



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 46

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 2, 2014

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

The Strathmore Mill: Is There A Plan?

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, September 29, Montague Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, along with Building Inspector David Jensen and Town Planner Walter Ramsey, gave a lengthy presentation on the future of the Strathmore Mill.

After outlining a number of options, including demolishing the building complex or pieces of it, the main message was, in Abbondanzio's words, "Stay the course."

Abbondanzio began with a review of recent efforts to rehabilitate and market the large structure which sits between the Turners Falls Power Canal and the Connecticut River.

These included a 2005 marketing study, sale of the building to a purported developer who filled it with waste paper and stripped it of valuable components, several Requests For Proposals to find developers, and, most recently, an order by the Turners Falls Fire Department to comply with state fire codes.

In recent years, Abbondanzio argued, the town had been confronted with a poor real estate market and

rising costs for demolishing the structures, which he estimated at \$5 million. This has led to a "hunker down" mentality as the town waited for economic conditions to improve.

On the positive side, he stressed that as a result of the fire department order, which he called a "blessing in



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

disguise," two of the key structural problems which have undermined the complex's appeal to developers – the availability of water and access to the sewer system – are now being addressed.

In addition, progress is being made on improving the electric system and fixing various roof leaks.

He argued that if continued progress could be made in these areas, the town might be able to sell or lease some of the structures in the complex. He suggested that the town consider a "condominium"

see MONTAGUE page A4

Charlie's Last Day: A Town Pays Tribute To Its Beloved Postmaster

By KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – Monday, September 29 was the last day Charlie O'Dowd worked at the Wendell center post office. This last day was inventory day, spent counting and documenting the number of stamps and pieces of equipment, so there was little time for farewells.

Many Wendellites came into the post office the previous Friday and Saturday to say goodbye, hug Charlie, and shed a few tears.

Charlie met with well-wishers at the Deja Brew pub after his inventory day on Monday for dinner and goodbyes.

At Charlie's request, Deja Brew owner Patti Scutari opened up the pub for dinner on Monday. Wendell friends and former post office customers came by to greet him and share stories.

Deb Tyler described it as "lots of people dropping in, hugging, telling stories, having some emotional moments, hugging again." Some people gave him cards.

Gerda Swedowski presented him with a clock inscribed "Postal



O'Dowd enters the Wendell PO on his last day.

Service." A group of thirty or so people sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" in his honor. At the microphone, Patti thanked him for his many years of service to the town, making Charlie blush.

Residents had organized against the USPS restructuring that will send O'Dowd to Bondsville.

Volunteers are organizing a town-wide event recognizing O'Dowd with a potluck from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 19 at the Wendell town hall. There will be an open mic for tributes and storytelling, and activities for children.

ERVING SELECTBOARD Taxes to Rise; Special Town Meeting Called for Recall Petition; Groundwater Zoning

By KATIE NOLAN

Real property tax rates in Erving will increase in 2015 after the selectboard approved a 65% "minimum residential factor" at the town's tax classification hearing Monday night. The residential tax rate for Erving will increase by approximately 17 cents per thousand dollars value and the commercial rate by approximately 28 cents per thousand dollars value over 2014.

Under this MRF, the Northfield Mountain Project pays 83% of real property taxes owed to the town. The split tax rate shifts the tax burden away from residential property owners.

The estimated rates are preliminary and will not be final until the town receives certification of property values from the state Department of Revenue.

Special Town Meeting Called

Town clerk Richard Newton informed the selectboard that he had received a petition signed by over 200 voters requesting a special town meeting to consider establishing a recall process for elected officials.

According to Massachusetts see ERVING page A6

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Process Lurches Forward

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

BRATTLEBORO – At the first meeting of the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel at Brattleboro Union High School last Thursday, September 25, Michael Twomey, vice president of external affairs for Entergy, said that Vermont Yankee would close by this December and that spent radioactive fuel will be removed from the reactors at the nuclear power plant by 2020.

Twomey also said the site assessment of the Vernon reactor was ahead of schedule and the decommissioning cost estimate – which has been estimated to be close to \$1 billion – would be included in a report to be released at the end of October. He said the fund for decommissioning currently totals \$653 million.

Twomey said the study will be the most up-to-date estimate of what it will cost to decommission the 42-year-old reactor and that this site assessment should give specific insight into the eventual costs and the schedule for full decommissioning.

A second study, the "Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activity Report," will be



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

After 32 years in operation, the 620-megawatt nuke at Vernon has begun powering down.

completed by the end of the year, two years ahead of the NRC time frame. Twomey said that the study is an effort "to identify where we think the radiological issues are that have to be dealt with through the decommissioning process."

Money is a major factor in the timing of the decommissioning. Entergy signed an agreement last year with the state of Vermont stating that once the trust fund hit an amount Entergy deemed necessary, it would begin the decommissioning process.

Apparently Entergy has come up with a figure, but citizens will have to wait another month to find out how much the owners of Vermont Yankee will say about what they think the project will cost.

As for the powering down, Twomey said that the plant is currently running at 97 percent but that decreases will continue each week until, likely by December, the power is at zero.

Questions Still Abound

Many questions about the process still remain. Vermont public service commissioner Chris Recchia, unanimously elected on Thursday as chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel, warned that despite progress, "there will be issues that we can't reach agreement on."

He added that the Panel "will continue...cooperative discussions with Entergy on a variety of issues but there may be cases where we are

see NUKE page A5

Factory Hollow Bridge Construction Nears Completion

By JOE PARZYCH

GILL – The piecemeal building of a new Factory Hollow Bridge on Rte. 2, straddling the Gill-Greenfield town Line, is moving along to the finish line, despite numerous obstacles, and having to contend with traffic on the busy highway.

Mike Pelow has taken over the position of Superintendent for Northern Construction overseeing construction of the new Factory Hollow Bridge. Former Superintendent Jack Graves is now working on another project.

At present, a hydraulically powered drill mounted on a John Deere excavator and a Davey track drill cuts a hole for a 6-inch diameter steel casing, much like a driven water well.

Threaded anchor rods of various lengths ranging from 25 to 40 feet are then encased in grout inside the steel casing.

A steel wire mesh (hog wire) is then laid on the slopes over the threaded rods and covered with six inches of shotcrete (concrete pumped out of a hose under pressure). Steel plates of 6" to 8" in diameter are then bolted onto the threaded rods to act as giant washers to hold the concrete mat firmly in place.

This system of anchoring the slopes is designed to guard against seismic activity (earthquakes), according to Superintendent Pelow.

It replaces rip-rap that served to protect the slopes in the past. During the earthquake of 1940, the rip-rap

met with a fair amount of success.

Perhaps engineers expect stronger seismic activity, here, in the future, as Pennsylvania has recently experienced in areas of fracking for natural gas wells.

The new concrete sidewalks on the Factory Hollow Bridge have successfully confined minimal hairline cracking to lateral scoring, as expected, and as designed.

Pelow reported that there was minor cracking, as anticipated, on an unsupported section of a westerly cantilevered section of the reconstructed bridge.

Scoring concrete serves to create a "notch effect" similar to the perforations on paper that concentrate stress to the desired path of least resistance.

It does not work 100% of the time. As you may have noticed when tearing off a sheet of paper toweling, the paper does not always part along the intended path.

Bridges are subject to a great many stresses, such as the passage of heavy vehicles, the forces of freezing and thawing, gravity, seismic activity, vibration, and the corrosive effects of ice control road chemicals.

The forces of wind can see BRIDGE page A8



PARZYCH PHOTO

The refurbished piers, with new saddles supporting new beams.

The Montague Reporter

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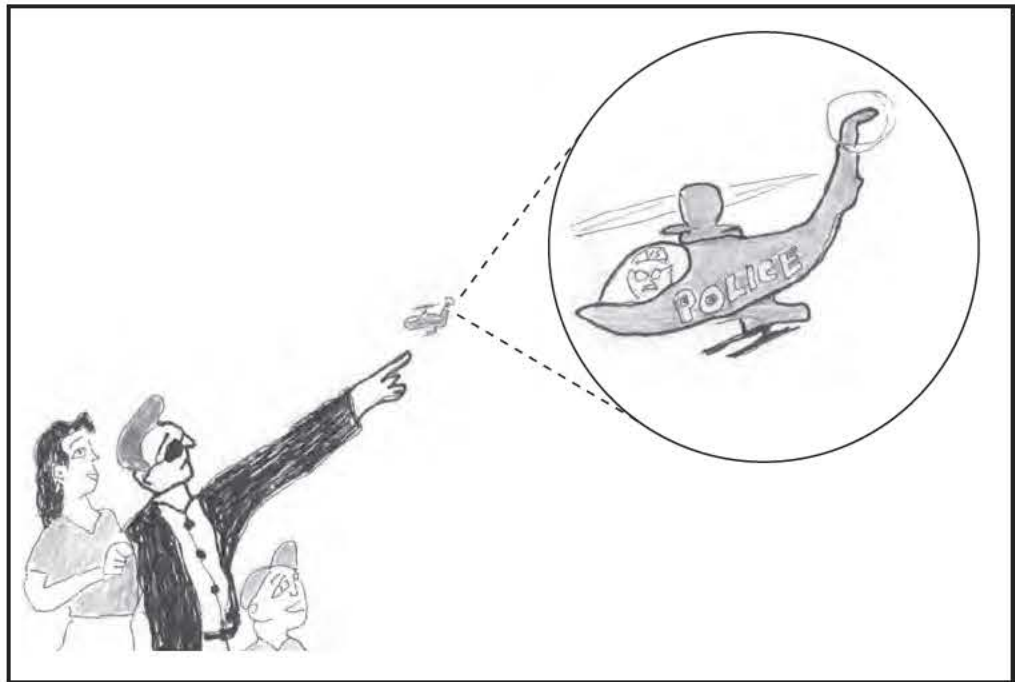
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"It's a bird, it's a plane – No! It's Super COPTer."

Here's One Way To End The Helicopter Surveillance

Over the past week the *Montague Reporter* has received a number of calls, including some quite irate ones, regarding low-flying helicopter surveillance.

Some have wondered whether there was an emergency: a lost child, a gunman on the loose, or perhaps a boating accident.

The local police have also been barraged with calls. In response, Montague police chief Charles Dodge took to the department's Facebook page to allay fears. He noted that the flights were simply "routine operations," and that there was no cause for concern.

What the chief meant by "routine operations" is that the state police, with help from the National Guard, are attempting to locate marijuana plants growing in fields and backyards.

The chief is right that this is a routine operation. But should it be? Unlike the chief, we feel there is cause for concern.

At the very least, the low-flying helicopters constitute a nuisance. In Wendell last Friday a memorial service on the town common for Laura Glenn Golden was interrupted by a helicopter buzzing a few hundred feet overhead, circling back again and again.

Since it was obvious that a crowd had gathered in a public space, the continued presence of the helicopter was experienced by grieving attendees as deliberate harassment.

Beyond this, however, there are other issues. To begin with, this sort of surveillance seems to us a violation of the Fourth Amendment, which endows people the right "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

We're not alone in this opinion. In March 2008, The Vermont Supreme Court held that "Vermont citizens have a constitutional right to privacy that ascends into the airspace above their homes and property."

The justices said that such flights constituted a search, thus requiring a warrant. The ruling overturned a marijuana growing conviction.

Although this decision was specific to a provision in Vermont's constitution that is a mirror of the Fourth Amendment, we feel that it is a relevant argument that could be made for Fourth Amendment protection.

Aside from the serious issue of these flights constituting what we

believe is a "warrantless search," we also question why the state is expending its financial and human resources to hunt down marijuana growers.

Medical marijuana is legal in this state and many are already in possession of legitimate medical marijuana cards. But without a dispensary in the county, patients have a right under the law to cultivate their own cannabis to be used for medical purposes upon showing proof of hardship.

A hardship is not just a financial one. It also includes the unavailability of a nearby dispensary. At present, anyone in Franklin County with a certification would qualify for a hardship cultivation registration.

But cultivating marijuana plants, even with a license, could still result in a SWAT team swooping down on your garden if a helicopter pilot happened to notice your backyard pot plants.

It feels ridiculous that our government lacks the capability to allow a local medical dispensary, even though voters have mandated it do so, but is still able and keen to dump taxpayer money into pointless, expensive and intrusive surveillance aimed at eradication.

To some degree, all these arguments ignore the proverbial elephant in the room: the long-outdated marijuana laws themselves.

We agree with the *New York Times* editorial staff, who argued this year that it is time for the federal government to repeal the ban on marijuana.

Colorado and Washington have already done so, and 23 states, as well as the District of Columbia have legalized the use of medical marijuana. Clearly, the antiquated prohibition is disintegrating state by state.

All this makes for an incoherent federal policy in which the U.S. government is still seemingly bound to enforce its law while state legislatures in half the country are bucking the statute.

Indeed, states with some form of legal use of marijuana are awarding lucrative licenses to an array of business interests to grow and dispense the plant. These businesses will almost certainly profit very handsomely from growing and selling pot. And yet a person with a few plants in his/her own backyard can be arrested and likely face jail time.

GUEST EDITORIAL Hydrogen Power: New Life for Mount Tom?

By JOHN INGRESS

HOLYOKE – In March of this year, Solar Hydrogen Trends, Inc. announced that it has revolutionized the world of energy production with the invention of the first hydrogen reactor, producing unlimited hydrogen, using water as the main fuel, with no pollution or radioactivity.

The process has been called "cold fusion", but is now called LENR, "low-energy nuclear reaction". Their claim is made on the basis of test results, conducted by two independent labs.

From the website *solarhydrogentrends.com*: "According to AirKinetics test, on input of 500 watts, the mini reactor produces an output of 2,797 cubic feet of hydrogen per hour (electricity equivalent of 237 kWh). The estimated cost of inputs is \$1.80 per hour."

The reactor is 100% carbon (CO2) free, and can be used as a hybrid solution for energy savings of up to 95%, when coupled with coal, solar, etc. According to the company president, it is "clean, scalable, and can help the dollar gain back its strength."

Assuming all this to be true, the questions arise: why not convert the Mt. Tom coal-fired plant to hydrogen, and incorporate these reactors?

Or, for that matter, Vermont Yankee? Both have water and transmission lines.

And, could this make the Kinder-Morgan gas pipeline unnecessary?

According to the company, hydrogen can substitute for natural

gas: "The price of natural for 1,000 cubic feet in USA is \$4.30 for industrial and \$10 for residential. The price in Europe for natural gas is two times higher, and the price in Japan for natural gas is more than three times higher. The cost to produce 1,000 cubic feet of hydrogen for the Hydrogen Reactor is \$ 0.65."

News of a 37% increase in electricity costs, due to a shortage of natural gas, adds urgency to the discussion.

The European Union has embarked on a plan, promoted by Jeremy Rifkin in his book, "The Third Industrial Revolution," to integrate green energy into the economies of all 27 member nations with a plan, "20-20-20 by 2020", that calls for a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels; raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%; and a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.

On May 29, 2012, the European Commission held a conference in Brussels with the theme, "Mission Growth: Europe At The Lead Of The New Industrial Revolution." Vice President Tajani called for a comprehensive Third Industrial Revolution economic agenda to re-grow the European economy and create an integrated European single market.

In his speech, Tajani said, "[T]oday is the beginning of the Third Industrial Revolution. Now the European conversation will go beyond austerity, straight to creating growth and jobs in Europe.... The first industrial revolution was

the revolution of coal and steam, the second was the oil one.

"This Third Industrial Revolution is the internet of energy, and is not only about energy. It involves many key sectors, from raw materials, to manufacturing, services, construction, transport, information technologies, and even chemistry."

China is getting into the act. From Rifkin's website: "In an hour long meeting with Mr. Rifkin, the Vice Premier reiterated his commitment to usher in the Five Pillars of the Third Industrial Revolution infrastructure and expressed his hope that China would become the flagship for an emerging 'ecological civilization'."

If greenhouse gases are indeed a threat to life on earth, why is the US not on the same path as the EU, China, Monaco and others?

Hydrogen can be substituted for natural gas. We must assume that oil, gas, and coal are not unlimited resources; and the problem of disposal of nuclear waste has not been solved.

Prices continue to climb, while new and existing technologies make possible distributed energy generation at lower and lower prices.

Why build a pipeline for natural gas that is limited in supply, that is going to be so disruptive to so many lives and to so much of the environment, when LENR can replace it with clean energy production?

Could Mt. Tom be revitalized? Wouldn't that render the natural gas pipeline ludicrous?

Marijuana use is widespread and has been for decades. And it will continue to be despite its being outlawed by the feds.

For years arguments prevailed that the drug was harmful. Recent studies, however, have only demonstrated that it does have great value as a medicinal plant and that the harmful effects are few.

A recent series in the *Times* examined the recent science in depth and concluded that "the evidence is overwhelming that addiction and dependence are relatively minor problems, especially compared with alcohol and tobacco. Moderate use of marijuana does not appear

to pose a risk for otherwise healthy adults. Claims that marijuana is a gateway to more dangerous drugs are as fanciful as the 'Reefer Madness' images of murder, rape and suicide."

We are aware that it will be exceedingly difficult to persuade the present Congress to take up a legalization bill. But a dialogue should begin.

Any bill to end the prohibition needs to include full regulatory language. Sales should be controlled and no one under the age of 21 should be allowed to purchase pot.

We also believe there should be strict regulations regarding how

marijuana can be cultivated and sold. In the interim, we strongly advocate for an end to harassing surveillance flights.

We also would very much like to see at least one medical marijuana dispensary in Franklin County, preferably owned by county residents.

Ultimately, however, the prohibition on growing, selling and using marijuana needs to be repealed. The ban makes no more sense than the prohibition on alcohol did in the 1920s.

Repeal of the law is necessary and timely. The federal government needs to follow the lead of the states.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.
No paper last week of December.
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Annual Noah's Ark Animal Festival** takes place rain or shine at the Greenfield Second Congregational Church, located on the town common. This festival takes place on Saturday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to noon. This free event features many fun children's activities, including a K-9 demonstration, animal dances and songs presented by

Karen's Dance Studio, the chance to interact with many different 4-H animals including a llama, games and prizes, and a craft station.

There will be a drawing at 11:45 featuring Noah and animal-related prizes. For more information please contact the church at (413) 774-4355 or send an email to office@greenfieldsecondchurch.com.

David Brule, of the Nolumbeka

Project, and Ed Gregory, local historian, will team up to present a program on **Early Montague/Turners Falls History** on Saturday, October 4, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Brule will present the history of early Native American inhabitancy at the Turners Falls-Gill sites. He will also provide an update on the content and progress of the National Park Service battlefield grant. Following, Gregory will present a historical slide show of archival photos of the villages of Montague of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Later in the day, 2 to 3 p.m. also at the GFDC, explore the natural world through careful **nature journaling** with observations and language play to wake up all of your senses.

Through writing and drawing prompts, short walks along the Turners Falls bike path and the GFDC grounds, you will have an opportunity to experiment, see the world in new ways, and have fun. No prior writing or drawing experience necessary. Appropriate for adults and any youth interested in writing and drawing, accompanied by an adult.

The **Annual Tag Sale** to support the Montague Common Hall is Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 34 Main Street, Montague Center (formerly the Grange, across the street from the Town Common).

Donations are welcome. Organizers will be happy to take any clean, usable household and collectible items. No electronics, please. Call 367-9415 to arrange for drop-off the week before. Other community folks are welcome to set up and manage their own tables.

The Montague Common Hall holds this annual tag sale as a fundraiser to help pay for building upkeep, such as repairing the doors, windows, floors, kitchen, bathrooms, etc.

Bernardston Kiwanis is seeking artists, craftspeople, and food purveyors for its two-day **Scarecrow in the Park** event on October 25 & 26. The organizers are seeking artists in a wide variety of mediums.

The booth fee for the two-day weekend is \$40 per 10' x 10' and \$65

for a 10' x 20'. It is asked that artists will commit to the whole weekend, but a very limited number of single-day applications will be accepted at the full weekend price.

In addition to vendors, this year's event will include two days of live music, a beer and wine garden, lots of activities, artist demonstrations, two parades, great food and, of course, a park full of scarecrows creatively designed by anyone who's in the mood to make one.

All proceeds from booth rentals at this event go to the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

If you would like an application for booth space or have questions, please contact scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com. The jury will be accepting artists until either capacity is reached or October 15.

This is the last call for submissions for the **2014 Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival** – "Locally Made Films on How Communities are Working Toward Sustainable Living". Your six-minute film can showcase any Greater Pioneer Valley project that has a goal of increasing the sustainability factor of food and energy production and usage, home construction, transportation, or the manufacturing of goods. Submissions are due by October 17.

Nine community media centers throughout the Greater Pioneer Valley have partnered with the Film Festival to aid you with support and equipment; you too can make a film for the upcoming Film Festival. The CMCs are: Greenfield's GCTV; Bernardston and Northfield's BNC-TV; Northampton's NCTV; Amherst Media, Shelburne/Buckland's Falls Cable; South Deerfield's FCAT, Athol/Orange's AOTV; Montague's MCTV; and Easthampton's ECAT.

For submission contact Scott MacPherson at GCTV, 774-4288 or Scott@gctv.org for additional information.

The 2014 Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival will be held November 14, 7 p.m. at the Cohn Commons at Greenfield Community College.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

An Appeal (No, not for your money!)

By LYN CLARK

Put your wallet back in your pocket. It's not that kind of appeal.

We know you treasure this newspaper. You not only purchase it – through subscription or otherwise – but you have often told us how disappointed you would be should it no longer be available.

You have been generous with your dollars, which has helped the *Montague Reporter* to survive where other local weeklies have failed, and we thank you for that. *So it is not your money that we are after* (well, at least not today); *it is, in fact, YOU*. And your mind. And your opinions. And your common sense. And your energy. And your enthusiasm. And a whole lot more that adds up to who you are and what we need.

And how do we access those qualities we know you to possess? By welcoming you as a potential member of the board of directors. Please step up and join us. We need you.

"Oh, so that's what this is all about," you say with a sigh. Yes, and don't you dare give up on me now. **Read on.**

This community newspaper is the result of the efforts of a lot of people. We are blessed with a staff that handles all the challenges thrown at it with grace, style, and skill, and a pool of writers who give us their best for little reward week after week.

We, the board of directors, assist where we can and say a silent prayer that our dedicated editors and managers, who work so well together, will remain at the helm forever.

But how realistic is that? Nothing remains the same. How can we know what will transpire during the next decade to change the makeup of the staff and the direction of the newspaper?

Crises arise; people go on to new endeavors; decisions must be made; funds must be found. And therein lies the problem.

The board today is simply too small to handle what could be coming down the pike when we least ex-

pect it. In fact, there are only four of us left.

Two of us have been on the board for almost a decade or more. I can't speak for the others, but there are times when I am weary, and would like to simply volunteer my services, and leave the decision-making to others.

Add to that the lopsided distribution of members: One lives in Turners Falls, two in Erving/Millers Falls, and one in Greenfield. This is a community newspaper *without* community representation.

We wish for board members from Gill, Montague Center, Wendell and Leverett, not to mention little Lake Pleasant, but we would not turn away anyone simply because of residential location.

Our bylaws permit us to have up to eleven board members, and we would feel far more comfortable if those seven vacant slots were filled.

The more board members we have, the more input and energy we will have to keep pace with the changes that are bound to happen, and the more secure the future of the newspaper will be.

We usually meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., in the Turners Falls office at 177 Avenue A, right across from the new Greenfield Cooperative Bank. This month (October) due to scheduling conflicts, we will be meeting a week later on October 9.

We welcome guests, so please don't be shy. Talk it up with friends. Suggest it to someone you think might be interested. Bring a friend or partner with you. Come and check us out! There are no special skills or previous experience required, only a belief in the importance of a not-for-profit community newspaper.

Please step up and join us! We know you're out there. We just don't yet know who you are.

Lyn is the secretary of the board of directors of the Montague Reporter. She can be reached at carolyn.clark29@comcast.net.

TEMPORARY PART TIME POLICE DEPARTMENT CUSTODIAN

The Montague Police Department is currently accepting applications for a temporary part time custodian who will work 15 hours a week.

Position performs routine work in the maintenance of the police department and grounds. Responsibilities include ensuring the safety and cleanliness of buildings and grounds, ensuring the proper working condition of equipment and supplies, performing a variety of maintenance, cleaning and repair duties as well as lawn mowing and snow blowing when needed.

A candidate for this position should have a High School diploma and 1 year of experience in cleaning and maintenance work or an equivalent combination of education and experience. A candidate for this position should have a valid Massachusetts driver's license. A background check will be performed.

It is estimated that this job will last for approx. 8 months. If the current janitor decides to not return to his duties in 8 months (+/-), then the hired applicant may have preference for the filling of this part-time position permanently.

Deadline to apply is October 10, 2014 @ 3 p.m. Candidates can obtain an application at the Montague Police Dept., 180 Turnpike Rd, Turners Falls.



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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 9/26/14:

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Jade Tyler

Grade 7

Dabney Rollins

Grade 8

Tyler Murray-Lavin

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RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of October 6 in Montague



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MONTAGUE from page A1

marketing process, whereby particular floors of the building could be leased or purchased.

In response to a question from the floor, Abbondanzio and Jensen addressed the status of the crucial pedestrian bridge which is currently owned by the power company First-Light. The bridge, which is currently inoperable, has been seen as crucial to long term development of the Strathmore.

Apparently the power company, which town officials claim is legally required to fix the bridge, is willing to give the structure to the town. But fixing it will be an expensive proposition for Montague and, according to building inspector David Jensen, would set a bad precedent for other bridges owned by FirstLight.

Selectboard Member Michael Nelson stated that he would prefer spending money on removal of hazardous waste, particularly asbestos, an investment that would pay off whether the town chose the renovation or the demolition path. This course of action seemed to appeal to town officials.

Wastewater Treatment

The September 29 meeting also included a hearing on sewer rates which also had important implications for both the town’s long-term fiscal stability and its economic development. These issues unexpectedly came to the forefront during a presentation by Water Pollution Control Facility Director Bob Trombley.

Trombley came before the board to recommend an average 3.5% rate increase for sewer users. To keep rate increase at that level, Trombley proposed using \$257,000 of so-called “retained earnings” to fund the FY 15 sewer budget. Retained earnings are balances left over from previous years which, according to Trombley, at this point total approximately \$486,452.

Charles Blanker of the Southworth Paper Company questioned the rate increase, and advocated that the town use more retained earnings to balance the budget. Southworth’s agreement with the town requires that the latter use all retained earnings for lowering rates. The company has not demanded implementation of this policy in recent years, and even Blanker’s proposal would only have used an additional \$36,000 from the balances.

Blanker and others at the meeting stressed that Southworth, which is the last paper mill in Montague, had had a “very tough year” due to conditions in the international paper market.

However, the Montague sewer system has also had a very tough year.

The proposed rate increase is consistent with a new policy endorsed by the Montague Capital Improvements Committee of using reserves to help fund future borrowing for sewer repairs. The CIC has proposed creating a special stabilization fund for this purpose, and transferring money from the retained earning balances into it. This policy is, in part, a response to increased sewer borrowing associated with the recent break in the sewer line at the Montague Industrial Park.

In the end, the board voted to keep the FY’15 sewer rates at the same level as the present year, with the warning that this might not be possible in the future, due to the need to finance structural upgrades to the system.

New Swing Plan

In other news, Montague Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Dobosz presented the Selectboard with a new proposal for a handicapped accessible swing to be installed in Unity Park. Dobosz was accompanied by Leslie Cogswell and Marie Gravelle-Putala, both members of the Unity Park Swing Project.

This effort, which coincides with the broader Unity Park improvement project, has been raising money for a handicapped accessible swing for over a year.

According to Dobosz, the original swing was to be manufactured by an Australian Company, Liberty Swing. However, the company did not meet its deadline of making the structure “U.S. compliant for public playgrounds” by Christmas of 2013.

So the swing project decided to “alter its focus” to consider something called a “Sway Fun Glider,” produced by a company called Landscape Structures.

The Sway Fun Glider is not actually a swing, but rather a boat-like container that holds at least six people, including several in wheelchairs. The company’s promotional video shows the glider rocking back and forth almost like a see-saw. Unlike the swing, which needed to be enclosed in a locked fence, the Glider is accessible at all times although a concrete access ramp will need to be constructed.

Blanker and others stressed that Southworth, the last paper mill in Montague, has had a “very tough year.” But so has Montague’s sewer system.

The benefits, in addition to being compliant with U.S. playground guidelines, are that the new piece of equipment is less expensive and its use is not limited to handicapped persons. The glider, according to Dobosz, “is the true essence of inclusion.”

The board seemed pleased with this new information but was not required to take a vote.

Other Business

Alan Charboneau, a Turners Falls High School football parent, came before the board to seek approval of a “fill the football helmet” fundraising event.

The event, on October 4 from 10 a.m. to noon, will be on the corner of Third Street and Avenue A and the corner of Turnpike and Turners Falls Roads. Charboneau said he did not want to “tie the town up” with people standing out in the middle of multiple streets collecting money.

The board approved the request. The board put the finishing touches on a proposal to revive the Civic Center Commission to deal with the future of the Shea Theater.

The town is required to put control of the theater out to bid under state law Chapter 30B and the commission will oversee that process. But first there will be an “envisioning process” to determine the goals of the theater.

Abbondanzio said that four citizens had applied to join the commission – Alan Kohler, Pam Al-

MORE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD STUFF

Montague May Urge FRTA To Meet, Revamp Routes, Seek New Riders

By MIKE JACKSON

Montague Reporter reporter Jeff Singleton took a brief break from reporting on the Montague selectboard Monday to approach the board in his capacity as the town’s alternate representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)’s advisory board, and suggest some actions the selectboard might take.

“Sorry to barrage you with suggestions,” he warned as he began. “There’s an attitude that we just can’t do anything until the state-mandated Comprehensive Service Analysis is done, and that isn’t going to be done until the end of June, if we’re lucky,” he explained. “And then we’ll have to wait another whole year after that to do anything – we’ll already be in the next fiscal year.”

The most recent FRTA advisory board meeting earlier this month, Singleton said, lacked a quorum, and the next is not scheduled until March. “We had a whole lot of by-law changes that we couldn’t even vote on,” he said. He recommended the Montague board request a make-up meeting in December or January.

“That’s a long time,” said selectboard member Mike Nelson. “Six months?”

“I’d answer that, but I wouldn’t make any friends saying it,” said Mark Fairbrother.

“You’re trying to make more friends, aren’t you?” asked Singleton.

“I’m trying to slow down the rate at which I lose them,” Fairbrother replied.

By unanimous vote, the board asked Singleton and town staff to draft a letter to FRTA for their final approval and signature, calling for this meeting.

Singleton had an additional raft of proposals, including a scheme to consolidate the three FRTA routes that pass through Montague into two, in a way that he said would reduce both riders’ fares and the town’s assessment while maintaining a fair amount of service to Amherst.

“There’s a tremendous amount of redundancy,” he said. “It pretty much keeps the same service.... It’s a little bit complicated,” said Singleton, and asked for an opportunity to present the idea in full at a future date: “I would recommend a process to evaluate this, and other potential solutions to the Montague problem, with a view toward implementing route changes by the next fiscal year.”

He also wanted Montague to officially ask FRTA to provide information showing how much a

half-day weekend service expansion would cost. Transportation Justice for Franklin County, an activist group of drivers and riders, has been calling for weekend and night-time service, and has asked for that information.

“We may be the only transit authority in Massachusetts that does not have weekend service,” said Singleton. The expansion would require an infusion of state money, he said, but the public should know just how much it would cost if they are debating it.

Singleton recommended the town include a discussion of its FRTA assessment in its annual budget process, and offered to make a presentation when the selectboard and finance committee go into joint sessions.

“As a precedent,” town administrator Frank Abbondanzio noted, “when the GMTA was doing this, they used to come in to the finance committee to make presentations. And they went to town meeting at least a couple times.”

Singleton, who serves on the Montague Energy Committee as a point person for transportation issues, said that committee met with the FRTA last month, and encouraged it to seek to make a priority of expanding ridership – finding ways to encourage people with cars to ride the bus sometimes, rather than simply locating and delivering services to the carless.

The Comprehensive Service Analysis study, as it turns out, is unlikely to focus on how to expand ridership. So Singleton recommended setting up a committee within FRTA’s advisory structure to make recommendations on how to accomplish it.

“It was the only thing I could think of on the fly – I really didn’t want to establish another committee, but I just wanted something concrete to make some progress by next spring.”

Ultimately, the board asked that the proposals for the ridership committee, reconfigured Montague routes, and weekend cost projection be made in a second letter, also drafted by Singleton and town staff and brought to them for their approval and signature.

Meanwhile, flyers have appeared on Avenue A telephone poles calling for the public to “Protest the FRTA and its Do-Nothing Administrator Tina Cote” at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 9 at the Olver Transit Center in Greenfield.

A rally was recently called for October 11 by the Transportation Justice group, but then cancelled due to “member commitments.”

len, Suzanne LoManto, and Jamie Berger. The Selectboard approved all the applicants, which left one opening on the commission to be filled. The “envisioning” meetings will be held on November 4 and 11 at the Shea from 7 to 9 p.m.

MJ Adams of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Rehabilitation Authority came to request that the board execute a proposed agreement between the town and her agency to implement block grants for the coming fiscal year.

Adams also asked that the board approve a contract with the company Catlin and Petrovick Architects to implement the Senior Center planning study. Both requests were approved.

Police Chief Chip Dodge requested that the board hire a new dispatcher, approve a job description for the police station janitor, and approve a request to sign the Western Massachusetts Mutual Aid Agreement. These requests were also approved.



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Mangy Fox: Celebration of a Life

Between May and August of 2014, a fox who may or may not have had mange filled many column-inches in the Montague Police Log, and may or may not have captured the hearts of many Montague Reporter readers.

Since a report of a fox hit by a car and killed on August 27, there have been no further "mangy" fox sightings reported to the police. One can draw one's own conclusions. In any event, here is a chronicle of the fox sightings that appeared in the Montague Police Log from May through August of 2014.

Rest in peace (or not), Mangy (or not) Fox.

Wednesday, 5/14/14
8:40 a.m. Detail officer near Franklin County Technical School received a report of a potentially sick fox behind the school near the compost pile. Witness reported that the animal did not appear to be sick, but was frequenting the area now that he has found a food source. Area search negative.
Tuesday, 5/27/14
1:10 p.m. Report of a mangy, emaciated-looking fox near the ramp at the airport. Animal control officer on scene; spoke with some kids playing nearby, who saw the fox yesterday. Based on their description, it is suspected that the fox has mange. EPO dis-

patch advised.
Wednesday, 5/28/14
9:52 p.m. Report of a mangy-looking fox in the grass at First Street and Avenue A. Gone on arrival.
10:07 p.m. Fox, presumably from previous call, located on Maple Street. Officers observed fox remain on the sidewalk for a period of time, then take off into the woods.
Thursday, 5/29/14
8:52 a.m. Several parents reported seeing a fox in the vicinity of Hillcrest School. Referred to environmental police officer, who believes that this is the same fox that was observed on First Street and Maple Street last night.
11:12 a.m. Report of a mangy-looking fox on Fairway Avenue. Area search negative.
5:19 p.m. Caller from Fairway Avenue reporting a fox on the sidewalk. Fox not displaying any signs of illness. Unable to locate. Area residents advised to call back if fox returns.
Tuesday, 6/3/14
12:12 p.m. Sick-looking fox at Prospect Street and Montague Street. Animal control officer checked area; unable to locate.
7:32 p.m. Sick fox in yard on Millers Falls Road. Area search negative.
Wednesday, 6/4/14
9:34 a.m. Fox reported outside Sheffield Elementary School. Area search negative. Off-duty firefighter called reporting that fox was on Montague

Street. Party into station advising that fox was last seen heading towards Turnpike Road. Detail officer reported seeing fox, who did not appear to be sick but was just chasing some birds.
Monday, 6/16/14
5:06 p.m. Caller from Ivy Street reports a fox in her backyard, just hanging out. Unsure if it is sick. Referred to an officer.
Monday, 6/23/14
12:18 p.m. Walk-in reports that she observed a mangy-looking fox at Turnpike Road and Cross Street. Area search negative.
7:30 p.m. Sick/emaciated-looking fox on Dunton Street. Area search negative.
Tuesday, 6/24/14
12:10 p.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace wanted to have on record that this past Sunday there was a fox in the area that "looked like it came out of a swamp."



Wednesday, 6/25/14
4:42 p.m. Caller reporting "rabid" fox headed from alley on Fourth Street toward the park. Animal appears skinny and foaming at the mouth. Area search negative.
Thursday, 7/3/14
10:42 a.m. Report of a "strange animal" in yard on Turners Falls Road. Animal control officer located animal (mangy fox), who ran off and hid upon ACO's arrival. ACO advised that animal does not pose a risk to the public at this time.
Tuesday, 7/15/14
1:28 p.m. Caller requested that animal control officer check on a fox that is lying in her backyard. Upon officer's arrival, the fox ran into the woods.
Saturday, 7/19/14
5:19 p.m. Report of fox wandering on Oakman Street eating raspberries. Fox looks thin. Caller concerned it may be rabid. Referred to animal control officer.
Tuesday, 7/29/14
10:10 a.m. Report of sick looking fox on Industrial Boulevard. Animal control officer advised.
Wednesday, 7/30/14
10:50 a.m. Report of sick looking fox on Industrial Boulevard. Animal control officer checked area; unable to locate.
Sunday, 8/3/14
6:44 p.m. Caller reports that a fox who seems confused and not afraid of people approached her vehicle on Fairway Avenue. Officers spoke to a motorist who also reported seeing the fox.

One officer got a glimpse of the animal on the sidewalk, but it ran off.
Tuesday, 8/5/14
12:14 p.m. Report of a sick looking fox at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Officer spoke with someone at the scene who advised they saw the fox a couple of days ago and it looked fine. Area search negative.
2:17 p.m. Caller (reporting on behalf of his son, who is golfing) reports mangy looking fox near the seventh hole at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Area search negative.
6:42 p.m. Report of mangy looking fox on Walnut Street near the golf course. Fox does not appear to be showing any fear of people or vehicles. Unable to locate.
Friday, 8/8/14
9:33 a.m. Caller reports that the fox is lying down at the old tennis courts at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Fox does not look well, very mangy: caller would like officer to check on it. Called back to advise that there is a cub with the fox: cub looks healthy, mother does not. Officer viewed fox and cub: neither appears to be sick at all. Officer spoke with Environmental Police, who concurred.
Monday, 8/11/14
5:41 p.m. Caller reports that there were just two foxes at his neighbor's chicken coop. Responding officer was unable to locate any chickens; unsure if the fox took them.
Thursday, 8/14/14
12:27 p.m. Report of a sick-looking fox lying in the caller's backyard. A few minutes later,

caller advised that the fox had gone back into the woods.
Sunday, 8/17/14
4:28 p.m. Caller reports a fox in his backyard that won't leave; can't tell if it's a young fox or not, but it looks mangy. Officers advised; fox gone on arrival. Caller stated that the fox actually looked OK once he got a better look.
Tuesday, 8/19/14
3:18 p.m. Caller reports that toward the back right of the cemetery on Turners Falls Road, there is what appears to be a fox running around; the animal has some type of injury and appears to be "biting itself." Unable to locate.
Tuesday, 8/26/14
6:07 p.m. Report of a possible sick fox on Fairway Avenue; animal described as "mangy and hairless." Area search negative.
Wednesday, 8/27/14
9:39 a.m. Officer flagged down by a party who believes that they struck a fox in the area of Turners Falls and Millers Falls roads. Deceased fox located near woodline at Turners Falls Road and Griswold Street.
2:28 p.m. Report of a young fox near the 6th hole at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Caller describes the fox as "looking like he wants something," "looking like he wants to be pet," and appearing as though he could possibly have mange. Caller advised not to touch or approach the fox and given advice from animal control officer.

*Compiled by Emily Alling
W. Frank Calderon illustration.*

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not able to be in agreement."

The 19-member advisory panel, established last year by state law, includes six area citizens, plant workers, two Entergy representatives – Twomey and Chris Wamser, VY site vice president – and elected officials from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The panel advises Governor Peter Shumlin, lawmakers, state agencies and the public about issues related to the decommissioning of the power plant. Massachusetts state representative Paul Mark, appointed by Governor Patrick, represents the interests of Franklin County on the panel.

Recchia said the state is developing a website to post documents, agendas, and other discussion materials relevant to the decommissioning. The panel will meet monthly for the rest of 2014.

Aside from the timetable for closure, Entergy has yet to announce what will happen to the spent fuel that's being stored at the reactor site.

Entergy said they plan to remove all fuel from the reactor core into a spent fuel cooling pool by 2015. By 2020 this fuel will be deposited into 58 dry casks. The casks are reinforced with steel, encased in cement and designed to contain radiation.

The casks will be stored in the open air and enclosed by a "security barrier." According to Entergy, the pad must be left uncovered because the casks require natural air ventilation for cooling. The NRC has approved this plan.

But before Entergy can build a

storage pad, they must first get approval from the state. Entergy did apply this year to the state for approval of the pad but the application is currently on hold pending further soil tests.

Twomey noted that the preliminary soil testing revealed some anomalies in the soil moisture content. As a result, they are engaged in further testing. He also disclosed that the company wants to build a second storage pad next to the existing pad because "of the volume of spent fuel we want to put there."

According to Twomey, the moisture content of the soil, however, may force the company to move it to another location near the existing facility.

Skepticism Remains

Many residents at the meeting expressed concerns about the effect closing the plant will have on their communities. Among the issues raised were the loss of jobs, the impact on the adjacent Connecticut River, wariness of the NRC having final say over the decommissioning, and the condition of the site after the plant is deconstructed.

There was also a general clamor for open access to information and studies from both the state and Entergy. Recchia said the state's decommissioning website would provide that documentation.

Twomey, for the first time, did state the plans for employment after its projected December shutdown. He said the plant currently employs 550.

That number would remain stable until mid-January 2015, when

the number will drop to 316. In April 2016 the number of employees will drop to 137 workers. By 2020 only 55 employees would remain.

No full answers were forthcoming regarding water temperature. Prior to the meeting the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) released a document citing its concerns over the impact elevated temperatures were already having on the fish in the Connecticut River. Entergy uses river water to cool the nuclear reactor.

CRWC noted that Vermont Yankee's current discharge permit expired in 2006, allowing the plant to heat the river up to 13 degrees during winter months and up to 5 degrees in the summer and fall.

The plant is able to discharge up to 543 million gallons of heated water a day, some of it at 105 degrees. That heated plume extends 55 miles downstream to Holyoke.

Entergy can discharge this thermal pollution even though the plant was built with cooling towers that, if used all the time, would stop this pollution.

Entergy says it is working with the Agency of Natural Resources on the renewal of its thermal discharge permit for after the plant shuts down. It says after shutdown, the cooling of the plant will not affect river water temperatures.

The CRWC point out that for ten years they have been asking for a new discharge permit requiring closed cycle cooling in the interests of the Connecticut River, but with no results to date.





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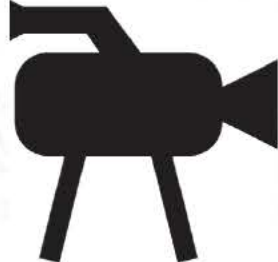
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General Law, the STM must be held within 45 days of receipt of the petition. Because the petition was received September 25, the last legal date for the STM is November 10.

Planning board member Jacqueline Boyden told the board that after the October 2 public hearing, the new groundwater protection district zoning bylaw will be ready for town meeting vote. Boyden said, “One change would be allowing aboveground gasoline tanks in the groundwater protection overlay district.”

She noted that this change does not mean that a gas station will be constructed in the district. However, the bylaw change would allow a proponent to seek a permit to build a gas station in the groundwater protection district.

The selectboard members said they would decide on the STM date at their October 6 meeting.

International Paper Mill

Selectboard chair William Bembury reported that he, representatives from the police department, fire department, finance committee, highway department and IP Mill fincom advisory committee toured three buildings at the International Paper Mill site September 24.

He said they found some damage to the buildings and indications of a past fire that had burned itself out. Some of the group surveyed the roof, which appeared sound, al-

though they saw some water damage. Bembury said that there is a fourth building at the site “way in the back and overgrown.”

The town’s insurer, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, sent a letter requiring the town to secure doors and windows and establish regular police inspections of the property, within 30 days.

Bembury and selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said they would write the bid package specifications for securing the site and put the work out to bid.

Erving Elementary School

School committee chair Scott Bastarache told the board that the committee wants to hire a second preschool teacher for Erving Elementary School. The preschool class currently has 20 students with nine children on the waiting list. Early childhood education coordinator Mackensy Bailey described the program as having a “space crunch.”

Bastarache said that the school budget will cover the salary for the second teacher, but the school committee will be asking the town to cover costs of benefits. He said that projection of the size is difficult, so the position will be on an interim basis, lasting from January 2015 until the end of the school year.

Bastarache reported that Union 28 superintendent Robert Mahler wants to retire, despite pleas from committee members to stay on. He

said that a superintendent search committee will be formed over the next few weeks, with representation from each of the five towns in Union 28. Bastarache said he hopes that the new superintendent will be identified in January.

The selectboard agreed to classify the EES early childhood education coordinator as a “special municipal employee.” This designation will allow Bailey to become one of Erving’s three non-voting advisory members to the Gill-Montague regional school committee without violating state ethics laws.

Northfield Mountain

Boyden, as assistant assessor, reported that the board of assessors had received two bids for the re-valuation of the Northfield Mountain project. The selectboard accepted the lower bid of \$29,250 from Mainstream Associates, as recommended by the assessors.

Other Actions

The board approved the final version of revisions to the town’s personnel policy. The board has been reviewing the policy manual for over a year. The newly-formed personnel policy review board, with three of five members appointed, will review the policies.

The board accepted the resignation of Sarah Vega-Liros from the Usher Plant re-use committee.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Assistance Provided

Tuesday, 9/23

1:15 p.m. Lost wallet found and turned in to station. Owner contacted and picked it up.

7 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Christina’s Restaurant on the French King Highway. Found to be lost. Gave directions.

Wednesday, 9/24

12:55 p.m. Report of larceny from Tim’s RV on Route 2. Under investigation.

Thursday, 9/25

4:36 p.m. Assisted subject on French King Bridge.

Friday, 9/26

2 p.m. Found MA license plate. Turned into RMV.

4:54 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill PD for motor vehicle accident. Assisted on scene.

Monday, 9/29

12:40 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Lillians Way.

2:48 p.m. Assisted Gill PD after motor vehicle crash on Barney Hill Road.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gill “Choice” Issues Discussed, Committee Tweaks Wording

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Three parents took advantage of the Public Participation period at the start of the September 23 school committee meeting to add their concerns to those voiced at the September 9 meeting about the structure of the Gill elementary recess.

Matt Leif, father of a fifth grader at Gill, lamented the lack of choice and the restrictiveness resulting from children not being able to choose activities. Lisa Shiner says students are not so happy with no choice of where to sit for lunch. Recently students were required to sing a song five times because some students were not standing straight.

Parent Becky Lovely reported that kids had been asked in class one negative and one positive about the recess period. Finally parent Heather Kominski asked the question, “Is there no such thing as free play?” She added the playground policy is “over the edge.”

Two-Minute Passage Time

The school committee next heard from the new student representative, Nadia Hansan, about the Booster week events, as well as the difficulty students are having with the new two-minute hallway passage time.

Hansan, as well as Kelly Loynd, the Erving representative to the school committee, said that two minutes were not enough time for students to return to lockers to put back their book-filled back packs which are too heavy to carry around the entire day.

Principal Thomas Osborn this fall implemented the shortening from four to two minutes and likely will address it at the October 14 school committee meeting.

Teacher Training

Superintendent Sullivan covered his activities since the last meeting beginning with the school year’s first half-day in-service session with teachers and principals. One focus of this half-day teacher training was on students’ writing.

Sherry Wood gave a workshop on the responsive classroom to paraprofessionals. Administrators received a second round of training in giving effective feedback in teacher evaluations and conferences. In addition Sullivan met with counterparts in the New Superintendents’ Program to discuss implementing strategic plans. He expects to meet four times with this group this year.

Sullivan also met with a newly-formed “scheduling task force” charged with determining the pros and cons of a common long block schedule of four 90-minute classes

for both middle and high school students. The question is whether such scheduling would allow more efficient staffing and allow offering more classes.

Finally the Superintendent announced he and the principals have begun classroom observations.

District Oversight

One of Sullivan’s goals for this year is to increase community and especially parental involvement in the District. To that end he announced formation of a “community engagement task force” and sought four school committee volunteers; Mike Langknecht, Misty Lyons, Jane Oakes, and Joyce Phillips are the four who stepped up.

Joann Blier, director of business, explained how there seemed to be a discrepancy in the numbers of students qualifying for lunch at school. She said it is possible to have one family applying for the subsidy for two or more offspring attending the district.

Blier also announced that she will be the “third pair of eyes” checking that all necessary signatures are in place. This will assure that GMRSD receives maximum funding for all who are qualified for the lunch program.

In other business, she outlined the steps by which she will begin to build the district budget over the month of October and into November.

First she will meet with the principals in October, then she will come to the school committee for setting the budget assumptions, and when the towns are ready she will meet with them to get their revenue limits, possibly in November.

The superintendent is already meeting with the tech committee to see how things look financially.

Guiding Documents Reworded

Sullivan returned one more time to the final wording on three of the district’s “guiding documents”: the district motto, the mission statement, and the district’s core values.

Of the four core values, “persistence,” “integrity,” and “empathy” will remain the same. The fourth, “continuous learning,” will be expanded to mean: “constantly expanding our understanding.”

The new mission statement will read: “Challenging and supporting every student to succeed through strong leadership, excellent teaching, and community engagement.” The district motto will now read: “Building Bridges to Success.”

The next Gill Montague Regional School Committee meeting will be October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Franklin Tech Students Again Take Top Regional Welding Prizes

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – For the third year in a row, Franklin County Technical School Welding and Metal Fabrication program students have won prestigious awards from a national organization for their excellence in designing, documenting and constructing welding projects.

David Weed, 18, of Warwick won the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation’s Regional Gold Award in the 2014 Division I Student Arc Welding Program. As such, Weed received a Lincoln 140 MIG Welder worth \$700 to \$800, as well as \$500 in cash.

Gabe Mazeski, 18, of Turners Falls, won the Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation’s Regional Silver Award, and received \$250.

Weed is the son of Todd Weed, FCTS Electrical program teacher, and Mazeski is the son of Joe Mazeski, the school’s director of Building and Grounds.

Weed built a water cooler for an Airco Pulse Arc 500 that converts a previously air-cooled welding machine and gun into a water-cooled unit. This extends welding component life and allows for continual welding without stopping for a cool down cycle.

Weed said he was happy to learn he had won the award, and credited his teacher David Morgan with helping to guide him through the process.

“It’s nice to get a welder, and the cash is nice too,” Weed said. “Doing the project was difficult. Without Mr. Morgan’s help it really would have been hard. This is a great program with excellent teachers.”

Mazeski made a water sediment table for a CNC plasma cutter. The table catches excess smoke and sediment from the cutting machine while it’s in use. He said he was surprised to hear he won the award.

“It felt great to win this award,” Mazeski said. “I came



David Weed of Warwick won the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation’s Regional Gold Award.

home from work one day and I had a letter from Lincoln Arc Welding saying that I won.”

The two award winners graduated from FCTS in June. Weed works for Judd Wire in Turners Falls, and Mazeski is a student at the Advanced Welding Institute in Burlington, Mass.

Franklin County Technical School routinely wins James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation regional awards. Last year, Gabriel Stafford won the Regional Gold Award, while two years ago, Connor Roberge won a Silver Award, while James Thayer, Cody Stevens, and Dalton Harris took all three Bronze Awards.

“We’ve had quite a few winners of this contest over the years,” Morgan said. “We’ve been pretty competitive.”

Morgan said the students not only have to build their projects, but also document every step, including job specifications, drawings, photographs, tool lists, weld parameters, and more.

“It’s a pretty comprehensive package when they put it together,” he said. “The real plus of winning is that this is a very prestigious, recognized industry award. It’s industry-based and is evaluated by people in the industry. The real value is when you can list this award on a resume when the student goes into the job market.”

Michael Reardon works as the public relations representative for Franklin County Technical School.



The Lincoln silver award went to Gabe Mazeski.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Kitchen Work Coordinated;
Road Closure Confirmed

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Unlike at the previous two meetings no one brought produce to the Wendell selectboard’s September 24 meeting. Selectboard chair Christine Heard had brought home grown cucumbers to the earlier meetings, and gave them to willing recipients.

Town Hall Kitchen

Eric Newman and Judy Hall, who is chair of the kitchen committee, asked the board about formalizing the role of kitchen coordinator, which Newman has assumed.

Newman had approached the kitchen committee and proposed creating a coordinator position to oversee both the construction of the improved kitchen, and, when it is completed, its use.

No one on the kitchen committee has enough open time to take on either task, and they accepted his offer willingly.

As coordinator, unpaid, Newman has come to the town hall kitchen almost daily as work is happening and met with the building crews – so far the plumbing and electrical shops from Franklin County Technical School. He has made some “small, on-the-fly changes,” when needed to keep a day’s work moving for the students.

At the selectboard meeting he brought a draft of a job description for the kitchen coordinator, and left it for board members to consider before the next meeting.

One issue has come up already. Kitchen plans include protecting the kitchen’s water supply from freezing. One day while the Tech school students were working, selectboard member Dan Keller came into the building with a professional plumber, David Facey, to look at the site and assess freeze-proofing the water supply.

An annual town meeting authorized money for that work before any money was authorized for the kitchen work itself. The set of articles authorizing work to bring the kitchen into working order also included money to freeze-proof the water supply, and Tech school plumbing trainees were expecting

to do that work.

A CORI (Criminal Offense Record Investigation) check is required for anyone working around public school students. Facey has not gone through that process, so he is not allowed to work alongside students, even with a CORI’d teacher present. An exception can be made for a one-time visit, just to make such an event workable.

The plumbing teacher has welcomed the idea of having a real plumber on the job for the students to see how he works. Keller said it is possible to schedule Facey to work so that he will not work alongside students.

Tech school students will have to check in at school and take care of morning business, then load into a bus, and drive to Wendell center, unpack and then begin work. They have to end their work day at 1 p.m. to give them time to return to school for a 2:30 departure from home. Their work day comes out to three or four hours with a lunch break.

Also, junior and senior classes alternate weeks in shop, and usually only one class does the work, so the work in Wendell will happen only on alternate weeks. This should make scheduling around their work relatively easy.

Selectboard chair, Christine Heard, mentioned that the town hall floor needs refinishing, but Newman expected the kitchen work to be done within four weeks and leave time for the floor refinishing with the windows open, to allow the varnish fumes to leave the building.

Clarifying a Road

Rich Wilder, son of the highway supervisor, met the selectboard next to clarify the legal status of Wren Gould Road, where he owns a house.

He has assumed that the road was discontinued, and has taken over maintenance himself from Jennison Road to his house.

He bought a plow and has paid to have gravel put on the road, but he was concerned that some logging on the lot next to him reduced his privacy and opened that lot as a building lot.

Gazebo Roof Repair Debated at
Wendell Special Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

Funding repairs to the roof of the town common gazebo elicited the most discussion from the 16 of 675 registered Wendell voters attending the September 25 special town meeting.

The majority of those present at the meeting voted to reduce the \$8,500 requested by the selectboard – estimated for repairing the roof with slate – to \$4,500 – estimated for asphalt shingles.

Speakers noted that taxes were increasing, that the gazebo is not a historic building, and that asphalt shingles are relatively long lasting.

Proponents of slate roofing said that the slate shingle roof on the nearby senior and community center had lasted almost 100 years before requiring repairs, and

that slate shingles would look attractive on the nearby gazebo.

All of the other articles passed unanimously, as follows:

•Transferring \$5,043.12 from stabilization to fund a sick leave stabilization account;

•Transferring \$3,804.60 from Stabilization to pay Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station bills of the prior year;

•Re-purposing funds in the Treasurer’s Safe Account (\$3,275.01) to purchase a safe for the Tax Collector;

•Transferring \$208.90 from Stabilization to pay a Building Inspector’s bill of prior year;

•Transferring the sum of \$122.00 from Stabilization to pay a Fire Department bill of prior year.

Before he goes any further with his plans, he wanted to be certain that the road is legally discontinued by the town.

Building inspector Phil Delorey said that according to Massachusetts general law, discontinuing a road nullifies town road frontage, and allowance of a building lot on that road.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich checked the 1986 town meeting that discontinued several roads in town, and confirmed that Wren Gould Road beyond the first house, number 3, was one of them.

The Aldrich Report

Aldrich reported that the FRCOG solid waste district is accepting wood pellet bags for recycling and the WRATS will be set up to take them and hold them.

Massachusetts awarded Wendell nine points and \$1,800 for implementing programs from the solid waste district that encourage people to recycle. The money will be held by the solid waste district for use by the town.

The cost of trash hauling for Swift River School increased dramatically this year, and the school administration responded by consulting town council to get out of that contract.

Dvora Cohen resigned from the Council on Aging. Heard said that Diane Kurinsky, Heard’s walking partner, might fill the position.

Posting for the special town meeting was done legally, but the warrant was missing from the locked posting board when some-

one looked for it the following week. Aldrich corrected that right away with a new copy, and said that the key is easily available to many people.

Town counsel, Dave Doneski, said that the posting was done legally and that the results of the town meeting would also be legal, even without the paper copy on the board for some middle days of the two-week posting period. The warrant is also available on the town website, which does not meet legal posting requirements.

Keller asked Aldrich to check prices for a third posting board on the town office building for just the selectboard, and with no key available except to board members or Aldrich. This board could be smaller than the two that are already in place.

Flag Summit

The two artists who drew the top two choices for the town flag will meet October 3 and develop a design that is feasible to produce, and incorporates ideas from both of them. Pam Richardson said she would be happy to work with Donna Horn.

Broadband

AT 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 2 department heads in town are scheduled to meet in the town office building with New England IT and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and tell them about the use of computers and communication devices, what they might need or want to streamline their work and

deliver it more effectively.

In turn, New England IT and MBI will develop a plan to help Wendell, one of ten towns in a pilot study, make better use of the internet and information technology.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that a firewall has been established between the secure town office building internet connection, and a wireless connection that is publicly available without a password.

Other Business

The money managers’ meeting is postponed to November 5 to allow time for it to include the auditor’s report.

At 6:30 p.m., before the October 22 selectboard meeting, the planning board will hold a session for public input about the Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs).

Then, at 7:30 p.m., MJ Adams from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority will meet the selectboard to discuss the input from that meeting, and the future of CDBG funding.

Aldrich said that Wendell has a long list of households waiting for CDBG housing rehabilitation loans.

The central Franklin County Veterans’ Services advisory board will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, October 9 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of the FRCOG to discuss a possible merger of the Central Franklin County and Greenfield veterans’ districts.

Leverett: Looking For Volunteer Opportunities?

In the first 17 days of school over 1,300 books were checked out of the Leverett Elementary School library! Our students are READERS!

Would you be willing to help in the Leverett School Library? No knowledge of Dewey Decimal System required!

If you can spare some time, I am looking for some help shelving books in the library. Any help would be most welcome!

Please contact Susan Wells wells@leverettschool.org or 548-9144 ext. 7.

Thank you!

Daniel Hales Book/CD Launch at Pushkin October 4

Local musician and poet Daniel Hales will be launching his newest word, found sound and orchestrated music album *Tempo Maps* this Saturday, October 4 at 8 p.m. at Replay in the Pushkin Building, 4 Federal Street in Greenfield.

Tempo Maps, the newest release from Philadelphia’s ixnay press (a small press dedicated since 1998 to publishing new and experimental poetry), is a tough one to pin down... but that doesn’t mean you won’t have fun trying.

The album is a well-imagined and well-conceived hybrid of poetry, prose, music, drones, peepers, cars, beats per minute, trains, ghosts, idling 18-wheelers,

dying fire alarms, love, exploratory crafts, sex, wind, violas, snow, sitars, rain, hula-hoops, permanent fatal errors, and a cat of many names.

The initial run of 250 books is accompanied by a 46-track cd of Hales reading the poems, sound design segues and instrumental interludes, and culminating in the Miner Street Symphony.

CRVPT (Stella Corso and her Connecticu River Valley Poet’s Theater) will open the evening with a dramatic reading of the hilarious: “Make-Up: A Short Dramatic Reading of The Dramatic Student’s Approach.”

The \$8 cover includes a copy of *Tempo Maps*. See more at www.replaymusicgear.com.

Leverett Chief Moruzzi
Receives Mass Accreditation

The Massachusetts Fire Service Commission granted accreditation to Leverett fire chief John Moruzzi.

The commission determined he had demonstrated the required fire service experience, education, and certifications for accreditation.

This accreditation is granted through the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission, a gubernatorial appointed board that has established a process for uniform credentialing for fire chiefs.

Everett Fire Chief David Butler, who serves as chair of the commission says, “The program establishes requirements based on education, training and experience in areas relevant to serving as fire chief. It establishes benchmarks for training in fire and emergency service management so that chiefs may be

better prepared to serve their department and their community.”

The applicant’s documentation is reviewed by a subcommittee of the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission to determine if the individual has attained a minimum level of credits for education, training, and experience.

Chief Moruzzi said, “I am dedicated to providing the highest level of service to my town and have worked hard to continue my education and experience to bring a high level of professionalism to this position.

“I appreciate that this accomplishment recognizes my dedication to be the best fire chief I can for Leverett.”

Participation in this program is voluntary and all eligible personnel are encouraged to participate.

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GOOD USED USABLES

BRIDGE from page A1

induce resonance and cause a suspension bridge to collapse as the poorly designed Tacoma Narrows Bridge did in 1940. When resonance occurs, ordinary vibration on a bridge becomes amplified by strong gusts, creating regions of high and low pressure above and below. This causes the bridge to move up and down, flapping like a bed sheet in the wind.

Since the Factory Hollow Bridge construction is not a suspension bridge like the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nor are there any problems of excessive wind gusts, that factor can probably be safely ruled out.

According to iron workers with Atlantic Bridge and Engineering, who worked on the Gill-Turners Bridge, the Seventh Street Bridge, the General Pierce Bridge and the Factory Hollow Bridge, the biggest problem with most bridges is the use of road chemicals and the lack of maintenance, especially of drains and iron work coating.

One look beneath the Factory Hollow Bridge at the start of reconstruction, at the rusty beams disintegrating to shreds from the corrosive effects of road chemicals (below), would confirm the Atlantic



Cleaned piers were formed for the new saddles.

PARZYCH PHOTOS

Bridge and Engineering iron workers' contention that lack of maintenance needlessly brought about the sad deterioration of all four of these bridges.

As Northern Construction demolished each section of the bridge, their carpenters built forms for new saddles on the existing piers for the placement of new I-beams.

The contractor's crew beefed up the bases of the piers with concrete girdles.

Workers also wrapped the existing piers with reinforcing

according to Pelow and added a layer of concrete. The finished result is sturdier new looking piers, with a finish that rivals pieces of art.

The original I-beams were 200 feet long by 4 feet high. The new I-beams arrived by tractor trailer truck in three sections. Because the new abutments are set 10 feet back from the original ones, the over-all length of the new beams are 220 feet making the bridge twenty feet longer.

The three beams, three feet, nine inches tall with a one foot, three inch flange, were bolted together, end to end, with splice plates and high tensile strength bolts.

Atlantic Bridge and Engineering of Salisbury, MA, Northern Construction's sub-contractors for the steel work, set the beams with Scopes Crane Service 240 ton GMK

Globe Cranes.

Occasionally, traffic was reduced to one lane for short periods, alternating each way. Northern workers and Atlantic steel workers tied the beams together with X brace stiffeners.

Once the bridge is complete, all three sections of the separately constructed lanes will be connected into one unit resting on twelve H-beam piles cemented into bedrock.

It appears that neither earthquakes nor wind gusts will be a threat to Northern Construction's completely new bridge, built in a workmanlike manner while contending with two-way traffic, including those hordes of leaf peepers who descend upon the highway each fall, their cars forming lines like marching soldier ants.

GCC Rolls Out New Fall Senior Symposia

The Greenfield Community College Senior Symposia present intellectually stimulating topics in single or multi-session formats, held during daytime hours in convenient, accessible locations.

Participants in this fall's Symposia will learn about baseball, post-cold war nuclear risk, Chinese laborers in Berkshire County, Emily Dickinson, department stores, and more.

The October 8 program on archguitar featuring Peter Blanchette will be a performance/conversation combination, and the October 21 program includes a film created for the Emily Dickinson museum and presentations by the film's scriptwriter and producers.

A collaborative effort between Greenfield Community College's Office of Community Education and area senior citizens, the Senior Symposia provide a way for area seniors to continue their education in a format that best suits their needs, interests, and resources.

Topics and presenters are chosen and developed by the Senior Symposia Planning Board. "The Planning Board is committed to exploring new kinds of programming, a range of formats, and different venues to reach new audiences," said GCC Dean for Community Education Bob Barba.

Since 2003, 7,606 seniors have attended 200 Symposia. About 400-500 people currently attend Symposia each semester.

For information about this year's program visit www.gcc.mass.edu/creditfree/senior-symposia/ or call (413) 775-1605.



The rusted underbelly of the Factory Hollow Bridge at the start of construction.

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UH-OH: PUNK ROCKERS AND GONZOS TO PLAY ERVING BOWL

By MIKE JACKSON

ERVING – “This is a big deal if you’re my age, and you had the *Pink Pork* album and had to hide it from everybody,” says Cyd Scott, now a member of Erving’s Board of Health and Historical Commission, and its liaison to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the topic of hydroelectric relicensing.

“I knew about them from high school, and before... If you had told me back then, ‘you’re going to book the Pork Dukes, and you’re going to book them in Erving,’ I would have just laughed.”

The Dukes formed in 1977 in London when Caroline Records listed a non-existent single, “Bend and Flush,” as a joke, and then started receiving orders for it.

The band was always a bit of a put-on – prog rockers in pig masks churning out *Smell the Glove*-level music-hall raunch over catchy three-chord stomp-

ers.

But by virtue of their unified aesthetic – anonymity; motifs of pigs and scat; misogyny cast as satire or vice versa – they made a lasting impact in certain corners of the punk scene, and in 2001 their legend coaxed them out of a 22-year disbandment.

When Scott, a longtime sound technician, DJ, event planner and promoter, caught wind that they were on a US tour in 2009 through friends in Delaware, he was astounded, and made sure he was in the loop to book them on a return trip.

And when that opportunity finally came, he figured one reunited band called for another, and convinced a second punk act known for its over-the-top antics – Western Massachusetts’ own Pajama Slave Dancers – to come out of retirement for the bill.

“I contacted [PSD singer and guitarist] Steve Westfield, and he was like ‘the Pork Dukes? No way!’” said Scott. “And that’s

see **DUKES** page B2



The reunited Pork Dukes in concert.

ROCK PRIMER, PART ONE: THE HISTORY OF PESKEOMSCUT, MA

By JOHN FURBISH

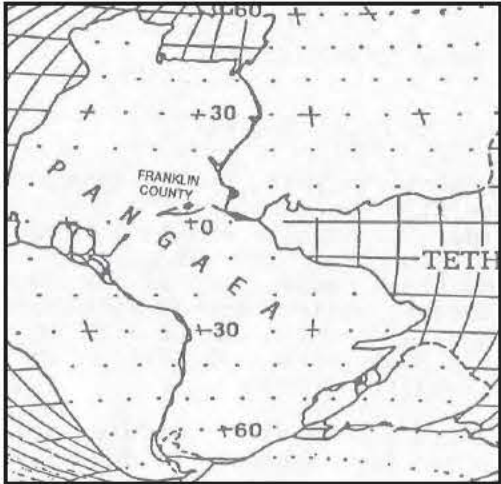
THE GREAT FALLS – Most people in Peskeomscut, MA – now today’s villages of Turners Falls in Montague and Riverside in Gill – know the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners is filled with interesting, informative/interpretive displays, but fewer realize that the downtown village is itself a living museum of geological history over millions of years.

Over the next few weeks I’ll be sharing information on the geological history of the place many of us call home. Today the focus is on how the rocks visible in downtown Turners got to be the way they are. In subsequent weeks, I’ll be taking readers on a little geological tour of Turners Falls.

Our Rocks

In the driveway to the parking lot between 4th and 5th streets, much of the ground along the sidewalk is covered with greenery now, and it’s hard to notice a small ridge of rocks sticking up. But they are there. And the story they tell is fascinating.

These rocks are certainly useless for building upon, impossible to dig into, and may explain why there are no structures there. Rising like little mountains against the soil, the rocks show erosion at work from the roots of the moss at the top of some sections and small trees on the sides.



Above right: Lava pushes up through the rift in Holyoke.

Above: Pangaea has been splitting since the Mesozoic Age.

Both images from Richard Little, *Geological History of the Connecticut Valley* (1989).



According to Jack Challoner’s *Young Scientist Concepts and Projects: Rocks and Minerals*, erosion/deposition go hand in hand within nature’s “rock cycle” of breaking down and building rocks and minerals over thousands, millions of years.

For a basic orientation, I jump into the air (perhaps not as high as when younger), but still firmly getting pulled back to the ground. I jump again, higher this time, and my feet make a flat “thunk” when I am tugged back.

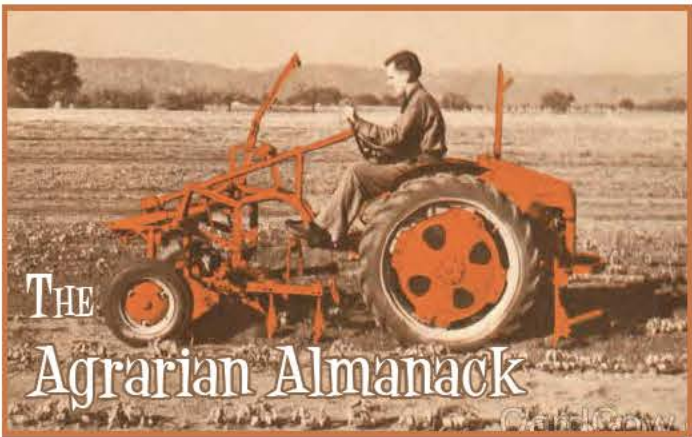
From the pull of gravity, I sensed that I was standing atop the planet Earth, with a solid inner metal core about the same size as the moon and a larger outer core of 1,400 miles of liquid iron and nickel, topped by a semi-solid rock mantle about 1,800 miles thick. And above all this is a rocky continental crust of 20 miles-plus thickness. No wonder from all this mass of dense materials that gravity pulls me so strongly, and gives force to rain and flowing waters.

However, the ground here is not as solid as it seems to my feet. In fact, I’m standing on a plastic planet with movable “tectonic plates” upon the crust that float on the denser rocks below.

Pangaea

I stretched out my arms to the sides and brought them together, very slowly, thinking of over half a billion years ago when the tectonic plates of the planet started drifting together. Then, at 250 million years ago,

see **ROCK PRIMER** page B4



A Time For Yellow Ski Goggles



By PETE WACKERNAGEL

FRANKLIN COUNTY – When you’re a farmer, the success of your work and your whole leaning-tower livelihood rests in the fitness and aptitude of your body-as-multi-tool.

The early summer was full of the realization of the great bodily potential locked-up since winter and the endorphins I associate with running high school cross-country races.

But as fall comes and we’ve been working 55-hour weeks for the past five months, little injuries suddenly beget big ones. It’s like when a single row of falling dominoes suddenly becomes an entire 20-row array of symmetrically-falling representations of bones.

The worst illness of all, however, is when you start to believe that your work, which before you thought of as life-affirming, is actually grinding you down, one meniscus, one vertebra, at a time.

Pulling tomato stakes as we did last week, using a pole driver, lifting 100 lbs. of garlic onto a pickup truck, many of the everyday tasks I usually can count on glorying in, suddenly hold within them a nervous, confidence-compromising threat.

As you can probably guess by the introductory paragraph, I did get injured two weeks ago.

I slid a 450-lb. 2-row basket weeder across the barn floor to position it where I could attach it to my tractor. I thought I was good at

doing this, that I’d celebrated my way into a safely ergonomic way of performing this feat.

I grabbed one of its sides and leaned way back on my heels and with a spasmodic, pneumatic pump sort-of movement, brought it two inches at a time into position.

I’d done this safely many times before, but this time with each full-body contraction I was unknowingly separating my left-side illium from my sacrum a few microns at a time.

I became more aware of it throughout the morning as the injured feeling-of-doom rushed in like Great Whites in the San Francisco Bay fog. My lower back became a big knot of tightness.

I believe that, akin to the grief cycle, there is a cycle of illness. I think of it as a mental process that takes feedback from the physical healing taking place.

First there’s a singular event where one realizes that something is wrong, that maybe one is injured. Then there’s a period of mulling over the severity and potential longevity of an injury.

To me the question is: is this a one-day injury where I’ll feel substantially better the next morning, or a real injury? This first day often possesses a sensation of rawness, like the feeling of the cool outside air rushing into a deep deep cut.

Following this first stage, there’s a long period of ambiguous healing, where one

see **AGRARIAN** page B4

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD

By NANCY HOLMES

DINGLE, IRELAND – If you ever go across the sea to Ireland remember to bring a raincoat, comfortable walking shoes and if possible, your sisters!

The Currie Sisters – Jane Riley, Nancy Holmes and Maily Reid – had a very memorable week visiting the Emerald Isle! We landed in Shannon and immediately were taken by the green, green landscape, and of course the friendly and helpful people, everywhere!

It started with a silly photo (below), and then with never-ending joyous laughter.

We traveled to Dingle, in our opinion one of the most beautiful spots in Ireland.

We spent the days hiking Mount Brandon, driving along Sleah Head drive, learning about the local historical landmarks and taking in more of the most beautiful scenery you could



Jane Riley, Maily Reid and Nancy Holmes brought their hometown newspaper to Dingle.

ever imagine.

Many photos were taken on this trip, among them a photo in front of The Three Sisters; this mountain range was the perfect backdrop for “the three sisters”! And their favorite newspaper – the *Montague Reporter*!

Dingle has so much to offer with its multitude of quaint shops and wonderful restaurants. The three of us had no problem spending time shopping for souvenirs for our families: Celtic earrings, oil cloth bags, pub T shirts and a wee bit of Irish whisky, and we treated ourselves to Irish sweaters, of course.

The evenings in Dingle were filled with lively pub life and plenty of music! We stopped at almost every pub in Dingle: Dick Mack’s, Curran’s, Flaherty’s, The Dingle Pub, and our favorite one of all, The Court House!

If you want to hear a variety of great music, especially Traditional Irish music, this is the place to go, and be sure to say hello to Tommy O’Sullivan from “the sisters”.

Mid week, we left lovely Dingle for a day trip to another of County Kerry’s beautiful towns, Killarney, about an hour from Dingle.

We spent the day enjoying a carriage ride around the famous Lakes of Killarney

see **TRAVEL** page B8

Pet of the Week

I'll be the first to greet you when you come to visit my colony room.

I'm sort of the queen cat around here.

I'm young, outgoing and affectionate even after holding my own outside as a stray cat.

I love having your undivided attention which you'll see as soon as you pet me.

My purring just won't stop as long as I'm being loved.

I enjoy laps too so sit down and try me out. I get along with other cats as long as they know that I am the queen of the castle!



Lilo

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

Senior Center Activities October 6 through 10

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.
Monday 10/6
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 10/7
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Five Crowns
1 p.m. Painting w/ David Sund
Wednesday 10/8
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 10/9
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday 10/10
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, 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 Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 10/6
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Noon Quilting
Tuesday 10/7
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday 10/8
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo
Thursday 10/9
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Cards
Friday 10/10
9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 *Out To Lunch*

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

DUKES from page B1
the show, right there. Well... that plus the bowling alley."

The Bowling Alley
"I tried to get Halloween in Boston," Scott continued, but as it turned out, the band's return tickets to England had been booked for earlier that day.
As the risks involved with booking a not-universally-remembered headliner on a Thursday in a club demanding a high advance began to dawn on Scott, he began looking closer to home – "I called a ton of VFWs" – before realizing the venue he was looking for was right under his nose.

French King Bowling Center owner Eric Semb has removed the lanes from the back room, and rents it out for events. It has proven a hospitable venue for the region's heavy metal scene.
The wheel-in equipment from Angry Chair Music, Scott promises, is "the biggest god-awful sound system you've ever seen – stacks and stacks!" the beer is locally famous for being inexpensive, and even the lack of a stage was apt, as "it's very punk."
The incongruity of not one but

two long-lost punk bands at our very own bowling alley is not lost on the world. "When I posted the show on Facebook," Scott laughed, "a bunch of the early comments were like, 'This is rubbish. You're lying!'"

Pajama Beach Party
Nostalgics, curiosity-seekers and active punks alike are asked to pay \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door, for the show. Scott promises a strong bill, with each band playing full sets and two DJs spinning records.
The show will be fast paced and end at a reasonable hour, he said, "because it's a Thursday, and I don't want anyone to be like 'I don't want to go because it'll go wicked late.'"
Despite the Pork Dukes headline, there are reports that many locals are more excited to see the reunited Pajama Slave Dancers, once described in the Boston Globe as "extremely perceptive gonzo's whose charm outweighs their bad taste," whose fourth-wall-dissolving, instrument-wrecking, 1980s live shows got them kicked out of enough bars to leave a lasting reputation.
A 1985 review of their *Cheap*

is Real LP in Spin Magazine described them as "trompe l'oeil punk 'n' roll," "ravenous for pop esoterica and adolescent humor," and "triumphantly silly," while observing that they "play better than they'd like us to think they do."
"I used to see them at the Rat," said Scott, referring to Boston's storied Rathskeller, which closed in the 1990s. "These bands would open, with all these kids from Berklee [School of Music] in them, and you'd go, wow, they're really good, actually good at their instruments. And then the Pajama Slave Dancers would go on....
"But then they'd be the ones coming back the next week to headline. It wasn't about quality! If you can produce fun, that's really the ultimate goal."

Thursday, October 30, 7 p.m.
French King Bowling Center, Route 2, Erving
The Pork Dukes; The Pajama Slave Dancers; UK-OU; Big Laughing Mushroom.
Advance tickets are available at Replay Music in Greenfield or by contacting flagghillstudios@gmail.com.



Comedy at the Shea on October 3

If the Shea Comedy Players have anything to say about it, banana peels are going to make Turners Falls fall over from laughter this fall when the Shea Theater's very own improv comedy troupe make their first fall. "That Funny Improv Show" is a family-friendly fun night of comedy created on the spot on Friday, October 3 at 8 p.m. at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Tickets are only \$5 at the door.

The Shea Comedy Players use audience sug-

gestions to artfully improvise hilarious scenes. Similar to the popular TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", the Shea Comedy Players' "That Funny Improv Show" is a whip-smart, lightning fast, fully improvised show that will have audiences holding their sides with laughter.

The Shea Comedy Players feature Scott Braidman, Moe McElligott, Mosie Senn-McNally, Maile Shoul, Christine Stevens, and Pam Victor.
For more information, go to www.theshea.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Herbal Healing?



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I heard that marijuana helps glaucoma. I'd like to try it, but won't I get in trouble?

Marijuana can help your glaucoma and it could get you in trouble because there are legal restrictions upon its use. If you are interested in trying medical marijuana for your glaucoma, discuss this treatment with your doctor.

(I could write an entire column on the marijuana laws, but I'll stick to the health issues.)

Marijuana refers to the parts of the Cannabis sativa plant, which has been used for medicinal purposes for more than 4,800 years. Doctors in ancient China, Greece and Persia

used it as a pain reliever and for gastrointestinal disorders and insomnia.

Cannabis as a medicine was common throughout most of the world in the 1800s. It was used as the primary pain reliever until the invention of aspirin.

Marijuana contains at least 60 chemicals called cannabinoids. THC is the main component responsible for marijuana's mind-altering effect. Marinol (dronabinol), a prescription drug taken by oral capsule, is a man-made version of THC

One of THC's medical uses is for the treatment of nausea. It can improve mild to moderate nausea caused by cancer chemotherapy and help reduce nausea and weight loss in people with AIDS.

Older people, especially those with no marijuana experience, may not tolerate THC's mind-altering side effects as well as young people. Doctors generally prescribe several kinds of newer anti-nausea drugs with fewer side effects before resorting to Marinol.

Glaucoma increases pressure in the eyeball, which can lead to vision loss. Smoking marijuana reduces

pressure in the eyes. Your doctor can prescribe other medications to treat glaucoma, but these can lose their effectiveness over time.

Researchers are trying to develop new medications based on cannabis to treat pain. THC may work as well in treating cancer pain as codeine. A recent study found that cannabinoids significantly reduced pain in people with multiple sclerosis, a disease of the nervous system.

Along with the legal implications of smoking marijuana are the health problems such as memory impairment, loss of coordination and the potential for withdrawal symptoms and hallucinations. And, inhaling marijuana smoke exposes you to substances that may cause cancer.

One study has indicated that the risk of heart attack more than quadruples in the first hour after smoking marijuana. The researchers suggest that a heart attack might be caused by marijuana's effects on blood pressure, heart rate and the capacity of blood to carry oxygen.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org.

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AGRARIAN from page B1
wonders if, in fact, healing is occurring at all.

For me this phase begins with identifying what’s wrong. In my case, Sacro-iliac Separation is the number of the beast. During this period I usually modify my behavior. The past few weeks, for example, I haven’t been lifting significant weight.

It’s also been characterized by a lot of mental anguish, wondering whether I’m doing permanent damage to my body, wanting to take a day off but not being able to, all these feelings leading to an assessment that farming is self-destructive and masochistic.

But finally at this point, almost two weeks in, I’d cautiously say that I’ve entered the final stage of injury where one feels significantly better and begins to wonder if they have been healed, have miraculously come out of the entangled and directionless wood of illness.

The culture at the farm I work at is one that promotes injury. The expectation is that one does not take a day off if one is hurt.

This past week, for example, against the totally correct medical advice of my acupressure therapist, I returned to work immediately following my therapy session.

Owners set the tone for dealing with injury and in the case of my farm, the ethic is the same as the strategy for the farm trucks. Work ‘em until they break, slap ‘em back together by any-means-necessary, and then straight back into the fields ASAP.

My boss is known for working until bed-ridden, reanimating on prescription pain-killers to “get the job done,” and then needing a week to convalesce. This 5-hour-energy-drink style work ethic does not make room for the real allowances that are needed by people’s bodies.

My good friend Mike Leslie, pro skateboarder and first-rate bassist,

once created a famous t-shirt that read “It makes you old, it keeps you young.”

It had a skateboard on it and was referring to skateboarding, but beyond that it describes exactly the bodily condition of farming.

Surely the air, the sun, the activity, and the food make me feel like a glowing ember of health. But in tandem there is the exhaustive time commitment, the stress, the injuries caused by overuse or hubris.

I do, however, have a working theory: that the key to whether I’m a burning ember or broken-down pickup is my attitude.

Attitude, which is not a cheesy idea, is largely my own creation and I sometimes have the force-of-will to control it.

It’s the lens that my experience shines through, and so, when I can pin down the unruly negativism that is often the weather forecast in my brain, I choose to wear my yellow ski goggles.



LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on September 30, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Riverside Property Values Skyrocket

Rising price tags for property transactions along the Connecticut River in Gill have prompted the State Department of Revenue’s Division of Local Services to direct the local board of assessors to create a new Riverfront district for property tax assessment as part of the town’s triennial evaluation.

After viewing preliminary assessments in the new district, some of the 30 affected homeowners are going through the roof, along with the valuations on their homes. “My home was valued at \$126,000, said Geri Johnson. “Now it’s \$326,000.”

Assessor’s clerk Harriet Tidd said recent transactions have driven the hikes. “One one-acre plot of land sold for \$170,000!” she said, incredulously – nearly three times the townwide average.

“I’ve been here all my life,” said Thomas Murley. “Why are we getting picked on because we are between the road and the river?”

Power Town Creemee Draws Interest

Half a dozen prospectors entered the darkened shell of the former Power Town Creemee building at 168 Avenue A, hoping to find a goldmine in the town’s offer to turn the space over for \$1 to someone willing to renovate it.

Building inspector David Jensen led the tour. Jensen himself ran a laundromat in the building in the 1980s, but sold it to Gerald and Nancy Dobosz, who ran the laundromat with a soft serve ice cream window in the front until they went out of business in the early ‘90s. The town acquired the building for back taxes in December 2002.

Denise DiPaolo saw visions of a classy dining establishment. “Here’s where the bar will be, here’s the dining room.”

Charlotte Mierzwa and some friends on the Patch are exploring the possibility of setting up a

Counterfeit Bills

A rash of counterfeit bills have been passed at stores in downtown Turners Falls in recent weeks. Detective Ray Zukowski of the Montague PD said “Clerks at area stores have received 50s, 20s, and a couple of 5s,” since the bad bills were first noticed towards the end of August.

“One passed at the Exxon at 3rd and L on September 25, and one passed at a tag sale the next day by a woman in her late 40s accompanied by a young girl.”

The bad bill at the Exxon was passed by a man who had just received the bill while cashing a check at the Fleet Bank. His story checks out, and points out the obvious problem that once these false bills are in circulation, innocent people wind up getting caught cashing them.

“These bills... are often traced back to college students with fancy laser printers,” Zukowski said.

Skunk in the Dog Pen

The Erving selectboard reviewed a case involving a skunk that got into a dog pen, leaving the skunk dead and the dog’s owner wondering if the dog had become infected with rabies.

The animal control officer quarantined the dog, but the inspector of animals, Joann Taylor, is currently the only person authorized to quarantine an animal. Having additional officers authorized to impose quarantines has been suggested to the board.

Temp to Hire?

The Montague selectboard spoke well of Tom Bergeron’s performance in the post of acting highway superintendent. By the end of the month, he will have served in that capacity for three months.

Board chair Pat Allen made a motion to drop the word “acting” from Bergeron’s title, and designate him the new DPW superintendent. That motion was tabled until October 11.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

“Psst! Ya Wanna Buy A Meat?”

Monday, 9/15

7:35 p.m. Medical assistance on West Gill Road.
8:20 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Main Road. Found to be a lost operator.

Tuesday, 9/16

7:25 p.m. Assisted owner of disabled motor vehicle on French King Bridge.

Wednesday, 9/17

5:55 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on River Road. Investigated, found to be a resident.
6:50 a.m. Complaint of possible rabid fox on Main Road.

12:10 p.m. Welfare check on West Gill Road residence. Assisted with family issue.
3:55 p.m. Officer requested about firearms issue on North Cross Road. Issue solved.

6 p.m. Main Road resident reported for attaching MA plates to motor vehicle. Not located.

Thursday, 9/18

10:55 a.m. Hit-and-run mo-

tor vehicle accident reported on French King Highway. Under investigation.
6:30 p.m. Report of white van going door-to-door selling meat in Riverside. Subjects located and informed of proper procedures.

7:30 p.m. Past motor vehicle accident on French King Highway reported.

Saturday, 9/20

11:40 a.m. Medical assistance at boat house on Main Road.
12:50 p.m. Searched area of Camp Road for missing female. Located same.

4:30 p.m. False alarm at Boyle Road residence.

5:45 p.m. Assisted Child Services with investigation at a Main Road residence.

Sunday, 9/21

4:15 p.m. Report of man acting “strange” at state boat ramp. Investigated.

5:50 p.m. Out-of-control woman on Hickory Hill Road reported via telephone. Investigated.

6:40 p.m. Report of yelling from under Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. No one located.

Monday, 9/22

6:50 a.m. Alarm at North Cross Road residence. Electrical issue.

Tuesday, 9/23

6:10 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle parked in French King Highway rest area. Moved along.

6:55 a.m. Verbal family dispute investigated at River Road residence.

3:20 p.m. Responded to elder alarm activated on Center Road.

4:25 p.m. Found property at Mobil station. Purse mailed to owner in Boston.

Wednesday, 9/24

6:10 p.m. Parking complaint on Barney Hale Road.

6:35 p.m. Fire complaint on West Gill Road. Found to be a BBQ.

Thursday, 9/25

4:45 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Dole Road. Investigated, found to be a

resident.

1:15 p.m. Assisted at school with unlock of motor vehicle.

4:40 p.m. Report of suicidal subject heading for French King Bridge. Located subject and transported for evaluation.

Friday, 9/26

2:35 p.m. Complaint from River Road resident of helicopter circling overhead.

4:45 p.m. Subject attempting suicide transported.

Saturday, 9/27

11:15 a.m. Assisted family with funeral procession through intersection of Route 2 and Main Road.

Sunday, 9/28

2:30 p.m. Erratic motor vehicle complaint on Main Road. Located and spoke with operator.

5 p.m. Dryer fire reported on Munns Ferry Road. Assisted residents.

6:50 p.m. Property line / harassment dispute between two residents on French King Highway.

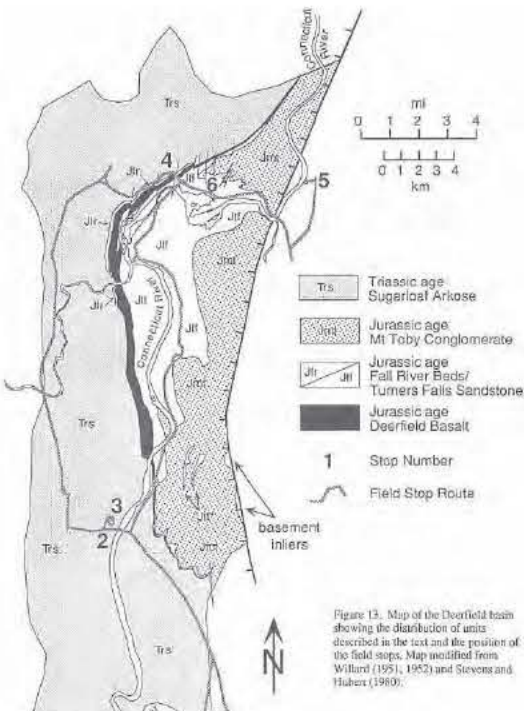


Figure 13. Map of the Deerfield basin showing the distribution of units described in the text and the position of the field stops. Map modified from Wilbert (1951, 1952) and Stevens and Hubert (1990).

Where the Water Splits the Rocks

The present valley began its rebirth about 65 million years ago, when the aged Eastern “peneplain” (a flat terrain with all the higher elements eroded away) shifted and warped upwards as great new mountains, the Rockies, rose in the west.

About 10 million years ago, the uplift in the east invigorated its streams, and “pirate” streams cap-

Massachusetts. During the rifting, earthquakes shook the region and volcanoes violently erupted, depositing lava that cooled into new, igneous rocks at the surface.

Nature abhors a vacuum, and this rift valley became a “depositional environment” fed by streams, where sediments might settle out of the water which held them and then get cemented by pressure from the layered sediments and minerals in the water.

Prodded loose by water and wind and perhaps earthquakes, rocks and sediment from ancient high lands to the west and east began to pour into the rift valley, which sank under the heavy load.

This sinking lifted up surrounding into highlands, yet again producing more erosion and sediment buildup. Such processes continued for tens of millions of years.

By 135 million years ago, the ancestral rift of the lower Connecticut Valley had vanished, after getting filled to the brim by depositions from streams that eroded eastern hills.

ROCK PRIMER from B1

all twenty plates joined into the super-continent called Pangaea that stretched from the North to the South poles.

Europe by then had collided with the Canadian part of North America, and Africa’s collision with the U.S. East Coast pushed up the Appalachian Mountains. Below the changing crust, the mantle grew hotter and expanded.

I opened my arms again and swung them back, stretching my shoulders together until I felt an ouch. Something like that happened in Pangaea. After barely 5 million years of existence, the super-continent Pangaea began to move and crack, to rift apart.

The fragments that would become Europe headed east, and Africa (along with India, Antarctica and Australia) headed south.

What would become Peskeomscut was included in North America with the “Eastern Border Fault”, an extensive rift valley up to two miles deep from Canada through Georgia.

We ended up as part of the east coast of North America, with everything to our east heading toward Africa, says Stan Freeman in *The Natural History and Resources of Western*

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ROOT MINDING NOOK

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Local painter Paul Root is serving Artist-in-Residence in the gallery at Nina's Nook from October 1 through 28. He is manning the shop while Ms Nina-Nook is on her honeymoon.

Root says he explores in his paintings "questions of personal transformation, spirituality, and childhood, my own subconscious...black egg shells cracking open and revealing baby crows transforming into people, stone walls

with figures hiding behind them, bipedal animals in clothing....all are visual symbols with meaning."

Not only will Root be showing his work, he'll also be painting on site, with an exhibit of completed works for sale.

The usual mind-blowing assortment of *objets d'art* will be available for viewing and sale as well.

Nina's Nook, located at 125A Avenue A, is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m., and by chance or appointment.



PHOTO COURTESY NINA'S NOOK

A Paul Root painting of black eggshells cracking.

Art Show This Weekend

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – Mishael Coggeshall-Burr will be having his third annual exhibit from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 4 in his barn at 70 Main Street. If you go, you will see between twelve and fifteen paintings – he was still working at the time of this interview – that represent layers of education, life experience, observation and commitment.

With a full-time job in the physics department at Amherst College, a family (he is married to Nadya Tkachenko who was featured in this paper a few weeks ago), and a big

old house, he squeezes painting into his week because that is what he, as an artist, must do. The oil paintings that will be on exhibit are the end result of a complicated word problem; if this is Tuesday, when does Misha paint?

This is not a simple question. Misha has learned by necessity to claim small chunks of time. He works in his home, snatching moments when a baby naps or before his family wakes in the morning. Fortunately his chosen medium, oil painting, can accommodate stops and starts.

He says, "For now, my painting fits where it can, and that is fine with

me. I can keep a painting in process for weeks that way, have time to reflect on it, and it actually helps me to have down time between sessions for other reasons, such as some effects need a dry underpainting, and some oil colors can take a while to dry enough."

Misha's patience, training and vision have created images that use photography as their source and grow from there to evoke strong feelings of people and place. He's been inspired by the works of Cezanne (the Mt. St. Victoire series), very early Kandinski – and Vermeer. Like Vermeer, Misha says he is fascinated by the play of light from the lens into our eye.

"Like him," he says, "I use a lens as a starting point for my work. He adds that using a camera is practical because he can't spend a day working in a field, though he would like to. Photography allows him to capture a memory in a format that he can translate into a painting."

He says, "A memory is not crystal clear, it is a sort of amalga-

mation of images and smells, feelings and thoughts... And this is ultimately what I'm after--and, I think, what a lot of art is about--this sense that one has somehow recorded an experience, and translated it into a form that will endure."

The upcoming exhibit is titled, Home, and in it he seeks to evoke "the elusive moments, the memories of places lived and traveled that one can reflect back on."

In the exhibit's description he writes, "We leave our childhood home, yet forever maintain vivid pictures of the places that made us feel so carefree. We travel – keeping alive bright and exciting memories of foreign cities that became our Home for a short while. And finally, we settle and root in a place that will create new memories of Home for the next generation."

His paintings, many with dark backgrounds filled with pinpricks of light, have a dream-like quality. They are dramatic and melancholy, as if Misha is grasping for a memory that is just out of reach.

In this upcoming exhibit, he is including images of his childhood summer home on Cape Cod, his first adult Home in New York City, and as a traveler in Paris, as well as his current Home in Montague, where his children inspire him to create and capture new memories.

His journey to this "Home" in

Thanks to the funding and strong muscles of the folks listed below, trash was removed from beautiful natural areas in the towns of Gill, Montague, Millers Falls, Turners Falls, Sunderland, and Deerfield.

2014 Source to Sea Cleanup

Please support and congratulate these organizations that make Franklin County a better place!

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BETH PELTON PHOTOS

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Deborah Bazer
Laurel Carpenter, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Amy Donovan, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
Beth Bazler, FirstLight Power

Photos by Beth Pelton



WICKS PHOTO

Misha Coggeshall-Burr at his easel.

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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt
Readers are invited to send
poems to the Montague Reporter
at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montagureporter.org

The editors would like to thank the following for
their generous financial underwriting of this page:
Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market,
and Montague Dental Arts

Phases

We're not liking this:
The aging edifice
Losing its dignity
One brick at a time

-Leslie Brown
Montague City

A Bullet Feels Like

A tug on the skin
a tear like cloth
a grip letting go
when bones break.

Inside your body
you are falling
away from yourself.
Something tumbles

Through your knees
back into the earth.
A little nausea,
then weakness that

can't be resisted
and darkness.
Crumpled against,
The earth is a pillow.

And another conversation,
jonquils pushing up
through the skin
of the earth.

- Al Miller
Montague

Benny the Bird Watcher

Benny the bird watcher
goes to the park daily.
With binoculars focused,
he perches in a tree
and studies
the fowl that gather.
Although Benny has tried to analyze
their communication systems,
he reaches no substantial conclusions.
A particular squawk, caw, or coo,
carrying a certain message
to one bird, might mean
something entirely different
to another. Whether this
jumbling of signals
is due to the conveyor,
the recipient,
Benny himself,
or all of them,

Benny does not know.
He is, however, intrigued
by the wide variety
of body coloration :
Peacocks boast
bright, ruffled plumage.
Penguins, cool and dignified,
strut around in circles.
Hens huddle confusedly,
bickering among themselves.
A clique of roosters,
sporting neatly-combed manes,
shout egotistically,
hoping to attract the hens' attention.
Unsanitary pigeons
beg for meager offerings.
Two canaries,
oblivious to the crowd,
mutter sweet nothings.

Three doves,
chirping peace and love,
are joined by a choir of nightingales;
but they are intimidated
by a blue-feathered eagle
who warns them to not agitate the others.
So the crowd begins to depart,
and a gang of vultures
raids the park for spoils.
Benny ends his sport for the day,
and goes home.
Prancing in his cage,
he pleases onlookers
by mimicking their actions.
While nibbling a stale saltine,
Benny contemplates
the fowl condition.

- Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Untitled

The Great War was beginning
A hundred years ago.
The Guns of August rumbling
Sounds ominous and low.
The world around was changing
But they didn't know it then.
The carnage just beginning
That August way back when.

Austria fought Serbia
Which then embroiled Greece.
The other countries soon joined in
Until there was no peace.
A kind of family squabble.
That got somewhat out of hand
They'd been having a good-old arms race
And had to take a stand.

New words would soon be common
Like "Ypres" and "Verdun ,"
"over the top" and "stalemate"
And "tank" and "machine gun."
The joy of modern warfare
A waiting world would see
A new world of death and carnage
Dealt out efficiently.

While over in America
We heard the rumbling too
But it was not our business
Beyond our oceans two
A few of us enlisted
To go and fight the Hun.
Most continued day to day,
But we started making guns.

An arsenal of democracy
Weapons we'd supply
To feed the growing mayhem
But never asking why.
"Take up our quarrel with the foe."
The plea from Flanders's Fields,
A cornucopia of tanks and ships
Of tonnage and of yields.

Oh we'd get in eventually
And join in "over there"
We couldn't see the consequence
Or maybe didn't care.
For war's a great adventure
When in a noble cause,
The gas and the destruction
And dying without pause.

The gas attacks, the mud, the death
The vermin in the trenches
The relentless rain of screaming shells
To make men lose their senses.
The hollow stare of broken men
The shell shocked who came home
The parades and all the speeches
To welcome back our own.

It all began so subtly
A hundred years ago.
We didn't know it all back then
But now we all should know.

-John Haigis
Montague

Contributors' Notes
Leslie Brown is well known and appreciated for her *Gardener's Companion* column, and has long supported the *Reporter* in many other capacities, including a long-running stint on our Board of Directors. (Thanks Leslie)

John Haigis makes his first appearance on this page with a poetic history lesson.
Al Miller's poem takes the lesson up close and physical.
We welcome his work again.

Kevin Smith has contributed to this page often; this time he has gone to the birds for inspiration.

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

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EVERY SUNDAY

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 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, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope Tuesday*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children. Story, interactive game and craft with rotating topics. Ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

Leverett Library Spanish Conversation Group. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Great Falls Farmer's Market, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

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EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m. Moves to Millers Falls Library in September.

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m to midnight. Free.



BILL SHONTZ



ROB FLETCHER



LENNY ZARCONE

The Tin Pan Valley Trio, a Family Variety Show in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Friday, October 10th at 7 p.m.

Refreshments. Donations support free nature programs at the Discovery Center.

ART SHOWS:

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum, Hadley: *Field Notes 4: Transect*. Exhibition of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures created by architects Sigrid Miller Pollin & Stephen Schreiber, landscape architect Jane Thurber. Through 10/15.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Greenfield Garden Theater, Greenfield: *Will For The Woods*, film showing co-sponsored by Green Burial Massachusetts, \$, 7 p.m. www.willforthewoods.com

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jack Wright & Ben Bennett duo; Jealousy Mountain Duo; Don Vito; Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth; Banjo Assault* (larger ensemble). Improvisation and instrumental (post-)rock, etc.; two touring bands from Germany. All ages / substance free; 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

John Doe Jr., Greenfield: *Bunwinkies, Pigeons, and Paradise*

Camp 23. 6 to 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m.

Dance Northampton, Northampton: *Zydeco Dance with Zydeco Connection* www.dancenorthampton.com. \$, 7 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *The Archetype of Betrayal - The Dark and Bright Side of the Individuation Process*, a talk by Paul Sanderson, Jungian Analyst. Seelye Hall 106, Presented by the Jung Association of Western Mass., 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Show of Cards*, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *That Funny Improv Show*, funnies for the whole family, presented by *The Shea Comedy*

Mason. 20 albums, over 6,000 gigs and 48 years in the music business must count for something! Celebrate! \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Taking Back Eden*, contemporary, original, acoustic rock band. Special guest singer/songwriter *Kelly Spyglass* performs delicate, atmospheric, moody, dark folk. 8 p.m.

Replay, Pushkin Building, Greenfield: *The Frost Heaves* and a dramatic reading of a work in progress by Stella Corso and her CT River Valley Poet's Theater. \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Booty Nights*, Hip Hop and Soul 70s-2000s, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*, current and classic hits, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke* 9 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Rob Okun: Profeminist Men*

and the Great Turning. Editor of Voice Male magazine and author of *Voice Male: The Untold Story of the Profeminist Men's Movement*, Rob highlights the awareness of the need for men to play a greater role in preventing sexual assault on college campuses and documents the profeminist men's movement 35-yr history. Rm: C208, 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quiznite with Quizmasters Lou & Leslie! 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Smith College, Northampton: *Contemporary Book Arts Lecture Michael Kuch*, local artist, printmaker, writer and publisher, delivers a talk on his work and career, entitled "Twenty Years of the Double Elephant Press: Harnessing Influence & Ignorance." Reception to follow. 4 to 5:30 p.m., Neilson Library Browsing Room.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Herbal Approaches to Insomnia*, free talk by Community Clinical Herbalist, Patti Williams, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly*

Temple, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Phantom Erratic #6*. Bruzgynai (outsider electronic music from Lithuania!), Olivia Neutron-John and Frida Precariat --(freak-beats diva), perform.-lecture by Jenna Keery Weingarten! DJ Ichabod, \$, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *The Tin Pan Valley Trio*. Bill Shontz, Rob Fletcher and Lenny Zarccone perform a family variety show, \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Original Cowards*, indie/rock, 9:30 p.m.



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TRAVEL from page B1
and a stop at Ross Castle. After all that adventure we felt right at home drinking tea, eating scones and people watching at a lovely outdoor café called “Jams”.

While every day in Ireland was enjoyable, we agreed the best included a trip out to the Great Blasket Island, located about 3 miles off the coast of Dunquin.

The island can only be reached by a combination of a one hour ferry ride, then onto a small six-person raft with all riders wearing life jackets. But this is possible only on days when the weather will allow, which is far from every day.

But the luck of the Irish was with us. We enjoyed a great trip out and a fabulous afternoon walking the gentle yet challenging hills of the island.

We had our lunch on a long

stretch of pristine beach (called a strand by the Irish) and imagined what it must have been like to live in such a remote place.

The Blasket Island, a community of primitive fishing, farming and vivid storytelling, was deemed uninhabitable by the Irish Government in 1953. The heritage of the Great Blasket Island is preserved and showcased at the Blasket Island Center in Dunquin.

Interestingly enough, many of the Islanders left Ireland and immigrated to Springfield, Massachusetts! At the Center there is a special section devoted to Springfield and the Hungry Hill section in particular.

We had been hoping for a sister trip to Ireland for a long time-- we made it happen in 2013.

Erin go Bragh!

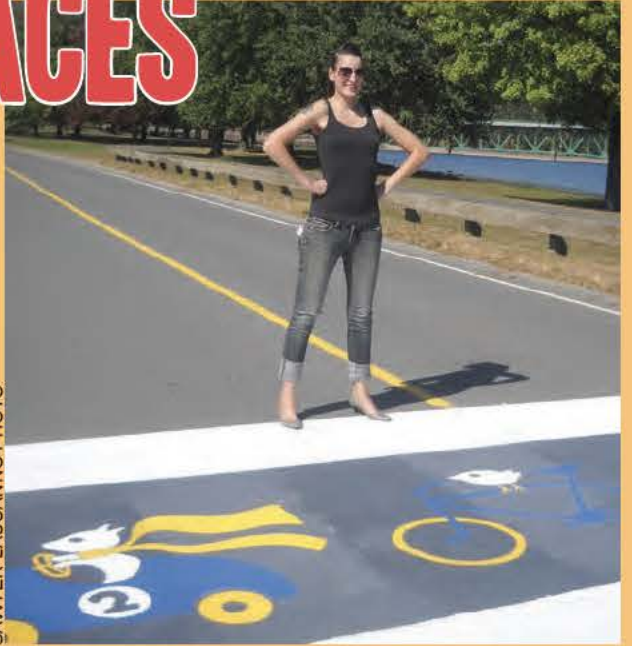


FACES & PLACES



JON DOBOSZ PHOTO

Members of the Franklin County Tech Football Team assisted Montague Parks & Recreation with the installation of two new swing sets at Highland Park in Millers Falls on September 27.



SAWYER-LAICANNO PHOTO

Artist Anja Schütz stands behind the new pedestrian crosswalk she painted on Saturday at Unity Park. At the official unveiling of the new walkway on September 28, Montague police officer Dan Miner told the kids assembled for cupcakes about crosswalk safety. The crosswalk painting and cupcake party were funded by Turners Falls RiverCulture.



JEAN MORRIER PHOTO

The Turners Fall power canal sluice has been drained for maintenance.



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