



HOLY SMOKES

the Deli, on Avenue A

Page 8



N.E. BATS

Dying by Thousands

Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 24

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 18, 2010



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

General Pierce Bridge Construction Begins

SPS employee Ryan Wilkins (left) hands wrench to Jeremy Thurlow to tighten bolts on a traffic sign to facilitate traffic flow during deck work on the General Pierce Bridge.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

MONTAGUE CITY – SPS New England employees Jeremy Thurlow and Ryan Wilkins began putting up traffic signs in preparation for repairs to the General Pierce Bridge over the Connecticut River, joining Montague City with East Greenfield, on Tuesday.

The same company, SPS New England of Salisbury, MA, also has the contract to reconstruct the Gill-Montague bridge, a \$40.7 million project that will get underway as soon as repairs to the General Pierce Bridge are completed this spring.

Superintendent Henry Mulvey said the General Pierce Bridge repair job entails the replacement of an expansion joint that rests on the center pier. The bridge will be restricted to a single lane as the company replaces half of the expansion joint and the steel stringers tying the joint to bridge frame-

see BRIDGE page 7

Turners Falls - Right This Way! Signage Meeting to Be Held

BY DAVID DETMOLD – A meeting will be held to discuss additional signage to help direct people in and out of Turners Falls during the pending four year reconstruction of the Gill-Montague bridge. The meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, March 31st, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Montague town hall, will include members of the Montague Business Association, town officials, representative Steve Kulik, Massachusetts Department of Transportation traffic engineer Bao Lang

see SIGNAGE pg 7

Ladd Demands Sweeping Change at GMRSD



DETMOLD PHOTO

Gill-Montague Superintendent Carl Ladd

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL-MONTAGUE – Making a virtue of necessity, superintendent Carl Ladd issued a sweeping plan Tuesday for revamping the Gill-Montague Regional School District that calls for no new spending, demands accountability from administrators and staff, places an emphasis on educating “the whole child” in tandem with families, adds advanced placement programs at the upper school, and envisions the GMRSD as a countywide leader in early childhood education as a means of attracting and retaining young families and their children in

“We need to have high expectations for all students. Too often I’ve heard these students can’t achieve to the same level because they come from poverty, they come from broken homes.... We have a moral and ethical responsibility to all students in our district to provide excellence in education.”

– Carl Ladd
Gill-Montague Superintendent

district schools.

In the most dramatic moment see GMRSD page 11

Senior Center Heading for Third Vote at Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD – This time, a two-thirds majority won’t be needed.

Erving town administrative assistant Tom Sharp told members of the senior center building committee on Thursday, March 11th, “No borrowing will be involved,” when the proposal to build a new \$2.4 million senior center on Route 10, on town-owned land north of

the elementary school, comes back before the voters at annual town meeting on May 5th.

That means only a simple majority of town meeting voters would be required to approve spending for the new 7,000-square-foot center.

Last year, at consecutive town meetings in May and June, the proposal to build a new senior center

fell just four votes shy of passing, both times. But then, a two-thirds majority would have been needed to approve borrowing one million dollars from the town’s stabilization fund to help pay for the project. And though proponents gained a solid majority both times the measure came up, they could not muster those last four

see SENIOR pg 12

Kwajmal Makes the Scene at the Discovery Center



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Kwajmal at the Great Falls Discovery Center

BY ANNE HARDING
GREAT FALLS – The Great Falls Discovery Center was hopping last weekend with Kwajmal, a band of young musicians based out of Conway who entertained

at the monthly Friday evening coffee house at the Great Hall. The band members are, for the most part, area high school students, though drummer Wataru Sano is currently attending

Rensselaer Polytechnic and violinist Lysander Jaffee is taking a gap year following graduation from Northfield Mount Hermon. Saxophonist Kai Matsuda and stand-

see KWAJMAL pg 10



Architect's rendering of the proposed Erving Senior Center

PET OF THE WEEK**Your Princess****Icesis**

Hi, my name is Icesis and I'm a 10-month-old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm slinky and soft, oh so touchable, and I'm happy to be petted. I am just waiting for you to make me the princess of your heart, the queen of your home, your own true love. Come look into my eyes and into my heart, and let's find the love that's waiting for us both.

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

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the article on "Franklin County Energy Committees Working Together" (MR VIII #22) included incorrect information on the size of an annual pot of state funding available for grants for renewable energy or energy conservation for communities that achieve Green Community designation. The size of the annual pot of state funding is \$10 million, not \$150 million, as reported. We regret the error.

TRIAD**of Gill-Montague-Erving Pasta Supper**

& Tom Ricardi presenting
"Birds of Prey"
Thursday, March 25th
at 5:00 p.m.

St Kaz Hall in Turners Falls
\$5 per person includes entry in
50/50 raffle. Get your tickets at
Gill Montague or Erving Senior
Centers or Police Departments.

The Montague Reporter

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

PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address
changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline
is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Upcoming Home School Program**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – On Wednesday, March 24th at 1:15 p.m., the Carnegie Library Homeschool Program will be on *Greek and Roman Warfare and Weapons*, with Linda Hickman.

The following week, Rachel Roberts' *Math Thru Literature* series will resume. The Homeschool programs are for all ages, free, and no registration is required. For more information, call 863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS**Book Discussion Rescheduled**

Author David E. Morine's book discussion scheduled for March 24th has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 15th, at 7:30 p.m. David E. Morine will discuss his book *Two Coats in a Canoe: An Unusual Story of Friendship* about canoeing the Connecticut River from source to sea. The Leverett Library is located at 75 Montague Road. Directions located at www.leverettlibrary.org. For more information, call (413) 548-9220

Thank you to the Leverett Historical Society for the DVD *Down Memory Lane*, in which Marjorie Wheeler Glazier and Hilda Carey Williams reminisce about growing up in North Leverett.

Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, we have raised \$1,300 for three new computers during the second and final year of our Gates Challenge Grant. The new computers will arrive later this spring.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**Teens and Tweens Workshops, Films on Sugaring**

Two workshops on Sunday, March 21st, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Learn skin care and makeup techniques with Wendell's own Marty Arsenault. Who will be her demonstration models?

Marty's workshop will be followed by hair stylist Luc Bodin providing a hair cut or two. As he works he'll share how-tos on styling, dying and caring for hair of all kinds. The question is, "Whose hair is he going to cut???" Maybe we'll have a lottery to decide. Workshops are free.

The library opens at 2 p.m. for teens and tweens hangout, computer and Wii games, and other self-directed activities. The DIY Hair and Skin workshops, for those who want to participate, runs from 3 to 5:30

p.m. Youth from any town, between the ages of 10 and 19, are welcome to participate. Adults are welcome in the library also between 2 to 5:30 p.m., but be prepared for noise and more limited library services.

Two films on maple sugaring and maple products will show on Friday, March 26th, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. The films are local filmmaker Steve Alves' *A Sweet Tradition*, and a DVD on maple candy and cream. Wendell sugarmaker Bill Facey will discuss the fine points of making quality maple syrup. The evening is sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission. For more information, call (978) 544-8604.

Go the Extra Mile!

TURNERS FALLS – The Walk for Meals on Wheels 2010 is growing! Walk teams are forming now for the May 1st walk.

See who's walking at www.fchcc.org. You can donate to your favorite team online, or

register a team, or request your walking papers online.

Funds raised by new walkers and walking teams will be matched by Greenfield Savings Bank (up to \$10,000), so your dollars go farther this year than ever!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – March 22nd to 26th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Thursday Morning Tai Chi is free and open to the public. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

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

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

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

FACES & PLACES

LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

A swan parades on thin ice, before the thaw at Migratory Way

Sheffield Readathon

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – The Sheffield School set their Readathon goal last week during the Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. The students were challenged to read 5,000 books or chapters before the start of spring vacation on Friday, April

16th.

Laurel Rollins announced that Sheffield students had surpassed the 1,850 mark by the end of the school day, Friday, March 12th. With more than a month to go, it looks like the goal is reachable. Keep up the good reading!!

Gill Sugarhouse Open House

**Sunday, March 21st
Noon to 4 p.m.**

Celebrate the spirit of the sugaring season in Gill with a TOUR organized by the Gill Agricultural Commission. Participating sugarhouses are open with other products throughout the year: Boyle Road Sugarhouse, 121 Boyle Road; Northfield Mount Hermon Farm, Mount Hermon Road; Turkey Ridge Farm, 85 West Gill Road; Upinngil Farm, sugarhouse at Center Road at West Gill Road.

POLISH EASTER BAZAAR

Turners Falls – Fabulous hand made Polish gourmet foods, baked goods, craft and gift items. A Silent Auction with many fine prizes donated by local businesses. Bring the whole family! Saturday March 27th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, just up the hill from Food City. To rent a table to sell your crafts, call Shirley Webb, (413) 773-7202.

Psychic Fair

LAKE PLEASANT – The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair on Saturday, March 27th, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Thompson Temple, across from the post office. Divination methods include astrology, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will also be available.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**Grade 6**

Justin Miller

Grade 7

Ryan Deschaine
Shauntel Parker

Grade 8

Morgan Ozdarski

LIVE IN

EST. 1754

MONTAGUE?

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

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850

ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

Ed's Barber Shop

Now Featuring
**Men's Crew
Hair Care
Products**
also
Gift Certificates

74 Avenue A • 863-2085

Ed, Denise & KariAnn
"54 Years on the Ave"



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY

DON CLEGG – The **'Round Here Café** at 111 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls has **extended** its hours and expanded its menu. The café will now be open from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. from Monday through Thursday, and from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday evenings, offering a choice of entrees for dinner. Saturday hours, 8 a.m. until noon, will remain the same.

Nayana Glazier, café owner, said ever since she opened the doors to the café in December of 2008 customers have been asking when they will be able to enjoy her cooking for dinner hour. Well, the time has arrived.

Join the **Oak Ridge Detachment** of the Marine Corps League for **breakfast** on Sunday, March 21st, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bernardston Vets Club, at 16 Hartwell Street (across from the old Streeter's Store) in Bernardston. They'll be serving pancakes, Texas style French toast, eggs, sausage, real maple syrup, coffee and juice. Suggested donations are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children; all proceeds will benefit the many charities supported by the Marine Corps League.

Firefly Farm in Montague Center has Rhode Island Red, Americana, Comet, Australorp, some Wyandottes and Barred Rock Pullet **chicks**, between one and two weeks old. They will need to be kept warm and draft free for several more weeks before they are ready for the great outdoors. If you only want a few chicks, and not the 25 minimum order from hatcheries, Firefly Farm has what you need. Chicks are \$6 to \$8 depending on age and breed.

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 27th
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Gill Congregational
Sponsored by Friends of Gill

These are hatchery sexed as pullets, with approximately 90% accuracy, so there may be a stray cockerel in the bunch. If that is the case, Firefly Farm will take the male chick back if you don't want him. That sounds sort of sad. Call Pinnie and leave a message at (413) 522-9283.

"Mo's Fudge Factor" is coming to Bay State **Franklin Medical Center** on Wednesday, March 25th, featuring **gourmet fudge** in many flavors, bagged Easter candies, non-pareils and much more. This event is sponsored by the Gift Shop to **benefit patient services** and will be held in the BFMC lobby located at 164 High Street in Greenfield from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters **"Bowl for Kids' Sake"** will take place at the French King Entertainment Center. Create a team, get sponsors and come have fun! Everyone can win great prizes. The event benefits Big Brothers, Big Sisters programs in our area and will be held on March 27th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Entertainment Center, Route 2, in Erving. For more information contact Big Brothers, Big Sisters at (413) 772-0915 x10.

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

Montague Nomination Papers Still Available

BY DEB BOURBEAU – There is still time left for residents to take out nomination papers for town offices and to represent your precinct on town meeting.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 25th.

Town Officials

• Two people have taken out nomination papers for select-board, for the three year seat being vacated by Patricia Pruitt. Turners Falls residents Margaret Pyfrom-Faneuf of 14 Griswold Street and Rachel Roy of 5 Pleasant Street have taken out papers.

• Papers have been taken out by Michael Henry of 57 South Prospect Street in Millers Falls to run against incumbent Debra Bourbeau for town clerk.

• Linda Ackerman has taken out papers for re-election to the park and recreation com-

mission.

• Mark Stevens has taken out papers for re-election as tree warden.

• John Murphy has taken out papers for re-election to the soldiers memorial trustee, as a veteran.

Town Meeting Members

There are many open seats for town meeting members.

Precinct 1:

• All incumbents are running for re-election.

• There is one 2-year seat available.

• Bruce Young has taken out papers for a 3-year seat.

• Lawrence Peters, Jr. has taken out papers for a 2-year seat vacated by a previous town meeting member who moved out of the precinct.

Precinct 2:

• There are four 3-year seats available.

• There is one 2-year seat available.

• Francis Noyes has taken out papers for a 3-year seat.

• Incumbent Mary Gilmore has chosen to run for the open 2-year seat rather than her 3-year seat.

Precinct 3:

• There are two 3-year seats available.

Precinct 4:

• There are two 3-year seats available.

• There is one 1-year seat available.

• Andrew Killeen has taken out papers for a 3-year seat.

Precinct 5:

• There are two 3-year seats available.

Precinct 6:

• There are five 3-year seats available.

No one has returned their papers as of yet to the town clerk's office. Papers are due on Monday, March 29th to be placed on the ballot for the May 17th annual town election.

Interactive Historic Map Presentation in Gill

Dave Allen, land records researcher, history enthusiast, and author/publisher of the book *Early Maps of Greenfield, 1717-1918*, has prepared and analyzed several historic maps of Gill and will be presenting his findings to the community in a free, public Powerpoint presentation on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall of Gill.

Allen will be encouraging participants to write narratives

based on what's changed and what's remained the same. The maps will be issued to local historians and educators for future use by the Historical Commission and local schools, and a listing of maps will be published on-line.

If you have any questions about these offices contact the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext. 203. Town hall is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Montague Congregational Church
Sugar Supper
Saturday, April 10th 5:30 pm
Corned beef hash, baked beans, Harvard beets, coleslaw, homemade donuts, pickles, Ripley Farms sugar on snow
Adults: \$9; Children under 12: \$4
Reservations should be made and must be honored. Please call: (413) 774-7256
Walk-ins are seated as space allows.

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, INC.
Insurance

Concerned About High Liability Settlements?

- Liability settlements in excess of \$100,000 are becoming more common every year.
- An excess liability policy will provide another \$1,000,000 in coverage over your automobile and homeowners liability limits.
- Read more at www.pzinc.com

PZ **ARBELLA**
INSURANCE GROUP

25 MILLERS FALLS ROAD
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

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

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

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

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

Bill & Kathy White
413-773-7747

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373
Vice President

Negus & Taylor, Inc.
Monuments

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

We engrave memories that last forever

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

"The perfect remembrance"

Gerri Johnson
CBB, CRS, GRI

Gerri Johnson & Associates
REALTORS

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

REALTOR **MLS**

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

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

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

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

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

GUEST EDITORIAL

Saints of Salome

BY JERRY COLLINS

SALOME, AZ – This is a story of two very special people who should make everyone in Montague feel proud they're from your town.

Most of us think of saints as biblical figures like Joan of Arc or Francis of Assisi. Occasionally, we think of people of recent memory like Mother Teresa and John Paul II. But do we ever think of ordinary people in our daily lives who truly live their faith through action?

Two such people I've been blessed to have known since my youth were Turners Falls sweethearts, Marilyn "Chunky" McIntyre, class of '53, and Roger Crossman, class of '54.

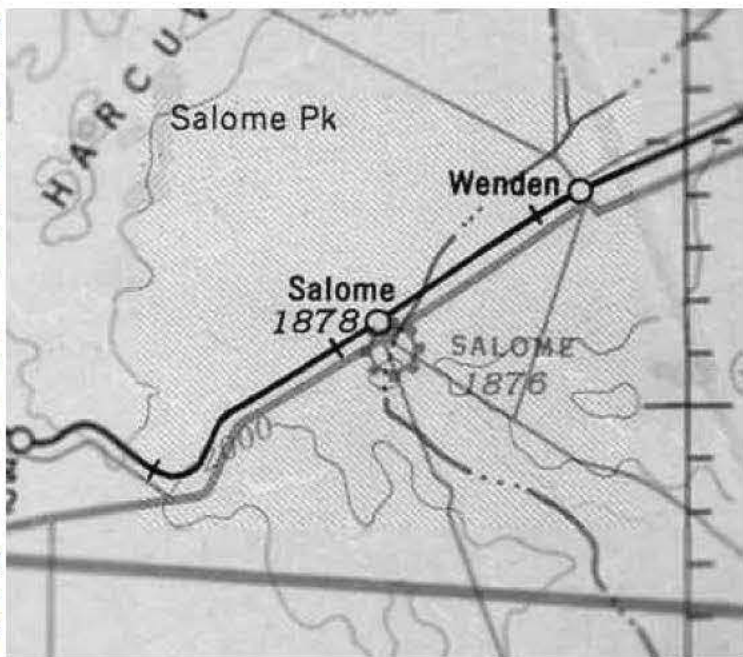
I first met Marilyn and Roger when we were all in high school in Turners. Marilyn and Mary La Chappelle (my wife for over 50 years) were very close friends. They did everything together. Marilyn was one of the bridesmaids at our wedding.

Marilyn never sees anything bad in people but, rather, she finds only the good. In her senior year, she met Roger, who was a year behind her in school. They started dating and eventually, after Roger graduated and went into the Air Force, they were married.

Roger is a determined individual who, when he sets his mind to something, will not be deterred from his goal (one might say stubborn). Raised as an Episcopalian, he converted to Catholicism. He didn't just convert and go along as many "nominal" Catholics do, but became fully involved in the faith. After retiring from the Air Force, he

and Marilyn settled into civilian life in Phoenix, AZ. Roger worked nights for a defense contractor and Marilyn continued on being a homemaker and mother, caring for their three children.

With the children grown and gone, and Roger retired from the civilian job, they moved to



Salome, AZ

Salome, a small agricultural town situated in a fertile valley located halfway between Wickenburg and Parker, AZ on Route 60. Roger's real love has always been airplanes and he owned a Piper J-3 Cub and a Cessna which he had been flying out of Deer Valley airport in Phoenix. Not being a big city boy, Roger found Salome, with a population of only 1,690, suited him perfectly. Salome has a small private air-park where one can buy a lot, build a hangar and have their own home attached to it. The street was the taxiway, with the hangar doubling as the garage for their automobile as well as the planes.

They put up a small trailer on the lot to live in. They didn't wait to complete their home, but immediately became involved in their new community and a small mission church in the nearby town of Wenden.

Both the community and mis-

sion church were in need of help. Salome was badly lacking adequate healthcare, with the nearest medical personnel and hospital about sixty miles away. Church attendance was low and funds were not sufficient to provide for needed programs and physical improvements.

Roger rolled up his sleeves and with the ever helpful Marilyn at his side went to work to rectify the situations. He led an effort that resulted in the establishment of a helo-pad at the air-park next to a small clinic. This greatly reduced the time it would take for emergency transit of patients to the hospital in either Parker or Wickenburg. Not satisfied, up went the sleeves again, and soon the community had a full time nurse practitioner for their small clinic.

As a result of the completion of Interstate 10, Salome was bypassed, and the community badly crippled. Motels, stores, and other businesses closed, and people moved out. The town was left with fewer facilities and supporting organizations like the VFW, which almost closed. Had this happened, Salome would have been left without the one place in town where special events could be held, and would have been well on the way to becoming another ghost town.

Roger would not accept this. So he went to work, and as the newly elected head of the local VFW, put plans in place that would rejuvenate the organization and keep the facility open. Today, you can almost see a community rising from the ashes of decay.

All the while Roger was car-

AND ANOTHER LETTER...

Doing the Doo

The amount of dog poop in my neighborhood, as well as the town of Turners Falls in general, is appalling. I love dogs. I own one, and walk her regularly. And I ALWAYS clean up her poop. This is a matter of fundamental courtesy and respect, and I am puzzled, to say the very least, that apparently many others do not share

my point of view. Please, people, clean up your dog's messes. Not doing so makes the town ugly and smelly, and fouls up shoes as well. Let's make Turners Falls a beautiful place. This is an easy, and necessary, step toward doing that.

– Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

rying on these endeavors, he worked on building their home, and he and Marilyn took on the many responsibilities of the small mission church so much in need of love and care. The first Mass they attended had only a handful of attendees. Fifteen years later, a hundred would be coming regularly to the weekly Sunday service.

Dissatisfied with having only folding chairs for the parishioners to sit on at Mass, Roger set about finding pews at little or no cost. Success came when a church in Colorado was replacing their old pews. Roger was able to negotiate a price the church could afford. Only obstacle – how to get them from Colorado to Salome? As always, sleeves were rolled up. Roger sought the help of another retired parishioner and together, with their two pick-up trucks, they drove to Colorado to retrieve the treasure.

It wasn't enough to just provide for the Mission's physical needs. Together, Roger and Marilyn made it a priority to increase the number of members in the parish. They realized that Salome, a farming community, had many non-English speaking migrants who were probably not attending Mass or receiving the sacraments because they were not comfortable with a basically English-speaking parish.

Sleeves up! Roger and Marilyn started an outreach program and, as one way to welcome the migrant farmworkers in, proceeded to obtain missals translated into English and

Spanish. Needless to say, as in *Field of Dreams*, build it and they came.

All the while, Marilyn was busy setting up a Mission gift shop to help raise funds for the mission's needs and for starting the groundwork on a prayer garden, now blessed with a huge, 20 foot high concrete cross made by one of the parishioners. She arranged bake sales, produced a parish cookbook, and she is still originating projects to help future projects they may envision.

Not only have Roger and Marilyn done these things, they personally see to the cleaning, yard maintenance, and repairs at the mission church, while collaborating with the visiting priest on

see SALOME pg 12

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

**BURRITOS,
BOWLS,
SOFT TACOS,
QUESADILLAS**

*Now serving
People's Pint Beer
on tap!*

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

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

The Gill Tavern

Come for a drink, stay for a meal

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

Open Wed-Sun at 5pm 326 Main Rd, Gill, MA
www.thegilltavern.com ☎ 413.863.9006

Jonathan Abbott

SSI / Disability Attorney

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

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

STOREWIDE SALE!

Unique Gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India
PLUS Local Artisan Gallery

HIMALAYAN VIEWS

South of Magic Wings on 5&10 • Th-Sa 12-6 • tibetanplaza.com

About Face Computer Solutions

413.367.0025

Computer Repair

IT Support & Consulting

Network Installation/ Maintenance

Custom PCs

info@about_facecomputers.com

Four Winds School

Cogito ergo periculosus sum.

www.fourwindsschool.info 863-8055

Leaf Busters

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

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Budget Gap Bridged, with Effort

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The selectboard continued working to bridge a budget gap between the level funded school budget they requested for the coming fiscal year, and the \$3,154,864 budget the school committee sought. Level funding would have kept the joint budget for elementary and secondary education for Erving students at \$2,943,558, a difference of \$211,306.

By the end of last week's negotiations between the finance committee, the selectboard and the school committee, that gap had been reduced to a figure in excess of \$100,000,

although exactly how far in excess was a matter of protracted and heated debate between the two members of the selectboard present on March 15th, Andy Tessier and Andrew Goodwin (Jamie Hackett was absent), and administrative assistant Tom Sharp.

By whittling away at the budget for various town departments and capital requests, the selectboard was able to come up with about \$53,458 in cuts to add to the \$50,000 in extra funding they had agreed to give the schools for FY '11 in a previous hearing.

The board cut \$5,000 from parks and grounds maintenance, \$5,000 from the town's insurance line item, \$10,000 from the maintenance account for town buildings, and \$20,000 from the account that pays for the "anything goes" bulky waste pickup (the pickup will still go on, however), among numerous savings identified.

By Wednesday, Sharp said he had spoken with Union 28 business manager Charlie Paulin, who said the school department would be able to make the needed cuts on their side to bring the total school budget into balance at \$3,047,016.

While all this was going on, another heated discussion was taking place in the hallway between assistant assessor

Jacque Boyden and town clerk Richard Newton. Boyden had received a federal census form in the mail at her Northfield Road residence with an 01349 zip code. Other residents of Erving received census forms mailed with that same zip code, Boyden said.

Boyden pointed out the town of Erving has been unified under one zip code - 01344 - since 1998. Erving residents no longer use the Millers Falls zip code, 01349.

"I can't believe the Census Bureau hasn't updated their data base in ten years," Boyden fumed.

But Newton said the Census relies on street addresses, and GPS codes embedded in a bar code on every form to determine the locality of each residence, and merely uses the most convenient zip code to deliver forms to residents, regardless of what post office the zip code refers to.

Town administrative secretary Betsy Sicard sent out a circular from the Census Bureau on Tuesday informing residents who believe they have received a census form with an incorrect address to take the following steps: "if the city and or zip code are incorrect but the street address is correct, complete the form, correct the city name or zip code, and mail back the form."

REFUGE from pg 4

fishing where populations allow.

Perhaps a suitable voice for the Refuge System is that of the beloved scientist Rachel Carson, who wrote the following essay in the introduction to "Conservation in Action," a collection of narratives about the Refuge System.

"If you travel much in the wilder sections of our country, sooner or later you are likely to meet the sign of the flying goose-the emblem of the National Wildlife Refuges.

You may meet it by the side of a road crossing miles of flat prairie in the middle West, or in the hot deserts of the Southwest. You may meet it by some mountain lake, or as you push your boat through the winding salty creeks of a coastal marsh.

Wherever you meet this sign, respect it. It means that the land behind the sign has been dedicated by the American people to preserving, for themselves and their children, as much of our native wildlife as can be retained along with our modern civilization.

Wild creatures, like men, must have a place to live. As civilization creates cities, builds highways, and drains marshes, it takes away, little by little, the land that is suitable for wildlife. And as their space for living dwindles, the wildlife populations themselves decline. Refuges resist this trend by saving some areas from encroachment, and by preserving in them, or restoring where necessary, the conditions that wild things need in order to live."

Two in Montague Take out Papers for Selectboard

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Rachel Roy, a resident of Pleasant Street, and Margaret Pyfrom, a resident of Griswold Street, have taken out papers and each say they are exploring the possibility of running for the three-year seat on the Montague selectboard that will be left open when Patricia Pruitt steps down at the end of her second term this May.

Roy, who moved to Montague just a year and a half ago, is the office manager at Valley Concrete in Bernardston, and served five years on the Mohawk school committee when she was a resident of Buckland.

Pyfrom, who works at Bete Fog Nozzle at the Adams Road Industrial Park in Greenfield, is a 20-year resident and former town meeting member in Montague who lives in Turners Falls but serves on the volunteer fire department in Montague Center.

Roy said she would take a balanced approach to solving town problems if she were to win a seat on the selectboard. "You can make change very effectively if you approach things logically, with integrity and a sense of honesty, and truly search for a correct approach," she said.

Roy went on to say, "We have a very diverse population in this town, from all nationalities and backgrounds, all decent hard working people. I love being in this town. My husband and I had a print shop in Turners - the Golden Eagle Press - in the basement of the Crocker Building." She sold the equipment and moved out the week before a deadly arson fire gutted the building on June 26th, 1997.

"I loved the town then, when it was down on its luck. I've always loved Turners. I used to sing in the choir at Ste. Anne's. Wherever you go in this town, you meet really nice people."

Pyfrom shared similar sentiments when asked what caused her to explore running for selectboard, a seat she ran for once before in the mid-1990s.

"I've been living in Turners for 20 years. I ran for selectboard around 1995, and nobody knew

me. I just decided I loved the town and hated to see what was going on, or not going on

"That's pretty much how I feel now. I like to know what's going on in the town I've decided to grow old in, and I'd like to be a part of making it better."

Pyfrom added, "I am on the Montague Center Fire Department. My dad was a firefighter, and I got to know the men on the fire department in Montague. I grew up in Shelburne Falls, a town with a lot of similarities to Turners Falls. I had a seat on town meeting when I lived on Turnpike Road next door to Barry Levine. He was my mentor."

Roy said her talents could come in handy to help resolve some of Montague's more intractable problems, like balancing the town and school budgets. "I'm a reasonable person. I take a balanced approach to problem solving. If I can help in any way to bring balance to the various groups I'd be happy to do it. We need to pull together as whole."

Roy worked for FEMA in the mitigation bureau for a number of years before taking her current construction job. She was sent to disaster sites to work with "people who lost everything," in Alabama, after Hurricane Katrina, to Fort Kent, ME after flooding there, and to New Orleans and Houma, LA after Hurricane Ivan. Of French and Native American background, Roy said she felt very comfortable working with people from the Cajun community. Her experience working at FEMA led her to consult with Turners fire chief Ray Godin and police chief Ray Zukowski when the new safety complex and community meeting room were under construction on Turnpike Road. She said her experience at FEMA would come in handy in preparing federal grants.

Pyfrom got first hand experience in the difficulty workers are experiencing in the local economy when she was laid off from her last job at a mental health agency in Greenfield. At her new job, at the Greenfield Industrial see PAPERS page 11

Peruvian Night with the Nuñoa Project. Come learn about ongoing work in Nuñoa, a small farming community in the Andean altiplano of Peru, where aid workers from the United States (including volunteers from the Valley Medical Group in Greenfield) have been assisting the alpaca farmers and children to help build better lives and stronger herds. Friday, March 19th 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. UMass Amherst Room 227, Herter Hall Refreshments will served

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY. System 2000 (Energy Kinetics), Thermo Pride, Weil-McLain, Other Major Brands, Expert Burner Service. MACKTIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL. (413) 773-3622

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

UPINNGIL Potato Sale 40 lbs. for \$20.00. Certified Organic. Farm store open daily, 8-7. 411 Main Road, Gill | 413-863-2297

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

ALL GRADE PLUMBING & HEATING. Brian Bowden-Smith Lic. PL31465-J 413-863-5218 413-834-2576

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

Sound Health Bodyworks. Massage Therapist Sound Therapist Birth Doula. Kerry Alisa Young LMT. 413-658-5782 kayoungsoundhealing@wildblue.net

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



JOSEPH A. PARZYCHV PHOTO

An oil slick appeared on Main Road in Gill, last week, leading all the way to Bennett Meadow in Northfield

Mystery Oil Trail

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL – Wondering what caused the streak of oil on Main Road that appeared last week running up the “Straits” hill, north of the West Gill Road intersection?

“We figured the oil was 90-weight differential gear oil, from the smell and consistency,” said Gill highway superintendent Mick LaClaire on Wednesday. “We traced it all the way to Bennett’s Meadow on Route 10, where [the trail] stopped just

before the bridge over the Connecticut River.”

The Gill highway crew put up a “Fresh Oil” sign and spread sand over the oil slick to absorb the oil and prevent accidents.

Judging from the amount of oil and the length of the trail, LaClaire figured it had to be leaking from a big truck. So far, no one has reported anyone having major differential problems on a vehicle with a really big gear oil reservoir, now empty.

BRIDGE from page 1

work. The upstream half of the 30-foot expansion joint will be demolished first, while one-way traffic is diverted to the downstream side. Once the repairs are made to the first 15 feet, traffic will be shifted to the completed side, and SPS employees will complete repair to the downstream half of the deck.

Traffic lights will allow alternate direction of travel, as on the Millers Falls Bridge while that was under construction. Mulvey expects to get the usual complaints about travel reduced to a single lane.

“We’ll pour a new concrete section of deck and try to meet the present surface,” Mulvey said. “The problem is there are ruts in the existing road surface which we’ll try to meet as smoothly as possible, keeping in mind that concrete cannot be feathered. Thin concrete just breaks up.”

Anyone traveling over the General Pierce Bridge will note the present deck leaves something to desired in the smooth surface department. Good luck, Mr. Mulvey.

“The job will take a total of three months,” Mulvey said. “Both lanes of traffic have to be

open for traffic before we begin work on the Gill-Montague Bridge.”

Mulvey added, “This job is minor. That bridge job is totally different, with a completely new deck and a lot of structural steel work. The traveled way will be widened, too. It’s a much more complicated job with a lot of work.”

Once work begins on the Gill-Montague Bridge, traffic will flow for at least three years one way from Route 2 into Turners Falls and one way over the White Bridge out of Turners Falls to the French King Highway, and back to Route 2.



SIGNAGE from pg 1

and project development manager Rich Massey, along with Mark Pelletier, senior project manager from SPS New England, the contractor for the \$40.7 million bridge reconstruction project.

Bridge construction is expected to begin in June of this year, limiting traffic flow to one lane inbound for at least three years of the four year project.

Chris Janke, Montague Business Association president, said his organization had been pushing for such a meeting to take place. “We met with Paul Dunphy [representative Kulik’s aide] last week, and told him, ‘We want signs.’ We hoped the meeting would come about.”

Janke added, “We are working towards and hoping for three different kinds of signs. One would be signage into Turners from Route 2 that is relatively permanent, saying: ‘Downtown business district. Restaurants and shops,’ or something along those

lines, that would clearly indicate the way to downtown leads over the bridge, open to traffic inbound, no matter what construction is going on.

“Another set of signs would help people to get out of town to Route 2, east and west, to I-91, and to Routes 5 & 10 to Deerfield. Those would include not just signs in the downtown area, but also signs at every decision point.”

Janke said the third set of hoped-for signs, to deal with anticipated traffic disruption resulting from the closure of one lane of the Gill-Montague bridge during the four-year reconstruction project, would be a “set of signs that would be part of our larger campaign, that would advertise the downtown in a temporary way, to serve as a rallying cry during construction.” Janke said the MBA was working on developing a slogan for the campaign, but had not settled on one yet.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Four Arrested in School Break In

Monday, 3/8

10:25 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] and [redacted], for aggravated assault and battery, kidnapping and intimidating a witness.

Tuesday, 3/9

1:18 p.m. Narcotics violation at Turners Falls High School. Juvenile arrest, summons issued, for possession of a counterfeit drug for distribution and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

7:20 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

on a straight warrant.

Wednesday, 3/10

8:42 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] for nighttime felony breaking and entering Montague Center School, vandalism, damage or defacement of property, and possession of a burglarious instrument.

Thursday, 3/11

On Sunday March 14th, officers of the Montague police department were dispatched to 59 L Street in Turners Falls following the report of an out of control, intoxicated male subject, later identified as [redacted]. Prior to the officers’ arrival, [redacted] threw objects off of the third story deck of the building, causing damage to the rear window of a vehicle below.

Montague Police Officers Christopher Lapointe and James Ruddock arrived in the area of the residence and were

1:34 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for walking/riding on railroad track and resisting arrest.

6:57 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.

9:59 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on default warrant.

Monday, 3/15

12:00 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery and intimidating a witness.

10:55 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, an uninsured vehicle, and no inspection sticker.

Montague Police Apprehend Fleeing Diver

informed by occupants that [redacted] had taken off on foot towards Second Street. Officer Lapointe came into contact with the enraged [redacted] in the hallway of 72 Second Street. [redacted] immediately began to flee from the officers.

Officer Lapointe gave chase along Second Street, across Avenue A and down the bike path along the Turners Falls Canal. While the subject was running he began to shed his clothes and resisted response to the officers’ commands. The subject climbed the fence surrounding the Turners Falls

Canal, throwing himself into the cold, fast-moving water in the canal. After approximately five minutes Officers Lapointe, Ruddock, and Environmental Police Officer Kinner were able to assist [redacted] from the fast-moving water. [redacted] refused treatment from Baystate Health Ambulance personnel and was later placed into police custody. [redacted] has been charged with a subsequent offense of disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, wanton destruction of property over \$250, and resisting arrest.

Canal, throwing himself into the cold, fast-moving water in the canal. After approximately five minutes Officers Lapointe, Ruddock, and Environmental Police Officer Kinner were able to assist [redacted] from the fast-moving water. [redacted] refused treatment from Baystate Health Ambulance personnel and was later placed into police custody. [redacted] has been charged with a subsequent offense of disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, wanton destruction of property over \$250, and resisting arrest.

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

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP



Annual Heating System Cleaning

\$10 Off with this Coupon

Expires April 30


540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

AUDI — VW — VOLVO — BMW

Now Specializing in Toyota and other Asian Cars



413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)



LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM
NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Compassionate and Professional Care
for Your Small Animal

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


Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshaw Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Holy Smokes on the Avenue

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Lou and Leslie Ekus, proprietors of the late lamented Hatfield eatery Holy Smokes, are re-opening Holy Smokes this spring as a deli at 52 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Hard at work on the first floor of the Crocker Building, on the 2nd Street corner, where the Hallmark Museum expansion and before that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office were formerly located, the Ekuses took a few minutes to talk about their plans for the new space this week.

First of all, there will be no seating, Lou explained. They are setting up a deli, not a restaurant.

“It’s all about taking cold food home, and reheating some ribs for the game,” he said. “Wings too,” Leslie added. “There will be no cooking here.”

The cooking will be done in the same mobile kitchen the Ekuses have been using ever since their restaurant burned in an unexplained arson fire in June

of 2007. A few elements of that popular eatery, which was located in a former Lutheran church on Routes 5 & 10, were salvaged and will assume pride of place in the new location – including the old, slightly charred pulpit, which will once again hold the cash register – and a Styrofoam flying pig named Mary, Holy Smokes’ iconic mascot, which miraculously survived the blaze.

Since the loss of their restaurant, the Ekuses have continued to satisfy their regular customers, and many others besides, through catering gigs, cooking up their locally famous barbecue in a specially rigged, board of health approved trailer, which can also be driven to special events. They say they plan to bring the trailer down to 2nd Street on some Sunday afternoons, once the deli is up and running, to give their customers a fresh cooked taste of the hot ribs they remember from the Hatfield restaurant.

The deli will be open

T h u r s d a y through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., by the end of May.

“All of the food we used to have at our restaurant we’ll have here, cold, ready to heat,” said Lou: “pork ribs, beef short ribs, pulled pork, smoked chicken, chef (baked) beans, Tuscan white beans, cole slaw, mac and cheese, spicy mac and cheese. The deli case will be filled with cold meats and sides. We will have hot sandwiches as well, and we will be selling smoked turkey and smoked roast beef by the pound.”

Additionally, there will be hot soup and chili, as well as “a number of different flavors of

bacon, which we cure and smoke ourselves” – flavors like spicy chili garlic bacon, or coriander brown sugar bacon, or breakfast bacon, which Leslie described as tasting like “French toast, syrup and bacon, all at once.”

On an antique work bench along one wall, the Ekuses will feature local products like organic pickles, sauerkraut, maple syrup and honey, and, naturally, Holy Smokes’ own barbecue sauce, spicy chipotle or see **SMOKES** page14



Lou and Leslie Ekus, with Mary, the iconic flying pig rescued from the first incarnation of Holy Smokes

White Nose Syndrome Wiping Out Northeastern Bats



Little brown bat; close-up of nose with fungus, New York, Oct. 2008.

Photo courtesy Ryan von Linden/NY Department of Environmental Conservation.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

CONCORD, NH – The mysterious epidemic known as white

nose syndrome is continuing to ravage the six resident bat species of the Northeast – caus-

ing up to 95% mortality in affected hibernacula – and is spreading south and west along

the Appalachian Mountain chain. Wildlife biologists and laboratories from Ithaca, NY to Wisconsin are racing to understand the cause of the disease, which was first identified in caves around Albany, New York in the winter of 2007. But even as scientists study bat genetics and morphology, and postulate disease pathways in what has been called the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history, more than a million bats have died from the epidemic.

Since healthy bats produce only one pup a year, the sudden decimation of their numbers in the Northeast will have long lasting consequences.

Bats, the only true flying mammals, are not just an oddity of the evolutionary spectrum; they also play a critical ecological role as voracious insectivores. During the months when they are active, bats eat between 50% and 75% of their body

weight in insects every night. Moths and beetles are their favorite quarry, including insects like the cabbage moth, and other species prone to feed on agricultural crops.

The long-term impact on agriculture from the loss of such vast numbers of northeastern bats cannot yet be calculated.

The affected species include the little brown bats (which appear to be hardest hit so far), big brown bats, eastern pipistrelles, eastern long-eared bats, eastern small footed bats, and Indiana bats, listed as endangered even before the epidemic.

Healthy bats can live up to 20 years, and generally do not produce offspring in their first year of life. But how long their reproductive life span lasts is another unknown factor which may affect the ability of the species to recover from this rapidly unfolding calamity.

Endangered species biologist see **BATS** page12

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

BAKER Office Supply

1/2 Price Cards
Great Selection of Seasonal Gifts

310 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-2345

Jack Nelson

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

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Diemand Farm

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

Products Vary Weekly

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

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

HOPE & OLIVE

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

homegrown, farm-inspired food and drink

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

SOLAR STORE

SOLAR ELECTRIC SOLAR HOT WATER SOLAR HOT AIR

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

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

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

New Life for an Old Farmhouse

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Jack Nelson and Eileen Dowd announce an Open House, Friday, March 19th from 4 to 7 p.m. at the end of J Street, behind Food City. Adjacent to the bike path is one of the earliest houses built in downtown Turners Falls. This unique property is owned by a small limited liability corporation named AIR (short for Artist in Residence).

Nelson and Dowd are two of the five members of the LLC whose mission is to procure buildings that will promote living and work spaces for artists – with a lofty pipe dream of establishing performance and gallery spaces along the way.

A secondary mission of the company is to acknowledge the

incredible architecture of Turners Falls and its historic significance.

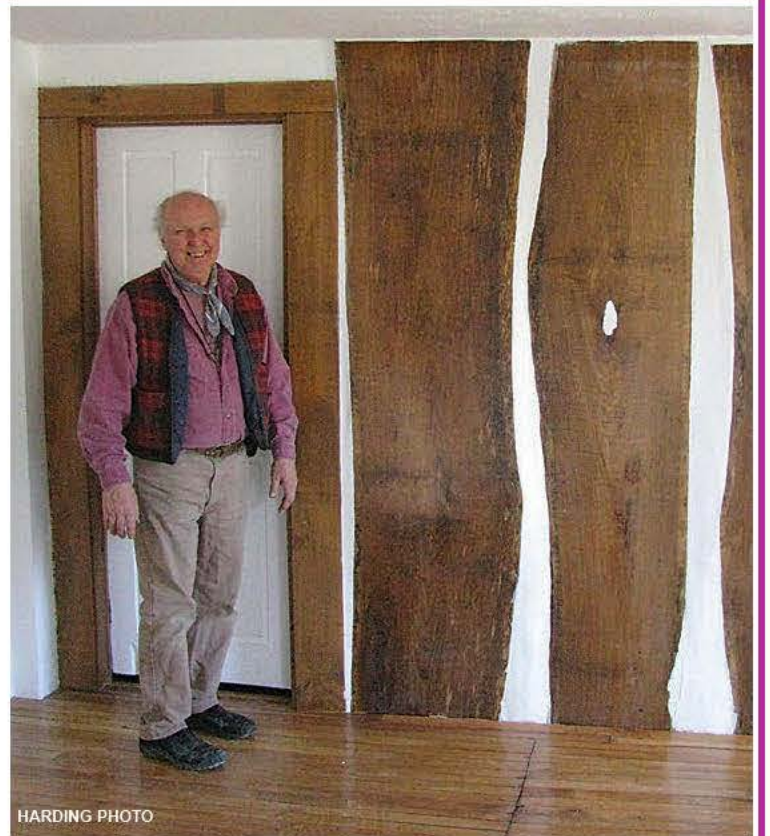
To that end, the group has applied for historic designation of the old farmhouse building, which has undergone a multitude of cosmetic improvements in the past year while maintaining the integrity of its first and second generation construction. Built in the mid-1800s, it remained a unique pastoral oasis amidst the crowded urban industrial setting of a booming mill town and looked out over a broad meadow – now the site of the shopping complex of Food City, Salvation Army, the Dollar Store, and Aubuchon's.

The run-down building has now been lovingly restored – walls re-plastered, woodwork de-leaded, floors refinished,

hardware refurbished, and hand-hewn beams exposed. The process of renovation has unearthed some of the history of the building – additions to the main house were identified while refurbishing walls.

The decision to expose interior original plank walls that were once exterior walls has added wonderful visual interest to the space. Future plans include the addition of an outdoor performance deck space on the canal side of the house – but that's a story for another day.

One apartment is currently occupied, so the open house will feature the newly available apartment and studio space. It is worth the short walk to check out this historic building as it springs to new life.



HARDING PHOTO

Jack Nelson stands in the newly renovated farmhouse on J Street

Mathematics Field Trip to UMass



ERIN BAILEY PHOTO

Eighth graders from Turners Falls outside the Worcester Dining Commons at UMass

BY ERIN BAILEY

TURNERS FALLS – There is one question teachers anticipate with dread each year in their classrooms. “Why do we have to learn this?”

This question is usually followed up by, “I’m never going to need this.” In fact, most of what 8th grade students learn in my math class at Great Falls Middle School in Turners Falls is directly applicable to their own lives and to the world at large.

In order to remedy this disbelief in math’s relevance, students from GFMS headed down to the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst on Wednesday, January 27th to experience firsthand some of the important and exciting applications of the mathematics they are learning now.

They heard a presentation by economics professor Michael Ash, which caused eighth grade student Brody Markol to say, “Since we’re growing up and we’re going to have to pay taxes soon, it was cool how we got to learn about them,” and to see how tax money gets used in many communities. Students also experienced a data-producing Nerf ball in the electrical engineering lab with Professor T. Soules; computer animations, graphics, and games compiled by professor Bev Woolf; and a lingering mathematics question of prime number relationships presented by professor Farshid Hajir.

Following the academics, eighth graders toured a dorm room and then headed over to the Worcester Dining Commons for lunch, and finally to the

Mullins Center arena for a women’s basketball game.

When asked what their favorite part of the field trip was, it was rare to hear an initial response other than, “the food!” GFMS student Elyssa Carner specified, “the ice cream was so good.” Fellow student Danielle Bassett also said she enjoyed, “exploring and getting a preview of what daily life is kind of like at college.”

But what about the mathematics? Well, as their teacher, I am pleased to say I haven’t heard that dreadful question since the trip, and it was reassuring to hear student Emma Johnson say that math is “used more than I originally thought.”

Erin Bailey is a student teacher from UMass, working at the Great Falls Middle School.

2nd Street Baking Co.
 Sat. March 20th
Customer Appreciation Day!
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Mini Craft Fair, Free Cake & Mademoiselle Pixie Belle

Now serving delicious Sandwiches and Panini

Expanded Menu!
 www.2ndstreetbakingco.com | (413) 863-4455
 69 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

F.M. KUZMESKUS INC.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION MOTORCOACH TOURS & CHARTERS

413-863-2595 • WWW.TRAVELKUZ.COM

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
 413-768-9095

Income Tax and Accounting
 Specializing in QuickBooks

Ristorante DiPaolo

Wednesday Wine Specials Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10
 Thursday Night Jazz 6:30 to 9:30
GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
 Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday
 413-863-4441

Boiler Replacement on the Docket for Gill Elementary

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – The town of Gill is considering how to replace the boiler at the Gill Elementary School and have the fuel savings from the more efficient boiler accrue to the town, rather than to the school district.

“The net savings have to come back to the town,” administrative assistant Ray Purington told the selectboard on Monday. The town has received a \$150,000 grant to pay for replacing the boiler at the elementary school, among other energy saving measures at town buildings, from the state Department of Energy Resources.

He said it would be difficult to subtract the expected fuel savings from the town’s annual assessment for the district schools. But, he said, “One way [to do it] is to see if we could work out some sort of refund, agreed upon by the town and the district, so we can get our share of the savings to pay for it.”

Replacing the old boiler at the elementary school will be complicated, Purington said, by the fact that the school was built around the boiler in a method that recalled the children’s story *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel*. “It’s going to take cutting torches to get it out of there.”

The town of Gill is working with Siemens Building Technologies on an energy performance contract for a number

of town buildings. The Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) had considered contacting with Siemens to make energy improvements at the district schools, which would then be paid for by guaranteed energy savings from the improvements. But the district was recently advised by its legal counsel that it could not enter into long-term contracts for energy improvements on school buildings it leases from the towns, like the Gill Elementary School, or the elementary buildings in Montague.

In light of this ruling, Purington told the board, “The GMRSD won’t handle Gill Elementary as part of any energy service contract. That leaves it up to us. It’s a good thing we got the [\$150,000] grant pegged to the boiler project at the elementary school.... We’ve got a pretty big motivator.”

GMRSD business manager Lyn Bassett said boiler maintenance is considered an operating expense at the elementary school, and as such is a responsibility of the district. But replacing the boiler is considered a capital improvement to the town-owned building, and therefore would fall to the town as an expense.

Bassett said the district bought 7500 gallons of heating oil this year for the Gill Elementary School, at \$2.10 a gallon, for a total cost of about \$15,750.

Purington said the point of the \$150,000 grant from DOER was to enable the town to “pay down” the cost of the boiler replacement, and other major projects that could not be otherwise afforded by the energy performance contract with Siemens.

But Purington said it would still be fair for the GMRSD to work out an agreement with Gill so that energy savings from the boiler replacement would accrue entirely to Gill, rather than be distributed as a normal operating cost (whereby approximately 16% of savings would accrue to Gill, and 84% to Montague, based on the student population from the two towns in the district).

The results are in from Siemens’ investment grade audit of other town buildings, Purington said. The ESCo has found \$66,600 worth of energy improvements at the town hall, library, safety complex, and Riverside Municipal Building that could be paid back through guaranteed energy savings over the course of 20 years (at a total cost of \$151,000, including interest). The identified projects include improvements to the lighting at the safety complex, and to the building envelope at the town hall, Riverside building, and library. Building envelope

improvements would include insulating, duct sealing, and other energy conservation methods.

The town energy committee met with Siemens’ project manager Roland Butzke on Wednesday, March 17th to go over the proposed contract for energy improvements at these buildings.

In other news, the selectboard signed a contract with Ken Johnson, president of Municipal Energy, to include the town of Gill in proceedings Johnson’s firm is preparing before the Department of Public Utilities to recover excesses charges billed to a number of cities and towns for street lights by the Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

“We’ve been working with the Western Massachusetts Attorney General’s office, and they are ready to file a complaint with us before the DPU,” Johnson claimed.

Johnson, who charges participating municipalities who consent to be represented by his firm 25% of all overbilling charges recovered, said he had been successful in recovering “\$12 million in refunds to date in Connecticut,” from Connecticut Light and Power.

He said in WMECo’s coverage area, “the city of Springfield is owed millions,” but the smaller towns, like Gill, could expect far more modest refunds. The town of Leverett is also participating in the joint effort to

recover overbilling charges, Johnson said.

Johnson’s provided Gill with a preliminary estimate of \$7,421 for overbilling charges by the utility. Johnson said common billing practices leading to overbilling by WMECo include billing towns for street lights that do not exist and for higher wattage bulbs that have not been ordered by the town.

Douglas Auctioneers will hold an auction of two parcels of land taken by the town for back taxes on Wednesday, April 7th, at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The parcels being auctioned are a 3.55 acre parcel on the west side of Main Road, near the Yarmac property, formerly owned by the Dawson family. The other, smaller parcel, is a 1.25 acre tract on Chase Road, formerly owned by the Kuzinski family.

In the run-up to budget deliberations, the selectboard said the latest word from Beacon Hill is for towns to expect a 4% cut in local aid this year. The selectboard hopes to hear a presentation by the last week of April from Sandy Stapczynski, the consultant hired to study the fire, police, and highway departments and make recommendations about those departments’ size and operations to the board.

Returning to past practice of holding Saturday town meetings, the board set a tentative date for annual town meeting for Saturday, June 12th, at 9 a.m.

KWAJMAL from pg 1

up bass player Marty Jaffee attend Mount Hermon, while trombonist Brian Wendel is at Four Rivers School and keyboard player Elliott Hartmann-Russell goes to Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School.

Youth notwithstanding, they wowed the crowd with an ambitious repertoire of jazz standards from the likes of Ellington, Gershwin, Jones and Monk.

From what I understand this is about the third incarnation of Kwajmal. The original band members all hailed from Conway, and many met at the Conway Grammar School. As their families got to know each

other it became clear these young musicians needed an outlet for their talent.

They started playing casually a few years ago along with pianist Andy Jaffee – who just happens to be the father of the two string players and a jazz teacher at Williams College. Though he doesn’t play with the band anymore, he’s still their coach and available for advice on song choices, arrangements and the like.

The newest member, pianist Hartmann-Russell, joined this summer to cover for Andy Jaffee, who was out of the country. It’s been a good fit for the band, and they’ve been playing together ever since.

It was an unexpected treat

to hear and watch Kwajmal – their polished stage presence and musical talent belied their ages, and their easy banter with the audience was a crowd pleaser.

Introducing Thelonious Monk’s “Epistrophy,” Lysander Jaffee’s humorous intro noted their goal “to return to normalcy from a state of chaos.” But this was upstaged by five year old Gillis MacDougall, whose rejoinder “Good Luck!” was delivered with impeccable timing.

For booking information, please email lysander.jaffee@gmail.com.



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

Fully Insured
 Free Estimates
 Honest Work
 Honest Prices!

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

JOE GRAVELINE

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

Office Hours By Appointment

DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.

4 Dell St.
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 Telephone: (413) 863-9656

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Totally Free Checking

Free Gift!

Love it!

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

MontagueWebWorks.com

build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

Our Lady of Czestochowa
 Roman Catholic Church
 84 K Street, Turners Falls, Mass.

Confessions
 Every day including Sunday
 1/2 hour before Mass

Masses
 Sat. Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
 Sun. - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Monday - 8:00 a.m.
 Tuesday through Friday - 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday - 8:00 a.m.

Novenas
 St. Jude
 Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.
 Pro Life
 Saturday - 8:00 a.m.
 St. John Neumann
 Monday - 8:00 a.m.

“He who died on the cross now risen dwells within”

“The Gem of Franklin County”

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
 Locally Owned Since 1918

Local Farmer-Owned

Shop with your neighbors
 Support local agriculture
 Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
 TURNERS FALLS

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

GMRSD from pg 1

of his hour-long speech, Ladd dismissed claims that some students from Gill and Montague can not achieve excellence in academic outcomes.

"We need to have high expectations for all students. Too often I've heard these students can't achieve to the same level because they come from poverty, they come from broken homes. That is crap. We have a moral and ethical responsibility to all students in our district to provide excellence in education.

"I come from poverty. The only thing that got me out of poverty is public education, the teachers who believed in me and pushed me and refused to quit."

He took teachers and administrators to the woodshed, demanding "cultural and systemic change," and employed a familiar metaphor to imply disaster loomed should his team fail to act.

"We can't just rearrange deck chairs on the Titanic," he said.

The Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has assigned 'Level 4 - underperforming' status to the GMRSD, and approved a turnaround plan to improve district leadership and educational outcomes. The DESE has taken control of the district's finances for the last two years, after the towns and school district failed to agree on operating budgets.

Ladd described his vision for an invigorated school district, with engaged students, families working in partnership with schools, more frequent report cards, individualized schools with personalized educational focuses, and a top to bottom emphasis on "student centered actions."

He dismissed any hint that school programs should be tailored to meet the needs of the adults who administer or teach them, instead of the students who attend, and called any resistance to this supposition the work of a "vocal minority," whom he likened to recalcitrant senators resisting the need to reform the

nation's broken health care system.

He moved decisively to resolve the lingering question of elementary school configuration in Montague, claiming the town does not have the money necessary to renovate the old wing of Sheffield School to enable the district to bring pre-K and kindergarten classrooms from Hillcrest across the playing field into one building with the 1st to 5th grade classes at Sheffield.

Instead, Ladd called for the creation of "one school on two campuses, with one principal and one vision, one unified learning environment," and recommended renaming the united institution to enable the community to think about it anew, "as one school."

Without missing a beat, Ladd said, "Now that we've resolved the elementary configuration problem, we need to move on to early childhood education," which he called one of the district's strengths, "a model for the Pioneer Valley."

He praised the work of Hillcrest principal Christine Jutres, and called for the creation of a one-year trial position of director of early childhood education and related programs, including a "vocational program on site," to allow upper school students interested in a career in early childhood ed to receive hands-on training.

Turning to the upper school, Ladd said, "We have too many students dropping out, physically and mentally," and pointed to research that showed only 51% of students at the high school are "actively engaged" in learning there. He called on the district to re-examine the start time for upper school classes, saying teenagers who get up early do not do as well in their studies, and he called for a reappraisal of block scheduling, asking, "Is this the most effective way of educating our kids?"

Demanding "increased academic rigor," Ladd said the district "already offers more advanced placement courses than other schools around us," and is

in line to receive grant funding to begin three more AP courses in statistics, environmental science, and junior composition. He said every upper school student should gain experience in online learning in order to prepare them for the global environment of the 21st century. And he said, "Every child in our district should have an adult advisor or mentor."

To revamp leadership at the upper school level, Ladd called for the creation of one principal to guide both upper schools, with two assistant principals, "to bridge the gap between middle school and high school - one person oversees that, focusing on improving teacher instruction and engaging families."

He said community volunteers should be "welcomed into our schools, not turned away."

Ladd claimed, "I am a charter school proponent," and said charter schools are incubators of innovation that could "bring communities together," rather than "pitting schools against each other." He reiterated the district is here to serve, "all the families of our community."

He said he would reject any proposal to form a charter school within the district (Horace Mann School) which sought to create "a special place for a few select students," but would welcome such a proposal if it sought to meet the needs of all students in the community, provided it was able to also "meet the litmus test of fiscal sustainability, and meet a clear educational need."

Ladd took a swipe at recent media reports that underlined the GMRSD's loss of 185 students to school choice to other districts, rather than highlighting the 97 students who choice in to the GMRSD. He said more students choice in to the GMRSD than to any other county district but Frontier. "Way too many choice out, but we must be doing something right to bring in 97 others."

Still, the incremental loss of around one million dollars in state aid that follows choice-out and charter school students annually to neighboring districts and

schools must have weighed on Ladd when he was forced to present a level budget plan last week, with the elimination of 18 positions, including four classroom teachers. On Tuesday, he called those cuts "pragmatic, practical, and realistic," and claimed, "We have not decimated the district. We are an educationally strong and viable district."

Ladd took a long view on turning around the district's school choice numbers. "Early childhood education is critical to the long term fate of the school district," he said. Calling for a "community school" model to work with young families to ensure all children 0 to 5 are "healthy and secure" and ready to learn, Ladd said, "We have a real opportunity to provide something for the future that is innovative and exciting, that can bring in young families."

And he made clear his own commitment to see the process through. "I believe what I have prepared will stabilize enrollment in the long term. I feel very committed and convinced, if we work together, we can make this happen."

Ladd described himself as a Star Trek fan who believed in an ideal world, but held to very pragmatic means to achieve those ideals. He called on the school committee to back him with an up or down vote, without delay, to endorse his vision of "change with purpose," for the Gill-Montague school district, and aspire to "excellence in all things."

"As adults, we don't have the luxury of failing our students," Ladd said. "We have got to provide the necessary support and engagement that keeps students involved and learning. We need to look at the whole child."

After a brief discussion, with Jeff Singleton holding out for more time to discuss and possibly improve Ladd's vision for reforming the Gill-Montague schools, the school committee endorsed Ladd's plan and supported his priorities by a vote of 8 to 1.

PAPERS from pg 6

Park, Pyfrom said she has been learning about the pros and cons of the proposed 47-MW biomass plant planned for that location.

"I've been listening to people talk about the environmental impacts and financial benefits," she said.

Pyfrom said she is interested in Turners' potential for economic development.

"I would like to see the vacant storefronts on Avenue A filled with something other than thrift stores and second hand shops. I'd like to see people in Montague not have to go to Greenfield to buy clothes and shoes, so we could run down to Avenue A to get the things we need."

She added, "I enjoy talking to senior citizens and hearing their perspectives on what it was like growing up around here," when Avenue A was bustling and the mills were filled with workers.

The town election in Montague takes place May 17th. Deadline for turning in nominating papers is Monday, March 29th.

Democrats interested in running have a few more days, until Friday, April 2nd at 5 p.m., to notify Democratic town committee chair Jay DiPucchio in writing of their intent to run in the Dem's April 8th town nominating caucus, by emailing here.now@verizon.net.



WILL PAY FOR SCRIBBLING

The Montague Reporter

Is Seeking to Hire Committed Reporters to Cover Local School Committee and Selectboard Meetings.

If You Aren't Committed Yet, We Can Get You Committed

For Details: Call 413-863-8666

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Permit Required to Solicit

Wednesday, 3/10

9:10 a.m. Sewer main break on Warner Street. Met with operator on site. All set with clean up.

11:38 a.m. Atlantic Beef Company soliciting without a permit on Swamp Road. Stopped and spoke with same, advised of proper procedure of permitting.

9:02 p.m. Assisted Montague police with breaking and entering at Montague Center School. Four under arrest.

Friday, 3/12

10 a.m. Report of malicious destruc-

5:20 p.m. Arrested

[redacted], for defective exhaust, unregistered motor vehicle, open container of alcohol, and operating under the influence, 5th offense. 8:49 p.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic situation on Main Road.

Saturday, 3/13

11:35 a.m. Report of two youths going door to door soliciting donations in West High Street area. Collecting for St. Jude's Hospital.

11:30 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a motor vehicle crash at the

tion of property at a Forest Street residence. Under investigation.

Wendell town line.

Sunday, 3/14

8:20 a.m. Report of a rabid raccoon at Semb Drive and Northfield Road area. Checked area. Unable to locate.

12:20 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a foot pursuit/search of a subject who jumped into the canal. Subject retrieved and taken into custody.

5 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on Old State Road, two males walking around property. Checked area, no one there.

Monday, 3/15

5:30 p.m. Report of larceny of grave markers at Mountain Road Cemetery. Report taken and currently under investigation.

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

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

COME SIT BY THE FIRE!

Hot Soups, Cold Beer

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

7 days a week
All Winter Long

Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

The Whole Tree

The Art and Science of Tree Care

- Removals
- Structure pruning
- Shrub pruning/rejuvenation
- Planting/transplanting
- Insect/disease treatment

Andrew Young (413) 387-8678
notreeleftbehind23@yahoo.com

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY

MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner



Clark Runs for Selectboard

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING – Ellie Clark, of Lillian's Way, has joined the three-way race for selectboard.

The registered nurse says she has two children in the school system and a mother who uses the senior center, so she is concerned about the range of services the town provides to all age groups.

Clark will challenge Eugene Klepadlo, a manager at a Hinsdale, NH cosmetics packaging firm and local Boy Scout troop leader, and Jeff Dubay, planning board chair and local contractor who served a three-year term on the selectboard from 2005 to 2008, in the May 3rd town election for the seat being vacated by retiring select-

board chair Andy Tessier.

Clark, who has worked as a nurse for 25 years in hospitals, doctor's offices, psych wards, nursing homes, and now local schools, said she would like to see the elementary school have its budgetary needs met, and would also like to see the new senior center built this year, rather than put off. "I know the town has allocated money for the senior center. I want to see that proceed. By postponing it, the costs would only go up," negating the purpose of delay.

"I've lived in town most of my life, moved here with my parents in 1970, when we lived on Mountain Road. I'm interest-

see **CLARK** pg 16

SENIOR from pg 1

votes needed to get the proposal past the two thirds threshold.

This year, Sharp said, the town will propose taking \$1.25 million from free cash, appropriating \$500,000 from taxation, and transferring the final \$650,000 needed to build the new senior center from funds already appropriated, but not expended, for the nearly completed renovation of the Ervingside wastewater treatment plant.

At the March 11th meeting, which took place at the current senior center with about a dozen seniors in attendance, project manager Bruce Hunter, from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, looked at ways to keep the final cost of the project from exceeding \$2.4 million. He said if the project is bid this year, it would allow the town to take advantage of a favorable bidding environment, and perhaps realize as much as a 10 to 15% savings on the cost of construction.

Polly Kiely asked why architect John Caitlin appeared to have added \$58,000 to his own fee since last year. "Fifty-eight thousand! That's the cost of my kitchen supplies!"

Sharp said he thought Caitlin had not included the cost of

designing the geothermal heating and cooling system for the new building in his original estimate. The selectboard had asked Caitlin to redesign the center to allow for geothermal heating and cooling as an add-on expense last year.

Sharp promised to call Caitlin to inquire about the cause of the added architectural fee.

In all, the town of Erving has already expended \$220,000 in the design phase of the senior center project. After the first two town meeting votes failed, selectboard chair Andy Tessier told building committee proponents in September to bring the proposal back to town meeting in May of 2010, and to "Be ready to go forward by next fall," with building construction.

Building committee chair Collis Adams asked Tessier at that time to see if the town could find a way to afford the project without borrowing money, to eliminate the need for a two-thirds majority.

Apparently, Tessier and the other members of the selectboard heeded that plea.

Building committee members say the current senior center space, housed on the first floor of a former elementary school, is inadequate to meet the needs of a growing senior population in town.

SALOME from pg 5

the liturgy and music. They even obtained an organ, which Roger plays. A large portion of the costs for the renovations and projects came from their own funds.

As if all these accomplishments and ongoing projects aren't enough, Roger makes time to

serve with the local area search and rescue team. He's also on the board of directors of the hospital at the county seat, Parker, 60 miles away.

Perhaps you'll agree with my perspective that, through their actions, they are showing real love for their fellow human

beings. The love shown by real saints.

Someday soon, if you are driving to California on Interstate 10, consider taking a small detour and stop by in Salome to say "Hi" to these saints who come from Montague.



BATS from pg 8

Susi von Oettingen, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Concord, NH, was videotaped in Chester, MA in March of 2008 holding an underweight, dehydrated little brown bat, as other bats flew about a white farmhouse in the middle of a bright winter day.

Normally, bats are expected to hibernate beyond March in New England, and are typically nocturnal, but since the white nose syndrome began ravaging their hibernacula, bats have been found flying about in daytime in the middle of winter, searching for insects, dehydrated and apparently starving to death.

The largest hibernaculum in Massachusetts had been located in a cave in Chester, where between 8,000 and 10,000 bats used to overwinter. Now, according to the website of the Mass Wildlife Department of Fish and Game, "over the past two winters, apparently all bats have died," at the Chester hibernaculum (see www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/bat_mortality_ma.htm).

In that 2008 videotape, von Oettingen said the disease had been found affecting bats in southwestern Vermont, central Massachusetts, and central New York. But by February of 2009, when von Oettingen came to the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turner Falls to talk about white nose syndrome, the epidemic had already spread to ten states, including New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

In a phone interview this week, von Oettingen said the disease has now been confirmed in Tennessee, and may have spread to Maryland as well.

Since last year, von Oettingen said, scientists have isolated the particular type of fungus present in the epidemic – *geomyces destructans* – and have found the same fungus to be present among otherwise healthy colonies of European bats. She said scientists do not yet know why a fungus that does not appear to be killing bats in Europe may be contributing to or causing such devastation in bats in North America. Nor can they say whether the fungus has been present all along in American hibernacula, and is attacking Northeastern bats opportunistically – bats that may be weakened or dying from some other, underlying cause.

Von Oettingen said one difference between European bats and bats in America is that European bats do not tend to hibernate in large colonies, nothing on the order of the thousands of bats that once congregated in winter caves like the one in Chester.

She said it is possible that the fungus was transmitted from Europe to America by a recreational caver. Another possible route for transmission could have been an individual bat being blown across the ocean, or perhaps crossing as a stowaway on a boat heading for the port of Albany.

The origin of the epidemic may never be known.

But since last year, scientists have determined that bat-to-bat transmission of the disease is possible, and is in fact the likely route of transmission. Scientists have also determined that healthy bats can contract white nose syndrome from the environment of an infected cave – from the sediment on a cave floor – even though no infected bats are present.

Not much else about the dis-

ease is known for certain. Von Oettingen said scientists are working to determine if genetic testing can pinpoint whether bats that appear to be healthy, for example bats out and about in summer, in fact carry the disease. She said extreme care is being taken in netting bats for summer surveys, so as not to spread contamination to the three species of migrating bats that travel through the Northeast in summer – silver haired, red, and hoary bats – which have shown no signs of contracting white nose syndrome so far.

"There is no doubt about bat to bat transmission," said von Oettingen. "They move; they switch around among mines. We had significant increase last winter at two sites in NH where bat populations appeared to be growing." Von Oettingen said it seemed, "Bats were leaving from affected sites and fleeing to New Hampshire from Vermont and Massachusetts," perhaps trying to get away from infected hibernacula, "and bringing white nose with them."

Though more is known, the disease still baffles the scientists who are studying it. "We don't know what exactly it is doing: whether the fungus is irritating them, and wakes them up so they use up all their energy and die, or whether there is a physiological cause for their mortality. We haven't gotten deep enough into the disease itself yet," to make that determination.

One thing is certain, von Oettingen said. "We will never see the population of bats in the Northeast return to the levels we are used to. Not in our lifetime."

For the latest information on white nose syndrome go to: www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html



413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

AJ's  

CYCLE

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- heated clothing • used bikes
- boots • gloves
- accessories
- gift certificates

(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

CopyCat
PRINT SHOP

- full color offset printing
- digital copies
- oversize copies
- files accepted via email

We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

20 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!

up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture

Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA

Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties

413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

LOGOS & BRANDING 

GRAPHIC DESIGN 

ILLUSTRATION 

WEB SITES 

COPY WRITING 

BUSINESS STRATEGY 

INTERNET MARKETING 

MISSION & VISION 

H₂O
BOYSEN HODGSON

413 303 9193
www.h2-om.com

United Siding & Window

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • SIDING • ROOFING

Since 1970

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

Bob Edwards
603.239.8389
413.834.3902



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ – Q. All I ever hear about the sun is how dangerous it is. But, when I was a kid, my mother used to tell me to get out in the sun and play. Did my mother give me bad advice?

I've devoted a lot of space to the dangers of sun exposure. I believe I owe the sun a couple of columns to make up for this. Here's the first one.

Most public health messages have focused on the hazards of too much sun exposure. Ultraviolet (UV) rays, an invisible component of sunlight,

can cause skin damage, cataracts, wrinkles, age spots, and skin cancer.

But there is some sunny news about the sun.

Sunlight increases the body's vitamin D supply. Most cases of vitamin D deficiency are caused by a lack of exposure to the sun.

If you don't have enough vitamin D, your bones will suffer. In children, vitamin D deficiency causes rickets, best known for creating bowed legs. Low vitamin D levels cause osteoporosis in adults. Osteoporosis is a disorder in which the bones become increasingly porous, brittle, and subject to fracture.

Unlike other essential vitamins, which you must get from food, vitamin D can be synthesized in the skin through a reaction to ultraviolet radiation. How much vitamin D you produce depends upon how

many units of ultraviolet light penetrate your skin.

The UV light can be blocked by skin pigment, sunscreen, clothing and body fat.

Dark skin requires about five to six times more solar exposure than pale skin for equivalent amount of vitamin D production.

By the late 1800s, about nine out of ten children in industrialized Europe and North America had rickets symptoms. The medical community began promoting sunbathing for rickets. At the same time, doctors found that tuberculosis (TB) responded to sunlight.

Because of the results with rickets and TB, attitudes about the sun changed. Sunlight also became a popular medical treatment for rheumatic disorders, diabetes, gout, chronic ulcers, and wounds. From this, came the expression, "a

healthy tan."

In the 1930s, the U.S. Public Health Service began issuing warnings about sun-related health risks. Subsequently, the hazards of skin cancer from too much sun were researched extensively.

However, too little sun exposure is associated with Hodgkin's lymphoma and other cancers of the breast, ovaries, colon, pancreas and prostate. And, while the sun is a risk factor for melanoma – the most dangerous form of skin cancer – there is an increased survival rate in patients with early-stage melanoma who undergo high sun exposure.

Some studies have raised the possibility that vitamin D insufficiency is contributing to

many major illnesses. For example, there is evidence that high levels of vitamin D may decrease the risk of developing multiple sclerosis (MS).

A recent Swedish study found that sufficient vitamin D in childhood was associated with a lower risk of developing type 1 diabetes.

There is also a connection between vitamin D and metabolic syndrome, a cluster of conditions that increases the risk for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In our next column, we'll discuss other benefits of sunlight and how much sun is enough.

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

Montague Downhill Soapbox Classic Gets Moving

BY MICHAEL MULLER
MONTAGUE CENTER - This is an open call for steering committee members to build and execute the First Annual Montague Downhill Soapbox Classic. The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 31st, at 5:30 p.m. at the MCTV studios. We are looking for members of the

community from safety, business, arts, fraternal organizations and the town to join and help make this premier event happen. The date for the soapbox event is set at September 18th, 2010, in Turners Falls and will be open to everyone from six years old to 60 plus years old. Visit www.MontagueMA.net/SoapBoxRaces for more info.



Jessica Harmon Illustration

BY AMY DONOVAN
GREENFIELD – Updating to a digital thermostat? If a homeowner or contractor removes an old thermostat, it should never be thrown in the trash. These thermostats contain mercury, which can be hazardous to our environment and human health if not properly disposed of.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District accepts thermostats for free. The district accepts wall-mounted mercury thermostats: these are the older, non-digital types that are typically round or rectangular in shape.

Proper Disposal of Wall-Mounted Mercury Thermostats

Mercury is toxic and found in many common household items such as button batteries, mercury thermometers, and fluorescent light bulbs, including the new energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's). Mercury thermostats contain 3000 times the amount of mercury as these bulbs. None of these mercury-containing items should be put in the trash; they can all be safely disposed of at the sites listed below.

Thermostats and thermometers can be brought to the district office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield. Hours vary; please call (413) 772-2438. District residents can also bring them to the regional hazardous waste collection site at the transfer station in Bernardston (first Saturday of each month; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. from December to April, and 8 a.m. to noon from May to November). This site is open to

residents of the towns within the Franklin County Solid Waste District: including Erving, Gill, Montague and Wendell. There is no charge for recycling mercury thermostats and thermometers.

It is important to return the entire thermostat, and not just the mercury-containing ampoule, since the casing provides protection for the mercury during shipment. Handle carefully. If a mercury ampoule breaks, ventilate and vacate the area for 15 minutes. Do not use a vacuum cleaner to clean up. Droplets of mercury can be pushed together using a piece of paper and then collected using one or more pieces of paper. Small drops can be picked up on tape. Place these items and the thermostat in a doubled plastic bag and seal tightly. Wash hands, remove any contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

Guiding Good Choices

Free Parent Education

A 5-week Program for Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers of Children Ages 9 - 14
 April 1 - April 29

Guiding Good Choices is a workshop for parents of students in grades 4-8 designed to help families guide their children through the 'tween' years.

Dinner, Childcare & Transportation provided
ALL MEETINGS 6 - 8 PM - Dinner at 5:30 pm

Montague Catholic Social Ministries
 41 Third Street, Turners Falls MA 01376

Contact Rachel Lively to register:
rachel@mcsmcommunity.org or (413) 863-4804, ext. 2)



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

Patrick Smith
 CSSL # 100236
 Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 866-262-5361
 413-367-2228
 FAX 413-367-2212

Carol's Beauty Nook
 29 G Street, Turners Falls
 Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
 Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers

Gift Certificates Available
413-863-2888

A sumptuous array of silk, heirloom whites, velveteen, rayon, wool & Japanese printed cottons. Vintage-inspired buttons, jewelry & scarves.

Delectable Mountain Cloth
 125 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
www.delectablemountain.com
 please visit our website or the store for even more
 (802) 257-4456

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

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

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

EDL Dealer in used Home Furnishings
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
 featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
 Cookery Figurines End Tables

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

GOOD USED USABLES

LIVING ROOM YOGA

Programs now in Turners Falls, Montague & Leverett

CLASSES ~ WORKSHOPS ~ PEACE
 LISA ENZER, M.ED., RYT

WWW.LIVINGROOMYOGA.NET
 413-367-2658



GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 3: A Hybrid Decision and a Tinker Swap

Tinker Family



Billy, 50
Bus Mechanic



Rita, 49
Yoga Instructor



Alex, 17



Ruby, 10

Bartlett Family



Gerry, 59
Software Engineer



Beverly, 52
Business Owner



Jayden, 16



Connor, 14

In this continuing saga, three fictional families – the Bartletts, the Tinkers, and the Robbins-Levines – compete in a year-long contest to reduce their environmental impact. Read each weekly installment to learn what the families are up to as they try to outdo each other and win the prize for the most ecologically sustainable household.

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON
MONTAGUE CENTER – Gerry Bartlett drove the Explorer up the steep driveway to the family’s passive solar post and beam house in Leverett and pulled into the heated garage. After depositing their coats and hats in the mudroom, Jayden

and her parents migrated to the kitchen to celebrate their selection as one of the Go Green families with ice cream sundaes.

Connor headed straight for his bedroom, fired up his laptop, logged into www.fueleconomy.gov, and clicked on “hybrids.” The Lexus Gerry had his eye on only got 24 miles per gallon on the highway – not so impressive, especially compared to the other hybrids. He headed back down the stairs and announced, “Sorry, Dad. If we want to win the transportation challenge we have to get the Prius.”

TINKER FAMILY: A TINKER SWAP

The sun lit up specks of

snowflakes in the late afternoon light as WGBJ cameras zoomed in on the sagging front porch of the Tinker home in Gill, as Billy and his daughter Ruby sat bundled in their winter coats in rocking chairs, sharing the family’s strategy for the transportation challenge.

“See my neighbor Jim is all set to trade my Ford pickup for a diesel Dodge Cummins pickup. Then I’m gonna run it on biodiesel,” Billy confided slyly to the camera, as it swiveled over for a close-up of the rusty red pickup parked next to a pile of recently split wood.

“Or we might even convert it to a grease car,” Ruby added enthusiastically. “Then maybe we could just use old French fry

oil from a restaurant, so we’ll hardly be using gasoline at all!”

“And Rita’s gonna bring the Subaru in for a makeover-tune-up, check the air pressure, the works! Then we’ll be running it real efficient,” Billy said.

Later, back in the kitchen, Ruby faced her brother Alex. “I heard Gerry Bartlett talking with his son about buying one of those new hybrids. Did you see on their footprint chart that they live in a giant solar house? And their profile said their kids go to Greenfield Academy, so I bet they can afford to buy the most efficient everything. We don’t stand a chance!”

“Yeah, there is, like, *no* way we can win this contest if that family is totally loaded,” Alex agreed.

Brother and sister looked towards the window as a gust of wind blew open the door to the porch and Billy’s voice drifted into the room “...for the conver-

sion I’ll make a heat exchanger, run some fuel lines, put in a fuel valve and CAV filter, seals and hoses...”

“What I’m really worried about,” Alex added, “is that Dad will make us go along with one of his crazy ideas, like that time he tried to make our barn roof into a sod roof and it collapsed from all the weight!”

“I’ll keep an eye on him,” Ruby offered.

Continued next issue.

Visit www.montaguema.net to read about all three families and to discuss the story so far

EASTER BAZAAR
Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church
Saturday, March 27th
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
44 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield
Ukrainian food: pyrohy, holubtsi, kowbasa, babka breads, cookies, butter lambs, horseradish, Ukrainian arts and crafts. To place an order call Marion at (413) 834-7372

The Country Players present
the miracle worker
by William Gibson
The Miracle Worker will be showing on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th, with an additional special school production on the 25th at the Shea Theater, Avenue A in Turners Falls. For more info visit www.countryplayers.org. Call the Shea Theater for reservations at (413) 863-2281, ext. 1.

Dinner and entertainment to benefit the Shriner’s Hospital for Children featuring
The Bobby Darling Show
Saturday, April 10th
French King Bowling Center
Doors open 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., showtime 8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$20 per person
Tickets are available from any Shriner, Foster’s Supermarket in Greenfield and the French King Bowling Center, 55 French King Highway, Erving. For more information call (413) 423-3047.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suspicious Vehicles Removed

Tuesday, 3/09 6:19 p.m. Assisted fire department on Vassar Way with smoke investigation. 7:52 p.m. Assisted Greenfield Police department locating a subject in town.	Friday, 3/12 6:24 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle in the woods near Stoughton Place. 8:46 p.m. Report of a disturbance and vandalism at a Main Road business.	Saturday, 3/13 12:03 a.m. Investigated suspicious vehicles behind a French King Highway business. Subjects dispersed. 3:00 p.m. Assisted with removal of a tree blocking the roadway on South Cross Road.
Wednesday, 3/10 9:35 p.m. Assisted Montague police department with numerous arrests and transport.	Sunday, 3/14 12:15 a.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle and trespasser at a French King Highway residence. Vehicle and subject removed from area.	

Please shop locally and support Montague Reporter advertisers

PUBLIC HEARING ON STRETCH ENERGY CODE TOWN OF LEVERETT
Leverett Energy Committee
The Leverett Energy Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 5th, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to review whether the Town should adopt a new General By-law mandating enhanced energy efficiency in buildings as authorized by the Green Communities Act, Appendix 120.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR) and known as the “Stretch Energy Code”, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk.

SMOKES from pg 8
the original sweet and tangy flavor.

“What we miss most about the restaurant is seeing our customers. They were like a family to us. We were incredibly fortunate. We had a great clientele.”

Now, the Ekuses will have an opportunity to renew that bond with a new group of customers; Lou and Leslie plan to staff the deli counter themselves.

The Ekuses said they would source their meats locally, except they have not been able to locate a sufficient supply of the cuts they use: pork spare ribs, bone in pork butts, beef rib short ribs, prime rib of beef, beef plate, turkey breasts, and chickens.

“We don’t use frozen meats,” said Lou. “I believe fresh meats stay moist and have better texture. That being said, we’re working very hard at sourcing our meats from farms that use sustainable and humane methods.” He added they would

work with local farms to purchase limited amounts of fresh meat to offer for deli specials.

The bacon bellies they use come from an organic producer in Vermont; the bacon is nitrate- and nitrite-free.

When the deli opens, the Ekuses will no longer be doing catering as they have over the past three years, but they will take special orders for larger quantities of their stock items.

Lou said they are concerned about the timing of opening their new deli on Avenue A, just as the Gill-Montague bridge is about to undergo four years of repair. But, he said, “I feel very strongly that the businesses in Turners need to get together and come up with a marketing pitch that uses the construction as a positive thing rather than a negative thing. I’m confident that if we do that, Turners will continue to see the kind of resurgence it has been seeing for the past several years.”

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

Locally owned since 1941

Foster's SUPER MARKET
Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street Northfield, MA 01360
Office: 413-498-0207
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
Home Phone: 413-863-9166
Home Fax: 413-863-0218
Email bedson1@comcast.net
Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
REALTOR®

“My Office is Always Open to You!”

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.rebuild.net
863-8316

BARLOW

- Paving
- Excavating
- Demolition
- Septic
- Power Sweeping
- Landscaping
- Seal Coating

Turners Falls
413.772.2155
cell: 325.5596
www.barlowpavingexcavating.com

Beijing Station
Chinese Restaurant Eat In, Carry Out & Catering
Tuesday Special
Buy One Meal, Get Second Meal 50% OFF!
FREE DELIVERY
51 Avenue A, Turners Falls
413-863-8988 | 413-863-2666

Chevrolet MARK OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

RON SICARD
Sales Professional

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 MAIN ST
P O BOX 729
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746
DILLON@CROCKER.COM
Toll Free 1-800-698-3678

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, MARCH 18th
The Meaning of Wilderness. Doug Seale leads an exploration of how the meaning of wilderness has changed over time and how these various attitudes shape our interactions with nature, with special attention to Thoreau, Emerson, Muir, Marsh, T. Roosevelt, Leopold, and a few others, 7 p.m. Great Falls Discovery Center. Turners Falls.

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Richard Chase Group*, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *SHAG*, 7 to 9 p.m. Laura and Rob play lots of forgotten oldies and easy listening favorites from the '40s through the '80s, including songs by Frank Sinatra, the Carpenters, Roberta Flack, and more!

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Mike Baggetta Quartet.* Performing the original, award-winning music of jazz guitarist and composer Mike Baggetta. Group interaction, fearless improvisation and a strong emphasis on melody are some of the hallmarks of this group, making it an exciting musical event for all kinds of listeners. 8:30 p.m. Opening: Kurt Weissman. \$7 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, singing all your favorite Johnny Cash

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

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



Dave Lippman, satirical songwriter, performs at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 20th in the Leverett Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

tunes and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Luther Johnson*. (413) 423-3100.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *St. Paddy's Caribbean Adventure*, dance party and more! 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH & 20th

The Miracle Worker at the Shee Theater, Turners Falls. Celebrate the inspirational life of Helen Keller. The Country Players present William Gibson's story of Helen and her teacher Annie Sullivan at the Shea Theater. Rick Mauran directs Emily Eaton and Emma Henderson, who poignantly portray the teacher and the student. Nick Danjer and Jodie Brunelle are Helen's parents. Dave Grout as brother Jimmy, Steve Tower as Anaganos, and Sue Shedd as Aunt Ev, servants Danielle Canedy, Kerrigan Walsh, Renna Earp and Hannah Winans, and blind students Sararose Adan, Ellie Russel and Sylvia Wilkins. 7:30 p.m. Also 3/26 & 3/27.

Pothole Pictures teams up with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival showing: *Crossing Delancey*, PG, color, 97 minutes. Friday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at 8 p.m. Music 1/2 hour before the movie. Fri: *Last Night's Fun* plays traditional Irish music and Sat: *The Doug Johnson Band* plays original country-folk. (413) 625-2896.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th
Maple Syrup Day, hayrides and tours at the Field Family Sugar House, 12 to 2 p.m. Dessert contest at the Leverett Library, 2 p.m. Submit your best dessert made with real maple syrup from

Leverett. Free. (413) 548-9220 or leverett@cwmars.org.

The 11th Annual Women's Belly & Womb Conference at Sirius Conference Center in Shutesbury, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Gathering for women of all ages. www.alisastarkweather.com.

Film showing: *The Exorcist* at the Wendell Free Library, Wendell. Another film in the monthly series of Science Fiction and Horror movies on or about the new moon. Rated R; 132 mins, 7:30 p.m. (978) 544-3559. Free Admission, limited seating.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Satirical songster, Dave Lippman, aka *Wild Bill Bailout*, at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse in the Town Hall, Leverett. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the door \$10 to \$12. Audiences of all ages have been thrilled by his post-corporate comic stylings.

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rokit Queer* dance party. 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st

Gill Sugarhouse Open House, noon to 4 p.m. Sugar houses: Northfield Mount Hermon Farm; Turkey Ridge Farm, 86 West Gill Road; Boyle Road Sugarhouse, 121 Boyle Road; and Uppingill Farm's sugar house on Center Road.



Mike Baggetta Quartet: Kike Baggetta, guitar; Jason Righy, saxophone; Eivind Opsvik, bass; George Schuller, drums. at the Montague Bookmill, Friday, March 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Equinox Ceremony, Montague Grange, Montague Center, 2 to 4 p.m. Weavers CoG (the local council of Covenant of the Goddess) hosts an Ostara celebration (Spring Equinox, welcoming of the spring), followed by conversation, potluck, and arts & crafts activities. A family oriented, alcohol/substance-free, open Pagan event.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Special Crafts Night Ukrainian Egg Painting*, 7 to 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues guitar with vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Crazy Folk*, folk/pop, 8 p.m. no cover.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser & of course Tina Horn, will keep you happy with their

amazing sound. 9 to 11 p.m.;

SATURDAY, MARCH 27th
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse: *Thin Ice Theater*, Suzy Polucci and Paul Richmond teamed up again performing with a brand new show. The intrepid confused couple delve into politics and just how hard it is to be human. Laughter guaranteed. George-Moonlight Davis joins in on piano for this evening of comedy and music. The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, located in Old Town Hall, Wendell center. Open Mic begins at 7:30 p.m. Benefit: Wendell Town Hall.



Ukrainian Egg painting at Deja Brew craft night, Wednesday, March 24th, 7 to 10 p.m.

Coop Concerts presents: *All Cooped Up* winter concert. In the Community Room downstairs at All Souls Unitarian Church, Greenfield. Tickets at door, sliding \$5 to \$15. Doors open at 6:30, concert at 7 p.m.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Art Steele*, jazz. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

THROUGH MARCH 27th
In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *From Hombooks and Samplers to facebook and SMART Boards: Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley.* Celebrate the *Big Read* through this interactive exhibit!

ONGOING
Gallery at Hallmark, Avenue A, Turners Falls. William Wegman photographs, *Out of the Box*. On display through May 2nd. Gallery open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Christina's
A Taste of Italy

Free Bon Jovi Tickets!
Drawing Thursday March 25th 10 pm
(Order a Party size pizza or two entrees to qualify!)

Fri 19th 6-9 pm The Famous Guitar Luther Johnson III Blues
Sat 20th 6-9 pm Art Steele Blues

Hours: Tues-Sun 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays til 10:00 p.m.

413-423-3100
20 French King Highway (Route 2) Erving
Full Liquor License

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday March 19th & 20th
CROSSING DELANCEY
Teaming up with Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival to show this film. PG, color, 97 min. Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Music 1/2 hour before the movie
Fri. Last Night's Fun-traditional Irish music
Sat. The Doug Johnson Band, country/folk

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net

Showtimes for Fri., March 19th to Thurs., March 25th

- 1. CRAZY HEART** in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30 R
- 2. ALICE IN WONDERLAND 2D** FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 PG DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound
- 3. SHUTTER ISLAND R** DAILY 6:30 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 4. SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE** DAILY 6:40 9:20 R FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. GREEN ZONE R** DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. DIARY OF A WIMPY KID** DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 7. BOUNTY HUNTER PG13** DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

Deja Brew Cafe & Pub

Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Friday, 3/19 9 to 11 p.m.
Josh Levangie Johnny Cash tunes

Saturday, 3/20 9 to 11 p.m.
Nexus Harmonic Eclectic Rock

Sunday, 3/21 8 to 10 p.m.
Acoustic Open Mic Night

Wednesday, 3/24 7 - 10 p.m.
Ukrainian Egg Painting

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

The Rendezvous

WEDS 3/17 | FREE
EARLY QUIZ NIGHT at 7pm then Paddy's Ramblers bring the St Patrick's Day sound!

THURS 3/18 | 8PM | FREE
The Richard Chase Group (1616)

FRI 3/19 | 9:30 | FREE
ST. PADDY'S CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE w DJ Pushplay, costume contest, sand beach, tropical drinks, more! (call if confused)

SAT 3/20 | 9:30 | \$3
Rokit Queer (THE dance party w djs Bex & Tommy Toboggan)

SUNDAY BRUNCH! 10AM-4PM!

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
THEV00.NET 413-863-2866

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

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

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs
Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks
Debbe Dugan
863-5030
Your Pace at Your Place



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Great news! My lettuce and spinach seedlings planted three weeks ago are ready for transplanting. They look green and perky.

As you've no doubt noticed when buying ready to plant greens from a farmer, they have



spinach seedlings

become root bound to the degree that you must gently tear this mass apart before planting. Because I have used a light soil

mix to start these seeds, I am going to repot them in three inch pots with straight potting soil and feed them with a highly diluted seaweed emulsion. (Spinach is an especially heavy feeder.) This will allow the roots more expansion space, and provide me with single plants I can put in the garden with little further disturbance.

The onions and leeks, on the other hand, are just emerging. The planned division is good. Now I can cap the ungerminated and just emerging seeds to keep the soil more moist without over dampening my new seedlings and running the increased risk of having the little plants succumb to damping off.

Hooray! I feel as if spring is really on its way now, and it will be only a few weeks before I can start my peppers and tomatoes. Using the "plant seeds for planting outdoors in six to eight weeks" rule, I plan to start these seeds in early April.

Here in Montague City, next to the Connecticut River, I should be frost-free by the end

of May and will only need to watch for steady temperatures and sufficient drying of the soil to transplant outdoors. I plan to start the peppers first because they are slower growing, and I want to put out nice sturdy plants. The time for growing my tomatoes will require a careful balance of starting early enough to develop a good sized plant, strong in its stem and leaf production yet not too leggy from inadequate light. To pull off this feat you really need a mini greenhouse, or a glassed-in space on the south side of your house.

Out in the yard the tips of early daffodils are starting to show up in the woods. Otherwise, not too much is growing, but this is a great month to cut out growth you don't want, like the bittersweet vine that is everywhere in my bulb bed by the hedge, growing up the beauty bush and twining the lilacs. I see the recent heavy, wet snowstorm has snapped the top halves of the tall white lilacs my neighbor gave us years ago. They hang forlornly and will need to be cut out entirely. I hope the young shoots in the ground will eventually replace them, but in the meantime I regret their short-lived fragrant beauty. I think I'll try to force some of the blossom budded ends.

A few weeks ago, a friend and I went to the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in Hartford. We were thrilled by the small gardens created there, full of small trees, flowering shrubs and bulbs, each display also featuring running water in

falls, fountains or pools. We also went to a workshop on flower arranging which focused a great deal on how to cut and prepare stems for longer life in bouquets.

The speaker noted that lilacs are some of the most difficult to cut and preserve. I have nothing to lose since these shrubs are doomed, so I'll try my best to gently smash the woody stems under water and put them in a vase with tepid water temperature.

Even without winter damage,



lilacs in bloom

this is the time to prune and clean up your shrubs, noting of course that removing branch tips will also remove potential blooms. For example, this is the perfect time to thin out the growth on fruit trees, but not the best time to prune ornamentals. It's good to thin out the many small stems beneath a stand of large lilacs to encourage them, but leave a few new ones for the time when the large bushes decline.

This is also the time to apply dormant oil on fruits and flowering shrubs, which tend to be pest ridden. This treatment is a must for apple trees if you want to produce edible fruit that is not full of scab. I am also going to

try it on my beautiful peach-colored azalea, which is attacked every season by little green caterpillars that love its leaves. Other years, I have sprayed insecticidal soaps just before the leaves emerge. This year I'd like to prevent the emergence of these heady feeders altogether. Pick a still day in a run of dry weather for applying dormant oil.

Feeding Soil, Self and Soul is the intriguing title of this year's Western Mass Master Gardeners Spring Garden Symposium, to be held at Frontier Regional High School March 20th. I have signed up for either "Flowering Shrubs that Like it Here" or "Permaculture Garden Design" in the morning and "No-Till for Backyard Gardeners" or "Growing Nutrient Dense Food" in the afternoon.

While pre-registration is recommended and I am late with this information, you could stop by and hope to find a spot on the day of the event. I also promise to share what I've learned from these Master Gardeners.

Lastly, don't forget the final days of the spectacular Smith College Bulb Show March 20th and 21st, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; \$2 recommended donation. It's most definitely worth a trip in this pre-spring month. You can also go to the Lyman Greenhouse after the show on March 27th, noon to 3 p.m., and March 28th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and purchase some of the unusual imported bulbs starring in the show.

Think spring and happy gardening!

CLARK from pg 12

ed in the town, and I'd like to be more active, see more of the ins and outs, and work with the selectboard to pursue those interests."

Clark favored the proposal brought forward by Ralph and Eric Semb to build a gas station near the French King Entertainment Center. "I would like to see a gas station here; it would be good for the town of Erving, and I hope provide some jobs for local residents. It would be nice to go here for gas, instead of Orange or Gill. I wasn't concerned about the aquifer issue.

When I spoke with Eric Semb, he had things in place that would have protected the surrounding environment, including the water."

Clark said she volunteers in the cafeteria at the elementary school and also at the senior center. She is concerned about the town's finances, given the decline in state aid and the current economy.

"Now is a good time for me to run."

Clark said she would bring her organizational skills and ability to multi-task to the job of managing the town's affairs.

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



THE RENDEZVOUS
GREAT FOOD AND DRINK

JUICY LOCAL BEEF AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST!
Your choice of side, roasted potatoes pictured here.

OPEN EVERY DAY:
LUNCH, DINNER, LATE NIGHT
78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
(413) 863-2866
THEVOO.NET

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

daily soups and lunch specials!

GREAT FALLS COFFEE COMPANY

dynamic caffeination
warm friendly service
brown bag catering

Mon - Fri 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat & Sun 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4 Main Road, Gill 413-863-0033

MUSIC & MOVIES

TURN IT UP!

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309