



'Desire' will Inspire at the Shea

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Solar Jackpot Montague Hits Tier 4

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Montague Grange Turns in its Charter

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 7

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Alumna Denise DiPaolo Praises GCC at 50th Anniversary Celebration



Alumna Denise DiPaolo addressed alumni and faculty gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Greenfield Community College on Saturday, November 3rd.

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Denise DiPaolo, founder-owner of Ristorante DiPaolo in Turners Falls, told the audience gathered to celebrate the college's 50th anniversary last Saturday that GCC had dramatically altered her life at a particularly difficult time. Standing at the podium with a magnificent view of the campus behind her, DiPaolo set the stage for her story. "1992, divorced, a 9-

year old and 3-year-old, no higher education, limited resources, and 'Hello, GCC!'" she said. "My life was a wreck, but at GCC I got really grounded, and it afforded me some breathing room. I felt supported, I got help putting things in perspective, and I gained the confidence to move forward. Thank you, GCC!"

DiPaolo finished her education see **DIPAOLLO** page 5

ELECTION 2012

EXERCISING HER FRANCHISE



Rachael Kashner encouraged everyone who came to her bank window to Vote!

"I voted for Michelle Obama," said patriotic bank teller Rachael Kashner, of Greenfield, who sported a red, white and blue ensemble, and an 'I Voted Today' sticker, as she helped customers at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Tuesday.

Kashner said, "As a woman, I feel we should vote because of all the women over the years who have worked hard to gain the right to vote. I based all my voting on the question, 'Is it going to take away a choice, or give us a choice? If it gives us a choice, that's what I'm going to vote for.'"

More Voter Opinion on Pg 4

Ideas Are the Idea of Area's First TED Talk



Ezekiel Heter-Wegscheider at the TEDx event in Shelburne Falls

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON – Ten original thinkers and doers from Franklin and Hampshire counties made presentations of their fervent interests in a nutshell last Saturday at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls. To the 100 or more who attended, the event amounted to a topical storm precipitated by warming attention to what we're doing here, and what we might be doing better.

The TEDx event was a licensed, localized version of the TED Conferences, global gatherings held since 1984 in Europe and California, and the first ever in Western Massachusetts. TED stands for technology-entertainment-design, parameters that the conference has since moved beyond. The "x"

denotes local, and excellence.

Organized by Stacy Kontrabecki, a forestry consultant in West County, TEDx Shelburne Falls was hosted by storyteller Rona Leventhal of Northampton at both morning and afternoon sessions, and included a free simulcast shown at Frontier Regional High School. The speakers each had 18 minutes – and fine video/sound capability – to stand in front of the audience and present the crux of their obsession. The format suits the broadly curious, and the ideas offered on Saturday, whether "tweaks" or radical visions, will likely continue to provoke thought and change among the attendees.

Speakers stood on the stage, some see **TED TALK** page 6

Gill Tavern Changing Hands



Laura Carboni and Chris Pietras will soon be the new owners of the Gill Tavern

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Laura Carboni has managed the Gill Tavern for the last four years. Now, she and her husband, Chris Pietras, are poised to become the new owners of the Tavern, with the blessing of founders Alden Booth and Lissa Greenough.

"We're selling the business to Chris and Laura because we are so confident it's in good hands," Booth told the Gill selectboard at a hearing Wednesday to transfer the liquor license to Carboni and Pietras, who will operate the business under the moniker of Unadilla, Inc.

Booth, who also owns the People's Pint in Greenfield, said he and Greenough are selling the Tavern, in part, because of being "a little

over my head" with other projects."

Carboni and Pietras say they plan to make no major changes in the formula that has made the Tavern the go to place in Gill for fine country-style dining, drinks and camaraderie.

They only plan to make a good thing better.

"We're going to source as much of our food as possible from the land here," said Pietras, who moved to Gill with Carboni ten years ago, to live and farm land adjoining the Laughing Dog Farm. Searching for a place where "we could grow our own food and step out our door into the woods," the couple put up flyers around Franklin County looking for a place that fit that description, and

Laughing Dog farmer Danny Botkin gave them a call.

Pietras said they hope to expand the gardens out in back of the Tavern, to provide more "hyperlocal" fresh produce for the seasonally changing menu, and also plan to harvest more crops from their homestead to regularly freshen the larder of chef Jordan Scott.

"When we opened, we didn't know whether it would work or not," reminisced Carboni, who talks with a soft trace of an Italian accent. She came to America from her birthplace near Bologna, in northern Italy, when she was six years old. "But it has grown steadily. We try to provide a nice, cozy environment that people enjoy meet-

see **TAVERN** page 12

Taste.

– The Gill Tavern

BY SANDRA MARIE – "Come for a drink, stay for a meal" is the Gill Tavern's motto.

Owners Alden and Lissa Booth, who also own The People's Pint in Greenfield, opened the Gill Tavern as what is described by Chef Jordan Scott as a gathering place for locals to come have a drink or meal after a long day at work, or to gather with their friends.

On Thursdays, the Gill Tavern offers "Trivia Night." Anyone may enter the game for five dollars; the proceeds are given to a charity, and the winning team takes a forty dollar gift certificate to use at the Gill Tavern later. Sounds like a great way to spend a cold Thursday night to me.

The tavern now offers a Sunday brunch, and word has gotten around that this is the place to go for brunch.

One of the offerings from the brunch menu is the eggs benedicto – 2 poached eggs, fried polenta squares, crispy prosciutto, hollandaise, and potatoes with greens. Burgers, salads and pizza are available on the menu if you are more in the lunch mood.

I had a hard time choosing between the eggs benedicto and the omelet special with North Country Farms smoked chicken, goat cheese and caramelized onions. This omelet was perfectly cooked, and the chicken had a wonderful smoked flavor to it. If I didn't know better, I would have sworn I was eating ham.

The onions were complemented nicely by the creaminess of the goat cheese. The omelet came with herb-coated home fries and toast. For anyone in the mood for a nice brunch cocktail, there are plenty of choices on hand. I was very tempted to try the mimosa or Bloody Mary.

Jordan has been chef at the Gill Tavern for two years, having worked in the restaurant business since he was thirteen. In San Francisco he attended the California Culinary Academy in the Cordon Bleu cooking school program. He orders some of the restaurant's produce from Girard's Valley View Farm just down River Road, and the grass fed beef from Cold Creek Farm. The most popular dishes on the regular menu tend to be the steak specials and the grass-fed beef burgers; the most popular brunch item, no surprise, is the eggs benedicto.



I have visited The Gill Tavern many times, and I have always had great service and fabulous food. I love – when the weather permits – to sit at the outside seating area. The homey tavern definitely lives up to its motto.

It opens at 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Sunday brunches are served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Check out the menu at www.thegilltavern.com.



SANDRA MARIE PHOTOS

A perfectly cooked omelet, with herb-coated home fries and toast.

PET OF THE WEEK

Pretty Please!



Domino

I'm Domino, a two-year-old short-haired male cat. My name fits me well – I've been knocked down a few times in my life. I first came to Dakin as a stray from Springfield and I've tried a couple homes since then, but I just haven't found my perfect family yet. I really do like people; I'm known for my playful and affectionate nature. I can get along just fine with other cats, but dogs make me very nervous, and I'd prefer not to live with them. If you have room in your heart to give a sweet guy another chance at lasting love, please don't wait: come on in and meet me today!

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Veterans Day Observed

The Trustees of the Montague Veterans Memorial invite the public to attend a Veterans Day ceremony (no parade this year), on Monday, November 12th at the Montague Veterans Park, just down from the Carnegie Library on Avenue A. The ceremony will include speakers from the VFW, the American Legion and the Montague Elks.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY EVENT

Harvest Crafts

Children of all ages and their families are invited to make Harvest Crafts at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 10th at 10:30 a.m. with Ruth O'Mara.

THE LEVERETT LIBRARY

Author Talk: Matthew Dicks

Matthew Dicks, author of *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, will speak at the Leverett Library on Monday, November 19th, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Dicks is a writer and elemen-

ary school teacher, as well as a Moth storyteller. He is the author of two previous novels, *Something Missing* and *Unexpectedly Milo*.

Signed copies will be available for purchase.

THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Sci-Fi Movie: "The Day The Earth Stood Still"

The Day the Earth Stood Still will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m.

An alien (Klaatu) and his mighty robot (Gort) land their spacecraft on Cold War-era Earth just after the end of World War II. They bring an important message to the planet. However, communication turns out to be difficult, so, after learning something about the natives, Klaatu decides on an alternative approach.

This cinema sci-fi drama and suspense classic is an interesting reflec-

tion of the concerns of its 1950's era, which have obvious similarities with those of the present.

There will be a short 1/2-hour film before the movie: *Flash Gordon and The Planet Of Death*, from 50's Flash Gordon TV series.

This film screening is part of the monthly series of Science Fiction movies at the Wendell Free Library. Admission is free.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

MONTAGUE GRANGE

Ironwill Tate Adult Puppet Show

Ironwill Tate, an original adult-oriented puppet show, created and performed by Ariel Gregory and Brit Juchem, brings quirky humor and wild imagination to the Montague Grange this Sunday, November 11th at 7:30 pm.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – This is the second column in a series about vision correction.

There are three basic ways to correct faulty vision: eyeglasses, contact lenses or surgery. This column will discuss eyeglasses.

Eyeglasses correct the following vision problems:

Nearsightedness (myopia) blurs distant objects.

Farsightedness (hyperopia) blurs close objects.

Astigmatism (an uneven curvature of the eye's surface) produces abnormal focus.

Presbyopia (a natural condition of aging) makes it difficult to focus on near objects.

Corrective eyeglasses come in several forms:

Bifocals have a correction for seeing up close on the bottom half of

the lenses, and another for seeing at a distance on the top. Lines are visible between the lenses.

Trifocals have lenses with corrections for distance, intermediate vision, and up close. Lines are visible between lenses.

Progressive lenses have a smooth transition between corrections for distance and up close with no visible dividing lines.

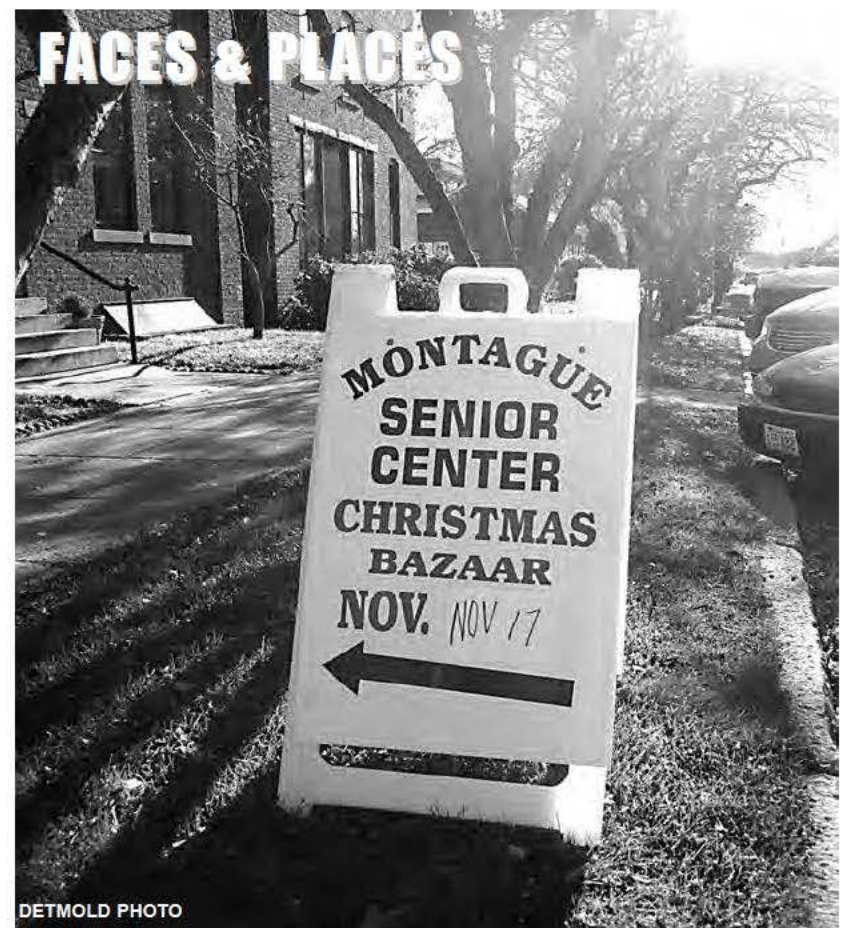
Single vision lenses correct distance vision only.

Readers aid up-close focusing only.

Superfocus glasses were introduced in 2009. I bought a pair of this new kind of eyeglasses earlier this year. Mine cost \$800 and came with a 30-day free trial.

Superfocuses have four lenses with no visible lines. There are two flexible lenses within the frame. And there are two rigid lenses that are made to prescription. These hard lenses are held onto the outside of the flexible lenses by magnets.

Moving a small slider on the bridge of the frame focuses the flexible lenses. When the slider is far left, you are focusing on distant objects. When the slider is far right, you are focusing up close. The middle setting is perfect for working on



DETMOLD PHOTO

Mark your calendars for this important annual fundraiser for the Gill-Montague Senior Center. The Christmas Bazaar will take place at the Senior Center, on 5th Street in Turners, on Saturday, November 17th.

CONCERT FOR CARING

A Benefit for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia

Franklin County Home Care is proud to be a sponsor of an upcoming concert to benefit home based caregivers of persons with dementia. The concert is set for Saturday November 17th at 7 p.m. in John M. Greene Hall at Smith College in Northampton. Performers include: Green Street Brew, Mount Holyoke V8s, Strike A Chord, High

Definition, Smith Smiffenpoofs, and the Williams Octet.

Tickets are available at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

To expand the care offered, the Music and Alzheimer's project needs iPods to create customized music for each dementia patient. People can donate their old working iPods at the concert.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Joys and Sorrows of Superfocus Eyeglasses

a computer or other objects in the middle distance.

Moving the slider between the three basic settings fine-tunes the focus. Placing the slider halfway between the far and middle settings works for most situations. When you drive, you push the slider far left and then bring it back right just a smidge; this setting lets you view both road signs and your instrument panel.

Superfocus glasses seemed to be the answer I had been looking for since I began wearing glasses almost 50 years ago.

I have worn single vision, bifocals, progressives and contact lenses. All of them had disadvantages. Superfocus eyeglasses have none of the disadvantages of other corrective devices I've worn. My vision with them was superior. But the Superfocus has its own down sides. Here are the problems that, eventually, I was unwilling to live with:

* You must refocus quite often. I tried watching a baseball game on TV while reading a newspaper. Annoying.

* You must be careful to avoid picking up the Superfocuses by the lenses, or the outside lenses will pop off

and fall. I've had a few heart-stopping accidents before learning to pick up the glasses by the frames only.

* Cleaning the glasses is not normally problematic. However, moisture and dust often creep in-between the lenses. Cleaning then requires removing the rigid lenses and cleaning a total of eight surfaces.

* The glasses get mixed fashion reviews. They come in only one size and shape – small and round – making people look like Harry Potter or John Lennon. And, if you have a big face like mine, you look odd. My most charitable friends have told me I looked "funky" in them.

After four months of wearing these glasses, I asked the company to take them back. The customer service department was wonderful. They gave me a full refund.

I bought trifocals and a second pair just for my computer. I'm still not happy.

In our next column, we'll report on contact lenses.

Send your questions to
fred@healthygeezer.com.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – November 12th to November 16th

GILL-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 by 11 a.m. the day before. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Leave a message if the center is not open.

Monday, November 12th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, November 13th
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

1:00 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday, November 14th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, November 15th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, November 16th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:30 a.m. Bazaar Set Up
NO Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational 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.

Fuel Assistance Applications
New applications for this heating season are available at the Senior Center. Help completing forms and obtaining the necessary paperwork is available. To find out income availability and other information, call Polly at (413) 423-3649.

Monday, November 12th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

Tuesday, November 13th

11:00 a.m. Quilting
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, November 14th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing / Zumba
10:00 a.m. Yoga

Thursday, November 15th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
12:00 Cards

Friday, November 16th

9:00 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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 \$4 (first class free).
• Senior Lunch – Fridays at 12. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARIN ILLUSTRATION



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION



DON CLEGG PHOTO

Back row: Kevin Hastings and Ron Vataliro
Front row: Max Leh, Jake and Kyle Dodge

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – For the fourth consecutive year, the **Montague Elks Lodge #2521** has donated \$1,000 to the Greenfield Youth Football association. Presenting the donation was Elks chairman of the board Kevin Hastings. Accepting on behalf of the youth football association was Ron Vataliro, president, along with players Max Leh, wide receiver, plus brothers Jake and Kyle Dodge, both quarterbacks. The GYFA team made it to the junior division Super Bowl on Sunday, November 4th, but lost to Northampton.

The **Turners Falls High School** football team cruised to a 47-13 win over Mahara on November 2nd, improving their record to 7 wins and 2 losses. Ryan Wilder is now two yards shy of 1,500 for the season, as the Turners Falls running back rushed 23 times Friday for 170 yards and a pair of touchdowns. TFHS takes on powerful Easthampton at home on Friday, November 9th, with kick-off at 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Valley Institute will host UMass sustainability manager Ryan Harb on Thursday, November 15th, at 7 p.m. in Stinchfield Hall on the main Greenfield Community College campus. The program, **“Bringing Permaculture to Our Valley,”** is free to the public.

Harb, whose UMass Permaculture project has received international attention for its unique ability to engage an entire campus around ecological and edible landscaping, will be joined by Abraham Dresdale, an adjunct professor from the social and natural sciences department at GCC, to discuss how the project began, its current success, and its direction as a model for other institutions.

The UMass project has engaged

over 1,500 volunteers and won seven national awards, including the White House Campus Champions of Change Challenge. Harb spoke on a panel next to President Obama after the program was voted first out of 1,400 applicants.

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees is conducting the **superintendent search** for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. It will be holding a Parent Focus Group on Thursday, November 15th, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School theater and a community focus group on Thursday, November 15th, from 6 to 7 p.m., also in the TFHS theater.

Arnie Gundersen, who has coordinated safety projects at 70 nuclear power plants and has recently returned from Fukushima, Japan, will speak at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, on Main Street, in Greenfield on Tuesday, November 13th, from 7 to 9 p.m. This talk is part of the series: “Vermont Yankee Meltdown? More Lessons from Fukushima.”

The **New England Center for Women in Transition (NELC-WIT)** will hold a fall gathering, “Honor, Celebrate, and Connect” on Wednesday, November 14th, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center, 16 Memorial Drive, in Old Deerfield. NELC-WIT staff will honor community allies in violence prevention and healing and will share information about prevention and social change initiatives.

In partnership with the Turners Falls Fire Department, Greenfield Savings Bank is proud to present Captain Michael Morin giving **safety tips** in the community room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 10th, at 10 a.m. Captain Morin will review many

BY SALLY PICK – With the wind of Hurricane Sandy behind us, Montague sailed well past the 150 kilowatts (kW) of solar photovoltaics (PV) needed to get Montague to Tier 4 pricing under the Solarize Montague program. Now, everyone in town who signed up to install new PV systems by last Sunday’s deadline will qualify for a 10% discount off our starting price.

We made it to a total of 180 kW of PV in our small town, one modest-sized, residential PV system at a time. Forty-two households signed on!

Before the Solarize Montague program, our town had 28 PV installations; since then, we’ve seen a 150% increase! The largest two systems contracted through the program were roughly 9 kW and 7 kW on small farms, and the average PV system going in is a bit over 4 kW.

Prior to the program, our town had the highest per-capita number of PV installations among this year’s 17 communities participating in Solarize Mass; I’m guessing we may keep that distinction.

Karen Schweitzer and Mitch Gaslin, who were among the ten or so households that signed up last weekend, just under the wire, told me, “We’ve lived in Montague for about 30 years, and think Solarize Montague is the most progressive

thing the town has done, with so many people participating.”

Zach Swan, providing sales and business development at NorthEast Solar, the program’s PV installer, said, “People in Montague really get it. They understand going solar.”

Residents across all five of Montague’s villages explored and signed up for PV, and many used the program as a stepping-off point for pursuing other ways to “green” their homes, such as contacting the Mass Save program to take advan-

tage of their heavily discounted weatherization programs. Kudos to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for selecting Montague to participate in this program, and to NorthEast Solar of Hadley for working so hard to help make this happen within a very short timeline.

Thanks are also due for the leadership and commitment of the Montague energy committee members and selectboard member Pat

see **SOLARIZE** page 5



SALLY PICK PHOTO

This Montague home sports new photovoltaic panels from Solarize!

Tales and Legends on MCTV

BY CINDY TARAIL – Now on Channel 17 online: MCTV’s videos of Turners Falls RiverCulture’s *Tales and Legends*, a four-part series about the people of the Turners Falls industrial era, including immigrants from French Canada, Ireland, Germany and Poland.

Frank Abbondanzio, who provided research for and lectured at *Tales and Legends*, told MCTV, “We are documenting our history while people are still here. People have passed recently, and I wish we had their stories. By showing the program on TV, we are increasing people’s awareness of our community’s heritage, and

that helps build the community’s identity. It sends a message to the outside community that we are a community that cares about our history and culture.”

MCTV can help local groups get information about local history and current events out to the wider world. Call and speak to the staff about creating video announcements and productions.

To watch local TV online, visit vimeo.com/mctvchannel17. Check the TV schedule (released on Thursdays and Fridays) at montaguev.org. Look for MCTV’s new, easy-to-use website in December.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
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Is Anyone Listening to Hurricane Sandy's Wakeup Call?

BY MICHAEL BRUNE – I've been working on solutions to the climate crisis for a long time, but I never really expected that it would hit home for me quite the way it did.

Chadwick Beach, the small New Jersey town where I grew up and where my parents still live, was one of many communities in Superstorm Sandy's path last week.

It was an idyllic place to grow up. My wife and I still take our kids back home each summer. It's where I fell in love with the ocean and, by extension, all of nature, from redwood forests to alpine meadows.

Fortunately, my parents weren't home when the storm slammed into the Garden State. The damage along the shoreline is so severe that they haven't been able to get back to their house to learn its full extent.

"Sandy is only the latest and most devastating incident in a pattern of extreme weather that's become impossible to ignore."

But my uncle's house is flooded, the restaurant where I bussed tables has been destroyed, and neighbors' houses have been spotted floating in the bay. I've seen photos online that show the homes just a few blocks from ours completely inundated, and the damage reports from friends are numbing. No one has seen anything like it before.

I wish I could say we'll never see anything like it again in our lifetimes, but that's not how the wind is blowing. The frightening consequences of climate disruption that scientists have warned us about for decades are already here. Sandy is only the latest and most devastating incident in a pattern of extreme weather that's become impossible to ignore.

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U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 11/7/12

Wounded: 17,674 Deaths: 2,150



Our nation suffered through a record-high 14 weather events last year that caused at least \$1 billion each in damages. So far in 2012, we've seen a drought that devastated Midwestern farmers, historic wildfires that laid waste to homes in Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, Montana, and beyond, and thousands of heat records broken across the nation.

"In just 14 months, two hurricanes have forced us to evacuate neighborhoods – something our city government had never done before," wrote New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. "If this is a trend, it is simply not sustainable."

He's right.

The connection between climate change and catastrophes is now painfully obvious to scientists and insurance companies alike. It's getting clearer to the American people, especially my friends and family on the Jersey Shore.

And climate change is about more than just temperature. It's about disrupting the basic weather patterns that affect almost everything in our lives – from our water supplies, to how we grow our food, prevalent kinds of insects and diseases, and our ability to keep our families and homes safe.

Our addiction to coal and oil threatens the future of our planet, hurting families now and putting our children and grandchildren at risk. We deserve strong action from our leaders – not only to help the communities hit by disasters recover, but also to reduce the severity of future disasters.

Making changes that will reduce climate disruption now is less expensive than just staying the course and dealing with mounting climate-related chaos later. By reducing our use of dirty fossil fuels and investing in clean energy and energy efficiency, we can cut power and fuel costs, create millions of jobs, clean up our air and water, and combat climate disruption at the same time.

It's time to end our dependence on fossil fuels and invest in clean energy. We must demand that our leaders accelerate our transition to clean energy and adopt aggressive efficiency measures to reduce our energy use.

Michael Brune is the executive director of the Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. This editorial first appeared in Other Words (OtherWords.org).

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LETTER TO



THE EDITOR

Rosenberg: "I Will Continue to Promote Progressive Values."

I want voters to know how much I appreciate their efforts to return me to office. I take very seriously the responsibilities of serving you in the Massachusetts Senate and the confidence you have placed in me, and I am eager to take on the challenges that lie ahead. I am especially looking forward to representing the residents

of the three new towns in my district: Orange, Royalston and Warwick.

I remain energized to continue working in partnership with the people of western Massachusetts to promote our progressive values on Beacon Hill.

There is much work to be done and no time to waste. Please accept my sincerest thanks for letting me stay in the game.

– Stan Rosenberg
State Senator
Hampshire, Franklin and
Worcester District

VOTERS from page 1



Matt Robinson

"I favor legalization of medical marijuana," said Matt Robinson, of Turners Falls. "I think it's long overdue. The right to prescribe medicine to end someone's life I voted against, because I work in a psychiatric facility. A lot of times people are in pain, and if you lessen their pain, and if they have support from their families, they want to survive."

Robinson added, "As I understand it, the measure would allow suicide to be done at home without a physician. I'm concerned they'll keep that medicine at home in a medicine cabinet, and that could lead to other problems."

Asked if he saw a contradiction in supporting medical marijuana, but opposing assisted suicide, Robinson said, "No. One would allow the lessening of pain, the other would allow you to end your life."

A slim majority agreed with him, as Question 2 headed for defeat at press time, while medical marijuana received a high plurality of voters.



Tim Van Egmond

Tim Van Egmond of Montague Center voted no on Question #1, after receiving an email bulletin from senator Stan Rosenberg saying comprehensive compromise legislation had been worked out by the two

sides [on the Right to Repair initiative] that had not been able to go into effect before the referendum question was put on the ballot.

He supported the initiative on medical marijuana, because "that sounded like an idea whose time had come. I felt there is too much stigma attached to marijuana in the legal system. Marijuana offers options in terms of pain relief and symptom relief that people need access to."

"On assisted suicide, I decided to vote no. I felt the question of whether there would be sufficient trial of palliative care, pain medication and psychiatric help if there was depression... I would want to make sure that was strongly in place before assisted suicide was resorted to."

Van Egmond did support the non-binding ballot question to recommend Congress enact legislation affirming that corporations are not people, and money is not speech. "I feel the Citizen United decision giving corporations legal status as people has given them too much power and influence. Corporations don't seem to have a responsibility to society the way persons have; they only seem responsible to their shareholders. The power they are given



Nadine Fleming

has corrupted the democratic process."

Obama voter Nadine Fleming said, "I believe in what he wants to do." She blamed the nation's financial collapse on the previous administration of George W. Bush, and said it takes more than four years to fix a mess like that. Fleming hopes another four years for Obama will be fruitful for the nation.

Also at the Hillcrest School polling place for Precincts 3 and 4, Obama voter Toni Wilcox strongly supported the non-binding question instructing Massachusetts legislators to clarify that corporations are not, in fact, people, in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.

Don Valley also voted for Obama, although his support for the incumbent could be described as lukewarm, at best. But, "He's my only option," said Valley. He voted for Elizabeth Warren for Senate, supporting her political positions and decrying Brown's negative tactics during the election.

Photos and commentary: David Detmold, Ellen Blanchette and Lee Wicks

Andrews Ekes Out a Win in 2nd Franklin

Incumbent Denise Andrews (D-Orange) emerged victorious from the early morning blurry-eyed vote counting in the hotly contested race for 2nd Franklin District representative on Tuesday. Or maybe it was Wednesday.

Andrews edged out the Republican candidate, Athol select-board chair Susannah Whipps Lee, 8,256 to 8,084, with Templeton independent Rick Shober playing the role of spoiler with 1,906 votes.

While Whipps Lee rolled up majorities in the eastern part of the redrawn district, and whipped Andrews in her home town of Orange (1547 to 1386), Andrews managed to hold on to her seat with the support of large majorities in the smaller towns at the eastern edge of the district. In Gill, Andrews topped Whipps Lee 531 to 206; in Erving she beat her 469 to 218; and Wendell gave Andrews a decisive margin of victory, 398 to 75.

from SOLARIZE page 3

Allen, who worked with the committee to support the program.

Solarize Mass is a partnership between the town of Montague and its energy committee, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, DOER, and the selected installer, Northeast Solar Design

Associates.

On a personal note, I will sign off by saying it's been terrific working as the community solar coach with committed town volunteers, staff, and everyone involved to make this a successful collaboration bringing 42 new, discounted, solar photovoltaic systems to our town.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Rabid Animals, Problems at Chappell Drive Residence

Wednesday, 10/17

2:00 p.m. Rabid fox near Main Road residence.

Thursday, 10/18

4:15 p.m. Rabid raccoon near French King Highway residence.

5:50 p.m. Rabid skunk near Munns Ferry Road residence.

Friday, 10/19

5:15 p.m. Animal complaint on Grout Road. Animals located.

Saturday, 10/20

3:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest on Route 2.

Monday, 10/22

4:30 p.m. Man on the ground at the Mobil Station. Same transported.

Tuesday, 10/23

8:50 a.m. Cows in the roadway on Main Road. Same put back in fenced area.

3:20 p.m. Loose dog on North Cross Road. Owner located.

Friday, 10/26

5:45 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle in rest area on French King Highway. Officer assisted operator.

Saturday, 10/27

12:40 a.m. Arrested subject on Chappell Drive for domestic assault and battery.

11:35 a.m. Responded to

Chappell Drive for follow up on assault.

9:25 p.m. Assisted Erving police with arrest at French King Bridge for illegal narcotics.

Sunday, 10/28

7:20 a.m. Assisted family members on Mountain Road regarding resident with dementia.

8:30 a.m. Fire on Highland Avenue.

2:00 p.m. Assisted Munns Ferry residence with locating power outage issue.

6:30 p.m. Staff meeting regarding declared State of Emergency.

Monday, 10/29

10:50 a.m. Restraining order issued to resident on Chappell Drive.

2:50 p.m. Wires down on Main Road at Munns Ferry Road. Road detoured.

5:00 p.m. Wires down on West Gill Road. All power out in north end of community.

Tuesday, 10/30

4:50 a.m. Responded to Mount Hermon for 911 static on the phone line. Weather related.

2:05 p.m. Chappell Drive resident arrested for domestic assault and battery.

11:48 p.m. Burglar alarm at

include breaking and entering, reckless endangerment to children, and disorderly conduct.

10:51 a.m. Assault at East Main Street, Millers Falls.

9:51 p.m. Assault and battery at K Street, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

10:39 p.m. Burglar alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club, Turners Falls.

11:48 p.m. Burglar alarm at

Wednesday, 10/31

7:20 a.m. Deer struck by motor vehicle on Main Road at North Cross. Deer removed.

Thursday, 11/1

5:15 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Dole Road. Hunters found in area.

1:20 p.m. Annoying phone calls to resident on Main Road.

8:50 p.m. Motor vehicle accident of car vs. bear on Route 10.

Friday, 11/2

8:20 a.m. Female in distress on French King Bridge.

10:40 a.m. A call of second bear struck by motor vehicle in Gill last evening.

9:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main Road and West Gill Road. One subject placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated.

1:10 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road near Munns Ferry Road. No operator located; motor vehicle impounded.

Sunday, 11/4

4:00 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with subject assaulting a police officer.

4:45 p.m. Illegal burning on Bickford Road.

DIPAOLLO from page 1

at Norwich University, earning a bachelor's degree in women's studies. She got a job working for the Franklin County Community Development Corp. as a grassroots organizer in Millers Falls and Turners Falls. She learned that if you want to start a successful business you have to know your community, and her position at FCCDC gave her an opportunity to get to know the people and the town.

It took her four years, but DiPaolo persisted, finally finding the right building in which to launch her restaurant. A decade ago, there were a number of empty buildings in downtown Turners Falls that the town sought to move back onto the tax rolls. She was able to purchase a building on Avenue A for \$1. Then she took her "dog and pony show," as she called it, to the banks and got funding.

On a large electronic screen she showed photographs of the building when she acquired it, while it was under construction, and how it looks today. "It's been a wild, hard, satisfying journey," she exclaimed.

Introducing her to the audience, GCC President Robert Pura spoke warmly about how it feels to enter Ristorante DiPaolo. Pura said he is immediately struck by the creativity, the perspective, and the strong commitment to local town and community. "She is one of the many alumni of this college who has built infrastructure and continues to be the future of these communities."

The 50th anniversary celebration honored 50 outstanding alumni, but DiPaolo was one of three panelists to share how the college had shaped their lives and careers. Joining her on the panel were Darryl Shaw, manager of IT support and operations at the Black Entertainment Television networks, and Thom Beers, a television executive and producer.

Shaw, like DiPaolo, enrolled at GCC as a single parent with no clear vision for his life. Shaw came to Greenfield from New York City and entered GCC in 1993. Describing the transition, he

said he was used to "hustle and bustle, and this was dead stop." But he came to love Greenfield and his years here.

Beers, CEO of FreemantleMedia North America, has produced such reality TV shows as *Deadliest Catch* and *Storage Wars*. Beers said his experience at the college enabled him to become an actor in New York City and subsequently a producer.

"It's not just about the classes," Beers said. "It's about everything you do here, everyone you meet

here. The teachers – they're the ones that will shape you, help you move forward in your life."

DiPaolo also praised her *alma mater*. "There are so many resources here. Allow this institution to help you define what your passion might be, what you want to pursue," she said.

"Immerse yourself in the culture, and use all the resources available to you to help you find who you want to be out in the world."



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Break-Ins and Assaults Continue

Tuesday, 10/30

11:18 a.m. Vandalism at Swift River Hydro Electric on Canal Street in Turners Falls.

Thursday, 11/1

9:07 p.m. Breaking and entering attempt on Randall Wood Drive in Montague.

Friday, 11/2

3:12 a.m. [redacted] arrested at his home. Charges

include breaking and entering, reckless endangerment to children, and disorderly conduct.

10:51 a.m. Assault at East Main Street, Millers Falls.

9:51 p.m. Assault and battery at K Street, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

10:39 p.m. Burglar alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club, Turners Falls.

11:48 p.m. Burglar alarm at

Second Street, Turners Falls.

Old Stage Road, Montague.

Monday, 11/4

7:23 a.m. Larceny reported at Park Street, Turners Falls.

12:34 p.m. Burglary at Fourth street, Turners Falls.

Tuesday, 11/6

2:23 a.m. [redacted] arrested near Millers Falls Road and James Avenue, Turners Falls.

Charges include speeding, operating to endanger, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

9:31 a.m. Fraud reported at Greenfield Road, Montague.

9:46 a.m. Larceny reported at

Saturday, 11/3

1:31 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on warrant near Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

8:34 a.m. Burglary at Third Street, Turners Falls.

9:31 a.m. Fraud reported at Greenfield Road, Montague.

9:46 a.m. Larceny reported at

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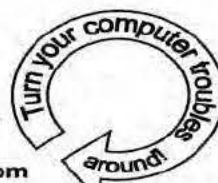
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TED TALKS from pg 1

reading at a lectern, others speaking without visible notes, always with a monitor at the footlights and an invisible means (to this non-techie) of controlling the slides on the giant screen behind them. With five speakers for the morning session and five in the afternoon, the ten worlds the audience got whisked into included: the confidence-builder that is music improvisation for girls; the character-balancing effect of social dance for both sexes – said to be especially needed for boys; and vocal choirs that attend the dying. And more: the fun and therapy of improvisational theater by phone; the down-to-earth, Mount Holyoke connections with Mars, alien life, and the NASA rover; and business carried out from conscious mindfulness, or sheer humanity, as a tool of cultural recovery. One speaker offered fractals as a doorway to an all-encompassing sort of learning and peace. Another reported suppressed facts of the cultural achievements of pre-colonial Native Americans and of the exhumation of skeletons that show some of them were physical giants.

The talk given by Keith Harmon Snow – a former aerospace and defense professional, genocide investigator for the U.N., lecturer in law and society, and now a Williamsburg small farmer, war correspondent and photographer – zig-zagged as suddenly and widely as his life experience would suggest. It conveyed the vastness of human culture and experience... and how restricted our American experience and comfort zone are, in contrast. Wearing pants made of the skins of camel and yak, he showed a slide of the place where he almost froze – from fear – alone in a surprise snowstorm in Mongolia. Why, he asked, aren't American children taught to trust themselves more, to know their inner resources better? "Have you ever eaten a marmot?" he suddenly inquired. The worst part, he said, is seeing the boiled animal's fierce-looking mouthful of teeth looking at you from the pot.

He once spent days and months sitting with a silent man named Felix who lived in a chaotic, run-down house. Once Felix started talking, he shared secrets he'd never spoken: that he'd "never had a birthday, never had a wife or lover." "We need to start questioning ourselves on our arrogance," Snow said. "We've lost touch with reality," accepting "propaganda" instead. The position of truth-teller, he said, is difficult. "I struggle with my urge to be a teacher because I want you to love me. What's important is having the confidence to feel – and modeling it for young people. Our heroes," he concluded, "are the people who have the courage to make the changes that they know they need to make."

It might seem paradoxical, but silences were stitched into the talk. "Learn to move into the silence," he said, as a metaphor, it seemed, for facing fear.

June Millington, a former member of Fanny, one of the first big all-female rock-and-roll bands, offered her discovery that safe, encouraged music-making and improvisation in groups changes girls by introducing them to collaboration and helping them to master the fear that holds them back. The photos on the screen of her Institute of the Musical Arts in Goshen – a kind of musical summer camp for girls, with recording, performance and teaching facilities – conveyed those thrilling, freeing collaborative opportunities.

Daniel Trenner, a dance teacher at Smith, Amherst and Mount Holyoke colleges who lives in Florence, read a highly poetic proposal to an imaginary dean for a training program for elementary, middle and high school dance teachers – not performing dance, but social dance. These teachers, by the nature of the medium and their training, will also help young people learn "body awareness, boundary-keeping, relationship-building, consensual democracy, leadership and followership, community building." Trenner described social dancing as a space "where alphas are obliged to rotate to betas, where the group is only as strong as

its weakest member, making the talented the teachers of the less so.

"These are the fundamental building blocks of empathy," he continued, which are "a fundamental building block of civilized society."

His proposal, he added, would help fulfill "our social commitment for involving men in these more somatic – that is body-oriented – disciplines," saying that men "do need these 'feminine' experiential physical disciplines – ones measured in feelings and not scores."

Social dance teachers, he said, are ones "whose nuanced skill set can help bring the wisdom of human touch, human contact, back into the classroom, and, it would follow, back into our civic discourse and civic life."

"47% of the time your mind is wandering," said Shaladeen Bahl, a mindfulness consultant from Amherst, "and 90% of decisions are made by the unconscious mind, limiting and narrowing your lens." She said mindfulness makes you more conscious of your mental patterns and improves your unconscious processes as well.

Dean Cycon illustrated the course of his personal discovery that "corporations are not people – but they can behave as if they were." The founder of Dean's Beans, he described how he learned to counter exploitive business practices against the sort of indigenous cultures coffee-growing depends on by going to a village, listening ("maybe for a year"), developing a relationship, and at some point asking, "How would you like to see your children's lives different than yours?" The New Salem resident called it "co-creating



Keith Harmon Snow at TEDx

a way of dealing with the issues they come up with." Ultimately, these people are the managers of the businesses that result.

The correction of the history of Native American culture came from Jim Viera of Ashfield, a stonemason whose investigations into New England's ancient stone structures have convinced him that the cultural belittlement happened "because the facts didn't fit the colonial context" – i.e., they contradicted the Europeans' sense of manifest destiny. In a more specific cover-up, he cited a number of separate reports of human "skeletons seven to eight feet in size with double rows of teeth" – skeletons unearthed in New England native burial sites. He claimed the Smithsonian denies they exist, suspecting the ultraconservative Koch family, whose money has been reported to be used to influence scientific reporting.

Fractals, shapes that repeat themselves in a pattern, excite Ezekiel Herter-Wegscheider, a young Buckland poet and artist. As the screen behind him showed the "camera" moving closer and more deeply into an organic pattern, revealing similar patterns within, he charmingly explained that fractals describe

"an infinite amount of infinity" in which "everything contains all possibilities." He wondered aloud about their ability to "not necessarily change our perspective if it's working for us," but potentially to offer a way of understanding relationships that would "transcend the differences and blockages between and within us."

John Bos is a founder of Eventide, a choral group that "provides a bed of music on which a terminally ill person may rest in harmony" while dying. In some cases the patient may ask for specific songs, he said. Sometimes the music they want is quiet, sometimes joyful. "People invite us to be present," said the Shelburne resident and a former director of performance programs for NPR, "at probably the most sacred moment of a person's life."

"Are we alone?" asked Darby Dyer, Mount Holyoke College professor of astronomy and a planetary scientist on the team that sent the new rover that's now moving about on the surface of Mars. Instruments to carry out tests she designed were built by machinists in this area.

At the program's end, one left convinced that we are definitely *not* alone.



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The Montague Grange Turns in its Charter

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Montague Grange has sent a letter to the state Grange withdrawing its membership from the historic fraternal organization, but this does not mean that the Grange Hall will close, or that dances, concerts and other events at the hall will cease. A deed restriction assures the building must serve as “a community space and an extension of the commons,” and the Corporation of the Grange Hall, which owns the building, intends to preserve and use it as a community space.

Becky Hollingsworth, a Grange member, explained, “The fraternal organization is separate from the actual hall. You don’t need a hall to be a Grange, and many Granges don’t have one. In Montague’s case, the hall is owned not by the fraternal organization, Montague Grange #141, but by an entity called the Montague Grange Hall Corporation. This is good, because it means that when the Grange – the fraternal organization, that is – turns in its charter to the state Grange, the building doesn’t have to get turned in along with it.”

Whether or not the building will still be called the Grange is a question to be answered by the State, but members of the corporation are thinking it might just be called the Montague Hall, reinforcing its mission to serve the entire community.

Membership dues will no longer go to the State. In fact, since there will be no fraternal organization, there will be no members. Tedious quarterly reports will no longer need to be filed, and hopefully, more people will want to get involved in the care and upkeep of the building. According to Chris Wise, a member of the Corporation, no members ever wanted to serve as secretary since this meant taking on those reports.

The enterprise consists of three groups: The Friends of the Grange (a fundraising group to help with the care of the building), the fraternal organization, and the Corporation of the Grange Hall (the owners of the building). This has proved confusing to many and might have contributed to declining membership. Ritual meetings were also off-putting to some new members, causing some to attend one meeting and not come back for another.

Those meetings evolved from the long history of the organization, which emerged at the end of the Civil War. *A History of the Grange Movement*, available on MontagueMA.net, states, “Local Granges quickly became social centers in their communities. Dances, potlucks and gatherings of all types occurred on at least a weekly basis,



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE MONTAGUE GRANGE

Like an agricultural goddess of yore, Sally Prash helped erect a rustic archway at the hall in this file photo of the Montague Grange.

with potlucks usually preceding each meeting and coffee and cake afterwards to increase opportunities for socializing. Education was a major part of the local grange, with a lecturer’s program slotted for every meeting.”

A Grange has sixteen officers. Six of them are titles taken from traditional agricultural roles, such as the Master, Overseer, Steward, two Assistant Stewards, and Gate Keeper. Three are named for mythological goddesses of agriculture: Flora, Ceres and Pomona. A Lecturer is charged with education. Officers include a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chaplain, and a three-member Executive Committee.

Some of the major achievements the National Grange claims to its credit were the formation of the anti-monopoly “Populist” Party and the break-up of the railroad monopolies in the late 1800s; ballot reform and anti-trust laws; rural credit; school lunch and milk programs; rural road maintenance; and the creation of the Departments of Commerce and Labor, with their heads as members of the President’s cabinet. They helped create a land-grant university system, of which the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now UMass Amherst, was one.

They also advocated for free rural mail delivery and the creation of the parcels post. The Grange sponsored legislation to create the Rural Electrification Administration and the rural telephone program, bring-

ing electricity and telephone lines to rural America and its farms. The Grange was the dominant force in bringing Social Security to farmers and other self-employed persons.”

David Kaynor, another Grange member, cast the one dissenting vote on the decision to disband the Grange, citing the organization’s historical importance. “The fraternal organization has an impressive history of political action and community building,” he said. “Membership dwindled because fewer people value ritual and community commitment. The Grange played an important role in our collective history; at some future time we might need it back.”

The Montague Grange once reached 200 members, and more than 80 showed up for meetings. However, membership has dwindled, Wise said, and just a handful of volunteers manage booking the space, keeping it clean, paying the bills, and making repairs. “This is part of a bigger trend,” he said. Unfortunately, the Montague Grange no longer has enough members to hold a formal meeting with those sixteen officers. But that doesn’t mean that the Grange Hall is not a wonderful place for the dances, potlucks, and cultural events that formed its foundation.

Right now, using the Grange is a bargain. The hall rents for \$20 per hour for each of the first three hours. If a rental lasts longer than three hours the per-hour rate goes down.

available,” Hollingsworth added. “If we can come up with the funds to keep it from tumbling down and to make it handicapped-accessible, it will be a wonderful community resource. That’s the idea, anyway. People who want to see the hall survive but don’t want to get involved in a hands-on way can make a donation and become a Friend of the Grange.”

“For people who really want to get involved as volunteers, we could use help fielding rental requests, making plans, raking leaves, cleaning bathrooms, repairing toilets, de-molding the dining room, shoring up the foundation, finding the source of the leaks in the ceiling and finding someone to fix same, taking out the trash and recycling – really, the list is endless, and the skill level required starts at zero,” Hollingsworth continued. “Think of everything you do to keep your own house in order, and then imagine doing it all over again to a big old building that has been underfunded and under-tended for decades and decades.”

Mik Muller has led the Friends of the Montague Grange initiative, and he has a vision for economic stability that includes three or four fundraising events a year that can raise \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, plus 500 friends who will give \$25 a year, plus event rentals. “We really need \$150,000 to fix the roof, remove mold, redo the kitchen, fix the cupola – which is still leaking – and more,” Muller said. He and other members have been looking into grants and event possibilities, but fundraising strategies have taken a back seat during the deliberations about withdrawing the charter and concerns about membership.

A meeting has been scheduled for November 17th at 1 p.m. at the Grange, to discuss the future of the building and all the ways that it can serve as a community resource.

There’s also a per-event heating surcharge October through April. These details can be found on MontagueMA.net. “Although we do charge for event setup time, we don’t charge for cleanup time, so the rental clock stops ticking when the actual event is over,” Hollingsworth said. “We don’t have a custodian – the custodians are us – so we rely on the people using the hall to clean up, and we don’t want anyone to rush the cleaning so as to save money. It helps keep the rent low, so really everybody wins, so long as no one gets sloppy about taking out their trash and so forth.”

“The plan is to keep the hall running much as it is now, open and

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Tax Rates to Rise

BY KATIE NOLAN – Real property tax rates in Erving will increase in 2013, after the selectboard approved a 63% “minimum residential factor” at the town’s tax classification hearing Monday night. The residential tax rate for Erving will increase by approximately 30 cents per thousand dollars of value, and the commercial rate by approximately 50 cents per thousand dollars of value.

Under the proposed rates, the Northfield Mountain pumped storage project will pay 81.3% of real property taxes owed to the town, as the split tax rate shifts the tax burden away from residential property owners.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden cautioned that the rates were preliminary, and will not be final until the town receives final certification of property values from the state Department of Revenue.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan reported that a five-town agreement on Union 28 employee and retiree benefits has been drafted, and she hopes it will be signed “as soon as possible,” to go into effect by December 1st. Sullivan cited the burden on the Swift River regional school district (New Salem and Wendell), the current fiscal administrator for central office employee benefits, which, she said, is “paying bills on someone else’s behalf and not being reimbursed.”

However, Sullivan cautioned, the agreement is not final yet, as all the details have not been worked out.

Providing benefits to U-28 employees and retirees has been contentious for the five school union towns (Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell), because the current benefits package for shared U-28 employees is set by the package for the “lead town” (the one with the most students enrolled). Erving,

the current lead town, offers more generous benefits for town employees than do other towns in U-28. In order to protest paying more in benefits to Union 28 employees and retirees than to its own town employees, the town of Leverett has recently withheld its share of U-28 retiree benefit costs, pending adoption of the new agreement.

Since passage of special legislation in August to allow each town to pay U-28 employees and retirees according to the town’s own rate, the five U-28 towns have been working on agreement on how to fund benefits.

Current discussions on the agreement center on whether Swift River should continue as the benefits administrator, paying the employees and retirees and then being reimbursed by the other towns for their proportion of expenses, or whether each town should pay separately (the “five towns, five paychecks” model). In an email to town administrators and U-28 central office staff, Sullivan wrote, “Having the five communities processing individual paychecks for every Union 28 employee is not a good way to go.”

The schedule for cleanup of the former Usher Mill in Erving Center, provided by environmental consultant Tighe & Bond, calls for mobilization during the week of November 4th, with 150 days to completion. That would wrap the project up in early April. Town administrator Tom Sharp told the board that Tighe & Bond has received a “verbal okay” from the Department of Environmental Protection for its cleanup plan, but is waiting for a formal letter of approval before starting cleanup work at the site.

The selectboard signed a letter firing senior and community center contractor MCM USA. The one-year-

old building has had problems with the geothermal well that supplies water for heating and cooling since it opened last December. The water filtration system has been clogged continually by sandy sediment, causing water leaks and other problems with the system.

The board previously informed Western Surety, the bonding company that insured contractor MCM USA’s performance on the project, that MCM did not complete the building project in accordance with its contract with the town. Formally firing MCM USA means that retainage funds (funds withheld from payments to MCM USA until the town agrees the building has been completed to its satisfaction) will be available to help pay for fixing the geothermal system.

School committee member Jarod Boissonneault reported that new interim principal Scott Lyman, taking over from retiring Charlene Galenski, has had a good reception at the Erving Elementary School. Boissonneault said the school committee would be forming a search committee to find a permanent principal.

Asked about the school regionalization planning committee, Boissonneault said, “They don’t answer to the school committee. If they did, we’d have done something three years ago. They don’t report back to the school committee; they report back to the town.”

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said, “We need to formalize who they report to; time’s running out on this.”

The Union-28 towns of Leverett and Shutesbury formed a joint regionalization planning committee with Amherst and Pelham this summer. If those towns ultimately regionalize their elementary grades with Amherst and withdraw from U-28, the

see ERVING page 10

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Northfield Mount Hermon
Donates \$25,000 in Lieu of Taxes

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Once again, the Northfield Mount Hermon School has given the town of Gill a \$25,000 donation in lieu of taxes, for the town to use for emergency services. The private school, with 600 boarding students, consolidated its Northfield campus to Gill in 2005, and embarked on a multi-million-dollar building campaign, including a new \$23 million arts center. NMH maintains a current endowment fund of \$123 million.

The annual gift to the town of Gill, which NMH increased from \$10,000 a year to \$25,000 a year in 2011, is earmarked for emergency services, in recognition of the fact that Gill has historically responded to a large number of fire alarms, actual fires, and police calls at the Gill campus.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said last year the town used the NMH gift to purchase \$5,000 worth of replacement fire hose for the fire department, \$5,000 worth of new radio equipment for the highway department, \$5,000

worth of new in-vehicle computer equipment for the police department, and \$3,000 worth in repairs to the fire department’s Engine #1, with more vehicle repairs on the docket for the fire department soon.

A request several years ago for NMH to purchase a new fire engine for the town was not acted upon favorably by the school, so it is likely Gill will continue to repair its existing fleet of three aging fire trucks for the foreseeable future.

In other news, the new boiler is up and running and providing heat at the safety complex, as a few bugs are being worked out of the system. Air in the pipes may have been the culprit leading to voters and poll watchers experiencing some unexpected sound effects on election day. That was not a poltergeist, just the pipes rumbling, folks.

The state Department of Energy Resources has approved the town’s Green Community grant application, giving the green light for Gill to purchase new bike racks for town buildings, anti-idling devices for

police cruisers, a community energy-saving education campaign, energy audits of several town buildings, and money to upgrade the purchase of a new police cruiser to a hybrid, energy-saving vehicle, if a suitable Green cruiser can be found.

The town plans to spend between \$20,000 and \$25,000 on the first phase of energy-saving initiatives, and keep the balance of the \$139,000 Green community grant in reserve to pay for upgrades to the Slate Library, town hall, and Riverside municipal building, once the results of the energy audits are known.

Several local contractors have expressed interest in bidding on the replacement of the town hall roof. Purington said the bid opening will take place on November 28th, but, unless the winter is a mild one, the work may have to be delayed until spring. At that point, the buckets being used to catch leaks under the town hall belfry can be transferred to some of the sugar maples by the Congregational Church.

Compost Those Pumpkins!

BY AMY DONOVAN GREENFIELD – Wondering what to do with those ghoulish rotting pumpkins on your doorstep, or the leaves piling up in your yard? Compost them!

Autumn, with its many chores of raking leaves, cleaning up the gardens and reaping garden harvests, is a great time to start composting.

Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with an effective compost bin. Attractive, durable bins for home composting are available from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for

district residents at several locations.

The “Earth Machine,” which the solid waste district sells for \$45, is made of a tough recycled polyethylene plastic and has a twist-on locking lid. The bin stakes to the ground and is easy to assemble, rodent resistant, and designed for good aeration. This bin features a door in the bottom that can be lifted up to easily shovel out finished compost.

Residents can save money and reduce waste by using homemade compost instead of purchasing bagged fertilizers and top-

soil every spring. Residents of towns that require “Pay as you Throw” trash bags can also save money by composting food waste rather than filling up town bags with compostable waste.

The Earth Machine is available at the Wendell transfer station, on Tuesdays from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and at the district office, 50 Miles Street, in Greenfield (hours vary; call (413) 772-2438).

For more info, call the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438 or visit www.franklincountywaste-district.org.

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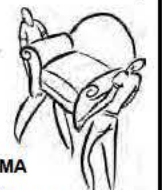
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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Start Time Will Remain the Same for Leverett Elementary, Dismissal to be Five Minutes Later

BY TANYA CUSHMAN & DAVID DETMOLD – For now, parents of Leverett Elementary School students will not have to worry about getting them up earlier in the morning, because the Amherst-Pelham Regional school committee voted 6 – 3 against a proposal supported by superintendent Maria Geryk to move the start time for upper school students forward from 7:45 to 9 a.m.

In that October 23rd vote, concerns about the elimination of some after-school sports seemed to outweigh statistical evidence showing better educational outcomes for upper school students who get to sleep a little later before starting school. Leverett rep Kip Fonsh voted against the proposal, but told the Leverett school committee he believes it will be brought up for reconsideration in the future, due to strong sentiment in favor of the change.

Fonsh had a number of reasons why he did not support the later start time, including the estimated \$45,000 in additional transportation costs to implement, which, he said, in the coming difficult budget cycle, could mean the loss of a teaching position at the regional school.

Fonsh said he did not find the research compelling to back up claims the later start time for upper school students would result in enhanced academic achievement, adding that the impact of earlier start times on elementary school students had not been adequately addressed by the region. A later start time for upper school students would have caused an earlier start time at the Leverett Elementary School, because of busing schedules.

"I don't want sports to be the lead argument, but there were sports programs that were going to be cut [to implement the proposal], and I don't want opportunities for kids to be reduced. And particularly in the fall season there would need to be early release for some of these kids. I don't see how that is going to enhance academic achievement for the kids."

But LES principal Anne Ross did forecast a small change in the departure time for Leverett elementary students in the coming weeks. She told Monday's meeting of the Leverett school committee that a decision to add five minutes to the current 25 minutes students are allotted to eat lunch will cause departure times to be pushed back five minutes at the end of the school day, from 3:05 to 3:10 p.m., and to 1:10 on Wednesdays, beginning Monday, November 19th.

Ross also announced that

Leverett Elementary has been given a Level II status by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education this year. Level II status means a school or district needs to close the gap between "high needs" student and the general student body on MCAS test scores.

The state of Massachusetts has received a waiver from the federal government's No Child Left Behind legislation to establish a new accountability system for rating schools based on how well they progress in narrowing the gap in test scores between all students and high-needs students. At Leverett, 36 students are defined by the state as "high needs," due to their status as qualifying for free or reduced lunch, as special needs students, or English Language Learners, reached a composite target of 56% proficiency on MCAS tests, as compared to the entire cohort of 84 students, who reached a composite target of 83% proficiency. To move from Level II to Level I status, Leverett would need to cut the gap between these groups in half by 2016.

"When I heard we were Level II, I thought, 'How am I going to tell the teachers?' Because the students have done so well, and the teachers have put so much into it," said Ross, who pointed to rising MCAS math and English test performance for all students over the last four years as proof.

School committee member Aaron Osborne asked, half-seriously, whether the state might be satisfied if the high-achieving students reduced their test score results to close the gap by 2016, and school committee member Catherine Brooks said, "We have such tiny classes; you're going to see big swings from year to year – does the state account for that?"

When the remnants of Hurricane Sandy blew through the area last week, some of the windblown rain blew through a leak near the casing of one of the newly installed Green Repair windows in the cafeteria. Ross said it is not apparent whether that leak is a result of the window project, as "a significant crack was there before the construction." However, the leak seems to have been exacerbated by the installation of the new windows, or in any case has grown more serious in recent months.

"The selectboard seems to want to bring this project in on budget, close the accounts and get reimbursed" by the state, Ross said, "but it is always costing more to fix the leaks."

On a better note, as a final part of the project, the new window shades have arrived! Unlike the colorful,

temporary paper shades, which could be seen in the 5th-grade classroom by residents driving by the school, the new shades are plain, "regular white ones."

A draft agreement on Union #28 benefits for central office employees and retirees was presented to the committee, which would allow each town in the school union to pay benefits for school employees and retirees in "amounts proportionate to the benefits offered [non-school] employees of each town."

However, superintendent Joan Wickman said, "Any mention of the New Salem/Wendell district creates a Catch-22, since the law only allows towns to do things, and this is a district [Swift River] made of two towns."

Fortunately, the draft agreement is "being vetted by the town attorney."

Mike Kociela, director of finance for U-28, said one significant change this agreement will generate is that U-28 will "no longer be using a fiscal agent for all the towns, so the U-28 employees would get five different direct deposits into their bank accounts on payday." This also means five W2s at the end of the year for each of the eight central office employees.

"My accountant is going to have a field day with this," commented Wickman.

A preliminary U-28 budget for FY14 was presented, with a central office total of \$543,428, a \$10,000 increase over last year.

Kociela explained an increase of \$4800 on the insurance line item (property, liability and workers compensation) is due in small part to "insurance companies charging more for storms and flooding," but is mostly due to workers compensation, which was being paid by the Swift River, the current U-28 fiscal agent (New Salem/Wendell) until now.

"We now need to cover U-28 employees under each town's budget," Kociela said.

Another \$2000 was added to the U-28 budget to pay for the legal counsel the school committee approved in order to always have a lawyer on retainer. Central office staff salary increases range from .4% to 1.58%.

On November 14th, a meeting will be held in response to discussion among the principals of U-28 schools about the need for new secretarial help to input the recent and upcoming state data requirements. It is uncertain whether the budget for this possible new position would end up on the town's school budget or the central office budget.

see LEVERETT page 10

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Acting Chief Dodge Tops Assessment Exam

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Montague selectboard will conduct interviews soon with the two candidates from the Montague police department still in the running as candidates for the job of permanent chief of police. But acting police chief Charles 'Chip' Dodge has gained a presumption as the front-runner for the job by virtue of serving for the last three months as acting chief, and by scoring higher than Sergeant Chris LaPointe on the BadgeQuest assessment center exam conducted under the supervision of Massachusetts Civil Service on October 5th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the Montague selectboard on Monday that three current or former police chiefs conducted the assessment, which involved written and oral exercises, and gave the higher score to Dodge – although the exact scores were not revealed.

With Pat Allen absent, both Mark Fairbrother and chair Chris Boutwell told Abbondanzio they would like to conduct interviews with the two candidates, rather than rely entirely on the results of the assessment exam. Still, all indications are that Montague should have a permanent police chief in office before the end of the year.



Acting Chief of Police Charles 'Chip' Dodge

The average single-family homeowner in Montague will be paying \$130 more on their property tax bill next year, if the Department of Revenue accepts tax rates recommended by the Montague board of assessors and approved by the selectboard on Monday. Based on an average value of \$183,367 (down more than \$4,000 from last year's single family home average in town of \$187,549) the average homeowner will pay \$3,125 in taxes this year.

The tax rate will be set for residential property at \$17.04 per

see MONTAGUE page 10

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MONTAGUE from page 9

thousand dollars of value in FY13, up 6.7% from last year, while commercial and industrial properties will be taxed at the higher rate of \$25.52 per thousand, a 6.8% jump from \$23.90 last year.

Director of assessing Barbara Miller said the town has reduced property valuations across the categories of property owners, after negotiating a \$2 million drop in the value of property owned by First Light Power in Montague, from \$75 million to \$73 million this year.

Since values have gone down, the steep rise in the tax rate will not be felt as keenly in taxpayers' pocketbooks next year.

Even so, Boutwell asked Miller to do what she could to reduce the

tax rate next year. Miller replied she'd be glad to do that, if the selectboard would just cut the budget first.

Figures provided by the assessors show that the gap between the commercial/industrial category and the residential category of property owners has narrowed by a percentage point each year for the preceding two years, but remained the same this year, with 33% of the burden that would have fallen on residential property owners shifted to the commercial/industrial class.

Miller sought guidance from the selectboard before the split in commercial/industrial and residential property tax rates is decided next year, to help the assessors determine whether the shift of tax burden from residential to com-

mercial in town as too big, too small, or just about right.

In other news, the board approved the placement of four new utility poles for G4S to string "middle mile" high-speed internet fiberoptic cable from Turners Falls to the Franklin County Tech School, along Millers Falls Road. Before the poles can be placed, airport manager Mickey Longo said, G4S will need to notify the Federal Aviation Administration, because they are within a regulated distance of the Turners Falls airport runway.

The board granted a one-day liquor license request for beer sales at the eighth annual Lost and Found Suzee's Laudromat Fashion Show, which will be held on December 1st.

**LEVERETT** from page 9

At this time, only the individual secretaries at the schools, with some back support from central office secretarial staff, know the complexity and details of entering this numerical code. "It is very finicky work on very quick deadlines – a job unto itself," explained principal Ross, who advocated strongly for the new position.

Ross said the advantage for a small school like Leverett lies in the ability of teachers to identify the high-needs students and give them individual help.

One Leverett couple, Pam and

Peter Nelson, have given an unexpected boost to that effort, in the form of an unsolicited check for \$1,000 to help purchase equipment or provide programs for special needs students. The Nelsons cited the excellence of the education their children received at Leverett Elementary for their subsequent success as well-rounded citizens, and called LES "Leverett's greatest asset."

The school committee will ask the town to accept the gift and put it toward the purpose the Nelsons intended.

Speaking of gifts, the school committee will clarify that gifts

for teachers, such as plates of cookies, which have "no commercial value," and which cannot be interpreted by "a reasonable person" as likely to cause favoritism toward the child of the family giving the gift, are still allowed by school policy. Gifts that have a dollar value above \$10 are generally not allowed at LES, unless they are given as a gift by the entire class, Ross said.

Ross seemed relieved to announce that the school has hired a new head custodian, Josh Martin, who began work on October 29th.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG****Female Subject Walking and Talking on the French King Bridge****Wednesday, 10/31**

7:15 a.m. Sick skunk at the Department of Public Works. Same located.

8:15 a.m. Sick fox at Grant Way in area of Farley. Same located.

12:45 p.m. Loose dog on River Road. Animal gone upon arrival.

6:30 p.m. Breaking and entering at Mountain Road residence. Under investigation.

9:39 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Millers Falls Paper Company. Found to be making a call. Same moved along.

Friday, 11/2

5:05 a.m. Assisted Montague

police with missing child in area of Newton Street. Same found.

8:30 a.m. Female subject walking and talking on phone on the French King Bridge. Subject gone upon arrival.

6:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Erving and Orange town line. Mechanic called.

10:30 p.m. Assisted Gill police with two-car motor vehicle crash at Main Road and West Gill Road.

11:30 p.m. Assisted Gill police with intoxicated male at Gill Mobil station.

Saturday, 11/3

1:00 a.m. Assisted Gill and Northfield police with motor vehicle crash.

2:30 a.m. Assisted Montague police with felony arrest at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. Subject in custody.

12:30 p.m. Citation for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle issued to [REDACTED].

12:40 p.m. Loose dog on Pratt Street. Checked area; unable to locate.

8:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicle in Erving Center Cemetery. Gone upon arrival.

Sunday, 11/4

12:15 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with noise complaint on Woodruff Way. Found to be underage party.

1:00 p.m. Suspicious items left in back of Lillian's Way resident's truck. Found to be clothing and bedding in a black trash bag.

3:45 p.m. [REDACTED] arrested for domestic assault and battery.

7:20 p.m. Vehicle Fire at Mountain Road. Erving Fire Department.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**Accident on Shutesbury Road****Wednesday, 10/31**

3:28 p.m. Packages left at Depot Road residence by FedEx were stolen shortly after delivery. Empty boxes recovered in Amherst. Under investigation.

Friday, 11/2

10:08 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury

Road in the area of 295. 2011 Honda CRV drove off the road, striking a tree head-on. [REDACTED] operated vehicle. Amherst Fire Department ambulance subject transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital with

non-life-threatening injuries. Rau's Sunoco towed vehicle.

6:44 p.m. House alarm at a Lawton Road residence. Officer checked and found nothing.

10:05 p.m. Alarm at same Lawton Road residence as above. Officer again checked grounds and building. Nothing found.

Saturday, 11/3

11:15 a.m. Owner locked out of vehicle at Cushman and Teawaddle Hill Roads. Officer gained entry to vehicle by breaking rear window at owner's request.

12:00 p.m. Medical at a Bull Hill Road residence. Amherst Fire Department ambulance transported subject to Coolie Dickinson Hospital.

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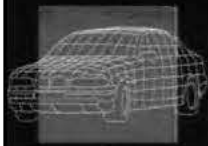
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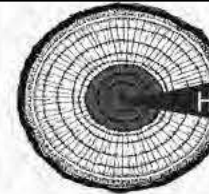
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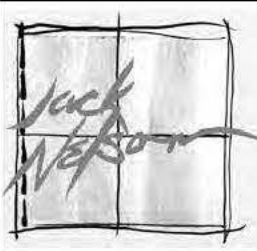
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dog license fees, and the report from the regionalization planning committee.

The board discussed elements of a policy for using the town's "reverse 911" calling system. Suggestions included having the caller ID number be the number of the department originating the call (whether police, fire, or highway department), that the message should be short, and that the message should be a recorded human voice. Sharp was asked to discuss the policy with department heads, who would then develop a draft policy for selectboard review.

Fire chief Almon "Bud" Meatey provided the selectboard with job descriptions for fire department positions, for review. He said Boyden had added password protection and internet content restrictions to fire department computers and laptops. Meatey asked that two older computers, bought for training purposes, but rarely used except for personal uses, be declared surplus. The board agreed to declare them surplus once an itemized list is provided.

The selectboard also signed an agreement accepting a \$3,800 state grant for the Cultural Council.

**UMass Climate Scientist Identifies****Trigger for Earth's Last Big Freeze**

AMHERST – For more than 30 years, climate scientists have debated whether flood waters from the melting of the enormous Laurentide Ice Sheet, which ushered in the last major cold episode on Earth about 12,900 years ago, flowed northwest into the Arctic first, or east via the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to weaken ocean thermohaline circulation and produce a frigid effect on global climate.

Now University of Massachusetts Amherst geoscientist Alan Condron, with Peter Winsor at the University of Alaska, using new, high-resolution global ocean circulation models, report the first conclusive evidence that this flood must have flowed north into the Arctic first down the Mackenzie River valley. They also show that if it had flowed east into the St. Lawrence River valley, Earth's climate would have remained relatively unchanged.

"This episode was the last time the Earth underwent a major cooling, so understanding exactly what caused it is very important for under-

standing how our modern-day climate might change in the future," said Condron, of UMass Amherst's Climate System Research Center. Findings appear in the current issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Events leading up to the sharp climate-cooling period known as the Younger Dryas, or more familiarly as the "Big Freeze," unfolded after glacial Lake Agassiz, at the southern edge of the Laurentide ice sheet covering Hudson Bay and much of the Canadian Arctic, catastrophically broke through an ice dam and rapidly dumped thousands of cubic kilometers of fresh water into the ocean.

This massive influx of frigid fresh water injected over the surface of the ocean is assumed to have halted the sinking of very dense, saltier, colder water in the North Atlantic that drives the large-scale ocean circulation, the thermohaline circulation, that transports heat to Europe and North America. The weakening of this circulation caused by the flood resulted in the dramatic cooling of North America and Europe.

Using a high resolution, global, ocean-ice circulation model ten to twenty times more powerful than previously attainable, Condron and Winsor compared how meltwater from the two different drainage outlets was delivered to the sinking regions in the North Atlantic. They found the original hypothesis proposed in 1989 by Wally Broecker of Columbia University suggesting that

see CLIMATE page 12

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free *after school program*. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through NOVEMBER 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Photographs by John Grabill*.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Stories Set in Stone, Sculpture by Tim deChristopher*. DeChristopher is a sculptor who works primarily in stone and steel. His work is deeply rooted in the tradition of architectural stonework, masonry and sculpture with a contemporary sensibility.

NOW through December 12th

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Separated at Birth* – paintings and installations by artists Cathe Janke and Stephen Cahill.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Forest Management*. Join Helen Johnson, a service forester with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation as we dive into the subject of forest management.

Explore cultural perceptions of humanity's relationship with the rest of the natural world, and how they impact our approach to environmental issues. This is a very timely presentation, given the many questions concerning logging in the Quabbin. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, jazz standards, bluegrass, blues and country. 8 to 10:30 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse* Presents musicians Jennie McAvoy and Michael Nix. Refreshments available. 7 to 9 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American Classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fireseed*, celtic appalachian folk. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok and Friends*, gypsy, folk, blues, rockabilly. 8:30 p.m., \$.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, blues rock. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Suitcase Junket and Pale Cowboy*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th

Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance, Greenfield: *Free Irish Dance Lesson Day*. 9 a.m., ages 3 to 5. 10 a.m., ages 6+. 11 a.m., teens and adults.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wildlife Tracking*. This program is designed for individuals new to wildlife tracking. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: *Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale*. Vendors display specimens from around the world in all price ranges. See rocks and minerals, gemstones and fossils, jewelry and fine

art! Featured speakers, demonstrations, activities for kids, and videos, posters and books for sale. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live from the Metropolitan Opera in HD, Adès' *The Tempest*. 12:55 p.m. \$

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 7 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, folk rock jazz. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Ladies in Jazz*, with Samirah Evans and Becca Byram. 8:30 p.m., \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Gaslight Tinkers*, afrobeat to northern fiddle and back. 9:30 p.m. \$



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Pioneer Valley-based duo Fireseed play Celtic, Appalachian, and original tunes at Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls, this Friday, November 9th, at 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m. to 12.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Session*. Musicians of all levels can sit in and perform traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Sonya Heller*, singer/songwriter, and *Jean Mann*, alternative indie folk. 2 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 2 p.m. \$.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Turners Falls: GCC Chorus presents *Three Centuries of Sacred Music*, music from the Jewish and Christian traditions by Couperin, Handel, Mozart, Billings, Mendelssohn, Franck, Biehl, Vaughan Williams, and others. Soloists from the chorus, and special organ music played by Henry Gaida. Margery Heins, Conductor and Amy Roberts-Crawford, Accompanist. 3 to 5 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Iron Will Tate*, traveling puppet show. More info at bathoney.com. 7:30 p.m., donation suggested.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Karaoke by TNT Productions*. 9 p.m. to midnight.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Greenfield: *"Vermont Yankee Meltdown? More Lessons from Fukushima"*. Talk by

nuclear power plant engineer Arnie Gundersen, who has coordinated safety projects at 70 nuclear power plants. 7 to 9 p.m.

Amherst Books: Local poet, writer, literary critic and English professor at Mount Holyoke, *Christopher Benfey*, will read from his work. Refreshments will be served. 8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *48 Solutions and Autographed Apologies*, indie. 8:30 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

Sloan Theater, Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: *Mentalist Johnny Zavant*. Prepare to have your mind blown! One of the most in-demand mind readers in the world. 12 to 1 p.m.

Stinchfield Lecture Hall, Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: WGBY/40's Jim Madigan, host of "The State We're In", delivers the annual Henry Steele Commager Lecture, on *"Media and the 2012 Election"*. 12 to 2 p.m.

Athol Bird & Nature Club, Athol: *The Wolves of New England*, a presentation by wolf expert Michael LeBlanc with special guest, Denahee the wolf. Participants are encouraged to bring and donate an item for a tin can auction. More information at www.millersriver.net. 7 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Leverett Library: *PJ Story Time*. Children pre-K to 3rd grade can enjoy stories, songs, craft activity and snacks with Julie Stepanek. 6:30 p.m.

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Shag*. 7 to 9 p.m.

Stinchfield Lecture Hall, Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: *"Bringing Permaculture to Our Valley"*, a presentation on local permaculture by GCC's own Abrahm Dresdale and Ryan Harb, Chief Sustainability Specialist at UMass-Amherst. 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock. 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved*, jazz quartet. 8 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

Leverett Town Hall: *Leverett Congregational Church Craft Fair*. Crafts, baked items, white elephant table. 9 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour, "Gobble Gobble!"*. Have you ever wondered about wild turkeys? Young children 3-6 and their parents are invited to explore their questions through story, crafts and games. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free.

Montague Book Mill: Poetry Readings by *Anselm Berrigan* and *John Coletti*. Music by *Thurston Moore*. 8 p.m. Free.

Montague Grange: *Tooth and Nail Puppetry Front's "Spooky Suitcase Show"*. Political puppetry at its downright scariest! 8 to 9:15 p.m.


Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing Johnny Cash favorites and more. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Fenibo*, African dance band. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Mary Jane Jones*, jazz, blues, soul. 9:30 p.m., free.

CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *"Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smul"* show in February 2013. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net, with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by Jan 20, 2013.



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Kristen Ford & Kara Kulpa - Indie
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Annual Grange Make-and-Take Craft Fair

BY CINDY TARAIL

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Friends of the Montague Grange will host their annual *Make-and-Take Craft Fair: Holiday Gifts You Can Make* at the Grange hall, at 31 Main Street, on Sunday, December 16th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

People of all ages can make lovely gifts and enjoy a homemade lunch. Gift-making activities include: rolling colored beeswax candles and making unique holders; beading delicate snowflake ornaments and jewelry; decorating greeting cards; creating miniature

terrariums with local plants; displaying natural materials in glass ornaments; sewing sweet gnomes and fairies; cooking up shrinky dink ornaments; making refrigerator magnets, and more!

Organizers are seeking craft project-helpers, bake sale donations, and sponsors. Proceeds will benefit a local cause to be announced, and the Montague Grange hall. The event is co-sponsored by the Montague Business Association. For more info call: (413) 367-0042 or cindy@thealchemystudio.com.

Montague Congo Church Coordinates Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort on Saturday

BARBARA TURNER DELISLE

MONTAGUE CENTER – The First Congregational Church of Montague will be helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy by assembling emergency clean-up buckets.

Church World Service's supply of clean-up buckets has been depleted and more are needed. Many of the coastal areas in New Jersey and New York directly impacted by Sandy last week were hit hard again on Wednesday night by a powerful nor-easter, causing more power failures and destruc-

tion.

If you would like to help, the church will begin collecting items beginning this Saturday, November 10th and continuing through the month of November.

The Montague Congregational Church's annual Fete Noel bazaar will be held inside from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on November 10th, so please come early to enjoy all the festivities and spread hope to others at the same time.

For each Clean-up Bucket we will need: five-gallon buckets with re-sealable lid; scouring pads; sponges, assorted sizes; scrub brushes; eighteen re-usable cleaning towels; a 50 - 78 ounce box of dry laundry detergent; a 12 ounce bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner; a 25 ounce bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap; packages of 48 - 50 clothespins; two 50 foot or one 100 foot clothesline; dust masks; two pairs latex gloves; work gloves; and a 28-bag roll of 30-45 gallon heavy-duty trash bags.

The church will collect donations throughout the month of November. These items will be distributed to victims affected by Hurricane Sandy with the help of Church World Service and our local area conference.

In addition to these practical care packages, cash and check donations for the relief effort will gladly be accepted.

Please make checks payable to the First Congregational Church of Montague (FCC of Montague) and mark them for Hurricane Relief.

For more information, please visit our website: www.montaguechurch.org or contact www.churchworldservice.org

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'Desire' to Inspire

BY PETER KOBEL

TURNERS FALLS – The New Renaissance Players aren't afraid of challenges. The Shea Theater's acting company has performed Shakespeare's dark tragedy *Macbeth* and British playwright Alan Ayckbourn's comic and poignant *The Norman Conquests* trilogy. Now, they're crossing the pond, figuratively speaking, to put on the iconic American drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.

The play carries some baggage, because performances are often compared to Elia Kazan's film adaptation, starring Marlon Brando as the bestial Stanley Kowalski and Vivien Leigh as the delusional Southern belle Blanche DuBois. To see the play fresh, director Michael Glazier has avoided rewatching the movie, and has asked his cast to do the same. Glazier wants to bring Kowalski's larger-than-life character down to earth and let Blanche's character emerge from his shadow.

"We're preserving the writing, not the legacy," Glazier said. "It will focus more on the madness and insanity of Blanche." Jerri Higgins, who plays Blanche, agreed that the production makes Blanche the emotional center.

"Blanche is the storyteller. She is a trauma survivor who continues to make bad choices."

Tony Manica, who plays Kowalski, admitted his role carries great expectations. But he said the most difficult task is "trying to find a connection to such a brutish man. He's like an animal. It's hard to get inside his head."

For Higgins, playing Blanche "is



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

Jerri Higgins takes center stage as Blanche DuBois in the New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

a double-edged sword. It's emotionally exhausting, and at the same time therapeutic."

Audiences may experience similar feelings.

Performances are slated for two weekends: November 9th, 10th and 11th and November 16th, 17th and 18th. Call the Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281 for times and tickets.

Free Harvest Supper Feeds People All Year Long

BY MARY MCCLINTOCK

GREENFIELD – Everyone deserves to enjoy the pleasure of sitting around a table with family and friends sharing the bounty of good locally grown food. That's the vision of the Farmers Market Coupon Project supported by donations to the annual Free Harvest Supper held in August on Greenfield's town common.

It's also the vision of Isadora Sarto, a talented professional chef who donated a gourmet local food dinner for four as a prize for the Harvest Supper's fundraising drawing. The drawing raised \$3,730 for the Farmers Market Coupon Project thanks to the generosity of Chef

Isadora, area businesses, and many of the 1,000 people who attended the Supper in August. Their generosity means that in the year ahead hundreds of families will receive coupons to exchange for fresh produce at the Greenfield and Great Falls Farmers Markets, and local farmers will be paid thousands of dollars for their produce.

Chef Isadora has worked as a professional chef in Los Angeles, New York City, Boston, France, and Asia, and was one of seven chefs featured in recent episodes of the Food Network's "Extreme Chef" show. Since moving to Greenfield this year, Chef Isadora has focused on community service and making connections in the area. She has volunteered at the Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry.

Now, Chef Isadora manages the kitchen and food preparation for the Stone Soup Café, a free community meal every Saturday at All Souls Church on Main Street in Greenfield.

To contribute to the Farmers Market Coupon Program, send checks made out to Center for Self-Reliance to 3 Osgood Street, Greenfield, 01301. Please note "Free Harvest Supper" on the check.

Kerry's Staff Visits Wendell

Senator John Kerry's staff visit to Wendell had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy. Kerry's staff will visit to meet with constituents and hear their concerns on Tuesday, November 13th, from 11a.m. - noon in the Wendell town office meeting room.

CLIMATE from page 10

Lake Aggasiz drained into the North Atlantic down the St. Lawrence River would have weakened the thermohaline circulation by less than 15 percent.

Condron and Winsor say this level of weakening is unlikely to have accounted for the 1,000-year cold climate event that followed the meltwater flood. Meltwater from the St. Lawrence River

actually ends up almost 1,900 miles (3,000 km) south of the deep water formation regions, too far south to have any significant impact on the sinking of surface waters, which explains why the impact on the thermohaline circulation is so minor.

By contrast, Condron and Winsor's model shows that when the meltwater first drains into the Arctic Ocean, narrow coastal boundary currents can efficiently deliver it to the deep water formation regions of the sub-polar north Atlantic, weakening the thermohaline circulation by more than 30 percent. They conclude that this scenario, showing meltwater discharged first into the Arctic rather

than down the St. Lawrence valley, is "more likely to have triggered the Younger Dryas cooling."

"Our results are particularly relevant for how we model the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic Ice sheets now and in the future. "It is apparent from our results that climate scientists are artificially introducing fresh water into their models over large parts of the ocean that freshwater would never have reached. In addition, our work points to the Arctic as a primary trigger for climate change. This is especially relevant considering the rapid changes that have been occurring in this region in the last ten years."

TAVERN from page 1

Selectboard member Randy Crochier complimented Booth and Greenough, Carboni and Pietras for creating a "great success" at the Tavern. His colleague John Ward made a motion to transfer the liquor license to Unadilla, Inc.

The only abutter who showed up for the hearing, Jim Tomasi commented, "I'm 100% behind Laura. If I have any complaints, I call her up and she takes care of them."

The motion carried. As soon as the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission acts on the transfer, the change in ownership will become official, hopefully by the first of the year.

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