



## WILLIAM WEGMAN

coming to Hallmark Gallery  
Artist's Reception Friday, 3/5, 1 - 5 p.m.



## SCHOOLS

Old and New  
Page 9

Pictured Left: Logan Pratt, Bernardston Elementary

LAKE PLEASANT   MILLERS FALLS   MONTAGUE CENTER   MONTAGUE CITY   TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 22

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 4, 2010

## Franklin County Energy Committees Working Together to Save the Earth (and your pocketbook!)

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GREENFIELD** – Twenty-two people representing seven Franklin County town energy committees gathered at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) conference room in Greenfield on Tuesday night to share strategy for saving the Earth from global warming, while saving their towns – and the residents of their towns – some money on utility bills in the bargain.

From energy savings performance contracts to elder home repair programs, town committee members discussed what had worked, and what was being worked on to retrofit existing buildings and reduce the waste of electricity, fuel and dollars in their municipal infrastructure, and in private homes.

Some frustration was registered with the slow pace of progress on the countywide energy performance contract being conducted under the auspices of the FRCOG by Siemens Building Technology.

Claire Chang from the Gill energy commission wanted to know, "Where is our investment grade audit?" Representatives from Leverett and Greenfield echoed that question.

An investment grade audit is the second step in the process of developing an energy performance contract, whereby Siemens will go through selected buildings

in each participating town and identify areas where energy upgrades will produce guaranteed savings in utility bills. The towns would then look over the audit, choose which energy savings to pursue in which buildings, and contract with Siemens to perform the upgrades, which are then paid for out of the energy savings over a period of time, up to 20 years.

Twenty-two towns in Franklin County and five school districts initially signed on over the past year to work with Siemens on energy performance contracting, but of those Ashfield, and perhaps Conway, have decided not to go forward, according to Bob Dean, director of regional services for FRCOG.

Dean promised to get in touch with Siemens' project manager, Roland Butzke, to find out what the hold up on the investment grade audits might be.

Meanwhile, the town of Rowe is nearing completion on their \$722,000 energy performance contract, and Jack Packard was there to tell the town committees, "Rowe is battle-scarred by experience, but satisfied to have an experienced company standing behind them."

Packard said three town energy committee members quit during the process of going through the energy performance contract, an attrition rate he ascribed to frustration getting the company's

see **ENERGY** pg 11



DETMOLD PHOTO WEDNESDAY, 8 05 A.M.

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR

### Residents, Business Owners Share Concerns on Gill-Montague Bridge Construction

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – Al Stegeman, District 2 highway director for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, wasn't having any of Montague Business Association president Chris Janke's suggestion on Friday afternoon that a "bi-directional solution" to the traffic flow on the Gill Montague Bridge was possible during the upcoming four-year renovation of that span.

"I don't think we're going to go there," said Stegeman. "We're not going there. We're going to stick with one way traffic."

eight, including the game-clincher.

The story of this game was a story of relentless defense as Erving held one of the league's most prolific scorers, Vernon's Morgan Derosia to eight points.

"When we met during the regular season, Morgan and Devin Millerick lit us up and ended up beating us something like 36 - 32," said Erving coach Jim Loynd. "I told the girls in our final practice we had to fly on defense and slow those two down. I knew we couldn't stop them entirely, but if we kept them in check and dominated the boards, I thought we had a chance."

Alex Vieira took her coach's prodding to heart and took control in the paint, all but eliminating any second-chance opportunities for the Vernon offense, while Jessica Scoville, Sydney Upham and Widon Scott guarded the perimeter, shutting down passing lanes and denying the

see **VERNON** pg 10

"These are small businesses that don't have a lot of money behind them to keep them going through all this [construction]... I'm even hearing people say, 'Turners has more going on for it than Greenfield.' I thought I would die before I would ever hear that statement. We've got a fantastic community happening now, after years and years of struggle. This is not going to be good for Turners Falls."

– Geri Johnson  
Riverside

Stegeman insisted the only prudent way to manage traffic flow is to limit traffic to one lane,

coming into Turners from Gill, while the bridge deck is under

see **BRIDGE** pg 12

## Erving Girls Win Vernon Invitational Tournament

BY D'ANTHONY CHAPMAN

**VERNON, VT** – On Sunday afternoon, February 28th, there were no million-dollar contracts on the line in the Vernon Elementary School gym. There weren't any signing bonuses, or sneaker contracts. There wasn't a

single tattoo-laden behemoth banging his chest post-slam-dunk. There were only 18 young ladies comprising the last two teams standing in the annual Vernon 5th and 6th grade Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament, poised to play the last game of their season for one reason: the love of the game.

The Erving PPG defeated host Vernon White 23-19 to win the championship in a game where neither team had more than a three-point lead until the waning seconds when Lindsey Mailloux scored on a put-back to seal the win.

Rachel Waldron led all scorers with ten points, while Mailloux added



KELLY LOYND PHOTO

Erving's Jessica Loynd (far right) slips an inbound pass over Vernon defender Madison Tyson (3) to Lindsey Mailloux (25) as she cuts to the basket for two of her eight points in the championship game.

## Anything Goes! this Weekend at TFHS



EMILY BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Sam Letcher and Megan Grimard at dress rehearsal Tuesday for Anything Goes

BY ZACK BOISVERT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Every year, a small but dedicated band from the Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School put on a musical production. The cast works to perfect the minutest details for weeks before finally showing

the public the fruits of their toils.

This year's production – with three performances this weekend – is Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. The upbeat comedy takes place on an inter-continental cruise liner heading

see **TFHS** pg 16

**PET OF THE WEEK**

Look at Me!

**Macy**

My name is Macy and I'm a one-year-old female longhair cat in need of a good home. Look at me, how sweet and loveable with that darling little black spot on my chin. I'm very affectionate... but to people only. I do not like other cats. I would be so happy to be your one and only, I will snuggle beside you and gently snooze, I will play games. I especially like dangly toys and those little catnip mice. Words can do only so much, you have to come and meet me. I will purr my way into your heart! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

**Tents for Haiti**

**GREENFIELD** - On March 24th and March 25th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. the Greenfield Community College Human Service Club will be collecting contributions at the East Building of the campus to purchase tents and sleeping bags to help the people devastated by the earthquake in Haiti. Haiti is entering the rainy season and people are still suffering from lack of shelter. Please come by and help out!

For more information, contact Abbie Jenks at: [jenks@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:jenks@gcc.mass.edu) or at: (413)-775-1127.

**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](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net)  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
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58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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Local Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS****Movies and Crafts****Movie Night, March 5th**

On Friday March 5th, at 7 p.m. there will be a free showing of the movie *Julie & Julia* at the Wendell library. Come enjoy the movie on a large screen in our comfortable library "cinema," and stay afterwards, if you'd like, to compare the book to the movie.

**Play Group, March 10th**

The Wendell Library Playgroup, Wednesday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. is being revamped. Wendell's own Sylvia Wetherby will now be on hand to facilitate baby- and child-centered activities for part of the hour. She has years of experience working/playing with very young children, so it is going to be fun! Sylvia says we'll celebrate baby animals Wednesday, March 10th with stories, songs, puppets and toys. Have your child bring their favorite toy animal and come on down and play with Sylvia. (No live animals until the weather gets better.)

**Kids' Movie Night, March 13th**

American astronaut Captain Charles "Chuck" Baker lands on *Planet 51* thinking he's the first person to set foot on it. To his surprise, he finds the planet inhabited by little green people who are happily living in a white picket fence world reminiscent of a cheerfully innocent 1950s America, and whose only fear is that it will be overrun by alien

invaders - like Chuck! Kids' movie night, Saturday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell library.

**After School Crafts & Play with Miss Deb each week in March**

Deb will offer a different craft each week in March from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., for children from 1st grade and up. Join for one or more of the free sessions; limited to ten participants. Please register by calling the Wendell Library (978) 544-3559. Parents can make arrangements with to have the school bus drop children off at the library.

**Exhibits: Pictures from a Wet Day**  
**BY RICHARD BALDWIN** - In the Rain: Pictures from a Rather Wet Day, an exhibition of 11 photographs by Louis Garcia, is now open at the Wendell Free Library. We are pleased to have Garcia's work formally begin a new schedule wherein exhibitions are extended from one to two months.

This body of work is the result of Garcia making photographs of plants in a Wendell garden on a rainy day. The relatively small prints, 8"x10", invite the viewer to move in closely and examine how rain interacts with plant surfaces. The result is an exhibition which becomes a series of micro-dramas, each an intimate experience.

Garcia rediscovered photography after the birth of his daughter, Ela, in order to document her life and the subsequent arrival of son Brendan. Photography has now become his predominant art medium.



DAVOL PHOTO

Greenfield Savings Bank branch manager Linda Ackerman (left) and assistant manager Kerri Lynch seemed relieved to have the weekend move behind them on Monday, the first day at their brand new branch office, located between Miskinis TV and Food City on Avenue A. Ackerman said the move went well. The only major breakdown was a coffee maker that went on the fritz just as she was offering fresh coffee to customers in the spacious new lobby. The new bank building, built by Renaissance Builders of Gill, resembles a train station, recalling the train depot that once occupied the same spot.

ter, Ela, in order to document her life and the subsequent arrival of son Brendan. Photography has now become his predominant art medium.

The Exhibition Statement in the gallery includes a line from Langston Hughes poem, "Let the rain kiss you..." This is a perfect description of the show. Come and get close to this work. The show is up now and continues until the end of April. Library hours are: Tuesday 3 to 6; Wednesday 11 to 8; Saturday 9:30 to 3:30. An artist's reception will be held Saturday, March 6th, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS****New Math**

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - A new Homeschool Program will begin on March 3rd. Rachel Roberts will run the series "Math Through Literature" on Wednesdays at 1:15 at the Carnegie Library. Children of all ages are invited to learn about Math in a fun, hands-on way. There will be stories, experiments, crafts and snacks. The sessions run until April 14th and are free, and registration is not required. The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries and the Turners Falls Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 863-3214.

**LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS****Murder at the Sugar Shack**

Help us write an online mystery called "Murder at the Sugar Shack." The first page will be provided by a noted Leverett author on March 1st.

Sign up at the library to add your contribution to the growing story, which will be updated at: [www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org)

**Maple Syrup Day, Dessert Contest**

Hayrides and Tours at the Field Family Sugar House from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. followed by a dessert contest at the library beginning at 2:00 p.m. Submit

your best dessert made with real maple syrup from Leverett. All entries will be tasted by a distinguished team of judges. Winning cooks get prizes. Events are free.

**Hoop House Program**

Do you want to grow lots of vegetables this year? Would you like to extend your growing season? Come hear David Henion discuss his experiences building and gardening in his Hoop House, on Sunday, March 21st, at 1:00 p.m. at the Leverett Library. After the talk, Henion will lead a tour of his nearby Hoop House.

**MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS****Music and Movement Series**

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is being held at the Montague Center Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m. from March through June. Young children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. The series is sponsored by the Family Network. For more information, please call 863-3214.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - March 8th to 12th**

**GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. The Friday afternoon Writing Group is continuing and has room for new members. Thursday Morning Tai Chi is free and open to the public. Feel free to call the senior center for information on any programs.

**Monday, March 8th**  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, March 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group,

10:30 a.m. Yoga  
1:00 p.m. Canasta  
**Wednesday, March 10th**  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Friends of the Mealsite Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, March 11th**  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation - No Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, March 12th**  
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., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shop-

ping, or medical necessity. Call the center for information on Flu Clinic, pneumonia shots and Cholesterol/Diabetes Clinic planned for the spring.

**Monday, March 8th**  
9:00 a.m. Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, March 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. meeting  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, March 10th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, March 11th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, March 12th**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch at Four Leaf Clover, Bernardston.

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

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# Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

ized in recent weeks by Marielena Garcia and the AFYA foundation ([www.afyafoundation.org](http://www.afyafoundation.org)) held in Western Massachusetts. All in all the two truck loads of medical equipment, clothing, tents, survival gear, water and food amounted to more than

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** – Turn It Up! CDs and Movies at the Montague Book Mill has offered to match all donations for the homeless made by the Montague Reporter during the **Warm Up Franklin County** subscription drive. So for every new subscription the Montague Reporter receives before the last day of winter, March 19th, the newspaper will donate 25% of the proceeds to the Interfaith Council of Franklin County to help fund their homelessness prevention programs and new



Sorrel Hatch with a bag of organic spuds from Upinngil at the Farmers Market at TFHS on Saturday

warming center, and Turn It Up! will match those donations, dollar for dollar.

The subscription drive to date – along with Turn it Up's very generous matching donation (and the donation basket here at the office of the *Montague Reporter*) – has raised in excess of \$200.00. Please tell your friends who might be considering subscribing that this is an ideal time to do so.... 25% of their subscription fee, matched by Turn It Up! will help warm up Franklin County.

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the February **Haitian Relief** medical drives organ-

\$100,000 in contributions.

Stop by the Great Falls Discovery Center on March 13th and help celebrate the birthday of our **National Wildlife Refuge System**. The refuge system, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Florida's Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the system has grown to more than 150 million acres, and 551 national wildlife refuges.

Join refuge employees to learn about our magnificent system of lands devoted to wildlife habitat, including your own Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge! Birthday cake will be served throughout the day and a video presentation on the refuge system will show at 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.

Get ready for St. Patrick's Day with Celtic Heels! The unique choreography of this dance troupe beautifully blends the ancestral style of traditional Irish dance with a toe tapping, hand clapping, vibrant modern flair! Come celebrate the season with the **Celtic Heels Dance** company and special guest musicians for this one evening event on March 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. This is sure to be an energetic show not to be missed

Make a difference, maybe help save a life and **donate blood**. The Baystate Health Mobile Blood Drive will be at the Montague Congregational Church on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. Call Diane Dolan at (413) 325-5684 for information or to arrange an appointment.

The "Food for Thought Farmers Market" held at Turners Falls High School on February 27th was very successful, with many customers and twelve vendors. You could tell customers are itching for spring, as many were asking when the Great Falls Farmers Market will be starting, and whether peaches are ripe yet. The opening day on 2nd Street and Avenue A will be Wednesday, May 5th, and you just might recognize some on the vendors who participated at the high school.

Sorrel Hatch from Upinngil stopped by the Survival Center's **food pantry** to donate 240 pounds of potatoes after the market on Saturday.

Bill Burnham, of Turkey Hill Farm, announced at the Food for Thought Market that he had won the **Pasta Cook-off** at the Gill Congregational Church the night before with his fabulous ziti recipe!

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

## Elks Veterans Committee Recognizes Veterans Home on Leave

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Veterans Committee of the Montague Elks Lodge #2521 on Elks Avenue in Turners Falls recognized some veterans home on leave from Iraq on January 16th. Veterans Committee co-chairs Beverly Reid and Terry Miner met with Jessica and Alex Pesantez at the home of Jessica's parents, Sid and Colleen Jensen. Sid is a longtime member, and the current Esteemed Lecturing Knight, of the Montague lodge. The committee members on leave so that the presented gifts to the couple in thanks and appreciation for their service to our country. Jessica and Alex were on a leave from their



Alex Pesantez and his wife Jessica Pesantez, actively serving in Iraq

yearlong tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq. They serve with the 101st Engineer Battalion, which was originally organized in 1636 as the East Regiment from existing militia companies of Saugus, Salem, Ipswich, and Newbury.

Please notify the committee of any other active service members on leave so that the committee can visit and honor them as well. To arrange please contact Bev Reid, PER, Veteran's Committee co-chair at (413) 863-0872.

### Free Head Start Preschool and Home Visiting Programs

**Child Care and Preschool:** The Parent Child Development Center, serving families with children birth to Kindergarten age and expectant moms for over 40 years, offers free Head Start preschool, free Head Start home visiting programs and subsidized Child-Care and preschool in Franklin and Hampshire Counties. Spanish speaking services available. Call (413) 475-1405 for more information. PCDC is a program of Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Regions.

### No esperes! Aplica para el GRATIS Programa de Head Start y el Programa Basado en el Hogar ahora mismo!

**Cuidado de niños / Pre-escolar:** El Centro de Desarrollo de Padres y niños esta sirviendo a familias con niños desde o edad hasta la edad de Kindergarten [jardín de niños] y esta aceptando aplicaciones para el Programa gratis, pre-escolar de Head Start, [salon de clase] Programa Basado en el Hogar, [Home Base] y el Programa de subsidio [Childcare Preschool] en los Condados de Franklin y Hampshire. Tenemos servicio en Español. Para mas información favor de llamar: (413) 475-1405.

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**Layout & Design**

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"The Voice of the Villages"

**Circulation**  
Suzette Snow-Cobb  
Janel Nockelby

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August 2002

**Technical Administrators**

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## I VOTED FOR OBAMA

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**GILL** – During his campaign, Obama's rousing speeches sounded so much like Franklin D. Roosevelt that I voted for him. Shame on me for being taken in by pretty speeches.

FDR took office in 1932 after the Republican policies of the Hoover administration resulted in a Depression. People were out of work, the banking system was on the brink of disaster, the stock market crashed, homes were being foreclosed, and unemployment increased, with jobs going overseas. Clearly, we needed Roosevelt's policies to get us out of the mess.

Obama took office after George Bush and the Republican Party's bubble burst, just as it did under Hoover. The unemployed swelled by millions under Bush and sadly are still swelling today. The "too big to fail banks" bailed out with our tax dollars are still being run by the incompetent executives who ran the country into the ditch, now receiving multi-million dollar bonuses as "retention incentives."

Roosevelt reasoned the economy wasn't going to be revived without jobs. He launched more than a dozen work projects of his New Deal in his first 100 days in office. Within 35 days of his inauguration, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) was up and running. At the end of just three months, FDR's CCC had put 274,000 men back to work. This program, alone, eventually employed more than three million men. My brother was one of them. And the money my brother sent home was a lifesaver for our family.

I thought Obama would be another FDR, but he pales in comparison. After more than a year in office, Obama recently got an anemic jobs bill passed that has the potential of eventually creating 250,000 jobs, a drop in the bucket compared to the more than eight million Americans who have lost their jobs since the recession started.

Under FDR, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) put people to work in all manner of projects. If you were unemployed and in dire straits, you didn't go on welfare, you got a job with the WPA. In our area, the

WPA put men to work building roads. Women went to work sewing clothing in small factories like the one set up in the Gill town hall where my mother worked. The WPA also hired people for art projects and photography, employing photographers such as Dorothea Lange.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) handled much larger undertakings, funding more than 34,000 big projects, notably the gigantic Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam on the Columbian River in Oregon. The focus of the PWA was on funding construction of dams, electricity generating plants, three-quarters of the new schools and a third of the new hospitals in the country. These projects resulted not only in thousands of construction jobs, but indirectly led to hiring in the manufacturing of steel, lumber, cement, trucks, heavy construction equipment, and other materials.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was a project building flood control dams, hydro electric and coal burning generating plants on the Tennessee River, bringing electricity and jobs to the chronically depressed Tennessee Valley area.

FDR was instrumental in founding the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to correct the abuses that led to the stock market crash. Sadly, the SEC was asleep at the switch during the Bush era, resulting in our most recent debacle.

FDR created the Social Security System which eventually included unemployment insurance.

In the 1940s, I heard Norman Thomas speak in Brattleboro. He was a candidate for the Socialist Party of America. He complained bitterly about FDR stealing the idea of Social Security, a plank in the Socialist Party's platform. The Socialists, Thomas informed us, also wanted everyone to have access to affordable health care. Harry Truman sought to implement that very idea by extending Medicare to everyone, but was stymied by politicians caving in to lobbyists and the contributions of the pharmaceutical and health

see OBAMA pg 5



TIM VIELMETTI CARTOON

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks for a Job Well Done

I was sorry to read in the February 25th issue of the *Montague Reporter* that select-woman Patricia Pruitt had decided not to run for her seat on the board again.

The contribution, support, time, compassion, understanding and know-how that this woman has devoted to this community will be a hard act to follow.

I would like to paraphrase her

statement about "New England modesty: they don't like to indulge in praise that much," and state that this old New Englander gives her high praise for a job well done.

The very best of luck to you and your husband in all of your future endeavors.

– Art Gilmore  
Millers Falls

### Hello fae Scotland

One of my aunts and one of my sisters recently arrived here in Scotland to meet our newborn twins, Ingebjørg and Benjamin, and our toddler Elspeth. They brought with them a copy of the *Montague Reporter* which I received with delight.

I grew up in Turners Falls and belonged to the parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa up on K Street. I graduated from "The Tech" in 1993. Although I love it here, Montague and Greenfield will always be my original home!

Back when I was 17 I couldn't wait to get out and see the world. I've traveled to, and lived in, several countries over the years, and Alaska as well. I've had a lot of fun, but I've always missed Turners Falls, which I can still picture vividly in my mind.

Now I'm married and the mother of three babies. I'm a farm wife and shepherdess. I live on an organic farm where my Scottish husband and I raise sheep and kye (cattle), barley, oats, as well as your usual vegetables such as tatties (potatoes) and neeps (turnips). Oh yes, and one whole buckoo (chicken) that scratches around the yard and produces our eggs. (We also seem to raise an endless population of barn cats...) It's been quite an adventure being an American in Scotland!

It's wild and rugged over here, and I love and enjoy my transplanted life, but I will never stop being homesick for Western Mass!

It was great fun to read through the *Reporter* and see all of the familiar place-names and to read news of what is taking place back home. I'll have to see if I can sign up for an international subscription to your paper so I can continue to get news from the homefront across the pond.

Cheerio!

– Michelle Therese  
Scotland

### Celebrate the Vermont Senate Vote



At the 'Leaks and Lies' Rally in Brattleboro, Sunday, Feb 21st

On a snowy Wednesday, February 24th, the Vermont state senate voted 26 – 4 not to allow Vermont Yankee to operate beyond March of 2012. This historic vote is a culmination of strong citizen advocacy, legislative leadership, and years of struggle. While this is certainly not the last we will hear from Entergy, this is a monumental accomplishment.

It is important to take time to celebrate our accomplishment as

a community. Therefore, we are throwing a celebratory party on Saturday March 13th from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Stone Church, corner of Grove Street and Main Street in Brattleboro, with food, beverages, music and dancing for all. Bring your family and friends. There will be no charge, however, donations are welcome. For more information, contact Chad at (802) 377-7403 or [cbtossin@yahoo.com](mailto:cbtossin@yahoo.com). The event is sponsored by the Safe & Green Campaign, the Citizens Awareness Network, and Nuclear Free Vermont by 2012.

– Chad Simmons  
Brattleboro

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**GUEST EDITORIAL**

# Students Go for the Mat

**BY MARK HUDYMA**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** – On Tuesday, February 23rd, at Turners Falls High School, we did a radical thing. We voted. Superintendent Carl Ladd left it to the student body to decide the fate of the mat which the class of 2009 bought for the school.

The mat had an accurate depiction of a local Native American, the sports teams' mascot, but it was not immediately displayed after being given to the school, due to the potentially offensive nature of the symbol.

The vote last week was 196-24 in favor of displaying the mat.

The students seem excited and surprised by the idea of being consulted on an issue. Many commented on enjoying democracy in practice, and saw it as a breath of fresh air. One wonders if this vote may open the door for future student representation, to have their voices heard on issues that affect them. Only time will tell.

*Mark Hudyma is a sophomore at Turners Falls High School.*



**OBAMA** from pg 4

insurance industries, much like the politicians of today.

FDR never once called for advice from Herbert Hoover, who had mired the country in a morass beginning in 1929. Obama, on the other hand, seems to regard George W. Bush as one of his buddies, consulting him instead of holding him accountable for the huge debt and economic mess we're in now.

One of the reasons there are so many people unemployed today is that big businesses are setting up companies overseas or buying from foreign companies. FDR fixed the problem of cheap imports with tariffs. If it cost 50 cents to manufacture something overseas and a dollar in the U.S., the tariff (tax) made up the difference. Under those tariff policies, the Greenfield Tap & Die Company was able to become the largest producer of taps and dies in the world.

FDR got the National Labor Relations Act passed so that workers like those working at GTD could unionize, to bargain for decent wages and working conditions. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, FDR got the 40-hour week and minimum wage laws passed.

Ronald Reagan knocked labor

unions on the head when he fired the Air Traffic Controllers, sounding the death knell for unions. The unionized GTD plant on Meridian Street is gone, along with its good-paying jobs and benefits. GTD is still one of the largest suppliers of taps and dies in world, but the lion's share of taps and dies are now manufactured overseas.

Bill Clinton put the final nails in the coffin of U.S. manufacturing jobs with NAFTA and free trade policies that sent U.S. jobs to low wage countries like Mexico, China and India.

China and Japan had a successful Cash-for-Clunkers program, just like ours, almost. The only difference being that they required the new cars to be manufactured in their country. In the U.S. the program included new cars manufactured anywhere in the world. Toyota became the greatest beneficiary, receiving 14.9 per cent of the Cash-for-Clunkers program, financed with our tax money.

Hello. Anybody home?

I voted for Obama in 2008. But I think I'll write in Norman Thomas in 2012. At least he wouldn't pander to the former president and the party that put us in the poor house.



**NOTES FROM THE MAHAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

# \$12.3 Million Budget Proposed for FY '11

**BY KATIE NOLAN**

**ORANGE** – Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre presented a preliminary draft FY '11 budget of \$12.3 million dollars to the Mahar Regional School committee on Tuesday, March 2nd. This figure would represent an increase of 2.2% over last year's budget. The final budget will be presented at a public hearing at the Mahar library on April 6th.

Baldassarre explained that he used the zero-based budget approach to construct the fiscal year 2011 budget. He said this approach results in a budget "based on genuine educational need." Baldassarre said the process included a comprehensive review of every department and position, and documentation from staff for every proposed expenditure. Line items showing increases include salaries, mostly as a result of contractual obligations; a \$52,000 increase in health insurance costs; a \$50,000 increase in the cost of oil heat; and an increase in the cost of late bus service, based on adding two additional days of late bus service. Line items showing decreases include the music department, reflecting the decision not to revamp the band program; school supplies, based on a contract with Ricoh for networked printers that will reduce costs for printing paper and ink; and lower substitute costs based on more efficient use of substitute time.

Wendell representative Dick Baldwin asked about the "sizable cut" in professional development costs. Baldassarre explained that more in-house resources would be used for professional development. In addition, Baldassarre said he was exploring merging the Mahar and Orange elementary special education programs to reduce special education costs.

The committee approved the draft preliminary budget of \$12,323,914 unanimously.

Massachusetts Teacher's Association (MTA) representative Michael Roche said the MTA "appreciated all the work superintendent Baldassarre put into the budget." He said the MTA will provide comments on the budget once they have reviewed it.

The state-mandated work on

the dam at the Mahar pond – and costs for dam work – were also discussed. The Phase I inspection prepared by consultant GZA Geoenvironmental Inc. found the dam structurally deficient and in poor condition. Based on the GZA report, the state Office of Dam Safety (ODS) classified the dam as a threat to public safety and set deadlines for further reports or actions.

According to the report from Mahar facilities director Thomas Bates, Mahar is required to conduct a Phase II inspection by July 31st and submit a Phase II report to ODS by October 15th. According to Baldassarre, Mahar's options and estimated costs are:

- skip Phase II, and go directly to dam restoration, repairing structural defects (\$500,000);
- skip Phase II, and breach or partially breach the dam (\$150,000 to \$200,000);
- conduct the Phase II inspection and report (\$30,000 to \$40,000) and then decide whether to restore the dam to safer conditions or to breach or partially breach it.

Baldassarre noted that ODS has said it can fine dam owners

who do not meet the deadlines up to \$500 per day for each offense against dam safety regulations.

Baldwin moved that the dam be breached or partially breached. Dana Kennan of Petersham expressed frustration at state-mandated costs for bureaucratic programs that did not further education of the students. Paul Gervais of Orange said that the district needed to "keep it [the dam] or get rid of it. If we keep it, it's much more expensive. Let's get rid of it." Baldassarre said he would seek grants to help pay for the dam removal work. He said the state Department of Conservation and Recreation preferred dam removals. Bates' report stated that removal of the dam would restore the wetlands to the original pre-1956 state. Roche observed that, before the dam was installed, "I used to catch brook trout in that stream." Baldassarre noted that currently science classes use the pond for educational activities, but that a wetland would remain in its place and also provide educational opportunities.

Kennan said that the work on the dam would be a capital see MAHAR pg 11

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**EYE ON TOWN FINANCES****State Requirements Place Montague's Fiscal Health at Risk**

BY JOHN HANOLD

**MONTAGUE** – The fiscal year 2011 budget hearings for Montague department heads will be completed in March, and during recent months the idea of “financial stability and sustainability” has been on the minds of the finance committee and selectboard.

Everyone in town wants Montague to thrive into the future, but one clear conclusion is that our recent past has not provided a reliable path toward that goal.

Townpeople are concerned about sustainability, because in recent years we have paid for town and school services with a portion of our savings in addition to our annual income. For the year that ended June 2009 we drew down nearly \$750,000 of savings; for the current year, we have committed just over \$400,000.

It might appear we've taken a step toward “living within our means,” but our remaining savings – \$1.3 million – won't survive three more years like this one.

Appeals to Boston are met with a discouraging answer: on the one hand, lower state resources mean reduced or frozen municipal and education-

al aid, and on the other hand state standards require increased spending by school districts or towns.

Making ends meet in this environment presents three choices: to vote specifically for increased property taxes, to cut any services not legally required, or to use savings we cannot replenish.

It is within our power to cut services or override Proposition 2-1/2, and although these choices have been tried in recent years, voters should not fail to consider them again.

Unfortunately, the third choice, to use only a modest amount of our savings until conditions improve, is not within our control as long as the final determination of school spending is made by the state. We are legally required to fund the remainder of the school budget after other sources are used up.

Accordingly, this year Montague town officials – and also our Gill counterparts – have worked with district school officials to actively involve the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in searching for a cooperative solution to the problem of funding a school budget determined by the state. At a recent meeting with town officials and the Gill-Montague school committee, the associate commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jeffrey Wulfson, said the state considers it appropriate for the towns to draw down savings in a recessionary period until “better times” return. He did not define what the state considers the correct amount of savings that should go to education versus other town needs, so we don't know if he considers all our savings available for education until they are gone, nor how his department expects their requirements or the towns' resources will change when that day arrives.

I restated this question to him earlier this week. He replied that every situation is different, and listed several factors to consider.



I see three problems with his position: first, we relied on savings for annual needs even before the current depression; second, there is no guarantee of when, how rapidly, and how extensively “better times” will appear; and third, savings should legitimately be used for purposes other than filling gaps in annual payment for services.

My response on the first two problems is that we cannot delay tackling the solution to some future year.

Finally, let's think about that third problem. The town sometimes uses grant money for improvement of physical facilities or installing improved programs (consider the park system and libraries), but a grant often requires application in advance of spending, a local match of some amount, and restrictions on what it can be spent on. In order to meet grant matches, begin programs we want but which don't fit grant provisions, or act quickly when other needs arise, we must have recourse to savings set aside in the past.

A similar use for savings is to make investments to reduce future costs. A timely example, in this season, is investing in a new furnace or roof that will cost less to maintain, lower our heating costs, and make a building more comfortable to work in. Another example: Montague tries to buy cars, heavy equipment, and computers before the repair and upgrade costs on the old ones make them unusable or uneconomical. If we meet the timeline and terms of a grant, we may avoid using savings, but we prefer to replace things when it makes sense, not gamble that a backhoe or boiler will last till we find a grant that fits our needs.

Diversion of savings to annual needs, effectively at state direction, harms both children

see FINANCES pg 10

**... AND ANOTHER LETTER****Congratulations to the VT Senate!**

Unique among politicians for negativity are the lying Nukers, who, unfortunately facilitated by our president, profess that our environmental anxieties can be co-opted – because Nukes don't make much carbon compared to fossil fuels.

Please!

We know the Nukers don't know how to deal with their spent rods.

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From the Canadian border to Long Island Sound the Connecticut River and its tributaries are a plentiful source of water-power. There are functioning dams and turbines which are capable of producing energy.

There's a dam and a turbine in the North Leverett Mill just down from my house which, with a little local effort, could generate electrons for local consumption.

The Leverett Historical Society is active in preserving this 250 year old mill site. You might help by contributing money and expertise.

– Dr. Dan Bennett  
Leverett, MA

**Transportation Plan Update Survey**

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has created a survey to help obtain public input to update of the long-range Franklin Regional Transportation Plan. Specifically, the results of the survey will help shape the future of transportation in the region by

providing future project ideas and guiding the direction of transportation in the county.

The survey can be found online at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org), under the section “What's New.” It can also be found in hard copy at all town halls and libraries, on FRTA buses, and upon request.

**NOTES FROM THE G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT****Students Entertain and are Consulted by School Committee**

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Members of the Gill-Montague school committee were entertained Tuesday night by cast members Sam Letcher, Megan Grimard, and Jesse Langknecht as they performed a song from the upcoming high school musical *Anything Goes*. The trio sang “Friendship,” with verve, skill, and a good bit of humor, starting the school committee meeting off on a high note. High school and middle school students will be rehearsing all week for their production of the Cole Porter classic this Friday and Saturday.

Student council representative Daniel Skarzynski told the school committee students are ready for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visit this week. Students will act as visitor guides.

Other students will be “shadowed,” with individual members of the accreditation team literally following students around as they

go through their day.

Visiting members of the commission will spend four days, starting Sunday, March 7th, conducting an in-depth evaluation of the Gill-Montague schools as part of the accreditation process for the district.

Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd presented a draft of new materials explaining the district's policy on bullying, hazing and harassment. He said he felt it was important to have these stated all in one document and to make the policy conform to what's printed in the student handbook.

Ladd said he felt it was important for the district to be proactive in dealing with cyber-bullying. He asked the student council to get involved and provide input to the administration, as students would be more aware than the adults of the details of this kind of bullying.

see SCHOOL page 7

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Old Maps of Gill

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Land researcher and history buff Dave Allen will lead a workshop on the historic maps of Gill at the town hall on Tuesday, April 6th at 7 p.m., town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the selectboard on Monday. Allen has prepared and analyzed several historic maps of Gill and will present his findings to the community in a free, public Powerpoint presentation, and encourage participants to write narratives based on what has changed and what has remained the same in the mapped landscape. The talk is sponsored by the Gill Cultural Council.

Allen, who works at Roberge Associates, land surveyors in Greenfield, said he had "amassed a huge collection of scanned historical maps" over the years, and acquired other old maps when he took over the former Greenfield land surveying business F. Deane Avery from Andy Waite some years ago. Now he wants to make his collection available to the public.

"I've assembled them all from very different places," said Allen, including the Massachusetts Archives, an 1858 Franklin County wall map, and even a plain outline map of Gill from the mid 1800s brought into his office by Dick French, a resident of Main Road.

Selectboard member John Ward said it was interesting that this talk was coming at a time when Gill has been considering the fate of the Mariamante land, ten acres of town-owned land across from the cemetery on Main Road near the West Gill Road intersection. Native American tribes have expressed interest in the land because of historical records that indicate an unusual "spokes burial" had been found on or near the parcel. That burial had been uncovered during the reconstruction of Main Road in the late 1800s.

"We would see where Main Road actually was located," said Ward, "when it followed a

serpentine route, when horses could not pull [straight] up the hill."

Allen, interviewed by phone this week, said the maps he would bring to town hall on April 6th would not be able to provide the level of detail needed to show whether the course of Main Road had shifted 50 feet over time, for example. "They aren't that precise. They do show a number of historical roads that are now just foot paths in the woods."

In other news:

The board thanked former town administrator Tracy Rogers and the members of the Gill energy commission for their work bringing in a \$150,000 grant for energy conservation work in town buildings from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. That announcement last week was greeted as a rare bit of "good news," on the town finances front, by selectboard member Nancy Griswold.

Purington said the money would go toward replacing an inefficient boiler at the Gill Elementary School, and to help pay down otherwise cost-prohibitive items on the upcoming energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technology.

Regarding the public water supply at the Gill Elementary School, which has been cited for high coliform levels in recent years, Purington said the Rural Water Association would conduct tests at the well head, listening for leaks after shutting the water off at the school for a period of time in the near future. If there are leaks at the wellhead or water line, that is a likely point of coliform inflow, and a more easily fixed problem, than if the source is found to be in the water table itself.

Purington said the installation of a chlorination system at the school could cost perhaps \$5,500. He is looking at grant sources to help pay for that, if it becomes necessary.

Speaking of historical documents, Purington said one section of the two volume *History of Gill* details how the current

well, about 700 or 800 feet away from the school building, was actually not the first attempt to drill a well for the school. The first attempt, much closer to the building, went down 1000 feet without hitting water.

The board approved an all-alcohol restaurant license for the Schutzen Verein, in addition to alcohol restaurant license for the Schutzen Verein, in addition to the club license the Schutz has traditionally carried, to allow the private club at 55

Barton Cove Road to comply with state law governing its rental for private functions.

The board authorized fire chief Gene Beaubien to explore joining a regional emergency shelter agreement with the town of Montague. The proposed shelter, to be established at the Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls, would give local residents a place to go in the event of power failures, like those that struck many neighborhoods in Gill during Wednesdays snowstorm.

The board approved a request by Mick LaClaire to expend \$70,000 in Chapter 90 state aid for roads and bridges to repave sections of Walnut Street, Meadow, and Riverview, and also to spend \$8,000 from Chapter 90 to put down more gravel on gravel roads in town.

Asked which gravel roads would be repaired with this money, Purington said, "The bumpy ones that are full of pot-holes."

SCHOOL from page 6

Ladd said attempts to get an answer from the committee partners and legislators regarding five year revenue projections for the school district have not yielded clear answers so far. Ladd promised to present a level funded budget to the school committee at their March 9th meeting.

Erving representative to the school committee Scott Bastarache told the committee that Erving has voted to become a 'choice school.' He noted concern about an amendment to the new education reform bill that allows a town to pull out of a superintendency union (like Erving's Union 28) by simple majority vote of a school committee, disrupting the contractual obligations of the remaining towns. According to Bastarache, state representative Steve Kulik, who filed the amendment, said he understands the concerns and is seeking to improve the amendment.

Roland Butzke, Siemens Building Technologies representative, returned this week to answer questions presented to him by members regarding the

district energy audit. Many of the questions were about technical details, but Jen Waldron of Gill wanted to know what would happen if the school decided not to go through with the energy improvements once the investment grade audit of school buildings is complete. Butzke explained the district would then be on the hook for \$26,000, to pay a fraction of the cost of performing the energy grade audit, which would identify areas of potential energy savings the district could still pursue on its own, without hiring Siemens to do the work.

"What if a school closes and goes back to the town? Would we still be responsible for paying this?" asked Waldron. This brought up the fact that the district leases the three elementary schools from the towns, and only owns the middle school and high school buildings.

Lawyers for the school and towns will consult on these matters and report back to the committee. Ladd said he felt the towns would be very supportive of an energy performance contract for the district schools if it

wound up guaranteeing savings of energy and dollars.

Michael Langknecht led a brief discussion about whether a 'warrant subcommittee' should be formed, to sign warrants outside of regular school committee meetings. If the school committee agrees, three members would be empowered to review warrants and approve them outside of the public meetings. The main purpose of this change, according to Langknecht, would be to save on paper, avoiding the current procedure of business director Lynn Bassett mailing the bulky warrants for approval to the full committee before meetings. Warrants would still be available to all members through email.

Robin Hamlett, administrative assistant for the school district, sends meeting packets which include warrants to most members by both email and regular mail. No decision was made.

The next school committee meeting will be held on March 9th at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Arrests Made

Wednesday, 2/24
2:28 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.
9:21 a.m. Larceny at Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetary. Services rendered.
Thursday, 2/25
12:59 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for shoplifting by concealing at Family Dollar, threatening to commit a crime, and intimidating a witness.
11:05 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, aggravated assault and battery, obstruction of justice, malicious destruction of property over \$250, and two counts of assault and battery of a police officer. Arrest of [redacted] Millers Falls, for trespassing, resisting arrest, and a subsequent offense of disorderly conduct.
Friday, 2/26

10:14 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct, threat to commit a crime, intimidating a witness.
6:26 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Woodland Drive. Peace restored.
Saturday, 2/27
10:34 a.m. Larceny at Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetary. Investigated.
Sunday, 2/28
2:33 a.m. Domestic disturbance on 12th Street. Investigated.
5:06 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery and threat to commit murder. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] on a default warrant.
Monday, 3/1
11:48 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.
Tuesday, 3/2
2:14 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Services rendered.
9:44 a.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]
Warrant arrest of [redacted]
6:42 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Snow Emergency Declared



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Route 2 East from Main Road in Gill was closed for several hours following a downed power line at Factory Hollow on February 24th, just one of many closures caused by downed power lines in last Wednesday's snowstorm.

**BY BILL DRAKE** – The town of Montague declared a state of emergency on February 24th, from 1:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., due to the heavy snow that fell all day and pulled down multiple power lines around town.

“Originally, when it was first declared,” said Frank Abbondanzio, town administrator, “I received notice from Bob Escott, the emergency management director, and he had been contacted by [Western Mass Electric Company] that a large portion of the town would be without power overnight. They were encouraging the creation of shelter for the elderly.”

Escott worked with the Red Cross to create a shelter at the Turners Falls High School in case the need arose for overnight shelter.

“The fire district went around to every door, at least in our area,” said selectboard member Patricia Allen.

“Yes, they did,” said board chair Patricia Pruitt. “I think they did a great job putting notices in people’s mail about the shelter, and they even came to my neighbor’s house – she’s seventy-something – and invited her personally to come to the shelter if she felt the need.”

WMECO restored power earlier than anticipated. The state of emergency ended in Montague at 8:30 p.m.

“Everybody felt, including the Red Cross, that it was a good practice,” said Abbondanzio. “I think everybody realized that we really need to get on top of things better in terms of reverse 911 and how we could go about things in the future.”

Reverse 911 is a telephone based notification system to alert community residents of emergencies or potential hazards. In a heavy snowstorm, the system could be used to notify residents of a shelter’s location or to give other instructions.

Abbondanzio held a conference call with officials from both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Emergency

Management Agency on Monday, March 1st, to see if there may be emergency money available to defray the costs of cleanup from the snowstorm that blanketed Western Massachusetts for three days last week.

“Basically, what they’re trying to do is aggregate the damage that occurred over a period of a few days, when the storm was an ongoing event,” said Abbondanzio.

There is \$8.2 million in emergency funding available to the state of Massachusetts for storm cleanup, and all affected municipalities were asked to file by Wednesday, March 3rd.

“It’s possible that some of the expenses incurred for the storms might be able to be recovered,” said Abbondanzio. “[FEMA and MEMA] mention snow removal, tree removal, that kind of thing, and emergency protective measures, including police and fire response and emergency shelter.”

The selectboard adopted a joint proclamation for a local emergency planning committee, which allows for cooperative negotiation with neighboring towns and for local plans and resources to be shared by the 26 communities of Franklin County.

## Swift River School

### Brazilian Carnival



KATIE NOLAN PHOTO

Lorin Wypych and Katie Jillson with folk puppets.

**BY KATIE NOLAN**  
**NEW SALEM** - As part of the year-long study of Brazil, students at Swift River School celebrated Brazilian-style Carnival on Friday February 26. Students dressed in Carnival crowns or in beaddresses representing rain forest birds or Brazilian cowboys paraded through the halls to samba music. Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students presented puppet shows of folk tales from several Brazilian traditions – Native American, African, and European.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Erving Officials Express Doubt on Energy Stretch Code

**BY BILL FRANKLIN** – Jessica Atwood, development planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments [FRCOG], met with the selectboard Monday evening to present the updated proposal of Erving’s Green Community action plan. But selectboard members expressed doubt town meeting would voluntarily approve a stricter building code to ensure the required energy savings to qualify Erving as a Green Community under state law.

Atwood outlined the action plan, intended to analyze and propose methods to reduce energy consumption in the town, and proposes a number of criteria, which, if met, will not only save energy in town but also allow Erving to be designated a “Green Community” and be eligible for Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources energy effi-

ciency grants from a \$150 million annual fund.

The plan consists of five criteria, an analysis of current town energy use to establish a baseline, and suggestions or “action items” for complying with the plan.

The criteria include “as-of-right” siting and expedited permitting for renewable or alternative energy research and development or manufacturing facilities. The town’s present zoning bylaws do not permit such facilities “as-of-right,” but allows them by special permit. The plan proposes the town explore renewable or alternative energy generation, in particular, solar photovoltaic generation.

A third criterion would establish a baseline energy use inventory for municipal buildings, vehicles, street and traffic lighting, which the town would then plan to reduce by twenty percent

within five years. The town may go back as far as two years and use recent efforts toward energy conservation to meet this goal.

The fourth criterion requires the town to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles whenever “available and practicable,” with police, fire, and highway vehicles exempt from this requirement.

The final criterion would require all new commercial and industrial construction, as well as residential construction over 3,000 square feet, to utilize energy efficient technologies. This could be achieved, according to the plan, by adopting the new energy stretch code – an appendix to the Massachusetts state building code that incorporates the latest energy saving methods.

Currently the town does not meet this criterion. Adoption of this addition to the building code

see ERVING pg 10

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# Old Schools and New School at the Discovery Center

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GREAT FALLS** - Who the heck was Horace Mann?

You can find out the answer to that and many other questions about the past and present of public schooling in Massachusetts by paying a visit to the Great Hall of the Discovery Center before March 27th to tour the new interactive exhibit called 'From Hornbooks and Samplers to Facebook and Smart Boards - Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley.'

Produced with a small grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, the second annual exhibit is a co-creation of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and the Pioneer Valley Regional High School community service learning students. Incorporating themes presented in one of the NEA's 30 'Big Read' titles - Tobias Wolfe's *Old School* - the exhibition allows visitors to walk through the one room school houses of the past, through the computerized classrooms of the present, and examine the classroom aides and classroom distractions of every era.

Walk in the door and you will find replica hornbooks made by Pioneer students arranged beside oak framed slates, made from slates gathered in Ashfield by Ariel LaReau, also cut and framed by John Passiglia's shop students at Pioneer.

The slates look like the slates Abraham Lincoln might have used to practice his letters in front of the open hearth, and the hornbooks resemble the standard hornbooks of the 1600 - 1700s, basic handheld primers with one sheet of printed text protected by a sheet of translucent horn. The hornbooks held by students in those days generally held short prayers, or alphabets, and were used to reinforce rote learning. Hold one of the Pioneer students' hornbooks up for close inspection, and you will find they contain standard abbreviations used in text messaging by the students of today, and their definitions, like BFF: best friends forever, and LOL: laugh out loud.

Sheila Damkoehler, outreach coordinator for the PVMA, said Wolfe's novel, *Old School*, was set in a New England boys prep school in the 1960s. The novel "looks at the educational values of that time and place: 'How does the world of each generation influence and shape the edu-

cation of that generation?'"

The exhibit continues the process of examining the interaction of time, place, and schooling, and does it partially through the eyes of young people: like Althea Dabrowski's 2nd grade art students at Bernardston Elementary, whose brilliant crayon illustrations hang in a crazy quilt pattern on either side of the front door, illustrating a Lapland myth, "Sun's Sisters."

"The challenge Sheila posed to the Pioneer students was to make a museum more family friendly. The students designed this exhibit," explained Joyce van de Kieft, who teaches second grade at Bernardston.

Damkoehler said working groups of students from all four of Pioneer's 11th grade classes "brainstormed what museums are, and what goes into a good exhibit, brainstormed themes and talked about schools, and how they were different, then and now."

Student working groups designed the displays' color scheme of blues and greens, worked on the exhibit's layout, helped with the lettering, and came up with the interactive ideas for the exhibition.

In addition, the PVMA provided a great deal of material from their own collection for the period dioramas of the typical desks and classroom accoutrements from various eras. Since Historic Deerfield's Memorial Hall museum - built in the original 1798 Deerfield Academy building - does not have central heating and is closed for the winter, this collaboration with PVRS students allows a little of Historic Deerfield's extensive collection of local artifacts to go on a short tour to a new location where they can be viewed in winter.

Oh, and Horace Mann? Marilyn McArthur of the PVMA said that Mann, in 1837, became the first secretary of the board of education in Massachusetts, the first state secretary of education in the United States. Throughout his vigorous career, Mann pushed for statewide standards for teacher training, expanded curricula, equal education of all students - urban and rural, wealthy and poor, immigrant and native - and better pay for teachers. Some call him the 'father of American public education.'

Before Mann's day, Massachusetts law passed in 1647 required all neighborhoods

of 50 or more families to establish their own school. But, perhaps the first in a long line of unfunded state education mandates, the state provided no funding to help towns pay for those schools, which therefore varied greatly in quality from poor neighborhoods to wealthy ones. Under Mann, the state began to provide matching funds to equalize educational opportunities for all students - an effort that continues to be litigated and legislated to the present day.

Also in 1647, the state required all neighborhoods or towns with 100 or more families to establish a 'grammar school' or academy. McArthur said these academies were the precursors of public high schools, and often were transformed into public high schools after the Civil War, when public education for higher grade levels was mandated. Smith Academy in Hatfield and Hopkins Academy in Hadley are two local examples of academies which became public high schools, whereas Deerfield Academy remained a private school, competing with local public high schools for students.

Mann established the state's first teachers' college, first located at Barre in 1838, but moved the next year to Westfield, where it remained to become Westfield State College. "Westfield State specialized in training teachers for rural schools," McArthur explained.

Arthur O'Leary, a teacher from Westfield State College, who teaches "non-traditional students," mostly retirees in continuing education classes in outdoor education and natural history, happened to be admiring the exhibit as McArthur was speaking, and standing within earshot. He said Westfield State continued to turn out fine teachers and students in the eighteen decades since Mann first established it.

In the 1900s, Massachusetts pushed for the consolidation of one-room schools into multi-room buildings where students could be educated in different grades. The consolidation of small school districts has now emerged high on the state board of education's agenda in the 21st century, as the trend continues.

Rote learning may have given way to virtual classrooms, but some observers say the constant drilling for MCAS tests



Gavin and Avery Johnson enjoy their visit to the Great Falls Discovery Center "Old School" exhibit on Saturday.

still echoes the early days of public education, when students were drilled by call and response to inculcate the three Rs. McArthur said in the absence of printed materials, singsong methods of learning and simple hornbooks gave students the basics of literacy in centuries past.

Two students from Pioneer demonstrated how the old method of setting lessons to music can still have modern application, when they sang a song set to the tune of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing."

Megan Forrest and Sadie Slocum, sophomores at PVRS, sang lyrics written by classmates Lisa Ashley and Conner Poppe to a tune they called "Don't Stop Voting," which they brought off with a New School twist on the rock classic.

They explained the song was about the conflict between the Federalists and the anti-Federalists, personified by Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Their classmates wrote the song in response to a challenge by their history teacher, who wanted to know why they could remember song lyrics but couldn't remember their 10th grade American history lesson.

Forrest and Slocum had the basics down pat on Saturday. "The federalists wanted bigger government. They thought if all the states had individual powers it would undermine the central government," said Forrest.

Slocum said the anti-Federalists wanted a balance of powers, with the states relying on the national government for some things, and the national government relying on states for others.

And, as we all know, the anti-Federalists won. Didn't they?

To find out more about the Big Read project of PVMA, other events at Historic Deerfield and to browse the Memorial Hall museum's online collection, go to: [www.deerfield-ma.org](http://www.deerfield-ma.org), and visit 'American Centuries'.

But don't wait for spring to

visit a great local museum in person. Go to the Great Falls Discovery Center to see a reinvention of what a museum can be, in this colorful collaboration between professional historians and young scholars as they lead you through four centuries of public education in the Pioneer Valley.

## Blood Drive

The Baystate Health blood donor mobile will make two trips to Franklin County in late March for community blood drives. On Saturday, March 20th, the First Congregational Church in Montague will host the blood donor mobile from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The blood donor mobile will be stationed at the Body Shoppe, 306 High Street, Greenfield, on Friday, March 26th, from noon to 3 p.m.

"Blood donations are low at this time and we really need your help," explained Cheryl McGrath, coordinator of the Baystate Health blood donor program. "The need for a good blood supply actually is always present, so the more often we can visit, the better prepared we can be for any blood emergency."

## COMEDY AT THE SHEA



**Dave Rattigan**  
Saturday, March 6th

Rattigan founded and performed at the premier of Comedy at the Shea. For this show, he heads a talented comedy lineup that includes Mike Cote, Maria Ciampa and Matt D. His comedy CD has been played around the English-speaking world.

The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$15, available on-line at [www.sheacomedy.com](http://www.sheacomedy.com), [www.scampscome.com](http://www.scampscome.com) and at the World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield. Beer and wine served in the lobby before the show. Call the Shea at (413) 863-2281.

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VERNON from pg 1

ball. "Wow, that was an incredible game," Vernon mentor Jim Derosia was overheard saying. "I'd rather lose a game like that than win by 30."


In an act of consummate class at the end of the medal ceremony, Derosia ushered his girls away from center court, telling them it was Erving's moment to celebrate.

Earlier in the day, Waldron dumped in eight points and Mailloux chipped in six to help Erving punch their ticket to the finals by defeating Northfield 23-8. Jordan Meattay put in

five points of her own, while Jessica Loynd and Amelia Marchand each added two. Aubrey Weeks scored four for Northfield, while Katelyn Gover and Emily Messer popped in two points a piece.

At the end of the championship game, as the teams shook hands, the respect that the girls, coaches, parents and fans held for each other was evident. The weekend-long tournament may not have been a showcase for slam dunks or the gravity-defying theatrics that some of us anticipate as March Madness approaches, but for basketball purists it was more than that.

It was ten kids on the court playing hard and giving absolutely everything they had for their respective teams. It was coaches teaching their players, not yelling and berating them. It was parents and fans screaming "Nice play!", "Good job!", and "Great hustle!" at the top of their lungs to their team, instead of hurling profanity-laced tirades at opponents or game officials.

The tournament was a showcase of sportsmanship, friendship, and passion for athletic competition. At the end of the day, isn't that what kids' sports should be about? 


FINANCES from pg 6

and families who rely on public works, public safety, and quality of life services.

So, being "financially stable and sustainable" means having savings to deal with both the big, occasional needs and the unexpected opportunities (or emergencies) that towns deal with year in and year out.

Until the state clarifies and

supports what they consider acceptable levels and uses of savings, our reserves are outside our control and our municipal health is at risk.

John Hanold is the chair of the Montague finance committee. The opinions stated here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the finance committee. 

ERVING from pg 8

would require a change in the town's zoning bylaws and would have to be approved by the voters at town meeting.

This last criterion, according to selectboard chair Andy Tessier, "could be a tough sell." It will no doubt increase the costs of construction for homeowners, although future energy savings will offset the initial costs.

"There is a problem," said Jacquie Boyden, "of how to get the public to adopt things that may benefit them in the distant future but may require costs in the present."

"The stretch code could hurt small business," said selectboard member Andrew Goodwin. "What if someone wants to open a small restaurant, for example? That's what the country runs on - small business."

"This could be a make-or-break issue for some people, deciding whether they can afford to build a home," added Tessier.

"If there is a good faith effort and the people reject it," asked Boyden, "what is the next step?"

Atwood posed the question, "How do we meet the criteria without adopting the stretch code?"


The plan does allow for other

methods of achieving the same ends. If a community, "should choose not to adopt the stretch code and choose to use another standard," states the plan, "the community must provide evidence" that this alternative achieves the same goals of energy conservation.

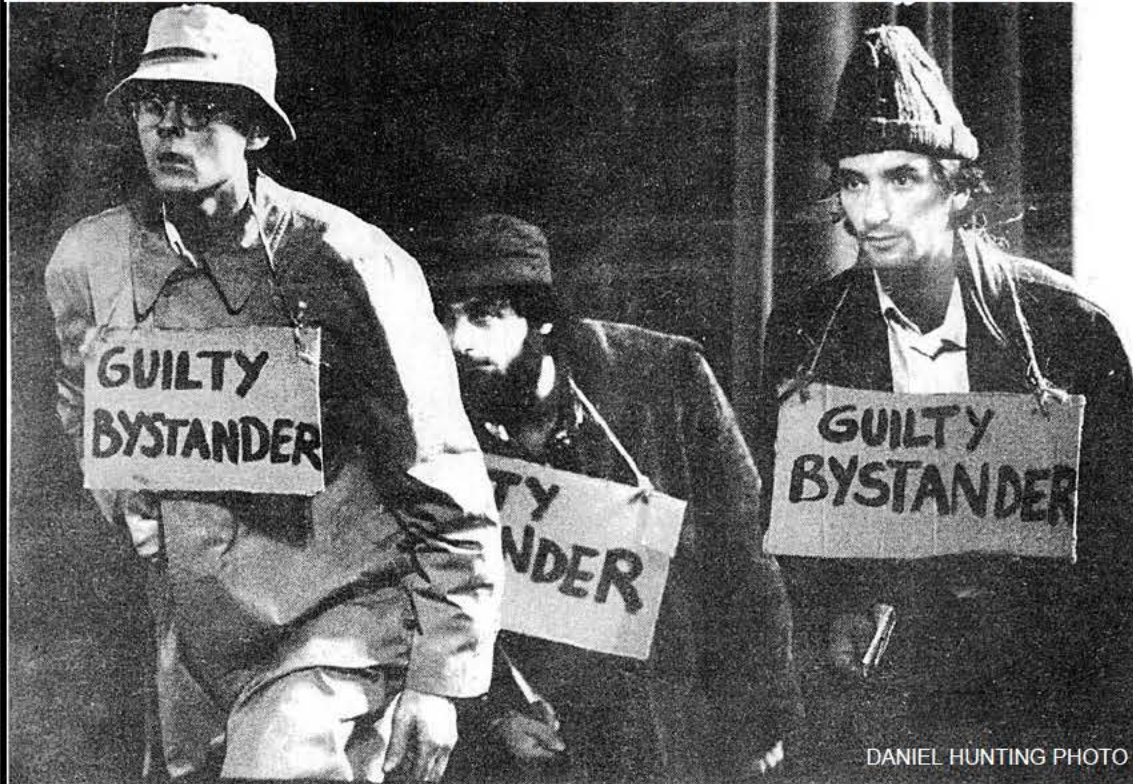
In other news, the town of Erving is on track to have a two mile stretch of Route 2 from Mountain Road to the intersection of Route 2-A dedicated as a memorial to the late Dennis Rindone, former Erving selectboard member.

Rindone, who passed away last year, was the founder of the Route 2 Task Force - a 20-year-old organization dedicated to improving the safety of the highway. Rindone was, according to town administrative assistant Tom Sharp, "largely responsible for capturing the attention of the Massachusetts government" for that purpose.

After leaving the Erving board, Rindone remained active in politics, later becoming administrator for the town of Princeton.

As of now, the town's request for a memorial stretch of highway dedicated to the memory of Rindone is "on track" with the Massachusetts legislature, according to Sharp. 

# Don't Just Stand There!



DANIEL HUNTING PHOTO

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**MAHAR** from pg 5

expenditure, requiring approval from each town meeting to borrow the \$200,000. He noted that debt service for a capital expenditure may be excluded from the Proposition 2½ levy limit. Baldwin amended the motion by adding that work of breaching the dam work would be subject to approval of borrowing up to \$200,000 by the town meetings of each member town. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nic Guerra, co-director of the National Honor Society, gave a presentation on Mahar's recycling program, which began this year. National Honor Society students are coordinating the

program and have consulted with Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Recyclable materials are collected from individual classrooms, the cafeteria, and athletic events. According to the facilities director's report, Donovan was very pleased with the school's recycling program when she visited.

Patricia Smith of Orange reported that the education subcommittee recommended raising the advanced placement (AP) courses from Level 4 to Level 5. According to the Mahar high school handbook, courses at higher levels count more than courses at intermediate levels in establishing class ranking. Smith said the subcommittee

was persuaded by a presentation by National Honor Society student Heather Hunt about the exacting requirements for the AP courses. The level change was also made retroactive, and former student grades were revised to account for the change. The education subcommittee also recommended accepting the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) pilot program at Mahar. The NASP program would provide training for Mahar physical education teachers and provide \$6,000 worth of equipment for curriculum-linked archery classes. In addition, the subcommittee recommended beginning development of a wrestling program at the school. The school

committee approved all of these recommendations unanimously, noting that no expenditures were approved for the wrestling program.

The policy and planning subcommittee presented policies for use of school facilities by non-school groups and for canine searches of the school building. Both policies were accepted unanimously by the committee.

In reports from local school committees, Paul Gervais of Orange said that the Orange school committee voted to go forward with K-12 regionalization with Mahar and voted not to join the Franklin County School Committee Caucus. Kennan reported that the Petersham school committee also voted to

go forward with K-12 regionalization with Mahar. Baldwin reported that Wendell and New Salem school committees proposed a draft 2011 budget with a 2.2% increase over last year's budget.

Gervais reported that the K-12 regionalization committee proposed a regional school committee consisting of five members from Orange and two members from each of the other towns. The regionalization committee recommended at-large elections, in which every town has a vote on every committee member. The regionalization committee also discussed the possibility of sending 6th graders to the Mahar middle school.



**ENERGY** from pg 1

internal figures on how each building's systems would perform with the real world results of the energy upgrades. "The numbers were close, but not accurate, and that drives a certain type of person crazy," he said.

Packard said Rowe upgraded insulation, lighting, and heating controls in five town buildings: the elementary school, the town hall, library, fire station, and the town garage and outbuildings. Now the town can independently control heating systems in each building with 17 different thermostats, which can be set to reduce heat automatically on nights and weekends, for example. He said town buildings now have adequate insulation in ceilings and walls. Solid foam insulation was applied to the exterior of the highway garage and covered with a plywood veneer. Heating pipes were insulated, garage doors rebuilt and sealed, doors at the fire station and library were weatherized, and automatic controls installed on all lighting fixtures in all town buildings. The boiler at the school was replaced, and sophisticated air handling units installed.

Packard said Rowe also applied for and received \$148,000 in federal stimulus funds to provide a 19.6 kilowatt ground mounted photovoltaic system at the school.

"We think it's going to provide a terrific outcome."

The committee members

from other towns were glad to hear Packard's voice of experience on Rowe's energy performance contract.

A lively discussion ensued about which towns were attempting to get town meeting approval of the so-called energy stretch code in time to apply for Green Community status this spring. The stretch code is a voluntary appendix to the state building code which, if adopted, would satisfy one of the five criteria for towns to receive Green Community designation under state law. It would make towns eligible for grants from a \$150 million annual fund to afford additional energy conservation measures in town and residential buildings and infrastructure, and also to pay for the installation of renewable energy generation systems, like photovoltaic arrays, geothermal heating and cooling systems, and the like.

The Greening Greenfield committee's Nancy Hazard said Greenfield is "absolutely" committed to passing the stretch code through city council in time to meet the application deadline, which appears to be a moving target at the moment. The deadline had been set at May 14th, but may move forward into June, along with the deadline for applying for Green Community grants once state designation is received.

Montague energy committee chair Chris Mason said his town too is attempting to per-

suade town meeting to adopt the stretch code in time to apply for Green Community status and grants this spring, as did representatives from Gill and Leverett. Other towns like Deerfield will wait until their energy committees feel better prepared to pass the stretch code.

Toward that end, the committees plan to work together to try to convince local banks to offer energy efficiency mortgages, something common in other parts of the country.

"Lenders are the big problem if they don't get on the bandwagon. We're providing them bailouts. They need to help the little people," said Peg MacLeod, of the Center for Ecological Technology, in Pittsfield, who was also in attendance. She said all banks that handle FHA or VA mortgages have the capacity to offer energy efficiency mortgages at special rates, whether they know it or not, to allow homeowners or builders to handle the extra up-front costs of stretch code type energy efficiencies in new home construction, which will then be offset by reduced utility bills over the life of the building.

Dean said he would invite local lenders to the next joint energy committee meeting, expected in May, to hear how committee members propose "to bring our constituencies" to lenders willing to offer energy efficiency mortgages.

"Banks around here think they are Green just because

they have transactions online now," said MacLeod, with a touch of irritation.

Mason ran through the particulars of pending PACE (property assessed clean energy financing) legislation, which may now move swiftly through the Massachusetts legislature, attached to a municipal relief bill. If passed, the legislation would allow cities and towns in the Commonwealth, and even rural towns banding together with the help of regional planning agencies like FRCOG, to designate noncontiguous zones within their borders as "betterment districts," within which homeowners may opt in to borrow from municipal funds, raised by bond or other method, to afford energy improvements on their homes.

In turn, the municipality would place an assessment on the building, which would remain with the building regardless of future sale until it is paid off. The idea is that expensive energy-efficiency retrofits could be afforded by this method, and still keep the increased monthly cost of financing below the monthly savings on utility bills.

Pam Kelley, from Franklin

County Home Care Corporation, gave an upbeat overview of resources available to help the 17,000 elders living in Franklin County and the four North Quabbin towns gain access to funds to make energy improvements on their homes, and to fix up their homes in general.

She said 82% of seniors in Franklin County own their homes, but on average they are living on an income of \$13,000 a year, and unable, therefore, to afford even basic home repairs, much less energy efficiency improvements. But FCHCC ([www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org) or (413) 773-5555) has a fund to help seniors provide the 25% match needed to access \$2,000 in Mass Save homeowner grants for energy improvements like insulation, for just one example of many resources available to seniors.

Although only seven town committees were represented on Tuesday, at least eight more towns in the county have active energy committees working to save the Earth, and ratepayers' pocketbooks. For more information about the work of the committees in your town, contact: [bdean@frcog.org](mailto:bdean@frcog.org).



DETMOLO PHOTO

Town energy committee members gather to share energy saving strategy on Tuesday in Greenfield

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**  
**Wires Downed Across Car**

**Wednesday, 2/24**  
7:03 a.m. Assisted closing French King Highway near Factory Hollow. Tree and wires down.  
10:45 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway at Pisgah Mountain Road.  
11:10 a.m. Wires down across motor vehicle on French King Highway.  
**Thursday, 2/25**  
8:25 a.m. Assisted fire department on Boyle Road with chimney fire.  
10:20 a.m. Assisted Main Road resident with property dispute.

**Friday, 2/26**  
2:10 p.m. Resident at station reporting online identity theft.  
5:55 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway with injuries.  
**Tuesday, 3/2**  
3:32 p.m. Assisted Erving police with motor vehicle stop and arrest on French King Highway near French King Bridge.

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### BRIDGE from pg 1

Janke, who co-owns the Rendezvous on 3rd Street, wanted to know why traffic signals could not be installed at both ends of the bridge, to allow traffic to flow both ways across the bridge after 6 p.m. and up until the morning 'rush hour'.

Stegeman said it wouldn't be of much advantage to downtown businesses to have traffic flowing both ways at night.

"Those are my peak hours," Janke insisted.

"We're going to stick with one-way traffic," Stegeman repeated. "I'll tell you that up front."

"Can you tell me why?" Janke persisted.

"It's a liability." Stegeman was backed up by district traffic engineer Bao Lang and project development manager Rich Massey, who pointed out that drivers waiting at a long red light at night might be tempted to run it. By doing so, they could wind up running headfirst into cars coming across the one lane bridge from the other direction.

Lang said a 60-second delay would be required after the end of a green light at one end of the bridge for traffic to clear before allowing the green signal at the other end, rapidly causing gridlock on both sides of the bridge during the busier times of day.

"There've been many bridges done in Massachusetts..." with bi-directional traffic signals, someone in the back of the room began to say.

Stegeman cut him off. "There have been very few bridges that are 1730 feet long done with alternating traffic."

More than 50 people attended the meeting with the highway engineers on Friday afternoon in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, within sight of the Turners entrance to the bridge.

According to the Mass DoT website, "the work included in this project involves the rehabilitation of the existing steel truss structure carrying Avenue A over the Connecticut River. The bridge will be rehabilitated and restored in the existing location and will provide wider travel lanes and bicycle accessibility. The roadway bridge approaches will be resurfaced. There will be geometric improvements and new traffic signal equipment installed at the Route 2 - Avenue A - Main Street intersection. Bridge traffic will be maintained only in the southbound lane toward Turners Falls during construction, with outbound northerly traffic being redirected through Greenfield Route 2A to Route 2."

As part of the "geometric improvements" at the Gill entrance to the bridge, Lang said the traffic island on the west side of the intersection - which helps to make the turn so difficult for tractor trailer trucks traveling east on Route 2 - will be removed.

Mark Pelletier, senior project manager for SPS New England, out of Salisbury, MA, the company that won the \$40.7 million repair bid, was also in attendance. He said the project would actually begin - by the end of March - with three months of reconstruction work at the other end of town, on the General Pierce Bridge from Montague City to Cheapside in Greenfield. Pelletier said the existing finger joints in that bridge will be replaced with modular joints, and the deck and steel understructure will be repaired.

During this period of time,

some initial work will begin on the Gill-Montague bridge, but two-way traffic will be maintained until work on the General Pierce bridge is completed, sometime in June. Two-way traffic will be maintained on the General Pierce bridge throughout the repairs to that structure.

Sometime in June, when work on the General Pierce is complete, traffic on the Gill-Montague bridge will switch to one way, toward Turners, and remain one way inbound for approximately the next three years. Pelletier said SPS will begin by reconstructing the north lane of the bridge in sections, for a year and a half (working year round, but only rarely at night) before switching to the south lane for the next year and a half.

Jersey barriers, which motorists on the bridge have become all too familiar with over the last two decades, will be used to separate the traveling lane from the construction lane, Pelletier said, and a good deal of construction equipment will be stored along the closed-off lane. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained throughout the course of the project.

For emergencies, a radio-controlled signal will be installed at the traffic light on the Gill side, to allow the state or local police to stop traffic in all directions on the bridge to clear so that emergency vehicles can cross against the one-way lane to Gill.

Pelletier said between 10 and 40 construction workers would be employed on the project at any one time.

After deck reconstruction is complete, Pelletier said, "subsequent bearing work and masonry work" will commence for the final phase of the project. During this phase "the full width of the bridge deck will be open while work on the understructure is going forward."

Final completion date for the project is May of 2014.

Lang said according to a traffic study done in 2003, 10,000 vehicles a day use the Gill-Montague bridge, with 20% of that volume occurring at peak traffic hours of 7 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.

Kevin McCarthy, of the Southworth Mill, raised concerns about another bridge problem that has just been added to the mix. Complicating the plan to direct traffic out of Turners Falls via the White Bridge to Turners Falls Road in Greenfield, which empties out on the French King Highway near Stop & Shop, is the fact that the short steel truss bridge across the power canal at 5th Street has just been posted for a maximum load of 15 tons for tractor trailer trucks. Now, trucks leaving Turners will have to exit town via Millers Falls or Montague Center, since it is difficult for tractor trailer trucks to

exit via the General Pierce bridge without running into the low railroad bridge in Cheapside.

Stegeman said two-way traffic for passenger vehicles would be maintained on the White Bridge to Greenfield, but the only truck traffic over the White Bridge would be for trucks heading to and from the Southworth Paper mill, which sits on the island between the White Bridge and the 5th Street Canal bridge.

McCarthy said those trucks would have to execute a complicated turn pattern into the parking lot of the Housing Authority in order to get into one bay of Southworth Mill, requiring mill employees to stand in the traveling lanes and stop traffic. He asked whether radio-operated stop lights could not be installed so Southworth employees could stop traffic both ways when trucks are arriving or departing.

"OK, we'll take a look at that," said Stegeman.

Nayana Glazier, owner of the Round Here Café at 111 Avenue A, asked if there could be a "possible solution for the negative effect on tourism," from the three-year traffic detour and construction activity. She said now, tourists are able to look across the river and say, "What a cute little town; I think I'll go across the bridge." But that may soon change to the downtown business district's detriment, while construction is under way.

She asked Stegeman if signage could be put in place on Route 2 to "encourage people to take the risk," to run the gauntlet of construction and enter the town, "so our businesses don't have to close."


Stegeman said, "We can work together to come up with something," in the way of appropriate signage on Route 2.

Geri Johnson, a realtor in Riverside, said, "I keep getting the feeling that just because traffic will come into town everything will be OK. My whole way of life revolves around Turners Falls. I go to the post office, the library, the grocery store, the hardware store. If I have to go to Greenfield anyway," because of the detour over the White Bridge, "why should I stop in Turners Fall at all? It's my pattern of life, and it's going to be changed, for four years. What's going to be left to come back to?"

She continued, "These are small businesses that don't have a lot of money behind them to keep them going through all this. I'm really fearful that our small businesses that are really just getting going... I mean, people are really finally beginning to recognize Turners Falls. I'm even hearing people say, 'Turners has more going on for it than Greenfield.' I thought I would die before I would ever hear that statement."


"We've got a fantastic community happening now, after years and years of struggle. This is not going to be good for Turners Falls."

Stegeman responded, "The community has got to work together as a whole. 'The bridge is old. It's outlived its useful life. It needs a lot of work.' He added, "You have to put the message out, 'We're still here. We're still vibrant. You need to come visit us.' Pull together as a whole."



## MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION

# SPRING PROGRAMS



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### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**SOFTBALL** Children ages \*4 - 6 Child MUST be at least 4 yrs of age before the start date of the program Proof of age will be required at time of registration  
When: April 24 - June 5; Saturday Mornings; 10:30am - 11:30am  
Fees: Early Bird Registration Fee: Montague Residents= \$25, Non-residents= \$30 (Last Day of Early Bird Rates; Fri, April 9)  
Regular Fee: Montague Residents = \$30, Non-residents = \$35  
(Registrations after Friday, April 9)  
Registration Deadline: Friday, April 16

**ROOKIE BASEBALL** Grades 1 & 2 (1st Graders must have played at least one season of Tee-Ball to be eligible)  
When: April 24 - June 5; Saturday mornings; 9:00am - 10:15am  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$35, Non-residents = \$40  
(Fees include hat, shirt & pants)  
Enrollment Min /Max dependent upon the number of parents who volunteer coach

**PEEWEE BASEBALL** Grades 2 - 4 The skills of the player are further enhanced through more competitive league play Teams play against area towns in The Tri-County Baseball League Games are held in May and June All players must bring their own glove If in 2nd grade, player must be 8 years old as of September 1st of the current school year  
When: Early April to mid-June; - Practices - weekdays and weekends at coach's discretion - League Games - weekdays  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$45, Non-residents = \$50  
(Fees include hat, shirt & pants)

**COACHES & UMPIRES ARE NEEDED FOR  
PEEWEE BASEBALL!**

**ROOKIE SOFTBALL** Grades K - 2 We recommend Kindergarten players start with Tee Ball before playing Rookie Ball  
When: April 24 - June 5; Saturdays 9:00am - 10:15am  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$35, Non-residents = \$40  
(Fees include hat, shirt & pants)  
Enrollment Minimum & Maximum dependent upon the number of parents who volunteer coach

**SENIOR GIRLS SOFTBALL** Girls Ages 8 - 12 yrs Proof of age required at time of registration  
Who: 8 yr olds must have turned 8 BEFORE June 30, 2009  
- 12 yr olds must not turn 13 BEFORE June 30, 2010  
When: Early April to mid-June; Practices - weekdays and weekends at coach's discretion, League Games - weekdays  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$55, Non residents = \$60  
(Fees include hat, shirt & pants)

**FINAL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL REGISTRATIONS & UNIFORM FITTING**  
The MPRD Office will be open Saturday, April 3 from 9am - 12pm for final registrations (enrollment limits apply) and t-shirt/uniform fitting  
All players must be in by or on April 3 to be fitted for uniforms, and anyone not sized after that date will automatically receive youth X-Large sizes  
Please note that registrations are first come/first serve and are on-going until April 3

**SPRING STATE CANTON DAVEY PROGRAM** Ages 5 - 12  
When: Tuesday, April 20 - Friday, April 23; 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Fees: Montague residents = \$70 00/child, Non residents = \$80 00/child  
Limited Scholarships Available = If a need exists for financial assistance, please contact MPRD at 863-3216 for a scholarship application Only Montague residents are eligible  
Registration Deadline: Friday, April 9

**SWIMMING LESSONS** Session III - Schedule subject to change  
When: Saturday mornings: April 3 - May 15  
Parent/Child Class: 9:00am - 9:30am (A parent must be in the water w/ their child during the class)  
Level 1: 9:30am - 10:00am Level 3: 10:30am - 11:00am  
Level 2: 10:00am - 10:30am Level 4: 11:00am - 11:30am  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$40 00 Non Residents = \$45 00  
Registration Deadline: Friday, March 26

**MINI GOLF CROSS-BABYSITTING COURSE** Youths ages 11 - 15  
When: Wednesday, June 9 & Thursday, June 10; 5:30p - 8:00p  
Fees: Montague Resident = \$40, Non-resident = \$45  
Registration Deadlines: Friday, May 28

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### ADULT PROGRAMS

**ADULT Co-ED "B" Softball League**

ASA sanctioned Adults, Ages 18 & Up Contact MPRD for more details  
When: Monday & Thursday evenings; mid-May through mid-August  
Fees: \$490 00 per team (Softballs = \$40/doz)  
Registration Deadline: Friday, April 16

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### FAMILY PROGRAMS

**Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza**

Saturday, April 3 @ 1:00pm  
Unity Park, First Street, Turners Falls

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition We will have face painting, egg coloring, a bake sale, pictures with Peter Cottontail, and our 5th Annual Egg Hunt where kids will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs that will be placed in designated areas throughout Unity Park  
Participants must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs  
THIS EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE.

---

**Bike Tour & Rodeo**

When: Friday, May 21st @ 1:30pm  
Where: Bike Tour - We will meet at the beginning/end of the bike trail across from Unity Park @ 1:30pm Rodeo & Helmet fitting - Unity Park Basketball courts  
The bike tour will start at Unity Park, proceed to Depot St in Montague City (where we'll enjoy a snack), then return to Unity Park via the same route The tour is approximately a 5 mile round trip  
Please contact us by Friday, May 14 so we know how many snacks we'll need to provide  
ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN DURING THE BIKE TOUR

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Utility Theft Investigated

**Monday, 2/22**  
12:10 p.m. Reported disturbance in post office parking lot. Located female who locked child in vehicle. Assisted unlocking car.  
**Wednesday, 2/24**  
12:05 p.m. Report of larceny of utilities at French King Highway residence. Under investigation.  
12:48 p.m. Head-on motor vehicle accident on Route 2 near Farley. Injury reported. Erving EMS and Orange ambulance responded. Under investigation.  
**Monday, 3/1**  
12:31 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for driving under the influence of liquor, speeding, and seat belt violation.





JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

Leonia, NJ – Q. *Can you get rid of warts with duct tape?*

For starters, check with your doctor before beginning any self-treatment for warts. You might mistake another kind of skin growth for a wart and hurt yourself.

The jury is still out on duct-tape therapy for warts. A recent study showed that duct tape wiped out more warts than conventional freezing did. In this

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Warts and All

study, warts were covered with duct tape for six days. Then, the warts were soaked in warm water and rubbed with an abrasive such as pumice stone. The treatment was repeated for as long as two months.

However, subsequent research has not found duct tape to be significantly effective for treating warts.

You can treat warts at home with medications from the drug-store. Get a patch or solution that contains 17 percent salicylic acid. You have to use these products daily for weeks.

Two of these medications are Compound W and Occlusal-HP. Dr. Scholl makes a different product called Freeze Away that it claims removes warts “with as few as one treatment.”

Warts are benign skin growths

caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). Like other infectious diseases, wart viruses pass from person to person. You can also get the wart virus by touching an object used by someone who has the virus.

Warts are usually rough and skin-colored. However, they can be dark, flat and smooth. Warts may grow one at a time or in bunches. They may bleed if picked or cut. They often contain one or more tiny black dots, which are sometimes called wart seeds. These dots are small, clogged blood vessels.

There are several kinds of warts.

Common warts grow on hands. They are more common where skin has been broken, such as where fingernails are bitten.

Plantar warts are found on the

soles, or plantar area, of feet. Walking pushes plantar warts back into the skin. They can be painful. When they grow in clusters, they are known as mosaic warts.

Flat warts are small, smooth, and tend to grow in large numbers. They can show up anywhere on the body. They are often found where people shave – the face on men and the legs on women. Irritation from shaving probably contributes to the development of flat warts.

Genital warts are sexually transmitted. They can appear externally or internally.

The wart virus affects people differently. Some people get warts; others don't. The likelihood of getting warts is similar to the chances of catching a cold. If your immune system is weak, you will be more prone to getting warts.

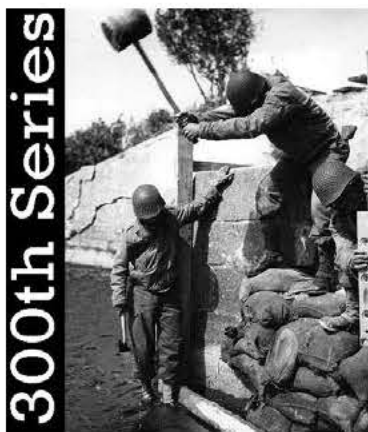
Freezing – or cryotherapy – is

one method for removing warts. Burning – or electrosurgery – is an alternative. Lasers are used when other therapies fail. There are also surface-peeling preparations such as salicylic acid. Retinoids, which are medications derived from vitamin A, are used to disrupt a wart's skin cell growth.

Another treatment is to inject each wart with an anti-cancer drug called bleomycin. The injections may be painful and can have other side effects. Immunotherapy, which attempts to use the body's own rejection system, is an additional treatment method.

New warts should be treated as soon as possible to prevent them from shedding virus into nearby skin and creating additional warts.

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



300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan – Cherbourg Road in France – June 30, 1944.

**BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS ERVING** – As we continue to follow the 300th Combat Engineers on their march to VE Day, they follow the retreating Germans into the so-called Ruhr Pocket in northern Germany.

U.S. First Army troops came to the outskirts of Remagen, Germany on the west bank of the Rhine River on March 7th, 1945. Scouts observed German troops retreating across the Rhine on a railroad bridge.

Built in 1916, the Ludendorff Bridge was designed for war and had been used for years by the Germans to move troops across the Rhine. It originally included chambers to house explosives so

### Dispatches from Germany, March, 1945

it could be destroyed if necessary, but the French, years earlier, had filled the chambers with concrete.

Remagen was taken easily, with the Germans escaping across the bridge. U.S. troops waited for the Germans to destroy the bridge, but much to their surprise the Germans were slow to string explosives along the bridge. The Germans botched the job, and the explosives failed to bring down the structure.



William McAlexander of the 300th

U.S. troops stormed across the bridge, and in heavy fighting drove the Germans back, and immediately began to move Allied troops and equipment across the Rhine River. Three Hundredth reconnaissance officer Lieutenant Charles Shoop and Sergeant John Durant made a

reconnaissance probe that took them over the bridge. They reported back to Company B Headquarters that the bridge was still standing.

Yet again circumstances had changed the history of the 300th. They had been assigned the critical mission of building the bridge across the Rhine, a job for which they had been training for months. With the Ludendorff bridge still standing, the 300th was assigned other missions. They followed other Allied troops and moved over the Rhine and deeper into Germany.

Engineer battalions spent the next ten days attempting to repair the badly damaged Ludendorff Railroad Bridge. Four welders from the 300th were sent to help with the repair work. It was on March 17th, ten days almost to the hour from when American troops first set foot on it, that the bridge collapsed without warning, crashing into the Rhine River and killing 28 men, with many more injured.

Three hundredth sergeant William McAlexander described crossing the bridge at Remagen.

“Lieutenant William Taylor came up about daylight and said, ‘Load up right now, we’re going across the Rhine River.’ So our group crossed the Ludendorff



300th Engineer Randy Hanes

Bridge at Remagen. We didn't go through the tunnel on the other side. We took a right and went over where we joined the 7th Armored Division again.

When we crossed the Ludendorff Bridge, it was quiet over there. We didn't have any opposition and were just sailing along. We didn't know then that the bridge collapsed right behind us. We had no idea. We went way inland before I heard the bridge fell in. All of our 300th groups didn't go across the bridge. Most of them went across on a Treadway bridge.”

Randy Hanes was “welcomed” into a German home.

“When we would enter into a small village and needed billets for a night or more, I would approach a civilian and ask, “Wo

ist der Burgermeister?” (Where is the mayor?) They would point to his house. I would say very demanding, “Get him!” We would take every other house allowing them a little time to get their necessities and then we would move in doing a thorough search for weapons of any kind.

“In one particular house in southeast German in March, 1945, I selected an upstairs bedroom for myself. I opened a door into the attic and was amazed at how much meat of all kinds were hanging on hooks – sausages, hams, and braunschweiger. Before I could shut the attic door this hysterical *frau* came screaming at me cursing and screaming for me to leave her meat alone. She wouldn't relent pointing her finger in my face and screaming the “*Godt in Himmel* (God in heaven) would see me in Hell for this.”

I finally had enough of this shrieking and stuck my Tommy gun right in her belly and shouted, “If you don't get the Hell out of my face I'm going to send you to Hell right now!” She got the message, spun around, and went down the stairs about four steps at a time still screaming and cursing. That was the plushiest bed I had ever slept in – sank down about a foot deep. I know I slept better than the screaming lady next door.”

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# GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 1: SURPRISE – YOU'RE IN!

who

**Robbins-Levine Family**

Jane, 34  
Biology Professor

Nell, 32  
Fiber Artist

**Bartlett Family**

Gerry, 59  
Software Engineer

Beverly, 52  
Business Owner

Jayden, 16  
Conner, 14

**Tinker Family**

Billy, 50  
Bus Mechanic

Rita, 49  
Yoga Instructor

Alex, 17  
Ruby, 10

**BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON MONTAGUE CENTER** - 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.

Jayden Bartlett liberated a mane of golden hair from her hat, hung up her coat alongside those of her parents and forced herself to enter the banquet room. Her stomach flipped as she remembered the night a week ago that she, along with the rest of her family, had taken the screen test for the *Go Green Family* show semi-finalists. Dad had looked SOOOO geeky wearing his '70s wide tie, and mom had kept talking in that fakey accent, like she was from London or something. And the interview questions – it was obvious that mom and dad hadn't ever thought about half the stuff they were asked. Like, "Please explain what measures your family has taken to reduce carbon emissions." And, "How would you describe your approach to waste reduction?"

But her mom was, like, totally excited about the whole deal. Apparently she thought the contest was the answer to her prayers to promote her new eco-friendly clothing line. That being, of course, the super-expensive organic and hand-dyed cotton and silk stuff that nobody but doctors and lawyers could afford. And now, her mom was all hyped up about this whole contest kick-off thing because she'd be on TV.

Jayden's thoughts were interrupted by a man in a dark suit,

stepped in front of a microphone to polite applause. As she strolled over to take her assigned seat with Connor and her parents, she heard the official-looking man say, "...and I'm your host, Sam Lively from WGBJ. I'd like to announce the three family finalists we've chosen to follow each month as they learn how to adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

"Of course, I hardly need to remind everyone that each family will be given a spending account of \$25,000 to work with, and the lucky winner next year will receive our grand prize of \$200,000 dollars. We'll be evaluating each family based on their per-person carbon footprint – the number of pounds of carbon we estimate each uses in a year. Families are free to supplement their spending accounts with their own resources, but we will be judging improvements based on their impact, and the overall benefit relative to the cost of making these improvements.

"And now it's time to meet the three families we've selected to take up the *Go Green Family* challenge. Please stand when I call your names.

Jane and Nell Robbins-Levine, along with their baby Betty, of Northampton, Massachusetts..." Jayden's eyes opened wide as a muscular woman in a blue blazer with a 'don't mess with me' attitude stood up and turned her head to look the crowd over with penetrating eyes. "That one definitely looks like trouble," Jayden decided. A shorter, chunkier woman with a round face and messy-looking hair rose awkwardly beside the woman in the blazer. She made a hasty attempt to brush some stuff off her sleeve, but more food junk fell onto her as the baby she held stuck a sticky hand into her

mouth.

Sam Lively continued, "Nell Robbins-Levine is a fiber artist who specializes in recycled and found art. Next to Nell is her wife, Jane, a biology professor at Hampshire College. And I believe that is baby Betty who's peeking at us from inside Nell's sling. The Robbins-Levine family has already demonstrated their commitment to green living – their carbon footprint measured out as 4,000 annual pounds per person, the lowest starting point of our three families."

"Next, I'd like to introduce the Tinker family, Bill and Rita, with their son Alex and daughter Ruby, from Gill, Massachusetts."

Jayden watched with interest as a wiry, bowlegged man in a plaid flannel shirt leapt up and beamed a crooked grin that revealed a missing tooth. Then a cute boy with wavy dark hair stood up, tucking his thumbs into his baggy jeans pockets. He cast a broad smile in her direction-practically daring her to smile back. Jayden felt her heart skip a beat before she managed to flash him back a hasty smile. So that must be Alex, and his mother would have to be that woman with the teased hair – oh my god! Was that a Sarah Palin beehive she was sporting? Ruby must be the bouncy girl dressed in over-

alls with the ponytail.

The host continued, "Bill, who works as a school bus mechanic, describes himself as a do-it-yourselfer – we think he may have a few surprises up his sleeve. His wife Rita is a power yoga instructor and active in the local PTO. We've learned that the Tinker family raises chickens and rabbits on their small farm. Their footprint came in at just under 5,000 annual carbon pounds per person..."

Jayden was wondering what school Alex must go to, when suddenly she heard "...the Bartlett family: Gerry, Beverly, and their children, Connor and Jayden, who hail from Greenfield, Massachusetts."

She watched as her father removed his glasses and attempted to button his too-tight leather jacket before pulling himself up to stand up alongside her mother. Her mother had dressed in a low-cut orange silk dress paired with a velvet jacket, an outfit designed to elicit attention. As usual, it seemed people couldn't help staring at Beverly, whose austere profile tonight was accentuated by a pair of shiny sea glass earrings that gleamed against her asymmetrically tapered blonde hair. Her brother Connor was, as usual, wearing his smart-alecky smile and looking distracted.

"Gerry is a software engineer, and his wife Beverly is the president and owner of Earth Diva, a luxury eco-clothing design company. The Bartlett carbon footprint came up as 7,000 pounds a

year per person."

Jayden felt a mixture of shock and embarrassment as she realized her own family had just been chosen. She'd never thought of her parents as particularly environmentally conscious – in fact, she'd been sure they didn't stand a chance. But not only would they now actually be competing in this contest, after this intro, they'd obviously be typecast as the "wasteful pigs" on every segment of the show for the next year. How humiliating.

Sam Lively reviewed the rules and set-up of the contest:

"There will be six challenges in total, and a winner will be selected for each challenge by a panel of judges, each selected from a well-respected environmental organization concerned with climate change, clean energy and sustainability."

"Well, I wonder what happens if I don't cooperate?" Jayden thought to herself.

*Jean Weintraub-Mason lives in Montague Center. This is a work of fiction and any resemblance between the characters and persons living or dead is purely coincidental.*

Visit the new Go Green Family area at [www.montague-ma.net](http://www.montague-ma.net) to learn more about the families and how they decided to take the Go Green Family challenge.

Next week, Episode 2: The Transportation Challenge

## Carbon Footprints

Your carbon footprint is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted as a result of your daily activities, from washing a load of laundry to driving a carload of kids to school. The Go Green Family judges calculated the pounds of carbon produced annually on average by each family member to determine their carbon footprints.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHJUN ILLUSTRATION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd**  
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 7:30 p.m. no cover.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5th**  
Greenfield Community College Chorus Concert: Preview Concert: *Bach to Gospel: Choral Classics and More*. 12:15 p.m. GCC, Music Room, Main Building Room S-358.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Talon of the Blackwater*. Laura Siersema, vocals, keyboard, Billy Klock, drums, Wim Auer, fretless bass. 8 p.m. No cover.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *High Country, Low-Fi* with Jeffrey Foucault and friends, 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street, Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, 8:30 p.m. followed by *DJ Brownie* spinning hip-hop, dance and top 40. No cover.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Reprobates Jazz Band*, 7 to 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mafanti*, 9 to 11 p.m.  
World Folk Soul with Shanti, Mafu & Friends

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 5th & 6th**  
*Anything Goes!* Presented by Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School. Music and lyrics

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The Great Falls Coffeehouse will be jamming with the sounds of the young jazz musicians who are Kwajmal. Friday, March 12th, 7 p.m. Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

by Cole Porter, 3/5 at 7 p.m. Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets and Information: 863-7215.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival. 90 minutes of Bugs, Daffy, Elmer, Roadrunner and faulty ACME products! Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Admission \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids under 12. Music before the movie at 7 p.m. Friday Doug Creighton and Bob Snope- traditional Quebecois music on melodeon and guitar. Saturday *Last Night's Fun* plays traditional Irish tunes.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6th**  
*Death & Taxes* a new film about how people refuse to pay for war and redirect their federal taxes toward peace. 30-minute film shown at 4 p.m. in the upstairs meetingroom at Green Fields Market, Greenfield. Free, open to the public. Information: (413) 397-89-76.

Comedy at the Shea, with Dave Rattigan, Mike Cote, Maria Ciampa, Matt D. at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$15, available online at [www.sheacomedy.com](http://www.sheacomedy.com) or at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield. Beer and wine served in the lobby before the show. Info: (413) 863-2281.

Siren Café, Greenfield: fund raising concert for The Brick House featuring North Poletapes (J.D. Hairston), Brian phantom Fairlane, Simon Eaton, Luke Eaton, Dakota Roberts, and Eric D'Ambra. The concert will start at 7 pm, a donation of \$3-5 will be accepted. For more information contact: Bridger Felton, (413) 824-6446/Bridger@powertownmusic.com.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae, \$5 cover, 9 p.m.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street,

Turners Falls: *Mass Mobil* DJs spin top 40, dance and hip-hop, 10 p.m. No cover.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Love Bomb*, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ghost Quartet*, 9 to 11 p.m. Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7th**  
Hallmark Institute of Photography, Turners Falls: Open House for prospective students, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. <http://hallmark.edu>.

Pat & Tex LaMountain at Hope & Olive Restaurant, Greenfield. 12-2 p.m. for their brunch. no cover. (413) 774-3150.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Free Films for the Frozen, *Room with a View*, 7 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls:



Jason Scagg, John Jamison and Jeff Richardson. *Jatoba* incorporates a unique blend of three extraordinary acoustic musicians through collective songwriting and extreme rhythmic improvisations. At Route 63 Roadhouse on Friday, 3/12.

Oscar Night! The big show on the big screen, free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harp Beat*, 8 to 10 p.m.

**MONDAY, MARCH 8th**  
Genealogy Gathering, 6:30 p.m. at Carnegie Library. Come share family stories.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th**  
Faces and Places Gallery, Millers Falls: Open mic slots, 5 minutes each and poetry reading by Paul Richmond has been rescheduled. Come see the gallery and come to read and listen, 7 to 9 p.m. (413) 423-3203.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting & Crafts Night*, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome. Get a chance to win our monthly crafty gift with every \$5 you spend at Craft night. Drawings held on the last Wednesday of the month.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 11th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, 8 to 10 p.m. Rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to Classic Rock & Dance Music.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12th**

Faces & Places Gallery, Millers Falls: *Last Night's Fun*, traditional and Celtic music. 7 to 9 p.m. (413) 423-3203.

*Kwajmal* at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls, 7 p.m. *Kwajmal* repertoire includes Monk, Ellington, Mingus, and Gershwin, as well as their own original compositions. Doors open at 6:30 pm - coffee & homemade baked goods will be available. The museum and Museum Store will be open during intermission. Suggested \$6 - \$12, free for children.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Groove-Grass trio, *Jatoba*. Double Bass, Acoustic Guitars, Baritone Guitar, Mandolin, Sitar, Banjo and harmonizing vocals, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9 to 11 p.m. The Pioneer Valley legendary Reggae Band.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13th**  
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Larry Berger and the Electric Fence*, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (413) 863-3111.

**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/ [leverett@cwmars.org](mailto:leverett@cwmars.org).

**ONGOING**  
In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. March 5th to March 27th. From Hornbooks and Samplers to facebook and SMART Boards, *Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley*. Celebrate the *Big Read* through this interactive exhibit!

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Sat 6th 7 - 11pm *Love Bomb*

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March 5th & 6th, 7:30 p.m.  
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- FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3:30
- ALICE IN WONDERLAND PG in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30
- FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- COP OUT R FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3 DAILY 7 9:30
- THE CRAZIES R DAILY 6:40 9:20
- FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- VALENTINE'S DAY PG13 DAILY 6:40 9:20
- FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- CRAZY HEART R in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00
- FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- SHUTTER ISLAND R FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- DAILY 6:30 9:30 in DTS sound

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Jeffrey Foucault and Kris Delhorst & pals HIGH COUNTY, LOW FI 9:30 \$5

SAT: 3/6  
THE EQUALITES (reggae) 9:30 \$5

SUN: 3/7  
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# Local Nature Notes

## March: Things to See, Hear and Do



Skunk Cabbage

BY JEN AUDLEY

**TURNERS FALLS** – This month, the new moon falls on the 15th, and the full Worm Moon on the 29th. Spring begins with the vernal equinox on March 20th, and the following night Saturn will come as close to Earth as it will get in 2010. Throughout March, look for Saturn rising in the east around sunset and remaining

visible all night long.

Some trees have begun showing color in a subtle variation of their autumnal display – look for the red, green or yellow haze of new growth in the treetops.

More signs of spring! Skunk cabbage pops up in swampy areas, mourning cloak butterflies take flight, chipmunks re-emerge, red-winged blackbirds return and start calling from the cattails, house finches sing joyously from telephone and power lines, and dog walkers encounter copious amounts of goose poop in Unity Park.

Walk along the Turners Falls bikepath or on the Migratory Way to see some nifty ducks that stop off here while *en route* to their northern breeding grounds. The black and white ones with the white cheek spots are male common goldeneyes. The ones with white flanks that resemble Daffy Duck are male ring-necked ducks. Females of

these species look quite different from males – see if you can figure out which is which!

Thick crust on remaining snow is the result of the warmer days and still-freezing nights that signal the sap in trees to start running.

Towards the end of March, listen for the whistles of spring peepers and quacking of wood frogs. On warm, rainy nights, start watching out for frogs and salamanders crossing wet roads.

Both sunrise and sunset are closing in on 7 o'clock by the vernal equinox on March 20th. Right now the sun sets about 5:40 p.m., and it's dark by about 6:15, but after March 14th, when daylight savings time begins, sunrise and sunset shift ahead one hour.

Learn more:

March 5th, 10:00 a.m.

Maple Month Kick-off

The kick-off event for Massachusetts Maple Month will be held at Williams Farm Sugarhouse on Routes 5 & 10 in Deerfield. Ed Parker, president of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association, will welcome attendees, and Scott Soares, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), will tap the ceremonial first tree.

Refreshments will be available, and the sugarhouse restaurant will be open for breakfast. For more information, call (413) 773-5186.

March 13th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Quabbin Tracking

Join tracker David Brown of Warwick at the Quabbin Reservoir to "read the nightly diary" left by predators moving over the crusted snow and using their ears to detect prey

beneath its surface. Snowshoes and sunglasses will likely be needed. \$35 per person. 12 and up. Register by March 8th using the form at: [dbwildlife.com/registration](http://dbwildlife.com/registration).

March 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
The Meaning of Wilderness

Doug Seale of Framingham State College will lead an exploration of how the meaning of wilderness has changed over time and how various attitudes shape our interactions with nature. At the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Free.

March 20th, 9:00 a.m. to noon  
Accessible Birding

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) sponsors an accessible birding trip, embarking from the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Call (413) 545-5758 to register.

TFHS from pg 1

for England in the year 1932, at the height of the Great Depression.

Billy Crocker (sophomore Samuel Letcher) is a "broke down broker" who is helping his boss Elisha J. Whitney (senior Christopher McMahon) finalize his plans to sail to England to close a big business deal. In a twist of fate, Billy sees the woman he loves, Hope Harcourt (senior Sarah Underwood), and learns she is sailing on the same ship, to be married to the British gent Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (yours truly).

On the spot, Billy decides to stow away on board, to try to deter Miss Harcourt from following through with her engagement. He requests the help of his good friend Reno Sweeney (senior Megan Grimard) a famed Manhattan night club singer and former evangelist, to try and seduce the man in his way.

Meanwhile, Public Enemy Number 13, Moonface Martin (sophomore Jesse Langknecht), and his sidekick Bonnie (senior Libby Nicotra) are sailing to further their notoriety and continue their life of crime. Moon, disguised as the ship's chaplain, meets our hero when Billy incorrectly identifies a real bishop as the crook, and they soon become friends. They team up with Billy to help separate Hope and Evelyn, using many wild antics along the way.

*Anything Goes* first opened on Broadway in 1934. Cole

Porter composed the music and lyrics. The original cast included the renowned Ethel Merman in the role of Reno.

Cole Porter's many other musicals include *Kiss Me Kate*, *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, and *Can-Can*. He penned hits that went on to become classics of the American canon, including "I've Got You under My Skin," "Begin the Beguine," "In the Still of the Night," and countless others.

The version of *Anything Goes* being put on this year at TFHS is the 1962 revival. *Anything Goes* was also revived on Broadway in 1987, but the 1962 revival was chosen because of its emphasis on certain characters not as well developed in other versions of the show.

This is the first year Jayne Finn has directed the Turners Falls High School musical, but she has had a long history in theater. Finn also performed in previous productions of *Anything Goes*. P.J. Kilfeather is the assistant director; the stage manager is Meagan Beauregard.

Finn wanted to increase student involvement in the production this year, so she found two experienced dancers in the cast (seniors Megan Grimard and Carlyn Perry), who auditioned and were accepted to the position of dance captains, to take care of the choreography.

Veteran music director and talented pianist Henry Gaida will lead a small band includ-

## All Set Up

BY MARK HUDYMA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Have you ever gazed at the sets of our high school plays and been simply awed?

I have.

The construction of the set is perhaps one of the most important parts of getting ready for a play, further enhancing the spell cast by the actors. Mark Mailloux, a local machinist and carpenter, and the father of sophomore Corban Mailloux, has built sets both for *The Music Man* and for this weekend's production of *Anything Goes*, which takes place aboard an ocean liner.

I was eager to learn about the process of set design and construction, so I took the opportunity to interview Mailloux as he put the finishing touches on the various staterooms of the boat.

The process of building a set begins, usually, with a review of the script, the setting, time period, and a general description of what the set needs to accomplish. After these outlines have been established, Mailloux researches past productions of the play, trying to get an idea what other set designers have done.

Next Mailloux creates sketches of an idealized set. One sketch, drawn on a piece of slightly crumpled scrap paper, became the "jail" for *Anything Goes*.

ing horns and percussion.

For the second year in a row, the sets are being constructed primarily by local machinist and handyman Mark Mailloux, with the help of many others (see sidebar).

The costumes, as usual, are being created by many of the dedicated mothers of the cast.

The play will take place on Friday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium,

and again on Saturday, March 6th at both 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Those who have been to the previous productions put on by the TFHS and GFMS know to expect a great show, and those who have not yet been to our high school's productions should come and see what they've been missing.

The community effort to mount such a wonderful pro-

duction is tremendous, and if for nothing else, everyone should come see it to support the hard work by all involved. Who knows, you may enjoy it. After all, *Anything Goes!*

Mailloux said his favorite set so far was the railroad car he built last year for *The Music Man*, which actually rolled off the stage. He said he has found it difficult to build sets in modules, rather than larger set pieces. He has adopted a process of building small pieces that can serve multiple uses.

Mailloux said he is happy with the way the set for *Anything Goes* is turning out. Indeed, even without the final details the jail and staterooms look fantastic.

Their moment is now approaching. All the hours of design and construction will be worth it for that short period of time when the audience is transported to another world.

Mark Hudyma is a sophomore at Turners Falls High School.

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