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Page 8



THE VOTE

Election Day in Gill, Erving & Wendell
Pages 5, 6 and 9

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YEAR 7 - NO. 6

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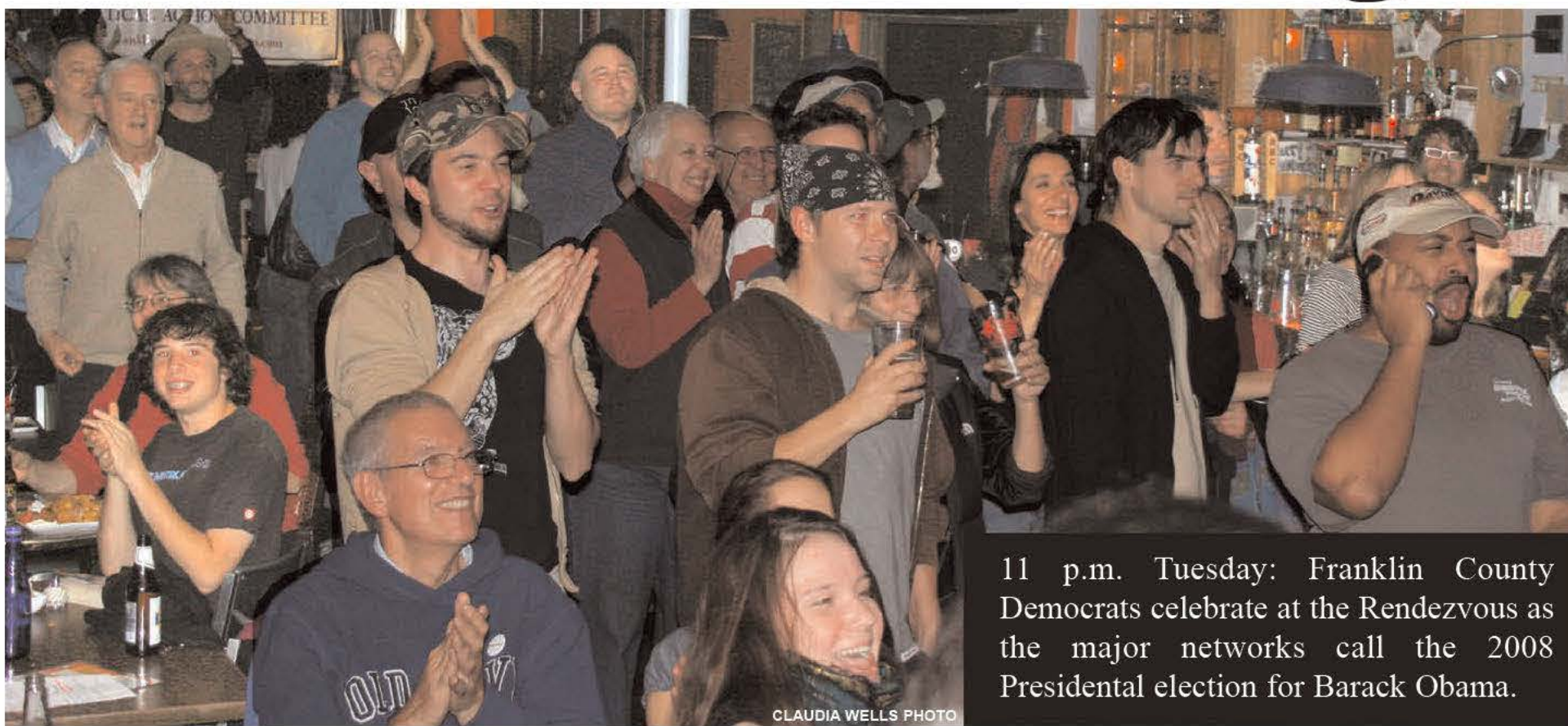
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 6, 2008

“We Voted for Change”



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

11 p.m. Tuesday: Franklin County Democrats celebrate at the Rendezvous as the major networks call the 2008 Presidential election for Barack Obama.

“People, people, don’t you see what’s goin’ on?
...I’ve got a brand new funky President” - James Brown

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Franklin County voters turned out in droves on Tuesday, joining 136 million other Americans who headed to the polls. The day ended with the election of a brand new president, Barack Hussein Obama.

Forty-seven years old, the son of a white mother from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, Obama will take the nation’s helm at a time when America is reeling from an economic meltdown on Wall Street and Main Street, with hundreds of thousands of workers joining the ranks of the unemployed and the uninsured. Obama’s promises to end the war in Iraq, break America’s dependence on for-

ign oil, make health care affordable for all Americans, and invest in education will require him to also live up to his promise to unite the country in order to achieve his goals. Above all, he promised ‘Change’. That is the one promise that seemed most to resonate with local voters interviewed at the polls on Tuesday.

“There were 30 people standing in line at 7 a.m. when we opened the doors,” said Jean

Hebden, poll warden at the senior center in Precinct 5 in downtown Turners Falls. By the end of the day, 484 of the precinct’s 769 voters had turned out, 63%.

Hebden called that turnout “disappointing,” since it did not top the mark set in her precinct in the last presidential election. Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau echoed that sentiment.

“I expected to break a record, with all the excitement leading

up to the vote, the rise in registrations and the rise in absentee ballots,” Bourbeau said. Townwide, 4361 (74.3%) of Montague’s 5872 registered voters cast ballots on Tuesday, down from the 81.6% who voted in the 2004 election. Bourbeau said there were “a few hiccups” but overall the election went smoothly in town.

In Precinct 5, Hector Torres, see **CHANGE** pg 10

Dreams in Blue Porcelain

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Two landmarks on Main Road in Gill are gone. The two royal blue Harvestore silos that once towered over the barns of Shirley and Alan Flagg, emblazoned with the American flag, now lie stacked in piles of metal plates on wooden skids awaiting shipment to Europe.

“They will probably go to Switzerland,” Ruedi Landolt said. Landolt is a native of Switzerland where he worked for a Harvestore dealer for over ten years, erecting the silos. The dealer in Switzerland has a market for used silos.

Landolt has set up and dismantled enough of the steel silos so he

see **DREAMS** pg 11

Eduardo (left) Edgardo (no last names given) and Ruedi Landolt in front of the Flaggs’ 50 foot silo.



PARZYCH PHOTO

Truckers on Love

BY DAVID DETMOLD

NORTHAMPTON - Approximately two million Americans are employed as truck drivers, many of them hauling freight across the nation’s highways for up to 11 hours a day, sleeping in the berths of their cabs, and staying away from home for days or even weeks at a time. What do these guys (and they are primarily guys) know about love?

Whatever stereotypes you may hold about the love life of long distance truckers, put them to the test by booking yourself a date at the Masonic Street parking lot in Northampton on November 14th at 7

p.m. to watch the premier of Lea Donnan’s movie, *Truckers on Love*.

The movie, which Donnan, a Turners Falls resident, shot in the parking lot of



Long distance truckers reveal their thoughts on love, in Lea Donnan’s movie

the Whately Diner, working with a grant from the Northampton Arts Council, features interviews with long haul truckers, mostly standing in front of their rigs lit by the glare of overhead incandescents, revealing their vulnerable

sides as they philosophize about life and love. They may look burly and tough, but give a listen. They follow their heart, like

see **LOVE** pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Mucho gusto!



Benny

Hi, my name is Benny. I am a sweet one-year-old orange and white Turkish Angora-looking male cat (I indeed may be a pure Turkish Angora, but no one has checked) with Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH). This means that I have limited control over my back legs. I can walk and do almost anything a normal, boring cat can do---I just do it with flair and gusto! I really adore people and love to play. My youthful exuberance makes me quite entertaining! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dpvhs.org.

Banash Wins FRCOG Executive Committee Race

Leah Gibson, at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, commenting on the write-in race for FRCOG executive committee on Wednesday, said unofficial results showed Ann Banash, of Gill, topping Margaret Sullivan, of Erving 1664 to 319.

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

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Preschool Story Hour

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Preschool Story Hour is held on Wednesday Mornings at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Young children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks with artist Ruth O'Mara.

The themes for the month are as follows: November 5th -

Weather and Wind Stories, November 12th - Trains, November 19th - Family and Friends, and November 26th - Turkey Tales.

The weekly free series is designed for ages three to five and their parents, grandparents, and other caregivers. Siblings of any age are welcome. For more information, please call 413-863-3214.

FCHC Staff Gets all Tricked Out to Treat Seniors in Turners to Hallowe'en Lunch



On October 31st, Franklin County Home Care staff dressed up and made Halloween lunch for residents of Winslow Wentworth Congregate Housing in Turners Falls. (L to R) Molly Chambers, Nancy Ferron, Tessa White-Diemand and house manager Margo Townley.

Friends of Mealsite Fundraising

The Gill-Montague Senior Center Friends of Mealsite is preparing for its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 22nd. This is an important fundraiser for the Center. We are looking for support from local businesses and would appreciate donations of gifts, business certificates or money for our raffle.

The Center Friends of Mealsite provides funding for kitchen supplies, social events, repairs, maintenance and other expenses not covered in the Council on Aging budget. Donations may be dropped off at the Center between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, mailed directly to the Montague Senior Center, P.O. Box 166, Turners Falls, MA 01376. If you prefer to have your donation picked up at your place of business please call 413-863-9357.

Your support of community fundraising endeavors is greatly appreciated. Please attend our Christmas Bazaar this year.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Nov. 10TH to Nov. 14th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. For trips: Call the Senior Center (413) 863-9357 or 863-4500.

Monday, 10th
9 a.m. Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Tuesday, 11th
Veterans Day
9 a.m. Walking Group
12 noon Pot Luck lunch

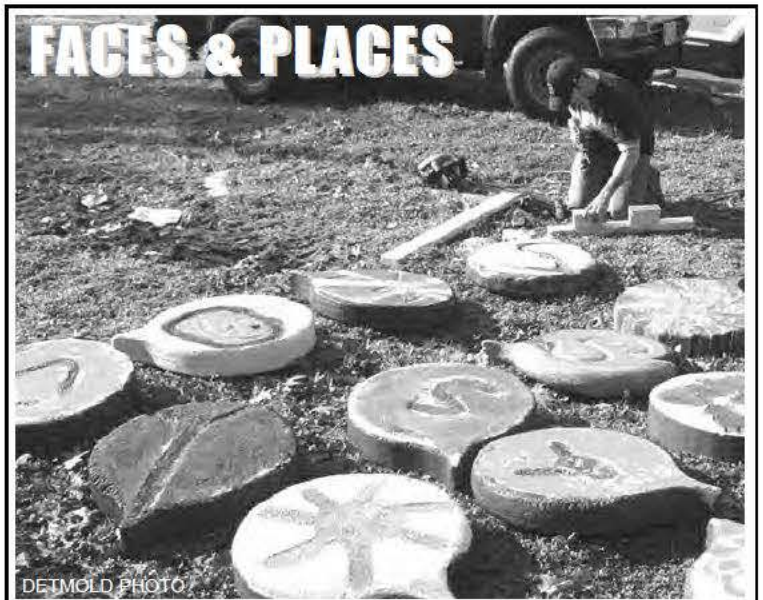
No Meals on Wheels will be delivered.

Wednesday, 12th
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Foot screening Gill and Montague residents only. Advance registration needed. Fee \$5.00.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 p.m. Friends of Mealsite
12:45 Bingo

Thursday, 13th
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
10:30 a.m. "Superfoods" nutrition discussion
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 14th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Chair Yoga resumes Nov. 18th and 25th at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Bazaar and Flu Clinic on Saturday Nov. 22nd.
Christmas party at the Tech School, Monday Dec. 8. Make reservations now \$10.00 per person.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9



DETMOLD PHOTO

James Rourke, (top right) of Northfield, assisted Jack Nelson and Joe Landry of Turners Falls in mounting a dozen or so 3-D styrofoam sculptures created by students in the Sheffield Afterschool program. The balloon-like objects were mounted on the former Turners Falls Firehouse doors at the 3-D Collaborative Sculpture park on the corner of 3rd and Canal on Tuesday. The students who participated in the project included: Miguel Russell, Ivy Cross, Nicole Thibeault, Stone Dresser, Carlie Kretchmar, Julie Beaubien, Malik Barker-George, Raven Norwich, Lynn Arsenault, Christina Cunningham, and Will Roberge.

The 3-D Collaborative Sculpture Park is funded by grants from the Montague Police and the RiverCulture Project. For information about working with local sculptors to create works of art to display at the park, young people in town are encouraged to call Joe Landry at 863-2915.

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Montague Reporter

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

- Grade 6:**
Stephanie Robertson
- Grade 7:**
Kyle Wawrzyniak
Elyssa Carner
- Grade 8:**
Katelyn Dodge

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Veterans Day Holiday Trash and Recycling Schedule

Trash pickup remains the same day as always. Recycling pickup remains the same on Wednesday and Thursday. Recycling pickup for Tuesday will be changed to Monday.

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WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

Gill-Montague School Officials, Towns Meet Again on Budget

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
MONTAGUE - Meeting Wednesday night in the Montague town hall, members of the selectboards and finance committees of Gill and Montague and the Gill-Montague school committee tried once again to resolve their differences on the '09 school budget and come to common ground, with the December 1st deadline for state takeover of the school district looming.

Ken Roche, district superintendent, stated he had met with commissioner Mitchell Chester of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that Chester expressed concern over the unintended budgetary consequences of school choice. Roche said he felt there was still a chance to show the state the district can resolve the budget crisis locally. He added that if there were a two to three year window in which the GMRS could maintain a reasonable budget, that would give the district an opportunity to explore educational improvement through regional consolidation.

Montague finance committee member Jeff Singleton suggested it might be better to let the state take control of the school district's finances come December, because unfunded state mandates and inadequate state aid are a big part of the school budget problem. He stat-

ed the finance committee had agreed at their last meeting they would not approve a school budget for FY10 that did not include a commitment on the part of the school committee for a "level funded assessment."

There was some agreement among those in the room that the state has to be more involved in solving the budget impasse between the schools and the towns, but many expressed concern of what a state takeover of district finances would mean for the towns and the schools.

Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt of Montague stated she felt the towns needed to come to the next meeting with a concrete budget goal for the school committee to meet, so the school committee could be clear about what the towns were asking. Mary Kociela, chair of the school committee, said the school committee would meet on November 12th to go over the budget one more time prior to the two-town district meeting at the Turners Falls High School on November 18th at 6:30 p.m. All registered voters of Gill and Montague are invited to that meeting, which will be a final attempt to resolve the school budget impasse locally.

The selectboards, finance committees, and school committee will meet again on Thursday, November 13th at 6 p.m. at the Montague town hall.

Save Stonyfield Farm Specially Marked Tops

TO SAVE THE MONTAGUE SKATE PARK!

BY RUTH NERVIG
TURNERS FALLS - Stonyfield Farm yogurt is offering a \$50,000 grant to the community group that collects the most specially-marked yogurt lids, and the Montague Skate Park Committee wants that money to build a concrete skate park! The yogurt company teamed up with KaBOOM! (a nonprofit dedicated to bringing play back into the lives of children) to create two new volunteer-built play spaces. All we need to do is collect the aluminum yogurt tops and send them into Stonyfield Farm by December 31st.

The skate park, on 2nd Street in Turners Falls is facing a fiscal crisis that could easily be solved by this grant. The current property owner will charge \$300 a month rent if we sign a new lease agreement on the park, starting November 1st. With the current deficits, the town of Montague cannot commit to paying \$3600 a year for the skate park lease. A group of concerned community members, parents, and skaters/BMX bikers has been meeting since September to find either rent money or another parcel of town

land to move the ramps to. The group is dedicated to working with the town and community members so we can continue to

as fast as the wooden ramps we currently use. If we won \$50,000 from Stonyfield Farm, we could build a concrete skate plaza that would be accessible and welcoming to everyone in the community.

Please help us by collecting specially marked Stonyfield Farm yogurt labels at your business place, in your home, in your office! Please contact Ruth Nervig at the Brick House (413-863-9559, mervig@thebrickhouseinc.org) to let her know you want to help. Or just drop off your labels to the Brick House, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls. Thank you!



have a skate park for our youth.

Skate parks are accepted as positive places for youth to



Fete Noel

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Wendell Subscription Drive and Raffle

For Wendell residents, the next two weeks are an especially good time to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, thanks to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. These supporters have put up funds to purchase a great list of raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added between now and November 18th will have their name entered to win. First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg Farm; second prize, a \$40 gift certificate at the Copper Angel, five third prize winners will each receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

Plus Wendell subscribers can knock five dollars off the basic subscription price and for \$15 use the blank on page 4 to enter the raffle, (to be eligible, your subscription blank must be in the mail by November 14th). Start receiving the *Montague Reporter* at your door today!

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The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor David Detmold	Layout & Design Claudia Wells Boysen Hodgson Karen Hoyden Karen Wilkinson Suzette Snow Cobb	Photography Joe Parzych Shawn Woolsey
Assistant Editor Kathleen Lichfield	<i>"The Voice of the Villages"</i>	
Editorial Assistants Hugh Corr David Brule		Technical Administrators Michael Muller Michael Farick
Circulation Suzette Snow Cobb Don Clegg	Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002	

Concession Speech

BY WESLEY BLIXT

GREENFIELD - . . . *the good [person] in Hell, acting in acute foreknowledge of probable defeat, who nevertheless acts - the true existentialist who chooses his history, who chooses his situation, and chooses to change it; who declines exile and desertion, and who declines to be defeated by a despair which he nevertheless refuses to reject. Such people will decide and again decide to live as fully as they can in that eternal hour before the eternal revolution which is eternally the moment of a [person's] communion with his brothers and sisters . . .*

- Carl Ogelsby (a founder of SDS: *Port Huron Statement*, currently living in Amherst), 1968

I would like to take this opportunity to concede. . . to concede the election that has enveloped our lives.

In a strict sense, to concede means to acknowledge or yield, and it is generally used in a negative sense. As in defeat. As in surrender.

My concession is, in fact, all about surrender, but I am talking about concession and surrender in a positive sense I have not experienced in many, many years . . . one that I find at once joyous and yet profoundly confusing.

For the first time since I was 16 (I am, by the way, about to observe my 57th birthday), I will surrender my anger. I will surrender my hopelessness, my despair, my grief and my alienation. And my violence. I would very much like to surrender my violence.

Let me describe the glow that night in Grant Park in Chicago:

The vote has just been stolen. . . It is dark, but we have lighted oil drums, and we are beating them. Helicopters circle overhead, and the police tighten a circle. It is 1968, and it is Hubert Humphrey who has just

stolen the nomination from Eugene McCarthy.

The flag of the NLF (the National Liberation Front, the Vietcong) flies from the memorial monument. The chant goes up: The Whole World is Watching . . . The Whole World is Watching . . . as if the Whole World is going to join us and rise up against The Beast. Within the last six months, Bobby Kennedy and Dr. King have been assassinated. Nine months ago, Che Guevara was summarily executed by a CIA operative as he lay wounded on a stone slab in Bolivia. The Whole World Is Watching.

We know, or should know, what comes next. The Mayhem. The Police Riot. The Siege of Chicago. (Teach your children well, loves. . .) The Conspiracy Trial. The Days of Rage following the verdict. 'Weatherman' goes Underground. Billy Ayers waits, in vain, for a call from Diana Oughton, who has just died in the exploding 'bomb factory' on 11th Street in New York. Tin soldiers and Nixon coming. We're finally on our own. This summer I hear the drumming. Four dead in Ohio. Four Dead in Ohio. Barack Obama is nine years old.

OK. This is a concession, and not as graceful, perhaps as I would have liked. But the fact remains that there is not one single moment, from then until now, that we have had a sense of peace, or justice, or hope, or of pride in our nation.

There was, however, a different glow in Grant Park in Chicago this Tuesday night, and it was one that we could never have expected . . . one that, I am almost embarrassed to admit, we have never known. We wept to know that such a thing was still accessible to us. We wept to believe that it was not too late. We wept that we could still weep together without our tears being appropriated for some new invasion, some new atrocity. We wept about something



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

View from a Battleground State

BY JEN AUDLEY

LANSDOWNE, PA - When the phone rings during dinner at my parents' house in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, no one answers, but we all listen when the machine picks up. "That's the first one from Obama today," says my mother, who has become quite skilled at identifying robocallers. "We've gotten six for McCain."

Over the next forty-eight hours of our visit, right up until Election Day, over a dozen more calls come in. Although my parents mostly hang up or ignore them, they do notice who "called."

"I got one from Michelle Obama today," reports my father. "Ted Kennedy called today," says my mother, with what seems like actual enthusiasm. She's probably not thinking what I am: Voters here in Pennsylvania are getting more attention than I've ever gotten from my own state's senator.

having to do with hope.

The real test now, of course, is whether or not President-elect Barack Obama (golly . . . it *really does* sound wonderful) moves quickly to do what needs to be done - to provide for health care for all, as a right-not-a-privilege; to escape from and rebuild Iraq; to promote peace with justice; to mount a massive infrastructure improvement campaign that will allow us *all* to work in peace, justice and health.

There are other things we would like to see: We would like to see George W. Bush, Richard Cheney and many others tried for crimes against humanity in a international tribunal; and we would like to see a massive "Asset Recovery" campaign launched to take back

"Don't you love being popular?" Karen Heller wrote in her November 4th column in the Philadelphia Inquirer, describing the lavish attention paid to Pennsylvania voters before Tuesday's election. Since March, when it became clear that its primary would be a key race for the Democrats, candidates maintained an almost constant presence in the state via hundreds of television ads, a blizzard of campaign literature, and in-person visits. In the last month of his campaign, John McCain made it an open secret that he hoped to flip the sixth most-populated state and its 21 electoral votes. He spent 30 days in Pennsylvania; Sarah Palin spent 15.

One result of this intense focus on Pennsylvania was that in October my youngest sister, Elizabeth, moved back in with my parents so she could work fulltime as a volunteer for the Obama campaign. Her assign-

ment, as Out-of-State Volunteer Coordinator for Delaware County, was to recruit helpers from nearby uncontested states and to convince them to spend time canvassing in southeastern Pennsylvania.

She quickly learned the spiel the campaign provided and used it to great effect. The message was essentially: "So, let me ask you: how much do you want this? Ask yourself, honestly, are you really doing everything you can do to make sure this happens?" and "This is your shot. You have the opportunity to be a part of something that will change the world." And "you will never feel as good as you will on November 5th, when Barack Obama is elected president of the United States, and you know it's because of you."

And that's pretty much why (along with the fact that she's my sister), I volunteered to help on election day in Pennsylvania.

see **VIEW** page 5

the countless trillions that have been looted from the public trust and sacred Earth.

It's OK. We can wait on that. A little.

The real point of our concession, however, is that several weeks ago, our editorial suggested that there was no hope, and that Barack Obama could not possibly win. We deeply regret that sentiment, because it negated the heroic efforts of those who have continued to struggle when some of us had

surrendered to anger and despair. When some of us had given up.

We thank them now. We thank you. In fact . . . we thank us all. Bless us all, each and every one.

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

In Gill, More than 4 out of 5 Turn Out to Vote, ~AND THEY BACK BARACK 3 TO 1~

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The sun had broken through the fog by 11 a.m. at the Gill fire station and highway garage, where 367 of the town's registered voters had already shown up to cast their ballots in Tuesday's election. "Over 30% already," said town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, "which is amazing for us. There is a lot of optimism about this election."

Piles of gravel and earth moving equipment surrounded the parking lot, a row of turnout gear was pegged to the wall inside the door, as voters snaked their way around fire engines to the voting booths.

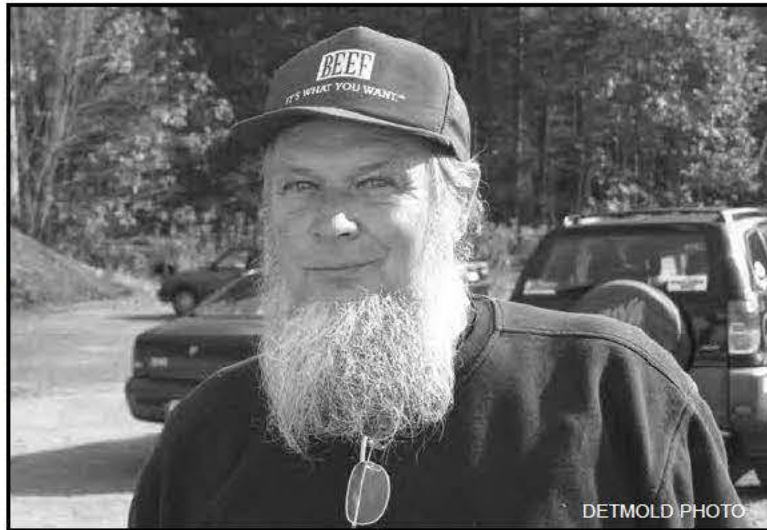
Randy Lively said he had voted for Obama because, "I just don't think I can survive another four years of a Republican administration, economically and internationally, with the war." Lively said he voted against abolishing the income tax in Massachusetts. "I thought it was too extreme. It would be better to lower the income tax than totally abolish it." He voted against the ban on dog racing for the same reason. "It's extreme. It would cost jobs. A lot of tracks have set up

adoption programs. There are only two tracks in the state. Vets have to visit the tracks on a regular basis." On that question, Lively thought, "There's probably a middle ground that would satisfy everyone."

Nancy Williams also opposed Question #1. "People that own property will wind up paying two or three times more. If you're earning something, you should pay," income tax, she said. Williams opposed liberalizing marijuana laws. "If you smoke it, you're going to get punished; it's your choice." She was more on the fence about Question #3. "I'm not necessarily in favor of dogs in the racetrack, but it also prevents sporting events."

Even though he said, "My vote will not count in a Blue State like Massachusetts," Joe

Williams went with McCain for president because, "He doesn't have such a liberal gun control policy. That's one of the most



In Gill, Joe Williams bucked the tide and backed McCain

important issues for me."

Liz Gardener, who drove up to the lot in a car covered with peace signs and pro-Obama bumper stickers, said she had been canvassing in the swing state of Keene on Monday to help get out the vote for the Democrats. "We were assigned a little district that consisted of all elderly housing. We met some really sweet people," who

had already been identified as Obama supporters, to remind them to go vote, and to see whether they needed a ride to the polls on Tuesday.

"In the hallway, one gentleman came out, and when he saw what we were doing he said, 'You don't want to talk to me. I'm no Muslim!' Conversely, we met with an 89-year-old woman who was about to cry because we asked her if she would like a ride to the polls. She was so glad she hadn't been forgotten about."

After she returned home from canvassing in Keene, Gardner said someone stole her Obama lawn sign on Monday evening.

Sarah Burstein, voting with her son Aaron, cast her lot with Obama. "He'll do a better job of

improving the image of our country in foreign affairs. I agree with his stand on public education. He'll protect my interests with the Supreme Court, and I don't just mean *Roe v. Wade*. I'm concerned about civil rights."

Burstein thought the election had been a very polarizing one. But, "It's got a lot of people talking and engaged." She said even in her own family, people were talking about who they were going to vote for, and coming down on both sides. "It's been a pretty exciting civil discourse," she said.

And, apparently, the voters of Gill agreed with her. By the end of the day, 916 of the town's 1121 voters had cast ballots, a turnout of 82%. They went more than three to one for Obama, who beat McCain 671 to 219 in the town of Gill.

Hodsdon-Mayo called the turnout "excellent," and said she planned to search the record books to see when, if ever, there had been such a high percentage of voters going to the polls in Gill before. "We'd like to have it carry over and have them come out more often."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Armed Tresspass

Wednesday, 10/29
5:44 p.m. Report of subject trespassing with firearm on West Gill Road
7:20 PM Single vehicle accident with no injury on Pisgah Mountain Road
8:29 PM Assisted Boyle Road resident with on-going harassment complaint
8:59 PM Officer requested to Main Road business for past vandalism to moving vehicle on West Gill Road
9:35 PM Assisted intoxicated subject at Main Road business
Thursday, 10/30
10:38 AM Vandalism complaint on West Gill Road, report taken 11-01-08
3:15 PM Assisted Bernardston police on their section of Hoe Shop Road with a domestic disturbance.

VIEW from 4

I reported to a sub-headquarters in a Baptist church in Lansdowne, an "inner ring" suburb just outside of Philadelphia. There, I joined volunteers who'd come from Wilmington, DE, New York City, Santa Monica, California, and just a few blocks away to help get out the vote. We were black and white, young and old, male and female. The staff people who gave us our assignments were a diverse group, too. Everyone else had been doing campaign work for a lot longer than me.

My work for the day involved going around to people who'd already said they planned to vote for Obama, knocking on their

doors, and - if anyone answered (a big if) - asking whether they'd voted yet.

The neighborhood I covered reminded me in several ways of Turners Falls. It is graced by a potentially charming shopping district that is pockmarked with vacant storefronts. Housing is notably less expensive than in neighboring suburbs, in part because the area has a bad reputation that may not be deserved. Elderly longtime residents are leaving and a more racially diverse mix that includes artists, outside investors, and first-time homebuyers is coming in.

Most of the voters I talked with on election day in Philadelphia were black.

Everyone I spoke to had been contacted by the campaign many times in recent months. They really didn't need to be reminded where, when, or how to vote. The most common refrain I heard was, "We all went down and voted first thing this morning." Still, most people didn't seem to mind my stopping by, though some seemed a bit mystified about why yet another white lady was out knocking on doors in their neighborhood.

That night back at home, as the results started to come in, my mother immediately noticed and appreciated the absence of political commercials. Blessedly soon, we learned that Obama had won Pennsylvania handily, carrying

Delaware County by about 60%, and winning not just black and urban voters, but women and the working class statewide.

Along with this news, Diane Sawyer announced that 59% of Pennsylvanians had been contacted directly at least once by the Obama campaign. How remarkable! And what an effective set of strategies this campaign used to involve people in politics in meaningful ways - even those, like me, who do not live in swing states. I am glad I volunteered, and - although it certainly wasn't "because of me" or any one of the tens of thousands who volunteered -- I am glad I played a part in Barack Obama's historic victory.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

LaClaire Resigns as Fire Chief; 'Bud' Meatley Appointed to Take His Place

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING - On Monday, October 3rd, Erving fire chief Mick LaClaire delivered a letter of resignation to the selectboard, effective January 1st, which the board accepted.

Before the board had time to consider a process for picking a new fire chief, on Monday, October 10th five members of the Erving call fire department presented the board with a letter signed by twenty members of the department, urging the selectboard to appoint co-deputy chief Almon 'Bud' Meatley to the chief's post.

Meatley has served 24 years on the Erving department, and has been a member of their extrication team, water rescue team, high angle rescue and wilderness rescue teams, among others. He was in the running for the position of fire chief in January of 2003, when LaClaire was appointed. At that time, Meatley told the selectboard he would have placed an emphasis on the issue of departmental morale.

"One of the reasons why I want the job is I think we need a big morale boost," Meatty told the board in December of 2002.

At the time, he said he would accomplish this by providing the firefighters with needed training in firefighting and EMS, as well as training and equipment for HAZMAT.

On the strength of the recommendation of the rank and file of the department, the board appointed Meatley to take over as fire chief on January 1st.

Between now and then, selectboard member Andrew Goodwin volunteered to act as a mediator to work with LaClaire and Meatley to insure a smooth transition in departmental leadership.

S&R Corp, the contractor hired by Mass Highway to undertake repair work on the bridge over the railroad tracks near the French King Entertainment Center on Route 2 has wrapped up the job after two and a half years. Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp told the selectboard S&R had paid \$8,000 on a lease of land at 18 Moore Street, where they stored equipment and materials during the course of the construction. As part of the lease agreement, S&R dismantled the "old Boy Scout building," a cinderblock

Erving Goes Big for Obama

BY DAVID DETMOLD - In Erving, 806 of the town's 1119 registered voters showed up at the polls on Tuesday, for a turnout of 72%. "That's definitely a good turnout for us," said town clerk Richard Newton. Erving voters backed Obama over McCain 565 to 216. They opposed abolishing the state income tax 657 to 128, and backed decriminalizing marijuana 496 to 294, and banning dog racing in Massachusetts 478 to 303.

Outside the polls, David Hall stopped to talk about why he voted for Obama. "I personally think McCain's not ready to lead. He's too old. If something happens to him, then we're stuck with Palin. I definitely don't think

she's ready to lead. It's time for a change."



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jennifer Dodge said, "I didn't want McCain. I feel we're going to be in the same position as we've been in with Bush if he gets in."

Lois Lively was among the McCain supporters in town. "I voted straight Republican," she said. "He just has more experience."

Tom Pydych went for Obama. "I'm a union member," he said, and left it at that.

Francis and Sandy Niedzwiedz both backed Obama. "I like his outlook," said Sandy. "He's positive." Francis added, "He's for more taxes for the rich."

And one man who declined to give his name before getting into his pick-up truck and speeding off said he had voted for Obama because, "I don't like McCain. He's too much like Bush. I don't know how many houses he's got."

structure that had fallen into disrepair at that site.

The board voted to hold a special town meeting on Monday, November 24th at 7 p.m. There will be seven articles on the agenda, including a warrant to approve an appropriation of \$45,000 to assist the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in their planned \$195,000 purchase of 21.3 acres of land near the French King Bridge off Dorsey Road. The land will be permanently

conserved for recreation purposes, DCR land protection specialist Jen Soper has said.

Alan Singer, loan fund manager for the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, received the Erving selectboard's approval, as lead town in a 10-town loan fund, for a \$30,000 five-year loan at 7.5% to Mark Snow, for equipment purchases and working capital investment in the Four Leaf Clover restaurant on 19 South Street in Bernardston.

Engineering consultants from

Tighe & Bond delivered preliminary design plans for upgrades to the Farley wastewater treatment facility, a sand filtration septic system. The town has allocated \$414,000 to make necessary improvements to the Farley system.

The board authorized add-ons to the architectural design for the proposed new senior center, to include \$2,250 for Catlin Architects of Quincy to conduct a feasibility study and design for a geothermal heating and cooling system and \$2500 for Prime Engineering, of Lakeville, MA to examine the feasibility of running a gravity sewer line from the new senior center to the town line in the vicinity of the police station.

The board also signed a business license with Joe Easton to operate a grinder shop called Mattie's Place at the French King Entertainment Center.

On Hallowe'en, Patricia Sutliff, with the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety toured the town hall with various detecting devices but was unable to locate the source of a mysterious fish-like smell that has been bothering employees.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Soliciting Without A Permit

Tuesday, 10/28

8:45 p.m. Report of a disabled motor vehicle on Lester Street. Located vehicle, found to be a resident unloading groceries.

Wednesday, 10/29

7:40 a.m. Report of barking dog in Wests High Street area. Arrived on scene; all quiet.

4:55 p.m. Report of erratic operator of a motor vehicle on Route 63 near Rose Ledge. Located vehicle; Operator was having problems with power steering.

Thursday, 10/30

9:20 p.m. Alarm sounding at State Road address. Residence secure.

Friday, 10/31

11:00 a.m. Fire alarm at Erving Elementary School; Assisted Erving fire. No problem found, alarm reset.

6:00 p.m. Assisted with Halloween parade, Erving center.

Monday, 11/3

11:00 a.m. Assisted motorist with tire change at Dorsey Road and Route 2.

1:30 p.m. Report of solicitors going door to door in the Church Street area. Located same and advised that they need a permit to solicit in town. They moved along.

3:20 p.m. Report of destruction of property and vandalism to a vehicle at Erving Paper Mill parking lot.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Energy Savings Audit Planned

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Roland Butzke, the project executive for Siemens Building Technologies, the multinational conglomerate recently awarded a contract from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to conduct Energy Service performance contracts (ESCos) for a number of Franklin County towns and school districts, gave a pitch to the Montague selectboard on Monday night about what his company hoped to do for the town.

"It's a very straightforward concept. There are energy improvements within the existing infrastructure. We come in and make the upgrades. We make our money from the energy savings. The residual energy savings revert to the community," Butzke explained.

With the permission of the town, Butzke's company would conduct a preliminary site audit of existing town buildings to see what energy savings could be realized. He would like to meet with the people who are familiar with the maintenance and performance records of utilities in each facility, and spend about half an hour walking through each building. About a month later, Butzke said, he will make a presentation based on his findings of how much energy could be saved if the town agrees to let Siemens go forward and do the work.

At that point, the company would conduct a more thorough energy audit of the town facilities, the results of which the town will have to pay for. If the town agrees to go forward with Siemens' recommendations for

upgrades at that point, Montague will enter into a long term contract with Siemens to perform the work identified in the audits, and agree to pay Siemens back for the upfront costs of the upgrades through the money the town will save in utilities over the next decade or two. As part of the contract, Siemens will provide guarantees that the energy savings identified will in fact be realized, and will follow up with on site checks over at least three years to make certain the predictions are borne out by the performance of the new systems. Cost of maintenance will be included in the contract, although maintenance will not necessarily be performed by Siemens.

In other business, the selectboard approved a request from Western Mass Electric Company to install a new utility pole on Turnpike Road to serve the new police station under construction beside the Turners

Falls fire station.

They revised a policy they had voted at a meeting earlier this fall, to allow employees of establishments that serve alcohol one hour past closing time to complete cleanup tasks and leave the premises, rather than the half hour they had stipulated previously. They turned down a request to allow the Rendezvous to serve alcohol an hour later on election night, when the Franklin County Democrats will be meeting their Montague counterparts at the 3rd Street watering hole, either to celebrate or drown their sorrows. They sided with police chief Ray Zukowski on the issue of whether extended closing hours will be allowed for local bars on Thanksgiving (they will not) and stipulated that only on New Year's Eve will two a.m. closing hours be allowed in Montague.

The board heard from the Department of Conservation and Recreation that the town's

application to be included in a competitive "Heritage Program Inventory" grant had been denied.

The board approved a proposal from the town accountant to establish an account to receive donations to purchase signs to celebrate the state championship victories of Turners Falls High School sports teams over the years. The sign purchased by the Greenfield Savings Bank to honor TFHS championship teams, which was put up near the White Bridge on the entrance to town from Canada Hill in Greenfield was stolen after being up for less than two weeks, and has not been returned.

"We'd like to have that sign back," said an exasperated Pat Allen, who encouraged the thief or thieves to drop the sign off at the highway garage, town hall, or the Greenfield Savings Bank, and promised "No questions asked."

LOVE from pg 1

we all do, and as often as not it leads to an idealized home and family, despite the miles that lie between.

"You can't describe love. You just feel it. You feel it," says a silhouetted trucker, speaking from the cab of his truck. "When she's with me, I'm happy. When she's away, it's quite hard for me. And for her too." During much of this interview, the camera's eye looks up towards the gleaming bank of controls, knobs and buttons on the dash, with only a curtailed outline of the human being, his strong hands clasped, his shadowed features in profile, mostly blocked behind the door. Sometimes you can see the shadow of the filmmaker, her hair blowing in the wind, mirrored in the side of the truck. The wind, the noise of trucks backing and turning in the confines of the parking lot, in the distance, the sound of motors on the Interstate in the night, these form the backdrop of the video, the backdrop of these men's working lives.

A trucker with a Florida t-

shirt says, "It's so wonderful when she's there. That's it. I love it. I love it." Intercut with interviews, Donnan shows the big rigs accelerating slowly, leaving the lot, bound for destinations at any point of the compass; the truckers' comments like their visits, are ephemeral. They are here and then they are gone.

Truck driving is a linear occupation. Pick up this cargo, take it there, return. It is also a circular occupation, and Donnan's video manages to encapsulate both aspects, pinning the drivers down in space and time briefly, allowing them to reveal their hearts and souls for the camera of a stranger, and then watching as they leave. Much of the imagery forming the B-roll footage is the rolling scenery of the interstate, treetops in the wind, commercial strips lit at the edge of dawn on the edge of nameless cities, endless lines of big rigs in parking lots, huge wheels rolling. Sometimes voices go with faces, sometimes they are bodiless, caught in the imagery of motion, traveling and never

quite arriving, or at least, not for long.

"I been on the road ten years. I'm married. Been divorced one other time, probably due to the business I'm in. The wife I have now, she's very understanding, due to the business I'm in, for the money I'm making."

"I have a wife and kids, and eight grandchildren. You've got to work continuously to support everybody. It's hard."

At a press preview Sunday night, clips from *Truckers on Love* were projected on a screen stretched across the ribs of an old green Freightliner logging truck, parked in the midst of the cool, casual ambience of nighttime Northampton. Donnan's video provided a strange juxtaposition for the young metrosexuals who drifted by in the dark, offering an aspect of America rarely seen or even contemplated by urbanites.

A grey-bearded man in a white bill cap stands with arms stretched wide, as if measuring a large mouth bass that got away. He's says, "Love is a multifaceted thing. Truth. Beauty. All things are love. It's almost a tangible thing.

Someone making a meal for you. You eat it; you take it in. It does you good." With the neon lights of the diner behind him, the truck driver continues, "I eat a lot of fast food. There's no love in it."

Another truck driver stands in front of his 16-wheeler, half turned away from the camera. "There's nothing you wouldn't do for that person," he says softly, speaking of the woman he loves. "It kind of sounds strange, coming from a person who is gone all the time. I call her every night." He has a far away look in

his eyes.

Slowly, as the scenes from the video clips continued Sunday night, the spectators drifted off with their wives or boyfriends, or singly. They made their way to their cars, and drove off in the night, heading home.

Donnan's video will play again, in its entirety, on Friday night, November 14th, at 7 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served. Wear warm clothes. Bring someone you love.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Super Fun Bowling Club

BY LAURA HEBERT

ERVING - When you cross over the French King Bridge and enter Erving, you are greeted by a sign that says, "Welcome to Erving - a Great Place to Live." As a resident of this quiet little town, I can assure you it is. We have low taxes, a great school, and acres of beautiful forestland. But at the top of the list, in my opinion, is the bowling alley at the French King Entertainment Center. Yet, you do not need to live in Erving to make use of this resource. The French King Entertainment Center is there for all to enjoy.

I wonder though, how often people drive by the bowling



Marcia Zutautasm in regalia

alley without giving it much thought or notice, merely zoning out and letting it fade into the blur of scenery going by. Well, it is time to start paying attention here, folks. Refocus and take advantage of this fantastically fun resource.

But before you start thinking that this is a lecture, rest assured, it is not. It is an invitation. Specifically, it is an invitation to the Super Fun Bowling Club!

The Super Fun Bowling Club is a new, non-competitive club devoted solely to the enjoyment of bowling. It is not a league, nor do you have to have any skill to join. The only criteria for joining are that you



The author as Mary Poppins must like bowling and having fun!

Granted, this is no ordinary bowling club. This is a bowling

club with an affinity for kitsch and quirkiness. This is a club where themes, such as Hallowe'en costume bowling, are embraced with fervor. It is also a club where upon joining you might suddenly feel like you are in a lost episode of Laverne and Shirley. But the bottom line is, we have a tremendously good time!

The Super Fun Bowling Club meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the French King Entertainment Center in Erving. The upcoming dates are 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, and 12/17. All ages and abilities are welcome, so please tell your friends and join us for some super fun bowling! For more information please visit www.superfunbowling.com or call 413-423-3027.

Con Brio

The Eroica Trio at the Bookmill

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CENTER - Technically brilliant. Youthfully exuberant. Skillfully attuned to one another.

The Eroica Trio played two sold out concerts to intimate audiences at the Montague Bookmill this past weekend, as part of a club tour aimed at introducing this fine young chamber group to new audiences, in small venues, with electronic instruments.

The trio, Erika Nickrenz, piano; Susie Park, violin; and Sara Sant'Ambrogio, cello have

played together to critical acclaim since September 2006, touring European and American concert halls playing the traditional classical and technically demanding chamber works of Vivaldi, Bach, Brahms and Beethoven. The club tour concerts are sandwiched between a whirlwind list of concert hall performances.

The club tour focuses on American music and opened last weekend's concerts with Mark O'Connor's "Poets and Prophets," a work inspired by the music of Johnny Cash and

specially written for the Eroica. The group played the second and third movements of this piece.

The second is a lively folk piece of toe-tapping music reminiscent of Copeland; the third a haunting adagio to the memory of Johnny's late wife, June Carter Cash. While not generally a fan of electronic classical instruments, which seem strident, not subtle, this listener was delighted to hear the range of tone the trio produced.

Park convinces her violin to play like a dancing fiddle, a piping instrument and an accordion. The cellist, Sant'Ambrogio, teases engaging sounds that range from delicate

plucking to deep stretched out sonorities. And always the underlying (or leading) tones of the piano.

The trio also played specially commissioned renditions of a medley of tunes from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and three songs from Bernstein's *West Side Story*. "I Feel Pretty" danced, strutted and flirted from their instruments. "There's a Place Somewhere for Us," was underscored with sadness and tragedy as all instruments sang in their lower ranges. "America" shouted with pride and joy.

The concert concluded with an encore preluded by



The Eroica Trio: cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio, pianist Erika Nickrenz, and violinist Susie Park.

Sant'Ambrogio's good-humored comments that the music would likely provoke clapping and the desire to burst out into full voice; "But please don't." Their rendition of Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" was rousing. I sat on my hands.

This young group has huge emotional investment in their music. They play with smiles, laughter and intensity. They are incredible technicians who demand anything they want and get it from their instruments. The small size of the piano and the easy portability of the strings make the club tour possible. These electronic instruments, under skillful fingers, also beautifully and naturally deliver some of the best classics of American folk music.

If you missed this special event, you can find the CD of "American Journey" at the Bookmill.

Bravo!

97% of us would want to be called if our teens were at a party where alcohol was served.

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Wendell is Obamaland

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Traveling up Wendell Depot Road to the center of town on Tuesday, the road was lined with more Obama signs than even Posted No Hunting signs. Sure enough, the 566 voters who turned out to cast ballots in

Tuesday's presidential race backed Obama (473 to 68, with 80% of the town's 701 registered voters showing up) 87% over McCain. That was one percentage point more than the number of Wendell voters backing liberalization of the



Katherine Kendall and Klondike Koehler voted for Barack Obama. "We're on the edge of post-racial America," said Koehler.



Michael Meehan, Paul Dunphy, Rep. Steve Kulik (D-Worthington), and Katie Bishop barnstormed through Wendell on a tour of the First Franklin District. "There's a huge turnout and a lot of enthusiasm," said Kulik.



A lonesome McCain tableau in the midst of Obamaland

state's marijuana laws (86% favored decriminalizing possession of an ounce or less of pot, compared to 65% statewide). Wendell voters opposed Question #1, to abolish the state income tax, by 87% and supported a ban on dog racing in Massachusetts by 80%.

Across from the new town office building, one lonely McCain sign stood on the corner, in a tableau framed by an empty lawn chair and an American flag.

As the afternoon waned toward early dusk, John Klondike Koehler and Katherine Kendall emerged from voting and got ready to ride off on Klon's motorcycle. "I'm feeling really optimistic!" said Kendall.

Koehler, who like Kendall backed Obama, took a moment to play a message from a friend from Chicago, who had taped the coda of an Obama speech, delivered in St. Paul, Minnesota after he secured the nomination in June.

"If we are willing," the Illinois senator called out from the tiny speaker of Koehler's cell phone in the parking lot of the Wendell town office building, "to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it, then I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth. This was the moment - this was the time - when we came together to remake this great nation so that it may always reflect our very best selves and our highest ideals."

"We're on the edge of post-racial America," said Koehler.

Jess Mynes, a librarian at Mt. Wachusett State College, said, "As someone involved in education, it seemed like an easy choice to vote for Obama. I want someone who's going to share those priorities."

NEW SENIOR CENTER OPENS

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Kathy Swaim came in early to Wendell's new senior center on Tuesday, turning on the electric heater in the fireplace and warming up apple cider in a crockpot. The newly sanded yellow pine floors gleamed in the lamplight, the newly plumbed handicapped accessible bathroom, located in the former librarian's office, and the kitchenette, where the librarian's desk used to be, awaited their first use. The handsome bookcases that line the walls remain to remind people of the original use of the 700 square foot building, which served the town as the public library for many years.

Now, with the opening of the new library and the new town office building, the senior center (which used to be housed in the old town office building, where the new library is located now) has moved into the renovated space, and held its grand opening on Tuesday night, timed to coincide with the last two hours of voting.

One of the first admirers to

stop in on Tuesday night was Lynn Davis, who, at 55, does not feel she qualifies as a senior yet, but wanted to have a look at the new space anyway.

"It's stunning! Fabulous!" she enthused. "A flush toilet! Jeez! This is the modern age."

The former library used a composting toilet.

Davis wondered if Swaim might consider instituting massage workshops, or bring in students of massage to help seniors with their aches and pains, and perhaps think about holding a basic free weights class, to help seniors improve their muscle tone.

Swaim is very open to all such suggestions. Conscious of the fact that Wendell's demographics have changed, she is reaching out to the expanded census of Wendell residents who are over 60 with a survey to find out how the emerging population of Baby Boomer seniors would like to use their new facility.

"Wendell's senior population has more than doubled over see **CENTER** pg 11

Mynes added, "On a visceral level, if McCain dies in office, the thought of Palin as president is terrifying."

Mynes said the "take it or leave it" foreign policy of the Bush administration has made America's position in the world "suspect." An Obama administration, Mynes said, would present a more open-minded way of dealing with the rest of the world.

Meagan Sylvia said she made up her mind about supporting Obama four years ago when she watched him deliver the now famous keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic convention. "I knew then he would be president some day."

Sylvia said she appreciated Obama's health care plan, his stand on making higher education more affordable - "I have a ton of student loans" - and his good judgment. "The fact that

he didn't support the war to begin with is very important to me," Sylvia said.

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CHANGE from page 1

who moved to Turners from Greenfield one year ago, brought an interpreter with him to help translate the ballot into Spanish. But he needed no help to decide where he stood on the presidential race.

"I voted for Obama," Torres said. "We need a change in the country. And Palin... she's from Canada. What does she know about America?"

Torres voted against all the ballot questions: to abolish the state income tax, decriminalize marijuana, and ban dog racing in the state. Statewide, voters agreed with Torres on Question 1, defeating the measure to eliminate the income tax by a 70% margin. But they parted company with Torres on decriminalizing marijuana (approved 65% - 35%) and banning dog racing (approved 56% - 44%).

Kasandra Polacek of Precinct 5 was among 965 Montague voters who backed the Republican ticket; 3245 (77%) supported Obama-Biden.

"I'm a registered Republican. I voted for McCain. I feel strongly he's a more experienced candidate. I think we were faced with difficult issues: the war in Iraq, energy efficiency, the economy. I don't feel Obama has the experience, at least this time around."

Merl Gray and Amanda Odoerfer, with their baby on Amanda's shoulder, voted for Obama. On their way out of the senior center, Odoerfer said, "I find him charismatic." And Gray said he liked Obama's health care plan.

Jessica Stafford, with two small children in tow, said she voted for Obama because, "I think he'll do a lot for this nation. A lot more than Bush has done for the last eight years."

Over at Precinct 6, in Montague City, about a dozen voters were lined up at 7 a.m. By 8 a.m., over 80 had cast their votes. Among them was Michelle Spziani, who was glad to cast her vote for Obama in "an historical election." Kathy Kennedy voted for Obama, saying she appreciated his "grace under pressure." She watched Obama give his keynote speech at the Democratic convention in 2004 and "thought he was a person I would like to see become president."

And why did Rick Hannon cast his ballot for Obama?

"Let's just say I'm not a Republican."

John Kabaniec, of Randall Road, voted for Obama too. "I'm afraid of McCain's age," he said, "and I don't think Palin is qualified," to be president.

Precinct 1, Montague Center, had the highest turnout



Kathy Kennedy said ever since she watched Obama give the keynote speech at the Democratic convention in 2004, "I thought he was a person I would like to see become President."

overall; 959 out of 1169 registered voters showed up (82%).

"I voted Obama less because I'm thrilled with him, but because I'm completely and utterly appalled by McCain/Palin," commented Susan Durkee.

As dusk settled in, Kathleen McGraw exited the poll saying, "I'm really excited to vote for Obama," she grinned. "I'm a person who tries to look at the world in a hopeful way - and he fits the bill for me!"

Michelle Rehorka, who voted for Obama for "hundreds of reasons," voted a definite No on Question 1. "I work for a school and have kids in school."

On the Hill, at Precincts 3 and 4, which share a polling place at Hillcrest School, turnout was 773 and 749, respectively. Parents watched their young children work off after-school energy in the small playground, as yellow school buses rolled in and out of the parking lot. Voters arrived, voted quickly - there were no lines - and left. A mother explained the specimen ballot taped on the school door to her young daughter, alluding to a conversation the two had held at home.

Art Belanger, who said he generally "watches politics pretty close," voted for

McCain/Palin. "Granted," he said, "both Republicans and Democrats helped mess things up, but Bush did an excellent job, and McCain/Palin would too." Explaining his discomfort with Obama, Belanger said, "He's an ultraliberal, and that doesn't suit me." Belanger also

election. "It's really important," he said, "but I think the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq matter more than the econo-my."

Belanger's wife Rita also voted for McCain/Palin. "Obama's a fine person," she said, "but he just doesn't have the experience." Both Belangers are tired of the seemingly endless campaigning and think the country should limit both campaign length and spending.

Bill Taylor came to pick up his six-year-old daughter Amber and took her into the voting booth with him. He thinks it's an important thing for her to experience. Taylor voted for Obama/Biden because "It's time for a change - a positive change - and I believe Senator Obama can provide that. There's been a lot of hype," he said, "about Palin's gender and Obama's race, but I don't think those things should matter. We should focus on who has the capabilities to do the job."

Retired teachers Beth and

Chet Chin both voted for Obama. Mr. Chin said he thought that with Obama, "we'd see more happening for the common person, rather than the elite - the rich." Obama, he said, "came up the hard way and would understand more about the struggle, about what it's like for the have-nots."

Brian Davies and Liz Williams also voted for Obama/Biden. Asked why, Liz Williams replied, "Where to begin?" She cited the wars and the economy and agreed with Davies that the country needs change.

Both voters think the Bush administrations have been "horrific - the worst ever." But Davies noted that the country's current economic problems started with Reagan's deregulation policies, which enabled "greedy people to take over the financial markets, people out to get as much as they can for themselves." In contrast, said Davies, "Obama is a great unifier. Look at how diverse the crowds are at his rallies - racially, ethnically."

Williams agreed. "Obama's rallies," she said, "look like who we are, who we really are as a country."

Both Davies and Williams think this election is "one of the most important ever" because the country is in such dire circumstances, with problems

see **CHANGE** next page

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vandals Strike Turners, Montague

Tuesday, 10/28

11:51 a.m. Report of vandalism at the intersection of Taylor Hill and East Taylor Hill Roads, Montague. Referred to other agency.

4:49 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Randall Wood Drive address, Montague.

Wednesday, 10/29

12:56 p.m. Report of fraud at a Turnpike Road address, Turners Falls.

2:09 p.m. Report of larceny at Carnegie Library, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

3:45 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Taylor Hill Road address, Montague.

10:30 p.m. Report of liquor law violation at Rendezvous Restaurant, Third Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Thursday, 10/30

1:52 a.m. Report of vandalism at A.H. Rist Insurance, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Investigated.

7:20 a.m. Initiated arrest of [redacted] Turners Falls on a straight warrant.

2:10 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Ripley Road address, Montague.

8:56 p.m. Report of motor vehicle accident, hit and run, Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls.

8:58 p.m. Report of larceny at a Power

Street address, Turners Falls.

Friday, 10/31

3:52 a.m. Initiated open door/window investigation at Sirum Equipment, Federal Street, Millers Falls. Secured building.

12:06 p.m. Report of trespassing at a Highland Avenue address, Montague.

Saturday, 11/1

6:55 a.m. Report of motor vehicle accident with property damage on Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls.

7:20 a.m. Report of motor vehicle accident with property damage at Hatchery Road and Turners Falls Road, Montague.

12:59 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Millers Falls Road address, Turners Falls.

10:43 p.m. Report of liquor law violations at Jay K's Liquors, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Sunday, 11/2

12:14 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant.

2:02 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested a juvenile, age 17 on a default warrant.

1:00 p.m. Report of vandalism at a

Second Street address, Turners Falls.

1:16 p.m. Report of a fight at a Turnpike Road address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

2:01 p.m. Report of vandalism at an Oakman Street address, Turners Falls.

10:47 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at an O Street address, Turners Falls.

Monday, 11/3

2:41 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at an Eleventh Street address, Turners Falls.

2:18 p.m. Initiated arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

2:20 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Second Street address, Turners Falls.

7:24 p.m. Report of motor vehicle accident with property damage at Walnut Street and Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

10:53 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Masonic Avenue address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

Tuesday, 11/4

11:06 a.m. Report of fraud at a South Prospect Street address, Millers Falls.

3:40 p.m. Report of vandalism at an Oakman Street address, Turners Falls.

7:43 p.m. Report of larceny at a Randall Road address, Montague.

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DREAMS from page 1
has it down to a science. In about a week, he and his two Mayan helpers took both silos down.

"The silos come down the same way they go up," Landolt said. "Six temporary jacks joined with drive shafts to work simultaneously raise the segments. The silos are taken down with the same set of jacks, so no crane is necessary."

The base of the silos rested on a concrete slab supported by a concrete foundation.

It is essential to have the first segments set perfectly level. If that first course of curved panels is not perfectly level, by the time the silo segments are jacked 70 feet in the air the silo will lean like the Tower of Pisa. The temporary jacks also need to be perfectly level, so that the holes in the plates line up as they are bolted together. Coming down, the alignment is not as critical.

The 70-foot silo on the Flagg farm held haylage - high moisture hay that has not been dried in the field. The silos are sealed with a tar-like sealant to limit the amount of oxygen. The hay ferments, as does high moisture corn stored in the porcelain 50-foot silo as ensilage. Both types of silage turn acidic, and fermentation produces harmful gases. The glass coating (porcelain) protects the metal from the corrosive effects of the acid.

A.O. Smith, the manufacturer of Harvestore silos, did not start off by selling silos. The company initially manufactured horizontal fermenting tanks for breweries, until someone got the bright idea of standing the tanks upright to ferment corn, probably after quaffing a few mugs of the product from the horizontal tanks.

A farmer who once owned the farm in Gill down by the Bascom Hollow bridge installed a faucet at the base of a corn silo so he could draw off some of the fermented juice from the corn. A young man who sampled some said it was potent enough to make a person's head spin. That silo was made of wood staves. Over the years that silo leaned

drunkenly, probably from too much fermented corn.

The manufacturer of that wooden silo could have been Harvestore, since they made wooden and concrete silos, as well. But, they are best known for their royal blue glass coated steel beauties.

The steel plates that make up the silo are the same size throughout, but the lower segments are heavier gauge, each weighing about 300 pounds. The thinner top pieces weigh about 160 pounds each.

Why does he employ the two young Mayans?

"They are reliable and like to work," Landolt said. "Once I hired a crane for \$250 an hour and the men did not show up for work, but the crane still had to be paid. I can rely on these young men to work every day."

Landolt is able to converse with the Mayans because he is multi-lingual. German, spoken in Switzerland, is his native tongue. He is also fluent in Spanish, having spent considerable time in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Canada and Australia in search of an affordable farm. He had an incentive to learn Portuguese when he was dating a girl who spoke only Portuguese.

In college, Landolt majored in agriculture as well as taking general business courses, with the dream of owning a dairy farm. "Land in Switzerland is too expensive, so I look in other countries," he said. "New York state has more reasonably priced farms. Canada is higher in price and the climate is colder. The temperate climate of some South American countries allows cows to be pastured year 'round, so that it is possible to produce grass fed milk without expensive feed," Landolt said.

His business card sports his company name, Ruedi's Farms, LLC, with a picture of a large modern barn with two royal blue Harvestore silos.

"That is just a company name. I have no farm, yet. That picture is my goal."

Until he finds his dream farm,

Landolt travels the country taking down silos. With many farmers going out of dairy farming, they want to get rid of the tax liability of the silos.

Landolt mostly takes down silos, though he occasionally puts one back up for another farmer. The price he can pay for a used silo depends on the age and condition. "It can run from zero to \$8,000," he said. "Sometimes I get paid to take them down when they are in very poor condition. It costs a lot to transport the silos to a seaport," he said. "There, they have to be transferred to shipping containers either by crane or by hand."

In Switzerland, the Harvestore dealer will find a farm family with a dream and the two royal blue Harvestore silos will stand on their farm as landmarks. And the two young Mayans, Edwardo and Edgardo, will fulfill their dreams of returning to their families who are so far away.

CENTER from page 8

recent years," notes Swaim, in the November issue of her senior newsletter. According to the census of 2000, Wendell seniors numbered 80; Anne Hartjens' 2008 town age list includes 171 people with birthdays in or before 1948. Specifically, there are 5 Wendellites born before 1920; 9 born during the 1920s; 30 born during the 1930s; and 127 born between 1940 and 1948. This year, some 28 people have turned or will be turning 60."

Swaim envisions filling the old bookshelves with jigsaw puzzles and board games, small bins of arts supplies or yarns for knitters and crafters, stocking a "lending library" of medical equipment, canes and wheelchairs in the basement storage area, and maintaining active use of the gathering space upstairs for meetings of local groups, like bereavement groups or alcoholics anonymous, who might prefer a "warm space" to

the larger meeting rooms in the library, town offices, or town hall.

"Librarian Rose Heidkamp always called this place 'the community's living room,'" said Swaim, seated in a wooden rocker by the old fireplace. "We want to keep it that way."

Rosalie Rosser's son, Tom Chasson, oversaw the renovations to the building, which Swaim thought was appropriate since Rosser had a lot to do with the original senior center. "She gave it life," said Swaim.

One thing Swaim is asking the community to consider is what day and time would be best to hold blood pressure clinics and related activities at the new center. Traditionally, those have been held on Wednesday mornings, but with more seniors extending their careers into their later 60s and beyond, perhaps a weekend time or weekday evening makes more sense. You can pick up a copy of the survey at the new senior center, or by contacting Swaim at 978-544-2020.

CHANGE from 10

at home and its reputation seriously tarnished around the world.

"It's time," Williams said, "for America to regain its good standing worldwide - for people to be able to have faith in us again."

They're hopeful that things will improve under Obama. But they're not certain. "It's hard for a president to do the right thing," Williams said, "in a system dominated by big corporations."

Over at the old Highland School, where 741 voters from Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant cast their ballots Tuesday, Elizabeth Stevenson said, "I voted for McCain/Palin because I believe if we don't vote for someone who's pro-life, that's the end of our society. Because our society is based on life. And if people say they're for God

and they don't vote that way, then they aren't what they claim they are. Obama, all his votes were against life. It seemed a really obvious choice."



PHOTO: ELIZ. NASH

Brian Davies and Liz Williams

Breton Abbondanzio added, "I voted the same way, for the same reason."

Favoring the Democrats, Carol Cameron said, "I voted for Obama. I just think he's the candidate America needs for change at home and abroad." But she added, "He's going to have his work cut out for him."

Cameron opposed Question #1, because she thought abolishing

the state income tax would have a negative impact on property owners and small business owners. She explained her support for Question #2 this way.

"Our marijuana laws are ridiculous." She voted to ban dog racing in the state because, "I've heard the dogs aren't treated very well."

Alice Fowler of Millers Falls supported Obama. "I believe we need a change," she said. "I think he will do it. McCain's too old."

She added, "I like Obama's health plan. Most of the things he says, I agree with."

Sam Williams just had one thing to say about why he voted for Obama. "Change!"

Hyrum Huskey reported from Precinct 6; Emily Monosson reported from Precinct 1; Elizabeth Nash reported from Precincts 3 & 4

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Survivor Benefits for Town Employee Discussed

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Town treasurer Carolyn Manley opened the October 29th selectboard meeting by bringing up an issue that has never been addressed in the town personnel policy, and which now needs clarification due to the recent passing of highway superintendent Dan Bacigalupo: the issue is the town's responsibility for the health insurance of a deceased town employee. State law says the policy is up to each town.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked what the normal business practice was, and selectboard chair Ted Lewis said some companies do not pay anything, but each company decides for itself.

If the town pays nothing, it leaves the spouse free to continue the same coverage for up to 36 months under COBRA, but only by paying full premiums. Manley said most private companies pay 50% of the premium, or nothing at all. She said whatever decision the selectboard made would set precedent.

Lewis said he would rather wait to make a decision, consult with town counsel, and decide based on policy and not on the

people involved.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she had received an email from Laurel Facey saying that Jim Dunn was resigning from the town agricultural commission. Dunn has not yet submitted an official resignation letter, but Wanita Sears and Jenn Caron may come recommended as replacements.

Lewis said board of health and highway commission chair Harry Williston offered the board of health as the town's permitting authority for the state's new trench regulations. These regulations apply only to trenches that are left open and unsupervised, and the town's responsibility ends with the permit, unless a complaint is made. Permit fees set in other towns have been \$25 or \$50.

Building inspector Phil Delorey may take on the trench permitting responsibility instead. He is also willing to join the selectboard and the highway commission in choosing the next highway superintendent.

The planning board forwarded to the selectboard an application for a guest cabin special permit, from Jonathan and Susan von Ranson. The von

Ransons are rebuilding a barn on their Lockes Village Road property across from the town common, and they would like that structure to include a small apartment. The von Ransons hope to live in the apartment themselves, which they plan to take up the south third of the barn. They hope to live there with no electricity, using a composting toilet, and a small grey water treatment system. They want to minimize their ecological impact on the Earth's regenerative capacity, and are trying to do so within the framework of local permitting authorities, instead of just going ahead and living as they please, as some town residents did in the 1960s and 1970s.

Town bylaws allow a guest cabin without its own septic system, but the guest cabin may be occupied no more than thirty consecutive days. Lewis complained, as he has on other occasions, that the bylaw makes no mention of whether the thirty days are allowed once a year, twice a year, or if the occupant may stay thirty days, move out one day and then return for another thirty days again and again.

Keller was sure that composting toilets can be legal, but made no comment on the guest cabin bylaw, and board members agreed to postpone any decision and allow themselves time to read the von Ransons' proposal.

The selectboard and the finance committee are sending a letter to all departments asking them to delay any discretionary spending until state reimbursements are known, and town officials have a better idea of how much money the town has to work with this budget year.

Mahar Regional High School invited selectboard members to attend a Veterans Day program on November 10th at either 8 a.m. or 1 p.m.

The North Quabbin Community Coalition and the Franklin County Department of Veteran Services are joining to host a veterans' awareness event on Monday, November 10th from 3 to 7 p.m. at the West River Health Center, 450 West River Street, in Orange. The event is open to the public, and will showcase resources available for local veterans. For further information contact Rebecca Bialecki at the North

Quabbin Community Coalition, (978-249-3703) Leo Parent, Director of Veterans Services for the Central Franklin District (413-863-3205) or Neil McGuirk, Director of the Northeast Quabbin District (978-249-6935).

The board of health passed on information that flu shots will be given to residents of Wendell, Erving and Gill at the Turners Falls High School on Saturday, November 22nd, from 10 a.m. to noon. Information on the free flu shot clinic is posted in the entry of the town office building.

Aldrich relayed a message stating that Mass Electric will be conducting aerial inspection of electric lines between November 3rd and November 6th.

Wendell did not get the Heritage Landscape Grant it applied for.

Dan Keller said Royal Steam Heat repaired or replaced the circulator pump in the office building, in which a bad bearing had been making noise. He then made a motion for the selectboard to go into executive session to discuss a legal entanglement.

Sustainable Wendell

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Thirty-nine people signed the attendance sheet, but possibly more were in attendance at the Wendell library meeting room on the evening of Thursday October 30th, discussing issues involved in making Wendell's local economy more sustainable and Wendell's citizens more locally self sufficient. The meeting was convened after an enthusiastic discussion on Jonathan von Ranson's 'Townfolk' email list on these subjects, originated by a posting last month from resident Paul Richmond. The

mood in the library was upbeat, and ideas were offered faster than they could be elaborated, although the feeling in the room was that the growing national economic problems would worsen before they improved.

The issue on most people's minds was food: how to grow more food in town, shared garden space, shares in livestock, or cooperative livestock raising. Tool sharing was mentioned, and a tool library, along with skills sharing on technology, education and mentoring,

transportation, energy use and energy generation. The introduction of each new subject raised new ideas, and near the end of the scheduled meeting the group decided to form several committees to work on different aspects of sustainable community and report back to the next meeting.

One idea offered was that the discussion of a sustainable and locally dependent Wendell should start with the resources and institutions already in place: Good Neighbors, which distributes surplus food from local stores; Friends of Wendell, which gives help to households facing sudden

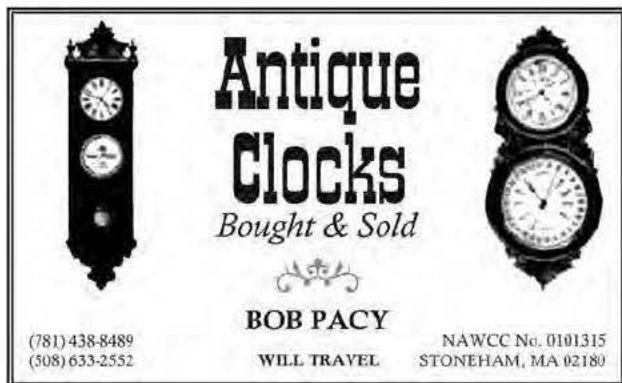
difficulties; the Wendell Country Store, which Patti Scutari has offered as a base for a buying club, and a possible location for a weekly farmer's market in season; the free store at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station; the free box; the community garden; and von Ranson's email list.

Others recalled that in the early 1980s Wendell had a ride board in front of what was then the Congregational Church, but that was taken down because folks felt it alerted potential robbers to times when people were home and when they were away.

Five committees were

established, somewhat arbitrarily, around the topics of food; transportation; information technology; education; energy; and care, meaning health care, and the simple act of neighbors helping neighbors; people gravitated toward the group that interested them. It was accepted that these committees were starting points for a broader range of overlapping issues, but the evening was growing late, the meeting had gone over time, so the next gathering of townspeople to explore a sustainable Wendell community was set for Thursday, November 13th, 7p.m. at the library.

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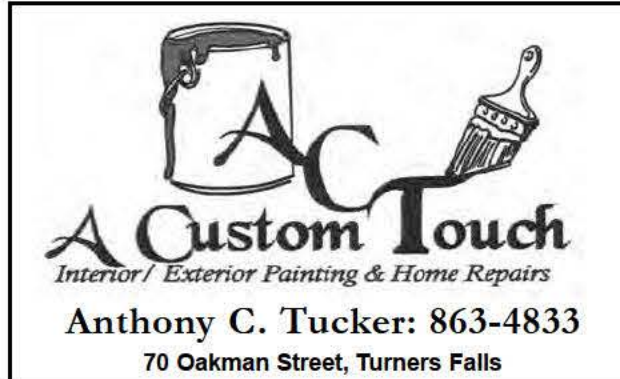


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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Everything You Always Wanted to Know ABOUT THE PROSTATE - BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I'm in my 60s and I just had a blood test. My PSA went up from 2 to 3. My doctor told me to see a urologist to get my prostate checked. How worried should I be about cancer at this point?*

When older men gather, they exchange PSA stories as often as they once shared stories about girls. PSA test results are horribly confusing and often terrifying. I have personal experience with both the confusion and the terror.

PSA is the cause of so much concern to my male readers - and their loved ones - that I'm going to cover this topic in a three-part series, which begins today.

The prostate is a walnut-size gland that surrounds the urethra, a tube that carries urine from the bladder. The urethra also transmits semen, which is a combination of sperm plus a fluid the prostate adds.

Cancer of the prostate is one of the most common types of cancer among American men, and also one of the most complex. More than 6 in 10 cases of prostate cancer cases occur in men 65 and older. By age 85, more than 75 percent of men have prostate cancer; many have lived with the disease for more than a decade. The disease is usually not fatal.

Treatment for prostate cancer works best when the disease is found early.

In a physical exam, the doctor feels the prostate through the rectal wall. This is called a Digital Rectal Exam (DRE). Hard or lumpy areas may mean that can-

cer is present.

Doctors also may suggest a blood test to check your PSA level. PSA levels may be high in men who have an enlarged prostate gland or prostate cancer. PSA tests are useful for early cancer diagnosis. But PSA test results alone do not always tell whether or not cancer is present.

When doctors suspect cancer from indications found through a blood test or DRE, they may perform a biopsy. Doctors can remove samples of the prostate with a needle and look at them under a microscope.

There are many options for treating prostate cancer:

Observation. If the cancer is growing slowly, you may decide to wait and watch.

Hormone therapy. This stops cancer cells from growing.

Surgery. There are several surgical options. These include radical prostatectomy or removal of

the entire prostate, cryosurgery that kills the cancer by freezing it, radiation therapy to shrink tumors, and implant radiation that places radioactive seeds into the prostate. Surgery can lead to impotence and incontinence. Improvements in surgery now make it possible for some men to keep their sexual function.

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is the term used to describe an enlarged prostate, which is common in men 50 and older. Some men with prostate cancer also have BPH, but that doesn't mean that the two conditions are always linked.

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) is a protein produced by the cells of the prostate gland. The PSA test measures the level of this protein in the blood. It can be detected at a low level in the blood of all adult men. It is common for PSA ranges to vary among laboratories.

A fundamental problem with the PSA test is that, while elevated levels can indicate the presence of cancer, they can also be caused by:

- Benign prostatic hyperplasia.
- Urinary tract infections
- Prostatitis, inflammation of the prostate
- A digital rectal exam
- Recent ejaculation
- Recent bowel movement
- Recent urinary catheterization
- Recent urinary tract operation
- Large doses of medicines, such as methotrexate for cancer treatment.
- The medicine finasteride, which is used to treat BPH.

[To be continued in our next column.]

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

Coffeehouse to Benefit Friends of Wendell

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On November 15th, the Reggae Alchemists will perform a benefit concert for the Friends of Wendell at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, with Loose Caboose opening. Open mic starts at 7:00 p.m.; the show begins at 8:00 p.m. Anne Marie Meltzer promises the Friends will have a great baked goods table available that evening, as an added attraction.

Meltzer said the Friends of Wendell got started 12 or 13

years ago, when people wanted to do something to aid the Wendell community. "They met around our kitchen table, and decided to give out small grants to people who needed money for fuel, or to get their cars repaired to get to work." Meltzer explained, "It's a totally grassroots organization. People call and say they are in need. At least five people have to agree to give a grant. We have about 20 'approvers'; it changes all the time."

"We're anticipating people are going to come to us because they need help for fuel this winter. In the past we have helped, for example, when someone has a sick child, and couldn't get to a medical appointment because the car broke down. We've paid for repairs. We've sent kids to camp. Bought fuel for people. We were the conduit for getting relief for tornado victims [in town] who needed help with tree cleanup and parts of roofs

torn off; things insurance wouldn't cover. It's for the Wendell community."

Meltzer, who agreed to sell her property at the north end of the common a few years back so the new town office building could be built there, has since been renting in New Salem, but she remains very much a part of Wendell. For more information about the Friends of Wendell, call her at 978-544-7943 or Susan von Ranson at 544-3758.

The Promise of Thanksgiving

World Flutes Story Concert by Werner John Saturday, Nov. 8th 7:30 p.m. Barnes Gallery Leverett Crafts and Arts 13 Montague Road Leverett
Is there a deeper meaning hiding behind the family feast?
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JEP'S PLACE: Part XCVII

Ruptured Appendix



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Ordinarily Pa got us up at 4 a.m. to go up into the hills of Leyden to pick blueberries. Fortunately, my sister Lora did not go with us, one day, because she wasn't feeling well. Someone had left a gallon jug of bleach on the porch next to a couch. As sunlight beat down on the glass jug, it served as a magnifying glass. Lora spotted the couch smoldering. By the time she got water to douse the couch, flames were leaping high, but she got the fire out. After that narrow escape, Pa

always left someone home to watch the farm.

When it came my turn to be watchman, I wanted to surprise everyone by cleaning the house. I worked furiously, sweeping, dusting, mopping, straightening things up, washing dishes, polishing the stove with stove blacking and getting the house in spotless order. I couldn't wait to see their looks of surprise when they walked in. But when they got home, no one noticed.

Pa helped Irene out of the car. She had not been feeling well when they left, and now she looked deathly ill. Her face was white and she hung onto her side with her eyes half closed. She was sick - very sick.

I helped Pa get her upstairs to bed. She just lay flat on her back with her eyes closed, hanging onto her side and moaning.

She had asked Pa if she could stay home that morning because she was sick. But Pa told her

she'd feel better when she got some fresh air up in the hills. "There's no sense to go, if you stay home," he said. "You're the best picker."

So she went.

Climbing the hills tired Irene. As the day wore on, she felt sicker and sicker. When she said she could go on no longer, Pa said, "You can go down to the car, but don't go empty handed." He gave her two water pails full of blueberries to carry.

Irene could only carry the pails a short distance before she had to stop to rest. The distance became shorter and the rests longer. She was beginning to faint. She'd run a little way and set the pails down as darkness closed in. When she came to, she'd pick up the pails and run again, over and over, each time going a shorter distance, until she got to the car. She said she thought Pa would never come back to the car, and on the way home, she felt every bump in the road. Now, she just lay in her bed, moaning and looking deathly ill.

When Pa went to pick Ma up at work, we were sure he'd come back with a doctor. But he didn't. When Ma saw how sick Irene was, her eyes got big. She held Irene's hand and felt of her forehead. Ma's lips began to move. I knew she was praying for Irene to get well and not die. I prayed Ma would tell Pa to take Irene to a doctor. I thought my prayers were answered when Ma looked Pa in the eye.

"We've got to get Irene to a

doctor."

"What's a doctor going to do? She's just got a bellyache. She'll be better by morning."

They tried physics and other remedies but Irene just kept moaning. When they used an enema on her, Irene shrieked in pain and moaned worse than ever. I kept thinking about Julia dying and I guess Ma did too. She finally convinced Pa to take Irene to find a doctor at this late hour. By luck, they found Dr. Wolanski still holding evening hours at his office, though it was 10 o'clock at night.

It didn't take long for the doctor to diagnose appendicitis. Pa took her to Franklin County Hospital, while Wolanski rounded up a surgeon. After a conference, the doctors concluded that she was really too undernourished for an operation, but without it she would surely die.

Irene never ate very much because she was so fearful of Pa. He demanded we eat in silence and that made her too nervous to eat very much. Soured milk and potatoes, which we often had for supper, always gave her trouble. The yogurt-like soured milk would come right back up. Ma knew of her problem and would often sneak Irene a dollop of sour cream, which Irene could tolerate. To avoid Pa spotting it, Irene would quickly mix the cream in with the mashed potatoes.

In any event, Irene's chances of survival were not great. The

doctors told Ma and Pa an operation was her only chance, slim as it was, then wheeled Irene off to the operating room. The surgeon found that her appendix had ruptured and stomach contents had spilled into her abdominal cavity. After sewing her up, the doctor went to tell Ma and Pa that Irene had survived the operation. But they were gone. I guess Pa figured that there wasn't much they could do at the hospital; it was in the doctor's and God's hands. Besides, it was past bedtime and Ma had to go to work in the morning.

Later, when Irene found out they'd left the hospital to go home while she was being operated on, she felt hurt and abandoned. She spent a long time recovering in the hospital. It took even longer to recover from the feeling of abandonment. We visited Irene after blueberry picking, and always brought her a basket of berries until she was discharged.

Irene had a drain in her side all summer to allow septic fluids to drain off. She spent a week or two recuperating with our sister, Elizabeth, in Great Barrington and a couple of weeks with Johnny in upstate New York, where he managed a big turkey farm.

The incision still had not healed over by the time school started, and Irene was too weak to attend. She missed the first month. It took a year, or more, for Irene to recover her strength.

- Continued Next Week

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Montague Business Association Organizes Q & A with Town Staff

BY JEN AUDLEY - Attention, Montague-area business people! Are you curious about the planned construction on the Gill-Montague bridge? Want to know how to get a permit for a sidewalk sandwich board sign? Interested in opening a new business in Montague? Want an update on the new police station?

Come to the Montague Business Association's first Town Hall Forum on Wednesday, November 12 to hear town department heads answer questions on these topics and more. Pam Kostanski, president of the MBA, will facilitate this question and answer session, which will take place from 5-6:30 p.m.

in the Selectboard Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of Town Hall in Turners Falls. The event will be broadcast live on MCTV.

Kostanski explains that the MBA hopes this event will be the first of many ways the MBA acts as a liaison between the area's business community and town departments. "If you have questions about doing business in Montague, this is a way to get that information," she explains. "If you have a question you'd like answered, please come to this event -- or if you can't make it, get me your question ahead of time, and I'll try to include it." Kostanski can be reached at 863-9900.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
Montague Grange Contra Dance, First Thursdays each month. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Beginners welcome, \$8, info: (413) 658-5320.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Moss Production*, Simon White, Joe Cunningham and Christian Marano make this Reggae night something special. 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, Zabu, Rusty Belle*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Alchemystics*, reggae, hiphop, dub. 9:30.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th & 8th
At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: The Country Players present *Count Dracula* by Ted Tiller. Reserve tickets (413) 863-2281, ext. 1 or www.countryplayers.org.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Apocalypse Now Redux*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, 2001, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Full Moon Folklore*, story and a hands-on craft activity. Come join us! 11 to 12 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ghost Quartet & Lord Jeff*, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic folk/singer songwriter. 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Co.*, rock & roll, 9:30.

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Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center present *Dodging the Bow* at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Friday, November 14, 7 p.m. A Celtic acoustic trio performing a repertoire of traditional and contemporary songs from Ireland, Scotland, and England and folksongs from North America. Cellist Mark Fraser's solos soar, ranging from the soothing and hauntingly melancholy to the rhythmic, percussive, and playful. Daphne Bye's naturally-blending voice and accomplished piano lend lyrical dressings to the ensemble's full-bodied sound. Jennie McAvoyn, singer/guitar player, is a performer of great stage presence whose well-crafted guitar arrangements support her "wise and angelic" mezzo-soprano voice and skilled song interpretations. In *The Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center*, Turners Falls. Doors open 6:30 p.m. - coffee & homemade baked goods. Sliding scale donation \$6 - \$12, free for children.

American Shakespeare Center production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Rand Theater, Fine Arts Center, UMASS, 7 p.m. Wickedly funny companion piece to Hamlet that turns Shakespeare inside out. \$15/\$10 students & seniors, and \$25 for reserved seating which includes a Meet the Actors reception following the performance. (413) 545-2511 or www.umass.edu/fac.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. to midnight! Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse: Second Sunday Comedy show, 7- 8:30 p.m. Three Comics for \$5, Info: www.LaughAtDave.com/SecondSunday.html

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Slope Editions is proud to host a free poetry reading featuring Lori Shine, Betsy Wheeler, and Gian Lombardo, 7 p.m.. Lori Shine's chapbook *Coming Down in White* was published by Pilot Books. Her poems have appeared in 6x6, The American Poetry Review, Boston Review, Conduit, New American Writing, Tin House, and in the anthology *Isn't It Romantic: 100 Love Poems by Younger American Poets*. She lives in Easthampton. Betsy Wheeler grew up in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, received her

MFA in poetry from Ohio State University, and was a Stadler Fellow at Bucknell University's Stadler Center for Poetry. Her poems have recently appeared in numerous journals, and her chapbook.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
Fall Fairy Fun at Northfield Mountain Visitor Center. As the fairies get ready for winter, a beautiful new carpet of leaves and glistening spider silk is everywhere and "leaf man" is on the prowl. After reading Lois Ehler's *Leaf Man*, we'll venture out in the fields and forest for some fairy fun. Includes snack. Northfield Naturalist Beth Bazler and her 11 year-old daughter May Grzybowski. 1 to 3 p.m., \$6/child, for ages 4 and older. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Accessible Birding: Join Joe Superchi on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to visit local sites. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street. 8 to 10 a.m. Open to birders of all abilities. Call ahead for wheelchair van access. (978) 248-9491.

Oldies Sing-a-long in Greenfield. New participants welcome. Informal acappella singing group, *Be-My-Baby Boomers*, focusing on rock, blues, jazz, and folk oldies, plus gospel, Broadway show, Irish/Celtic, and traditional American songs. 6:45 p.m. at a participant's home in Greenfield. Songbooks provided, guitars and other instruments welcome. All levels of singing ability. Info: John Berkowitz (413) 625-6374 or johnberk@crocker.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to 60's & 70's oldie cover tunes, 10 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bak Choy*-jazz, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
Great Falls Coffee House: *Dodging the Bow*. 7 p.m. At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance or Die*, electro-indie djs. \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Evenspeak*, classic & southern rock, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Warped Americana*: Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick, 9 to 11p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th
Holiday Fair Montague Congregation Church, Montague Center: baked goods, raffles, Christmas Nook. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Benefits local and worldwide

mission programs such as Western Mass Food Bank, Heifer Project.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: *Reggae Alchemists* with *Loose Caboose* opening. Benefit for the Friends of Wendell.

Greenfield Community College Chorus *Handel and Haydn* Concert. The GCC Chorus is made up of students, faculty, and community members. 7:30 p.m. at Sloan Theater, GCC main campus. Info: (413) 775-1171.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rokit Queer*, dj dance par-tay! \$3, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *John Sheldon & Blue Streak*, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Karaoke Night with TNT Productions. Come try out your vocal skills! 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th
Slate Roof poets Janet MacFadyen and Janine Roberts join guest photographer Stephen Schmidt for a reading/slide show at 2 p.m. at the Leverett Library, Leverett. Leverett resident Janine Roberts reads from *The Body Alters*, Janet MacFadyen and Stephen Schmidt-both of Shutesbury-present a multi-media fusion of poems and nature photography entitled *Under the Influence of Water*. Free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

Scandinavian Dance at The Montague Grange, Montague Center, 3 to 6 p.m. Telemark (Norway) Gangar, for Hardanger Fiddle. No Partner necessary. Dancers with all levels of experience are welcome. \$8 donation, (413) 253-0525.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault & Co. Blues based roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd
Moose Sign Field Walk. Spend an afternoon immersed in prime moose habitat in eastern Franklin County searching for sign such as tracks, scat, antler rubs, and feeding sites. Discussion of the lives of moose and opportunities and challenges they face. Directions to our meeting place will be emailed to registered participants. Program Co-sponsored by Northfield Mountain and MassAudubon's Arcadia Sanctuary. 1 to 4 p.m. For ages 12 and older, \$10, p re-register, call 800-859-2960.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Critters Are Doing What?* 11 to 12 p.m. What are the critters doing at this time of year? A program for the whole family oriented to learning survival strategies of animals as they prepare for the hard cold winter ahead. (413) 863-3221.

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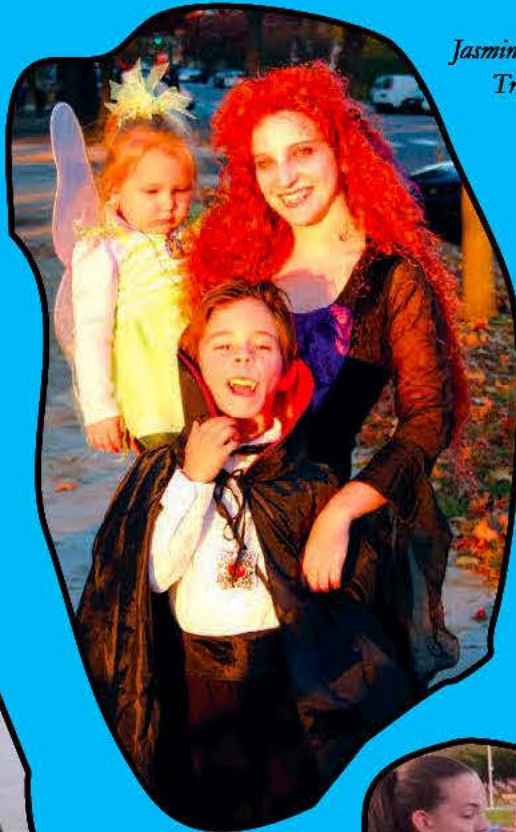
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THEATER REVIEW

Dracula Returns Fangs to the Country Players



Mark Hildreth prepares to sink his teeth into Emily Eaton's Count Dracula at the Shea

PHOTO AMY CONNELLY

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - A mysterious foreigner has moved into the house across the way. He never comes out during the day, but he drops in occasionally around the grounds of the insane asylum after dark. Should we call the cops?

Might not be a bad idea, especially if they have a little wolf-bane lying around the station. But instead, Sybil, (played to a fare-thee-well by Beth Ferreira) the somewhat addled sister of the asylum's stodgy Doctor Seward, (Bob Delaney) decides to invite him over to dinner. And Seward's niece Mina (Emily Eaton) is the main item on the menu.

Well, one thing's certain, these

repressed Victorians with their tightly corseted mores and manners are in for a shock when this particular illegal alien comes calling. It's Count Dracula, at the Shea Theater this Friday and Saturday night (11/7 and 11/8), with a bravura star turn from the beautifully tailored Count himself, Mark Hildreth, who makes grown women blush at the mere mention of his name. And makes Mina grow weaker with each encounter. And those odd marks on her throat, covered with a variety of ribbons and chokers? Van Helsing, what do you make of that?

Well, a good student of the paranormal would probably have made shorter work of the matter

than author Ted Tiller allows his vampire hunter, Heinrich Van Helsing (Marvin Shedd) to do in this three act adaptation of Bram Stoker's Gothic horror novel. There is a bit too much talk, and not quite enough action, to move the plot felicitously to its final, and most satisfying conclusion. And the main problem is the halting cadence with which almost all the characters utter their lines. As if, once the fabled Count says Good Evening, with slow dramatic emphasis on each word, everyone else on stage has to stop speaking in normal patterns and begin imitating him, stopping for stranger glottal stops than we find even in a Christopher Walken film. But that is a mere quibble.

The actors are all very good, and some are outstanding. Let's begin with Damien Shippee, who plays the haunted inmate - Renfield - who has fallen almost entirely under the evil sway of the nocturnal Count. Shippee plays him like a hopped up Elvis on nitrous oxide, a masterful rendition. Every time he escapes his keepers and catapults about the stage, the audience cries for more.

Then there is Mina herself, a pale, lissome beauty with deep dark eyes. She looks more than half dead from the opening

scene, (a compliment in this particular drama), and it is those startling eyes that hold the audience - and the other actors - spellbound through the entire performance. When she allows the Count to occasionally overpower her and force her supine on the love seat, you can almost see the carotid artery pulsing in her limpid throat. Somewhere between the act of succumbing and resisting, she makes you see how thin is the line that separates sex and necrophilia, at least as Victorians practiced it. Eaton is very, very good.

She is in excellent company with Hildreth as the nefarious Dracula. Now here is an actor who can take a hackneyed role and infuse it with fresh blood, so to

speak. He's more Lestat than Legosi, more glittering rock star than mildewed Nosferatu. Whether he's appearing as a startling apparition on the mantelpiece, or breezing in on the evening mist, he rivets the attention from his first to last whirling turn about the stage. As good as his adversaries are - and Van Helsing is particularly good - you can't help holding out hope that in this version of the play, at least, the Count might live to die another day. Bravo!

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