



TOMAHAWK CHOP

Public Hearing 1/12/09: 6 p.m. at the High School

Page 5



TED MARTIN

It was 40 Years Ago...

Page 3

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 14

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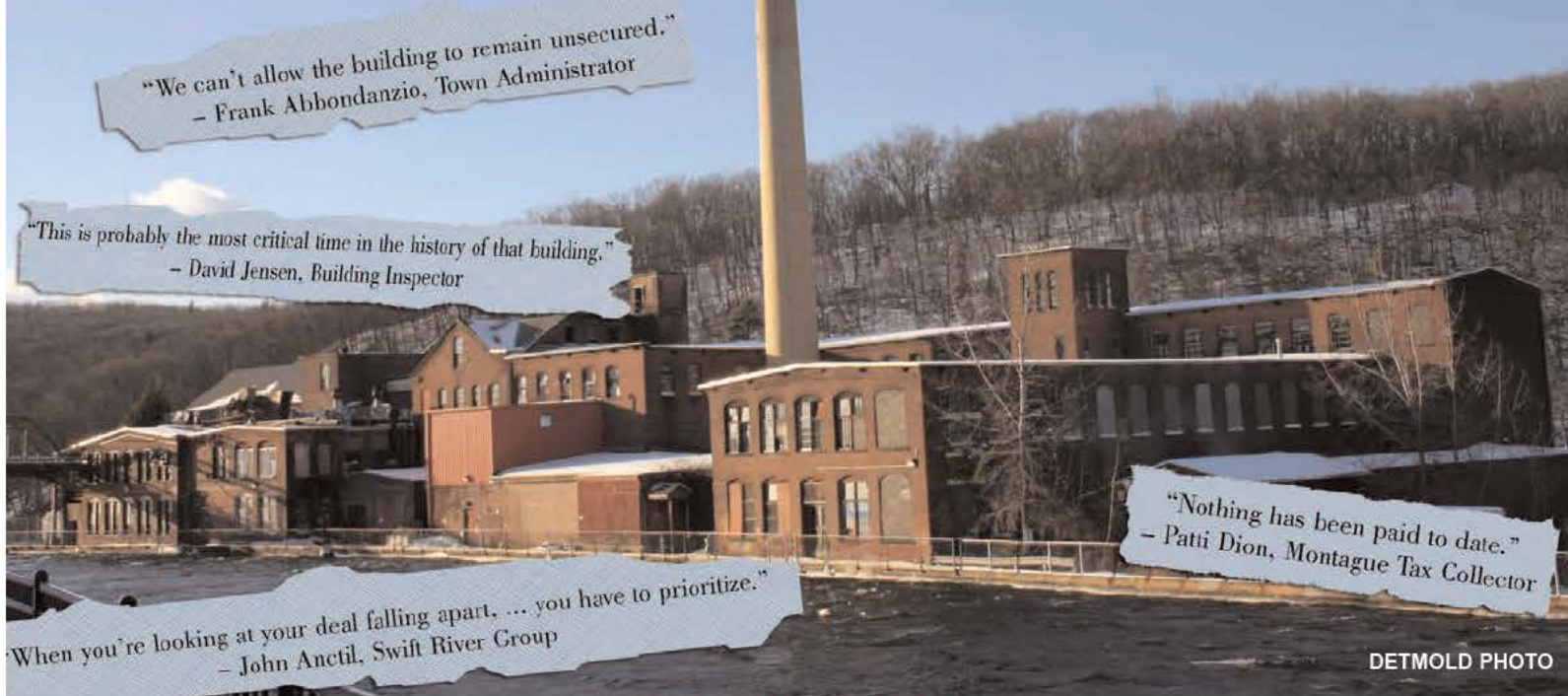
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 8, 2009

Promises, Promises



"We can't allow the building to remain unsecured."
- Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator

"This is probably the most critical time in the history of that building."
- David Jensen, Building Inspector

"When you're looking at your deal falling apart, ... you have to prioritize."
- John Ancil, Swift River Group

"Nothing has been paid to date."
- Patti Dion, Montague Tax Collector

DETMOLD PHOTO

The Strathmore Mill

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Better late than never, if ever.

That appeared to be John Ancil's tax plan for the Swift River Strathmore Development Group, as he failed on Tuesday to meet in executive session with members of the selectboard to discuss Swift River's overdue tax commitment of

nearly a quarter million dollars. That meeting was postponed until next week.

Ancil, founder and principal of the Swift River Strathmore Development Group, LLC, initialed a five page agreement with the town of Montague on August 26th, 2008, and thereby committed himself to pay the majority of the back taxes owed on the proper-

ty by January 1st of this year.

Ancil is developing an application to qualify the redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill, which is listed as one of the ten most endangered properties in the Commonwealth by Preservation Massachusetts, for state and federal historic tax credits, along with other public tax credits that could

attract the requisite private investment needed to realize his vision of establishing a film and video production facility and school at the site of the 250,000 square foot, 1871-vintage paper mill.

Tax collector Patti Dion said the principal and interest on the taxes due on the Strathmore has reached \$227,000, not counting attorney's fees.

Interest is accruing daily at 16% (because the property is technically still in tax taking proceedings, which were stayed by the signed contract between Ancil and the town).

"Nothing has been paid to date," Dion said.

Besides the back taxes owed on the Strathmore, there is also the matter of a \$300,000 lien against

see MILL pg 8

Gill Passes Override

Twelve Vote Margin
BY DAVID DETMOLD - "I think services are pretty much cut to the bone. The town does not ask for money it doesn't need. I used to be a member of the finance committee. I know these things," said Barbara Watson. She was the first voter through the line at the fire station, a few minutes past noon when the polls opened in Gill on January 6th. By 8 o'clock that evening, 129 other Gill voters had agreed with her, supporting the first — and larger — override amount of \$35,013.33 on Tuesday's ballot.

That question passed by only 12 votes; 118 votes were cast against it, and four ballots were left blank. The second question, to raise an additional \$13,631 to build up a stabilization fund for the building inspector, which will be needed when bills come due from the Franklin Regional cooperative inspection program for a spate of costly building permits recently issued for multi-million dollar building projects at the Northfield Mount Hermon

see GILL pg 8

- HENRY WAIDLICH FAREWELL -

BY DAVID BRULE
MILLERS FALLS - January 4th, 2009. The patriarch of Mineral Mountain passed away peacefully at home this day, near midnight. Henry was a quiet man, a farmer, an aviator, an inventor and innovator, a former selectman of Montague, and a mentor to those of us who follow in his conservationist footsteps.

He was born and raised on the family farm at the confluence of the Millers and Connecticut Rivers, above the French King Gorge. From humble beginnings, his natural intelligence and gentle demeanor destined him for what we could call greatness, or at least, near-greatness in many eyes.

Using his native ingenuity he found a way to make it easier to get up the snowy pasture slopes in order to ski back down. His prototype rope tow never made him rich and famous, but he was among the first, if not the first, to develop the concept for skiers. He was a leader in developing the concept of frozen cattle embryos, working with other members of his family. His interests and his youth spent on the farm in Millers Falls led him to teaching and administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Extension Service. Getting his pilot's license at the nearby Turners Falls Airport, just over the hill from the

Waidlich farm, he later was a pilot in the Korean War.

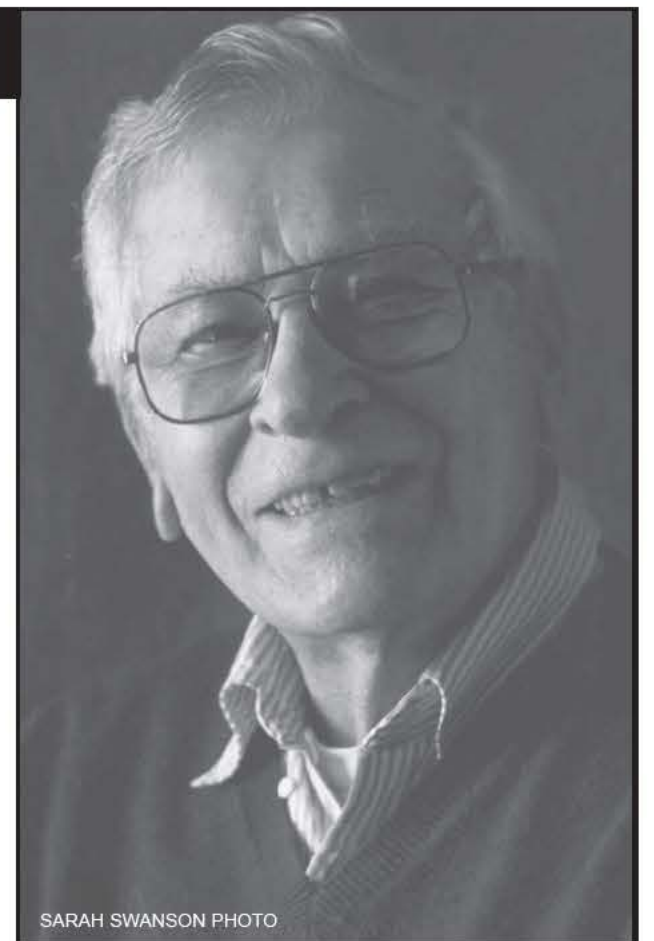
Many of us knew Henry as a conservationist and river steward. As one of the founding members of the Millers River Watershed Council, he led the fight against the paper mills along our river, to force them to obey the law and to clean up their disgraceful pollution and contamination of the Millers River. In addition to his time on the selectboard, he also served as chairman of the Montague Conservation Commission.

Most of us will remember Henry as a soft-spoken gentleman, slow to judge and slow to anger, ever the diplomat and the persuader, who could express more than most with a twinkle in

his eye, a slight humorous clearing of the throat, and an understated smile. When he and his wife Betty placed their side of the mountain under a conservation restriction, setting aside hundreds of acres of this treasure land in its natural state forever, it was an inspiration for all of us interested in preserving the land and restoring the river. It will be a lasting monument to Henry's spirit, and the entire Waidlich family for all the ages to come.

So the patriarch has set out on another journey, but his spirit will always remain with us in these hills and in the clean-flowing river.

Safe journey, farewell, and happy landings Henry.



SARAH SWANSON PHOTO

Henry Waidlich

PET OF THE WEEK

I'm Your Guy



Roscoe

Hey, I'm Roscoe, a male brown and white longhair cat in need of a good home. If you want a cool cat with real cattitude, I'm your guy! At one year old, I'm a young cat with a lot of years ahead of me. I love to play. Give me lots of toys to pounce on and I'll show you my wild hunting skills.

I'm really a loveable guy who would like nothing more than some string toys to play with and a comfortable spot in the sun where I can doze.

So, when are you taking me home?!

For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Mother Goose is Loose!

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Mother Goose on the Loose will be held Saturday, January 17th, at the Carnegie Library at 10:30 a.m. The program is an interactive mix of guitar and banjo music, rhymes, stories, puppets, and other visuals. The free sessions

are designed for babies through preschoolers and are performed by Children's Librarian Linda Hickman and musician Michael Nix. Monthly Saturday programs will be held on the third Saturday of each month through the winter. For more information call 413-863-3214.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Story Hour

RUTH O'MARA
TURNERS FALLS - Story Hour at the Carnegie Library is on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. Children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks.

The weekly free series is designed for kids under age 5. This is a great time to meet new people, listen to stories, chat and spend a Wednesday

morning. Beverages include coffee and juice.

Great for home-schoolers!

This month's schedule is as follows: January 7th - Warm & Cozy Tales, January 14th - Winter Animal Stories, January 21st - Snowy Stories, and January 28th - Cat Tales.

For more information, please contact the Carnegie Library 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, 413-863-3214

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome New Librarian

ERVING - The trustees of the Erving Public Library will hold an open house on Sunday, January 11th from 2 - 4 p.m. to welcome new library director Barbara Friedman and library assistant Elizabeth

Oedel. Light refreshments will be served.

All community members are invited to attend. For additional information, please contact the library at 423-3348.

Donated Vehicles Feed Area Elders

BY ANNA VIADERO
TURNERS FALLS - Donate your auto, truck, or boat to Wheels for Meals. You receive a tax deduction and Meals on Wheels, serving Franklin County and the North Quabbin area, receives a portion of the value.

In 2008, Meals on Wheels received \$2600 from the Wheels for Meals program. That fed over 300 elders.

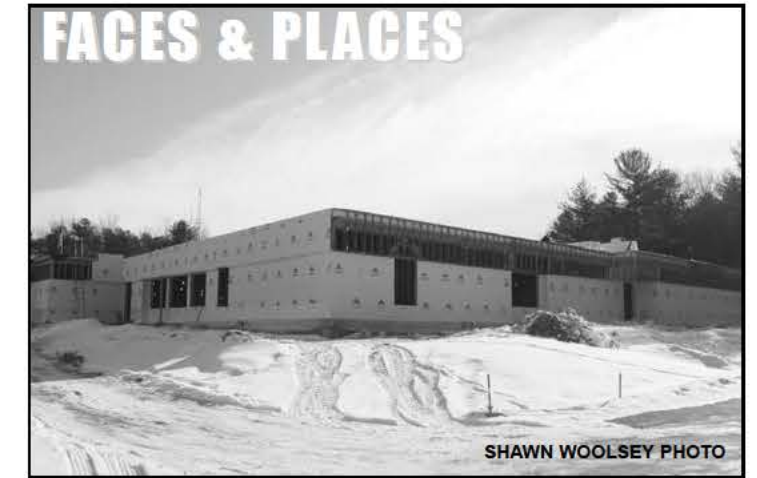
It's a great time to get rid of

any junkers in your driveway, or that gas hog in your garage! When you do, you make sure everyone eats!

For more information go to www.helpinghandsofamerica.org or call 1-888-881-9090 or 1-508-384-1212.

Local contact at Franklin County Home Care is Jane Severance at info@fchcc.org, 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259.

For more than 30 years, Franklin County Home Care has



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

The new Police Station takes shape on Turnpike Road

Driving Safety for Elder Drivers

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is committed to keeping drivers safe. The RMV will present "Shifting Gears," a free, hour-long program designed to educate and encourage elder drivers to be the best driver possible. The workshop will be presented at the Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street on Tuesday, January, 13th at 11:00 a.m. by Michele Ellicks, community outreach coordinator for the RMV.

The program includes tips on how to be a safer driver, information on how age affects one's driving. A list of warning signs of unsafe driving is provided to help drivers minimize their driving risk.

The workshop also includes winter driving tips as well as

information about obtaining disability placards or plates.

Call the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 413-863-9357 or 413-863-4500 to register, or for additional information.

Correction:

Due to an editing error in the last issue (*MR VII #13, Running the Blades*), the name of the woman shoveling her driveway on Griswold Street with her daughter Josephine on December 20th, during a weekend snowstorm, was printed incorrectly. Her name is Margaret, not Mary, Pyfrom. We did not have her quoted quite accurately, either. Here is what she said that day: "The highway department is doing well with what they have to work with and because I have a seat on town meeting and I am a Montague Center volunteer firefighter, I am aware of the town's resources, thus I shovel the end of my driveway without complaint." At least we got her daughter's name right.

We apologize for those mistakes.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Jan. 12th to 16th

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

Monday, 12th
9:00 AM- 11:00 AM Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics.
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 13th
9:30 A.M. Prescription Advantage Update
11:00 A.M. Safe Driving for Elders

Wednesday, 14th
9:00 AM- 11:00 AM Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10:00 AM Senior Aerobics
12:45 PM Bingo
Thursday, 15th
1:00 P.M. Pitch
Friday, 16th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Only Aerobics Classes are scheduled for the week between Christmas and New Year's

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413-423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-

2584.
Monday, 12th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 13th
9 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 14th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 15th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics.
10:15 a.m. Pool
Friday, 16th
9 a.m. Bowling
12:30 p.m. Lunch: Beef Stew
12:30 p.m. Embroidery

WENDELL Senior Center, located in the former public library on Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation. The Senior Center will hold a 'Souper Supper' beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 11th, with soup and bread; singing and games to follow.

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Photo Courtesy Montague Police Dept.

Theodore Martin

Run Down in His Prime

Forty Years Ago, Officer Ted Martin Died in the Line of Duty

BY DAVID DETMOLD — Badge Number 5 has been retired for 40 years, but the Montague police department still remembers the man who wore it.

Ted Martin. His partner of three years, Mike Saharceski, who went on to serve as Montague's chief of police in the 80s, recalled the night Martin was struck and killed by a drunk driver on Airport Curve on Millers Falls Road.

"It happened on New Year's Eve," said Saharceski, reached by phone this week.

"We were investigating an

accident, and we were on the north side of the highway — the airport side — just around the corner. Arnold and Bennie [Rubin] were there with their wrecker," to pick up a car, driven by Brian Derry, 20, of Greenfield, that had apparently gone off the road in a one car accident minutes earlier. It

was 1:45 in the morning.

"We had the car hooked up to the wrecker," said Saharceski. "A car came around the corner. I was able to get off the road. Teddy couldn't get out of the way."

Martin had been taking information from Derry at that moment, both men standing on the shoulder of the road. Derry was struck and injured. Martin was struck and carried 180 feet on the hood of the sedan. The driver, Stephen A. McDonald, 21, a native of Maine working on the excavation of the Northfield Mountain pumped

hydro station and living at the time in a rooming house on Prentice Avenue in Greenfield, continued on without stopping.

McDonald was picked up in Greenfield an hour and forty-five minutes later, with a smashed and bloodied windshield, driving erratically and on the wrong side of a traffic island on Main Street. Booked for manslaughter, leaving the scene of an accident, operating to endanger, driving under the influence, and drunkenness, McDonald went on to be tried and convicted and sentenced to five years. He served less time than that before being released, to return to Maine.

Saharceski picked his partner's body off the street, rushed him in their cruiser to the Farren Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Martin, at 44, an eight year veteran of the force, left a wife, whose maiden name was Jessica Plodjien, and a thirteen year old daughter, Charlotte, who grew up to marry Michael Berniche, and move to Gill.

Martin is the only Montague police officer to die in the line of duty. His name is marked on a memorial stone beside the Montague Police Station on 1st Street, placed there with

money raised by the Montague Police Association at the initiative of officer Bill Doyle, a relative by marriage of Martin's widow, in 2001.

Benny Rubin remembered the details of that night only slightly differently than the version reported in the papers at the time. He recalled that Martin had pulled Derry over for a routine traffic violation.

"Teddy Martin stopped a car. My brother Arnold and I, we had the car already on the wrecker, getting ready to take off. That's when he came around the corner and clipped him. It was a tragic thing," said Rubin. He agreed with the official line on the rest of the story.

Saharceski averred that McDonald, the hit and run driver, "was going too fast, and he had been drinking. Teddy wound up on the hood of the car. He carried him down the road thirty or forty yards. The car kept going."

Rubin said, "He was flyin' around the corner, way over to the right, pretty much in the shoulder."

Saharceski recalled Martin had grown up in town, worked at the foundry at the Millers Falls Tool Company before coming to work fulltime on the

police department. Press reports at the time state he had ten siblings, he was an active athlete at Turners Falls High, where he set longstanding records in track and field and excelled on the football field, where he earned the nickname "Bull." He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

"You couldn't ask for a nicer man," said Rubin.

"Teddy was a good partner," said Saharceski. "He had a fantastic memory, unbelievable on number plates. We'd see a car in the beginning of the night, parked somewhere; we'd drive by. Three hours later we'd see it somewhere else, and Ted would say, 'Hey, that car was parked in front of the Fireside.' He was fantastic with numbers."

As it happened, Ted Martin had not been scheduled to work on New Year's Eve, 1968. He was pulling an extra shift for officer Bob Sabator, who needed to use up his vacation time before the clock ran out on 1968.

By the time 1969 dawned, Ted Martin's number was up, a good man run down in his prime, in the line of duty.

Correction to Food Pantry Facts: The Need Is Even Greater

BY ELIZABETH NASH
TURNERS FALLS - A mischievous little gremlin inserted a wrong number into an article on the Franklin Country Survival Center Food Pantry that I wrote for the December 24th issue of this paper. Well, OK, no gremlin: I typed the wrong number in with my own two hands. I regret the error but appreciate the chance to talk to you again about this amazing little pantry and its needs, which are even greater than you thought.

Here's what the grem - uh, here's what I typed:

Food guideline: 4 pounds feeds one person 3 meals a day for 3 days.

Here's what I should have typed:

Food guideline: 4 pounds feeds one person 3 meals a day for 1 day.

So four pounds of food — the equivalent, say, of three cans of vegetables and a box of mac n' cheese — enables one person to keep body and soul together for

just one day.

Please keep those numbers in mind throughout the coming year. And when you're cruising through the supermarket or gazing into your full fridge deciding what you'd like to eat, remember those hungry neighbors for whom finding the daily four is a constant struggle. Then make a donation to the pantry.

"We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry."

- Jimmy Carter

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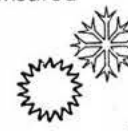
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Why Did We Stop the Tomahawk Chop?

BY KEN ROCKE

GILL-MONTAGUE - I've been asked to provide an explanation of why the administration of the Gill Montague Regional School District decided to declare a moratorium on the Turners Falls High School band's use of the Tomahawk Chop and the accompanying 'fight song'. I've also been asked to explain the process by which this decision was made, and why it was implemented the way it was.

When I became interim superintendent of the GMRSD in June of 2007, I did not know a lot about the schools of this district, nor about the traditions of the sports teams. Although I had taught at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls for over twelve years, ending in 1998, I had then worked in schools out of this area for several years, first in Bennington, Vermont, and then in Canton, Massachusetts.

I attended my first TFHS football game in the fall of 2007. It was a great game - but I was more than a little surprised to see the band and the cheerleaders leading the fans in the 'fight song' and the Tomahawk Chop. Why did this surprise me?

The controversy around the performance of 'the Chop' is not new, nor is it confined to TFHS. As most everyone knows, the Atlanta Braves have been using it for many years, as have other

sports teams across the nation. My perception of it was formed many years ago, when 'the Chop' done by the Atlanta Braves became something of a national debate. The arguments against the practice - that it was offensive to Native Americans, that it indulged in racial stereotyping, and that it was, therefore discriminatory - were persuasive to me.

Professional sports teams can - and do - use Native American 'mascots' in a variety of ways. The most egregious examples include the Washington Redskins (the name is pejorative and offensive) and the Cleveland Indians (the cartoon 'mascot' is stereotyping in the extreme). Fans of these teams can decide for themselves whether or not these kinds of portrayals of Native Americans are consistent with the values that they - and their communities - hold.

For schools, it is a different story. We have both a legal and a moral positive obligation to provide an educational environment that is welcoming to students of all backgrounds, all ethnicities, all races, all creeds, and all religions. We are committed to establishing an educational community - an environment for learning - that is not offensive to any group of people in our schools or in our communities.

It is, in this country, a fundamental and civil right for all children to be educated in public schools that are free from discrimination. In a democracy, public education serves a dual purpose: to produce knowledgeable citizens who can exercise their right to vote and to thus help shape our government and our shared community; and also to provide the means (education) for individuals to realize and actualize their dreams, their potential, and to thus bring their talents and gifts to full fruition, for the benefit of both their families and for society as a whole.

An educational environment that allows discrimination

see **TOMAHAWK** pg 5



KAREN WILKINSON '09

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Good Public Spanking

Why would you write a story about the skate park "Seeking a Permanent Home" (MRVII #12: Seeking a Permanenet Home for the Sk8 Park) and refer to Tim de Christopher not by name but as a "private landowner"? You gave the names of other neighbors contacted.

Or neglect to mention the salient fact that he is holding out from agreeing to extending the skate park lease because he wants \$300 a month? My goodness! The *Montague Reporter* has heaped

favorable coverage on de Christopher in the past and now becomes oddly silent.

I generally admire your writing but this kind of reportage does a disservice to the community and good journalism. In these tough times, de Christopher needs a good public spanking for holding the skate park hostage for ransom. Shame on the both of you!

— Peter Fisher
Turners Falls

Ed. Replies: When Tim de Christopher purchased Chick's Garage a few years ago, he inherited the skate park lease along with the property. Prior to that, he assisted the teens with tools and electricity and advice as they constructed the skate park, and subsequent to purchasing Chick's he continued to provide such assistance. Although the town was negligent in its contract to care for and properly maintain the park for the duration of the 10-year lease, he did not abrogate the lease, as was his right. Now, despite some vandalism to his

properties over the years, he continues to negotiate with the town toward a mutually satisfactory solution to the question of where the skate park should be permanently located. According to the town administrator this week, those negotiations are going well. In all this, we think de Christopher has shown more than an average willingness to accommodate a problematic neighbor, recognizing the skate park is also a valued resource to the youth of our community. He deserves credit for this, and we are glad to give it to him.

Annual Sawmill River 10K Run

This past New Year's Day, Montague Parks & Recreation picked up the mantle of organizing the Annual Sawmill River 10K Run that Al Ross proudly carried for many years. Approximately, eighty-five runners from all over the region braved sub-freezing temperatures for this major fundraising event that supports MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program. However, it would not have been possible without the critical donation of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Renaissance Builders, Greenfield Savings Bank, Paul Voiland and Deerfield Valley Heating & Cooling, Red Fire Farm, Judd Wire, Turn It Up CD's, and The Body Shoppe for their generous financial support. We would

also like to thank Second Street Baking Company, Clarkdale Farms, Food City, Foster's Supermarket, David Martula of the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, the Montague Center Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the First Congregational Church of Montague Center for much needed supplies, materials and other critical services.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to Anne Fiske, Bob Perry of Bicycles Unlimited, the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, Tom Bergeron and the Montague Highway Department, members of Boy Scout Troop #6, The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club and The Community Emergency Response Team led

by Chet Chin, Mike Kociela, and the countless other volunteers who spent a good portion of their holiday helping us out.

Finally, we would like to thank those runners who ran in the snow and faced a pretty stiff wind during the race last Thursday. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to bringing this event back for New Year's Day of 2010.

- Sincerely,
Jon Dobosz, Director
Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

We Welcome Your Letters!
Montague Reporter
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reporter@montaguema.net

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/7/09



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

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Defending the Tomahawk Chop

Here I go again sticking my neck out to have my head chopped off. Hope I don't offend my dear, dear friends of ancestral descent from France. The guillotine was a weapon used to destroy the enemies of France who wanted to take the land, kill or wound its military, and harm or kill its civilian population. Was it wrong the use the guillotine to prevent this?

The United States president, after much soul searching, used an atomic bomb as a weapon of war to prevent the wounding and killing of thousands and thousands of our military by an enemy who wanted to take our land, destroy our military, and harm or kill our civilian population. Was it wrong to use the atomic bomb to prevent this?

Apparently, many years ago, the tomahawk was used as a weapon of war to attack or defend against an enemy who wanted to take the land, wound or kill its military, and harm or kill its civilian population. Was it wrong to use the tomahawk to try to prevent this?

One cheer the TFHS cheerleaders use is "Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!" Does anyone think they want their team to engage in a boxing match with the opposition? The Tomahawk Chop, to me, was just another way to urge their team to do their best. Attack the enemy. Go into their terri-

tory and win the game. Defend their own territory so the opposition doesn't score a touchdown.

Apparently, the superintendent of schools and the chair of the school committee used their advisory powers to ban the Tomahawk Chop because they believed it was discriminatory, and there is a school policy against discrimination. I may be the only person who doesn't know why the Tomahawk Chop is discriminatory. Is it a sign of bravery about people who wanted to defend their way of life?

What I am really scared about is the possibility of the proud, honorable, brave name: The Turners Falls Indians, will be eliminated from Turners Falls High School. I thought the name meant Pride, Bravery and Honor, after hours of practice, serving a breakfast, collecting cans and bottles, selling raffle tickets, jumping up and down and screaming as a championship trophy was held high above their heads, a 140 pound football player tackled and thrown to the ground by a 190 pound opponent and then going back to the huddle and asking his quarterback to give him the football again, the band entertaining seniors at the senior center, collecting food for the poor. Turners Falls Indians. Discrimination? Or what I believe it means?

- Allan Adie
Gill

from TOMAHAWK pg 4 makes it more difficult for members of minority groups to access all of the benefits education can bring. It is, simply, more difficult to stay in school if schools discriminate - even in subtle ways - against specific groups.

As superintendent, then, I have an obligation to not allow practices by school-funded and school-sponsored groups that are discriminatory and offensive to minority groups. This is why I decided to suspend the use of the Tomahawk Chop and the accompanying 'fight song', and this is why I have continued to support the position that we, the administration, have taken.

Some might argue that 'the Chop' is not offensive. Our research shows just the opposite. At the national level, the United States Commission on Civil Rights has issued a statement that clearly calls for schools to discontinue the use of Native American images, themes, and mascots. I urge everyone interested in this issue to read this statement. It's available on our website and also at www.usccr.gov/press/archives/2001/041601st.htm.

Locally, we convened a group of students (including athletes and cheerleaders), teachers, administrators, parents and Native Americans, to discuss this issue. The leaders of Native American groups in our communities have been unequivocal in their response: the use of 'the Chop' and the accompanying 'fight song' are offensive.

The message does not get much clearer than this. If we were to continue to allow the use of 'the Chop', we would continue to offend the Native Americans in our communities.

It takes an act of active empathy and active imagination to put ourselves in the place of others. This is exactly the quality - and the experience - that I still hope our students will have when they think deeply enough about this issue.

Last spring, the elementary schools of Gill-Montague had a wonderful parade from Sheffield Elementary, through town, to the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. We had all the students from our elementary schools there, from the youngest to the oldest. The band played a variety of entertaining songs on the way down. After the speeches were done - celebrating Earth Day - and reminding all of us of the traditions and heritage of the area, including its Native American history, the band played one last song.

You guessed it. They played the 'fight song' and did the Tomahawk Chop. As I looked across the crowd, I saw children three and four years old imitating the older kids. I realized that, without harmful intent by anyone, we were perpetuating a tradition that is disrespectful and offensive to Native Americans.

When we convened our first discussion group about 'the Chop', I shared this experience with the group. One of the students there said she had had the exact same experience. Her

words: "When I saw the little kids doing 'the Chop', I cringed."

Well, that made several of us. This cringing - this embarrassment - is a sign to ourselves that what is going on is not right, and should not be continued.

Others may feel and think differently, and they are certainly entitled to their feelings and to their views. In the meantime, the administration has taken a stand on an important issue in the community. A public hearing on 'the Chop' will be held at 6 p.m. this Monday, January 12th at the Turners Falls High School auditorium. Ultimately, the community will have to consider whether or not this particular tradition is truly reflective of the values that we hold.

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Reaching Out for People To People

LINDSEY WILSON GILL-MONTAGUE - Many of us receive mail from organizations and we immediately write them off as scams.

When Turners Falls High School junior Elizabeth Dill and her mother opened a letter from the People to People Student Ambassadors Program, they thought the same thing, but instead of tossing the letter, they decided to do some research.

People to People is a 50-year-old program that was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. President Eisenhower believed, "Peaceful relations between nations require mutual respect between individuals." His idea lives on today, on seven continents, through the People to People program.

Dill also learned that no one from Turners Falls High School

has participated in this program since 2003.

In July, Dill plans to travel to Western Europe for three weeks as an ambassador for People to People. "If this were to become a reality, which I hope it will, I hope to learn about the cultures that I will be visiting and make lasting friendships," she said.

The trip, however, will cost Dill's family a little over \$6,000.



The payments are due in installments and she has been able to gather enough support to make payments until the end of December. Now, she plans to hold several fundraisers and has even thought of buying some hemp to make and sell bracelets to raise money.

Any individual or business



TFHS junior Elizabeth Dill is raising money to become a People to People ambassador this summer.

willing to donate can call Elizabeth Dill at (413) 367-3029. Any fundraising ideas are also welcome. Hopefully our giving community can help her reach her goal.

MCTV Schedule January 9th through 15th

Friday, January 9th	2:30 PM Discovery Center Fossil Tracks	Hitchcock
	3:30 PM Falls Table Michaelangelo "Gnoccki with Shrimp"	6:30 PM The Western MASS Democrat Senator Stan Rosenberg
	4:30 PM Franklin County Matters Community Based Banks	7:00 PM GMRSD 1/13/09 (Live)
	5:35 PM Green by 2015	Wednesday, January 14th
	6:00 PM Into the Way of Peace	8:00 AM TWB Growing a Green Community
	7:00 PM GMRSD 12_9_08	9:00 AM Underground Railway Concert 07
	11:00 PM The Katie Clarke Band	10:30 AM Physician Focus Young Athletes and Sports Injuries
Saturday, January 10th	3:00 PM Poetry Music Jam for Montague Reporter from the Vou	11:30 AM Michael Nix
	4:00 PM Power Canal Draw Down	1:00 PM Falls Table Mike Ryan
	4:30 PM Proud to be a Mason	2:00 PM Montague 250th Anniversary Parade
	5:00 PM Refusal 15	4:00 PM Montague Update: John Anctil
	5:30 PM Safe and Green Campaign	5:00 PM Deer Hunting Tips 101 Part 2
	7:00 PM Town Forum Unity Park Hearing	5:30 PM Mik TV: Gentling The Bull
	10:00 PM Sculpture Fest "08" Firedance	6:00 PM Carlos W. Anderson "Big Fat Lie"
	11:00 PM Tapping Maple Ridge	7:00 PM Town Forum Unity Park Hearing
Sunday, January 11th	2:30 PM White House Chronicles	10:00 PM On The Ridge New England Brush Wolf Hunting
	3:30 PM Women Girls & HIV: Teen Girls	10:30 PM Over The Falls The Eddie in Eddies Wheels
	4:00 PM TWB Sky Awareness	12:00 AM Encore Body Art #10
	5:00 PM Turkey Day Game 2008	Friday, January 15th
	7:30 PM The Western Mass Dem: Chris Forgey	8:00 AM Peoples Harvest1
	8:30 PM The Spirit of Lake Pleasant	9:30 AM Physician Focus Young Athletes and Sports Injuries
	10:30 PM The Flow of Time	10:30 AM Poetry Music Jam for Montague Reporter from the Vou
Monday, January 12th	2:00 PM Discovery Center-Root Cellar	11:30 AM Safe and Green Campaign
	3:30 PM Mik TV: Gentling The Bull	1:00 PM Darker Image
	4:00 PM Mohawk Holiday Concert 2008	2:00 PM Discovery Center Fossil Tracks
	5:30 PM Montague Community Band 07	3:00 PM Common Man Concert-Tim Van Egmond
	6:00 PM Montague Machine	4:30 PM On The Ridge Turkey Hunting Tips
	7:00 PM Select Board (Live)	5:30 PM White House Chronicles
	10:30 PM Mik TV with Joe Landry pt1	6:30 PM The HIV Test
	11:00 PM On The Ridge Bow Hunting 101	7:00 PM Select Board 1/12/09
Tuesday, January 13th	3:00 PM Senses of Place	9:00 PM The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion
	4:30 PM the epics at the vous	11:00 PM Valley Idol Finals 2008
	5:30 PM The Rise and Fall of Lake	

Josh Gammon Tapped as Top Alternative for US Senate Scholarship Program

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On December 11th, Josh Gammon, a senior at Turners Falls High School, received a letter in the mail from the Hearst Foundation notifying him that he had been chosen as an alternate in the 47th Annual US Senate Youth Scholarship Program.

Two other students from Vicky Valley's Advanced Placement U.S. History class, Sam Colton and Nick Skarzynski, also qualified to become finalists in the statewide competition for the Senate Youth Scholarship Program. Hannah Neville and Debra Partridge were the students' advisors on this project.

Although only two students from each state will wind up traveling to Washington DC as guests of the Senate program, Gammon is pleased to have come in third in the state of Massachusetts in the academic competition. "This high honor is indicative of your outstanding

achievements and leadership abilities," said the letter from the Hearst Foundation, notifying him that he had been picked as the top alternate, in case either of the two winners were unable to participate in the Washington DC part of the program.

The two winners, both from Eastern Massachusetts, were Daniel Moraff and David Shoup. Gammon said he, Colton and Skarzynski traveled to Malden late last year for an interview with official from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. They each had to write a 750 word essay considering the pros and cons of US History topic that was not known to them beforehand, as part of the competition.

Gammon's topic was the role of superdelegates and the role of Super Tuesday primaries in the presidential nominating process. Gammon said he pointed out in the essay that as presidential campaigns develop, issues

emerge from day to day that can have a determinant effect on the outcome of the race. If too many states bunch up on one day to nominate a candidate, this could impede the examination of critical issues over the course of an entire campaign. "Hillary Clinton was favored to win on Super Tuesday. If more states had held their primaries that day, we might have a different president today," Gammon said.

Gammon, who plays on the tennis and basketball teams at Turners and is a member of the marching band and plays trumpet in the jazz band as well, said he has applied to a number of colleges, including William and Mary, Elon University, Emory University, Tulane University, Boston College and Notre Dame. He plans to major in business administration and minor in political science or international relations. Congratulations, Josh!

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NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Special Town Meeting to Consider Hazmat Training for Firefighters

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On January 5th, Erving's new fire chief, Bud Meattey, brought a list of volunteer firefighters willing to take the state mandated Hazmat training to the selectboard meeting. It was an impressive list. All 26 firefighters signed up. Currently, none of the Erving firefighters have received Hazmat training, which is required to prepare firefighters to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials.

Meattey said the Massachusetts Fire Academy would provide the training in Erving sometime in the spring.

However, the cost to the town for the training will amount to \$11,000, said town administrative assistant Tom Sharp. An appropriation for that purpose will appear as the second article on a six item warrant for a special town meeting on Monday, January 26th, at 7:00 p.m. in town hall.

Among the other items

appearing on the warrant will be a measure to authorize the town to apply for a \$60,000 state grant, to be administered by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to assist the town under the state's Chapter 43-D expedited permitting program. Sharp said most of that money would go toward studying how to improve the sewer infrastructure at the former IP paper mill in Erving, to modify it for tenants that would generate less sewage than a paper mill. Other grant funds would pay for legal assistance to bring the town's zoning bylaws into conformity with

Chapter 43-D, to allow for expedited permitting of a major development project in town.

A plan to spend some of the money to study a method of lowering the roadbed beneath the Arch Street railroad overpass, to allow better truck access to the former Usher Mill site has been dropped, Sharp said.

Articles to spend \$5,000 for the highway department to purchase a 'trench box' for road construction projects, and \$10,000 for the highway department to install a new sewer line on Prospect Street extension in Erving Center, to hook up three homes and the bathrooms at Zelinski Field will also appear on the warrant. Paul

Prest and his crew are already going to be resurfacing part of Prospect Street, following some work on the current sewer line there, so this would be a logical and cost-effective opportunity to extend the line to the remaining houses and the ball field in Prospect Street extension, Sharp said.

The finance committee recommended all the articles on the warrant, including one for \$11,010 to reimburse the state of Massachusetts for a number of items the state allegedly overpaid the town of Erving on its latest local aid allocation, notably \$8,320 in the charter school tuition line item.

see ERVING pg 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Dogs, Car Crashes and a Christmas Tree

Tuesday, 12/23

1:40 p.m. Report of larceny by credit card from Renovator's Supply. Under investigation.

1:50 p.m. Report of erratic operation west bound on Route 2, wrong side of road. Found operator, checked out okay.

Wednesday, 12/24

7:55 a.m. Report of illegal dumping of trash on Maple Street, checked same.

9:50 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on North Street with no injuries. Minor guard rail damage.

1:50 p.m. Two car accident on Route 2 at Mountain Road with injuries. Orange ambulance transported injured subjects to hospital. Massachusetts state police handled report.

Thursday, 12/25

1:35 p.m. 911 call from police station, was subject requesting to speak with officer and not an emergency. Handled same.

7:15 p.m. Report of neighbor dispute on Old State Road.

Friday, 12/26

3:50 p.m. Report of injured bobcat near Erving Paper Mill. Unable to locate same.

Saturday, 12/27

12:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with fight at 2nd Street Bar and arrest of disorderly subject.

10:33 a.m. Assisted gill police, open line at French King Highway location in Gill. Spoke with homeowner, possible problem with phone line.

9:55 p.m. Responded to Shutesbury, Officer in need of assistance.

Sunday, 12/28

1:55 a.m. Assisted Massachusetts state police cruiser with felony stop on Pine Street, Gill.

1:43 p.m. Passing motorist delivered dog to station, found it walking up Route 2.

Tuesday, 12/30

12:00 p.m. Report of tree on wires on Mountain Road. Located same, National Grid notified.

1:38 p.m. Removed tree from roadway on Route 63 at Poplar Mountain Road.

Wednesday, 12/31

8:40 a.m. Report of motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at Pisgah Mountain Road in Gill. Assisted Gill police with same, found where vehicle hit ledges, debris left behind at scene.

8:50 a.m. Flagged over by motorist who reported canine hit by tractor trailer unit. Located same in woods, brought animal to owner for treatment.

9:00 a.m. Report of motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at police station. Checked area, no crash found. Observed several areas where vehicles had spun out and hit curb.

1:45 p.m. Report of motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at French King Bridge. Found to be in Gill, stood by until Gill police arrived.

1:50 p.m. Report of motor vehicle accident at Bridge Street in Farley with no injuries.

Thursday, 1/1

6:00 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operation of a motor vehicle with a revoked license as a habitual traffic offender, operation with a revoked registration and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle.

Friday, 1/3

8:30 a.m. Report of fraud/larceny at Ridge Road. Under investigation.

11:10 a.m. Two car motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at High Street with no injuries.

Sunday, 1/4

9:40 a.m. Report of black smoke at a River Road residence. Assisted fire department.

8:35 p.m. Report of larceny of motor vehicle mirrors at an East Prospect Street address.

9:50 p.m. Report of out of control juvenile at a North Street address. Situation under control, verbal only.

Monday, 1/5

9:58 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on North Street with no injuries. Car off of road.

12:55 p.m. Report of Christmas tree in roadway, Route 2, Erving center. Removed same.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is currently applying for funding for the Towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Heath, Leverett, Montague, Rowe, Orange, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Warwick & Whately. At this time we are establishing a waiting list for each town.

Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property.

The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance, handicap accessibility, do needed repairs and weatherize their homes.

Homeowners must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

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3	\$53,300.00
4	\$59,200.00
5	\$63,950.00
6	\$68,650.00
7	\$73,400.00
8	\$78,150.00

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MILL from page 1

the property — the sum expended by the town to repair roofs on two main buildings following the May 2007 arson fire, and to retrofit the sprinkler system to a dry release system to avoid the prospect of freezing pipes in the unheated portions of the complex.

The agreement states that if Anctil upholds his end of the contract, in its entirety, the town will slowly forgive that \$300,000 over the course of the next ten years, provided Anctil's group retains ownership of the property for that length of time.

Anctil made other promises in that carefully worded contract. Among them, he agreed to:

- “clean-up all of the debris left by the fire that destroyed Building #10... including all of the asbestos and hazardous material that is mixed into

the debris.”

- remove “all asbestos throughout the entire complex (with the exception of the boiler, boiler venting, and boiler room)”
- remove “approximately 4,200 gallons of #6 oil... currently stored in two large above ground tanks”

Anctil also agreed to:

- “secure the property with a locked gate by Building #11 on Canal Road”
- “keep the buildings secure and locked at all times, excepting allowed activities”
- and “provide a locally available person to respond to emergencies on a 24-hour per day basis”

Town officials say none of these promises have been met. And to date, continued next page



JOE PARZYCH PHOTOS

Interior of the Strathmore, with spiral staircase inset in its original location

GILL from page 1

School, failed narrowly, by a vote of 116 in favor to 134 against, with two blank ballots.

Town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo said 252 of the town's 1119 registered voters showed up at the polls, for a turn-out of 22.5%. In advance of the winter storm that began a few hours later, the weather Tuesday was clear and sunny.

Selectboard member Ann Banash, reached after the votes were counted, said, “I'm very excited that this one passed. There was probably some confusion on the second question. We'll have to figure out how to pay for that later. But I'm very excited the first one passed.”

The first question — the



JOSEPH PARZYCH PHOTO

The Slate Library in Gill gained \$800 for programs due to the override general operating expense assessment to pay for a variety of override — will provide for an additional property tax town services and staff, including stipends for the selectboard, board

of assessors, and board of health (\$9,169.69), the largest sum, \$5,157.66 to fund Gill's share of the Gill-Montague Senior Center for the remainder of the fiscal year, \$5,000 for repair of a pump on one of the town's fire trucks, and smaller sums to support the animal inspector, the memorial committee, the recreation committee, the Slate Library, and other town departments.

Joan Turban was one of the handful of voters who split on the override questions.

“I supported the first one, not the second one,” she said. “I felt there's no way the town can operate without having an override, what with inflation. Costs go up too much.”

But clearly, almost half the

voters (48%) who turned out were feeling the pinch in their own pocketbooks from the same factors, and voted “No,” on both questions.

Even so, Don and Marlee Kaplan were among the “Yes” voters. “Even though it makes our taxes go up, I think it's important for the town to be able to afford the things they need,” said Marlee.

“Including the fire truck,” added Don.

Nearly two thirds of Massachusetts communities that faced tax override questions in 2008 rejected them, according to a November report in the *Boston Globe*. Gill continues to be exceptional.

Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting scheduled for January 7th, at 7 p.m., in Gill, to resolve the town's Fiscal '09 budget deficit and enable the town to set a tax rate, has been continued, due to severe winter weather, until Monday, January 12th, at 7 p.m. A “job fair” to interest residents in filling the open seats on various town committees, has been rescheduled to Monday the 12th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the meeting, at town hall.

In other Gill news, the town received word this week from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of that an anticipated supplemental “Pothole grant” has been awarded — for \$10,000 — a slightly higher amount than forecast, to help the town fully fund their assessment to the Gill Montague Regional School District for the present fiscal year.



94% of us would be upset if another adult gave our teens alcohol.

From the 2008 survey of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School parents.

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no taxes have been paid.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio suggested the town would seek to strike another bargain with Anctil on the back taxes, and on the other matters left hanging in the August contract.

"We're going to be looking for some kind of level of payment, whether it's the level in the first agreement — that's not necessarily the case," said Abbondanzio, who added, "We're not naïve. We have a very large project, a very big building. It's going to take a real

Herculean effort to develop."

Abbondanzio expressed the sentiment that "there would be a downside," for the town of Montague if the town takes the property back to land court and regains full ownership of the mill. The barriers to development at the Strathmore: lack of parking, difficult vehicular and condemned pedestrian access, contaminated fire debris, and the major system upgrades needed would then fall to the town to seek solutions, until a new buyer could be found.

Of the town's willingness to continue negotiating with Anctil and company, Abbondanzio said, "They're trying to meet the state [historic] tax credit application deadline by next week. They're working with a renowned architect. We feel they're showing progress in terms of what they've done to clean the building up."

On that score, Abbondanzio referred to a number of other checklist items on the August contract where Anctil's group had made a solid effort.

"Most of the paper [left by

former owner Jerry Jones] is out of there. They've tightened up the windows. They worked with Turners Falls Hydro to pretty much button things up before Christmas."

But Abbondanzio stressed, "We want to get a strong commitment in terms of maintenance at the building. Asbestos removal hasn't happened, and that's an important benchmark." And, he said, "We can't allow the building to remain unsecured."

For his part, Anctil still sees the Strathmore project through a

glass that is at least half full.

Regarding his promise to pay the town \$125,000 in back taxes by January 1st, Anctil admitted, "We didn't make the payment. We miscalculated. We put all our marketing budget into the historical submission, but we couldn't pull it off [in time to meet the first deadline for state tax credits]. The application deadline comes up quarterly, and Anctil said, "We're on board for a January 15th submission."

He calculated he had spent **see MILL page 10**

LOCAL NATURE NOTES



many of these do you see regularly?

The January thaw, an annual New England midwinter phenomenon that scientists have documented but not yet explained. What happens is that temperatures rise as much as 10 F degrees above normal for several

BY JEN AUDLEY

EAST DEERFIELD - In January, look for: an especially brilliant moon on January 10th, when the full moon falls on the day that its monthly orbit brings it closest to Earth. Last month's full moon was luminous enough to read by. This one should be even brighter!

Animals and animal signs near unfrozen water. In our region during winter, open water is like an oasis in the desert - waterbirds congregate there, other birds and mammals come to drink, and predators to hunt. You can create a mini-oasis for small animals in your yard or windowsill by providing a dish of drinking water and refilling it when it becomes dirty or frozen.

Birds that are year-round residents of Franklin County, including blue jays, cardinals, crows, house finches, house sparrows, pigeons, mallard ducks, Canada geese, wild turkeys, and bald eagles. How

days, usually around January 23rd. This break in the cold weather came early last year - wouldn't such a warming trend be a nice cosmic touch for this year's Inauguration Day?

Marks in the snow that give away what other creatures have been up to. On sidewalks and other manmade paths, you're most likely to discover stories about humans and their dogs. Signs of wild animals may be quite near by, though. Earlier this month I saw evidence of rabbit, fox, and beaver(!) just a few feet away from the Turners Falls Canalside bikepath.

The sun setting about one minute later each day. Right now the sun sets at about 4:30, and it's dark by about 5:05, but by the end of the month that will all happen a half-hour later. The sunrise will come earlier, too, although that shift is a bit more gradual. Now the sun rises at about 7:20 a.m.; on the 31st, it will be up at 7:05.

Learn more about the Natural world in January at these programs:

Sat., Jan. 10, 6:30 - 9:00 p m., Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

Moonlight Snowshoe

Join us as we explore how to best navigate at night, share inspiring quotes from literary lovers of the moon and stars, and take a short "solo" walk by moonlight. No previous snowshoeing experience is necessary. (Ages 12 and older, \$7 per person, \$21 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required)

January 17, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Great Fall Discovery Center, Turners Falls (413.863.3221)

For the Birds... Crafts and Story Hour about Birds in Winter

Join Great Falls Discovery Center interpreter Sarah Martell for an hour of crafts. Learn about what birds eat in winter and why they stay around to brave the harsh New England winter. Free.

January 17, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

Tracking Predators at Northfield Mountain

Tracker-naturalist David Brown will lead a group up the hill on snowshoes, looking for and interpreting sign of coyote, fisher, red fox and hopefully gray fox and bobcat. (For ages 12 and older, \$18 per person, \$28 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required)

January 22, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Great Fall Discovery Center,

Turners Falls (413.863.3221)

Do you wonder why birds stay here for the winter? Do you know if you're feeding them the best foods?

Scott Sumner, founding member and current president of the Hampshire Bird Club and a contributing author to the Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts will answer these questions and more. Free.

January 23, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Great Fall Discovery Center, Turners Falls (413.863.3221)

Poetry & Prose, Science and Nature open mike

Bring your original work or a favorite piece of writing -- as long as it's related to science or nature! First come, first on the list, so come early to get signed up. Paul Richmond MCs, sponsored by the Friends of The Great Falls Discovery Center. Free, with delicious homemade goodies for sale, donations appreciated.

EAGLE COUNT REMINDER

Birders and other wildlife enthusiasts are reminded to notify the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) if they see any eagles in the state during the period of December 31, 2008 - January 14, 2009. A concentrated survey of major rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and the coast by MassWildlife personnel, cooperators, and volunteers across the state will take place January 9, 2009. Reports of eagle sightings can be made by email at Mass.wildlife@state.ma.us or by postal service to "Eagle Survey," MassWildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Please provide date, time, location, and town of eagle sightings, number of birds, whether juvenile or adult, and observer's contact information.

MONTAGUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: ADVERTISING

Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Gallery 85
 (corner of Ave A and 3rd Street)

We've invited representatives from The Recorder, WRSI, The Montague Reporter, and WHAI to discuss advertising in local media. Learn how the MBA can help with your advertising needs. Meet current and prospective MBA members. Free, donations accepted.
Questions? Contact Pam Kostanski: 413-863-9900 or 413-522-7727.

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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

MCTV Gains Selectboard Go-Ahead for Five Year Contract Renewal

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The days when the letters MCT and V raised blood pressure levels in the corridors of town hall are so far in the past now that Cable Advisory Commission spokesperson Chris Sawyer-Laucanno was able to confidently tell the selectboard on Monday night, "I promise you, you will have your [utility] pole hearing at 7:15 p.m." - and make good on the claim - even though he began his presentation for a five year renewal of MCTV's local cable access contract at 7:01.

By 7:15 p.m., the same board that had voted 2-1 to keep the cable contract with Greenfield Community Television, on November 21st, 2005, overruling the recommendation of the cable advisory committee (after a year-long study and evaluation of the two cable providers) voted unanimously, and with nothing but praise for the work of MCTV, to keep the contract with Montague Cable. MCTV was awarded a chance to run the town's cable access television studio and channels (for the second time) by an 80-21 vote of town meeting, on December 7th of '05.

Since then, "they have met or exceeded both the letter and the spirit of the contract," said Laucanno. "We feel very strongly they should be awarded the five-year contract."

The board agreed, with chair Allen Ross saying, "Every time I've gone [to the MCTV studio] the place is incredibly organized. I would urge people to use that equipment and that studio. I think it is a great opportunity."

Laucanno called on MCTV to conduct more outreach to bring in new producers from the community, and said the studio is "underutilized." But he gave high marks for the station's technical ability, its growing list of Montague-specific programming, and its "transparent" financial processes, all of which have resulted in a growth of subscribers, and a surplus that has been plowed back into new equipment.

Town meeting will have to ratify the contract renewal before it is finalized.

The board granted permission for Western Mass Electric Company to install a new joint use utility pole in front of 5 Park Street, at 7:16 p.m.

Runway Reconstruction

Following the recent determination by the Keeper of the Record of the National Register of Historic Landmarks finding a Native American Ceremonial Hill, on airport property, eligible for listing in the National Register, Turners Falls Airport manager Mike Sweeney, announced plans to proceed this year with the reconstruction of the present runway, with an additional 200 feet of paved surface added toward the northwest (closer to the Connecticut River), away from the ceremonial hill.

"Once designs are in place, we will add 1000 feet [of paved runway] on the Millers Falls side of the runway," said Sweeney, adding, "We expect that in 2011."

The estimated \$5 million in Federal Aviation Administration and Massachusetts Aeronautics Administration funding is still in place to pay for 100% of the reconstruction project, Sweeney said.

Asked how the design for extending the Millers Falls end of the runway would be accomplished, Sweeney said that process would involve "a balancing act of all parties'

interests." He also said that design work would be conducted under the auspices of the FAA, and would involve the Native American tribes who were party to the dispute over the Ceremonial Hill, which had been slated for removal during the course of the original runway expansion project. Now, "That's not something the town has a say in," Sweeney said.

In a testy exchange with Ross, Sweeney defended the need to extend the runway beyond the 200 feet planned to be added this year, calling the additional 1000 feet forecast for 2011 an FAA safety mandate. He also said pilots would be invited to participate in the discussion about the runway expansion plans.

Sweeney said the airport would be out of service for a period of time this year, as the present runway is being reconstructed.

Capital Projects

The town has prioritized three capital projects that could be "bid ready" in time to qualify for the expected infrastructure improvement money due in coming weeks from the incoming

Congress and Obama administration, as part of a nearly trillion dollar national economic stimulus package. A list was requested from all municipalities in the Commonwealth by the Deval Patrick administration.

Abbondanzio said he had consulted with other town officials, and prioritized the following projects: the reconstruction of Greenfield Road, additional improvements to the wastewater treatment facility (including sludge dewatering equipment), and a new, modular, prefabricated highway garage to be located at the town's recycling center off Turnpike Road.

The selectboard will meet with the finance committee on Monday, January 12th, at 5 p.m., at which time Abbondanzio will issue his annual budget forecast. He had initially planned to present that on Wednesday, but the gloomy winter weather overshadowed what is likely to be an even more dreary forecast of the town's financial prospects for the coming budget year.

"I could use a few more days to prepare it anyway," said Abbondanzio, without much enthusiasm.

MILL from page 9

about \$300,000 on preparing the application.

Anctil said for the last month he has been working with an architect named Ken Kao, associated with Harvard University, "a world class kinda guy. We interviewed a number of architects, but couldn't find the right fit.

"Chris Metcalf, of Metcalf Associates, did a great job of bringing us to the level we got to, [when we were] trying to put a submission in with his help." But, "We got to a precarious

mode by January 1st, reached out to Ken, and he agreed to come on board for short money, if you will."

Anctil said, "Ken is looking at it as a great project to work on with his colleagues. A very sweet facility. He's a very practical kind of guy... 'How can we make this project work?'"

If things gel, Albert Rex, a Massachusetts-based historic real estate consultant and strategist with 13 years of experience will be one of those colleagues on the Strathmore project.

"He's on the job," said Anctil.

"He's an A-list historic consultant."

He added, "We went through five historic consultants, but we never found anyone who really had it together. Once we signed up Ken, Albert said, 'OK'. He's very savvy about what you can qualify for with historic tax credits, working within the footprint to maximize the historic component aspect of the project."

Anctil rattled off other collaborators who have tentatively signed on to work on the Strathmore project. But one former collaborator no longer associated with the Swift River Group said, "John may not be a bad guy, but his *modus operandi* is to get people fired up about his 'vision,' use them for a while, run out of money, stop paying them, then find a new set of folks to sign on with whatever new money he's managed to obtain."

Anctil is sanguine about the prospects for the Strathmore, even in a down economy. "Federal historic tax credits are sort of guaranteed. Rex can guide us so we are guaranteed to get that. The state is going to look at us and see us on the ten most endangered list. We're going to

be a center of Green technology, a potential tourist attraction, we meet a lot of the criteria to go the full 20% state, 20% federal [for historic tax credits]. And because we're in an enterprise zone, we're eligible for new market tax credits up to 22%."

With those kind of public subsidies in place, Anctil thinks, "Investors will say this is starting to look like a good solid deal."

He said, "If we had focused our resources on paying the small money we owe the town — \$260,000 — we would have drained our resources for getting our historic tax credits in place. Plus, when the economy went south, some of our guys got frightened..."

Anctil said all he is asking the town for is, "a small level of patience," as he puts the deal together. "All the taxes are due on June 1st, six months out. That's what we'll propose to the town."

Acknowledging the number of moving pieces in his plan, Anctil said, "The town could simultaneously be preparing an RFP," for the Strathmore, to seek a new developer to take over the property if his financing fails to

materialize.

But he insisted, "We'd be foolish not to come up with the \$260,000. We'd come up with the tax payments. If I have to mortgage a house or something, I'll get the money and do it."

"Given the town budget, the school budget, I recognize \$260,000 is a lot of money."

As to the other agreed to items about clean-up, weatherizing and securing the building, Anctil said, "We'd been looking at the January 1st [back tax payment] as the highest level priority. Smaller issues got pushed back. I apologize. When you're looking at your deal falling apart after you'd worked on it for three years, you have to prioritize.

He added, "We did a fairly good job of cleaning out the massive amount of paper, junk pipe, and so on, so the building presents aesthetically pretty well."

Anctil said asbestos clean-up at the Strathmore should cost \$200,000 for him, with non-union labor, much cheaper than a public entity could do the job. He said a security gate would run him about \$1200, and would be

continued next page

The Montague Congregational Church

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Saturday, January 17th 5:30 pm

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Debra Mathey - Owner

MILL from pg 10 installed shortly. He said he would pay the bill to replace some sprinkler heads that failed in recent cold weather. He said he had \$3,000,000 in insurance in place on the building, as the town required.

Last weekend, a crew was at work removing fire damaged debris from the top floor of Building #11. "We promised a clean sweep. That's part of our deal with the town. As part of our show of good faith, we've moved six dumpsters out of there so far. We're cognizant of our responsibilities to the town."

The town official charged with overseeing Anctil's efforts to fulfill those responsibilities is building inspector David Jensen, who has watched a number of owners come and go at the mill complex since he assumed his post 20 years ago.

Jensen said, "Mr. Anctil is responsible for all the mainte-

neance at the Strathmore, but we have reserved the right to do anything in there that needs to be done, whether he chooses to do it or not. We have the right to maintain the building so it doesn't degrade."

In recent severe weather, Jensen said some sprinkler heads began to fail, whether through freezing or fatigue. "He was unavailable at least one of those times to give the sprinkler people a call," said Jensen. "He didn't even know who they were."

Jensen said Anctil has designated himself as the person to call for any emergency at the Strathmore, "But he does turn his cell phone off sometimes. I've had to remind him it's '24 hours a day'."

Jensen said Anctil had promised to install a locking gate on the canal road "two weeks ago. He says he's going to do it."

"We've had issues about a sort of casual attitude about care of

the building. But doors and windows are secure now," Jensen added.

In general, the building inspector said, "I'm concerned about Mr. Anctil's financial health, because it makes all these other things happen. We're trying to keep an eye on him and keep a sense of priorities here. I tend to believe him that he doesn't have the money to pay the taxes, at least not yet. But maintaining the building shouldn't be crippling for him."

Jensen concluded, "Right now, I'd have to characterize it as probably the most critical time in the history of that building. The town doesn't have the finances. The potential owner is at best struggling. The safety systems in the building have to be babysat. And there's not enough physical presence on the property to keep it from getting worse."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assaults and Car Crashes

Wednesday, 12/24

12:17 a.m. Accident with property damage, Federal St. and Lake Pleasant Road.
 2:20 a.m. Officer initiated investigation of suspicious motor vehicle in the area of Hillcrest School. Dispersed gathering.
 5:50 a.m. Accident with property damage on Turners Falls Road. Investigated.
 9:02 a.m. Domestic disturbance at a Seventh Street address. Arrested [redacted].
 [redacted] Charged with assault and battery, domestic, disturbing the peace.
 9:28 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Green Pond Road address. Investigated.

Thursday, 12/25

12:22 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in the area of Paradise Parkway.

Saturday, 12/27

12:26 a.m. Officer initiated investigation of a fight at Between The Uprights sports bar on Avenue A. Arrested [redacted].
 [redacted] Charged with assault and battery, three counts, and disorderly conduct.
 1:00 a.m. Officer initiated investigation of a general disturbance on Avenue A. Arrested [redacted].
 [redacted] Charged

with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.

7:50 a.m. Accident with property damage on Millers Falls Road near airport corner.

Sunday, 12/28

4:23 p.m. Domestic disturbance at a Federal Street address. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted] Charged with assault and battery, domestic, intimidation of a witness, two counts and threatening to commit a crime.
 10:10 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted].

[redacted] Charged with possession of class D drug, possession of class E drug. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted] Charged with possession of class D drug, motor vehicle lights violation.

Monday, 12/29

6:44 p.m. Officer initiated arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant and also arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.

Tuesday, 12/30

5:38 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at an Eighth Street address. Investigated.

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Katrina Bergman quit smoking 2 years ago.

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BY BRIDGET SWEET

TURNERS FALLS - Figure it this way. In just a few short weeks, things will start looking up. Out on The Ave., you'll begin to feel the sun on your face. The planters will return. We'll all be out and about, yakking away, opening windows, thawing our wallets.

Yup. Folks will be sprucing up, and greeting old friends on The Ave. Don't forget — you heard it here first.

Speaking of old friends and sprucing up, Jody Kocsis and Aubrey Lynch, both of Riverside, Gill and friends since first grade, moved Absolutely Fabulous Hair from Greenfield to 112 Avenue A last week. Their Open House was held on New Year's Eve and they worked last Friday and Saturday.

Your Sweet Bridget makes it her biz to know everything that happens on The Ave., but this gala was hard to miss. I had heard all about it on the radio, and had seen the postcards advertising the event, so I took a toodle by the Open House while I was out with my daughter. Spirits were great.

"The weather deterred people but it was still wonderful," said Kocsis.

Kocsis and Lynch are excited to be on The Ave. Since they were kinda off the radar at their old location out on the French King Highway. First hint of the move was a sign on their new storefront on the Avenue, the location of the former bodega, La Borinquena. It said simply, "Coming Soon - Absolutely Fabulous Hair."

They signed the lease not knowing until later that the new Karma Salon would be located across the street. However, Kocsis said, "Salons work well in bundles." She pointed to Northampton's 15 hair salons. Now there are four different salons within walking distance to choose from in Turners Falls. So if you're having a bad hair day, TF is the place to go.

Kocsis spoke proudly of the pricey (\$275) yet comparatively-cheap (in New York City: \$800) Bio Ionic and Simply Smooth Hair Product for Japanese Hair Straightening.

"It lasts for four months; it's labor intensive; it's a three hour process," Kocsis added. She has taken classes in this technique and explained the process to this writer. As I said, I don't miss much out on my beat. She also wants readers to know that she and Lynch use Goldwell Hair Products. (Sure, it sounds like a plug, but rest assured dear readers, Sweet Bridget cannot be

bought.)

They are open Tuesdays to Saturdays, "from 9 a.m. to whenever they end," while usually working late Tuesday and Thursday nights. You can make an appointment with them by calling 413-863-9050.

Meanwhile, over on 2nd Street, the ladies who run the 2nd Street Bakery are taking a well-deserved winter break. Christa Snyder and Laura Pulchaski will be back in action on Tuesday, January 13th.

"We baked 130 pies for Thanksgiving, more than doubling our business from last year," said Snyder, reached via cell phone at an undisclosed location. Snyder said she and Pulchaski had been working around the clock to meet holiday orders. "Christmas season was just as busy. It was amazing! We so thank our customers for all their support."

The place to stop for coffee, news or a sandwich on the Hill — Scotty's Convenience Store — is rumored to be sold within the month. Co-owner Steve Lamonakis would not comment until final sale is made, though he said he'd call me exclusively with the news.

Meanwhile, town clerk Deb Bourbeau said, "Rae Wells came in last November to file [a DBA] for Scotty's." Ray (who prefers to be called "Bobbi") later told me, "I'm waiting. Once the Lottery license comes in..." We shall wait and see!

Sweet Talk on the Ave

Around the Corner – Almost

Sweet Bridget's All-Knowing Tidbit for the Week: DBA is an abbreviation for "doing business as." Registering a DBA is required if you plan to operate your business under a name that differs from your company's legal name. With a DBA you can legally open a bank account and conduct other transactions using your trade name. This is a critical first step toward building name recognition for your business. Thanks to Legalzoom.com for that.

In other news: Cynthia Johnson, president of the board of directors of Montague Catholic Social Ministries at 41 3rd Street is waiting for January 15th to introduce the agency's new executive director. MCSM's retiring executive director, Sharron Denman, is following her husband after a career change led him to New York; she stayed on an extra month and a half to ease the agency's transition. She will be missed!

This non-profit agency offers a Basic Needs Program, Women's Resource Center, Play Group and Reading through Literacy program, and takes referrals from the Department of Children and Families for its Family Support program.

MCSM staff Cecile Celotto, Christine Diani, Rachel Lively, Emily Kester and Christine Bates serve Montague residents, along with members of the board of directors. Local needs, said Lively, are on the rise. More bills

are going unpaid in some households, she added.

"Yes, and an increase in clients reflects the changes happening in the world," echoed Diani.

Celotto is also secretary for the Salvation Army, Montague Area Unit. Along with former employee Elizabeth Dlugoz, she was part of the Kettle ringing at Food City this past

I'll be the first to learn how much TSA raised, and you will be second.

MCSM is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays 5 to 8 p.m. They can be reached at 413-863-4805 for information on their programs.

Further down the Avenue, all the way down in Montague City. The workers at the Farren Care Center's gift shop are sad to announce the shop is closing, due to a lack of volunteers. The surplus items that remain in the shop will be distributed to the Salvation Army and the Survival Center. Thanks to all who contributed arts and crafts to this little gem of a gift shop.

Remember, it will, in fact, be Spring on The Ave. once again in just a few short weeks. OK, more than a few, maybe. But it's coming. Spring always comes to The Ave. And you will hear about it here first.

Ta-Ta for now, dears. Stay sweet. I sure will.

ERVING from page 7

A final article, forwarded for action by the town by Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman, asks the town to vote on a non-binding resolution in favor of collaboration between school districts, rather than consolidation of school districts. (See sidebar for a summary of that resolution.)

On January 5th, the selectboard approved a waiver of the 180-day waiting period for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation's proposed purchase of 21.3 acres of land along Dorsey Road, near the French King Bridge. The land will be permanently conserved, if the expected sale by the Carroll estate to DCR goes through as planned.

The board also sent thank you letters to fire department and police department personnel for their professional response to the ice storm of December 12th, and their efforts to make life more comfortable for citizens affected by the power outage in Farley and Erving Center that day. The board also thanked former fire chief Mick LaClaire for his years of service to the town. LaClaire served as Erving fire chief since January of 2003; he had 20 years of service to the department before that.

The board met with Tighe and Bond engineering consultant Mike McManus regarding progress on the \$6.4 million upgrade of the Erving wastewater treatment plant. The project

appears to be going along smoothly, except for icy weather holding up roof repairs for the time being. McManus advised the board that a \$400,000 upgrade planned for the Farley sand filtration water treatment facility would be ready to go out to bid by this coming spring.

The planning board will hold a hearing at 7:30 p.m. on January 15th on a proposal by Tim's RV to establish a recreational vehicle storage and service center across the street from town hall. At 8:30 p.m. the same evening, the planning board will hold a hearing on the proposed senior center, to be located on Route 63 near the elementary school.



School Collaboration vs. Consolidation

WHEREAS the Town of Erving is committed to providing a quality education for all school aged residents;

WHEREAS collaboration between local and regional districts for transportation, school supplies, heating fuel, computers, and other necessary resources leads to cost-savings;

WHEREAS consolidation of school districts at a county or state level may impact class size, transportation time, local representation in district decisions, quality of education, with questionable long term fiscal benefit to affected districts or towns,

Be it resolved that the town of Erving, in support of its local schools and in ensuring the highest quality education for its students, recognizes the inherent benefits of increased collaboration between local school districts to save on costs...

Be it further resolved that in order to

provide the highest quality education for its students; to minimize transportation time and distance in order for students to attend school; to ensure that local schools remain places for learning, gathering, and community events which contribute to the fabric and spirit of their communities; to ensure that the citizens of the Town of Erving maintain adequate control and supervision over the schools within their district, the Town of Erving opposes any state or county efforts to adopt and/or impose legislation or any other policies which encourage, provide incentives for, or penalize communities for failing to act on, state or county efforts to consolidate existing school districts.

Be it further resolved that any efforts to collaborate, consolidate, or otherwise partner with neighboring school districts are decisions best left to local school committees and other boards, citizens, parents, and students directly impacted by such actions.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've been working on my cholesterol, but I can't get my HDL number to go up much. Any ideas?

First some background.

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance in blood. Most cholesterol is made by your liver, but you also get cholesterol from foods. Too much cholesterol is dangerous, because cholesterol can lead to blockages in your blood vessels.

Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) deliver cholesterol to the body. High-density lipoproteins (HDL) remove cholesterol from the bloodstream.

If there is too much LDL in the blood, it will combine with other material in your blood-

stream to manufacture a waxy crud that builds up on the inner walls of the blood vessels that feed your brain and heart. If a clot forms in blood vessels narrowed by the crud, it can block blood flow, which can cause a heart attack or a stroke.

HDL should be at 60 mg/dL (milligrams per deciliter) or higher to cut the risk of heart disease. You're at high risk for heart disease if you have a reading less than 40 mg/dL. Each 1-mg increase in HDL concentration is linked to a five percent decrease in the risk of death from coronary disease.

So how can you get that HDL number up? First, you can make lifestyle changes.

Smoking

Smoking lowers HDL cholesterol levels. Quitting smoking can raise your HDL cholesterol up to 10 percent.

Food

Cholesterol is in all foods from animals, so reduce your

intake of meat, eggs and dairy products.

Increase your intake of monounsaturated fats such as canola oil, avocado oil or olive oil.

Consume soluble fibers that are in oats, fruits, vegetables and legumes.

Cranberry juice has been shown to increase HDL levels. Fish and other foods containing omega-3 fatty acids can also increase HDL levels.

Cakes, cookies and highly processed cereals and breads are foods that can lower your HDL and raise the levels of another fat in your bloodstream, triglycerides.

Exercise

Frequent exercise that raises your heart rate can increase HDL by about five percent.

Weight

For every two pounds you lose, your HDL may rise by 0.35 mg/dL.

Alcohol

Some studies have linked drinking alcohol in moderation to higher levels of HDL.

Medicine

Drug therapy for raising HDL cholesterol levels has, so far, been less successful than for reducing LDL cholesterol.

Of all the medications, niacin is the most effective in increasing HDL. Niacin, which is also known as vitamin B3 or nicotinic acid, can raise your HDL by up to 35 percent.

When niacin is used to increase your HDL cholesterol, it is sold in higher doses than when it is in an over-the-counter preparation such as a multivitamin.

Niacin seems to work better when used in combination with statins that are used to lower your LDL. In fact, when used with some statins, niacin can increase your HDL level by 50 percent or more, as well as reduce LDL levels more than when just statins are used. Trade names of statins commonly used

today are Lipitor, Crestor, Mevacor and Zocor.

Some prescription medications such as Simcor combine statins and niacin. No research has shown that the combination drugs lower cholesterol more than taking niacin and a statin separately.

Fibrates, another category of medication, has the potential to boost your HDL by up to 20 percent. However, fibrates are not effective in lowering LDL. Two fibrates available in the United States are Lopid and Tricor.

Supplements

There is evidence that suggests possible benefits from plant sterols and omega-3 fatty acids. Don't take supplements or any over-the-counter substance without discussing them with your doctor. This advice is especially important for seniors who are often taking several drugs.

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

ASK AMY:

Some Wood Pellet Bags May Be Recycled

AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD - Q. I've got a "What do I do with..." question for you. The pellets for my wood stove come in plastic bags that are marked with a #4 (in the recycling triangle made of arrows), along with the words "Please Recycle". Can the bags be recycled somewhere?

Thanks, -Ray Purington Gill

Hi Ray,

Great question! If a pellet bag has a number 2 or a number 4 enclosed in a recycling symbol,

then the bag can be recycled by bringing it to certain stores. Bags must be completely clean of pellets, paper, trash, or anything else. Stop & Shop and Big Y have special recycling bins for grocery bags, which are usually located near the front entrance of the stores. All plastic bags should be kept out of the recycling bins at your transfer station or curbside bins. The only way to recycle bags is through these special programs at stores.

Stop and Shop's website reads: "We accept #02 and #04

plastic shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, and newspaper bags. We send them, plus all of our shrink wrap from stores, to our plastics recycling company AERT (Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies Inc.). The plastic becomes composite decking (ChoiceDek at Lowe's). We have collected millions of pounds of bags for recycling." (From: www.stopandshop.com)

Big Y collects plastic bags and sends them to Trex, which also makes plastic lumber for decking. Trex accepts any plastic bag

numbered with a 2 or a 4, plus dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, and grocery bags.

If you use these plastic bag recycling programs, it is extremely important to only put the four types of acceptable bags in the bins. Do not recycle sandwich bags, garbage bags, plastic wrap, bread bags, any bag that contained food such as pre-washed salad bags, or bags with a recycling number other than 2 or 4. It is also very important to make sure that your bags are completely free of receipts, coins, trash or anything else. The bags should be clean, dry and empty. Thanks for recycling!



Jessica Harmon Illustration

Amy Donovan is the program director at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Send your questions to her at: amy@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org

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JEP'S PLACE: Part C V

Blood Poisoning



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Gill - A strong hospital smell began to choke me half to death. My hearing became acute. The last thing I remembered was one of the doctors saying, "What've you got on the river raw." There was a popular nonsense song with reference to river raw. I drifted off trying to figure out what the doctor was talking about.

I awoke with my wrist bandaged and my mouth dry. My parents came to see me that evening. I was afraid Pa would be awful mad at me for breaking the window and running up a big hospital bill, but he didn't seem mad at all. The arm got more

swollen and sore by the day. The doctor squeezed pus out of the cut every morning. He'd start up by my elbow and work his way down to the cut on my wrist. Tears came to my eyes. I gritted my teeth to keep from making a sound.

"I know it hurts," he said, "but I have to get the pus out."

Nurses put hot water bottles wrapped in wet towels on my arm when the doctor wasn't squeezing pus.

Pa and Ma didn't come every day, but my older sister Emmy did. No one could ask for a better sister. Emmy was married by then, and had begun working at the Greenfield Tap and Die inspecting machine gun ammunition boxes. World War II was on and the factory was turning out defense work.

Emmy's husband had been drafted into the Army. He talked a lot about all the great things he'd done and even greater things he would do in the future. The Army stationed him in Colorado, much to my relief.

The GTD was not far from the hospital. Every noon, Emmy skipped lunch so she could run over to see me. One day, she brought me a fruit basket filled with all my favorite fruit. I got a lump in my throat. I couldn't talk and my eyes filled up. I loved Emmy, dearly. She was six years older and more of a mother than sister to me.

One day, Ma came in to see me. She was alone. Pa was out in the hall talking with the doctor.

"They going to cut off you hand," Ma whispered. "You got the blood poisoning."

At first, I was scared, especially by the whispering. But, then, I figured I'd be like Magrini, doing things like changing a tire all by myself with just one hand and having people say, "look at that guy, will you." And I would say, "I'm no cripple."

Maybe the doctor would put a hook in place of the hand and I could be tough like "The Hook" in comic books. No one messed with The Hook.

The only part I didn't like was the blood poisoning. There wasn't much you could do about blood poisoning, back then, except die. A hook wasn't scary, but I wasn't ready to die just yet. I was getting sick of having my arm hurt when they squeezed the pus out every morning.

One day, as the doctor mashed on my arm, I asked him when I was going home.

"Pretty soon," he said.

"When's pretty soon?"

"Oh, a couple of days."

Later, I asked the nurse how

many a couple was.

"A couple is usually two, like a couple is two people."

Two days later was Saturday. My regular nurse was off. I told the new nurse I was going home.

"Who said that?"

"The doctor."

"Oh, really?"

"Sure thing. Saturday's the day. I can't wait to get out of here."

"Where's your clothes?"

"Don't know. Someone put them away when I came in."

Soon the nurse came back with my clothes-the old clothes I wore the day I came in. She held them out away from her white uniform.

"These clothes aren't very clean," she said, frowning. "And there's blood on them, too. How come your folks didn't bring you clean clothes? And where's your underwear?"

"I don't have any".

"You don't wear underwear?" Her eyebrows went up.

"Just long johns in the winter. But it's too hot for them in summer."

"Isn't it uncomfortable without underwear?"

"Doesn't bother me a bit."

I was embarrassed enough about my dirty clothes without admitting it was uncomfortable without underwear. She just shook her head, helped me get dressed, and put a clean sling on my arm. I headed down the long dark corridor and out the door. I walked to Emmy's house, a couple miles away. Saturday was her day off. Her husband was still in Colorado, so she was glad to

have company. Emmy took one look at me and said, "Let's go up street."

She bought me new pants and shirt. I put them on, right there in the store dressing room, and stuffed the dirty old clothes in a bag.

We went to a movie, and afterward had a sandwich and an ice cream soda at the Liggett's drug store soda fountain on Main Street. I was having the time of my life. This was the first time I had ever had an ice cream soda.

Emmy took me to Woolworth's 5 & 10, and bought me some kind of board game. It felt like Christmas morning. But I was happiest to just be with her.

When we got back to her house, a police cruiser pulled into the driveway. The cop said they had been looking all over for me. When Emmy drove me back to the hospital, the staff was all worked up - "Blood poisoning... wasn't supposed to be out of the hospital.... should have been having hot packs"... and all that. They acted like it was all her fault. I was in trouble with everyone, including the doctor.

The first thing he did was to give my arm a good squeezing. My hand had a "pins-and-needle" feeling and the squeezing hurt terrible. He did not spare me.

A few days later, the skin all peeled off my hand and stayed pale purple for a long time. Eventually doctors got the blood poisoning under control. I don't know what medicine they used, if any, besides the hot packs, but I was well enough to go home.

- Continued Next Week

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The town of Erving will hold a Tax Classification Hearing on Monday, January 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall

Receive Ten Free Flowering Trees for Joining the Arbor Day Foundation in January

Ten free flowering trees will be given to residents of Massachusetts who become members of the Arbor Day Foundation in January 2009. Those who join the Foundation in January will receive two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington hawthorns, two American redbuds, and two goldenrain trees.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "They'll give your home

the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers - and provide winter berries and nesting for songbirds."

The trees will be shipped postpaid for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The trees are guaranteed to grow or they'll be replaced for free.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, or online at arborday.org.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9th
Great Falls Coffee House:
Barry "White Crow"
Higgins demonstrates
Native American-style
flutes he designs &
makes. He'll discuss
Native American
flute styles & tech-
niques, perform a
variety of flute
music. 7 to 9 p.m.

At the Rendez-
vous, Turners
Falls: Jones Trio,
jazz that thumps!
9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Deja Brew,
Wendell: *Mother
Turtle*, Soul Rock, 9 to
11 p.m.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
JANUARY 9TH & 10th**
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls:
The Court Jester. All ages family fun
with Danny Kaye in this hilarious
comedy. Music before the movie at 7
p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10th
Winter Trails Day at Northfield
Mountain, free for all ages, 1 to 4 p.m.
Limited quantity of ski equipment and
snowshoe rentals available at no
charge for first time users. This celebra-
tion is intended for children and adults
who are new to winter sports. Pre-regis-
tration, call 800-859-2960.

Artist Reception at the Great Falls
Discovery Center, 1 to 3 p.m. Come
meet Thomas Stratford, our artist of the
month. Landscapes and Nature Art
exhibited through January 31st.
Regular hours are Friday and Saturday,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse featur-
ing Charles Neville Jazz Quartet. At the
Wendell Town Hall. Open mic at 7:30



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Barry Higgins performs Native American style flute music at the Great Falls Coffee House on Friday, January 9th at 7 p.m. Held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Moonlight Snowshoe
at Northfield
Mountain for ages
12 and older. A
magical place on a
moonlit eve. Explore
how to best navigate
at night, share
inspiring quotes from
literary lovers of the
moon and stars, and
take a short 'solo'
walk by moonlight.
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
\$7/\$21 w/snowshoe
rentals. Pre-regis-
tration required, 800-859-2960.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase
Group*, Acoustic Folk/Singer
Songwriter, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT
Karaoke, 8 p.m., free.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center:
Free Films For The Frozen. 7 p.m., *A
Face in the Crowd*. Written by Budd
Schulberg, directed by Elia Kazan,
1957. Andy Griffith and Patricia Neal.
Andy Griffith makes a rare dramatic turn
as Lonesome Rhodes, a charismatic
hobo discovered by a radio producer
(Patricia Neal) in an Arkansas jail.

**SUNDAY & MONDAY,
JANUARY 11th & 12th**
The Country Players auditions for Ken
Ludwig's *Moon over Buffalo*, 7 p.m.
Needed four men and four women for
April production at the Shea Theater.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12th
Auditions for *My Antonia*. Pocumtuck
Valley Memorial Assoc. & Lady of the
Lake Productions has roles for 11 men,
7 women, and 7 children ages 7 to 15.
Actors with all levels of experience wel-
come. Held at the Deerfield Teachers'
Center, Deerfield. 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Performance will be in April. Info. (413)
772-8746. Also Wed. 1/14.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls:
Texas Holdem League, 7:30 p.m.

The Millers Falls Library Club is a free
after school program that meets on
Tuesdays from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. The
drop-in sessions are designed for chil-
dren of all ages. Activities include live
music, arts and crafts, games, and
homework help, depending upon the

participants' ages and interests.
Info: call the Carnegie Library,
863-3214.

At the Rendezvous, Turners
Falls: Craft Night, 7 p.m. on.
Careful mixing knitting & drink-
ing, bring a project to work on.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14th
Nifty Nature: Seeds, Seeds,
Seeds! With Rachel Roberts at
Northfield Mountain. 10 to 11:30
a.m. For ages five and older,
free. Pre-registration required:
800-859-2960. Learn about seeds and
their parts, and the important food
source seeds provide for winter ani-
mals, a variety of craft projects.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rust
Knuckle Raptor*, 9:30 p.m. \$3.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Jim
Olsen's WRSI Back Porch: Country,
R&B, Gospel and Rock n' Roll, 9:30
p.m., no cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave
Robinson, Tommy Filault & Co.*, blues
based roots music, 8 to -10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*,
Country Folk Guitar Featuring Johnny
Cash favorites, 9-11 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY
17th**
*Recycle, Reuse,
Reduce: It's Fun!*
Greenfield Public
Library
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Greenfield.
Join educa-
tor Rachel
Roberts for
a free chil-
dren's work-
shop reusing

*New
Orleans
Jazz Great
Charles
Nevill and his
Quartet perform
at the Wendell
Full Moon Coffee
House on Saturday,
January 10th at 8 p.m.*

recyclables into fun activi-
ties. *Recycled Village*: geared
for school-aged children, fun for all! 10
to 11 a.m. Register at Green Fields
Market or contact Rachel Roberts at
robertsml@verizon.net or 774-7290.

The Turners Falls Knights of Columbus
Free Throw Contest! Boys & girls age
10 - 14 competing separately to make
as many free throws as possible. Also
separated by age category. Winners
advance to regionals. Free, 1 to 3 p.m.,
Sheffield Elementary School Gym.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners
Falls: For the Birds...Crafts and Story
Hour about Birds in Winter. Interpreter
Sarah Martell leads. Learn about what
birds eat in winter and why they stay
around to brave the harsh New England
winter. 1 to 2 p.m. Info: (413) 863-3221,
or www.greatfallsma.org

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary
Photography, Turners Falls. On display
in Gallery 85: Colin Finlay. Artist
Reception at HMCP, Avenue A, 1 to 5
p.m. Artist Talk in the auditorium at
Hallmark Institute of Photography, 27

Industrial Boulevard, 7:30 p.m. New
Orleans photographer Josephine
Sacabo, featured in Gallery 56, will also
have work from three distinct projects
on exhibit; "A Geometry of Echoes,"
"The Nocturnes" and, "El Mundo
Inalcanzable De Susana San Juan." on
display through March 29th. Also on
display work by Susan Bozic: *The
Dating Portfolio*.

Ham and Bean Supper at Montague
Congregational Church, 5:30 p.m. \$9/
Children \$4. Reservations: 774-7256,
walk ins welcome.

Elmer and the Elder Tree at the Pushkin
Gallery, Greenfield, The Piti Theatre
Company, Shelburne Falls and Les
Ponts-de-Martel, Switzerland, bring
integration of theatre, dance and clown-
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Followed by mural-making and theatre
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members receive tree seeds.
Reservations: (413) 625-6569 or
info@ptco.org; \$10, \$8/14 yrs and
under. Info: www.ptco.org/elmer.

Predator Tracking with David Brown at
Northfield Mountain, 1 to 4 p.m. For
ages 12 and older, Fee: \$18, \$28
w/snowshoe rental. Pre-registration
required, call 800-859-2960.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*.
Wendell fav's, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser
and Tina, bringing back the sound
we've been missing. 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th
Holy Cooperation!
Building Graceful
Economies, Author
Andrew McLeod

presentation on his
recently released
book, 2 p.m. The
global financial
crisis has
inspired
renewed interest
in charity among
religious com-
munities, but
McLeod's work
goes deeper,
exploring how
cooperative enter-
prises and scripture
both provide models
for how to love one's
neighbor and build an
economy based on justice
and freedom. Held at All
Souls Church, Greenfield.
Free, light refreshments. Co-
Sponsored by All Souls UU, Upper
Valley Worship Group, Temple Israel,
Cooperative Fund of New England and
Franklin Community Co-op.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20th
Inauguration Day Event at the Brick
House, Turners Falls. 12 to 8 p.m. Help
us to inaugurate our new performance
space! We'll be viewing the inaugura-
tion live as well, and the evening will
feature musical guests and a film
screening relating to the civil rights
movement (film TBA).

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday & Saturday
Jan. 9th & 10th at 7:30 p.m.
THE COURT JESTER
Danny Kaye sings and dances his way through
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medieval mischief, mayhem and intrigue. A
comedy the whole family can enjoy. Directed
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Showtimes for
Friday, January 9th - Thurs., January 15th

- 1. BEDTIME STORIES**
DAILY 6:45 9:00 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:15 4:30
- 2. THE CURIOUS CASE OF BEN-
JAMIN BUTTON**
DAILY 7:10 PG13 DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3:30
- 3. THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX G**
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:15 4:30
- 3. VALKYRIE PG13 DAILY 6:40 9:20**
- 4. YES MAN PG13**
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. MARLEY AND ME PG**
DAILY 6:40 9:20
FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:15 3:15
- 6. BRIDE WARS PG DTS sound**
DAILY 7:00 9:30
FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 3:30
- 7. GRAN TORINO R DTS sound**
DAILY 7:00 9:30
FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 3:30

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Soul Rock: *Mother Turtle*

Saturday, 1/10, 9 - 11 p.m.
Acoustic Folk/Singer Songwriter:
Richard Chase Group

Thursday, 1/15, 8 - 10 p.m.
Blues Based Roots: *Wailin' Dave
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SUN: 1/11 | 8:00 PM | FREE
TNT Karaoke

WED: 1/14 | 9:30PM | \$3
Rust Knuckle Raptor

THURS: 1/15 | 9:30PM | \$3
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The first Sunday of January marks the perihelion, the time when the earth is closest to the sun. The days are lengthening, but it's hard to tell.

By 3:30 in the afternoon, the sun is already preparing to descend behind Greenfield Mountain. The birds rush to the feeder for a last meal before the dark and the cold fall.

In this morning's optimism of bright, windless sunshine, I hung the freshly washed sheets on the line. I collect them now and find them chilly, even stiff in spots to the touch. I drape them over the chairs in the sun-room. There they will dry the next day and bring into the house the fresh, outdoor smell of summertime.

This first weekend of the new year has been a relatively mild one: two days above freezing at midday. I ventured out to the compost bins and brought in a small cache of wood for the stove. Still, the pleasures of the holiday past, the glut of eating and eating some more, of special cooking, of afternoon naps has not satisfied. The mornings

begin in the dark; it is often dark before I reach home at the end of the workday.

I am drawn to the glitz and glitter of the myriad seed catalogues which the mailman has brought since the end of December. In the coldest month of the year, it's also time to plan for next year's garden.

This is the perfect time to review the successes and frustrations of last year's season, to check what is left in the seed box from last season and to indulge in the perfect colors and forms of the art of the seed catalogue.

If you've kept last year's leftover seed in a dark, cool, dry place, there's no reason much of it can't be used again in the new garden season. Most vegetable seed is viable for one to five years. Note the chart below for seed viability under perfect storing conditions:

You can test for the viability of your seed by simply placing a sample between damp sheets of paper towel or newspaper. Fold the paper in half to cover the seed and place in a plastic bag to keep the paper damp. Label and date. Place your seed packet in a warm place out of the direct sunlight. Check for sprouting after a few days or longer in the case of seeds that are slow to germinate. If few seeds germinate, you are best

off investing in a new batch. Flower seeds are some of the most fragile and susceptible to change in storing conditions, so be sure to test your favorite varieties. Most are best replaced after a year or two.

In these days of hyper-hybridizing and chemical seed treatments, many gardeners prefer to grow heirloom seed. Heirlooms are categorized as any cultivar that is open-pollinated, growing true to type and producing plants like the parent from seed.

The advantage to hybrid seed is that they have been bred to improve yield, disease resistance, color and uniformity. The downside is over processing, the potential for unknown chemical treatments and the plant's inability to produce seed which will predictably reproduce true copies.

If you find heirloom varieties you love, you can collect seeds from the fruit of these

plants and save them for next year's plantings. This method allows gardeners to share favorites of the older varieties which, though they may be more susceptible to diseases, very often surpass hybrid products in flavor. If you prefer to garden organically, this is the method for you.

Both Tomato Growers Supply and Totally Tomatoes sell a wide variety of seed types, including many heirlooms and some seed developed by individual gardeners. Many of us continue to grow the heirloom Brandywine in spite of the tendency for cracking in the fruit. Brandywine Red, a newer development, may produce perfect fruit, but it just can't compete with the original Brandywine for pure, tomato flavor.

Other seed houses specializing in organic and heirloom seed are: The Cooks Garden and Highmowing Seeds. Many

better-known seed houses include organic and heirloom varieties because of their increasing popularity, Pinetree Garden Seeds, Vermont Bean Seed and Harris to name a few.

It may be cold and dark, but that gives you a great excuse to sit by the fire and peruse these tempting garden catalogues. It's not too early to prepare your order. You'll note that if you want to grow your own onion or leeks from seed, now is the time to get them, since these seeds should be started anywhere between the end of January and the middle of February.

Even if you're an indoor soul in the winter months, don't forget to step out after sunset and watch for Jupiter and Mercury low in the Southwest and especially Venus, the evening star, shining brightly way above them. This time of year we need all the light we can get.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

New Year Garden

Seed Viability Chart

One Year Onion Parsley Parsnip Spinach Sweet corn	Okra Three Years Beans Broccoli Celery Carrot	Brussels Sprout Cabbage Cauliflower Chard Eggplant Kale Pumpkin Radish Squash Tomato	Turnip Watermelon Five Years Cress Cucumber Endive Lettuce Muskmelon
Two Years Pepper Leek	Four Years Beets		

A Running Start to the New Year

BY PATRICK PEZZATI
MONTAGUE CENTER -

After a year's hiatus, the Sawmill River Run was held again in Montague Center, on New Year's Day. Eighty-four runners braved sub-zero wind-chill temperatures to run 10 kilometers, starting in front of the Montague Grange, heading past the Bookmill to make a left on Ferry, then running Meadow Road all the way to the hairpin turn at Old Sunderland Road and back into town.

Seemingly, almost as many volunteers were on hand to help register runners and hand out course maps at the start, to direct and encourage runners along the course, and then to serve coffee and baked potatoes in the Montague Center town hall at the end of the race. As cold as it was for the runners, it must have been even worse for the volunteers, who didn't have the benefit of 150-plus heartbeats a minute to warm them up.

Jon Dobosz, director of Montague Parks and Recreation, was everywhere at once, welcoming runners, instructing volunteers, and later

watching as the runners came down Main Street to cross the finish line, looking as under-dressed as some of the runners in his fleece pullover.

While warming up, runners were heard joking that they had found the warm side of the street. In truth, there was no warmth anywhere at all, except in people's spirits. In spite of that, some runners even braved the course in shorts and t-shirts.

During the race, runners ran single-file down the tire tracks on the road, trying to stay on the very thin swatches of pavement for better traction. Once a few miles had passed, however, the long, sunny Meadow Road was warm enough for a few hats to come off. The three-mile stretch with barely any shade can be hard to take in the middle of the summer, but it was a welcome respite on this cold day.

Jesse Reigner of Amherst was the overall winner in 34 minutes and 6 seconds, and Marjorie Shearer of

Greenfield was the first woman across the finish line, in 43 minutes and 3 seconds. At age 21, Reigner's name is familiar to people who have checked the top spot in past editions of both the Sawmill River Run and the much warmer Mug Race, held every year in mid-August.

Lest people think this is a young person's contest, one only needs to go down to third place overall to find 57-year old Rich Larsen of Shelburne Falls, and in fact only 16 of the 84 runners were under the age of 40, while six were over 60.

As runners cheered on those arriving after them, some headed over to town hall to sip coffee and sample baked potatoes.

The elation after finishing a

hard race is always palpable, and it was more so than usual in the bitter temperatures. Runners are already looking

forward to next year's contest. One thing we can likely count on: it will be cold.



CHANDRA PEZZATI PHOTO

The author, coming across the finish line, in 32nd place.

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