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Vol. 2, No. 7

COMPLIMENTARY HOME DELIVERY

Friday, February 15, 2008

### Displaying their enterprising spirit | OSV could

# TRHS SENIORS SET UP CUSTOM T-SHIRT COMPANY

BY BRUCE COULTER

STURBRIDGE — Sean Conners and Joshua Thomson-Hansen may not be appearing on "The Big Idea" on CNBC any time soon, but the enterprising Tantasqua Regional High School seniors, both 17, have already become entrepreneurs.

Last year, the pair decided to start a custom design T-shirt printing business, and more recently formed their own company, aptly named Connsen, a combination of their last names.

Both were just looking for a way to make some money on the side and "it was something to do that was fun," said Conners.

"We started a year ago," said Thomson-Hansen, "but we weren't really doing custom [shirts] back then"

About five months ago, after searching the Internet, they bought their first major piece of equipment, a heating press found on the popular auction site eBay, for \$400.

Their next decision was which brand of heat transfer paper would

Turn To T-SHIRT, page A11



Bruce Coulter photo

Sean Conners, left, and Joshua Thomson-Hansen, seniors at Tantasqua Regional High School, have started their own custom-designed T-shirt business.

# OSV could be on the rebound

### ATTRACTION HAS BEST MONTH IN DECADE

BY GUS STEEVES

STURBRIDGE — After years of sliding attendance, Old Sturbridge Village might be on the rebound.

Last month, the living history museum, which depicts a New England village of the 1820s, saw a 23 percent increase in the number of visitors over January 2007 and exceeded January attendance for every year since 1998.

"If January is any indication, this could be one of our best years of the decade," CEO James Donahue said. "To see double-digit attendance increases in January — one of our coldest and snowiest months — is an extremely good sign that we will continue attendance gains during the spring and summer, when we often have thousands of visitors in a single day."

January's visitor count exceeded 4,000, a figure that was almost 800 above that of January 2007, despite bitter cold and snowy periods, www.osv.org stated. The museum has been in existence since 1946.

Marketing Manager Pam Lozier said she believes the figures represent the beginning of a new trend sparked by a change in the way the museum does business. In

Turn To OSV, page A11

### Brook plan draws locals' ire

BY GUS STEEVES

STURBRIDGE — A preliminary proposal to eliminate the dams on Hamant Brook drew some opposition Monday, Feb. 11 from residents who argued the town bought the land for recreational use, "not saving a habitat for fish."

The concept was proposed by Division of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist Todd Richards, who said the brook is one of the region's few cold water habitats still supporting brook

trout, a species that has been eliminated across large parts of its former range. He said eliminating several dams along the brook and restoring its flow could benefit that fish and other species "that are under-repre-

sented in the community."

"This is my first in-depth experience of a project of this nature. I'm a biologist, so I'm going to have a learning curve," Richards said. "I can't see anything we're really looking for now from the town other than, 'Yeah, good idea'"

Several citizens in attendance didn't think it was, at least without more

information.
William Muir said the small ponds there "have been there 100 years. The Public Lands Advisory Committee [PLAC] looks at that as three ponds where there is now fishing and wildlife," and that have been used for swimming, picnicking and other activities over the years.

"If I have to tell my grandkid he's

Turn To BROOK, page A14

### Holland residents KO override

### PROPOSALS EASILY DEFEATED AT BALLOT BOX

BY BRUCE COULTER

HOLLAND — Residents overwhelmingly defeated a pair of Proposition 2 1/2 override requests by the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, Feb. 5.

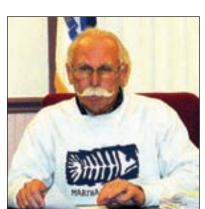
Article 1 requested the tax levy limit be raised by \$475,000. Voters overruled that request by a vote of 578-237.

The second article, this one asking for a levy override of \$565,000, was defeated 639-155.
According to Town Clerk

Kristin LaPlante, the turnout was higher than she's seen before.

"Roughly 50 percent (827) of our registered voters came out," she said. "It's unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it."

Oddly, 17 more residents voted for the override than in the presidential primary, she



James Wettlaufer

added. Just 810 residents voted in the primary.

Despite the turnout, election officials had little trouble accommodating voters at Town Hall.

"We had no problem fitting everyone in," said LaPlante.

Turn To BALLOT, page A7

### Town running \$50,000 snow/ice Deficit

#### BY BRUCE COULTER

HOLLAND — Following the defeat of a proposed Proposition 2 1/2 override the day before, the Board of Selectmen vowed to move forward with the business of the town during its weekly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 6.

But the business of the town could suffer in the coming months without an infusion of cash.

"You need to understand that you get what you pay for," said Chairman James Wettlaufer. "In this case, you're going to not get what you don't pay for."

The town, he said, still faces a shortage of cash for the current fiscal year.

The town's snow and ice budget, said Wettlaufer, has doubled because of heavy December snows, and is now in the red by \$50,000.

"The snow and ice account deficit has doubled what the appropriation was," he

Turn To DEFICIT, page A9



Shawn Kelley photo

#### CIRCLE OF LIFE

STURBRIDGE — Jiedais Matos, 3, of Worcester, gets ready to enter the circle for a dance in his Indian gear during the New England Native American Institute's annual winter powwow Saturday, Feb. 9 at Burgess Elementary School. For more photos from the event, please turn to Page A8.

#### 

### **LOCAL**CHILDRESS

RESIGNS
PAGE 2



#### **SPORTS**

TANTASQUA TAKES SECOND CROWN

PAGE 12



#### VILLAGER TRIVIA

595,340; 559,034; 955,034. Which was the 2005 population estimate of Boston? Answer inside.

### Childress resigns as Opacum president

#### Will continue to serve as director

BY BRUCE COULTER

STURBRIDGE — Citing the near completion of Opacum Land Trust's strategic planning process, Carol Childress is stanning down as president of the trust

stepping down as president of the trust. She made the announcement in an email to members and supporters of the trust earlier this month.

Childress has been president for the past eight years.

"The deck of officers is being shuffled," she wrote. "A new president will be announced at Opacum's annual meeting, and a part-time staff is being sought to do those duties that I have

been committed to for so long."

Childress said she also hopes to separate Opacum from the "political unrest in Sturbridge," and decided it would be best that a resident from another town lead the trust.

In the past, Childress has authored a number of letters to the editor to the Villager and other local newspapers, expressing her views on various issues as a resident of Sturbridge, and not, she added, as president of Opacum.

Recently, Childress said she received a copy an e-mail sent to the blog operated by Thomas Creamer, who is also chairman of the Planning Board.

"He [Creamer] wrote a response to the e-mail on his blog," said Childress, "which said the resident's e-mail must have been representative of the Open Space Committee, Save Our Sturbridge, Opacum, Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Selectmen."

Childress immediately e-mailed Jennifer Morrison, the vice chairman and clerk of the Planning Board, who also edits the blog, disputing the e-mail was a point of view of Opacums, and asked that the group's name be removed from the blog.

Morrison, she said, declined to remove the letter, and instead, inserted an editor's note, which stated the e-mail did not represent Opacum's point of view

Only after threatening to resign in

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QUIET

protest of the blog was the e-mail removed.

"I had to go to that extreme to make

him remove it," Childress said.
"This is absolute nonsense," said
Creamer, referring to the blog issue.

"The e-mail she is referencing was written by the benefactor of Opacum Land Trust," he said. "That's why I drew that analogy."

Creamer said the reference was removed not because of her threat to resign, but rather, because of all of the "static" she was giving Morrison.

Morrison, he said, functions only as a copy editor: "She has no authority to remove anything from that blog."

In response to Childress' comments, Morrison said, "I explained that it would be inappropriate for me to alter Tom's public e-mail, and further, that it is inappropriate for me to alter content on the blog."

Childress "disagreed with my assertion of my role," added Morrison. "I tried to further explain. She chose not to listen and instead terminated the conversation."

"I find the whole situation to be gravely unfortunate and I am sadly disappointed that it occurred at all," said Morrison.

#### 'WELL-DESERVED RESPITE'

Still, Childress said, the dispute was not the sole reason she decided to resign.

As Childress stated in her e-mail, "I look forward to a well-deserved respite. I plan to continue to volunteer with Opacum — but not from behind the desk," she wrote. "I'll be out in the field doing stewardship, taking care of what it owns."

Voting for a new president will take place during the group's next meeting, Thursday, Feb. 21. Childress said she expects Jennifer Ohop, who presently serves as vice president, to become the next president.

"She lives in Holland, and that's what Opacum needs, a non-Sturbridge resident's voice to remove any possible

BOSTON — State Sen. Stephen M.

Brewer (D-Barre) and Rep. Todd M.

Smola (R-Palmer) have announced

Conservation of Recreation (DCR)

has awarded to Town of Sturbridge a

\$2,000 urban forestry grant. The

grant will provide professional

arboricultural care for five "Heritage Trees." This grant money

was made available by a \$2,610 local

match from the Town of Sturbridge.

trees will receive the proper care

that they need," said Brewer. "I

applaud

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Couple and family therapy

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"I am pleased to see that these

the efforts of

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Department



**Carol Childress** 

political conflicts," said Childress.

According to Ohop, Opacum will be

"concentrating our efforts on where we live."

"I'd like to branch out to all of the cor-

"I'd like to branch out to all of the corners of Opacum and try to get more people involved and make us the regional land trust that we are," said Ohop.

There are, she added, 13 towns involved with the land trust.

Ohop said that if chosen, she plans to maintain her objectivity as president of the land trust and prefers to keep politics out of the equation.

"I have no interest in serving any town board," she explained. "I feel Opacum is best served by me staying with Opacum."

Although sad to see Childress step down, Ohop noted she is not leaving the organization altogether.

"She will remain as volunteer coordinator and on the board of directors," Ohop said. "We really need to lighten the load. We don't want to lose her.

"Carol's worked very hard at Opacum," she added. "I see her as the matriarch of the organization. She's really been the driving force behind the land trust.

"I'm going to need three people to fill her shoes," said Ohop.

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

Department of Conservation and

Recreation as well as the Town who

worked diligently to achieve this

"Heritage trees play a vital role in

our regions rich and historic land-

"This is great news," said Smola.

A total of \$112,430 has been award-

ed for the projects, with \$65,130 from

the United States Forest Service and

\$47,300 from DCR's MassReLeat

Trust. The trust is designed to foster

partnerships between business, gov-

ernment and nonprofit groups for

the planting and care of public trees

Community

vate sources.

to improve community envi-

ronments and the overall quality of life. The trust is

managed by DCR's Urban and

Program: its funding comes

from various public and pri-

**STURBRIDGE** 

Villager

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Forestry

NEWS BRIEF

Sturbridge to receive urban forestry grant

goal.'

scape.'

#### VILLAGER ALMANAC

#### - QUOTATION OF THE WEEK—

"Sports are a bigger thing for kids now than years before. It's the best thing in the world, other than education, of course."

— Sturbridge Recreation Committee Chairman Al Jones, speaking in support of a plan to build new athletic fields in town.

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#### THE STATS

#### **Owner-Occupied Housing Units**

Гown	With second	Leicester	470
mortgage, equity loan		Northbridge	402
Auburn	779	Oxford	541
Brimfield	115	Southbridge	296
Brookfield	114	Spencer	395
Charlton	478	Sturbridge	297
Douglas	393		
		Wales	
		Woheter	

#### **SUNRISE/SUNSET**

Saturday, Feb. 16 — 6:44 a	a.m. —— 5:22 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 17 — 6:42 a	ı.m. — 5:23 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 18 — 6:41 a	.m. — 5:24 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 19 — 6:39 a	.m. — 5:25 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 20 — 6:38 a	ı.m.— 5:27 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 21 — 6:36 a	ı.m. — 5:28 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 22 — 6:35 a	.m. — 5:29 p.m.

#### - REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS -

#### STURBRIDGE

\$534,750, 15 Meadow View Lane, Sanctuary Homes LLC to Gregory A. and Sheryll Mantle Williams.

\$148,000, Hinman Street, Unit 5-1, Hinman Village LLC to Robert and Cecilia Leyden.

\$100, 13 Tantasqua Shore Drive, Lawrence C. Boniface to Lawrence C. Boniface Irrevocable Trust (Laurie L.

Boniface, Trustee). \$187,500, 36 Bentwood Drive, FLEXcon Company, Inc. to

Donna M. and Paul L. Landry. \$288,000, 46 Bentwood Drive, Keith E. and Jane A. Coppins to Robin A. Healy.

\_\_\_\_

#### BRIMFIELD

\$100, 38 Harnois Road, Keith A. Ventimiglia to Keith A. Ventimiglia and Marie E. Provenzano

#### WALES

\$23,000, Ainsworth Hill Road, Estate of Alfred D. Heckler (Charles J. Popple, Administrator) to Theodore J. Casey.

#### FRONT PAGE QUOTE & TRIVIA—

This week's front page quote is attributed to Ovid.

FRONT-PAGE TRIVIA ANSWER: 559,034

#### TOP 10 MOVIES - 1. "Fool's Gold," \$22 million. 7. "The Bucket L

"Fool's Gold," \$22 million.
 "Welcome Home Roscoe
Jenkins," \$17.1 million.
 "Hannah Montana &
Miley Cyrus: Best of Both
Worlds Concert," \$10.5 mil-

4. "The Eye," \$6.6 million. 5. "Juno," \$5.73 million.

5. "Juno," \$5.73 million. 6. "27 Dresses," \$5.7 million. 7. "The Bucket List," \$5.3 million. 8. "Rambo," \$4.1 million.

9. "Meet the Spartans," \$4.075 million. 10. "There Will Be Blood," \$4.073 million.

Source: Media By Numbers

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#### VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

EDITOR
DAVID DORE
(508) 909-4140
sturbridge@stonebridgepress.com

STAFF WRITER
BRUCE COULTER
(508) 909-4138
bruce@villagernewspapers.com

SANDY LAPENSEE (508) 909-4116 sandy@stonebridgepress.com ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

KRYSTEN SULLIVAN

(508) 909-4112

n@stonebridgepress.com

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

SPORTS DEPARTMENT
SEAN SWEENEY, EDITOR
JOHN RADZINSKI, REPORTER
(508) 909-4133
sweeney@stonebridgepress.com

#### A Stonebridge Press publication

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(508) 909-4101
fchilinski@stonebridgepress.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
RON TREMBLAY
(508) 909-4102
rtremblay@stonebridgepress.com

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
(508) 909-4092

RETAIL ADVERTISING MANAGER

JEAN ASHTON
(508) 909-4104
jashton@stonebridgepress.com
COMPOSITION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE

(508) 909-4105 julie@villagernewspapers.com Weekly Newspaper Editor At-Large Walter Bird Jr.

(508) 909-4107

wbird@stonebridgepress.com

CLASSIFIED MANAGER
SARAH HYNDS
(508) 909-4109
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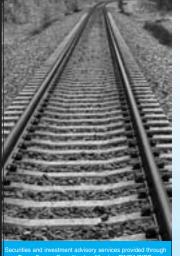
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### BOS to flea market vendors: 'Status quo'

BY BRUCE COULTER VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

Selectmen BRIMFIELD Chairman Steven Fleshman admitted he wasn't as nervous Monday, Feb. 11 as he was the last time the Board of Selectmen met with flea market operators and vendors.

This time, however, he was bearing good news.

Because state officials have yet to respond to a letter from board memrequesting documentation regarding the Commonwealth's transient vendors statute, along with new fees proposed at a similar meeting Dec. 12, board members have voted to keep the "status quo" for the time being.

"At this point, we do not have any formal written documentation taking a stance, yes or no, from either the Division of Standards, Rep. [Todd] Smola's or Sen. [Stephen] Brewer's office," said Fleshman.

"We voted to go status quo with our standard \$30 permit fee at this point, moving forward unless we get a definitive decision or some other action is brought to us to do something different," he said.

Additionally, Brewer and Smola, Fleshman added, are proposing legislation that would exempt flea markets from the state requirement in Chapter 101 of the statute.

"That would be the \$100 fee and the [\$500] bond portion of it," he said.

The board, he added, is working with the town's attorney to define the term "flea market," noting the thrice-yearly flea market has been called the Brimfield Fair or the Brimfield Antique Show.

'We want to make sure there is a definition that's there that includes us and we would be exempt," he said.

Asked if the legislation was particular to Brimfield, Fleshman replied the legislation would apply statewide.

David Lamberto, owner of Herten's Antique Show, asked that the legislation include language protecting antique shows, noting later the market has often been referred to as the Brimfield Antique Show.

"There is some concern," said Fleshman. "We're going back and forth how to make sure it's comprehensive with that. Again, we don't want to make it specific to Brimfield, but we definitely want Brimfield to be included.

"The fact that the senator has proposed legislation to exempt us would lead me to believe that somewhere, there is the feeling that that applies to us.'

Just how long it would take the legislation to pass the House and Senate is another story, but nonetheless, board members are pushing for the legislation, said Fleshman.

He also asked vendors and operators to contact their legislators.

In the event the legislation passes, Fleshman said he would like to see an article passed at Town Meeting removing the town's annual \$10 permit from the current vendor bylaw.

One resident, Laurel Prescott, asked for clarification on the fees being imposed.

"The state requires an annual license, and that costs \$100," said Fleshman. "They also require a \$500 bond by each vendor. This legislation is trying to get rid of that."

The local portion of the fees could be set in one of two ways, he added. Vendors, he said, could submit an estimated value of their goods, and would then be charged at the current rate of the town's taxes.

Fleshman noted, however, as he did in December, that the assessor's office would not be able to handle such a large task.

The other option would set a value of \$7,500 per vendor for the value of their goods. At the current tax rate, vendors would pay a fee of \$88.80, rounded up to \$90, annually.

The fee, Fleshman explained, would be spread across the three shows. If a vendor wanted to participate in a single show, the fee would be \$30.

"Our goal, is if we have this one  $\dots$ we work to get rid of the local vendor permit so we're compliant with the state Chapter 101," he said.

Prescott pressed for an audit on where the fees go once they are paid to the town.

According to Fleshman, because of ongoing litigation against the town, he could not disclose that information.

Selectman Diane Panaccione would only say the board is looking Don Moriarty said the board need-

ed to be aware that the \$90 fee would be charged to "many, many vendors. Fleshman suggested vendors

could pay fees for only the shows they would appear at.

After the meeting, Lamberto said legislators have asked the town to help define the term flea market, because of the proposals by Smola and Brewer, which would exempt flea markets.

"They would like a comprehensive definition that would make sure to include the events here in Brimfield," Lamberto said. "We would like it to say antique shows and fairs and anything else it's called so we don't all of a sudden have to have it applied to us, even though we don't call ourselves flea markets."

Town bylaws, he said, refer to the shows as a flea market.

"We just want the definition to be very clear in the legislation so that it includes us no matter what we're called," Lamberto said.

William Simonic, owner of Yankee Cricket Bed and Breakfast at 106 Five Bridge Road, said travel and tourism accounted for the third largest source of revenue for the state.

"By 2010, it's expected to be the he added. "To damage an first," event like the tri-shows of Brimfield's antique shows would not make sense based on the numbers I quoted to you.

Simonic said he was concerned that any proposed changes could hurt local businesses, especially in an area the state is trying to promote.

Simonic is also chairman of the Central Massachusetts Convention and Visitors Bureau, which, he said, is responsible for 59 towns.

Brimfield is one of the biggest draws not only in the area, but in the Commonwealth as well.

"We're obviously watching the outcome of this and doing what we can at the state level and at the Senate and House levels to make sure everyone understands what they are talking about," he said.

Lamberto estimates the flea market brings 75,000 to 100,000 visitors each year.

"And it could be much, much higher," said Simonic. "In the past it

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

replied that he spent the money. He was placed

under arrest and transported to the Sturbridge

Gonzalo Monroy, asked Snider that all evidence,

such as videos and photographs, be preserved in

the case. The motion was granted, and Zayas was

Police, Saloio said, are still looking for the sec-

ordered to return to court on April 8.

Zayas' court-appointed attorney, Christopher

Police Department.

ond suspect.

#### ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4140 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Public meetings are subject to change. Check with local Town Halls to see if a meeting will still be held.

STURBRIDGE

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Board of Selectmen, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, Feb. 21

Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall

BRIMFIELD

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Board of Health, 7 p.m., Great Hall, Town Hall Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Great Hall, Town Hall

Thursday, Feb. 21

Finance Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex

**HOLLAND** 

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Board of Assessors, 7 p.m., Town Hall Cable Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall Cemetery Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, first floor Planning Board, 8 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall

WALES

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Board of Assessors, 6 p.m., Town Hall Board of Health, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Southbridge man charged with larceny

BY BRUCE COULTER

DUDLEY — A 25-year-old Southbridge man was arraigned on a single charge of larceny over \$250 in Dudley District Court Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Luis Zayas, 25, of 50 Pine St., Apt. 1, is accused of stealing more than \$13,000 from an elderly victim Jan. 29 in the Wal-Mart parking lot at the Center at Hobbs Brook in Sturbridge.

Although the district attorney's office asked for \$20,000 cash bail, Zayas was released on \$5.000 personal recognizance by Judge Neil Snider. As a condition of his release, Zayas was ordered to have no contact with the victim.

The victim contacted Sturbridge police after realizing her purse was missing.

The woman had received a check from her attorney in the amount of \$17,500. After cashing the check at Big Y Supermarket, she left with a cashier's check for \$4,000 and the remainder in cash, which she placed in her purse.

Officer John Paciorek responded to the call. After reviewing store surveillance tapes, two Hispanic or Caucasian males in a dark-colored Jeep Cherokee Laredo were observed pulling into the parking lot near the victim's car. According to the officer's statement, the suspects

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saw the purse in a shopping cart as she began to back out of a parking space. One of the suspects left the Jeep and began to push the shopping cart away. The victim's purse could be seen sitting in

The suspects, the statement continued, entered Wal-Mart with the shopping cart at 5:03 p.m., where they purchased two bags of cat food. The pair exited the store five minutes later, with the purse hidden under the bags.

On Feb. 6, Sturbridge Police Detective Mark Saloio was contacted by Officer Dennis LeBoeuf of the Southbridge Police Department.

Zayas, LeBoeuf said, drove a car similar to the one seen on video. Further, the suspect's photo on file with the state Registry of Motor Vehicles bore a "very strong resemblance" to the man in the Wal-Mart video.

Based on this information, Saloio visited Zayas

at his residence on Pine Street. After questioning him, Zayas admitted buying

After Saloio read the suspect's Miranda rights, Zayas, according to the statement, told police, "Yeah, we took the purse, but it was abandoned

property.' Asked if he had any of the cash left, Zayas







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### ZBA reverses decision on gravel pit

#### OWNER CAN APPEAL TO SUPERIOR COURT

BY BRUCE COULTER

BRIMFIELD — The Zoning Board of Appeals has reversed Zoning Enforcement Officer Jack Keough's decision grandfathering a gravel pit at 310 Palmer Road (Route 20). The pit is owned by Stephen B. Morris.

The issue has been ongoing and culminated the appeal heard by the ZBA Jan. 2.

The area being excavated, said Elizabeth Smola, was approximately 500 feet from her house on Dunhamtown Brimfield Road.

According to Joseph W. Allen III and Robert Massarelli of Dunn McGee & Allen, LLP in Worcester, attorneys for Smola, the pit had not been in continuous use and was, in accordance with town zoning bylaws, operating illegally.

In July, Smola's attorneys asked Keough issue a cease and desist order to Morris, effectively closing the operation. In his reply in October, Keough said the pit had

been in continuous operation prior to 1968, when zoning bylaws were established, and thus eligible to continue operations.

According to town bylaws Section 6a3, Allen told the board, "If a nonconforming use has been abandoned for a period of two years, that use cannot be reestablished.'

"Use of the property must then conform to the current zoning bylaws," he added.

At the Jan. 2 meeting, Allen backed his assertions with photographic evidence that showed the gravel pit was not in operation prior

In his rebuttal, Morris said the pit had been in use since 1955, when the state bought gravel from his father to repair Route 20 after the road had been washed out by Hurricane

Although a lot of material did not go out each year, Morris told the board, material was removed every

Despite Morris' assertion, ZBA Chairman Mike McFadden and members Kim Adams and Bernie Samek, in a 3-0 decision handed down Feb. 2, found that a limited portion of the Morris property was used for earth removal in the 1950s, but that removal from the area ceased during the early 1970s.

"The Board accordingly finds that this use was discontinued for more than 28 years, and thus has been abandoned," said the statement.

Additionally, the ZBA found that Morris was presently using a portion of the property as a gravel pit that had not been used in that manner prior to 1999.

Zoning bylaws enacted in 1968, and still in effect, do not allow removal on the property without a special permit.

"There is no evidence that Mr. Morris had ever applied for or obtained a special permit for this use, as required by the zoning bylaws," the decision stated. "The

board further finds that even if the use of the gravel pit begun in 1999 is considered as a continuation and extension of the gravel pit begun in the 1950s, it is a substantial extension that has had a negative effect on the surrounding neighborhood both greater and different in kind from the effect of the gravel pit up until that time."

The board, according to its decision, voted 3-0 that:

"The gravel pit begun on the Morris property in the 1950s has been abandoned.3

"The gravel pit use begun on the Morris property in 1999, and continuing to the present, requires a special permit. No such special permit has been issued, and thus the use is prohibited."

'The decision of the Building Inspector is accordingly reversed."

In accordance with Section 17, Chapter 40A of Massachusetts General Laws, Morris has until Feb. 22 to appeal the decision in Superior

Court.

The Villager was unable to contact Morris.

Massarelli, speaking on behalf of Smola, said, "We are very pleased that the Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals has found that the sand and gravel removal operation at 310 Palmer Road is in violation of the town's zoning bylaws and will not be allowed to continued."

"This is a victory for the Smola family, the neighbors, and all of the residents of Brimfield who are concerned about the environment and the quality of life in Brimfield,' added Massarelli.

Attempts to reach Keough at his offices where he serves as building inspector for Brimfield, Holland, Warren and Wales were unsuccess-

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

#### **LEARNING**

### Gillis a shining 'star' in sophomore class

BY CHRISTOPHER TANGUAY

STURBRIDGE — When walking into the mammoth Tantasqua Regional High School, Principal Steven Bliss will quickly explain there are countless students of which he and his staff are proud.

One individual, however, seems to have the uncanny ability to bring a smile to the face of anyone even speaking her name.

Brimfield resident Elena Gillis, a 15-year-old sophomore, is an exceptional young woman.

"She's like a sun or a star," said English instructor Lance Silvestris, as he explained the positive energy that can be felt in Gillis' presence.

"She is one of the brightest kids I've ever met, without a doubt," Silvestris continued.

Bliss agreed: "To meet her is just to love this kid. She embodies everything we would want in a Tantasqua student. She's really a pivotal force in the sophomore class.'

Recalling an essay writing assignment, in which students were asked how they would change the world for the better, Silvestris said he was pleasantly surprised when Gillis' essay strayed from the average, expected answers. It told of how the world would be better off without cliques, labels, and the social fear of interacting

with people who may not be accepted by all.

"She places a lot of value on humane treatment," Silvestris said.

When asked what it is that makes her stand out from her peers, Gillis said, "I love being able to affect people's lives just by being who I am, even if it's just saying 'hi' to someone in the hall that no one else says 'hi' to.'

A friend to all, Gillis' deeply rooted appreciation of emotions, she said, came from her upbringing as an only child.

'My parents were great, so I wasn't lonely," she said. "But I just can't imagine anyone not having anyone else."

Her shining personality was most likely a large factor in her election as the sophomore class president.

History teacher and sophomore class advisor Michael Pratt said, "She's an extremely mature and extremely responsible student. She has a real sense of compassion and caring. She gets excited over people enjoying what she does."

What she does is help plan and organize school events, such as fund-raisers, proms, upcoming the Sophomore All-Nighter, which is an all-night event featuring a plethora of activities for students to enjoy in the school.

"It's a really fun class con-



Christopher Tanguay photo

Tantasqua Regional High School sophomore Elena Gillis' teachers have called her an all-star both inside and out of the classroom.

nection." Gillis said.

A member of the junior varsity softball and basketball teams, Gillis is an all-star in the classroom as well.

Already enrolled Advanced Placement (AP) high school left to complete, Gillis said, "Between now and my senior year, I want to take as many AP classes as possi-

AP English, French and music classes are already on her docket for next year.

Outside of class, Gillis excels as a singer.

"Music is my passion; it's so uplifting," she said.

According to Christine Costello, fine arts director for Tantasqua and Union 61 schools, Gillis has been distinguished as one of the top vocalists in Massachusetts. Gillis has been accepted into the Massachusetts Educators Chorus Tantasqua's own selective a capella group, Choraleers.

"She's an outstanding musician," Costello said, "and I respect her in that she understands responsibility."

Among other options that she has been investigating, Gillis said she would like to focus on music in her future her ultimate dream being to perform on Broadway.

When asked who in her life has been the greatest influence, Gillis, without hesitation, said it was her mother, Magda Polack, who is currently recovering from a December auto accident, in which Polack suffered a broken neck.

"She's one of the strongest people I know, but she's also really loving," Gillis said. 'She's my best friend.

This summer, Gillis plans to spend time with her mother in Africa, traveling to either Tanzania or Botswana for a safari excursion, followed by two weeks of volunteer service work.

Christopher Tanguay may be reached at (508) 909-4144, or by e-mail at ctanguay@stonebridgepress.com.

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#### CAMPUS NOTES

#### **NICHOLS COLLEGE**

DUDLEY — The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Nichols College for outstanding academic achievement in the fall semester:

• Brimfield: John Easley (Dean's List) and Sara Jette (Dean's

• Sturbridge: Robert Biron (Dean's High Honors), Rachael Bullock (Dean's List), Melissa Iozzo (Dean's High Honors), Jeffrey Lindgren (Dean's High Honors) and Bruce Walker (Dean's High Honors).

#### THE CITADEL

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Cadet Brendan Patrick McGuire of Sturbridge achieved Dean's List status at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, for the fall semester of the 2007-08 academic year.

He is the son of Brendan Patrick McGuire.

#### FRAMINGHAM STATE COLLEGE

FRAMINGHAM — The following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Framingham State College:

· Sturbridge: Jessica Grubert, Whitney Dubois.

• Holland: Erica DeLuca.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN

WEST HAVEN, Conn. — Amanda L. Johnson of Brimfield has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven for the fall 2007 semester.

#### **UMASS BOSTON**

BOSTON — Caitlin Cook and Samuel Kelley, both of Sturbridge, were named to the University of Massachusetts Boston Dean's List for the fall 2007 semester:

#### **SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY**

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Keith Wood of Brimfield and Michael Korch of Sturbridge were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2007 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester.

Also, Shannon Castonguay of Brimfield was named to the President's List for the fall 2007 semester.

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#### Police Logs



The arrests and offenses below were listed in each town's police department logs. People charged are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. This newspaper will publish dispensations of cases at the request of the accused, with proper documentation.

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES

#### Sunday, Feb. 3

STURBRIDGE — 9:26 a.m. — Police arrested Ronald J. Hebert, 57, of 1River Road, on an unspecified war-

#### Monday, Feb. 4

STURBRIDGE — 6:56 a.m. — Police arrested Kenneth Campbell, 23, of 1615 Route 171, Woodstock, Conn., on an unspecified warrant.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 5

 ${\tt STURBRIDGE-3:11~p.m.-Bruce}$ Hedlund, 57, of 28 Farguhar Road, was put under arrest.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 6

STURBRIDGE — 10:12 a.m.— An investigation led to the arrest of Luis Zayas, 26, of 50 Pine St., Southbridge, for larceny over \$250 and conspiracy.

#### Thursday, Feb. 7

STURBRIDGE — 10:59 a.m. — A motor vehicle stop led to the arrest of David E. Soper, 22, of 6 McBride Road, Wales, for uninsured motor vehicle and revoked registration.

#### **LOG HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Saturday, Feb. 2

STURBRIDGE — 2:24 and 7:48 p.m. - Investigated suspicious vehicles, Shepard Road and Route 49.

STURBRIDGE — 12:11 p.m. Aided disabled motorist, Route 20. STURBRIDGE — 5:21 p.m. Responded to report of property lost/stolen, Host Hotel.

#### Sunday, Feb. 3

STURBRIDGE — 10:13 a.m. to 12:13p.m. — Responded to three calls for suspicious activity, Fiske Hill Road, Cedar Pond Road and Route 131/20 intersection. Latter resulted in someone being taken to hospital.

STURBRIDGE — 12:42 p.m. — Responded to car accident at Jack's Gas, giving one driver a verbal warn-

STURBRIDGE — 6:10 and 8:04 p.m. - Investigated more suspicious activity, Main Street and Hillside Drive.

#### Monday, Feb. 4

STURBRIDGE — 12:34 a.m. — Traced 911 call to High Street, resulting in person being taken to hospital. STURBRIDGE — 10 a.m. and 6:04 p.m. — Investigated suspicious activity, Boardwalk Plaza and Heritage

STURBRIDGE — 6:14 and 6:33 p.m. - Responded to suspicious vehicles, Route 148 and Route 131.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 5

STURBRIDGE — 1:52 a.m. Investigated suspicious vehicle, Super 8 Motel.

STURBRIDGE — 7:03 a.m. —

Responded to car accident involving pedestrian. Ambulance came, but was not needed.

STURBRIDGE — 8:15 a.m. — Responded to disturbance, Blueberry Lane.

STURBRIDGE — 9:14 a.m. Responded to car accident, Fiske Hill Road. Ambulance came, but was not

STURBRIDGE - 1:17 p.m. - Motorvehicle stop on Holland Road. Citation issued.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 6

 ${\tt STURBRIDGE-1:35~a.m.-Motor}$ vehicle stop at the OSV entrance. Verbal warning issued.

STURBRIDGE — 2:05 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Burger King. Warning

STURBRIDGE — 4:42 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at the Econo Lodge. Verbal warning given.

STURBRIDGE — 11:26 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Motel 6. Written warning issued.

#### Thursday, Feb. 7

 ${\tt STURBRIDGE-2:30~a.m.-Motor}$ vehicle stop on Route 148. Verbal warning issued.

STURBRIDGE — 2:46 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop on Holland Road. Verbal warning issued.

STURBRIDGE — 7:30 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Tantasqua Regional High School. Verbal warning issued. STURBRIDGE — 8:08 a.m. -

Accident with property damage at Holland Road Golf Course was investigated.

#### **WHAT IS IT?**



**CONTEST ENTRY FORM: Feb. 15, 2008 Deadline: Feb. 22, 2008** 

My guess for this week's photo is: \_

The answer to last week's What Is It? is ...

The statue of St. Christopher in front of St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church on Sturbridge Road in Brimfield.

Name

Address

Telephone# Zip State

Please mail your entry form to the Sturbridge Villager, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550, attn: Editor, or drop off to the office at 25 Elm St., Southbridge. You may also fax your entry to (508) 764-8015. All photos are of sights seen in and around Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Responses must identify the subject and where it can be seen. Answers will be given the following week in the Sturbridge Villager. At the end of each month, all entry forms with the correct answer will be included in a random drawing. One lucky winner will receive \$25! Good luck!





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#### Weekly Crossword Stablemates

#### Across

- 1. Word with bar or color
- 5. Heart part
- 10. Conclusion starter 14. Do as directed
- 15. Continental divide?
- 16. Relax 17. Handed-down history
- 18. Capital of the
- Yukon Territory
- 20. Society gal
- 21. Gets the picture
- 22. Ready
- 23. Traffic sign 25. New Year's Day game
- 27. More than dislike 29. Barnes & Noble,
- for one 33. Pilotless plane
- 34. Grasps
- 35. Egg cells
- 36. Broadcasts 37. Reunion group
- 38. Skiers' aid 39. Dads
- 40. Summer refuge
- 41. Aesop tale 42. Enter unlawfully
- 44. Bottomless pit
- 45. Blunders 46. A three-point sound
- 48. Dark brown 51. Ringlet
- 52. Hold title to
- 55. Little Big Horn victor
- 58. Complimentary 59. Advance amount
- 60. Neighborhoods
- 61. Cybercafe patron 62. Scholarship criterion 63. Sen. Lott
- 64. Make over
- Down
- 1. Winter woe

3. Barbaro, for one

- 2. Slender reed

- 4. CBS logo 5. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
- Longed for 7. Luau souvenirs
- 8. Port vessel? 9. Compass dir.
- 10. Fairy tale bad guys 11. Roll call reply 12. Cold war inits.
- 13. Proof word
- 19. Doves' antitheses 21. Arid
- 24. Charged particles 25. Western capital
- 26. Cry over spilt milk 27. Show flexibility
- 28. Pipe type
- 29. Pitt and others 30. Nursery steed

- 34. Corning product 37. Burn a bit
- 38. Bar bills
- 31. Tracks 32. Skins

40. Floral display

41. Go bankrupt

43. Impounded

47. Seize forcibly

48. Scrutinize

46. Actress Sarandon

49. Marine eagle 50. Toast topping 51. Canadian tribe 53. Garden intruder 54. Detective Wolfe 56. Sombrero, e.g. 57. Bruin legend Bobby 58. Stole **Quotable Quote** Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people. · · · W. C. Fields By GFR Associates \* \* \* Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com





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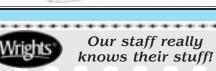
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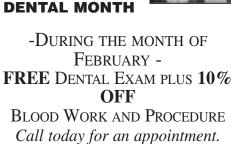
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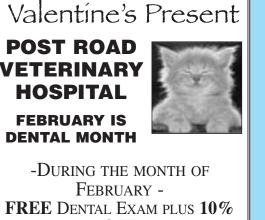
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### Lawsuit is filed for Bish reward

#### FORMER COP CLAIMS ENTITLED TO \$100K FOR FINDING REMAINS

BY DAVID DORE

BOSTON — Five years ago, a tip from a hunter and a former local police officer led investigators to the remains of Molly Anne Bish, who vanished from her lifeguard post in Warren in June 2000.

Now, one of the men believes he is entitled to a reward \$100,000 being offered in the case.

Stephen Hrones Boston, the attorney for Timothy McGuigan, filed a lawsuit Feb. 1 in U.S. District Court in Boston against Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. and his predecessor, John J. Conte.

Brookfield police officer now living in Rhode Island, claimed in his complaint that Conte offered the \$100,000 reward in March 2001 for "information leading to Molly.'

In early 2003, the Bish case gained new momentum when Rick Boudreau of Hardwick told McGuigan he found in the woods a swimsuit similar to one that Molly was last seen wearing. That led to a massive police search of the Whiskey Hill area of Palmer, about 5 miles from Comins Pond, where Molly was last seen

During the search, nearly McGuigan, a former two dozen bone fragments

Sturbridge and North were found — fragments ney's office is not listed. later identified as Molly's remains.

> McGuigan also stated in his complaint that Conte and Early "refused to turn over the reward" to him.

"Why shouldn't he?" Hrones told the New Leader Friday, Feb. 8 when asked McGuigan should receive the reward. "He complied with the offer. He feels he deserves it. He led them to Molly."

As of Feb. 8, Hrones said, neither Conte nor Early had received copies of the law-

According to a copy of the reward poster accompanying the complaint, the Worcester district attor-

Rather, the poster states it is 'a service of the Polly Klaas Search Center" and has contact information for the Polly Klaas Foundation and Warren Police Department.

The district attorney's office was listed as a contact on an archived page on the Molly Bish Foundation's Web

(www.mollybish.org), but is not on an updated version of the site. The archived page also states the \$100,000 reward is for "information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the abduction of Molly Bish."

McGuigan was featured

of the CBS newsmagazine "48 Hours Investigates" on the Bish case. At the time, the show reported that McGuigan was writing a book on Molly's disappearance, as well as the 1993 abduction and death of Piirainen Sturbridge. Holly's body was found in Brimfield several months after she vanished.

Contributing to \$100,000 reward in Molly's case were S. Prestley Blake, co-founder of the Friendly Ice Cream Corporation, state Sen. Stephen M. Brewer (D-Barre), former state Reps. David H. Tuttle and Reed V. Hillman, Robert and Lani Ebersold of

on a December 2003 episode Chatham, and an anonymous donor.

Hillman said last week he understood the reward would be given to anyone who provides information leading to the "arrest and conviction of Molly's killer."

When asked if he believes McGuigan should receive the reward, Hillman replied, "Of course not. There hasn't been an arrest, never mind a conviction.'

Attempts to obtain comment from the Bish family Friday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 10 were not successful before press time.

David Dore may be reached at (508) 909-4140, or by e-mail ddore@stonebridgepress.com

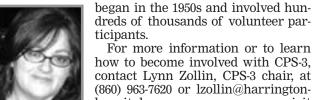
### Local residents can partake in cancer study

any Tantasqua town residents take part in the area's annual Relay for Life walk-athon, held each June in nearby Southbridge, to raise funds to fight cancer. This year, however, some participants could find themselves playing a direct role in finding a cure for the disease.

It was recently announced the American Cancer Society would be enrolling volunteers for a major cancer prevention study on June 13, during the Relay for Life, to be held at McMahon Memorial Field, 25 Cole

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Americans to participate in lifesaving cancer research," said Eugenia E. Calle, Ph.D., American Cancer Society director of analytic epidemiology, who is overseeing the

Volunteers for the CPS-3 study will be signed up Friday, during the Relay for Life event. Prospective candidates must be between 30 and 65 years of age and never diagnosed with cancer. Participants are required make a longtime commitment to filling out follow-up surveys, which can be done online. Enrollment requires other criteria such as a small blood sample and a completing baseline survey. Follow-up questionnaires may be completed online. Researchers will use the data from CPS-3 to build on evidence from a series of American Cancer Society studies that



AROUND

TANTASQUA

Towns

**KAREN** 

**TRAINOR** 

dreds of thousands of volunteer participants. For more information or to learn

how to become involved with CPS-3, contact Lynn Zollin, CPS-3 chair, at (860) 963-7620 or lzollin@harringtonhospital.org, www.cancer.org/cps3.

#### WALES TEEN FIDDLES AROUND

Hunter Foote of Wales is only 13, but he's a veteran musician who's been impressing New Englanders with his unique talents since he began performing publicly in 2003.

Local residents can witness the wonder of this amazing fiddler/violinist when he performs at Joshua Hyde Library Tuesday, Feb. 19. Hunter will treat the audience to Irish

and Scottish tunes, folk music and more during a free concert set to run from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the library's Meeting Room. The Joshua Hyde Library is located at 306 Main St., Sturbridge. For more information, call the library at (508) 347-2512.

#### **ENCORE EVENT**

If you're stressed out because you missed the opportunity last month to enjoy a destressing massage at a bargain rate, relax! Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield will host an encore "Healing Arts Chair Massage Fundraiser" on Wednesday, Feb. 27.

During the event, participants will receive a 10-minute seated chair massage by Paula Hallene, LMT. A \$5 suggested donation for the mini massage will benefit the Hitchcock Academy and its community programs. Massages will be scheduled every 15 minutes throughout the fund-raiser, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is suggested to ensure timely service. The service is open to the public, but is not appropriate for those pregnant or who have certain health problems.

For more information, or to register for a massage appointment, call (413) 245-9977. Hitchcock Free Academy is located at 2 Brookfield Road (off Route 20) in Brimfield.

#### **KNITTERS NEEDED**

St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge is in need of volunteer knitters for its Prayer Shawl Ministry program. The program combines prayer and knitting by providing comforting shawls for those who are undergoing medical or other challenges. The parish explained it is currently receiving more requests for Prayer Shawls than it can fill, so the call is out for area knitters to participate in the uplifting program.

For more information, or to donate your time or services, call Celia Kontoes at St. Anne at (508) 347-9353.

#### FREE TAX HELP

An AARP Tax Aide Service will be held at the Sturbridge Senior Center from 9:30 a.m. to

2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. The service consists of IRS certified volunteers who provide free tax counseling and preparation services to low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. This service is for simple tax returns only and participants are required to bring all necessary documents.

Additional AARP Tax Aide Services will be held at the Senior Center on March 6, March 20 and April 3. For more information, or to schedule an appointment with a tax aide, call the Sturbridge Senior Center at (508) 347-7575. The center is located at the corner of Arnold Road and Route 20.

#### **BROOKFIELD REMINDER**

A foot clinic for area residents will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 22 at the Brookfield Town Hall Banquet Room, 6 Central St., Brookfield. Participants will be seen on a first-come, first-serve basis. Attending doctor is Paul C. Quigley Jr., DPM. For more information, call Barbara Clancy at (508) 867-6043.

We welcome items of interest to Tantasqua town residents of Sturbridge, Brookfield, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Send information on local events and upcoming happenings to: Around Tantasqua Towns, c/o The Sturbridge Villager, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail me directly at KDRR@aol.com.

### **OBITUARIES**

#### Martina S. Avis, 66

PALMER — Martina S. Avis, 66, of Pleasant Street, Bondsville, passed away Feb. 7 at Baystate Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by her loving guardians, Edward and Marion Johnson, and four siblings, Teddy, James and Robert Johnson and Rena Meyer.

She will be deeply missed by her husband, Michael W. Avis, of 30 years. She will also be missed by her four children, Lori Killian and her fiancé, Michael Shelton, of Palmer, Cherie Wawrzonek and her husband, Philip, of Brimfield, Kimberly Killian of Bondsville and Sean Killian and his wife, Jennifer, of West Warren. She leaves nine grandchildren, Jessika, Christopher, Ryan, Dennis, Abigal, Cody, Jude, Lena and Shivhan, and many nieces and nephews.

Born April 27, 1941 in Portland, Maine, she

HOLLAND/AUBURN — Elizabeth (Miller)

Beal-Littlefield, 99, of Brimfield Road,

Holland, died Saturday, Feb. 9 at Lifecare

1996; her first husband, Lyle Beal, died in

Her husband, Herbert Littlefield, died in

She leaves two sons, Donald Beal of

She was predeceased by two sisters, Mary

Mrs. Littlefield graduated from Mount

Holyoke College in 1929, and she earned her

master's degree in library science at

She was the librarian at Manchester

Holland and Howard Beal of Suffield, Conn.,

and a grandson, Craig Beal of Watertown.

Thorndike and Helen Ranlett.

Simmons College in 1931.

Healthcare of Auburn.

was the daughter of the late Alfred and Hazel (Griggs) Cody. Martina has been a resident of Bondsville for more than 40 years.

She was a graduate of Monson High School and Mansfield Beauty Academy Springfield.

Martina was a member of the Red Hats Society and enjoyed going to the beach, the outdoors and making crafts. She loved camping with her family at the Outdoor World Camp Ground in Sturbridge. Martina was an active member of the campground and performed in many camp variety shows.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by burial in Four Corners Cemetery. For more information, visit www.beersand-

Library in Manchester, N.H., Waban Library

She was a member of the United Parish of

She was a Literacy Volunteer, and was a

Her funeral service was held Tuesday, Feb.

12 in the Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51

Marcy St., Southbridge. Burial was in Mount

Memorial contributions may be made to

An online guestbook is available at

the United Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock

member of the Women's Club at the United

attended

and LaSalle Junior College Library.

Caesar Cemetery in Swanzey, N.H.

www.BelangerFuneralHome.com.

Auburndale and

Congregational Church.

Parish of Auburndale.

St., Newton, MA 02466.

Elizabeth (Miller) Beal-Littlefield, 99

#### Robert W. Hill, 84

WORCESTER — Robert W. Hill, 84, formerly of Shrewsbury and Sturbridge, died Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Memorial Hospital.

He leaves his wife, Myrtle L. "Mickey" (Allen) Hill of Worcester; three sons, William E. Hill of Bristol, R.I., Robert P. Hill of Leominster and Wayne H. Hill of Worcester; one daughter, Kathy Ann Reynolds of East Falmouth; one stepson, Steven A. Higgins of Avondale Estates, Ga.; one stepdaughter, Debra Lamir of Holden; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Two sons, Brian R. Hill and Donald Hill, predeceased him.

He was born in Worcester, son of Harry S. and Mathilda (Madsen) Hill.

He was a World War II Navy

He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church Shrewsbury, John Matthew Whittal Lodge of Masons and Scottish Rite Bodies.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 9 in Nordgren Memorial Chapel, 300 Lincoln St. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

For online condolences, please visit NordgrenMemorialChapel.com.

#### Ralph E. Smith, 59

MONSON — Ralph E. Smith, 59, of Wilbraham Road, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 9.

He will be deeply missed by his daughter, Jennifer Stahelski, and her husband, Brant; his two beloved grandchildren, which he cherished spending time with, Madison and Brady; and a son, Chris Smith of California. He also leaves two brothers, Donald Smith of Vermont and James Smith of Springfield, and his former wife, Sharon Osborne of

Born Oct. 27, 1948 in Ware, he was the son of the late Ralph S. and Marjorie (Patrick)

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Nancy Smith, in 2001. He graduated from Monson High School in

He served his country in the U.S. Coast

Guard. Ralph had a passion for cooking and worked for 20 years as a chef at the Publick House

restaurant in Sturbridge, and currently for Monson Developmental Center.

He was an avid seller and buyer of antiques, enjoyed going to the beach and traveling the countryside to Maine and Vermont.

A Service of Remembrance was held Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

To sign an online guest register, or for more information, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

### Holland voters easily defeat two Prop 2 1/2 override requests

continued from page **A1** 

"There was a little problem setting up so it would flow, but it worked out fine. She credited the town's new poll work-

ers for the process going smoothly. 'They did an excellent job," LaPlante

said. "It was a long day. Because the primary had been moved to Feb. 5, otherwise known as Super poll workers (most of whom are retirees, explained LaPlante) were still on vacation in a warmer climate. Further, because the town was holding two separate votes, LaPlante explained, state election officials told her two sets of poll workers would be required.

the election workers. "I'm very happy."

In the weeks leading up to the vote, LaPlante said she sensed the final result would not be good news for town officials,

During the selectmen's weekly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 6, Chairman James Wettlaufer said he wasn't sure what to say about the override's defeat.

"I think that maybe we didn't do a good enough job informing the public," he said. "Maybe we didn't do a good enough job explaining a very difficult concept to

"Maybe we were asking for more than

admitting she was hoping for a positive outcome. we should have been asking," Wettlaufer said. "I really don't know. But I think people voted with their minds and said, 'We don't want to pay any more in taxes.'

It's likely, he added, it would be necessary to cut some town services, and if so, the cuts would have to be sooner, rather than later.

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

Tuesday, many of the town's established

"They did a wonderful job," she said of

everybody.

### Sturbridge Pow-Wow

#### Photos by Shawn Kelley



Silver Bells hang from the back of an ornate dress.



The back of Richard Callinhawk as he dances the "Crow Hop".



Above left to right: Ryan Torres, 11, of Indian Orchard, looks over a table full of hand made Indian Crafts. Cooper Novelline, 7, of Sturbridge looks at a variety of handmade Indian crafts.



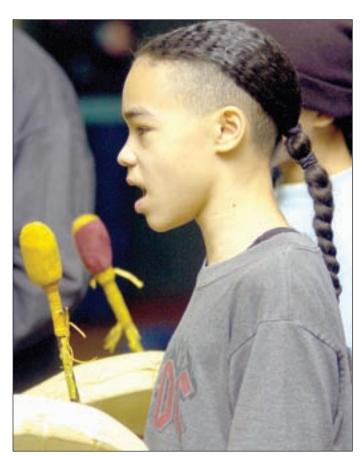
Richard Callinhawk, of Jaffrey New Hampshire, dresses in full Indian gear for the POW WOW held at Burgess **Elementary School.** 



Anoki Mann, 10, of Webster chants a song as he beats his traditional Indian drum during the POW WOW held at the Burgess Elementary School.



Cheyenne Anderson, 10, of Sturbridge smiles with her new Indian necklace, as she leaves the POW WOW.



Nantai Mann,  ${\bf 11}$ , of Webster beats a drum as he sings Indian folk

### Signing up their way to victory

#### SECOND CHANCE NEEDS LOCAL SUPPORT FOR RENOVATION CONTEST

BY CHRISTOPHER TANGUAY
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD — The Second Chance Animal Shelter needs your help.

"We've outgrown the building already," said Sheryl Brackley, director of the Second Chance Animal Shelter, after five years at its 111 Young Road location.

With enough room to temporarily house about 10 dogs and a dozen cats, the facility, which also offers low-cost spay and neuter services, is in dire need of renovations.

It is not necessarily more space or a new building that is needed, but rather a facelift to the existing facil-

"It's not a lot in square feet," Brackley said. "It's changing what's already in here.'

According to Brackley, plans for renovations to the shelter have been in the works for nearly two years, but it is in the next month that Second Chance will need the most

The shelter is enrolled in a nationwide contest that could win it up to \$1 million in renovations to the facil-

through Conducted www.zootoo.com, an opinion-based, noncommercial Web site, the contest, which ends on March 31, has nearly 900 shelters in a race to see who can accumulate the most points. At the end of the accumulation period, the top 20 ranking shelters will be visited and evaluated, with only one shelter ultimately being chosen for the makeover.

The East Brookfield shelter, which works with 25 local towns, is ranked number five in the nation. At one time, it held the number one

It is easy to help Second Chance gain points by simply logging on to its own Web site, www.secondchanceanimals.org, and following the "Million Dollar Makeover" link. By merely registering and verifying an e-mail address, Second Chance will be awarded an additional 100 points. Writing reviews of their services, as well as uploading photos and videos of pets utilizing their

services, are also worth different point values.

According to Brackley, the aim of the contest is to show community support for the facility.

"Now that we're getting near the end of the contest, it's really heating up," Brackley said, adding, "Even if vou're not an animal lover, every little bit helps. It could make a big difference for us."

If awarded the makeover, Brackley said, the facility would feature more adequate areas for dogs and cats, as well as a separate area for small animals like rabbits. The renovation would also make room for a veterinarian clinic and allow the installation of a septic system, which Brackley said is desperately

Simply put, said Second Chance veterinarian technician Kristen Coltey, "If we renovate, we'll be able to help more animals."

Although the facility has been in need of renovations for some time now, the money it generates through pet adoptions and surrendering fees



Veterinarian technicians Kristen Coltey and Lynn Kelley hold a couple of cats recently rescued by Second Chance Animal Shelter.

go directly into the day-to-day operation of the shelter. Otherwise, the no-kill shelter is run solely on donations and does not independently have the money to take on a project of this scale.

It is the hope of Brackley and her

staff that locals will take a minute to log on and help them continue to help the community.

Christopher Tanguay may be reached at (508) 909-4144, or by e-mail at ctanguay@stonebridgepress.com.

### Johnson: 'The well is dry' when it comes to Holland budget

#### **DEFICIT**

continued from page A1

A joint session of the selectmen and all of the town's public safety officials to determine how best to approach the situation was held Thursday, Feb. 7.

"In my opinion, if we've exceeded to this degree on snow and ice, and it's the first week of February in what could turn out to be a disastrous winter for this town, we need to seriously consider how we want to go forward," Wettlaufer. Moreover, the town's salt shed is below 50 percent capacity, he added.

"If we continue to spend at the current ate," Wettlaufer said, "we will not have enough money to fund many operations next year, because we have to make up what we don't have available to fund the snow and ice account."

#### **RUNNING ON EMPTY?**

Wettlaufer said he has been notified that the town will run out of fuel and the money to buy it by the first week in April.

"That would mean we still have April, May and June that we have to fund fuel for these vehicles," he said.

That includes highway, police and fire

"That's a very serious consideration that we have to look into," he said. "We have to protect public safety.'

Selectmen, Wettlaufer added, are required to submit a budget for next year to the Finance Committee by the end of the month.

"It does not have to be a balanced budget, but it has to be a budget," he said. "We have said all along since we began as a board together that we would always provide what we believe to be a balanced budget, and that's what we will endeavor to do by the end of this month.'

Wettlaufer went on to say he hopes to have We have to dig a new well." some public input on budget issues before the April Town Meeting.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed in the end result for the override question," said Selectman Christian Petersen.

"On a more positive note, I'm very pleased with the numbers. That was a good turnout

for the town," he said. Selectmen Earl Johnson said the people have spoken, but believed there was some

misinformation floating around town. You're going to see a reduction in services," he said. "Unfortunately, the hardest hit will be the school. They will be losing teachers. They will be losing supplies [and] they will probably be losing transportation."

Johnson repeated Wettlaufer's statement that the board would present a balanced budget to voters at Town Meeting.

"People at the Annual Town Meeting will have to decide what they want to do," he said. "It's time people realized that the well is dry.

STABLEMATES

**CABLE ISSUES RETURN** 

The town's cable system has encountered an equipment problem preventing the Cable Commission from broadcasting meetings live. The Feb. 6 meeting was taped, and broadcast immediately after the meeting adjourned.

According to Wettlaufer, the problem is internal and the Cable Commission is searching for an answer. Previously, some homes were unable to receive an audio signal. That problem has since been corrected.

Cox Communications, Wettlaufer said, is sending a notice with residents' bills taking complete responsibility for the sound issue.

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

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# 

Views and commentary from Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

#### **EDITORIAL**

### Pats' Super **Bowl loss** still hurts

It's only a game. It's only a game.

It's only a game.

That's what Pats fans have to keep saying, over and over. It still won't matter.

It wasn't just a game.

Super Bowl XLII was much more than "just a game."

It was history. It was unbeaten. It was best team ever. Best coach ever. Best anything ever. It wasn't just a loss. Or just a bad game. Or just an off night.

No, this was much, much, much more than

A New England Patriots win ensured them a place in history that never, ever would have been taken away from them. They would have been the first team ever to finish a football season 19-0 with a Super Bowl win.

There would be no more yapping from Mercury Morris and the rest of those 1972 Dolphins whose entire lives seem predicated on being the best more than 30 years ago. There would be no debating this: the Patriots would be the greatest team ever to step on a football field, and Bill Belichick would have been the greatest coach of the greatest team

All that is by the boards now. If it hurts, it

Sports are not the be-all, end-all of life, but a fan's connection to a particular team can be fiercely personal. Having a sports dream shattered can be almost unbearable for the diehard fan.

Last Sunday night, under the glare of flashing cameras and megawatt light towers, in front of the eyes of millions, on the grandest of all stages, the Patriots took what was in their grasp and let it slip away.

Quite literally. When the Other Manning was able to elude the grasp of Jarvis Green it was, simply put,

Call it just a game. In the larger scheme of things, it is. In the world of sports, it was much, much more. And to have it end in defeat stings. As it should.

#### SOUND OFF

#### Recent selectmen's meeting featured several errors

Sound Off:

During the other night's selectmen's meeting, I noticed some inaccuracies that residents should take note of:

1) The town administrator, James Malloy, said it would cost \$55,000 to update the Sturbridge's Master Plan. He did not propose a way to pay for it, for example, by writing grants or budgeting for it yearly; instead, he considered it a dead issue. The current plan is 20 years old and it doesn't get cheaper as time passes.

Fortunately, one astute caller made a recommendation to selectmen to consider budgeting for it annually. Perhaps the Planning Department should have proposed this as well? When's the last time the Planning Board sent a Planning Board Questionnaire to residents? The current Master Plan suggests it be done at intervals of five years in order to develop trends and identify shifts in public opinion. Perhaps Planning Board Chairman Thomas Creamer should pay as much attention to the Master Plan as he does the GBIS group he represents.

2) The street light at the intersection of Route 20 and New Boston Road. Selectman Arnold Wilson pointed out that he found a letter to MassHighway in Mr. Malloy's "outbox" pertaining to same, but selectmen didn't know about it. When asked, Mr. Malloy did not have a reason for not informing selectman — he just "didn't do it."

In the last few weeks, it has become very obvious that James Malloy does not share information with selectmen as he should. In fact, he withholds information. Such is the case with the streetlight; this is also the case with a recent invitation to a legislative luncheon held by the Chamber of Commerce announcing the Eco-tourism study completed for Old Sturbridge Village. Though the invitation was received by Mr. Malloy, and he agreed to pass it on to various town commit-

tees, he did not. When selectmen are being criticized for being anti-business and anti-growth, such an invitation should have been shared with all boards and committees immediately. Interestingly enough, Selectman Chairman Harold White last night requested a copy of the Eco-tourism report, and Jim Malloy said "it's not complete."

More to come, folks.

What they're saying . . .
"Which, do you think, America is more likely to elect: the first female president or the first black president?"



**Kim Hurley Brookfield** 

"First woman, because she is so knowledgeable and she has been in the White House before."



**Chris Hills** Sturbridge

"The next black president. He's a better candidate."



**Brian Zisk** Sturbridge

"I think black, because he's better looking than



Donna Grehl Sturbridge

"I would like to think this country would be willing to give a woman a chance.'

COMPILED BY VILLAGER INTERN KATE GREHL

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Kirk, Mangion: Apply by March 15 for HMH scholarships

To the Editor:

The Harrington Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is pleased to once again offer three \$4,000 scholarships to area students interested in pursuing a career in health care. Students must be living in the HMH service area and have been accepted into a health care program at a recognized tertiary institu-

The 2008 applications are now available at the guidance offices of the area high schools and in the Volunteer Office of Harrington Memorial Hospital. The completed applica-

tions, along with scholastic information and references, must be returned to the appropriate high school guidance office or to the HMH Volunteer Office by March 15.

The Auxiliary recognizes that some very committed students may need financial aid to reach their goals, and each year they have been able to help thanks to the generous support of the community to their fund-raisers.

> GRACE KIRK AND GAIL MANGION CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HMH SCHOLARSHIP

#### Maurer: Bush, Cheney should pay for their 'war crimes'

To the Editor:

Criminals, lawbreakers and liars should pay for their crimes, especially when they hold high offices and lie to the people who elected them. President Bush and Vice President Cheney are both corrupt and guilty of war crimes and they should not only be

impeached, they should go to jail and serve a long sentence for causing the deaths of so many innocent people for the biggest lie of

Cynthia Maurer

#### SOUND OFF

### AD's calling of Tantasqua basketball game disappointing

Sound Off:

I want to share the perspective of a visitor to a recent Tantasqua High School athletic competition. On Saturday, Feb. 2, I attended my granddaughter's varsity basketball game in Sturbridge. My granddaughter plays for the Leicester High School team, and I was excited to be visiting the Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge, having heard it is a relatively new and impressive facility. The competition was a fine one, with the Tantasqua girls winning over my daughter's team. I was proud of the effort of both teams' players and coaches.

The Tantasqua girls coach was very professional and courteous. Although Tantasqua was winning most of the game, he pushed his girls hard and was very respectful of the Leicester players. I was, however, disappointed with the Tantasqua event staff. The support staff behind the scorekeeping table, namely the "public address announcer," is really what got the attention of those around me in the stands. The announcer would, every time the Tantasqua girls would score, make a whooping announcement (think NBA announcing players before a game). However, when the Leicester girls would score (albeit not as often) he would barely make any announcement at all. I could see on the Leicester girls' faces that this lack of excitement for their efforts was taking its toll.

Although this is not an earth-shattering event, I was disappointed for a couple reasons.

First, at other towns' games, the scorekeeper's table is represented by officials, or helpers to the officials, and they are running the game; they are not showing preferential treatment to either team (although to my disappointment, the MIAA referees did seem to be enjoying this verbal show). The other disappointment was when I learned that the announcer was in fact, the athletic director for Tantasqua High School. Mr. Bob Caseceli. (This explains why those around Mr. Caseceli appeared uncomfortably agnostic to his comments and tone; he's their boss). As the athletic director for such a fine school, one would assume he is aware of the cooperative ethics and sportsmanship we are all trying so hard to bestow on our children.

Is this behavior appropriate for any school employee, let alone the school's athletic director? Should this subtle but in fact damaging impact to the Leicester players be considered by game officials during the game itself? Are there rules in the MIAA handbook against disrespectful or unsportsmanlike activities by players, coaches or athletic directors? Actually, I do know the answer to the latter — you can see on the MIAA Web site.

Since Mr. Caseceli was able to share his comments and opinions, I was hoping you would allow me the honor to share mine.

LET DOWN IN LEICESTER

#### Country needs more than 'piddly little' tax rebate

Sound Off:

I heard on the news that our wonderful, generous president is giving us a tax rebate and we'll get the money about May. Yeah, sarcasm intended.

Will that help people out of work and struggling to make ends meet? Not really. If I get any sort of rebate I'm paying my utility bills. That won't help the economy much but it will help me to keep my lights on.

Do these rich people in Washington really think that tossing desperate people a little bit of help is a good thing? How about doing some-

thing more helpful? Put the unemployment extension back into place so people can get by for a little longer. Up the amount of food stamps people can get. Forty dollars a week on food stamps doesn't go very far these days.

Come on people, we put you in office so do something to help us. Jobs are hard to find. Yeah, the unemployment rate doesn't seem that high, but it only counts the people who are actually getting an unemployment check. It doesn't take into account the people whose benefits ran out. This country and a lot of its people are in trouble. We need more than a piddly little rebate.

#### Thoughts on Sturbridge's future and biz-friendly present

I just have a question. Why is Sturbridge always so worried about the future? You don't seem to see this with the other towns. Just go on and enjoy the present, and stop the fighting.

And yes, Sturbridge is indeed friendly to businesses — way too friendly. The powers that be have allowed way too much building and digging up to go on. Yet another strip mall has sprung up. I don't see these businesses going into other towns. Just save us a tree or two so we can remember what they look like. How many hotels, gas stations and restaurants do we need? Brimfield must think we're crazy. And yes, Sturbridge, you are getting trashy looking.

### Life on the tube 50 years later

irst off, let me say that some of my favorite people in the world, some friends, some family members, are divorced. So this is not about "divorced people." Sometimes marriages just don't work and the only solution, the life-saving, soul-saving alternative, IS divorce.

BUT I heard a radio ad last week that seemed a little too "divorce friendly," I



As You LIKE IT

MARK ASHTON

amazingly brazen in its advo-cacy of making the split. Actually it was a plug for a lawyer in a nearby city, and the ad explained to listeners that the lawyer in question had been through the process himself — kind of like the hair club president who is also a client — and therefore he knew how to help his clients make the most of their divorce experience. He also insisted that he wasn't advocating divorce, only making sure that potential clients knew who to turn to for the best advice in modern divorce proceedings.

guess I would say, and it was

(Of course, he WAS, in reality, advocating divorce, depicting it as the easy answer to a lot of people's problems!)

He also encouraged the use of his special services by way of stating that the term "broken marriage" is outdated, obsolete, no longer applicable. It's the DIVORCE that needs fixing, he suggested, arguing that he is just the legal eagle to set things right in YOUR next marital dissolution.

I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised by the commercial. After all, statisticians claim that just about every other marriage nowadays ends in divorce, and whatever the real numbers, we know from our families, neighbors, friends, co-workers, political candidates and elementary school classroom rosters that divorce is all-too-real, perhaps even the rule, rather than the exception, nowadays.

But that's still no reason to make such a fun fling of divorce itself, or even of the quest for a lawyer. I guess it's that this lawyer made divorce sound so EASY: If only you'll let HIM guide you through the pitfalls and over the shoals of ditching your deadwood spouse, divorce can bring you joy, happiness, and even riches. Of course, there aren't only two, but more like 27, sides to every story, ailing marriages among them, but it's just as true that ease and expedience ought never to be the guiding force in such matters. I forget who first said it, but taking the path of least resistance is what makes rivers men — crooked! Life-altering decisions SHOULD require angst and stress and prayer and pondering.

Today's world is strange. Even while lobbying to make all the tough decisions in life "easy," it takes much of the joy and pleasure out of simple truths. It also likes to add menace and mayhem to almost every aspect of modern living. For one thing, we've never had more TV shows — and fewer things worth watching on TV. Is there a so-called reality show today that doesn't pit one person or group against another? Either it's one against 100 or deal or no deal, or survivor against survivor, or one team of racers against other (incompatible) racers. Even people losing weight are pitted against other "losers"; it's no longer good enough just to be smart, but you have to be smarter than a fifth-grader. There's even a show, I think, called "My Father's Better than Your Father" (or the modern TV equivalent). Everything's controversy, conflict and confronta-

Maybe in opposition to such opposition, I purchased some ancient DVDs last weekend featuring five episodes of "Ozzie and Harriet," a staple of TV when we were growing up in the 1950s and '60s. Nowadays it's cool to bash such shows, including this one in particular, to declare them silly, mawkish, unreal, representative of the naiveté and lack of sophistication of the times in which they were cre-

On the other hand, we enjoyed them then and I enjoyed them again last weekend. Sure, at 40-50 years later, they were "dated," but that only adds to their appeal and allure today. The commercials for Aunt Jemima pancake mix and Caloric gas stoves were as entertaining as the shows themselves. And while you'd be hard-pressed to find a mom and dad today walking around the house in earrings and necklaces, wearing Oxford shirts and ties, as were Harriet and Ozzie Nelson, it wasn't unusual in those days to find that very situation. (There's a classic black-and-white photo, from "Life" magazine, I'm sure, of a movie theater full of patrons watching one of the early 3-D movies — and they're all in suits and ties, best dresses and earrings. Even early Beatles concerts depict their audiences dressed more respectfully than you'll find the attendees at your average church service or funeral today!)

Of course, the real problem is that you'd be hardpressed to find a mom and dad today walking around the house at all. It's all too rare to find the "nuclear family" we grew up with still in existence. And when you do, they're shunned as old-fashioned, clueless and irrelevant (like Ozzie and Harriet) in favor of the strange, demented and irreverent (like Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, I guess).

So sue me: I admit to preferring the unabashed optimism and shameless simplicity of "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" to the cynicism, dysfunction and depravity of their TV great-grandchildren (so to speak). While it's not wise to live in the past, it's equally unwise to ignore its lessons and legacies. And it's a downright shame to dismiss the simple truths of where we've come from in favor of the myths, mistakes and know-it-all attitude of foolish youth. There's not a "popular" show on TV today that'll be worth remembering five years from now – never mind 50. If you find even one, bring it over to my place a half-century from today, and I promise to watch it with you!

Mark Ashton writes a weekly column for Stonebridge Press publications.

### Tantasqua seniors establish custom-designed T-shirt company

**T-SHIRT** 

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work best with their press and T-shirts.

After trying a number of different brands of heat transfer paper, Conners and Thomson-Hansen finally settled on the stock they preferred.

"It feels softer and it doesn't crack," explained Thomson-Hansen.

Conners agreed, adding the artwork transferred from the paper blends into the fabric, rather than sit on top of it.

"It's in there permanently," he said.

"What we use now is a little bit of a tradeoff," said Thomson-Hansen. "Over many washes, it fades a little bit if it's washed in hot water. But it's supposed to be washed on the delicate cycle."

Connsen buys T-shirts in bulk from an Internet supplier, which, Conners said, is able to ship the product in a day.

Mindful of their budget, the pair buys as many T-shirts as is needed for an order, and some extras in each size in case there is a mistake during the printing process.

Customers, they added, can custom order their T-shirts with just about anything they might be looking for, but warned it has to be

"If you do it on a colored shirt," said Thomson-Hansen, "the ink won't show up. It will be really dark."

"When companies order a lot of T-shirts," Conners explained, "they usually order

To date, Connsen has created about 100 shirts for groups and individuals.

"We've made them for the National Honor Society and Old Post Road Orchestra in Wilbraham," said Thomson-Hansen.

"We've made a lot for our friends, too," added Conners.

Most of the company's advertising has been through word of mouth, but both agree they need to consider advertising their ven-

"That's why we contacted the newspapers," said Thomson-Hansen.

Shirts typically cost \$8 to \$12 each, but could be more depending on the complexity of the shirt, Conners explained.

Going into business is a difficult decision for anyone, but in Conners and Thomson-Hansen's case, the decision was harder because of school commitments.

"Both of our first semesters were really demanding," said Conners.

Added Thomson-Hansen: "Now that we're

in the second semester, we have a lot more time to concentrate on the business, instead of doing homework and other activities.'

More importantly, each of the budding entrepreneurs said their parents are supportive of their business endeavor and hope to see them succeed.

Still, Thomson-Hansen and Conners aren't looking at their business as an alternative to

Conners will be attending Montana State, while Thomson-Hansen, who has been accepted to Northeastern University, the University of Pennsylvania and Babson College, hasn't yet decided where he wants to

Buying the custom designed T-shirts, the pair said, makes a viable fund-raiser for organizations.

Old Post Orchestra, for example, was able to raise \$185 for the group, which went toward buying additional music and the con-

"We sold them for \$10, and the orchestra sold them to its members for \$15," said

As quickly as Connsen can produce a custom T-shirt, the pair admits they face some stiff competition.

"There are a lot of custom T-shirt places

out there," said Thomson-Hansen

But they are determined to find their own niche as a local, less expensive, but still high-

quality purveyor of customized T-shirts. Some companies on the Internet sell Tshirts for as much as \$20 if a person is buying a single shirt, plus charge for the cost of shipping, explained Conners.

"Being a local company," he said, "we don't have to add shipping to the cost."

For now, orders for T-shirts come in randomly, mostly from friends at high school, they said.

"It's convenient for them, though," said Conners. "They can give us their design and they'll have it the next day."

"We definitely cater to whatever people want," Thomson-Hansen said. "Whatever someone wants, we'll make it. "We'll give them a preview of the T-shirt before it's made so they can see what it will look like," he

"Everybody's been pretty satisfied with our work," added Conners.

For more information, call (413) 283-4997, or e-mail joshuath@charter.net.

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (508) 909-4138, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspa-

### OSV seems to be finding right balance between present, past

continued from page  $\, {f 1} \,$ 

recent years, OSV tried to use technology, such as educational videos in its buildings, to present history, but since Donahue took the reins last summer, it has been reverting to its original focus on costumed interpreters and live events.

Among other things, OSV started having more hands-on crafts, recently added a small house and exhibits at existing houses, and reopened the Oliver Wight Tavern, she said. Many of the changes came from comment cards left by visitors and members, but some came from an interpreter exchange with Connor Prairie, a similar museum in Illinois.

"The whole key is engaging the

visitors so they want to come back," Lozier said. Regarding the technological approach, she added, "I don't think we'll be doing that again."

That doesn't mean the non-profit museum is totally abandoning the 21st Century — its Web site features an online Learning Lab of research articles, teaching tools and other material on the village's historical

OSV leaders point to recent successes in fundraising "spurred by a \$1 million matching grant from an anonymous donor" two years ago and another \$1 million from the state as a key element in its revitalization, according to the Web site.

"We're not sure exactly [what happened]," said "We're hoping it's because we're seeing an increase in press for the events" plus a growth in membership.

Regardless of why, the upswing is "exciting" to Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce Director Alexandra McNitt.

"They're on the right path, but I think they still need a lot of support from the community," she said.

To McNitt, that support would be best expressed in promotion of businesses "that complement OSV well," such as craft shops, art studios and businesses geared to outdoorsy activities. Although the region has a plethora of hiking or skiing trails, water bodies suitable for boating, and other natural amenities, it has few businesses that provide services or products for people wishing to take advantage of them.

"We've been saying all along we know we need other things to attract

people to the area, but it's not for us to define what those should be," McNitt said. " ... This situation is true of other tourist areas centered on museums like OSV. Colonial Williamsburg [in Virginia] was having some of the same challenges OSV has had until Busch Gardens came in. But I'm not suggesting we have something like that here."

Sturbridge Heritage Partnership recently conducted a study to explore the state of the area's tourist industry and found it in trouble. While the region depends on tourism for 26 percent of its jobs (compared to 9 percent statewide), its "employment growth significantly lags behind state performance.' Specifically, the state has seen a 5 percent hike in jobs, but the Sturbridge region lost 4.6 percent, according to the study's just-released executive summary.

Despite those concerns, the report also notes there's "substantial potential" for Sturbridge to tap into the markets of travelers who are interested in culture/history and camping/outdoorsy activities. The former group, it states, makes up about 3.5 percent of the population but make an average of 12 trips a year, while the latter group is smaller (1.9 percent) but takes more trips annually

The full-length report will become available after Partnership members have had a chance to see it first, McNitt said.

Gus Steeves may be reached at (508) 909-4135, or by e-mail gsteeves@stonebridgepress.com.

### CALENDAR

Send all calendar listings and happenings by mail to Editor David Dore at the Sturbridge Villager, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550, by fax to (508) 764-8015, or by e-mail to sturbridge@stonebridgepress.com. All calendar listings must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the following Friday's edition.

#### **FRIDAY** February 15

BROWN BAGGERS AT HITCHCOCK ACADEMY will present "NEADS: Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans." A NEADS volunteer will visit with a dog in training to share stories of how they train dogs to assist the disabled with a variety of tasks and safety issues. The Brown Baggers cordially invites the public to attend this free program, which incorporates good food (yours) with good company. Coffee and tea are available for a 50-cent donation. Lunch is from 12:30-1 p.m., and the speaker from 1-2 p.m. For more information, call (413) 245-9977.

**CABARET DINNER** will be held at 7 p.m. in the Tantasqua Regional High School cafeteria. Tantasqua Fine Arts presents their third annual cabaret, "A Musical Tribute to Disney," with fine food and excellent entertainment. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$12 for adults. For more information and tickets, call (508) 347-9301, ext. 1131.

STAGELOFT REPERTORY THEATER, 450 Main St., Sturbridge, will stage its production of the romantic and powerful piece "Love Letters" at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors 65 and older and \$8 for children under age 14. For reservations, call (508) 347-9005. Stageloft Rep is fully handicap accessible.

#### **SATURDAY**

February 16

WINTER BIRDWALK will start at Wild Bird Crossing, 4 Cedar St., at 7:15 a.m. There is no charge for this event. You may walk or use snowshoes. Owls may be spotted at dusk. For reservations, call Wild Bird Crossing at (508) 347-2473.

QUABOAG HIGHLANDERS PIPES AND **DRUMS** will hold their fifth annual Celtic Ball from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Sheraton in Springfield. The evening will begin with a social hour featuring the music of "Sweet Wind," toasting of the Haggis, Celtic Dancers and the presentation of The Ed Casey "Heart of Gold" Award to Thomas Knightly, resident of Chicopee and Pipe Major of the Holyoke Caledonians. The night will include a performance by hosts The Quaboag Highlanders and other Pipe Bands from around the region. The night will end with dinner and dancing to the music of "Passport." Tickets are on sale now, and can be reserved by visiting Quaboaghighlanders.org or calling (413) 205-

STAGELOFT REPERTORY THEATER, 450



#### SUNFLOWERS IN THE SOUTH COUNTY

SOUTHBRIDGE — Artist Paul Grignon, of Sturbridge, hoists up a painting titled "Sunflowers in Tuscany" onto a mantel in the Arts Center on Main Street (Route 131). Grignon's work will be on display from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 24.

Main St., Sturbridge, will stage its production of the romantic and powerful piece "Love Letters" at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors 65 and older and \$8 for children under age 14. For reservations, call (508) 347-9005. Stageloft Rep is fully handicap accessible.

#### **SUNDAY** February 17

FEDERATED CHURCH OF STURBRIDGE AND FISKDALE has designated Sunday, Feb. 17 as Church and Society Sunday. Only one service will be held on this special Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. The theme for the day is "God So Loved The World." A special coffee hour will be held after the service, in Fellowship Hall of the church. Free-trade coffee and tea will be served. Information about opportunities to learn and participate in local and global service and justice ministries will be available. Bring a pencil, as there will be an opportunity to reflect on how we connect to the world God

STAGELOFT REPERTORY THEATER, 450 Main St., Sturbridge, will stage its production of the romantic and powerful piece "Love Letters" at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors 65 and older and \$8 for children under age 14. For reservations, call (508) 347-9005. Stageloft Rep is fully handicap accessible.

#### **MONDAY**

February 18

BREASTFEEDING CLASS will be offered from 6-8 p.m. in Conference Room II at Harrington Memorial Hospital, South Street, Southbridge. The cost is \$10 per couple. This one-evening class introduces mom and support person to the basics of breastfeeding. Elizabeth Jarret, RN, CCE, from Harrington Memorial Hospital, will be the instructor. For more information, contact Jarret at (508) 765-9771, ext. 2592.

**GAMBLERS RECOVERY GROUP** will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Sturbridge Federated Church. If you have a gambling problem, we hope you will join us. This group is sponsored by The Willis Center in Worcester. Doug Klier is the coordinator; Dee L'Ecuyer is the church coordinator. For more information, call the Sturbridge Federated Church at (508) 347-3915 or Klier at (508) 887-1696.

#### **TUESDAY**

February 19

BUSINESS VISIONARIES, a chapter of BNI, will hold a visitor information day from 7-8:30 a.m. at 61 Pine St., Southbridge. For more information, call Pam Crawford at (508) 885-

LEGAL ASSISTANCE CORPORATION OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS ONLINE SESSION will be held from 11 a.m. to noon and 6-7 p.m. with Dianne Sandman, senior paralegal from the Legal Assistance Corporation of

Central Massachusetts. Learn about government benefits such as Social Security or SSI, MassHealth, (Medicaid), or problems with tenant or elderly housing or nursing home and other long term care issues affecting low income elders. Bring your own questions. To attend, go to www.SeniorConnection.org and click on "Connection for Caregivers." Then

click on "Support Groups & Chats" and create a new account. If you plan to attend a session, e-mail to CMAAging@SeniorConnection.org.

FREE STROKE EDUCATION SESSION will be held as part of the Lions Club's weekly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Rom's Restaurant, Route 131, Sturbridge. Susan Waters-Sommer, Ph.D., RN, from Harrington Memorial Hospital, a designated stroke center, will present the warning signs of strokes, deep vein thrombosis information, and a video from the American Stroke Society For more information, contact Waters-Sommer at (508) 765-9771, ext. 2691, or ssommer@harringtonhospital.org.

#### **THURSDAY** February 21

"COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS" SUP-PORT GROUP will meet from 5:30-7 p.m. every Thursday at Southbridge Community Connections, next to the George B. Wells Center on Pine Street in Southbridge. The group is sponsored by the Central Massachusetts chapter Parent/Professional Advocacy League, in collaboration with the Youth and Family Center in Webster, and facilitated by Meri Viano and Mary Lambert. PAL is a family organization made up of parents and providers who advocate on behalf of children with mental, emotional or behavioral special needs and their families in order to effect family empowerment and system change. For more information, call Viano at (508) 688-5709.

WII GUITAR HERO PROGRAM will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Joshua Hyde Library, Route 131, Sturbridge. Need a little Wii Guitar Hero during the February vacation? The Joshua Hyde Library is hosting an evening for kids in Grades 5-7. We'll provide pizza. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library. To register for this night of music, food and fun, call (508) 347-2512.

VILLAGE TOASTMASTERS OPEN HOUSE will be held from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at Southbridge Savings Bank, Route 20, Sturbridge. Learn about Toastmasters and how to improve public speaking, presentation, communication and leadership skills. Enjoy entertaining and informative speeches by members. For more information, contact Dennis A. McCurdy at (508) 347-9343 or mccurdyi@charter.net, or visit the group's Web site at http://village.freetoasthost.com.

BRIMFIELD VIGIL FOR PEACE will be held from 7-8 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month on the Brimfield Common.

LA LECHE LEAGUE OF STURBRIDGE will sponsor a discussion on "Preparing for Birth and Breastfeeding" from 7-8:30 p.m. at EarthSpirits, Route 20, Sturbridge. Breastfeeding or considering it? The La Leche League of Sturbridge invites all pregnant and nursing women to learn more and meet new friends. Discussion topics are flexible; your questions are the main focus. For more information, visit www.lllsturbridge.org.

### **SPORTS**

### Tantasqua claims second straight SWCL-West

By Sean Sweeney

Sports Staff Writer

SOUTHBRIDGE — Basketball is a game of runs. The Tantasqua boys basketball team made one more than Southbridge did Friday night.

That final run, a 13-4 run that began as Dan Kemp threw down hard on a rebound, helped propel the Warriors to a 69-64 victory over the Pioneers in an incredibly intense game in front of a full house at the corner of Cole and Dresser.

Tantasqua head coach Jeff Child said it was as intense as it was because of Southbridge's tenacity. He added that he hoped Friday's contest alerted the Warriors that there was an awfully large bull's eye on their backs and that teams are gunning for them.

"In some ways, I'm glad it ended the way it did. I certainly don't want to lose, but I'm glad it was a tight game," Child said. "Quite frankly, our practice (Thursday) stunk, and at times tonight we were lackadaisical, so hopefully it was a good wakeup call. And I don't mean we played terrible — Southbridge played great, so that's part of the reason. They must have shot 60 percent from 3-point land.

"It could have gone either way, and my hat's off to those guys. I was impressed with their shooting and quickness tonight. They were the more energized team, you could see

The win lifts Tantasqua to 18-0 overall and 43-0 over the last two seasons — and just as important a 10-0 record in SWCL-West, clinching the program's second straight division

The win was also Tantasqua's ninth win in a row over the Musket

The loss for Southbridge (12-5) snaps a six-game winning streak for Big Red and was their first loss on the new floor at the corner of Cole and Dresser. It also drops the 'Neers

to 7-3 in SWCL-West, the same record in the division as tonight's opponent, Shepherd Hill.

The winner of tonight's game in Dudley should finish second in the division, as Shepherd Hill hosts Quaboag and Southbridge travels to Leicester on Thursday night.

The Pioneers were looking to become the first team to knock off the defending Division 2 state champions since Northbridge accomplished the feat in the 2006 Central Mass. Sectional Tournament, and it was looking to do so with the 3-

Southbridge was trailing, 49-38, with 3:06 remaining in the third when it began a momentum-swinging 15-2 run that extended into the fourth quarter. Senior Antonio Aponte was able to drain three 3pointers in less than two minutes to make it a four-point, two-possession 51-47 game, before Marco Rosario came up with a knock-away at the other end.

Hashian Rosario brought it back the other way, bounced-passed from the foul line down to Miguel Villafrank in the low post, who put it up for a lay-up to make it a twopoint, 51-49 game with 51 seconds remaining in the third.

Forty seconds later, Hashian Rosario hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key on an inbound pass to give Southbridge a 52-51 lead headed into the fourth. It was on the play before the trifecta that Kemp came from out of nowhere to block Rosario's lay-up attempt.

Aponte made it a two-point game with a free throw to start off the fourth. Less than a minute later, Brian Vayda missed a shorty. But waiting in the post was Kemp, who came up and slammed the rebound down, tying the score at 53-all.

"We have nobody to match up with those guys, so if anyone looks, we were definitely out-sized. We had to use our athleticism and our speed



to stay with them," Fowler said.

Southbridge was able to take the lead back on a Victor Martinez 14foot rim-rattler, but Tantasqua scored the next 11 of 13 points to give the Braves of the Quinebaug a seven-point, 64-57 lead.

"We just started playing sloppy and we weren't executing," Fowler said of the fourth quarter. "And we weren't boxing out."

"We switched to man-to-man because we felt that would be the way to go," Child said, noting that helped create turnovers late.

Southbridge would be able to cut the lead to four, 66-62, on a swished Martinez 3-pointer with 54 seconds left, but that was as close as the

Left: Southbridge's Steve Carrington looks to block Tantasqua's Brian Vavda in the first quarter, Above: Tantasqua's Dan Kemp rejects Victor Martinez.

Pioneers would come.

able to hang with the Warriors for 32 minutes was an incredible accomplishment, especially Tantasqua blew SHS out of the water, 62-33, at the Reservation on Jan. 15. Unlike the first leg of the series, the Pioneers were able to claw and claw whenever Tantasqua made a run to keep the game close.

The fact that Southbridge was

"The kids played very inspired tonight, they weren't intimidated like they were the first time with Tantasqua's height," Fowler said. "I thought the kids played phenomenal tonight. Everybody who was here saw what these kids can accomplish tonight. From the first game to

tonight, they've come a long way. They gave tremendous effort

Tantasqua was able to use its size down low and the athletic ability of Brandon Forcier to score on second chances.

The Warriors have two more games remaining in the regular season, beginning with tonight's tilt at the Reservation between geographic rival Quaboag, before wrapping up the regular season Thursday against David Prouty.

Sean Sweeney is the sports editor of Stonebridge Press. Dial him directly at 508-909-4133, or via e-mail at ssweeney@stonebridgepress.com.

### Picking sparks 10-0 run in Warrior win

BY RYAN PELLETIER

STURBRIDGE — Just two minutes and fifty seconds into the game, and the Southbridge girls had a 9-2 lead over Tantasqua, capped off with a lay-up by senior Lauren Wilson. But less than a minute later, the Warriors Heather Picking changed all that as she scored an and one opportunity with a bucket down low, sparking a 10-0 run by Tantasqua.

"I was very happy with the first quarter, even the second quarter," said Pioneers head coach Kelly Lynch. "We were hanging in there. We had two starters injured and we still came out and did well."

The Warriors eventually went on to beat the Southbridge Pioneers with a whopping score of 66-39 at the Reservation Friday night after a slow start in the first half.

The 10-0 run was lead by Picking, scoring six of those points, sharing the load with a lay-

up by senior co-captain Kelly McGee and a short jumper by youngster Kat Muska, both coming at the end of the run. Senior forward Meghan Kennedy closed out the first quarter with two points underneath with just 4.6 seconds on the clock.

Muska started off the second quarter with a bullet pass down low to Chelsea Blair for what turned into an easy two points only thirty seconds in. Kristina Lindgren followed this up with a trey deep in the corner after another thirty seconds putting the Warriors on the opposite end of a seven point lead.

Danielle Croke came up with a steal, and set up Picking with a two after a score for the Pioneers' Dayna Larson.

A few minutes later Lindgren put in another points for Tantasqua on a fourth put back attempt for the Warriors with 3:34 to go in the

The half was closed out by one of two free

throws for each team. Southbridge's Liz Blake lay up, followed up by an and one play. hit the first of two, as did the Warriors Kelly McGee who put in the last score of the half with 35.4 seconds on the clock.

"They shot really well in the first half, and at half time we had to make some adjustments on defense, we had to challenge the shooters more and be more aggressive on defense," said Warriors coach Tom Goyette.

Tantasqua came out into the second half and capitalized, going on a 9-0 run right off the bat, putting the Warriors ahead, 39-23. With a total of five points for Blair, Muska also hit a bucket in this drive, with the highlight being a deep two in the corner for Croke, just barely missing the three point line.

Wilson cut off the Tantasqua drive with a nice three from the top of the key with 4:04 on the clock.

Several plays later, Lindgren came back with five straight points through a fast break

A minute into the final quarter Blair

brought in a monster block, resulting in two points underneath by Muska.

Southbridge went on a small streak of six afterwards, right in the middle, a deep corner shot for two by senior guard Liz Blake.

With 2:24 to go in the game, Lindgren put in two points for the warriors underneath after a nice give and go play with Mandy Pote. Lindgren was fouled on the shot, but just missed the extra point.

The Pioneers' Wilson finished the game with three points in the corner with just 9.6 seconds to go, leaving the Warriors with a 66-39 victory.

"It's good for us to get a win. It's kind of a friendly rivalry. We know some of those players and Kelly's doing a great job down there," said Goyette.

#### COMMUNITY SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Quaboag Jr./Sr. baseball/softball open to Brimfield, Holland, Wales residents

BROOKFIELD — The Quaboag Little League's Junior and Senior League Baseball and Softball Leagues will hold registrations on Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 6-8 p.m. at the Brookfield Elementary School Gymnasium.

Baseball is open to players aged 13-18 while softball is open to girls aged 13-16 from the Quaboag Little League towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Wales, Warren, West Brookfield and North Brookfield. Coaches and volunteers can

Registration fee is \$65 and is due at the registration date. Players can also be registered by mail. Go to littleleague.org, print a registration form and mail it along with your check to Quaboag Little League, c/o David Proulx, 5 Salmon Brook Road, Brookfield, MA 01506. All registrations must be received by March 1 to guarantee placement.

For more information, call Proulx at 508-867-5149.

#### Sturbridge Sandy Koufax team holding try-outs

STURBRIDGE — Try-outs for the 2008 Sandy Koufax League team from Sturbridge will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 13 and

Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at Extra Innings on Southbridge Street in Auburn.

In order to try out, a player must be aged 13 or 14 and born May 1, 1993 or later. Players must also reside in Brimfield

Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, Southbridge, Warren and West Brookfield, or be a Tantasqua school choice student. Fees are \$10 per session. For information, contact Tammy at

#### Team Mass. Boys' AAU holding try-outs this weekend

STURBRIDGE — Team Mass Boys' AAU Basketball will hold try outs at the Tantasqua Junior High School on Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17 at various times on each day. U10s, U11s and U12s will try out from 9:15-10:30 a.m.; U13s and U14s will try out from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; and U15s, U16s and U17s from 12-1:30 p.m.

Please note that if you are a U16 or U17 playing on a varsity team, you must sign up on these days.

Players are also asked to bring a birth certificate and a \$20 registration fee. For more information, look on their Web site at www.teammassbovs.com.



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### **SPORTS**

### Re-fueling the program

Warrior girls 15-1 at Junior high level

**BY SEAN SWEENEY** 

With all of the success of the Wells boys' basketball team down the street in Southbridge, one junior high team here in Sturbridge that is on a hot streak has laid in the weeds.

The Tantasqua Junior High girls' basketball team has won 13 straight games entering this week, taking a 15-1 record into the final week of the

"We came out and won our first two games and then lost our third game of the season. Since then, we haven't lost. The kids have started to gel as a team, they've gotten much better. We have two strong players in Corrie Moeller and Olivia Brooks who average in double digits. At the junior high level, that's a good foundation to carry a team," said L'il Warriors head coach Pete Casine. "Our one loss was to Auburn, and the second time we played them, we ended up beating them. We've had a good year."

Moeller and Brooks are a pair of players that teams throughout the Southern Worcester County League better be ready for. Both are eighth graders and will bring solid games

across the street to the Reservation.

Moeller is the eighth-grade
younger sister of current
Tantasqua freshman Nicole Moeller, the heir apparent to Chelsea Blair. That said, one could consider the younger Moeller to be next in line.

"She's an aggressive player," Casine said of Moeller. "She's great down in the post, but she can catch the ball away from the basket and take the ball to the hoop, as well. She's left-handed, so that gets kids to bite right away; her going in the opposite direction than most kids are used to playing helps. She rebounds well, she's a strong kid for her age. You don't see many eighth graders playing the minutes that she plays and she's able to get up and down the court. She's the whole package."

Casine noted that with Moeller being nearly six feet tall, there haven't been many girls on other teams that can match up with her.

"Oxford had a couple of big kids who were able to give her a challenge, but no one has been able to shut her down," he said.

Brooks is a multi-sport athlete who is very basketball-oriented.

"She is a kid who is totally into her basketball," Casine said. "She'll e-mail you, she's talk to you in the offseason, she's at the camps. But she's not only a basketball player she's also a softball player, a soccer player. We take advantage of her athletic ability; she throws the baseball pass, she can cover kids, she can shoot, she can take the ball to the hoop. She's just a very athletic player. She can shoot off the dribble, which you don't find very much in kids this age. And she's a big kid, too: she's not the prototypical junior high point guard that's going to get knocked around. She has the ability to finish.

Rounding out the starting five are Allie DeFazio, Alyx Darger and Melissa Frio.

"(DeFazio) is one of our most aggressive players; she hit the gamewinning shot against Charlton for us with four seconds to go, so it's not just Olivia and Corrie that get it done," Casine said. "(Darger) is our big post player and she has made huge strides. She hasn't played bas-





ketball very long, but she's a good rebounder for us, and she's a good free-throw shooter, so when she does get fouled down low, she is able to make her free throws.

"And Melissa is another allaround athlete. She's a very smart basketball player. She gets our fast break going, she makes good decisions, and she's a tough kid."

The Warriors are also a deep team with a strong bench of Devinne Aquadro, Amanda Volpe, Kylie Lowe, Leanne Wentzel and Ashley Fogwill.

We have a whole other group that we can send out there and feel confident with them playing at any time," Casine said.

If Moeller is second in line. Fogwill, a seventh grader, may just be third: she is a near-six footer that is working on becoming a polished product.

We've been working with her to get her basketball skill down, but she's an athletic kid for her size," Casine said of Fogwill.

Jessica Frio, Emily Boltz and Casey Mantyla round out the roster.

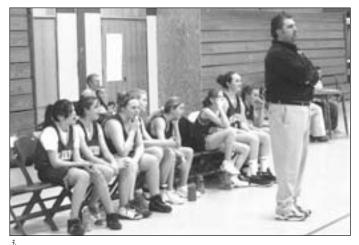
"We mix them in and we play kids at more than one position," said















1. Corrie Moeller looks to block a shot. 2. Olivia Brooks watches as a free throw sails to the hoop. 3. The Tantasqua Junior High girls' basketball team, which entered the week 15-1, watches the early portions of last Thursday's game with Wells of Southbridge. 4. Alyx Darger goes to the hoop. 5. Olivia Brooks looks to pass. 6. Warrior coach Pete Casine goes over a play during a time out. 7. Melissa Frio looks to get out of a crowd of Pioneers. 8. Melissa Frio (25) corrals the ball as Alyx Darger (left) looks on.

Casine says he gets a great deal of advice and input from Tom Goyette, the Tantasqua varsity head coach.

"Tom let's us run it the way we want to run it, and we choose to run his system. From top to bottom, we feel the same things are important. He played 10-deep, so we have to have kids ready to feed that program. He's very involved in the tryout process here and everything. And we know the type of player he's looking for," Casine said.

And with the success that the junior high team having this

year — coupled with the varsity team's 13th consecutive appearance in the Central Mass. Tournament wam should be secure for years to come.

"We think the program is solid from top to bottom. We don't have any huge classes, like we're not going to graduate seven or eight kids at a time. We see it just

turning over, running the same system. Seeing the

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success that Tantasqua has, it makes kids want to play over here. There are 36 spots across the street, the program spilling out of the wig-so kids want to be in the program, Casine said.

> Sean Sweeney is the sports editor of Stonebridge Press. Dial him directly at 508-909-4133, or via e-mail at ssweeney@stonebridgepress.com.



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### Recreation Committee considering three areas for athletic fields

**BROOK** 

continued from page  $\, {f 1} \,$ 

not going to be able to catch a 2.5pound bass, you're going to have a hard sell," Muir said.

Since about 1929, the core area in question has been known as Camp Robinson Crusoe, a village of cabins and related buildings off Shattuck Road that was built as a facility for youth education and recreation, according to town historian Robert Briere. The camp was eventually obtained by Old Sturbridge Village and has been abandoned for many years. OSV sold it to Sturbridge as part of an 800-plus-acre parcel about two years ago, and the town finished demolishing the camp's collapsing buildings in December.

According to PLAC Chairman Dale Favreau, the brook is a coldwater habitat because of two permanent springs that are currently hidden by the small ponds. Those springs also enable the brook to keep flowing in the driest periods and attract beavers, fishers, geese,

ducks and other species, he said. If Sturbridge were to follow Richards'

recommendation, Favreau argued, "We're essentially going to take 10 acres and drain it. We'll lose a lot of habitat and you'll have a hard sell.'

Richards said removing the dams could eliminate a "potential public safety risk" because they're old and in need of repair already. That's not unusual in Massachusetts — the state has around 3,000 dams 6 feet high or larger, with 33 of them in Sturbridge, and many of them date back to the 1850s.

It's not clear, however, whether these particular dams are actually subject to state oversight; one woman present, who did not identify herself, said they aren't on the state's GIS map.

Richards said he was proposing the concept as one that could help improve the overall diversity of fish species in the Quinebaug River basin. He aimed it at this location because of the brook trout presence, but also because "we have a lot of ponds, but don't have a lot of free-

Est. 1971

flowing streams."

Favreau said Richards should also look at the impact of removing only the blockages caused by fallen trees or one or of two the dams, rather than all three. He noted the town also needs to be concerned about at least

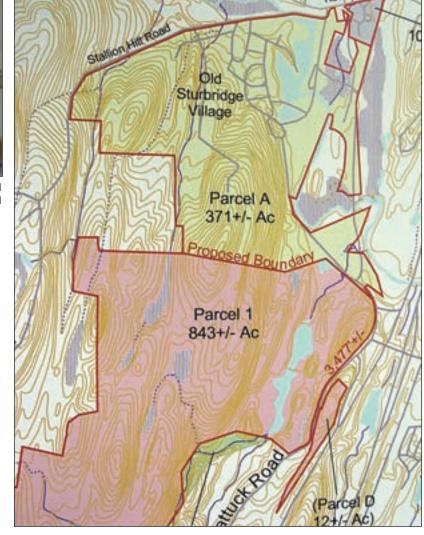
two other dams



**Division of Fisheries and** Wildlife biologist Todd Richards.

upstream on private land (one of which was recently subject of a Planning Board discussion because it's under a state order to be repaired).

Conservation Commission Chairman David Barnicle agreed, describing the situation as "a classic confrontation of recreation vs. the improvement of a species." He said he needs to see the benefits of various uses "before I can stand up at



ABOVE: This map shows the section of Hamant Brook near the former Camp

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Town Meeting and say 'Yes, this is something we need."

Robinson Crusoe (on right side of the ponds).

If the project happens, it would be at least partly funded by a grant from Millennium Power Partners, which runs a power plant off Route 169 in Charlton. According to Plant Manager Mark Winne, the company agreed to spend \$1 million for environmental studies in the river basin and \$3 million to restore aquatic habitat as part of its permit to operate.

Richards said those funds are being divided between the Massachusetts and Connecticut sections of the river basin.

'While I work well with my colleagues in Connecticut, I don't want to give them all the money and want to find a quality project here," he said.

Selectman Harold White noted, "This is not the end of our discussion, it's the beginning," with quite a bit more work to do before it's ready to go to the vot-

#### ATHLETIC FIELDS

The Hamant Brook presentation was also just the beginning of the selectmen's business. The board also heard from the Recreation Committee, which proposed investigating the use of the Shepard parcel on Route 15, land behind the highway barn at

the end of New Boston Road Extension, and part of OSV's land for athletic fields.

The selectmen agreed to hire CME to do an engineering study of the former land and get a quote for the highway barn parcel, and the committee said they'd talk to OSV. In the highway barn land's case, using it would require a Town Meeting transfer from the school department, to whom it was transferred years ago as a potential new school

Committee Chairman Al Jones said his board favors the Shepard site because of its flatness, central location, easy accessibility and size (about 11 acres). He noted the three parcels could be connected by a footbridge over the Quinebaug River and path under Interstate 84.

Such new fields are necessary, he said, because the existing ones have become so popular the Recreation Department cannot take any out of use for repairs or to change them to make them regulation size.

Sports are a bigger thing for kids now than years before," with the popularity of winning major teams and the interest in soccer lacrosse. and other games, he said. "It's the best thing in the world, other than education, of course."

Gus Steeves may be reached at (508) 909-4135, or by e-mail gsteeves@stonebridgepress.com.





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