



**MONTAGUE CENTER PUZZLER
MAKES THE SUNDAY NY TIMES**
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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Benjamin Garber Excels with 4.19 GPA
see page 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 4

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 26, 2006

Band Shell Rises at Peskeomskut Park

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - With rain in the forecast, subcontractors Pesto & McLaughlin of Pepperell, MA, stayed overnight at the French King Motel and worked wooden arches are sure to give the new band shell a touch of class. The crew planked the ceiling with tongue and groove yellow pine and covered it with exterior grade plywood to await



PHOTO BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Trombonist Donald Girard tries out the acoustics of the new band shell. "The old domed band shell projected music so well that people could easily hear the band playing in Unity Park all the way to Avenue A without any amplification," Girard said. A multi-talented musician, Girard started his musical career in the 7th grade and has been playing up a storm ever since.

through this past weekend erecting the Peskeomskut Park band shell. They are subcontractors to Northeast Infrastructure, general contractors of Southboro, who are renovating the park to the tune of \$342,000. The town of Montague provided \$47,000 to makeover the downtown park; the balance, \$295,408 came from Community Development Block Grant funding to provide new walkways, a tot lot, new loam and plantings, and the first band shell for the town of Montague since the much-loved structure at Unity Park was torn down decades ago.

The attractive prefabricated red cedar bent

roofing with asphalt shingles. The Pepperell contractors sheathed the sides with OSB (oriented strand board) walls and covered them with black felt paper before applying clapboarding.

Park committee member Donald Girard was on hand to view the start of the band shell construction. "The band shell is pointing toward the post office," Girard said. "I figured it should be pointed at Avenue A where people will park and listen to the band in their cars. But they said it's too late to change anything now."

Apparently the architect felt Girard should have tooted his horn sooner.

Girard is an accomplished musician and see **PARK** pg 13



The old band shell at Unity Park

School Closing Hearing Centers on Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD

At Tuesday's public hearing on elementary school configuration, Ron Lenois, Sr. of Coolidge Avenue told the school committee, "If you look at cold facts, Montague Center has to be the school to close." Lenois said he had one grandchild in the Montague Center school, and another recently graduated from there. "It's a wonderful school," he said, "with great teachers. The problem is, it's not possible to keep it open any more."

Before opening the forum to public comment, Gill-Montague superin-



DETMOLD PHOTO

"A lot of the decision for renovations at the Montague Center school have been passed over in the last 20 years. Now it's tough to look at this total cost to make the changes to keep the school open."

- Sue Dresser, Montague Center parent

tendent Sue Gee explained the school district is facing a probable budget increase of at least \$800,000 above this year's \$16,555,476 oper-

ating budget, with no anticipated change in program. With declining enrollment (the district lost 45 students this year, 10 of them from the

Montague Center school alone), Gee said it was unlikely the state would increase Chapter 70 funds to the G-M schools for the see **SCHOOLS** pg 10

Forum in Holyoke

Advocates for Single Payer Health Care

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Becky Osowski was supposed to be one of the panelists at the symposium on Single Payer Health Care at Holyoke Community College on Saturday, chaired by Congressman John Olver. But she was too sick to attend. The Erving mother of three is suffering from an ongoing battle with breast cancer, a struggle compounded by the fact that her husband lost his job and his job-related family health insurance when he contracted liver disease a few years ago.

Standing in for Becky on the "Affordability of Health Care" panel was her children's former ele-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Erving Elementary School teacher Kathleen Bridgewater spoke for Becky Osowski, who was too sick to attend the forum at Holyoke Community College on Saturday, October 21st. Bridgewater told the forum, "Our system undermines years of savings and plunges middle class families into poverty. The loss of health must not result in the loss of home."

mentary school teacher, Kathleen Bridgewater, who gave one of the day's

most powerful testimonies. Unequal, unaffordable access to health

care in America is "causing untold damage to the fabric of family life," she said. The sixth grade teacher told the crowd, "When parents become ill, children suffer. Their suffering isn't limited to worry about their parents' health. They endure a growth of family stress that is the American twin to injury and disease," as they attempt to negotiate the American health care 'system.'

As UMass economics professor Michael Ash pointed out, America is competing in a global marketplace with major industrialized nations like Britain, Japan, France, see **HEALTH** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK
A Rare Hound



Debra

Debra is a two-year-old female greyhound in need of a good home. She is a rare greyhound indeed! She loves to roll over on her back for belly rubs and snuggles. She is very quiet but wiggles something fierce when she wants your attention. Debra can live with kids over 8, dogs or cats. For more info on adopting Debra, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Carnegie Centennial a Huge Success

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The formal Carnegie Library 100th Birthday Party on Thursday, October 19th, followed by the less formal Children's 100th Birthday and Halloween Party on Saturday, October 21st, were hugely successful and enjoyable events.

Thursday evening's guests jammed the first floor of the library from end to end. They ranged from all three Montague selectboard members, to seniors



Thursday evening's guests jammed the first floor of the library from end to end to celebrate the centennial.

who reminisced about their library memories, to very young library patrons. People mingled, snacked, and talked about the

importance of the Carnegie Library to the town

The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries organized and staffed the formal party. The Friends did a wonderful job, preparing lovely refreshments and serving a delicious chocolate mousse cake from Mirlings Bakery in Greenfield. Michael Nix performed on his classical guitar, mandolin, and banjar, an instrument he designed himself.

Limited edition Carnegie

Library commemorative candles, depicting the library circa 1915, were first available on Thursday, and will continue to be sold by the Friends at all three branch libraries.

Funds the Friends raise are used for sponsoring library programs and supporting the libraries in various ways.

Country Oil Donates Grand Prize for Meals on Wheels Raffle

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY - Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) is sponsoring its annual Raffle to benefit the Meals on Wheels program. This year's prizes are great, and tickets may be purchased for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Prizes include: 500 Gallons of Heating Oil (Grand Prize donated by Country Oil of Bernardston), \$100 Gift Card to Food City in Turners Falls (2nd), Complete Auto Detailing (Don Lorenz) (3rd), the annual Meals on Wheels Quilt (4th prize courtesy of A Notion to Quilt, Shelburne Falls), One Hour Therapeutic Massage (5th prize

courtesy of Riverview Muscle Therapy) and a bus trip for two to Foxwoods (6th prize courtesy of Travel Kuz). Many thanks to each of the businesses that have donated, and by doing so, supported elders in their local communities.

Meals on Wheels are delivered daily Monday to Friday and frozen meals are available on the weekends. Over 1,000 elders in Franklin County and the North Quabbin benefit from this service each year. Donations are always accepted but there is no fee to receive Meals on Wheels.

Meals can be started anytime for next day service, and anyone can

make a referral to the program. While Meals on Wheels are supported with federal and state funding, it is essential to raise funds each year to supplement the public dollars in order to serve each person who requests a meal and keep up with increasing expenses of food and gas to deliver the meals.

The raffle will be drawn on November 3rd, 2006 at the FCHCC Annual Meeting. You do not need to be present to win. Contact Martha at FCHCC at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 to have tickets mailed, or stop by at 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls to pick up tickets in person.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES October 30th - November 3rd

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 30th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 31st
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 1st

10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 2nd
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 3rd
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Advance registration appreciated for the following class, program will be canceled if less than 5 people sign up

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can

be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 30th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 31st
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 1st
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 2nd
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

FACES & PLACES

Standing for the Write-in Candidate



DETMOLD PHOTO

Larry Jubb, left, and Joe LaChance of Greenfield campaign for write-in candidate Peter Wood in front of Food City in Turners Falls on Wednesday. To vote for Wood, the current registrar, voters in the November 7th election will have to write in: "Peter Wood, Greenfield," beside the space on the ballot for Register of Deeds, and mark an X beside his name. He is opposed by Joe Gochinski, Democrat and Isaac Maas, Republican.

www.turnersfallsriverculture.org
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The children's party on Saturday was also very popular. Magician Ed Popielarczyk had a large crowd howling with laughter. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries and the Family Literacy in Montague project of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, funded by Community Development Block Grant funds for the town of Montague, sponsored his performance. After the magic show, families enjoyed refreshments and various arts and crafts activities. Many of the children wore ornate costumes.

Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who made these anniversary events such a great success.



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Amanda Cooke and Chloe Ellis of Turners Falls enjoyed decorating wands at the well attended Carnegie Library's 100th Birthday for Children and Halloween Party on Saturday, October 21st.

Great Falls Middle School
Students of the Week:

Grade 7
Katelyn Phillips
Jesse Langknecht
Grade 8
Jack Hubert

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Neville at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House

On Saturday, November 11th, the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House will welcome the Charles Neville Jazz Quartet. Charles Neville, born in New Orleans in 1938, has been playing the saxophone since the age of 12. As a permanent member of the famed Neville Brothers, along with brothers Art, Aaron and Cyril, Charles splits time touring with the Neville Brothers and the Charles Neville Jazz Quartet.

For a number of years now,

Charles Neville has made the foothills of Western Massachusetts his permanent home when not on tour, and he is always happy to spread his love and passion for music among his Bay State neighbors.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffee House will be the beneficiary for this performance, so as to ensure the continued existence of this unique venue. For over 20 years, the Full Moon Coffee House has been hosting an eclectic array of performers

in the one-of-a-kind atmosphere of the Wendell Town Hall. Known for its time warp prices, always benefiting a local non-profit group, always delicious baked goods and Dean's Beans excellent coffee, the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House has become a Valley tradition.

Open Mic begins at 7:30 p.m. and the feature is on at 8:00. Open Mic sign-up and further information visit www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Speaker to Describe Community-Owned Department Store in Wyoming

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - When the Ames department store on the Mohawk Trail closed in October of 2002, a number of Franklin County residents began planning to open a community-owned department store to offer reasonably priced clothing and housewares in downtown Greenfield. That effort has resulted in the formation of a board of directors for Greenfield Mercantile, Inc. The board has developed "a well-thought out business plan" according to Steve Alves, one of its members, has filed a prospectus with the state, and is "on the brink of being able to raise the money we will need," to secure lending and open the store. Alves said the directors would like to have the store open by this time next year. They have made a commitment to remain in downtown Greenfield.

The downtown business district provides "the lifeblood of the local economy," said Bob Rottenberg, board secretary. "Greenfield has a very walkable downtown, and we wanted to build on that, and encourage people to take advantage of the other stores, and services, and restaurants in the downtown."

On Wednesday, November 1st, Sharon Earhart, one of the organizers of a successful community-owned store in Powell,

Wyoming, will be in Greenfield to talk about how that city of 5,300 started up one of the first such community-owned department stores in the country. She will give two presentations, at 5:30 and 7 p.m., at the GCC downtown center, 230 Main Street, in Greenfield.

Talking about the threat of a big box store opening on the outskirts of town, Rottenberg said, "A tremendous amount of money is leaving the community now, being spent on clothes and housewares elsewhere. If we are able to put a store like this in the middle of downtown Greenfield, even if a big box store opens on the outskirts, there is still plenty of business to be done."

Rottenberg said a community-owned store would keep money in the local economy in a variety of ways, rather than siphoning off profits to distant chain store headquarters. He said the store would be capitalized by a sale of stock, at \$100 a share, with a minimum of \$500 needed to buy in. A cap of no more than 3% of the total shares would prevent any individual from exerting undue control over the store's decision making. Shareholders will have to live or work in Massachusetts. They will not receive a discount, but will have the satisfaction of creating a store where they can shop local-

ly, and helping the local economy to thrive, Rottenberg said.

He pointed to the success of privately owned Foster's Supermarket and the cooperatively owned Green Field Market, despite the presence of large chain supermarkets on the outskirts of town, as evidence that a locally owned store can thrive in downtown. He said the Greenfield Mercantile would focus on affordably price clothing, "because that is what we have heard people say is missing from downtown."

Alves said the board of directors plans to raise \$425,000 from sale of stock, and \$120,000 from grants and forgivable loans, as part of the capitalization plan. For more information, call the Coop Development Institute at 413-665-1271.

Museum of Our Industrial History Open House

GREENFIELD - On Sunday, November 5th, The Museum of Our Industrial Heritage will hold its annual Open House at the Museum located at 77 Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. The annual event will include blacksmith demonstrations.

The mission of the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage is to keep alive the means and memories of our rich local industrial past.

Some highlights of the collection include items relating the Greenfield Tap & Die Corporation, Millers Falls

Tools, the John Russell Cutlery Company and the Lamson & Goodnow Mfg. Company as well as other local companies.

The open house is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

To learn more about the museum and its collection, visit www.industrialhistory.org.

For directions or other information, contact museum curator Al Shane of Leverett at (413) 548-9435.

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Democrats Watch the Polls Republicans Count the Votes

Democrats are carousing in bars and union halls across the urban rust belt and quaffing mocha lattes in unprotected port cities on both coasts, watching their rising fortunes in opinion polls in the run-up to the November 7th elections. Still, Bush's brain, Karl 'the Kid' Rove, expresses unruffled confidence. He flatly predicts Republicans will maintain their majorities in both houses of Congress.

He betrayed the same unflappable poise in November of 2004, even after exit polls in Ohio, New Mexico, and elsewhere showed John Kerry cruising to victories in those states.

Amid the exaggerated reports of the death of Republican dominance in these heady weeks of Democratic euphoria, one Note continues to

ring in our ears: "There are no network/AP exit polls that allow the projection of House races."

If recent history is any guide, when election night wraps in the wee hours of November 8th, stunned Dems in more than one House - and Senate - district will be asking, "What did Karl Rove know and when did he know it?"

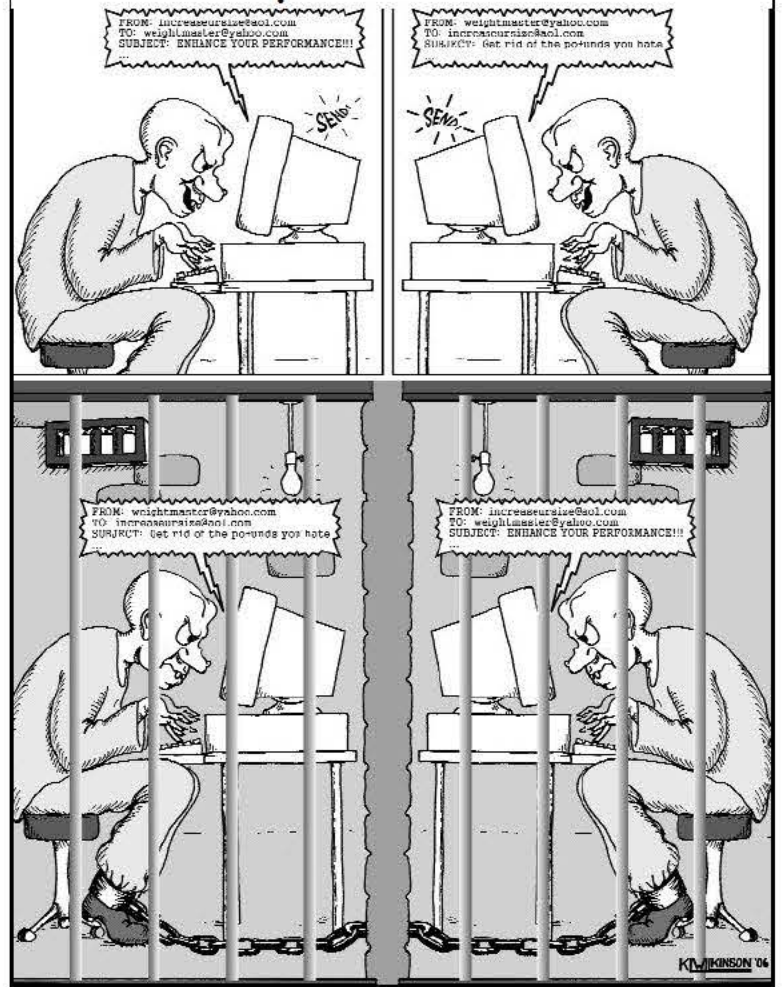
Bob Urosevich, former president of Election Systems and Software is currently president of Diebold Election Systems. Together, these two companies will tabulate 80% of the votes in America this November. Both companies have a long and sordid history of installing uncertified software in their machines, hiring convicted felons in senior positions, giving false information about the reliability of their machines,

and have been cited time and again for election irregularities in states across America. They have paid millions in fines to settle court cases brought against them. They have been cited by researchers at Princeton, Carnegie Mellon, Iowa University, and Johns Hopkins among others for the ease with which their machines' memories can be hacked and altered. Too often, the machines are not required to produce paper trails, and if they do, there is no secure system to insure the paper records match the vote count totals within the machines themselves.

In August, 2003, Diebold's chief executive officer, Warren O'Dell, announced he had been a top fundraiser for George W. Bush and sent out a fundraising letter to Ohio Republicans saying he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year." O'Dell remains in charge of Diebold, one of the two biggest vote counting firms in the nation today.

What did Karl know and when did he know it? Why, ahead of time, of course. When you own the voting machines, you can afford to be confident.

Life in Spammer Hell



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Bluefish Swim Team & Swimming Lessons

The Bluefish Swim Team will hold its pre-season informational meeting on Thursday, October 26th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School cafeteria for interested youths and their parents. The Bluefish Swim Team is a competitive/recreational swim team open to all area youths able to swim one length of the pool - freestyle.

Regular Swimming Lessons will begin Saturday, October 28th. All levels are held on Saturday mornings. Parent/Child classes for children ages 12 months and up are also beginning. For program fees, more information, and to register for these programs please call the Montague Parks & Recreation Office at 863-3216.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Montague Center School: Let's Have a Little Vision

BY JEFF SINGLETON - I was dismayed by many of the comments made during the first forum on the future of the elementary schools in Montague. It seems some believe that the condition of the Montague Center School building is the main, perhaps the only, factor in deciding how to organize elementary education in Montague. I feel this is an extremely narrow vision for our school district and town.

First this limited view of the elementary education contradicts the policy of the school committee when it established the elementary configuration committee a few years ago. It contradicts the report of the committee. It also contradicts the results of the mediation

'retreat,' led by a state official, just a few weeks ago. These all stressed that a range of factors, (the impact of various configurations on education, on school choice, on loss of community values and on the budget) would also be key factors. The school district never suggested the decision would be made simply on the basis that a building was old and needed work.

This narrow view of the elementary schools seems to assume that the condition of Montague Center School is an Act of God. In fact, the district and town have hesitated to finance capital improvements for the school because it might close. Now we hear that we must close the school because it

needs capital improvements.

Speaking of irony, there have been complaints from those whose children do not attend the school that the rooms are too small and there are not enough bathrooms. Well, my son attended Montague Center for five years, and while we certainly would have liked larger rooms and more bathrooms, I don't recall it as a huge factor for us, or for other parents I've talked to.

There seems to be a double standard here. The school district and town have certainly been willing to finance ambitious projects, where cost was certainly not the only value considered. We have a \$30 million high school renovation, not to mention a very expensive, non-reimbursed renovation of the high school pool. Why should renovation costs be the only factor when we consider the future of the elementary schools? (Especially when we do not even know the actual costs!)

In this context, it should be emphasized that the town has building needs of its own, for the library, parks and recreation, and the senior center. We are talking about building a new multi-service center. Perhaps one of the buildings on the

Turners campus, particularly Hillcrest Elementary, would suit some of these needs and avoid an expensive new project. It might be extremely shortsighted (and costly) to close Montague Center School.

But the main reason to keep Montague Center School open is that it is a good school that works. At a time when school choice losses are a serious problem, it draws students into the district. At a time when the state is using MCAS scores to evaluate schools, should we close a school that has relatively high test scores? At a time when the state has expressed concern about the level of support for public education in Montague (see the recent audit), should we respond by closing a school in the only precinct that supported the recent Proposition 2.5 override?

Finally, closing Montague Center and moving everyone to the Turners Falls campus abandons any coherent vision of elementary education in the district. You essentially have larger, consolidated schools in Turners Falls (maybe with a broken grade span) and a small K through 6 school in Gill. But if you close one of the two schools on the Turners campus, you

approach an equitable solution with three small K-6 schools in the district. And no one loses, since there is still a local school in Turners.

Yes the condition of the Montague Center Building is a negative factor. There are always negatives in any policy decision. But an insurmountable obstacle? Let's have some vision here.

Jeff Singleton is chair of the Montague finance committee and a resident of Montague Center.

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Wounded in Action	22,065
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE	

Franklin County Hosts Second Annual "Fiber Twist" Event

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce sponsors its second annual countywide fiber event on Saturday, October 28th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Franklin County Fiber Twist will feature many sheep and fiber farmers, spinners, dyers, weavers and other fiber artisans from throughout Franklin County who will showcase their creations and designs, providing visitors a view into the world of fiber.

The day's events will be scattered throughout the hills and valleys of the county, with a number of farms and weavers offering free tours and fine wares for sale at their facilities. Most of the farms and studios will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be a vendors' marketplace and fiber demonstrations in Old Deerfield at 10 Memorial Street behind Memorial Hall in Deerfield, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The following farms and weavers will be featured around the county:

- Becky's Väv Stuga in

Shelburne is a Swedish-style weaving studio. The studio houses up to eight Swedish looms of various sizes and complexity and is often full of weavers honing their skills. It is nationally known as a place to learn the details of fine traditional handweaving.

- Bedfellows Blankets in Buckland is a farm with a secret in the barn; a fully-functional mechanized weaving factory consisting of vintage industrial looms from New England's historic textile mills, where beautiful textiles are created every day.

- Botanical Shades in Hawley produces hand-dyed artisan yarns exclusively with natural dyes. The high quality of the hand-picked fibers and gentle processing results in yarns that are exceptionally soft and lustrous, in bright and

- Moonshine Design at



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINTERBERRY FARM

At Winterberry Farm in Leverett

Keldaby in Colrain is home to a large, gentle flock of exotic Angora goats (and a pair of alpacas, too!) from which gor-

meet this year's baby alpacas, (hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, teddy bears). Visit the farm and

geous mohair products are made.

- North East Alpacas in Whately is a small family run business which is home to two dogs, a certified organic vegetable farm, abundant wildlife and of course, their herd of exceptional Peruvian alpacas. North East Alpacas offers raw fiber, skeins of yarn, as well as finished alpaca products

known as crias.

- Tregellys Fiber Farm in Hawley has a variety of animals to delight children, so families are encouraged to stop by. Among the unusual animals, visitors will see Bactrian camels, llamas, Icelandic sheep, yaks and more. The mountain-top view from Tregellys is breathtaking.

- Winterberry Farm in Leverett is a small family farm that holds programs for children and adults throughout the year. The farm raises white and natural-colored sheep in both Romney and fine-wool crosses, a small herd of coarse-wooled sheep, and angora rabbits. Winterberry Farm sells raw wool, washed, carded and combed wool, and vibrantly dyed wool as locks or rovings. Handspun yarn is available in limited quantities, as is natural and dyed angora rabbit fiber.

Maps and literature are available at the Visitors' Center in Greenfield near the rotary, and online at www.fibertwist.com.

Six Films by Steve Alves to Appear on DVD

BY AMY LAPRADE

TURNERS FALLS - "My films are a reflection of everything that I care about," says award winning independent filmmaker and Turners Falls resident Steve Alves. Reviewing the titles of six films that will appear next month in a special DVD boxed set - *Steve Alves' Western Massachusetts Film Collection* - it seems the culture, economy, and natural beauty of Franklin County tops the list of what Alves cares about these days. Alves left the big city movie meccas of LA and New York in the early 80s to establish an independent film company in Greenfield, and he hasn't looked back.

Area residents, however, will soon have the chance to look back over Alves' catalogue of Franklin County films. In November, with the help of 23 local businesses that have combined funds to help reduce the cost of the DVD package to local schools and libraries, Alves' Western Mass documentaries - on topics ranging from maple sugaring to contra dancing to Greenfield's battle with Wal-Mart - will be available at the public libraries throughout the county, and for sale at local

book stores like Books & More and the World Eye.

Folks in Franklin and Hampshire Counties may know Alves best for *Talking to the Wall*, his film about the battle to keep Wal-Mart out of Greenfield. But Alves had a prolific career in filmmaking long before that documentary made it to theatres around New England.

Growing up in the working class Long Island town of Amityville, Alves never anticipated a career in filmmaking. After high school, he wasn't sure of his next steps, but escaped the military when his mother enrolled him in a technical school. There he took a media survey class and became beguiled by the world of film.

"In those days, the average person did not talk about making movies. Nowadays, with the technology available to us, anyone with a desire can make a



Filmmaker Steve Alves of Turners Falls

PHOTO BY LIMA EPSON

film," said Alves, who got his start long before 'indie' became hot in the art house circuit by filming with an 8mm, casting his little brother as the lead.

"Films captured my imagination. I was an artist seeking a medium in which to express myself and found that medium in filmmaking. With the combination of drama, story telling,

and visuals, films have both a kinetic and sensual appeal. They are immediate in that they create a moment. However, they do command exactitude and attention to detail, in which case you have the advantage of reworking a storyline until you get it to your satisfaction," said Alves.

Alves soon fled to California where his ambition began to blossom. He landed his first job in Los Angeles with director Dan Seeger, son of the folk singer Pete Seeger, working on a low-budget action picture as film editor, shooting second unit camera, and organizing the dailies.

Alves continued working as film editor on other projects, putting in long hours, but after years of this, grew weary of Los Angeles. The homogenized, cookie cutter sprawl depressed him, and he relocated to New York City to begin work on hor-

ror movies and trailers for feature films. However, Alves grew tired of the Big Apple too. He realized something in his orbit was amiss, and that simply climbing the ladder of success was not enough.

"In places like New York and LA, you need high levels of ambition to create art in the city. Everyone you know is either an acquaintance or an associate, never a friend," Alves said.

Jaded with big city life, Alves found his ticket out when a film company based in Northampton hired him to edit a nature documentary. Alves found himself smitten with the pastoral beauty of Western Massachusetts from the moment he arrived, and instantly felt at ease here. The overall sense of community impacted him the most, and he soon realized that was the missing ingredient in his life. In 1983 he relocated to Greenfield, married and started a family.

New to the area and far from the hub of the movie industry, Alves had to devise a way to make a living with his craft. He spoke with Anne Hamilton, head of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, about

see ALVES pg 13

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MONTAGUE CENTER PUZZLER MAKES THE SUNDAY NY TIMES

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Norma Johnson's name has appeared above a number of *New York Times* daily crosswords, but never above the (four letter word denoting the high point) of the cruciverbalist's career, the Sunday *New York Times Magazine* Puzzle. Never, that is, before two weeks ago, when Johnson downloaded the internet edition of the Sunday puzzle on Saturday night, and found her "Help Wanted" puzzle had finally made the *Magazine!*

"It was a big thrill," said Johnson, pausing in the celebration of the 100th anniversary party at the Carnegie Library to reminisce. "I share the byline

with my mentor, Nancy Salomon: she wouldn't put her name on a puzzle unless she thought it was good."

Just like the people who solve their challenging brainteasers, the creators of crosswords sometimes get stuck on certain words. Johnson said she got into trouble crafting one corner, and turned to Salomon for assistance. ("Help wanted!") Her mentor was glad to oblige.

When they turned their finished product in to *Times* puzzle editor Will Shortz, he rejected one word as spurious (lacking authenticity in essence or origin; illegitimate). The



Of course, the answers have been published in last Sunday's paper, but looking there, as we all know, would be cheating... Unless you happen to glance at the solution by accident.

Asked if she was resting on her laurels with the publication of her Sunday *Times* puzzle, Johnson answered honestly.

"I'm going to coast for a long time on this glory."

word? 'Eker': one who ekes. (Eek!) Well, it was a stretch, and Shortz put the kibosh on it. Salomon eked out a new set of clues for the nagging corner, and the revision won the *Times'* stamp of approval.

Johnson knew the puzzle had been accepted for publication, but was never told when to expect its appearance in print. When she downloaded her creation on October 14th she let out a joyous whoop (five letter exclamation of triumph)! Her husband, Montague selectman Allen Ross, got on the phone to alert friends and relatives, who were soon joined by hundreds of

thousands of Sunday puzzlers wracking their brains to come up with answers to Johnson's clues.

With the theme, Help Wanted, just what would you supply for a 12-letter 'Job for a Lingerie Salesclerk?' (How about.... packing slips?) 'Job for an architect?' (Try: drawing rooms.) But what about a four letter word for the 'Start of Idaho's motto'? Second letter looks like an 's'... wait a minute, hold on a sec, I used to know that...

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: Friday, October 27th through Thursday, November 2nd

Friday, October 27th

7:00 am Barton Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Update
10:00 am Montague Selectboard 10/23
11:00 am Discovery Center: Waterfowl ID
12:30 pm Classic Arts Showcase
6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #13
6:30 pm Farmers Market Concert-Tom Carroll
7:30 pm School Forum
9:30 pm Montague Update - Mik Muller

Identification

12:00 pm Diagnosed with Hep C?: Learn More, Be Sure
6:00 pm Classic Arts Showcase
7:00 pm Selectboard Meeting "Live"
10:00 pm Isaac Mass
10:30 pm A Conversation with Peter Wood
11:00 pm Franklin County Democrat

Saturday, October 28th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #13
9:30 am Farmers Market Concert-Tom Carroll
10:30 am Montague Update-Mik Muller
12:00 pm School Forum
6:00 pm The Discovery Center: Dinosaurs
7:30 pm NASA: The Case of the Mysterious Red Light
8:30 pm The Well Being: Sexual Healing and Support
9:00 pm On The Ridge

Tuesday, October 31st

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Classic Arts Showcase
10:00 am Isaac Mass
10:30 am A Conversation with Peter Wood
11:00 am Franklin County Democrat
5:00 pm Montague Update-Mik Muller
6:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 10/24
9:00 pm School Forum
11:00 pm On the Ridge

Sunday, October 29th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am The Discovery Center: Connecticut Valley Dinosaurs
10:30 am NASA: Mysterious Red Light
11:30 am The Well Being: Sexual Healing and Support
12:30 pm On The Ridge
6:00 pm Montague Update-Jon Dobosz
7:00 pm Farmers Market Concerts: Stephanie Marshall
8:00 pm Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification
10:00 pm Diagnosed with Hep. C?: Learn More, Be Sure

Wednesday, November 1st

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Update-Mik Muller
10:00 am NASA: The Mysterious Red Light
11:00 am On the Ridge
11:30 am School Forum
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #13
7:00 pm GED Connection #12
7:30 pm The Well Being: Health, Peace and Community
8:30 pm Farmers Market Concert: Tom Carroll

Monday, October 30th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Update-Jon Dobosz
10:00 am Farmers Market Concert: Stephanie Marshall
11:00 am Discovery Center: Waterfowl

Thursday, November 2nd

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #13
9:30 am GED Connection #12
10:00am The Well Being: Health, Peace and Community
11:00 am Farmers Market Concert: Tom Carroll
5:00 pm School Forum
7:00 pm Montague Update
8:00 pm Montague Selectboard 10/30
10:00 pm Discovery Center Open Mic.
11:30 pm Farmers Market Concert: Pat & Tex LaMountain

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Raining Paint Balls on West Gill Road

Wednesday 10-18

3:05 a.m. Officer called to a West Gill Road residence, for a health watch alarm activation. All confirmed OK.
1:45 p.m. Walk-in complaint at station reported landlord - tenant issue. Landlord advised of possible course of action.

resident called to advise teenage daughter missing.

Sunday 10-23

5:00 a.m. West Gill Road resident advised her house had been hit with paint balls throughout the night.
10:58 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police at Windmill Motel, for a medical call

Thursday 10-19

8:10 p.m. Alarm sounding at Main Road Business; all secure.
9:00 p.m. A West Gill Road

Friday 10-20
12:05 a.m. Loud noise complaint at Walnut Street residence. Officer spoke to parties involved.
4:45 p.m. Tree down on West Gill Road. Officer cleared same from roadway.

Tuesday 10-24

2:00 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with traffic control for residential structure fire.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Ceria Offers to Drop Lawsuit for \$20,000

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Although not on the agenda, Mark Ceria appeared in the selectboard's temporary trailer offices on October 18th as the meeting opened. He told the board he wants to leave Wendell and never return, but that he has complaints against the town, former board of health members Andy Hamilton and Gloria Kegeles, and other residents of the Mountain Laurel Road trailer park.

On August 27th, 2003, then board of health chair Hamilton informed the selectboard his board had issued an order of condemnation and an order to vacate to Ceria for his Mountain Laurel Road trailer. Hamilton told the board Ceria's trailer was unfit for human habitation due to the accumulation of vermin infested debris. On October 22nd of '03, the Wendell special town meeting approved \$10,000 to clean up the site, after Hamilton told the meeting the roof of Ceria's trailer had caved in, it was infested with rodents, and debris had piled up. "It is the worst site I have ever seen," Hamilton said at the time.

The town placed a lien on the land to help the town recover the cost of the cleanup.

Last week, Ceria complained to the board that the manager of the Mountain Laurel Road trailer park is building on a wetland, and claimed the owner of the building at the top of the park drove over Ceria's belongings. Ceria spoke about experiencing harassment from other residents of the park. The loss of his former dwelling and belongings cost him \$103,000, he claimed, and he said he had lost priceless possessions, among them pictures of his father, mother and sister.

Ceria has instituted a lawsuit against the town of Wendell and board members of the town for \$1,000,000, for the grief he said their actions have cost him, and for the cost of his possessions, but he said he would prefer to

drop the suit, get \$20,000 from the town, leave and never come back.

Selectboard member Christine Heard said her sense was that such an appropriation would have to come before town meeting, and is possibly illegal. She said the selectboard could consult with a lawyer, but would need to have the offer from Ceria in writing.

Ceria brought up the crushing of his house and belongings, and Heard answered, "You understand; we cannot decide now. We will follow up." Ceria thanked the selectboard for listening, and left, saying, "I prefer to leave the town in one piece."

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that a date for the next special town meeting had not been set because insurance costs for recent tornado damage to the town building projects are still in the works. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said Handford

Construction was supposed to get back to the town regarding the insurance settlement for the portion of the project that was under construction when the windstorm hit on July 12th, but so far they have not done so. Selectboard member Dan Keller said Handford had assured him their insurance would pay, and suggested that project manager Mark Sullivan give them a call.

Keller said an article for major cleanup from the tornado should go on the special town meeting warrant. There are still big stumps and root balls that will interfere with snow removal because they are close to the road. Lewis said they cannot legally be brought to the Wendell

recycling center, and a stump grinder is expensive. Keller asked Aldrich to ask road boss Dan Bacigalupo for an itemized list of priorities in the cleanup. Lewis said, "We have to do something; we can't go into winter like this. Eventually we have to do something about Wickett Pond Road."

The final bill is expected soon from Davenport for constructing the town center septic system, and will include testing the system. Lewis thought the town hall should be connected to the sys-

tem shortly, which would save the ongoing cost of pumping of the tight tank. Aldrich said Wendell's official 'Pothole Grant' from the state's Foundation Reserve Fund equals \$57,000 this year. The money can be treated as available funds and can be spent however town meeting chooses. Keller thought tornado cleanup might be a good use for that money. Aldrich said the state method for determining the grant varied annually, and that New Salem got nothing from the fund this year. Heard said Wendell's high property values and low median income weigh in the town's favor.

Acting as volunteers, Keller and resident Stephen Broll spent all Saturday, October 14th on the roof of the town highway garage and fire station. They resealed seams, replaced loose nails with screws and sealed them, saving the town a lot of money. The roof should last at least through the coming winter. Lewis said he did not think the roof was as bad as the inspector had said, and that the town citizens have done a good deal of work on the building; which is only 20 years old.

Aldrich said trusses are going up in the new town office build-

ing, and walls are going up in the new library. Keller said all the granite slabs are in place in the front part of the library foundation, and that the first of two pours of concrete outside the stone foundation is scheduled for Friday. The next building committee meeting will include discussion of the final paint color, and the big question is the roof color. The drawings show red shingles, almost brown. Lewis cautioned that manufacturers put a low limit on the temperature at which shingles can be installed without voiding the warrantee.

9:00 a.m. Keller and Heard signed a one-day auctioneer's license for Lewis. Keller said that he and Michael Idoine of Quist Road Lumber had milled the salvaged chestnut beams from the old town office building into one inch and two inch boards, resulting in 200 to 300 feet of salvaged material. They saved two-inch pieces that show the original hand hewing of the outside of the beams, pieces that might be used as decorative trim in the new library. A carpenter is already working with the one-inch pieces to build a circulation desk. Idoine was willing to donate his time and his machine, but the beams were full of nails, and he went through blade after blade. Since his bill for reimbursement is not high, Keller thought the town should reimburse him for the blades. Keller said there were many mortise holes, and a lot of rot and mold on the 8 x 8's that would have created problems if the beams had been incorporated into the new building as originally planned. He asked Aldrich to send a letter to the town historical commission explaining what they had done with the beams, and offering them the leftover material.



Signs of July tornado damage remain on Wendell Depot Road, where big stumps and root balls may interfere with snow removal if they are not removed before winter

PHOTO BY SHAWN WOOLSEY

Trick or Treat Night

The Wendell Women's Club's **trick or treat night**

Tuesday, October 31st, 5 - 7 pm.

Starts at 5:00 at the Wendell Police Station with a costume parade. Pick up maps of the pre-arranged trick or treat stops, then visit the "spooky porch" next door for hot apple cider before you take off on your "tricks and treats" adventure. more info (978) 544-2928 to register by Sunday, October 29th

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Railroad Salvage to be Demolished if Owner Does Not Act

BY DAVID DETMOLD

THE PATCH - Old buildings and new buildings were on the selectboard's agenda Monday, October 23rd, as building inspector David Jensen gave an update on the Railroad Salvage property and Ann Perkins, of Rural Development, Inc. (RDI) came before the board to request permission to extend a town sewer line on Hillside Road to allow hookups for two 'green' homes her organization hopes to build for low or moderate income homeowners there.

Last month, Jensen had offered hope that a breakthrough might be in the offing in the long impasse over the former Griswold Cotton mill, known in recent decades as the home of Railroad Salvage, a 126,890 square foot brick building that has been crumbling into adjacent Power Street since last spring, after gaping holes in the roof led to a weakening of exterior walls. Due to town officials' fears that more of the walls could fall, Power Street, one of two access roads to the residential South End neighborhood, has been blockaded by Jersey barricades since the end of May.

At the September 25th board meeting, Jensen announced a planned meeting with Railroad Salvage owner Gary Kosuda, and a representative of his Springfield-based architect, Detes & Co., to go over plans for stabilizing and restoring the 132-year-old structure. That meeting



PATRICK RENNICK PHOTO

Beyond Salvage? Owner Gary Kosuda is due in Franklin County court third week of November. If Kosuda does not present plans by then to renovate the building, the town will seek its demolition.

was scheduled for October 18th, but Kosuda, a resident of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, canceled at the last minute. Jensen said he will attempt to reschedule the meeting with Kosuda for the middle of November, shortly before Kosuda is due to appear in a Franklin County courtroom to present his plans for the building. Should either Kosuda or the plan fail to materialize by then, Jensen said the town will seek a court order to have the building demolished.

Selectboard member Al Ross asked how much buildable land would be available at the site if the building were torn down. Jensen said he thought there

would be about 2½ acres.

Jensen turned discussion to another problem property, the lot owned by Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk at 181 Avenue A, which has been the site of an open pit around a crumbling cement brick foundation and double mounds of dirt, weeds, and debris since last fall, when visible progress on the planned three-story mixed used commercial building came to a halt. At the time, contractors walked off the job complaining Kislyuk had not paid their bills, and the town was forced to patch open holes in the main street and sidewalk. This spring, the town ordered Kislyuk to install a safety fence

around the property; the order was complied with, though Jensen said the fence was inadequate to properly secure the site, and an eyesore in itself.

Jensen said he has now joined forces with the board of health, pulling Kislyuk's building permit and

other residents to tie into RDI's part of the sewer. Bergeron said RDI would be able to ask the town to accept ownership of the sewer line they installed after two years of operation, similar to the town accepting a private road after two years of use. Once accepted, the town would maintain the sewer line.

But Perkins said her company may wish to charge abutters for the right to tie into the sewer extension in order to recoup some of the costs of its construction. She said two years might not provide a sufficient window for abutters to decide it was to their advantage to hook up to the sewer. She proposed five years instead, at which point both the board and Perkins said they would consult legal advice before proceeding further with the matter.

Finally, the board turned to an old building being restored to a longtime use, as a nightclub, when the owners of the Millers Pub, in the former Equi's Spanish Garden hall, came before the board to ask permission to host DJ's, bands and karaoke nights on Friday and Saturdays in the popular Millers Falls locale. After going over a checklist provided by the building inspector, bar manager Ed Toltzdorf, and partners David Fredenburgh, and Mark Jackson agreed to take required soundproofing measures, and provide a floor plan to determine maximum occupancy of the two sides of the bar. Jensen said he did not anticipate the maximum exceeding the present figure of 90 occupants.

Toltzdorf said the pub was gearing mainly toward DJs and karaoke nights, since bands were more expensive, and the noise level for live bands would be more difficult to control.

The pub has purchased the noise meter formerly owned by Yesterday's bar in Turners Falls, closing at the end of the month after its entertainment license was suspended over repeated neighborhood complaints and noise ordinance violations.

The board granted a permit for use of public property for the annual Hallowe'en Rag Shag parade. The parade will gather in the parking lot in front of Aubuchon's at 5:00 p.m. for judging on October 31st. It will proceed down Avenue A at 5:30, to the VFW hall on 3rd Street. The parade is sponsored by the VFW Post #923.

ordering him to restore the property to level grade. "I revoked his building permit on September 25th," said Jensen. "As of October 10th, he is in violation of my order to restore the property... fill it in, knock out the foundation, and grade it level so it's safe. It is clearly not the most aesthetic thing in downtown." The board of health also cited Kislyuk for unsafe conditions at the site, and Jensen said he would coordinate with the board of health to seek a joint court hearing if Kislyuk continues to ignore their orders.

On a brighter note, Ann Perkins, director of the homeownership program for RDI, told the board her non-profit organization, an adjunct of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, "builds single family green homes for low and moderate income people," and hopes to build two of them on lots "contiguous to where the sewer ends" on Hillside Road. Perkins asked the board for permission to build roughly 300 feet of sewer onto the end of the town's line, at RDI's expense.

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron said there was no reason the sewer could not be extended to those lots, though the grade becomes difficult beyond that point. Jensen said a 300-foot extension to the line on Hillside Road would allow three houses on the opposite side of the road to tie into the sewer. He noted septic systems had been failing in that neighborhood.

Ross asked what the contractual arrangement would be for

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault at TFHS

Thursday 10-19

9:43 a.m. Caller reported catching an opossum and requested advice as to what to do with it. Officer advised.

Friday 10-20

3:59 p.m. Report of a disturbance on Canal Street at the old Indeck building. Caller states there is a problem with an ex-employee. Caller wanted it on record in case further problems develop.

4:32 p.m. Report of an environmental incident on Millers Falls Road. A transformer blew. WMECO and Fire Department responded.

Saturday 10-21

12:27 a.m. Report of a

domestic disturbance at a 5th Street address. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and battery and domestic assault and battery.

12:20 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at the Central Street School building. Found to be a window that had been blown out by the wind.

Sunday 10-22

11:28 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Found to be verbal only.

Monday 10-23

11:03 a.m. Report of a larceny at a K Street address. A

mountain bike was stolen. Report taken.

Tuesday 10-24

1:00 p.m. Report of a larceny at the Post Office. Caller states she purchased a money order, left it on a table and turned away momentarily. When she went back to the table it was gone. Under investigation.

2:33 p.m. Report of an assault at TFHS. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, assault and battery, assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, and larceny under \$250. A juvenile was also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Wins \$145,600 Self-Help Grant for Giniusz Farm Purchase

Shortly after noon on Wednesday, October 25th, Erving administrative coordinator Tom Sharp got the call he had been waiting for. "Jen Soper, of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, called to say it had been a tough decision, she had to say 'No' to a lot of people in a very competitive grant process, but she was pleased to announce Erving had been awarded a \$145,600 Self-Help grant to assist in the purchase and permanent conservation of 167 acres of land on Old State Road, known as the Giniusz Farm."

At a special town meeting on June 26th of this year, by a vote of 89 to 3, Erving voters approved the \$800,000 purchase and sale agreement negotiated with the Giniusz family for the acreage, which includes meadows, forest, and cliffs overlooking the Millers River. Also

included in the purchase, though not part of the conservation land, were 12 acres on the south side of Old State Road abutting the town's historic cemetery. This acreage will be reserved for future town use; the larger parcel to the north of the road will be managed for recreation purposes by the Erving conservation commission.

Sharp credited "strong grass roots support" in securing the competitive grant to help defray a portion of the town's expense for Erving's first purchase of conservation land. He cited Old State Road residents' Laura Hebert and Rob Fletcher in particular for their work leafletting and canvassing their neighbors to build support for the purchase.

Erving Castle Sign Debated

On October 16th, 'gatekeepers of the Metacomet - Monadnock Trail' Harry

Sharbaugh, of Mountain Road and Frank Savage, of Farley, came before the selectboard to ask if the Erving Castle sign on Route 2 could be removed or relocated. "They feel the sign confuses would-be hikers," said Sharp. Sharbaugh recounted experiences of people driving up and parking near his property to embark on a three mile hike, seeking the 'Erving Castle' in flip flops, without water, with small children in tow, only to find the 'castle' nothing but a small cave under an overhanging cliff. It was the site of the home of John Smith, a Scottish immigrant, who made his solitary home there in the late 1800s.

Selectboard member Jeff Dubay recalled tourists stopping to ask the way to the 'castle,' because they wanted to stop there for cocktails and a quick dinner. The board took the 'gatekeepers' request under advisement.

Tough Loss for Turners

BY LEE CARIGNAN
**T U R N E R S
F A L L S** - The Putnam Beavers defeated the Turners Falls Indians 12-9 in



quarter with a 65-yard touchdown drive, capped off by Justin Reed. Turners stopped the Beavers on the 2-point conversion to keep the score 6-3.

Intercounty League football action on Friday night, October 20th. It has become an increasingly frustrating season for the Indians, who have now lost four divisional games by a combined 15 points. Turners can take solace that they have been extremely competitive within their division, but at the end of the day the only thing that matters in football is who wins and who loses. Hopefully, Turners can take the positives from the losses, move forward, and finish strong.

Turners retook the lead in the second quarter when reserve running back CJ Peterson scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. Sonny Lucas missed the extra point, giving Turners a 9-6 lead at the intermission. Peterson gained 48-yards on the night, doing an excellent job filling in for Evan Brusco, who left the game with a leg injury. Brusco was having a good game with 57 yards on 10 carries before the injury cut his night short.

On Friday, Turners got off to a fast start on their opening drive, moving the ball downfield with solid running by Evan Brusco. Turners dominated the line of scrimmage and overpowered the Beavers, forcing Putnam to call timeout. The Beavers seemed to regroup, playing tough with their backs against the wall, and holding Turners out of the end zone. Turners coach John Putala decided to attempt the field goal instead of going for the touchdown. Sonny Lucas' 20-yard kick gave Turners a 3 - 0 lead. Coach Putala's conservative decision seems questionable, in retrospect, but Turners needed to get some points on the board to keep their momentum.

Putnam pulled ahead for good in the third quarter when Robert Murchison found a hole in the Turners defense and exploded down the field for a 38-yard touchdown run. Putnam failed to convert again on the 2 point conversion. It was another costly mistake for the Turners defense, which has been solid most of the season, but continues to give up the big play at inopportune moments.

Putnam answered on their opening possession in the first

Turners had the ball two more times but couldn't muster anything against the Beaver's defense in the fourth quarter, to lose 12-9.

Next week, Turners finishes out their home schedule by hosting Athol High School at Bourdeau field, Friday night at 7 p.m. This should be a very tough opponent for Turners. Athol is in first place with a record of 5-1.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Traffic Jam at the Paper Mill

Wednesday 10-18

6:10 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and speeding.

Thursday 10-19

7:50 p.m. Report of trespassing at an Old State Road address. Under investigation.

Friday 10-20

3:15 p.m. Report of a traffic jam at the paper mill. Cleared up on arrival.

Saturday 10-21

12:05 p.m. Report of damage to a room at the French King Motel. Subjects worked at Australis fish farm in Montague Industrial Park. Montague Police spoke with manager of Australis who agreed to pay for damage.

Sunday 10-22

11:40 a.m. Report of a fire possibly along the railroad tracks in the Farley Crossing area. Found to be heavy smoke from a train engine, no fire.

Tuesday 10-24

12:30 p.m. Report of harassing phone calls at a North Street address. Under investigation.

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SCHOOLS

continued from pg 1

fiscal year beginning in July of '07, and the towns of Gill and Montague have signaled they are looking at increasingly tight budget-making seasons next year. Seeking to address the budget gap proactively, the committee is looking to reduce costs by streamlining the way services are delivered to the 25% of district students who fall into the 'special needs' category - a line item where Gee anticipates a possible reduction in staff and a savings of \$160,000 next year - and by closing one or more of Montague's three elementary schools.

"Something needs to be done, now," said Precinct 4 town meeting member David Thompson. "You need to close one or two schools now. Even if you did all the renovations needed at Montague Center, there is still a parking lot issue there, and there's no room for expansion down there. You'd just be throwing good money after bad."

Gee went over the four possible methods of consolidating Montague's elementary schools. (Closing Sheffield was ruled out early: there is not enough space in the other two schools to absorb all the students from Sheffield.) Closing both Hillcrest and Montague Center would leave 428 students from pre-K through 5th in Sheffield School, if none drop out through school choice. To find room for them in the 20 classrooms that would be needed, all Montague 6th graders would move to the newly renovated Great Falls Middle School. Under this sce-

nario, fifth graders would attend classrooms on the second floor of the old side of the Sheffield building; the behavioral programs would be located near their age appropriate grade levels to facilitate the mainstreaming of special ed students; classroom sizes throughout Sheffield would be maintained at an average of 21 students per class, with one 25-student classroom in either the 4th or 5th grade. No renovations would be immediately required, other than the installation of a new chair lift on the stairs between floors on the old side of the building, and, eventually, the installation of age appropriate bathroom fixtures for the early grades.

She said "a small and manageable renovation project would be required" to expand Sheffield "if district enrollment shows signs of growth."

Aside from renovation costs, Gee estimates the savings to the district from this scenario (reduction of two teachers, elimination of utility costs at the closed schools) would reduce the budget gap to about \$544,644. Combined with the anticipated cost savings in streamlined SPED delivery, the budget gap could fall to \$384,644. Gee emphasized all cost estimates were preliminary.

"I teach at Hillcrest School," said Betsy Burnham, a Gill resident. "I feel badly we have to make this decision. If we have to close something, I'd like to say please don't close an ADA compliant school. I hope we can avoid [winding up with] a school with 400 students. It's hard for younger grades, and especially difficult for kindergartners."

Hillcrest, with 11 classrooms (averaging 980 square feet) all on one floor level, is an ADA compliant school, with wheelchair accessible bathrooms, entrances, and facilities, including an ADA compliant playground. Gee estimated the Montague Center School, with two floors and eight smaller classrooms, (averaging 750 square feet) would require \$730,000 in renovations if some of the students from Hillcrest were moved there. Montague Center does not have a wheelchair accessible front entrance, and would eventually need to have an elevator installed between classrooms on the basement level and the main floor, as well as age appropriate bathrooms for the younger grades, Gee said. Renovations



Betsy Burnham, who teaches at Hillcrest said, "Class size is critical. Education is still about quality teachers working with an appropriate number of students. It's still #1 on the Hit Parade of what I think is important for students."

would cost: \$150,000 for removal of asbestos flooring, \$200,000 for a new roof, \$50,000 for new restrooms, \$250,000 for an elevator, and \$80,000 for a wheelchair ramp at the front entrance, according to an information packet provided by the superintendent.

Aside from the cost of renovations, the closing of Hillcrest School, and the bussing of 60 students to Montague Center, to create eight K- 5 classrooms there, with the remaining Hillcrest students added to the Sheffield population to create 17 classrooms with 20 students there, would save the district approximately \$160,000, Gee said.

Under this scenario, pre-K classrooms would remain at Sheffield, and all mobility impaired students would attend Sheffield (presumably until renovations to Montague Center were complete).

Jaye Oakes, who resides in Gill and has taught at the Hillcrest School for 33 years said, "It is very difficult emotionally for people to talk about closing schools." She said younger children would find a school of nearly 500 students at Sheffield intimidating, and spoke of the plusses Hillcrest offers younger children. "There are sinks in all the classrooms, and seven rooms have bathrooms; that is a real advantage for young children. In Montague Center the bathrooms would definitely have to be modified. They have to be able to reach or it's not going to work."

Sue Dresser, a Montague Center parent, said, "A lot of the decision for renovations at the Montague Center school have been passed over in the last 20 years. Now it's tough to look at this total cost to make the

changes to keep the school open." But she said, "There's a lot of support in Montague Center for the elementary school."

Gee said the rumor that a school might be closing had contributed to the dip in district enrollment in the last

year, but she said other parents had told her they were moving their kids out of the district schools over concerns that two schools were not meeting state MCAS requirements. She said a consolidated district would remove the question mark that had been hanging over the district for years about school closing, and would provide educational benefits by allowing teachers to work more closely together on curriculum development and team building, and for each school to have a full time principal who could spend more time in classrooms.

With the topic of closing Gill Elementary School off the table for now, due to the district agreement that stipulates students from both Gill and Montague will be educated in their home communities, and the idea of sixth graders from Gill joining the 6th graders from Montague at the Middle School similarly bracketed from discussion by the district agreement, Lynn Hubert of Gill asked about the chance of getting a full time principal back for Gill's K-6th school. Gee replied she would like to see a fulltime administrator there, "perhaps a teaching principal, someone who could

be in the building for the whole day. But with only 100 students it is hard for the district to fully fund that."

Since Gill's longtime principal, Bob Mahler, resigned at the very end of last school year, Gill is being led by a part time interim principal this year, David Crisafulli.

Hubert said the joint classroom for 4th and 5th graders at Gill is "a tough class" with nine boys and one girl in fourth grade, and said she would love to see a teaching principal who could help out with that situation in particular. Gee admitted the joint classroom has been a difficult problem for teachers to handle in Gill, as the small joint class has moved up from the younger grades, particularly with respect to preparing for the third and fourth grade MCAS tests.

Gee said the district was "very lean on teachers" now, after repeated budget cuts, and it was unlikely to add teachers (at roughly \$50,000 per) any time soon with a possible budget gap of up to \$500,000 remaining after any school closing scenario.

Gill school committee representative Ted Castro Santos said, "Intradistrict choice might even out some of the discrepancies in the school [populations]." But he said, "I'm hear-



Jaye Oakes, who has taught at Hillcrest for 33 years, said if Hillcrest were to close and Montague Center were to house more students, the bathrooms there would definitely have to be modified. "They have to be able to reach, or it's not going to work." She called the sinks in seven classrooms at Hillcrest a definite advantage for young children.

ing bi-polar responses to that idea: some people love it, some hate it." Intradistrict choice, which would allow some students from the larger elementary schools in Montague to choice into Gill Elementary where the 5th grade currently has 11 stu-

see SCHOOLS pg 11

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SCHOOLS
continued from pg 10

dents and the fourth grade only has ten, would also require a change to the district agreement.

Speaking of the need to keep class sizes small, Burnham, who teaches at Hillcrest, said, "Class size is critical. Education is still about quality teachers working with an appropriate number of students. It's still #1 on the Hit Parade of what I think is important for students."

If Montague Center is closed and Hillcrest remains open the district would have two ways of configuring Hillcrest and Sheffield: either as side by side K-5 or K-6 schools, or as a 'campus model' with younger grades at Hillcrest, as they are now, and older grades at Sheffield. Either of these scenarios would result in very small classrooms, for the most part, of around 13 students. The campus model would result in savings to the district of about \$139,000; the side by side schools, due to the need to hire one less food service worker, would save the district \$159,000.

Committee member Mike Langknecht, who lives in Montague Center, said, "The campus model doesn't conform to the school committee's consensus to seek a K-5 or K-6 configuration; it doesn't eliminate transitions."

Langknecht asked, "Does the town of Montague have a use for one of the buildings?" He said if the town had a use for Hillcrest, he would favor keeping Montague Center open, if the district embarked on a building program there. Langknecht said a building program would be needed at any of the elementary schools the district decided to keep open.

Mike Naughton, who serves on Montague's capital improvements committee, agreed. "The buildings are an issue. All the elementary school buildings will need renovation if they stay in service."

Naughton also said, "I do agree with people who say if you have to close a school, it has to be Montague Center, due to the cost of keeping that school open."

And Naughton argued against

the side by side model of schools at Hillcrest and Sheffield, saying it would isolate students from one another in the two schools. "When I went to elementary school, I remember meeting kids from all over town, and that was good. We're not that big a town..."

But Tom Wildman-Hanlon, of Montague Center, spoke against closing the school in his village. "At this point, my kids can walk from their school to a friend's house. It will split the community. Keeping the kids together is important for community. That's why I'm hoping you'll keep Montague Center open."

Vicky Valley, from Precinct 4, who teaches history at the high school, said, "The things I hear on town meeting floor concern the school budget and the



Lynn Hubert of Gill:

"I'd love to see a teaching principal at Gill Elementary School... someone who could be in the building for the whole day. But with only 100 students it is hard for the district to fully fund that."

way it's gone over the last ten years. We still have to come up with a way to pay for things."

She continued, "It's very difficult to close a community school. That's understandable. But not having access to library materials is a great concern of mine." Earlier, Gee said a move to fill Montague Center classrooms with students from Hillcrest would likely result in converting the library room there to classroom space. The art

room would also be lost, necessitating "art on a cart" visits to each class.

"Filling every classroom to capacity in our oldest school building doesn't make sense to me," Valley said.

Naughton mentioned that the town of Montague spends a total of \$250,000 annually on the three public libraries. "There are ways to provide services other than during school hours. Some of our town services have been starved. The Montague Center and Millers Falls libraries aren't open very many hours a week. They could provide more after school programs, summer programs, and be open for kids to check out books if we had more resources.

Before he left the meeting, Lenois came to the podium to make one last point. "You are elected to look out for our children's education," he told the committee. "But you also need to look out for the taxpayers of the town. We are starting to hurt!"



Adams Scholarships Awarded

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - MONTAGUE - The meeting room was packed on Tuesday night as the school committee honored twenty-one members of the TFHS Class of 2007 who received John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awards for academic excellence. The awards qualify the students for tuition waivers for eight traditional semesters of undergraduate education at any state college or the University of Massachusetts. The scholarships are awarded to students who score in the advanced category on 10th grade Math or English MCAS exams, and in the proficient category in the other exam.

This year's scholarship winners are: Rachel Banning,

Michael Bartos, Adam Bastarache, Rebecca Bonnett-Southar, Michelle Dame, Gregory Dorman, Julianna Felton, Anne Fish, Benjamin Garber, Elizabeth Giknis, Chelsea Isles, Jenna Lapachinski, Jesse Lucas, Julianne Rosewarne, Lauren Sena, Christopher Seymour, William Shattuck IV, Valeriya Shumilova, Christopher Sicard, Lauren Tela, and Haley Trenholm.

Superintendent Sue Gee selected Benjamin Garber to receive this year's Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence, in recognition of his "many honors in academic excellence and outstanding community service." Garber, with a 4.19 GPA, has been active in local Red Cross blood dri-



Benjamin Garber, with a 4.19 GPA, received the Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence.

ves, Relay for Life fundraisers, Adopt-a-Family in Franklin County, has played trumpet at Memorial Day services in Gill and Montague,

plays in the marching band, the jazz band, the concert band, sings in the chorus, is the captain of the soccer team, a member of the swim team, treasurer of his class and a member of the National Honor Society. He will attend an honorary dinner with his parents and a teacher of his choice at the Franklin County Tech School, and received a standing ovation in front of the G-M school committee on Tuesday night.

School committee member Valeria Smith said she understood why Garber's father attended the award ceremony Tuesday night. "With his list of extra-curricular activities, Mr. Garber, I guess this is the only chance you get to see him."

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HEALTH

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Germany, and Canada, all of whom have single payer health care systems. "General Motors spends more per car on the health care of its workers than it does on steel," Ash asserted, calling the "hodgepodge non-system" of employer-sponsored health care combined with Medicaid and Medicare a competitive drag on the American economy. He said the U.S. spends 15.4% of its gross domestic product on health care compared to an average of 8% in the industrialized nations with single payer health care. In relation to its global competitors, the U.S. ranks 21st in terms of life expectancy, and 25th in terms of infant mortality, Ash said. Sixteen per cent of Americans, 48 million people, have no health insurance at all, and for the first time in five years the number of uninsured children in America is rising. There are now 8.5 million uninsured children in America, the wealthiest nation on Earth.

"In places where health care is considered a right," said Bridgewater, "job loss doesn't mean a family suddenly loses their legitimate access to health care." In Erving, she said the Osowskis paid devastating fines to access their retirement savings in order to afford the hospital stays Ed and Becky have undergone.

Bridgewater said the forum "missed Becky Osowski's powerful voice" due to her recuperation from surgery earlier this month.

Congressman Olver noted he had sponsored single payer health care legislation for each of his eight terms in office. He has signed on to the current bill, the "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act" (HR 676), along with 76 other co-sponsors. Among its other provisions, the bill would create cradle-to-grave, transportable health care for all American residents, including dental services, chiropractic care, and vision care. The bill forbids co-pays and deductibles. Under the

terms of the bill, "patients shall have freedom of choice of providers," according to Ajamu Sankofa, national organizer for

In '06, the Gill-Montague schools spent \$1,623,850 on health insurance premiums. This year, that figure rose 20%, by more than \$325,000.

Health Care Now, who was in attendance on Saturday.

"There is no excuse for the fact the U. S. has the worst health care delivery system *vis-a-vis* the other industrialized nations, and pays the most. That's an outrage," said Sankofa.

Two thirds of Americans randomly surveyed support single payer health care. Eight of the ten Massachusetts Congressional representatives support

HR 676, all except Edward Markey and Richard Neal.

Northampton Mayor Claire Higgins said health care now consumes 13% of her city's budget; and she finds herself in the position of laying off staff in order to pay the health premiums of remaining employees. It is usually the younger staff who get pink-slipped, leaving older workers with seniority (and higher premiums) on the city payrolls. Health care costs are climbing at a rate double that of city revenues, Higgins said.

[At the school committee meeting of October 24th, Gill-Montague superintendent Sue Gee said the GMRSD had budgeted for an 18% increase in health insurance costs for '07, but the district had actually experienced a 20% increase. In '06, the Gill-Montague schools spent \$1,623,850 on health insurance premiums. This year that figure rose by more than \$325,000.]

Former Northampton mayor Mary Ford, who has worked for the last three years as the out-

reach director of the Montague City-based Community Health Center of Franklin County asked the crowd to "Imagine if your house caught on fire and the first question you were asked before fire fighters responded was, 'Do you have insurance?'" She called America's present health care system, "A human disgrace, a moral calamity, and a growing economic burden on employers and employees."

Sankofa blamed the pharmaceutical corporations and private insurance companies for the fact that America has not followed the lead of its economic rivals in instituting single payer health care. He said 192 unions have endorsed 'Medicare for All,' and called the push for single payer health care "an unstoppable movement," that cut across partisan lines.

Olver said to his knowledge, not a single Republican had ever signed onto a single payer health care bill, in any form.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Passing a Kidney Stone

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've heard the worst pain you can experience is from passing a kidney stone. True?

I have a friend who served in the Royal Air Force in World War II. On a bombing run over Germany, his co-pilot started to pass a kidney stone. The pain was so bad the poor guy wanted to jump out of the plane. He had to be knocked unconscious.

Kidney stones have been inflicting extreme pain for at least 7,000 years; evidence of them was found in an Egyptian mummy.

In the USA, there are about 1 million cases of kidney stones each year. The number of people in the United States with kidney stones has been increasing inexplicably over the last three decades. Stones occur more frequently in men. And the

frequency increases with age.

Kidney stones are composed of crystals of substances in urine. Many small stones pass unnoticed from the two kidneys down the tubes (ureters) leading to the bladder. But, if they are too large to pass, you may feel pain.

The crystals that make up stones are likely to form when your urine contains a high level of certain substances. Crystals may also form if your urine becomes too concentrated.

Kidney stones can be caused by heredity, diet, drugs, climate, infection and other conditions that create an increased concentration of calcium, oxalate and uric acid in the urine.

There are four primary types of stones. Calcium stones are the most common; about 80 percent of kidney stones are composed of calcium. Struvite

stones usually occur in women and are almost always caused by urinary tract infections. Uric acid stones can develop from a high-protein diet. Cystine stones are caused by a hereditary disorder.

Kidneys are located below the ribs toward the middle of the back. They're shaped like beans and they're about the size of your fist. The kidneys remove excess water and waste from the blood and convert it to urine. They have other functions, too, that affect blood.

The most common symptom of a kidney stone is severe pain that usually starts in the back or side just below the ribs. The pain may spread to the lower abdomen, groin and genitals if the stone moves down a ureter toward your bladder. Other symptoms include blood in the urine, nausea and vomiting,

constant need to urinate, and fever.

There are various treatments for kidney stones. Taking a painkiller and drinking a lot of water with increased physical activity can work. Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) uses shock waves to break up the stone. If the stone is very large, surgery may be needed. Medication or dietary changes may be prescribed to prevent more stones.

If you don't drink enough fluids, your urine can become more concentrated and that can lead to stone formation. People exposed to heat are more likely to get kidney stones. That's why kidney stones are more common in summer.

Here are a few tips for reducing the chances of getting a stone:

- Drink about six glasses of



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

water daily. When it gets hot, try to drink twice as much.

- Cut down on meat in your diet.
- Reduce your salt intake. Remember, most of the salt you eat is in prepared foods, not the shaker on your table.
- Drink decaffeinated beverages because caffeine can dehydrate you.
- Lemons inhibit kidney stones, so try to incorporate them in your food and beverages.

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ALVES

continued from pg 5

how to build up a local business in film. This conversation took place in the late eighties, when issues like youth at risk, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and the rate at which students were dropping out of school were rising on the Franklin County radar. Hamilton passed on to Alves a suggestion from Channing L. 'Joe' Bete to create a film for teenagers that would

portray the world of work, including skilled, unskilled, and professional jobs. Alves created his first documentary for teens, dubbed *Life after High School*, which won the Chicago International Film Festival; Silver Apple, the National Educational Film and Video Festival, to name a few.

After that film, Alves realized documentaries were his calling. Editing film and researching subject matter came naturally, and from a practical standpoint,

documentaries are easier and less costly to produce than dramas or other types of film.

Not about to turn down any work that came his way, Alves was soon at work on a film called *Beneath the River*, about the geology, ecology, and history of the stretch of Connecticut River that runs from Franklin to Hampshire County. Another of Alves' films, *A Sweet Tradition* portrays the labor of maple sugaring as told by Western Massachusetts families that

carry on the tradition. *Together in Time* deals with the 250-year history of contra music and dancing and the vibrant role it plays in the Franklin County social scene. With narration by Peter Coyote, this documentary won several awards, including the International Family Film Festival. *Everyone's Business* explores Franklin County's economic history and the role the Franklin County Community Development Corporation has played in helping local businesses start up or expand.

The film for which Alves is best known, *Talking to the Wall*, bears a strong kinship to his earlier films. It deals with the growing concern about corporate chain stores' impact on the local economy, the environment, and the quality of life in our community. With the use of satire and objective data, Alves puts the pieces together to demonstrate how Wal-Mart has crushed traditional small business Main Streets in other towns, and to document how Greenfield stood up and fought back.

Talking to the Wall was featured in the *New York Times*, and won both the New England and River Run International Film Festivals, among other awards.

Despite this acclaim, however, there is nothing fairytale-like about Alves' career. He has had to combine the profession of filmmaking with the necessity of fundraising, echoing the refrain of most practitioners in the local creative economy. With the exception of *Talking to the Wall*, for which Alves fundraised privately, his other films were made possible with the backing of Franklin County businesses such as Lightlife Foods, Foster's Supermarket, Wilson's Department Store, Green Fields

Market, and Harmon Personnel to name a few, as well as the Franklin County Chamber Of Commerce and the CDC.

As with any job, the business of independent filmmaking has its frustrations. Said Alves, "Most of the time you have the freedom to produce the film to your liking, but there are times when you have the people funding your project to answer to. And like any other self-employed person, I have to keep track of ridiculous amounts of paperwork. And I am not exactly making the big bucks as an independent filmmaker. Occasionally I ask myself why on Earth I chose to do film. Most of the time, though, I feel blessed to make a living at doing what I love. My future plans are simply to continue on with my passion for making documentary films."

Indeed, Alves already has another project on the burner about the history and values of Green Fields Market, a Main Street natural foods cooperative in Greenfield, with the focal point on its unique structure, based on non-exploitive, sustainable business practices. Alves has already begun a sequel to *Talking to the Wall*, to be called *Talking to the Wall, Part II: Buy Now, Pay Later*, to focus more on Wal-Mart's global impact.

While awaiting these new documentaries, one can purchase Alves' current works at World Eye Books or About Music, on Main Street in Greenfield or by contacting him at (413) 773-9029 or via email at home-town@crocker.com

The *Steve Alves Western Massachusetts Film Collection* will also be available next month at 40 different local schools and public libraries.



October: Time of Change

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - It's the end of October. Hallowe'en is nearly here. The pumpkins still hold their own in the chill nights in the valley, the maple and birch trees are bare, but the tops of the pine trees hold their suppliant green arms to the sky.

This October, a brief but pelting downpour and driving wind matched the worst such event in my experience. Here in the valley it was tempered by our hills and trees. On the western plains, no such impediment to the raw force of Nature exists, and one example of her strength made me better appreciate my native New England, where I once felt certain a display like this could never happen. However, the recent storm knocked over a tree, which fell on a power line to our area. A day without power emphasized the need to consider the basics, food and shelter, and to check on my alternatives to electric stoves and refrigerators.

At the coffeeless Breakfast Club the next morning a lone and lovely American merganser was celebrating her good food and shelter in the protected pond. She was a good-sized duck. Her grey back contrasted nicely with a reddish crest. She flapped her wings and dove and preened, but did not linger the

day. Mixed flocks of blacks and mallards - including colorful drakes - also found the pond a fine rest stop on the trip south. They stayed the night and frolicked about.

On Saturday, the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center held an open



PHOTO JANEL KNOCKLEBY

Spectators view demonstration at the Silvio Conte fish lab on Saturday October 21st.

house. The fish lab offered a film, and demonstrations of the ways in which we must consider the conditions in our environment that affect water quality and fish habitat.

The lab's access road, Migratory Way, along the canal in Turners Falls is a gem in itself, for walkers - many with Fido straining at the leash - for

birders with their telescopes, for photographers (occasionally trying to snap the owl who sometimes looks out from his hole high in an old dead tree). A bonus on Migratory Way, a lone, dark water bird skirted the shore. His thin neck and small head said, 'grebe', and when he dove he gave us some assurance of that identification.

The migrating birds were also congregating in the river by Unity Park. Many Canada geese, sleeping in the sun, rested up for the taxing journey south. The wind, blowing briskly up-river, discouraged most of them, but in the late afternoon several V's rose in response to some common call, and beat against the stiff breeze. The phalanxes straggled; one had only seven or eight in the string. One may wonder who was calling the trips, and how their communication is maintained. A few vultures stood like sticks on the barriers to the dam, none venturing a spread eagle. But most resident swans and gulls and ducks stayed in sheltered bays.

October in the valley is a challenging time. Its diversity demands judgment, and as the old adage says of New England, "If you don't like the weather, just wait a bit."

PARK
continued from pg 1

vocalist. When he attended Turners Falls High, he played in the band, the orchestra and the Swingsters. He even sang in the Glee Club, and he still plays in the Shriners Military Band. His main instrument is the trom-

bone, so he'll still have an opportunity to toot his horn - when the park is finished. We'll look for him when the band concerts start next summer.

Don't tell his wife, but his musical talents at Turners High made the girls swoon.

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JEP'S PLACE: FAITH, HOPE AND OTHER DISASTERS PART VIII

Sears & Roebuck to the Rescue

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Water stood in puddles on the kitchen floor, the boiler billowed steam, and Ma stood hunched over the tub, scrubbing. A huge mound of laundry sat on the floor. Her hair was coming undone, and her face showed weariness and despair.

"Lady, have I got the machine for you," the man said.

"We got no 'electric,'" Ma said, with a sigh.

"I know that, ma'am. But this machine doesn't need it. A gasoline engine makes it go. And I'm here to give you a free demonstration."

I figured the Sears man couldn't have known Ma would

be doing the washing that very day. It was a sure sign that somehow she would have that washer. The salesman seemed to glow as he talked about the end of her drudgery with this miracle of modern science. Ma cut him off. "You jus' wasting your time, mister; my husband will never buy it."

"When he sees how easy it makes life for you, he'll buy it. I know he will. Won't hardly cost more than a pack of cigarettes a day."

Ma's eyes brightened as he told her about the Sears & Roebuck easy payment plan. He unloaded the washer onto the back steps' landing, pulled out the choke knob, stepped on the kick-start pedal and had it puttering merrily in no time.

"I'm gonna' leave the washer

here for you to use all day - free," the Sears man said. With that, he hopped into the truck, gave a cheery wave and took off in a swirl of dust.

It all happened so fast Ma could only stand there with a big grin

on her face. Her eyes were fixed on the purring machine. She hadn't smiled that much since before Julia died. And it made me feel good to see her so



Mary Parzych

happy. Then, with a start, she swung into action to take advantage of this temporary respite presented by God, Sears Roebuck, or maybe St. Jude,

patron saint of the hopeless.

She loaded the washer and pulled back on the gearshift lever sticking out on the side. The agitator went into motion swishing the clothes back and forth in the sudsy water. As soon as one batch of washing was done, she'd start another, pausing only long enough to change the water when it got too murky. Soon the clotheslines were full, and we began hanging clothes on barbed wire fences. Then the machine died. Ma clapped her hands to her head. "Jesus Maria, we've worked the poor thing to death."

"No, Ma, maybe not," I said, checking the empty gas tank. I siphoned gas from the saw rig we cut firewood on, and soon had the machine running again. We took down curtains and stripped the beds. "Take off your clothes," Ma ordered, and she washed those also.

When the fences by the house were full, we spread laundry on bushes and the lawn to dry. Soon, clothes reached out into the hayfield. When we finished spreading the last of the laundry, the farm looked like a clothing factory had exploded. But every last piece of dirty clothing in the house was clean. Ma was caught up at long last.

When Pa got home from work, Ma was ecstatic. Her words came out in a jumble as she told Pa about this wonderful washer that only used a little gasoline and could be bought for a pack of cigarettes a day. But Pa just shook his head.

The next day, Ma watched, shoulders slumped, tears brimming, as the Sears & Roebuck man drove off down the road with that wonderful washer.

"Don't worry, Ma," Emmy said, putting an arm around her, "Someday I'll get a job and I'll buy you that washing machine."

... Continued next week

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Halloween Celebration around the Campfire with internationally known and locally loved singer/songwriter Roger Tincknell at Northfield Mountain Recreation Center. For all ages, FREE. Halloween songs and spooky stories. Wholesome snacks served. Dress **WARMLY** and bring flashlights and blankets or chairs for seating. In case of poor weather, the program will be held indoors. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Information or directions, call 800-859-2960.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Halloween Party with *Strange Brew*, contests, raffles, fun. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Roast Pork Supper. Menu includes: roast pork, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, apple sauce, bread and apple cake. At the Montague Congregational Church, Montague Center. Reservations suggested, call 367-2736 or 774-7256. 6 p.m.

2nd Annual Fiber Twist Presented by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. County-wide fiber event, showcases many sheep and fiber farmers, spinners, dyers, felters, weavers and other artisans involved with fiber. Vendors Marketplace and fiber demonstrations in Old Deerfield. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farms and weavers offering free tours and fine wares for sale at their facilities. Featured: Becky's Väy Stuga in Shelburne, 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.. Bedfellows Blankets in Buckland, Botanical Shades in Hawley, Moonshine Design at Keldaby in Colrain, North East Alpacas in Whately, Tregellys Fiber Farm in Hawley, Winterberry Farm in Leverett, all 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 773-5463 or 773-9393



PHOTO:MICHAEL MULLER

First dance of the season. The Halloween dance! Sunday October 29th starts up the fifth season of the FAMILY DANCE at the Montague Grange, 4 p.m. Wear your costume or come as you are!

The National Spiritual Alliance Psychic Fair, Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant. Readings and healings cost \$20 for 20 minutes. from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
Family Dance at the Montague Center Grange. Cindy Green, a perennial favorite, kicks off the new season with a HALLOWEEN dance. Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. Simple dances with easy instruction geared for little feet. Great for 3-10 yr olds, and their parents. Always on the Last Sunday of each Month. All dances are taught and for the whole family. \$7-12 per family, sliding scale, includes a light snack. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
Annual Rag Shag parade. Come in costume! Gather at 4:45 p.m. Food City parking lot. Sponsored by VFW 293.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
Documentary Film Series on "Active Nonviolence" at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls. thru November. Nov. 1 *Viequez: Worth Every Bit of Struggle* an inspiring documentary by local filmmakers Mary Patiemo and Natalia Munoz that brings alive the David-and-Goliath struggle by the inhabitants of Vieques, Puerto Rico, that finally succeeded in nonviolently stopping the U.S. Navy's toxic use of their island for practice bombings and invasions. 56 min. 7 p.m. Free, discussion to follow with local film makers Natalia Munoz, producer and narrator and Mary Patierno, script writer & camera work.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
Fourth Annual A Cappella

Festival at Northfield Mountain Hermon. A cappella groups from Smith College, Dartmouth College and St. Mark's School will join two singing groups from NMH. Held in the Blake Student Center, Gill campus.

This is a benefit for the construction of a war memorial in Sunderland that will bear the name of Sunderland members of the military who died in battle, including Ensign Richard Campbell Graves, the brother of Bradford '72 and Hollis Graves '75. Richard was a Navy wingman whose airplane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. Donations of \$1 or more at the door. 8 p.m. www.nmh-school.org or call (413) 498-3000.

Country Fair at the First Congregational Church, L Street, Turners Falls. Features a varieties of crafts, gifts, food, jewelry, stuffed animals, white elephant items, silent auction, Mrs. Claus' table, and raffles. 9 to 2 p.m. Luncheon served 11 to 1 p.m..

Class Action, a national organization working for social and economic justice, presents "Exploring Class," workshop exploring the impact of class issues on our lives. 9- 5:30 p.m. at FCAC, 393 Main St., Greenfield. Sliding scale. Info or questions, call (413)-585-9709 x201 or register on line www.classism.org.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH & 5TH
CiderDay! This Franklin County based event incorporates apples and cider from around the US and world. CiderDay workshops and tours are free. To taste hard ciders at any of the activities, purchase a CiderDay glass for \$10, available at the Brick Meetinghouse on Saturday. Tickets for the CiderDay Dinner, Heritage Apple Tasting and Cider & Cheese Tasting, and complete schedule of events, are available online at www.ciderday.com.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Bird Walk along the Power Canal
Join Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge staff for a bird identification walk along the power canal. Limited field guides & binoculars available. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The Christmas Bird Count: From Historical Conservation to 21st Century. Geoffrey S. LeBaron Christmas Bird Count Director, National Audubon Society This program will look at the CBC in past, present, and future tenses, including stories—as investigated using the online CBC tool set—about how

some species of birds are doing on local, regional, and continental scales. 7 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER
Animal Preparedness Winter Survival Series. Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife staff focus on animal adaptations and behavior that allow them to survive through harsh New England Winters. 11/4 Mammals: Bears & Beavers. 11/11 Reptiles: Turtles & Snakes. 11/18 Amphibians: Frogs, Toads & Salamanders. 11/25 Birds: Migratory & Non-migratory. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m..

UNTIL NOVEMBER 4TH
Pioneer Valley Institute: Great River Art Show in the Great Hall

Great Falls Discovery Center www.greatfallsma.org
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UNTIL OCTOBER 29TH

At Green Trees Gallery: "Works on Paper" featuring nine regional artists. Watercolor, lithography ink, oil, acrylic, raw pigments, gold leaf, and graphite. (413)-498-0283 for info. www.greentreesgallery.com. Gallery Hours: Thur. - Sun. 11 - 5 p.m.

ONGOING

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Photographer/digital print artist John Paul Caponigro displays his work through December 17th. More info. www.johnpaulcaponigro.com

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Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.

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4. MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
5. THE DEPARTED R DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:30
6. MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. THE GUARDIAN PG 13 DAILY 6:45 9:15
8. MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
9. OPEN SEASON PG DAILY 6:45
10. MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
11. THE GRUDGE 2 PG13 9:15 ONLY & TUESDAY OCT 31 AT MIDNIGHT
12. SAW 3 R DAILY 7:00 9:10 & TUES OCT 31 AT MIDNIGHT DTS sound
13. MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:00 3:00
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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Bienvenue au Pumpkinville

BY FLORE

KEENE - Last Saturday, October 21st, we went to Keene, NH to view their awesome Pumpkin Festival: *Incroyable!* You read me right!

This is not a town fantasy, out of the reputable *Babar* books of Monsieur de Brunhoff or *Corgiville* of Madame Tudor.

This is a vision out of plain reality, when the town of Keene lights up her thousands of thousands of carved pumpkins, during just one day..

It started back in '91 with 600 jack o' lanterns.

Back then, they were displayed on bales of hay or on simple wooden planks.

All carved out majestically, by children and adults, each according to their own creativity!

Then each year, more and more pumpkins joined the gala festival, until last year, guess how many candlelit gourds appeared?

Twenty-four thousand, five hundred and forty-one!

Mind you, the population of Keene runs around 22,563, versus an estimated 70,000 visitors who invade the town each year to see the pumpkins lit on their castellated platforms reaching halfway to the sky.

Many of the visitors come in costume, as they did last Saturday, when witches and goblins strolled the Main Street with fiddlers, fried dough salesmen, and folk singers.

Now, the glowing pumpkins are displayed artfully



PHOTO BY FLORE

Carved pumpkins are artfully displayed on high scaffolds in Keene, NH. at this year's Pumpkin Festival

Requiem to a Blue and White Sweater

BY FRAN DOLAN

TURNERS FALLS - It was a coveted award - my blue sweater with the two white stripes on the left arm. A yearly gift by the Rotary Club at the football banquet, it recognized an outstanding year on the field. I received it with boyhood pride and proudly wore it daily. The year was 1938, and the Depression reigned. Clothing was scarce in a family of eight, and my sweater served not glory alone, but a bodily need of warmth.

So when I went to Williams College in Williamstown, the sweater went too. And there

on campus it shone amid the Exeter, Andover, Loomis, Groton and other such jackets. And proudly so. Few knew where Turners Falls was. They learned.

And then Pearl Harbor, World War II, and off to sea in the U.S. Navy - and the

sweater went too. Such a comfort on chilly, stormy night watches. Not typical Naval attire - but then we were only a crew of six - five West Virginia hillbillies and a hick

from Turners Falls. Small regard for *de rigueur* Navy dress - at sea that is.

And so the friendship prevailed at Harvard Law School and into private life for decades to come.

Time took its toll - as always - tears, fragments for

sleeves. Betty sewed and stitched (patches of love).

And then one day it ended. A lifetime of service ended. Our

odyssey together was over. And so, farewell, dear friend - my blue and white sweater.

This story first appeared in Local Color



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRAN DOLAN

Francis Dolan, pictured far right, and his brother John Dolan, pictured second from left, line up for the Turners Falls football squad in this 1931 photograph.

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