



## Join the Club TFHS Seeks New After School Advisors

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## Monty Python at Montague Treatment Plant

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 3

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 11, 2012

### LEVERETT APPROVES NEW CELL TOWER BYLAW

**BY KATIE NOLAN** - On Tuesday night, Leverett town meeting voted 153-10 to approve a less restrictive cell tower siting bylaw.

Planning board chair Jeff McQueen explained the town's very restrictive tower siting bylaw had helped to keep cell tower companies from siting a communications cell tower in town for the last ten years. At the April 2012 annual town meeting, a less restrictive siting bylaw was defeated by several votes. A cell tower study committee that included opponents of the April 2012 proposal was formed after annual town meeting and helped the planning board write the revised bylaw under consideration on Tuesday night.

McQueen said the revised bylaw would give "very good town control over what would be built." It would allow cell towers to be sited by special permit only, and mandates a 2000-foot setback from roads, and a 1650-foot setback from inhabited dwellings, and a 100-foot setback from the high water mark of any river or perennial stream. Cell towers may be no higher than 199 feet; a tower 200 feet high or higher would require lighting.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said "personal use of cell phones is driving demand," but public safety is also at stake. Police chief Gary Billings said during last October's nor'easter snowstorm, many people's cell phones still worked, allowing communication see **LEVERETT** page 5

### Brown Hews to the Center, Pushes Warren Left in Springfield Debate



Elizabeth Warren



Scott Brown

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Republican U.S. Senator Scott Brown worked hard to cast his Democratic challenger, Elizabeth Warren, in the role of torch bearer for the radical elite at Symphony Hall in Springfield on Wednesday, as she tried to portray him as playing second fiddle for the 1% in the third of four scheduled debates, the only one to take place in Western Mass. Moderator Jim Madigan, of WGBY, probed the candidates on issues ranging from jobs to education, health care and military base closings, lobbying questions he said were culled from over 200 submitted by area residents.

Throughout the hour-long debate, Brown remained poised, exhibiting a combative edge against his opponent but managing to project an overall image as a middle of the road moderate, in his words "one of that vanishing breed of senators in the middle who works with both sides to get things done." He praised President Obama's education secretary Arne Duncan for his Race to the

Top initiatives, carefully avoided mentioning Mitt Romney, and said he voted with his party only 54% of the time. He called himself the "second most bi-partisan senator," in what is by any measure the most fiercely divided national legislature in modern times.

In solidly Blue Massachusetts, where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans three to one, and independents outnumber the voters of both major parties put together, positioning himself like an armadillo solidly in the middle while casting Warren as a left wing extremist may be Brown's best and only course to reelection, and he followed that centrist path with repeated appeals to reduce taxes, clear regulatory clutter, and maintain the strongest armed forces the world has ever known.

Nonetheless, with less than a month until election day, and control of the Senate arguably in the balance, Warren rode into Springfield, not in a pick-up truck but as the pick of a slim, margin of see **DEBATE** page 8

### GILL WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN RELICENSING

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - The Gill selectboard is anticipating calling a meeting of "stakeholders" in the relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro facility once First Light Power files a notice of intent to hold hearings on its upcoming federal relicensing.

"We may be the ones who push for that meeting," said selectboard member Randy Crochier at a meeting of the selectboard on Monday. "We're one of the towns most affected."

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said the meeting would focus on improvements to the utility's operation town officials and other stakeholders would push for in the review process, as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decides what modifications, if any, to make to Northfield Mountain's license, which is up for renewal on April 30th, 2018.

Banash said the town of Erving gets "all of the benefits," of the Northfield Mountain project, which pays the lion's share of property taxes in Erving, "without the disadvantages."

Crochier added, "We end up with most of the erosion."

The topic of riverbank erosion, which farmers and other landowners along the river hold Northfield Mountain responsible for, has been a contentious one for years. Utility spokespeople typically blame riverbank erosion on the swells created by recreational motorboats, see **ACTIVE** page 9

### Public Relations Picking up the Pace at First Light Power



One of six generators at Cabot Station.

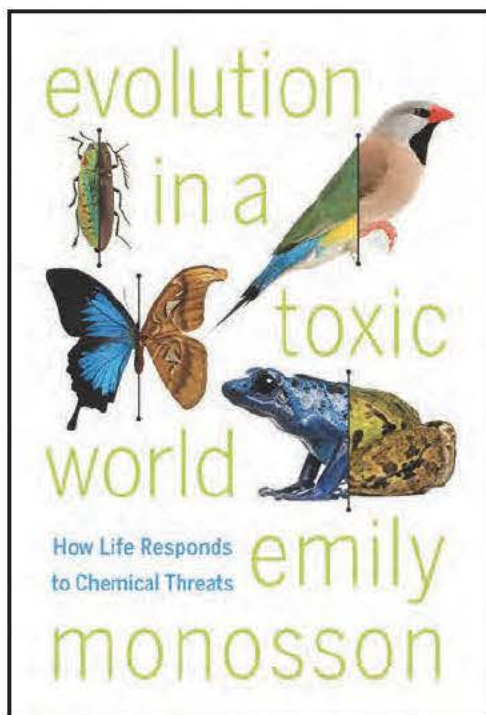
#### BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

In anticipation of filing a notice of intent for relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the staff at the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage facility hosted tours of the powerhouse, upper reservoir, tailrace and the Connecticut River from Northfield to Barton Cove and back last week. The tour was led by affable, silver-tongued John Howard, manager of Northfield Mountain, fittingly wearing a Red Sox cap. He is a credit to FirstLight and its

parent company, GDF-Suez, in deftly fielding questions with a skill perhaps equaled only by the Red Sox's Carl Yastrzemski.

Journalists and representatives from FERC, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and the riverbank owners association, along with a number of local officials pitched questions at Howard. In response to a question about see **NORTHFIELD** pg 10

## Evolution in a Toxic World



**BY SHIRA HILLEL**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - "All life is chemical. But not all chemicals are compatible with life." Thus opens a new book by environmental toxicologist and Montague resident, Dr. Emily Monosson. *Evolution in a Toxic World* (Island Press, 2012) investigates the evolutionary history of bodily responses to toxins.

Multiple new chemicals released into the environment have made the world a toxic place, yet Monosson demonstrates that the world has always been toxic.

Neighborhood Toxicologist' for the Montague Reporter.

Since its release, *Evolution in a Toxic World* has received critical praise from science oriented journals and libraries. Monosson synthesized disparate information in an attempt to apply theories of evolution to the field of toxicology. Her survey of very different studies related to chemical defense systems has been called "groundbreaking."

Sitting in the Lady Killigrew Café, where Monosson did much of the writing of her book, she

explained some of its main scientific concepts.

Toxicology, the study of the effects of biological and synthetically produced poisons on various life forms, is an applied science essential for public health. We rely on toxicology to establish safety criteria for water quality, pesticides, drug dosages and much more.

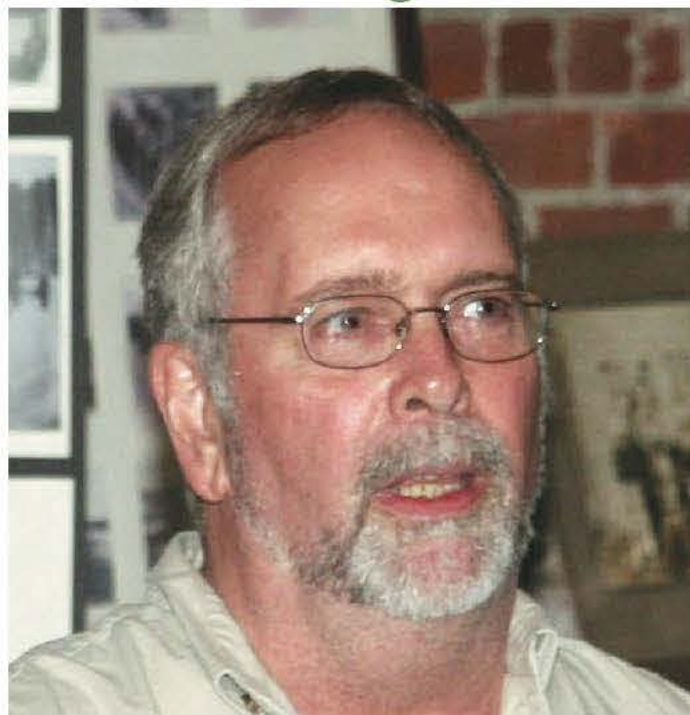
Traditionally, the field of toxicology has approached each chemical toxin in isolation, testing by changing one variable at a time. Through this method, much has been learned about exposure to individual chemicals.

However, single-chemical testing is inadequate in today's world. "In reality we are exposed to many different potentially toxic chemicals through consumer products, food, water, and the air we breathe," said Monosson. We need to learn more about how these chemicals act in combination and to do so, we need to examine many changes at once in a complex system.

"The problem today is that in a blink of time, we changed the Earth," Monosson said. "We've added a lot of new synthetic chemicals and redistributed a lot of natural chemicals."

It is unknown how humans will respond to the new chemical burden our see **EVOLUTION** pg 7

## Irish Tales, Legends and Confessions



Mike Makin was among the crowd at Irish Tales and Legends of Turners Falls at the Great Falls Discovery Center

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**GREAT FALLS** - There may be a conflict of interest in my reporting on Irish night. Celtic people established a number of settlement centers beginning in the early 4th century BC in Poland, mostly in the southern mountains where my mother was born. They don't speak Gaelic, but their dialect differs from Polish spoken elsewhere in the country.

Irish Night at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls, Friday September 28th, saw a crowd

of about 40 people who braved a dark and rainy night. The evening began with Lisa Davol introducing the fourth and final in a series of "Turners Falls Tales and Legends" sponsored by the RiverCulture program (although cries have since gone up on Avenue A demanding equal time for the Italians).

Davol introduced town manager Frank Abbondanzio, who sounds suspiciously like he might be Italian. But he began his presentation by pub-

licly confessing to being of Irish descent before giving an overview of Irish immigration to America.

He focused on the Irish immigration experience, working life, Irish neighborhoods, Irish family and community life.

Irish immigrants flocked to America after the potato blight caused widespread famine in mid-19th century Ireland. When the potato crops failed, the Irish farmers could neither pay their rent nor find food to eat; potatoes were their main source of sustenance. Upon evicting the tenant farmers, the English property managers often destroyed the Irish tenant's cottages to forestall squatting by the now homeless natives, leaving them to huddle by the roadsides in misery and desperation.

The Irish were the poorest of all immigrants coming to America in the 19th century and often lived in cellars or shacks thrown together in the alleyways of New York and Boston, where they lived in squalor and misery. The estimated death rate for infants born to Irish immigrants in New York City was 80%.

Because of the sudden influx of hordes of poor, often unskilled people, businesses posted "No Irish Need Apply" see **IRISH TALES** pg 12



## PETS OF THE WEEK

### Spunky Kitty



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

### Omara

This is Omara. She's a two-year old female medium hair cat in need of a home.

She's got spunk and she knows how to use it! We don't think she likes young children very much but she may be able to live with other animals. We just aren't sure since she came to us as a stray. She also would probably be happiest if given a home where she has indoor/outdoor options.

For more information on adopting her, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.



## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Story Time

Christine Speck of Turners Falls adjusted her daughter's leaf crown while she browsed a colorful new book on seeds.

The leaf crowns were very popular with the crowd at Story Time on Wednesday, October 1st.

Story Time meets every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. It is designed for young children and their parents or other caregivers. For more information, call 413-863-3214.

## Secondary Python Rescued



DETOLD PHOTO

Tim Little holds up a python found at the Montague Sewer Treatment plant.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - Last Friday, before the sun came up, John Little went to grab a fluorine sample from the chlorine contact tank.

Just the start of another normal day at the Montague wastewater treatment plant. Until he stopped by the secondary clarifier and

stepped on a four foot long ball python.

"I freaked out," said Little, who is a big guy, not someone likely to startle easily.

But put yourself in his shoes. How'd you like to step on a snake longer than your arm some foggy New England morning before the sun comes up?

Global warming may be heading to our neck of the woods, sooner rather than later, but still, nighttime temps have not been exactly tropical lately.

Little said the python appeared to have crawled into the treatment plant grounds from under the fence and huddled up near the secondary clarifier tank to soak any residual warmth it could find.

Little was so shook up by the encounter, he made his son Tim, who also works at the plant, pick up the snake and put it in a garbage can. Then they called the police, who weren't exactly eager to come

see BOA page 5



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ** - Q. My 40-year-old son was just diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. What can he expect from this as he gets older?

Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT) was identified in 1886 by three physicians: Jean-Martin Charcot (sharr-KOE) and Pierre Marie in France, and Howard Henry Tooth in England. CMT is also known as hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy (HMSN).

CMT is a group of related conditions all caused by inherited mutations in genes.

While you probably have never heard of it, CMT is one of the most common inherited neurological disorders. It affects about 1 in 2,500

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

### Charcot - Marie - Tooth Disease

people in the United States.

CMT impacts the peripheral nerves, the ones outside the brain and spinal cord. CMT affects both motor and sensory nerves.

Symptoms usually begin to show up in adolescence or early adulthood, but some people begin to develop symptoms later. The severity of symptoms varies even among family members with the disease.

Life expectancy is normal for people with CMT.

CMT causes weakness, decreased muscle bulk and sensation in the feet and lower legs. The weakness can lead to deformities such as misshapen legs, high foot arches, curled toes, inverted heels and flat feet.

Muscle weakness can cause difficulty lifting your foot at the ankle (foot drop), a higher-than-normal step, tripping and falling.

Symptoms progress gradually. As they worsen, there can be weakness in the arms and hands. There is pain associated with CMT. In some



## Where's that Leak?

After digging around Station and Main for two more days this week, trying to find the small, persistent leak in the newly installed water line the DPW installed this summer leading to the former Montague Center School building, superintendent Tom Bergeron said Wednesday at quitting time, "We're still battling it. All our joints are good. We're going to have to dig that pipe up and see if it's broken anywhere. We'll stay at it until we find it. It's all we can do."

## Voter Registration Deadline

### Next Wednesday for November 6th Election

**BY GRETCHEN SMITH**

**WENDELL** - Wednesday, October 17th is the last day to register to vote for the November 6th state and national election.

You may register in person at the town clerk's office or at the Registry of Motor Vehicles or by mail. The town clerk's office will be open from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. that day. Mail in registrations must be postmarked by October 17th to be valid for the November 6th election. Anyone who has changed their address must re-register at their new address.

Eligible voters must be at least 18 years of age on, or prior to, November 6th.

Registered voters who are unable to vote at the polls on election day may complete an absen-

tee ballot application and submit it to the town clerk's office no later than noon on Monday, November 5th.

To confirm your voter registration, or change your voter status from inactive to active, call the town clerk at 978-544-3395 (x 102.) The office, located at 9 Morse Village Road in Wendell, is open Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wendell residents please note: there will be a special town meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. The warrant for this town meeting is posted at the town office building, as is the ballot for the presidential election.

toenails and infections. Professional pedicures are a good idea.

• Wear well-fitting and protective shoes. Consider boots or high-top shoes for ankle support.

More information is available from the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA). Visit: [www.charcot-marie-tooth.org](http://www.charcot-marie-tooth.org). Email: [info@cmtausa.org](mailto:info@cmtausa.org). Call: 610-499-9264 or 800-606-CMTA (2682).

Send your questions to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).

## Great Falls Middle School

### Students of the Week

#### Grade 6

Kelsey Belleau  
Samantha Bocon

#### Grade 7

Carlie Kretchmar

#### Grade 8

Ricky Smith

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## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 15th- 19th

### GILL-MONTAGUE

Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Roberta Potter is the Council on Aging Director. For information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 413-863-9357. Leave a message, if the center is not open.

#### Monday, October 15th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday, October 16th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1:00 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday, October 17th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday, October 18th

9:00 a.m. No Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday, October 19th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Writing Group

### ERVING

Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. Lunch is daily 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, and find out when will be the next blood pressure clinic.

#### Monday, October 15th

9:00 a.m. Fitness Class

12:30 Quilting

#### Tuesday, October 16th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Program

12:30 p.m. Painting

#### Wednesday, October 17th

9:00 a.m. Dance Classes

10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group

12:00 Bingo

#### Thursday, October 18th

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic

9:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect

#### Friday, October 19th

9:00 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch

### LEVERETT Senior Activities

• Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).

• Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12 p.m. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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

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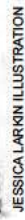
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August, 2002

## Franklin Medical Center's Nurses Strike

BY GLORIA KEGELES

**GREENFIELD** - Nurses, the most gentle and personal of human caretakers, have staged a one day strike in Greenfield. The Franklin Medical Center's (FMC) nurses took this unusual action on Friday, October 5th for the first time. Contract negotiations between the Massachusetts Nursing Association (MNA) bargaining committee and Baystate Health Systems, Inc. have failed to produce an agreement after ten months and 26 negotiation sessions.

Nursing jobs, like accounting and teaching, cannot be outsourced to China for cheap labor. It's corporate business as usual even in our beloved Franklin County, where we like to believe ours is a community-oriented hospital primarily looking out for patients' best interests. Instead, Baystate Health Systems, Inc., with its more than a dozen subsidiary corporations, over 10,000 employees, and profits of \$23 million in 2011, is attempting to squeeze our nurses out of bargaining rights and existing contractual benefits such as overtime pay, while holding over them the threat of firing for using their earned sick time. Older, long-term workers feel threatened by replacement from lower-wage, non-union new hires. Respect for nurses who have spent decades working at FMC seems to have flown out the window as quickly as newly hired administrators with their union-busting Boston law firm have arrived.

Standing on the picket line last

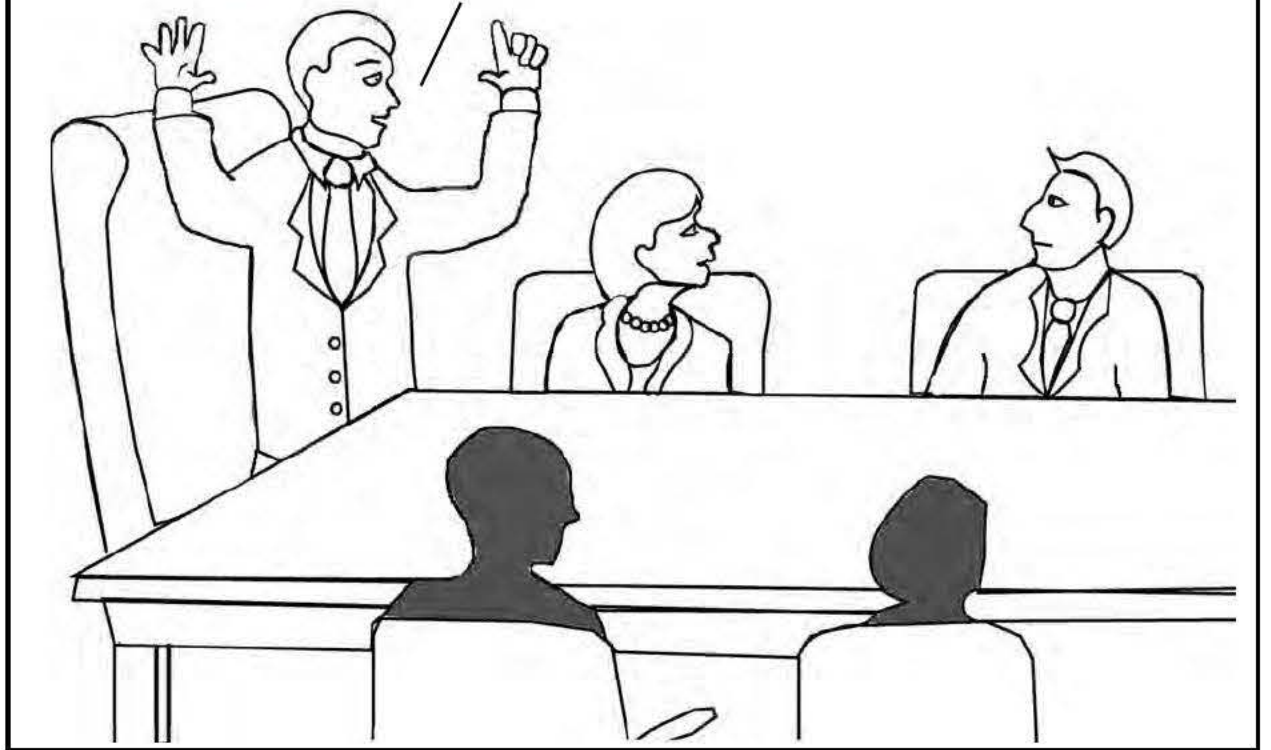
Friday as a supportive Service Employees International Union PCA worker, I witnessed 90% of the cars driving past honking their horns in support, with passengers giving thumbs up and waving. On the picket line, I met dedicated nurses who say their fight is not about money, but about the care of their patients, the interests of the community, and the integrity of their profession. They say they are standing up for safe working conditions, and to preserve their family of competent, caring, hard-working and dedicated co-workers, who have worked well together for decades. They are also trying to protect the hard-won and rapidly eroding American right to union representation.

Historically, hospitals were established by non-profits, often religious organizations, to protect the health and provide for the medical needs of the community. It is sad to see our health care dollars taken for corporate profits, top-heavy hospital and insurance company administration, lawyers to fight unions, and advertising and doctor-lobbying by pharmaceutical corporations.

The promises of Obamacare and Massachusetts Romneycare will not change this situation, as corporate interests and layers of administration maintain their grip on our health care system. Union-busting is the order of the day in America. Our nurses are extremely brave and worthy of our support as they stand their ground in their commitment to us, their patients and their community, and for the right and privilege to continue providing us the superb care we have grown to expect and love at our community hospital, Franklin Medical Center.

Hey guys, here's the game plan!

Next time the nurses walk out, we bring in a busload of replacement refs from the National Football League to fill their shifts. They're all looking for work. They won't know the difference between a forward lateral and an arterial bypass, but we'll win points for hiring the handicapped. Am I a genius? Touchdown!



CLAUDIA WELLS & SARAH DUPREY ILLUSTRATION

## A Jackson Lewis Attorney Coaches a Strategy Session at Baystate Franklin Medical

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Need Your Support

I am one of your maternity nurses at the Birthplace at Baystate Franklin Medical Center. We are proud of the care we offer. We have been recognized nationally for our pioneering work in Listening to Newborns (gentle birthing practices and support of initial bonding and self-attachment) and our work on identifying and supporting our patients struggling with postpartum emotional adjustment. Many birthing families choose the Birthplace for our midwifery-centered model of care and our one-to-one labor care. When I go to conferences and tell other attendees about what we offer at the Birthplace, they are impressed and want to know, how can we bring that to our hospital?

MNA union nurses at BFMC are currently in difficult negotiations over our contract. Imagine bringing those Birthplace values we

have all agreed upon and the focus on evidence-based practice to the negotiation table. Instead of feeling disrespected and bullied, we might feel respected, valued, and listened to.

One of the major areas of disagreement in our negotiations is about overtime pay. Currently, our contract provides overtime pay for work past a regularly scheduled 8 or 12-hour shift. Evidence and best practice says that for the safety of patients and the welfare of the nurse, a nurse should not work beyond his or her scheduled shift. Overtime pay is an incentive to encourage the hospital to staff adequately so nurses do not need to stay past their shift.

If we allow Baystate to abolish daily overtime, we will be the first union hospital to do so. As a member of the Birthplace team, I am in the forefront of improving hospital

care for birthing families. If Baystate takes the radical step to stop overtime pay for work beyond a regularly scheduled shift, it would be a backwards step in the working conditions of nurses and a backwards step in patient safety.

Please speak out today. Support your union nurse at BFMC. A hospital staffed by union nurses, protected by their union and thus assured good working conditions and the ability to speak up and advocate for their patients, is a safer and healthier hospital. Call Mark Tolosky, CEO of Baystate (413-794-5890). Tell him to treat nurses with respect. Tell him to settle a fair contract with BFMC nurses, and maintain our current overtime pay.

Nurses need your support.

— Lena Morimoto, RN  
Wendell

## Thanks for the Coverage

The "Celebration of a Fine Library Director" (MR XI #2) was terrific. It captured so well Linda Wentworth's personality and the community-centered nature of our library. I was also at Tom Wessel's

talk the week before, and again thought your article (MR XI #1 - Reading the Forest) was excellent.

All my life I've loved and read newspapers; now in retirement I read the *Montague Reporter* and

the *New York Times*. Thank you for reporting Leverett events so well.

— Joan Godsey  
Leverett

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Brave New Chemical World

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - On a trip to Europe last fall with a group from Elms College, we didn't just drink beer and dance the polka; we toured the countryside where we saw crops growing and protestors holding signs protesting genetically modified (GM) seed.

Poland mines fertilizer chemicals for export, but Polish farmers often use only manure on their fields. They usually have a variety of farm animals producing manure, and their organically grown produce is in demand throughout Europe, commanding high prices.

In a study conducted by professor Alan Dangour of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, he found no convincing evidence there was any difference in organic and conventional food. However, a UK review paper, using corrected statistical analysis, found highly significant nutritional differences in organic and non-organic fruit and vegetables. Non-chemical food may be better for other reasons.

Could it be the GMO protestors we saw were not just a bunch of kooks in search of a cause, but were warning us that we are on our

way to becoming a society of people in a chemically induced fog, like the honey bees who wander away unable to find their way home?

There have been multiple theories as to why honey bees leave their hives never to return. One day, the beekeeper opens the hive to find it empty. That there are no dead bees in the hive pretty much discounts the theory that bee mite infestation caused bee ailments, or that a fungus, bacteria or virus had poisoned them.

A variety of ailments may be contributing causes, but more and more studies seem to be pointing a finger at a combination of genetically modified seed and the chemical imidacloprid, which ends up as a deadly combination in pollen and nectar, so the bee's brain becomes damaged like the Ambian befuddled Alzheimer patient who wan-

ders away unable to find his way back home and dies of exposure or hunger. The bee flies away in search of nectar and becomes unable to find its way back to the hive with no family, police or nursing staff to bring her back home. (Worker bees are female.)

Researcher professor Lu at Harvard warns us that honey bee colony collapse may be the canary in the coal mine (canaries collapse in the presence of trace amounts of methane gas).

The greatest threat to bees seems to be the very effective pesticide imidacloprid which scientists have discovered is also lethal to the brain of bees in even trace amounts. Befuddled bees fly away from the hive, perhaps relying on directions to pollen and nectar conveyed through a befuddled fellow bee's

see **CHEMICAL** pg 5

## U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 10/10/12

Wounded: 17,674  
Deaths: 2,134



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BY TEAGAN LINNELL

The Gay Straight Alliance was revived late last year at Turners Falls High School in an effort to give every student a sense of equality and safety, and encourage each to embrace their right to freedom of expression. The GSA has a long history at Turners, having been previously included in various school clubs like the Civil Justice club; however it has been inactive for a few years. Late last year, nearly 20 students attended the first official GSA meeting. Now, the club has about ten active members, and the group is determinedly bringing

## Gay Straight Alliance Revived at Turners Falls High

awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community to TFHS.

The effect the GSA has on TFHS has been discreet thus far, however Alyssa Adams, a senior member, states, "I think the GSA is helpful because it brings people with common interests together. It helps make connections. I also feel that people feel comfortable to come out in GSA even if they don't in the entire school, because the environment in the group is safe. We're making it clear to everyone that the things we say in GSA don't get around."

Adams has devoted much of her time to the club, from volunteering to co-facilitate meetings, to distributing GSA meeting passes, and she believes wholly in the purpose of the GSA. She states, "I think it was evident when we did the Day of Silence, when so many people got

involved, that there is support outside of the GSA."

The high school and middle school joined in the Day of Silence 2012, a nationwide event when students everywhere take an oath of silence to represent and support LGBTQ students who must remain silent about their true selves due to anti-LGBTQ bullying. With both high school and middle school students, the theater was half full with 145 participants. Each person was given a rainbow ribbon to signify their stand against bullying, and throughout the day "sponsor" stickers – stickers that read "LGBTQ Ally" for those who wished to support but were required to speak during the day – could be seen being worn by an estimated 100 students and faculty.

The GSA also participated in Ally Week, a nationwide week for allies against anti-LGBTQ bullying to sign an ally pledge, stating to

"not use anti-LGBTQ language and slurs, intervene, safely if I can, in situations where other students are being harassed, support efforts to end bullying and harassment" (www.allyweek.org).

However, the group has seen negative feedback from students, and disinterest in their purpose. Adams says, "I wouldn't say non-member students don't support [GSA], but I don't think the school is fully aware of what is going on. They don't always try to get involved. But I don't think they're against us."

The GSA is working every week to create a secure environment for anyone to enter and feel comfortable, but the safe space cannot always be found outside of the club. "I don't think [tolerance] is fully embodied throughout the school community. Obvious forms of bullying aren't accepted, but small occurrences can occasionally

slip by," Adams said.

The GSA, freshly gathered this new school year, has been furthering discussions of future plans for the next Ally Week and Day of Silence. The GSA has additionally thought of creating a bulletin board updating students on the club's activities, and bringing more organization to weekly meetings to achieve bigger goals. Plans for possibly attending Northampton Pride March 2013 have also been discussed.

The GSA is meant to give all LGBTQ students a comfortable atmosphere to come to, because there isn't always such a place at home or in class. Adams happily confirms, "There is always someone LGBTQ students can talk to in the GSA." The club meets regularly every Thursday, from 2:00-2:25 p.m., and is open to all who wish to come.

*Teagan Linnell is a junior at Turners Falls High School.*

CHEMICAL from page 4

dance. The bees are unable to find their way home, and the beekeeper opens a hive to find it empty.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pesticides are taken up into a plant's tissues and contaminate the nectar and pollen bees collect. France has partially banned the insecticide imidacloprid largely because domestic honey production has fallen by thousands of tons a year. Beekeepers may be complicit because they take the beehive's store of winter honey and feed the bees corn syrup instead, which has trace amounts of imidacloprid in it.

In a tough world of a mechanized farming with increasing periods of drought, farmers fall under the spell of chemical companies who offer an easier, cheaper way to kill weeds, using weed killers like Roundup, and planting no-till crops of Roundup Ready seeds, reducing cultivation and thereby conserving moisture to keep the soil from drying out and blowing away.

The scientific evidence against the combined use of Roundup and Roundup Ready seeds is piling up. Roundup is the best selling weed killer for farm and home use. The most damning evidence was collected by the United States Geological Survey which has detected Roundup's active ingredient, glyphosate in streams, in the air and in rain.

Pesticide expert Warren Porter, professor of environmental toxicity and zoology at the University of Wisconsin took a look at the numbers from the United States Geological Survey, and found reason for concern that accumulated levels would alter endocrine mediated biochemical pathways in humans, leading to obesity, heart problems, circulation problems and

diabetes. Low levels of exposure to hormone disruptors like glyphosates, (Roundup's main ingredient) have been linked to weakened immune function and learning disabilities.

Our schools are seeing increasing numbers of attention deficit-hyper activity disorder afflicted children, teens and even adults.

Roundup used in combination with Roundup Ready seeds results in a double environmental whammy. To tolerate the weed killing properties of Roundup, Roundup Ready seeds result in plants that are receptive to the weed killer chemical glyphosate. The chemical is taken up by the plant and distributed into nectar and pollen that bees collect. Pollen also becomes wind born as the plants give off vapor. As a result, glyphosate has become present in food, air, water and even rain, as detected by the United States Geological Survey.

New super weeds have sprung up, including Roundup tolerant giant ragweed, capable of surviving being sprayed with 24 times stronger solutions of Roundup than usual. Since the giant ragweed's root system makes up the greatest part of this five foot bushy plant, one ragweed plant will suck out the moisture and nutrients from a 15 meter area, resulting in poor crop growth. So far, weed experts have devised no quick remedy for the problem chemical companies have created.

Protestors in Poland do not like their neighbors using GM seeds because wind-born pollen from GM plants pollinate their traditionally grown plants.

So far, I have not heard of any large scale cases of bee colony collapse disorder in Poland.



from LEVERETT page 1

when land lines were down. "Communication is paramount for our ability to function," Billings said. He noted town cruisers are equipped with mobile data terminals that depend on cell tower transmission and said there are only a few places in town where they presently get service. "If we need to look something up, we need to drive across town." The meeting applauded when he concluded, "We need cell phone towers in Leverett for public safety officers to perform their duties."

Fire chief John Moruzzi told the meeting there had been occasions when the fire department could have used dependable cell phone service. He recalled when a plane crashed in town recently, and firefighters needed to call federal agencies, they had to relay the discussion through Shelburne Control's emergency communication system. "I am in favor of cell service," he said to applause.

Nancy Grossman, an opponent of the April 2012 version of the bylaw and chair of the cell tower study committee, said the revised bylaw under consideration was based on the committee's recommendations. She said the 1996 federal Telecommunications Act prohibits any

restriction on tower siting based on health concerns, so the committee's final report, available on the town's website, did not include any health-based siting recommendations.

As stated in the report, "the committee asserts that given the current state of knowledge and absent any identified mechanism of disease causation, the recommended setbacks provide a sufficient basis for reassurance to those who had expressed concerns about

potential effects of cell tower development on human and animal health as well as property values in Leverett." Grossman said there were "disturbing" studies on the effects of cell tower radiation on wildlife, and there was "no comfortable resolution for that issue." She added that, even with the less restrictive zoning bylaw, cell tower companies "may not be knocking on our door."

Chris Nelson told the meeting, "I am pining for a cell phone. I

from BOA page 2

deal with a python in a garbage can.

Good thing we have an exotic herpetological supply store right here in Turners! The Montague police got in touch with Cynthia Rich, an employee at Black Jungle Terrarium Supply, which sells everything from poison dart frogs to carnivorous plants, right on Avenue A. Her husband, Shane, dropped by and took the ball python off the sewer treatment plant employees' hands.

Shane said this is in fact the second ball python he and his wife have rescued from the vicinity of the bike path, near the treatment plant, in the last two weeks. He speculates that someone had kept the pythons as pets, and for whatever reason, released them near the river in Montague City, where they would have surely perished of the cold had someone not picked them up and brought them to a warm terrarium.

Cynthia said the first ball python was found by a fisherman, a week before Little stepped on the second python by the secondary clarifier.

The Riches will keep the pythons as pets. They already have

have not had Verizon [land line] service since Friday. When I called Verizon, they said, 'Please give us your cell phone number so we can contact you'. This article definitely should pass."

After the revised cell phone tower bylaw passed on a hand count, the meeting quickly passed Article 2, editorial changes to the zoning bylaws, and Article 3, payment of a bill from fiscal year 2012, with unanimous voice votes.



many snakes, and Shane said, "When I rescue snakes, they're mine. I never sell them or bring them to new homes."

Cynthia said her husband "loves snakes." She seemed a bit embarrassed by the number of snakes now in residence, and did not say exactly how many snakes they have living in their home.

Cynthia added people should never release pet snakes into the wild.

"If they get sick of them, or for whatever reason, there are plenty of people who will take a snake, especially if they're free."

Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley, who was in much warmer climes, at a conference in New Orleans last Friday, wanted to assure the public, "The snake did not find its way through the sewer system to the plant." Trombley wanted to make this point clear.

There are no snakes in the sewer system, he added. Now that's a relief!



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## Inaugural Hilltowns History Conference and Fair

BY SHEILA DAMKOEHLER

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"The First Flag-Raising at an American Public School 1812" by Frank Schoonover.

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## "Vermont Yankee Banner Drop"



The Shut It Down Affinity Group poses a question on the Mountain Drive overpass in Hatfield



A positive message from the Vocal Chordz affinity group in Putney

Members of the SAGE Alliance protested the continued operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor over the Columbus Day weekend by displaying banners with anti-nuclear messages from 22 bridges over I-91 and I-89 from Northampton, MA to Burlington, VT.

Here, members of the Quinehtukut affinity group from Northfield display a banner telling motorists they are entering a nuclear reactor evacuation zone from the overpass on Burke Flat Road in Bernardston on Friday.

Vermont Yankee's owner, Entergy Louisiana, is suing the state of Vermont to keep their 40-year old reactor operating, in opposition to the democratic will of Vermont's legislature and governor. Hearings before the Vermont Public Service Board, which could be determinative in whether Vermont Yankee continues to operate, will begin in the Vernon at the elementary school on Wednesday, November 7th, at 7 p.m., and the downwind public is welcome to come and testify.

from **EVOLUTION** page 1

bodies are carrying. "Those chemicals in us today weren't in our grandparents." Some of them may be harmless alone but could have interactions with other chemicals in our bodies, Monosson said.

While the study of evolution has advanced many other sciences, from conservation biology to medicine, the field of toxicology has yet to embrace it. Monosson believes theories of evolution should be applied to the field of toxicology to provide a contextual framework. As explained in her book, when viewed through the lens of evolution, toxicology's "pile of sundry facts" comes into clearer focus and a "meaningful picture as a whole" is revealed.

Since life evolved in a world of potentially toxic chemicals, a system of defenses also had to evolve in order to ensure survival. Monosson traces the development of life's chemical defense systems — mechanisms that excrete, metabolize or transform, and sequester or stow away, harmful chemicals. By looking to that history, she hopes to shed new light on these defense systems, and how they will adapt to the rapidly changing conditions our bodies face today.

The more we know about how our internal defense network operates, the better we can predict how it will react to complex chemical exposures. Monosson argues that by examining how earlier life forms adapted to threats, we can learn about how they may react to contemporary contaminants. Evolutionary history may enable us to forecast which defense systems, or network of systems working in conjunction, might respond to today's chemically altered environment.

"The human body can repair DNA, defuse toxic substances,

and metabolize plant-based pharmaceuticals because our earliest ancestors — in some cases, single-celled organisms — developed defense systems to protect themselves against dangerous chemicals. Tracing how our defense systems evolved can teach us a great deal," about which systems are resilient and which are sensitive to pollutants.

This understanding could lead to better management and preventative measures, and to better treatment of current diseases, in particular cancer.

People tend to mythologize nature and evolution. It is often described hyperbolically in popular culture as a "perfect" system. Monosson pointed out that nature's solutions are not always perfectly elegant and efficient. Evolution has come up with some Rube Goldberg workarounds.

When life on Earth began, over 3.5 billion years ago, there were poisons all around. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is one of the oldest dangers life on Earth faced; ultraviolet rays break apart

and damages DNA. At that time, the Earth had little oxygen in the atmosphere and the protective ozone layer that today shields us from UV rays had yet to develop. In response, an enzyme, photolyase, evolved to repair UV damage to DNA in microbes.

Ancient photolyase enzymes function today in almost all living organisms exposed to sunlight, from bacteria to fungi to animals. However, placental mammals, including humans, are the exception. They don't have that single working enzyme and rely instead on a variety of less efficient mechanisms for DNA repair. This lack, Monosson believes, may be why skin cancer in humans is so widespread.

Monosson stressed the significance of the rate of evolutionary change in response to toxic pollutants. Processes of plasticity, rapid evolution and natural selection are not yet fully understood, she said. Plasticity and rapid evolution are adaptive changes that can occur over a single lifetime. Evolution's natural selection process, on the

other hand, is slow and requires many generations.

Evolution can happen rapidly in response to toxic chemicals. Bacteria reproduce so fast that they quickly evolve resistance to drugs used to treat disease, resulting in frightening new ailments such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. Similarly, insects can rapidly evolve resistance to pesticides, and weeds to herbicides.

"We once believed that evolution happens slowly, too slowly to observe in our lifetime. But in the past hundred years, scientists have observed rapid evolution, not just in bacteria, but also in fish and birds. For example, killifish living in high concentrations of PCBs and dioxins have evolved resistance to these pollutants. We don't know yet how quickly evolution can happen in humans, but it may well be much faster than we think."

Slow evolutionary change also holds lessons, Monosson said.

Estrogen receptors help control the use of the reproductive hor-

mone estrogen. Some industrial chemicals bond with the receptor, disrupting reproduction for an array of living creatures. A better understanding of stable and slow to evolve estrogen receptors could have helped regulators predict that chemicals interfering with them would have widespread environmental effects, Monosson said.

As we alter the world's chemistry, our defenses may be overwhelmed faster than our bodies can adapt.

On the other hand, after people learn about specific toxins, industry policy makers often take measures to phase out the production of dangerous chemicals so following generations won't be similarly exposed. The central question is whether our chemical defense systems are mutable enough to keep up.

When asked if the human race will die out like the dinosaurs or mutate like the X-Men, Monosson said that remains to be seen.



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## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## A Request for Club Advisors at TFHS



Mark Prince, interim superintendent and Joyce Phillips, chair, of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee

BY ELLEN

**BLANCHETTE** - Student representative Sam Danford presented plans for the fall in the wake of a limited Booster Day celebration this year. A Homecoming Parade to be held on Saturday, November 17th, will open what the students call Turkey Day celebrations. The parade, including floats, will bring together community members, athletes, students and members from the school committee. More events follow during the week leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. On Monday, November 19th, students will participate in a volleyball tournament; on Tuesday, art and music events. On Wednesday they will hold a pep rally, all of which will culminate on Thursday, November 22nd, with the high school football game.

Patricia Gardner, principal of the Turners Falls High School, brought a request to the school committee for funding and approval of a job description for new club advisors. The principal, working with parents on the school community council, put together a survey of students' interests and created a

list of clubs from the survey results.

Club preferences included Culture through Cooking Club, Ultimate Frisbee, Glee Club, Outing Club and Dance Team.

Gardner told the story of a group of girls at the high school that had already created an unofficial dance group by studying together outside of school, and then bringing their dance team activities into the school to perform at various events during the year. Likewise, a group of students formed an a cappella boys choir last year and performed in the talent show. Gardner said the interest and enthusiasm these students have shown how important clubs can be in keeping students involved and attending school.

Gardner asked the school committee to support an \$8,000 transfer to support the job description for club advisors.

Interim superintendent Mark Prince expressed support for the efforts of the parents and students and said he was inclined to approve Gardner's request for the clubs and advisors. However, he said he had to first examine the budgetary

issues to determine how to pay for the recommended advisors. The issue will be on the agenda for the next school committee meeting.

Food services manager Jim Loynd asked the school committee to approve a new policy to address the increasing debt in his department. Food services is a non-profit business, not supported by local tax dollars. The operational budget comes from daily revenues and from state and federal subsidies. Loynd said resolution of the debt issue was important to his department's ability to continue to provide fresh fruit and salad in the cafeteria. He said each time he has to send a letter home to a family not paying what they owe, he thinks, "That's an apple. The cost of a 45 cent stamp and my time is equal to one apple for the students." He said the debt continues to rise, and he asked the members to approve a policy that will include sending a letter home along with a form for a free or reduced cost lunch after the third day of a student failing to bring money for lunch. During those

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error majority of registered voters, reversing Brown's earlier standing in most recent polls. She attacked Brown early and often as the errand boy for the wealthy, willing to do the bidding of "millionaires, billionaires, and big oil companies," and keeping them from paying "their fair share," of taxes.

Brown insisted, "I'm working very hard for the middle class." He also maintained that the folks at the top of the economic heap "are the job creators" for the country at large. Imposing a heavier tax burden on the super rich would lead to more economic hardship for the middle class, Brown said.

Despite Madigan's best attempts to keep silence in the sold out 2600 seat hall, that line caused loud groans.

Brown was more successful fielding a question about his stance on women's rights. (Madigan did not bother to ask about gay rights, nor did the words energy policy or global warming ever pass his lips.)

Brown talked about his childhood growing up in a household with an abusive stepfather, and his voice took on a respectful, quieter tone, perhaps in recognition of his nine point deficit to Warren among women voters.

Brown averred he was pro-choice, supported *Roe v. Wade*, believed in women getting the same pay and benefits as men, and fought to maintain funding for Planned Parenthood in the Senate. Warren charged Brown had voted against equal pay for women the one chance he had to cast a vote on the issue, voted for the Blunt Amendment to allow employers to opt out of providing insurance coverage for contraception for moral reasons, and voted against a pro-choice woman for the Supreme Court in the person of Sonya Sotomayor.

"The women of Massachusetts need a senator they can depend on not some of the time, but all of the time," she said.

Brown countered, "I'm not

willing to pit Catholics against their faith."

Brown, although he said "everything should be on the table," when it came to cutting government spending and reducing the deficit, assailed Warren for stating she favored more cuts in military spending. Warren countered the US was winding down from two wars, and could afford to reduce its standing army.

Brown defended his vote for universal health care in Massachusetts, but said he would vote to appeal the national health care bill built from the same model, which he claimed would kill jobs.

Warren supported Obama's health care plan.

Brown said, "I believe everyone should have health care. That's why I voted as I did in Massachusetts. We should set the standard for other states." But he said the idea that the federal government should tell Massachusetts doctors and hospitals how to provide treatment was anathema to him, and he charged Warren with supporting Obama's plan despite his claim that it would take "three quarters of a trillion dollars of Medicare coverage away from seniors."

Warren rejected that, saying the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has determined the national Affordable Care Act will take no money from seniors' benefits, but instead cut waste, fraud and insurance overcharges out of the system.

On the issue of unemployment, Warren said Brown had voted against "three jobs bills in a row," which she said could have boosted employment in Massachusetts by 22,000 jobs, simply because the bills would have required higher taxes on "millionaires and billionaires."

Brown said regulatory uncertainty was a drag on job growth, and vowed he would never raise taxes on anybody, especially in the midst of a protracted recession. He compared Washington politicians to "pigs at a trough," a line that drew applause from his supporters though he himself

has been in Washington for some years now.

Warren spoke of her signature achievement, pushing for and helping to create a Consumer Protection Agency in Washington, which she said has already saved consumers half a billion dollars by going after credit card and mortgage lending abuse.

Brown took credit for being a key committee vote in support of that measure, saying the Consumer Protection Agency "would never have happened if I hadn't been there; I made it better."

On education, Brown said administrative costs were a major driver of the high cost of tuition and student loans. He accused Warren of being paid \$350,000 from Harvard to teach one course as an example of administrative excess in higher education.

Warren called for investments in community colleges, hiring more teachers, and said every dollar spent on early childhood education paid for itself many times over in long term economic growth via a stable, educated workforce. She said higher taxes on millionaires and billionaires, and reduced subsidies to oil companies could pay for these investments.

MB

from HISTORY page 6

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A Big Top Tent will feature vendors, hilltown historical societies and experts in many fields to answer your questions about genealogy, textiles, old tools and more. Purchase old maps, books, ephemera, souvenirs and vintage auction items, and enjoy great music and food.

The conference portion of this daylong event, for which a nominal fee is required, will be held inside the Colrain Central School from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with plenty of time set aside to visit the fair. Check out the impressive list of offerings and register for the conference at [www.marylyon.org](http://www.marylyon.org).

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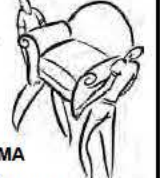
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**ACTIVE from page 1**

but Northfield Mountain has nonetheless been engaged in a long process of riverbank erosion remediation, in consultation with a committee of local landowners, assisted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Banash said with the recent switch to using tree stumps and other woody debris to stabilize the riverbanks, "I think they are doing it right. I just don't think they are doing it fast enough. One thousand feet [of riverbank erosion remediation a year] is not enough."

Banash, along with selectboard member John Ward and town administrative coordinator Ray Purington, were among the participants in a tour of First Light's facilities last week.

Banash said the First Light tour guides seemed surprised to see the number of town officials who turned up for that boat cruise and walkthrough of Northfield Mountain.

Banash said it was particularly striking to see how the riverbank had eroded along the stretch of land across from the intake tunnel to the utility's upper reservoir, a stretch of land owned by Skeezy Flagg. She said the utility blamed the failure of erosion control there on Flagg's cows getting loose and eating the material the company had used to prevent bank erosion. Flagg, in return, has contended it is the utility's job to put up a fence to keep his cows from wandering onto the section of the riverbank the company claims a right to as utility property. Apparently, the utility

did build such a fence, but the cows broke through it anyway.

Flagg's response to this, according to Banash, was, "You guys better ask me how to install a fence."

In any case, Banash said, "It was so obvious how much land had eroded," along this stretch of the river.

The 1,192 MW electric facility at Northfield Mountain operates with four giant reversible turbines, each of which can pump water out of the river (which the company refers to as its 'lower reservoir') at a rate of 20,000 gallons per second, to fill a 5.6 billion gallon upper reservoir through the 2500-foot intake tunnel carved through the mountain. When the upper reservoir is filling, the river current runs backwards along this stretch of the river; discharge of the stored river water from the upper reservoir also causes turbulent

flows that would seem to dwarf the wake of an average motorboat.

Selectboard member Ward took issue with the license changes Northfield Mountain is proposing, which he said included an increased capacity in the upper reservoir, combined with either upgrading the turbines at Turners Falls hydro station #1 (near the old Railroad Salvage building) or upgrading the Cabot Station hydro facility instead.

Ward said, "Everything they are proposing is a revenue increasing measure — increasing turbine capacity." He added, "We need to get back toward the original license," for the facility, which, Ward said, in 1972 when Northfield Mountain opened, stipulated that the utility would pump water up the mountain during off peak hours (night) and generate power during periods of peak demand. In recent

years, Ward said, the company has been allowed to depart from that regimen.

Ward also made the statement, "Out West, the people wouldn't buy it. Here in the East, people have the attitude, 'Oh, well, the utility controls the river'."

Ward said he generally favored measures to increase the flow in the so-called 'dead reach' of the Connecticut River, where an endangered species of Atlantic sturgeon are essentially trapped downstream of the Turners Falls dam, and to decrease turbulent flows during periods when migratory fish spawn.

Ward also stated he did not believe the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor would continue to operate into the period of Northfield Mountain's relicensing.

If that hypothesis proves true, all three of the selectboard members openly questioned whether the economics of power generation in this region of New England would continue to make sense for Northfield Mountain.

Critics contend the pumped hydro facility, which uses more power than it generates, only makes a profit because it can tap into cheap off peak power from nuclear reactors like Vermont Yankee as it goes through its 11 hour pump cycle.

In any event, Banash, who works with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for her day job, said the FRCOG is considering how much staff time to devote to the relicensing hearings for Northfield Mountain.

She said the COG was likely to take a lead role, because many of the other stakeholders were working as volunteers.

"Relicensing is a really big issue," said Banash. "No one is talking about shutting [Northfield Mountain] down. But we're not going to roll over."

Ward and Crochier agreed with her when she said the Gill selectboard was likely to be spending considerable time on this issue in the years ahead.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG****Loose Goats, Female in Labor****Sunday, 9/23**

4:30 p.m. Officer assisted State Police with motor vehicle pursuit in Factory Hollow, French King Highway.

8:20 p.m. Officer removed upset female from French King Bridge, brought to family member, then to hospital.

**Monday, 9/24**

8:30 a.m. Served restraining order to party on Barney Hale Road.

12:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with arrest of subject at Windmill Hotel with two warrants.

7:58 p.m. Medical assist on West Gill Road. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center.

**Tuesday, 9/25**

1:15 p.m. Medical assist at Town Hall. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center.

2:45 p.m. Reported loose goats on Main Road.

Wednesday, 9/26  
12:57 p.m. Officer located three dead

dogs on Pisgah Mt. Road.

5:15 p.m. Officer requested for welfare check of family on Munn's Ferry Road. No one located.

**Thursday, 9/27**

8:20 p.m. Court Process served to party from Boyle Road.

**Friday, 9/28**

9:45 a.m. 911 call from Mt. Hermon. Problems with the phone lines.

**Saturday, 9/29**

8:35 a.m. Court Process served to party from French King Highway.

5:08 p.m. Motor vehicle accident reported on Hoe Shop Road. Subject transported.

**Sunday, 9/30**

4:10 p.m. Officer requested for illegal burning at Mt. Road residence.

**Monday, 10/1**

5:45 p.m. Officer requested to Highland Road residence for Welfare Check.

**Tuesday, 10/2**

5:30 p.m. Officer

requested to Mt. Road residence for illegal burning.

**Wednesday, 10/3**

4:26 p.m. Assisted Erving Police with motor vehicle accident on Forrest Street.

**Friday, 10/5**

6:38 p.m. Removed intoxicated male from Gill Montague Bridge. Subject transported to Greenfield.

7:10 p.m. Medical assist to party on River Road.

**Saturday, 10/6**

10:40 a.m. Escorted family with female in labor to Franklin Medical Center.

11:45 a.m. Resident of Mt. Road at station for motor vehicle complaint of speeding on Mt. Road.

Identified gold Impala motor vehicle.

4:15 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with crowd control at High School football game.

9:00 p.m. Requested to West Gill Road residence to remove intoxicated female.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG****Dogs Lost & Found; Motor Vehicle Crash****Tuesday, 10/2**

9:30 a.m. Located dog on Mountain Road, running loose, brought back to owner.

12:10 p.m. Motor vehicle crash at Paper Mill Road and Forest Street, report taken.

2:30 p.m. Motor vehicle crash Northfield Road, Route 63, report taken.

**Wednesday, 10/3**

2:00 p.m. Welfare check Northfield Road resident, found same to be fine.

4:30 p.m. Motor vehicle crash Route 2 and Forest Street, assisted on scene with Massachusetts State Police.

5:30 p.m. DMV Route 2 at bypass, vehicle towed.

6:00 p.m. DMV Route 2 at Christiana's Restaurant, same removed.

7:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle with revoked license for OUI Liquor and defective equipment, French King highway  
9:30 p.m. Possible Breaking & entering at senior center, lock broken, building found to be secure.

**Thursday, 10/4**

12:30 p.m. Dog complaint,

Pratt Street, advised owners of bylaws and registering dogs.

1:20 p.m. Report of loose Great Dane running in Route 2, gone upon arrival.

11:00 p.m. Tree limbs in Route 2, removed same.

**Friday, 10/5**

5:00 a.m. Medical emergency, Dunkin Donuts, Route 2, assisted on scene.

3:40 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, East Main Street and Church Streets, report taken.

7:15 p.m. Report of shots fired in the North Street area, unfounded.

8:00 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating after suspension.

**Saturday, 10/6**

1:30 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating under the influence, no inspection sticker, no seat belt and open container, Northfield Road.

6:00 a.m. Report of male subject walking south bound on Route 63 and South Mountain Road in Northfield, possibly intoxicated, gone upon arrival.

4:30 p.m. assisted Montague police with fight at football

**SCHOOL from page 8**

three days the student will get a regular lunch and the cost will be charged to their account. After this, if the parents do not respond, the student will receive an alternate lunch and a phone call from the principal or teacher will be made to reach out to the family to resolve the issue, with a request that the bill be paid or the student be provided lunch to bring from home.

Superintendent Prince assured school committee

members that no child would go without food if she or he did not bring lunch. "We will make sure a student doesn't operate during the day hungry or go home hungry." The school committee voted unanimously to approve the request.

The next regular Gill-Montague school committee meeting will be held on October 23rd, at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



game.

9:20 p.m. motor vehicle parked on Route 63 blocking south-bound lane, same advised to move vehicle from roadway.

**Sunday, 10/7**

12:30 a.m. Report of alarm at Weatherhead's convenience store, found same to be secure, accidental.

1:05 am Assisted Bernardston

police with disturbance at Bella Notte, subjects moved along.

10:30 a.m. Medical emergency Wells Street, assisted on scene.

11:40 a.m. Report of male black lab running on the French King Bridge, brought to owner and advised to register.

7:00 p.m. Report of loud noises at Pratt Street, found to be residents talking and laughing.

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# Sandy Facteau on Patrol



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Sandy Facteau on the beat

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** - A model citizen patrols the Food City Plaza parking lot. Sandy Facteau pulls weeds with a "grabber gadget" from her motorized wheelchair, and picks up cigarette butts that thoughtless people drop. She cleaned out a little island at the main Avenue A entrance and filled it with clean white crushed limestone. "I pick up litter people throw on the ground, so the parking lot will look better," Sandy said. "I

get paid for it by all the nice people I meet. Steve at Aubuchon's and Jon at Food City are my friends; Jon gave me a cup of coffee, today."

So, say "Hello" to Sandy next time you see her, and please help her by not tossing your butts and rubbish on the ground. You can drop off a note or card for Sandy at Food City to tell her what a great job she's doing.

The world needs more people like Sandy.

from **NORTHFIELD** pg 1

whether GDF-Suez was a combined company of Gaz de France and Suez in which the government of France owned a controlling interest, Howard replied, "France owns 30% of the company."

Suez is a Belgium Company formed during the building of the Panama Canal, since merged with GDF to form one of the largest gas and electric generating utilities in the world.

Howard answered all questions, though occasionally his reply was, "I don't know," or "I can't answer that."

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Erving Board of Selectmen, as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on Erik Semb's application for a new all alcoholic beverages package store liquor license for a new build convenience store at 63 French King Highway in Erving. The public hearing will be held at 6:35PM in Erving's Town Hall, 12 E. Main St. on Monday October 22, 2012.

Erving Board of Selectmen  
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

He was very knowledgeable about both the Northfield Mountain power plant operation and the Turners Falls facilities. He told how the central control operators at the Northfield Mountain power house were able to control both the Bascule and the tainter gates at the Turners Falls Dam from a ten story underground powerhouse blasted out of granite gneiss inside Northfield Mountain. He rattled off the river's elevation above sea level, the intake at the tail race and the base of the power house being 90 feet below the bottom of the river. He told of the powerhouse once being flooded about 20 feet deep in a flood in 1972, requiring generators and controls to be cleaned and dried out before resuming operation.

On the tour of the 296 acre upper reservoir, Howard pointed out the area above the 5.9 billion gallon reservoir's waterline where contractors deposited 80,000 cubic yards of silt dredged from the Connecticut by Dredge America and silt removed from the plugged intake tunnel in 2010. "That area has been seeded and is now grassed over," he said. "The reservoir is 150 feet deep, and

at some point, we plan to expand the reservoir." But he couldn't say whether it would be expanded to the area now covered by silt.

"The dike is four feet higher than designed for generating purposes, because at one time a tunnel to Quabbin Reservoir was planned, but never built."

In answer to a question about whether the facility was planning to use the four foot higher potential to increase generating capacity, his answer was not entirely clear. Reportedly, the company had used the increased reservoir capacity allowed by the four foot higher dam (though not by their federal license) during the years when Northeast Utilities owned the facility.

Asked whether First Light is exploring the possibility of excavating a new lower reservoir, separate from the river itself, Howard said, "First Light has no plans for a closed loop system with a lower reservoir separate from the river. It would take too much room. It would have to be as big as the upper reservoir which is as big as two football fields, as deep as a ten story building with a capacity of about 5.5 billion gallons of water.

On the tour of First Light's current lower reservoir, which most of us know as the Connecticut River, Quinnetukut tour guide Valerie Magoon, gave a running narration about features of the river banks, pointing out eagles, swans, cormorants, and other wildlife during the boat ride. She told the story of how the French King Rock got its name. "French explorers broke a bottle on the rock, claiming it in the name of France." When someone remarked that the French began by claiming the rock and now own the whole, Howard laughingly agreed, "That's right."

The river seemed considerably higher than usual so lily pads in the area of Barton Cove were not visible, though large patches of cattails grew in several places along the river, indicating silt deposits.

Of particular interest was the bank erosion remediation along the Connecticut River shore. GDF-Suez has used various remedies overtime to prevent the river banks from collapsing into the river between Vernon, VT and Turners Falls, which the company refers to as Northfield Mountain's lower reservoir. Protecting the banks with stone and plantings worked well, but dragonflies have difficulty climbing up the stones when they first emerge from the river during metamorphosis from their phase as an aquatic insect to a flying one. Dragonflies, which feed on mosquitoes, need to wait until their newly unfurled wings dry out before they are able to take flight. Rocks are considered an obstacle for

dragonflies.

Streambank protection with cocoa nut husk logs and mats also work well, but the husks deteriorate over time. Used tires were also tried.

The method now preferred by GDF-Suez involves placing "woody debris with roots attached" otherwise known as 'stumps' along affected areas of the riverbank, like the Split River Farm in Gill, directly across the river from the intake tunnel." They do not create an esthetically pleasing appearance for the river banks, but the method is cheap and effective according to Howard. Dragonflies may also benefit by being able to more easily negotiate the shoreline spaces between "woody debris with roots attached" when their wings are still wet.

It takes 11 hours of pumping from the river to fill the upper reservoir for eight hours of power generation, as the pumped water flows back through the turbines into the Connecticut. This imbalance is reflected in a 25% net loss of energy throughout the pump and generate cycle. But pumping takes place during periods of slack demand when facilities, such as nuclear plants, are anxious to sell power more cheaply to avoid wasting it. Releasing water at the mountain to generate power originally took place during periods of peak demand when prices were high. The facility is no longer a peak demand generating plant, but generates whenever there is a profitable demand.

Northfield Mountain's four generators crank out 1,192 megawatts. Scheduled work on two of the generators will increase generating capacity.

Since the pumps suck up water at a ferocious rate during pumping, the river actually runs backward. Again, when water is discharged during generating, the huge quantity of water released into the river sends water surging. Members of various agencies represented on the tour expressed concern about the ongoing impact of operations on fish and wildlife. Reversals of the current and turbulent flows confuse fish, particularly during spawning season when fish typically swim against the current.

On Friday, October 5th, Howard escorted a group to Turners Falls to view the Turners Falls Dam and the dam's oval shaped bascule gates fabricated by Rodney Hunt in Orange. These gates tilt to release water at the top of the dam. The tainter gates on the Gill side of the dam were viewed in the distance from the Turners Falls side. The curved tainter gates are raised, releasing water from the bottom. Both gates can be controlled from the control center at Northfield Mountain. Asked if the bottom

release feature was designed to remove accumulated silt from in front of the dam, Howard said, "If there was silt in the water, it would go downstream with the water."

The Northfield Mountain facility was first licensed in 1968. The Turners Falls plants were last licensed in 1980. Licenses expire in April of 2018. Licenses are granted for periods of from 30 to 50 years. How the period length is determined was not explained during the tour.

Fish passage through the canal and gatehouse fishways sparked a great deal of interest. The 40 year federally funded effort to restore Atlantic Salmon to the Connecticut River appears dead.

"U.S. Fish and Wildlife ceased hatchery production," Connecticut River coordinator for the Atlantic Salmon Commission Ken Sprinkle said. "Not many [salmon] made it up river. Only about ten spawning salmon were released to continue up river, the rest were held for hatchery spawning."

Journalist Karl Myer asked about the long promised fish lift at Cabot Station, similar to the one at the Holyoke dam. "The lift installation has been tabled," Ken Hogan of FERC said. "Speculation is that there's the potential of making a fish lift imperative as part of re-licensing."

Short nosed sturgeon spawn in an area in the vicinity of Rock Dam. They appear to be conspicuous by their absence. Nor has anyone has ever seen a sturgeon in the fishway at Cabot.

Station #1 and Cabot Station generate about 67 megawatts of electricity from the flow of the canal, which does not have the force of Northfield Mountain cranking out 1,192 megawatts. During periods of low flow, the utility does not operate Cabot. GDF-Suez pays Swift River Power to cease generating power at a small generating plant in the Strathmore Mill during low water flows.

Like the mills of the gods, re-licensing will grind slowly on for the next six years.



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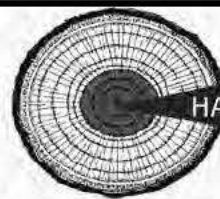
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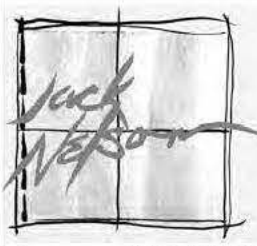
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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### ALL THE TIME:

#### EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: free after school program. 3:30 – 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 – 11:30 a.m.

Avenue A, Turners Falls: Great Falls Farmers Market, 2 – 6 p.m.

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

#### EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

#### EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

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

### ART SHOWS:

#### NOW through OCTOBER 28th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: "Eleven" - work by Hallmark Institute of Photography October 2012 Graduating Class.

#### NOW through NOVEMBER 29th

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

### LOCAL EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Special Halloween Show - Doctor Gasp "The Misshapen Jack-O-Lantern Tour" with special guest Wooden Dinosaur. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Surly Temple - Jim

Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & of course, Tommy Boynton! 8 – 10 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th

Mill Street Gallery, Greenfield: Exhibit opening - 01301: art by, for, and about Greenfield. View the group show, enjoy food and drink, meet the artists and members of the Greenfield local cultural council. 5 – 7 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse Music: Doug Hewitt Group –



Jerry Marcano as Willy Wonka: The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater Presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. 7:30 p.m. Call the Shea to reserve tickets at 413-863-2281. \$

rock & jazz fusion. Refreshments available. 7 – 9 p.m. Donations support free nature programs at the Center.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Fireseed – old-time, jazz, celtic. 7 p.m. Free.

LOOT found + made, Turners Falls: Artists reception & Loo's One Year Anniversary Party – painters Cathe Janke & Stephen Cahill exhibit Separated at Birth opening. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Local Heroes opening for Wet. Wet is a three piece band from NYC. Pop, country, folk, good feelings, mellow vibes. 8 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Fancy Trash – indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

The Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: Ed Byrne Latin Jazz Evolution. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: Katie Sachs & The Murmurations - Jazz-Influenced Indie Rock. 9 – 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: The Headband - reggae. 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: LOOT 1st Anniversary Dance Party with DJ Cool Breeze. 10 p.m. Free.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th

Variety of buildings in downtown Greenfield: The Brick + Mortar Video Art Festival – Video Art & live performances.

Variety of venues in downtown Greenfield: The Greenfield Word Festival – Poets, Spoken Word Artists, Writers.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th

Annual Leverett Harvest Festival: beginning with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Leverett Fire Department and ending with a pasta supper put on by the Leverett Elementary sixth grade – activities, vendors, food. 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Erving Senior Center: Harvest Bazaar – crafts, coffee can raffle, raffles, bake sale, plants, jewelry, books, kid's table, and more. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Colrain Center School: Hilltowns Public History Fair – food, music, genealogy, blacksmithing, archaeology for young scientists, hilltown historical societies, Mohawk Trail memorabilia, books. Ask experts about your vintage tools, dishes, clothing, gravestones and genealogy. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free.

Visitor Center at Hall Tavern, Historic Deerfield: Special Event: Archaeology Day – a guided walking tour of the Old Burying Ground at 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Free.

Visitor Center at Hall Tavern, Historic Deerfield: Historic Trades Demonstrations - English ceramics with Don Carpentier. Architectural woodworking with Ted Ingraham. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Watershed Explorers! Worms Up Close and Personal! Elementary age children and their adults can observe live worms and learn all about them from head to tail ... tail to head? How to they eat? How do they move? What is their role in nature? 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live from the Metropolitan Opera in HD – Donizetti's L'Elisir D'Amore. 12:55 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Leaf into Fall - Learn about some cool trees in Massachusetts! Collect tree leaves and cell phone photos of special tree clues for use with the New England Wild Flower Society "Go Botany" website to help identify trees. Leaves will then be hammered into a white t-shirt or other cloth to make abstract leaf art and quotes from tree lovers will be shared for inspiration. Please bring a rubber mallet if you have one. For ages 8 and older. To pre-register call 800-859-2960. 2 – 3:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library: Horror Movie – Nightmare Castle. 7:30 p.m. Free.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater Presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. 7:30 p.m. Call the Shea to reserve tickets at 413-863-2281. \$

Winterland Night Club, Greenfield: Zydeco Dance with the Zydeco Connection. Free Dance lesson at 8 p.m. Music starts at 8:30 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Misty Blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Ottomatic Slim – Chicago Style Blues. 9 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Who'da Funk It with special guests. 9:30 p.m. \$.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Tracy & Company – current & classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th

Visitor Center at Hall Tavern, Historic Deerfield: Historic Trades Demonstrations: Silversmithing with Steve Smithers. 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$.

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

St. Kazimier, Turners Falls: Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for "Keep Smiling Relay for Life team. Music will be provided by Seven Mile Line and there will be a drawing for a Husqavara sewing machine. Call Charlotte at 413-863-2413 for tickets. 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. \$.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater Presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. 2 p.m. Call the Shea to reserve tickets at 413-863-2281. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Ray Mason – indie rock. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick – Warped Americana. 7:30 – 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Karaoke by TNT productions. 9 p.m.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15th

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Screen Freshener – an informal screening series looking at exciting cinema, curated by Neil. 8 – 10:30 p.m. Free.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bingo. 8 p.m. Free.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16th

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: Behind Bars: Voices - A one-act play about the lives of women incarcerated in America. From courtroom to segregation cell – a look at the ways in which women navigate this oppressive, restrictive, and punishing environment. Social conditions, women's health, mandatory minimum drug policies, and the very real experience of being a mother and becoming a mother while incarcerated are represented in the scenes and the play concludes with a section of poetry. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Community Room, Safety Complex, Turners Falls: Ask Solarize Montague. 6:30 – 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Kristen Ford & St. Anyways. 9 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th

All Souls Unitarian Church, Greenfield: GCC Chorus presents music by Couperin, Boyce, Mozart, Billings, Mendelssohn, and Franck as well as pieces from African-American and Israeli traditions. Margery Heins, Conductor and Amy Roberts-Crawford, Accompanist. 12:15 p.m.

Montague Grange: Circle Dance. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quiznite. 8 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Karaoke with Dirty Johnny. 9 p.m. – 12 a.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18th

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Take Back our Lives - candlelight vigil and march in honor of domestic violence month.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Invasive Species - a chat with Jennifer Forman-Orth of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources about invasive species and the affect they have on people and wildlife. 7 – 8:30 p.m. Free.

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Half-Shaved. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Thurs. Tommy Filiault & Friends – Acoustic Rock. 8 - 10 p.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: Quebecois Session. 8 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Jeffrey Martin – Americana folk. 8 p.m.

#### CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smut" show in February 2013 unique and very tiny gallery.



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**Friday, 10/12** 9 to 11:30 p.m.  
Katie Sachs & the Murmurations  
**Saturday, 10/13** 9 p.m. to 12  
Ottomatic Slim - Chicago Blues  
**Sunday, 10/14** 7:30 to 10 p.m.  
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**10PM LOOT Anniversary**  
**Dance Party w. DJ Cool Breeze**

**SAT 10/13 9:30 \$3 (indie)**  
**Huckleberry Binge / Humble**  
**Patients / Who'da Funk it?**

**SUN 10/14 9pm-1am**  
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## Green Buildings Open Hours in Montague this Saturday



SALLY PICK PHOTO

**BY SALLY PICK** - Three Montague homes are on this year's regional Green Buildings Open House self-guided tour. The homes feature a deep energy retrofit, geothermal heating and cooling, and a

comprehensive energy efficiency project coupled with solar hot water and solar photovoltaics (PV) just installed through the Solarize Montague program. The buildings will be open to tour this Saturday,

October 13th, with variable hours between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Cindy Tarail and Mark Lattanzi performed a deep energy retrofit (DER) on their home, which will be on the tour. Tarail said, "We loved our beautiful antique home in the historic district of Montague Center, but it was inefficient, drafty, dusty and mildewy. Either we were going to build a new energy efficient, clean home or fix up ours. We had no desire to leave because of the great community we live in. We went after a WMECO pilot grant for deep energy retrofits. It took two years to get it. After a lot of work, we've made our house more comfortable, lowered our energy bills and created healthier indoor air while preserving the historic look of our home." Their historic preservation included restoring rather than replacing original windows.

### Montague Tour Sites:

Deep Energy Retrofit at the historic home of Cindy Tarail and Mark Lattanzi, 24 Center Street, Montague Center, open 10 a.m. to noon.

Geothermal heating and cooling; energy efficient, two-drawer dishwasher; and front-loading washing machine: 6 Main Street, Montague Center. (Go to [energysage.com/projects/nesea-gboh](http://energysage.com/projects/nesea-gboh) to get hours).

Comprehensive energy efficiency measures including foam insulation on the fieldstone basement walls, extensive sealing of air leaks, and renewable energy features (solar hot water and PV, installed through the Solarize Montague program) at the historic home of Sally Pick. 25 Union Street, Montague Center, open 1 to 3 p.m.

The Green Buildings Open House program is part of an event across the northeast, sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association. You can tour homes, commercial facilities, and other sites

in the Pioneer Valley and throughout the region. You can search the website above by the number of miles a tour site is from a zip code, by the type of green feature that you would like to visit, such as energy efficiency or solar hot water systems, and by buildings with special green designations such as passive house or zero net energy sites.

For information about Solarize Montague, a program offering reduced cost solar to Montague residents and businesses, go to [www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague](http://www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague). October 31st is the final deadline to sign a contract for discounted PV through Solarize Montague, but you still have time to participate. Solarize Mass is a partnership between the town of Montague, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the Department of Energy Resources, and the selected installer, Northeast Solar Design Associates of Hadley. For more info call: 413-559-7257.

### IRISH TALES from page 1

Irish men took the dirty and difficult jobs few wanted, as laborers on construction of railroads, roads and bridges, digging canals, brick making, bricklaying and jobs in factories. Others started up businesses, or bought horse teams to hire out on construction jobs. Later they bought trucks and became construction contractors, who came for construction work in the area, and like the Mackin family in Millers Falls and Greenfield, they stayed on as permanent residents.

Single Irish women worked as washer women or maids taking care of children, cooking and cleaning. The jobs didn't pay much, but they offered free room and board, which was attractive to the virtually penniless women who were often desperate to find decent shelter. The women, who were hard working and did their work well, also settled in towns where they found work as maids or in the mills.

Not many Irishmen engaged in farming, perhaps having been soured by the disastrous experience with potato farming in Ireland. And as Turners Falls High School history teacher Vicki Valley pointed out at the Discovery Center, they didn't have money to buy land or a farm.

The one outstanding local excep-

tion was Irishman Alvah Crocker, who established a 2,000 acre experimental farm on the Montague Plains. He dubbed it the "White Coal Farm," where he successfully enriched useless sandy soil to bear all manner of crops, including potatoes, by irrigating with water from the Connecticut River and enriching the land by planting sweet clover and other nitrogen fixing crops.

Crocker was a wheeler-dealer visionary who'd built a fortune after working and saving to buy a paper mill in Fitchburg. He went on to found banks, and started a railroad in Fitchburg, among other things, before coming to Turners Falls to found the Turners Falls Company, establish both the Crocker Institute for Savings and the Crocker National Bank. He also laid out the streets for the new town in a grid, build the power canal and bridges to cross it, and acted as promoter in chief for the industrial village of Turners Falls.

Perhaps to seek solace in their misery, or perhaps because of their affable nature, Irishmen tended to congregate while drowning their sorrows, resulting in a reputation for intemperate alcohol consumption. There were three or four Irish saloons on Third and Fourth Street in Turners, and two Irish saloons in the Patch.

Many Irishmen were reduced to

penury because of alcohol abuse and ended up being sent to the poor farm.

Abbondanzio told of the legend of John L. Sullivan, the last heavyweight champion of bare knuckle boxing, getting drunk at the American House in Turners with another Irishman when he bragged, "I can lick anybody in the place." A logger took him up on it and knocked John L. out.

Someone said, "Do you know who that was?" Upon learning it was John L. Sullivan, the logger quickly departed.

During the 1880s, the editorial pages of the *Turners Falls Reporter*, (the pre-cursor of the *Montague Reporter*) frequently called attention to the outstanding work being done by the St. Mary's Temperance Society. "A large number of heavy drinkers joined the society and are now as worthy citizens as the town possesses."

Getting young men and boys interested in sports at an early age was one of the ways the church steered them away from demon rum. Their efforts seem to have paid off, since alcoholism is no longer a problem among the Irish.

Early on, the Irish recognized the value of becoming active in church, labor unions, and politics. They began taking jobs in police and fire departments, and organizing political

power.

Policemen used trucks with a caged body on the back to transport unruly people they'd arrested. The nickname for Patrick was Pat or Paddy, and the police vans became known as Paddy Wagons, though it's not clear if this was in reference to the driver or to the passenger.

Peter Mackin, owner of Mackin Trucking, Construction, and other enterprises was an entrepreneur, early on, working his way through college as a waiter in his college dining hall.

Peter came home from college to run the family business. He bid off a contract to haul steel to build airplane hangers at Westover Air Base. There were no flat bed trailers available, so Peter instructed an employee to remove engines and cabs from old trucks to convert them to trailers. The trailers had no brakes, but that was ignored.

Peter later got a contract to haul aviation fuel to the base. That got him into the oil tanker business.

Peter's father and uncle, John and Patrick, started in construction with teams of horses to haul construction material for the Westfield Paper Company. When they got work hauling building materials for the Millers Falls Tool and the Millers Falls Paper Mill, the brothers settled in Millers, just as the many Irish bricklayers, masons, and others who came for construction jobs settled locally.

The two Mackin men settled in Millers Falls to haul paper, ice, coal, oil, sand and gravel. They later replaced their horses with trucks. The brothers split the business, and eventually Patrick sold his trucking business, chiefly hauling paper and oil, to Wasilewski Brothers. John sold his trucking company to Carroll, who did business as Carroll's Trucking, hauling general freight.

The Mackin family built a block next to the fire station in Millers Falls. They also owned the Bridge Street garage, as well as the only

hotel in town.

Another garage they owned, opposite the grammar school in Millers Falls, exploded one night. A battery cable on a truck parked inside developed a short circuit and caught fire. The big saddle tanks held enough gasoline to create an enormous explosion that damaged the building. From that day on, Peter Mackin had a cut-off switch installed on every truck he ever owned so the driver could disconnect the battery cable with a pull of a knob when he parked the truck at the end of the day.

After WWII, Peter's son John Mackin returned to the job of postmaster in Millers Falls. His son James was severely injured in an auto accident, which partially disabled him.

For a time, Peter Mackin had an office at the hotel in Millers, as well as an office at the sand bank in Greenfield, until he consolidated all business at the sand bank.

What seems a bit unusual about the Irish is that unlike the French and Polish, who spoke their native tongue at home and whose children took lessons in their ethnic language at home, school, or church, the Irish tended to speak English, making little effort to retain Gaelic. This gave them the reputation of being "more American than the Americans."

There is a long list of Irish business establishments once active in Turners Falls, selling groceries, candy, ice cream, men's clothing, construction supplies, coal, ice, oil, feed, and automobiles. Pictures of many of those establishments were displayed about the Great Hall.

After the story telling portion, chaired by TFHS history teacher Vicki Valley, a pickup band played traditional Irish music with Ted Cahill on guitar, Jean Barrows on bodhran, Paul Crook on banjo and mandolin and Ted Soulos on penny-whistle.

All too soon, the evening was over.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Domestic Assault & Battery; Hit & Run

Tuesday 10/02

12:20 p.m. Fraud reported at Turners Falls Road, Montague.

2:45 p.m. Burglary reported at Pioneer Aviation, Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

7:26 p.m.

arrested at Avenue A, Turners Falls. She is charged with domestic assault and battery.

Wednesday 10/03

4:31 p.m. Larceny reported at Marshall Street, Turners Falls.

6:05 p.m.

was arrested at his home and charged with destruction of property and domestic assault and battery.

Thursday 10/04

6:57 p.m.

arrested on warrant at Fairway Avenue, Turners Falls.

8:51 p.m. Larceny reported at Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

Friday 10/05

8:47 a.m. Burglary reported and investigated at Vladish Avenue, Turners Falls.

7:56 p.m. Hit and Run reported and investigated at Cumberland Farms, 10 Montague City Road, Turners Falls.

Saturday 10/06

8:30 a.m.

ed on warrant near Fourth

Street.

8:05 p.m.

arrested near J Street.

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

Monday 10/08

4:34 p.m. Fraud reported at Prospect Street, Turners Falls.

Tuesday 10/09

8:14 a.m. Vandalism reported at Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls.

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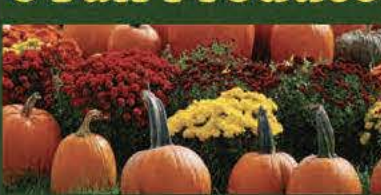
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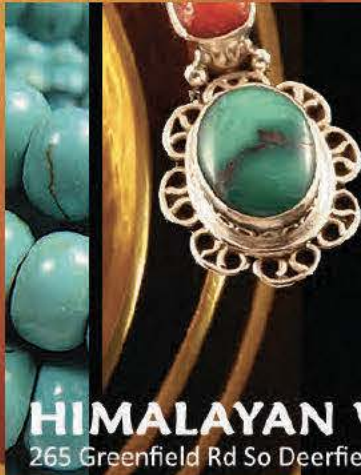
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