



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 3, 2013

Wendell Special Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard recessed their regular September 25 meeting at 7:25 p.m. to walk through the darkness to the town hall for a 7:30 special town meeting. At that town meeting, voters approved the entire 8-article warrant, but only after three hours of discussion and clarification.

By 10 p.m. both citizens and officials were showing fatigue from the long meeting after a full work day. Moderator Kathy Becker turned the meeting over to the deputy moderator, Kate Nolan, and at 10:15 Nolan requested a motion to recess until Thursday evening. Responding to that motion, citizen Morgan Mead said that discussion was nearly done on the article at hand, and the following articles were straightforward, and the meeting should continue through to the end of the warrant. Voters agreed with Mead and the meeting continued to its end.

The first three warrant articles respectively created a flood plain overlay district in town, gave definitions used for that overlay district, and described the purpose of the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) and the flood plain overlay district, giving a list of allowed and prohibited activities within that flood plain. The overlay district corresponds with the hundred year flood level, the area with a 1/100 chance of being flooded during any given year. Pat Smith from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

see WENDELL page 7



United Arc Inaugurates New Building

The celebration begins! From left to right: Russell Deane (father of Nancy Deane), Mary Fernsebner, Denise Phelps (current board member), Jordan Llewellyn, Roger Griffin, Lisa Harris (past board president), unknown (rear), Katherine Johnson (front) and executive director, Ed Porter.

BY C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – More than a hundred people crowded into The United Arc on Friday, September 27 to celebrate the Arc's new home at 294 Avenue A. The event was marked with a festive reception which allowed folks to chat and catch up with one another. Delicious baked goods, donated by Turners' 2nd Street Bakery went fast. The on-tap beers and ales, courtesy of Lefty's Brewing Company from Greenfield, were also enjoyed by many. The reception was followed by brief speeches from former board president Lisa Harris and Ed Porter, executive director since 1979. The culmination was a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Harris told the crowd that she was thrilled that the United Arc had completed the beautiful renovation of the former Miskinis TV building. She said it could not have been done without "a Herculean ef-

fort by Ed [Porter]." Porter spoke next, and thanked many for their vision, their belief and sheer hard work. He noted that the bright yellow and orange colors of the new space were an attempt to reflect the color scheme of ARC's across Massachusetts. He also honored the memories of two United Arc clients: Nancy Lee Deane and Freda Renfrew.

For the ribbon cutting ceremony, Porter invited Arc clients, friends and members to slice with giant scissors the bright red ribbon. The honor of wielding the scissors went to Roger Griffin.

The United Arc, formed in 1951, provides advocacy and support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in western Massachusetts. Among its many activities are an array of flexible support services for families, support for inclusion and transition planning

see ARC page 6

Montague's Water Pollution Control Facility Turns Sludge Into Compost

By ANNE HARDING

MONTAGUE CITY – About six months ago when I visited the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (MWPCF) to write about process changes there was an idea on their whiteboard about composting. Last week that idea was a reality and I saw firsthand a fine looking pile of compost that had been generated from a 1:2 mix of sewage sludge cake and wood chips.

Superintendent Robert Trombley explained the composting is still in an experimental phase he expects will last one to three years as the process is fine tuned, documented and tested. The goals of the experiment are two-fold – to reduce the facility's solids disposal costs and to improve its environmental impact.

Already the process changes at the MWPCF have reduced its carbon footprint by dramatically reducing trucking and fuel costs and lowering power consumption. One long range goal of the experiment is to create a useful product generated from waste with an eye to making high quality compost available to the Highway Department for the maintenance of

town properties and parks. If sufficient quantities are generated the compost would also be offered to town residents.

Trombley noted that many criteria must be met to reach the long range goal but he proudly noted his guys have produced the first experimental batch of compost which resulted in a desirable two-thirds reduction in volume. The compost has not yet been fully vetted for pathogens, heavy metals or other problematic chemicals but samples will be sent to UMASS for comprehensive testing.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA-DEP) understandably sets stringent criteria on composting operations involving sewage sludge particularly if the compost is to be used for agricultural purposes. Once the trials are completed and the project looks viable the next step will be to gain the necessary approvals from the many oversight entities – at minimum, the Montague Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Select Board, and the MA-DEP.

So far the cost to the town has been nominal. A used bucket loader

see COMPOST page 6



WPCF employees (l-r) Tim Little, Tim Peura, and Mike Little

Truckers Not in the Dumps Over Failed Gill Dump Truck Purchase



E. J. Wyson's Peterbilt truck from the 1980s pictured above. "This truck had 200 thousand miles over 2 million (2,200,000) miles when the engine was rebuilt," driver Mike Truehart said. "It's now on its second 2 million miles. A diesel truck is just getting broke in at 100,000 miles."

By JOE PARZYCH

GILL – In light of the recent decision of Gill voters, by just one vote, not to purchase a new dump truck for the town, I decided to ask some truckers how they felt about retiring the aging truck.

Douglas Edson of Renaissance Construction voted for the truck but said, "I was on the fence. I could have gone either way. We've been in business for twenty five years and we never bought a new truck, except for two small ones we bought the last couple of years."

Contractor John Burek of Montague Center said, "We love to buy town trucks. The

last truck we bought from the Town of Turners didn't need a thing, and it's still going great."

John Mackin, whose uncle Peter's estate is still paying Gill taxes, said, "Most of Mackin's trucks have gone a half a million miles, or better. The old blue Autocar dump truck, bought in the early 1960s, was still on the road until recently. It's now working in the pit, and will go well over a million miles before it's done, like most of the others."

An employee at Mackin's said, "Mackin's trucks don't ever get traded. They run 'em a couple million miles and put them out in the bone yard for

parts." Allan Flagg bought a Ford dump truck from the Town of Gill, many years ago. "The truck was supposed to be all worn out," Flagg said. "I ran it four or five years, and it wasn't run out, yet, when a Vermont contractor bought it from me. He used it in his business hauling dirt for years, after that." Speaking from personal experience, I bought a dump truck from the Town of Rowe. In the four or five years I worked it, I only needed to replace a noisy bearing in the transmission and some sheared bolts before ceasing business. A contractor and land developer from Philipston who bought it from me, also plows snow for the state. He had the truck painted and used it for work on site development and plowing snow. He also ran it as a show truck in parades. When last I spoke with him, the truck was still in service, working on a development site.

Transend Carriers, with a terminal in Gill sending their

see TRUCK page A8

College Students Speak Out On Loan Debt Burden

By MARK HUDYMA

GREENFIELD – Story after story of overwhelming debt and hardship filled the GCC auditorium as students from around the region testified before the Massachusetts subcommittee on Student Loan Debt. The subcommittee, formed by Representative Paul Mark, Second Berkshire district, is focused on creating "a sense of urgency" in the problem of student loan debt, and seeking legislative solutions to the complex problems faced by students every day. The Greenfield

meeting was part of a seven-stop tour across the state, with legislators listening to students testify.

To begin the speeches, Bob Pura, GCC president, spoke to the committee on his perspective of the problem. He informed them that "socio-economic status is the best predictor of success in education for the first time in our nation's history", and detailed his belief that education is "the foundation of

democracy". He documented his own experience, having grown up "the son of an immigrant, the first to attend college in [his] family and a poster child for community colleges."

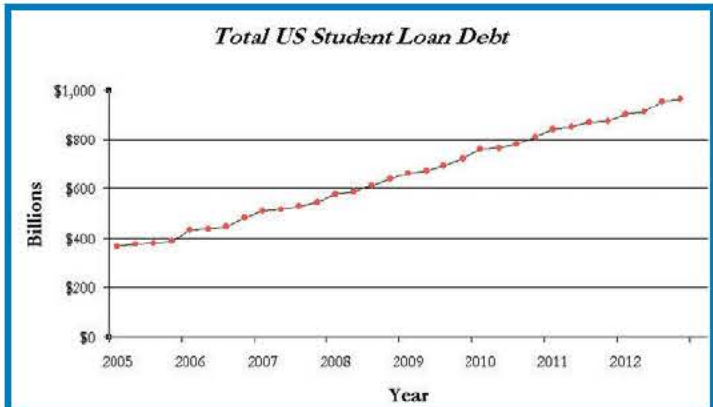
He then presented the panel with a packet of statistics, including the rising costs of insurance, books, and living expenses. His pas-

hour is what you make out of high school, and that's not enough to save money, that's not enough to live." Blaisdell took out loans to pay for her education, which will total sixty thousand dollars when she graduates. "It's too much, it's suffocating. I don't like to think about it."

A major setback for many students was the cost of

health insurance. It is currently mandated by the state that full time students who do not have comparable health insurance must purchase a plan through the school which costs over sixteen hundred dollars. This has resulted in students taking just below full time in order to avoid paying for the insurance. This slows down their education, costing more overall. "Student health insurance discourages full-time loads," said Rosemary Freidman, GCC alumni and director of the Women's Resource Center.

see DEBT page A7



Data courtesy of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

A Thank You From The Montague Reporter

With this issue *The Montague Reporter* begins its 12th year of publication. We feel this is something of a milestone. In an era when newspapers are continually folding and print journalism, itself, is under siege, we've continued on week after week to bring you the news of your towns.

We've succeeded, so far, for a number of reasons. First, we've received tremendous support from you – our readers and subscribers. Because you subscribe and re-subscribe, and even send us extra contributions when you do renew, we know that what we are doing is important to you. Our advertisers, some who have been with us from the beginning, have helped to ensure that at least some of our bills are paid. Our board of directors has held numerous fundraisers to help augment the dollars we receive from subscribers, readers and advertisers. (And they are now working on a new plan to keep our funding more stable.)

But without our dedicated staff and writers, we wouldn't have a paper at all.

Unlike almost all newspapers that have a corporate model, we don't. What we practice is community journalism of, by and for the community. Because we write about where we live, and what is happening in our towns, we bring a true depth as well as understanding to the stories we report.

With an exception or two, our writers and reporters were not trained journalists before they began writing for us. But because they believed that telling the stories of their neighbors mattered, they have helped create the vibrant newspaper you are now reading.

Without their dedication, talent and sheer hard work, you wouldn't have *The Montague Reporter*.

We believe we have some of the best writers around. They cover stories larger papers miss. They write about you and your friends and about the events and news that shape and change and maintain our communities.

But we need more folks to get involved with writing for us. You don't need to be "a writer." We'll help. All you need is a willingness to tell our readers what's going on in the places they live.

Over the last 11 years there have been a number of dark hours when we weren't sure if we could continue. Had we been a corporation instead of a non-profit we would definitely have shut our doors, since our cash flow is always at the edge of black and red.

For more weeks than we'd care to remember, we had to print the paper in red ink. Some weeks the editor and managing editor did not get paid. Writers had to wait for their tiny paychecks. Situations like these would never have been tolerated by a corporation.

But we pressed on because we knew that you depended on us, just as we depended on you. And somehow, just when we thought we couldn't keep juggling the books much longer, we got a new advertiser, received a donation from a subscriber, pulled in a few new subscriptions and a few renewals.

As we enter our twelfth year, we want to thank you – our readers and advertisers – for always being there for us. We're proud to be here for you, and hope with your continuing support, to still be here in another 12 years.

& A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR!

Observant readers will notice we have shuffled some stuff around this week.

From our 5th to our 506th issue, the Senior Center activity schedules were listed on this page. We have moved them, along with Pet of the Week and the Healthy Geezer column, to Page B2.

For now, this'll be the page for editorials and, if you want to write them, your letters. (Please write!) What's that, you say? B2?

This brings us to the second change. Since May 2012, when we switched printers, we have been a 2-

section paper, but we went right on pretending it was just one section that accidentally came apart. Since that other thing is here to stay we've decided to give it a name.

We don't know how long we'll stick with "MoRe" (get it?), but we do like the idea of having an A and a B section. We figure B can be where we'll quarantine a lot of the culture and enjoyment. We don't have any puzzles in yet, but if you enjoy them, come by our office and we'll have you help with layout.

Finally, our newsstand price is going up from 75 cents to \$1. We got sick of not having the quarters to make change. But check out our favorable subscription rates!

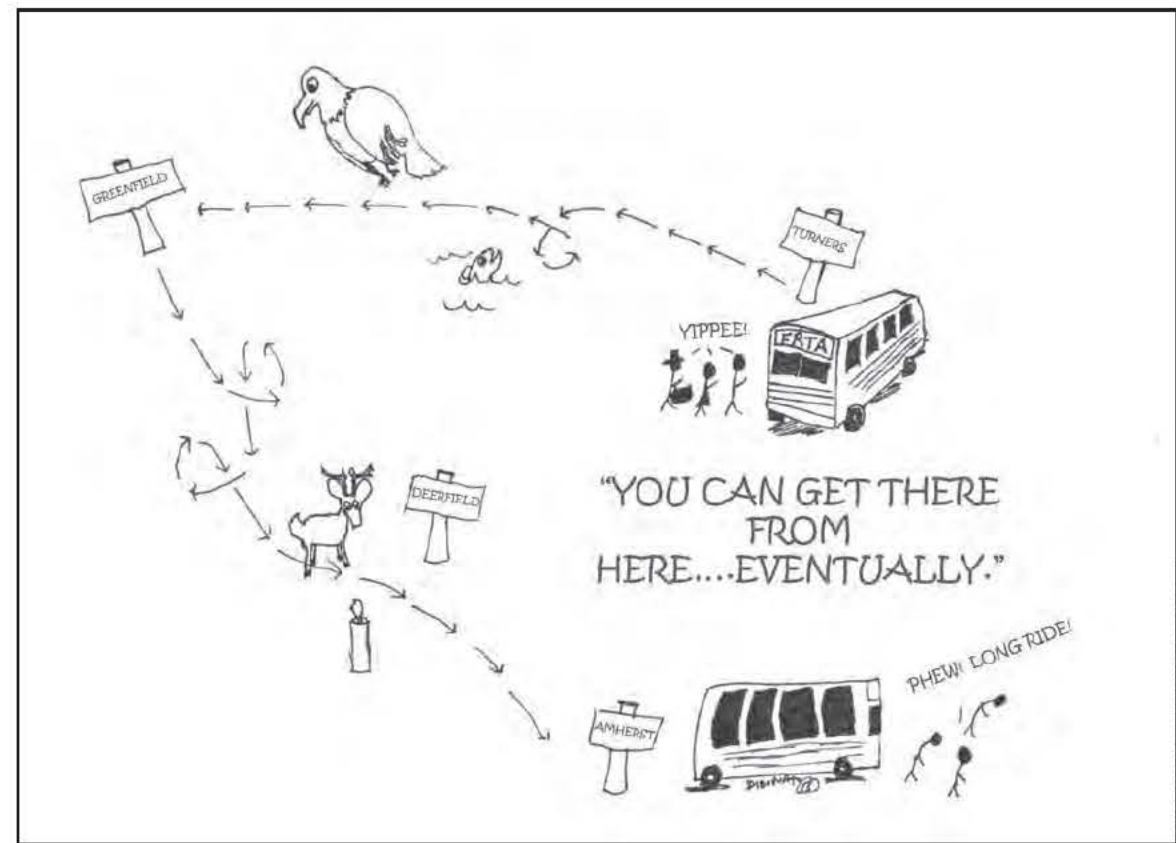


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GUEST EDITORIAL

By DAVID DETMOLD

Perhaps it was not the smartest thing to do: starting a newspaper at a time when newspapers were failing left and right, display ad revenue dried up and paid classifieds – the bread and butter of small town papers – bolted whole hog onto online platforms. We did not have a very sophisticated business plan, and twelve weeks into the enterprise one of the founding editors, Harry Brandt, pointed this out to us by announcing, "I can't pay my rent." He quit with one week's notice.

Harry was the only one of us with any newspaper experience. He had worked at major dailies locally and in Virginia and he insisted on basic guidelines to guard for truth and accuracy, to protect the rights of our writers and the interests of our readers. He gave us a snappy front page layout and a general patina of professionalism we would be hard pressed to live up to.

But he had a good point: How would we pay the rent? How would we pay the printer, for that matter? Never mind how would we pay ourselves.

All too often we worked for free, and so did most of the writers and staff, at one time or another.

But still, it cost money to produce a newspaper, and we had blown through our \$2,000 in start-up capital in less time than it took to say, "All the News that Fits, We Print."

I remember walking down the Hill from the Marshall Bloom Center for Media Studies after a long and winding discussion with our financial analyst, Stevie Diamond, and thinking to myself, "This is hopeless. We have to close up shop."

It was snowing, and 3rd Street looked bleak, with darkened streetlamps, closed up storefronts, and gritty snow blowing across the old Main Drag in front of Arnie's Wholesale and Discount Food Stamp Redemption Center.

"This is crazy," I muttered, resolving to shutter the Montague Reporter office in the drafty second floor of the old firehouse that very night.

Steve Diamond had been counseling me to think big. "Expand your Coverage Area to include Wendell!" he advised.

The Past Flashes Forward

"Wendell!!!" I thought. "Ye gods. There's a town with nearly unlimited advertising potential and readers pacing their yurts for the latest dispatch from town hall, the school committee, and the recycling center."

No way. It was time to fold and lie down with *The Wendell Post* in the dustbin of local history.

Absentmindedly, I reached into the mailbox, disturbing a nest of starlings who had taken up residence there. But somehow in the back of the box, deposited as if by the hand of Providence, was an early holiday card signed by a different Diemand – Elsie Diemand, matriarch of the Diemand Egg Farm clan. Even without our providing much of any Wendell coverage yet, she had sent us a \$100 contribution, taking subscriptions for herself and several of her offspring.

And she told us to use what was left to buy some pizza for the staff. "You're doing a wonderful job," she wrote. "Keep up the good work."

And with that encouraging word, we decided to expand the range that we called home, put Wendell on the masthead right up there alongside Gill and Erving – and eight years later, Leverett – and plow onward, through the fog, business plans be damned.

We are probably one of the few newspapers in existence anywhere that made it through the first ten years of publication without hiring an ad rep. We couldn't afford one. I think the editor still sells almost all the ads, just as in my day. But then, most of our advertisers are local institutions like the Diemand Egg Farm: they consider advertising in the local paper a civic duty more than a bid for higher retail sales. If you care about the future of local business, shop locally and thank our advertisers for supporting local news.

The peculiar nature of our journalistic endeavor was evident from the first issue. Harry Brandt, tooling up the editorial page layout, had left a placeholder headline standing instead of final copy, and we somehow forgot to change it – after pulling the first of many weekly all-nighters – as we struggled to get the first issue ready for the printer. The editorial, a blistering salvo against the

Montague selectboard for attempting to pull the police chief position out from the protection of Civil Service, even as they continued to apply the thumbscrews to Pat O'Brien, Montague's former chief, for a host of inconsequential lapses of discipline and performance. We meant to title the editorial, "Town Meeting Has the Final Say." Instead, embarrassingly, and quite by accident, it read, "Orchid Thief Strikes."

Even a careful textual analysis would have left most readers baffled as to the import of this, and we had gone the extra length of printing 6,000 copies for the inaugural run, planning to make a big splash by mailing the paper out to every household in town.

"What can we do?" I wailed. Instead of establishing ourselves as the new paper of record in our corner of East County, we would be greeted as the newest laughing stock by every household in town.

Determined to work with what we had (we had no money for a second print run), we went out on the street and pulled in anyone we could find to help cut little strips of adhesive labels with the correct title xeroxed on them and strip them into place, opening each of 6,000 papers up to page 4 and then folding them up again. We used scissors and one sharp new paper cutter donated by the third founding editor, Arthur Evans. That paper cutter represented his one major investment in our seemingly doomed enterprise. He departed, with a rueful grin, one week later to resume child care duties at home.

The process of replacing the offending headline with adhesive strips of xeroxed capitals took about two full days. As it turned out, most of the people we could find on the street bored enough to help with this ridiculous task were known drug dealers. But they made for lively company, and, beggars as we were, we were in no position to be choosers. We had to work with what we had. And that, pretty much, summed up our guiding philosophy for the first ten years.

The paper has come a long way since those early days, but certain things that held true then still hold true today. Our paper delivery boys

see **FORWARD** next page

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Local, long time musical educator, Steve Damon, will be featured at the GSB community room on Saturday, Oct 5, from 10 a.m. to noon putting his instrumental talents to the test as he incorporated stories into the melody mix. Damon has developed his own very popular music school serving private and group lessons to the area encompassing all ages and skill levels.

This very special family event will prove most entertaining and will fill up spaces fast. Come and spend some quality time with Steve and his variety of musical instruments. Light refreshments will be provided by GSB. Be sure and tell a friend or bring one to the event. Youngsters thinking about playing an instrument can also chat with Damon about lessons.

Franklin County Tech High School football team defeated defending Super Bowl Champion Pathfinder 35-6 on Saturday. Kyle Laffey had 160 yards rushing and 2 TDs and 35 yards receiving, CJ Daignault had 68 yards passing and 49 yards rushing and 2 TDs, and Jake Brooks rushed for a TD behind a very solid effort by the offensive line which consisted of Alec Milton, Kyle Johnson, Ethan Wickline, Jonathan Rawls, Sam Ovitt, and Caleb Baranoski.

They fell behind 6-0 early and scored 35 unanswered points to end the game. The Eagles are 3-1 overall and 3-0 in league play. Their next game is Saturday, October 5, at home when they host Smith Vocational at 1 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church will hold a 9-day Novena to St. Francis beginning Saturday, October 5 with a **Blessing of Pets** at 10 a.m. in the Peace Garden at 90 Seventh Street in Turners Falls. Owners are invited to bring their pets for a blessing in honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and ecology.

The First Congregational Church of Montague is hosting the **Blessing of the Animals** on Sunday, Oct 6, starting at noon. Seniors, families, singles, and children are encouraged to bring their dogs, cats, birds, lizards, rabbits, pot bellied pigs, fish, and other well-behaved pets or pictures of pets. A moment of blessing, at the beginning of the service will be for pets who are unfortunately involved with sport dog fighting and other inhumane, unethical treatment.

Dakin Animal Shelter and Franklin County Sheriff's Regional Adoption Center will be present with animals to adopt and adoption information. For questions or more info please contact First Congregational Church of Montague, 413-367-9467, or www.montaguechurch.org. Free

sample animal food and treats for attendees provided by Dave's Petfood City. The blessing is free to the public and their pets.

On Wednesday, Oct 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. the **Senior Symposia Program** at Greenfield Community College welcomes back Joseph Ellis for a symposium entitled Revolutionary Summer. It's one of the most familiar and oft-told stories in American history, rendered most memorably in the play, 1776. But, Ellis argues, the way American independence actually happened does not fit the familiar script.

In his talk, Ellis will take a fresh look at the most significant figures who interacted in the summer of 1776: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and their British counterparts. He will place these iconic figures in the context of the political and military events that resulted in the creation of our new nation.

The cost for this symposium is \$10. This event will likely sell out so pre-registration is strongly advised: call (413) 775-1661.

Sunderland Public Library is offering an informative program on **fracking in Western MA** on Wednesday, Oct 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. Associate Professor of Geosciences Steven Petsch and Amherst Attorney Peter Vickery will discuss the geological, environmental, and legal aspects of shale gas extraction through horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing (known as "fracking") here in the Pioneer Valley. What is shale gas and how is it formed? Is there any shale gas in our region? What laws are on the books here in Massachusetts with regard to fracking? Come find out the answer to these and other questions.

Celebrating that mile stone Birthday soon? Turning 65? Feeling uneasy about your insurance options? No Problem. **Come and learn about Medicare** by attending, "I am New to Medicare. What are My Options?", on Thursday, Oct 10, at 2 pm at the GSB in Turners Falls. The bank is partnering with Lorraine York-Edberg, SHINE Program Director from Franklin County Home Care and Sarah Mancinelli, SHINE Counselor who will bring their expertise to the program. Feel free to bring your questions and concerns. Seating will be limited so please call 413-863-4316 to reserve your spot. Bring a neighbor who may also need some guidance. Light refreshments will be provided.

Bridge of Names (the movie, not the physical place), is making its world premiere Saturday Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Northampton International Film Festival. This is the same film that was so generously supported by the local community back in 2006-2008. Bridge of Names was produced by Montague resident Marina Goldman, and features many terrific local actors including Court Dorsey, Jeannine Haas and Bill Dwight. The movie also features a breakout performance from our young female lead Rachel Zeiger-Haas, who grew up in Florence and attended PVPA. She is now living and working as an actress in NYC.

In addition, Rip Tom (Larry Sanders Show, Men in Black, Dodgeball) came to the Valley to play the father of the lead character.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

UNITY SKATEPARK UPDATE

By ELLEN SPRING

TURNERS FALLS – October is kick-off month for raising funds to move the Unity Skatepark project forward. There are a couple of next steps. One is to arrange for the architect, Berkshire Design, to propose minor changes that will result in some savings and a slightly-improved design. The Unity Skatepark Committee can meet a portion of this cost with funds raised in January 2012 at Hope and Olive's Soup and Games Night. October fundraising efforts must cover the remainder of the cost.

Donations are always accepted. Make checks payable to The Brick House for Unity Skatepark. Mail checks to The Brick House, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Pumpkinfest is coming, and Skate Greenfield, our friends that brought "flash skating" to the Block Party, will bring their portable equipment to DiPaolo's parking lot. We will be conducting a raffle at a nearby booth.

Gift Certificates and prizes donated by local businesses will be raffled starting October 8. Loot, Jake's Tavern and the Rendezvous will sell tickets through Halloween. Look for signs around town and notices in the *Montague Reporter* for further details. Raffle tickets will also be available during Pumpkinfest at Riverside Station. Prizes will be pulled at the Rag Shag Parade.

Mark your calendar for Friday,

October 25 for dinner and drinks at Jake's. Owner Bill Holbrook has offered to sponsor a fundraiser.

An anonymous donor offered our small Committee an incentive to raise a big chunk of change this month. This creative soul said (s)he will donate \$500 if the Committee raises \$1000 during the month of October. Anyone else out there willing to offer \$100 for every thousand dollars we raise this month? Go ahead, we want you to challenge our fundraising abilities!

The Skatepark Committee meets at The Brick House on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. New members are essential for a successful year of fundraising. Please consider volunteering for a project. We can, for example, place a fundraising "thermometer" at the Carnegie Library as soon as someone designs and builds a sign.

Volunteer for one hour or for a portion of one event, like selling raffle tickets at Pumpkinfest, Jake's "Let's Get Concrete" Night, or at the Rag Shag Parade.

It has taken many years for Montague to rise to the challenge of building our youth a decent skate space. Now is the time to make it happen. The finish line is in sight. The last lap requires the most effort. Join the Montague Business Association, precinct 5 Town Meeting Members, The Brick House, the *Montague Reporter*, Pumpkinfest and so many others that are striving to get concrete.

Our most dire need is for a Social Media Coordinator. A visit to www.unityskatepark.com will support this statement. We want to make donating as easy as clicking a link. Send email to gfskatepark@gmail.com if you have a particular talent to lend.

FORWARD from previous pg and girls and drivers still get paid a better hourly rate than any other members of the staff, editors included. The majority of the people who contribute, in one way or another, to putting the paper out each week work for free, or practically so. And we still have a hard time figuring out how to pay the printer each week.

For years, I walked the beat, you might say, dropping the remaindered papers that did not sell from last week's stands in newspaper tubes and mailboxes all over town, with flyers neatly enclosed saying, "See

What You Missed? Subscribe! It only costs \$20." Dunning for more readers, in this way, working with whatever we had lying around, we added about 100 subscribers a year for the next nine years.

I am intimately familiar with every mailbox in Montague, and know the ones in Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett almost as well, having delivered extra copies of the last week's paper to each one, often on bicycle, like newspaper deliver boys of yore. I got to know the towns we served personally in this way, and met many of our readers face to

face, and learned from them what the issues were in town government that most concerned them, along with tidbits of the latest news before it reached the printing press.

But now there is little time for that sort of determined outreach. The paper has grown in circulation, and, we hope, our reputation for truthful, accurate, lively community journalism has grown along with it. The one thing that has not grown is our local revenue base, and we need the support of the community now, more than ever, if we are going to improve our reporting, expand our

coverage, and pay a livable wage to the people who devote themselves to bringing you in depth local coverage each week.

We need your help to match and to exceed the expectations we have built up as the hardworking "Voice of the Villages." As we enter our twelfth year of publication, we are establishing a program of sustaining subscribers, and you can help. Just like public radio, if you value what you read in your non profit, community owned newspaper, now is the time to contribute, in whatever way you can.



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local gossip, news & business listings

RECYCLE

PAPER

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in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD Police Cruiser, Sewage Pumps Put On November Town Meeting Warrant

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard reviewed a draft warrant for a November 4 special town meeting at its September 30 meeting. The draft includes articles requesting \$40,000 for a new police cruiser, \$5,000 for a recreation administrative clerk, and \$3,000 for the historical commission to reopen the Pearl B. Care historical building. Another draft article proposes transfer of \$20,000 from the Waste Water Enterprise Fund to purchase new wastewater pumps.

Other proposed articles are: authorization to accept a gift of land off Arch Street from Morris Housen and family and revised interment regulations for the town cemetery. The board plans to review the draft articles with the finance committee and department heads on October 7 and approve the final warrant in time for a November 4 special town meeting.

The bids received last week for stabilizing the boiler building roof at the former Usher Plant were incomplete. The board asked that

highway, water and wastewater director Paul Prest contact the bidders and verify references so the selectboard can award the contract at its October 7 meeting.

The selectboard approved a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency that will provide approximately \$10,000 in reimbursement for work done by the town after a February 2013 storm. The board commended the work of emergency management director and fire chief Philip Wonkka in obtaining the reimbursement.

Deputy emergency management director Laura Conway submitted her resignation to the board, citing outside work obligations. The board accepted the resignation with regret.

Town administrator Tom Sharp told the board that the Erving historical commission has done a general cleaning of the first floor of the Pearl B. Care historical building (also known as "the engine house museum") on Main Street and will hold an open house October 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Source to Sea Cleanup in Turners Falls this Saturday



SAWYER-LAUGANINO PHOTO

Source to Sea volunteer Jeff Comenitz gets ready to load tires at last year's cleanup. Bridgestone Tire is recycling the tires free of charge.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday morning, October 5, volunteers will meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, nibble on pastries provided by Second Street Cafe, and then embark on a journey to pick up trash. Their destinations? The bank of the Connecticut River and other locations in the river's watershed. This is part of the annual "Source to Sea Cleanup" sponsored by the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

Picking up trash might not seem like a fun way to spend a sunny fall morning. On the other hand, removing old tires, plastic bottles, and damaged electronic equipment from the river's edge can make you feel very good about yourself.

But feeling virtuous is not the

main point. The main point is that you learn a few things about the interaction between humans and their environment, meet some very interesting people, and get a whole new perspective on the river and its watershed.

There is also the pleasure of participating in an extremely well organized event. The coordinators in Turners, led by Beth Bazler of the Northfield Mountain Recreational and Environmental Center, do not just send volunteers out into the wilderness.

They choose locations in advance, identify what needs to be removed and identify pickup locations. Volunteers get maps and detailed instructions, including guidelines for dealing with potential hazardous materials.

Bazler, who has been at this for

all seventeen years of the cleanup, downplays the self-righteous angle. Focusing on the bad guys "who dump trash into the environment can be counter productive," she argues, "and in fact may only encourage dumping."

"The important thing to know is that ninety-nine percent of Franklin County residents do the right thing. They collect their hazardous waste and their bulky waste and bring it to events sponsored by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Our community is also the source of the one hundred plus people that volunteer every year to re-beautify these natural areas."

Furthermore, not all the trash is a direct product of human action. Quite a few of the sites on the list were dumping grounds for Hurricane Irene, which swept through

the area back in August of 2011. The material on Third Island, in the Connecticut River between Deerfield and Montague, is nearly all a product of Irene. Students at Deerfield Academy, led by staff from the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Lab in Turners Falls, are in charge of cleaning that site. But with the federal government shut down, and employees furloughed, the immediate future of this cleanup is uncertain.

To participate head to the Discovery Center on Saturday morning for pastry and trash. Clean up is from 9 a.m. to noon. Yes, it is an acquired taste but one you will acquire very quickly. Trust me, I've done it and love it.

By the way, the Rendezvous Bar and Restaurant in Turners is donating post-cleanup snacks.

Community-School Partnership Determined to Press On

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – In the wake of the news that its main funding grant has not been renewed for the year, the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, a nonprofit which serves to bridge the school district with community stakeholders and social service providers, is determined to continue its work.

At its open monthly meeting last Thursday, district staff, management and members of groups outside the schools sang high praises for the results the Partnership has accomplished so far, and discussed priority areas for the organization to focus on while it operates on a shoestring and seeks new revenue.

"We have every reason to be confident that while we are looking for more funding," said manager Cate Woolner, the network "will not die." She and director Kara McLaughlin will be able to continue on carryover funds until the end of the calendar year, after which "some hours" will be possible through at least the end of May.

In the meantime, they and their many partners will be "looking for pockets" of grants, or donations, to guarantee a future for the effort. It may also be possible that the federal Drug Free Communities money, which sustained the Partnership from 2008 until this year, will be restored in a future grant.

Representatives from the Montague Public Libraries, the Brick House, DIAL/SELF, Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM), Parks and Rec, and the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program broke into small groups with teachers, administrators, an interventionist and a librarian from within the system to discuss strategy.

The session also provided an opportunity for Partnership members to meet the two newest administrative hires: Superintendent Michael Sullivan, and Turners Falls High School principal Thomas Osborne.

"It's important to support your work, and be careful not to be the kind of wet blanket someone in my position could be," said Sullivan,

who conceded that the interest in social and economic justice that first inspired him to become a teacher is not often met as directly in his work as an administrator. But he said he was attracted to the district because of its small size and unmet needs in the community – "you could really make a difference in kids' lives," he said, in a place like ours. "I'll make sure the district is doing what it can to support you all."

"A strong community connection produces success," agreed Osborne. "We're in a time of flux. We can make a lot of positive changes." While Sullivan described his own role as that of a "cheerleader," Osborne said he sees himself as a "doorman" eager to bring community partners into the schools, "opening new connections every year."

This summer the Partnership paired seven families new to the district with "buddy" families, to help them get oriented. It also published a resource book, the Gill-Montague Guide for Families, in English and Spanish.

The network also helps run an intensive, bilingual program called Nurturing Families, which teaches effective parenting by working with the whole families. Over the last two years, 72 parents and children have gone through that program.

School staff spoke highly of two professional development initiatives sponsored by the Partnership. A presentation on how traumatic experiences shape children's ability to learn, and how to teach with trauma's prevalence in mind, was attended by over 200 teachers.

And a training on how to resolve conflict with restorative-justice principles and methodology was a big hit. "It has produced real change," said Osborne, who has witnessed the techniques in practice at the high school already this month.

"It can be hard to break into the school fortress," said MCSM executive director Susan Mareneck. She and others expressed hope that resources will be found to support what has, by many accounts, been a positive force in a school district still facing many challenges.

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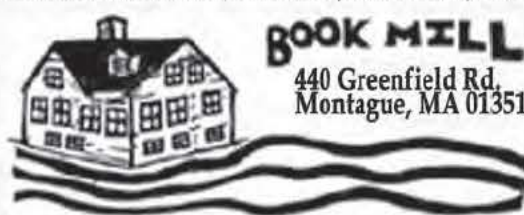
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Punts Planter Policy

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard, at their meeting on September 30, grappled with the thorny problem of “non-plant” objects in the planter in front of Rodney Madison’s store, Madison on the Ave (Avenue A in Turners Falls that is). Seeking a policy that avoids artistic anarchy but does not discourage creativity, the board punted the problem back from whence it came - to a new committee of uncertain status variously called the “streetscape committee” or the “planter committee.” It was this committee that recently generated a set of detailed guidelines that appeared to nix the mix of flowers and tchotchkes in front of Madison’s store.

In the end there seemed to be enough good will to create a compromise without the Selectboard bringing down the proverbial hammer. “Both sides” said many positive things, to the point where it appeared there might not be two sides.

The planter issue was the last item on a brief agenda during which many other positive things were said. First came a permit request from the New England Learning Center For Women in Transition (NELCWIT) for a “Take Back the Night” event in Peskeompskut Park in Turners. Beginning at 5:00 on October 17 there will be a series of speakers on domestic violence, a candlelight vigil in memory of the victims, and a brief march around the park. The permit was approved unanimously by the board.

Next MJ Adams, Director of Community Development of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, came with a range of items related to community development block grants, past and present. The housing authority oversees these grants for the town. Items included a transfer of funds within the 2012 grant, a change order related to the Unity Park Development project and an agreement with the Montague Catholic Social Ministries for an “early literacy and care program. Again approval by the selectboard of the various motions was unanimous.

The owners of the Element Brewing Company in Millers Falls came forward with requests for three temporary liquor licenses and one entertainment license for events in October. The first was for a license for the new Harvest restaurant for a food and beer event on October 19, the same day as the “Pumpkinfest. The other three licenses involved events at the Brewery itself on October 13 and 14 to coincide with the fourth year anniversary of the business. All requests were approved unanimously

After a brief report from town administrator Frank Abondanzio, the issue of sidewalk and planter displays took center stage. Rodney Madison began by requesting a permit to place objects in front of the store on Avenue A, along the side of the building on Third Street and in a

small space to the left of the planters. He presented a map of the proposal developed with the assistance of David Jensen, town building inspector

Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother tried to keep the discussion to the issue of the sidewalk permit but inevitably the planters intruded. Madison said that while he would like to use the planters, he was told that this was “absolutely a different subject.” Jensen, noting somewhat skeptically that “I think I’m on that planter committee,” stated that he had been informed “that the planters would be handled by the planter committee [not the Selectboard].”

“Sorry I even mentioned the planters,” said Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother.

The board was clearly favorable to the sidewalk proposal, particularly after Jensen stated that items on the sidewalk would not block traffic including wheelchair access. The permit was approved unanimously. At this point Mr. Madison thanked the board and got up to leave, whereupon Fairbrother said this would now be a good time to discuss the planters. Madison sat back down.

Town Administrator Frank Abondanzio gave a brief presentation of the origins of the new planter guidelines. In the past planters were only used for plants unless a permit was given. The streetscape committee supported diversity but also believed that planters were primarily designed for plants. Thus a set of very detailed semi-official guidelines dealing with “non-plant items” and their role was issued.

“I agree with most of the rules in the new policy,” said Madison. “But there are a number of items that make me non-compliant.” Later he stated that “I can put less out...I’ve tried to put more plants in there. That’s something I can do. I can tone it down.”

David Jensen stated that “the amount of comment that Mr. Madison’s display has engendered” was impressive: “Whatever you may say about it, the amount of conversation is a good thing. We need to be careful how much it gets reigned in.”

After further discussion Mark Fairbrother made a proposal: “It sounds to me like both sides can understand where the other side is coming from. I would like to propose that we send this back to the streetscape committee and Mr. Madison. I would like to see this go once more to them to see if a totally amicable compromise can be worked out. If not it can come back to this board.”

Selectman Chris Boutwell seemed to agree but then added, “In the meantime Mr. Madison should refrain from using the planter.” This comment generated a good deal more discussion. Finally a motion by Michael Nelson to send the issue back to the streetscape/planter committee, with Madison being allowed to keep a few items in the planter until an official policy is adopted, passed by a 2-1 margin.

New Assessments Coming to G-M Schools

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Superintendent Michael Sullivan informed the school committee at their meeting on September 24, that the school district will be participating in a pilot program to help evaluate the new assessments being developed. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 18 states plus the District of Columbia and U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and mathematics. The goal is to create good evaluation tools to help assess student progress in development of the important skills needed to succeed in college and careers.

Selected classes at Montague Elementary and Great Falls Middle School will take part in these assessments. According to Sullivan, the PARCC scores will not count and not be released. The data will be used solely to design the new test. This pilot program will provide an opportunity for those developing the assessment to evaluate the testing process and prepare for their use in the 2014-15 school year. If all goes well, it is anticipated that these assessments will replace MCAS in the future. These tests are all administered online.

Ja'Duke: TFHS Theater Use

During the public participation portion at the beginning of the meeting, Kim Williams spoke on behalf of Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts with a proposal for using the high school theater for their performances. They would like to rent the theater four times a year. They requested approval of a non-profit/residential rate of \$2861 for an anticipated \$11,444 per year.

Williams said they have not been successful in the past in gaining approval for using the theater. She said Ja'Duke has been using the Greenfield High School auditorium and the Academy of Music in Northampton bringing \$9000 into those two towns that could be spent locally. Ja'Duke brings a combined total of 4,000 students and parents into the schools and theater for performances.

Ja'Duke would also like to bring a mentoring program to district students who are interested in the technical aspect of theater arts. Michael Langknecht, member from Montague and former chair of the Facilities Use committee, said he thought this would be of tremendous benefit to the district. He made a motion to ask the superintendent to discuss this with Thomas Osborn, the high school principal, and bring back a draft proposal to the school committee for the next meeting. Chair, Joyce Phillips, said she felt this was asking too much of the administrators, because both are new to the district and so need time to study past research. She also said it was not proper order to discuss a subject raised in public participation and not on the agenda. With some brief discussion, the motion passed 4-2, with Phillips and Jane Oaks

voting no. Jennifer Waldron, Sandra Brown and Misty Lyons were not present. Phillips agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting, which Williams said was all she wanted.

Budget Process Presentation

The Management Solution's Mark Chapulis and David Lockwood, from the district business office, offered a presentation to explain some of the things school committee members and others have found confusing. Using a detailed PowerPoint presentation they explained their data collecting process. Chapulis, who is the person available at the district business office, attempted to answer the questions about the all-funds budget and revolving accounts.

Members of the finance committee from Montague, John Hanold, chair, Michael Naughton, vice chair, and Lynn Reynolds were present. Chapulis said that the all-funds budget gives school committee members and the public a better view of all of the income and expenditures and so is more transparent. In the past, budgets only showed the portion of the budget related to income from the state and towns, and expenditures of only that money.

Expenditures of funds from other sources such as grants, fundraising efforts, etc. were not included and so the real cost of running the district was not always seen. By showing the full budget, with all sources of income and all expenditures, when one source of income disappears and needs to be replaced, that can be seen and considered in the budget. As Race To The Top grants ended, other sources of income were found to replace those funds so programs like Advanced Placement classes could continue.

This requires planning ahead and it all works better if those involved see everything the school district is spending to educate their students. Still a sticking point in the discussion was the way school choice money is spent and accounted for. Jeff Singleton questioned the use of tuition funds last August, at the end of the school year, for technology upgrades when the money kept in a revolving account was transferred from its original intention of being spent on teachers salaries.

With a surplus left in the revolving account due to savings on teacher salaries, the administration asked for and got approval to spend it on purchases of new technology for the high school. A question asked by finance committee members was how could there be funds available from tuition into the district, if expenditures for choice out of district is more than what comes into the district. In the past school committee members got a breakdown of choice in and choice out, and so looked at what the balance was between them, but Chapulis said this is not how the budget actually works. One is listed in expenditures and budgeted for in the annual budget. The other is considered income and held in a revolving account with a designation

of expected expenditure but this can be transferred to another use if the school committee approves it.

Chapulis said that tuition that comes into the district, by regulation, has to be spent on education and that these are separate in the budget. He added that a revolving account is not expected to go to zero.

Seeing that the differences were not entirely resolved, Chapulis promised to return to discuss these issues further at the next school committee meeting. He will also discuss the audit report that was presented in a rather hurried way to the school committee at the meeting of September 10.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School.

Great Falls Middle School
Students of the Week
(week ending 9/27):

Grade 6

Alyson Murphy

Grade 7

Cassidhe Wozniak

Grade 8

Kyle Kucenski
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The operators at the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (MWPCF) have a whiteboard in their lunch room that takes up most of one long wall. Typically the board contains ideas, inspirational quotes, definitions, punch lists, process flow charts, and wish lists for equipment as well as wish lists for things they want to try.

What you see on the board changes frequently, but the obvious pride in the work they do is evident in the one constant item on the board – their working definition of an operator (though the def-

inition seems to apply to everyone from Superintendent Trombley to secretary Tina Tyler):

OBSERVE
PERFORM
EVALUATE
RETAIN
ATTITUDE
TEAM
OBLIGATION
RESPECT



Anthony Suprenant, operating the Fournier press.

COMPOST from page A1

was purchased using operating savings from reduced trucking costs; the composting bins were largely created using salvaged concrete blocks donated by Stewart's Nursery; most of the wood chips were provided by the Montague Department of Public Works and operator Tim Perea built the shaker. (It should be noted when I was recapping my notes with the crew, I referred to the bucket loader as a backhoe and there was an immediate outcry! Apparently I will have to do a future research project about the various types of earth-moving equipment.)

There had been concerns about potential odor issues but Trombley was pleased to report no problems in spite of an extended heat wave – in fact, an added benefit of the general operational changes appears to be reduced odors.

The constant movement and recirculation of waste water and sludge appears to have intercepted some of the anaerobic decay process responsible for the distinctive “rotten egg” type odors often associated with waste treatment facilities.

In addition, the small scale static pile composting method being used has not added any odor burden.

Trombley asked Senior Operator John Little to take me on a tour of the composting operation. Little started by saying, “If it wasn't for Tim (Peura), we probably wouldn't be doing any of this, so I want to start by showing you a machine he built for composting.” He credits operator Tim Peura with pushing the envelope to address his gripe that “paying someone to truck our sludge is a waste of time and money.”

Fellow operators Mike Little (brother) and Tim Little (nephew) agreed that Peura's enthusiasm and Yankee Ingenuity were a driving force of the compost experiment – from a Colrain farmer's comment about the potential compost value of sludge to the bright orange home-built “shaker/sifter” to the salvaging of enormous concrete blocks from Stewart's Nursery and the installation of temperature probes, pipes and air pumps – Peura has made believers of the coworkers who have willingly helped him along the way.

When Peura kept pushing the composting idea Trombley consulted with Geoff Kuter from Agresource about the logistics of onsite sludge cake composting. Kuter dismissed the idea based on waste volume and the limited geography of the site.

Meanwhile the operators have continued to fine-tune process changes. I'm sure all my faithful readers remember our Montague operators have developed a complex system of cycling the sludge through secondary containment and aeration processes multiple times to increase bacterial digestion of solids and reduce waste; not to mention the use

of the Fournier press to reduce volume by expelling excess water from the sludge waste (producing the delicious sounding sludge cake).

This is particularly important because the MWCPF (and other Franklin County towns) used to truck their waste to the Upper Blackstone facility which stopped accepting waste this year forcing local entities to ship to Warwick RI. Since January 2013 MWCPF has accepted liquid sludge from other towns and septage from local haulers generating revenue for Montague and saving money for the sending towns and businesses.

There was an expectation that the increased waste volume might result in increased sludge cake disposal costs for MWCPF but with the continued operations refinement the opposite has proved true.

The operations team feels it has become a specialized work force as the facility operates differently than most of its type. They're very appreciative of Trombley's management style which supports innovation (assuming it's backed up with science, math, fiscal or environmental data).

In the past, the energy intensive

completed, the bucket loader scoops up the sludge cake. It is then well mixed with two parts “amendment” or wood chips and moved to the holding bin. Eventually the pile gets moved to the “cooking” bin.

Here an insulating layer of wood chips is added to help retain the heat generated by the composting process. Ideal composting temperatures range from 110 to 150°F. The cooking process includes a 3 day period of temperatures greater than 145°F followed by 21 days at a temperature greater than 120°F.

The active pile being “cooked” has temperature probes in several places. During this experimental phase they are being manually monitored but I suspect there will be plans to automate temperature tracking if the results are satisfactory.

When the compost is done the temperature typically drops below 100°F and the mixture is run through the shaker which was built by Peura. The sifted “fines” are added to the growing pile of compost and the larger pieces get added back to amendment pile.

Aerobic composting is the biological process of converting organic waste to a useful end product through the actions of micro-organisms in the presence of oxygen. This type of composting requires both water and air to work effectively.

Experiments at MWPCF so far seem to prove out the theory that the cake contains enough moisture to satisfy the water requirement; while the air is being added through a series of perforated pipes and pumps. Without the introduction of air, the MWPCF would likely just have a huge pile of smelly, rotting refuse (much like my neglected compost pile).

Currently the air pumps run for 15 minutes, four times a day. Maintaining a “hot” compost pile in the summer is relatively straight forward but the

operators are facing upcoming challenges as we move into the cold winter months.

They anticipate making larger piles with a deeper insulating layer of wood chips. In addition, they plan to change the air circulation system by installing a specialty timer to institute more frequent bursts of air for shorter periods of time.

I look forward to checking out the winter operations to see if these ideas are successful. If not, I suspect an alternative plan will be forthcoming. In the meantime, these changes have been exciting from financial and environmental perspectives. As hauler Peter Noonan says, he used to haul sludge cake out of the WPCF and now he hauls in liquid sludge from Greenfield and Sunderland.

Other benefits include reduced power consumption due to less use of the press; less wear and tear on the press; reduced transportation and fuel costs; and increased revenue.



Tim Peura built this “shaker” to sift the compost.

Fournier press was used almost daily producing about 120 cubic yards of sludge cake a week. Trucking costs ranged from \$16,000-\$18,000 per month. With the process changes, the press is now used about once every other week expelling only 12-15 cubic yards of cake.

There hasn't been any trucking of sludge cake since June 2013, and the composting experiment began in earnest in August 2013. When Geoff Kuter returned for a site visit last week, he was very impressed with the results.

These days the conveyor from the Fournier Press drops the sludge cake to the floor of the garage bay that used to house a trailer to catch the cake (costing approximately \$500/week).

Some minor modifications were made to the bay including lining the walls with plastic sheeting to protect them from splatter as the cake falls about 15 feet to the floor of the bay. When the biweekly pressing is

Wheelchair Swing Fully Funded

By PATRICIA PRUITT

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The Swing by Robert
Louis Stevenson

TURNERS FALLS – The Swing, that is the wheelchair swing for Unity Park, the ongoing project of the group Friend To Friend, on September 23 received a financial boost of \$2,605.00 from the Jill E. Harrington Hanzalik Memorial Fund, created by Adam Harrington of Bernardston, in memory of his sister Jill.

The Norwoods, whose son Jacob is himself wheelchair bound and longing to “go up in a swing,” applied to the Friend to Friend fund. His wish to do so started many people in the group to begin researching swings for the wheelchair bound. When they found one, made in Australia, they set about raising the \$15,000 to purchase

one for the children's playground in Unity Park.

The grant from the JEHH Fund completes the monies needed and raised for the swing itself. Friend To Friend will be able to place its order to the company by the first of the year. By that time the swing manufacturer will have produced a model that is compliant with USA Parks and Recreation safety standards.

In the meantime, they will continue to seek donations to cover the costs of fencing and pour-in-place rubber flooring for the area around and under the swing.

Leslie Cogswell, president of the Friend to Friend group, is thrilled and grateful at the outpouring of community support for this project.

She says, “Every single dollar has made an impact. With the support of Jon Dobosz, Director of Montague Parks and Recreation, as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Montague Selectmen, we have realized our goal and have successfully fundraised for this project.

“Jacob Norwood can look forward to an early summer installation of The Swing!”

ARC from page 1

for school aged children and teens, and residential services for adults. The United Arc also sponsors two self-advocacy groups, offers educational advocacy for students and their families and brings family

members together for collective advocacy endeavors.

Primary geographical areas of services include communities in Franklin and Hampshire Counties and the North Quabbin area of Worcester County.



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WENDELL from page A1

helped the discussion by providing maps of the overlay district, hand-outs describing the program, and by answering questions. She said that the maps were not terribly precise, but would likely remain as they were because Franklin County is low in the federal government’s priority for updates of the floodplain maps. Before this meeting 22 towns in Franklin County had joined the NFIP, and Wendell was one of 14 towns in Massachusetts outside of it.

The NFIP gives people who own structures within the floodplain overlay district the opportunity to buy subsidized flood insurance; without the NFIP insurance is prohibitively expensive, if it is available at all.

If Wendell stayed outside the NFIP the town would be ineligible for federal disaster relief programs. Former Fin Com chair Michael Idoine said it seemed like “black-mail,” a taking for the benefit of insurance companies and banks. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said, “Now (with the town outside the NFIP) someone who wants flood insurance can’t get it.” The downside is that a property owner is obliged to get flood insurance if the structure is within the floodplain district and the mortgage has federal backing. Fin Com member Doug Tanner said the benefit (of the NFIP) is big over the whole town. Insurance would be

available throughout town, and federal disaster aid will also be available. Town treasurer Carolyn Manley said banks don’t care; they see only that you are in Wendell.

Idoine asked if there is a right to appeal if a property owner feels his structure is wrongfully included in a floodplain. The Letter of Map Amendment provides an administrative procedure to address property inadvertently included in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Activities prohibited within the SFHA are dumping and filling except for maintenance of the floodway using best management practices, commercial or industrial uses, storage of vehicles except for normal residential use, storage of hazardous materials, and construction on slopes greater than 25%. Permitted activities include agriculture, forestry, conservation, and recreation including trails, bicycle and horse paths, and buildings lawfully existing prior to adoption of the NFIP.

Shay Cooper, an owner of the only occupied building within the floodplain district, asked about provision that would limit rebuilding of a structure damaged so that the cost of rebuilding would be greater than 50% of the building’s initial value. Manley said that it seemed that reconstruction on the same footprint is allowed. Charles Cooper asked whether the prohibition of commercial activity would include a home

business. The impact of most home businesses would be minimal, and they would be allowed. The three articles all passed with the required 2/3 majority needed for a zoning by-law change.

Article 4 passed with one dissenting vote allowing the town’s abutter on the east side of the town office building lot, Valley Community Land Trust, an easement for parking on town owned land where there is no good place for the house’s occupants to park on the land trust property. The town will not receive rent for that easement.

Article 5 created a Wendell Access Committee, a five member advisory committee to help the town comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) support the towns ADA coordinator (Nancy Aldrich, the town coordinator), and provide information, support, and assistance to individuals and groups with disability accommodations.

Article 6 moved \$3,482.35 from the town’s stabilization account to a sick leave stabilization account; article 7 paid a \$70 bill of a prior year, and article 8 adjourned the meeting.

After the meeting ended and people had put away chairs and were leaving the town hall, assessor Stephen Broll told me to make sure I quoted him accurately. Since he had said nothing to the meeting at large, I think I have done that.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Mutual Aid, Timber Harvesting and A Dog Officer Contract

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Police Chief Ed Chase was in the Wendell selectboard office when the selectboard meeting began at 7:00. He had a copy of a mutual aid agreement for the board to sign, and he outlined its provisions as they were looking over the document. Under this agreement an officer following a suspect into a neighboring town will not have to call in the second town’s police to continue a proceeding or an arrest that began in the first town.

Ray DiDonato met the selectboard about a timber harvest on the town’s Phelps lot. The town’s forester, Michael Mauri will mark the trees, pull the permit, inspect the lot after the harvest, and maybe host an educational visit for Swift River School students. Cutting will take place when the ground is frozen to minimize impact, and because of scheduling will probably not take place until the winter of 2014, 2015.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard announced the appointment of Nikki Burton to the agriculture commission and said that Burton

was willing to act as treasurer.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the county dog officer contract that Wendell signed looks like a good deal. It will allow troublesome dogs to be housed at the county facility at the jail so that Wendell’s dog officer will no longer have to keep them at her home. Keller also remarked at Wendell’s share of the cost of maintaining the FRCOG accounting software, \$5,000. The assessment is shared by towns according to population, and so the total bill for maintaining the software must be high.

After selectboard members left the town meeting in the town hall and returned to their office they continued signing and reviewing the payroll warrant and other documents including a letter in support of H 2374 which would transfer the retirement costs of Franklin County employees to the state retirement system.

Proposed dates for a meeting with Orange, New Salem, and Petersham about Mahar High School are October 7, 8, or 10. Keller said he would speak with Ted Lewis about attending.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Malfunctioning Washer the Source of Smoke

Monday, 9/23

9:06 a.m. Report of vandalism (broken window) to a Fourth Street apartment. 12:48 p.m. Request from Coolidge Avenue for help with a loose female pit bull that had cornered neighbors outside and was growling at them. After joint effort among officers, animal control officer, and dog’s owner, dog was returned home. Animal control officer advised owner that he would be filing for a dog hearing due to repeated incidents.

12:48 p.m. Subject seen cutting trees on town property. DPW advised.

2:23 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on four default warrants and charged with illegal possession of a Class E substance.

2:32 p.m. Water pollution alarm sounding behind post office in Lake Pleasant. Wastewater treatment facility notified.

4:20 p.m. Car vs. tractor motor vehicle accident near Red Fire Farm on Meadow Road. No injuries.

Tuesday, 9/24

7:53 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

10:03 a.m. Illegal dumping reported off of Fosters

Road. Referred to DPW.

6:59 p.m. Landlord of an H Street property notified police of a missing firearm belonging to one of his tenants, as well as of a squatter on the property. Advised of options.

8:21 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with subject threatening to jump from French King Bridge.

Wednesday, 9/25

1:17 a.m. Suspicious activity/flashlights observed on tracks at Lake Pleasant railroad crossing; subjects were looking for their cat.

7:33 a.m. Significant diesel spill reported in the Canal Street roadway from Southworth Paper to Aubuchon Hardware. TFFD and DEP notified; Turners Falls Road in Greenfield closed briefly. Source of spill identified as truck working on Gill Montague Bridge.

12:39 p.m. Report of owner and dog involved in recent dog hearing walking on Highland Apartment property in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

7:09 p.m. Following a disturbance in Montague Center, an inebriated female was removed from a residence and placed in protective custody. Two children released to care of family member; DCF notified.

7:40 p.m. Witness report of shoplifting at Family Dollar. Referred to an officer.

11:56 p.m. Report of breaking and entering in progress/door kicked in on Third Street. Services rendered.

Thursday, 9/26

4:12 a.m. Vandalism to vehicle on Central Street (lug nuts cut). Advised of options.

10:25 a.m. Illegal dumping reported in the plains off Old Northfield Road. Suspect identified. Investigated.

10:44 a.m. Report that aggressive pit bull running loose near Henry Avenue and George Street had lunged, growled, and barked at caller and his wife on Monday morning. Second report involving this dog this week; animal control officer notified, is working on getting a dog hearing. Advised to contact police should this occur again.

2:18 p.m. Loose pit bull in area of Willmark Avenue and Bulkley Street. Animal control officer notified.

2:58 p.m. Unattended purse reported stolen from lobby of Avenue A apartment building.

7:52 p.m. Owner of outdoor cat reported dispute

with neighbors who are allegedly feeding wild rabbits.

10:11 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop in the Fourth Street lot, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating under the influence of liquor; [redacted]

[redacted], and [redacted], both of [redacted] were arrested and charged as minors transporting/carrying alcoholic beverages.

Friday, 9/27

1:00 p.m. Request for assistance with a sick raccoon in yard on Turnpike Road. Unable to locate.

4:41 p.m. Dispute over ownership of a vehicle in Millers Falls. Advised parties of options.

10:28 p.m. Suspected drug activity reported behind Fourth Street residence. Investigated.

Saturday, 9/28

8:43 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reported finding a tomato smashed on her windshield; latest of several acts of vandalism.

9:00 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

3:13 p.m. Automobile reported missing from garage where it was undergoing repairs; caller alleges owner had vehicle towed

without paying outstanding balance. Investigated. 5:26 p.m. Verbal altercation on Fairway Avenue. Advised of options.

6:44 p.m. Threatening/harassment reported on Fourth Street. Protective order served.

10:51 p.m. Report of yelling and screaming coming from Second Street residence. Investigated; all OK; one party had become loud after stepping in dog feces. Advised to quiet down.

11:03 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with report of male leaning over rail of French King Bridge. Subject was stargazing.

Sunday, 9/29

10:09 a.m. Suspected drug activity in Central Street building. Referred to an officer.

11:46 a.m. Call from a Millers Falls resident upset about dog defecating on his lawn. Services rendered.

7:40 p.m. Report of vandalism (writing on walls) at the former Ristorante DiPaolo on Avenue A. Investigated.

8:21 p.m. Report of smoke filling Suzee’s Third Street Laundry. TFFD responded; malfunctioning machine identified as source of smoke; situation under control.

8:33 p.m. Suspicious activity reported at unoccupied house on Norman Circle. Investigated.

DEBT from page A1

Michael Louis, a recent graduate, said he worked as many as five separate jobs to support himself during his seven semesters on campus. “I couldn’t afford books. I couldn’t afford the insurance. But I was lucky, I had the VA. The other students out there have to pay for the insurance.” Louis urged the legislators to take action: “I’m going to ask you: What are you going to do? There are people behind me, working through school, and they need some hope.” Mark explained that the panel was examining a number of options, and may be introducing legislation as soon as March.

Last to speak was Brian Arthurton. Arthurton spoke about the difficulties of obtaining an education as a felon. He detailed the many programs he was not eligible for, the lack of basic classes available in jail, and about the burden of loans he was already facing as a first semester student.

He choked up as he talked about his desire to start over, and facing seemingly insurmountable challenges to his every action. Speaking of incarcerated individuals, Arthurton said, “you’ve got to reach out to them. We want to be here, but there’s so much in the way”.

The panel was an exciting first step towards the potential for student loan reform, as well as an empowering opportunity for students from a variety of positions to show their support for one another. The positive air is sure to spark conversation amongst attendees for weeks to come during the long wait for legislative action.



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TRUCK from page A1

trucks all over the country, typically run their trucks in excess of a million miles. "We can't afford to buy new trucks," said owner James Jordan. "We run 'em until the wheels fall off."

Mike Truehart, driving for E. J. Wyson of Gardner, MA, said his boss runs the company's trucks well over two million miles. "This truck [a Peterbilt] had 200,000 miles over the two million mile mark when the company overhauled the engine, and it's ready for another two million miles more," Truehart said. "A diesel truck is just getting broke in at 100,000 miles."

Fred Chase says Gill does not need to trade their trucks when the

ash trays get full. Chase, who keeps a lot of trucks running for over a million miles, worked for Lane as a master mechanic for decades. "Lane runs all their trucks for a million miles or better," Chase said. "I keep a lot of the Ellis Brothers trucks running well over a million miles. It's ridiculous that the town [of Gill] wanted to trade a truck with less than 100,000 miles on it. Even if they had to replace the engine, you can get a remanufactured engine for \$15,000 with a warranty for 100,000 miles."

"That's a whole lot better than spending \$150,000. And they never should have bought the last new truck before that, either. There was no need for it."

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG****Subject Looking At Stars****Monday, 9/23**

6:20 a.m. Malfunctioning alarm at a French King Highway business.

9:10 a.m. Welfare check on Meadow Street party. No one home.

11:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on NMH campus. All OK.

1:30 p.m. Property line dispute on Oak Street. Advised resident of options.

Tuesday, 9/24

7:50 a.m. Phone scam reported by North Cross Road resident.

8:45 a.m. Accident at Main and Mount Hermon Roads. No injuries; one vehicle towed.

8:25 p.m. Possible jumper reported on the French King Bridge. Gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 9/25

6:40 a.m. Life Alert accidentally activated by Oak Street resident.

4:25 p.m. Medical assistance on Boyle Road.

Thursday, 9/26

1:35 p.m. Assisted RMV with Main Road arrest.

Friday, 9/27

5:50 a.m. Coy dog reported injured in roadway on Main Road.

9:30 a.m. Assisted tractor-trailer unit stuck on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

5 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint in Factory Hollow.

Saturday, 9/28

2:45 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint on Ben Hale Road. Subject later located in Deerfield.

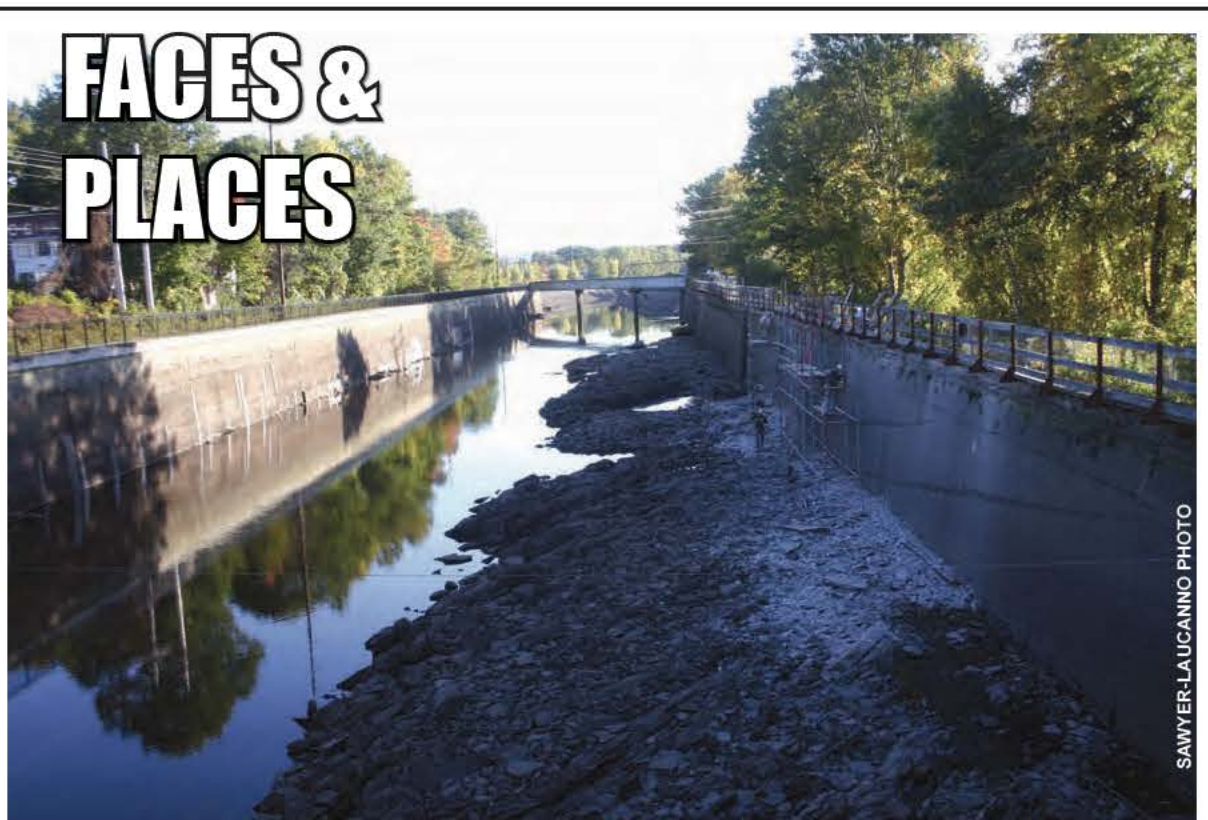
3:05 p.m. Medical emergency on Mountain Road.

3:25 p.m. Fire reported in woods on Mountain Road. Could not locate.

11 p.m. Possible jumper reported on the French King Bridge. Subject looking at stars.

Sunday, 9/29

3:28 p.m. Fire reported at Stoughton Place and Main Road.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

FirstLight workers repair the Turners Falls power canal's walls on the last day of September, during the company's annual canal drawdown.



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Gerry Spaulding (l) and Joe Efantis (r), members of the International Union of Operating Engineers' Local 98, picket Tuesday at the Route 2 Bridge between Gill and Greenfield. Local 98 is on a rolling strike throughout western MA over a dispute with contractor Northeast Construction. The company's heavy equipment workers have been without a contract since June. Sticking points include wages and benefits, and the company's proposed raising of the minimum weight that would require a crane operator to be accompanied by a second worker, an "oiler," from 70 tons to 100. According to the union this would undermine both safety and training opportunities. Work stoppages have been held in Easthampton, Amherst and South Hadley, and at the Greenfield High School renovations.

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YEAR 12 – NO. 1

B1

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OCTOBER 3, 2013



Ben Miner channels Iggy Pop while Anika Balakonis directs the beat

By DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - Iggy Pop was an apocryphal figure to us, as we cruised the mall at 15 or 16. He looked emaciated on the cover of Raw Power, leaning into a microphone stand as if it might provide the means of support to keep a man-lizard like him more or less upright. Naked to the waist and wearing nothing but skin tight black leather pants, he wrapped his thin frame around the stand and stared out at the world through blue rimmed eyes, and spat out songs about hypnotized chickens and a burning desire to be his girlfriend's dog. We didn't know what to make of him, and neither time nor familiarity has dimmed his fascination since. His songs were rough, crude pieces of workmanship, fashioned out of two by fours and barbed wire and delivered with a powerful three chord punch, insistent drums, and total spavined hoarse conviction. Too rude, too crude, and too good to be true.

Similar superlatives could be heaped on the members of Rebel Base and Ben Miner who stormed the stage at the Arts Block at about 10:15 on Saturday night, at first glance just another clever cover band in the long line up of Daniel Hales' Glamperformance benefit gala, part of the day long Greenfield

Arts Eclective Hales curated and inspired. With his band, the frost heaves, Hales also turned in a plaintive and urgent performance as Lou Reed and the Velvet.

But that came later. First, for me, was Rebel Base and Miner, and the opening bars of their first number - Raw Power - peeled the glaze off the onlookers' eyeballs and blasted the Johnson wax out of their silver studded ears. They proceeded to tear the place to pieces, right down to the cute little knickknacks in the adjoining tea room.

After Rebel Base's twenty minute set, the audience stumbled out onto Court Square like the dazed survivors of a buzz bomb attack on the London underground. Smoke was curling from the amplifiers, women were tearing their hair, grown men were chugging beers and bawling like infants, and Ben Miner was leering over the crowd like a lover of fine horseflesh vamping in an abattoir.

I heard several shellshocked audience members mumbling the same quote from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* - "Who Are Those Guys?" - over and over again, like some newly minted mantra.

It was bedlam. And it was glorious, and it recalled the glory days

see **STOOGES** page B3

NPR's Small Towns Correspondent Kicks Off GCC Lecture Series

By LEE WICKS

GREENFIELD – Last week Howard Berkes, National Public Radio's (NPR) rural affairs correspondent, brought the essence of small towns across America to Greenfield Community College. He told stories of grieving West Virginia coal miners, Nevada ranchers fighting Las Vegas for their share of the state's scarce water, and a town in Nebraska that is reinventing itself through creative economic development.

Seeing a well-known radio voice in person is always interesting. Learning about the travel, time and research that goes into the stories we often call "driveway moments," compelled nearly two hundred attendees to lean forward in their seats and raise their hands eagerly during the question-and-answer session following the presentation.

Andrea DeLeon, NPR's Northeast Bureau Chief, also took the stage to explain how NPR stories are edited and prepared for on-air listeners. She works with station reporters from 11 states. From a short piece about bears in Northampton, to a description of how she managed the news flow on April 15 when bombs went off at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, Ms. DeLeon lent perspective into the choices she makes daily from her home in Maine, as she manages news pieces from all over the country.

What a gift GCC made to the community when it brought this pair to campus as part of the Humanities Visiting Lecture Series. In the audi-

ence were people who have been listening to NPR for forty years, students aspiring to careers in media, and individuals compelled by the uniquely American stories Mr. Berkes produces.

Together they listened to professionals at the top of their game, and



GCC's expanded main building

elicited advice about equipment, internships and more.

A sober lesson learned was that even with the best reporting and research on issues that seem to clearly define injustice, progress is slow. Lawsuits get bogged down in the courts, and, as Ms. DeLeon said, "We don't always do the follow up. There isn't time, so a story proclaiming that a something, a new highway or business center perhaps, will transform a community, will probably not resurface later to investigate the claim."

That statement reinforced the essential role of local news reporting. The issues concerning small communities may not warrant national coverage, but local radio stations and newspapers can do this work.

In addition to the Humanities Visiting Lecture Series, GCC has a busy calendar this fall. As part of the Nahman-Watson Library's annual celebration of Banned Books Week

see **RADIO** page B6

Death at the Shea Theater:

Not To Be Missed

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – One of the great plays by one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th Century is being performed at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller is being presented by the New Renaissance Players this weekend and if you haven't seen it, you should not miss it. Not only is this a great play but the actors have met the challenge with superior effort and talent and created a solid, ensemble performance that brings the meaning, the language and the deep soul-searching struggle of the Loman family into strong relief. Director Michael Glazier deserves much of the credit for providing the atmosphere for the actors to develop this sense of family in their performances.

This is the story of Willy Loman (played powerfully by Brendan Kenny), an aging man who is facing the painful reality that his time as a successful salesman is behind him. It is also as much about his family as him – his wife Linda, their two sons Biff and Happy and how their lives are impacted by Willy's behavior. On display are their feelings of guilt and anger that stir in many families over past conflict and betrayal.

Because the part of Willy Loman is such a powerful one, with many scenes dominated by him, it is easy for an actor playing this part to suck up all the air in the room every time he's onstage. That doesn't happen here. Even

see **DEATH** page B2

TURNERS PASSES BY FRONTIER

By MATTHEW ROBINSON

SOUTH DEERFIELD – The first sign that the night would go the Indians' way was that they won the coin toss and elected to receive. The second sign came as they executed their first series. Turners adjusted their offense to suit the situation.

Starting from their own 15, Turners pounded the ball. Trent Bourbeau ran the ball three times and managed to get the first down, just barely. Bourbeau ran one more time, gaining six and Turners began their air attack.

With the defense keying on Bourbeau, the Frontier secondary opened up and Malcolm Smith hit Melvin Moreno for a long pass and Turners was off to the races,

leading 7 - 0 at 7:19 of the first quarter.

But 14 seconds later, the tide turned. Frontier took the ensuing kick-off into the Turners end zone and suddenly, Frontier was in the lead 8 - 7.

"It's our special teams," Coach Chris Lapointe said after the game. "That's two touchdowns in two games. They have to learn to stay in their lanes."

For most of the remainder of the first half, Turners and Frontier sparred back and forth but neither was able to score. With its offense failing to score, it was the Turners defense's turn to shine. The Indian defense shifted their formations and keyed on certain players as Frontier threw everything at them they

could.

The coaches yelled encouragement to the defense and the defense responded. "You gotta want it. Man up," Coach Lapointe called to his players. And they did want it. And they did man up. Twice in the first half, Turners stopped the Red Hawks on third downs only to have Frontier try on fourth down instead of punting. And both times they stopped the Hawks.

Late in the first half, after stopping Frontier on their second fourth down attempt, the Tribe's offense came alive. With time running out and 80 yards from pay dirt, Turners never gave up. They manned up. Even when it was second and 12 and the game seemed to be slipping away,

see **FRONTIER** page B3

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The End of The Season



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE – So what is left: A few late green beans, some sweet red peppers still turning red, a watermelon or two and some Acorn squash yet to be harvested?

The flower beds still sport late season roses, an occasional blossom appears on the butterfly bushes and, now and again, one more daylily.

There is still much that can be done. Good sanitation of the fall garden will leave next year's garden all the healthier. Pull all the weeds you can. Remove vine crops which harbor powdery mildew.

When roses finish blooming, cut back any dead growth and reduce the size of the plant by trimming all stems back to the next leaf stem or two down the plant. It's not possible to over prune bush roses.

A couple of years ago, one of my first and heartiest roses was accidentally cut to the ground by my zealous partner who was

clearing out an overgrown bed. I gave the plant up as lost.

The next season it came up from the ground, heftier and heartier than ever. If your daylilies have bloomed less than usually this year, consider digging up and dividing their bulbs.

Once you have weeded, pruned and pulled up old growth, burn the leavings if it is convenient. Otherwise, throw them out in the back of the yard to decompose with the assistance of the weatherman. Never put this kind of garden garbage in the compost.

Composted fruit and vegetable waste from the table makes fine food for another season's plants. Composted old garden refuse will simply reintroduce weed seed and disease into next year's plantings.

One of the pleasures of gardening is that the process is never done. While it can seem melancholic putting the garden to bed in the fall, this is also a season of preparation for the next year. When you are no longer occupied with garden cleanup you can enjoy planting for next year.

September and October are the perfect months to plant for next season's flowers. As long as you don't wait until a hard freeze has petrified the earth, you can plant for beautiful displays next spring and summer.

Plant hardy daffodils, crocus and other bulbs for early spring display. Plant lilies and iris for mid-summer blooming.

Many stores with seasonal garden shops as well as local nurseries have put bulbs and plants on sale giving all of us gardeners the opportunity to add to our beds.

Just take care to plant at the recommend-

see **GARDEN** page B6



Malcolm Smith rolls out to pass on his way to a 194 yard night

Pet of the Week



“Oreo”

I am a sweet, independent girl who loves attention. In my first home, I lived with some other cats, and in my second home I was an only cat with an elderly woman. My foster home has cats, dogs and rats, but I’m not very interested in interacting with them yet.

I’ve been featured for some time on Dakin’s website as a barn cat. However, a funny thing happened while I was in foster care: I

turned out to be far less feisty and a lot more friendly than previously thought given my growly cage presentation at Dakin.

I just don’t like to be enclosed in small spaces – I’m a free spirit and that spirit needs room to soar! A barn certainly has plenty of room but I’ve discovered that I prefer the indoor life with all its soft places to sleep and people to play with me.

Yeah, I’ve turned into a bit of a softy thanks to all the TLC from my foster family. But I still have plenty of spunk and can get as nutty as a kitten with my toys.

I love to come up to my foster parents and ask for petting by butting my head against their hands. Sometimes, I even let one of my foster moms pick me up for a minute, but it’s not my favorite thing.

So if you’re looking for a cat who’s both playful and cuddly, look no further than the cookie section for me, Oreo.

Give the folks in Leverett a call at (413) 548-9898 if you’d like to meet me at my Greenfield foster home!

DEATH from page B1

though Kenny’s performance is strong and true to both the play and the character, he doesn’t work to upstage everyone else.

The actors who play family members, Kathy Kennedy as his wife Linda, Alain Lamoureux as Biff Loman, Andy Stewart as Happy Loman, all work together as a family that is, in spite of the inherent conflict, loving and committed to each other. Even the push/pull to stay or leave on the part of Biff is about worry that his presence upsets his father.

All the anger and resentment Biff feels towards his father is seen throughout the play but in the end his struggle is seen as one of love and disappointment, and feelings of rejection by his father.

This you can see in Willy too, because they both seem to have many of the same feelings, around the same events in their life together. That is what is so amazing about this play, because it captures as rarely seen anywhere, the complexity of modern family life.

Lamoureux as Biff has more drama in his part but Stewart, playing his brother Hap, is given more than enough to do as the quiet, acquiescent son who doesn’t run off to far away places, doesn’t fight with his father, but quietly lives a flawed life of chasing women and being insincere in his relationships. He lies, inflates his position at work, just as his father does, irritating Biff but managing to please his father.

These two actors playing these two brothers capture the essence of play as a generational drama that shows how parents influence

their children, and how children live with the effect of their parents’ successes and failures.

It is impossible to pick one actor over another as all of these actors’ performances are superior and flawless by any standard, not just that of community theater.

Not enough can be said of each of them, particularly Kenny, whose Willy Loman is up there with the best of them. He allows for such a range of feelings, from braggart to crushed human being, powerful fear, great bravado, liar, lover, successful beloved salesman to failure who cannot face the future.

But Kathy Kennedy as Linda is the central character, if truth be told, the strong force that holds the family together, fights with all her strength to protect Willy even as he is sometimes cruel to her. Kennedy holds this production together by playing this part as true to the woman that Linda is, with all her own choices and sacrifices.

The Lomans are not alone in the play and so credit must be given to the other members of this ensemble. Allen Fowler is terrific as Charlie, the gentle friend of Willy’s who has seen him through the best and worst of his life. Gilana Chelinsky as the other woman, is played with style and grace. Her elegant strutting around in a wispy red kimono while being sexy and adoring, is such fun to watch.

Julian Lowenthal as Bernard, captures the essence of the high school nerd who becomes a successful businessman. In high school Bernard helps Biff cheat

his way through classes in order to continue to play football. His success baffles Willy, who was sure Bernard would amount to nothing while Biff could be anything he wanted based on his good looks and charm.

I haven’t spoken yet of the language but that is also a central character here. Arthur Miller has crafted not just a play about a family and their struggles but one that reflects the language and culture of the time as well as the place. Brooklyn, New York, a world to itself, lives in this play as no other.

The anger over choices made by others imposed on the people, the way everyone blames unnamed others for their own failures and struggles, the little comments and tone, the humor which is richly sprinkled throughout the play, the way people fight but love each other. This is Brooklyn.

The rest of this wonderful ensemble are Chris Rose, Emily Eaton, Penny Hulten Roberts, Christina Doe and George Lenker as the off-stage voice of Ben. The Technical crew includes Jillian Morgan, Ryan McCollgan. The costumes are by Gail Villeneuve.

Performances this weekend are: Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, October 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.theshea.org or call the theater box office at (413) 863-2281.

All New Renaissance Players productions contribute 100% of their profits to benefit the Shea Community Theater.



Senior Center Activities

October 7 to 11

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 10/7
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
3 p.m. Balance Boot Camp

Tuesday 10/8
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 10/9
9 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt)
10 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends’ Meeting
12 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/10
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 10/11
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

te meals.

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

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

Monday 10/7
9 a.m. Fitness
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 10/8
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 10/9
8:45 a.m. Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Bingo

Thursday 10/10
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Posture Perfect
12 noon Cards

Friday 10/11
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

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

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

WENDELL

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

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I'm 78 and I'm forgetting things more often now. Should I be worried?

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Does Forgetfulness Mean Alzheimers?

require complete care.

So, when should you go to your doctor to discuss your memory lapses? That’s a personal judgment call. I’ve found that I can’t remember the names of movie stars and ballplayers the way I used to. I attribute this to what I call the “overloaded filing cabinet.” As we get older, we accumulate so many memories that it’s impossible to find the one we want.

I’m not sufficiently concerned about my memory difficulties to mention them to my doctor. But if you are concerned, get tested.

The available tests include a thorough physical, neurological, and psychiatric evaluation. A medical history will probably be taken. This history includes information about use of medicines, diet and past medical conditions. Blood and urine tests may be done. There are also mental tests of memory, problem-solving and language. A brain CT scan could be ordered.

If you’re having some memory lapses, go to the doctor with a positive attitude. The fact is that many different medical conditions may cause Alzheimer’s-like symptoms. Some of these medical conditions

may be treatable. You could be suffering from the effects of a high fever, dehydration, poor nutrition, reactions to medicines, thyroid problems or a minor head injury.

And then there are those pesky emotions. Feeling sad, lonely, worried, or bored can affect people facing retirement or coping with the death of a loved one. Adapting to change can make you forgetful.

There are benefits to an early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s. Knowing early helps patients and their families plan for the future. It gives them time to discuss care while the patient can still participate in decisions. Early diagnosis also offers the best chance to treat the symptoms of the disease.

Today, some people with Alzheimer’s are given drugs to treat some of the disease’s symptoms. Scientists are working to develop new drugs to treat Alzheimer’s. Although research is helping us learn more about the disease, we still do not know what causes Alzheimer’s, and there is no cure.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

STOOGES from page B1 of whatever you might want to call the scene that kicked the last rotted remnants of rock and roll to pieces in the uneasy run-up to the full bore sonic attack of Punk Rock and the ensuing tedium of New Wave, in the days before Hip Hop gained universal Hege-mony and destroyed live music as we knew and loved it for the rest of time.

Or so it seemed.

I had walked in just minutes earlier, not knowing what to expect, and suddenly confronted with a number of willow thin musicians and their crews wearing massive and grotesque shades of eye makeup, hair spray and lipstick, dressed in aluminum foil pantsuits, paisley poofs and other unnamed articles of faux glam frippery. The band that had performed as Marc Bolan and T. Rex had mercifully finished up before I got there, and I felt thankful, at least, for that.

Then, suddenly, I was confronted with the Andersonville starved figure of Miner, hunched against the wall just inside the door, wearing a leather vest and no shirt, his hair parted down the middle and barely framing his fevered face. His eyes were made up to look like a sort of mesmerized marmoset, and he kept babbling something about Raw Power. You're Just in Time, Raw Power, over and over again, as he clawed the wall brick by brick like a demented grackle.

I backed gingerly away, unsure whether to hide or leave or cadge a beer from the willing bartender. But discretion is not the better part of valor in situations as high strung as these, so I murmured something encouraging like "You Will Eat Their Flesh Alive," and suddenly

Ben leaped across my line of vision like an underfed werewolf overamping on methamphetamine, bounding across the tabletops and landing on the stage just as J.D. Hairston was unslinging his fire engine red Gibson SG and his partner in crime (and the Brass Buckle Cafe) Anika Balakonis was limbering up on drums.

These two provided the solid wall of sound that drove Miner to the mad precipice of rock apotheosis. Although Iggy in the days of 1969 and the Stooges did not have much of a body to speak of, Miner embodied him, writhing on stage, flailing his mic stand, and, at one point, leaping on top of an amplifier or some other promontory and stage diving into the mosh pit crowd. A righteous if suicidal move, which would have been justified even if the fans massed at the stage had failed to catch him, since according to legend it was Iggy who pioneered that move.

Miner's vocals were delivered with sheer bravado, manic energy and disdain, a paean to the unshrived soul of rock and roll.

But as convincing as Miner's performance was, it was powered and authenticated by the raw aural blast of Rebel Base. It takes guts to get up on stage with just drums and guitar to recreate the primal scream of a hallowed power trio like the Stooges. There was the nagging feeling that Mike Watt was MIA. But in three seconds flat the two musicians destroyed all second thoughts the crowd might have first harbored on that score.

Balakonis is an amazing drummer. She and Hairston have taken the bare bones attack pioneered by the White Stripes and cranked it up a notch. She took the simple

stylings of Scott 'Rock Action' Asheton, the Stooges drummer, and enlivened them with her own innate sense of dead on timing – she turned the simple pleasure of a rock beat into a complex blend of hard driving blows, subtle high hat phrasings, and split second crashes on the cymbals.

I'd better not say anything about Hairston. I am not given to idolatry. So I'd rather say nothing at all about how he seized each song – "Raw Power," "1969," "Lust for Life," "Now I Wanna Be Your Dog," and finally, crucially, "Search and Destroy" – by the throat and squeezed until it Popped. He looked like Angus Young and sounded like Vernon Reid. He split his guitar through a bass amp and employed a loop that allowed him to build up a churning wall of grunge while simultaneously playing lead against it, all the while screaming vocal backup to Miner.

They tore the place apart. "We usually rely on one or two practices and just wing it," said Hairston, after the show. "We didn't want to let anyone down, and Ben was really into it. We practiced more than we usually do – eight or nine times."

Stunned, the crowd was unable to keep their poised and lacquered cool. People were screaming, crying, pogo dancing like it was 1979 and knocking over furniture. Something similar may occur when Rebel Base teams up with Holy Vex (who ably acquitted themselves as the New York Dolls at the Arts Block on Saturday) to invade Turners Falls on Friday night, October 18th, at Madison on the Avenue. As they say, Be There or Like it on Facebook, you fool.



LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 2, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Too Much Water

Three inches of rain fell on Sunday, causing the Montague police department to shut down the intersection of Turnpike Road and Montague City Road for several hours. "We have a variety of problems with drainage on Montague City Road," said town planner Robin Sherman.

Part of the problem lies in the silting up of the drainage brook that runs along the road to the southeast.

Mark Fairbrother, chair of the conservation commission, noted that the standing water in the area of the old railroad bed seems to be directly related to leakage from the power canal.

Landfill Testing

At a special town meeting on Monday, the town of Erving approved an article allocating \$20,000 for environmental testing of soil and water at the old Maple Avenue Landfill in Farley. The

testing is being required by the DEP as part of the proper closure plan for the landfill.

Defenders of the Constitution

Wendell was one of several communities honored by the state chapter of the ACLU as "defenders of the Constitution" for passing resolutions in response to the USA Patriot Act.

The selectboard received a framed award and a letter of congratulation from Rep. Steve Kulik, who accepted the award on behalf of the town.

The resolution, which was unanimously approved at annual town meeting in June, called on federal representatives to repeal parts of the act that "violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the Constitutions of the Commonwealth and the United States."

10 + 100 = 110 Years Ago

The Montague Grange meeting of October 2, 1903 opened at 7:30 p.m. There was no business to discuss so the meeting was placed in

charge of the lecturer, who put the question "Is government control of monopolies and transportation necessary to the public welfare?" up for debate.

At the October 16 meeting a committee was formed to investigate the applications of Bertha Bryant, Sanford Marsh, Mrs. Mary A. Rist, and Leona King. The lecturer's program included this question for discussion: "Are the mental powers of the sexes equal?"

Editorial: Save The Environmental Bond

Governor Mitt Romney has decided to zero out all state spending for land conservation this year.

This week, the Montague board of selectmen joined a growing outcry against this penny wise and land foolish fiscal policy, sending a letter urging him to release \$70 million from the Environmental Bond this year.

Each reader who cares about preserving our open land, local agricultural, and watershed ecology should get on the horn with the governor and do the same.

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Green Homeowners Across the Region Open Their Doors Saturday

By SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – This Saturday, October 5 is the perfect day to check out cool green technology and home features such as solar power and hot water systems, efficient air and ground source heat pumps for heating and cooling, radiant floor heating, insulation options, and green building materials such as sustainable wood products. The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association is sponsoring its annual Green Buildings Open House self-guided tour.

Last year, around 10,000 people visited green buildings across the region. This year is the tour's 14th year, with around ten listings within 10 miles of Montague.

Homes that feature super-insulated deep energy retrofits are homes which are sealed tight and ventilated right, as recommended by building science professionals.

Some homes have solar hot water systems, salvage building materials, and triple pane windows, no-VOC paints, rain barrels to collect water for their gardens, and/or solar electric (aka photovoltaic or PV) systems to power their homes.

In the Town of Montague, at press time, two homes have signed up for the tour.

Susan Durkee's house, at 7 Newton Lane, off of School Street, in Montague Center, will be open between noon and 4 p.m. Her home had solar PV installed on the roof last fall through the Solarize Montague program.

The PV covers most of her household's electricity usage and powers a

plug-in electric vehicle, a Nissan Leaf. She also has solar hot water and a garage converted into a super-insulated addition.

My 1850s home, at 25 Union Street in Montague Center, has been heavily insulated and many air leaks are sealed up. I, too, installed solar PV through the Solarize Montague program, and have solar hot water that heats about 60 percent of my hot water use.

Since most of my light fixtures have efficient LED and compact fluorescent bulbs; the foam insulation on my stone foundation keeps much of the moisture out of my basement, significantly lowering my use of an energy intensive dehumidifier; and I dry my laundry on a clothes line year-round, my small solar PV system covers my electricity use, and I'm building up credit every month.

Green home products include sustainably harvested, local wood flooring and a water-based floor finish made from whey, a milk by-product from Vermont dairy farmers. I will be offering tours of my home between 1 and 3 p.m.

For more details about these and other green buildings on the October 5th tour, check out the NESEA website at www.nesea.org/gboh. Click on the middle, blue icon: "Looking to Go Green? Find a Host Site Near You."

The "Find Host Sites" link on that next page allows you to enter your zip code and the distance in miles from the zip code to locate nearby green homes. Or you can enter a keyword or select a technology such as energy efficiency.

See you this Saturday.

FRONTIER from page B1

they completed a pass and stopped the clock with only 9 seconds left. And as the clock ran out, Malcolm Smith found Melvin Moreno in the end zone and Turners ended the half with a 15 - 8 lead.

And that's the spark the Tribe needed. Turners kept Frontier on their toes and decided to try a little trickery to start the second half.

An unexpected on-side kick caught the Hawks off guard and Turners recovered the ball. But the ref ruled that the ball was touched by the Blue before it had traveled ten yards. So the defense came back on the field and Frontier had great field position.

But the Turners defense dug in once again. They stopped Frontier on another fourth down and Turners took over on downs. They ran and passed their way

deep into Red Hawk territory and with 4:04 left in the quarter, Brody Markol scored a touchdown. Alex Carlisle scored the two pointer and now Turners was in control 23 - 8.

Turners defense kept up their intensity and stopped Frontier every series in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Frontier tried a little trickery of their own. They lined up to punt on 4th and 4 but Turners read it all the way. "Watch the fake," the coaches yelled, and the whole Turners receiving team played against the fake.

As the punter faded back to pass, he was hit hard and Melvin Moreno knocked the pass down and Turners took over on downs, once again. The hometown crowd gave a collective sigh of relief. Turners calmly marched the ball into the end zone and with six minutes to go, Turners led 31 - 8.

With the game firmly in

hand, Turners Defense shut the lid. They hit and gang tackled and on 3rd and 17, Malcolm Smith intercepted a pass.

"I'm really proud of our defense," Coach Lapointe said after the game. "Frontier challenged us but the defense didn't let up a point."

But the Defense was only half the story. Malcolm Smith threw three touchdowns and completed passes to six different receivers for an amazing 194 yards.

On the ground, Jalen Sanders and Trent Bourbeau each had more than 70 yards rushing. Melvin Moreno scored a touchdown and kicked an extra point.

Jalen Sanders had two touchdowns and two 2 point conversions. Brody Markol scored a touchdown of his own and Alex Carlisle had a two point conversion.



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

- William Carlos Williams

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

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

Insurrection

It will do it this year, the Copper Beech.
You know the one I mean, the mighty one
towering over K Street
its branches sweeping low
to bless communicants from church
with a playful swipe across the face.
I watched it warily this spring
as it slipped its leaves out
like a gentleman ‘shooting’ his cuffs—
no fanfare, just unimpeachable dignity.
Yet now it’s playing childish pranks again
with early showers of nuts
on the unsuspecting,
practical joker that it is.

I have its measure. It will happen, mark my words,
this is the year.
It takes but one small tug by that Goliath,
a slight sensation of something giving way,
a silent rending beneath the earth, and a sliding,
a slick suck and a ‘pop’, and the first one is free.

Then one by one it will wrest its roots from the earth,
tentative at first, then almost crazed,
grunting, groaning, shaking those appendages as a dog shakes,
flinging birds into the sky like so much confetti.

And suddenly...
my mighty, my mammoth untethered Copper Beech
will take off without a backward glance,
without a by-your-leave,
shuffling at first, unaccustomed to locomotion,
then hitting its stride as off it lurches down the hill.

And the small pea-brained fringe tree, the locust,
and finally the nattering maples will mark its passage,
and startle themselves into action,
imitate its bid for freedom, reeling and shambling
and making a terrible racket, a jumble of waving limbs and leaves
in a conga line down K Street into town.

We neighbors will stand, awestruck
amid gaping holes in the earth,
gazing at each other in wonder,
even the dogs struck dumb.

I really believe the Copper Beech will do it this year,
even if it hasn’t yet.

Lyn Clark

A Snail Shell

A tube spiraling like a coiled snake
Expanding like a hurricane as it winds outward
Fine ridges wrap around the coil, like the growth rings of a tree
Rings of muddy brown to sandy brown
Smooth and hard as a china plate
Gleaming in the light,
Like an eye
The miniscule center of the coil,
The pupil
A wonder that such an object was secreted by a snail

Jonathan Borowsky



I FEEL LIKE AN OLD LIBRARY BOOK

forgotten,
someone’s
2nd,
3rd,
4th,
Choice.
I am waiting to be
Renewed.
Page by
Page,
I begin to fade
And fall apart.
Soon enough,
the pages of my
story have become unbound,
and I’m
no more than a pile
of loose, unformed papers,
no one will
be checking out.

Alejandra Garcia

Pinned Down

Pinned down
Against the stairs
This whore
Of a disease
Has chained me
Like Prometheus
Against the rocks
Chewing away,
Not at my liver,
But my brain,
No pain,
A soft-gnawing,
Owing to the numbness
Of the cerebral cortex
But unlike
sparrows’,
These neurons
Won’t grow back,
And their songs
Through the open
Window
On a breezy day
Over and over
Tease what’s left
Of my senses,
Waiting to peck
My liver
When my flame
Burns to ash.

R.J. DiDonato

Contributors:

Jonathan Borowsky, of Needham, came to our pages thanks to his grandfather, Robert M. Haddad of Wendell. Jonathan is an eighth grader this year.

Carolyn “Lyn” Clark is a member of the newspaper’s board, a novelist, and a lady of lively imagination. She lives in Turners Falls.

R.J. DiDonato is a frequent contributor in many areas of community interest to the newspaper and a resident of Wendell.

Alejandra Garcia is an almost 12 year old who enjoys writing poems, and lives in Amherst.

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**ONGOING:
EVERY SUNDAY**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic session*, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope*, environmental program for ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

Avenue A & 2nd St., Turners Falls: *Farmers Market*. 2-6 p.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.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall through November 30th.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Flotsam*, photographs and col-

lage by Trish Crapo on display through October 12.

Call for Artists: Nina's Nook is putting together the third "Sensual, Sexual, Smut" exhibit for February 2014 in Turners Falls. From mild to wild, uninhibited artwork from regional artists desired for submission by Jan 25, 2014. Contact naban@verizon.net or 413-834-8800.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS:

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association: *Indian House*, open 11 to 4:30 p.m. Weekends until Oct 6.

Memorial Hall Museum Music Room, Deerfield: *Poetry to the Earth: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Deerfield*.

EVENTS:**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3**

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

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *A Place At The Table*, film and discussion to follow with Dino Schelle, Center For Self Reliance and co-op members and staff. Free, 6 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s (and 50s) Hit Parade*, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Death of A Salesman* by The New Renaissance Players, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Phantom Erratic #5 presents *Ike Trinks, Ben Hersey, and Shea Mowat*, with interstitial jams by *Servitor Soundsystem*. See pg. B6. \$, 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Erin Harpe & the Delta Swingers*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Orange: *North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival*, Forsters Farm, 10-5 p.m. Word, Stories, and

Song Stage, cooking demonstrations, workshops, music, crafts, renewable energy talks, and of course garlic! Complete schedule: garlicandarts.org Rain or Shine

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin, The Metropolitan Opera* HD Live, \$, 12:55 p.m.

The Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance to old-time music*, \$, 7 p.m.

All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, Greenfield: *Lui Collins with Anand Nayak and Polly Fiveash*, \$, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Death of A Salesman* by The New Renaissance Players, \$, 8 p.m.



Brother Sun, national touring artists Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor at the Bookmill on Sunday, October 6, 8 p.m.

The Barn Gallery, Montague Center: *Reception for Misha Coggeshall-Burr* and her work "Light in the Dark" on display, 5 to 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Hewitt Group*, classic rock dance party, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Orange: *North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival*, Forsters Farm, 10-5 p.m. see 10/5 listing.

Mohawk Park, Route 2, Charlemont: Benefit for the Donovan Family, who lost their home and possessions in a fire. With *Small Change*, american roots, 1 p.m.; *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 2 p.m.; singer-songwriter *Emily Bourque*, 3 p.m.; *Doug Johnson*, country, 3:45 p.m.; *Steve Crow Trio*, 4:30 p.m.; *Fancy Trash*, acoustic bliss with edge, 6 p.m.; and *Shakin' All Over*, classic '50s and '60s dance hits from the golden age of rock 'n' roll, 7 p.m. Line-up subject to change. Food and spirits available. Free admission, but donate all you can! All ages.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Death of A Salesman* by The New Renaissance Players, \$, 2 p.m.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Co-op Jazz*, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington: *Janet MacFadyen* reading from her Slate Roof chapbook, *In the Provincelands*, as well as new work. 2:30 p.m. Reservations: (413)

684-4535.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, sneak preview of Eric Mabius' new movie, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Brother Sun*, National touring artists Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor, singer-songwriters. Fusing folk, Americana, blues, pop, jazz, rock, and a cappella singing, \$, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Hope and Olive, Greenfield: *Free Soup and Games Night* to benefit the Greenfield Local Cultural Council and the Greenfield Rejuvenators. Free food, cash bar, fun, starts at 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nick's Sweet '80s Movie Night showing *Labyrinth*, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Mic*, 8 p.m. with 7:30 p.m. start for sign-up.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Lise Lemeland* discusses her current body of work on exhibit in the South Gallery, 12 to 1 p.m.

Mid Week Music with Pioneer Valley Consort, All Souls Church, Greenfield: Featuring *Michael Nix, Chris Devine and Greg Snedeker* (chamber music), \$12:15 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White, Acoustic Style with Boo Pearson*, 8 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Pat & Tex LaMountain*, 7 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *RVIVR*, from Olympia, with *Shrew, Christian Businessmen*, and *Avedis*. Carpool, punks! \$, all ages, 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ephemeral String Band and Walnut Street Band*. *The Walnut Street Band*, all female trio with angelic harmonies with an old time / bluegrass feel. Leah, Kristie, & Colby combine the sounds of guitar, banjo, and cello with their interweaving voices. *The Ephemeral Stringband* draws from several branches of traditional American music including Oldtime Stringband music, early country and bluegrass and Shape Note

sacred hymns. \$, 8 p.m.

The Elevens, Northampton: *Speedy Ortiz, Bunnies, Guerrilla Toss, OVATure*, and *Happy Jawbone Family Band*. Carpool, nerds! \$, 21+, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Marie Ellingson & Wishbone Zoe*, 9:30 p.m.

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GARDENS from page B1

ed depth, drop in some food like bone meal and water as needed to frost time.

For tender growth like rose bushes, mulch with leaves or such once a light frost or two has occurred.

Fertilize old beds of asparagus, strawberry and perennial flowering plants and then let the winter weather send this nourishment to the plant roots slowly.

You can even lime and reseed your lawn if you like. The lime will penetrate into the soil slowly. The new seed will crack with the frosts and be ready to sprout come early spring.

Check your yard for any plantings, bushes, and small trees that have not survived and remove them. Provided there is no clear sign of communicable disease, you'll have a free space to try something new.

While I am not a fan of weeding and avoid it by any means possible, I concede that there are two critical times which demand weeding: when you are starting new plants and at the end of the season. At this point any weeding you can stand to do will make your life and that of your garden that much easier next season.

If you can, pull weeds before they set seeds; at the least don't leave them in to sow their seed in all directions. While you do this, you'll also be loosening the earth for easier planting next year and you'll start with healthier, less weedy plots.

If you have areas which have clearly suffered from fungal growths like mildew and soil-borne tomato problems like Fusarium and Verticillium wilts which come on early, plan to rotate next year's tomatoes to another plot and consider treating the soil with large doses of hydrogen peroxide and covering the plot with black plastic, leaving it to bake clean at least one season.

Wilts are characterized by early leaf yellowing and greatly reduced plant productivity not to be confused with tomato blight which is spread by contaminated plants brought into your garden such as we experienced a couple of years ago. Blight occurs later in the season in fruit bearing plants which had early seemed hardy and healthy. There is no known treatment.

Try to look on end of season work as just as valuable as planting at the beginning of the season; then, reward yourself with the joy of planting new things to look forward to next season.

Happy beautiful fall, and very happy gardening!



THE PHANTOM RESURFACES WITH DUTCH PERFORMANCE ARTIST AT THE BOOKMILL



Ieke Trink, who mentioned to Reporter staff that in subsequent performances of this piece, the legs of the chair were shorter.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – You may as well start clutching your head now in anticipation of the news you are about to read. A Phantom Erratic – one of the afterspasm of the monthly Montague Phantom Brain Exchange salon, curated by Neil Young Cloaca from 2008 to 2010 – will occur tomorrow, Friday October 4, at the Montague Bookmill.

The event's main attraction is Rotterdam-based, trained and certified performance artist Ieke Trink, who works, by her own description, in the media of "instructions, observations and live actions."

Trinks, also a member of the

Dutch collective Trickster, is state-side for a few weeks to lecture, collaborate and perform in galleries, museums, and academic settings, and at one charming rustic riverside bookstore.

Young Cloaca has rounded out the bill with an appropriate regional welcoming party: writer and performer Ben Hersey, Maine composer and multimedia artist Shea Mowat, and music between acts by Servitor Soundsystem. Mr. Hersey was last seen in these parts in a cheap suit, lunging terrifyingly at his audience atop a frozen river.

The show starts at 8 p.m. and the suggested cover is \$7 to \$10. All ages.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Rash of Suspicion Spreads

<p>Tuesday, 9/24 8 a.m. Report taken of deer vs. car accident on River Road. 2 p.m. Report of suspicious male subject in Maple Ave area. Subject fled on foot. Found subject had broken into abandoned building. Located him. Under investigation.</p>	<p>Thursday, 9/26 2:35 a.m. Alarm at Lest Street. All secure. 4 p.m. Report taken of deer vs. car accident on River Road. 10:45 p.m. Officer at Forest Street residence for parent/juvenile disagreement. Mediated same, took report.</p>	<p>Northfield PD with alarm on Northfield Road. All secure. 6 p.m. Subject at station with a larceny complaint. Found to have happened in Montague. Referred to Montague PD.</p>
<p>Wednesday, 9/25 6 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, Union Street area. Unable to locate. 7 p.m. Suspicious male subject in Renovators Supply parking lot. Spoke with same. Information given.</p>	<p>Friday, 9/27 7:10 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Northfield Road. 7:45 a.m. Report of bear walking in the road, Routes 2 and 63. Same went into woods. 4:30 p.m. Assisted</p>	<p>Saturday, 9/28 11:03 p.m. Report of suspicious male subject looking over the rail at French King Bridge. Found to be using a telescope to view stars. Same moved along. Sunday, 9/29 8:10 p.m. Suspicious male subject at Usher plant. Same moved along.</p>

RADIO from page B1

there was a conversation on October 1 with Casey Murrow, a Vermont educator and son of broadcast journalist, Edward R. Murrow. He discussed freedom of information and the press as well as his father's work during the McCarthy era.

Though this event will have come and gone by the time this paper is delivered to your door, I mention it to urge people to check out the GCC website for upcoming events. There are far too many to list here.

Of special interest to those who are free during the day are the Senior Symposia, held monthly during the afternoon, most often at the downtown campus. The fall topics include the history of reproductive rights; the Second Amendment; films set in Italy during the 1950s; the history of jazz; mortality in the Pioneer Valley at the beginning of this century; and more. Reservations are suggested, and can be made at the college's website.

When the college opened its new glorious light-filled expansion of the main building, GCC students, staff and faculty had a facility that rivals any new school building. What may not be as widely

known is that the public is welcome. Inside there's a snack bar featuring fresh local foods and photographs of the farmers who provide such abundance. The snack bar is open to the public, and so is the library on the second floor where floor to ceiling windows on three sides frame mountain views.

There are abundant computer workstations and, of course, the building has wifi access for people who bring their own laptops. This library is part of the Mars system and the librarians, who to me seemed exceedingly gracious and welcoming, will accept any Massachusetts library card.

In addition to the lecture series above, there are readings, gallery talks and performances every week. As the days shorten and grow colder it is wonderful to know there's a resource so near that can bring us to a world of ideas and a deeper sense of community, for this is our community's college.

Keep an eye on the calendar or just go for a snack and some time in the library. You will feel welcome. You will be glad it is here for all to enjoy.



MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



John and Pam Hanold of Turners Falls spotlighted New England journalism during a concert tour of the Baltic countries with the Yale Alumni Chorus. Here they try to get in a little local reading in the courtyard in front of Rundale Palace, west of Riga, Latvia.

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