



Hike Poplar Mt. AND BRING YOUR LOPPERS

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Images of Turners AT NINA'S NOOK

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 7

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

A Long Week for Highway Workers



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire had plows and equipment ready to roll for the recent storm, but the Nor'easter took its toll.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - "As night went on the snow came faster and heavier," said highway superintendent Mick LaClaire, recounting to the selectboard how his crew fought the early season Nor'easter that blew through on Saturday, October 29th, taking down trees and limbs and knocking out power for days.

"In the middle of the night, it was coming down two to three inches an hour," said LaClaire, who had called his crew in early, and had his plows ready to go when the first flakes started to fall.

As the storm reached its height, "We could not see," LaClaire recalled. "We had no idea where the road was. There was six inches of snow built up on the headlights. I could have seen better with a candle on the hood."

LaClaire said he had to keep see WORKERS page 16

The Bank Bought the Farm

KAREN WERNER PHOTO

BY KAREN WERNER

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Montague Farm auction was scheduled for 11 a.m., on Ripley Road, and I arrived at 10 a.m. to bear witness and to harvest nettles.

At 10 a.m., it's just me, the auctioneer, and one of the original commune inhabitants, Sam Lovejoy. I walk towards them carrying a paper bag.

"Is that cash in there?" Lovejoy hollers.

"No... nettles. If only nettles were a currency."

Montague Farm - how to describe it? It is a windy, rough, unfinished place that so many people love deeply.

Montague Farm brings out parts of me that need a space like this to emerge - the gleaner, the gatherer, the planter, the ten-

Dennis Lombardi (left) and Nina Keller (right) look on as the auction got underway at the former home of the Zen Peacemakers last Friday.

der, the lightning rod, so many early Zen tears, cooking. I used the ingredients of my life here.

At 10:30 a.m., large trucks pull in - several developers poised to bid. I envy them, and wonder how they would develop this place.

Where I am standing, the nettle is gorgeous. I've never harvested in this patch before by the teacher's cottage. It has been wonderfully mowed and the cold has done it good. I cut and cut and feel comforted by my task, my plan, my practicality. I want to make edible treats for my neighbors who helped me out when the power went out last week.

More developers. A circle of

men in long black coats talk near the barn, out of earshot from where I am. I feel excluded as I harvest. I know I look different from them, and I self-segregate. I have two different boots on. I do not look like a developer or banker. I am the only woman here.

My thoughts turn bitter and cynical. I'll make "foreclosure nettle pesto," I seethe. This is where we need Occupy Wall Street. Here, as bankers and developers chummy up and make their mark. I don't want to be excluded from this place. I do not like private property. I do not like hierarchy and feeling powerless.

see FARM page 10

Officers Praised for Quick Response in Rite Aid Heist Public Asked for Help in Solving Similar Crimes



Thomas

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Responding to a rash of break-ins along the Avenue over the last two weeks, Montague police chief Ray Zukowski said his officers are focusing more of their time and resources on the downtown, but they need the public's help.

And the chief credited quick work on the part of off-duty detective Lee Laster, with an assist from retired Greenfield police officer Neil Leveille, and officers Chris Williams, John Dempsey, and K-9 Sunny, in apprehending Thomas, the suspect in a bold daylight robbery at Rite Aid drug store on Avenue A on Sunday.

Here's what happened in that incident.

"The armed robbery call came in Sunday afternoon at 2:29," said Zukowski, "with a report of an see CRIMES pg 11

The Drowsy Chaperone: A Musical Within A Comedy

Ja'Duke's Hilarious Cure for Your "Non-Specific" Blues



BY NAN DE PLUME
TURNERS FALLS - Three more performances of *The Drowsy Chaperone: A Musical Within a Comedy* will grace the boards this weekend at the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts in their Black Box Theatre, 110 Industrial Boulevard, in Turners Falls.

Ja'Duke's *Drowsy Chaperone* is a musical comedy featuring Broadway-worthy talent that will leave you weeping with laughter.

Welcome to the city apartment of main character, Man in Chair - the audacious and mesmerizing Rod Hart. He's feeling sad in a "non-specific way" and knows listening to his favorite musical, *The*

Drowsy Chaperone, on his record player will cheer him. He sits in his worn (can we say ugly?) Americana easy chair below a wall of sheet music from the Jazz Age, with song titles such as, "Night and Day," and "April Showers," and pictures of greats such as Mario Lanza, Ann Blyth, and Bing Crosby looking ever-so-young and chipper. Man in Chair offers his memories, thoughts, and feelings about the show in a conversational tone with the audience. He also inserts obscure factoids about the actors and the songs as the show unfolds right there in his non-descript, lonely guy studio, complete with Murphy bed.

As the needle comes down on the vinyl record of the 1928 musical, loud pops and scratches are heard. Man in Chair regards the crackling sounds as a time machine, transporting him back to the pre-Depression roaring 20s, where everyone was happy and gay - well, the wealthy ones, anyway.

First, naturally, is the overture, a smattering of music from the songs in the show - "A poo-poo platter of music, you might say," offers Man in Chair.

The screwy plot centers around showgirl Janet Van de Graff (cutie-pie songbird Juniper Holmes) and Robert Martin, oil tycoon, (played with apropos narcissism and smarmy grins see MUSICAL pg 12

Women on the Verge of Actualization

The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women, by Dr. Valeria Young



Valeria Young

Reviewed by LEE WICKS
MONTAGUE CENTER
Dr. Valeria Young did not invent the Imposter Syndrome, but when she first learned of it in 1982 while she was in graduate school at UMass Amherst, she experienced a moment

of startling recognition.

The self-doubt and procrastination that were keeping her from finishing her dissertation had a name - The Imposter Syndrome. Dr. Pauline Clance and Dr. Suzanne Innes had identified the syndrome

in 1978 when both psychologists were at Georgia State University. Doctors Clance and Innes had observed that many students, particularly females, did not believe they deserved their success. They were more likely to

attribute academic honor to luck and hard work than to their own competence.

Valerie Young (not yet Dr. Young) began to talk to other students and found the feeling that somehow a mistake had been made, that they didn't belong and that eventually someone would discover an imposter in their midst turned out to be widely shared, especially among women. The coping mechanisms women then employed to prevent 'discovery' undermined success and only reinforced the syndrome itself.

For some people, finding out about the syndrome might have been enough. Just having a name for the problem could have served as an excuse for inertia. see WOMEN pg 11

ENJOY LIFE !



Onna

My name is Onna and I'm a 2 year old female longhair cat in need of a good home. I was born on Christmas day in 2009! Please consider me if you'd like to add an indoor/outdoor kitty with lots of energy. I might be able to get along with your other animals with a proper introduction. "Enjoy life" that's what I always say. I've even been known to play fetch on occasion. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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Week of November 15th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

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

PHONE (413) 863-8666
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Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

New Time for Thursday Night Yoga, Film Saturday

Ongoing Thursday night yoga at the Wendell Free Library now at a new time of 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcomed. Classes will meet November 10th and 17th. Beginner to moderate levels. Questions are encouraged. Contact shayyoga@gmail.com.

The film *Buckaroo Bonzai* showing at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, November

19th at 7:30 p.m. Neurosurgeon/Rock Star/Superhero Buckaroo has perfected the oscillation overthrunder, which allows him to travel through solid matter by using the eighth dimension. The Red Lectroids from Planet 10 are after this device for their own evil ends, and it's up to Buckaroo and his band and crime-fighting team, The Hong Kong Cavaliers, to stop them.

Paintings by Capolongo

BY RICHARD BALDWIN - The early winter exhibition at the Wendell Free Library is a selection of skillfully executed oil paintings by Eileen Donovan Capolongo of Athol. These colorful realist works come out of arduous training and 50 years of

experience, resulting in a body of work that is peaceful and harmonious, intimate and warm.

The exhibition will run from November 4th to December 31st. Library hours are Tuesday, 3-6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Authors' Talks

Saloma Miller Furlong's authors talk has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 12th, at 1-2:30 p.m. Her new book, *Why I Left the Amish* discusses the forces of chauvinism, and cruel controlling

constraint that lurk behind customs outsiders view as admirable for their quaint simplicity. Home-baked Amish-style treats will be served.

On Tuesday, November 15th, at 7-8 p.m., Leverett's

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

November Holiday Closings

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE - The Carnegie Library will be closed on Friday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. On Wednesday, November 23rd, the Carnegie and Montague Center Libraries will close at 5:00 p.m. The Montague Public Libraries will be closed for Thanksgiving. The Carnegie Library will also be closed on Friday and Saturday, November 25th and 26th. The Carnegie Library's regular hours

are Monday - Wednesday, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 413-367-2852, is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Millers Falls Library, 413-659-3901, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Carnegie Library: 413-863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - November 14th - 19th

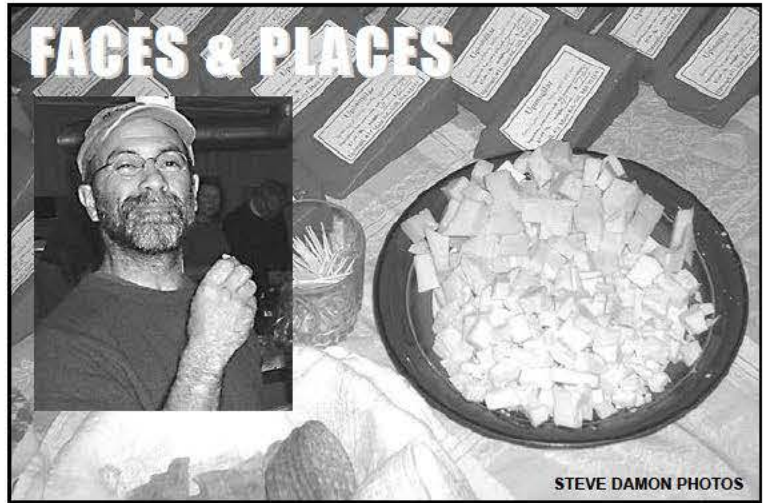
GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. **The TRIAD dinner is on Wednesday, 11/16. Tickets available at the Senior Center.** For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, November 14th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, November 15th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
SHINE by appointment
Wednesday, November 16th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Third Wednesday Book Club

12:45 p.m. Bingo
TRIAD Dinner
Thursday, November 17th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, November 18th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Senior Center will close
Saturday, November 19th
Christmas Bazaar, Silent Auction at the Senior Center

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, November 14th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, November 15th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
10:15 a.m. Senior Business



STEVE DAMON PHOTOS

Greg Percemlides of Montague samples local cheese at the Gill Dairy Tasting Night. Gill agricultural commission held its 3rd Annual Dairy Night on November 4th at the First Congregational Church of Gill. Several dozen people attended from as far away as Northampton, Shelburne and Warwick. For the first two years, the event was known as Gill Cheese Night, but this year, the Northfield Mount Hermon School Farm and the Wagon Wheel Restaurant each brought ice cream, so the event became "Dairy Night," to the delight of all.

own T. Susan Chang will discuss her new book, *A Spoonful of Promises: Stories and Recipes from a Well-Tempered Table*. Signed copies will be available for purchase. Susie is a freelance food writer who reviews cookbooks for the *Boston Globe* and National Public Radio. She is a contrib-

utor to NPR's Kitchen Window column, and the cookbook reviewer for *Eat Your Books*. Her mouthwatering stories (and recipes) are inspired by her own life. These stories explore multiple facets of the human condition, each in its most delicious form. Find more info at: tsusanchang.com.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge.

- Under the Cartwright Bill, the federal government allocated available to build bridges in flood-ravaged territory. From this fund, the towns of Montague and Gill were able to obtain the wherewithal to build their long-needed bridge.
- In May of 1937, sealed bids were opened by the Department of Public Works, and the contract for the construction of the bridge was awarded to Daniel O'Connell Sons of Holyoke. It took the company 16 months to complete the project from the initial groundbreaking at Turners Falls on May 17th of 1937 to the final inspection in late October of 1938.
- Seventy-three years later, the Turners Falls - Gill Bridge is undergoing a major "facelift," a rightful maintenance project that has been overlooked for some time. Now, the renovation of the bridge will cost the taxpayers some \$40 million.
- When it reopens to two way traffic in two years, the renovated bridge will be stronger and more accommodating for both vehicular and foot traffic. The bridge will be more aesthetically pleasing and will serve this county well into the 21st century... and beyond.

This segment concludes Ed Gregory's historic Bridge Facts column. Thanks for all the research on Montague's bridges, Ed!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 12th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church
90 7th Street
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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Spirits are about to Speak! Lisa Lannon, spirit medium, will visit the Shea Theater, Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Friday, November 25th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to present "Messages from the Other Side." Lannon's program will include two full hours of "Spirit Readings" to connect members in the audience with loved ones who have passed. Even pets have been known to come through. More info: 413-863-2281 or at: www.lisamlanno.com.

Macaroni and cheese, hot fudge sundaes, fried chicken and, of course, chocolate. Want to know why you crave certain foods when you are stressed, or more importantly, what to do about those cravings? Join holistic health coach Kelly Broadway to explore the biology and psychology of **stress food cravings**, otherwise known as "Comfort Foods" in a program hosted by the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) on Monday, November 14th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 277 Main Street, 4th Floor in Greenfield. The program is free to people who have ever been affected by crime-related trauma in Franklin or Hampshire counties. Others may attend by donation if space is available. Register by contacting 413-773-5090 or crrt@communityaction.us.

North Quabbin Films presents *The Guns of Navarone* to commemorate **Veterans Day**, Friday, November 11th. The film is free and will be shown at the Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street in Athol at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join together to reflect and honor Veterans Day. The last film of the 2011 NQ Film Series will be the *Lion King* on Friday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at the brand new Erving Senior Center.

Flu shots will be available in Orange at Mahar Regional School on Wednesday, November 16th, from 11:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on a walk-in basis. Bring your insurance card if you have one, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Flu shots are also available at Rite Aid pharmacy on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

November 11th and 12th is **Astronaut Weekend** at Pothole Pictures at 51 Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with a showing of the 1995 film directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, *APOLLO 13*. This is the suspenseful story of the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon-mission and the heroic astronauts and ground crew who rescued it against incredible odds. Before the film, at 7:00 pm, Small Change will perform swing music live on stage.

On that Saturday, Cady Coleman, Shelburne resident, NASA astronaut and veteran of two space shuttle missions and a six-month stay aboard the International Space Station, will show slides and videos she shot from outer space, speak about her experiences and the future of space flight, take questions from the crowd, and even play her flute on stage with local Celtic/Irish band Last Night's Fun, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to local flood relief. Following Coleman's appearance, all are invited to go next door to The Village Restaurant for an informal reception with Coleman including munchies, beer and wine. Coleman will only be present at Saturday's show, not Friday's. For more info, call 413-625-2896.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Employee United Way Campaign Committee is sponsoring a **family portrait opportunity** at Hallmark Institute of Photography, to raise money for the United Way of Franklin County. The portrait date is Saturday, November 19th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hallmark Institute of

Photography, Industrial Boulevard, off Millers Falls Road in Turners Falls.

Sittings will be scheduled on 15-minute intervals, with students from Hallmark Institute taking the portraits. There is a \$20 sitting fee, for each 15-minute sitting, which must be paid before sitting reservation can be confirmed. Various photo packages will be available at very reasonable prices. Order your enlargements at your sitting, and they will be printed while you wait. All sitting fees and proceeds from photo enlargement sales will be donated to the United Way of Franklin County. For more information or to schedule a sitting, please call Laurie Sibilja, Baystate Franklin Medical Center: 413-773-2455.

Fascinated by minerals but don't know that much about them or maybe you are curious about the difference between minerals and gems? Join artist Fred Wilda of the **Connecticut Valley Mineral Club** on Thursday, November 17th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls for a presentation about his interesting collection. Wilda also does watercolor paintings of minerals, and has published his work in numerous mineral books and magazines. This program is adult-oriented, but families are welcome to attend.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

New Playgroup at Hillcrest School

TURNERS FALLS - There is a new playgroup in town!

With funding from the coordinated family and community engagement (CFCE) grant, the Gill-Montague Regional School District is starting a new playgroup on Mondays at Hillcrest School.

Families with children ages 0-5 will be welcome to attend the

playgroup, located at the Hillcrest Elementary School, 30 Griswold Street, in Turners Falls. The playgroup will run from 9:30 - noon every Monday, except during school vacations, Monday holidays and snow days.

Participants may park at the main entrance, but are asked not to park at the circle. This playgroup is free to all.

Give the Gift of Community

Each year at this time, the *Montague Reporter* offers a discount on gift subscriptions - \$5 off the regular price.

We need to expand the circle of subscribers who read the paper regularly, and we need your help to do that.

You may know that the paper you are holding in your hands each week is the end result of a very unusual community effort. In fact, the *Montague Reporter* is brought to you each week by the hard work of more than 40 local residents - many of whom work as volunteers - who believe in the mission of the paper. That is: to bring in depth, independent reporting of local news and views to readers in our area on the issues that matter: the local schools, the environment, how our tax dollars are being spent, the progress of local businesses and cultural endeavors, the democratic workings of our local governments. Along with essential poems, library news, gardening columns, health tips, student honor rolls,

and photos of Hallowe'en trick or treaters, of course.

It is rare to find a non-profit newspaper succeeding these days, particularly in an area faced with the kind of economic challenges our corner of Franklin County faces, and for this reason too, you can be very proud of the *Montague Reporter*.

It's a group effort. We need your help to expand our circle of readers.

It has been our long term goal to reach the milestone of 1000 regular subscribers, both to insure our financial stability, and simply to make sure the hard work of so many people is reaching enough people each week to make all that work worthwhile. We are near that goal.

Please consider helping us reach the 1000 subscriber mark, by giving the gift of community to someone you know this holiday season. Use the subscription blank on the following page.

Thank you!

- David Detmold, editor

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Circulation
Janel Nockleby

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Technical Administrator
Michael Muller

Equal Taxes for Wealth and Work

BY GERALD SCORSE

WALL STREET - America's No. 1 problem is sluggish job growth. No. 2 is the explosive growth in the income gap between the favored few and the broad middle class. Fairly taxing income from wealth could make progress on both fronts.

First, some background.

President George W. Bush slashed the tax on long-term capital gains and dividends to 15 percent. By comparison, the federal income tax alone is 25 percent on the wages of middle-class workers. Including payroll taxes and Medicare, income from work is commonly taxed at more than twice the rate as income from wealth.

Wall Street justifies the capital gains tax break by claiming that investments in the stock market create jobs and grow the economy. But for all but a trace amount of the billions of shares that change hands every day, that's patently untrue. Almost none of the money that flows through Wall Street goes to companies or grows jobs. It simply makes the rich richer.

Except for the exceptions.

Small companies with big dreams use initial public offerings (IPOs) to help turn those dreams into reality. IPOs can act as booster rockets for start-ups and even bigger firms. Later on, secondary offerings can raise capital for further expansion.

Investing in offerings like these really can spur growth. The money goes not into portfolios but to the companies that create jobs. Our tax code should reward job creation by distinguishing between investments in these companies and investments that do nothing to boost the economy.

Capital gains from investing in companies that create jobs should be tax-free. Windfalls from gambling in the Wall Street casino should be taxed at the same rate as ordinary income.

There's a precedent for taxing capital gains at the same rate as wages — from GOP patron saint Ronald Reagan.

Reagan's Tax Reform Act of 1986 levied equal taxes on income from work and income from wealth like capital gains and dividends. In exchange, Reagan won marginal rate cuts and a reduction of tax brackets, two changes that shrank tax bills for the wealthiest Americans. His speech at the signing ceremony called the bill "a sweeping victory for fairness" and "the best job-creation program ever to come out of the Congress."

Reagan's basic tradeoff — lower marginal rates in return for equal taxes on all income — mirrors the proposals from the two deficit-reduction bodies that weighed in late last year. President Barack Obama's fiscal commission (led by Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles) and a plan from the Bipartisan Policy Center (led by Alice Rivlin and Pete Domenici) both called for lower marginal rates. Likewise, both came down in favor of equal taxes on all forms of income.

Now, a special bipartisan panel comprised of a dozen lawmakers is charged with putting America's fiscal house in order. The "supercommittee" has an extra incentive: the deal that raised the national debt ceiling mandates across-the-board spending cuts unless ways are found to narrow the budget deficit by at least \$1.2



KHALIL BENDIB CARTOON, OTHER WORDS.ORG

trillion over the next decade.

The supercommittee should embrace fairness by taxing income from wealth and income from work at the same rate. IRS figures indicate that this single reform, in a good market year, could easily net the Treasury over \$100 billion. Note to those members of Congress tasked with shrinking the deficit: That's an extra \$1 trillion over 10 years.

And while many tax breaks ought to be axed, there's one exception that deserves to be put in place. Capital gains from investments in job-creating IPOs and secondary offerings should be made tax-free.

Just like that, America could attack its two biggest problems.

Gerald Scorse helped pass the bill requiring basis reporting on stock market capital gains. He writes articles on taxes.

Distributed via OtherWords (OtherWords.org)

Praise for the Paper

The Montague Reporter continues to inform, enlighten, and delight this community. Thank you for your efforts and great work.

- Anna Greene
Montague Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moving Forward on Teawaddle Hill

I appreciate all the hard work the selectboard has put into the issue of the private wells contaminated by the town of Leverett's former landfill. I understand this problem is the town's responsibility to fix.

We need a clear understanding of all our options, the criteria to judge them, and most importantly the enormous expense and how we will pay for it.

At the recent special town meeting, a vote to approve design expenses to connect the affected household to the Amherst water line would certainly have sent us down that path and an estimated \$1.7 million expense. I believe that would have been premature.

This decision may rival the school addition and library for expense, but this time I believe without state relief. If that is so, it requires full study and agreement by a group beyond the selectboard, and certainly including the board of health, finance committee and those living in the affected homes.

I believe we need a new or revitalized committee to study and make recommendations on the following:

- Connect to Amherst water
- Take the properties by eminent domain
- Build our own water supply
- Other possible solutions?

For each option, we need to explore relative costs and how they will be paid for. In these hard economic times, with many of us heading into years of fixed income, this is an important consideration before we can vote. We also need to understand whether they recommended solution is likely to solve the whole problem for the long term.

I hope that this letter is received with the intent with which I am writing it - to move us along so that at annual town meeting this committee can offer the residents of Leverett a clear, well-thought out proposal that we can approve.

- Tom Wolff
Leverett

No Cuts to the Safety Net!

BOSTON - A crowd of more than 3,200 filled the Wang Theatre on Wednesday, November 9th, then marched to the offices of Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown, as New England workers and seniors voiced opposition to proposed cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The rally and march came as the congressional Super Committee readies its recommendations on reducing the federal deficit.

The Super Committee - a 12 member bipartisan group that includes Massachusetts Senator John Kerry - is considering potential cuts to entitlements including: a \$112 billion cut to Social Security by changing how the Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) is calculated and reducing benefits; raising the age of Medicare eligibility from

65 to 67; and, increasing out-of-pocket costs for seniors using Medicare.

"Thousands of concerned citizens sent a clear message to Senators Kerry and Brown today: 'No cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security,'" said Deborah Banda, state director of AARP Massachusetts. "It's time for our elected leaders to recognize that these benefits must be protected - not just for us, but for our children and grandchildren."

"The politicians are counting on us to sit back and keep quiet while they dismantle jobs and retirement security," said Carolyn Villers, executive director of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. "We will continue to fight back."

- Christopher Chase
Committee to Preserve
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View from the Statehouse

Rebuilding After Stormy Weather



BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE KULIK

BOSTON - It has been a busy fall session on Beacon Hill, and it is a good time to bring *Montague Reporter* readers up to date on the major issues the legislature has been dealing with such as redistricting, expanded gaming, pension reform, and supplemental spending.

First I want to touch briefly on the significant weather events we have all experienced in the past two months. Tropical Storm Irene caused considerable damage and disruption to people's lives with floods worse than anything seen around here in decades. The damage to roads and bridges is in the many tens of millions of dollars just in Franklin County alone. Many farmers suffered large losses of crops, and in some cases, long-term damage to farmland. For many individuals, losses to homes and businesses have meant both economic loss and inconveniences.

As bad as it was, it could have been worse, and we are fortunate to have had great emergency response from both volunteers and many local, state and federal agencies. The federal government's disaster declaration will provide much needed money for restoration, although it does require a local match in the amount of 25% to FEMA's 75% assistance.

I know that when we are talking about many millions of dollars, even 25% is well beyond the ability of local communities to afford. Therefore, the legislative delegation from western Massachusetts will be working hard to obtain state funds to provide as much of that match as possible.

Our state is fortunate that we are doing well enough in our economic recovery that we should be able to relieve our cities and towns of much of the financial burden of dealing with this emergency.

The October snowstorm of two weeks ago presented a bit of a different type of emergency. Granted that large amounts of heavy snow fell at a time of year when trees were still in leaf and caused much limb and power line damage. However, the extent of the resulting power outages and the length of time it took to restore power demands serious investigation of the management of our electric utility companies.

Our Attorney General, the Department of Public Utilities, and several legislative committees will all be looking at different aspects of the situation. We can all agree that this was an unusual weather event, but the economic disruption and threats to public safety that resulted from such prolonged periods of power outages simply should not occur.

I hope these investigations will give us some clear answers and recommendations for how we as ratepayers can hold the utilities more accountable in the future.

Now back to Beacon Hill. Probably the most closely watched issue we have been working on is the redrawing of state and congressional districts following the completion of the 2010 US census.

I was fortunate to serve on the Special Redistricting Committee, and we are almost finished with our work with the release this week of the proposed new congressional map.

This is the aspect of redistricting that has garnered the most public interest, since our state is dropping to nine congressional districts from the current ten. Our committee held 13 public hearings throughout the state (including Greenfield) and received testimony and input from 400 citizens and organizations. In the end, the challenging task of eliminating one district was made a little less difficult with the announced retirement of John

Olver.

The new map makes considerable changes for western Massachusetts, including the realignment of most of eastern Franklin County (including Montague, Wendell, Leverett, Greenfield, etc.) into a new 2nd District that stretches westward from southern Worcester County. The incumbent congressman from Worcester is James McGovern, and we can expect to see a lot of him in our area heading into the 2012 election.

We are going to miss John Olver greatly, for his work ethic, his attentiveness to small town issues, and for the results he obtained for this part of the state.

The state Senate and House districts also see some changes, largely due to the continued loss of population in Berkshire County. This has been causing some districts based in the Berkshires to move further east for the last several decades.

The biggest change in our region on the House side is that Greenfield becomes part of the 2nd Berkshire District, now represented by Paul Mark. This moves Rep. Denise Andrews out of Greenfield and into a district centered in the Quabbin region.

For me, the shift unfortunately results in my 1st Franklin District losing the towns of Wendell and New Salem, both of which I have represented since 1995. It has been a great pleasure to work with people in both communities for such a long time, and I will miss them when the districts change after the 2012 election. In the meantime I will continue working on projects for these towns for the next 14 months, and helping to ensure their smooth transition into the new district.

Probably the second most watched issue has been expanded gambling. Both the House and Senate passed similar bills this fall, and they are now being reconciled by a six-member conference committee. Governor Patrick has given his general support for the measures and is likely to approve the final version.

This issue has now been around for several years, and it is a complicated one. My own posi-

tion on the issue has evolved to being a supporter of expanded gaming, because of the expected economic benefits it will provide in the way of both jobs and state revenues. During the recession of the past four years, I have spoken with many people who want to work in constructing the resort casinos, or in their ongoing operations. These arguments have outweighed my reservations about the social costs that will surely be a part of expanded gaming. But the continued loss to our economy of \$1.5 billion each year that our residents spend in Connecticut is too much to simply let go.

We need jobs here, and the revenues that will accrue to the state are going to be spent on local aid, education, public safety and other important services that have all been squeezed by tight budgets in recent years.

In the House gaming legislation, we have even included a portion of revenues that will direct around \$15 million each year to fund the Community Preservation Act, one of my legislative priorities.

There is a right way and a wrong way to usher in expanded gaming to Massachusetts, and I am confident we will have legislation that proceeds thoughtfully and carefully, with strong controls and well-targeted use of

revenues. On another topic, both the House and Senate have passed versions of state pension reform legislation, which are also being reconciled by a conference committee. This is another step in our continuing effort to stabilize the pension system financially, and to reduce the opportunities for abuse of the system.

Finally, I will just mention that as we slowly recover from the recession, our state revenues are exceeding the projections upon which we built our annual budget. This is good news, as it means we can address unexpected needs, such as the recent storm emergencies, and begin to rebuild our rainy day reserve fund to a sound level.

We just did that in a recent supplemental budget (which also funded arts programs including Turners Falls River Culture), and we now have the fourth strongest reserve fund of any state in the country.

I hope the next economic downturn is years away, but the legislature is doing the right thing to be prepared for it. And, as we begin work on the next fiscal year budget, I hope we can begin to reinvest in important services our constituents count on.

Representative Steven Kulik, (D-Worthington) is serving his ninth consecutive term in the state legislature from the First Franklin District of Massachusetts.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Police Sergeants May Apply for Interim Chief Position

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY
The Montague selectboard plans to conduct interviews for the position of acting police chief as soon as this Tuesday.

In light of the upcoming November 26th retirement of police chief Ray Zukowski, any current sergeant in the Montague police department has until Monday morning to declare an expression of interest in the interim police chief position. The department's four current sergeants are: Christopher Bonnett, Charles Dodge, Richard Suchanek, and Christopher Williams.

The selectboard approved the fiscal year 2012 base rate salary for the interim position (grade ten, step six) at \$67,813.20, calculated by town accountant Carolyn Olsen, and members of the selectboard were very deliberate in being up front about the salary: any current sergeant would earn more through overtime pay by remaining a sergeant than they would as interim police chief with this salary, given the budgetary reality of the town and arbitration agreements.

The process for hiring a permanent replacement for Zukowski will not happen for about another year, however. The police chief civil service exam is not available for the sergeants to take until May of 2012, and it takes several months for the results to come back. That should be enough time for all internal candidates to weigh

whether the potential for more free time with no overtime pay as police chief is more or less important to them than overtime pay is as a sergeant.

It is unlikely any candidate chosen from the current Montague police department to become the permanent police chief would make much more than the 2012 interim police chief salary, according to the selectboard. The board does have the option to hire externally for a permanent police chief next year, however, which means a new salary would need to be approved by them at that time, based on the experience of any potential candidate from outside the department.

Directing her comment to any sergeant watching the proceedings of Monday's meeting from home on MCTV, selectboard member Pat Allen said, "Study hard. It's a tough test," referring to the civil service exam for police chiefs.

Exam results and an evaluation from a Massachusetts Human Resources Division civil service assessment center will be the major factors the selectboard considers in hiring a permanent police chief.

In other news, Bruce Hunter from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority reported to the selectboard that the Berkshire Design Group, based in Northampton, is

their top choice for phase one Unity Park improvements. The improvements will be implemented during the first half of 2012 through the Community Development Block Grant program, and the selectboard approved the choice of contractor.

The parks and recreation fall newsletter notes that, "Phase one will include improvements to the playground, parking lot, and areas surrounding the Fieldhouse."

Additionally, the selectboard approved the Community Development Strategy for 2012, which is available on the town website montague.net, under the planning and conservation section.

Already in the works for the next grant application, using the strategy, is phase two of Unity Park improvements, which "will include improvements to playing fields, picnic areas, basketball court rehabilitation, exercise stations, community garden, a new parking lot on north side of park, and an accessible walkway connecting all activities," according to Jon Dobosz, director of the parks and recreation.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said that he was "very optimistic" about proposals for reuse of the Montague Center school building that he anticipates receiving soon, in light of the town's recently revised request for proposals.

see MONTAGUE pg 13

News and Notes from Leverett

BY TANYA CUSHMAN
Robert Schuyler, 94, Leverett's oldest resident and gold cane holder, passed away on Saturday morning, November 5th.

The emergency planning committee held a meeting on Thursday morning, November 10th, to discuss how things went at the warming shelter and to plan improvements for future power outages or town emergencies.

Local historical researcher Martha Noblick gave an informative introduction to genealogical resources at the Leverett library on Sunday, November 6th. Noblick suggested starting in the present, with ourselves, and working backwards through our ancestors. When asked what stays in her memory about the work she did years ago inventorying Leverett's town vault, she quickly said "dog licenses." The vault stores info not only about the dogs

that once lived at various homes in town, but sometimes even their names.

Leverett Elementary School principal Anne Ross is writing a letter to banks requesting money to rebuild the K and pre-K playground, which have seen many years of active use. On Tuesday, the PTO approved spending \$1250 for the playground upgrade.

Victoria Shaw, of Morse Hill Camp in Shutesbury, is offering a free two-week trial of her dynamic balance exercise class, Mondays and Thursdays, at Leverett Elementary School from 5:45 - 7:15 p.m.). Shaw has been teaching the class for over 20 years, with many long time attenders (and they're all in great shape!)

The Leverett Elementary School's beloved apple tree came down in the storm. Countless children have collected its apples in buckets and have climbed its limbs.

The elementary school PTO is holding its annual Greenraising fundraiser, through November 13th, so don't delay. For environmentally friendly gifts and home supplies (45% of all proceeds going to the PTO) and more info on how to participate, visit: www.leverettlistings.net.

Ruth Field's *History of Leverett and Genealogy* includes many written accounts of stories that have been told through the centuries in Leverett. Worth reading next to a warm fire. Contact Edie Field to buy a copy at 413-548-9452. Or find a copy at the Leverett Library or historical museums.

The Montague Reporter welcomes short news items from all the towns in our readership area. Feel free to send short accounts of people, places and events in your neighborhood to: reporter@montaguema.net

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Downed Trees & Wires, Alarms Sounded

Tuesday, 10/25

9:10 a.m. Animal complaint on Atherton Road. No owner located for feline.

1:40 p.m. Juvenile Runaway reported on Boyle Road. Children Services assisted.

Wednesday, 10/26

7:05 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on West Gill Road. Private Investigator identified.

11:45 a.m. Motor vehicle complaint reported from Elementary School this morning. Suspect located on Center Road.

12:30 p.m. Annoying Phone Calls reported from Myrtle Street residence.

Thursday, 10/27

9:45 a.m. Motor vehicle accident at the Main Road and Route 2 lights. No injuries reported.

1:20 p.m. Larceny by check

reported to party on Main Road.

Friday, 10/28

12:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with civil order.

Saturday, 10/29

12:50 p.m. Reported suicidal subject on Center Road.

4:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with assault and battery on Millers Falls Road.

5:00 p.m. Assisted resident on roadway at South Cross Road.

5:10 p.m. Assisted resident on West Gill Road. Motor vehicle stuck in the downed wires due to storm.

5:20 p.m. Checked area of Elementary School for reported explosion.

8:10 p.m. Responded to tree blocking the road at Route 2 at Hill Road. Mass DOT notified.

Sunday, 10/30

12:40 a.m. Panic alarm activated at residence on Route 2. All set at the home.

9:40 a.m. Animal complaint on Center Road.

2:15 p.m. Elderly check on Munns Ferry Road.

9:35 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Green River Power Sports. Checked ok.

Monday, 10/31

8:22 a.m. Requested welfare check of resident on Main Road. All ok.

Tuesday, 11/1

6:50 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Route 2. Located subject in woods walking. Thanked officers for checking on him.

8:00 p.m. Resident on River Road reported subjects in motor vehicle using a spot light. Suspected deer jacking.

Wednesday, 11/2

6:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest of female party.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Emergency Declared After October Storm

BY KATIE NOLAN - Erving selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin signed a declaration of town emergency on October 29th, after heavy snow damaged trees and power lines, resulting in days of lost electrical power in town.

Town hall had no electrical power from late Saturday until Tuesday evening, and was not open during the outage.

The emergency operations center was located at the Fire Hall #1, which was powered by a generator. Fire Hall #2 in Erving lost power only briefly, and Erving Elementary School (EES) did not lose power after the storm.

Police, firefighters, and highway workers coordinated door to door welfare checks of seniors around town, sometimes requiring the use of chain saws to even approach their front doors.

Sharp said since power and phone service was restored in most areas of town midweek, praise for the town workers response has been pouring in to town hall. "Only in a small town," said Sharp.

According to town administrator Tom Sharp, EES was used as a warming shelter for residents, where meals were served and where people could get water for home use.

However, Goodwin said the warming shelter could not continue at that location once EES was back in session on Thursday.

Goodwin noted the town of Montague opened up its drinking water supply line during the emergency and refilled Erving's water tank, which Erving could not refill because there was no power for its electric pump.

At its November 7th meeting, the selectboard decided to invite fire, police, and public works department heads to the November 14th meeting to discuss the town's response to the storm and power outage.

The board also scheduled a December 12th meeting to hear public comments on the town's performance during the emergency.

Goodwin asked town departments to prepare detailed lists of costs for the town's response to the storm and power outage, allowing Erving to apply for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The selectboard voted to use money available in the new Senior Center building account to buy and install a stationary generator for that building. The Senior Center will have a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, December 11th, from noon to 3 p.m.

The nearly-finished building was powered by the contractor's generators during the outage.

The board discussed obtaining either stationary

generators or a mobile generator to power other town buildings in case of future prolonged power outages.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said that generators are sometimes available as surplus military equipment, and might be available to the town for the cost of transport.

The selectboard signed a contract with low bidder Green Mountain Pipeline Services (\$238,238 bid) for repair or rehabilitation of approximately 4,900 feet of sewer line, after a positive recommendation from engineering consultant Tighe and Bond. The contract will allow for the relining of clay sewers throughout Erving, without the need to dig up roadbeds, explained Sharp, since the process can be accomplished directly through the sewer manholes.

As recommended by Tighe and Bond, the selectboard decided to put off a less critical section of sewer rehabilitation along Kavanaugh Street (\$13,368 was bid for this section).

The selectboard reviewed a draft letter regarding allotting presidential electoral college votes by congressional district, rather than having all state electoral college votes go to the overall state winner. Once the draft letter is finalized, the selectboard intends to send it to all cities and towns in Massachusetts to gain support

see ERVING page 10

NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Next Steps on Teawaddle Wells

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Voters at the October 27th special town meeting turned back the selectboard's first attempt to rally support for a plan to hook up five homes on Teawaddle Hill Road to the Amherst water line, at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million. The board sought approval to spend \$28,900 for an engineering study to plot the extension of the Amherst line, so that the town of Leverett would no longer have to test and treat the private wells those homes rely on now, which are located in the plume of contaminated ground water down gradient of Leverett's former landfill. The motion to spend that money required a two thirds majority; it fell short of that with 59 in favor, 40 opposed.

On Tuesday, the selectboard went back to the drawing board in search of a permanent solution to the problem of private wells threatened with contamination from the public landfill.

"We need to hold a public hearing, and then delegate tasks," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau.

Julie Shively concurred. Taking the affected homes by eminent domain, "is not even on the table," she said, referring to estimates that it could cost the town almost \$2 million for an unfriendly taking of the properties at the east end of Teawaddle Hill. "It would cost us just as much in the end, and we'll lose the tax

revenue. It's stupid."

The board spent some time discussing the possibility of including a right of way and permission to drill a well for a small public water supply in the conservation restriction the town hopes to place on the 147-acre Mitchell Farm on Teawaddle Hill, purchased with help from \$170,000 in Community Preservation Committee funds and \$237,000 in a state land grant.

Brazeau said he had recently walked the land, with an eye toward this possibility, and located a spot in the farm's sugar bush that would be well away from any fertilizer applied on the farm's fields.

This land is on the other side and uphill from Doolittle Brook, on rocky ledge unlikely to be affected by the plume of contaminants slowly leaching from the old landfill, a quarter mile or more to the east, Brazeau said.

He noted that the Department of Environmental Protection does not look favorably on new, small scale public water supplies. The DEP would favor establishing five separate wells outside the zone of the contaminated groundwater, to supply the affected homes, Brazeau said. But putting in five separate wells on conservation land on the other side of the brook would then entail five separate water lines and rights of way traveling either

beneath the brook or beneath the bridge on Teawaddle Hill, and the selectboard was not keen on the idea of individual homeowners claiming the right to maintain separate water lines on a public road across Doolittle Brook.

"We should put everything on the table," said Brazeau, and then see what the town would support and the DEP would allow.

Bull Hill Road The selectboard discussed a proposal from highway superintendent Will Stratford to reallocate up to \$105,000 from Chapter 90 funds set aside for the resurfacing of Meadow Road and other roads, in order to pay for the installation of a four by eight foot box culvert to handle overflow from Long Plain Brook, which has been backing up at Bull Hill Road and flooding neighboring homes during periods of heavy rain.

Brazeau recommended waiting until the project had been designed and permitted before reallocating the Chapter 90 funds. He gave a detailed analysis of the drainage issue, which he described as "a compilation of errors," over the years, made worse by the saturation of the upstream water table by the beaver pond behind the Friends Meeting House.

Brazeau said the conservation commission is likely to approve an emergency certification on Monday to lower the level of the

see LEVERETT pg 14

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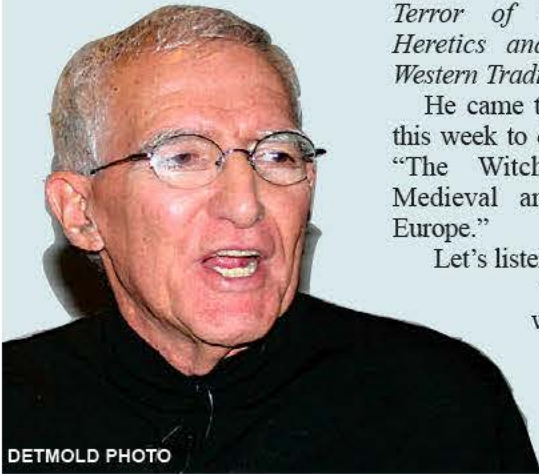
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DETMOLD PHOTO

Teofilo Ruiz

Terror of History, Mystics, Heretics and Witches in the Western Tradition.

He came to Amherst College this week to deliver a lecture on "The Witch-Craze in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe."

Let's listen in.

"I am interested in witchcraft in terms of marginality," began Ruiz, a slight, elfin man with an effusive pedagogical style and a wicked

sense of humor.

As one student traipsed in tardily, he glared and muttered, "When students come in late, I usually sacrifice them."

He spoke with Paul Klee's "Angelus Novus" projected behind him on the wall of the lecture hall, and cited Walter Benjamin's ninth thesis in the essay *Theses on the Philosophy of History* in describing the painting.

Benjamin, a German Jew, literary critic and philosopher who committed suicide on the Spanish border rather than be deported back to the Nazi Germany, the day before the border was opened, had this to say about Klee's "Angelus Novus," an image he regarded as a depiction of the Angel of History, standing on a hill facing the past.

"Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence

that the angel can no longer close them. The storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress."

"In the Europe of the late 15th and 16th century," Ruiz said, "the late Renaissance, the period of the Scientific Revolution and great achievements in art and culture," supposedly enlightened Western Europeans systematically tortured and massacred in the cruelest possible manner 80,000 to 100,000 women – mostly old women – as witches.

How came this particular catastrophe to happen?

Ruiz, who makes a specialty out of the study of marginalized members of society, called the slaughter of women in the witch craze, "the dark flipside of the Renaissance."

Ruiz said seemingly rational men in this period, indeed revered scientists like Newton, Kepler, and Copernicus, all believed in witches. King James I of England, who oversaw the creation of the beautiful King James Bible, also wrote a treatise on incubi and succubi.

"How preposterous can this be?" demanded Ruiz, who bears a faint resemblance to Sidney Blackmer in *Rosemary's Baby*. Leaders of church, state, and academia believed in "a great conspiracy of women in the tens of thousands flying on the backs of demons to convocations - that the devil copulated with women."

Then, after the 1670s, "rationality triumphed and the whole thing went away," chirped Ruiz, "except in remote areas of the world like Salem, Massachusetts."

Scenes of Turners Falls

Now through December, "Scenes of Turners Falls" Paintings, Photography, mixed media depicting architecture and people of Turners Falls by artist/photographer Ariel Jones and artist Nina Rossi.

Using a variety of materials, techniques, and perspectives, two artists celebrate life and times of the village. Opportunity to share and record your own impressions and/or memories of present and past experiences of the town by participating in the "Omnium Gatherums" story collection project, also at Nina's Nook.

Nina's Nook is located at 125A Avenue A Turners Falls (next to Equi's Candy store). Nov 25-Dec 25, open W-Th 4-7pm, Fri 2-7



"Along the Avenue" by Nina Rossi, Painted Ceramic, wood, leather, wire.

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In the Middle Ages, people generally believed in witches, but there was no systematic persecution of women. So how to explain the century long upwelling of atavistic cruelty, the burning of women - grandmothers - at the stake by the tens of thousands in Northern Italy, Germany, part of France, England, Scandanavia, and, oddly, in Lithuania, where the witch craze took the form of victimizing men more than women?

Basically, Ruiz sets it down to the need of societies in turmoil to find vulnerable scapegoats for the anxieties and anger of people experiencing rapid change, in the dying of old social orders. By this theorem, America at the end of its imperial age should expect to find similar outbursts of irrational oppression of vulnerable, mar-

ginalized people, and Ruiz pointed to the modern demonization of homosexuals and immigrants as two recent cases in point.

Still, the witch craze had distinctive features from a time when magic and religion were not clearly separate entities, when every Catholic Pope had his own astrologer.

"The role of Satan in Western culture," said Ruiz, "owed everything to Zoroastrianism," the religion of ancient Persia, characterized by light and darkness, good and evil, in eternal conflict. "This is something Western, not found in other cultures."

He traced the evolution of the idea of Satan from the fallen angel of light, Lucifer, cast down after a vain struggle with God, to

continued on next page

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UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
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LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

WENDELL - Over thirty Wendell residents attended Pam Richardson's "Cemetery Stories" walking tour of the historic Wendell Cemetery on Sunday, November 6th. Pam discussed what she has learned about the deceased residents, including 97 year old Patience Death who died in 1849 and other early settlers. She said Wendell's heyday was 1806 - 1814. "They came, farmed logged, raised sheep, quarried, and moved on."



LAURA HERBERT PHOTO

Poplar Mountain Hike

ERVING - Hikers are invited to bring gloves, hand saws, loppers or Cindy Lauper tapes on Walkmans to help clear loop trails at the base of the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area. Trails clogged by brush left behind by recent storms will be cleared, on Sunday, November 20th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and work may begin on an upper loop trail to the Poplar Mountain lookout as well.

Poplar Mountain Conservation Area, established when the town of Erving purchased the 119-acre former Guiniusz property on Old State Road in 2007 with assistance from the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, is a 19th century farm returned to woodland. The property is home to many species of wildlife including deer, bear, grey fox, coyote, and bobcat, and also

features an impressive rock ledge, two intermittent streams, a small waterfall, and a 'weeping wall'.

Park one mile up from the western end of Old State Road, across from a white farmhouse. The trailhead is marked by a gate with a yellow blaze.

The hike is sponsored by the Erving conservation commission and Mount Grace, and will be led by Harry Sharbaugh.

from previous page

Albrecht Durer's "Knight, Death and the Devil."

"At the end of the Middle Ages," Ruiz continued, "the economy of Europe is being radically and dramatically transformed, especially in the rural areas - and witchcraft is a rural phenomenon. The economy is torn apart, driving peasants off of their ancestral lands. A good number of witch accusations are leveled at people being driven off their lands."

Ruiz continuously reminded his listeners that the evidence and the proof of witchcraft was always provided by the powerful; the victims were always the powerless.

"Hundreds of peasants were being lashed along the road and put in poorhouses," continued Ruiz, with characteristic zest. He conflated the fall of feudal structures with the rise of capitalism and "the crystallization of harsher attitudes to the poor."

Rebellions sprang up among the poor, including the peasant uprising of 1525, a widespread armed insurrection in southern Germany, Alsace, and what is now Switzerland and Austria. "In answer to these conditions," the professor added, "we have the slow evolution of the new monarchies."

The end result, in "the lapidary phrase of Max Weber," was "the legalized monopoly of violence by the monarchies, the

Bourbons, the Tudors, etc."

In short, said Ruiz, "The end of the Middle Ages was a crazy time." In 1453 Constantinople falls. In 1492 Columbus runs into a new world.

Rapid change produces anxiety, and "there is no change greater in Europe than the divide between the Protestants and the Catholics," claimed Ruiz, an avowed atheist.

Suddenly, in 1520, the "monolithic rite" that had united the Continent, at least in the cities and on the plains, "came apart," and "antagonistic forces built in search of someone to blame."

Ruiz noted that in towns where Catholics held power, witches were generally found among the Protestants, and vice versa.

It is against the larger backdrop of the religious wars which tore Europe apart with incredible ferocity for more than a century following the Reformation that the pyres of women burned.

Ruiz said, "Armies of mendicants and Franciscans went into the mountains," in this period only to encounter, "practices so very odd they named it witchcraft."

Beneath a veneer of Christianity, these practices more resembled "the old agricultural cults, the old religions of mankind, rituals associated with the growing of things."

Pope Innocent VIII issued a

papal bull in 1484 to instigate severe measures against witches. At his behest, the inquisitors Heinrich Kramer and Jacobus Sprenger wrote a treatise on the subject in 1486, the *Malleus Maleficarum*, or the Hammer of Witches, which set forth methods to determine whether someone is a witch, and how to bring them to trial.

Basically, the book is "an attack on women. They are man eaters. They make men impotent. They steal the male member when you are not looking. The *Malleus Maleficarum* is a long study in misogyny," a misogyny whose roots Ruiz traced back to the Biblical fable of Adam and Eve and the classical Greek "Phallocracy," with a Priapus rising before every door.

"From the publication of the *Malleus*, the whole thing spreads like wildfire," asserted Ruiz, who took another opportunity to remind his audience, "People in power direct the fears of society onto victims, in this case, women."

The witch hunters found the same evidence across northern Europe, and extracted the same confessions. Their victims all "conspire with the devil. They travel to Sabbats (not on Hallowe'en particularly - Walpurgis Night, April 30th, the Eve of May, was the big day for witches' gatherings). "They hold Rotarian Clubs of thousands of witches gathering in one place,



Medieval wood block depicting burning of alleged witches

taking up all the hotel rooms in the area... They eat children and promise mischief."

Ruiz cited a study of the witch craze in Essexshire by Alan Macfarlane, who found that most of the victims were women in their 60s, 70s and 80s. Ruiz termed them, "women who lived on the margins, engaged in herb lore, medical practices, economically below the people who accused them."

The accusations often came from someone related by marriage to the victim: "Aha, my mother in law is a witch!"

And, at a time when one out of two babies died at birth, midwives are among the most common victims of the witch hunting craze.

Then, from 1660 - 1670, "The great minds of Europe cease to believe in this," said Ruiz. "The religious wars have ended. Local governments have grown strong and centralized, and developed institutions that no longer allow the kind of fluidity of the Middle Ages."

Standing in front of a projected image of Goya's "Saturn Devouring One of His Children," Ruiz concluded cryptically, "It is not only history that devours us, but time does as well."

And he added, "There are no monuments of civilization that are not also monuments of barbarity."

Cheerful thoughts for your next Tea Party, dearies.



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FARM from page 1

By 10:45 a.m., more cars pull in: Audis, fancy pickups, older cars, and some all-terrain four wheelers with maple syrup tanks in back. People mingle, and I join them. We are hugging, wondering who the bidders are.

Many of us have met over the past six months, seeing if we could gather buyers for the Farm or help make a plan to keep the Farm in the community. Susan Mareneck, Nina Keller, Janice Frey, Karen Guilette, Sam Lovejoy, and Tom Fels lived here in the commune days. Clara Bloom Sarr was born here. The abutters who tap the maple trees in spring arrive, along with other neighbors. The Leverett police chief, Gary Billings, whose grandfather once owned the farm, comes. He lives next door. I see the Zen Peacemakers' lawyer Tom

Lesser, who obviously cares for the place; and the architects, Jeremy Toal and Scott Baum, who transformed the barn into a sanctuary and now feel deeply connected here. Laurie Smith stands with a young couple and their child. Dennis Lombardi arrives. Dear Dennis, who lives down the road and whose wildness is like this land. Later when he leaves, he jokes, "Text me!" He has no idea what a text is or how to do it. Neither do I.

Nina Keller, one of the former commune members, insists we all be able to hear the auction, not just those who brought the \$25,000 in cash needed to bid. Before she spoke up, it seemed the auction was going to be conducted with private bidding in the board room inside the barn, but Keller convinces the auctioneer to let us all listen.

Just after 11 a.m., on the steps outside the barn's main hall, the auctioneer starts his litany. I lean on a tree, as we stand in a semi-circle listening. Some stand with their heads down. The language is poetic as

the auctioneer reads the property boundaries: "Beginning at a heap of stones on Sawmill River... north to the Gunn's Brook so-called... excepting the ground on which the school house now stands... being known as the home place..."

Kanji, my dharma brother, shows up in the midst of this. "Kisui!" he yells, and I'm momentarily surprised to hear my dharma name. Our Zen teacher Eve Marko gave each of us a name when we made vows to the Buddhist precepts in the Montague Farm Zendo, when the Zen Peacemakers owned the Farm, and I, along with two others, was named partly after the water on this land. Kisui means "luminous water."

For years, a sign hung in the barn's bathroom above the sink: "The water here is from our well and is very good." I loved that sign. The water here is extremely good.

The auctioneer starts the bid at \$480,000. A man standing near the auctioneer in a black wool winter coat looks down at the ground, and I dislike him in

that moment. I imagine him wanting so badly to win the bid. "Do I hear \$490? \$480? - \$480 going once, going twice, going three times. Sold for \$480,000."

We are silent. So quick! Hearts close and weep by the willow planted by Sam and Janice 30 years ago and stepped on by a cow. Grief. Nina Keller rushes up.

"Who are you?" she asks the man whose bid has won. The man says, "Kevin," but no one gets his last name.

Someone says, "It's a developer - there goes the hill full of housing units."

I go to the main hall and ask a woman I don't recognize who she is. She is from the USDA, which had guaranteed the Zen Peacemakers' defaulted mortgage. I think this means the USDA is now in better shape regarding the mortgage. She doesn't look relieved; it's probably a mess.

Somehow, I come to understand that the bank, People's United, rather than a developer, has bought Montague Farm.

"The bank bought it," I yell to those who don't yet realize.

People mingle and strategize next steps. Could there be a collective offer, another try? The bank will want to sell. People will meet tomorrow. New connections are made. I go back to my paper bag and cut more nettle. Prickly, wild, nourishing nettle.

As the crowd thins, I run up the hill to gather Roxbury apples that I tasted yesterday while walking the land, having considered making an auction bid with my friend Dan. Our bid was much lower than the bank's 480K purchase, so we didn't have a chance this round.

The yellow-brown Roxbury apples are bruised and beautiful. Turns out Nina Keller helped plant this orchard, with Tony Mathews. Perhaps they planted this very tree.

Soon my car is loaded up with my gleanings. I'll make nettle pesto this weekend. I no longer feel a need to call it "foreclosure pesto." I'll think of it as "resilience pesto," instead.



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from **ERVING** page 7

port for the idea. Goodwin said this method of allotting electoral votes in presidential electors would "give individuals more say, have their vote count more."

Selectboard members agreed to meet for three or four hours at an out of town "neutral" location for an annual retreat, in order to set annual goals for the board.

Sharp said selectboard retreats were discussed at a recent Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting for administrators. He said he understood,

"it is a very successful way for a board to set goals."

Goodwin noted the meeting would be posted and open to the public in accordance with open meeting laws.

All of the selectboard members said they planned to attend the Franklin County Selectmen's Association meeting on November 17th at Franklin County Technical School.

Klepadlo observed the dinner offering of haddock from Tech's Apprentice Restaurant was one good reason to attend.

The selectboard decided to have the final FY'13 budget be available by April 2nd, 2012, so it can be printed and distributed as an Around Town Newsletter supplement before annual town meeting in May.

The selectboard voted to accept the Community Development Strategy document, after striking specific mention of artists as one focus for community development. "We want any small business, any development opportunity," said Goodwin. "We don't want to limit uses."

The board closed the open session and went into executive session to consider "the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health and/or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual..." and to "review CORI paperwork pursuant to MGL c30A, Sec. 21.7 to comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault Arrest, Break In, and Robbery Arrest

Tuesday, 11/1

Arrest of [redacted] for a subsequent offense of disorderly conduct at the Montague Elks Lodge.

Wednesday, 11/2

11: 47 a.m. Loose animal on South Street. Services rendered.
4:10 p.m. 911 hang up call on Oakman Street. Peace restored.
11:55 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant, violation of a restraining order, and assault and battery on an elder

(60+) or disabled person.

Thursday, 11/3

8:19 a.m. Disorderly conduct at Franklin and East Main Streets. Referred to an officer.

10:21 a.m. Threatening, harassment on K Street. Services rendered.

7:58 p.m. Structure fire at Judd Wire on Turnpike Road. Referred to another agency.

10:30 p.m. Suspicious incident at Survival Center on Fourth Street. Unable to locate.

10:47 p.m. Suspicious incident at Montague Town Hall.

Investigated.

Friday, 11/4

5:14 p.m. Assault at Unity Park on First Street.

Investigated.

6:37 p.m. Assault on Dell Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 11/5

12:32 a.m. Breaking and entering into vehicle on Davis Street. Unable to locate.

1:29 a.m. Domestic disturbance on West Main Street. Investigated.

6:42 p.m. Unwanted person on Dell Street. Peace restored.

Sunday, 11/6

1:02 a.m. Arrest of [redacted]

on a default warrant on Avenue A.

7:10 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Grout Circle. Peace restored.

12:42 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

2:29 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

on a default warrant, and for armed and masked robbery, larceny over \$250, and larceny from a building.

4:20 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

Monday, 11/7

10:21 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Millers Pub on

East Main Street. Report taken.

11:04 a.m. Officer wanted at Great Falls Middle School on Turnpike Road. Peace restored.

3:29 p.m. Fight on Burnett Street. Investigated.

8:31 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for operating a motor vehicle to endanger, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

6:09 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at About Face Computer Solutions on Avenue A. Services rendered.

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CRIMES from page 1

armed robbery at Rite Aid. The suspect claimed to have a gun; his face was wrapped with an Ace bandage; he was wearing black pants, a black puffy coat, and a black Yankee's hat."

Wearing that hat, he would have stood out around here like a sore thumb even without the Ace bandage.

The suspect exited the store with an unspecified amount of cash.

A clerk at the Family Dollar Store next door told police officers a man with his face wrapped in an Ace bandage had also been seen wandering the aisles of that store.

Zukowski said the suspect, whom he identified as 41-year-old Thomas ██████ of ██████ 11th Street, in the Patch, had at first intended "to rob the Family Dollar Store, but too many people were there." Still, the suspect's appearance scared the clerk at Family Dollar so, "She called her boss, who told her to drop the money into the store safe, which the employees can't open," Zukowski said.

The suspect then exited the store, went into Rite Aid, and robbed that store instead.

Officer Chris Williams and John Dempsey responded to the scene. "On their way down," Zukowski said, "Williams called detective Lee Laster, and told him, 'Hey, from the description we got, it might be Thomas ██████'"

The Montague police had been looking for ██████ who was known to be living on the Patch, and was wanted on a number of Superior Court warrants. Zukowski said ██████ had been involved in a prior bank robbery.

Zukowski said, "At that time, Lee happened to be down on the Patch doing cement work with his child's grandfather, retired Greenfield police officer Neil Leveille." Laster got the call, and shortly thereafter spotted ██████ on 11th Street.

Laster asked Leveille if he had any ammo for a .22 handy, loaded his off duty gun, retrieved his bullet proof vest from his car, and proceeded to the driveway where he had observed ██████ looking back over his shoulder as if he were watching to see if he was being followed.

Meanwhile, an unnamed vehicle operator told officer Dempsey he had seen a man, "dressed all in black running south on the bike path." Also, "a retired probation officer who happened to be walking out there with his wife observed the subject heading towards 11th Street," Zukowski said.

Dempsey began tracking the suspect with K-9 Sunny.

At about the same time, Laster called in for assistance, saying, "Hey, he's down here."

Zukowski continued, "When Detective Laster saw Mr. ██████ walk up his driveway, looking behind him to see if he was being followed," the detective armed himself and approached where ██████ was seen entering, but a neighbor advised him that a male dressed in black had turned around and headed out the driveway west on 11th.

"Detective Laster crossed through several back yards and was able to gain sight of Mr. ██████. He kept looking behind him. Sirens of approaching police cars were audible. The suspect entered the rear of a residence, and turned into a small back yard. Detective Laster observed Mr. ██████ open a door to an enclosed back porch," Zukowski said.

At that point, with the assistance of Leveille, Laster placed ██████ under arrest. Sergeant Williams arrived on the scene to find ██████ on the ground, and cuffed him.

Zukowski said the arrest was made initially on outstanding warrants. Officer Dempsey tracked the suspect with K-9 Sunny, from Rite Aid right to 11th Street where ██████ was apprehended, helping to confirm the police had the right man.

After a search warrant was issued, a search of ██████'s apartment turned up cash and some clothing matching the description from Rite Aid.

The police also found the receipt from Rite Aid for the Ace bandage in ██████'s apartment, which ██████ had purchased at the same store he subsequently robbed, Zukowski said.

Zukowski said ██████ admitted not only to the Rite Aid robbery, but also to a robbery last week at the Greenfield Stop and Mart on Federal Street.

No weapon was found at ██████'s apartment, nor on his person.

Though quick work by the officers involved nabbed the suspect in the Rite Aid heist, ██████ did not admit to, nor did he fit the description of the perpetrator of an armed robbery at the Avenue A Subway on Friday, October 28th, at 8:07 p.m.

At Subway, an employee stated the robber was a male in his late 20s, wearing a red hooded sweatshirt. He was unshaven, with dirty blond hair, about five foot, eight inches tall and heavy set, about 180 pounds, wearing blue jeans. The suspect made small talk as he ordered a grinder, claiming to be on pain pills for a recently pulled tooth. After going to the soda machine, the suspect pulled a folding knife with a four inch blade and demanded the employee open the cash drawer. Shaken, the employee did as instructed. The suspect got away with \$157, and headed south on the Avenue.

Officer Michael Sevens responded to the call, "within one minute," said Zukowski, who noted the officer was already downtown when the call came in. But a search of the area came back empty.

Chief Zukowski said after a relatively quiet spell, the department has definitely seen a recent surge in break-ins, including one at about 4:30 on Tuesday morning, November 15th, when someone used a large rock to smash a plate glass window at About Face Computers on the corner of 4th and Avenue A, and swiped an inexpensive piece of computer equipment. The sound of breaking glass was plainly audible at this newspaper office.

But called to the scene, the police were able to track the suspect down the alley only as far as the parking lot by the Rendezvous.

"There have been an awful lot of break-ins and smash and grabs, not just here but all around the area, up to Keene and Brattleboro," said Zukowski, who attributed the rash of crime to people who want money, or items they can quickly sell, in order to buy drugs.

He said his officers work hard to solve these crimes. "If you have good surveillance photos, we get them out regionally and

investigate as hard as we can after the fact."

Rebutting claims that his department has less of a visible presence in downtown than before the police station moved from First Street to Turnpike Road, Zukowski said, "The officers will be assigned, and will go down there, but 4:30 in the morning is an unusual time for a quick breaking and entry. It's usually 2:30 in the morning, when the bars close and the quick liquid courage is at work when they say, 'Let's go do this.'"

Offering a reproof for this reporter, who worked right through the sound of breaking glass on Tuesday morning, assuming a waste hauling truck was at work early, the chief urged members of the public to, "Call when you hear something. If you see something suspicious, anything out of the ordinary, get the number plates and provide them to us. It could be a piece of the puzzle later down the road."

Zukowski, who is retiring this month after 36 years with the

department reminds the public, "We can't do it alone. We need help from the citizens, any information, no matter how minute."

Point well taken, Chief.



Finance Committee Members Needed

The Turners Falls Fire District is in need of a few volunteers to serve on their finance committee. The Fire District covers the Turners Falls Fire and Water Departments, for the villages of Montague City, Turners Falls, Millers Falls and the water department for the village of Lake Pleasant.

The finance committee is responsible for making recommendations for the proposed budgets and meets a few times during the budget season. Those interested need to be a registered voter of the district. Interested candidates please call the district office at 863-4542.

WOMEN from page 1

But, Young is not that kind of woman. She's a woman who sets goals and makes things happen for herself and others.

From that kernel of information gleaned back in 1982, she has forged a career as an internationally known leader and public speaker on this subject. She has a clear mission: "I want to normalize the syndrome, which can be stressful and hold people back from realizing their full potential. I want people to know how widely shared these feelings are, and then I want to show them how to thrive in spite of it," said Young.

She has addressed more than 50,000 people, helping them to identify the signs of the Imposter Syndrome and develop strategies to overcome it. She has analyzed the relationships between gender, class, upbringing, and circumstances that make women – and sometimes men – vulnerable to the syndrome.

In her book, *The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women*, released last week by Crown Publishing, a division of Random House, Young has distilled her research and experience into compact, accessible prose. Using examples from her own research and quotes from a surprising

range of people – from well-known movie stars to politicians – Young shows how the syndrome affects accomplished people with no real reason to doubt their abilities. Jodie Foster felt like an impersonator when she went to Yale. Maya Angelou has doubts about every book she writes. Only Margaret Thatcher says she earned and deserved her position.

Young also has a website and a blog, changingcourse.com and an electronic newsletter with 23,000 subscribers. Though she does not describe herself as a life coach, she offers motivational advice to people who long to take charge of their lives and use their passions to create careers or supplementary incomes. Filled with advice and anecdotes, she tells, among other things, of her quest for a view and the odyssey that led her to her home in Montague Center, where she works when she is not travelling.

It would be a disservice to try to distill all her research and insights into a short review. This is a book to savor alone or better still with friends or colleagues who may have struggled for years with the uneasy feeling that they don't belong in their positions or have not fairly earned their success.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

DESE Approves District Plan

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved the Gill Montague Regional School District's Accelerated Improvement Plan (AYP).

According to interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, DESE representative Joan Connelly approved the plan at a meeting with Ekstrom and other members of the administrative team and teachers on October 28th.

The approval comes with contingencies.

In her report to the school committee, Ekstrom said the DESE was particularly concerned about instructional strategies and benchmarks for assessing student progress at the high school.

At the November 8th meeting of the school committee, vice chair Sandra Brown asked if the DESE's approval of the improvement plan on October 28th will mark the beginning of the two year time frame within which the school district has to

show the results the DESE requires to bring the district out of underperforming status.

Ekstrom said she had asked the same question, and was awaiting an answer from the DESE.

Ekstrom also had questions about the way the district's graduation rate was measured, as presented at the last school committee meeting on October 25th. At that meeting, Turners Falls High School interim principal Joseph Fleming and assistant principal Patricia Gardner admitted during their presentation to the school committee that the policy didn't make any sense.

Ekstrom said she looked into the Massachusetts policy and found that some of the information presented on October 25th was incorrect. If a student who is part of the 9th grade high school cohort leaves the district and does not enroll in another high school, that student would be counted in the district's dropout rate. But if the student does enroll in another school, at that

point they cease to be counted as part of the original district's cohort. If that student subsequently fails to graduate, that counts against the new school's dropout rate. Conversely, students who choose into the district become part of the district's calculation on graduation and drop-out rates.

On a different topic, the committee agreed to review the use

of the high school as an emergency shelter during emergencies like last week's power outage. All the district schools were closed on Monday, October 31st. Once the Montague Elks agreed to allow their lodge to serve as an emergency shelter beginning Tuesday, all the district schools reopened except Gill Elementary, which did not have power restored until Wednesday.

Committee members raised questions of fairness in having students lose school days

because the high school is the designated emergency shelter for the area. Ekstrom wondered whether it was acceptable to have the Gill elementary students make up one more day than the other schools?

Ekstrom selected current class valedictorian Jesse Langknecht as the winner of the superintendent's award, with Haley Fiske and Emily Pollard receiving runner-up awards.

Michael Langknecht, school committee chair, opened a dis-

see SCHOOL page 14

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Illegal Dumping, Drunk Driving

Tuesday, 11/1

10:00 a.m. Assisted National Guard going door to door.

Wednesday, 11/2

12:45 a.m. Well being check on Route 2 at pull-off for French King Bridge. Subject sleeping. All set.

4:20 p.m. Report of children selling hot cocoa in Erving Center. Passing motorist concerned they were too close to roadway. Advised same of safety concerns.

4:55 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for domestic dispute on Pine Meadow Road. Thursday, 11/3

Suspicious persons in Route 2 rest area. Same moved along.

7:30 a.m. Unknown debris in East Main Street by fire station. Checked same, unable to locate.

1:30 p.m. Illegal dumping at Pocket Saver. Report taken.

Friday, 11/4

12:45 a.m. Suspicious activity on Arch Street in Erving center area. Checked on same.

2:10 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating

a motor vehicle with a revoked license on Route 2. 9:30 a.m. Stood by at West High Street residence for landlord/tenant exchange.

3:00 p.m. Report of a missing dog from North Street. Information taken.

Saturday, 11/5

12:45 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at French King Bowling Center parking lot. Checked same and moved along.

1:30 a.m. Assisted Montague police with domestic disturbance on West Main Street.

3 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence

of alcohol, marked lanes violations, following too close, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle

Sunday, 11/6

1:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a motor vehicle crash on Routes 5 & 10.

3:25 p.m. Suspicious activity at Renovators Supply. Nothing found.

4:30 p.m. Northfield requested assistance with shots fired in the area of Millers Falls Road. Same unfounded.

11:45 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance on Forest Street. Verbal only, report taken.

MUSICAL from page 1

by Justin Begin) who plan to get married. However, showbiz Producer Mr. Feldzieg (Fred Momaney, reminiscent of "I Love Lucy's" William Frawley) is Janet's boss, and he needs her as the headliner for his Feldzieg Follies review.

Feldzieg is more than anxious to have Janet call off the wedding, especially when two bumbling, Bowery Boy type gangsters, (Colin Allen and Eric Allen), posing as singing, dancing pastry chefs, inform Feldzieg that "The Boss" is unhappy the show he's invested in could go bust if Janet gets married and quits. They guarantee to give him 'the treatment' in their song, "Toledo Surprise".

One pun-prone thug tells Feldzieg, "You're in truffle now!"

"And there's muffin you can do about it!" quips the other.

Also weighing on Feldzieg's mind is pretty chorus girl Kitty (Erin Morrissey, who steals our hearts), a vapid, starry eyed, almost-talented wannabe whose

aim is to replace altar-bound Janet.

Man in Chair describes Kitty as the "Oops!" girl. You know, like the "It" girl, only when men see the "Oops" girl, who is so charged with sexual energy men can't help themselves. Oops!

Feldzieg's idea to break up the wedding includes convincing the bumbling Latin Lothario Aldolpho (deftly played by John Iverson, who reminds us of one of Dana Carvey's wacky "Saturday Night Live" characters) to seduce the bride so she will call off the wedding and return to the stage.

Unfortunately, Aldolpho seduces the wrong woman, the Drowsy Chaperone (the lovely Judith Dean Kulp, who gives us a tipsy, Bette Davis, couldn't-give-a-damn rendition with her beautiful voice and effortless style and grace).

By the way, Murphy beds are excellent for making exciting and dramatic exits and entrances!

Best Man George (harried,

spot-on Duane Waters) has his work cut out for him arranging all the details of the wedding, which includes keeping the engaged couple apart on their wedding day. George's brilliant idea is to blindfold the groom so he won't see the bride. The groom has also been sent outside on roller skates so, blind and rolling, he will be too busy to be tempted.

This scenario gives rise to the groom's crooning, carousel-like tune, I'm an "Accident Waiting to Happen." Which it does - when a case of mistaken identity causes Janet to suddenly call off the wedding!

All throughout this musical mayhem, we are always aware that we are in Man in Chair's apartment. Again and again he is stymied in mid-musical-action by his ringing telephone, a skip in the record, a power outage (how topical!), and the hysterical antics of adorable Rod Hart as he inserts himself into the action on stage. He lusts after the oil tycoon, smelling his hair, dances and

sings with the chorus while sipping his juice box, and, in one case, rightfully advises that we not listen to the lyrics of the "Bride's Lament", where she sings about how her guy, her little monkey who she put on a pedestal, done her wrong. A number which Man in Chair says channels Busby Berkeley and...Jane Goodall.

Enter the singing, tap-dancing wait staff and it's all here, comedic plot with on-again, off-again romance, sub-plots, mix-ups, make-ups, an imperturbable butler (Lindel Hart), a wacky, wealthy widow (Michelle Rooks), a lesbian aviatrix (Pat Iverson), the apartment super (Brian McCarthy), and maybe even a wedding - all culminating in a satisfying evening of merriment.

Man in Chair loves a good musical because when characters are in crisis they sing and dance, "Which is SO much more interesting than whining about it!" And, he says, when we're feeling out of sorts, a little bit blue — even in a non-

specific way — a musical can be "just the right little something" to bring us around as we stumble along through life's crazy labyrinth.

This uproarious, boisterous, sidesplitting musical comedy is a rare gem - the likes of which you don't want to miss.

If you DO miss *The Drowsy Chaperone*, you may very well have missed the funniest musical in the Valley this year.

The Drowsy Chaperone continues this weekend on Friday, November 11th, and Saturday, November 12th, at 8:00 p.m., with a matinee on Sunday, November 13th, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under and \$10 for ages 65 and over.

Reservations can be made by calling the Ja'Duke box office at 413-863-0001 or you can purchase your tickets online at www.jaduke.com. The Ja'Duke Black Box Theatre is located just beyond the airport, so fly, run, roller skate, get there anyway you can, and enjoy the show!

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. How can you tell if you have a gambling problem?

Gamblers Anonymous offers the following 20 questions to help people (and state legislators) decide if they have a compulsion to gamble and want to stop. Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions, (although state legislators will simply send them to committee).

1. Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
2. Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?

from MONTAGUE page 6

The Cecil Group from Boston has been selected by a consultant selection committee headed by town planner Walter Ramsey, and approved by the selectboard, to develop a master plan for the proposed Turnpike Road Energy Park, at a cost of \$69,500, not to exceed \$71,000. The money will be taken from funds approved for this purpose by town meeting.

Really, the best way to get advanced notice of upcoming entertainment events in town is to tune into the selectboard meetings, as a lot of fun in town seems to be associated with special entertainment and liquor license approvals. Monday's selectboard meeting was no exception.

First on the calendar, Kimberly Morin, representing the Shea Theater, requested a special

Massachusetts How Can You Tell if You Have Gambling Problem?

3. Did gambling affect your reputation?
4. Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
5. Did you ever gamble to get money with which to pay debts or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
6. Did gambling cause a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
7. After losing did you feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
8. After a win did you have a strong urge to return and win more?
9. Did you often gamble until your last dollar was gone?
10. Did you ever borrow to finance your gambling?
11. Have you ever sold anything to finance gambling?
12. Were you reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?
13. Did gambling make you careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?

14. Did you ever gamble longer than you had planned?
15. Have you ever gambled to escape worry or trouble?
16. Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
17. Did gambling cause you to have difficulty in sleeping?
18. Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
19. Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
20. Have you ever considered self destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

Q. I'm taking a variety of medications and was wondering if any of them can contribute to bruising.

Blood-thinning medications can contribute to bruising. So you might bruise more easily if you take Plavix or Coumadin. Aspirin will have a similar effect. The thinners allow more blood to pool

under your skin. So, if you're taking one of these drugs, what seems like a harmless bump against a coffee table could lead to a nasty bruise.

Some dietary supplements can thin your blood, too. Be careful if you are consuming more than normal amounts of fish oil, ginkgo, ginger and garlic.

A tendency to bruise easily is common when you age. It's especially common among women.

A bruise—also known as a contusion—occurs when the tiny blood vessels under your skin break after being struck. When you bruise, the blood leaks under the skin and leaves a black-and-blue mark. The harder the impact, the bigger the bruise. As the blood is reabsorbed by your body, the bruise goes away.

Q. Do women get color blindness?

Color blindness affects about ten percent of men, but only one percent of women.

Color blindness is the common term used to describe color vision deficiency. The term is misleading, because total color blindness that turns the world into shades of gray is rare.

The most common type of color blindness makes it difficult for people to discriminate between red and green. The next most common form of the deficiency affects the perception of blues and yellows. Those with blue-yellow blindness almost always have red-green blindness, too.

Most people with color blindness inherited it. There is no treatment to correct inherited color blindness. However, there are specially tinted eyeglasses that can help people with deficiencies to discriminate between colors.

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How to be a Healthy Geezer" at www.healthygeezers.com.

one day liquor license for the 'Changes in Latitude' Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band and Parrothead Concert Party on November 26th. The selectboard approved the request.

Morin expressed concerns, however, that a continued power outage (from the recent major snowstorm) for the Shea's stage lights will continue to impede theater events this month. Already the Country Players' presentation of Play On! has been rescheduled to next year due to the outage. The October 29th event Messages from the Other Side, featuring psychic Lisa Lanno, coincided with the snowstorm, and has been rescheduled for November 25th. Morin has been in contact with the power company repeatedly, and Abbondanzio will further investi-

gate the issue, since the Shea Theater is a town-owned building.

Sadly, Morin also noted that the Shea Theater has fallen victim to break-ins and vandalism recently.

For early next month, Christopher Janke, representing Suzee's Laundromat and The Rendezvous, requested a special liquor license for the seventh annual Suzee's Third Street Laundromat Lost and Found Fashion Show, to be held at the Laundromat on Saturday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. until midnight. For tickets, your best bet is to like Suzee's Laundromat's Facebook page.

This year Janke anticipates up to 50 different outfits from the seven design teams – all from materials that were left at the

Laundromat. This year's designers are Sarah Pruitt, Mary Buckley, Anne Harding, Anja Schutz with Atticus Belmonte, Tina Bodensteiner with Sarah Purnell, Rae Teumim, and Ami Podlenski with Sarah Swanson-Damon. Music at the Laundromat will include at least one set by the Hallas Cowboys, and DJ Greg2000 will be at The Rendezvous. Janke says that he is still open to ideas about art installations and music performances for the show at the Laundromat.

And, save the date – the 2012 Franklin County Pumpkinfest will be held on October 20th next year, and Pumpkinfest mastermind Mike Nelson's requests for entertainment and alcohol licenses were approved for 3 – 9:30 p.m. on that day.

The Sawmill River 5K Run

will be held on Saturday, December 31st this year, rather than the traditional New Year's Day date, in order to not conflict with services at the Congregational Church in Montague Center that Sunday. Dobosz reported that the run has been running for about 22 years and lately the number of runners is increasing each year, with 125 runners braving the elements and possibly hangovers to run over six miles last New Year's, 2011. So join the fray, start your resolutions early, find those running shoes under the bed, and get training!

A veteran's memorial ceremony will be held at the Veteran's Memorial park on Avenue A in Turners Falls Friday, November 11th, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XIV

A Modest Proposal

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - For a moment I am not sure what to say. I realize that I don't fully trust Jason.

I take my time answering, not wanting to give him any information.

"What do you think you know about the doppelganger project?" I finally say.

He sighs. Then he says, "That you have one. That you got it from Neil. That you're not telling Case Pearman. Or SpareTime."

"Or who?"
"The company that owns the technology," he says, like I should know this already.

"Well maybe I don't know the name of the company," I say. "Cause I don't know anything about this."

"Maybe that's it," he laughs. When I don't say anything, he says, "OK, so I was right on those four points?"

"Maybe you were," I say cautiously. "What's your angle here,

Jay?"

"Since you so reluctantly revealed your secret," he says, "I'll tell you mine."

"I'm listening."
"You work for Case Pearman."

"That's not a secret."
"The bank doesn't know you have a doppelganger. Probably."

The "probably" makes me feel a little nervous. It didn't take Jason a week to find out about the doppelganger. What if the bank figures it out? Or SpareTime?

Jason looks at me like he's waiting for me to say something. "Right, they don't know," I say. "Probably."

"My people don't think they do," he says. "It's not the kind of thing the bank concerns itself with, you know?"

I say, "The bank doesn't concern itself with much besides making money, it seems to me."

"Exactly."
"OK, so what's your point?" I

ask.
"My point is that there are very few people in this world who are able to be in two places at once and also have access to Case Pearman's computers. There are two of you, to be exact."

"Diana and me," I say, "but, Jay, I don't have access to much."

"You're a programmer," he says.

"Yeah, that's what I'm saying."

"You know something about how the systems work, and it wouldn't be so weird if you were tinkering with things here and there."

"That's not how it works at all, and I would think 'your people' would know that," I say.

"We do."

"Then why are you asking me to do something that I can't do?"

"Because, Resa, you're not the only connection we have at Case Pearman. You're just the only one who can be on two dif-

ferent sides of the continent at once."

"So you're saying?"
"I'm saying that we can get you assigned to the right place so you will have access."

It's beginning to kind of make sense, except for one part. "What, exactly, would I be doing to CP's computers?" I ask.

"We just want to cause a disruption, create a little chaos."

"Who is this we?" I ask.

"Just some of us who think the banks have gotten too powerful."

"Does your organization have a name?" I ask.

"It's not like that. We need to keep a low profile if we're going to get information and distribute it. And stay out of trouble. There are lots of organizations we sympathize with. I think many sympathize with us, too."

"So how are you going to save the world by creating chaos at Case Pearman?"

Continued Next Issue

SCHOOL from pg 12
cussion of the school committee's long term goals. Jeff Singleton of Montague, introduced a document he named a "Long Term Plan for a Viable School District," as a starting point for the discussion, with a "ten point plan" of district goals.

Members agreed to the importance of having a long term plan, but differed on how to proceed.

Langknecht picked Jennifer Waldron, Jeff Singleton, and Sandra Brown to serve on a Regionalization Planning Committee, which may enter into discussions with other towns, such as Erving, about the possibility of broadening membership in the GMRSD. He was interrupted in the appointments by Joyce Phillips who asked to read a statement, objecting to Langknecht's passing over her for the committee.

The next regular school committee meeting date has been changed from November 29 to November 22, 2011 at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



LEGAL NOTICE
The Erving Board of Selectmen will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on a request by **ERVING PAPER MILLS, INC.**, to amend the existing fuel storage license to include the additional storage of 33,000 gallons of liquid propane gas (LP) to the property at 97 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.
The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, on Monday, November 14th, 2011.
Erving Board of Selectmen
Andrew N. Goodwin,
Chariman

from **LEVERETT** pg 12
beaver dam and pond, through the use of an additional 12 inch beaver deceiver.
Additionally, he said he had discussed the need to clean out a culvert beneath Route 63 with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the DOT has agreed to do that. Stratford will clean out the culvert beneath Depot Road as well.
This multi-pronged approach may reduce the pressure on the Bull Hill Road culvert, but Brazeau said the town will attempt to have the larger box culvert permitted and installed there by early spring of next year.
Downstream from Bull Hill, he pointed to another problem

causing the brook to back up, a bridge on the Zach property that was installed too low to the water's surface. Brazeau said negotiations with the Cows Company would be needed in order to rebuild this bridge at a better height, since Cows has a right of way to use that bridge, along with the Zach family.
Bidding the elementary school repair project for a third time, the board struck paydirt. This time, the low bidder - at \$77,200 - lower than any of bids received in earlier attempts to find a qualified contractor to repair the slate, turned out to be Mahan Slate Roofing of Springfield, the company the town had originally wanted to work with on the project. The selectboard awarded

Mahan the bid, and the company proposed to perform some of the most needed repairs before winter, and to complete the project in the spring.
The board will meet with the energy committee on Tuesday to formally adopt a 20% energy reduction plan over the next five years for town buildings, vehicles, and streetlights, as part of Leverett's Green Community application state designation and competitive grant funds.
Fire chief John Moruzzi said the town's new fire engine should be delivered next week.
Elementary school principal Anne Ross received the board's approval for use of the school in January, on a date to be determined, by two LES alumnae who

have been working at a children's home in Kenya. The young women intend to put on a fundraising dinner for the home, with African food and music.
Ross is also seeking donations from community members to replenish the Kimble Trust, established nearly a century ago with the stipulation the trust funds be used to purchase clothing for children in need in Leverett. Ross pointed out the fund had been heavily drawn down in recent years, as the elementary school's population of free and reduced lunch has risen to 34%.
"The need is increasing," said Ross. Contributions to the Kimble Trust can be made care of town hall.



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SUNDAYS in NOVEMBER

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Actomatic sculpture workshop*, ongoing collaborative 3-D sculpture project, 1-3 p.m. Free.

EVERY TUESDAY

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7-9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip and Shultzzy from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW until JANUARY 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artwork by Leonore Alaniz*. Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NOW until NOVEMBER 27th

Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: *Low Tech/No Tech: A Juried Plastic, Pinhole, & Camera-less Show*.

NOW until DECEMBER 18th

The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Ellen Denuto's photographs in The Artist as Art*. Fridays through Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Leverett Library: Original collage illustrations by Judith Ingles, from the *I See*

the Sun children's book series.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Scenes of Turners Falls*, Paintings, Photography, mixed media depicting architecture and people of Turners Falls by artist/photographer Ariel Jones and artist Nina Rossi.



Along the Avenue by Nina Rossi, Painted Ceramic, wood, leather, wire, at Nina's Nook on Avenue A.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, 9:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Coffeehouse presents Last Night's Fun*, Celtic music, 7 p.m.

Athol Town Hall: North Quabbin Films presents *The Guns of Navarone* to commemorate Veterans Day, free, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*, 9:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole pictures presents *Apollo 13*, Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton, Kevin Bacon. Directed by Ron Howard. 1995. Color. PG. 139 min. Music with *Small Change* at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Children's Series, *Nature Printing*, Join Leonore Alaniz and learn about the history of nature printing and the Renaissance technique of imprinting plants, feathers, and shells onto paper and fabric with water soluble, non-toxic inks, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Saloma Miller Furlong* will discuss her new book, *Why I Left the Amish*. Home-baked Amish-style treats will be served. 1-2:30 p.m.

Greenfield: *Double Take Fringe Festival*. Eleven different shows at eleven different sites. All within walking distance of each other 6 p.m. See <http://doubletake.org/> for full schedule.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 6:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *2011 Gear Drive*, bring a coat for a kid, get in free, bring gloves or scarf, \$3, otherwise \$5, hip hop, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, not your father's blues band, high energy guitar based blues, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

Food City, Turners Falls: *An Evening of Theater with Missoula Oblongata*. 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, Old-time square dance with live music. *Jennifer Steckler* calling with *Jeff & Zac*, the twin fiddles of the *New Apocalypsonians*. All are welcome. 7 - 10 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse* featuring *Brian Bender and Friends*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *A Night of Acoustic Music* with *Julia Read, Brooke Brown Saracino, Michael Gundlach, Eben Kling, Nathan Hobbs, Tom Cain, and Michael Metivier*, 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole pictures presents *An Evening with Cady Coleman*. Shelburne's very own NASA astronaut, chemist, & Air Force officer will present slides and videos from her outer space adventures. Music with *Last Night's Fun* at 7 p.m. Presentation at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals Matinee featuring Trevor McSpadden, Pat and Tex LaMountain, and Heather Maloney*, 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 8:30 - 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Farewell Quiznite Quiz*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Poetry reading with *William Benker, Paul Jackmauh, Rachel Adams, Ted Powers*, 7 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners

Falls: *Mineral Collecting*: Join artist *Fred Wilda* of the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Fred also paints watercolors of minerals. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal*, 8 p.m. Free.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dea Dia*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *T.J. Conroy and the Peepers*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, dance party, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Cottonwood*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, eclectic harmonic rock, 9-11 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Una Jensen*, CD release party, 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, Caller: *Tim Van Egmond*, Music: *Frost & Fire*, 7 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse series presents Spook Handy*, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive Show*, featuring *Brian Gillig and Vanessa Brewster's Avalanche and Food*, Issue #1. 4 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals Matinee with Abbie Barrett and the Last Date*, and *Heather Maloney*, 5 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8-10 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Get Sloshed with NY Magazine cocktail columnist*

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Saturday November 12th 7:30 p.m.
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *TFHS Alumni Association Reunion*: 7 - 10 p.m.

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from **WORKERS** pg 1 stopping to clean off the headlamps. Even in the wee hours of the morning, he added, "There was traffic."

"I plowed Dole Road all the way to Bernardston, about 1:30 a.m. A big maple fell right in front of me. It was a maze all night. Everything that fell was full of leaves or came from way up top," said LaClaire, who added side of the road trimming had been effective as far as his crew had been able to reach.

One tree came down on the hill on Main Road, "completely uprooted," and knocked the exhaust manifold off the front end loader, dented the hood, and broke some lights, causing about \$1200 worth of damage. Another casualty of the evening was the new dump truck, which also suffered damage to lights and mirrors from falling trees and limbs, LaClaire said.

The snow ended about 3:30 in the morning, and allowed the department a few hours to get the roads cleared again before day-break.

As dawn came up, LaClaire said, downed power lines caused his crew to close off seven roads in town completely.

"You could get through the debris," said the highway boss. "We immediately went out to make roads accessible to emergency vehicles."

LaClaire said the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) made a bucket truck available to the town for three days starting last Thursday, to help the highway crew clear dozens of hanging trees, often young oaks caught in a tangle of branches or hung up on poles or wires. LaClaire called these looming threats – as many as 50 on one road – "widow makers."

He said the state also provided two saw teams

for three days, through MEMA, to help clear the roads of debris and hanging trees. The sheriff's department detail crews of jail inmates to help chip up the brush.

"We're making strong headway," LaClaire told the board, "but we have three more weeks of clean-up."

Fire chief Gene Beaubien said his department received 31 calls – mainly concerning wires down – during the storm. Although most of the town lost power for some period of time, Beaubien said the safety complex ran on generator power throughout, and the fire department deployed people to the sewer pump station in Riverside to keep that generator fueled until power was restored.

Beaubien said his department conducted welfare checks on a trial list of seniors in town following the storm, and remained in contact with WMECo spokesperson Ken Garber by cell phone to get updates on power restoration estimates.

"Everyone complained about the power company," commented Beaubien, "but considering the extent of the storm I thought they did well."

Police sergeant Chris Redmond, on the other hand, said, "We used the utility's system [for power outages and estimated power restoration] for a while, but it broke down."

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier said from the looks of fresh ruts carved in the turf of the town common, people began to ignore the wire down on Main Road by Slate Library for four days and simply drove around it.

Redmond said one young woman who ignored a barricaded road wound up calling 911 when her car was immobilized by a downed wire wrapped around her side mirror. Fortunately, that

wire was not live at the time, and an emergency line crew was able to quickly extricate her vehicle.

On another note, LaClaire said the multi-colored stripe a crew of inmates from the Franklin County jail painted on the freshly white-washed exterior of the safety complex has been painted over. "I was working all weekend, and everyone who stopped me had a comment about those stripes," said LaClaire.

As if the town had not suffered enough disasters in one week, selectboard member John Ward said he got a wake-up call from newly hired janitor Paul Fahey on Sunday morning, telling him that a pipe was leaking in the town hall basement, which was flooded with about two inches of water. With help from Beaubien and firefighter Mike Crochier, who isolated the problem and replaced the corroded coupling, Ward was able to mop up the flood, and other than wet carpets and some soggy boxes of records, not too much damage resulted.

Town administrator Ray Purington said the replacement of the old boiler at the safety complex will go out to bid this week. That project – which anticipates replacing the single boiler with two smaller, more energy efficient boilers – may cost as much as \$50,000, or \$30,000 more than the town has set aside for the project. But Purington said the town has recently been assured of recovering more than \$14,000 in lost state aid from a supplemental budget appropriation approved by Governor Deval Patrick, which should reduce the amount needed to fund the boiler replacement to about \$16,000. A special town meeting will be scheduled soon to deal with that appropriation.

Also on the energy



JOSEPH A PARZYCH PHOTO

Damage to the town's front loader from a fallen tree in the storm will run to about \$1200, said Mickey LaClaire

front, Purington said energy efficient lighting fixtures are beginning to be installed at the elementary school this week, and the new computerized energy management system at the school will also become operational this week. A crawl space has been discovered underneath the school's auditorium, where radiators have been disconnected from the new heating system due to steam leaks in the pipes, which are buried in a cement slab. The discovery of the crawl space beneath the slab will greatly reduce the cost of restoring heat to that room, Purington said.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources notified the town of its intent to purchase the development rights under the Agricultural Preservation Program of 105 acres of agricultural land on the north side of Munn's Ferry Road, between Grout Road and the river.

Crochier said the land on either side of this parcel is already in the APR program; he called the acreage, "fantastic land."

The board appointed junior firefighter Cody Scopa as a regular fire-

fighter, now that he has turned 18, pending the results of a physical exam.

The board notified the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission of a change in name of the corporate owner of the Gill Tavern, from Second Wind Ventures to the Franklin County Brewing Company, as owners Lissa Greenough and Alden Booth consolidate the Gill Tavern with their other business, the People's Pint, under the same corporate ownership.

Despite the long hours of overtime town employees put in during the recent storm and clean-up, Ward questioned whether town employees should be taking the Friday Veterans Day holiday on Thursday, reducing their work week from the current four days to just three this week. Town hall was closed on Monday and Tuesday last week due to the storm.

Ward and Crochier also questioned town clerk Lynda Hodgson-Mayo about the advisability of using an electronic voting machine, instead of hand counting ballots in upcoming state and national elections. "The more eyes and hands on the ballots, the more comfortable I feel," said

Ward, who said in his opinion the outcome of more than one recent national election involving electronic voting machines resulted in outright fraud. Crochier admitted he was old-fashioned when it comes to hand counting ballots, too.

But Hodgson-Mayo said poll workers can tire by the end of their shift, and produce inaccurate vote totals. She invited the two selectboard members present (Ann Banash is in Florida) to come preview the electronic voting machine before the state primary, to familiarize themselves with how it works.

Hodgson-Mayo also said a different voting machine, mandated by the state to provide for the needs of handicapped voters, had not once been used by a handicapped voter in Gill since it was made a requirement six years ago.

She said the state paid the costs of programming that machine for state elections but for each town election, the town spends approximately \$500 to program the handicapped accessible voting machine.



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