



HALLOWE'EN
on Parade
Page 16



ART EXHIBITION
at the Wendell Library
Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 6

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

G-M Schools & Towns Hold Budget Powwow



DETMOLD PHOTO

Members of the Gill and Montague selectboards and finance committee bunkered down with Gill-Montague regional school committee members to crunch budget numbers last Wednesday, in advance of Governor Deval Patrick's mid-year cuts. Seated around the table (left to right) Rob Allen, John Hanold, Frank Abbondanzio, Patricia Pruitt, Marje Levenson, Ronnie LaChance, Tracy Rogers, Lee Stevens, Nancy Griswold, Valeria Smith, Claire Chang, John Ward, Jeff Singleton, Mark Fairbrother, Pat Allen, Lynn Reynolds, Carolyn Olsen, Michael Naughton; (left row rear) Pam Hanold, Lynn Bassett, Joyce Phillips, Carl Ladd, Emily Monosson; (not pictured) Michael Langknecht, Sorrel Hatch

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL-MONTAGUE – On Wednesday, October 28th, the upstairs meeting room of the Montague town hall was packed with town and school officials from Gill and Montague, grappling with the expected impact of Governor Deval Patrick's impending mid-year cuts, and discussing prospects for the

upcoming FY '11 budget cycle. The selectboards and finance committees of both towns were there, as were members of the school committee and Carl Ladd, superintendent of the Gill-Montague school district.

Ladd made two important points in an attempt to reassure town officials worrying over budget shortfalls present and

future.

He said if the state were to cut aid to the schools for the present budget year, he expects the commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, (DESE) Mitchell Chester, "will adjust our budget accordingly. I can't imagine he would keep the 1/12th budget where it is now."

Following the meeting, Gill Montague Regional School District business manager Lynn Bassett said the mid-year cuts proposed by the governor on Thursday would deduct \$90,000 from the GMRSD's regional transportation reimbursement, along with \$5,000 from the grant that supports the school's nurse

see BUDGET pg 12

Mid-year Cuts Impact Towns

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WENDELL & ELSEWHERE

– On Thursday, Governor Deval Patrick issued cuts to state government spending totaling \$352 million, relying on layoffs, federal stimulus funds, and \$60 million in surplus funds from the fiscal year that ended on June 30th to close most of the rest of an estimated \$600 million deficit in the state budget.

By Friday morning, Wendell finance committee member Jim Slavas, working with figures provided by the Massachusetts Municipal Association's (MMA) website, produced the following analysis of how the governor's mid-year cuts will affect Wendell.

Slavas estimated the governor's cut of:

- \$18 million from regional school transportation funding, a 44 percent cut reducing the account from \$40.5 million to \$22.5 million, would produce a reduction of about \$18,380 to Wendell, if it is applied across the board.

- \$7 million from special education circuit breaker funding, a five percent cut that reduces that account from \$140 million to \$133 million. For FY'10, the budget submitted by Mahar

see IMPACT pg 5

School Committee Summit Gathering

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREENFIELD – This Saturday, school committee members from around Franklin County will be gathering in a first of its kind event, at a summit meeting of the Franklin County School Committee Caucus (FCSCC) at the Greenfield High School from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Organizers hope the event will provide an opportunity for the caucus to articulate its vision of the future of education in Franklin County, and to strengthen the caucus as a vehicle for achieving those goals.

That's an ambitious agenda for an organization that is less than one year old.

The FCSCC formed in January of this year, when

then Gill-Montague regional school committee chair Mary Kociela convened a meeting of representatives of the 18 school committees in Franklin County. Since then, the caucus has met almost monthly, adopted a charter, called for and received formal appointments of representatives from each school committee, and planned its first major event – this weekend's summit gathering.

Steering committee members John DeWitt (New Salem), Marcia Day (Greenfield), Mike Langknecht (Gill-Montague), Doris Doyle (Greenfield), and Keith McCormic (Greenfield) met with other caucus members on Monday at Turners Falls High School to put finish-

ing touches on logistics for the summit, which they anticipate will draw two to four dozen school committee members and superintendents, from the pool of between 100 and 150 members countywide.

Also at the Monday meeting, McCormic reviewed findings of a survey, which he said drew responses from more than a dozen Franklin County school committee members. "When people see how much agreement there is on topics," said McCormic, "they will be encouraged."

McCormic cited opposition to forced regionalization as one overarching survey response. Indeed, it was the perceived threat of forced regionalization of the small school districts in

see SCHOOL pg 6

Teen Coordinator on the Job at Wendell Library



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jordan Funke, left, introduced herself to a group of young people gathered in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday. Funke is the newly hired teen services coordinator for the library

BY DAVID DETMOLD – More than a dozen young people gathered in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday to meet Jordan Funke, the newly hired coordinator for teen activities at the library. Funke, a

resident of Montague Center recently returned from a year in Costa Rica, was hired with the help of a federal grant from the Library Services and Technology Act to provide services to the roughly 71 young people in Wendell

between the ages of 10 and 19.

"Kids in Wendell are spread out to nine different schools – some are home-schooled – and they are just really isolated," said librar-

see TEEN pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Silver Tortie



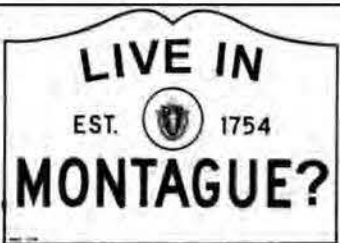
Emerald

Hi I'm Emerald and I'm a three-year-old female shorthair tortie cat in need of a good home. I'm friendly, cheerful, and lively. Won't you come and meet me? You know you'll fall in love. I'm in Valley Veterinary Hospital's adoption cage on Route 9 in Hadley. 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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Local Subscription Rates:
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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Used Book Sale

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS – There will be a used book sale at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, November 7th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thousands of books, including mysteries, suspense, non-fiction, and children's, will be sold at \$2 a bag. Videotapes will be sold at \$1 each, and

recorded books will be offered for \$2. Proceeds will go to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, who help support the three libraries and their programs. The sale is held in the basement of the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information, call 863-3214.

Mother Goose on the Loose

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS – Mother Goose on the Loose, with Michael Nix and Linda Hickman, will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, November 7th at 10:30 a.m. The program is a fast-paced interac-

tive mix of live guitar, banjo, and other instruments, rhymes, stories, and puppets. The free sessions are designed for babies through preschoolers and their parents or other caregivers. For information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Kids Movie Night

Ice Age, Dawn of the Dinosaurs, will be shown on Friday, November 6th, at 6:30 p.m., at the Wendell Free Library. In the coolest ice age adventure yet, Manny and the

herd discover a lost world of ferociously funny dinosaurs, including a cranky T. Rex with a score to settle! Please bring blankets or pillows for this free Kids Movie Night adventure.

UFO's in Wendell

On Sunday, November 8th, 6:30 p.m., the Wendell Free Library Cinema will present a showing of Richard Dolan's keynote address to the 17th annual UFO Congress in Laughlin, Nevada, titled, *the Future Held Hostage: How UFO Secrecy Keeps Us in Bondage*. Dolan maintains, "Other intelligences are operating objects and technologies far in advance of what our own civilization has. The cover-up is real, and active." In 2000, Dolan released a 500-page study, *UFOs and the National*

Security State, the first of a two-volume historical narrative of the national security dimensions of the UFO phenomenon from 1941 to the present. Included are the records relating to more than 50 military base air space violations by unknown objects, demonstrating the US military has taken the topic of UFOs seriously indeed. Dolan's work has had widespread media coverage on the History Channel, the Sci Fi Channel, BBC and European networks. Come listen, and decide for yourself if UFOs are real.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Growing Up with Nature

Educator and naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward has been working with Leverett Elementary School children to help them discover the natural world through stories, games and art.

As the children discover some

of the skills and tools necessary to become nature detectives they also explore with art in nature and using nature for art.

Enjoy some of their creations on a special shelf at the Leverett Library.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – Nov 9th to 13th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 p.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. Lunch is daily at 12 noon. 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. Call the Senior Center soon to sign up for the Veterans' Day Pot Luck Lunch.

Monday, Nov. 9th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic (sign up)
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, Nov. 10th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic (sign up)
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, Nov. 11th
(Veterans Day)
12 noon Pot Luck Lunch
Thursday, Nov. 12th
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation (no Tai Chi)
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, Nov. 13th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308.



Ann Fisk, Smokey the Bear, Ruth Helmich, and Catherine Simon at the Montague Center Fire Department's open house on Saturday. Helmich and Simon have reason to be proud of the Montague Center volunteers. On April 22nd of this year, at 1:54 a.m., lightning struck their Union Street home and set the kitchen ablaze. Firefighters arrived within eight minutes and saved the house.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Monet's Magic Garden

GILL – How to pastel paint as impressionists, no experience needed. Slate Memorial Library presents a pastel workshop with award winning pastel painter Gregory Miachak on Tuesday, November 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. Seating will fill up fast so please sign up at the front desk in advance or register by calling (413) 863-2591. All materials are included.

Maichack, a Massachusetts

Cultural Council Gold Star Program Award nominee, is a faculty member of the Quadrangle Museum School at the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, and of the Guild Studio School at Eastworks. He also teaches in the continuing education departments at Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College, and Westfield State College.

GREENFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

Protest March Planned on Library Cuts

On Friday, November 13th, at 4 p.m., Greenfield citizens will gather for a march and rally protesting Mayor Bill Martin's proposed \$30,300 cut to operations at the public library, in advance of the city council's vote on the matter on November 18th. According to Garth Shaneyfelt, a resident of Greenfield, the march will begin at the intersection of High and Main Street, and proceed down Main to the town common, stopping at the library, where marchers are encouraged to enter and deposit quarters in the library donation can, as they

are able to afford.

If the budget cut to the library goes through as proposed, the library would cut four more part time staff positions, in addition to the three cut earlier this year, and close eight more hours a week, in addition to the 3.5 hours lost earlier this year. Protest organizers note the \$30,300 cut to the library is meant to offset increases elsewhere in the budget, including an \$8,000 expenditure for furnishing and fixtures in the mayor's office spent when Martin was elected.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Ivy Cross

Grade 7

Jackie MacConnell

Grade 8

Alexander Osowski

Lauren Grimard

NOTE FROM THE MONTAGUE DPW

Due to the Veterans Day Holiday on Wednesday, November 11th the recycle center will be closed; it will be open as usual on Saturday, November 14th.

There is no change in the trash and recycling pickup schedule.

Turners Falls Veterans Day Ceremony

Wednesday, November 11th
10:30 a.m.

at the Veterans War Memorial,
Ave A, next to library.
All are Welcome.

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

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

TURNERS FALLS – Local artist and art educator Ruth O'Mara has completed a painting of the local Wendell landscape, called "Fiske Pond." The painting will be on display at the Wendell Free Library starting in November, and will later be donated to the town. The art project was funded by the Wendell Cultural Council.

At the MontagueMA.net website's tenth anniversary party, Patrick Davis and Mik Muller, co-owners of Montague WebWorks held a coffee can fundraiser and mini-auction to raise funds for the Montague Reporter technology fund. They raised \$135, and a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Mik and Pat on their website's big anniversary, and thanks for the boost to our technology fund!

The Turners Falls High School students from the Reconnecting Youth program are holding a food drive to benefit the Franklin Area Survival Center. So far they have collected 661 non-perishable food items during the drive. This week, the students are also holding a raffle for one of their homemade cakes. Each food item donated earns the giver a raffle ticket for the drawing.

People wishing to drop off

items can do so at the high school's main office and pick up a raffle ticket, or they can drop them off at the 2nd Street Bakery in downtown Turners Falls.

Abby Bryant, director of the Sheffield School's full day program, invited Turners Falls football players to come over to Sheffield, to inspire students in their afternoon program. On Wednesday, November 4th, four members of the football team conducted a clinic with 30 Sheffield students. After a series of warm-up exercises and some drills, a flag football game was organized and the TFHS and Sheffield students put in a lively game.

Bryant, who also coaches the TFHS girls volleyball team, said there are presently 111 students enrolled in the full day program, with an average attendance of 90 students per day. The full day program starts at 8:00 a.m. with a free breakfast and picks up again after school at 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. Besides outside activities like flag football on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, the program offers a Native American beading class, science and arts and craft projects. However, none of the students can skip the homework session. That is mandatory.

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

Montague Center Fire Department Open House

BY ANN FISK - On October 31st, the bay doors of the Montague Center fire house were flung open, equipment moved out, and displays and refreshments set up to host the community for an open house. No one was disappointed. The hands-on exhibits allowed folks of all ages to put out a fire, handle a charged fire line, crawl through a house full of smoke, meet the crew of Baystate Health Ambulance while sitting in their rig, and view the county's communication van, which would serve as a command center at a major incident.

Due to the state financial woes, budget cuts have hit the Department of Conservation Resources, which oversees the state forest fire services. Most personnel were laid off, leaving Smokey the Bear with an empty den. Thanks to Phil Gilmore and Luke Hartnett, Smokey was allowed to attend the Montague Center open house in costume on Hallowe'en morning, but local volunteers had to provide the bear power and a uniformed escort.

Huge smiles and words of encouragement were offered to the Montague Center junior firefighters, fire hats donned for that perfect photo shot, as occasional blasts from an air horn filled the air.

The weather was great for

putting out brush fires, but the crowd didn't seem to mind.

Bear Country radio was on hand to pass out batteries as a reminder to make sure home smoke detectors are kept in working order.

Thanks to Rau's, Scape Builders, and Power Down Debt for sponsoring the event. And, on behalf of the Montague Center fire department, thanks to all who took part in the open house. It was wonderful to have such great community support!

– Ann Fisk, EMT-B
Montague Center Fire

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JOE GRAVELINE
Northfield

Compost those Pumpkins!

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD – Wondering what to do with those ghoulish rotting pumpkins on your doorstep? Compost them!

Autumn, with its many chores of cleaning up the yard and reaping garden harvests, is a great time to start composting. Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with an effective compost bin.

Attractive, durable bins for backyard composting are available through the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for district residents at several locations.



The "Earth Machine," which sells for \$40, is made of a tough recycled polyethylene plastic and has a twist-on locking lid. The bin stakes to the ground and is easy to assemble, rodent resistant, and designed for good aeration.

The Earth Machine is avail-

able at these four locations: Colrain Transfer Station, Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Wendell Transfer Station, Tuesday 12 – 6 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Orange Transfer Station, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.; and the district office, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield (hours vary; call (413) 772-2438).

For more information on composting or waste management programs, call the Solid Waste District at that number, or visit the District website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

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ANGELS WANTED

BY LYN CLARK

RIVERSIDE – One can't help hearing these days about newspapers that have had to lay off staff, file for bankruptcy, and even go belly-up. Some even say newspapers are a dying breed.

Yet here in our sheltered Valley, the *Montague Reporter* is thriving. This can be attributed, principally, to two things:

The first is a small but dedicated band of volunteers. It might surprise our readers to know that while they are snug in bed of a Wednesday night, unpaid proof-readers are combing the pages of the jigsaw puzzle that will coalesce into the newspaper sometime in the wee hours of Thursday morning. They may not realize that most of our writers receive little in compensation, and the rest nothing at all for their news articles and features; or that other volunteers give untold and unsung hours of free labor in the process of producing each new issue and keeping the *Reporter* office running.

The second reason your non-profit newspaper is thriving is because its readers and advertisers are loyal and supportive. They appreciate the quality of the writing and the depth of the local news coverage, and they know it can be found nowhere else. They subscribe, and when renewing their subscriptions, they may even add an extra donation. They attend our fundraisers and give generously there, too. They are our Angels.

Yet still, just like the big dailies, the *Montague Reporter*

has seen costs increase, and the revenue we get from the sale of newspapers, subscriptions, and advertising has trouble keeping pace. Though subscriptions are up 7% since our decision to expand to Leverett coverage, and a modest increase in advertising rates earlier this year has helped, still our office computers, secondhand originally, are now sadly outdated and go on the blink with frightening regularity; the color printing, so popular with our readers, has added to the cost of publication; the cost has gone up steeply for bulk mailings – in fact, operating expenses are up across the board. So for now we continue to rely on Angels to help us keep the presses rolling.

To that end we are inviting you, dear reader, to a benefit party on Tuesday, November 10th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Route 2 in Gill. This will be great fun, with a fine Mediterranean-style buffet, cash bar, games, and music. The cost is only \$15 per guest; children get in for \$8. Please call us right away to reserve your place, as space is limited: 413-863-8666. Be an Angel and come join us!

The Montague Reporter is a 501-c4 non-profit, owned by and operated for the benefit of the community. Lyn Clark, a resident of Turners Falls, is secretary of the Montague Reporter board. She might not want you to know it, but she's also contributed countless volunteer hours to keeping the newspaper office running for the past few years.

200 Doses of H1N1 Vaccine

Two hundred doses of H1N1 flu vaccine are finally available for distribution to students at the Turners Falls High School. That is hardly enough to go around.

Montague's director of public health, Gina McNeely, said Franklin County towns banded together in a public health coalition with the help of the Franklin Regional Council of Government's to order 30,000 doses of the vaccine weeks ago from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, enough for clinics at five centralized school district dispensaries to inoculate students all around the county

against the virulent strain of flu making headlines and emergency room lines around the country. As of now, only 1000 doses have arrived, 200 for each of the dispensing sites.

At Gill-Montague, they will be offered first to high school students who have parental permission and who have risk factors like asthma that could make them particularly susceptible to the disease's effects.

More vaccine should arrive soon. But McNeely said, "It's easy to tell people that, but why should they believe you?"

This week, absentee rates at

the Gill-Montague schools climbed from 12.5% on Monday to about 18% mid-week. Paula Kelsey, the district's school nurse leader, said there have been no confirmed cases of H1N1 at the district, because no lab tests have been done, but students are staying home with fevers over 100.4, sore throats and coughs. Parents returning permission slips predominately do want their children to be vaccinated against the H1N1 virus, Kelsey added. But by the time enough vaccine arrives from Boston the incidence may have peaked and largely run its course.

Vaccine is available at private Ob-Gyn and pediatric offices in the country, and pregnant women and children have been getting inoculated there. But as an exercise in handling a public health emergency – if the swine flu can be considered such – this has been a case of too little, too late.

McNeely said she has been spending much of her time working on H1N1 to the detriment of her other responsibilities. This again points to the need for a trained public health nurse working sufficient hours for the town of Montague to be familiar with the needs of the community. The next health emergency could be worse.

before filling a vacant position.

The postponed replacement of employees who retire or resign avoids or softens the impact of layoffs, reductions in hours, and other measures on the employees who remain.

Retirements and resignations also offer the opportunity to reassess the role of a function, as part of any eventual replacement. The town took such an opportunity with the retirement of the former Council on Aging director.

Finally, until the Gill-Montague regional school budget and town assessment are determined, we do not have a balanced FY'10 budget. Deferral of hiring demonstrates a commitment to solving town-side budget issues, independent of the remaining GMRSD issues

There are also operating considerations to keep in mind. In reviewing the structure of Montague's government, I consider planning part of quality of life services, which also include parks and recreation, libraries, and the senior center. Decreased funding of these functions leads to reduced services, but this simply recognizes the reality of economic constraints.

In choosing among these services, I think Montague's residents, in times of economic difficulty, will assign greater value to continuing senior, parks, and library services, which are immediate and concrete, than to planning services, which are more abstract and affect residents only over the longer term.

I agree with a comment town administrator Frank Abbonanzio made last week about the planning function, to the effect that "we will have to sort out what [planner projects] are in the works." That "sorting out" involves prioritization of current and future activities within the limited resources we have.

I agree the recent planners have initiated many useful projects, with long-term value to the town, but the scarcity of money requires postponement of some and possibly the indefinite suspension of others. This "sorting" simply accelerates decisions that

will need to be made anyway for FY'11.

The activities of the planner involve various other organizations, who can continue what is most important at this time. Planning board and conservation commission members should have familiarity with issues and processes and can continue to rely on the half-time planning clerk; the town administrator has extensive experience and interest in grant application and administration; and some elements of the planner's new job may logically overlap with Montague's needs as a COG constituent.

This is a chance for the selectboard to turn an unsought challenge into thoughtful reappraisal when it will be beneficial for both prioritization of needs and services and for cost control in a troubled time.

I hope the selectboard and town administrator give this recommendation serious consideration.

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



KAREN WILKINSON CARTOON

Montague Should Postpone Hiring a Planner

BY JOHN HANOLD –

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/3/09



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Life in Alaska is Interesting

In July, Montague planning board chair Doug Stephens wrote a brief letter of resignation from Nome, AK, saying he had taken a job performing hydrographic surveys in the Land of the Midnight Sun, which would make it difficult for him to attend meetings. Now, Stephens writes to fill us in on the state of affairs in the largest state of the Union.



Moonrise over the Chugach Mountains

BY DOUG STEPHENS

ANCHORAGE – Suffice to say

the country here, the mountains, rivers, oceans and bays and gla-

ciers, the wildlife, sea life and spawning salmon, the bears that eat the spawning salmon, the spawned-out salmon dead and rotting, replenishing the entire country with nutrients from the ocean, the trails, sunsets (over the Cook Inlet – with massive volcanoes on the far horizon), and moonrise (over the Chugach Mountains, of course) are all truly breathtaking and refresh my soul. I simply can't get enough. Which is why I am here.

Culturally, there are some extreme paradoxes. The owner of the largest oil service company in Alaska, Bill Allen, former chief executive of VECO, a several hundred million dollar corporation, just got sentenced to three years in jail for bribing many legislators over many years. The macro-political structure here is completely bought and paid for by big energy, and appears to be about as corrupt as

it gets, and that's saying something.

On the other hand the state is awash in principled, informed, caring people who see what is going on politically, economically, and environmentally and are determined to make a difference.

It's too bad they live where absolutely everything gets shipped in by barge or plane, and the only truly sustainable lifestyle would be one of subsistence hunting and fishing, and even the few natives who try to maintain that heritage rely mostly on snow-machines, outboard motors, and air-freight to ease their efforts.

Then there are the educated upper middle class. They may be politically liberal, but they must have all the right gear from REI to be outdoors, and are in denial that their organic vegetables are shipped up from Southern California, where they were har-

vested a month ago.

In fact, a trip through the local natural food store (a for-profit venture, not a coop) is almost an identical experience to a trip through Green Fields Market. Except for a change from "Local Heroes" to "Alaskan Grown," I would defy folks to do a blind taste test between the two and figure out which side of the continent they are on.

It reminds me how much stuff is shipped in to Greenfield too, the difference being it is shipped by truck and maybe not quite as far.

The mechanized hunting and fishing crowds up here are ubiquitous, and have no problem killing whatever is at hand. In my opinion, even the tourist industry here is damaging in many ways. But at least the mocha java at the Middle Way Cafe is really good, which is what I'm sipping as I compose this.

We live on a remarkable planet in some truly stimulating times.

IMPACT from pg 1

assumed Circuit Breaker receipts of \$289,756. A 5% reduction would amount to a \$14,490 shortfall. Swift River, which has managed its SPED requirements extremely well, was not eligible for Circuit Breaker monies in FY'10, so the 9-C reductions will not have an impact on Swift River.

However, according to the MMA, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education estimates it has enough money in the Circuit Breaker account to meet the estimated 40% funding level the department earlier provided to school districts as an estimate.

- \$5.2 million from charter school reimbursements, a 6.5% cut that reduces the account from \$79.8 million to \$74.6 million.

Slavas estimates this could produce a \$686 reduction for Swift River and a \$1,961 reduction for Mahar, but again, the MMA says the DESE may have enough funds still available in this account to meet the full state obligation.

- \$798,000 from two library grant programs, a four percent cut that reduces these accounts

from \$19.4 million to \$18.6 million.

Assuming this reduction applies to the Library Offset Receipts, the loss to the Wendell library will be \$76.

The governor is also submitting a supplemental budget bill that proposes to cut:

- \$10.8 million from payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT), a 39.5 percent cut that would reduce this account from \$27.3 million to \$16.5 million. If approved by the legislature, this would reduce Wendell's expected PILOT funds by \$27,490, from \$69,587 to \$42,097.

- An additional \$5 million from the Quinn Bill, which would reduce the remaining funding from \$10 million to \$5 million.

The total direct hit to Wendell, if the governor's proposed cuts go through, may total \$45,943 (about \$0.62 on the tax rate), Slavas estimated.

Montague is looking at about \$50,000 in potential losses from the governor's mid-year cuts, mainly from PILOT funds and the Quinn bill, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

Town administrator Tracy Rogers in Gill said she expect-

ed PILOT cuts to that town to be on the order of \$5,600.

Lynn Bassett, Gill-Montague regional school business manager, said the GMRSD stands to lose about \$90,000 in regional transportation funding, along with \$5,000 from the state grant for the school nurse leader position.

Erving administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said Erving stands to lose about \$15,000 in PILOT funds of the \$36,000 Erving was slated to receive in FY '10, along with a loss of about \$750 in Quinn bill funding.

The Erving Elementary School apparently escaped the mid-year cuts unscathed.

Leverett's interim town administrator, Wendy Foxmyn, said that community may experience cuts of up to \$2800 in PILOT funding, coupled with the \$475 from the Quinn Bill.

Foxmyn said, "My questions are: Why does the governor continue to cut regional school transportation, and can the Department of Education continue to encourage regionalization efforts in light of this fiscal policy?"



Gill Cheese a Reason to Give Thanks

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

GILL - Did you know that cheese is made in Gill?

Several farmers here craft the delectable staple right from their homesteads, using time-tested methods to produce some of the most delicious, all-natural cheeses, like cheddar and goat's cheese.

On Friday, November 20th, the public is invited to the first-ever Gill Cheese Tasting Night at Gill Congregational Church in Gill Center, across the street from the Gill Tavern. From 7 to 9 p.m., visitors will sample cheddar cheese made by students at Northfield Mount Hermon on the NMH farm; cheddar made by Cliff and Sorrel Hatch at Upingil Farm; and a mild goat's cheese made by Daniel Botkin at Laughing Dog Farm. Homemade, fresh bread by Gill bakers and apple cider courtesy of NMH will also be featured in this evening's celebration of foods produced in Gill.

Gill Agricultural Commission

chair Steve Damon believes in promoting locally-produced foods whenever possible, and works energetically to coordinate events highlighting Gill's farms and farmers, like this summer's first Gill farmers market.

"There is quite a diversity of agricultural products grown right here in Gill," said Damon. "Not only cheese, but honey, maple syrup, emu, grains, vegetables, eggs, milk, lavender, pork, beef, chicken, apple cider, and more. I have even convinced my parents in Greenfield that Gill-grown dandelions are tastier than any others!"

Gill Cheese Tasting Night is one more way to support the Gill farmers and provide the general public with the opportunity to sample the cream of the local cheesemaking crop. Admission is \$2 per person. This family-friendly event is alcohol-free; children are encouraged to attend with their parents.

For more information, call 413-863-2850.



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LENDER BCT

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Old Randall Road Dispute

BY BILL DRAKE – Ben John and Laura Rooney of 32 Hillside Road discussed the use of Old Randall Road, part of which runs through the couple's property at the selectboard meeting of November 2nd. John and Rooney disputed the town of Montague's claim on a prescriptive right of way running through their front yard.

The trouble began over a year ago when John and Rooney started building their new home.

"I had people yell at me as

they walked through my land, towards us as we were building," said John. "I would say, 'I live here' and they would say, 'No, you don't.'"

The town posted signs; the Turners Falls High School erected a barrier and changed their cross-country runners' routes, but later in the construction, vandals spray-painted their house.

"I guess they didn't like being re-routed," said John.

With construction complete the harassment continued.

"We've had people doing wheelies past our house," said John.

The beige clapboard ranch sits on the corner of Hillside Road and Old Randall Road. But Old Randall Road is just a trodden path leading into a spruce grove. An outdoor deck opens toward the spruce grove and, if large concrete blocks didn't bar vehicular traffic, a motorist driving east on Randall Road could cut straight through the spruce grove to connect with Hillside. While cars cannot fit through the barrier and drive past the house, other motorized vehicles can, and do.

"I'm afraid backing out of my garage," said Rooney. "I'm always looking out for a snowmobile or an ATV."

John and Rooney called on the selectboard to do something to improve the situation. They claimed their property extends to the centerline of Old Randall Road, and that section of land is not a public way.

The town, through town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, posited that, by using the chain of title, proof of Old Randall Road as a public way has been documented since 1830. A change in property rights law in 1846, reflected in General Laws Chapter 84, ss. 23, requires a survey and a public vote to create a public way; but, since the road is found on a map or deed before 1846, the town owns a prescriptive right of way on top of the section John and Rooney own.

"Ownership is separate from the right of way," said Abbondanzio. "Typically, a prescriptive right of way sat on top of private land."

The case Fenn v. Town of Middleborough, 7 Mass.App.80 (1979) helped to define a prescriptive right of way as a continued or uninterrupted use of a way by the general public without asking anyone's permission, over

at least 20 years. For the town of Montague, then, the only way to relinquish use of Old Randall Road would be for the town to abandon the claim of right of way, which would set a legal precedent the town does not wish to make.

With no resolution coming from the selectboard, John offered one, "I see a real easy solution, a really easy one to all this: just move it."

K-9 Kyra to Retire

In other town news, Montague police chief Ray Zukowski requested a Civil Service reserve officers' list to hire a temporary full-time position. The potential hiring would fill a vacant spot left open after an officer's retirement. The temporary designation would allow Zukowski some flexibility.

"We can try the candidate on for a while," said Zukowski.

Also, Zukowski announced the planned retirement of the department's K-9 police dog, Kyra. Kyra, nine, is a German Shepard certified in narcotic detection, tracking, and evidence recovery. Thanks to private dona-

tions, contributions from both the Millers Falls and Turners Falls Rod and Gun clubs, and a popular golf tournament, the K-9 program is self-sustaining.

The police department has enough funds to purchase a dog, train it, and pay for the salary of patrolman John Dempsey, Kyra's current handler, while he is away at training.

In the town administrator's report, state cuts in local aid continue to hit Montague. The state slashed the town's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) account by 40%. Approximately \$42,000 was cut from this line item in last week's announced 9-C midyear cuts, proposed by Governor Deval Patrick as a way of closing an estimated \$600 million gap in Massachusetts' budget for the current fiscal year.

PILOT payments compensate a local town government for some or all of the tax revenue lost because of state property ownership in town.

All told, the town of Montague stands to lose nearly \$50,000 in state aid in the latest round of budget cutting.

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SCHOOL from pg 1

Franklin County that first sparked Kociela to reach out to other school committee chairs to form the caucus nearly a year ago.

But with that threat receding in the face of repeated studies that show few cost savings from regionalization, and the lack of funds in Boston to incentivize regionalization, is the caucus in danger of losing its reason for being?

"I think there is a real sense that school committees in general want to be a leading voice for the future of education in the county," said DeWitt. "We wanted to come together as an education group to assert our leadership, as constitutionally mandated school officials elected by the voters. There was a sense decisions were being made that would affect us by bureaucrats from Boston."

DeWitt emphasized, "The budget crisis is real. The cutbacks at the state level are real. The crisis is not going away."

And therefore, the need for

school committees to work together across district lines, to explore cost savings in collaboration and educational innovation is as urgent as ever, DeWitt maintained.

Day, another steering committee member, said caucus representatives had gone around to almost all the school districts in the county to meet with school committees on their home turf.

"They are facing one emergency after another," said Day. "The local committees are all dealing with crises. This may be just the very time to reach out to other people in the same boat."

The summit will be one opportunity for that to happen. The public is welcome to attend, but the focus will be on the school committee members as they seek common ground amid the cross currents of budget crises, school choice and charter school funding controversies, and the push and pull of Readiness Schools and Race to the Top initiatives from the state and federal

level.

"We may have a diversity of opinions," said DeWitt, "but we are unanimous in seeking a locally developed educational solution for our unique situation, in a rural, less densely populated county, as opposed to solutions being imposed from Boston."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Accident on Depot Rd.

Tuesday, 10/20

Motor vehicle accident with no personal injury on Depot Road. Pole #7 slightly damaged.

A Locke Hill Road resident reported a gas can missing from a garage.

Sunday, 10/25

Alarm sounding at the former Maple Valley campus. Checked buildings, all secure.

Thursday, 10/29

Assisted postal inspector at a Locke Hill Road residence.

Saturday, 10/31

Report of a tree down across Morse Village Road, no wires involved. Removed same.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Locked Door and Security Camera Proposed for Swift River

BY JOSH HEINEMANN –

It was a dark and stormy night, but in the Wendell town offices the atmosphere was cheery and bright, as the selectboard paid town bills, signed appointment slips, and nibbled molasses cookies baked by town coordinator Nancy Aldrich. It was no coincidence that five groups had scheduled meetings with the selectboard that night, and each visitor sampled a cookie or two; some sampled three. The finance committee added their numbers to those who were already scheduled to speak with the board. Earlier in the evening, when Aldrich left home with the cookies, her son asked, "Where are you taking those?"

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser brought unshelled pinon pine nuts, hand-harvested and delicious. Cracking the shell without crushing the nut is an art worth learning.

When the meeting was over, two hours later, and people were leaving the office building, the storm had moved on, and it left a deep, dark blue sky, with winds moving the high night clouds towards the East. Late October cold was in the air.

The Swift River school committee: Dick Baldwin, Ray DiDonato, and Kevin Skorupa, gave the selectboard an update, and the finance committee sat in. Baldwin said Swift River School had upgraded texts for grades 1, 2 and 3, but not for the other grades. There are no major capital expenses for the school building on the immediate horizon. There is a proposal to lock the front door and install a security camera, but the feeling was the cost would be high in proportion to the minimal risk.

Keller said such a move might not improve security, but it certainly would diminish the school's friendly ambience.

The Swift River draft budget calls for a 2.8% increase for FY '11, but the school committee is pressing to lower that increase to 1%.

State pressure for regionalization has stalled in the face of local opposition, studies showing few financial or educational gains, and the state's lack of revenue to

provide incentives for districts to join together in larger regions.

Mahar has a new food service director who seems to be staying within the budget, and providing more nutritious meals for the students, using fewer processed foods.

Mahar has a dam on the school grounds, and like Fiske Pond in Wendell, the school had to pay for a recent inspection of the dam. The inspection was not expensive, but it showed the dam is in need of repair, and that repair will be expensive, and must be completed before March of 2011.

Baldwin said removing the dam and eliminating the pond it holds back would be a cheaper course of action.

The finance committee appeared appreciative of a proposal to deliver draft school budgets to the committee in January, to give the finance board more time to incorporate school numbers into the town budget as a whole.

Finance committee member Jim Slavos said school committees may be reluctant to share incomplete information, but any information can be some help.

After the school committee report, Skorupa said he had secured a grant to rent the town hall for five contra dances, on Saturdays opposite the Full Moon coffeehouses: January 9th, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, and May 8th.

Case of the Missing Building Permit

Adrian Montagano met the selectboard as the meeting opened, in an effort to clarify his building permit. Almost two years ago, the ownership of the house he is working on was transferred to Natrilia, a condominium association. Montagano said he gave the building permit he had been working under to the building inspector to be transferred to the new owner. He said he has been working regularly on the building, and now is ready to hire an electrician and a plumber, but has not received a new building permit for the contractors to work under. He has been frustrated with calls to the building inspec-

tor, who, according to Montagano, told him, "You haven't worked on the building for years."

Montagano told the board he has been working on the building steadily, if slowly, and brought a picture of the house, newly shingled and closed in, but still uninsulated, unplumbed, and uninhabitable. He said his recent calls to the building inspector have not been returned.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said it may be possible to have the building inspector issue a new permit, because only the ownership has changed. Later he said, "In fact, you do have a permit," but it is not in your hands, and you should be able to work with the contractors as you need to. Selectboard chair Christine Heard offered to call the building inspector to try to expedite the matter.

Hard Liquor at the Pub?

Patti Scutari, manager of the Deja Brew pub, addressed the board about expanding her liquor license to sell all alcoholic beverages. She said after four years of operating the pub serving only beer and wine along with the food menu, she saw the need to expand the license to allow hard liquor.

When the license was first issued, Scutari agreed to serve just beer and wine because neighbors and abutters were worried about speeding cars and other disturbances. At the time she said she might request a full license at some point, or for special occasions. Since then, Scutari said, she has found being restricted to beer and wine has been limiting, especially for private parties. Scutari was unsure of what procedure would be needed to expand the license, and whether a new hearing would be required.

Scutari said she did not intend to change the character of the pub as a local meeting place, and would discourage excessive drinking. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked if there was a wish list for a single malt scotch. Keller said, to his knowledge, there have been no complaints about speeding cars or other concerns from the pub's

neighbors.

Aldrich will continue to try to get an explanation from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission about the proper procedure to follow for expanding a beer and wine license to all alcohol.

Town Website Report

Ray DiDonato next reported the town website design phase is essentially completed. The cost of the redesign came to \$4,100, out of \$4,500 budgeted. At present, some town boards have pages on the website essentially serving as place holders, and DiDonato hoped members of those boards would come forward to learn the new system and maintain an active presence on the town site.

DiDonato said the website design committee was now transforming to a website steering committee, with one of the website designers, Christine Texiera, joining Robbie Leppzer, Patty Smythe, Pooser and DiDonato as a member.

Frozen Food Fight, continued

Assessor Tom Mangan met

the board and thanked them for the letter they had sent him, saying that the selectboard had given the board of health authority over the town office building kitchen sanitation. (In late summer, the board of health disposed of some food Mangan had stored in the kitchen freezer, frozen and wrapped.) But Mangan said the question he had asked was not answered in the selectboard letter, and that was, "Are there laws, or was there a formal transfer of authority over the town office building kitchen from the selectboard to the board of health?" Keller said he would find out and report back to Mangan.

Representing the new town Energy Task Force, Gloria Kegeles asked the selectboard if the task force could have permission to hang a banner, alternating with the Full Moon Coffeehouse banner, on the town common with suggestions for saving energy. Keller said that sounded like a good idea, but Heard cautioned if the banner becomes a regular fixture, it will become invisible.

In between meeting with citi-

see **WENDELL** pg 10

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Local Nature Notes

November: Things to See, Hear, and Do



DETMOLD PHOTO

A ginkgo tree on the corner of Avenue A and Fifth still holds onto its leaves this week.

BY JEN AUDLEY

WEST DEERFIELD – The moon, which was full on November 2nd, is waning now. It will be new again on November 16th. Something to look forward to – December's two full moons, on the 2nd and the 31st.

Which one is the blue moon? We'll leave that to you, dear reader, to decide.

Increasing darkness. Day length will continue to dwindle for another six weeks or so. Many plants and some animals enter a dormant state now – that is, their activity level slows way down, they stop growing, and they draw on stored energy reserves to survive. Day length triggers behavioral changes in animals that stay active throughout the winter, too – hens, for instance, reportedly stop laying if there are less than fourteen hours of light.

Falling leaves. Decreasing day length (not temperature) is also what cues autumn leaves to fall. Some trees, like the ginkgo, drop most of their leaves on a single day. (There's a ginkgo tree on the corner of Avenue A and 5th, by the dentist's office in

Turners Falls – as of November 3rd, it still had its leaves.) Others, including many oaks, hold onto their leaves, sometimes all the way until spring.

Bare trees. Most of our deciduous trees are leafless for more months than not, but it's still striking to make the acquaintance of all those branches again each fall. This is also a good time to notice what the leaves hid from view: birds' and squirrels' nests, neighboring houses, the sky...

Leonids meteor shower. This one occurs annually, when the Earth's path around the Sun passes through a patch of cosmic debris left behind by Comet Tempel-Tuttle. Forecasters think this year's display will be unusually good for viewers in the eastern U.S. (That's us!) If the sky is clear, watch for shooting stars on November 16th, 17th, and 18th – they will appear to radiate from the constellation Leo, which will be high in the southeastern sky in the hours before dawn.

Sunset, right now at about 4:35 p.m., with sunrise close to 6:30 a.m. By the end of the month, the sun will come up at 7 a.m. and go down at 4:15 p.m.

Learn more:

Gearing Up for a Wonderful Winter

Part I: Saturday, November 7; 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Part II: Sunday, December 6; 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Just when hibernating sounds like a good idea, Northfield Mountain Education Center invites you to enjoy the camaraderie and motivation of a

group getting ready for winter outdoor fun. The first of this two part series will introduce you to basic training principles – activities that will improve core body strength and balance skills – with Heidi Creamer. Both programs include a hike led by Beth Bazler on the Northfield Mountain trail system. Attend both programs and get a one-day ski pass or snowshoe rental to entice you to return when the snow flies. For ages 12 and up. For more details and to register, call (800) 859-2960.

Skulls and Bones

Wednesday, November 11th, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Halloween skeletons are all put away; now it's time to check out the real thing. What stories can bones and skulls tell us about an animal's life? Families will compare bones and skulls to see how birds dif-

fer from mammals and predators from prey. Much of the time will be spent doing hands-on activities indoors, with a short field walk. Bone-building snacks will give us the chance to figure out which favorite foods have the most calcium. Program takes place at Northfield Mountain, for ages six and older; \$3 per child. To register, call (800) 859-2960.

The Nature of New England

Thursday, November 19th, 2009, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Within its small geographic range, New England's sculpted mountains, river valleys, and varied shorelines provide for a surprisingly rich and varied flora and fauna. The program will have a strong emphasis 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 will also be spotlighted by speaker Tom Tying, a professional naturalist and writer, currently teaching environmental science at Berkshire Community College. At the Great Falls Discovery Center. Free.

Wildlife Tracking

Saturday, November 28th, 2009, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Winter is on the way, and soon you will see wildlife tracks scattered around the woods in the snow. Join refuge staff to learn the basics of how to identify what animals left those tracks behind. Test your knowledge at identifying select wildlife tracks. This program is designed for individuals new to wildlife tracking. At the Great Falls Discovery Center. Free.

FIELD NOTES FROM THE WENDELL ENERGY TASK FORCE

The Ideal Way to Heat with Wood...?

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON - Pictured here in our living room is the wonderful masonry heater stove I built in 2003 for our home. It's 32" x 45" x 6-1/2' and sits on a cement block foundation that rises in the cellar.

During the winter months it's generally fired twice a day. The glass door lets us view the fire. We put in a charge of wood – it takes a couple of armloads – light it from the top with kindling, then let the fire burn, which it's soon doing intensely. About an hour-and-a-half later it's burned down to glowing coals, when we shut it down by a chimney top damper operated by a pull-chain located conveniently on the side of the chimney.

For maybe 20 minutes of attention, we get a day of even heat. The masonry heater burns extraordinarily cleanly, warming the heart while warming the body.

The masonry heater handles



VON RANSON PHOTO

Home is Where the Hearth Is

the 1,200 square feet of living space of our old but tightened-up farmhouse with about 3½ cords of wood in even the coldest winters. We may wear sweaters, but we come downstairs in the

morning to a comfortable house.

A handy person with some masonry skills can build one, though it's a pretty big job. There are important layout issues to consider in order to heat a house properly. Sometimes you can use an existing chimney, but the stove needs a good foundation. The refractory core pieces are like huge Lego blocks; even so, there's room for error when assembling them. Installation of the brick or stone façade is challenging as well. The core has to be able to expand and contract without cracking the façade.

The kit for the heater's core, from Temp-Cast in Toronto, includes cast refractory blocks, steel loading door, cast iron cleanout doors and damper. Its cost when we bought it was \$4,500 with shipping charges included. It makes heating with wood almost like modern "central heating." Sure, you have to load see **WOOD** pg 10

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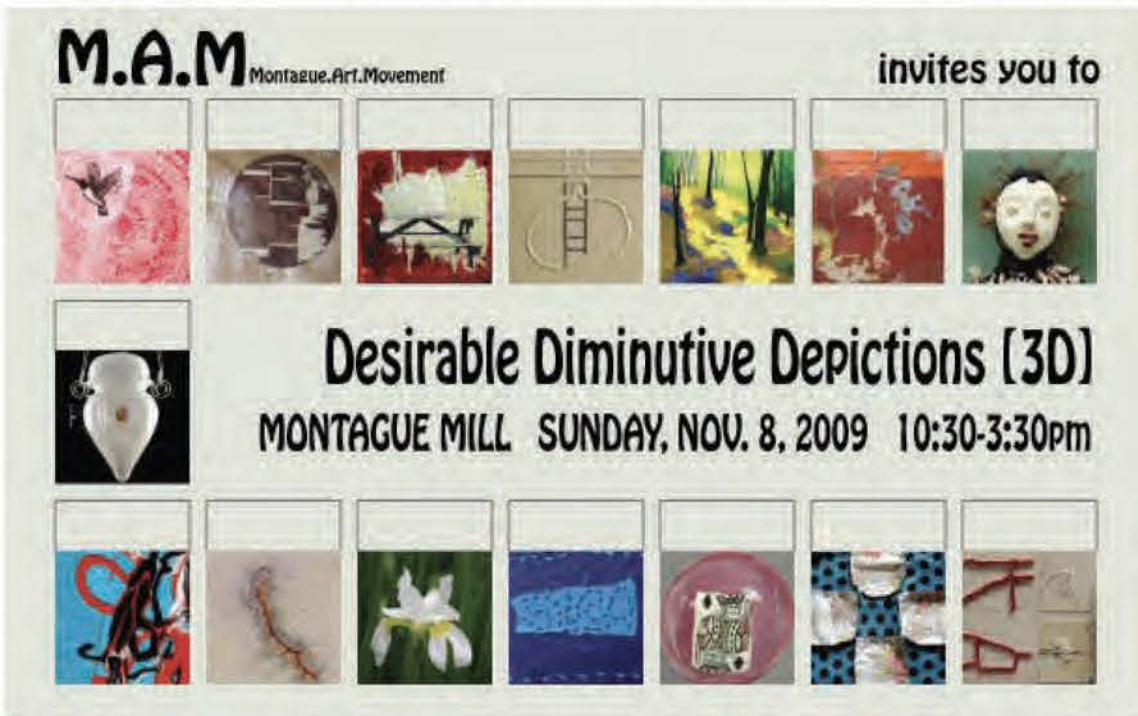
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Desirable Diminutive Depictions [3D] at the Montague Mill

On Sunday, November 8th, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Montague Mill complex will be transformed into a small works exhibition of original fine art created by town of Montague residents. This is the second exhibition organized by M.A.M. (Montague.Art.Movement), an informal association of three artist-neighbors who live in the village of Montague Center.

"The response to our first fine art exhibition was unequivocally positive," said Kristin Zottoli, one of the M.A.M. organizers. "Between 150 and 200 community members viewed the work of the twelve artists who exhibited during our May Day event. Among the comments written in our guest book was a suggestion that M.A.M. organize a fall small works exhibit."

The result is Desirable Diminutive Depictions [3D], an exhibition organized in partnership with the Montague Mill businesses. Fifteen artists representing the villages of



Turners Falls, Montague Center, and Millers Falls will exhibit work on walls of the Book Mill, Lady Killigrew Café, Millworks Studio, Night Kitchen, Rick Dodge Antiques, and Turn It Up! The organizers have created a map-like exhibition card to take visitors on a

treasure hunt of fine art. "We wanted to create an exhibit that would be distinctly different from our May Day exhibit," remarked Miryam Vesset. "We decided to ask artists to create work in response to the six-inch square."

Exhibited work will include

drawings, paintings in oils and acrylics, photographs, collages, etchings, glass sculpture, and mixed media works that utilize clay, wire, found objects, and wood. All work will be original, not larger than a six-inch square, and inexpensive.

"We continue to want to present exhibition experiences

for artists and art viewers that omit the unfortunate discomfort and intimidation often associated with gallery and museum settings," noted Claudine Mussuto, the third M.A.M. organizer. "Artists exhibiting in [3D] range from those of us who are self-taught to those with advanced fine art degrees, and from those who exhibit regularly to artists exhibiting for the first time. We look forward to interacting with visitors who represent a similar spectrum of art viewers and buyers."

Artists exhibiting in Desirable Diminutive Depictions [3D] include, from Millers Falls: Belinda Lyons-Zucker and Stephen Stavropoulos; from Montague Center: Karen Chapman, Christine Mero, Claire Miehler, Claudine Mussuto, Jaye Pope, Sally Ann Prasch, and Kristin Zottoli; and, from Turners Falls: Ellen Blanchette, Barbara Milot, Mikael Petraccia, Jessica Star, and Rochleigh Wholfe.

"In Plain Sight" Photographic Works by Jean Stabell Poems by Alice Schertle



"Bottles" by Jean Stabell

BY RICHARD BALDWIN WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library held a reception for the opening of Jean Stabell's show of photographs and mixed media pieces on Saturday, October 24th. The exhibition, "In Plain Sight," is the first to be organized by the library's art exhibition committee. It will run through November 28th. The reception was well attended, refresh-

ments were served, and there was a display of smaller matted photographs for sale.

The title "In Plain Sight" is an accurate description of the work displayed. For the most part, Stabell uses close up photos from nature to state the subject of her work, then refines the composition through digital editing. The results are both intimate and at times quite dramatic.

Fifteen medium to small photographs and mixed media pieces make up the show. Two works are photographs by Stabell, paired with poems by Alice Schertle. The poems and photographs complement one another effectively.

While the pieces depend on close up photography, Stabell also flattens out the surface by emphasizing two dimensional pattern. In "The Cat" and

"Cat's Version – Poem," the image of the black cat is completely flat against a bowl and receding textured floor.

In "Lobster Pots," the brightly colored wire of the pots create a lively two dimensional pattern. In "Underwater," autumn leaves photographed underwater create a pattern almost the equivalent of a color field abstraction. And in "Vanessa," the only obvious portrait in the show, Stabell uses photography to make a multiple image piece look very much like a woodcut or silkscreen print. Simplifying the color combinations and repeating the image four times are techniques related to printmaking and painting.

Several of the works in the show are mixed media pieces. These are quite different from the more straightforward close ups from nature. In the "New Salem Buddha" and "New Salem Buddha II," the artist has combined the process of photographing a set up (a tiny

Buddha sculpture placed in hollow tree) with limited digital collage (leaves in one of the hollows) to create pieces with a narrative feel.

In the mixed media piece "For Mary," Stabell uses cutouts of old photographs, all portraits of women, linking them together with cord and pins against a ground of weathered clapboards, creating what feels like an elegy. The photo portraits, jewelry components and weathered clapboards seem to be a visual metaphor for a life well lived.

The show has been carefully organized by Stabell to emphasize the different ways she works. Her exploration of pattern, value contrasts, wide color range, near abstraction and visual narrative, results in a lively and imaginative exhibition of work.

The show is on display in the Herrick Room Gallery of the Wendell Free Library. Library hours are Tuesday, 3 to 6; Wednesday, 11 to 8; and Saturday, 9:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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Potential Use of Wastewater by Biomass Plant Raises Concern

BY JOSHUA WATSON

GREENFIELD – The Greenfield city council's appointment and ordinance committee met at 7 p.m. on Monday in the auditorium of the Greenfield Middle School to hear public comment on a proposal to amend the town's sewer regulations to allow the commercial sale of wastewater from the town's treatment plant. The amendment is being contemplated in preparation for a 47-megawatt biomass power plant proposed by Pioneer Renewable Energy for the I-91 Industrial Park on Adams Road, which

would use more than 600,000 gallons of the wastewater per day as a cooling agent.

The amendment would allow the mayor, with approval by the town council, to enter into agreements lasting up to 20 years allowing for the sale of either treated or untreated wastewater. The price for the wastewater would potentially include the sewer use fees that otherwise would be charged for the flushing of wastewater into the sewage system.

Council members David Singer, Christopher Joseph, Thomas McClellan, and

Brickett Allis presided. About 150 residents of Greenfield and surrounding towns attended the meeting, and almost 30 people addressed the council, expressing their concerns about the reuse of wastewater, and their fear of toxins being released into the air by the use of treated wastewater to cool the proposed power plant, or into the town's groundwater. Concerns were also expressed about the biomass plant generally, plans for which have been a source of controversy throughout Franklin County in recent months.

The first audience member to speak, David Brown, took the opportunity to denounce a recent incident at the Climate Action Carnival at the Greenfield High School, where "Wanted" posters were hung up featuring the face of Matt Wolfe, principal of Pioneer Renewable Energy, purporting to offer a bounty for his life. That incident has now been referred to the FBI for investigation. Members of the local environmental community had no connection to the incident, said Brown, and "do not condone any act of violence."

Janet Sinclair, of Buckland, calculated the total amount of revenue Greenfield would see from the plant would work out to about \$88 per person, and she asked if that was a high enough price to counteract the potential ill effects, questioning whether it was the town government's decision to make. "The town of Greenfield should be able to vote on this issue," she said.

One theme that rang throughout the night's comments was the question of what would happen to the toxins as most of the wastewater evaporated into the air from the plant's cooling towers. "If you wouldn't drink it," said Jesse Weeks, of Greenfield, "why would you breathe it?"

WENDELL from pg 7

zens and committees, the selectboard carried on other business as the time allowed.

Lewis Back on the Beat

No one responded to the ad for a town coordinator of buildings and grounds, and selectboard member Dan Keller said Ted Lewis agreed to take the position. Board members signed his appointment slip, and did not give him time to change his mind.

The selectboard appointed Don Chapelle to be Wendell's representative on the Northeast Trails Stewardship Council, town clerk Anna Hartjens as liaison to the State Ethics Commission, and Pru Smith to the zoning board of appeals.

Aldrich said she contacted the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and learned that Rush Road is a county road. Wendell formally discontinued the road in 1986, but since it is a county road, the status of the discontinuance is unclear.

As the property owner on

both sides of the road where it intersects New Salem Road, the Audubon Society placed large stones across Rush Road to prevent vehicular access. Now an owner of property further back on Rush Road wants access to that private land.

Aldrich said she would inform the property owner of the legal status of the road, which will need further research, and suggest he contact Audubon directly about the stone barrier.

Aldrich said she had learned from the owners of Pine Brook Camp that the old generator at the highway garage is inadequate for the camp's needs, and so the camp will not remove it from the highway garage.

Aldrich said she attended a class to maintain her certification as water system operator for the town building water supply, and has three more hours of training required, including one on pumps. Heard said town custodian Larry Ramsdell is also a public water system operator at the Swift River School, and he may be

willing to take the additional training and take responsibility for operating the town center water supply, as well.

Heard reported that 60 neighborhood captains and co-captains have come to training sessions and are ready to go into their neighborhoods, introduce themselves to their neighbors, and fill out questionnaires about household resources and needs. There will be an emergency management meeting with fire, police, selectboard and the emergency management coordinator on Sunday, November 22nd.

A special town meeting is scheduled for November 18th, and the finance committee supported all the spending articles on the warrant. Article 3, the most expensive, calls for \$9,000 to insulate the town hall, but since it costs almost that much annually to heat the hall, the finance committee recommends the article favorably, taking that amount from stabilization. Article 6 calls for \$2,100 to pay for two special elections required to fill the

United States Senate seat left vacant on the death of Edward Kennedy.

The meeting closed with a heated discussion of the office building thermostat, and the Johnson Control system that should keep the building temperature where it should be, but doesn't. There is a dispute over who is responsible for why the system fails to work, and whether it is the fault of the system's design, mechanics, or the operating program.

Slavas has asked to see the program development platform to troubleshoot the 0's and 1's, but Johnson Controls is holding that back as proprietary information.

Heard and Keller both said the system does not work, and they want it to work and do not care who is to blame.

The next selectboard meeting would normally be scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th, but because of the Veterans Day holiday, the selectboard will meet Thursday, November 12th instead.

WOOD from pg 8

and light it a couple times a day, but the fuel is local, and part of its efficiency is that little industrial infrastructure, refining or transportation is involved - i.e., only small "upstream" energy costs.

For more information, you can reach me at 978 544-3758 or commonfarm@crocker.com.

Wendell has officially declared itself a deliberate energy-conserving community. This report arrives via the Wendell Energy Task Force, which is collecting and sharing accounts like these from all nearby communities - through the Montague Reporter. Send news of your experiments in simple living and carbon fuel reduction to: reporter@montaguema.net



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Unwanted Subjects, Suspicious Vehicles

Tuesday, 10/27 6:10 p.m. Assisted resident with lockout on Main Road. 7:45 p.m. Assisted with protective custody at station.	Friday, 10/30 11:05 a.m. Suspicious vehicle complaint at Mount Hermon School. 7:31 p.m. Assisted Erving police department.	Monday, 11/2 7:45 a.m. Alarm at Elementary School, all OK. 9:10 a.m. Assisted Montague police department with disturbance. 3:15 p.m. Disturbance on Ben Hale Road, unwanted subject.
Wednesday, 10/28 10:35 a.m. Animal complaint on Oak Street. 5:50 p.m. Assisted disabled motorist at Gill Lights on	Saturday, 10/31 12:40 a.m. Erratic operator complaint on French King	Tuesday, 11/3 9:00 a.m. Suspicious vehicle at state boat ramp on French King Highway. 1:15 p.m. Assisted a resident with an unwanted subject. 3:29 p.m. 911 hang-up on Main Road, all OK. 3:51 p.m. Past breaking and entering attempt on Boyle

Road. Under investigation.
Sunday, 11/1
10:59 a.m. Animal complaint on Riverview Drive.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FY '11 Budget Planning Begins

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
At a budget planning session of the Gill-Montague school committee on Tuesday, Michael Langknecht, school committee chair, said the Montague finance committee has suggested zero to negative five percent as a starting point for the FY '11 assessment. The finance committee made that suggestion at a joint informational meeting with the town selectboard and finance committees of Gill and Montague, meeting with the

school committee on Wednesday, October 28th. Next, Gill-Montague business manager Lynn Bassett presented information to the school committee detailing a ten year budget history. Chapter 70 (state aid) income has shown changes over the decade, both positive and negative, with an increase in 2001 of 4.26% and a decrease in 2004 of 9.51%. Chapter 70 dollar amounts in 2000 equaled \$6,076,058, and in 2010 totaled \$6,304,363, but considering that

district operating costs have increased sharply over the decade, state aid has by no means kept pace. Transportation reimbursement for the district has trended steadily downward, with the exception of 2004, when it spiked by 200%, following a year of unusually low transportation reimbursement. The dollar numbers are down from the high in 2004 of \$394,517 to the present figure of \$181,598. If the governor's mid-year budget cuts hold, the figure for transportation aid will drop by approximately \$90,000 in the current budget.

Another spreadsheet showed a general increase in town assessments over the decade despite the use of district reserves to reduce assessments. Bassett also noted the state had certified the district's Excess and Deficiency (free cash) account for FY '09 at \$703,708. Committee member Jeff Singleton of Montague presented a portion of his five-year plan to the committee. He said he continues to believe there is a significant structural deficit in the budget for which the school committee must plan. He said, "We just need to plan so we

don't have to make major cuts in one year, like we did in the last recession, to avoid drastic reductions that cause severe disruption," in educational programs. Referring to budget sessions with the towns, Singleton said, "If the towns want us to listen to them about affordability then they have to listen to us. it's just not that easy to cut out a million dollars."
The next meeting of the Gill-Montague school committee will be held on November 10 at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m.


TEEN from pg 1


ian Rosie Heidkamp, explaining the need that prompted her to write the grant. But the 13 young people who turned up to greet Funke on Wednesday evening seemed anything but isolated. Engaged in craft making, they kept one eye on a colorful slide show of Costa Rican wildlife Funke projected on a movie screen, quaffed cider, and downed potato chips by the handful. They related easily with one another, and were quick with answers to her questions about life in Wendell. "How many of you have internet?" All but three raised their hands. "How many have dial-up internet?" That was everyone with any access at all. Brandon Tarbox explained that with dial-up you can download files at about two or three kilobytes per second, making it difficult or impossible to play the video games that are as popular now for young people as marbles and stickball were to their grandparents. "A 100-meg file could easily take two or three days to download," he added, with the merest touch of teen hype. A girl on the other side of the table was totally serious when she said, "Without internet, kids like to hang out with their friends, but that's kind of hard cause they're so spread out," in Wendell.

"It still beats living in Orange," said Brandon. A young man wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with the slogan, "It's all fun and games until the flying monkeys come!" muttered darkly, "The government is watching everything," as far as internet use is concerned. Asked what programs or video games they would like to purchase with the grant funds available for teen activities at the library, one girl did not hesitate. "Gaia!" she called out, naming the Greek Earth goddess. Funke recorded her response matter of factly, and the young lady demanded to know whether she had any clue what Gaia was. "Yes," said Funke, matter-of-factly. (Forget the ancient Greeks. It's an online hangout, don'tcha know? incorporating social networking, forums, gaming and a virtual world.) "Whoa," responded her interlocutor. "You're the first adult I've met who knows about Gaia." She's in. Funke asked the young people to let their imaginations loose, to dream up whatever they would like to use the library for. "Don't think about what libraries are traditionally." Ideas came rapid fire. A cartoon drawing club, a ping pong table, a pool table, on-line gaming, more *Calvin and Hobbes*

books. A swimming pool. ("Good idea!" chimed in Heidkamp.) Turns out Funke is proficient at making her own handcrafted books and journals. She's also a video editor. She offered to teach the teens these skills, an idea that went over well. Soon, the hour of introduction was over, but the teens talked on with their new coordinator, and with each other, planning a party, and how to use the library on Sunday afternoons, when the entire space would be opened up specifically for 10 - 19 year olds to work with. Several friends wrapped a girl named Mackenzie in duct tape, taping her to her chair, as she continued unconcernedly to manipulate colored pipe cleaners into some sort of giant spider, until her arms were rendered useless with successive bonds of tape. Funke seemed unfazed. "She knows her stuff," said Scotty Wilder, an 18-year-old in the landscaping program at Franklin County Tech, who served on the hiring committee that picked Funke for the job. "She organized her thoughts, she spoke well, and she's read more books than I have in my whole life." Wilder, a member of the Future Farmers of America who has won awards for safe equip-

ment operation, said Funke fulfilled the main criterion his committee was looking for in hiring for the position. "She really understands the wants and needs of teenagers." Heidkamp said when the new library was being built, kids in Wendell were really excited, and helped with shelving books in the new space. "For the first two or three months, teens would come in, but it didn't take them long to realize there wasn't much here for them." She said it is easy to program for little kids, and for adults, but she knew it would take someone with particular skills to develop programs of interest to the 10 to 19 crowd. "The thing that really impressed us about Jordan, not only does she have a degree in library science, but her whole focus has been on teen services."

The thing that really impressed the teens at the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday was that Funke clearly spoke their language. "What other things would you like to see at the library?" she asked. "An alien with a laptop," one girl offered. No problem. Funke added it to the list. 

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Peace Disturbed

Wednesday, 10/28
2:23 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident with property damage. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and battery, domestic.
10:38 a.m. Report of an unattended death at an Avenue A address. Services rendered.
Saturday, 10/31
1:01 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fifth Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and

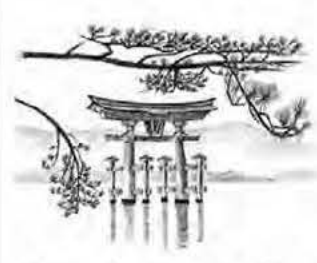
battery, domestic, and disturbing the peace.
11:47 p.m. Report of a general disturbance at Subway restaurant on Avenue A. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with malicious vandalism, damage or defacement of property, assault and battery on a police officer, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.
Sunday, 11/1
1:26 a.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance behind a Fourth Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with disturbing the peace, subsequent offense.
5:25 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with violating a restraining order, two counts of assault and battery, domestic, assault with a dangerous weapon, and intimidating a witness.
Monday, 11/2
5:05 a.m. Report of a neighbor disturbance at a Third Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with disturbing the peace, subsequent offense.

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MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Last Chance to Win a New Furnace and Save on Weatherizing

BY SALLY PICK

TURNERS FALLS – Time is running out to qualify to win a brand new fuel efficient gas furnace, being given away to one lucky winner who attends a free energy saving workshop, brought to you by the Montague Energy Committee.

The workshop, this Saturday, November 7th from 2 p.m. to 4

p.m. at the Brick House in Turners Falls, will be the last opportunity for renters, homeowners or landlords to enter the drawing to win a new hot air furnace; the drawing will be held at the end of 2009. Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling will donate time and materials toward the furnace installation, donated by Lennox Industries. (The new fur-

nace can only replace an existing forced hot air furnace system. More detailed criteria for which buildings qualify will be spelled out at the workshop.)

People coming to the workshop will find out how to save on energy bills this winter. Renters will learn inexpensive ways to make their apartment warmer and more energy efficient.

Homeowners and landlords will hear about how to take advantage of the MassSave program, which offers up to \$2,000 on insulating a building and sealing air leaks that make a building drafty. This program, in its current form, runs out at the end of 2009, so now is the time to learn how to sign up for a free energy efficiency assessment.

MassSave also offers a HEAT loan program that provides a 0% loan of up to \$15,000 for insulation, high efficiency heating systems, Energy Star windows and thermostats, and solar hot water systems.

Holly Givens of Montague City raved about the HEAT loan.

She said, "Lovin' my new windows – courtesy of the HEAT loan, via the free home energy audit – just in time for the winter, too! I have become a HEAT loan evangelist. (No fees, no interest for [up to seven] years, free money to make my home better – yay!)"

The workshop is sponsored by the Montague Energy Committee and the Massachusetts Municipal Association, with the Brick House as community collaborators; the program will be held at the Brick House, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. For more information, call (413) 367-0082 or e-mail SJP@crocker.com.

BUDGET from page 1
leader position.

Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Stan Rosenberg have written to Governor Patrick, asking him to reconsider the mid-year cuts to regional school transportation reimbursement, as they disproportionately affect rural communities.

Looking forward to the FY'11 budget cycle, now in its preliminary stage of development, Ladd said the GMRSD will take a dual approach to developing next year's budget. Rather than rolling the district's budget numbers forward from last year, adjusting them as necessary, Ladd said the GMRSD will "try to build the budget from the bottom up, in conversation with teachers and principals at the building level, to see what our needs are." And as part of this new approach, Ladd said, "At the same time we will hold discussions with the towns about affordability and sustain-

ability," concepts, he insisted, that "have to be a piece of the budget going forward."

"We want a process that gets as much buy-in as possible at the building level and town level, to present a budget at town meeting people can support."

By saying that, Ladd gave notice that renovations to the Gill-Montague bridge will not be the only major repair work district residents should expect to see in coming months. Ladd's budget approach reflects a fresh attempt to bridge a divide that has been evident between the voters of Gill and Montague and the district school committee in recent years, where GMRSD budgets have been repeatedly rejected by the voters at almost every town and all three special district meetings that have considered them, since 2007.

After the school board failed to reach agreement on an operating budget for the district with

member towns last year, DESE took control of the Gill-Montague school budget, and continues to maintain fiscal oversight of the district. The so-called one-twelfth budget Ladd referred to is the budget imposed by DESE on the district, to enable the schools to operate month by month in the absence of an agreed upon budget for FY'10.

If the towns and schools fail to reach an agreement on a number for the current operating budget by December 1st of this year, then by statute DESE will impose a final budget number on the district and the towns, and maintain fiscal oversight of the G-M schools for another year.

Ladd said there were no plans for the GMRSD to call another district meeting before December 1st to seek agreement with Gill and Montague on this year's \$16.6 million budget, which voters from both towns rejected at district meeting on September 30th.

Nevertheless, many of the town officials present spoke positively about the process for next year's budget cycle, as Ladd out-

lined it.

Montague finance committee member Michael Naughton applauded the school committee for placing affordability to the towns on more of an equal footing with educational goals in the coming budget process.

Montague selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt said, "We need to keep our eye on the goal. The schools want to do a decent job, and we all want to be able to afford it."

But Gill finance committee chair Claire Chang called for the school committee to produce a budget within "realistic frameworks," reflecting a 0% increase to a 10% decrease from the current year. "Otherwise, I don't know how the tug of war is going to be resolved. At some point the school committee is going to need to show they can make cuts."

Jeff Singleton, school committee member from Montague said, "If the state is going to continue to say, 'We've got no money,' then they have to take some accountability for the size of the budget cuts we're going to have

to make. In my view, they're going to be upwards of \$1 million," in coming years.

That would represent about a 6% cut from the GMRSD's current budget. But Singleton said the schools were operating with a structural deficit of about \$800,000 or more, from excessive use of reserves from the towns and the schools' excess and deficiency funds, and reliance on other one-time money, like the federal stimulus funds available to plug holes in this year's budget.

Naughton said even if the town of Montague applied half its expected new growth from local tax revenues to next year's school budget, that would still amount to \$50,000 less than the amount Montague is being asked to pay to meet the present town assessment, under the 1/12th budget for FY '10.

He predicted state aid for the GMRSD would stay flat at best, or more likely decline next year. "The GMRSD should figure on a 0% budget for next year, and it might go down from there."



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Single Car Crashes & Cars vs. Deer

Wednesday, 10/28

12:05 a.m. Suspicious vehicle off of Arch Street in Erving Center. Found to be railroad worker sleeping. All OK.

Thursday, 11/29

8:20 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Friday, 10/30

7:10 a.m. Assisted Northfield police

with a motor vehicle crash on Warwick Road. Operator fled the scene.

Saturday, 10/31

8:34 a.m. Report of a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Prospect Street.

1:20 p.m. Report of a gray sedan off of the road in the area of the west-bound bypass. Gone upon arrival.

6:00 p.m. Escorted the annual Halloween Rag-Shag Parade in

Erving side.

Sunday, 11/1

8:30 a.m. Report of car vs. deer crash on Route 2 at bypass around 4:00 a.m. Deer left the area.

Monday, 11/2

3:03 p.m. Assisted Gill police with an out of control male breaking down a door at a Ben Hale Road address. Found to be a tenant. Subject left for the night.

10:01 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle vs. deer crash on Route 2 near Erving Paper Mill.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — Q: *A friend of mine had polio when he was a kid and now the disease seems to be coming back in his old age. Have you heard of this?*

The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that more than 440,000 polio survivors in the United States may be at risk for post-polio syndrome PPS, a condition that strikes polio survivors decades

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Post Polio Syndrome

after they've recovered from an attack of the poliomyelitis virus. Various researchers estimate that PPS affects from 40 to 80 percent of polio survivors.

Common PPS symptoms include: muscle and joint weakness, fatigue, pain, muscle atrophy, difficulty breathing or swallowing, skeletal deformities, cold intolerance, and temporary interruptions of breathing while sleeping.

PPS usually progresses slowly. It is rarely life-threatening. There is no known cause for PPS. Unlike polio, PPS is not contagious.

If a person suffered from a severe case of polio, it is likely that the PPS that strikes later will also be severe. Those who

had minimal symptoms from the original illness usually will have only mild symptoms when they get PPS. The risk of developing PPS is greater if you acquired polio as an adolescent or adult, rather than as a young child. Women get PPS more often than men.

There is no effective treatment for the syndrome itself. Doctors recommend that polio survivors get the proper amount of sleep, maintain a well-balanced diet, avoid unhealthy habits such as smoking and overeating, and use judicious exercise, preferably under the supervision of an experienced professional. Proper lifestyle changes, the use of assistive devices, and taking certain anti-

inflammatory medications may help some of the symptoms of PPS.

Polio, also known as infantile paralysis, was lethal. It was once one of the most feared diseases in America. Shortly after polio reached its peak in the early 1950s, the disease was eradicated by a vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

Because PPS symptoms are similar to those linked with other disorders, your doctor will attempt to exclude other possible causes, such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and scoliosis.

PPS has been mistaken for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gehrig's disease. Gehrig, who played baseball for the New York Yankees, died of the disease in 1941. ALS usually strikes between the ages of 40 and 70. In some countries, ALS

is often called motor neuron disease.

To date, researchers are not certain what causes PPS, but they have theories.

One possibility is that the polio virus becomes active again after decades of lying dormant in the victim's cells. Another possibility involves impaired production of hormones and neurotransmitters in brain.

The most promising theory is that nerve cells that survived polio assumed the added burden of the work of dead cells. These surviving cells became overworked and weakened. This phenomenon led to new polio-like symptoms, according to the theory.

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

Turners Falls Wins Powertown Battle

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS — The Turners Falls football team won their first game of the season on Saturday, October 24th, beating the Franklin County Tech School Eagles 7-6 in an exciting, rain-soaked game. It was a satisfying win for Turners, coming off their most impressive performance of the year, playing tough with first place Frontier the previous week.

Turners got off to a fast start. After holding Franklin Tech three-and-out on their first series, Turners took over the ball on their 42-yard line. Tim Carlisle got things going, gaining nine yards on the first play from scrimmage to push the ball over midfield. Quarterback Eric Bastarache and freshman running back Ryan Wilder picked up key first downs to get Turners

into scoring position on the 5-yard line. Franklin Tech held Turners to a fourth-and-goal at the 1, when Tim Carlisle went over right tackle for a touchdown to give Turners a 6-0 lead. Kicker TJ Meyer made the crucial extra point, which would eventually prove to be the game winning factor.

After exchanging possessions, Franklin Tech showed some life late in the second quarter when running back Matt Earl broke into a 42-yard run. Tech proceeded to drive the ball down to the Turners 1-yard line with a first-and-goal. But the stingy Turners defense forced them to a fourth down at the 2-yard line. Turners defense has been sen-

sational at the goal line recently, stopping Frontier the previous week on four straight plays from the one-yard line. However, Max Williams found the end zone on fourth down to put Franklin Tech on the board. Tech decided to go for the two-point conversion. The Eagles tried to run Williams up the middle, but Turners was ready for the play, stuffing him short of the goal line to preserve their 7-6 lead. This turned out to be the play of the game, with both teams' defenses dominating the rest of the way.

In the third quarter, with the rain coming down harder, Franklin Tech threatened to score when running backs Max Williams and Matt Earl made some nice runs to move the ball into Turners territory. But on fourth-and-10 from the Turners 36-yard line, Josh Lapachinski made a nice tackle to prevent Tech from picking up the first down.

Turners had a great opportunity late in the fourth quarter to close out the game when they recovered a fumble on the Eagles 11-yard line. But Tech's defense managed to stop Carlisle and Wilder on four straight plays, giving the Eagles one last chance, with 1:37 left to play in the game.

Tech managed to pick up a first down on their 31-yard line.

But on third-and-8, Lapachinski intercepted a James Miller pass to finally seal the game for Turners.

It was a fitting end for Lapachinski, who dominated the second half on defense for Turners. He also had an interception earlier that got called back

on a roughing the passer call.

Turners quarterback Eric Bastarache finished the night with no completions on just two attempts. Ryan Wilder led Turners with 62 yards on 15 carries, and Tim Carlisle gained 35 yards on 11 carries, with a touchdown.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Road Rage

Thursday, 10/29

6:59 p.m. Report of a road rage incident on Route 63 near the Amherst town line. Confrontation took place at the lights in North Amherst. Information given to Amherst police.

Friday, 10/30

2:30 p.m. Assistance to Shutesbury police with a domestic disturbance on

West Pelham Hill Road. Male subject arrested by Shutesbury police for assault & battery, domestic.

Monday, 11/2

10:53 p.m. Report of a car vs. deer accident on Route 63 near Long Plain Road. Deer ran into the woods, vehicle able to drive away.

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CD REVIEWS

Heather Maloney

Cozy Razor's Edge Release November 12

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
TURNERS FALLS – Heather Maloney's new CD, *Cozy Razor's Edge*, to be released on Thursday, November 12th, at 8:00 p.m. with a performance at the Rendezvous, is equal in quality to the work of many of the stars of our time. Maloney's songs offer a wide palette of musical experience, with a soft, soothing, melodic quality infused with complex rhythms in a variety of styles.

Maloney's high gentle soprano fits neatly into the grooves of guitar and rhythm accompanying each track. There is depth to her lyrics and musical arrangements. Her music flows naturally from a gentle reggae beat to a faster tempo, with a nod to early folk rock a la Joni Mitchell. Her voice can be edgy or angelic



Heather Maloney will release her debut CD *Cozy Razor's Edge* on Thursday at the Rendezvous

C o z y *Razor's Edge* offers a wide variety of music by a very talented writer and *l o c a l* songstress. After two years practicing meditation in Barre, Maloney has relocated to Turners Falls and committed herself

depending on the tune. "Let it Ache" offers a different view on pain, which is to say: don't fight it, just live with it. This song contains complex rhythms, with some hard rock electric guitar, in contrast to her acoustic instrumentals on many of the other songs on the disc. "In Each Other All Along" is more like a country love song, with an old fashioned 50's slow dance beat, except it morphs into something entirely her own as the song progresses.

fulltime to music, and her audience is in for a treat. She has a powerful and flexible voice. Her debut disc is well worth the price, with lyrics and melodies that will stay with you, while the beat, frequently subtle, is always there to keep you moving.

Maloney will be accompanied by guitarist Joe Boyle, drummer Chris Ryan and bass player John O'Boyle on the 12th, with Hilary Graves opening.

DOGBITE AT THE BOOK MILL

DOGBITE/JOYRIDE/RAVE ON RECORDS

BY AMY LAPRADE
MONTAGUE CENTER - One could dismiss Dogbite's *Joyride* as just another country folk album after listening to the title track, a quick two-and-a-half minute number with more than proficient guitar and vocals.

However, this multi-genre album maximizes the art of the acoustic guitar with two-to three-minute songs like "Nosedive," featuring a vocal style reminiscent of Roy Orbison's. Its rockabilly groove fused with country rock gives it a style that smells like Jerry Lee Lewis. With steely guitar licks and tight basslines, this fun, feel-good song would keep any trucker wide awake during his cross country trek down a lonely American highway.

With complex guitars and urgent snare drum, "Born to Hang" has an old classic country style; I half expected to hear June Carter singing in the background.

"Silver Moon"'s REM / Nick Lowe flavor contains

heavy drums, punctuating the anguished lyrics: "Life is just a broken train..."

"Nada Fue un Error" swoons with Latin charisma, as does "I Just Had to Laugh," with lyrics such as "I just had to laugh to keep from crying/I had to swim to keep from drowning/It's hard to know where I stand when I'm down here on my knees..."

"Grace" rings of classic bluegrass and complex violin solos, while "Maybe I Will," the album's final track, is a hybrid of sixties surf rock and seventies pop fused into an infectious sound entirely their own.

If there was such a thing as National Air Play anymore, these guys would be getting it. Instead, you'll have a chance to hear them up close and personal, in concert with local faves Watcher, at the Montague Book Mill this Saturday, November 7th, at 8 p.m. Dogbite hails from Southeastern Connecticut, so catch them while you can.

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Friday, November 6	11/4/09	8:00 p.m. Beat The Devil	11:00 p.m. The Bat
12:00 p.m. White House Chronicle #1036-1037	5:30 p.m. Gill Select Board 10/26/09	9:30 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona	Wednesday, November 11
1:00 p.m. Rhema Word #260	7:00 p.m. GMRSD 10/27/09	Monday, November 9	12:30 p.m. The Soap Box Seth Glier
2:00 p.m. On The Ridge: Fall Turkey Hunting Tactics	10:00 p.m. GMRSD Budget	1:30 p.m. TWB Ergonomics	1:00 p.m. TWB Growing a Green Community
3:00 p.m. Independent Voices #51	11/3/09	2:30 p.m. White House Chronicle #1036-1037	2:00 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona
3:30 p.m. Finance Committee	Saturday, November 7	3:30 p.m. Rhema Word #260	4:00 p.m. Independent Voices #51
	12:30 p.m. BFMC Healthbeat Nov. 2009	4:30 p.m. Reconciliation Ceremony	4:30 p.m. Over The Falls: Helping Friends in Distress
	1:00 p.m. Over The Falls: Helping Friends in Distress	5:00 p.m. The Soap Box Seth Glier	5:00 p.m. BFMC Healthbeat Nov. 2009
	2:00 p.m. Preachin the Blues	5:30 p.m. Gill Select Board 10/26/09	5:30 p.m. Falls Table Cider Mussels
	3:00 p.m. Rosner Car Show	7:00 p.m. Select Board 11/9/09	6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
	4:00 p.m. Senses of Place	9:00 p.m. Power Canal Draw Down	8:00 p.m. Both Sides of the Bridge
	5:30 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats	9:30 p.m. Physician Focus: November 2009	9:00 p.m. Gill Select Board 11/9/09
	6:30 p.m. Independent Voices #51	10:00 p.m. The Ghost Train	Thursday, November 12
	7:00 p.m. The Soap Box Seth Glier	Tuesday, November 10	12:00 p.m. Changing Face of Turners Falls
	7:30 p.m. On The Ridge: Fall Turkey Hunting Tactics	12:00 p.m. BFMC Healthbeat Nov. 2009	2:00 p.m. BFMC Healthbeat Nov. 2009
	8:30 p.m. Select Board 11/2/09	12:30 p.m. Over The Falls: Helping Friends in Distress	2:30 p.m. Senior Center: Ruth Harcovitz
	10:00 p.m. Franklin County Matters: Elder Protective Services	1:30 p.m. Peoples Harvest I	3:30 p.m. Seabrook 1977.
	11:00 p.m. Francis Doughty	3:00 p.m. Physician Focus: November 2009	5:30 p.m. Discovery Center Fossil Tracks
Sunday, November 8	12:00 p.m. Valley Idol Finals	3:30 p.m. On The Ridge: Fall Turkey Hunting Tactics	6:30 p.m. FRTA Demonstration
2:30 p.m. 9/11 Road to Tyranny	2:30 p.m. 9/11 Road to Tyranny	4:30 p.m. GMRSD Budget 11/3/09	7:00 p.m. Select Board 11/9/09
5:30 p.m. All About Bars	5:30 p.m. All About Bars	7:00 p.m. GMRSD 11/10/09	9:00 p.m. Falls Table Cider Mussels
6:00 p.m. An Afternoon of Music with Daniel Clarke	6:00 p.m. An Afternoon of Music with Daniel Clarke	10:00 p.m. White House Chronicle #1038-1038	9:30 p.m. The Western Mass Democrat Thomas Merrigan
			10:30 p.m. Discovery Center Emus

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, featuring Kenny Butler on the violin. 7:30 p.m. Free.

At Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Hot zydeco with Eileen Almeida on vocals and rubboard, Mike Rose on drums, Cynthia Rose on accordion, and Junior on bass.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Laura Cortese and Forest Fires*, 8 p.m. Together they play original songs in quirky and energetic arrangements with their three-piece band. \$5 at the door.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Art Steele & Myron Becker*, singin' the blues, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Occam's Razor*. Join Dan Putnam and company for some Rock, Reggae & a little Funk. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jim Olsen's Rendezvous Ramble* (honky-tonk DJ) at 8 p.m. no cover. Followed by *High Country, Low-Fi* with Jeffrey Foucault and friends, country classics, \$5 cover.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Hannah Sanders, Liz Simmons and Flynn Cohen*, 8 p.m. \$10 adv, \$12 door. Together, the trio create a harmonic blend of voices, guitars and mandolin, delivering renditions of ballads from England, Appalachia, and beyond that are not to be missed, as well as their own self-penned songs.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th & 7th

The Country Players present: *Rumors* by Neil Simon, directed by David Grout. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 8 p.m. Continues 11/13 to 11/15. For reservations, call (413) 863-2281, x1. www.countryplayers.org

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Dogbite, an acoustic, roots music band from New London, CT, performs at the Montague Bookmill on Saturday, November 7th, 8 p.m. with local jave Watcher

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

Country Fair at the First Congregational Church, 148 L Street, Turners Falls. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Coffee & donuts, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, silent auction, raffles, luncheon.

Turners Falls Energy Saving Workshop Special information for renters, 2 to 4 p.m. at The Brick House, Turners Falls.

Coming Together: Native American culture, education and fun. Noon to 4 p.m. at Turners Falls High School. Native American drum group Urban Thunder performs. Dancers, food, informational booths, guest speaker: Doug Harris, Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansetts, 3 p.m. Presented by the Friends of Wissatinnewag, sponsored by Turners Falls H.S. and funded by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

The Gallery at Hallmark, Ave A, Turners Falls: Michael Zide, *Illuminated Ground*, Public Reception 1 to 5 p.m. Works on display thru December 6th.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae, \$3 cover.

At Burrito Rojo, *Thaddeus Hands*, experimental/progressive/rock, 9 p.m.

At the Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: *Dogbite* with *Watcher*, 8 p.m. Dogbite is an eclectic ensemble dedicated to performing acoustic roots music or any other music that is energetic and fun!

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

Northampton Independent Film Festival presents: *Sex & Cinema*, a scintillating evening of Indy films. 5 to 11 p.m. at the Academy of Music, Northampton. The 15th annual independent film celebration will showcase three important independent films and short bonus films prior to each screening. Filmmakers will be in attendance and available for Q&A and

discussion. www.niff.org.

Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: *The Gypsy Wranglers*, performing on fiddle, guitar, accordion, trombone, bass and drums, with appearances by blues harp, chromatic harmonica & mandolin, 7:30 p.m. Partial proceeds benefit Temenos Retreat Center, \$6 to \$12. (978) 544-5557 or www.wendellfullmoon.org for info.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

At The Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts (LCA), 13 Montague Rd. Leverett: *Raise the Roof* benefit concert by the *Black Rebels*. 8 p.m. \$10. (413) 548-9070 or info@leverettcrafts.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

Explore portions of a new 160-acre conservation area in Gill, including a cold-water stream, a kettle pond, and glacial eskers. Hike led by Gill resident Ray Purington, 1 p.m. Hikes are free and open to the public. Directions to start: From West Gill Road in Gill, turn onto Hoe Shop Road and drive 0.7 miles. Park along the sides of the road. Heavy rain will cancel.

Desirable, Diminutive, Depictions (3D) on display at the Bookmill, Montague Center. 10:30am to 3:30pm, the Montague Mill complex will be transformed into a small works exhibition of original fine art.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Family Dance returns, 4 to 7 p.m., free. Then at 8 p.m., *TNT Karaoke w/ Opa Opa* specials & swag, also no cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Slope Poetry* with Janaka Stucky & Chris Tonelli, 7 p.m. no cover.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th

Health Care is a Right! *Sing Out for Single Payer!* Folk concert to benefit Single Payer Health Care at North Congregational Church, 1199 N. Pleasant St. N. Amherst, 7 p.m. Featuring notable valley folksingers Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry, Charlie King, Pat & Tex LaMountain, Jay Mankita, Annie Patterson, Sarah Pirtle, Roger Tincknell, and Peter Blood as MC. Single payer health care is a publicly financed, not-for-profit system that ensures high quality, comprehensive, affordable health care for everyone. Contributions for the event are requested: \$10 to \$25, \$5 for children. Refreshments, single payer items, and CDs will be for sale in the Parish Hall during the intermission.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Hike in Gill, led by Ray Purington, 1 p.m. See Sunday's listing.

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: *Comfort Systems*, readings, music, eclectic, 8:30 p.m. \$4 cover.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Live jazz every Thursday at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls. 6:30 to 9:30 pm. 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.

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.

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 Shepard. 1971. R. B & W. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie, 7 p.m.

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.

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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

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.

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 9-12, 2 boys age 9-14, 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



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413-774-4881
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Showtimes for Friday, Nov. 6th to Thursday, Nov. 12th
1. MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG
2. A CHRISTMAS CAROL PG DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
3. COUPLES RETREAT PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00
3. ASTRO BOY PG FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
4. PARANORMAL ACTIVITY R DAILY 6:45 9:15
FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
5. WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
6. CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY DAILY 7:00 9:30 R in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
7. THE FOURTH KIND PG13 DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30



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SAT: 11/7 | 9:30 PM | \$3
The Equalites! (reggae)
SUN: 11/8
first! --> FAMILY DANCE returns! 4-7pm charitable donation then! --> TNT Karaoke w/ Opa Opa specials and swag 8PM | FREE
MON: 11/9 | 7 PM | FREE
Slope Poetry: Janaka Stucky & Chris Tonelli

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Halloween Memories



Solomon Dawson, vaquero, Amherst, joined the Montague Center roundup.



Cheri Karbon, of Deerfield, with monkey Jay Rich on her back.



Toga! Toga! Toga!



Sofie Pawell, Turners Falls.



Bailey Heffernan, as Marie Antoinette, with Sabina Allen, her courtier, both of Biddeford, ME



Francia and Mark Wisniewski, with Corin and Luke, their little fly and spider.



Would you accept a Hershey's kiss from these hippies? John MacNamara and Erin McLean.



Evelyn Moore, Tigger, of Montague Center.



Bess Hepner, of Leverett and Caroline Norton, of Amherst, as Peace and Quiet



Dorothy & Friends (recognize anyone?)



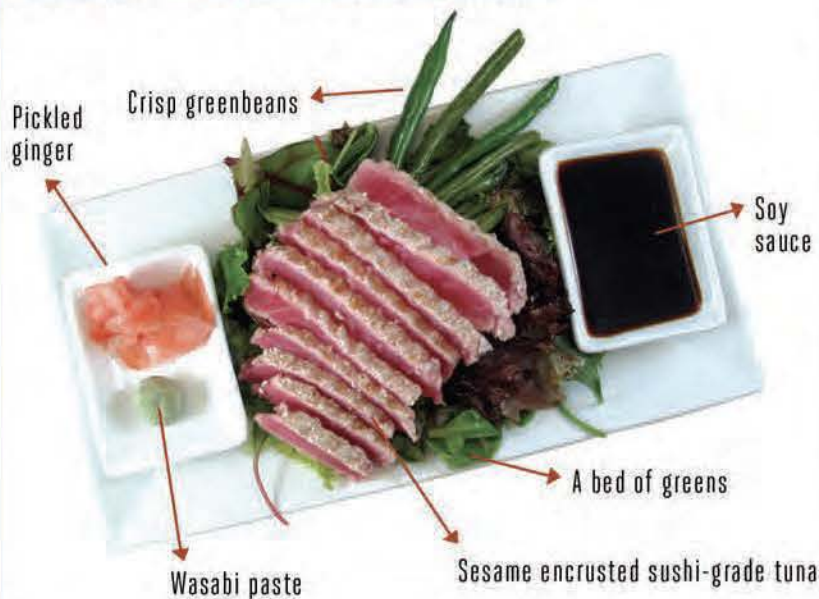
Josephine Marie Williams, of Turners, as Good Witch Glenda; her mom, Madelynn Malloy made her costume, "every stitch."



Lily Stratford, Izabel Coppinger, Emily Zimmerman, Molly Fleiner-Etheridge, among the Montague Center revelers.

DETMOLD PHOTOS.

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