



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 - NO. 7

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

## Turnpike Road Standoff Ends Peacefully



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

The house was a minute's drive from the town's public safety complex.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – What could have been a horrific situation on Wednesday night, November 6, turned into a routine arrest. At 8:03 p.m. the Montague police received a frantic call from a man in distress claiming that his roommate, 63-year-old Mark Holland, had pointed a handgun at his head and “threatened to blow [his] head off.”

By then, the caller had managed to escape the first-floor apartment at 74 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls.

The police response was immediate. First on the scene were officers Ruddock and Miner. Their first task was to get the victim to safety and interview him about the alleged assault. They also hurriedly set a

perimeter around the house, began monitoring the exits, and called for backup.

Chief Charles “Chip” Dodge was putting his child to bed when he got the call. Within seconds, he was out the door; within a few more seconds he was calling off-duty officers to come back to work. “Every one of them said yes, without even bothering to ask for additional information,” said Dodge.

Once at the station, Dodge called in reinforcements from the state and local police departments. He commandeered the community room at the police station as the command and control center.

“The response was tremendous,” reported Dodge. “Within minutes the state police arrived.” Also see STANDOFF page A3

## Veterans Day Observed in Montague



GREGORY BALSIEWICZ PHOTO

Cmdr. Michael Walsh, USN, ret.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

It's usually cold on Veterans Day, and this year was no exception. The wind whipped the flags into a mild frenzy as the Turners Falls Junior Band played patriotic songs. The small crowd gathered on the sidewalk in front of the Veteran's Memorial on Avenue A, next to the Carnegie Library, pulled up collars and huddled somewhat closer together than they probably would have had the air been a bit less biting.

Al Cummings, chairman of the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, presided over the ceremony. Also speaking at the event were vice-chairman of the committee and local VFW president, John Murphy, local American Legion commander, Brian SanSoucie, and Michael Nelson, who represented the Montague Selectboard. Members of the Montague

Elks offered a prayer and sounded the thumb chime 11 times to commemorate “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month,” in 1918 when the Armistice was signed between the Allied Powers and Germany, thus ending World War I.

The guest speaker was Commander Michael Walsh, USN (ret). Walsh exhorted the crowd not to take freedom for granted, and warned that both Russia and China remained threats to the United States.

“The worst fears of our founding fathers have been realized,” said Walsh. “The words, the deeds and legacy that they bestowed on us are being contemptuously diminished by those wishing to destroy us....While we are putting Iraq and Afghanistan in the rearview mirror, Russia has begun to rearm....They are returning as a traditional military power.... Now the great Russian bear is back on his feet....The Chinese have launched a campaign to de-Americanize the entire world. This is a very serious effort and is being conducted with state sponsorship....This is the nation that wrote the book on unrestricted warfare. [This means] a no-holes barred campaign against the U.S. homeland.”

Walsh also lashed out against what he saw as the removal of God from our military: “In our lineage is the belief in God and country not in the governing power and God. God used to come first. And

see VETERANS page A3

## Bob Mahler:

### “I Want the Union To Stay Together!”

By DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING – Back in May, when he first applied for the interim superintendent's position at Union #28, the embattled elementary school union shared by the towns of Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell and Erving, Bob Mahler said, “I'm not interested in being the man responsible for the dissolution of the district. If I am given the job, I would do everything I could to promote it.”



DETMOLD PHOTO

Mahler jokingly described himself as “the Abe Lincoln of Union #28”.

Now, agreeing to extend his one year contract until July of 2015, allowing time for the fraught process of determining which, if any, of the U-28 towns will leave to enter into some form of regionalization agreement with Amherst and Pelham, Mahler is turning to an historical analogy to emphasize his pivotal

see MAHLER page A5

## TFHS Football Bests Top Seed McCann Tech, Advances To Division VI Finals

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTH ADAMS – “We prefer to be an underdog,” Coach Chris Lapointe said before the McCann game played on Friday November 8 in North Adams.

And although many pegged fourth-ranked Turners Falls as the clear underdog, the Tribe was able to dominate against McCann Tech which was ranked number one in Western Mass. Coach Lapointe acknowledged the Tribe was the underdog but wouldn't use the word “clear.”

“I really didn't believe that we were the underdogs, the entire time,” he explained

after the 32 – 6 win. “I thought that we had the better team and would be able to do some things against them that would lead to success.” And although the team was dinged up, Coach was confident that everyone would play. “Healthwise we are good. Everyone is practicing, and ready to go,” he said before the game.

So how did the Indians beat the number one team in Western Mass? “We defeated McCann because we played the way we were capable of,” Coach Lapointe explained. And with everyone healthy and clicking on all cylinders, this win, like many before it, was a team effort. A team

win.

The Tribe chewed up 216 yards on the ground, averaging over five yards a carry. Jalen Sanders, Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau, Brody Markol and Malcolm each carried the rock. Malcolm Smith was 9 for 11 for 204 yards in the air, throwing to Melvin Moreno, Jalen Sanders, Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau and Brody Markol. Trevor Mankowsky had two blocked passes and a fumble recovery. Malcolm Smith had an interception.

Turners Falls heads to face Mohawk Regional on Friday. Mohawk defeated Franklin Tech in overtime to advance in the playoffs.



MATT ROBINSON PHOTO

The Turners Falls football team with coaches Chris Lapointe, Jason Wonsey, Mark Puchalski, and Adam Graves. Coach Nate Coffin is not in the picture.

This year's team roster (not shown above in order) consists of: Ricky Craver, Trevor Mankowsky, Malcolm Smith, Melvin Moreno, Tionne Brown, Mikey Babcock, Jack Darling, Nicholas Croteau, Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders, Will Roberge, Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau, Brody Markol, Colby Dobias, Dustin Underwood, Sam Danford, Luis Velez, Tanner Castine, Tyler Charboneau, Noah Palso, Cullen Wozniak, Ricky Smith, Owen Ortiz, and Gabe Coira.

## Town Taps RiverCulture Coordinator

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Suzanne LoManto, a Holyoke artist with experience in arts coordination and administration, will be the new Turners Falls RiverCulture coordinator, pending approval by the Montague Selectboard on Monday, November 18.

Montague town planner, Walter Ramsey, said he was thrilled at the choice. “She'll be a good fit for the town,” he said. He added, “she's an artist, and we felt it was important to choose an artist.”

The position has been vacant since July 2013 when RiverCulture's first coordinator, Lisa Davol, left to work for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

LoManto told us: “I have always enjoyed Turners Falls and look forward to being part of the community. The welcome I've received confirms that Turners Falls is special, full of positive energy and creativity.”

“I will do my best to promote the town, its artists and businesses.”

According to Ramsey, LoManto will be moving soon from Holyoke to Turners Falls. He said that she was selected from among 28 well-qualified applicants from across the state and region. Most, he said, were from the Pioneer Valley.

Seven finalists were interviewed but the selection committee, in the end, felt that L o M a n t o was the best choice for the position.

LoManto, originally from Newton, New Jersey has lived in the valley for a number of years. She majored in art at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, graduating in 1995 with a degree in Art History.

Ramsey said the selection committee consisted of himself, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, a local artist, Michael Nelson from the Montague Board of Selectmen, and representatives from the Montague Business Association and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

RiverCulture was created in 2006 when artists, organizations, business leaders and town officials came together to create programming around Turners' diverse cultural offerings, scenic beauty, and history.

Since its inception seven



OSCAR FRASIER PHOTO

Incoming RiverCulture coordinator LoManto.

years ago, RiverCulture has consistently been awarded a series of Massachusetts Cultural Commission grants, and has also received many matching donations from local businesses.

Since 2006, RiverCulture has brought in more than \$400,000 to develop arts and culture in the village.

That money has had a demonstrable multiplier effect in the community, which has seen new startups in the business district, and the successful draw of folks from here and elsewhere at events such as the annual Block Party, the Montague Soapbox Derby Races, and the Franklin County Pumpkinfest.

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Honor Our Veterans

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 World War I, "the war to end all wars" came to an end with the signing of the armistice between the allied powers and Germany. It was one of the most horrific wars history has ever known. Over 16 million lost their lives; 20 million were wounded.

Although Armistice Day was celebrated each year here and in European countries, it wasn't until May 13, 1938 that the U.S. Congress made November 11 a federal holiday. The original wording of the congressional act defined the holiday as "A day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" That the day was dedicated to world peace had to be either a hopeful or ironic gesture, given that World War II was already inching onto the map.

Although the day continued to be celebrated, the idea of Armistice Day being a day devoted to peace was largely absent. It clearly had become a holiday to commemorate the men and women in uniform who had signed up to fight yet other wars. This reality became official on June 1, 1954, when Congress amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place "Veterans." The Second World War and Korea were still very fresh in the minds, hearts and bodies of Americans.

The substitution of the word "Armistice" to "Veterans," while logical and in keeping with the cold war mood of the country, also changed the focus, at least for many, from peace to war. The new holiday was no longer dedicated to envisioning peace but to celebrating and honoring all warriors in all wars.

Unlike the original Armistice Day, which proposed dedicating the country to a peaceful future, Veterans Day reinforced the notion that we were a nation perpetually at war, and that all that stood between us and certain destruction of our democracy was our soldiers.

We feel it is only right that we should set aside a day to honor our veterans. The nation owes them much. They have consistently given again and again well beyond what was even required of them. But we have to wonder how best to honor their sacrifice. Since

Vietnam, the U.S. has engaged itself in wars that did not need to be fought, and that have resulted in too many young people becoming casualties of ideological conflicts that have little, if anything, to do with preserving our democracy.

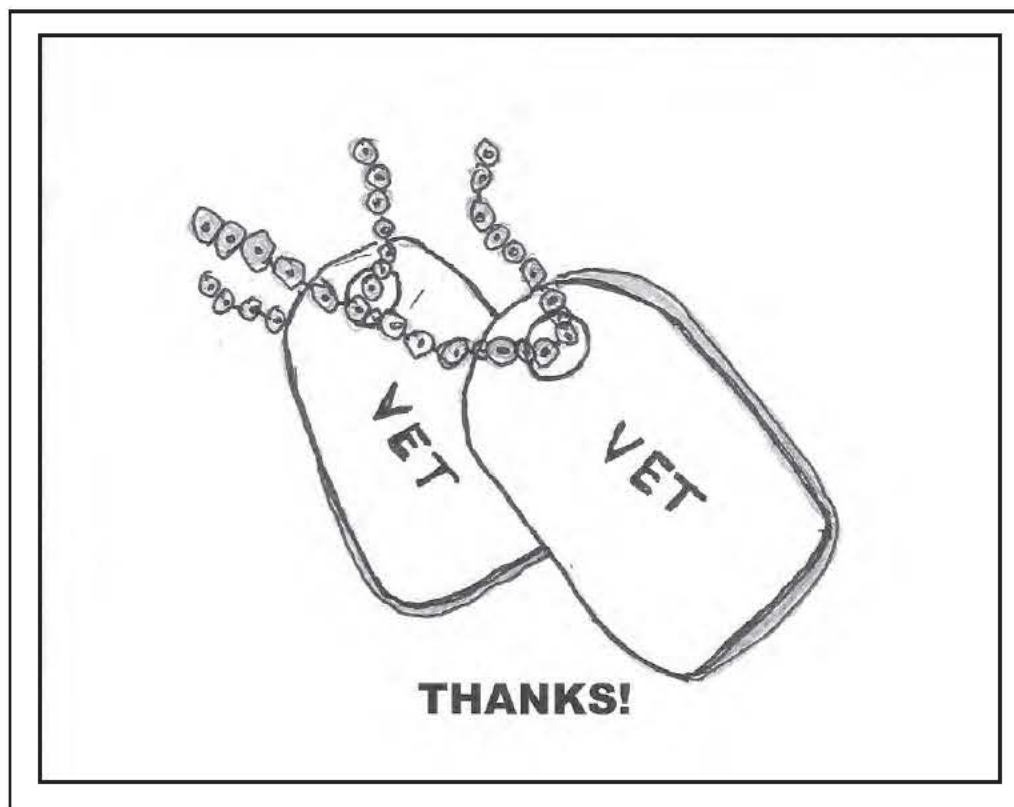
Perhaps it is time to reinvent Veterans Day along the lines of what Armistice Day once was: a dedication to peace. One very real way to pay tribute to those in uniform is to send Americans into battle only when it is necessary for them to defend our freedom. We cannot undo the past; we can change the future. The national organization, Veterans for Peace, put it succinctly this way: "There is no better way to honor the dead than to protect the living from the fear, terror and moral deprivation of war."

It was traditional on Armistice Day to toll the bell eleven times on that eleventh day of that eleventh month. It was a fitting gesture: peaceful, solemn and profound. While of course symbolic, it also was a genuine way, free of rhetoric, of reflecting on the extraordinary sacrifices and service of our military personnel. It also helped to remind Americans that wars could come to an end, that these sacrifices should not be in vain, that another generation should not have to bear such a burden.

We have always felt that the way Veterans Day was celebrated in Turners Falls was moving and appropriate. The Elks sound eleven chimes. It truly is a commemoration of those who have sacrificed themselves for the country.

The honoring of those who fought for us should continue, however, long beyond November 11. And veterans are in need now, as perhaps never before. Depending on the estimates, more than a half million veterans are homeless for at least parts of the year. Nearly 20 percent of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from some form of PTSD.

Suicide rates among veterans (and active service members) are at record highs. Too many veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are unable to find jobs. And the processing time for disability claims is ridiculously slow. Recent figures place the backlog at nearly 900,000. This is no way to honor those who were prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for their country.



SAWYER-LUCAANNO ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors



### Veterans Day Speech a Saber-Rattling Sermon

After attending the Veterans Day service held this past Monday in Turners Falls, I left saddened and perplexed by the main speech that was delivered by Commander Michael Walsh.

What should have been a service of remembrance, thanks and gratitude to our armed forces instead became a paranoid-inducing, rhetorical, saber-rattling sermon.

How can we progress as a civilization when we demonize other nations and cultures by threatening them with our military superiority?

Our schools remain underfunded and underachieving and our infrastructure in need of attention. How can we justify our military budget in the face of the chaos and upheaval we cause in the world that is a direct legacy of outmoded imperialistic

and racist thought?

In addition to giving thanks to our servicemen and women, I would like to praise the school band that braved the cold and windy morning to play 'God Bless America'.

God bless America indeed!

Gregory Balsewicz  
Turners Falls

### Leverett Teachers Deserve a Contract

To the Citizens of Leverett,

Did you know?

Leverett teachers are working without a contract.

The Leverett teachers and staff continue to create and provide high quality programs and an excellent education for the children of Leverett.

For the 2013-2014 contract year, teachers in Amherst, Erving, and Swift River received at least a 2% increase, as did other Leverett town employees. Leverett teachers were offered less than 2%.

Over the past 4 years, 6 veteran teachers have retired at the top of the salary scale and have been replaced by staff at a lower step. The savings to the town of Leverett from these retirements was more than

enough to create parity between Leverett and Amherst teachers, all of whom educate Leverett children, without increasing town spending on teacher salaries.

The town select board has released an abbreviated salary scale for Union 28 that is very misleading.

Last year, teachers volunteered to work with students for 25 additional minutes per week. This was equivalent to two extra school days of instructional time without additional pay, effectively erasing last year's 1.5% salary increase.

The school budget has been level-funded for the past 5 years.

Leverett Elementary Staff successfully worked during the 2012-2013 school year to elevate Leverett

from a Level 2 to a Level 1 school, the highest level possible, according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

What's our hope?

In planning the 2014-2015 budget, the school committee will support the teachers of Leverett in our efforts to receive a fair and equitable salary.

How can you help?

Contact and attend the meetings of the Leverett Select Board and the Leverett School Committee.

Let your voices be heard in the support of Leverett teachers.

Thank you,

Karin Gravina, Vivian Kucinski,  
William Stewart, Tracey Supple  
On behalf of the Leverett  
Education Association

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By RICHARD NATHHORST

Time was Leverett was a town filled with young university students, the "new age" forerunners of "the back to the land movement" of the 1960s and 1970s. Well, they are still here in Leverett, along with the descendants of the founding families who have been here since the place belonged to King George III.

Time moves on, and therein lies the rub: Leverett is noticeably getting older demographically. Leverett does not have many young people any more. Leverett is suffering the effects of that graying with demographic and economic pinching of some of its public institutions,

## Musing about Time, and Leverett

especially the Leverett Elementary School and the Leverett Fire Department.

There simply are not very many young families in Leverett to generate children to attend the elementary school and contribute volunteers of the proper demographic age group to man the Volunteer "Call" Fire Department. This situation presents a problem: How do you staff and fund public services that are highly understaffed, and/or underutilized, but have fixed economic costs?

I've listened to the woes of the public schools and fire department, and listened to those who want to maintain the status quo. My conclusion is that halfway measures are

not going to work. We need to look for solutions that go beyond the borders of Leverett.

The reality is that we need to regionalize the elementary school system for grades K-8 soon. We have a wonderful public school but it is unsustainable without regionalization. We need to face the facts the we can not populate the school with "school choice" students who cost the town more money than they bring in. Will this lead to the closing of the Leverett Elementary School? Perhaps, but it is the only way.

In the case of the fire department, it has been proposed that Leverett hire a young man who has attended

see GUEST ED on next page

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YOUR LETTERS!**

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Nolumbeka project will be sponsoring a **Beaver Moon Gathering** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. A variety of Native American crafts will be offered for sale. Other events include music by Native American flute player Barry Higgins, Strong Oak and the Visioning B.E.A.R. Drum Singers, Medicine Mammals Singers, and songwriter-guitarist Joe Graveline.

Wolf Tree Programs will offer stone tool-making and primitive fire-making demonstrations, and there will also be children's activities, refreshments and a traditional gardens exhibit. A raffle drawing will be held at 2 p.m. for items that will include jewelry, a moose hide frame drum and other unique gifts.

**Historic Deerfield comes**

**to Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls** on Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. Steeped in colonial life and tradition, Historic Deerfield is a flurry of activity, events and demonstrations as the Holiday Season approaches. This world-famous colonial village is a short jaunt down the highway from anywhere in Franklin County and simply walking the streets brings us closer to days gone by.

Staffers from Historic Deerfield will be on hand to provide information as well as hand out brochures and items of interest for upcoming events, many of which are free and open to the public. The possibilities are endless and GSB is grateful to offer this opportunity to experience colonial life right in our back yard.

**Looking to not bake a pie for Thanksgiving?** Franklin County Tech School Culinary Arts

Department is offering a selection of pies to ease that worry. Their selection includes apple, pecan, pumpkin, lemon meringue, sweet potato, and peanut butter. Orders need to be placed by November 18 with a pick up date of November 26 or 27. Prices range from \$8 to \$11. Order by going to [www.fcts.org](http://www.fcts.org) and clicking on the Thanksgiving Pie selection screen or call the school at (413) 863-9561 and ask for the Culinary Dept.

The 5th Annual **Sustainable Living Film Series** features "Switch" presented by Greening Greenfield on Wednesday, Nov 20, starting at 8 p.m. Switch is a documentary about energy, and how we can choose our energy future, and switch from fossil fuels to more Earth-friendly options and prosper.

Through a fascinating voyage around the world with our hosts, we will meet with people working in the energy industry - from coal and nuclear to solar, wind and more - and explore the pros and cons of how we power our lives. For inspiration, you also travel to countries that are fossil fuel free.

The program is offered in partnership with the St. James Episcopal Church in their Parish Hall, at 8 Church Street behind their

Federal St. church, in Greenfield. Admission is free and donations accepted. Discussion will follow the film.

The Leverett Peace Commission presents "**Project Unspeakable**", a dramatic presentation of the meaning and circumstances of the assassinations of JFK, Malcolm X, MLK, and RFK, at the Leverett Elementary School, 85 Montague Road, on Friday, November 22, starting at 7 p.m.

Project Unspeakable is a play written by Court Dorsey and associates that tells the whys and wherefores of these assassinations, using the documented words of the real historical persons involved in these events. The authors and producers plan hundreds of performances around the country in the tradition of the Vagina Monologues and the Laramie Project.

The nationwide launch will take place on November 22, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, with the first performance in the Valley in Leverett.

The **Gill/Montague Senior Center Christmas Bazaar** is Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Senior Center

at 52 Fifth Street in Turners Falls will be full of food, crafts, gifts and raffle prizes.

The bazaar is sponsored by the Friends of the Senior Center and helps to raise funds for center needs and activities.

The **Little Drummer Craft Fair** returns to the Franklin County Technical School on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This juried craft fair features artists and craftspeople from throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond, presenting their unique handcrafted products. This year, artists will also travel from Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine for the show. All proceeds from this event benefit the FCTS Music Department and award-winning Drumline.

Crafts and artwork this year include an assortment of wood turned and carved wood products, fine jewelry, quilts, paintings, baskets, felted and re-purposed products, soaps, lavender products, herbal crafts, word bricks, cribbage boards, sewn gifts, fudge, gifts for your pets, handbags, soft toys, paper products, fine photography, fiber arts, and more.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

### STANDOFF from page A1

converging on Turners Falls were police from Greenfield, Erving and Gill, as well as the state Special Tactical Operations (STOP) Team. Dodge explained that he and the department had previously received tactical training and instruction from the STOP team on how to respond to an "active shooter," and was therefore acquainted with the capacities of this special unit.

Among the many other calls Dodge made was to WMECO to assist with shutting off street lights, if necessary, and to the Montague Highway Department to set up blockades on Turnpike Road to prevent motorists from entering the scene. Once the Erving, Gill and Deerfield police arrived, they took over on the barricades.

He also secured an arrest warrant for the suspect, who was now

identified as Holland.

Meanwhile, the Montague and state police were talking to witnesses, and a course of action was set up. According to Dodge, at this point the STOP team "pretty much took over."

A perimeter was secured around the entire property, and officers positioned at strategic locations. At 10:41, state police negotiators made contact with Holland. Dodge said that he was quite impressed with how well they approached the subject of Holland's surrender.

Within 20 minutes an unarmed Holland walked out of the house. "It was quick and smooth. Holland did exactly what he was requested to do," said Dodge. "We were prepared for the worst, but were very glad there was no violence." According to Dodge, the suspect was inebriated.

### GUEST ED from previous page

the fire academy as a full-time fire fighter and not change much else. This is another attempt to preserve the status quo with halfway measures.

The reality is that 48% of the fire department's calls since 2002 are for medical emergencies, not fires or other incidents. Nothing comes close to medical emergencies statistically. So why are we proposing hiring a fire fighter, and not a full time paramedic or EMT? Well, he's on the force, and because we are not looking for a more holistic solution: namely, forming a fire district that serves a broader area than Leverett. In short, we need to regionalize the fire department too.

This of course is heresy in the fire department which, like most such rural departments, is a dedicated but insular group of people who are in fact a bit of a private club that resists change and new members with new ideas.

Two of the fire department members stated "this is a fire department not a social club," in response to concerns that new volunteer members leave the organization in response to the inflexibility of the organization and its unwillingness to change.

In fact, the clubbiness is there, in the form of a group of graying men with military backgrounds. It is a social club of a different kind, unsustainable in a town that is dominated by graying academics and higher-education professionals, high-technology professionals and people in the arts who make up much of the Leverett population today.

We must face the facts that Leverett cannot continue to sustain both a standalone fire department and a standalone elementary school. It is time we seek to join with adjacent rural towns to form regional schools and fire districts. If we regional-

ize, we could hire a professionally trained regional fire chief, to replace town chiefs who are rapidly reaching mandatory retirement age. We could also afford more ambulance services, a full-time, professional paramedic, and perhaps some EMT coverage to boot - and in the process, better serve the town's needs.

There is another reality we need to accept, and that is that Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham are no longer in the sphere of influence of Greenfield, but are in reality suburbs of Amherst.

It makes far more sense for Leverett to join with those towns, and regionalize K-8 as is currently the case with the high school classes. This reality also applies to Montague Center, which also is in the same gravitational pull of the higher-education establishment in Amherst, and should perhaps be included in the mix. Will this lead to closings of more elementary schools in these towns, like Montague Center has recently suffered? Perhaps, but consider that there do not appear to be many sustainable alternatives.

Leverett has had the courage to build its own broadband network and form its own municipal lighting plant, in response to the abdication of the local telecommunications utilities. These progressive decisions will attract more young people to move to Leverett, and may help to balance the demographics and economics. They will certainly help in communications and on-line medical and wellness monitoring, as well as fire alarms, intrusion alarms and medical emergency monitoring.

Leverett can potentially share what it has learned with adjacent towns, creating a regional broadband resource. It can also help lead the way to progressive regional solutions to the realities facing town schools and fire departments.

Once the suspect was in custody, officers began to search the apartment. They found a Walther P99 9mm semiautomatic handgun with a large capacity magazine. Additional ammunition was also found. According to Dodge, Holland did not have a firearms license to possess these items.

Holland was charged with the following offenses: assault with a dangerous weapon; threat to commit a crime; assault (domestic); disorderly conduct; carrying a dangerous weapon; unlawful possession of a large capacity firearm; unlawful possession of ammunition; unlawful possession of a large capacity feeding device; and improper storage of a large capacity firearm.

A more extensive search of the apartment led to the discovery of a device with protruding wires. This led to a call to the state police bomb squad who determined that the device was not a bomb, but perhaps part of a ham radio kit. The search also turned up a hollowed-out grenade, deemed inactive.

On November 7, Holland was arraigned in Greenfield District Court and pleaded not guilty to all nine charges. Holland's attorney said that his client was "passed

out on the couch" during the entire episode, and that the handgun and grenade were fake movie props Holland had acquired when he was employed as a movie production assistant.

Holland was held on \$50,000 bail. He is due back in court on December 2.



### VETERANS from page A1

there are disturbing signs that God is being removed from the oath and is being diminished in the culture of the military. Well, if we outlaw God, the only people out there praying are going to be bad guys."

In his closing remarks he also warned that divisiveness within the country to military commitment was perilous: "Our house is in disorder. We are not united by spirit or purpose. We cannot afford any sense of isolation."

Not everyone in the crowd on the sidewalk seemed to agree with the commander: "I guess I better grab my helmet," said one person. "Yep," said his companion. "I guess the Cold War is back."



**Montague Streetscape Planter Guidelines Public Meeting**

**Monday, November 18 7:15 PM**

**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA**

**Public Meeting**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that The Montague Parks & Recreation Department and Lake Pleasant Village Association will be sponsoring a meeting regarding Rutter's Park in the village of Lake Pleasant.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, at 7 p.m. in the Spiritualist Hall, on Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant, 01347. Public participation is welcomed.

**Notice of Public Hearing**

**2014 Montague Community Development Strategy Annual Update**

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.  
2nd Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall  
One Avenue A, Turners Falls

Come help the Town prioritize community development projects! Review the plan at [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) or at the Planning Department.

**GREEN RIVER ZEN CENTER**

Zen Meditation Practice  
Beginners Welcome

Information and schedule:  
[www.greenriverzen.org](http://www.greenriverzen.org)  
413-256-1594  
At the Montague Retreat Center  
177 Ripley Road  
Montague, MA 01351

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## NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE Superintendent Sullivan Gives Graphic Demonstration of Students' Improvement

By PATRICIA PRUITT

On Tuesday GMRSD superintendent Michael Sullivan, aided here and there by the District's four principals, told a compelling story of the district's progress, strengths, and areas still in need of improvement. His presentation was based on student performance on multiple tests, ranging from state-mandated MCAS, to the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments.

The layout of student scores in English language, arts, math, and science, as well as the assessment of growth from one year to the next, gives a clear picture of where our students stand with respect to these areas of learning.

Sullivan noted that we know that our district has come up out of its level 4 status. These dry statistics, however, speak loudly to the efforts of both students and teachers to strengthen the learning and skills learned in their classrooms.

### PERCENTAGE SCORING ADVANCED AND PROFICIENT

	ELA GMRSD	ELA State	Math GMRSD	Math State
2010	59	68	44	59
2011	60	69	50	58
2012	61	69	46	59
2013	62	69	50	61

With these measures before them, and mindful of the areas still in need of improvement, the superintendent, principals and teachers have set goals for the years ahead through 2015.

As part of this effort, Sullivan laid out his goals for the District's continued improvement of student learning as follows to meet the student achievement targets established in the district's Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) for 2013-2014.

Currently, the AIP measure says that on the Spring 2014 MCAS results in ELA and Math, the percentage of students scoring advanced or proficient will increase by 10%; in addition, at all grade levels, in both ELA and Math, 70% or more students will score proficient on the spring 2014 NWEA MAP assessments, and the growth scores (RIT averages) will exceed the national

norms for growth.

At this point Sullivan offered what he called "an MCAS alternative" proposal, based on the chart below.

Sullivan proposed that given these historical increases, perhaps an MCAS increase of five percentage points in ELA and Math for 2013-14 would be a more realistic goal to strive for in the next year.

Conversely, he proposed a second MCAS alternative: retain the two NWEA goals above but use a new MCAS goal in which MCAS student growth percentiles will exceed 50 (the state average) in each subject and grade level where it is calculated (Grades 4-8 and 10 in ELA and math). This goal will exist for two categories: all students and special education students.

Another alternative proposal was to utilize the Student Learning Goal for the purposes of educator evaluation. Sullivan proposed developing district determined measures (DDM) of student learning for

every educator to use in the 2014-2015 school year.

Each educator will also have a DDM in place for the 2013-2014 school year, which will serve as an authentic measure of student learning, apart from its educator evaluative purpose. By May 2013 each educator will be trained in DDMs and have collaboratively developed a DDM rough draft.

The School Committee passed this proposal unanimously.

Overall, the superintendent said that student performance continued to improve relative to all other schools in the state. Compared to similar districts MCAS achievement was average, but growth was high. There were relatively strong performances in grades eight and ten, but the district needs to improve both student scoring at the advanced level, as well as special education student performance.

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD Building Inspector Seeks Assistant, And Higher Permit Fees

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell's building inspector, Phil Delorey, at the November 6 selectboard meeting introduced a former resident, Roland Jean, who now lives in New Salem, as his choice for a local assistant.

That position does not exist in town, but Delorey said he is facing some situations in which he might have a conflict of interest, and it would also be good to have someone available when he is on vacation, and someone who has worked with Wendell when he is ready to step down.

Jean is a state-certified inspector, having completed the onerous state process, and is willing to work his first year for \$500, which Delorey said he could take out of the town's building inspector's budget.

Orange building inspector Brian Gale, has filled in as an alternate in Wendell, but having an assistant would make the inspection procedure smoother.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said there is no job description now, and there should be one. She also pointed out that the position must be advertised, and she asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to do that. It is unlikely that anyone will respond, given the certification required, and Heard said that the selectboard would make the appointment as soon as they could, possibly at their next meeting, November 20.

Delorey also said the forms required for a building permit are posted on the town's website, but that the fee schedule is old and only covers 1/4 to 1/3 of the actual expense. He proposed a higher fee schedule.

He said that in spite of the town's "simple living" initiative and town bylaw, as its building inspector he could not allow a dwelling that is outside of the state code, and code includes regular plumbing and wiring along with the building code. The town's zoning board of appeals (ZBA) might be able to grant exceptions.

The state attorney general has not yet approved the town's simple living bylaw. Delorey said that if the issue is forced, his only options are to issue a stop work order, or to deny an occupancy permit.

### Criminals Checked

In other business, the selectboard unanimously passed a resolution recommended by the library staff that would call for a criminal background check, officially a Criminal Offender Record Information or CORI, for people employed by the town to work with children.

For a one-time performance the CORI check would be unnecessary, but someone doing a longer program would need one.

Police chief Ed Chase is willing to run those checks. Notice of that policy will be passed on to the Council on Aging, the recreation committee, and the library.

### Dogs Licensed

Wendell is down to the last few unlicensed dogs. One family has a money issue, one dog has a note from his vet stating that he is old and had a bad reaction to the last rabies shot. Two have not returned the calls that selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser made. Heard suggested that he continue at least until the next meeting and Pooser said, "I can try again."

### Recycling Grant

Wendell is getting a \$500 grant from the DEP to use in its recycling program. The money will be administered by the WRATS, and will likely be used to buy recycled paper, and more recycling bins. The solid waste district found everything satisfactory at Wendell's WRATS.

### Camperships Nixed

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Massachusetts Audubon has a money shortage, and they will no longer continue to offer camperships or classes at Swift River School.

They agreed to three years of both in lieu of paying taxes on their land inside the town lines, but now they will stop both the camperships and the classes, although they still own the land.

### Miscellaneous Business

Board members agreed to post an opening for a shared clerk for the finance committee, the open space committee and the access committee totaling less than 10 hours per month. Postings will be at the library, the store and in the upcoming town newsletter.

Also in the newsletter will be a request for designs for a town flag. Designs should be submitted to the selectboard by January 2, 2014 so they can look at them at the January 3 meeting.

Assessing property has become more and more involved and Aldrich said the FRCOG is looking at regionalizing full time assessors, freeing local boards of assessors of some of their growing burden, but still allowing them final authority to grant their approval of a valuation.

Aldrich also said she is taking vacation time during Thanksgiving week.

As the meeting was ending, Pooser announced that on November 22 at the Leverett elementary school there will be a performance of Project Unspeakable. It concerns the assassinations of John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King and the connections among them.

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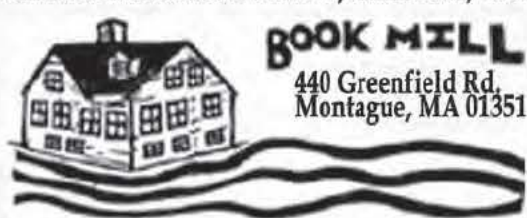
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**MAHLER** from page A1

role as spokesperson in chief for the century-old school union.

"I'm the Abe Lincoln of U-28," he said jokingly on Tuesday, in an interview at his spare second floor office in a disused school building on the hill behind the library in Erving. "I say, 'Let's keep the union together.'"

This is one civil conflict more likely to be settled at the ballot box than the barricades. Leverett is in the planning stages for a town meeting vote as soon as next spring to decide whether to throw in their lot with Amherst and Pelham for elementary school governance. Shutesbury has opted to await Leverett's outcome before deciding whether to join the exodus from the union.

Leverett officials on the regional school planning board contend the benefits of joining Amherst would create financial efficiencies for the taxpayers, more money for teacher salaries, and educational opportunities for Leverett's younger students. But Mahler, former principal of Shutesbury Elementary School, takes issue on each of these points.

"On education and finance, it depends on whom you talk to," he said. "Some towns are looking at the financial piece, because they are concerned about the financial picture. But will regionalization provide short term gains, or is this a long term solution?"

As to the educational advantages that might derive from closely aligning elementary curricula with the middle and high schools, and the potential for creating specialized magnet style schools within a larger region, Mahler counters, "There is a lot of freedom within Union #28. The schools have freedom in terms of curriculum and implementation."

But on the third point - school governance - Mahler said the issue is much more cut and dried. "There is no question about governance," he said. "It will change. Period. The five-member school committees will no longer exist. That's what people are really voting on."

Yet for someone who has reached back in time to the Civil War to characterize his role in this elementary school struggle, one gets the feeling Mahler, more than most who might occupy his seat, would be willing to abide the democratic will of the majority in deciding the outcome.

If there has been one hallmark of Mahler's educational and administrative style up until now, it has been his preference for inclusive decision making, even when it comes to something as simple as where children will sit in the school lunchroom.

When the *Montague Reporter* first caught up with Bob Mahler in 2003, he had just become the shared half-time principal of Montague Center Elementary and Gill Elementary, in a cost cutting move by the beleaguered Gill-Montague Regional School District. He had previously served for ten years as the full-time principal of Gill.

In his office, he still keeps a key chain from his Montague Center days, along with other memorabilia

from past educational positions, including a sun-drenched photo from his first position after graduating with a teaching certificate from Antioch.

That was at a Summerhill-style free school outside of Kennebunkport named "The School Around Us," where every child had a vote equal to the votes of each of the five teachers in deciding school policy, and the only three rules were: "No throwing water," (it might cause the art on the walls to run) "No going on the railroad tracks," (for obvious reasons) and "Do not go to the stream during hunting season," (ditto).

His free school experience did not lead Mahler to a belief that discipline has no place in public schools. But it did convince him that the basis of any real teaching experience is the essential trust that must exist in the teacher-student relationship: "That's the basis of a good education. The kids trust you. You trust the kids."

Beyond that, Mahler said, "Schools represent the beachfront of society. Kids show up on the beach ready to enter society. Ultimately, we educate them for the unknown. We don't know what the future may hold. Shall we educate them about democracy?"

But how does a student oriented, trust based pedagogy translate to the modern world of data driven, performance based, bureaucracy laden education?

"Let's teach kids the best we can," said Mahler. "And the tests will take care of themselves."

He said the new PARCC ("Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers") tests show promise of providing a "standardized test that actually demonstrates knowledge rather than the ability to spit back information," and he said that there is a movement in some education circles to develop "portfolio assessment, so you can see progress over time in writing and math."

But in general, Mahler said, "Every kid is different, so how do you stamp out a standardized test," to assess them? "Teaching remains an art form in many ways. When you deal with human subjects you can qualitatively view what's going on, rather than quantitatively."

Mahler rates the teachers and staff of Union #28 with top marks, and credits the towns for providing the backing to make the staff's high level of work possible.

"We don't have the pressure of lack of resources or performance so we have the freedom to try something new."

Mahler looks to a future vote on the makeup of Union #28 with an equanimity born of such experiences, and his collaborative approach to problem solving may yet stand him in good stead.

"Without community support all we are doing is fighting each other," he said. "Shared leadership is something that is much better understood in 2013 than it was 30 years ago. I'm not advocating my authority. I bring people in. Let's come to a decision. I'm going to make sure the stakeholders are heard."



**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

**Wrangling Over Teacher Salaries Continues**

By DAVID DETMOLD

The school committee and selectboard on Tuesday discussed the status of contract negotiations with the teachers union, and the quality of information being provided to the public on the stalled contract, which is now in the process of mediation.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau criticized school committee chair Catherine Brooks for appearing to take an advocacy position in favor of the union's stance at recent public hearings before the school committee, at which the teachers have made a show of protest in force in recent months over the town's offer of 1.5% raises.

Brooks said with the impasse moving to mediation, both sides were legally allowed to discuss their positions in public. Brooks, at a recent school committee meeting, offered to look into the teachers' charge that the selectboard has posted inaccurate or misleading information about the Leverett teachers' pay scale in relation to teachers in other Union #28 towns on the town website.

Last week she also stated, "We are not going to take this sitting down," in reference to a selectboard directive she said would leave potential savings from the announced retirement of a senior teacher in the hands of the selectboard rather than the school committee to allocate.

Brooks said if the school committee backs a salary increase of 2% for the teachers and staff, aware that steps and longevity clauses might push total compensation above 2½%, they would do so only if they were able to find savings elsewhere in the school budget sufficient to keep the total budget within the overall 2% guideline recommended by the selectboard.

On the dispute about information on the town's website, specifically a posting that compares teacher salaries in Leverett to teacher salaries at Swift River, Leverett special education teacher Aris Ethridge said the comparison, which appears to show that Leverett teachers at Step 12 make 20% more than their counterparts at Swift River, "is just not true. I make \$1149 more than a teacher with my experience at Swift River," said Ethridge. "That is 2% more."

Last week, LEA president Bill Stewart said Swift River is ranked among the ten lowest school statewide for teacher pay.

On Tuesday, U-28 interim superintendent Bob Mahler offered to provide the town information on new union contacts for Erving and Swift River, in order to update the comparison of pay scales.

Selectboard member Julie Shively said the information posted on the town's website "is not complete. The whole intent of that was to give us an idea of how Leverett was doing in relation to U-28 towns." She added, "I didn't know some prior selectboard had said,

"Oh, Leverett teachers should make Amherst salaries."

In a previous meeting, Shively said a comparison between Leverett teacher salaries and Amherst salaries was less relevant to the town's current negotiations than a comparison between Leverett and towns of similar size and demographics, such as the neighboring Union #28 towns.

Shively admitted on Tuesday that "the top of the pay scale" at Swift River "isn't on the salary comparison that's out there," on the town's website.

Ethridge called on the selectboard to take the comparison down immediately from the town's site.

Victoria Cliche, a resident and former LES parent, said, "Some of us moved to town for the school, because the school is that outstanding. If this school was in New York City, we'd be paying \$20,000 a year for it as a private school. As a citizen, a taxpayer, I believe it is imperative that we keep the best teachers. I know they've had offers elsewhere." She added, "We need to think about what is imperative to maintain in town," specifically the quality of the local school.

Brazeau countered by saying her reference to private school costs in New York City were not far from the mark. "We pay \$19,500 per kid," to educate students at LES, contended Brazeau, as opposed to a figure between \$12,000 - \$13,000 per student at the middle and high schools.

School committee member Fenna Lee Bonsignore disputed Brazeau's \$19,500 figure, saying her preliminary research yielded a somewhat lower number for educating students at LES, around \$18,166. But she called for patience to let the newly formed Sustainability Subcommittee studying the future of Leverett Elementary to do its work, before the wider community jumps to conclusions based on confusing statistics.

Bonsignore also criticized the reporting of the contract dispute in *The Montague Reporter*, saying the town was gathering information through the eyes of "one reporter in one newspaper," although she made no claim that any of the information contained in those reports was based on misquotes of statements made in public hearings.

Finance chair Tom Powers said, "Sustainability of the elementary school has other components than financial," but "when you reach a figure" for per pupil education "of 50% more than high or middle school students you begin to ask yourself, 'Is this a sustainable place for the elementary school, as enrollments continue to decline.'"

Powers added, "Over the next ten years, it is unlikely we will see a lot of new growth in town. We're already right up to the levy limit, which means we'll be seeing this \$100,000 plus figure (in new taxation under the constraints of

see LEVERETT page A6



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## LEVERETT from page A5

Proposition 2½) to work with. If inflation ever kicks in we're all in deep trouble."

School committee member Sarah Dolven said, "It is time for an override if we want to maintain our town."

Brazeau concluded the discussion by saying, "We want it (the school) to be sustainable. We are not looking to tear it apart. We want to maintain at least what we have. We have to be realistic about what the town will support. The school is built for 250 people. We have, what, 100 students from town and 20 from school choice? That's not even half of what it was built for."

In other news, the selectboard heard a presentation from Montague resident Jeff Singleton on the imminent decision by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority to cancel the Greenfield to Amherst Route 29 bus, which for 39 years has traversed the main north-south corridor through Leverett on Route 63, and currently provides the only fixed route bus line through town.

FRTA has announced plans to discontinue that line by the end of the year, and Singleton said the town of Montague is fighting that plan. (Full disclosure: This reporter put the matter on the board's agenda.)

Leverett is not presently a member of the FRTA, having opted prior to anyone on the current board's tenure to join the PVTA instead. The PVTA provides demand response service for the elderly and handicapped to points within Hampshire County, according to Council on Aging member Tanya Cushman, at a cost of over a \$1000 per year, but does not have a fixed bus route through town.

The selectboard agreed to write a letter to the FRTA calling for im-

mediate discussion on the planned discontinuation of the route, with copies going to local legislators.

Roy Kimmel said, "It sounds as if the FRTA is acting like a private transit company rather than a public transportation authority... Here we are, directly north of the largest employer, on the north-south route to the county seat, and it's about to be eliminated."

He said, considering that the lion's share of the FRTA's budget comes from state and federal funds, Leverett should negotiate to preserve the bus route, publicize it, and call for its extension down Montague Road to Leverett Center, in order to boost ridership.

The selectboard appointed Kimmel to act as the town's representative to the PVTA, and to any negotiations the Franklin Regional Council of Governments might be willing to sponsor on the future of regional transportation in the county, with specific reference to the north-south route through Leverett.

For good measure, the selectboard appointed Kimmel to a vacancy on the Community Preservation Committee. The selectboard will sponsor a food drive for the local food pantries in December. Stay tuned to your favorite local news outlet for more details as they emerge.

Finally, the board scheduled a special town meeting on December 17 to allow for a vote on a wording change to the town's solar bylaw, which at the moment is prohibitive of the selectboard's plan to build a photovoltaic array to help power the safety complex. Although that 15 kW array would be on town-owned land between the safety complex and the elementary school, the present bylaw prohibits free standing solar arrays larger than 10 kW in a rural residential zone.

## Emergency Training For Volunteers

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Buckland Fire Department are sponsoring a Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) and Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for volunteers.

MRC and CERT Volunteers are community members who respond to disasters in their local communities and throughout Franklin County.

Often many people come out to volunteer and help when a disaster strikes.

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Our recent run of ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and other

large-scale events shows a clear need for prepared citizen volunteers.

By training before a disaster occurs, volunteers prepare themselves and their families to be ready; and are then available to respond in their community with sheltering, mass feeding and assisting first responders.

Some CERT volunteers also train to assist animals in disasters.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, the next training will start November 20th.

Contact the Citizen Corps Coordinator at [citizen corps@frcog.org](mailto:citizen corps@frcog.org), or (413) 774-3167 x137. E-mail is best.

## Some Additional Thanks for our Soup and Games Night:

The Reporter inadvertently omitted last week, from our Soup & Games fundraiser thank-yous, several wonderful donors who provided the event with food.

A huge shout out to Marge Levenson Squash Trucking; the Wagon Wheel, People's Pint, and Brass Buckle; Northfield Mt. Hermon Dining Services, and Franklin County Tech School.

Without you and the many others who so generously donated their time, talents and nutritional delights, we wouldn't have had a Soup and Games Night at all!

And again, we encourage readers go to Hope and Olive this Monday the 18th, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., for a special Soup & Games to benefit those businesses affected by the fire on Route 9 in Hadley.

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# MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO. 7

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Dear  
*Clio,*



My husband and I have been married for three years. He's 41 and I'm 27. He's a very accomplished person and I admire him as well as love him. The problem is that he is very, very controlling. He wants my life to revolve around his and gets very mad if I decide just to please myself. He controls our money (including mine) and decides how we will spend it. He makes all the decisions about our social life. Most of the time I don't disagree with his choices but I think I should have a say. My sister says he is an abuser but I don't think he is since he's never been violent toward me. But how do I get him to regard me more and listen to me without him accusing me of trying to undermine him?

**Dear Anonymous Sister,**

I have been thinking about you and your question. I want to respect the fact that you wrote to me with a question by answering it, but in my heart I want to answer the question you did not ask: is your sister right that this relationship is abusive?

The fact that someone close to you feels that way makes me worry about your well-being. Your sister is right that a relationship can be abusive without being physically violent, and her intuition feels like a warning sign. It's going to be hard to look at the possibility that your husband is being abusive, but I think it is time to consider what she is saying.

You have been in this marriage three years. As long as you are not physically in danger, I think it is OK to stay where you are for now and focus on honestly assessing the

see CLIO page B6

## Building Beyond The Wall



Dunphy and Petruski show off the sculpture in Dunphy's yard.

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE** – The project began with modest goals. John Dunphy asked Jason Petruski to build a wall along the slope of a perennial garden at his home in Montague Center.

Petruski, who likes sinuous curves and wields his simple tools with patient skill, created that wall using a combination of Goshen Schist, stone blocks from the basement of a friend's collapsed barn and stones from the Deerfield and Sawmill rivers.

It follows the curve of the garden and invites a view of the woods beyond. I saw it in late fall after the garden had been put to bed for the winter, but it was easy to envision the wall framing plants and flowers.

But wait! There was quite a bit of stone left over, and these two friends began talking about possible uses. Dunphy was thinking about a sculptural element that would symbolize hope and a belief in the future. Petruski brought books featuring the work of stone artists, pictures of Tibetan Stupas, and a meandering conversation began; an exchange that resulted in a work of art that stands at the back of Dunphy's yard against a filigree of trees and a woodland path.

According to a website dedicated to the history of stupas, they are "an ancient form of sacred architecture that represent the heart of enlightenment – not just as a form of tribute but as a radiating presence that transmits blessings to all those who come in contact with them."

"If properly constructed and empowered, a stupa is like a spiritual generator. It broadcasts virtue of such power that it brings peace and harmony to all beings and balances the forces of nature."

Here in Western Massachusetts we are accustomed to one huge stupa, the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, and many smaller piles of stones that individuals leave along the roadways, like miniature miracles of balance.

John Dunphy's stupa contains the same elements of hope and love. Petruski built it with a small sheltered opening for a candle and a chamber to hold prayers and blessings. The idea for the chamber and the candle emerged over time as both men talked about the project's possibilities.

Smiling, Dunphy said, "There's always so much to do to maintain a house. I wondered if building this was the right thing to do when there are so many other projects, and then a good friend said, 'At this time in

see SCULPTURE page B6

## Millers Falls Scrapbook, pt. 3: The Last Man

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS/ERVINGSIDE** – That annual anniversary has come and gone again. November 11, 1918, when the guns finally fell silent after 4 years of carnage. The "11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day" is still evoked these days, but less and less, as the date has transformed from Armistice Day into a day of remembrance of all veterans of all wars. And in this country, that amounts to a lot of wars.

The last combatant surviving the Great War of 1914-1918 died in 2011. The Last Man of the 15 millions of French, German, English, Russians, and Americans has been laid to rest.

History, like gold, is where you find it.

An improbable link with the Great War came to the light of day just a week ago, and it connected this old Smith House on the Flat, an 1891 engraving of our village of Millers Falls, and archivist-photographer Brad Peters.

On this past November 5, the newly revitalized Erving Historical Commission was meeting at the Pearl Care building in Erving Center, where the Commission's museum is located.

The new commissioners have been hard at work cataloging all the artifacts they inherited from the former Society. Peters has been keeping himself busy with copying and archiving the hundreds of old photographs stashed helter-skelter on the former Erving Historical Society's shelves.



The 1917 poster featured a local recruit.

Peters, by the way, has also dedicated himself to another project relating to a World War II unit, the 300<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion, about which he has often written in the pages of the *Montague Reporter*.

Not unlike the cat who swallowed the proverbial canary, Peters arrived at the meeting with some of his newest discoveries:

Civil War letters written by enlisted men from Erving, and an artifact that brought everything around to this house on the Flat and its link to World War I. Peters loves scouring the nooks and crannies of the local libraries, and in this instance, the cozy Erving library provided him with quite a find.

Some of you have seen the bird's-eye view engravings of our various village centers done in 1891. Peters see SCRAPBOOK page B6

## A Peaceful, but Successful, Bazaar



Light from a stained glass window given by the Women's Group illuminates another stained glass window.

By JOE PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Women's Group of Our Lady of Peace held a successful bazaar on Saturday, November 9, in the church basement on Seventh Street. The church, once named "St. Mary's Church," an Irish church, is now Our Lady of Peace, an appropriate name, since the three Roman Catholic Churches in Turners Falls have a history of friendly rivalry.

There was once the Polish Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa; the former French Church, St. Anne's, now closed; and the Irish Church, Saint Mary's.

Church members voted for Our Lady of Peace as the official name of the consolidated parishes of St. Anne's

and St. Mary's, along with Greenfield's Sacred Heart Church, and St. John's Church in Millers Falls. The Polish Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa, still stands alone with an overflowing congregation that draws worshippers from as far away as Vermont, New Hampshire, and Gardner, MA.

"This church [Our Lady of Peace] is no longer Irish," Pastor Reverend Aksamit said. "They [parishioners] are of all nationalities.... We welcome all who come to worship here."

Fr. Aksamit, who is a member of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, added with a rueful smile, "We all get along. I'm of Polish heritage; I came here from the Polish Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa. This

is a beautiful church. The mason who did some restoration work on the church greatly admired the beauty of it. And, what impressed me most about him was that he came every day to work on the project until it was done."

Charles Rucci, the mason who repointed the bricks, is known for his fine work and diligence, working on a job in a workmanlike manner until the job is done and the jobsite cleaned up.

Rucci, who has worked on both the church chimney and the steeple, said "This church has the most interesting brickwork of any building I've ever worked on. The arches of the windows are repeated in the brickwork going up the side of the building. The architect who designed the church did a beautiful job."

Aksamit is the Polish word for "velvet," which seemed to describe the smooth functioning of the church and the bazaar in the spirited melding of his parish members and their concerted efforts, making the combining of the parishes, and the bazaar, a success.

"Twenty people took part in making 67 apple pies," Linda Strahan said. "There were eight people peeling apples, and others making

see PEACE page B2



By LESLIE BROWN

The dark closes in. Before the time changes we are gifted with two balmy, indolent days created for sunning, for ambling a long dirt road, for picnicking once more and early star gazing later.

Now the leaves are gone, either dropped by frost or wind. Sounds are magnified without the break of leaves on the trees. But the view is longer without them, widening the fields and extending to the horizon. November is a monochrome month, often gray on gray. Still, the grasses and the fields are bright green as though the end of the year contains the start of spring as well.

The loud, raucous cries of geese fill the early evening air and swarms of birds gather filling the air with chatter of warmer places to travel. It is a contemplative time, watching the end of the growing season yet planning for the next. There is yet time to take care of some yard and garden chores which will improve

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

### Wintry Hours

the spring time season.

If the lawn needs filling in and/or liming, that can be tended to as well. Seed spread now will perhaps feed a few passing

sparrows, but when the early thaws start in February, the remaining seeds will crack and sprout, ready to take root when the air warms just a bit more. The late fall rains and early snows will help the lime start to leach into the soil.

You can still improve the looks of next year's blossoming shrubs by cutting off dead growth now. The butterfly bush has overgrown itself and will do all the better for some thinning. We also plan to top the yellow magnolia so as to keep it at a manageable height. The lilacs need to be thinned of the sprouts starting at the bottom of the older bushes. These older plants will eventually succumb to age and cracking so leave some fresh sprouts to begin a new stand.

Many crops like to be fed in the fall. Like the lime, fertilizers and manure will begin to leach into the soil around the roots, providing food for spring growth. We'll be feeding the asparagus and strawberry beds this way.

Give your lilacs a bit of wood ashes at their base, if you have it. They will enjoy this moderating of acidic soil.

Until we've had a deep, penetrating freeze, you can still set in bulbs for spring and summer flowering plants especially if you have a tool designed for this purpose. These bulb planters are designed to create a bulb sized hole and are marked to indicate the appropriate planting depths for many sizes of bulb. It's also time to set in the cook's favorite bulbs of garlic. Plant each clove separately, still wrapped, about three inches down. Then with the thaws of March, this early crop will star to show green shoots.

Take a little bit of time to clean your garden tools of dirt and store them where you can readily put your hands on them when it's time to dig the earth again. This is a bitter-sweet time for the gardener as the growing season comes to an end. Enjoy the fruits of your harvest; then, as the earth rests, so can you.

Bring a bit of the garden in for winter pleasure. Layer the bottom of a brandy snifter or small fishbowl with small rocks and an inch or two of dirt. Plant mosses, partridge berry and small ferns. Moist- see GARDENS page B2

**Pet of the Week**



**“Prince Phillip”**

Good Day!  
 Let me tell you a little about myself. Aside from my obvious good looks, I am very friendly!  
 I get along well with people of ANY age, and dogs and/or cats!

I enjoy spending time outdoors but would love to snuggle up to a human at night! I love activity, so a busy household would suit me just fine!

So as you can see I really am a “Prince of a Cat”! Come down soon to meet me and I will give you the “Royal Welcome”!

I’m a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. That means I’ve been waiting for adoption longer than most of the other kitties here and my adoption fee has been reduced by half!

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

**Senior Center Activities  
 November 18 to 23**

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

**Gill / Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

**Monday 11/18**

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 12 noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
 1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 11/19**

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
 12 noon Lunch  
 1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Wednesday 11/20**

10 a.m. Aerobics  
 12 noon Lunch  
 12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 11/21**

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
 12 noon Lunch  
 12:30 p.m. SHINE (appointment)  
 1 p.m. Pitch

**Friday 11/22**

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 11:45 a.m. Bazaar Set Up  
 1 p.m. NO Writing Group

**Saturday 11/23**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Holiday Bazaar

**WENDELL**

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours

and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

**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 congregating meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 11/18**

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

**Tuesday 11/19**

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
 10:15 a.m. Steve Damon “Name That Tune”

12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday 11/20**

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
 10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
 12 noon Bingo

**Thursday 11/21**

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
 10 a.m. Healthy Bones/Muscles  
 12 noon Cards

**Friday 11/22**

9 a.m. Bowling

**LEVERETT**

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

**PEACE from page B1**

dough. For the 50 French Meat Pies, made of pork and beef, baking took three hours.

“We had a regular assembly line set up,” Strahan said. “I rolled all the dough for the pies. I was really rolling in dough,” she added, with a laugh.

Rita La Grierre and Carol Campbell spent over 10 hours sorting and pricing the wide range of beautiful donated jewelry.

Many others assisted in countless ways, setting up tables, making coffee, selling baked goods, helping customers and filling in wherever needed, all in a team effort.

Even Fr. Stan, as he is affectionately called, manned one of the tables greeting people as they

came in.

The bazaar proceeds will go to support the church, the Catholic Ministries, two \$1,000 scholarships for Turners Falls students, money for food vouchers, food baskets and a ham dinner for the needy as well as helping support Sisters of St. Joseph.

In the past, the group paid for stained glass windows, and \$26,000 towards the \$31,000 cost for the construction of a sound-proof vestibule with sound piped in, so families with small children could worship there without a crying child disrupting the service.

The Women’s Group hopes to pay off the remaining \$5,000 with Saturday’s Bazaar.



**GARDENS from page B1**

en the container contents and then cover with a bit of plastic wrap held in place by a rubber band. Set in a cool but light area and enjoy.

Plant some narcissus bulbs in rocks or soil and force them for holiday enjoyment.

Start in a dark place and then set in a cool, light room while the green stems get going.

In just a few weeks you will have beautifully scented tiny white flowers to grace the holiday table.

Wrap yourself in the warmth of the holiday season. Soon the seed catalogues will arrive in January and we gardeners can treat ourselves to the eye candy of it all and order up for next year.

Happy coming holidays, and happy gardening!



**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

**Nutty About Heart Health**



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. Are nuts really good for your heart?*

The Harvard Men’s Health Watch reports that studies show healthy men, and those who have already suffered a heart attack, can reduce cardiovascular risk by eating nuts regularly. Here are some facts about nuts:

\* Fiber. All nuts contain fiber, which helps lower your cholesterol. Fiber also makes you feel full, so you eat less.

\* Some nuts contain plant sterols, a substance that can help lower your cholesterol.

\* Nuts contain mono- and poly-unsaturated fats known to benefit the heart.

\* Many nuts are rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3s are a healthy form of fatty acids that seem to help your heart by, among other things, preventing dangerous heart rhythms that can lead to heart attacks.

\* Nuts are a source of L-arginine, which is a substance that may help improve the health of your artery walls by making them more flexible and less prone to blood clots that can block blood flow.

\* Vitamin E in nuts may help stop the development of plaques in your arteries, which can narrow them, leading to chest pain, coronary artery disease or a heart attack.

In addition, nuts may help lower cholesterol by simply replacing less healthy foods in your diet.

“Nuts may not be the key to cardiovascular health, but adding nuts to a balanced, healthful diet can take you one step away from heart disease,” says Dr. Harvey B. Simon, editor-in-chief of *Health Watch*.

However, there isn’t hard evidence for the benefits of nuts to your heart. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) only allows food companies to say evidence suggests but does not prove that eating nuts reduces heart disease risk.

Most nuts contain at least some substances that are good for your heart. However, while nuts are loaded with nutrition, they are also high in calories; as much as 80 percent of a nut is fat. Two ounces of nuts a week appears to help lower heart disease risk, so don’t eat nuts like an elephant or you will become one.

Nuts don’t vary a lot in caloric content. Almonds are on the low end with 160 calories per ounce. Macadamias are on the high end with 204 calories per ounce.

Most nuts appear to be good for you. Walnuts, almonds, macadamia nuts, hazelnuts and pecans are considered very good for your heart.

WALNUTS. While all nuts contain heart-healthy omega-3 fats, walnuts have high amounts of alpha

linoleic acid (ALA). Research has suggested that ALA may help heart arrhythmias, and a 2006 Spanish study suggested that walnuts were as effective as olive oil at reducing inflammation and oxidation in the arteries after eating a fatty meal.

ALMONDS. These nuts contain more calcium than any other nut, making them a great food for overall health. They are rich in fiber and vitamin E, an antioxidant that helps fight dangerous inflammation and possibly health conditions such as lung cancer and age-related cognitive decline.

MACADAMIAS. Although high in fat, macadamias supply good levels of the healthy mono-unsaturated variety. They’re a rich source of fiber and contain minerals including magnesium, calcium and potassium.

HAZELNUTS. These are a good source of folate, which plays a key role in keeping homocysteine within normal levels. Homocysteine is an amino acid which has been associated with heart problems as well as conditions like Parkinson’s disease.

PECANS. These are packed with plant sterols. Pecans are also antioxidant-rich which helps prevent the plaque formation that causes hardening of the arteries. They’re rich in oleic acid, the healthy fat found in olives and avocado. As a good source of vitamin B3, pecans help fight fatigue.

Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezers.org](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.org)

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Disturbed by Melantha's divination skills, our narrator returns to the reading room, where the usual crowd had gathered...

By DAVID DETMOLD

If I dreamed of anyone, it was of the night librarian herself, Melantha. She occupied a peculiar coign of vantage in my mind - her image would come vividly to life in my inner vision at the odd hours between sleep and waking, or in the middle of a mundane conversation with a hardware store clerk.

Her eyes exerted a peculiar fascination, sweeping me with bold appraisal, measuring my worth and coming up short, sardonic and amused.

There was no one like her in our town.

I walked into the reading room and swiped the want ads from Tony and took my seat.

Tony usually devoted himself to the business section, but tonight he had the paper open to the local news.

He was reading aloud an article covering the recent town meeting, which bore upon a matter close at hand, or rather underfoot, namely - the gap in the top step of the library landing.

I pretended to study the scant job openings as I listened to him carry on about the proceedings of our local government.

"Listen to this!" he cried. "At Tuesday's town meeting, after a lengthy debate, with no surprises, the good citizens of our town decided once again to cast their ballots for stability... Stability!" He put the paper down. "I shit you not, that's what it says."

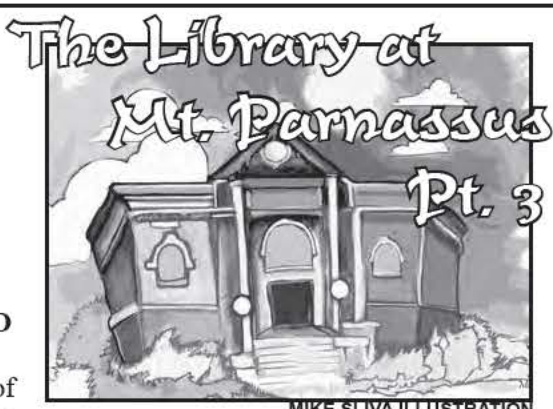
Tony affected a bit of a lisp. "What a lede. As if they would have cast their ballots for anything but. As if they would have voted for in-stability. My god! Moral degeneracy. Chaos and perversion!"

"All right, Tony, read the paper." He snapped the broadsheet open crisply and continued, "At issue was the very foundation of civic pride, nay the very pillar on which the fundamental rectitude of our citizenry rests - the library."

"The library!" Tony lowered the paper and, quoted Eulalie Shinn: "Balzac!" He looked across at me. "The pillar of our citizenry's fundamental rectitude? Who do they think they're kidding? The way the tight-assed finance committee tries to squeeze every last dime you'd think they would have reduced new acquisitions to owl shit by now. And they'll do it, too, if the few of us who still know how to read don't raise a stink. Hmmp. The pillar up the fundament of our citizenry indeed. Assholes!"

His esses spattered across the table. I backed off a little, not to be obvious, and stuck my hands in my overcoat pockets.

Orville squirmed uncomfortably in the corner.



Tony resumed reading. "The article in question dealt with the wide crack in the library landing. The crack has been giving patrons pause for years, and has led to growing doubts about the stability of the underlying foundation. Temporary measures for dealing with the problem were considered. The relative merits of silicon caulk versus mortar mix were debated. Town meeting members rejected numerous motions, and amendments from the floor, and in the end voted unanimously to fund complete renovations to the marble steps and landing, which have been so grievously parted from their pediments in recent years..."

"That would be grievous," put in Cadmus, drily. "Not grievous. I should know."

Ulysses ruffled his wings and shifted from one leg to the other.

"...grievously parted... from their pederasts..." said Tony, snickering. "I should know."

"S-s-stop it, Tony," stammered Orville, from his corner.

Tony went on as if he hadn't heard. "The sum appropriated for repairs, two thousand, six hundred and ninety-seven dollars and some odd cents, according to Everett Patch, superintendent of the department of public works, to conjoin the gaping flesh-holes... the gasping fissures..."

"S-s-stop it, Tony, please!"

"... to conjoin..." where was I? Oh yes, "... the gaping fissure, barring further settlement..."

"What kind of settlement?" I wondered.

"It doesn't say."

Tony's forehead was bathed in sweat. He had broken his wrist not long ago, slipping on a frozen manhole as he was crossing the Avenue, so now he turned the pages stiffly with a forearm molded tight in solid plaster. He was a florid man with a gleaming bald dome, which he wiped continuously with his one good hand, causing it to gleam even more brilliantly.

"A fiduciary settlement, perhaps. Settled on us by the bored trusses. Or perhaps they merely refer to a new wave of migratory settlement, much ballyhooed by the xenophobes down at Nick's Barbershop. Or the reference may be simply to the inevitable, inexorable, deeply deplorable and oh-so-lamentable settlement of our own too tired masses as we sit here yawning over the dull quotidian details of our all too public lives."

He crumpled up the paper and tossed it in the fire, causing Ulysses to startle and a sudden ball of flame to leap up the narrow flue.

Continued next week.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on November 13, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Hallmark Proposes Student Housing

Reluctantly, the Montague selectboard agreed on Monday to forward a request to rezone 16 acres of industrial land on Millers Falls Road to the zoning board of appeals.

The Hallmark School of Photography seeks to acquire this parcel from the Turners Falls Fire District to build student housing.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio cautioned against "any kind of policy which would shift away from supporting the rehabilitation of housing in Millers Falls and Turners Falls."

He said the growing influx of Hallmark students "has helped to keep the housing up" in those villages.

Wendell Cell Tower Hearing Continued

The zoning board of appeals seek administrative support in reviewing a permit request from AT&T to install cell phone transmitters on the already existing tower on Locke Hill Road.

Many residents attended an October 23 hearing with concerns. The hearings for the Mormon Hollow Road tower took almost two years.

The ZBA plans to hire three consultants, at the expense of the applicant, to review aspects of the proposal.

EPA Grant Sought For Dubois Property

A public hearing will be held next week to gather input on Montague's grant to the federal EPA Brownfields program to clean up the property on the corner of Third and Canal

streets in Turners Falls. First a garage, then a scrap warehouse, the building's roof and walls are falling down, and known contaminants include PCB's, lead, chromium, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

Editorial: Another Veterans' Day

No weapons of mass destruction have been discovered in Iraq after months of fruitless searching. More than 50,000 Iraqi soldiers and civilians have died in the conflict so far, along with nearly 400 American soldiers.

These brave men and women - and their survivors - deserve all of our honor and respect. The leaders who sent them to their deaths under false pretenses deserve to be turned out of office at the earliest opportunity.

For them, next Veterans' Day will not come soon enough.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fraudulent Fire Inspector Afoot

**Monday, 11/4**  
 12:24 p.m. Student who had walked out of Turners Falls High School located and transported home.  
 4:52 p.m. Mediated refund of money for return of a cracked bureau on Park Street.  
**Tuesday, 11/5**  
 4:57 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Grout Circle.  
 9:14 a.m. Report of vehicle on fire in a Bulkley Street driveway. Fire out upon arrival.  
 12:52 p.m. Hit and run accident at Rite Aid Plaza. Driver located; had just come from eye doctor and pupils were still dilated. No injuries.  
 7:20 p.m. Shoplifting at Salvation Army. Parties trespassed from store.  
 7:22 p.m. Report of parents being rowdy at TFHS football game. Services rendered.  
 7:48 p.m. Shoplifting from F.L. Roberts. Parties trespassed from store.  
**Wednesday, 11/6**  
 5:09 a.m. Recurrence of neighbor disturbance on Grout Circle. Spoke with involved parties.  
 9:11 a.m. [redacted] was arrested at Food City and charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.  
 2:48 p.m. Two car motor vehicle accident at Third and L Streets. Extensive damage to both vehicles. One party evaluated for possible neck injury.  
 5:05 p.m. Possible sick opossum in an Oakman Street back yard. Gone on arrival.  
 8:03 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road reported that his roommate was threatening him with a 9mm handgun. (See story, pg. A1.)  
 8:51 p.m. Vandalism on Avenue A; trash strewn about outside and in common hallway of building. Referred to an officer.  
**Thursday, 11/7**  
 11:49 a.m. Reports of a suspicious male posing as a firefighter or fire inspector approaching residences on Third Street and Seventh Street, seeking access to apartments, asking questions about properties, and possibly taking photographs. Confirmed that Fire Department was not involved. Witnesses described vehicle and plate number. Police departments in surrounding towns notified to be on lookout. Registered owner of vehicle (Boston resident) contacted; reported that vehicle had been in body shop for past 10 days. Under investigation.  
 1:45 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.  
 4:42 p.m. Report of trespassing in condemned house on Central Street. Area search negative.  
 5:47 p.m. Caller reported that the operator of a vehicle he was following on Hatchery Road stopped abruptly, got out, and started banging on the caller's car. Caller resumed travel with other operator following him. Plate info given to Greenfield PD.  
 6:14 p.m. Caller reported being chased by female making statements about money being owed. Involved parties located and spoken to.  
 6:32 p.m. Request for officer to contact caller's brother (in same building) and ask him to close the basement door, as the basement is full of mold. Referred to an officer.  
**Friday, 11/8**  
 4:45 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD in pursuing suspect after assault and home invasion.  
 8:45 a.m. Officer requested to Franklin County Technical School in response to a report of a student pushing another student against the wall and holding an X-Acto knife to his throat the previous day. Report taken.  
 11:51 a.m. Request for an officer to remove and dispose of an old rifle at a Second Street apartment. Services rendered.  
 1:15 p.m. Officers responded to an ongoing threatening and harassment situation at Turners Falls High School.  
 9:11 p.m. Walker struck in leg by BB while walking on bike path on Wednesday. Report taken.  
 9:41 p.m. Verbal warning issued to juvenile on skateboard creating safety hazard on Avenue A.  
 11:59 p.m. Domestic disturbance in Montague Center.  
**Saturday, 11/9**  
 3:21 a.m. Domestic disturbance in Millers Falls.  
 4:39 a.m. Recurrence of neighbor disturbance on Grout Circle. Added to report already in progress. Both parties advised of options.  
 5:40 a.m. Recurrence of neighbor disturbance on Grout Circle. Report taken.  
 2:29 p.m. Upon attempting to retrieve some of his property (a potato harvester, a dump truck, a one-ton truck, and a potato grader) from another party, caller found items gone. Advised of options.  
 3:44 p.m. Dispute over custody of mother cat and kittens on Grout Circle. Advised of options.  
 4:27 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Avenue A. Report taken.  
 5:59 p.m. Domestic disturbance in Turners Falls.  
 6:16 p.m. Heavy odor of marijuana in hallway of Powertown Apartments. Verbal warning issued.  
 6:43 p.m. Report of unwanted contact/abusive language from a construction company. Advised of options.  
 8:12 p.m. Report of teenagers riding a computer chair down Unity Street hill in traffic. Parties located and sent/transported home.  
 10:19 p.m. Fight reported outside Fairway Avenue residence. Determined to be verbal only. Parties sent on way.  
**Sunday, 11/10**  
 12:37 a.m. Complaint of band practicing in an old mill building in Millers Falls and disturbing the peace. Services rendered.  
 2:48 a.m. A male was taken into protective custody following a disturbance on Franklin Street.  
 3:51 a.m. Report of suspicious male approaching houses on Pinewood Circle then returning to vehicle. Unable to locate.  
 10:35 a.m. Loose pit bull on Alice Street.

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**the poetry page**

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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt  
 Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

**Neighbors**

**Three Untitled**

**I.**

Clouds make  
 a hole in us. Yielding

white, almost  
 intolerable, beeches

pillar vacancies. Absences  
 to inhabit.

How quiet  
 is lost in words, winter's  
 insistence inside us.



- Jess Mynes  
 Wendell

**JUST ONE PERCENT**

We're all in the clover.  
 We'll have all the chips.  
 It's time to move over.  
 You dumb little drips.

- Hans Herda  
 Leverett

Good fences make good neighbors but only if seven foot cedar mean-eyed portcullis wooden drawbridge gives the finger.

A kingdom with no subjects is just the subject of speculation whispers, and innuendo. Empty house tended by hardback servants guarding house and verse in neat rows.

Widow's walk weeping waits for merchant ship lading of lost moments or almost spoken words. Candle burns for the captain stranded on a sandbar he dug all day in the garden.

Mending wall only mends when it is taken apart stone by stone and stacked into a cairn welcoming stones welcoming strangers.

The stone you clench in fist is not for welcoming.

- Ray DiDonato  
 Wendell

**MANIFESTO**

October throws grenades at leaf tree trunks: cold shocks send vegetable telegrams along the mute lines to each fibre, every leaf, and then the dance begins. Have you seen damp Pontiacs covered with maple ballerinas? Ochre and crimson, they celebrate the season, alter the paint job, mask the rot.

Chrome never had it so good! Each lovely color finds a way to brown, brown works to brittle, downward into mulch, time into earth and food for new October

- Hans Herda  
 Leverett

**TIDES**

Low tide is the better Of my inner seasons: Time to linger Over seaweed and stone Potsherd, sea-withered bone Time to link coral and shell, time to scan the upcoming swell. Hello there, High tide, my ruin.

- Hans Herda  
 Leverett

**III.**

Shirtless on the steps, sock footed hands looming in foreground as paralyzed birds. Hands that in not touching well tell a history.

Thinking of everything but what is right now. cloudless. and everything races to an unwinnable finish.

I wondered if once you weren't here the poems would become as much as previous.

Things and people we don't know cast a shadow.

Your hair darker, it must be the light. As if anything lessens the smart of why

words come apart. If I've seen this picture before. There were never any birds.

- Jess Mynes  
 Wendell

**II.**

Bloody nose beneath just so bent bill. Lasso me, I'll lasso you. Faces in backdrop stacked where spaces allow. Any chance we had.

Rough elbow points where collision intensifies.

A cow's vacant eyes.

Part stalwart wonder

why I feel revealed

in each conditional.

- Jess Mynes  
 Wendell

**Contributors' Notes**

Ray DiDonato, a Wendell poet among poets, is an active participant in all things Wendell.

Hans Herda, a former professor and a lifelong appreciator of poetry, writes his poems in Leverett.

Jess Mynes writes and publishes poetry, as well as being one quarter of the "forcesum" who run *All Small Caps*, a reading series held at Deja Brew in Wendell.

"Cloud" artwork by Barbara Milot of Turners Falls.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

### ONGOING: EVERY SUNDAY

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

### 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 and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultzy* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

### ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center,

Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall through November 30th. Great Falls Discovery Center is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10 to 4 p.m.



Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jeremy Lyons comes to Mocha Maya's, in Shelburne Falls, this Friday the 15th. A longtime New Orleans resident, Lyons resettled in Cambridge after Katrina. He also heads the *Expanding Elastic Waste Band*, playing with the surviving members of '90s "low rock" band *Morphine*.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Painting The World Happy*, work by Denyse Dar on display through November 23.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, *Du Bois In Our Time*, exhibit continues through December 15.

### AUDITIONS:

ARENA Civic Theater: auditions for *Hell and High Water* at Lilly Library, Florence, Sat., Nov 9, 1-4 p.m., Art Space, Greenfield, Thurs, Nov. 14, 7 p.m. and Jones Library, Amherst, Tues., Nov 26, 7 p.m.

### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surlly Temple, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & Tommy Boynton*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band, Americana-ana*, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls:

Jeremy Lyons, folk roots blues and *M.R. Pouloupoulos*, singer-songwriter, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Johnny Cash favorites, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Santina & Drew Bligh*, indie-acoustic, 9:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: Leverett Film Club presents a screening of *Stories We Tell*, PG-13, 1 hr. 48 min., 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Greenfield High School: *Crafts Are Us Craft Show*. Features a variety of crafters. Free admission (please bring a non-perishable food item for the Survival

based jams, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, classic rock, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer with DJ Funkadelic Fern*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Greenfield High School: *MASC/SOMA Bocce Tournament*. Free and open to the public. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rupert Waters*, singer-songwriter, 2 p.m.

Leverett Library: Comic book drawing with artist *Jack Purcell*. For kids aged 10 and up. Register in advance. 3 to 4:30 p.m.

King Street Manor, Northampton: *MV Carbob* (Matt Valentine project), *Pod Blotz, Bill Nace, Human Beast, Frank Hurricane*. 8 to 11:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, with Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitapatrik, warped Americana, 8 p.m.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: student directed one act plays, "Fiction". 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BINGO!* 8 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: student directed one act plays, "Phantasma", 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Play reading, *Arsenic & Old Lace*. 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Mid-Week Music, All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Laura Siersema*, piano, 12:15 p.m.

Greening Greenfield presents the film *Switch*, a documentary about energy, and how we can choose our energy future. Shown at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour: Turkeys!* For children ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Peachy's*, Americana blues, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *T. Wright, J. Eckerson & Friends*, rock and roll. Free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Mark*

Nomad Band, highly dance-able blues and funk, 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Investigators: Beavers!* Geared toward grades 2 to 5. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Rogues*, traditional Irish, Americana, bluegrass, Dylan The Band and more, 9 p.m.

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CLIO from page B1

relationship. Of course it is hard not to worry about the future, but try to keep a clear head and take things one step at a time.

There are many checklists available to help people assess whether their relationships are abusive. I recommend that you look into finding one on the internet.

Dominance and control are important themes in these checklists, and there is something called economic abuse that is similar to what you are describing in your letter. Just google "economic abuse."

Just in case you don't get to one of those checklists right away, I am going to give you a few warning signs to look for.

You say that you usually do not disagree with your husband. Is this because you are afraid of him? Is it easier to simply avoid topics that will make him angry?

Does he criticize or humiliate you? Would you be embarrassed if other people saw the way he treats you? Does he tell you what to do? Does he keep you from seeing friends or family? Does he make you feel responsible for his controlling behavior? Does he threaten to hurt you or himself (even if you don't think he would really do it)? Is he good at making you feel guilty or ashamed?

If some of these sound like your husband, please reach out for some help with this relationship. People who are in abusive relationships begin to doubt themselves and wonder whether they are the ones who are wrong. Someone who is close to me once said, "I knew that what he was saying wasn't true, but after hearing it every day, I started to believe that it was."

Being in an abusive relationship also hurts your sense of independence and of self worth, the very qualities that could help you stand up for yourself. For these reasons and more, it is important for you to

have support. Your sister sounds like a good candidate to confide in right away.

Maybe the two of you can do some research on economic and emotional abuse at her house. I'm guessing that even thinking about this makes you feel panicky. Researching further could make that feeling worse, so it would be good to have some support while you do it.

If you are worried about what you discover, there are a number of domestic abuse counselors in our area, and you can find them on the internet. You might start by calling NELCWIT (in Greenfield) at 772-0806.

Discovering, or even considering the possibility, that you are in an abusive relationship can make it feel like your life is spinning out of control. You have been telling yourself that things are OK for years. It's hard to consider the alternative.

Remember, though, you are in charge of any changes that will come about. Right now you are just gathering information, and nothing will happen until you decide it should.

You can safely use this time to educate yourself and gather your strength. If you do decide that it would be healthier for you to make a change, then you will do it with support from friends, family, or a professional. You will be making the right choice in correcting an unhealthy situation that is not your fault.

You have a right to control your life and your finances. It is appropriate for you to be strong and to seek more independence and respect than you are getting.

I support your desire to address this issue in your relationship now, whether you do that by finding your voice and asserting yourself in the marriage, or whether you discover that this relationship is too unhealthy to fix.

I believe that you will know in your heart which path is right, and I know that you are strong enough to follow it, even though it may be a challenge.

Please, take care of yourself.

Yours,  
Clio



SCULPTURE from page B1

your life attending to what's spiritual and sustaining is the most important thing."

Along with the Goshen stone and river stone, the stupa contains pink marble, and Dunphy added small stones and crystals that belonged to a dear friend who died two years ago.

When he talks about the stupa he tends to touch it, and this is not surprising. From hard cold stone, Petruski has created soft inviting curves shaped somewhat like a hor-

net's nest or a womb.

It took about 72 hours to build, and Petruski would like to do more of this work.

He would never recreate this particular stupa, but instead would welcome the opportunity to begin the process anew with someone seeking beauty and inspiration through stone. He can be reached at jayce427@gmail.com.

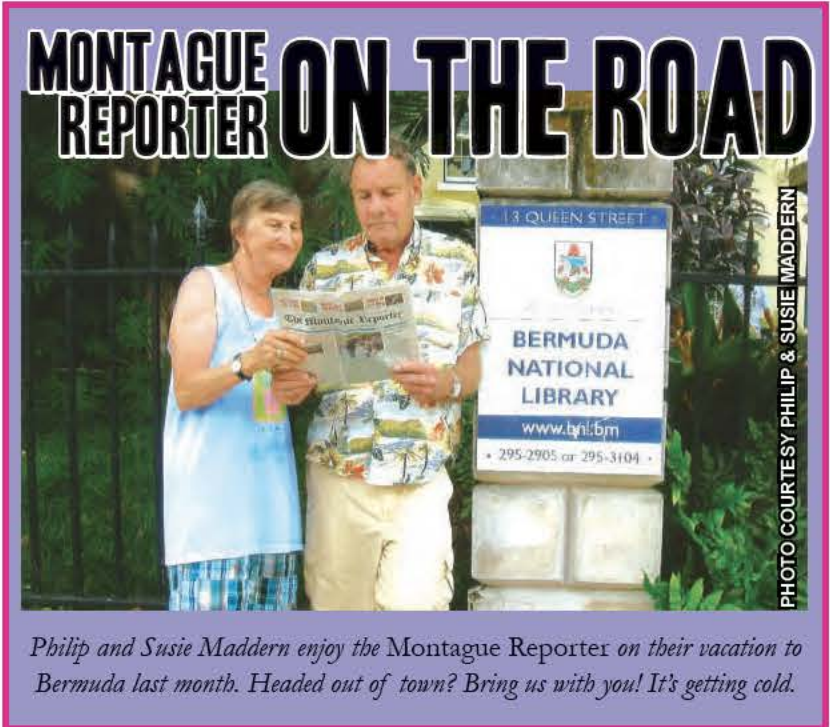
What will it look like with snow powdered on the curves? Will icicles form in some places?

When the trees bloom again be-

hind the stupa, the pale lacy green will be all-new, and the stupa will look different once again. It has a presence that provides comfort and piques curiosity. Barring an earthquake, it will be there forever.

Others will live in this house; what will they think, one hundred years from now, about that beautiful stone sculpture at the back of the yard?

Dunphy welcomes visitors, if you give him a call first or send him an email at jjdunph@comcast.net.



Philip and Susie Maddern enjoy the Montague Reporter on their vacation to Bermuda last month. Headed out of town? Bring us with you! It's getting cold.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM! U TSRQ PDU NMLKJUR U UOHGJOF EMQ U DJNTLJQQ - S. GJBAR CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

SCRAPBOOK from page B1

was drawn to the framed print of Millers Falls, hanging on the wall of the Erving Public Library. It clearly shows the village as it appeared before the Great Fire of 1895 which burned most of Millers to the ground, a description of which appeared in this column last month.

Wanting to remove the print from its frame in order to copy it in his studio, Peters convinced the librarian, Barbara Friedman, to take it down from its place on the wall.

Lo and behold, when they removed the backing, it revealed an old World War I recruiting poster, with a photograph of my uncle Perry Smith, in his doughboy uniform, right in the middle. Perry had enlisted in June of 1917, a month after the Selective Service draft was instituted. And there he was, looking quite pleased with himself in his

years.

Peters was clearly thrilled to bring it to the Erving Historical Commission meeting, since he and the librarian, having done some quick research, determined that Uncle Perry had lived out his life on Forest Street, located in Erving.

But the even more astounding coincidence was that in fact, this very same Perry Smith was my own uncle. He was born in 1891 in the room not quite ten feet from the kitchen table where I'm writing this now! He was raised in this house, with five brothers and a sister, and it was from here that he set out to do his patriotic duty in 1917.

Things that are meant to happen, decidedly keep happening. So not only did Peters find this rare artifact from the Great War, but when he brought it to the meeting at the museum he unknowingly delivered it directly to the man's last descendant in town!

Later, looking into the old boxes of clipped newspaper articles and obituaries stored in the north-facing Cold Room upstairs, I uncovered scant traces of Uncle Perry's life.

He had lived here with his parents, Judah and Lizzie Smith, and his brothers until he enlisted, one of almost 3 million men drafted to fight in the final year of the war.

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