating problem, but like any good politician, he leant a sympathetic ear. For a Massachusetts legislator, the coffee klatch at the firehouse is as close to the heartland it gets.

"The main thing that's bothering me is the Iraq War, the loss of life," Reipold began. "And the cost of that war. I can't even comprehend it. I don't have a son or daughter over there, but when I see parents of servicemen and women saying they want their son or daughter serving over there, I wonder what is *wrong* with these people. We're spending money we don't even have over there. Twenty cents on the dollar is interest. We're just so in debt as a country."

"You're right," Kulik responded. "We're paying for this war by borrowing money, mainly from the Chinese. Five years ago we

see **KULIK** pg 7



PHOTO: LISA DAVOL

Sawmill River Road Race winner
Brian Halferty of Northampton
35 minutes and 38 seconds

BY LISA DAVOL
MONTAGUE CENTER - On the day after New Year's in Montague Center, 201 runners showed up to usher in 2006 with a 10 kilometer race around the streets of the snow clad village. The road race was a success, according to organizer and Montague select-board chair Allen Ross. Ross originated the race 16 years ago, when 20 runners turned out to raise money to preserve 100 acres along the Sawmill river on North Street that was up for sale. This year Ross plans to give the proceeds to the Montague Grange, the Mount Toby Land Trust, the Michael

Smiarowski Scholarship Fund and the local Firemen's Relief Association. An unexpected recipient this year will be President George Bush. Ross said he will devote some of the funds to buying a copy of Darwin's *Origin of Species* for White House perusal.

Ross said there were people from all over New England in the race and the conditions were good. The presence of an owl perched above one of the midway stretches provided favorable augury.

World Class runner, Mike Ribero from Holyoke, said it was his first time running this

see **RACE** pg 9



ROSE WHITCOMB DETMOLD PHOTO

Steve Kulik



PHOTO: LISA DAVOL

New owners of the Shady Glen, brothers Thomas (left) and Elias Matheos, beam with pride, with waitress Meagan Veith. They plan to continue all the menu classics, with a teaser of "many beautiful things to come in time."

PET OF THE WEEK
Orange You Lovely?



Goldie

Goldie is a four-year-old orange domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. She is a sweetheart, the kind of cat who will get up to see you when you stop by. She is declawed, so for her safety she needs to live as an indoor only cat. For more information on adopting Goldie contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

NMH Honor Roll

Harriet Booth, class 9, and Grace Booth, class 11, both of Gill, have achieved Academic High Honors on the Northfield Mount Hermon School Honor

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LIBRARY NEWS

Music & Movement Moves to Carnegie Library

TURNERS FALLS - The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is happening at the Carnegie Library on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. during January and February. Young children of all ages and their families or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. The program is co-sponsored by the Gill-Montague Council of the Family Network. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Munch and Muse

The Munch and Muse Book Discussion Group at the Carnegie Library will be reading and discussing "Under the

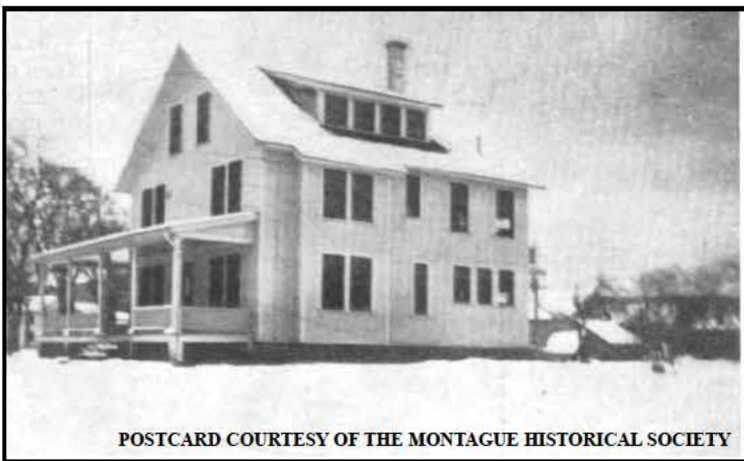
Banner of Heaven" by Jon Krakauer on Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 7 p.m. Books are available at the library. Refreshments will be served. The discussion is free and open to the public. Call the library at 863-3214 for more information.

Ladies Night Out

The Ladies Night Out Craft Group will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. The project will be cross stitching. On Tuesday, Jan. 24th at 6:30 p.m., the project will be candlewicking. All supplies will be provided. This program is open to the public. Call the library for more information.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Unitarian Parsonage in Montague



POSTCARD COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Although this beautifully constructed home was built to be used as a parsonage, it was never used for that purpose due to declining membership. It is located on Main Street Montague Center next to the Unitarian Church which is now the Grange Hall.

Ecosystem "Secret Service" Program at GFDC

Saturday, January 7th, 1 p.m. - The Great Falls Discovery Center will host "Secret Service." Come discover through role playing and hands-on activities with Susan Russo the "secret services" we receive from the ecosystem around us.

Program is geared towards ages eight and above; all are welcome.

The GFDC is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. It is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See www.greatfallsma.org for more info.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Jan. 9th - 13th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 9th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 10th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday, 11th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 12th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 13th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday

FACES & PLACES

HEINEMANN PHOTO
Snow-topped Wendell bird feeder, with Chickadee

Gill Smart Growth

The Gill Smart Growth Zoning Project meeting originally scheduled for Jan. 3rd, has been rescheduled and will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18th at 7 p.m. at the Gill town hall. The town of Gill is calling on all residents to participate in the process of updating the zoning bylaws to preserve open space and agricultural land, and help plan for 'smart growth' development.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

The Town of Montague will be picking up Christmas Trees at curbside until Jan. 20th, 2006.

The trees can be put out any day Monday through Friday, but cannot have any type of plastic or cloth on them.

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Remember When?

PHOTO: HOMER GAMELIN

The Turners Falls High School Band, circa '67 or '68. Band Director Art Gilmore dropped by with this classic shot of one of the classiest marching bands in the county. Among the notables pictured are (fourth from left, seated) Jimmy Girard; David Guilbault, now Chief of Police in Greenfield, kneeling behind the right bass drum with his trombone; and Nickey Waynelovich, at the top with his tuba. Can anybody spot Dean Elgosin? (He's on clarinet.)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Have Words Will Travel

BY FLORE SOUTH HADLEY - Imagine owning a net to gather words, as one would butterflies?

Can you picture the terrific impact of their captured flight scattered across the blank page? Another clue: did you hear last summer, the roar escaping from the top of Mount Holyoke? Who were these magicians pulling out of a hat, sounds that echoed through the valley below? A vanishing species named: poets.

Who had the terrific idea to start a writing group meeting at the Summit House? A passionate ranger, a writer herself, employed for the season as a nature interpreter at Skinner Park, Tammis Coffin; she is the responsible explorer!

This free program took place last year from June to October.

"The Mountain Writers" as they were called, met each Friday, on the porch of this famous building. Built by the architect John Frances French, it was the second choice favored by traveling Americans last century, after Niagara Falls, *bien entendu*.

It was owned last by the Holyoke silk magnate, the late Joseph Allen Skinner. He left it as a generous bequest to the state, providing the park be named after him. So it was!

As Tammis explained:



Ranger, writer and nature interpreter Tammis Coffin surveys the view from the Summit House atop Mount Holyoke.

"focusing on beauty around us can help illuminate the beauty within us. Writing with nature helps bring us home to our true selves and can be a powerful expression of who we really are..."

Our written words formed a mountain notebook for the enjoyment of other park visitors. These spontaneous stories and poems of the moment are edited to convey the spirit of writing and sharing together the mountains."

How did I happen across their path?

A fortunate encounter, last month at their closing reading at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

You too, reader, can put to work your dormant creative spirit during the winter months. Tammis proposes meeting each Saturday at noon, alternating between the Montague Book Mill and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Feel like venturing to a mountain crest? Get your snowshoes out or put on your mukluks to join a trek 'off the beaten track.' A "snowy tromp" is planned this coming Saturday, January 7th in the afternoon, heading to the snowbound Summit House. Writers and potential writers are encouraged to call Tammis at 413-259-1254 for the details.

New writers are welcome to join the gifted poets who kept the faith and explored the world of natural wonder with words.

Bon Voyage!

Amateur Radio in Franklin County

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR. KBIKRS

As the roadrunners of the Sawmill River Run rounded the bends of the 10 kilometer race in Montague Center this Monday, members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (FCARC) were there to provide communication back to the starting line, and to assist the runners should emergencies arise. The FCARC offers amateur radio communications support as part of the club's training for its 56 members. The club's public service support functions assist members' emergency communications skills while providing a community service, and highlighting the role amateur radio can play in both local and national emergencies.

In addition to the Sawmill River Run, the club regularly provides communications support during the Greenfield Winter Carnival, the Greenfield Triathlon, the Bridge of Flowers Classic Road Race in Shelburne Falls, and other area events. FCARC is also actively engaged with the Franklin County Emergency Management team, participates in EOC training exercises and lends a hand in actual emergencies such as the recent flooding in Franklin County.

The FCARC had its beginning in 1987 when a number of local hams, using a private two-meter repeater, formed the Franklin County Repeater Club, with 15 members. The club's name was changed to the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club in March 1991, and it was legally incorporated on December 10th, 1991.

Amateur radio operators, unlike citizens band and family radio

operators, must pass supervised licensing tests because they operate on specifically assigned frequencies where their knowledge plays an important role in long range communications and avoidance of interference with military and commercial radio applications. Amateur radio operators, or 'hams' as they are often called, are assigned an individual call sign by the Federal Communications Commission. This call sign becomes like a second name among radio colleagues, and is a required identifier when operating on the air.

Club socializing, public service activities, and emergency communications support have grown with the expansion of club membership. The club holds a monthly program meeting and a monthly breakfast where members learn together and exchange information. There are also several annual club social functions and a monthly newsletter. Radio licensing classes are taught as needed, and the club sponsors license examination sessions throughout the year.

Club members also participate in the ARRL national Field Day and in the National Traffic System. The purpose of all these activities is to continue growing in technical skills, in the ability to serve the community, and to sustain or supplement emergency communications in the event of local or national disasters.

The FCARC meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in the Greenfield High School. To learn more about the FCARC, contact one of the club's officers who are listed at www.fcarc.org. To learn more about amateur radio nationally, visit www.arrl.org.

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An Infamous Year

The last week has been awash in reminiscences of 2005, a year that nearly sank beneath the waves of tsunamis abroad, hurricanes, floods and rivers bursting their banks at home. Add to that record heat, wildfires ravaging the West, and ice packs receding in the arctic fastness, and we can only join with those wearily raising a toast to 2006 in hopes of better days to come.

But no wrap-up of the past year is complete without a quick look back at some of the outstanding highlights of American foreign and domestic policy under the firm hand of the Bush-Cheney regime.

Let's review. Secret prisons, outsourced torture, a denial of due process to prisoners held without charge for a fourth straight year, and 840 more Americans dead in the oil fields of Iraq, in a fictive war on terror. Add to that the revelation that Americans themselves are being wiretapped and electronically spied on - without court warrant - in express contravention of a Congressional ban on such activity, and we have a year every student of the Bill of Rights should shudder to contemplate.

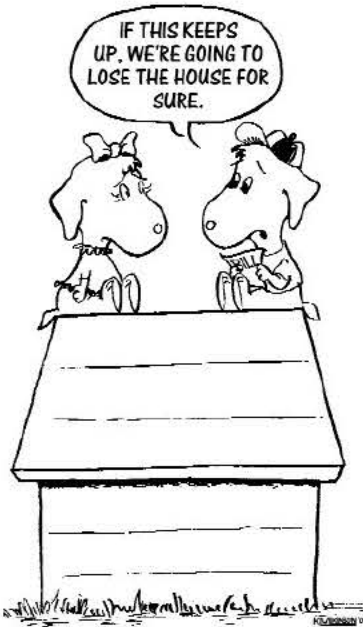
In November, Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham, influential member of the House Appropriations Committee, tearfully admitted taking \$2.4 million in bribes to steer contracts to certain arms manufacturers. "The truth is I broke the law, concealed my conduct and disgraced my office," the former Vietnam fighter pilot said. This refreshing bout of candor could be echoed by many others on Capitol Hill. And with uber-lobbyist Jack Abramoff copping a plea this week for conspiracy, tax evasion and fraud, it soon will be.

Let's ignore the ongoing genocide in Darfur. After all, everyone else is. But it's hard to be as callous about the state of the poor in this country. For that, we again give credit to the Bush administration. It may be hard to be that callous, but the administration

has proven itself up to the challenge. The President's attempt to joke with the victims of hurricane Katrina about his youthful days partying in New Orleans sounded just the right note as tens of thousands of the city's citizens sweltered without food or medicine in the Convention Center and the Superdome after the deluge.

The administration has been touting its record on economic growth in recent weeks. And it's true, times are good for Fortune 500 companies and their CEOs. Maybe we should stop there.

Because the rest of us, experiencing stagnant income and record debt, are struggling - not very successfully - to make ends meet in the face of skyrocketing energy bills, health care costs, and property taxes. The middle class is in the doghouse, and we can take scant comfort in the repeal of the inheritance tax for millionaires, capital gains give-backs, the 'welfare for the rich' tax policies of the Republicans.

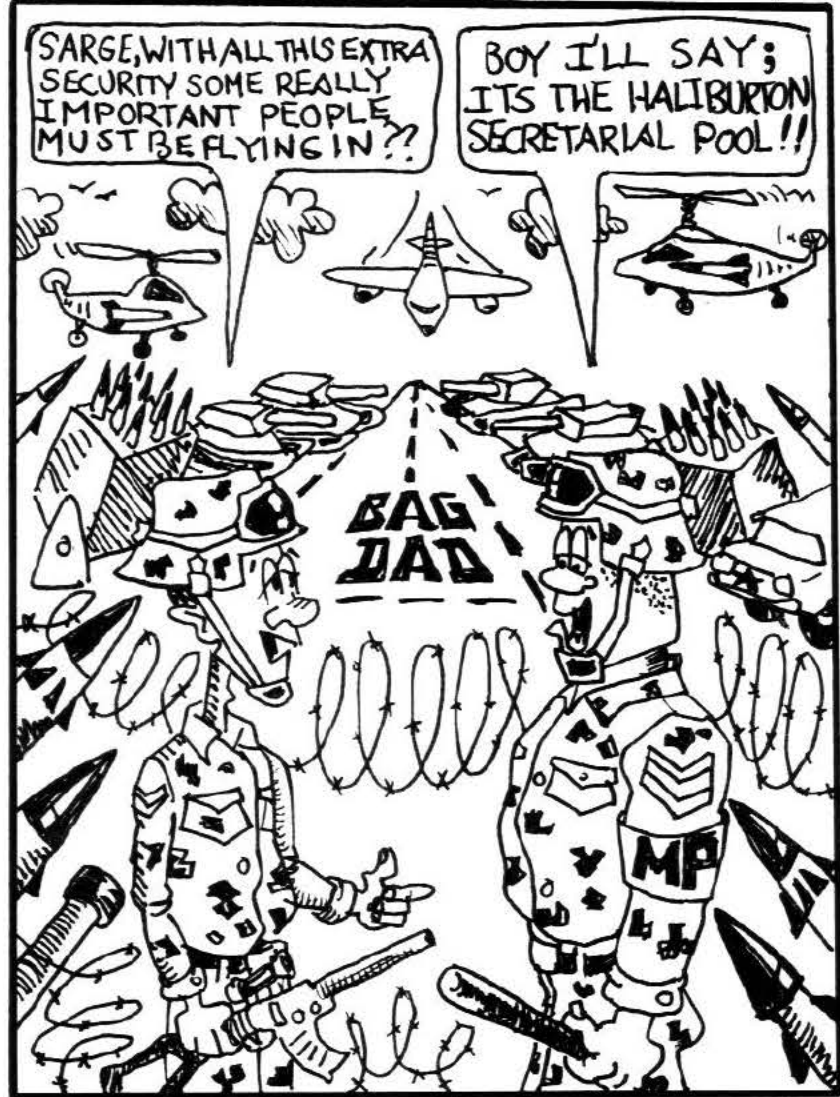


Bush snuck into office in 2000 on the butterfly ballots of the Jews for Pat Buchanan set, along with the widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans in Florida. He compounded that insult to democracy with a Diebold-promised paper trail-less victory in Ohio in 2004, replete with scanty ballot boxes and eight-hour waits in the rain in Democratic strongholds. He and his cronies have parlayed this 'mandate' into a neo-con pig roast, where America's treasury, natural resources, and basic freedoms are up for grabs.

We look back at 2005 with a great deal of shame, mitigated only by our faith in the enduring strength of average Americans to resist this kind of infamy. Like the sand in the December 31st hour glass of Old Father Time, their patience for the radical Right's assault on core American values is running out.

We look forward to a better year in 2006. How could it be worse?

BORDEAUX WHINE BY DENIS BORDEAUX



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Great Paper

I have returned to Turners Falls after 40 years away. The Montague Reporter is great - renewing old memories of places and current stories as well.

- Phyllis H. Smith
Turners Falls

Cable Access Work Appreciated

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved with charting the direction of community access television for Montague. Many people have spent countless hours working on various sides of this issue, and their time and good intentions are very appre-

ciated. We are looking forward to a smooth transition for the next chapter in our local cable access.

Happy New Year!

- Sita Lang and
Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

WORD ON THE AVENUE

Did you make any New Year's resolutions?
Have you kept them so far?

COMPILED BY LISA DAVOL



"Not really. I made amends with my father. I would have resolved to quit smoking but I just don't have the will power."

Eric Gray
from all over



"We didn't make any this year. We never keep them, so it was easier to just not make any."

Elaine and Barry Levine
Turners Falls



"To exercise more. I'm planning to start this weekend."

Connie Kiejmas
South Deerfield

American Dead in Iraq 1/5/06



GUEST EDITORIAL

Natural and Man Made Calamities Defined 2005

BY MARVIN SHEDD BERNARDSTON

Few images, in 2005, were as powerful as the death and despair wrought by Hurricane Katrina as it slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Despite losing some of its strength before reaching land, the destruction was almost beyond comprehension. When the storm ended, thirteen hundred people had lost their lives; tens of thousands more had lost their homes. New Orleans was especially hard hit. Flooding placed two thirds of the city under water, forcing the biggest relocation of citizens in American history. As with any natural disaster, Katrina brought out the best and worst of human nature.

As elected officials emailed back and forth about what kind of suit to wear or how to look best in front of the camera, people were dying. Amongst the despair came stories of great compassion and courage. Brave men and women of the Coast Guard dangled from helicopters, risking their own lives, to save people who had been perched on roofs without food or water for days. People from

all over the country donated money and supplies in an effort to stem the suffering. Americans from all walks of life took time off from their jobs and daily lives to lend a hand in the reconstruction effort. As the year ends, there is still much that needs to be done.

In Washington, a storm of a different kind, but no less destructive, continued. The Bush administration's unrelenting assault on the Constitution has caused even some who voted for him to question the wisdom of their actions. His foreign policy has damaged our prestige across the world, in all likelihood making Americans less safe. The news at year-end that the President has authorized domestic wiretaps, without Congressional oversight, was only the latest example of the administration's arrogant power mongering.

In St. Peter's Square, world leaders gathered to say goodbye to Pope John Paul II, beloved leader of the world's Catholics. An actor, poet, and athlete, Karol Wojtyla came from humble beginnings to become the first non-Italian Pope in over

four hundred years. His 26-year pontificate was the third longest in papal history. He was the most traveled pope, and one of the most admired. He never forgot his Polish homeland and served as inspiration to his fellow Poles during their struggle for Solidarity in the 1980s. Few religious leaders in the twentieth century commanded the respect that John Paul II garnered in his years in Rome.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was chosen to replace him, taking the name Benedict 16th. Early indications are that Benedict will do little to change the conservative doctrine followed by John Paul II. As cardinal, Ratzinger had been the main architect of many church policies. Liberal Catholics across the world were hopeful the new pope might change the direction of the church, opening an honest dialogue on the sex abuse scandals and policies on the role of women in the church. Both of these issues, as well as a lifting of the celibacy requirements for priests, seem doomed for the duration of this pontificate.

We said goodbye to Peter

Jennings, the ABC news anchor who brought the news to millions of Americans each evening on World News Tonight. In his 43 years at ABC, Jennings covered every major news story with a professionalism matched by few. He died just three short months after announcing to his viewers that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer. His passing, coupled with the retirement of NBC anchor Tom Brokaw at the end of 2004, and this year's retirement of CBS anchor Dan Rather and Nightline's Ted Koppel, changed the look of network news.

The sight of two ex-presidents, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, hopping around the globe to raise money for tsunami relief and later for the victims of hurricane Katrina was a welcome sight. Longtime political adversaries, they worked together effectively and seemed to develop a real friendship in the process.

Equally notable was the alliance forged by Bill and Melinda Gates and Bono, the Irish rock star. The trio traveled the world to create an aware-

ness of the problems faced by poor countries in Africa. During a year that saw so much suffering, the actions of these five people are an example of humanity at its best.

There was much to feel good about on the home front. A group of concerned town officials, artists, business and community leaders in Turners continued their efforts to revive downtown Turners Falls. A series of art walks brought people to town and highlighted the many talents of local artisans. The Shea Theater continues to offer quality entertainment with shows by three resident companies and the Shea's own young performers' series. Plans are underway to host the second annual local playwrights' festival in March.

For most of us, the dawn of a new year is a time of hope. Hope that our lives will be better in the coming year, that our communities will solve the problems confronting them, that the world will be a better, more peaceful place. May our hopes become reality.

Happy New Year!

HIGHLIGHTS - FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

A Larcenous New Year

Friday 12-30

3:08 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday 12-31

12:16 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop near Food City on Avenue A, [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant and also charged with driving with a suspended license, driving with a suspended registration, and driving an uninsured motor vehicle.

Sunday 1-01

5:56 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at an H Street address. Someone was trying to enter a motor vehicle. Reporting party scared him off before entry was made.

6:23 a.m. Report of an assault in front of Arnie's on Avenue A. Male subject summonsed for disorderly conduct, assault and battery, and

assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

3:48 p.m. Report of an assault near the Montague Book Mill. Sixty-five year old man was punched twice by an unknown male assailant who entered victim's car demanding money. Victim refused to give him any. Under investigation.

8:10 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Turners Falls Road address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

Monday 1-02

9:47 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at a 2nd Street address. Snow tubes taken from a porch and returned. The wrong sleds were returned. Report taken.

10:27 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Broadway, Lake Pleasant, address.

A bike was stolen in November and caller reports knowing who has it. Serial numbers didn't match.

11:36 a.m. Report of a larceny at a G Street address. About 50 CDs were taken from a locked vehicle. Report taken.

1:35 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at an L Street address. Former guest failed to return apartment key. Advised civil action.

Tuesday 1-03

2:51 a.m. Report of an accident with property damage on South Street in Montague. A vehicle was partially submerged in a pond. Driver taken to FMC. Rau's called to tow vehicle. No citations issued. Accident determined to be because of bad weather.

FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Peace Restored

Thursday 12-29

7:10 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on Route 2. Driver left scene in damaged vehicle. Unable to locate. Deer was killed.

4:45 p.m. Removed unwanted person from an Old State Road address.

Friday 12-30

4:50 p.m. Report of a structure fire at an Old State Road address. Erving FD and Turners Falls FD responded. Scene under control.

Saturday 12-31

4:35 p.m. Officer observed illegal burn at a High Street address. Subject burning furniture. Advised to put it out.

6:50 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an Old State Road address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with trespassing and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

7:17 p.m. Report of an out-of-control youth at a North Street address. Northfield PD assisted with call. Peace restored.

11:22 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Red Lantern on Lester Street. Found large party inside. Advised to quiet down.

Sunday 1-01

5:17 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with a car into tree with personal injuries in front of Northfield Mount Hermon. BHS transported.

6:20 p.m. Report of shots fired in the area of Mountain Road. Area searched, unfounded.

Monday 1-02

7:00 p.m. Report of a verbal altercation between father and son at a Forest Street address. Reporting party advised son left area.

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Old as Time, New as the New Year

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - Old Father Time, 2005 A.D. shuffled off to his retirement home last Saturday, carrying with him the error of the old year, and ushering in little New Year, 2006, with promise of opportunity for good things. The good old Latin tag line, Anno Domini, translates as Year of Our Lord. That may not please those of other faiths, but it does give our society a method of assigning the time of an event and scheduling a future. And the Gregorian calendar, which dates back to Pope Gregory's 1582 revision of the older Julian calendar, has struggled along with minor tinkering ever since. This year, something like a second was added at the stroke of midnight on December 31st to keep our watches synchronized with the Earth's rotation.

Two thousand and six seems like a respectable number of years until you consult the Old Farmers Almanac. It will remind you that the Chinese (lunar) year, the Year of the Dog - 4707 - will begin on January 29th. September will usher in the year 5767 in the Jewish calendar. And of course, the Aztecs and Mayans left stone monuments to their expertise in

recording time.

The calendar makers have all started with natural divisions, the solar day, the solar year, the lunar month. But the seven-day week, perhaps derived from the Old Testament's account of the six busy days and one of rest, are convenience divisions named for Saxon gods. The Romans did not use weeks as a measure, and still confuse Latin students of Julius Caesar with Ides and Nones, the Ides a variable date at the full moon, the Nones nine days before. The twenty-four hour day, and the thirty and thirty-one day month adjust natural events to a standard by which to work and play and pray.

When the Julian Calendar predicted Spring ten days early in 1582, Pope Gregory decreed that October 5th to October 15th be removed from the calendar that year, and January 1st replaced March 25th as the starting date of each new year. The Gregorian calendar was accepted by Catholic countries but not adopted by Great Britain until 1752. Dates between the two events are sometimes recorded as new style or old style calendar. If George Washington was born in 1732, was this the date on his birth

certificate?

The movements of the earth and moon do not perfectly invite easy assignment of days and months. A year is not an even 365 days long. There always seem to be fractions, those bugbears, to deal with. Practical people regularly suggest calendar systems whereby the first day of a month is always Monday, or whereby the full moon will light up the night on the same date, or a month where one need not dredge up "Thirty days hath September," so they do not write a check for the non-existent 31st. Less practical folks born on Wednesday may be happy with the old mind-boggling calendar because their birthday moves each year to a new day of the week, and that year they may escape "Wednesday's child is full of woe." When their birthdays come on Sunday, they may even make believe their destiny is the "bright and jolly and good and gay" of the Sabbath day child.

New Year's Day was the gift-giving holiday for many of our people in an earlier generation. The gift of 2006 is a great treasure. Happy New Year!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suspicious Vehicles

Thursday, 12-22

6:30 p.m. Larceny report taken from Franklin Road resident.

Friday, 12-23

4:30 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with firearms removal from residence.

Saturday, 12-24

9:01 a.m. Assisted disabled motorist on River Road.

2:02 p.m. Report of past accident on Mountain Road, report taken at station.

Sunday, 12-25

12:20 a.m. Report of a possible suicidal subject on Walnut Street. Subject was later located in New Hampshire and taken for evaluation.

8:37 p.m. Report of domestic violence situation on West Gill Road. State police responded and arrested male subject, [REDACTED]

Monday, 12-26

4:10 p.m. Illegal hunting complaint taken on West Gill Road.

4:46 p.m. Assisted fire department and BHA ambulance with medical assistance call on French King Highway.

Tuesday, 12-27

11:32 a.m. Assisted disabled tractor and trailer at Gill lights.

11:57 p.m. Received report of stolen vehicle possibly involved in a robbery in Winchester NH, vehicle last seen southbound on Route 10.

Wednesday, 12-28

12:07 a.m. "Be on the look out" vehicle observed on Route 10 near

Gill Road; same was later stopped in Vermont by Vermont state police. Two subjects taken into custody for armed robbery, possession of heroin, possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

5:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with arrest on Route 10.

Thursday, 12-29

1:35 a.m. Car vs. deer accident with no injury on French King Highway.

8:35 a.m. Riverview Drive area, to check for missing person from Agawam, unable to locate.

10:46 a.m. Report of possible suspicious activity on Franklin Road, all checked o.k.

3:33 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with possible vehicle pursuit on Route 10.

5:45 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with unwanted subject on Old State Road.

Saturday, 12-31

7:00 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with out of control subject on North Street.

8:15 p.m. Assisted resident with a juvenile issue on Franklin Road.

Monday, 1-02

6:40 p.m. Larceny report taken from Main Road resident.

11:35 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Hoe Shop Road.

11:55 p.m. Assisted motorist who went off of roadway on Main Road.

Tuesday, 1-03

8:02 a.m. Car off of road on West Gill Road, no damage.

10:10 a.m. Vehicle rollover on Main Road near West Gill Road, mother and two small children in vehicle.

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JOE GRAVELINE

Montague Democratic Convention Delegate Caucus

The Democratic Town Caucus to elect delegates to the June 3rd State Democratic Nominating Convention will be held Thursday, February 9th at 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the town hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. This location is accessible to people with disabilities.

This is a Town Democrats election to select delegates to vote for Democratic candi-


dates for statewide offices including governor. A separate caucus for town offices will be held in late March/early April, date to be set.

If you wish to vote in the caucus OR run as a delegate (either uncommitted or supporting a particular candidate for state office... Montague gets 5 delegates), you must be a registered Democrat as of December 31, 2005.

Please note... in 2002 we had to turn away a few interested un-registered or party un-enrolled voters who forgot that they were not registered as Democrats. You must be present at the caucus in order to run.

If you have questions, call Jay DiPucchio, Chair of the Democratic Town committee at 863-8656 in the evenings or email: here.now@verizon.net.

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**Saturday, January 28th, 1
p.m. - Connecting Creatures**

Join Susan J. Russo of the Silvio O. Conte NFWR for a trek through the Discovery Center and learn about the different habitats different animals need for their survival. Program geared towards 5-8 year olds, all are welcome.

Register now for “On the Trail with the Fisher Cat,” February 2nd and “Tracking Fishers and Other Woodland Predators” on February 4th, led by tracker-naturalist David Brown. Call Northfield Mountain: 413-659-4461.

KULIK
continued from page 1

had a balanced federal budget. It's ridiculous. We're passing this along to our kids and grandkids. They just passed a deficit reduction bill in Washington that did nothing to reduce the deficit, but it did cut money for student loans, health care, college aid, and environmental programs, things that affect everyday people. I don't understand it, except to say, these guys don't have our best interests at heart." Kulik said people in Massachusetts have been spoiled by having a responsive group of federal and state legislators, "but we're in the minority now."

Reipold continued, "I'm really concerned about our children. Education is inferior, our schools don't have enough supplies, our teachers are overwhelmed, our children are suffering." And she decried the lack of economic opportunity for young adults. "I began working as a nurse's aide at the Farren in 1983 for \$6.83 an hour. My daughter is working there now for \$7.45 an hour."

Kulik replied the failure to increase the minimum wage at the state or national level and to periodically adjust it to keep pace with the cost of living has led to a situation where the buying power of the minimum wage today is equal to what it was in the late 1950s. Reipold chimed in, "And employers aren't giving you full time, or benefits, so you have to pay for your own health care. For a child to insure an old car costs \$1300. What with gas prices, car payments, health care, the expenditures young people have to make, they do not stand a chance. We're pushing them down a bad path. How can they afford college?"

She added, "It's not acceptable that we give money and resources in foreign aid when we can't take care of our own people. We're not surviving here in the U.S...."

One young person in the room added, under her breath, "By our standards...."

A friend of Reipold's said, "We're working, but we're not getting anywhere."

Reipold said she felt government should take a tip from business. "If you ran a country like a business you wouldn't give things away and not expect anything in return."

Susan Conger pointed out, "We're no longer giving money for reconstruction in Iraq."

Kulik said he had often heard the argument that government,

at all levels, should be run more like a business. "You get frustrated that government is not delivering a product with accountability. But a business is there to make a profit. The government is there to supply the things that don't make a profit, like police and firefighters and schools and hospitals. We should provide services efficiently, without corruption, and do it well, so people are happy with the services."

Turning to the war, Kulik said, "There's no question Iraq is drawing money out of our educational system, and out of our homeland security. It has been a rallying point for extremists

*"People your age and mine had certain expectations: to go through life, work hard, own your own home, and retire with some dignity."
- Steve Kulik*

ists who mean to do us harm. They point to Iraq and say, 'this is what the U.S. is all about.' Iraq has made us less secure."

Reipold got on the illegal immigrants next. "Immigrants. Why are they getting free education and free college? There's not much financial aid available for our own kids. [Many of these immigrants] are on Section 8 housing, working under the table; they're on Medicaid. I'm not prejudiced. My prejudice is against people who live on other people. When I see Middle Eastern people working in Cumberland Farms... they do so well. Average American people start up a mom and pop store or a restaurant and they barely make it. I have to think they are getting government help to do these businesses."

Kulik responded, "This country has a broken immigration system, by which I mean a dishonest immigration system. This is a federal issue, but we deal with the consequences on a state level. We hear, 'We have to seal up our borders and control who comes into our country,' but the same people want to bring them in to do the jobs we won't do... There's a great hypocrisy in our country." He talked of the burden to educate the children of immigrants, from K-12, a right guaranteed nationally but left to local

school districts to manage. He talked of the ease with which illegal aliens gain false documentation to work, and to illegally gain access to the Medicaid system. But he said their children are not yet eligible to pay in-state tuition at state colleges and universities, although there is a movement to grant them that right. And he concluded by reminding the audience they were all children of immigrants themselves.

Speaking generally of the state's commitment to higher education, Kulik commented, "We are shortchanging everybody. Massachusetts continually ranks near the bottom in support for public education. A lot of that is historic, with high-powered private institutions working behind the scenes to keep support for public higher education lower, because they do not want the competition. But that is changing now, as the public realizes people who go to state colleges and universities wind up living here, putting their education to work in the state; people who go to private colleges live here for four years and then they're gone."

On a philosophical note, Kulik said, "Many Americans, folks in the middle, people who work hard, they don't expect much from government. Health care and education. A lot of people feel that drifting away, because the leadership at the top is drifting away. The American dream, G.I.s returning to find the government helping them with college aid and housing, a huge number of people find that slipping away. Corporations are making huge profits, executives are skimming off billions, but the people who create that wealth get nothing."

He talked of the efforts the Massachusetts legislature is making now to bring health insurance to the uninsured, by requiring large corporations to contribute to a pool to provide insurance for the uninsured, which in many cases includes their own part time workers. He cited Walmart and Home Depot as examples of hugely successful corporations who do not provide health benefits, and talked of the unfairness of having their part time workers covered by a free care pool funded now, in part, by corporations that do offer health benefits for their workers. He said the bill being crafted now would

put Massachusetts at the forefront of health care reform nationally.

"I think health care is one of those basic things citizens should have. We're the only modern industrialized country that does not have some form of single payer system for its citizens, like England and Canada have." But when asked why Massachusetts should not move directly toward a single payer system, Kulik said, "That's just not realistic [politically] at this time." He later called for price controls on drug companies. "They are making out like bandits."

Reipold said she had been the single head of her household for 24 years, and compared her situation to that of a growing number of households headed by one wage earner. "But this economy is still based on [the need for] two income households.

"It's scary stuff. Our town is overspending. They are fiscally irresponsible. You get less and you pay more. My taxes are so high now I'm not sure I can live here."

Reipold said she was paying \$440 a month for a two-person family health plan for herself and her daughter, even though her employer covers 75% of her premium.

When she talked of her fear of rising crime, Kulik pointed out the legislature had just passed an \$11 million bill to combat gang violence, although he admitted the problem defied easy solution. "People in law enforcement are up against criminal elements [in gangs] speaking different languages, more ruthless than ever before."



Audrey Reipold

Boston and Springfield are experiencing spikes in murder and street crime, he said, "and that drifts up the Valley."

"I don't see this country surviving all these issues," said Reipold. She worried about the U.S. becoming "a Third World country," and being superseded by China. She shared private worries about being able to ever afford to retire.

Kulik told her, "People your

age and mine had certain expectations, to go through life, work hard, own your own home, and retire with some dignity. I don't see support for that being what our country is about any more."


On the topic of energy, Susan Conger expressed concern about America's dependence on oil, "which costs too much in every way, including lives. But I don't see that leaky tin can up the road at Vermont Yankee as any solution." Kulik said, "I think it is a stupid idea to do a 20% uprate in a plant that old," and feared Massachusetts would fare worse than Vermont in the event of an accident at the nuke. He talked of state efforts to draw up guidelines to ease the development of wind power, "a proven, readily available alternative" on the 2 million acres of state-owned land in Massachusetts.

On the topic of economic development, Kulik recommended the town should work closely with UMass Amherst, which is investing heavily in life sciences and medical research now. "A lot of the research can spin off as businesses, and Montague, fifteen minutes away, has the potential of industrial space."

Richard Sawin wanted to know when the Greenfield Road overpass would be reconstructed. "It's a concern for fire safety and a time factor." Kulik said a meeting was planned with the selectboard to discuss that topic in the next few weeks. He said the state was ready to provide funding for the reconstruction of the road and the overpass, once outstanding legal issues with the railroad were resolved.

"The alignment will be the same, the road will be no wider than its widest point [now]. There will be safety improvements at the Randall Road intersection, and a small paved shoulder will be added for bicycle traffic."

Kulik thanked the small audience. "I don't often get called to come listen to your concerns and talk about them like this." He recommended inviting Senator Rosenberg or Congressman Olver to Montague to hear from their constituents as well. (To reach Representative Kulik at his new office, at 1 Sugarloaf Street in South Deerfield, call 413-665-7200).

Only nine of Kulik's constituents turned up for the meeting last night, but they brought with them a good cross section of concerns heading into the new year. Montague's 8,500 residents make up nearly a quarter of the 40,000 people Kulik represents. 

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Stone Road Auto Salvage Transfer Discussed

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard was not planning to meet on December 28th, but at Robin Pierce's request scheduled a short hearing to renew his Class II auto salvage license in advance of the sale of his Stone Road business. As it happened, six abutters came to voice their concerns at the hearing, and the meeting lasted until 10:30 p.m. Neither town coordinator, Nancy Aldrich, nor the clerk were present. Selectboard member Dan Keller took the minutes.

Taxes were the first issue at the license hearing. Pierce owes back property taxes for three years, and selectboard chair Ted Lewis said the town can't license a property with tax liens on it. Tax collector Penny Delorey came in from her office and said she was not planning to put a lien on the property until the end of January, and board member Christine Heard said, "We can give a one month license if a gap (in the continuity) of the license is a problem." Lewis said town bylaws stipulate that when a license lapses, it is lost, and the town will not grant a new auto salvage license.

Heard argued the issue was the lien, not the back taxes per se, and Pierce said he would pay the third year of back arrears (making a lien unnecessary). He plans to cover the rest of his tax debt with the sale of his property.

Abutter Jen Gross asked about terms of the license and was informed it is granted annually for purchase, sale, and exchange of used motor vehicles. There is no limit on the number of vehicles allowed, but the license requirements can be changed at any annual renewal.

Abutter Keith Washburn said three years ago, when he bought his property, he was assured Pierce would create a living visual barrier with a hemlock hedge. The hemlocks are there, but they are still "twigs," he said, and have created no barrier. It will be 15 or 20 years before they fill in. Heard said Pierce had done exactly as required, and Lewis added that now the hemlocks are started they will grow faster. Pierce added the hemlocks would grow faster if he cut the big trees around them, but he did not want to do that.

Heard suggested that among the conditions for relicensing should be some promise to

block the view of unregistered cars, by moving the cars, or by building a fence. Pierce said the only cars you can see are registered under a dealer plate, or restored. Heard proposed August 1st as the date by which Pierce would have moved the cars or built a fence, if he still owned the property.

Gross brought up her concern with the condition of the road, which collapsed right by Pierce's property, but Pierce answered, "The problem is the road, not me." Heard said road boss Dan Bacigalupo said the road gets weak wherever the water decides to go, and that road maintenance was the town's business.

Pierce said he is a small generator of wastes as defined by the state, at less than 30 gallons per month. He said his shop is designed to catch and hold any spill.

The board agreed to continue his license with restrictions that he keep vehicles behind a hedge or out of view, at least 25' from the edge of the property, that he allow inspections, contain all his wastes, maintain a DEP registration, and limit the number of cars on the property to 50, as

shown in a plan of his property in the board's records.

The license is for a year, but Heard said the board will be in contact with Delorey, and (if a lien is placed on the property) it can be pulled.

Lewis asked Boylston resident John Germaine, who is proposing to buy the property from Pierce, what his plans are for the property are.

He said he plans to continue his current business, repairing and restoring antique trucks and tractors. He does not expect to do many repairs, because at first no one will know he is there. He imagines keeping about ten vehicles, and has a 9-ton tag-along trailer, but hopes to purchase a ramp truck eventually. He plans only for his sons to work there with him, no one else.

Washburn voiced concern about potential spills, and said he did not think junk licenses should be handed out. Germaine replied he believed in the new school of auto recycling, and does not want to create the situation here that he has in Boylston where he can't drink the water at his own place, due to a prior gasoline spill.

Neighbor Chris Ewell asked about dogs, and Germaine answered he had one big barking dog he keeps confined, and one old dog who does not move much.

Lewis said the board would meet again in two weeks and vote on the license, or postpone the vote if Germaine fails to sell his house in Boylston or if there is some other need for delay.

The meeting began with Seal Lamadeleine asking the board if she could continue to rent the town hall on the first Friday of every month for fragrance free dances. She said attendance has not been great, and the donations she has gotten have not covered the cost of renting the hall, but she still wants to continue. The board agreed she could continue holding the dances at least until March.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley reported someone is getting ready to move back - or may have already moved back - into a property the town took for back taxes, which has been vacant for a year. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said if the person has already moved back in, getting him out again would require a trip to housing court.

He said road boss Dan Bacigalupo should put up a padlock and block the driveway as soon as possible.

Highway commissioner Harry Williston reported the highway department had hired Anthony Sakowicz, who had all the required licenses and had just been let go by the Montague road crew because of budget cuts.

The town's three assessors met the board for clarification of the situation they created when they divided the half time assessor position, as authorized by the annual town meeting, into two positions, one for filing, one for assessing. They have hired a file clerk, and are considering the same person for the assessing position. The assessors do not know now how much work will be required, or if the job can be considered two jobs or one, with two job descriptions and two pay rates. After some discussion, the board decided that the job could be considered one, with two pay rates, and that benefits should be set for a position for a 20 to 30 hour job, and the assessors should come back if the hours are consistently over 30 a week.

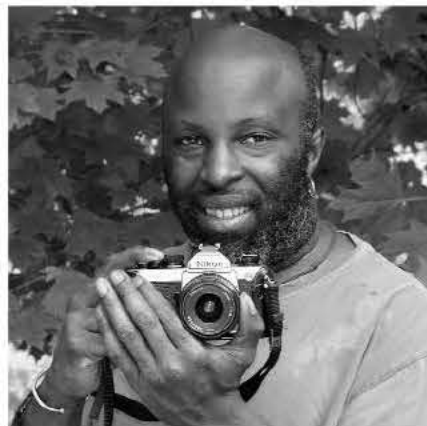


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Selectboard member and race organizer Allen Ross tells the racers to get on their marks.



Time keeper Connie Putnam of Northfield.



Ham radio operator Tom Foxwell



Pre-registration coordinator, Fred Rissmann

From **RACE** Page 1
 race, on the suggestion of a friend. Caitlin Dwyer from Worcester has been running the race for three years in honor of her father Mick Huppert, who has run the race many times. Ribero said there are not many winter races and when he hears of

one, he runs it.
 Brian Halferty was the first to cross the finish line, at 35 minutes and 28 seconds. He currently lives in Northampton, but just moved east from Washington state so his wife can attend the Hallmark Institute of Photography.



BARBARA STEWART PHOTO

Bruce Griffen of Amherst approaches the four mile mark at the corner of Meadow and Old Sunderland Roads.

**Sawmill River Road Race
 Male and Female Winners by Category**

- Youth 18 Years or Younger**
- Adam Simkin, 16, Northampton- 38:09
- Iris Armen, 17, Simabury, CT- 59:55
- Open Ages 19-39**
- Brian Halferty, 23, Northampton- 35:28
- Marjorie Shearer, 35, Greenfield- 39:18
- Master Ages 40-49**
- Christopher Gould, 40 Pelham- 35:58
- Linda Gavin, 42, Turners Falls- 40:54
- Senior Ages 50-59**
- Rich Larsen, 54, Shelburne Falls- 38:29
- Sidney Letendre, 51, Florence- 41:50
- Senior Ages 60+**
- Peter Gagarin, 61, Sunderland- 42:37



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Corn is Hot at Five Point Farm

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

NORTHFIELD - When we mentioned the Llewelyns at the Five Point Farm in Northfield selling kernel corn as a fuel in the last issue, that was only the tip of the corncrib. Corn and other feed for farm animals is the larger focus of the Llewelyns' operation.

With milk prices being what they are, and rumored to be \$1.00 less per cwt in 2006, the Llewelyns, father and son, C. William and William E. have sought ways to keep farming profitable. They bought the 540-acre Five Point Farm in 1954; half of the acreage is tillable and the rest is wooded hillside. They rent another 500 acres. With the dairy profit margin shrinking, they have turned to raising specialized hay on 200 acres - baled hay for horses, and silage for cattle fodder. Seeking for other ways to cut expenses and increase profits they looked into producing ground corn.

"We decided to invest in a corn dryer so we could grind dried corn for our cattle and to sell to other farmers as feed for cows, pigs, chickens, and sheep," young Bill said.

They wanted to offer local farmers an alternative to buying corn shipped in from the Midwest. "We eliminate the cost of shipping and price increases that occur each time the corn passes from middle man to middle man," the elder Llewelyn said. "Farmers can buy the same quality corn direct from us and save money."

The Llewelyns were fortunate to buy a used Superb corn dryer from a New Hampshire farmer going out of business. It was in "like-new" condition.

The dryer has a burner resembling a jet airplane engine. A large fan blows 200-degree air into a chamber lined with double walled steel screening. Corn, fed from a 40-ton hopper, enters at the top of the dryer and moves downward in a continuous process inside the foot-wide

space between the screen walls.

"Water vapor covers the outside of the screen sides at the top and gradually lessens as the corn dries on the way to the bottom," the father said. "Steam pours out like a sugar house."

By the time the corn reaches the bottom, it is at 110 degrees, and the 27% original moisture is reduced to 13-14%. They test the corn moisture content with a moisture meter. The dried corn is augered from the dryer to the top of a 600-ton storage bin. Cooling fans push out condensation as the corn cools. The fans typically run 24 to 48 hours during cooling.

The Llewelyns auger corn from the 600-ton storage bin directly into a truck body, or into paper drums.

Producing shell corn is not a case of casting a few seeds to the wind.

The Llewelyn's line-up of machinery is impressive. Ten late model John Deere wheel tractors crowd a metal garage. "We use the 7600 for pulling a six row John Deere planter, and we harvest with a six row John Deere combine," Bill said. "All ten tractors are going steady in the fields all summer."

A lone Heston field chopper sits in a corner like a displaced person.

Young Bill believes it is the only Heston in all New England. They can use the chopper for either hay or corn silage simply by attaching different heads. A discharge chute sends the chopped feed into a truck, on the go. The chopped fodder is stored in upright silos - two 60 feet tall

and two 80 feet tall. They store kernel corn in one of the 80 foot silos and corn or hay silage in the other three. In addition to the upright silos, they also have two "trench silos" which are concrete bunkers. Silage is compacted and covered with black plastic sheeting.

The Llewelyns plant corn on 100 acres of rented land, using Pioneer corn seed, which has built-in corn borer and root borer resistance. Herbicides control

see the standing corn directly in front of him. Sensors displayed on a screen tell the operator what is going on. When the screens are allowing kernels to pass through with debris, whether a belt has jumped off, or a bearing is overheated, the sensors alert him.

"We read in a farm magazine that it is a good idea to carry a fire extinguisher on the combine," the younger Llewelyn said. "We were glad we did,

corn in bulk, in paper drums, or bagged in 50-pound bags. Production Services came to the farm with a portable bagging machine to bag a quantity, but the Llewelyns have since ordered their own bagger.

Wood pellet stoves can burn corn when mixed with pellets, which are in short supply. Most retailers will not take orders for wood pellets unless the customer has purchased a stove from them. Corn has a higher ignition point. Wood pellet stoves with automatic ignition cannot ignite straight corn, hence the mix. Corn stoves are of heavier construction and have more aggressive ignition systems, making them more expensive than wood pellet stoves.

There is an attachment that can adapt a conventional wood stove to burn corn. Another advantage of burning the more economical corn instead of wood is that a hopper-full of corn lasts all day.

Northampton stove dealer, Bob McKenny of McKenny Electric, who buys bagged corn from the Llewelyns, said corn stoves are a hot item. "Corn stove manufacturers won't accept any new dealers," McKenny said. "They can't keep up with the demand."

McKenny believes the demand for corn stems from a wood pellet shortage as well as the higher BTU of corn, which he said provides heat at a lower cost.

The Llewelyns are sold on corn. Not only is there a market for whole corn as fuel, but the ground corn they produce for their cattle reduces their milk production costs. They are also glad to supply area farmers with corn. So, if you want to save money on the same quality as Midwest grain or corn fuel, but at a lower price, or if you just want more information, call the Llewelyns at 413-498-5869, or cell phone 413-772-9890.



Bill Llewelyn stands in front of the combine at Five Point Farm in Northfield

weeds. The Hadley Loam type soil along the Connecticut River flood plain is as rich as the soil of the Nile River valley. The Llewelyns further enrich the soil with manure from their 380 head of Holsteins. Stalks, cobs and trash spewed from the combine at harvest time, are wheel harrowed into the soil and plowed under. Returning the debris to the soil further increases organic material and reduces the amount of potash needed.

The combine is a \$225,000 piece of sophisticated machinery. The operator sits in an air conditioned cab as the combine cuts the standing corn stalks, strips the ears off, shells the corn and spits the cobs, stalks and trash out the back. He can only

because an overheated bearing once set trash afire. One fire extinguisher was not quite enough. Luckily the operator had a bottle of soda pop to finish putting it out. We now carry two fire extinguishers."

The sale of ground corn to other farmers has been going well. "Farmers like to buy our ground corn because of the lower price; we just have to get the word out," the elder Llewelyn said.

They sell ground corn in bulk, barrels, and in bags for feed. When record-breaking fuel oil prices came along, a market for corn as fuel opened up. Corn stove retailers have been sending corn customers to buy corn at the farm. The Llewelyns sell whole

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 BROKER

Snowstorms of Yesteryear

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Like everyone else, Pa had tire chains to get through the snow. But when the snow was deep, or the road drifted several feet deep, the chains weren't enough. If there was a big storm, Pa stayed with friends in Turners Falls, until the road was cleared. If he got caught at home, he would walk to the main highway and someone would usually give him a ride to Turners. If the snow was not too deep, he put tire chains on the rear wheels.

Chains came in full length and as 'Jiffy Chains'. Pha had both. Full length chains covered the entire tire, linking up with metal clasps both outside and inside the tire. They were more difficult to put on. Gas stations put them on and removed them for women. Men took it as a point of honor to put them on themselves.

Jiffy Chains were a set of two chains that were secured with a heavy canvas strap that slipped through the spokes of a wheel. Two strands of chains rested against the tire tread. Typically, the Jiffy Chains were fastened three to a wheel. They were for limited use, but good in a pinch when the car was stuck and full length chains would be difficult or impossible to attach.

Tire chains often broke when a link wore thin.

The banging of a broken chain hitting a fender was a common sound in winter. 'Monkey Links' were repair links that crimped closed when the car tire ran over the replacement link.

If snow drifted after a heavy storm, the town of Gill used an Oliver Cletrac crawler tractor with a V plow to break through the drifts.

Harold Baker, working part-time nights and weekends, usually operated the crawler after his regular job.

The sight of the Cletrac tractor remains vivid in my mind. It often showed up at night, with bright lights blazing high up on a big wooden cab, shining both front and rear. The stubby tractor enclosed in the V plow, with wing plows extended, looked like a huge mechanical June bug, buzzing fiercely through December nights. The unmuffled tractor engine roared, the tractor treads clanked, and the ground shook. Even the house reverberated as it approached, like an alien monster, to our utter delight.

One night, we kids ran out and followed behind the tractor as it rattled and clanked along, lights ablaze, exhaust roaring. The crawler went just a little way beyond our house where the traveled way ended. The Cletrac suddenly spun around, and came straight back at us. We didn't know whether Baker could see us or not, and we high-tailed it back to the house.

Sometimes after a big storm the plow truck would try to break through the drifted snow on our road, and give up. A week would often pass before the Oliver Cletrac came rumbling to the rescue.

After one storm, Pa stayed in Turners Falls at his friend's house for a week, or more, because the snow was too deep. When it seemed that the crawler would never show up, we began



PHOTO: JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
Felton's Komatsu at the State Garage loads a sand truck with sand and salt.

shoveling by hand to clear snow from the road.

We began clearing the entire road, but when that took too long, we just shoveled wheel paths. Towards the end of the day, we heard the distant roar of the Cletrac crawler. To our utter joy, the tractor rumbled down the road to our house. The miraculous sight was akin to the U.S. Cavalry coming to the rescue.

At first, the plow could not buck the drifts. The tractor climbed up onto the hard packed drifts to break them up, and then backed up to make another run at the snow, to hit it again and again. Eventually, the operator made it through.

My parents never thought to complain to town officials about being stranded so long after a storm. They were simply grateful to be plowed out at all.

In later years, store owner D.O. Paul bought a new Ford dump truck. He rented his Ford truck to the WPA, and to the town to plow along with the other regular hired plow truck. With two trucks plowing, they got to the snow before it became frozen or hard packed with drifts. The crawler tractor and

V-plow stayed parked in the town sheds, more and more. To sand the steepest hills, Stanley Jackson, standing in the tracks had become worn and the tractor needed a lot of work to get it in shape, so the town eventually sold it. For some reason, D.O. Paul sold his truck and the town was back down to one small 1½ ton

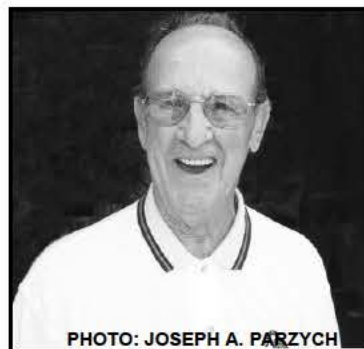


PHOTO: JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
Dauntless snowfighter, Buck Legere of Turners Falls, who once fought ice, snow and sleet for the state highway department, stands ready to accept a call from MassHighway for a return to battle—any storm, at any time. "My motto is, No snow too deep; no hill too steep," the old snowfighter said.

International dump truck owned by a farmer, Irving Franklin, who was left to plow all the town roads, alone.

Often, on the first snow of the season, Franklin would not hook up the plow until snowflakes began to fall. He would then take the plow to a

welder to get it back in condition to plow. He usually had enough time, since he did not begin plowing until it stopped snowing. "There's no sense to plowing the same roads over and over when you can do it all in one pass," he would say.

To sand the steepest hills, Stanley Jackson, standing in the body of the dump truck, scattered a little sand on slope. If the roads got too slippery, Jackson got into the cab with Franklin, and they went home.

"No sense to us killing ourselves," Franklin once yelled to me out of the truck window, tire chains whirling, as he went by, and I stood by my marooned car, stuck on an icy hill. "We're going home."

Before I was old enough to drive, we threw snow on the edge of a sanded hill to keep sand from slowing our sleds. We left the center sanded so cars could make the hill without resorting to chains.

On state highways, employees sparingly sanded the hills with two men standing in the dump body of a truck. State employees were considerate enough to leave sand-filled orange 55 gallon barrels lying on their side with a shovel inside, for the convenience of motorists who could not make the hills during snow or ice storms. No one stole the shovels. Motorists drove carefully and accidents were rare. No one complained that roads were not passable; drivers put on chains or got out of their cars and sanded the hills from the orange barrels. Roads became bare only when the sun melted the snow, usually in the spring, giving us long stretches of downhill coasting. In Greenfield, officials closed off Walnut Street for kids to use for coasting. But traffic was so sparse in Gill that roads were safe to slide on anywhere,

see YESTERYEAR pg 16

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Ramirez Trade Talks Heat Up



BY LEE CARIGNAN
TURNERS FALLS - The

Red Sox continue to explore trading Manny Ramirez. Trade talks are ongoing between the Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles. The Sox are offering Ramirez and starting pitcher Matt Clement in exchange for Orioles' shortstop Miguel Tejada. The Red Sox could also be seeking a second player, which the teams have not agreed on. There have been reports the Sox want the Orioles' 22-year-old outfield prospect Nick Markakis. The Orioles may not want to part with Markakis, and may be offering the Sox other players.

Ramirez has demanded the Red Sox trade him this off-season. This isn't the first time Ramirez has been unhappy and has asked to be traded. But the star left fielder seems to be more adamant this time around. Ramirez has told the Red Sox he will not report for training camp if the Sox don't honor his

request.

It would seem to be an ideal trade. Ramirez and Tejada are both extremely talented players, and both are unhappy with their current teams. But the Orioles have concerns about trading their star shortstop within the division. Particularly with divisional teams playing against each other 19 times a season. However, if the Orioles can't find a better deal with another team they may be forced to deal with the Sox.

The Red Sox should have concerns of their own trading a starting pitcher who has averaged 191 innings a season over the last seven years. They already lost out on free agent starting pitcher Kevin Millwood. Current starter David Wells has also asked to be traded. Trading Clement would hurt the depth of the starting rotation. But if the Sox land Tejada it would fill a glaring need at shortstop. Tejada would also put up good offensive numbers to help replace Ramirez' bat.

The Red Sox, who are

already searching for a center-field replacement for Johnny Damon, would now have to find someone to play left field. Damon signed a 4-year, \$52 million deal with the archenemy New York Yankees last month. If the Sox can't get an outfielder from the Orioles, they would be forced to find two outfielders on the dwindling free agent market.

The Red Sox have targeted a first basemen to fill that vacancy on the roster. Free agent left-handed hitting J.T. Snow has had talks with the Red Sox. According to Dan Horwitz, Snow's agent, there are four teams interested in his client, including the Sox. The Red Sox would platoon Snow with right-handed hitting Kevin Youkilis at first base next season. Snow, who is 37 years old, is a career .268 hitter. He is better known for his defense and is a 6-time Golden Glove winner at first base.

Last week the Red Sox officially announced the signing of free agent reliever Rudy Seanez, who agreed to a one-year deal

with a club option for 2007 worth a guaranteed \$2.1 million. Seanez will make as much as \$750,000 in performance bonuses if he can appear in 60 games this season. His base salary next season is \$1.9 million, with a \$200,000 buyout for 2007. His contract also includes performance bonuses if he becomes the team's closer. The Red Sox believe Keith Foulke is healthy and will be able to resume his role as the team's closer next year. But they definitely have a contingency plan in place if Foulke struggles again next year. The Red Sox learned last year you can never have enough quality arms in the bullpen.

Seanez and relief pitcher Guillermo Mota, whom

the Red Sox acquired in the Beckett deal, will pitch as setup men for closer Keith Foulke. Both pitchers could move into the closer roll if needed. The Sox also have Mike Timlin returning next season, who can pitch in the setup role and help out at closer if needed.

The Red Sox have some crucial decisions to make in the next couple of weeks and will need a contingency plan at shortstop if they can't close the deal for Miguel Tejada.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Hip Replacement?

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm considering having a hip replaced. What are the odds this operation will work?

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says joint replacement surgery is successful in more than 9 out of 10 people. Replacement of a hip or knee lasts at least 20 years in about 80 percent of those who have the surgery.

In the procedure, an arthritic or damaged joint is removed and replaced with an artificial joint, called a prosthesis. Artificial joints are medical devices, which must be cleared or approved by the FDA before they can be marketed in the United States.

The goal of surgery is to relieve the pain in the joint caused

by the damage done to cartilage, the tissue that serves as a protective cushion and allows smooth, low-friction movement of the joint. Total joint replacement is considered if other treatment options will not bring relief.

In an arthritic knee, the damaged ends of the bones and cartilage are replaced with metal and plastic surfaces that are shaped to restore knee function. In an arthritic hip, the damaged ball and socket of this joint are replaced by a metal ball and plastic socket. Several metals are used, including stainless steel, alloys of cobalt and chrome, and titanium. The plastic material is durable and wear-resistant polyethylene.

The two most common joints requiring this form of surgery are the knee and hip, which are



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON
weight-bearing. But replacements can also be performed on other joints, including the ankle, foot, shoulder, elbow and fingers.

After total hip or knee replace-

ment you will often stand and begin walking the day after surgery. Initially, you will walk with a walker, crutches or a cane. Most patients have some temporary pain in the replaced joint because the surrounding muscles are weak from inactivity and the tissues are healing, but it will end in a few weeks or months.

Exercise is an important part of the recovery process. After your surgery, you may be permitted to play golf, walk and dance. However, more strenuous sports, such as tennis or running, may be discouraged.

There can be complications from joint-replacement surgery. These include infection, blood clots, loosening of the prosthesis, dislocation of the joint, excessive wear, prosthetic breakage and

nerve injury. There are remedies for all of these complications, but sometimes the correction will take more surgery.

Surgeons are refining techniques and developing new ones such as minimal-incision surgery. Instead of a 6- to 12-inch-long incision used in a standard total knee replacement, some surgeons are using a 4- to 5-inch incision. And instead of the typical 10- to 12-inch incision in a total hip replacement, surgeons are operating through one 4-inch cut or two 2-inch cuts.

Minimal incisions reduce trauma, pain and hospital stays. Not all patients are candidates for minimal-incision surgery.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

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BOOK REVIEW

No Country for Old Men

BY CORMAC MCCARTHY

REVIEW BY DAVID DETMOLD

In this, his first novel in seven years, Cormac McCarthy returns to the gritty, blood-drenched borderland between Texas and Mexico to etch a Babylonian epic of wrath and vengeance, set against a red sun. Through this parched landscape walks McCarthy's modern day Gilgamesh, a welder named Llewelyn Moss, a Vietnam veteran living in a trailer park on the west side of Sanderson, who goes out hunting antelope in the desert one day and misses his shot. Pursuing his quarry up volcanic slopes, through candellilla and scrub catclaw, he comes upon the site of recent mayhem: three four-wheel drive trucks shot to hell, tracks of bullet holes across the sheet metal spaced and linear from automatic weapon fire, dead and dying bodies littering the scene, an untouched cache of heroin in a cargo hold. Taking stock of the situation, Moss decides there must be one man left standing, and a wounded man at that. He reasons, "Nothin wounded goes uphill," cuts for sign across the caldera, and finds a final corpse at the foot of a rockslide on the edge of the bajada. This one guards a briefcase stuffed with 22,000 hundred dollar bills.

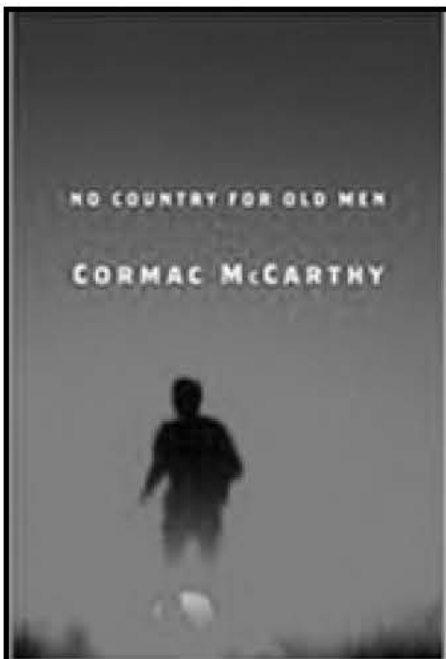
"His whole life was sitting there in front of him. Day after day from dawn till dark until he was dead. All of it cooked down into forty pounds of paper in a satchel." The hunt is on.

Pursuing Moss, and all who know him or happen to cross his path is Anton Chigurh, pronounced something like sugar, but far deadlier. Here is a killer to put the great villains of Western literature - or modern day Westerns - to shame. Blue Duck looks like Cold Duck in his shadow. His preferred method of execution? An air-powered slaughterhouse stun gun that leaves a neat round entry wound between the victim's eyes, but no bullet or exit wound.

Like his murder weapon, Chigurh enters and leaves the narrative like a ghost, popping up from chapter to chapter to flip a coin, kill a random motorist or drug dealer, and move on, leaving a trail of burning cars but no trace of the killer himself for the law to follow.

Across this flaming wasteland comes one of the last of the old time lawmen, Ed Tom Bell, trying to get to Moss before Chigurh does. But the multiple homicides and utter contempt for law and order the druglords' mercenaries display attack Bell's eroding faith in his job, his code, his way of life.

While the book at first appears to be a test of skill between two hunters, it ultimately becomes a coda to the Zane Grey vision of the West



"It just seemed to me that this country has got a strange kind of history and a damned bloody one too." - Cormac McCarthy

as the place where the American morality play is writ large, where evil wears black and can be gunned down before the last train leaves town. As the damage estimates mount, we sense the last train left some time ago. It is through Bell's eyes we see this, in a light that gathers gradually.

"Two generations in this country is a long time. You're talking about the early settlers... I read in the papers here a while back some teachers come across a survey that was sent out back in the thirties to a number of schools around the country. Had this questionnaire about what was the problems with teachin in

the schools. And they come across these forms, they'd been filled out and sent in from around the country answerin these questions. And the biggest problems they could name was things like talking in class and runnin in the hallways. Chewin gum. Copyin homework. Things of that nature. So they got one of them forms that was blank and printed up a bunch of em and sent em back out to the same schools. Forty years later. Well, here come the answers back. Rape, arson, murder. Drugs. Suicide. So I think about that. Because a lot of time ever when I say anything about how the world is goin to hell in a handbasket people will just sort of smile and tell me I'm getting old. That it's one of the symptoms. But my feelin about that is that anybody that cant tell the difference between rapin and murderin people and chewin gum has got a whole lot bigger of a problem than what I've got."

Later, Bell interviews Moss's father, trying to find out what he can about the man he has been trying to save. The elder man tells him his son was a sharpshooter in Vietnam, "he was not into no drug deals," that he came home to a fractured land.

"People will tell you it was Vietnam that brought this country to its knees. But I never believed that. It was already in bad shape. Vietnam

was just the icin on the cake. We didn't have nothin to give to em to take over there. If we'd sent em without rifles I don't know as they'd of been all that much worse off. You cant go to war like that. You cant go to war without God. I don't know what is goin to happen when the next one comes. I surely don't."

The West is still the place where America's morality play is writ large, and no one is better at writing that script than McCarthy. But it is an amoral code that dominates the landscape now.

We visualize most Westerns now cinematically at the same time as we read them thematically; this one is no different. Bell's reflections offer a brief, human counterpoint to the whirlwind of death that sweeps the narrative forward. Still McCarthy renders the most shocking scenes with a tenderness and intimacy that evokes less Sam Peckinpah than Peter Bogdanovich.

Like Sam the Lion in the *Last Picture Show*, Bell instructs us in a way of life that precedes the deluge, even as it sweeps away at the foundations. If John Ford were alive today, he would make this movie too, for the West has changed. In defeat, the hero is at once close to us, and elegiac, set off in bold profile against the desert sky. It is in such landscapes, barren of sustenance and washed with a harsh light, that truth is easiest to discern.

Religious Services

Baptist
Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083
Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science
First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Congregational
Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m.

Episcopal
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602
Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers)
Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188
Sunday at 10 a.m.

Jewish
Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884

Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational
Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771
Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance
2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church
401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748
Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. (Confession one half hour prior to mass)

St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678
Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February
St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435
Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585
Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October

Salvation Army
72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist
All Souls, 399 Main St., Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ
Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC), 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC), 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844, Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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Legal Notice

The Town of Gill will accept sealed bids for the sale of a 1994 Ford F350 One-Ton Dump Truck and 9-ft. Fisher Plow with defective brakes and steering column until Friday, January 20th, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. in the Office of the Selectboard, Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Rd., Gill, MA 01354.

A minimum bid of \$4,000.00 is required. The vehicle will be sold as is and may be seen at the Gill Highway Garage by calling (413) 863-2324 to schedule an appointment.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

• **MONDAYS** - Math Tutoring, 3 - 5; Computer Center Drop-in, 3-5, (Closed Mon., Jan. 16th for Martin Luther King Day) • **TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5 • **THURS & FRIS** - computer center drop-in, 3 - 5 • **THURS** - Movie Night, 6 - 8 • **FRI, JAN. 13th** - Open Mic at bellybowl, 6 - 8:30 • **THUR, JAN. 19th** - Advisory Committee, 6 - 7 • **FRI, JAN. 27th** - Open Mic, 6 - 9. *These programs are free (except some trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info: Jared at 863-9559. Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls.*

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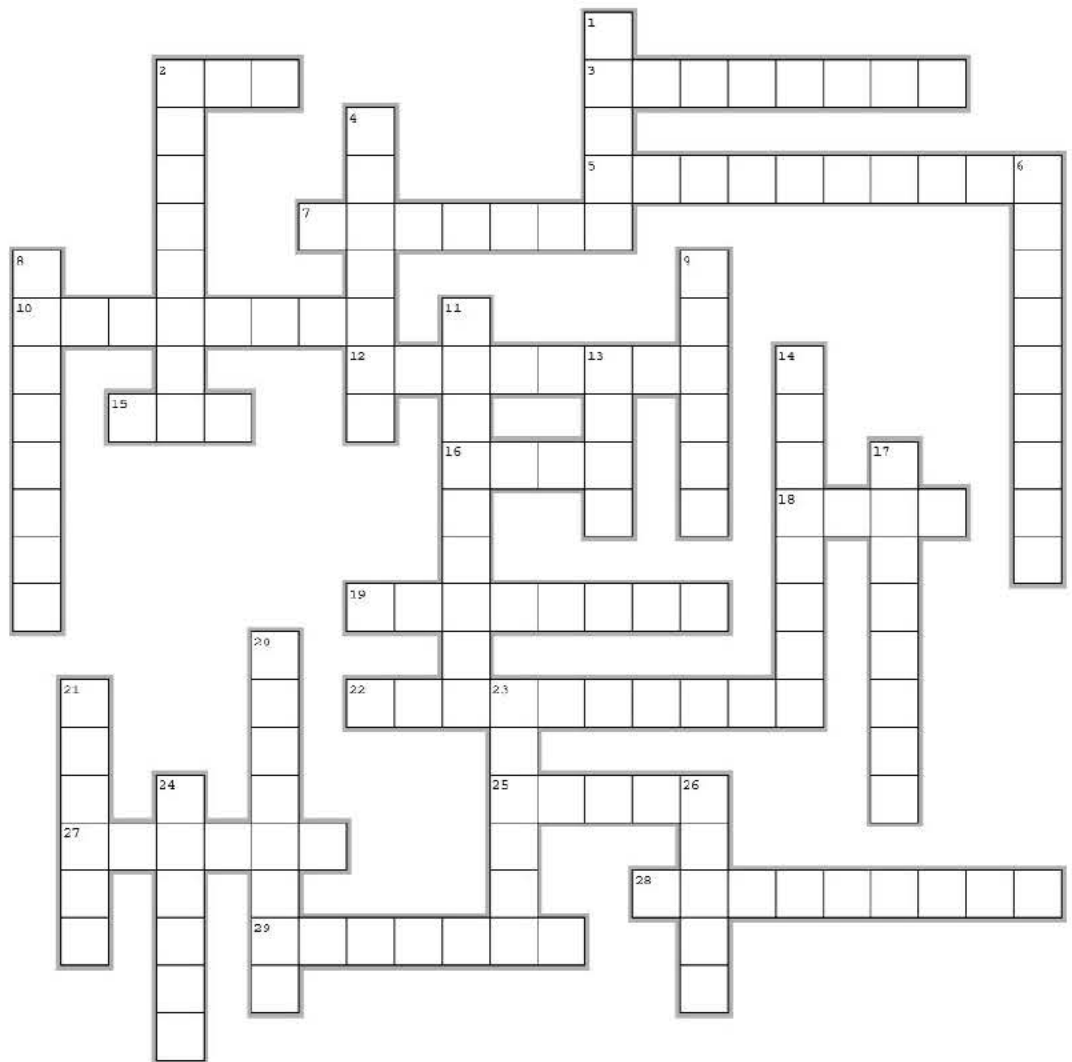
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by Bette Black



Across

- 2. Out with the ...
- 3. Restore to an earlier condition or impart new vigor to.
- 5. Moderation or self-restraint.
- 7. To renounce anger or resentment against.
- 10. Most valuable adjustment to make.
- 12. System of reckoning time defining divisions of the year.
- 15. In with the ...
- 16. Auld Lang ...
- 18. Turn off the television and do this with books, magazines and other literature accumulated around the home.
- 19. On time.
- 22. The practice of refraining from indulgence, not to be confused with obstinate.
- 25. These are made to be bro-

Down

- 1. Tangible thing to do to family and friends we didn't mean to lose touch with.
- 2. Put in order.
- 4. A plan, proposal or scheme, often lying unfinished around the home.
- 6. Development of innate capacities through schooling.
- 8. Union of mutual spiritual, economic and legal commitment between two adult persons.

- 9. A chosen pursuit, profession or occupation.
- 11. Things to count periodically.
- 13. Reduce calorie or fat intake.
- 14. Activity to develop or maintain fitness.
- 17. Often the first New Year's Day experience.
- 20. The capacity to bear or endure difficulty with calmness.
- 21. Things to develop and gather into albums toward future sharing.
- 23. Wise management in the economy of money and other resources.
- 24. Relatives.
- 26. Taking this is assessing one's resources.

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JACK DOUGHERTY ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH
Contra Dance with *Moving Violations* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-549-1913.

Opening reception at Vermont Center for Photography for the exhibit *The Message is Clear*, the work of photographer Paul Turnbull, which will run through Sunday, January 29th. The opening reception is during Brattleboro, Vermont's first Friday Gallery Walk from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Vermont Center for Photography is located at 49 Flat Street, Brattleboro; adjacent to the lower level of the new municipal parking garage. Gallery hours are Friday's, 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday's and Sunday's, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Montague police department with the Montague recreation department present their rescheduled first Friday Night at the Movies, 6:00 p.m. at the Sheffield School auditorium. This month's movie will be *Madagascar*, rated PG, 1hr, 26min. The movies are free to the public; parents are encouraged to be attend with their children. The expenses for the movie are supported by the Montague Elk's Lodge #2521. *Madagascar* focuses on four residents of the Central Park Zoo in New York City, who are also best friends. When one of them goes missing, the other three break out of the zoo looking for him, and eventually all four are captured and put in boxes to ship them back to the continent their species originate from: Africa. An accident at sea, however, strands them on the shore of Madagascar. Having had humans take care of them their entire life, the four know nothing of surviving in the wild, or that one of them, the lion, is genetically predisposed to eat his three best friends.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH
Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus*

at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-772-6840.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH
Second Sundays at the Montague Grange #141 enjoy Scandinavian Dancing from 3 - 6 p.m. Great live music played by Andrea Larson and friends, plus favorite dances will be taught. All levels of experience welcome, no partner necessary. \$10 suggested donation. Musicians wishing to play or for more info call Andrea at (603) 878-4332, email allarson56@aol.com or call Alice at (413) 774-7771 or email kling63@yahoo.com.



Villa Jidiots, family-friendly comedy improv at Wendell Full Moon Coffee House January 14th, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH
Wendell Full Moon Coffee House presents the family friendly comedy improv group the Villa Jidiots with partial proceeds to benefit Social Workers for Peace and Justice. 7:30 p.m. On the Common in the historic Wendell Town Hall. For more info visit www.wendellfullmoon.org and www.villajidiots.com.

Baroque warmth for a winter's evening - Music In Deerfield and the Smith College Music Department are pleased to announce that Trio Settecento, featuring violinist Rachel Barton Pine, will perform a program of Baroque violin masterworks at Sweeney Concert Hall, Smith College, on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. Praised in the Chicago Tribune for "... some of the most refreshing, life-enhancing Baroque playing heard in years," Trio Settecento will perform

music of such legendary masters of the Baroque violin as Antonio Vivaldi, Arcangelo Corelli, Francesco Maria Veracini and Jean-Marie Leclair. Selections by J. S. Bach and François Couperin and a set of Scottish Airs will round out a program sure to delight fans of historically authentic Baroque music at its virtuosic best. "Concert Conversations," with the Trio will precede the performance, at 7:00 p.m. in Earle Recital Hall. Future concerts in the Music In Deerfield Series are: the Orion String Quartet performing quartets by Zwilich, Mendelssohn and Debussy at Sweeney Concert Hall on February 25th, adventurous cellist Matt Haimovitz on March 4th at Sweeney Concert Hall, and the return of the Miró String Quartet with works by Haydn, Davids and Smetana at Helen Hills Chapel on April 21st. Tickets purchased in advance range from \$23 to \$28 for reserved audiences, \$5 for children/undergrad students. At the door, tickets are \$30 and \$9 for children/undergrad students. A four concert subscription for the series is \$100. Venues are handicapped accessible. Tickets and subscriptions may be ordered at (413) 774-4200, on the web at www.musicindeerfield.org, or by mail, at PO Box 736, Greenfield, MA 01302.

FRIDAY, JAN. 20TH
Hampshire Shakespeare Company presents a free public reading of *Burning Words*, a new play written by New York playwright Peter Wortsman at 7 p.m. in the Glass Room of the Bangs Community Center, Amherst. Parking is available in the adjacent lot and parking garage. For more information, call (413) 548-8118 or visit the Company's web site (www.hampshireshakespeare.org).



M. HILD PHOTO

Statue of Johannes Reuchlin located next to Schlosskirche St. Michael, Pforzheim in southwest Germany. Reuchlin is the inspiration of playwright Peter Wortsman's Burning Words, free public reading on January 20th. See below.

Part of Hampshire Shakespeare Company's mission is to encourage new dramatic works. The playwright will be available to discuss the play following the reading. In the early 1500s, an era marked by the lingering excesses of the Inquisition and the initial rumblings of protest by Martin Luther, Emperor Maximilian I was persuaded to order the confiscation and destruction of holy Hebrew texts by rabidly antisemitic forces. One German Christian scholar, Johannes Reuchlin, argued forcefully for their preservation as the foundations of the Christian faith, adding the "the Jew is as worthy in the eyes of our Lord God as I am." The play tells the story of Reuchlin's confrontation with his church and his society in one of the most religiously turbulent times in European history. Peter Wortsman is a playwright and author who translated Reuchlin's historic defense of the Talmud and other holy books, *Recommendation Whether to Confiscate, Destroy and Burn All Jewish Books for the first*

time into English. This book, on which the play is based, was the subject of a day-long symposium at New York University in 2001 attended by a wide variety of scholars, clergy, diplomats and publishers.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 20TH
Member's Art Exhibit featuring B&W and Color Photographs at Shelburne Arts Co-op, 26 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls

NOW THROUGH JAN. 29TH
Season of Light, Member's Winter Exhibition and Holiday Sale. Seventeen artists will be displaying their work in all three showrooms at Green Trees Gallery, at 105 Main Street in Northfield. (413) 498-0283. Open Thu - Sun, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Works by Greenfield artist Michelle Bryan on display at bellybowl restaurant. Michelle's style is classical and impressionist, in acrylic, charcoal, watercolor and sculpture. 104 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 413-863-4064. Call for hours.

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DAILY 7:30
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:45
2. HOSTEL R in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:00
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
3. HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE PG13
DAILY 6:30
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
4. RUMOR HAS IT PG13
DAILY 9:30
5. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 PG
DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
6. FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG13
DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
7. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA PG in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:00
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
8. SYRIANA R in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HUNT AND PECK

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Counting Winter Birds

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - The winter sun is a pale traveler through these parts in late December and early January. It barely clears the treetops, the valley rim, the steeples of our villages. The landscape is done in tones of brown and gray, and now some white, since the latest snow. But there are brilliant yellows, reds and blues just outside the window, adding zest, life and animation to the scenery. The evening grosbeaks are back. Years absent, they clamor at the window feeder, robust and cheery, visitors from the North bringing their hearty disdain of the cold and noisy celebration of the fine social gathering in the yard. The cardinal is a scarlet brush stroke in the snowy landscape, adding balance and an echo of the reds in the holly and barberry. The clan of blue jays, twelve strong, occupies the porch feeder side by side, in the pale blue frost hanging in the air of a cold morning.

Chickadees seem to be everywhere this year, investigating every nook and cranny in the woods, leading titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers in noisy bands through the trees.

One snowy morning along the river a fierce predator appeared, a mink, racing his way over stone and ice, in and out of the

swift water, knifing through snow banks like a laser-guided assassin. He covered every inch of territory likely to produce a meal. His actions seemed frantic, driven apparently by raging hunger, but I'm sure that most days are the same for him, high metabolism needing lots of fuel. He was into the current, without a glance at me, and in an instant, gone.

Further along, the gift of a bluebird in a winterberry tree. Soft summer blue, in the company of decorative and faded goldfinches, he lingered along a finger of the river before melting quietly away.

With so much activity in the natural world, in spite of the year's end and the cold, a certain part of our human population participates in the bird watchers' equivalent of the Polar Bear Club - the Christmas Count. On the designated day in late December, birders make an attempt to take a census of every bird in the district during a 24-

hour period. This tradition was established around the turn of the century by a group of conservation-minded Bostonians wishing to change the ignoble practice of hunting clubs that made a yearly attempt to kill every bird in the

way intended. The women were merry company and we counted a lot of birds, although I would speculate that the highlight of each count (for our team) was the stop at the end of the day down here at the homestead on the Flat in Millers. We'd thaw out by the glowing cast iron Glenwood C cookstove, and my wife Monique would prepare some hot spiced wine in the

best French tradition. After a few sips, the ladies' cheeks would take on a reddish glow, and their eyes would sparkle behind the bifocals as the day's adventures began to seem more comical to them.

Eventually, we headed out to the car in the dusk, flushed with the warmth both inside and out. I drove my companions to their homes, our windows rolled down to listen for owls in the fading light.

We counted birds again this year, my son and I, covering the Peg and Eleanor Memorial

Route along the Millers and the Connecticut. I'll admit to secretly invoking the ladies' heavenly intervention, to see if they couldn't use some of their influence up there to send some birds our way on this dreary day. I'd like to think they pulled a few strings with the One in charge and got it to rain bluebirds in Northfield (9 to add to our count!) and send a wave of horned larks lilting across a rolling field in the late afternoon.

By Count Day's end, Mark Fairbrother, our district compiler, reported we had managed to tally 55 species of birds, and close to 8000 individuals. He was happy to report that Pat Carlisle saved the honor of Turners Falls by locating two bald eagles on that crucial day! In all, species and individual totals were just about on the average for our last 30 years' worth of record keeping.

With our lists holding names like Iceland gull, Lapland longspur, and snow bunting conjuring up images of Arctic landscapes, taiga and tundra, other softer summer-sounding names like bluebird, hermit thrush, and Carolina wren added a current of warmth to the close of Count Day. As did one last glass of spiced wine and warming icy feet on the oven door of the Glenwood C.

"...Pat Carlisle saved the honor of Turners Falls by locating two bald eagles on that crucial day!"



district in a 24-hour period. So the Christmas Hunt was slowly turned into the Christmas Count, and has since spread across the country.

For years, I covered my designated area with two retired ladies, Peg Wert of Gill and Eleanor Sheldon of Northfield. The three of us conducted our count in Millers Falls, Erving, the Millers River and Mineral Mountain, up the Connecticut to Northfield Farms. We did this by car, snowshoes, and sometimes by the seat of our pants, going down icy meadows not in the

YESTERYEAR
continued from pg 11

and there was no need to close a road. We loved winter.

Pa bought us a Flexible Flyer type sled at the Salvation Army store. That was an addition to a wooden sled we had that had come from a 'rip' or 'traverse'. We doubled up sitting or lying down, piggyback, on sleds for endless downhill coasting. Kids gathered for impromptu sliding parties on crisp cold nights. Cold did not seem to bother us. We stayed out until Ma called out, "Yoo-hoo" from our porch. Sound carried far through the frigid air, and we reluctantly headed home.

Some neighbor kids had a traverse, or 'rip'. It was, essentially, a long plank with a sled, front and rear. A dozen kids could cram themselves aboard. The combined weight would cause the rip to go charging down hill at a ferocious speed.

The neighbor family had a

steep hill going down from their barn. The hill was sparsely sanded, if at all. Only older kids rode the rip down the treacherous hill.

After an ice storm, the hill iced over beautifully. Sliding was suicidal. The narrow road had the tops of bare boulders sticking up in places. I begged my sister Emmy to let me ride. "It's too dangerous," she said. "You're not old enough."

The rip lived up to its name, ripping down the treacherous hill, bouncing off boulders, and throwing showers of sparks in the dark, as it scraped over stones in its downhill plunge toward a narrow bridge at the foot of the slope. The bridge was edged with more boulders.

The helmsman could not control the careening rip full of screaming kids on the runaway traverse. Emmy put out her foot to try to slow it down, but it hurtled on in runaway fashion, smashed into the

bridge abutment boulders, spilling everyone off, and wrecking the front sled. Emmy wrenched her leg, but other than that, no one was seriously hurt. With the front sled smashed, the rip was out of commission. The kids put it back into the barn.

A couple of years later, when I felt old enough to ride, I approached the neighbor kids about loaning our front sled to replace the smashed one so we could coast down the hill. I felt compelled to take a ride on that rip, regardless of the peril. We replaced the smashed front sled with our sled and brought the rip to the brink of the icy hill. One wild ride bouncing off boulders was enough to quell my enthusiasm.

In more recent years, when I last plowed for the state, we were called out to plow as soon as seven snowflakes fell in succession. And we would scrape away on the roads until the



Dan Bacigalupo, Wendell Road Boss, rests after 13 hours of plowing on Tuesday, January 3rd (2006). He said, "I love snow!" but the photographer thinks he was teasing her. Bacigalupo started plowing at 3 a.m., with a crew of three men. By 9 a.m., the main roads in Wendell were all clear. By 4 p.m., all of the town's 52 miles of road were in good shape.

painted traffic lines peeled up. With the roads bared black, traffic picked up speed and cars slid off the road on black ice.

On some interstate highways in the western states, tire chains are still mandatory. And plow trucks usually do not go

out until it stops snowing. Irving Franklin's spirit lives on, and I am willing to bet there are fewer accidents - it's difficult to speed with tire chains. Sensible people follow Franklin's advice concerning travel in inclement weather: "Stay home!"

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