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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 29, 2015

Fresh and Local: Farms, Gill-Montague Schools Pair Up For National Food Day

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

Last Friday, the Gill-Montague school district celebrated National Food Day. Our school cafeterias prepared a special lunch sourced largely from local farms. Each school had its own menu.

At Gill Elementary, the entrée was a stew made with beans, potatoes, and squash from Upinngil Farm. At Turners Falls High, the students ate roasted potatoes and butternut squash, spinach, and pork braised in cider from Clarkdale Fruit Farm. And at Sheffield Elementary, the main course was a vegetable frittata.

According to Mistelle Hannah, food service manager for the district, the student bodies held divergent opinions on the meals. The elementary students loved the food, while the high schoolers' response was typically angst and lukewarm.

Ms. Hannah's theory on their lack of enthusiasm is that they became used to the cafeteria's old ways during their formative elementary and middle school years. New policies from the USDA, requiring fresh fruits and vegetables, took effect during the 2011-2012 school year.

The events at the schools were planned as part of National Food Day, a day meant to bring awareness to our diets and to the connections between eating, food production, and the policies that shape this system.

This year's theme was "Toward a Greener Diet."

see **FOOD DAY** page A5



PHOTO BY MISTELLE HANNAH, GURSD

Second graders Talia Pederzini-Curtis, Brody Girard, and Jeremy Colon-Vega enjoy vegetable frittatas, with ingredients sourced from local growers, during lunch last Friday at Sheffield Elementary School.

County Vegetable Commemoration A Success

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "We're at a happy place, where things go well," said Greenfield Road's Mike Nelson, who does business under the name Franklin County Pumpkinfest and moonlights as a Montague selectman. "I was really pleased with the event overall."



JACKSON PHOTO

A crowd was successfully attracted by the traditional method.

Nelson was reflecting on the sixth Pumpkinfest, which went off without a hitch last Saturday. One hundred and thirty vendors lined Avenue A, with entertainment on multiple official and private stages throughout the day, and traditional jack o'lantern carving at its heart.

Though the cancellation after 25 years of Keene, NH's unrelated Pumpkin Festival may have sent pumpkin-lovers south to Turners, the event felt by all accounts about the same size and feel of last year's – with maybe around 10,000 attendees, though it's impossible to count the crowd coming and going over a 7-hour event.

Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, the Chicopee-based contractors currently working on the streetscape improvement project at Third and A, originally intended that project to finish before the festival.

When they were unable to meet that goal, they reached an agreement with the town that they would remove equipment and fencing, for safety's sake, and temporarily pave the project with blacktop at their own expense. This week they broke ground again.

Nelson said the event counted about 725 pumpkins, up slightly from last year's official tally of 711.

But that figure was called into question by town clerk

see **PUMPKINS** page A7

NEWS ANALYSIS

Many Wild Cards on Table as Pipeline Company Applies to FERC

By JEFF SINGLETON

WASHINGTON, D.C. – According to Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) spokesperson Steve Crawford, the company still plans to apply to the federal government for approval of its proposed pipeline project on November 20. The project, called the Northeast Energy Direct, is slated to run directly through a number of towns in Franklin County, including Deerfield, Montague, Erving, and Northfield.

Recent developments at the state level have thrown wild cards into the already controversial process. These include a new regulation allowing electric companies to purchase natural gas; a proposed legislative vote involving Article 97,

which requires approval of conservation land takings; and the closing of the Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station in Plymouth.

The Federal Process

There are two key elements to the federal approval process. First, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

The EIS requirement has already produced a lengthy, costly and very labor-intensive "scoping" investigation to determine the environmental impact of the proposal. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments has played a central role in helping

see **WILD CARDS** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Broadband Committee: "It's Time To Make Some Noise!"

By JEFF SINGLETON

Kevin Hart of Montague's broadband committee reported to the selectboard at its October 26 meeting that state funding for the committee's proposal to extend fiber-optic cable to the town's "unserved" homes is in doubt. Hart portrayed the process for obtaining funds from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) as plagued by delays and uncertainties.

A key question involves whether MBI will approve a contract for new fiber-optic broadband transmission, which the committee supports, or for traditional coaxial cable, as proposed by Montague's current cable provider, Comcast.

Fiber-optic is seen as the technology of the future, destined to replace coaxial in the coming decade. The cable committee has suggested that their proposal for underserved homes could provide the backbone for service to the entire town.

Hart, accompanied by committee members Lisa Enzer and Rob Steinberg, presented the selectboard with an update on the state funding issue. Last February, the Baker administration signed a \$50 million bill to extend broadband to unserved and un-

derserved communities. Montague is grouped with nine other towns allocated \$5 million to extend service. Hart estimated that Montague has 204 unserved residences.

Recently, MBI sent out a "Request for Qualifications" to provide broadband to those ten towns. There were two respondents: Comcast, which would extend its coaxial cable, and a company called Matrix, which proposed to install fiber-optic in the towns of Montague and Hardwick.

Eight of the towns appear to be satisfied with Comcast, but both Montague and Hardwick seek to install the newer fiber-optic technology through Matrix.

The broadband committee has been forwarded the Matrix proposal but has not seen the response from Comcast. Hart estimated that the Matrix plan would extend service to 98% of the unserved households, and feared that a Comcast coaxial extension might serve significantly fewer.

MBI extended the deadline for additional information from Comcast to October 15. Hart said he has been unable to ascertain from MBI whether the cable company met the new deadline.

see **MONTAGUE** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Coordinator Search Begins

By KATIE NOLAN

"We want to attract candidates who have choices where they apply," Richard Kobayashi of the University of Massachusetts' Collins Institute told the Erving selectboard Monday night.

Kobayashi said the first step in helping the town search for a new administrative coordinator is developing two profiles: one characterizing the town, and its principal challenges, over the next five to seven years, and another identifying the kind of person and skills the town wants for administrative coordinator.

"We don't start looking for peo-

ple until the profile is complete," Kobayashi explained. "It's a marketing tool for the town and the job."

He said he would be meeting with town officials, department heads, committee chairs and interested citizens over the next two weeks to develop the profiles and that the profiles should be completed by the end of November.

Once the profiles are written and approved by the selectboard, the institute will use them to recruit candidates, through advertising and "reaching out to our network." Kobayashi will work with the town's

see **ERVING** page A6

Good News, and Bad: Lee Wildcats 27 – TFHS 7

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The good news is that the Turners Falls Football Indians were ranked third in Western Mass DVI going into their game on Friday October 23 against eleventh-ranked Lee. The bad news is that the Tribe was upset in that game.

But coach Chris Lapointe wasn't discouraged. "We knew they were a good team, and they showed it," he said after Friday's loss. He said he knows that even though his team will slip in the standings and may not have a home playoff game, he cannot dwell on the negative. And if he wants to get back to the championship game, his team will have to bring their A game into the

second season.

To paraphrase a Tom Hanks movie, there's no crying in football.

The first sign that it might not be Powertown's night was the coin toss. The Wildcats won the toss, taking away the deep return threat which has been so successful of late. Lee started on their own 32 and began to march down the field. Turners executed some hard hits and solid tackles – including three by Tahner Castine and one by Will Roberge – and as Lee barged into Blue territory, Tahner forced the ball loose, and Trevor Mankowsky recovered the fumble.

Turners got the ball on their own 33, but only moved it 9 yards on three plays. On fourth see **FOOTBALL** page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Close call: Lee's defense tries to intercept a pass intended for Jalen Sanders during last Friday's game. The pass was incomplete.

The Montague Reporter

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There Oughta Be A Law... ?

Over the past month, the nonprofit journalism organization *InsideClimate News* has released a series of investigative reports on what gas company Exxon – now ExxonMobil – has known, and done, about manmade climate change.

In the 1970s and 80s, the company’s scientists built models that projected the impact of fossil fuel use on the planet, and conducted extensive in-house research on the matter, including outfitting a super-tanker to measure the absorption of carbon dioxide by oceans. (Short answer: they don’t absorb enough!)

The company contends that it had always received a mix of information from scientists, and never reached a firm conclusion. We urge our readers to check out *InsideClimate*’s series themselves – it paints a fairly convincing picture of a company first sponsoring science that produced models close to our current ones, then deliberately shifting towards publicly sowing confusion by emphasizing uncertainty.

In 1982, internal documents discussed a “clear scientific consensus” that doubling atmospheric carbon would result in a global temperature rise of between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees Celsius, and the company even sponsored a conference on global warming that year. But right around 1989 the company decided to change its tune.

That was the year it joined with other oil and heavy industry corporations to form a lobbying group called the Global Climate Coalition, which sought to spread doubt about climate science, and began systematically funding contrarian studies on the subject. (A report published by the Union of Concerned Scientists this summer called the Climate Deception Dossiers, available online, gives a good overview of this activity.)

Oddly, 1989 was also the year of the Exxon-Valdez oil spill.

ExxonMobil’s anti-science militance helped stave off the idea of a carbon tax, prevent the US from signing the Kyoto Protocol, and seed the current era of mass know-nothingism. At the same time, the company may have been able to use its accurate forecasting to shift its focus and investments northward, toward the quickly warming polar zone that will serve as a

major economic and geopolitical arena in the coming decades.

Many liberal American politicians and talking heads are using the revelations – though they are hardly that – of Exxon’s scandalous scientific past to engage in populist grandstanding. This week, Democratic presidential contenders Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders lent their support to a call for a federal investigation into the matter, as if it were a simple criminal cover-up, with 1999’s *United States vs. Philip Morris* litigation as an inspiration.

The comparison is tempting, but breaks down both pragmatically and in terms of the substance of the argument being made.

ExxonMobil is an order of magnitude larger than Philip Morris’ parent company Altria, in terms of assets, revenues, and employees. It’s a major geopolitical player in its own right, with a larger presence in some parts of the world than the US government itself.

Whereas in the late 1990s one in four Americans smoked (now it’s under one in five), well over 99% of us are totally dependent on petroleum for our survival.

And while other major national industries, most notably healthcare, had already turned against Big Tobacco, the continued extraction and delivery of copious oil and gasoline are of immediate economic benefit to just about all interests, except for oil’s direct alternative-energy competitors.

All that makes a toothsome investigation, or punishment, unlikely. But more to the point, O’Malley and Sanders know full well that simply engaging in, and then washing its hands of, legitimate climate science does not somehow make Exxon guilty of racketeering.

While there may be moral parallels, the aims of the conspiracies – to prolong the use of a product despite damages to its consumers’ health, and to prolong the use of a product despite its contribution to changing the climate – are fundamentally different, because no one can be held liable in the first place for raising the planet’s temperature or altering the composition of its atmosphere. It’s not illegal.

The feeling that someone-oughta-go-to-jail is rooted in frustration that a company would betray scientific inquiry in favor of



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Thanks for Added Touches

The residents of Montague Center are very fortunate, indeed, to live in a village where many talented persons not only reside, but make their living there.

One such person is the “caretaker” of the Montague Center Post Office, by the name of Ray Savage.

Not only does Ray perform his janitorial services conscientiously, but he also makes sure the plantings are creative and well-maintained.

His artistic skills have been a joy to all, as he decorates the Post Office with paintings and arrange-

an Honor

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Stavros Center for Independent Living for giving me the Ted Martineau Award at the Stavros Award Ceremony on October 22.

This was an unexpected honor to follow in tribute. Ted was Stavros’ president, a dedicated disability advocate who improved services, ADA access, and volunteered in Montague for 20 years. Again I say thank you.

Sincerely,

Peg Bridges
Montague

Betty Tegel
Montague

ments in keeping with the seasons and special occasions.

Across the “main drag,” our village store (the Mini Mart) has been a veritable “garden of Eden,” designed and planted by “Sunny” Lynch, the wife of store owner Dennis Lynch. All summer the gardens flourished, enhanced by ornaments and fountains so artfully displayed.

Many thanks to you for the pleasure you have given many.

Executives from six major cigarette companies held a secret meeting at a hotel in 1953 and laid out an agreement to undermine the study of their product. No such crude collusion is necessary for modern energy multinationals. Bound in competition for the amount of energy they can feed into our fast-burning civilization, they all share an interest in undermining its capacity to self-regulate.

And so we are all being swept into an age of doubt. In this country, according to the Gallup polling agency, 55% of people think global warming is happening, 55% of people are worried about it, 55% think it’s due to human activities, and 56% think warming has not been exaggerated.

Those are some scant majorities, at shocking odds with the scientific community, where 97% of peer-reviewed papers support the anthropogenic climate change hypothesis.

But we can’t legislate knowl-

edge, or good faith, or sharing.

We don’t doubt that there is an honest outrage behind calls to probe and punish entities like Exxon.

But they are also, in a sense, made cynically: primary-red meat to the base, on a political par with the Benghazi investigation in terms of their significance to the functioning of the American state apparatus. Washington is simply never going to turn on the fossil-fuel industry like that, regardless of what anyone in it was once purported to know.

And to pretend that it could is to spread a sort of false hope – for a world in which massive, generations-old, multinational business institutions can be approached as moral agents, reasoned with, and held accountable; in which law and science and the common good are naturally, and by default, aligned; and in which knowledge alone can solve the problems we face.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Trunk or Treat** event originally scheduled for October 31 at the Turners Falls High School parking lot has been **cancelled**.

The **Little Free Library** on the Avenue in Turners has seen a lot of use and, as a result, its front door needs to be replaced before the win-

ter weather does more damage. Anyone out there with carpentry skills who would like to help?

You can take a look at it in front of Nina's Nook, or contact either Jeri at mainwearing@hotmail.com or Nina at naban@verizon.net. They can supply the materials if you can do the work.

Also, while the Turners Little Free Library has been well-sup-

plied with books recently, **the one in Montague Center** could use some donations. Our contact says: "The same half-shelf of ho-hum selection has been in there for quite a while. I no longer have access to the book donations that I did in the past, so it would be great if folks could donate more. Thanks."

Beginning Monday, November 2, the **Franklin Area Survival Center thrift shop**, at 96 Fourth Street in Turners Falls, will extend its hours. Through Christmas, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays.

The Girls Club of Greenfield's Stonehenge fundraising project will be the beneficiary of the monthly **Soup and Games night** held at Greenfield's Hope & Olive restaurant this Monday, November 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. Stonehenge, located on Oak Hill Road in Leyden, was originally built in the 1930s by the Rotary Club for the Girl Scouts, and is in need of rehabilitation.

The Girls Club will be hosting a buffet of locally-made soups and breads from area businesses. They will also be selling a fabulous array of baked goodies and have several gift baskets to raffle off. Hot soup, delicious breads, drinks, desserts, and fun times with your friends will be the order for the night. Please join and help raise funds to "Make Camp Stonehenge New Again."

The **1940s Hit Parade annual benefit** for Warm the Children returns to the Rendezvous on Friday, November 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone bringing in a donation, or a new article of children's winter clothing, will receive a free beer or wine on the Hit Parade.

Our Lady of Peace Women's Group will be having their annual **Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 7, from 9

a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be homemade crafts, multi-raffle table; baked goods, homemade apple pies; attic treasures; a children's room; Christmas items; gift baskets and much, much more. Lunch will be available at the Christmas Cookie Café. The Bazaar takes place at Our Lady of Peace Church, at 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls.

Wendell has held a community meal most autumns of late, and this year's harvest dinner will be a "**pot luck plus**" in the town hall on Saturday, November 7 at 5:30 p.m. Organizers Kathleen Leonard and Susan von Ranson are excited about using the newly refurbished town hall kitchen for the event. All are invited.

Donations received will go to help Michael and Gail Mason while Michael, a chef at the Brattleboro Retreat, recovers from injuries from a head-on collision in Gill a few weeks ago.

Part of the "plus" of the billing is a roast turkey Diemand Farm is donating, and coffee to be provided by Patti Scutari at the Wendell Country Store. To help the organizers "keep it simple," Leonard asked that attendees bring their own plate and silverware, along with a main or side dish or dessert. Accompany it with a note about ingredients.

Help with setup (at 4 p.m.) and cleanup after the event will be appreciated.

It's official: Bikes will be allowed in Turners Falls' Unity Skatepark, but under the condition that bikes have no pegs, plastic pegs, or plastic sleeves covering their pegs.

This is a compromise agreement reached after concerns were raised about bikes' impact on concrete parks, though the extent of that damage was a subject of debate.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Two Spats Resolved

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE — After weeks of controversy, the Gill-Montague school committee voted on Tuesday to accept chair Sandra Brown's recommendation for the Unit A (teachers) contract negotiating team of Jane Oakes, Michael Langknecht and Brown. She also selected Langknecht as chair.

The vote of the school committee was unanimous, and there was no further discussion of the matter.

After the votes, Jeff Singleton, the municipal representative in collective bargaining, made a statement of support for Brown's decision. While stating he still believed Brown was correct in her opinion that there could be a potential conflict of interest posed by a former teacher being part of the negotiating team with the teacher's union, he felt it was not worth continuing to fight over the matter.

He also said that he believed Oakes would support the best interests of the district.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan addressed concerns raised over informational visits by Gill Elementary fifth graders to Great Falls Middle School by presenting the following policy:

The administration will retain the past practice of allowing Gill Elementary fifth-graders to join their peers from Sheffield Elementary in a spring visit to Great Falls Middle School, for the purpose of preparing them for their transition to a new building. It will remain a parental prerogative whether or not Gill students attend.

Interested fifth-graders at Sheffield would also be offered an opportunity to visit Gill Elementary during a school day, for the purpose of considering attending Gill's sixth grade through intra-district school choice. Parental permission would again be required.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By PATTY MOREY WALKER

My name is Patty Morey Walker, and I am running for Mayor of Greenfield.

I am grateful to the *Montague Reporter* for offering me the opportunity to speak to its readers, my neighbors, and to share a bit about myself while highlighting the differences between my opponent and me. Your support is important to me, even if you cannot vote for me.

I was not born and raised in Greenfield. While some feel that is reason enough not to be elected, I know that I will bring an experienced and fresh perspective to the Mayor's office. Greenfield is changing. There is a growing population of newcomers looking to start their families, begin or continue their careers, or in my case, for my partner to move back to the town in which she was born and raised.

I want to represent not an "old" Greenfield or a "new" Greenfield, but One Greenfield. The One Greenfield that I see is growing economically and offering more vibrancy in its downtown, and whose schools are getting better because of a collaborative approach between the school and the town administration. I see a Greenfield that is a leader in green initiatives. I'm committed to a One Greenfield that is welcoming to all.

Morey Walker: For Mayor of Greenfield

At a debate last week with the incumbent Mayor William Martin, when asked about proactively seeking out business to grow economically, the Mayor responded, "It is not the job of government to market itself to businesses."

I would make marketing Greenfield to businesses catering to our diverse socio-economic population a priority.

I would bring to the Mayor's office a fresh energy unencumbered by any political ties. I would bring experience from working in the public and private sectors, starting my own business in Massachusetts and holding office as a Neighborhood Councilor. Most recently, I was the Franklin County Coordinator of the campaign for Maura Healy, our new Attorney General.

At the debate, I questioned the incumbent about how he would use his leadership to ensure that the growing population of people of color in Greenfield felt included in the community. During my campaign, I have learned that some people have felt marginalized, and that is a concern for me.

The Mayor responded by accusing me and others of "manufacturing issues."

Race and institutionalized racism are not manufactured. Once elected Mayor, I will use my lead-

ership to ensure that all people feel welcome and supported in our great town.

When asked about the three-part plastics ban non-binding questions that will appear on the ballot on November 3 in Greenfield, the Mayor responded, "Banning plastics in Greenfield is not going to change the world." I feel differently. I support the community taking responsibility for our part in addressing environmental protection and our impact on climate change.

When I asked the incumbent to give his opinion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, he managed to avoid answering the question altogether by asking me, "Where will the pipeline be in Greenfield?" He did manage to extol the virtues of the pipeline as saving our energy-starved area.

I oppose the pipeline.

Greenfield is the county seat of Franklin County. I believe the leadership of the Mayor of Greenfield should include supporting its neighbors in opposing environmental threats, promoting business that would serve all communities of Franklin County, and welcoming all to our shared community, regardless of race or ethnicity.

I have been in this race since my announcement last February. While media coverage of this race has been light, I have built my

campaign with the grassroots in mind by knocking upon doors, using social media, standing out with signs, and having an open door in our downtown office.

As the race enters its final week, we will be working to continue to get the word out, speaking to our neighbors and local businesses, dropping off literature, making phone calls and connecting with as many voters as possible. "Every voter matters" has been our slogan — something that we believe in and in so many different ways.

We invite you to join us in our efforts. One supporter talking to a few friends and spreading the word, while encouraging the community to get out and vote, has proven the best way to getting the message out.

I am asking you for your support. If you are a Greenfield voter, please remember to go to the polls on November 3. If you are a neighbor, please consider sharing our campaign with someone who is a Greenfield voter. I pledge to create an inclusive, vibrant and engaging community for us all.

Feel free to learn more about me and my issues on my website, www.electpattymoreywalker.com, and our Facebook page at "Patty Morey Walker for Mayor". I welcome you to reach out with questions and support for our campaign.

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Grade 7
Ramon Rodriguez
Grade 8
Josy Hunter
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MONTAGUE from page A1

At a recent meeting of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, representatives of the ten towns were told that they would be involved in the decision-making process. However, MBI director Eric Nakajima was then reported to have said he would make a recommendation to his boss, Pam Goldberg of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. When pressed about towns' involvement in the decision, he was reported to have replied that "they have the right to refuse."

Hart expressed concern about the lack of communication with MBI. With all the delays, the process could take until the end of the year, making it difficult to obtain a required second town meeting vote establishing a Municipal Light Plant (MLP). He even suggested that there may have been "political pressure" from Comcast for MBI to abandon the Montague/Hardwick fiber-optic plan.

"We don't know what's going on," he told the selectboard. "It's time to make some noise." The broadband committee requested a letter of support from the selectboard to MBI, as well as to the town's representatives in the state legislature.

The board approved this request, and directed town planner Walter Ramsey to produce a draft by the next meeting.

"Silence is Acquiescence"

Robert Adams came before the board to complain about the impact of the Greenfield Road - Hatchery Road project on his property. Adams owns a farm on Hatchery Road, and has criticized a number of town actions, including the right of way that extends onto his property and the decision to reopen Greenfield Cross Road.

Adams read a prepared statement which he handed to the board. It stated, in part, that "someone has been authorized to trespass and place stakes on the field of this farm in anticipation of taking without compensation... the town of Montague has NEVER come to the table with any offer, but has sheepishly diverted the blame by pointing fingers and words at the state..."

At the conclusion of his statement, Adams asked if the board had "anything you wish to say at this point? Silence is acquiescence so choose carefully."

Chair Michael Nelson responded: "I'm losing half my front lawn. It's for the public good. Your two minutes are up... We will accept your letter, and send it on to town counsel."

Riff's North

Next on the agenda was a request by Riff's Incorporated to obtain a liquor license currently owned by Kali B's on Avenue A.

Riff's, which owns a restaurant and catering business in Easthampton, will create a new restaurant called "Riff's North" in the current Kali B's space.

During the discussion, the new owners were asked if they intended to book music at the restaurant. They responded that there were no such plans at this time but noted the large outdoor patio adjacent to the building. They also noted that they were aware of the controversy over outdoor music in downtown Turners Falls.

The selectboard approved the request.

Expensive Pole Bases

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) came before the board requesting approval of two disbursements and a contract amendment for the Berkshire Design Group, which is the architect for the Avenue A streetscape project.

Hunter also requested that the board review the change order for modifying the bases for the light poles to be installed on the Avenue.

Town planner Walter Ramsey then came forward for a hearing on transferring \$5,000 from the community development discretionary fund to help pay for the pole bases.

MJ Adams of the HRA requested that the board execute a letter to the state documenting various funding changes, totaling \$50,000, to pay for the change order. She also requested that the board approve a letter "finally" closing out the FY'13 Community Development Block Grant program.

Other Business

Ramsey also requested permission to allow Barcroft Media to film at the Strathmore mill complex the next day. Barcroft, he said, would be creating footage for a "post-apocalyptic" video game. The shooting would involve a drone, for which he reported Barcroft had received permission from the Airport Commission.

The selectboard approved the request, with one member noting that the Strathmore was indeed post-apocalyptic.

The selectboard, transformed into the personnel board, voted to change the status of police chief Charles Dodge to Grade I, Step 5 as of November 15, 2015.

This designation carries a salary of \$86,934 plus incentive pay. According to town accountant Carolyn Olsen, Dodge had previously been at Grade I, Step 3, earning \$81,899 plus incentives.

Under the category of the "town administrator's report," the board voted to accept gifts and create a special fund to finance a police K-9 vehicle; voted to transfer "FY'16 Local Cultural Council funds from the Mass Cultural Council to the local cultural council account for the Montague Cultural Council"; and voted to approve the recently negotiated collective bargaining with the Town of Montague Employee Association (TOMEA), which expires at the end of next July.

The board then retired to executive session, to discuss litigation.



FOOTBALL from page A1

and 1, Coach Lapointe decided to punt.

On their next possession, Lee got all the way down to the Blue 9 but on fourth down, an incomplete pass gave Turners back the ball. Unable to get a first down themselves, Turners punted again, and Lee got the ball on the 48. Four plays later, they scored on a 9-yard pass play and at 9:52 of the second quarter, the score was 6-0 Lee.

Jalen Sanders had a wonderful kick return for the Tribe, and wasn't brought down until he reached the 47. When their next drive failed, Turners was yet again forced to punt. Jalen booted the ball and it was fair-caught on the Wildcats' 12.

The Blue D did their part, and when Colby Dobias recovered a fumble on the Wildcats' 23, it looked like Turners would finally have their chance.

The dynamic duo of Jalen Sanders and Quinn Doyle gave the Tribe a third-and-3 from the 5-yard line, but a 5-yard loss, followed by an interception, ended the Blue threat.

In the past few years, Turners Falls has run wonderful 2-minute offenses, often scoring with just seconds left on the clock. This methodical hurry-up game plan has padded leads, kept the Tribe in games, and even won a few games. Scoring at the end of the first half can affect the momentum of the game and serve to

demoralize your opponents.

However, in Friday's game, it was Lee that scored last in the first half. With 13.6 seconds left on the clock, they completed a 19-yard pass for the score. And after getting the 2-pointer, the Wildcats entered the locker room leading by 14. Turners was down by two full touchdowns.

In the second half, both teams went for it on fourth down, and both teams turned the ball over on downs. On their second possession of the half, Turners finally scored.

Tionne Brown completed a 45-yard pass to Jack Darling with 3 minutes left in the third quarter. Tyler Lavin kicked the PAT and suddenly, Turners was back in the game, 14-7.

But Turners was unable to score again, and Lee added two more touchdowns, putting the final score 27-7.

Tionne Brown completed five passes for 91 yards, and threw a touchdown and two interceptions. Jalen Sanders, Jack Darling, Quinn Doyle, and Owen Ortiz each had interceptions. Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders and Jack Darling carried the ball for the Tribe. Darling scored 6 points, and Lavin added the 1-pointer.

Turners will next travel to Springfield to take on Cathedral on Saturday, October 31 at 1 p.m.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Town Meeting, Selectboard Brace for "Difficult Tax Year"

By ANN TWEEDY

A special town meeting was held on Tuesday night, October 27 in Leverett, where two warrant articles were unanimously approved by the finance committee and the voting residents.

The first was the technical step of voting to appropriate the \$205,000 to cover the abatement liabilities in the event the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board decides in favor of the Kittredge Estate abatement request made by property manager Barre Tozloski. The Appellate Tax Board, moving very slowly, has failed to reach a decision on the matter.

The second warrant article transferred the \$1,038.20 in funds for a FY'15 bill, for a bulletproof vest for the police department.

Selectboard member Julie Shively answered a question from the floor about the funding, by explaining that if the town wins the appeal, that money would be in play. Shively also announced that Tozloski has requested another abatement for the next fiscal year.

Tom Powers of the finance committee explained that the budget cuts to departments would likely continue, and expressed that it would be a very difficult tax year for a variety of reasons.

A regular selectboard meeting followed the special town meeting. Two new hires were officiated: Miho Connolly as the town's conservation agent, and Jason Noschese as the collector/treasurer.

The selectboard signed two grant applications, one for the Cultural Council and the other for the Council on Aging.

The board is working out a con-

crete time and date in the first week of November to meet with final candidates for the highway superintendent job, and affirmed that this information would be posted beforehand, and that the meetings would be open to the public.

The board approved the request by administrative assessor Stephen Schmidt for a single tax rate, rather than a split one. Schmidt explained that commercial/industrial property represents only 1% of Leverett's tax base, and that a split rate would represent a difference of only 39 cents.

Stephen also communicated that the excess levy capacity (the maximum amount a town can tax property owners under Proposition 2 ½) for FY'16 was the lowest he had ever seen.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis addressed the preliminary stages of an application to the Community Preservation Coalition (CPC) funds for the old highway garage next to the safety complex. She said that its late-1940s / early-1950s construction was not off the mark in terms of preservation to make a usable space in an historic district.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson shared his research, undertaken at the suggestion of the town's lawyer, on the issue of safely storing town emails for all departments. He discussed the fees associated with more robust online storage services, capabilities offered by companies such as Gmail, and whether it would be more cost-efficient and effective to store them on a separate backup server.

Crocker Communications does offer email service to the town, although their long-term storage is comparatively limited.

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PHOTOS BY MISTELLE HANNAH, GMRSD

Meet the farmers: Upinngil Farm's Isaac Bingham and his son August were among the community members who stopped by Gill Elementary during Food Day last Friday. Not pictured was August's mom, Sorrel Hatch. Cafeteria supervisor Brenda Gravelle served up a harvest stew she made with produce from the farm.

Wait, Hundreds of Food Days?

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

October 24 officially became National Food Day in 2008, and since then the non-profit organization Food Day has sponsored thousands of events on this date across the country.

While Food Day has on its advisory board many of the big names in the food movement, people like author Michael Pollan and chefs Dan Barber and Alice Waters, it was much less familiar to me than certain other food observances.

For example, I've been aware for years that June 5 is National Donut Day, because I cannot refuse Dunkin' Donuts' offer of a free fried, frosted zero.

But it turns out there are actually 214 national food days, of various sorts, in America. Last month, we were supposed to observe, as a nation, the significance of a dish, fruit, or vegetable on every day except for the 8th, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

And many dates honor two or more foods. Some of these combinations make sense – for example, celebrating National Coffee Day and National Biscotti day together. But I don't know if it's wise, or even possible, to celebrate a National Double Cheeseburger/Linguine/Cheese Toast/Crème de Menthe Day each September 15.

This publication week alone, we are encouraged to celebrate oatmeal on Thursday, candy corn on Friday, candy apples on Saturday, vinegar and fried clams on Sunday, deviled eggs on Monday, sandwiches on Tuesday, and candy on Wednesday (after all, it's cheaper after Halloween).

Other countries are apparently not nearly as interested in such celebrations as Americans. The U.K. and Canada each have three food days.

Brazil has the second-most, with eight, and Italy only celebrates National Espresso Day. As a side note, Italy is also the first country, as of last month, to bring an espresso machine into space.

But why is there this international disparity in days of nationwide recognition?

One reason seems to be that Americans, who should technically wait for an act of Congress, can instead just call any day their own, especially if they are looking to sell a certain product or otherwise modify the cultural fabric.

A North Dakota-based company called National Day Calendar provides a service through which, for a reasonable four-figure fee, anyone can register a National Day. Registration comes with a press release, a 20" x 30" framed certificate, a proclamation sent to 15,000 media outlets, and inclusion in a daily radio address heard, they claim, on hundreds of stations.

FOOD DAY from page A1

Ms. Hannah chose to eliminate all processed foods from the meal as her way of representing this theme.

Many schools have recently made commitments to sourcing food locally and educating around food issues. Our district is a member of Massachusetts Farm-to-School. Farm-to-School asks that members have a local food item featured on their menu at least twice a month, and Ms. Hannah explained that her department tries to serve at least one local item every single day.

Food Day made clear, however, some of the obstacles to serving exclusively locally-sourced, fresh foods.

One issue is the staffing and equipment in each kitchen. In Gill, for example, two cooks make lunch using only two burners, for just under a hundred rapidly growing children. Cooking meals from scratch requires a lot more time, and more training, than what's needed now.

While this is a challenge, it also offers rewards for the cooks in the realms of job satisfaction and karma. As Brenda Gravelle, the main cook at Gill Elementary, remarked, "To see the kids eat healthy vegetables... was huge for me."

Another barrier is cost. For the event last week, Gill's Upinngil Farm donated half of the produce, and Wendell's Diamond Farm donated all of the eggs. Normally the price of these goods would be much higher.

And, finally, some cultural changes would have to take place. People do not automatically like all foods – they need to learn to eat them. Referring to the teenagers' recalcitrant palates, Ms. Hannah said, "If you change [the menu] 100%, you're going to get 100% resistance."

Making effective, large-scale changes in the school's diet will require extra learning time in an already-busy day, as well as educators willing to lead public schools in a direction that most have not

yet taken.

The Gill-Montague school district gets most of its food from a few sources. They order some foods at a contracted price from distributors Thurston Foods and Simos & Co.

To keep expenses low, the district also purchases a lot of USDA commodity foods at below-market rates.

Most of these USDA foods are shipped canned, dried, or frozen. Besides providing low-cost staples to schools around the country, the second purpose of the commodity food program is to buy surpluses, benefiting the largest agricultural producers by propping up the price of their products at market.

The district also gets produce through a Department of Defense program called DoD Fresh. This program began in 1996 when the logistical geniuses at the Defense Personnel Support Center, which supplies military installations with fresh fruits and vegetables, began supplying schools as well.

With Food Day, the Gill-Montague School District is taking great steps toward providing better lunches, forging meaningful connections with farmers, and giving youth a true taste of the land we live on.

People and institutions form new habits incrementally, and Food Day was an important push for both the cafeterias and students. "The more kids are exposed to this, the more they're receptive to eating it," Ms. Hannah explained.

The cafeteria is an important place to engage students' senses and minds in a very different way than in the classroom, and Food Day made hundreds of youth more aware of the far-reaching implications of what's for lunch.

Referring to her students, Gravelle said, "they really gave me two thumbs up!"

I think that we can echo that sentiment in honoring the work that all the cooks, farmers, and management put into Food Day.



Melissa Murphy and Brenda Gravelle found cooking with locally sourced produce for Gill Elementary students rewarding, but challenging. "Along with the farmers, Melissa and Brenda are the ones that made the meal happen," said food service manager Mistelle Hannah.

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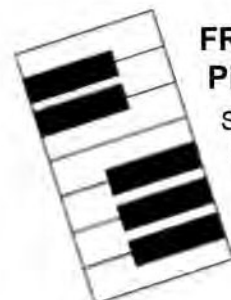
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ERVING from page A1
screening committee to review applications, conduct preliminary interviews, and check references.

The screeners will then recommend “three to four solid candidates who have the technical skills and competencies” to the selectboard for the administrative coordinator position.

Currently Arthur Johnson and Jacob Smith, two of the selectboard’s three members, sit on that screening committee. But Kobayashi advised the board against including a majority of its members on the committee, because then the names and resumes of the initial applicants could not be kept confidential under state open meeting law.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka, himself a screening committee member, joked that Johnson and Smith could arm wrestle to decide who stays on the committee. According to Kobayashi, that decision can be put off until early January.

“The biggest risk,” Kobayashi said, “is to have to make a choice between candidates who are mediocre... What you get in the end [with this process] are good choices.”

Kobayashi told the selectboard that candidates would be recruited in November and December, and screened in January, with finalists recommended to the board by the end of that month.

Procedures

Selectboard chair William Bembury recently sent a memo to department heads noting that town policy requires all employee time sheets, including those of department heads, be signed by supervisors.

In the case of most department heads, the supervisor is the selectboard, so the time sheets are signed at the time warrants for town expenditures are signed. But for library director Barbara Friedman, the supervisor is the three-member board of library trustees.

Friedman wrote to the selectboard saying that in her seven years as a town employee, she has not been required to have trustee signatures previously, and that getting them was inconvenient for both her and the trustees.

Johnson observed that getting the signatures was “a small inconvenience,” and was necessary for checks and balances.

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan said that, over the years, “the treasurer’s office has asked her to get the trustees to sign,” but Friedman has not done that.

Smith noted that, as he reviews the supporting documentation for warrants, he sees some departments with supervisor-signed timesheets, and some with missing signatures.

Treasurer’s assistant Julie Wonkka added that the signature policy “had never been an enforced policy.”

Smith said that, whatever had been done it the past, the policy would be enforced going forward.

Bembury said he would send department heads another memo confirming this.

The board decided that purchase orders will be required for all town purchases. Each department is expected to develop purchase order codes that include department codes, dates, and purchaser initials. Department heads will be required to keep track of the purchase order codes. Written purchase order codes will be required for purchases over \$2,500, and signed contracts for all purchases over \$10,000.

Laurel Lake Trash

Jim Plourde, a property owner on North Shore Road, wrote the board asking the town to supply a dumpster for North Shore Road property owners for six months of the year. The road is not accessible for the Duseau Trucking trash haulers, so the property owners at the seasonal cabins do not have trash pickup service as the rest of town does.

Planning board member Jacquelyn Boyden suggested that these property owners could pick up trash bag stickers at town hall, and stack bags at town hall parking lot for pickup by Duseau.

Debra Smith commented that a pile of trash bags would “make town hall look really bad.”

Philip Wonkka suggested that the town have a conversation with the state’s Laurel Lake Recreation Area to see if North Shore Road trash could be combined with recreation area trash.

The board decided to research trash removal options and costs and consider the matter at another meeting.

Other Business

The board approved a 36-month, \$4,967 lease for a folder/insert machine, to insert bills and other documents into envelopes.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard said the machine could be used by the tax collector, assessors, treasurer’s office, and possibly the town clerk, for mass mailings, such as property tax bills and town census forms.

Bembury reported that the boiler at the Pearl B. Care Historical Building had failed, and that a new boiler had been ordered. He said highway foreman Glen McCrory was investigating installing insulation at the building.

The board approved the police department’s body-worn camera policy. Police chief Chris Blair has mandated that all officers use body cameras at all times while on duty.

The board approved creation of an animal control officer revolving account and signed a memorandum of understanding with Bernardston, allowing Johnson, the ACO, to be paid for work done as Bernardston’s ACO.



WILD CARDS from page A1
towns in the path of the pipeline document potential environmental impacts. Towns have allocated funds for this purpose, including \$13,750 approved by a recent special town meeting in Montague.

However, rarely has FERC rejected a proposed pipeline project as a result of environmental impacts. FERC officials tend to view the extensive scoping process as proof that federal decision-making is sensitive to local concerns.

Then there is the crucial question of whether there is a “public necessity” for the project. As of now, TGP is asking for a pipeline that can move 1.2 billion cubic feet per day, but only has contracts, or “precedent agreements,” for less than half of that capacity.

At one time, FERC judged the need for a pipeline on whether the pipeline company had obtained sufficient long-term contracts for gas to make the project economically viable. This generally meant that projects like NED needed to show contracts to fill nearly all the proposed capacity.

This approach changed rather dramatically in September 1999, when FERC issued a new set of criteria to evaluate need. According to the new policy, “although contracts or precedent agreements always will be important evidence of demand for a project, the Commission will no longer require an applicant to present contracts for any specific percentage of the new capacity.” (88 FERC ¶ 61,227)

FERC’s new criteria involved a complicated balancing test to determine whereby the proposed pipeline’s adverse effects on existing customers, customers of competing pipelines, and landowners could be balanced by the project’s benefits: “if residual adverse effects on the three interests are identified, then the Commission will proceed to evaluate the project by balancing the evidence of public benefits to be achieved against the residual adverse effects.”

Public benefits can include a broad range of factors: “meeting unserved demand, eliminating bottlenecks, access to new supplies, lower costs to consumers, providing new interconnects that improve the interstate grid, providing competitive alternatives, increasing electric reliability, or advancing clean air objectives...”

Critics of natural gas pipelines argue that these criteria are badly outdated. According to Elaine Mroz, in a public comment to FERC regarding the TGP project:

“The nation’s energy picture has changed significantly since [1999], and even more dramatically in the past 5-7 years. Domestic fossil fuel production has increased dramatically, and controversially. At the same time technological advances in solar, wind, battery storage and conservation have radically shifted the public’s view of what is possible in the near future...”

TGP, on the other hand, may well stress that the “public necessity”

for the project is shown by energy prices in New England, particularly high electric prices during the winter months. High prices, it is argued, occur when electric generators must compete with the demands of homes and businesses that use natural gas for heating, and would be prevented by expanding total pipeline capacity.

The problem with this scenario has been that the companies that generate electricity have been unwilling to enter into long-term contracts with pipeline companies. This has meant that there are insufficient contracts to finance new pipelines and to show FERC that a pipeline proposal is economically viable. None of the contract agreements funding the proposed NED project, for example, are destined to fuel the regional electric grid.

This is where a recent decision by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) could prove to be a crucial piece of the puzzle.

The DPU decision seems to better benefit the Access Northeast project, a collaboration of a pipeline company and several utilities including Eversource.

DPU Lets Distributors Buy Gas

On October 2, the DPU ruled that electric distribution companies, like Eversource and National Grid, have the right to purchase natural gas through long-term contracts with pipeline companies. The gas will then be “released” to electric generating companies, presumably at lower prices than would be available on the spot market.

The result could be lower gas and electricity prices for customers. But the DPU also ruled, controversially, that electric companies could pass the up-front cost of those contracts on to ratepayers.

The idea of electricity and gas distributors making long-term contracts has been on and off the table for the last several years. In the spring of 2014 the concept was proposed by several electric companies and by an organization called the “New England States Committee on Electricity” (NESCOE), which claims to represent New England’s governors on energy issues. The concept lay dormant until last April, when the Baker administration’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) called on the DPU to initiate an investigation.

It should perhaps be noted that NESCOE, which played a key role in initiating the idea of electric companies purchasing natural gas, includes DPU officials. The DPU, in turn, is part of the EEA, which not only requested the investigation but also filed the main brief arguing in favor of the proposal.

The process, it turned out, was more than an investigation: it culminated in new regulations that could have a major impact on state

energy policy.
While the final decision might seem a bit preordained, there was an extensive debate over both energy and legal issues. Documents submitted by various stakeholders provide excellent sources for those interested in evidence for and against the need for more pipelines. Supporters of the EEA’s proposal, which included electric companies, manufacturing interests and of course the TGP, focused heavily on the impact of limited pipeline capacity on electric rates.
Opponents included environmental groups like the Conservation Law Foundation; the New England Power Generators Association; and GDF Suez, a multinational that imports liquefied natural gas into the region.
They argued that the proposal’s impact on electric rates is a matter of conjecture, and that the fifty-day-per-year shortfall in gas supply can be appropriately handled by using more imported liquefied natural gas.

There was also a lengthy debate over whether the DPU has the legal mandate to issue such an order, and whether it followed the required rule-making process.
These will be key issues in an appeal filed by Conservation Law Foundation and GDF Suez to the state’s Supreme Judicial Court.

The impact of the decision on TGP’s federal application is a matter of speculation. One can expect the company to point to the DPU ruling as evidence that it will be able to fill its remaining capacity. But it is unclear how the new policy will be implemented, and whether it will hold up in the courts. And any contracts with electric companies will require numerous public hearings and the DPU’s approval.

The DPU decision seems to better benefit the Access Northeast project, a collaboration of a pipeline company called Spectra and several utilities including Eversource. Access Northeast, which would expand an existing pipeline though Connecticut to eastern Massachusetts, is designed to deliver gas to large electric generators. It has been portrayed as a competitor with the TGP.
And the total amount of pipeline capacity envisioned by both projects together could suggest “over-build,” something FERC in theory seeks to avoid.

Article 97 and Sandisfield

Another wild card is the status of Article 97. Passed in 1972 as an amendment to the state constitution, the article created a public right to “clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic qualities of their environment...”

It went on to stipulate that “lands and easements acquired or taken for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two-thirds vote, taken by yeas and neas, of each branch of the general court.”

In other words, the legislature see **WILD CARDS** next page

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WILD CARDS from prev. page must approve any use or “taking” of lands set aside for conservation for other purposes. The TGP pipeline would pass through numerous of these, including a large section of the Montague Plains.

Whether the refusal of the legislature to approve an Article 97 taking could block an interstate project like the pipeline is an open question. The federal government, after all, has authority over interstate commerce under the U.S. Constitution.

But a recent request for an Article 97 vote by the legislature on a different project puts the issue on the front burner.

The project is called the Connecticut Expansion Project, designed to expand an existing TGP pipeline in that state. A small portion of that pipeline travels through the southwest corner of Massachusetts. TGP wishes to create a new “loop” in the town of Sandisfield that would pass through the Otis State Forest.

The company requested that state legislators from the region sponsor a bill to approve the Chapter 97 taking, but they are reported to have refused. Instead, a representative from Hingham named Garrett Bradley has proposed the measure, numbered H. 3690. There will be a hearing on it at the State House’s Gardner Auditorium at 11 a.m. on November 10.

Pipeline opponents are calling the bill a “test case” for the legislature’s attitude regarding pipelines and Article 97. It is somewhat curious that the pipeline company would request such a measure, since a vote either up or down would appear to support the argument that the state lawmakers have veto power over pipeline projects.

In any case, the legislature will recess for the holidays before Thanksgiving so unless there is a quick vote following the hearing, no action will be taken until the new year.

One Less Nuke

A final development that could impact the state-level pipeline debate is the announcement of the

closing of Massachusetts’ last nuclear power plant, Plymouth’s Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station, in 2019. The plant, which supplies energy for the regional grid, had not appeared on recent lists of generators destined for imminent retirement.

Although the plant closing appeared as something of a surprise, another wild card thrown into the natural gas pipeline debate, there were prior indications that the facility’s years were numbered.

Last spring, UMass completed a study that evaluated the economic impact of a closing on the Plymouth and the region. In September, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission downgraded the plant’s safety rating to the lowest level. It is said to require millions of dollars in repairs.

ISO New England, which administers the regional power grid and must approve Pilgrim’s decommissioning, immediately linked the loss of Pilgrim’s 680-MW capacity to a potential increase in demand for natural gas:

“Even before Pilgrim’s announcement, more than 3,500 MW, or approximately 10%, of New England’s generation has recently retired or will retire over the next few years. With Pilgrim’s announcement, recent and pending retirements will total nearly 4,200 MW by June 1, 2019.

“These retiring resources are mostly older generating plants that use oil, coal, and nuclear. Of the 11,000 MW of proposed new generation, two-thirds would use natural gas and most of the rest would use wind to generate power.”

But those predictions are subject to debate.

According to Greg Cunningham of the Conservation Law Foundation, “We are concerned about the apparent enthusiasm around the states for a leap to fill this void [created by nuclear plant closings] with natural gas plants...”

“It’s heading us in the wrong direction.”



PUMPKINS from page A1

Deb Bourbeau, who oversaw a pumpkin-counting station in front of Subway, one of two such stations.

“That’s it?” Bourbeau said when she heard Nelson’s estimate. “Our booth did 500 – we had the Northfield [parent-teacher organization] check in, and they had 304 pumpkins. He may want to check his figures.”

She said the counting station at Seventh Street opened two hours earlier, and was near the shuttle drop-off.

But Nelson confirmed that the Second Street booth “did end up having a larger quantity turned in this year,” and said the total was indeed 725.

He added that about three hundred pumpkins were carved onsite

this year, under the auspices of Montague Parks and Recreation. Pumpkins were donated by Patterson Farm and Mount Toby Farm.

Montague police dispatch logs noted very little disturbance Saturday, besides two complaints about parked cars, a crash on Montague City Road, and an unwanted party at a downtown bar.

According to Nelson, there is currently no plan to make a bid for Keene’s 2013 world record, which surpassed 30,000 lit jack o’lanterns.

“I would love to set a personal record for the event,” he said, explaining that in its first year, Turners saw around 1,200 pumpkins. “I would love if we could double our numbers from this year next year.”



By JOSH HEINEMANN

Pam Richardson came to the Wendell selectboard’s October 21 meeting to tell board members that she had located eight Native American artifacts that were unearthed in Wendell in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

These artifacts – an arrow head, two ax heads, a splitting maul, a five-pound stone pestle, a piece of a decorated clay pot, and a piece of a decorated ceremonial stone pipe – are being stored, but not exhibited, in a back room of Harvard University’s Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology.

The pieces have not been dated precisely, but they are all from the “woodland” period, 1,000 B.C. to 1,600 A.D. The stone pestle and ceremonial pot suggest that the people who used them were not just passing through the area or on a hunting expedition, but were staying in one place for some time, possibly for encampments year after year.

Richardson said she learned about their existence during an Old Home Day conversation with John Wilson, whose great-grandparents lived in an elegant house, no longer standing, where the Pine Brook Camp & Conference Center now sits.

She went to see the artifacts. The Peabody Museum is willing to lend them for viewing in Wendell for a mere \$150 each, plus other expense, and with the assurance that they will be locked up, at least in a glass case.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked why the cost was so high, and Richardson answered that the museum normally lends them out to other museums and institutions with more money, and larger endowments, than this small western Massachusetts town has.

Preparing for this selectboard meeting, she had written a letter asking museum authorities to lower the cost, considering Wendell’s size and budget constraints, and she gave that letter to board members to sign, which they willingly did.

ACO Resignation

On October 17, Maggie Houghton, Wendell’s long time animal control officer, picked up a dog who had lost his collar and was found wandering.

Houghton no longer keeps dogs at her house, and because the sheriff’s kennel closes at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Houghton brought the dog there. The kennel doesn’t open again until Monday morning. The dog’s owner was upset because it meant the dog would be in the shelter until then, and wrote an email on the town’s listserv expressing her frustration.

That email generated a flurry of responses, some praising Hough-

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Museum Artifacts Sought; Maggie Houghton Resigns

ton’s decades of dedicated service to the town, some defending the quality of care at the shelter, and some in sympathy with the owner.

The emails also frustrated Houghton, and she submitted a resignation letter to the selectboard, delivered at this meeting, and effective as soon as a replacement is hired. She gave three possible names.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said, “That’s easy, we just don’t appoint another person.”

But more seriously the board members were shocked because Houghton has been a Wendell fixture for decades, known for her love of dogs, and her kind treatment of animals she has had to shelter. The board hoped she might be convinced to change her mind, and decided to send her a letter asking her to reconsider.

Solar Tax Chat

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, reporting back from her review of how other towns deal with property taxes for large solar installations, said that there is a range of agreements for assessments, varying from \$8 to \$12 million per megawatt.

The equipment is expensive, and taxing it as personal property could stop companies from building and operating a system. Dan Mascroft and Haskell Werlin of Sunnectivity LLC came to the selectboard’s October 7 meeting to learn the town’s intentions so they can project costs, and restart work, on a 2-MW solar installation they have planned on private land in Wendell.

Whatever agreement is made will need town meeting approval, but there is a thought floating that governor Baker will agree to lifting the cap on large-scale solar net metering, and if that happens, Mascroft and Werlin want to be ready to act. To be ready to act, they need to know their expenses.

Pooser said that it might be enough to let them know what the selectboard and assessors intend, with the understanding that no decision would be made until the town meeting approves it.

Heat Pumps?

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger and member Laurie DiDonato presented the board with several proposals for using some of the grant money that Wendell earned by becoming a Green Community.

The largest energy savings, and also the most expensive project, is most likely replacement and repair of the town hall heating system ducts. Whittier Plumbing is not interested in the duct work, but suggested installing heat pumps, mini splits, at a cost of \$23,000.

David Facey estimated that re-

placing and repairing the ducts would cost \$24,000, and Whittier suggested keeping the oil furnaces and installing the heat pumps. Heat pumps also can provide air conditioning, but as heaters they lose their effectiveness when temperatures are very low. They are more suitable in the mid Atlantic states than in New England.

A decision can wait for the next selectboard meeting.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp would replace the library’s fluorescent lights with LED’s at a cost of \$5,700 of which the town would have to pay \$1,400, with an annual savings estimated at \$175.

Riebschlaeger also said that roof and roof support repair which are needed in the highway garage and fire station should be made strong enough so the well-situated south-facing roof can support solar panels. The problem of snow sliding off that roof and blocking the doorways has been addressed, so far, by the quick work of the road crew.

Other Business

Kathleen Leonard is organizing a “partial potluck” harvest dinner, scheduled for Saturday, November 7, to benefit Wendell citizens Gail and Mike, and asked for the fee for use of the kitchen and town hall to be waived. The selectboard agreed.



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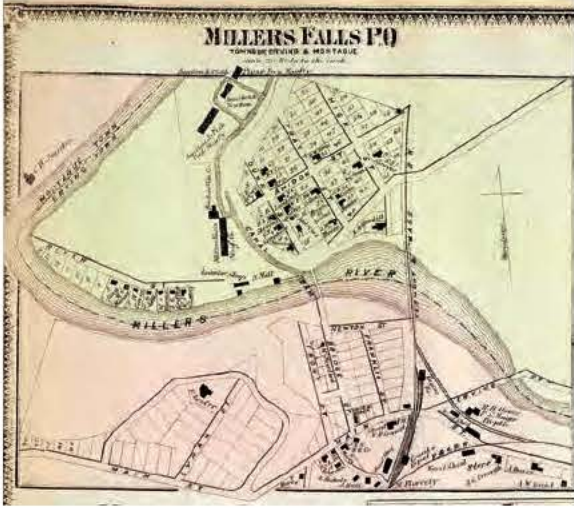
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ADVICE WITH PURPOSE

At the Discovery Center: Talking About the Moores of Millers Falls



By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – If you know a little bit about local history you may know that Millers Falls was once called Grout's Corner. It was first a stage stop, and then a railroad depot.

How and when did it change?

Sara Campbell and Shari Strahan will share the story of the nearly forgotten Moore family, who brought manufacturing to the village in the 1860s. "More About the Moores" will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday afternoon, November 7 at 1 p.m.

The puzzle for these two sleuths began four years ago when they came across the plan that subdivided the house lots around Prospect Street on the Erving side of the river. It was titled "Heirs of James Moore."

They soon found out that James Moore had roots in the Hartford, Connecticut area reaching back to the early 1600s. His heirs were many, and each has a story to tell.

James was a lad of 17 when his father bought land along the river and brought his family north to Erving's Grant in the 1830s, even before the town was incorporated.

The Moores began to farm and cut and mill logs for lumber in Wendell, Montague and Erving. James' father, **Oliver Moore**, had business interests in Connecticut to attend to, and it was often left to James to maintain the household in Massachusetts.

Through exploring the available land records, births and deaths, old newspapers, and a large collection of letters and documents archived at Old Sturbridge Village and at Yale University, Sara and Shari have pieced together a fascinating story of a Franklin County family in the mid-nineteenth century.

"I don't think these documents (in Sturbridge) have been read in years, if ever," says Campbell. "Hearing about what these people went through, in their own words, is eye-opening, and at times, gut-wrenching."

The story of the Moores includes many themes common to all of our ancestors, and some that are remarkable.

Take a walk back in time and experience young love, real estate speculation, hard work, disease, heartbreak, and a little bit of scandal.

Although the Moores may be all but forgotten to our local history, the name of one of their descendants is almost a household word. Who is it?

This project is funded through the Montague Cultural Council, a local cultural organization of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Plum Island Interlude

By DAVID BRULE

NEWBURYPORT – Maybe not unlike some of you, I prefer the Atlantic coast when the last of the beach-goers have left, gone with their beach chairs, coolers, and beach parasols. When they're finally gone, the beach and sometimes stormy shore are left to loners like me. That's when the Atlantic shores are the best, the rougher and stormier the better!

So in this transition season between late fall and winter, well after Columbus Day, or Indigenous Peoples' Day as we should now call it, I often head down Route 2 in the opposite direction from the bumper-to-bumper leaf peepers lining up to inch along the Mohawk Trail.

Radio blasting, picnic lunch in the cooler, binoculars and telescope packed into the car, last week I sailed down to the coast with a light heart and feeling not just a little smug. I was going leaf-peeping down in the dunes of Plum Island, while those colorful leaves the city people were looking for out here in the west of the state piled up in my back yard.

Cruising through the heights of Newburyport, through the neighborhoods of the stately homes of sea captains and 19th century tycoons, I sped by the Mass Audubon's Center at Joppa Flats,

crossed the hump-backed bridge, and was on Plum Island.

True to expectation and a wonderful welcome back, a beautiful marsh hawk – or Northern harrier, as it is now called – kited and sailed its erratic flight over the yellow grasses of the Parker River Wildlife Refuge on Plum.

A stiffening yet warmish breeze picked up, and the main parking lot was mostly empty. As is my personal custom I pop a CD into the player: Vivaldi's "Il Proteo," which never fails to bring into view a lovely hawk floating in lazy, lyrical circles, matching the strings and basso continuo of the 17th century composer's *largo*. Sure enough, now two marsh hawks join and float, teasing and dancing in the bright air over my car, wheeling in seeming time with the baroque cadences rising up to meet them.

Further along, a dozen cars are stopped at the salt pannes, ogling the ducks: baldpates (American widgeon), gadwalls, and northern shoveler tip up and poke beneath the surface of the shallow waters, scrutinized by a barrage of thousands of dollars' worth of telescopes and telephoto lenses. I cruise on by, heading for my favorite spot off the Rocks where sea birds gather and where I can find three miles of elbow room.

see WEST page B3

The Sinister Agenda Behind the "Cellarholes" Studies

By ANN TWEEDY

SHUTESBURY – In the 1920s, the towns of Leverett, Shutesbury, Pelham, and the lost Quabbin town of Prescott, were unwitting hosts to ghoulish visitations.

According to a 2002 *Boston Magazine* article by Welling Savo called "The Master Race," a Miss Fisk and Miss Benedict from Smith College and an eager young college student from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now UMass-Amherst, roamed from home to home, intent on cataloguing residents.

Eye color, age, height, temperament, habits, and any apparent "defects" like double-jointedness, extra digits, "sinisterity," – left-handedness – and migraine, were marked down in a notebook. The students asked the locals for dirt on their neighbors, including financial and sexual information. They also visited the town halls and schools, and collected financial information, grades, and official records.

Leon Whitney, a dog breeder, genetics enthusiast, descendent of inventor Eli Whitney, and executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, commissioned the study.

Whitney also wrote to the principals and superintendents of the schools in Shutesbury and Leverett, as well as Greenfield and Millers Falls, asking for students' intelligence tests and requesting to conduct more tests.

Whitney would use this information in his book, *The Case for Sterilization* (Frederick A. Stokes Company, NY, 1934), which garnered him a fan letter from Hitler.

The paper trail for this study can be found in three folders titled "Shutesbury Leverett Survey" in Leon Whitney's files in the American Eugenics Society Records, now stored at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

Whitney was aided locally by colleagues, including Professor Frank Hamilton Hankins, sociology professor at Smith College. A visit to the Smith College archives and Professor Hankins' files yielded nothing in



Shutesbury's Ames family, circa 1895: "Cellar hole dwellers," or regular folks?

terms of the Shutesbury-Leverett survey. Nor did the online eugenics archives at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

But there are plenty of records regarding field workers that reference Smith students and general protocol. According to Eugenics Record Office Bulletin No. 2 (1911), the field workers were given the following instructions:

"To secure satisfactory results, sympathetic and confidential relations must always be maintained. The field worker endeavors to see as many relatives as possible. In this way facts omitted or overlooked by one are often recalled and told in full detail by another."

"Every additional interview is sure to reveal new facts. Addresses of relatives who live in other sections are recorded to be used later by an investigator in that section. Whenever the field worker learns of any defectives who are in need of Institutional care, their names and addresses are obtained, and filed with the other material."

"By this means, useful information is available when application is made for admission to Institutions."

The Fertility of the Stocks

Hankins' files did reveal a lot about the man and his work, and provided information on another controversial questionnaire and survey. In 1928, Prof. Hankins asked seniors in his sociology course to fill out a questionnaire regarding their sexual philosophy and behavior, and a majority of the women believed in premarital sex and consensual divorce.

There was outrage and concern when this survey was made public. Massachusetts' state motor registrar, Frank A. Goodwin, addressed a convention lamenting, "No wonder promiscuity is increasing among college girls! It may be interesting to note that almost 100 percent of the presidents and teachers in these colleges for women have signed petitions for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti."

see EUGENICS page B4



Horned Larks – Eremophila alpestris

Skeleton Crew Theater Brings an Interactive Halloween Experience to TFHS

By REPORTER STAFF

A mysterious, imaginative, hand crafted Halloween journey awaits those who travel off the beaten path to the Skeleton Crew Theater production at Turners Falls High School on Friday and Saturday. Recommended for ages 7 and older, Skeleton Crew

Theater is an original Halloween outing that is enchanting, intriguing, a little scary, and very delightful.

The creatures and sets are unique creations, not Hollywood characters, and there're no chainsaws, blood, or zombie gore. The setup is described as "part interactive theater, part scavenger hunt."

Skeleton Crew Theater is the brainchild of TFHS video teacher Jonathan Chappell, but the high school students are involved in every aspect of the production: building the friendly monsters, voicing the characters, working the puppets, leading guests throughout the enchantingly haunted halls of the school.

"This attracts a unique, artsy crowd of kids who may otherwise feel overwhelmed by our school's focus on sports," explained Jess Vachula-Curtis, a special education teacher and junior class co-advisor.

see SKELETON page B6

SPORTS CORNER

At right: Touchdown! FCTS quarterback CJ Daignault finds an opening at the goal line for a touchdown during overtime play against the McCann Tech Hornets. The Hornets were stung, 8-6.



At left: Senior Captain Rileigh Carlisle controls the ball during the game against Holyoke High School. Holyoke HS kept their undefeated status with a 4-0 victory.

DAVID HICHT PHOTOS



Pets of the Week



PET RATS!

Why are rats terrific pets? They're very social, they're curious and quite intelligent animals. Plus they're always up for some fun! Dakin has welcomed several excellent pet rats recently from local pet-hoarding situations, and they're waiting to go home.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities

November 2 to 6

GILL and MONTAGUE
Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch

Monday 11/2
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/3
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 11/4
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/5
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Card Games & Scrabble

Friday 11/6
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL
Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Beters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 11/2
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 11/3
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Painting Class
12:45 p.m. Jewelry Class

Wednesday 11/4
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
1 p.m. Veterans

Thursday 11/5
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones; SNAP
12:30 p.m. Card Games

Friday 11/6
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza & More

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV: Meetings, Halloween & More!

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Halloween is almost upon us! If you missed Franklin County Pumpkinfest, not to fear! There are more (family-friendly!) chances to get into the Halloween spirit coming your way. These include an interactive haunted house event by **Skeleton Crew Theater** at Turners Falls High School on October 30 and 31, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. (adults \$10, kids \$7, free under 5; 413-834-0386), and the **Rag Shag Parade** on Avenue A (meets at dusk Oct. 31st in Food City parking lot –come in costume!), geared toward kids grade 6 and under and their families (free; 863-3216).

This week we have some recent local meetings added to the TV schedule & available online:

Gill-Montague regional school committee meeting, 10/13: Agenda items included a special education presentation by Nancy Parlakulas, an ELL presentation by Rebecca Wright, the superintendent's report, the director of business & operations report, and a report by the Collaboration for Educational Services.

Montague selectboard meeting, 10/19: Agenda items included an announcement of the Mass Cultural Council's Adams Arts Grant of \$16,250 awarded to Turners Falls RiverCulture, as well as discussions of local funding allocations, a time extension (until Dec. 15) for the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project, and a vote to join the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline.

Public comments included an invitation to the selectboard to join an upcoming meeting of the Coalition for Racial Justice, where they will be working to finalize a proposal for implementing racial sensitivity training for town employees.




Gill selectboard meeting, 10/19: Agenda items included discussion of the addition of LED streetlights and outdoor lighting for public buildings at night, as well as a report from superintendent of schools Michael Sullivan on strategies being used by the Gill-Montague district to increase academic rigor. Sullivan addressed a letter from the selectboard challenging a 5th grade field trip to learn about Sheffield 6th grade. Public comment included concern about a remark made in the school committee meeting which stated that former Gill-Montague teachers should not serve on the school committee.

Montague finance committee meeting, 10/21: Discussion items included the following propositions related to the Fiscal Year 2017 budget process: making a budget appropriation for part-time clerical help for town boards and committees, making IT expenses its own department, appropriating \$50k to the Other Post-Employment Benefits trust fund rather than to the town's general stabilization fund, and increasing the stipend for elected boards.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capturing the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

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High levels of hs-CRP:

- Consistently predict new coronary events in patients who've had a heart attack.
- Are linked to lower survival rates of heart-attack victims.
- May increase the risk that an artery will reclose after it's been opened by balloon angioplasty.
- Seem to predict recurrent events in patients with peripheral arterial disease.

However, the connection between high CRP levels and heart-attack risk is not completely understood. There is evidence that suggests inflammation is involved in atherosclerosis—hardening of the arteries. It's possible that an infection might cause atherosclerosis.

There's a theory that inflammation contributes to heart disease by working with cholesterol that is deposited in the plaques on blood-vessel walls. Inflammation may damage the plaques, allowing tiny portions to break off into the bloodstream. These small fragments can lodge in small blood vessels in the heart or brain, causing a heart attack or stroke.

The CRP test is ordered when inflammation is risky, such as after surgery. Because CRP levels drop when inflammation abates, the test is ordered to determine whether treatment of an inflammatory disease is working. In addition, CRP tests are used to monitor the healing of wounds, organ transplants and burns.

The American Heart Association says this test isn't recommended for general screening for heart disease. And it might not be helpful in determining your heart attack risk, depending on your health and lifestyle choices.

According to the American Heart Association, an hs-CRP test is most useful for people who have an intermediate risk (a 10 to 20 percent chance) of having a heart attack within the next 10 years. This risk level—called the global risk assessment—is based on lifestyle choices, family history and current health status.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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WEST from page B1

Out there, in this season, the shore is littered with sea-wreck, drift wood, washed up lobster pots, an unfortunate number of plastic containers, and alas!: one or two harbor seal cadavers, likely victims of unexpected powerful storms.

I settle in, sit in the sand, take out my sandwich. Out of nowhere appears a ring-billed gull who watches me fixedly.

“Are you going to eat all that?”

He clearly is communicating with me, using seagull mind control.

He wants me to give him the crust. I obey.

Immaculate sanderling sandpipers hunker down at the water’s edge, looking like two dozen snowballs along the tideline. Just resting on one leg, then lifting up suddenly in unison when a lone jogger, very self-involved, ear buds plugged in, moves along the edge of the merry sandpiper band. They settle far out on a rock pinnacle, just out of reach of the rolling waves.

After my lunch in the sand shared with the gull, I take a long peramble down the beach, with an eye on the jet-black and snow-white patterned surf ducks, the scoters, excitedly flying up and down the breaking waves, splashing and chasing each other as though it were mating season all over again.

A shiny beach-ball of a head appears in the waves, looking at me with liquid, mournful eyes – a huge gray seal checks me out, then looks at the scoters, then slips away beneath the waves.

Was that the Irish *selkie* who turns up in my waves everywhere I go? Or was it just some curious loner of a seal with time on her hands, or flippers? She’d better be careful, the great white sharks are cruising these waters, looking for a tasty seal sandwich.

After a spell of stretching out on the shore watching the waves, I realize how good it is to leave this Connecticut River Valley from time to time, to be immersed in a different kind of ecology.

But by three in the afternoon, the

sun is already angling lower in the west, throwing a golden glow over the dunes and weathered boardwalk. Here on the Atlantic coast, there are no maples or birch to add their yellows and burnt orange to the fall atmosphere, but the burnished beach plum bushes, the pale tawny grasses, and vivid red poison ivy create a fall foliage all the coast’s own.

Walking along the sand-colored boardwalk a few feet above the glens and hollows created by the winds and tides, one has the feeling of stepping out into some kind of paradise, along some winding way to heaven. A peaceful kind of feeling fills the mind and soul, abetted by the salt air and sharp sea breeze that has reddened cheeks and face over the past few hours.

Suddenly, as if on schedule, a cloud of heretofore invisible birds rise up, fifty of them float up and over a dune like drifting leaves caught in a small whirlwind. A lone *peep* call lingers behind them telling me they are horned larks that had been moving along the sand dune ridge, unseen.

They’ll not go far this winter, but will haunt these dunes through the cold months, hunkering down in the hollows when the cold ocean winds blow. They lilt and swirl, just like their fellow winter waifs, the snow buntings, that we saw in the same hollow here last November.

Like the larks I almost float back to the parking lot, where the car has waited patiently, warm and cozy, having stored up some passive solar heat over the late afternoon.

I motor slowly along the asphalt-smooth surface of the road leading out of the sanctuary, ducks still dabble in the setting sun, my marsh hawk kites endlessly over the grasslands.

My favorite café in Newburyport is bustling just a mile away from this timeless calm of paradise, and the anticipated jolt of a double espresso has already produced its desired effect. Once that jolt is in me, I’ll be off and back to our valley, heading west to where the golden October sun is close to setting.



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Used Book Room Open at Carnegie Library

By NANCY CROWELL

TURNERS FALLS – The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will be opening for the public the used book room in the basement of the Carnegie Library on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to noon, starting in November. November 7 and November 21 are the two dates to mark on your calendar.

Books and DVD’s will be priced individually at tag sale prices: Paperbacks 25 cents, or 5 for \$1. Hardcover, DVDs and audio books \$1 each. Not to worry, we will still have our

books-by-the-bag sales a couple of times a year. Why wait? Come Saturday, November 7 and get the best selection.

All funds will be used to support our libraries. Donations of gently used clean books (no textbooks) are welcome.

Please note: books that have been stored a long time or in a damp place often develop mold. You can identify this by black or brown speckles on the end pages or page tops. Such books should be recycled.

For more information, please contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 863-3214.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Two Crashes at Turnpike & Montague City; Locks Cut At Railroad Salvage Annex

Monday, 10/19

8:17 a.m. Received a report that the same female trespassing near the United Arc building yesterday was there again last night. Some of her belongings are still there, and there are burnt remnants that show she had a fire. Female party is not present at this time. Caller advised of options. Extra patrols requested in the area.

11:19 a.m. A caller at Sunrise Terrace reports a fox was walking in her yard. The fox exhibited no signs of being ill, but the caller states she called because she doesn’t like the idea of a fox in her yard, because there are cats in the neighborhood. She will call back if the fox returns.

1:30 p.m. Three youths skateboarding at the Freedom Credit Union were told to move along.

4:50 p.m. A party called to report several vehicles backed up to a large pile of loam on Federal Street and is worried they may be stealing it. Sergeant spoke with the parties; they are not taking any loam.

Tuesday, 10/20

8:23 a.m. An L Street caller reported her unlocked vehicle was broken into overnight. She recovered a pocket-sized flashlight and a pill bottle in her driveway, but had already handled the items. Report taken.

10:57 a.m. Caller found a needle on L Street, placed it in a soda bottle, and requested an officer to pick it up.

6:27 p.m. A caller on Fifth Street reported a male stole his wallet. The male asked to borrow ten dollars, and stole the wallet while the caller was retrieving the money. Caller called back to advise male party is at his apartment and returned the wallet with twenty dollars missing. Caller did not want to press charges.

Wednesday 10/21

9:41 a.m. Multiple calls reporting a tractor trailer jackknifed in the road on West Main Street in Millers Falls.

2:26 p.m. Officers patrolling near Railroad Salvage found the fence pried open, and a wooden board that was covering a window on the smaller building also pried off. Officers will place a call to the last known owner/representative for the property. Officers spoke to [redacted] who advised that any issues with the main building at this location, the falling down old Railroad Salvage building, are the responsibility of [redacted]. The other smaller brick building is the property of the town of Montague. Called back [redacted] who

was advised that the lock had been cut. She stated “this is seventh time that this lock has been cut.” Advised of options.

3:22 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle collision where a vehicle struck a pole near Aubuchon Hardware. Eversource notified a pole appears to have been moved. One patient transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

4:07 p.m. A caller reported a previous breaking and entering at Third Street Laundry. He provided a thumb drive with copies of several videos that show the suspects. Caller did not want to speak to an officer.

6:18 p.m. A conductor on the NE Central train called to report that he may have hit a dog a half mile back. He was not 100% sure if he did hit the dog, but stopped the train in Millers Falls to call to report it. Animal control officer searched the area; advised there was no injured or deceased dog found.

Thursday, 10/22

8:59 a.m. Walk-in reporting past breaking and entering attempts on Lake Pleasant Road. Advised of options.

9:34 a.m. Same party called back stating somebody entered the residence and left it in disarray while they were at the station. K9 unit dispatched.

6:05 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance on G Street. A male party kicked out a window and has lacerations to his foot, ankle, and leg. Officers responded with GPD, Medicare, and TFFD en route. The male fought with police even after being cuffed. Officer on board with Medicare, advises there is significant damage to the apartment. Further charges may be pending.

7:57 p.m. Two callers report an intoxicated individual throwing items at the Scotty’s storefront and later wandering into the road, nearly being struck. Individual brought into protective custody. No damage apparent to the building.

9:12 p.m. Caller reports fire alarms sounding at I Street property; reports contact with hearing-impaired male in apartment. Fire department reports no smoke or flame, but a natural gas odor detected. Berkshire Gas notified.

11:25 p.m. A female party walked into the station to report her debit card was used to withdraw money from an ATM and provided pictures of the suspect, who was her daughter’s

boyfriend.

Friday, 10/23

3:58 a.m. Caller on L Street reports she woke to someone running down the stairs in her home, and that there had been a male intruder in her daughter’s room. Male has left the home. Area checked, units clear. Spoke with both parties.

4:53 a.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant at a Walnut Street residence.

8:47 a.m. A caller reports someone has dumped tires and a 275-gallon oil tank on Mineral Road. Officer unable to locate oil tank, but did notice several tires.

9:43 a.m. Two car motor vehicle collision at Montague City and Turnpike roads, with one party complaining of heart issues and smoke coming from one vehicle. Medicare and TFFD notified. Three patients transported to the hospital.

10:02 a.m. Caller reports her K Street apartment was broken into between 8 and 10 a.m. Advised to leave to preserve evidence. Officer investigated, and advised caller of options.

12:48 p.m. Caller at St. Anne’s Cemetery reported a sedan with a black male operator drive toward the high-tension lines; felt the location was suspicious. She called back, saying she had spoken with him and that he was waiting for a friend; possible disabled motor vehicle. Advised of options.

7:48 p.m. Report of erratic driving on Lake Pleasant Road. Caller followed the vehicle, providing a license plate, but was unable to follow due to speed. Officer checked the area, unable to locate.

9:19 p.m. Officer at Shea Theater requested a cruiser to escort a party home for the night. Cancelled when male said his home was on Third Street. Dropped him off at his residence, where he advised he would be staying in for the night.

Saturday, 10/24

7:47 a.m. Voicemail from Southworth Paper Mill indicating they will be cleaning their sludge line. Request to check the bridge for traffic issues.

3:37 p.m. Several complaints about traffic congestion and parking at Avenue A and Eleventh Street. Large number of vehicles in the area, but no more than other areas downtown; none blocking any streets.

4:53 p.m. Received complaint about a vehicle parked by the dumpster

at an L Street location blocking the driveway, so caller is unable to exit for work. Officer determined there was enough room for caller to back out, and that the vehicle was parked on private property. Caller declined assistance backing out.

7:06 p.m. Two-car accident at Turnpike and Montague City roads, with personal injury and fluids. Vehicles towed; one party transported to Baystate Franklin.

8:08 p.m. Caller at F.L. Roberts advised he is driving the bus for Pumpkinfest, and clipped a car near this location. Remaining on scene for an officer to respond. Vehicle damaged was unoccupied; note left for driver to contact police.

11 p.m. Walk-in report of an elderly male, taken out of a nursing home by his daughter-in-law, now homeless. Male is constantly being put in “time out,” is in a 2-bedroom apartment with six adults. Subject given the Elder Abuse hotline phone number and advised of options.

11:54 p.m. Officer wanted at Between the Uprights. Situation unknown. Responding officer asked others to be on the lookout for a male party who had been trespassed from property.

Sunday, 10/25

2:40 a.m. Report of a hit-and-run on a car parked on Turners Falls Road. Vehicle towed; advised of options. At 4 p.m., same party reported she had spoken with male involved, he gave her his information, and they would be taking care of the matter themselves.

5:24 a.m. Complaint of loud music from Grove Street residence. Request that this be put on the record; no other action requested.

10:11 a.m. Report of a fluid spill down a significant length of Park Street. Sergeant followed a trail from Park to Seventh to Avenue A, ending in the vicinity of Couture Bros. Advised the fluid has begun to evaporate and is not slippery; appears to be a gas/oil mix. No need to contact any other agencies.

12:17 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on a default warrant in Turners Falls. 12:53 p.m. Caller reports that while her vehicle was parked in the wildlife management area at the end of North Street, her rear windshield was smashed, apparently maliciously. Nothing was missing. Caller advised.

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EUGENICS from page B1

But Goodwin’s vector of paranoia, connecting promiscuous tendencies on college campuses with anarchism and communism, was misplaced. To Professor Hankins, the sexual freedom of his Smith students meant the potential for increased reproduction in ideal families.

He wrote to Alice Teagle, chairman of the Smith Alumnae Fund, in 1929: “I think there is no greater need than the preservation of the fertility of the stocks who are sending children to college and then into the professions. My observation as well as adequate statistical evidence bears out the belief that the more gifted strains in our population are utterly failing to reproduce themselves.”

This situation occupied his thoughts. In notes on a lecture, he wondered if the poor were able to reproduce successfully because food insecurity triggered a biological response, and wondered if there was an association between physical labor and fertility.

He also made a stunning conjecture that frequency of intercourse may be a factor. Hankins’ article in *People* magazine (April 1931) warned that “the future American will be darker in complexion, shorter in stature, and stockier in build,” and promoted eugenics in tandem with modernism: “We can’t go back to the days of chin-whiskers and hand-scythes.”

The fear of backwards, rural “old stock” New England families was a concern of Hankins and other eugenics supporters. The records from the Eugenics Board show several genealogical studies of these families lurking in dead backwater towns.

(Horror writer H.P. Lovecraft fictionalized this idea of a devolving

stock in *The Lurking Fear*, about the formerly vital Dutch Martense family, who live in an underground warren in New York state and have one blue and one brown eye.)

The Pratts

According to Savo’s 2002 *Boston Magazine* article, the American Eugenics Society sent field worker Isabelle Kendig to Shutesbury in 1913 to examine and question the family of “Sammy Huck,” a pseudonym for the Pratt family.

She discovered the Pratts traced their ancestry to the Mayflower and were considered shrewd and sturdy, yet the Shutesbury branch was lacking. Of the 436 individuals in the genealogy, 50 members of the family, or 11.4 percent, were alcoholics. Kendig’s algorithm for this statistic was to count every member of the family that had been known on more than one occasion to drink to the point of intoxication.

Her inquiry was done to facilitate the removal of this “Sammy Huck” from the “net-work of degeneracy” that was his kith and kin, and send him to a state run hospital.

It has been alleged that these patients underwent forced sterilizations. This would have been a secretive deed, as Massachusetts never legalized sterilizations, but later inquiry into abuses at state-run facilities uncovered this and other practices. For example, in 1998, MIT and Quaker Oats agreed to pay \$1.85 million to the families of students at the Fernald State School in the 1940s, who were fed radioactive breakfast cereals as part of a study.

Whether Leon Whitney used Kendig’s 1913 study alone, or included the alleged Hankins-led Smith College field workers assign-

ment, is still unclear. Leon Whitney focused on Shutesbury alone as a declined rural town, an insalubrious contagion for “old stock” families.

He wrote in his 1934 book, *The Case for Sterilization*, that “Shutesbury, now consists of a large number of cellar holes, a few new homes and many older ones in process of becoming cellar holes. These cellar holes and houses reflect to a remarkable degree the whole tenor of the town.”

Shutesbury is a “country slum,” and is referred to throughout the book as “Cellarholes.”

Its decline was hastened in colonial times when a westward migration sometimes included the export of “a shipload of prostitutes and misfits” who “drifted to Cellarholes, and married: and their children intermarried with the families already there.”

The Ameses

If the student field workers wandered Shutesbury’s roads looking for interviewees, it is likely that they found Annie Ames Plimpton, who ran the post office from her home at the corner of Jennison and Wendell roads there. She was one of four sisters; both she and Harriet Ames would have represented one of those “old stock families” that lingered in Cellarholes, but skewed the results in terms of their strength.

Peter Humphrey, a son of Beth Ames, composed a document about the house and about the Ames sisters, and gave it to a previous owner in 1978. The present owner allowed me to borrow it.

Annie divorced her first husband and married a man twenty years her junior because he had a portable sawmill. Annie and Harriet remained at the homestead and properties when their parents died, and kept the mill running. Neither had children.

Harriet was unmarried and lived alone, and may have been the first woman to own a car in Franklin County. When her house burned down in the late twenties, she moved into a barn across the street. She kept the mill running as best she could.

According to a relative interviewed by Humphrey, “She was just determined, just adamant that she would not leave the homeplace. She would do some of the craziest things, because she was an individual. She just lived her life the way she wanted to do it.”

Harriet severely burned her legs when gasoline caught fire while she was out with a group of men cutting blighted chestnut for “tobacco bowls” – probably harvesting burls from the trees to make pipes. The burned skin got infected after the men rolled her around in sand to put out the fire.

The doctors advocated amputation to stave off gangrene, but Harriet refused. She survived the treatment, kept her legs, and went back to the barn with no running water.

She was unable to walk, but hired a man named Jay-Jay Ely: “He was part Indian. Funny kind of

guy-very quiet, short and stocky... he could run the mill, he could be the sawyer, and he could do most of the work.” Harriet managed to keep the mill and the property, and she and Jay-Jay lived near to each other: “she had one shanty and a couple of feet away he had his shanty. And that’s the way they lived. I don’t think there was ever anything closer than that.”

Harriet Ames survived as a single woman running a mill and holding on to her home and lands in Shutesbury. The lands surrounding Ames Pond, formerly owned by the Ames Family, have numerous “cellar holes” that contemporary researchers and enthusiasts believe may be chambers used by indigenous people, part of a larger ceremonial landscape with stone structures and walls.

One such chamber is near Temenos Retreat, a non-denominational, off-the-grid place with affordable cabins. According to their website, *temenos* is a Greek phrase which means sacred space around a temple or altar.

The creeping dread of the rural slum has been transformed into the mystic.



The study’s sponsor. “Weird, he was always cool to me...”



The Ames sisters.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was October 27, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

a landfill of this type are towns teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.”

Talkin’ ‘Bout A Landfill

The town of Montague is treading carefully among the mines surrounding the proposed landfill of Turnpike Road. In 1992, proponents failed by two votes to persuade two-thirds of town meeting to approve borrowing over \$6 million for the project.

Now, with interest from private developers sparking the process, the town is again weighing the risks and benefits of burying *some* kind of trash at the Turnpike Road site.

A series of meetings were held last year, and the town formed a citizen advisory committee to work with town officials to develop a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit and compare bids from contractors interested in the site.

With responses to the RFP due in about three weeks, some citizens have been doing some advertising of their own, putting up flyers and taking out ads in local papers calling for a meeting on the landfill at the Carnegie Library “to discuss the progress of the project, how we can educate the public about the risks and benefits, and how we can bring the issue to a town-wide vote.”

Responses ranged from “Do you want to pay higher taxes? Or do you want the money from the landfill?” to “You can never trust any of these companies,” and “The only communities that would even consider

Taxes, Sewer Rates to Rise

The Montague selectboard tackled financial issues at Monday’s selectboard meeting, calling for a steady grip on the wheel, as both property tax and sewer rate increases were discussed and approved.

Residents will face higher rates in both categories, although a decrease in the sewer user rates in the second half of 2006 may eventually help lighten the load. In the meantime, assessments on homes and the cost of doing business at the wastewater facility appear to have gone the way of gasoline prices.

Gill to Vote on
Archaeological Survey

Gill’s selectboard signed the warrant for a special town meeting to take place on November 17. The article in question seeks to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money sufficient to pay for a Phase I and Phase II archaeological study of the town-owned land on the corner of West Gill and Main roads, 12 acres formerly owned by the Mariamante Academy.

Tim Binzen of Mass Archaeological Services estimated the bill for the study of the land, which lies in the Riverside Archeologic District known to contain Paleo-Indian artifacts dating to 12,000 years before the present era, at \$15,000.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30 to 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2 to 6 p.m. Through 10/30.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and arts & crafts. October theme is: exploring the fall season, harvests, trees, animal behaviors, acorn and leaf crafts that explore color

and texture. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Inside Art ii*, and *Reflections from Inside*. Exhibit of photography and a display of writings from men incarcerated in the Franklin County House of Correction. Opens 10/26 to 11/20. Reception is 11/6, 5-7 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Nature of Life*. Group art exhibit by the Artists of Franklin County. Photography and multimedia with reflections on nature. Curated by Ellen Blanchette. Through 11/30. Hours for Discovery Center are now 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *Trees and Travels*. Exhibit by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Through 10/31.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *The Erection*. On-going exhibit chronicles the creation of Glenn Ridler's Little Big House. Photographs, printed text and video help tell the story. info@littlebighousegallery.com

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ordinary Storms*. Artist Barbara Milot's superimposed drawings on photographs exploring weather images. Runs to 11/12.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Peggy Hart: Wool Gathering*. Collection of local wool and linsey woolsey blankets woven on antique industrial looms. Opening reception 11/7. 5-7 p.m. Exhibit runs from 11/7 to 12/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Fine arts and crafts by member artists. Check website for seasonal hours: www.sawmillriverarts.com Show to 10/31.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op,

Shelburne Falls: *Follow the Thread*. A group show by fiber artists who are members of the cooperative. Artists' reception is 11/7, 5-8 p.m. Show runs through 11/23.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Fabric Art. Memorial Art Exhibit for Sara Clearwater Liberty*. 23 privately owned pieces, including floor coverings, tapestries and a quilt. Through 10/31.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The Art Garden Call For Submissions: Community Art Exhibit "In Someone Else's Shoes: A Reflection on Perspectives and Empathy" Deadline 11/2. Details: www.theartgarden.org.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.



Ornament by Sandy Tobin, a fiber artist at the Shelburne Falls Arts Cooperative. The Coop is having an exhibit through November 23 called "Follow the Thread" featuring several fiber artists. Reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. on November 7.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Original folk rock by Jen Spingla and Alyssa Kelly. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larz Young*. Solo blues/folk/jazz. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghost Light Theater presents *Evil Dead*, musical comedy steeped in blood. This is the last weekend for this "killer". 8p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Lefty's Brewing Halloween Tap Take Over* in addition to *Karaoke* at 8:30 p.m. Lefty's will be giving away beer and prizes.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mr. Noisy & The Spark Plugs*. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *All Hallow's Eve All Day*.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Evil Dead*, see Friday. Last chance to see this "killer". 8 p.m. \$

Great Falls Harvest - Big Hall, Turners Falls: *You Fab Halloween Costume Ball*. Music by Pitchfork, DJ Mello 'D, No Name, Burrie Jenkins. 8 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Halloween Party with Sledge*. Hard rock music. Costume party with cash prizes. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Costume Party!!* Music by *Wildcat O'Halloran's Blues Band*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Static Age (play Misfits) - Casual Friday - Rebel Base*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Wren Kitz, Donkey No No, and Paper Bee*. All ages / substance free space; 8 p.m.; \$

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Taste of Theater Tuesdays*. Reading of *Later Life* (1994) where a couple keep meeting over the years but life gets in the way of their getting together. Witty. 7 p.m. Donations.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Earring (Chicago); Sugar Pill*. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

GCC Downtown Center, Greenfield: *Senior Symposia - What's Social About Social Media*. Discussion of generational divide around use of social media, how the arts reflect this use, and evaluating its value. 2-4 p.m. \$

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *The Waxwing Four Concert*. Gospel and Appalachian singing by men's a cappella quartet. 6 p.m. Donations

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series, featuring poets Gail Thomas and Jenifer Browne Lawrence*. Reading. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. 60's and 70's gold. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Carroll Room, Campus Center, Smith College, Northampton: *Plant Conservation and Climate Change*. Discussion with Jesse Bellemare whose research focuses on plant ecology, biogeography, and conservation; followed by reception and preview of the Fall Chrysanthemum Show at the Lyman Conservatory. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade, 8 p.m., Tawdry,

Arena Civic Theater, Greenfield: *Steel Magnolias*. Community production with six performances over two weekends. For more details: http://www.arenacivictheatre.org Opening tonight 8 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Ari & Mia*. Boston-based sister duo who reference Southern and Northeastern fiddle music with the early American songbook and jazz. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9 p.m.



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Marris Otter

Friday, 10/30 9 p.m.
Mr. Noisy & The Spark Plugs

Saturday 10/31 9 p.m.
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Thursday, 11/5 8 p.m.
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MONTAGUE REPORTER

PHOTO COURTESY ANNE BAKER



Deb Edson and Anne Baker of Gill and Cheryl Carley of Greenfield share a Reporter on the shell-strewn Bowman's Beach, on Sanibel Island in Florida.

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Bring us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

October 31, 5:30 p.m.: Erving's Rag Shag Parade

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Rag Shag, a parade featuring little kids in Halloween costumes and their parents, is happening in Erving on Halloween. The Erving Recreation Commission is sponsoring the parade.

The parade will start at the Park Street Park at 5:30 p.m., and end at the Erving Fire Station #2. (There are two fire stations in Erving.)

Alison Rollins, a clerk for the Recreation Commission, said, "We alternate between both fire stations in the town." Rollins, who has been at her position for a year and a half, describes the event: "All it is, is a local parade for the town's children." She also gives her best guess as to

how long the parade has been going on as "over 10 years."

Kids do not fill out an application to be in the parade. "They just show up." According to Rollins, they have shown up in a lot of interesting costumes. "Superheroes, princesses, and monsters are big ones," she said, as well as "lots of animal costumes."

She also mentions that the Recreation Commission has always been behind the parade. "We provide a lot of treats and snacks at the end."

Greenfield has been doing the same type of parade for kids as well, downtown. I have, in fact, run a camera for GCTV one time and saw the costumes that the kids were wearing during this parade. One of them was a Dalek from Doctor Who, which

was pretty good. Both parades must be doing quite well with the kids and their parents, since they have happened year after year.

Erving has a festival to celebrate the fall as well. The town seems to be very community-oriented. In addition to that and the Rag Shag parade, they are trying to set up a community garden, which will be located at their senior center. They are looking for volunteers for that project. I believe they will find a lot of them, if these results are anything like what they get for the parade.

Happy Halloween to those who are participating in the parade, and to everyone else who is doing something for Halloween this year!

SKELETON from page B1

Chappell describes the narrative that guests will take part in is as follows:

Every year, creatures of the Greenwood celebrate the making of Burt's Brew, the best root beer known to the land. For this is brewed by New English Troll brothers Burt and Wilyum Higgins.

The secret of the brewing process is known only to the trolls, and utilizes the power of a device known only as "The Machine."

This year, Burt and Wilyum's much younger nephew Trent Hug-

gins is interning with them. But as the night of the brewing begins, Trent finds the machine won't work without a password... a password that requires participants to enter deep into the Greenwood to help him recover it.

Participants, accompanied by a mysterious guide called "The Seer," are led through a maze filled with a wonderful cast of characters: Burt, Jack Pulpit (emissary of Hallowe'en), Dark Bark (Sentinel of the Greenwood), Finnegan (a skeleton from the old country), and

many more.

You can check out their website, www.skeletoncrewtheater.com, for further information.

The shows will earn money for grades 9 to 12. They are held indoors and are handicap accessible. TFHS students will be running concessions: food, drinks, glow sticks, face paint, etc.

The shows will be at TFHS on Friday the 30th and Saturday the 31st from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free for kids 5 and under, \$7 for TFHS students and kids 12 and under, and \$10 for adults.



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