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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 7

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

Leverett Slams Door on Affordable Housing Project

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The Leverett selectboard slammed the door on a planned affordable housing project on Montague Road on Tuesday, declining to approve a \$500 expenditure to hire consultant John Ryan to conduct a builders’ feasibility tour of the nine acre project site south and west of the intersection of Cave Hill Road.

Had the builders signaled an ability to construct ten units of clustered homes on the sloping lot, despite the impediments of nearby wetlands and protruding ledge, and bring those houses in at a price between \$180,000 and \$225,000, with at least some of the units at 80% of prevailing area market rates, Fenna Lee Bonsignore, co-chair of the town’s affordable housing committee, told the selectboard her committee would then have gone forward with the project. The next step would have been to ask the town’s community preservation committee to commit approximately \$600,000, borrowing against the town’s future funding through the local option Community Preservation Act, to install infrastructure at the site, including an access road, a shared septic system, and water supply.

According to the proposed deal see **LEVERETT** pg 5

Native Culture on Display at Turners Falls High School



Urban Thunder, an inter-tribal drum group from the Boston area, performed traditional songs at the Turners Falls High School on Saturday, in an event co-sponsored by the Friends of Wissatinnewag and RiverCulture.

BY DAVID DETMOLD – More than two dozen Native Americans from Northeastern tribes gathered for a “mini-powwow” at the Turners Falls High School on Saturday, according to Friends of Wissatinnewag president Cris Stormfox Carl, “to thank the school, and to thank the community for their support,” in ending the use of the Tomahawk Chop fight song at TFHS football games. The event was co-sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

But only six of the 18 students in William Matthews’ Native American Studies class at the high school class showed up to

join town and school officials and community members at the event.

By the end of the afternoon, as Doug Harris, Preservationist of Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, stood in the center of the second floor gym, facing a cardboard sign on the wall saying “We’re the Indians. We’re #1!” to speak about the Native history of the area, only one Turners Falls High School student remained in the

room. Last year, when the issue of whether to allow the Turners Falls football team – named the

“I ask for guidance to speak words to you and to your fellow students. You walk with the future in your hands. I would be honored to be able to return to speak to more of your fellow students.”
- Doug Harris
Narragansett Indian Tribe

Indians, and featuring the profile of an Native American with a Plains Indian-style eagle feather

headdress as the team mascot – and their supporters to continue using a hand motion imitating the blow of a tomahawk at football games, the “overwhelming majority” of high school students supported the Tomahawk Chop, according to former student council president Josh Gammon.

In an article written last December for the *Reporter*, Gammon quoted senior Thomas Field, a member of both the football and basketball teams, as being bewildered by the negative connotations of ‘the Chop’ and hurt feelings among local Native Americans. Field said, “I think it’s ridiculous that they are offended that we go out and play our hardest in their honor.”

In speeches at a hearing before the school committee, on Monday, January 12th of this year, many other Tomahawk Chop supporters, cheerleaders, and team members spoke of their intent to honor Native Americans by use of the team mascot and the fight song.

Sam Colton, then a senior, said, “There may be an opportunity for them [Native Americans] to come into our school for a day,” and urged the school committee to allow the team to continue using the Tomahawk Chop because, “We need to look at the educational opportunity of keeping

this.”
Janice Gammon, mother of see **NATIVE** pg 8

Theater Review

The Country Players Present:

Neil Simon’s “Rumors” – a Delightful Romp at the Shea Theater



PHOTO BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The cast of Rumors as they took a bow. From left to right, Ryan Williams, Danielle Canedy, Mark Hildreth, Christen Rosinski, Paul Rothenberg, Jean Koeser and Tim Gorts; (not pictured): Louise Krieger.

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
TURNERS FALLS – The Country Players’ production of Neil Simon’s *Rumors*, now playing at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, is a raucous romp through the lies and misunderstandings that confound a group of seeming adults at a dinner party. Performed by a talented group of actors with a facility for humor and comic timing, this show will divert you and delight you, and let you laugh at the foolishness of the human condition.

No one lies in this play out of malice, but the lies grow and multiply until they verge on the criminal. At that point, all the characters scramble to protect themselves, but in the end save themselves by invention, creative story-telling, and a willingness to suspend disbelief, the very definition of a successful night out at the theater.

The setting of the play is a dinner party to celebrate the anniversary of the hosts, who are absent. As each couple arrives, they react to the situation based on pre-suppositions which are themselves

based on rumors and gossip, pretending everything is fine when obviously it is not, and panicking when the course of events threatens to cast them into jeopardy.

The show starts with just one couple on stage, and builds to the full cast. Each subsequent entrance adds to the hilarity. There are pratfalls, quick repartee, friction between the men and women, suspicions based on suspected indiscretions, and growing confusion, until everyone on stage is yelling, running about, and arguing in full blown panic.

Lenny Ganz, played by Paul Rothenberg, a truly gifted actor, closes the action with a long monologue full of verve and spiced with wit. As each idea occurs to him, he blurts out the improbable in a way that makes it seem inspired. He rendered the audience on Saturday night hysterical with laughter.

All of the cast members gave excellent performances, and a few stood out as exceptional. Jean Koester, playing Claire

see **THEATER** pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK

I'm Your Girl



Xena

My name is Xena and I'm a seven-year-old female mastiff mix in need of a good home. Calm, sweet and snuggly. I'm like a giant teddy bear - I'm over 100 pounds! I am an ideal dog for someone who is home most of the time and wants a low maintenance, easy companion. Indoors, I am calm and quiet, but outside I perk up and charge right ahead to go explore. I am a big girl and very strong. I don't have the best leash manners, but it's not too late to teach me! I'll be a great dog for some lucky family. I can live with children over 8. No dogs or cats please. I prefer to be the only (pet) love in your life! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Children's Thanksgiving Program

TURNERS FALLS - Make your own Thanksgiving Table Decoration! On Saturday, November 14th, at 10:30 a.m., we'll be making table decorations for Thanksgiving out of a variety of art materials. For

inspiration, we'll look at books with colorful harvest scenes.

This is a great opportunity for adults and children to work together on a creative project with Ruth O'Mara. For more information, call 863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Documentary Film and Poetry Reading

On Sunday, November 15th, at 3:00 p.m., the documentary film "Beyond Belief," will be shown. The film follows the lives of two 9/11 widows from Boston who connect with war widows in Afghanistan.

A poetry reading with Mary Leur and Margaret Lloyd will take place at the Leverett Library on Tuesday, November 17th, from 7 to 8 p.m.

For more info, call (413)548-9220.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Middle Eastern Song and Dance

Families with children 10 years of age and younger, and the general public are invited to explore world music in a fun, interactive way at an afternoon of Middle Eastern song and dance with Ed Hines, on Sunday, November 15th, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hines will demonstrate string, wind and percussion instruments of the Middle

East and teach several easy folk dances.

A sampling of Middle Eastern treats will be provided, and attendees are welcome to bring a favorite dish to share. Please call Gillian Budine at (413) 423-3180, at the Community Network for Children, or email budine@erving.com to let us know you are coming!

Creature Surfaces at Wendell Library

The Creature from the Black Lagoon is coming to the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, November 14th, 7:30 p.m. Free admission (but seating is limited), as part of the monthly series of science fiction and horror movies on or about the new moon at the Wendell Free Library.

Not since the beginning of

UFO Workshop Surfaces in Lake Pleasant

LAKE PLEASANT - And now, for those of you whose interest was piqued by last Sunday's showing of the keynote speech from the 17th annual national conference on Unidentified Flying Objects in Laughlin, NV at the Wendell Free Library, and for anyone else interested, the National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor an introductory workshop on UFOs on Saturday, November 21st, from 2 to 4 p.m. at

Thompson Temple, across from the post office in Lake Pleasant.

A scientific expedition searching for fossils along the Amazon River discover a prehistoric Gill-Man in the legendary Black Lagoon. The explorers capture the mysterious creature, but it breaks free! Be there Saturday to find out the rest.

The workshop format will include: review and discussion of UFO books; a short movie produced by the late John Mac, a Harvard University professor and psychiatrist, and sharing of information regarding personal UFO experiences.

Workshop facilitator will be Kenneth Hopkins of Shutesbury. Hopkins has been researching UFOs since 2002. Phone home.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - Nov 16th to 20th

GILL / MONTAGUE
Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site Manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call 863-9357. Feel free to call the senior center for information on any programs.

SHINE will be here at 1:00 p.m. on November 23rd to talk about Medicare changes. Don't miss the Senior Bazaar on Saturday 11/21. Get a head start on your holiday shopping and enter our annual raffle.

Monday, Nov. 16th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
5:00 p.m. Triad Dinner (tickets at Senior Center)

Tuesday, Nov. 17th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday, Nov. 18th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, Nov. 19th
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, Nov. 20th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Bazaar Set Up (no Scrabble)

Saturday, Nov. 21st
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Holiday Bazaar at the Senior Center

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For



Dakota Roberts of Turners Falls took advantage of unseasonably warm weather this weekend to play guitar in Unity Park.

3rd Annual Wendell Subscription Drive and Thanksgiving Raffle

For Wendell residents, this is an especially good week to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, thanks again to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. As in past years, these supporters have put up funds to purchase great raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added by November 18th will get their name entered to win.

First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg Farm. And there will be *five!* second prize winners, each of whom will receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

New subscribers in Wendell will also be able to take advantage of a discounted subscription price. Get the next 26 weeks of the *Montague Reporter* delivered to your door for \$15, five dollars off the regular price. You'll get news from the Wendell selectboard, Wendell town meetings, local profiles and community features, news

from the Wendell Free Library, field notes from the Wendell energy committee, listings of entertainment at the Deja Brew and the Coffeehouse, poetry readings, and even the occasional Wendell police log! Not to mention news, opinion, cultural events and features from the nearby towns.

All that, plus the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to keep the Voice of the Villages growing and serving your community!

Send your name and address with a check for \$15 to the *Montague Reporter*, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, and your name will be entered to win the raffle. We must receive your subscription postmarked by November 18th in order for your name to be entered in the drawing.

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info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the center for information on the Flu Clinic and Pneumonia shots.

Monday, Nov. 16th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
Tuesday, Nov. 17th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, Nov. 18th
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group
Thursday, Nov. 19th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, Nov. 20th
9:00 a.m. Bowling

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.



Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

TURNERS & ELSEWHERE
The QUEST After School Program is sponsoring a **Family Game Night** at Great Falls Middle School on Wednesday, November 18th, from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. A multitude of games such as Settlers of Catan, Go, Stratego, Chess, and Apples to Apples will be provided by Worlds Apart Games in Amherst. Admission is free; pizza, beverages and baked goods will be available for purchase. For more information on this event contact Gail Merkel, Montague site coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center, at gmerkel@gmrtd.org.

Employees Elizabeth Nash and Alice Yang at the **Northeast Foundation for Children** have been picking Jonagold apples from the trees in front of their building on Avenue A in Turners Falls and bringing them over to the Gill-Montague Senior Center and the Fourth Street food pantry at the Franklin Area Survival Center. This is a fine example of community institutions and natural resources all working together.

If you happen to have an apple or pear tree on your property and just can't keep up with the amount of fruit it bears, then bringing that produce to a food pantry or senior center is a wonderful idea.

Also there is a community meal each Monday evening starting at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church on 7th Street in Turners Falls and at the Franklin County Emergency Shelter at 15 Farren Avenue in Montague City. The community meals are always grateful for donations.

The **Wendell Library** is starting a new **teen program**, and they are very much hoping for a donation of a ping pong table. If any one has one lying around then contact Jordan at jordanfunke@gmail.com. The teen program is planning on buying some new game systems, but they would not mind a donation of some old-school Nintendo games.

The **Montague Business Association** will be hosting its second annual Christmas Tree Decorating and lighting party at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, December 5th, from 3 to 5:00 p.m. The MBA is presently looking for groups or individuals who would like to perform a set of holiday music during the celebration. Bring your own hand warmers!

The MBA is also looking for someone to donate a large evergreen tree to be set up in the band shell and remain there for the holiday season. Anyone want to be Santa Claus for the day and bring smiles to a bunch of families? If you have an interest in any of these areas, contact Pam at (413) 522-7727.

"Wild About Turkeys" will be the presentation at the **Great Falls Discovery Center** on Saturday, November 21st, starting at 1:00 p.m., 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Learn why wild turkeys were reintroduced into this area, and what roles they play in the local ecology. Why did Benjamin Franklin want the turkey to be our national bird? The one real turkey of an idea "Old Ben" ever had. Join Tasha Daniels at the Discovery Center and find out all about turkeys.

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

BY JOHN FURBISH – Winter is fast approaching, and downtown Turners Falls' sidewalks are rolling up their colorful leaves and flowers. But right now is as good a time as any for people to walk through the streets of Turners ringing bells and practicing **l a i m i n g**, "Come on downtown! Come on down to the RHC!"

The RHC (Round Here Café) is guaranteed to provide a spot of cheer and warmth as the rest of the world turns drab and dreary.

The "here" in Round Here Café is as obvious as its newly painted exterior façade, the "open" flag and the daily special message boards calling you over from the central intersection of town at Avenue A and 3rd. The "here" could also refer to the café's kitchen use of locally-grown ingredients and the way its sandwiches are named after local folks. "Here" can also be the expanding mural of "Midnight 'Round Turners'" on the café's south wall, a collaborative project based on photos taken by folks who live 'round "here". Round here seems to be the café's motto, as in: "Everybody come 'round here'."

You'll find kibitzers standing 'round a pair of chess players, a group of young adults at a board game 'round a table, listeners grouped 'round a singing guitarist: you get the picture.

And speaking of pictures, the

FURBISHING THE AVE

The Café that Looks Like a Gallery

café's walls are always a gallery of portraiture, served up by hostess and artist Nayana Glazier. Her monochromatic work is stunning, solemn, gray and blue,

the RHC's hours of operation, 7 to 3 on weekdays and 8 to 12 on Saturdays. The breakfast offerings are delicious; check the daily specials posted outside and in. The hash browns, Diemand egg omelets, and breakfast burritos are all made from scratch. You can embellish your own omelet. Or perhaps you'd like just cold cereal or hot oatmeal, a bagel, toast, an Adams donut.

Lunch servings can begin at 7 a.m., and sandwiches can be made with bakery bread (perhaps toasted) and wraps. A Thanksgiving-sounding "Pilgrim's Leftover" is served year-'round, and RHC's New York-style reubens are unique in Turners. Four sandwiches are named after Kellie, Mik, Monte and the Bridger, and they may have a hint of breakfast to them. Lunches can include soup, chowder,

pretzels, chips. Beverages are the most ordered items, and they run the gamut from bottled water, soda, juices, and seasonal hot apple cider, to 20 varieties of hot tea, iced teas, chai, cocoa, see **GALLERY** page 13



Amanda Abramson welcomes customers to the Round Here Café on Avenue A

featuring intimate angles and odd perspectives on the lonely crowd. These you must see for yourself.

The "café" part of RHC is quite distinct, for 4-and-40 hours a week. Breakfasts and lunches are served anytime daily during

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THE COST OF WAR

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

MONTAGUE – This is a day to remember so many who have served and are now serving in our military. It is also a day that marked the end of a war – World War I – and the return home of all soldiers surviving that war. If I may present a picture here from just down the street, in October, [soldiers memorial trustees chair] Al Cummings and I were waiting for the high school Booster Day parade to step off when a Booster supporter paused to share a few words with Al on her way to one of the class floats.

After she went on, Al told me that the day before she had said farewell to her son, who is now deployed in Afghanistan, and that she had spent the entire rest of that day in tears.

It is a poignant and pain filled picture. Yet here she was the next day, out in her community helping high schoolers with the high school booster parade.

To my mind, she exemplifies the daily ordinary courage and perseverance that individuals and families demonstrate when their loved ones are deployed to war. Keeping life going here while waiting, hoping for the best and dreading the worst.

And when the soldier comes home, after one, two, or three tours of duty, they continue to be his or her front line support through the numerous adjustments and changes his or her war experiences have wrought, be they psychological, social, or physical.

Let us remember that war creates untold suffering, untold because such ultimate suffering defeats our power to express it. So we must remember and recognize the sacrifice of time soldiers spend in battle, of loss of possibilities, and constructive daily life for families of soldiers, and ultimately the sacrifice of soldiers' lives or limbs which diminishes the lives of his or her loved ones as well. We must recognize these heavy costs and never take them for granted.

Patricia Pruitt, chair of the Montague selectboard, delivered this speech to the 60 veterans, their families and supporters who gathered at the veterans memorial on Avenue A in Montague on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to honor Veterans Day, on the 91st anniversary of the armistice of the War to End All Wars.

Eric Nassa: Bring our Troops Home from Afghanistan

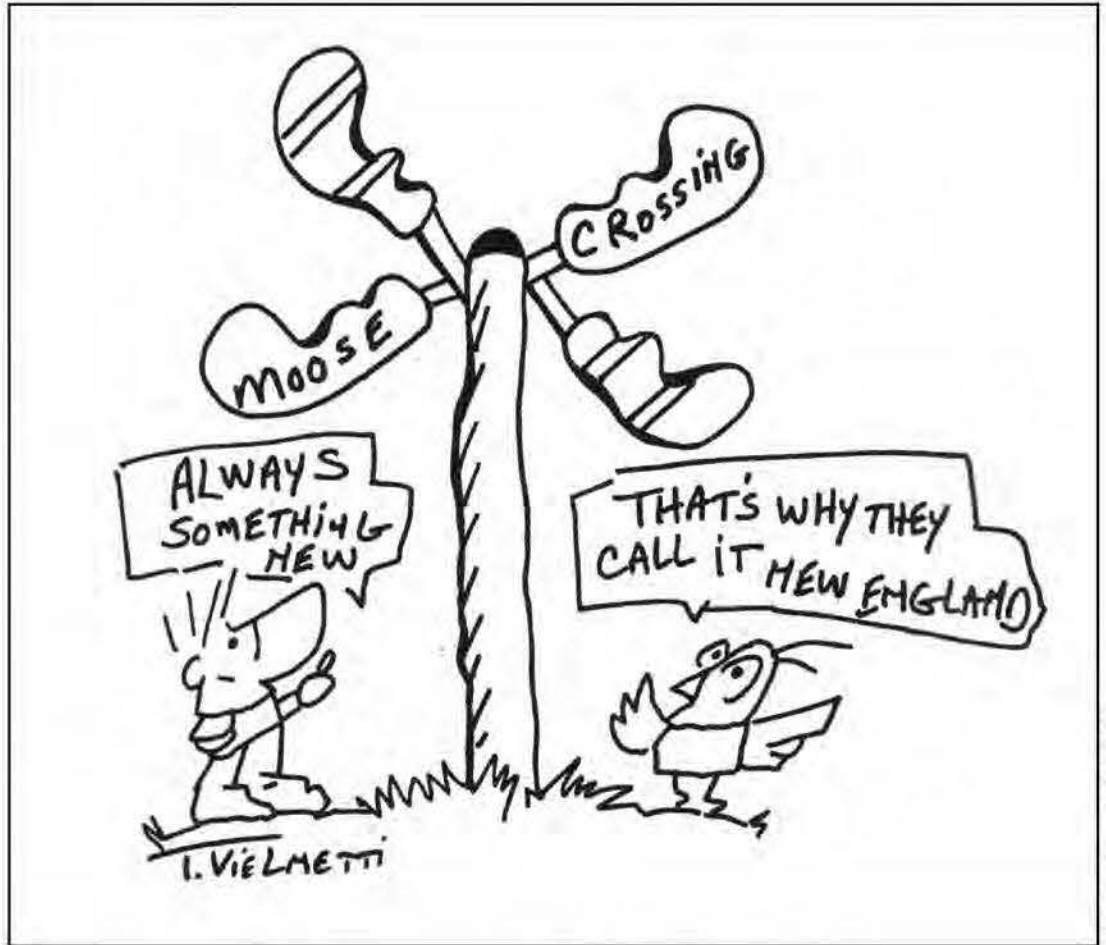
One week ago, Congressman Eric Nassa (D-NY) called for the U.S. to bring the troops home from Afghanistan. In Nassa's words:

"My fellow Americans, the time to bring this war to a conclusion is now and we must stand with a clear voice and demand it. The war in Afghanistan has lasted five times longer than World War I and twice as long as World War II. When one third of [Afghan president] Hamid Karzai's ballots were thrown out for voting fraud and Abdullah Abdullah declined the runoff election due to the rampant corruption in the system, the world saw what we already knew – it is simply impossible to impose a democracy on a nation

that does not want it.

"Enough is enough. It is time to bring our troops home. More than any other issue that I have studied, sought counsel on, and drawn from my own life's experience for my own guidance since becoming a member of the United State's Congress, the expansion of the war in Afghanistan has drawn my late night focus.

"There, in the quiet of the office, I have arrived at the inevitable conclusion that the deployment of additional troops in Afghanistan and the continuation of this conflict is not in the best interests of our nation and is in fact on a par with the potential error of the size of our initial invasion in Iraq."



TIM VIELMETTI CARTOON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Irony of the 85%

The United States has had a mixed public-private system of health care provision since the late 1940s. It is not perfect, but it does cover about 85% of the population. The trick now is to cover the other 15%, and to try to get costs under control.

Yet every time we try to go the "extra mile," an emotional ideological debate erupts over "government controlled" health care versus the free market. Why should this be necessary, when clearly our current national system contains elements of both?

Part of the answer is that everyone on all sides has decided that universal coverage is a monumental task and that all questions regarding public versus private health care must be resolved before we get there. This dovetails with the ideological tenor of the current political culture.

But the other part of the problem involves a certain irony – the fact that we already cover 85% makes the final yardage that much harder to travel. This reality exacerbates the excessively political dynamic. Opponents of so-called "big government" have been very effective at scaring a large portion of the 85% with the idea that any significant change to the status quo will undermine their own health care. This works because, in fact, most people have good health coverage and do not want it reformed too much.

Meanwhile, supporters of national health care have not been able to mobilize their considerable constituency because, well, most of their constituency is also part of the 85%. They are generally in liberal interest groups (unions, human services

organizations etc) who, while supporting universal coverage, mostly spend their time defending their own collective bargaining agreements and programs.

As a result, opponents of "government controlled health care" mobilize their supporters (see Tea Party activists) while the liberals on the left stay at home complaining about abortion (see Massachusetts U.S. Senate candidate Martha Coakley) or that American reform does not lead to the Canadian health care system.

The political center in Congress is intimidated and will not vote for change. 1994 redux? Hopefully not, but the political dynamic is not encouraging.

– Jeff Singleton
Montague

Joint Declaration OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL COMMITTEE CAUCUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Developed and ratified November 7th, 2009 at the Franklin County School Committee Summit, in Greenfield, with 25 members of the caucus attending.

Summary Statement

As members of the Franklin County School Committee Caucus, we, the elected school committee for this district, declare, in solidarity with our neighboring school districts, that:

- We will work collaboratively with other districts in our area to develop and implement joint strategic plans to help reduce

costs, and to preserve the community character of schools.

- We will work cooperatively to establish and meet goals that continuously improve educational and administrative efficiencies, while increasing educational opportunities.

- We will work jointly to design programs and systems to benefit all schools in our area while ensuring that students have a variety of excellent educational options.

- We will participate cooperatively with other school committees in a shared advocacy and support body that will help us achieve these important goals.

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Open House at Montague Integrative Health

BY ANNE HARDING
MONTAGUE CENTER - Celebrating their first year together, the practitioners at Montague Integrative Health (MIH) hosted an informative and delicious open house at their Greenfield Road offices on Sunday, November 8th.

One food highlight of the event was Diana Allen's "pumpkin pie" which featured a coconut, date, pecan crust with a filling of pureed butternut squash, dates, and spices - sugar free and uncooked - causing some visitors to cringe before politely taking a forkfull. Many became converts to the raw food movement after a single bite.

Allen is the nutrition specialist of the group, which also includes massage therapist/yoga instructor Nancy Paglia, naturopathic physician Dr. Emily Maiella, and chiropractor Dr. Ellen Mitnowsky.

Interested in nutrition most of her life, Allen worked during the 1990s for Teri Kerr - founder of Shelburne Falls-based Pioneer Nutritional Formulas. Inspired by her mentor, she returned to school and graduated with a master's degree in human nutrition from the U. of Bridgeport.

Allen is nationally board-certified as a nutrition specialist by the American College of Nutrition. She takes pride in the

schooling she voluntarily undertook in a field that does not necessarily require certification. Allen operates the Community Superfoods Store, which provides specialty nutrient dense natural foods (more information can be found at the www.eat2evolve.com).

There is a philosophy within the MIH group of acquiring training whether required or not. Dr. Emily Maiella is a licensed naturopathic physician - this means she graduated from an accredited four-year doctoral program and passed a national licensing board exam (after earning a pre-med undergraduate degree from UMass). In many states, that would qualify Maiella as a primary care physician. Massachusetts is the only state in New England that does not license naturopathic doctors as primary care physicians - that means Maiella cannot accept most insurance plans.

The lack of standardization in Massachusetts is a frustration for Maiella, who graduated from a rigorous course of studies at Bastyr University in Seattle. Her training as a naturopathic primary care physician involved the same basic training as a conventional primary care physician in the sciences like anatomy, physiology and biochemistry, as well as interpretation of traditional diagnostics including lab work and

images. Maiella believes the two medical paths might yield a similar diagnosis, with different treatments. Her initial interviews with patients investigate the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual causes of illness, and treatment modalities can include: homeopathy, botanical remedies, nutrition, and lifestyle changes.

This holistic view - seeking to treat patients for their long range well-being rather than immediate relief of symptoms - is consistent with other MIH members'.

Dr. Ellen Mitnowsky is the resident chiropractor - the only discipline in the group that consistently accepts insurance coverage in Massachusetts. The path to chiropractic for Mitnowsky began with a general interest in holistic health and the relationship between lifestyle imbalances and their impact on wellness. She has studied a variety of treatment forms including Japanese shiatsu massage, zero balancing, and reconnection healing. She is even certified to treat small animals with chiropractic adjustments.

Mitnowsky likes to work with patients to help them sort out the various facets of their symptoms. Regardless of the physical, emotional, dietetic or spiritual roots of their issues, Mitnowsky often uses a form of manual cervical traction to relax the neck (and

thus the patient) prior to making chiropractic adjustments. Relieving the subluxations or kinks in the spinal column is important to general well-being and encourages the flow of energy and information throughout the body.

Massage therapist Nancy Paglia believes MIH members were drawn together by a deep interest in personal growth that fosters their ability to assist their clients' journeys toward better health. She has been teaching yoga and administering therapeutic massage for ten years in this idyllic site adjacent to the Montague Book Mill. Her specialties include Swedish massage, Polarity Therapy, pregnancy massage, reflexology and relaxation based yoga.

Paglia moved to the area from New Jersey 20 years ago, after graduating from Trenton State College with a masters in health education. Her focus was stress management through yoga and

massage, and her early career was spent developing corporate wellness programs for the likes of ATT and Metropolitan Life.

Both massage and yoga are broadly oriented to helping people relieve stress and improve their sense of inner peace and general health. It was interesting to find so many disciplines under one roof with so many common goals. The aura of mutual support was evident - both between practitioners and amongst visitors.

As Allen said, "Support is critical to successfully maintain lifestyle changes surrounding health issues." Helping patients to understand their own bodies and participate in their own care decisions is important to all the MIH members. They can be reached at 413-367-2257.



Diana Allen, Nutrition Specialist; Dr. Emily Maiella, Naturopathic Family Medicine; Dr. Ellen Mitnowsky, Chiropractor; Nancy Paglia, Massage Therapy and Yoga

LEVERETT from pg 1

with landowner CowI's Lumber, the land would have been donated to the town, or to a non-profit entity established by the town to administer a lottery and determine qualified buyers for the homes, with preference given for local residents and seniors. In return, CowI's would retain two building lots, presumably to sell at market rates, and be able to access the infrastructure improvements on the parcel.

Approximately \$21,000 of the \$35,000 town meeting designated for the purpose of developing affordable and senior housing in Leverett has already been spent to work with consultants and to create a topographic survey of the Montague Road land, along with a \$10,000 planning grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (MDHCD),

Bonsignore said. Nevertheless, the selectboard on Tuesday declined to approve the further \$500 expenditure for a builders' tour.

The town of Leverett currently has zero units of affordable housing, according to state measures. By comparison, the neighboring town of Montague maintains an inventory of 10.3% affordable housing, according to data provided by MDHCD.

"I feel this is not a viable route to go down," said board member Peter d'Errico, "given the kind of money that's involved [for infrastructure] and still not having a house. Whether builders say in 2009 they can do it doesn't mean they can do it in 2012. There are too many variables beyond our control."

Julie Shively said, "I go back and forth with it. I don't want to assign CPA funds for the next 20 years to one project."

According to community preservation committee chair Laura Kahn, Leverett presently has about \$500,000 in unencumbered CPA funds on hand, with an additional \$77,570 set aside in an affordable housing trust fund. At least 10% of the town's CPA funds must be spent on affordable housing, according to the enabling legislation approved by town meeting in 2002. The CPA funds are generated by a 3% tax on local real estate transactions, which have so far been matched 100% by state funds. Other approved uses for these funds include open space and historic preservation.

Shively sought to set up a meeting between the community preservation committee, the affordable housing committee, and the selectboard to discuss the proposed Montague Road project, but she said on Tuesday the community preservation commit-

tee had declined to hold such a meeting in the absence of firm financials.

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau had attempted to generate a dialogue at the October 20th special town meeting on the Montague Road project, to gauge the town's support for the plan, but coming at the end of a two hour meeting, the lengthy presentation by the affordable housing committee was punctuated by the departure of about half the 80 voters assembled, and left no time for discussion before the moderator called the meeting to a halt. Absent an indication of the town's support, Brazeau said he was unwilling to commit any more funds to the project.

Shively made a motion to spend the \$500 for the builders' tour of the Montague Road land, saying, "The end vision is beautiful, but the fiscal reality has me concerned." Her motion failed to

find a second from the other members of the board.

Bonsignore, whose committee has worked for more than a decade to determine a suitable affordable housing project in town, said, "I recommend giving it [the task of creating affordable housing in Leverett] back to the selectboard. We gave it ten years. We couldn't do it. It is unfair to ask any committee to do what you asked us to do. I'd ask the selectboard to take it very, very seriously and recognize we need some changes on affordable housing in this town."

After the meeting, Bonsignore said, "It seems extremely foolish on the part of the selectboard, when \$500 would have let us know whether a builder would be able to put up affordable housing there. I think back on when I moved to town with my family in

see LEVERETT pg 14

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LENDER REC



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

BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS ERVING - In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the U.S. campaign in Europe in WWII, the *Montague Reporter* will follow the men of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion as they moved through France, Belgium and Germany from their landing in Normandy in June 1944 to VE Day on May 8th, 1945. Donald Ross, father of Jan Ross of Erving, served with the 300th.

The 300th traveled northeast across the Belgian border to Modave, Belgium in September and established a massive engineer dump with mostly bridging equipment that stretched for almost a mile. Headquarters was established in the Chateau de Modave. Chateau de Modave dated back in history to the

The 300th Series: Dispatches from Belgium October - November, 1944

1200s. The Chateau evolved over several centuries. Although it had some older architectural elements, including a medieval keep, it owed its 1944 appearance to Count Jean-Gaspard-Ferinand de Marchin who restored it between 1652 and 1673.

There was almost continuous heavy rain with mud everywhere in Modave. It was slippery and deep and anything caught in it needed to be towed out. The third platoon of Co. C of the 300th was sent to Nijmegen, Holland to guard a large bridge over the Waal River during the failed British Operation Market Garden in October.

Don Richter of the 300th described his bridge building experience in Belgium. "Early one morning, likely in October 1944, Company B received orders to load our trucks with enough bridging material to construct a Floating Bailey Bridge

across the Meuse River near Huy, Belgium. All went well until nearing the end of the exercise when a piece of timber (balk) was carried out to the construction site and found to be too short. Final construction was embarrassingly held up.

"Sgt. Brod, Third Platoon Sgt. called out to a soldier of low rank, Don Richter, to 'go get a balk stretcher so that we could finish the work.' Richter took off on the double asking here and there where he could find a 'Balk Stretcher.' Brod ordered another soldier to 'hurry and get a balk the right length' which was done and the work finished.

"When poor Don Richter

returned to the construction site reporting that he could not find a 'balk stretcher' anywhere he was amazed to see that the bridge had been completed without use of 'balk stretcher' in his absence. Brod told Richter that at least he had learned that there was not any damn 'balk stretcher' anywhere in the U.S. Army."

The Siegfried Line, also known as the West Wall, was a line of German defense developed early in the war beginning in 1938. Hitler was planning actions against Czechoslovakia and Poland and the line would provide a defensive fortified zone that could facilitate offensive action.

The West Wall began with a barrier of anti-tank ditches and concrete "Dragon Teeth" anti-tank obstacles. The dragon teeth were of various heights - some up to six feet tall. They often graduated in height along the depth of the line. Prior to the Normandy invasion, the West Wall was stripped of anything



Don Richter of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion

removable such as wire obstructions, armored doors, gun mounts and armored fittings to be used to equip the coast against an anticipated Allied invasion. When the German troops retreated into Germany in September, 1944, the West Wall was overgrown and abandoned. The Dragon Teeth and the bunkers still provided defense for the Germans and plenty of demolition and removal work for engineers as they cleared the path for the advancing Allied troops.

In the fall of 1944, the U.S. First Army, supported by the 300th Engineers, advanced toward the German border along the Siegfried Line. The Germans had already lost France, Belgium and much of the Netherlands and see **DISPATCHES** page 14



The Siegfried Line along the Belgium-German border

Veterans Day Observed in Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On the sidewalk in front of the veterans memorial on Avenue A, the Marine Color Guard of the Oak Ridge League gathered in their bright red jackets on Wednesday, against a backdrop of American flags and maple trees with their last yellow leaves fluttering and falling in the chilly wind. Another Veterans Day had come to Montague with America still at war: eight years on in Afghanistan, six years in Iraq.

Soldiers memorial trustees chair Al Cummings called the solemn gathering together with a moment of silence for the 12 soldiers and one civilian gunned down at Fort Hood in Texas, and

the 30 soldiers and civilians wounded, allegedly by a Muslim army psychiatrist about to be deployed to the Afghanistan war.

The Turners Falls High School chorus sang "God Bless America."

Brian San Soucie, a member of the trustees, called on the crowd to "acknowledge not only our brave soldiers overseas, but also veterans in support roles, and the veterans here from past wars who defended the freedom we have today."

Trustees vice chair John Murphy asked, "Who is the veteran?" And answered by saying he is the cop on the beat, the bar-room loudmouth, the POW who

went away one person and came back another, or didn't come back at all, the Marine drill sergeant who molded Marines out of common clay, the parading warrior who pins on his medal with prosthetic hands, the soldier buried in the tomb of the unknown soldier. "He is the old guy bagging groceries in the supermarket," so slowly, "who helped liberate the Nazi death camps and wishes his wife was still alive to hold him when the night terrors come."

The veteran, Murphy concluded, is "nothing more than the finest testimony to the greatest nation that has ever been. Whenever you see someone who

served, lean over and say 'Thank you.'"

State senator Stan Rosenberg assured the crowd Massachusetts was doing everything it could in the midst of tough financial times. He said he hoped services lost in the recent round of budget cuts at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke would be temporary, and outpatient services expanded at the Leeds VA to cover the gap for area veterans in the meantime. He

read a proclamation from governor Deval Patrick praising the great sacrifice and contribution of veterans who served our coun-



Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Stan Rosenberg on Avenue A on Veterans Day

try. Steve Kulik said the state was expanding services to homeless veterans, at a time when their

see **VETERANS** page 14

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Approves ESCo Funds

BY DAVID DETMOLD – On Monday, the Gill selectboard approved spending up to \$2500 from the town's building maintenance fund to cover the expected cost of an investment grade audit of town buildings to be conducted by Siemens Corporation, the Energy Service Company (ESCo) contracted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to perform energy upgrades for towns and school districts in Franklin County. Gill will only have to spend the \$2500 if the town decides not to go forward with the energy performance contract with Siemens.

In that case, selectboard member John Ward thought it would be to the town's advantage to have a detailed energy audit of town buildings for future reference, and he called the six-cents-a-square-foot price on the investment grade audit a bargain.

Siemens will look at cost and energy saving upgrades to the town hall, the Slate Library, the public safety complex, the Riverside municipal building, and perhaps the Gill Elementary School. The town would like to include the school in their energy performance contract, because of concerns the aging boiler could break down without warning, but at past meetings discussing the matter, Siemens' representative, Roland Butzke, said the Gill-

Montague Regional School District would have to contract for improvements to the building they lease from the town, since the district pays the utility bills there. The question of whether the town can include the Gill Elementary School in with their energy performance contract is being explored.

If the town does agree to go forward with the energy improvements, Claire Chang, a member of the energy committee and finance committee, told the selectboard Siemens would guarantee savings on utilities sufficient to pay for the improvements over the course of 20 years, but Siemens is no longer offering to help the town arrange financing for the work.

Therefore, Chang told the board, it is still possible for the town to get in on a state grant from the Department of Energy Resources, using federal stimulus funds, to provide up to \$150,000 to help defray the cost of the project. With the deadline for that grant coming up in about a month, the selectboard authorized Chang to work with town administrator Tracy Rogers on the grant application.

In other news, selectboard chair Nancy Griswold noted she had been temporarily disqualified from voting as an assessor, since she had not taken the required

assessor's class this year due to a leg injury. She will now be able to take the class at home, and will soon be qualified to vote with the assessors again.

Tracy Rogers reported the town expects to lose about \$99 in library funding from the recent round of mid-year state budget cuts, along with \$5,526 in payment in lieu of taxes funds for a piece of state-owned land along Route 2.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien brought a damaged Siamese Clapper valve in to show the selectboard, to prepare them for a request for replacement. He said a \$600 expenditure would also be needed to replace sensors on a defective multi-gas meter.

Chang told the board she had found a local contractor willing to help reglaze the windows on the Riverside municipal building on a volunteer basis, but would wait until he was free to come before the board to name him. The board appointed Bev Demars to serve on the Riverside building committee, instead of Maurice Dumas, who cannot serve.

Timmie Smith, Pat Hisz, John Barry, and Christine Kovalchick were appointed election monitors for the upcoming primary election for the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Edward Kennedy, which will take place December 8th.

NOTES FROM THE MAHAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mahar Electric Rates Soar Unexpectedly

BY KATIE NOLAN
ORANGE – At the November 4th Mahar school committee meeting, superintendent Michael Baldassarre reported to the committee on his intensive review of district bills to find potential savings. During the review, he noticed a sharp increase in the school's electric bill in January of 2009. Baldassarre went back over all the bills for 2008 and 2009 and noticed the cost per kilowatt hour increased for electricity supplied to Mahar Regional High School from 7.9 cents a kilowatt hour in 2008 to 13.8 cents a kilowatt hour in January of 2009. The rate increase resulted in the monthly bill rising from approximately \$16,000 in December 2008 to \$25,500 in January 2009.

Baldassarre said he contacted National Grid, the utility that provides electric bills for the district, and was told the district's electricity is supplied by energy broker Constellation NewEnergy through another broker, Northeast Energy Partners (NEEP), headquartered in Enfield, CT.

According to Baldassarre, in 2004, then-superintendent Eileen Perkins signed a five-year contract with NEEP locking in the price for Mahar at 7.9 cents/kwh.

An "automatic renewal" clause in the contract stated that at the end of the contract, NEEP would send the district a letter notifying the district of the contract termination and terms of renewal. If the district did not respond to the letter within 15 days, the brokers would appoint a representative for the school and negotiate a new contract.

In December 2008, during the superintendency of Dr. Reza Namin, the five-year contract ended. Baldassarre said he did not know whether NEEP sent an end-of-contract letter to the district; a letter from NEEP has not been found in Mahar's files. However, in early 2009, with Perkins retired, the Mahar administration was unaware of the role NEEP was playing in its energy supply. The electric bills came from National Grid and payments were sent to National Grid, with no reference to NEEP or Constellation NewEnergy, Baldassarre said.

At some time in 2008, NEEP appointed a person unknown to anyone in the district as the representative for Mahar, and the representative negotiated a 75% increase in the kilowatt hour rate for the district.

Recently, Baldassarre sur-

see MAHAR page 11

MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 11/13 - 11/19

visit www.montagueTV.org for complete schedule

Friday, November 13
12:00 p.m. Over The Falls:
Helping Friends in Distress
1:00 p.m. Finance Committee
4:00 p.m. Peoples Harvest 1
5:30 p.m. Gill Select Board
11/09/09
7:00 p.m. GMRSD 11/10/09
10:00 p.m. Physician Focus:
November 2009
10:30 p.m. Preachin' the Blues
Saturday, November 14
1:30 p.m. Seneca Falls
2:00 p.m. Silly Wizard "Polar
Cartoon"
2:30 p.m. TF Block Party
2009
3:30 p.m. TF Block Party
2009 #2
4:30 p.m. TF Block Party
2009 #5
5:00 p.m. The Reflecting Pool
Interview with filmmaker
6:00 p.m. The Soap Box Seth
Glier

6:30 p.m. The Spirit of Lake
Pleasant
8:30 p.m. The Western Mass
Democrat Lt. Gov Tim
Murray
9:00 p.m. They Are Still There
10:00 p.m. TWB Ergonomics
11:00 p.m. Discovery Center
Fossil Tracks
Sunday, November 15
12:30 p.m. Coffee House:
Rosemary Caine
2:00 p.m. Chainsaw Massacre
3:00 p.m. Carlos Anderson
Gospel Choir Celebration
4:30 p.m. Both Sides of the
Bridge
5:30 p.m. BFMC Healthbeat
Nov 2009
6:00 p.m. Back In The Day
Night Variety Show
8:00 p.m. An Afternoon of
Music with Daniel Clarke
10:00 p.m. All About Bats
10:30 p.m. Zero

Monday, November 16
12:00 p.m. Masters of the
Universe
1:00 p.m. MCTV Video
Camp 2009
1:30 p.m. Mind Control
2:00 p.m. Montague Update
Montague MA Net
3:00 p.m. Finance Committee
6:00 p.m. Naturalist Laurie
Sanders
7:00 p.m. Select Board
11/16/09
9:00 p.m. Girls Softball
9:30 p.m. Independent Voices
#51
10:00 p.m. Into the Way of
Peace
11:00 p.m. Journey to
Wissatinnewag
Tuesday, November 17
12:30 p.m. Franklin County
Matters: Community
Health Center
1:30 p.m. Gill Arts & Craft

Fair 2008
2:30 p.m. Gill Select Board
11/09/09
4:00 p.m. Honky Thumbelina
5:00 p.m. Independent Voices
#50
5:30 p.m. Coffee House:
Acapella
7:00 p.m. GMRSD 11/10/09
10:00 p.m. Allagash 2007
10:30 p.m. An Inside-Look
into Iran
Wednesday, November 18
1:00 p.m. Coffee House Series
Fabulous Maurice
2:00 p.m. Common Man Jeff
Brewer
3:30 p.m. Rhema Word #260
4:30 p.m. Power Canal Draw
Down
5:00 p.m. Positive Profiles in
Courage
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
11/18/09
9:00 p.m. Physician

Focus: November 2009
9:30 p.m. Over The Falls:
Helping Friends in Distress
10:30 p.m. On The Ridge:
Fall Turkey Hunting
Tactics
Thursday, November 19
12:30 p.m. Discovery Center
Open Mic Night 2007
2:00 p.m. Discovery Center
Importance of Pollinators
3:00 p.m. Coffee House: 7
Mile Line
4:30 p.m. EatonDoRyu

5:00 p.m. Exploring New
Worlds in New England
5:30 p.m. Francis Doughty
6:30 p.m. History of Gill
Congregational Church
7:00 p.m. Select Board
11/16/09
9:00 p.m. Franklin County
Matters: Community Health
Center
10:00 p.m. Gill Arts & Craft
Fair 2008
11:00 p.m. In Liew We Trust
Pt. 1

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from **NATIVE** pg 1

Josh Gammon, told the school committee before they voted to ban 'the Chop', "If the mascot goes, so would the memory of the Indians that once lived here."

Yet when Native Americans from around the Northeast and Canada showed up at the high school on Saturday, November 7th, almost none of the Turners Falls High School student body came to listen to their circle drumming, watch or participate in their traditional dances, peruse their crafts, listen to their speeches, or hear what a real Indian chant sounds like. Or listen to a Native American Honor Song, as sung by Don Barnaby, a member of the First Nation Mi'kmaq tribe from Listuguj, Quebec.

As the adults in the gymnasium stood, and the men bared their heads, Barnaby spoke about the ancient massacre that gave this town, and this high school, their names.

"Three hundred Natives were

honor those who passed over. Not just for this community, but all throughout Indian country.

"Always remember your ancestors," Barnaby adjured the crowd. "It doesn't matter what nation you are from: Red, White, Black, Brown, or Yellow.

"There was a lot of pain suffered in this community for many years. But this is a time of coming together. We always say, 'All my relations. We are all related.'

"Take this song home with you in your hearts. Always remember those who were here many years ago. They called this home."

Then he sang a long song, in the Mi'kmaq tongue, while beating a hand drum. The song was sonorous and deep and echoed through the gymnasium, as all stood still in honor of the departed.

Beforehand, seven drummers from an inter-tribal group from the Boston area named Urban

Thunder played a large communal drum, seated in a circle in the center of the basketball court, beating the taut buckskin with leather tipped drumsticks, and singing in high birdlike voices songs that have been sung in tribal circles in the Northeast for centuries.

Many Indians got up to dance in a trailing circle around the drummers, including Stephanie Muise, 18, of Haverhill, a member of the Mi'kmaq tribe from Nova Scotia. She did a Fancy Shawl dance, turning quarter turns to the left and right, daintily toe stepping in her moccasins as she trailed the ends of her frilled and intricately embroidered blue and white shawl above the gym floor, as if she were a beautiful woodland bird.

Muise explained the symbols stitched onto her shawl. The double curve is an Eastern

Woodlands symbol for the balance of the Earth. The outstretched paw print represents Mountain Lion, "My spirit guide," said Muise.

Another embroidered glyph – the Chicana – stands for the Inca People, Muise explained, stitched there to symbolize, "My connection to the Ancient Ones, the people who came before my people."

John Thomas, a Narragansett Indian from Rhode Island dressed in buckskin leggings, danced with his young son John Paul in his arms.

At the end of the day, as craft vendors put away their goods, and the drummers packed their gear, Doug Harris stood to address the three or four dozen audience members seated on the bleachers, who had come from around the county to participate in the gathering. He held a spray of cedar in one hand, traditionally used when offering prayers to the Creator.

He began by, "Giving thanks for all things," three times in the Narragansett language. He said he gave thanks "First to the Pocumtuck ancestral people whose land this is, for all they have provided in the realm of the spirit."

He continued, "I give thanks and ask the ancestors to allow my words to be spoken here."

Harris, 67, said he used to be the Narragansett Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, until "events here in Turner Falls [Harris never refers to the town as Turners Falls, always as Turner Falls] created the need for a Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes," the tribal office he now holds.

"You live in a place of great Medicine. It was, and is a place of great Medicine."

After determining there was only one high school student from TFHS remaining in the audience – Julie Seard, a senior from Montague – Harris addressed her directly.

"I ask for guidance to speak words to you and to your fellow students. You walk with the future in your hands. I would be honored to be able to return to speak to more of your fellow students.

"Some might ask, 'What are Narragansetts from Rhode Island



Don Barnaby, of the First Nation Mi'kmaq Tribe, from Listuguj, Quebec



Malachy McGuirt, from Pittsfield and Canada, member of the Anishinaabi Tribe

massacred here," by Captain William Turner, on May 19th, 1676. "They went on a journey not of their own doing."

He said the Honor Song he was about to sing was given by the Creator to Mi'kmaq elder George Bell, after he had fasted for four days without food or water, seeking a vision song. The song is now "always sung to

doing in Turner Falls?" Many tribes came here in centuries past, "Wampanoag, Mohawk, Maliseet, invited here. This was a very special ceremonial place, this great bend in the river, where annually we could harvest fish that came up the river to spawn. The tribes would come here at the welcome of the Pocumtuck, but also to partake in the ceremonies, to trade, to seek husbands and wives.

"It is a European story that our people only stayed in their little enclaves. At the time of the harvest, there were many people who came here.

"In 1675," Harris continued, "the war some call King Phillip's War, and others call the Second Puritan War, was raging. The Narragansett had stayed out of the direct involvement in the war, when the Great Swamp Fort was attacked by a 1000-man Colonial

militia." The colonists had challenged Canonchet, the Narragansett chief sachem, to deliver the Wampanoags in the Narragansetts' care to them, as proof of their neutrality in the conflict with Metacom (King Phillip). But Harris said Canonchet replied, "Not one Wampanoag, nor the paring of a Wampanoag's nail will I release to you."

Harris explained, "Under the Narragansett sachem Canonchet, Wampanoag and Nipmuck women, children and elders were given refuge in a time of war, as in times of old."

Harris described the Great Swamp Fort near present-day Kingston, RI, as "an excellent place of refuge. The fort was an island in the swamp, with one secret way in and one secret way

continued on next page

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out. Unfortunately, the Colonials found the one Narragansett who would betray the trust of his people," and reveal the secret passage through the swamp, and across the moat to attack the fort, "and the fight began."

By the end of that day, December 16th, 1675, hundreds – some say thousands – of the Narragansetts and the refugees sheltered on their island fortress lay dead, the tribe's winter stores destroyed, and the survivors, including Canonchet, driven from their stronghold.

"Shortly after the Great Swamp Fight, this massacre occurred," said Harris, referring to the Falls Fight, here at the confluence of the Connecticut River and the Mohawk Trail.

After the unprovoked attack on their defensive stronghold, "The Narragansetts joined the war and began hitting villages to the north and west," Harris said, until they arrived at the Great Falls.

Here, "They sat in council to determine what the balance of the war might look like, whether to continue the fight or seek peace."

Harris said that council took place in Squahkeag, present day Northfield, where a historical marker now marks the spot.

"A lot of refugees, victims of this war, began to come into this area. It was determined something would be done to support the refugees, here in what is called Turner Falls, what some may wish to call Great Falls. The defenders of the Narragansett were the ones who secured that camp."

Harris explained the Pocumtucks and the refugees from the war who had come to this area feared attack from the Mohawks as much as they feared attack from the English. But the Narragansett were allied with the Mohawk, and spoke their language. Roger Williams, who had inveighed against the colonists' seizure of Native lands before war broke out, and been driven into exile from the Bay Colony for his religious views, became "the earliest European to settle in Narragansett country," Harris said. "He wrote to the governor of Connecticut that he had seen Mohawks in Narragansett villages."

When William Turner and his militia of 145 settlers marched up the river from Hadley in the night of May 18th, 1676, to attack the refugee camp on the east side of the Great Falls at dawn, the Indians were "caught off guard in the early morning hours," Harris said. Three hundred or more Indians died in that attack, mostly old men, women and children. Defenders gathered in the aftermath of the massacre and chased the settlers south, killing Turner on the way.

But "Canonchet was not there. He had already returned for seed corn to Narragansett country," Harris said.

"He asked for someone to go back," to retrieve "caches of seed corn the Narragansett kept hidden in the trunks of trees."

The refugees faced hunger, almost as bad an enemy as the colonists, and had been forced to consume their seed corn the winter before. Having just fought their way north and west, the Narragansett were unwilling to make the dangerous return trip to bring more seed corn to the Great Falls, but Canonchet "made it clear, 'If you won't go, I will,'" Harris said.

"That corn did make its way back, but Canonchet did not. He was captured and killed."

Harris added, "There are Narragansett dead here who defended the refugees. By federal law, we have the right to consult on any project paid for or permitted by the U.S. government," within the historic area of tribal influence.

The Narragansett first returned to this area in the mid-1990s to work with the Friends of Wissatinnewag to protect the site of ancient burials at the Mackin sand pit on the Greenfield side of the river. The Friends purchased that site in 2001, to permanently protect it from development.

On May 19th, 2004, the Narragansett were invited to return by the selectboard of Montague for a reconciliation ceremony, which Harris called a "burying the hatchet ceremony," performed by the tribe's Medicine Man, Lloyd Running Wolf.

"It's been hundreds of years since we did this sort of ceremony," Harris said at the time.

On Saturday, he recalled that riverside ceremony, with a fire pit made of stones brought from the Gill, Turners and Greenfield sides of the river. "The pipe of peace was smoked, shared with the leadership of Montague; gifts were exchanged, and an accord was signed by the leadership of Montague, the chief sachem of the Narragansett, Matthew Seven Hawks Thomas, and the medicine man of the Narragansett.

"This is not a process that has been engaged in much since King Phillip's War," noted Harris. "We've come full cycle, to recognize each other as human beings who have had to live with a tragedy."

He said the agreement signed in 2004 bound the tribe to help the town of Montague any way it can economically, and the town of Montague to help the tribe in matters of historic preservation.

"None of us could have imagined those words would be tested one and a half years later dur-



John Thomas III, member Narragansett Indian Tribe, from Rhode Island

ing the \$5 million Federal Aviation Administration project to improve the runway," at the Turners Falls airport.

The Narragansett participated in a process to determine if there were items of cultural significance at the airport. "It was determined there was an archeological site near the runway with 12,000-, 10,000- and 2,000-year old episodes."

Harris said, "I monitored the archaeology going on there. We have a responsibility to stand over the shoulders," of developers, he added, so that, "If they find something of significance they can leave it there, especially if our ancestors' remains are found."

Investigation of the archeologic site led Harris to investigate a nearby hill, where he discovered a ceremonial stone row, which he determined to be a site of ancient Medicine embedded in the landscape. Though the FAA, the archaeologists and the state Historic Preservation Office did not believe the hill held any archaeological significance – preferring the explanation that the stone formation was the remains of a Colonial farm wall on the sand plain, Harris said the Narragansett, joined by the Wampanoag tribes of Mashpee and Gayhead (Aquinnah), proved the significance of the ceremonial stone formation to the satisfaction of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, as the center of "a ceremonial landscape that extends 16 miles out," from the airport hill.

"We are in a place of great ceremony," Harris insisted. "The National Register had never given recognition to a ceremonial stone landscape east of the Mississippi before."

Harris described how at the high point of the stone row, one offset stone points in the direction of a notch in the Pocumtuck Ridge (in present day Deerfield) where, at the height of the

Perseid meteor shower, the sun sets in a certain notch.

"It is a landscape calendar," Harris asserted, referring to the Ceremonial Hill at the airport. "Medicine being performed at that site did not have a GPS device or a Blackberry to tell the people when the sun sets, that's when the ceremony occurred. It is big Medicine."

Harris said the United Southern and Eastern tribes have issued resolutions for the protection of similar sites throughout the eastern United States, where the use of stone in ceremonial landscapes, the creation of stone effigies of turtles or serpents, birds or fish, stone rows and stone piles are widespread, yet scarcely recognized by the dominant culture. He said all these stone forms are "part of an ancient civilization's relationship to our Mother the Earth, ceremonies that include all our relations, asking their support in the work humans can do."

He added, "There are no longer enough Indians alone to protect all that does remain. If we do not have partners of like heart, much of what was held sacred will be ground under the wheels of the bulldozers and earth movers."

Turning again to Seard, he said, "That's a heavy burden. I offer it to you and your fellow students.

"Learn the meaning of this area. Read historians like George Sheldon and Edward Pressey. I'm not the only one to tell you Canonchet was here. Read George Sheldon; he'll tell you Canonchet was here.

"There's much we have not found. You've got a long life ahead of you. Spend it in the service of the ancient ones. Take your fellow students by the hand. There is much to be done right here, in Turner Falls, in Montague, in Franklin County. We need you."

After Harris concluded his speech, Seard said, "It's important to know about Native

Americans and to realize they are still a part of this society, to know what went on here. I don't think most of the kids here realize. Most kids aren't open to other cultures."

One of the students from Matthews' Native American studies class stayed longer than her other classmates, until the drumming circle broke up at about 4:00 p.m. Carolyn Campbell, a freshman, said, "I thought it was interesting, I hadn't really seen anything like that before." She added, "I really liked the music, and I really liked the jewelry. I wanted to watch the dancing to the end."

Campbell said she has been studying tribal cultures and traditions of the Northeastern tribes at the time of their first contact with the Europeans, and she found Saturday's presentation a chance to bring her studies to life. "They were doing the old dances, and using feathers and other ornaments handed down through their families," she said.


Today, her teacher intends to bring up the Tomahawk Chop controversy for class discussion.





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MAHAR from pg 7

veyed Massachusetts superintendents and found locked in electricity rates starting at 5.5 cents/kwh, with the average rate for the 40 districts he contacted at 10.5 cents/kwh.

Baldassarre said the unanticipated increase in Mahar's electricity rate to 13.8 cents/kwh made a major difference in the district's budget. Baldassarre said the expense from the "arbitrary" rate increase could result in cuts to the educational program at Mahar.

Baldassarre said he called both CNE and NEEP to discuss the increase. He reported that a vice-president at CNE said CNE was willing to renegotiate, but was unable to because NEEP holds the contract with Mahar.

Baldassarre said when he talked to Russ Monroe of NEEP, he found "no flexibility" and no interest in renegotiating the contract to bring costs more in line with average costs for other school districts in the area, "He [Monroe] kept saying, 'the process was legal.'"

Monroe did not respond to phone calls seeking comment in time for this story.

The company's website states, "Northeast Energy Partners is dedicated to helping you lower your total energy costs."

Baldassarre has asked Mahar's legal counsel, Mike Long, to file a complaint with the state inspector general. Baldassarre said there are two issues with the NEEP contract and the higher rate. The "automatic renewal" contract with the higher rate was not approved by the school committee, and NEEP may not have sent the end of contract letter.

Mid-Year Cuts

In reference to recently announced mid-year state budget cuts, Cara Dean of Orange, chair of the finance and facilities subcommittee said, "We will be making difficult decisions in the future."

On October 29th, Governor

Deval Patrick reduced state reimbursement for regional transportation for schools by 44%, potentially slashing Mahar's reimbursement from \$332,552 to \$172,214. Area legislators are attempting to block the reduction in regional transportation aid, as disproportionately impacting rural districts.

Baldassarre said Mahar has frozen all discretionary spending. The superintendent said he is actively reviewing district expenses and pursuing ways to save money.

Baldassarre noted the school food service "has been in the red consistently" in terms of their budget line item. He said he would conduct a survey of food service expenditures and give recommendations to the committee. He said more than half of Mahar students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and food costs have increased. "We may have to ask for price increases," he said.

Baldassarre asked the school committee to approve two stipends:

- \$3,000 for Sandy Paige who completed the paperwork for the special education coordinated program review. The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) congratulated Mahar on the submittal. Because Baldassarre has dual roles as special education coordinator and superintendent, he needed the additional help from Paige to complete the program review for DESE.
- \$2,500 for a liaison for the Gateway to College program, which allows Mahar students to attend Mount Wachusett Community College. Gateway to College is a dual enrollment program for students 16 to 20 years old, who have dropped out or are in danger of not getting a high school diploma.

Baldassarre predicted an increase in students attending Mahar via school choice because of the Gateway to College program, resulting in additional income for Mahar. Both stipends were approved.

School Improvement Plan

Baldassarre also asked for \$5,000 funding to hire Dr. George Ladd of the Data Analysis and Strategic Planning Project at Boston College to prepare the Mahar 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan. Baldassarre said he had intended to write the plan himself, using input from the school community, but using an outside consultant might be more efficient.

Michael Roche of the Mahar Teachers Association spoke in favor of hiring Ladd, saying with Ladd's expertise, the plan would "go to a new level." He said last year's improvement plan had been written within Mahar after meetings with stakeholders (staff, parents, community members) over a three-day period.

Peter Cross of Orange commented a strategic plan should be "a bottom up process," and wondered how the process would work with an outside consultant. Deane suggested that Ladd attend the December school committee meeting and discuss how he would prepare an improvement plan.

The committee agreed to ask Ladd to attend in December, but did not commit to the \$5,000 expenditure.

The Phase I follow-up inspection of the Mahar Pond dam was conducted by GZA Environmental, Inc. The report on that inspection will be provided to Mahar by this week.

Mahar Dam

In September, the state Office of Dam Safety (ODS) classified the Mahar Pond dam as a threat to public safety, and required the school district to prepare Phase I and II reports and take action to make the dam safe. GZA is preparing a cost estimate for the Phase II inspection and report. (The preliminary cost estimate presented at the October committee meeting was in the range of \$30,000 to \$40,000.)

Baldassarre indicated Mahar would petition ODS for an extension of deadlines in order to put the Phase II costs into the next fiscal year.

Riverview Drive and French King Highway.

8:53 p.m. Welfare check on Green Hill Road.

Saturday, 11/7

2:02 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police department with investigation on Barney Hale Road.

6:55 p.m. Assisted Montague police department with a domestic disturbance.

Sunday, 11/8

4:33 p.m. Report of illegal burning of trash on West Gill Road.

Monday, 11/9

2:35 p.m. Fuel spill on French King Highway.

5:33 p.m. Assisted Erving police with motor vehicle accident on Northfield Road.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Fuel Spill on French King Highway

Tuesday, 11/3

7:33 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency at TFHS football game.

11:29 p.m. Report of a disturbance on Munn's Ferry Road.

Wednesday, 11/4

1:31 a.m. Arrested Aaron [redacted]

Charged with assault and battery.

9:35 a.m. Assisted a disabled school bus on Gill-Montague Bridge.

1:45 p.m. Report of past vandalism on Riverview Drive.

4:15 p.m. Fire alarm on Mount Hermon campus.

8:45 p.m. Report of disturbance at a

French King Highway business.

9:01 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with littering.

Thursday, 11/5

7:15 a.m. Animal complaint on South Cross Road.

3:03 p.m. 911 mis-dial on Mountain Road.

3:19 p.m. Larceny report taken on Mountain Road.

Friday, 11/6

11:36 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on French King Highway.

1:15 p.m. Animal complaint at

Baldassarre provided an informational presentation on the growth model, in which student performance on the MCAS exam is measured by individual growth in score. DESE generates data that show each student's rate of change on MCAS relative to other students in the state. Even if students don't reach the MCAS proficiency benchmark, they may have achieved growth in their MCAS score.

Individual students, teachers, and schools can be classified by the amount of growth in student ability as well as by the achievement levels of the students. However, Baldassarre noted, both growth and achievement scores are highly associated with the socio-economic status of the student. He showed a DESE chart that plotted school growth versus school socioeconomic status, with only a few low socioeconomic status schools (mostly charter schools) appearing in the upper growth range.

Baldassarre said he intends to use the DESE data to improve Mahar's growth performance, and said he would like Mahar to achieve growth ratings as good as those for the low socioeconomic status charter schools. He predicted in the future DESE may use the growth measure as well as achievement scores to evaluate schools.

Sandy Vorce and Melissa Rogers, 7th grade advisors, asked the school committee for approval of a three-day and four-

night trip for current 7th graders to go to Washington DC in May 2011. A survey of current Mahar 7th graders indicated 40% of the 7th graders had never left New England; 20% had never left Massachusetts. A percentage of costs would be covered by fundraising between now and May 2011, and the rest would be the responsibility of individual students. Vorce and Rogers hope enough funds will be raised to provide scholarships to students unable to afford the student portion of the costs.

Approval was granted unanimously.



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BIOMASS FORUM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

BERNARDSTON – Matthew Wolfe, principal of Madera Energy Inc., will speak this Sunday, November 15th at 11 a.m. at the Bernardston Unitarian Church on Route 10 in Bernardston.

Wolfe will offer a presentation in favor of the 47-megawatt biomass power plant his company is proposing to build in the Greenfield

Industrial Park.

An opposing view will be offered by Mark Koyama, executive committee member of the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County.

A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

For questions regarding the event, please contact Eric Wasileski at eric@bernardstonunitarian.org.

VOICES FROM CHERNOBYL

BY LAUREL FACEY

WENDELL – A dramatic reading of "Meltdown: Voices from Chernobyl" will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall. The staged reading presents an oral history of a nuclear disaster, adapted by Spencer Smith from the book by Svetlana


Alexeivich. The Wendell performance is directed by Court Dorsey and performed by Wendell area citizens.

The voices in the play are those of Chernobyl survivors, but the question they pose is very local: what might happen to all our individual lives if a meltdown happened here?

Participants involved in the readings include Court Dorsey, Mary-Ann Palmieri, Parker Cleveland, Jonathan von Ranson, Susan von Ranson, Nina Keller and Marcia Gagliardi. Speakers after the program include Hattie Nestel and Deb Katz of CAN.

Refreshments will be available. Donation requested.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG Quiet Week at the Department

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Turners Boys Soccer Wraps Up Season

BY EMILY MONOSSON – This fall, those of us who follow Turners Falls boys' soccer have had the privilege of watching nineteen young athletes mature into a smart, agile and unified team which, for the first time in thirteen years, earned a position in tournament play.

With an outstanding record of eleven wins, five losses and two ties – the best record in the school's soccer history – the Turners boys' soccer team finished second behind Granby in the McGrath North Division III.

This is a young team, whose two highest scorers, David Garcia (with a TFHS record-breaking 20 goals) and Wyatt Bourbeau (with 17, also a school record), hail from the junior and freshmen classes respectively.

This is a soccer team whose combined ability and team spirit resulted in the recognition of six of its players – Andrew Turban, Derek Sicard, Uriah Forest-Bully, Tashi Tsering and of course Garcia and Bourbeau – as 2009 McGrath Division all-star players.

Each of these players deserves the recognition. Beginning with Turban and Sicard, the powerhouses of the team (Turban on defense and Sicard, who leads the team in assists, on offense), to Forest-Bully steadily directing from midfield, the lightning quick Bourbeau, the reliable Tsering, and Garcia, a pleasure to watch as he handily picks his way downfield dodging one defender after another, scoring or setting up the play for his teammates.

This is also a team whose 11 wins eclipses their combined win total for the past three seasons. Last year, as Turners watched one game after another slip from their grasp, the only consolation was that they were clearly a "team for the future." But we all know that future suc-

cess, no matter the talent, is never guaranteed.

So how does coach Gregg Bergstrom account for this year's about-face?

"Hard work, dedication, pride and belief in themselves that they can compete with anyone. This has been the most pleasant and rewarding factor of all," Bergstrom said.

He added, "Several of the boys have played more than just our season. They played indoors at Indoor Action, some played Maple. For many of these boys, this has been for a few years now, and their devel-

opment and level of play is significant and obvious. Hopefully they will continue to do so, and get more guys (and girls for that matter) involved."

cohesive team that has confidence in each other. And it shows whether they're defending their own goal or moving the ball down the field and into their opponent's goal.

Reflecting on the team's experience this season, Bergstrom said, "I wholeheartedly believe they enjoyed every minute. Every kick in the shin, every sprint (well maybe not every one) every goal, every battle, every win, and to some extent, every loss. I don't think it was so much to do to with the "wins," but how they competed, realizing "We can do this." And they can!

Last Sunday, the Turners soccer team won their preliminary-round Division III tournament



BEN LETCHER PHOTO

Uriah Forest-Bully goes for the ball in last Tuesday's game against Smith Academy in Hatfield.

game against Westfield Vocational-Technical High School, 2-3. On Tuesday, the boys faced off against number one seed, Smith Academy, and lost, in a heartbreaker, in overtime, 0-1.

If you missed out on fall sports events, whether it's soccer, field hockey, volleyball, football or cross country, never fear – winter brings a whole new set of young athletes giving their best. Come on out and cheer your team! You won't be disappointed.

Bergstrom deserves some credit. Between the all-stars, the newcomers and the returning players, a solid group of freshmen, sophomores and juniors, his coaching has produced a

opment and level of play is significant and obvious. Hopefully they will continue to do so, and get more guys (and girls for that matter) involved."

Bergstrom also acknowledged several new players who joined up this year. Their contributions throughout the season, said Bergstrom, "have been a blessing," to the team.


Bergstrom deserves some credit. Between the all-stars, the newcomers and the returning players, a solid group of freshmen, sophomores and juniors, his coaching has produced a

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Goiters: Their Causes and Cures

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q: *I saw a woman with what looked like a small tire around her neck. Do you know what that could be?*

It could be a goiter, which is a benign enlargement of the thyroid gland. The thyroid is a small gland made up of two halves that lie along the windpipe just below the voicebox.

When the thyroid can't produce enough hormone to meet the body's needs, the gland compensates by enlarging. Iodine, a chemical element, is needed to produce thyroid hormone. Therefore, an iodine deficiency can lead to goiter and hypothyroidism-deficient activity of the thyroid.

The body does not make iodine, so you have to consume it. Iodized table salt is the primary food source of iodine.

The recommended dietary allowance (RDA) for iodine in adults is 150 micrograms a day. A microgram is one-millionth of a gram. One teaspoon of iodized salt contains approximately 400 micrograms of iodine.

Seafood is naturally rich in

iodine. A six-ounce portion of ocean fish provides 650 micrograms of iodine. Seaweed, a seafood vegetable, is a rich source of iodine. Dairy products also contain iodine. Other good sources are plants grown in iodine-rich soil. About half of the multivitamin formulas in the U.S. contain iodine – usually 150 micrograms.

Treatment of iodine deficiency by the introduction of iodized salt has almost eliminated goiter in the United States. However, about 40 percent of the world's population is at risk for iodine deficiency.

Deficiency happens more often in women than in men, and is more common in pregnant women and older children.

Getting enough iodine in the diet may prevent a form of physical and mental retardation called cretinism. Cretinism is very rare in the U.S. where iodine deficiency is generally not a problem.

A goiter can cause problematic symptoms such as difficulty breathing or swallowing.

Treatment depends on the size of the goiter, your symptoms and the underlying cause.

The following are treatments for an enlarged thyroid:

- If the goiter is small and doesn't cause problems, and the thyroid is functioning normally, your doctor may suggest waiting and observation.

- Removing all or part of your thyroid gland surgically is an option if you have a large goiter

that is uncomfortable or causes difficulty breathing or swallowing.

- If you have hypothyroidism, thyroid hormone replacement will resolve the symptoms of hypothyroidism and often decrease the size of the goiter.

- Radioactive iodine is used to shrink the thyroid. The radioactive iodine is taken orally and reaches your thyroid gland through your bloodstream.

- Small doses of iodine solutions are often used.

A goiter may disappear on its own, or may become large. Occasionally, a goiter may become toxic and produce thyroid hormone on its own. This can cause high levels of thyroid hormone, a condition known as hyperthyroidism.

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

SOLUTIONS from pg 10

tions including 5% benzyl alcohol lotion, a treatment recently approved by FDA. Because it actively suffocates lice by opening and obstructing their airways – rather than working at a biochemical level (inhibiting certain enzymes, a mode of action to which insects may develop resistance) – there's some hope this treatment won't contribute to development of resistant "super-lice." Studies suggest the required ten-minute treatment is not only effective but "well tolerated," even by the very young, although the FDA cautions that "...the product is not approved for use in children younger than 6 months, and premature infants could be at risk for developing serious side

effects such as seizure, coma, and death."

Last, but definitely not least are "smothering" treatments – like mayonnaise and olive oil – to which I can personally attest. These treatments slow active lice down enough to easily remove – however, be warned, spending the night with a head full of mayonnaise, may cause gagging when faced with a tuna and mayo sandwich for several months post-treatment.

Another smothering agent is dimethicone, the "primary" and apparently active ingredient in another newish product, LiceMD. Dimethicone is a type of silicone oil, and I can confirm the ease of combing one's hair (my own) after use – silicone, after all, is an excellent lubricant for rusty chains and creaky doors too. So maybe

we're not too far from motor oil and other lubricants after all.

A more pleasant treatment might be a combination of essential oils including lavender, peppermint and eucalyptus dissolved in ethanol and isopropanol (another alcohol) – reported to work as well on active lice as some of the more traditional pesticides to which lice are now resistant.

Lice shouldn't be cause for social trauma, but they are. So when the bugs find their way to your home, be patient – and at least give the non-toxics a try – they might just do the trick. And, you never know, there may even be some unexpected benefits. When it comes to family bonding, there's nothing like nitpicking!



GALLERY from page 12

Greenfield's own Pierce Brothers coffees, espresso, latte, and cappuccino. Mocha can be added to hot drinks.

A word about prices. They are very reasonable. Always a buck or two less than I see in Greenfield or Northampton. The prices are so reasonable even frugal old me can afford a generous tip.

As a gallery of culinary experience, the café features many rectangles, from the menu boards through the cereal boxes, Harrison & Crosfield tea boxes, the Turners Falls Monopoly board, and packs of cards. Counterpoint circles fill the space between with round coffee urns, coffee cups, glasses, plates, saucers, and bowls, jams and marmalades, olive oil and sea salt containers.

And who runs Round Here? Mary Glazier from Gill is one of the principals, along with her son Michael and daughter-in-law Nayana. Mrs. Glazier raised six children, managed a Howard Johnsons, and owned and operated another restaurant, so she has a wealth of experience and home-style recipes to bring to the RHC. Michael handles planning and business aspects. College student Amanda Abramson works half-time at the café. Sociology and sustainable living are her big interests, so while you are waiting for your breakfast to finish cooking, ask Abramson about the

café's "Greenware" plastics, made from corn, and compostable.

The mainstay of the café is co-owner Nayana Glazier, who is baker, manager, and all 'round counter person. Watching her cook, starting from scratch with a pinch of this and a dash of that, you can guess her early memories include watching her mom with a rolling pin and tasting the batter from her cakes. Now she provides customers with a constantly-changing variety of menu items, changing with the holidays and seasons. Her goal is to make daily specials that are really special, to provide tasty meals to complement the beverages.

Glazier cooks like she paints (check out the RHC walls and picturetrail.com/nayanag). In the kitchen and behind the easel, she's calm, creative, introspective, and excited when she gets new ideas. The rest of the world melts away and she's actively relaxed. Her culinary and creative products speak for themselves.

News flash! The café is now looking to open for evening hours as well. To begin with, on November 17th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Round Here will feature an acoustic open-mic Hootenanny, hosted by the songstress Kellianna of Wendell.

So, come 'round soon to the café that looks like a gallery and sounds like a hoedown. You'll be glad you did.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Vehicle Burns On Route 63

Tuesday, 11/3
12:19 p.m. Assisted Warwick police with arrest of male subject for assault with a dangerous weapon, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and a default warrant.
11:45 p.m. Assisted Gill police with a domestic dispute at Mums Ferry Road.

Wednesday, 11/4
5:35 p.m. Report from West High Street of erratic driving into area driveways, almost hitting other cars in the neighborhood.
8:09 p.m. Report of car vs. deer accident in Erving center. Deer ran off, minor damage to vehicle.
Thursday, 11/5
9:28 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance.

Saturday, 11/7
9:00 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Forest Street address. out insurance and failure to obtain inspection sticker.
12:45 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance.

Juvenile female out of control. Situation controlled, all subjects OK.
Sunday, 11/8
12:35 a.m. Report of car vs. deer accident on Maple Avenue, Farley, with no personal injury to driver. Unable to locate deer.
Monday, 11/9
5:15 p.m. Motor vehicle on fire on Route 63. Erving fire and Baystate Health Services ambulance responded. Currently under investigation.

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LEVERETT from pg 5

acre for \$18,500). You could afford to move here then. You want to keep some places you can afford for young families.”

Affordable housing committee co-chair Barbara Carulli called the selectboard’s decision, “Disappointing, but not surprising. It was not felt by the committee that the selectboard was really behind this project.”

Bonsignore said, “I’m very discouraged. We had been given a charge by the selectboard, and we were following our charge. Maybe we need a five-person selectboard.”

Vote to Join FCSWMD

In other news, the selectboard agreed to bring the town into the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), a move that will cost Leverett a \$4549 entry fee, payable over two years, and an initial annual assessment of \$4771. The move will require approval of town meeting in March, and a positive vote of the other 21 member towns, to take effect as of July 1st of 2010.

Joining the FCSWMD will provide access to the district’s vendors for trash hauling, bulky waste removal and scrap metal recycling, along with technical services such as an annual landfill inspection, and trainings for landfill attendants. FCSWMD director Jan Ameen told the board her analysis of Leverett’s costs for operating the landfill this year showed the town would have

saved about \$3,000 on such things as fuel surcharges and scrap metal rebates, had the town been a member of the district.

If Leverett joins, all Franklin County towns except Greenfield, Shutesbury, Ashfield and Monroe will be members of the district, Ameen said.

She said the FCSWMD could help Leverett look at the plusses and minuses of curbside trash and recycling pick up, inclusion in the district’s hazardous waste collection days, and other programs, according to the town’s wishes.

Dog Bylaws

A discussion with dog officer Roberta Bryant of numerous minor dog complaints, particularly in the area of Hemenway Road, where a number of dogs reportedly run loose in violation of town bylaws, led the board to call for tightening of regulations.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford estimated more than half the dogs living in Leverett are unlicensed, and the town therefore has no way of verifying whether their owners have gotten rabies shots for their pets.

The board said notification will go out in the next town newsletter that the dog license bylaw will be more strictly enforced in the future, with possible fines. A more robust approach to enforcing the leash law was also discussed.

A particular problem involving three Rottweillers and a pit bull, housed with their owners in one half of a duplex at 148

Montague Road was brought to the board’s attention, following a complaint from the residents of the other half of the duplex that one of the larger dogs had “grabbed their cocker spaniel and flung it,” according to Bryant. The larger dogs are usually chained in the front yard, but the board will communicate with the owners to see if the dogs can be moved to the side yard, away from the walkway shared by both sides of the duplex.

Progress on Well

Initial reports from the well being drilled to alleviate water contamination at the Duffey residence on 7 Cushman Road are positive, said Brazeau. The town approved spending up to \$30,588 October 20th to install, test, and connect a new well at the private residence since high levels of manganese detected in the drinking water there, and at other nearby homes on Teawaddle Road, probably stem from a plume of contamination from the town’s former unlined landfill on Cemetery Road.

Brazeau said the well drilling company had hit ledge only 30 feet down, a good sign that the home’s present well lies in a trough of land directing the plume of contamination away from the new well’s location on higher ground. He said the well driller reported two gallons of water a minute at a depth of 450 feet. The water will soon be tested for purity.

THEATER from page 1

Ganz, was a riot, and established a great rapport with Rothenberg. Their bits together were terrific, as they tossed barbs back and forth.

Cristen Rosinski and Mark Hildreth as Cassie and Glenn Cooper were equally hilarious in a sophisticated, upper-class snobby way, and Rosinski’s statuesque beauty made her the perfect foil for the petty jealousies that hung about the room. Smarting from perceived slights from her husband, she slinks around, flirting with the other women’s husbands just to infuriate her own.

The Coopers are left alone onstage for a long spell, and in that interval give some of the best performances of the evening. Their interaction and comic timing are perfection, whether we’re watching her strut or him preen and fuss with his appearance.

Not to be outdone, the Cusacks, Cookie and Ernie, played by Louise Krieger and Tim Gorts, hold up their end of the comedy with aplomb. While the dialogue in any Neil Simon play is funny in itself, the physical humor is all up to the actors. Louise, as Cookie, has the most to do in this respect, and she does it with a complete willingness to look abjectly ridiculous, at one point even crawling across the floor. And Gorts is a natural ham. He makes comedy look easy and natural, but he is keenly focused all the while, and never fails to

get the audience laughing.

Danielle Canedy and Ryan Williams open the first act, set the scene for all that follows, and carry the plot forward swimmingly. Every time a new couple arrives they panic over how to break them into the peculiarities of the scene. Both do a fine job.

If any criticism could be leveled at this finely tuned farce, it might be at the pitch and volume of the opening scene, perhaps a little too loud, a little too startling, with the value of the words defused in the high decibel of voice. To my ear, those words were better spoken in controlled hysteria rather than out-and-out yelling. Here’s hoping they bring it down just a notch, play more to each other than the audience, and improve the whole thereby as the play continues its run on Friday.

That said, all did an excellent job with these very demanding parts and should – and were – applauded for it.

Director Dave Grout pulled together a high caliber performance from his actors in this wonderfully inventive play. The pacing and the complex stage direction reflect a gifted director working with a highly skilled theater troupe.

The play continues this weekend with performances on Friday and Saturday night, November 13th and 14th at 8 p.m. I highly recommend it, keeping in mind *Rumors* does contain adult language, and so is not appropriate for young children.

VETERANS from pg 6

numbers are climbing nationwide. “You can go to any city or small town in this country and find people who have served their country and been forgotten,” Kulik said.

Evan Pleasant, a senior at Turners Falls High School, recited “In Flanders Field”. The high school chorus sang “America the Beautiful.” Montague selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt gave a speech personalizing the cost of war to veterans’ families. (*That speech is reprinted in full on page 4.*)

Terry Miner gave a final prayer, asking “our heavenly father, hold in the palm of your hand all who continue to put themselves in harm’s way in the service of their country.”

DISPATCHES from page 6

even Hitler recognized that if Allied forces successfully penetrated into Germany, the war in Europe would be over. Most German military leadership knew the war was already lost, but followed Hitler’s orders for every man to “stand fast or die at his post.”

The plan of the U.S. First Army was to drive into the Aachen Corridor with a 35-mile front, cross into Germany at the city of Aachen, take the city and surround the Germans. The 300th was headquartered out of “Mud Hill” and Chateau Modave during the battle and traveled in all directions throughout the region supporting the U.S. forces under

the most difficult conditions.

Allied attacks in the Aachen Corridor resumed in early October. Aachen was an historic city where the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne was born and its loss by the Germans to the Allies would be a devastating blow to morale. A German commander evacuated most of the 160,000 civilians of Aachen and offered to surrender the city on September 13, 1944. Hitler refused to allow the surrender and had the commander arrested while transferring five thousand troops to help hold the city. The German defenders held out in ruined houses and buildings. The ultimate battle took place in the streets, involving every building, and at times every room within

the building. The Americans poured 5,000 artillery shells per day into the city followed by tons of bombs.

On October 10, the U.S. First Army sent a delegation into Aachen with a surrender ultimatum which, based on Hitler’s orders, was rejected. Allied attacks intensified from the air and ground. One engineer group even attempted to demolish buildings by filling trolley cars with captured explosives and rolling them into the city. The infantry assault began on October 13.

Attacks and counterattacks continued with U.S. troops gaining control with a building by building effort that pushed the German hold-outs, now down to

only 1,600 troops, into an air raid shelter where they were trapped. The price of the battle was high on both sides. Two thousand U.S. troops were killed and the Germans lost 1,500 troops while another 3,500 were taken prisoner. An unconditional surrender was signed on October 21, 1944 and Aachen became the first German city to fall to the Allies. With the capture of Aachen, the U.S. First and Ninth Armies consolidated setting the stage for the offensive to reach the Rhine River.

Note: The web site of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion can be found at: www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
Live jazz every Thursday at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 863-4441.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney* CD Release, 8 p.m. singer/songwriter Hilary Graves opens.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*. Rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to classic rock & dance music, 8 to 10 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Ray Mason, 8 to 9:30 p.m. The Valley's own Ray Mason is playing a solo gig.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

The Great Falls Coffeehouse: singer-songwriter *Tony Lechner* and his band *Wild-Wood*, 7 p.m. With foundations in folk, bluegrass, and old-fashioned rock and roll, *Wild-Wood's* music combines sweet vocal harmonies with fiddle, upright bass, mandolin, drums, guitar, and piano to create a sound that appeals to people of all ages and musical tastes. Held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee & homemade baked goods will be available. The museum and Museum Store will be open during intermission. Donation suggested \$6 to \$12, free for children.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*, folk-rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

At Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Post Harvest Jamboree # 4* featuring JD's new band, Jen Holmes Band and other local musicians!
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Who hasn't heard of Felix Kubin — the Whirlwind Wizard of the Ivories, whose appearances on stages at a multitude of health spas rendered audiences almost speechless? See him as part of the MPBE #22 on Saturday, November 21st at 8 p.m. Held at the National Spiritual Alliance Hall, Lake Pleasant.

Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, 8:30 p.m. followed by Top 40 hip-hop and dance tunes spun by DJ Brownie,

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: DLB with Dave Loomis, Peter Kim and Chris VanRooyen, 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *J. P. Harris and the Tough Choices*. \$5, 9:30 p.m.

Art Reception: *The Joy of the Things*. An exhibition of sculpture by Emily Field, 5 to 7 p.m. The sculptures combine organic and man-made materials, ranging from gourds to found objects such as car parts and doll house furniture. At the Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett. (413) 548-9070 or info@levertcrafts.org

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13th & 14th

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Last Picture Show*. Elegiac study of small dusty Texas town. Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd. 1971. R. B & W. 7:30 p.m. Music before movie, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th to 15th

The Country Players present: *Rumors* by Neil Simon, directed by David Grout. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 8 p.m. For reservations, call (413) 863-2281, x1. www.countryplayers.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *How Animals Prepare for Winter*. Discover the various ways that our local wildlife prepares for the long winter months. From freezing frogs to fur color changes, you are sure to learn some unexpected facts about wildlife in the area. 1 to 2 p.m.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show at the Greenfield High School. Vendors, geology talks, planetarium show. 9:30 to 4 p.m. Entry fee: \$2; teens \$1; under 13 free.

Faces and Places Gallery is proud to host Adam Bergeron in concert. Solo Piano, classical and beyond. At 26 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 4 p.m. Suggested donation: \$7. www.facesandplaces.com.

Fete Noel, Christmas Fair at the Montague Congregational Church, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Raffles, gift items, crafts, coffee, luncheon.

At Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Andrew Jones and Spirithouse* with the *Rocky Roberts Band* with special guest *Spike Dogtooth*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic originals, 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Accident That Led Me To the World, You & Yours, Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves*. 8 p.m. \$5 cover. www.theaccidentthatledmetotheworld.com.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Appalachian Still and Lost Mountain* (blue grass, folk, americana). \$4 cover, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Event Planning Open House. At the Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club. Weddings, Showers, Anniversaries, Reunions, Theme Parties. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, (413) 863-8003.

The world-famous Moscow Ballet special benefit performance of Tchaikovsky's Great Russian Nutcracker at Symphony Hall, Springfield, 2 p.m. (413) 788-7033. Proceeds from the ballet will help support children's services at the Brattleboro Retreat. Children in the production are being cast out of Brattleboro School of Dance. Tickets range \$35 to \$100. Ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam Bergeron*, Contemporary Classical Piano CD release event, 7 to 9 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Yankee-Trade White-Elephant BINGO!!!* 8 p.m. FREE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Craft night. Join other crafty people working on projects.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Quizmastah Chad's Quiznite Quiz! 8 p.m.

Naia Kete at the Iron Horse! 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door, at the Northampton box office or www.naiakete.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quarterly #3 All-star gala benefit North Star Self-Directed Learning. 9 p.m. \$5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th

Gill Cheese Tasting Night at Gill Congregational Church, Gill Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors will sample cheddar cheese made by students of The Farm at Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) School in Gill; cheddar made by Cliff and Sorrel Hatch at Upingill Farm; and a mild goat's cheese made by Daniel Botkin at Laughing Dog Farm. Suggested donation: \$2/person. This family-friendly event is alcohol-free and children are encouraged to attend with their parents! Info: 863-2850.

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

The Nature of New England at the Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 7 p.m. Within its small geographic range, New England's sculpted mountains, river val-

leys, and varied shorelines provide for a surprisingly rich and varied flora and fauna. A strong emphasis in the program is on the perceptions people have in favor of some groups of animals (like birds) at the expense of other equally interesting ones (like snakes). How various groups survive the winter season is also spotlighted.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes in Trouble*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Phantom Brain Exchange #22:

Special show, special venue. Felix Kubin, Gerty Farish, Schurt Kwitters, lecture by Deborah Frenkel, DJ Byron Coley. 8 p.m. \$7 at the National Spiritual Alliance Hall, 2 Montague Ave, Lake Pleasant. Also! The lecture is by Lake Pleasant resident immunoparasitologist Deborah Frenkel, giving a talk about parasitic immunology!

Echo Lake Coffee house: Ethan Miller. Held in the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd. Pot luck at 6:15 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$8, or \$10 at the door. Info. (413) 548-9394. With hard-hitting analysis and high-energy acoustic guitar, Ethan performs fiery songs of hope, justice and struggle. Ethan is a member of the RiotFolk Collective, a cooperative, artist-owned and run record label working to support and promote folk music as a tool for revolutionary social change. www.riotfolk.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22th

At Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Cliff Eberhardt playing songs from his new Americana release *500 Miles: The Blue Rock Sessions*. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$17 advance, \$20 day of show. See www.burrito-rojo.com.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

Meeting about the future of the Entergy corporation's "Vermont Yankee" (VY) nuclear reactor. 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Green Fields Market's upstairs meeting room. How can we make Vermont legislators and their constituents aware of our passion to see VY closed in 2012 at the end of its intended lifespan? More info: Randy Kehler, 624-8858 or John Hoffman, 625-6967.

THRU DECEMBER 15th

Great Falls Discovery Center exhibit in the great hall: Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp exhibit. Display thru 12/15.

AUDITIONS

Arena Civic Theatre holds auditions for its April/May production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to be performed at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Sunday, **November 15** at Jones Library, Amherst, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, **November 18** at the Shea Theater, 7 to 9 p.m., and Thursday, **November 19**, at the Jones Library, 7 to 9 p.m. Roles for 1 girl age 9 to 12, 2 boys age 9 to 14, adult men and women all ages, and roles for African American actors and actresses and gospel singers. Info: Sondra Radosh (413) 549-1511, smradosh@yahoo.com.

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday & Saturday
Nov. 13th & 14th, 7:30 p.m.
THE LAST PICTURE SHOW
Elegiac study of small Texas town. Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd. Dir. by Peter Bogdanovich. 1971.R. b&w 118 min.
Music before the movie 7 p.m.
Fri. One Last Bridge - orig. & class. country
Sat. Abdul Baki & New Roots - reggae
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for Friday, Nov. 13th to Thursday, Nov. 19th
1. A CHRISTMAS CAROL PG DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
2. 2012 PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:30
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
3. MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. PARANORMAL ACTIVITY R DAILY 6:45 9:15
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY DAILY 7:00 9:30 R in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. THE FOURTH KIND PG13 DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Free Range Classic Rock & Dance Music
Friday, 11/13, 9 to 11 p.m.
Blame it on Tina Folk Rock
Saturday, 11/14, 9 - 11 p.m.
Richard Chase Group
Acoustic Driven Originals
Sunday, 11/15, 9 to 11 p.m.
Adam Bergeron Classical Piano
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FRI: 11/13 | 9:30 PM | \$5
J.P. Harris and the Tough Choices (country fer dancin')
SAT: 11/14 | 9:30 PM | \$4
Appalachian Still and Lost Mountain (bluegrass, folk)
MON: 11/16 | 8 PM | FREE
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WED: 11/18 | 8 PM | Quizmastah Chad's Quiznite Quiz!!!
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Small Art Draws Large Crowd

BY RICHARD BALDWIN
MONTAGUE CENTER – A beautiful fall day and busy shops at the Montague Mill provided the context for an exciting and unique one-day art exhibition on Sunday, where Claudine Mussuto, Kristin Zottoli and Miryam Vesset, M.A.M. (Montague Art Movement) members, created an unusual show of original art by Montague residents. They solicited work, no larger than six inches square, from local artists, who agreed to price their work at \$75 and under.

On Sunday, the “diminutive depictions” hung in the Mill shops, and visitors were given a map of the show. This resulted in a treasure hunt where viewers moved through busy shops to discover small mini-shows of each artist’s work.

The pieces were simply presented with accompanying statements beside the work, which made the experience more personal and friendly. The group exhibition was a one-day event only. Artists were on hand to

oversee the show and respond to any questions visitors had. Sales were brisk; between 250 and 300 people attended.

The success of the show is due in no small part to the collaboration with shop owners at the Mill.

They allowed use of their space and took no share of artists’ sales. This is one of the reasons why the work was priced so reasonably. Their support of local artists could not have been clearer.

Kristin Zottoli had to recreate and scale down larger pieces for the show. She wrote, “I feel that the resulting work is more accessible and inviting, due to the simplified presentation and reduction in size, that for me references pocket sized or hand held items.” This feeling of intimacy accurately describes the entire show.

Just as there was a wide range of artists’ backgrounds, training and exhibition experience, there was a wide variation in media, subject and content. What stood out was the general high level of

compositional skills, inventive use of materials, and ability in handling a miniature format.

Claudine Mussuto’s collages, especially “Invocation, September,” had the feel of much larger work. Her combination of graphic and painterly treatment of surface created lively images that made the 6” x 6” format disappear entirely.

Claire Micher’s collages, the printed image of a humming bird against a painted expanding red circle, and especially her small triptych, were amazingly well done for an artist as young as she.

Barbara Milot’s inventive combination of photographs and wire surprised the viewer. In “Cloudscape,” she stitched wire in the center of a photo of clouds suggesting text. Her work was mysterious, suggestive, and slightly unsettling.

Kristin Zottoli’s elegant and witty reliefs involved woodcarving and assemblage. Her impeccable craftsmanship drew the viewer into her quirky narratives. Her choice of paper made the



Photoshop Illustration by Baldwin (l - r) beginning at the top: Artists’ whose work is depicted are: Mero, Blanchette, Mussuto, Zottoli, Star, Mieber, Mussuto, Milot, and Lyons-Zucker.

surfaces look like a cross while at the same time making it easy to purchase art. The fact that the exhibition was a one-day event added to the specialness of the experience, making it similar to live music or theater: in short, a fine art performance.

This show of original art work by local artists was friendly, fun, and affordable. It was a superb example of collaboration among local artists and business owners,



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY – Just when it seemed we needed to resign ourselves to cold temperatures and gray skies, November gave us the blessing of a beautiful fall weekend. One crispy, bright day, energizing for all jobs. Then an Indian summer day of soft breezes, warmth and sun, perfect for working outside or just sitting in the sun basking like the cat.

Since I am a bit behind on my chore list, I took full advantage of the glorious weather. I’d already picked up my bags of composted manure and turned under the strawberry bed. This was a sad task, as the plants looked particularly green and healthy. However, it was time. This season’s fruit was extremely sweet but also quite small, on the order of a large raspberry.

The strawberry bed grows in a matter of stages. In the first

season, the young plants are set but all blossoms are snipped, so the growth energy goes to the roots. In the second season, you can expect a moderate harvest. The third year usually brings a bumper crop and the option of setting the plants’ runners for one more year’s picking.

After that it’s best to begin the cycle again with new plants in the early spring.

Some gardeners rotate two beds so they always have a crop. I will more likely start a new bed and rely on the pick-your-own crop of someone else’s garden for next year’s eating. Still, it’s well worth the trouble to have my own bed even with the year off.

While the fruit off the runners was small this season, the plants were so tall the strawberries hung nicely out of the view of the foraging birds. And of course, there was the pleasure of walking out into the garden and picking sun-warmed fruit, grown without any chemical interference.

Now all the garden squares are spread with composted manure, and all but one turned under. I will let my knees and

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Bedding Down the Strawberries

shoulders rest before doing the last one some day next week. The worst that could happen is that it will get rained on. That would actually provide the happenstance of manure tea beginning to penetrate the ground. That can only benefit the plot, and protect the ground from hardening before I get out there to finish the job.

The garlic is in for next July’s harvest. In preparing the soil I found a few more onions to pull, still fresh and firm, unharmed by the frost. I set them to dry in the sun. The harvest which seemed so sparse has grown to a small basketful. These will store nicely into the winter for cooking, as long as they are kept cool and dry.

There seems likely to be the opportunity as well to plant a raised bed of spinach and salad green seeds. Nothing will show of them this fall, but the seeds will crack early as the ground softens in February and March and the garden will sport a healthy crop in April’s cool temperatures. These crops, especially the spinach, thrive on the chilly, pest-free days, and will produce the earliest pickings for the winter weary gardener.

Hundreds of Canada geese

have flown over during the past week, responding more to the changes in light than to the cold it seems. They fly in the ever-changing V shape southward. Over the confluence of the rivers they re-orient towards the southeast.

The chickadees have returned from their Northern summer homes, filling the air with their cheerful, sociable chatter. There is still much for them to eat: seeds, rose hips, and fruit. However, I so enjoy their company that I will set out the birdfeeder again, full of sunflower seeds for Thanksgiving.

Like the squirrels, we are hunkering down and experiencing an increased longing for bread and other carbohydrates. Here is a satisfying yet healthful dish to meet those cravings:

Roasted Root Vegetables

Choose your favorites from the following: Brussels sprouts, beets, parsnips, carrots, turnips, fingerling potatoes, winter squash, onions.

Peel as little as necessary (the skin holds much of the vitamin value) and cut into small pieces about equivalent in size.

Set the oven to 400 degrees,

Place the vegetables in a roasting pan with cloves of garlic, and a pinch or two of rosemary (fresh or dried).

Dribble generously with olive oil and stir to coat everything.

Roast for about 40 minutes until the veggies are tender and well browned.

Enjoy, and happy gardening!

The Leverett Historical Society presents **Bones, Stones and Names: A Native American Perspective on Discovery and Thanksgiving**



A Talk by Ramona Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag
 Thursday, November 19th,
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