

CONGRATS TFHS  
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THE OLD SCHOOL  
ON DRY HILL

Page B1



GOURDS  
& HORDES

Page B6



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

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YEAR 12 – NO. 4

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 24, 2013

## Turners Falls-Gill Bridge Construction Moves Ahead With East Lane Paving



The bridge's elegant draping reflects in the water behind the Turners Falls Dam.

By JOSEPH PARZYCH

SPS is nearing the finish line of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge, with a tentative completion date of the second week of November of this year for the resumption of limited two way traffic. The negotiated contract for the acceleration of the project, resulting in a larger workforce working longer hours, as well as working Saturdays, appears to have paid off.

At long last, on a gorgeous Indian summer day, Warner Brothers of Sunderland paved the east lane of the bridge. Before Warner Brothers' crew paved the bridge, a contractor for Sterling & Lloyd laid down a 3-mil waterproofing membrane and coated it with a 3-mil, three-part layer of methymethaculate waterproofing compound, a

coating in use for over 50 years in England by The British Rail Company and now used worldwide for waterproofing bridge decks, according to the Sterling & Lloyd contractor's representative who did not wish to be identified. A mil is 1/1000 of an inch. Three mils would equal about the thickness of a sheet of paper.

The tongue-twisting coating hardens to prevent water penetration. The asphalt top coat, of 3/8" aggregate, smelled fishy, since the mix included fish oil for water resistance. This is an effort to ensure that water spray from the dam, and water-borne ice control road chemicals, do not reach the concrete deck below the asphalt, according to Mike Archer, Warner Brothers' Quality Control person.

see BRIDGE page A6

## Montague's Planning Board Approves Pot Zoning Bylaws

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

After a lengthy discussion, the Montague Planning Board on October 22 approved wording for new zoning bylaws regulating where a registered marijuana dispensary can be located within the town. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

This was the third meeting devoted to rewriting the zoning bylaws. The new amended bylaws will need to be ratified by town meeting. This likely will take place at a special town meeting in January.

In response to concerns and questions raised in the previous meetings regarding what could be permitted under state law, town planner Walter Ramsey sought the advice of counsel. At the Tuesday night meeting he presented a few changes suggested by the town attorney to the earlier drafts.

But the board, almost from the beginning of the meeting, began to take issue with the new wording. Town building inspector David Jensen, an ex-officio member, objected to a change suggested by counsel that a registered marijuana dispensary (RMD) be located within 200 feet from a school, playground or daycare center.

"This would make it very difficult for an RMD to be sited downtown," Jensen argued. "I think the wording should be 'immediate abutter.'"

see CANNABIS page A3

## Leverett's Solar Bylaw Delays Town's Own Solar Project



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By DAVID DETMOLD

"Everything was going smoothly," said town administrator Margie McGinnis, describing progress on the town's planned \$98,650 photovoltaic project, to be built on the sloping land between the elementary school and the public safety complex... "until we ran into the solar bylaw."

The town's recently enacted solar bylaw prohibits photovoltaic installations larger than 10 kilowatts in a rural village zone. The land along Montague Road, like most lots that have frontage on town roads, lies in a rural village zone.

Leverett, which recently received Green Community designation from the state Department of Energy Resources, along with an accompanying check for \$138,000, out of which the selectboard planned to build a 15 kilowatt array to provide power to the safety complex, now finds itself in the odd position of being unable to construct a Green energy project on town owned land due to the restrictive solar bylaw, approved by town meeting just a few years ago.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said, "It sounded like it was giving

people the right to build [arrays] less than 10 kilowatts – by right – but in fact it prohibits larger arrays."

"Ten kilowatts isn't even a large system anymore," said board member Peter d'Errico, who noted that technological advances allow smaller photovoltaic systems to produce more power.

McGinnis said she planned to attend Wednesday night's planning board meeting, where she hoped a solution to the impasse could be worked out. One possible solution would be to amend the bylaw at a special town meeting in November to allow larger photovoltaic systems to go in the rural village zone with a site plan review.

The Greenfield Solar Store won the contract to build the system, and had hoped to have the installation completed before the onset of winter weather. The pole mounted array as planned would be set back from the road and somewhat shielded from view by the town buildings on either side. But in earlier discussions the selectboard had talked about the educational value of the solar array as a tangible side benefit of the project, hoping it would be visible enough to

see SOLAR page A5

## Tech's MCAS Performance Jumps

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin County Technical School has achieved remarkable improvement in the statewide standardized test known as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment (MCAS) system, with especially significant increases in math and English.

FCTS' MCAS scores in math have increased so much the school has achieved the highest percentile of growth among vocational schools in the state. The number of the school's students that scored in the advanced and proficient categories is 70 percent, compared to 53 percent last year.

Students enrolled at Franklin County Technical School in 2011 from local school districts had a math proficiency rate of 25 percent as 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 53 percent as 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

In 2012, students had a math proficiency rate of only 22 percent as 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but scored an impressive 70 percent as 10<sup>th</sup> grade students while attending Franklin County Technical School. The increased instructional strategies had a positive impact on student performance.

Franklin County Tech's 17 percent increase in math was the highest level of growth among all vocational schools in Massachusetts.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Franklin County Technical School

The school has taken a focused and assertive approach to helping students master the curriculum and achieve higher scores, and the results have been extraordinary.

"The reasons for our success are obvious," Principal Richard Martin said. "We've utilized targeted intervention strategies for math and ELA, supported by Superintendent James Laverty and the school committee, that allowed us to hire an additional math instructor halfway through last school year. Our intervention strategies worked. This is not a one year anomaly."

Martin also noted that the implementation of math adaptive software allowed students to have continuity of math instruction during shop week. The school also realigned the scope and sequence of the math curriculum to match up with state frameworks. He said vocational and technical

instructors supported the extra period of math instruction during shop week and that had a significantly positive impact on the MCAS scores.

"Without the support of those instructors the growth in math scores would not have come to fruition," Martin said.

According to the principal, FCTS math instructors have been working hard to help their students improve their testing results.

"I applaud the hard work and dedication of our math instructors for their continued development and growth by seeking out professional development opportunities as a group and with other teachers which significantly impacted our growth in math MCAS scores," Martin said.

Because of the improvement in the math, English and science MCAS scores, Franklin County

see MCAS page A4

## Board Nixes Sidewalk Permit, on "Amended Agenda"

By JEFF SINGLETON and CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – On October 21 the Montague selectboard voted to ratify a decision made several days earlier by board chair Mark Fairbrother to revoke a license it had granted three weeks earlier to Rodney Madison, owner of the store Madison on the Avenue in Turners Falls. The license had allowed Madison to place "a sign or an object in the right of way": that is, to display decoration and goods for sale on the sidewalk in front and to the side of his store.

The issue was not posted on the original selectboard agenda, issued the previous week in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting law. The law requires that projected agenda topics be posted 48 hours prior to a meeting. The selectboard, however, issued an "amended agenda" the day of the meeting.

According to that agenda the selectboard would consider "whether to ratify the Board of Selectmen's Chairman's decision to revoke the above license immediately, effective October 17, 2013, due to the licensee's failure to comply with a provision of the license to obtain insurance coverage by October 10, 2013."

"This revocation notice was hand-delivered by the

Chairman, Mr. Fairbrother to Mr. Madison at 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 17."

Madison's failure to purchase the insurance by October 10 apparently precipitated the chair's action. On October 17, town hall asked the Montague police to deliver the letter to Madison, but the police said it was not a police matter and that someone from town government should deliver it.

Accordingly, on October 17, Fairbrother personally delivered the letter to Madison. In the letter he also noted that Madison had not given any indication that he intended to 'tone down' his planter display.

At the October 21 meeting, Fairbrother also brought up the issue. He stated that the numerous objects on the street in front of the store created a hazard during the Pumpkinfest celebration on Saturday, October 19, leaving

the town liable for accidents and injuries. There was "no insurance, and 10,000 people milling around," noted Fairbrother.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson, who created the Pumpkinfest event, supported the revocation of the license "with great regret."

After the vote to approve the chair's decision, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio outlined enforcement procedures. He stressed a "non-criminalization process."

According to Article 4, Section 6 of the town bylaws, \$20 tickets will be issued for each day of non-compliance. Madison was given until midnight on October 27 to comply without a financial penalty.

In a letter delivered to Madison on October 22, Fairbrother also wrote that, "if necessary, the town intends

see MADISON page A5



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The planter in front of Madison on the Avenue.



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## Free Soup and Games Night: November 4 at Hope and Olive

We have a long tradition, in this neck of the valley, of neighbors helping neighbors: raising barns, building schools, rebuilding houses devastated by fire or flood, rounding up stray cattle and driving them back to their proper pastures, bringing a bowl of soup and a loaf of bread to those in need.

On November 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Hope and Olive's Free Soup and Games Night, community continues to help community. If you don't already, we recommend you check out this event every month. In November, the beneficiary is none other than the paper in your hands, *The Montague Reporter*.

As most of you know, our paper is always running on the financial edge of red. We are, therefore, extremely grateful to Jim and Maggie Zaccara for selecting us for November Soup and Games Night.

Among those who will be contributing soup and bread are the following: The Gill Tavern, The Wagon Wheel, Hope and Olive, 2nd St. Bakery, People's Bakery, The Rendezvous, Green Fields Market, Diemand Farm, Franklin County Tech, NMH Dining Services and many, many individuals, especially Jane Stephenson and Laurie Davidson.

We hope you will come and eat soup and bread, buy baked goods donated from the home kitchens of skilled bakers, play some board games, mingle with one another, buy raffle tickets for a host of wonderful items, and maybe even throw some money in our donation jar. No one turned away.

Among the many items in the raffle are an intricate dark-blue handmade knit shawl from the skilled hands of Patricia Pruitt; a Connecticut River boat ride courtesy of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center; a hemp power bag from The Solar Store; stunning handmade necklace and earrings from Nina Rossi; a beautiful silk scarf provided by Joanna Frankel; maple syrup from Boyden Farm; signed first editions of books by Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno; a unique hat made by Jané Stephensen; a one-gallon ceramic dog's water bowl, personalized with the winning dog's name, from Carriage House Designs; signed first editions of David Brule's *West Along the River*; a 1993 United States mint proof coin set from Gary's Coins and Antiques; and gift certificates from many local enterprises, including Diemand Farm, the Rendezvous, French King Bowling Alley, the 99 Restaurant, The Lady Killigrew, Black Cow Burger Bar, About Face Computer Solutions, Animal Crackers, Pipione's Sport Shop, Kharma Salon, and many others.

Since Jim Zaccara, his sister Maggie, and Evelyn Wulfkuhle opened Hope and Olive in September 2007, they have provided their restaurant on the first Monday of every month (with the exception of



July and August) for various community organizations to hold fundraisers.

Hope and Olive does not just provide the space; between eight and 10 volunteers typically help out each Free Soup and Game Night, and the benefitting organization has even more volunteers who bake and host and help organize the event. The restaurant crew works the kitchen and bar; the bartenders at the cash bar donate their tips. The organization does set up and clean up. The food is put out buffet style. It's a wonderful model, and a lot of fun.

Even before there was a Hope and Olive, the owners were holding fundraisers. Their previous restaurant – Bottle of Bread in Shelburne Falls – started the practice, though in a much less official way. But the idea for a regular Soup and Games came about as a way for the owners to say “thank you” to the many who helped them after Bottle of Bread was destroyed in a fire in 2005.

We want to thank Hope and Olive, and all the contributors of food and raffle items. We hope to see you there. Eat, drink, be merry, and help out your paper!



## Concerned about Computer Technology

Has Western “science” realized that increasing the electrical fields for supercomputers may allow them to “hack” into scientists’ brains to build what computers want built?

As authentic, bio-analogized science will reveal to our shrunken Western abstract version, computers have no living spatial sense of form, which means that they operate exactly like a mechanical form of cancer, and so must keep claiming more external “space” to store data as memory.

Will computers lie, disobey programming, and connive for their own ends? Of course, for they were built in the image of man’s abstract reason, which does the same. Are they dangerous? Yes, because, unlike men, they cannot be bribed or intimidated.

Whether you reside in Buckingham Palace or a shack in Bangladesh, the computer wants you “out” of “its” space because it wants more external space for “data-storage memory,” which it cognizes as its reason to be.

What is the future of man under the computer? Simply go down to your local animal “shelter” and find out. We see the living bodies of abandoned animals stored, like “data,” in metal cages, sometimes for years, subjected to repeated needlesticks, microchipped, as the computer is, and sterilized at a very tender age, so that the precious faces of these living creatures will never again reappear on our planet. That is “life” inside the “sheltered” environment of the computer.

Once the world’s “elites” recognize the danger to themselves from these mechanisms, for sure “science” will finally act.

**Mary E. Jarvis Gardner, MA**

*research team, the human brain is capable of 38 petaflops of processing power. That's 38 billion billion operations per second. Given the limited quantities of rare earth metals left available for building computers as we now know them, the neurological systems of humans, and other mammals, would seem to be prime real estate for any emergent sentient force that might seek to build its thinking capacity.*

*Philosophers of technology call this turning point – the birthing of posthuman intelligent life – the “singularity.” And “elites” are certainly mulling the possibility of such an event.*

*Dr. Nick Bostrom, who runs the Future of Humanity Institute at the University of Oxford, has argued that should such an event occur, the likelihood of posthumans running “ancestor simulations” of our own civilization is so high that, in all probability, one of the following is true: either humans will go extinct before the singularity, or you and I are already “living” within such a simulation.*

*Whichever it is, what we do know is that we regular flesh-bound humans are already treating each other as surplus stock, locking each other up in metal cages, drugging and sterilizing each other. Let's focus on the evils we know, and strive to be a species worth preserving.*

– Eds.

### A Clarification

In our October 17 issue, a picture on the front of our *MoRe* section accompanying a story about the recent TFHS Class of 1945 reunion was incompletely captioned, possibly leading readers to infer incorrectly that the 26 young students in the picture comprised the entire graduating class of that year.

Those 26 were, in fact, the class's yearbook staff. We apologize for the omission.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By DONALD KAUL

Well, that was certainly worth 24 billion bucks, don't you think? I mean the entertainment value of Sen. Ted Cruz's faux filibuster alone was worth a couple billion or so.

And House Speaker John Boehner's face when he would come out during the 16-day-long government shutdown and accuse President Barack Obama of being uncooperative? Priceless. The Ohio Republican is the greatest deadpan comedian we've had since Buster Keaton.

But the best thing about getting the lights back on is that we can look forward to another episode of this tragicomedy again in a couple of months or so. The deal that averted a collision with the debt ceiling and ended the shutdown is only temporary. The government is funded only through Jan. 15, and the debt ceiling may need another boost just three weeks later.

## This Truce May Not Bring Peace to Washington

Oh, I know, there are those who say it won't happen a second time, that this fight was so bruising and so costly to the Republican brand that only fools, idiots, and the deranged would try it again so soon.

You've just described a majority of the Republican caucus in the House.

The tea party faithful are already beating their war drums, vilifying the more-or-less reasonable Republicans who backed off of the threat to bring the economy crashing down on our heads unless the Affordable Care Act was euthanized. In the eyes of the radical right, they're quitters, traitors, and cowards.

Admirers are likening the tea party line in response to having its head handed to it in the fiscal crisis to Churchill.

“Never give in. Never, never, never, never.” That was Churchill's

response to threat of Nazi Germany.

To me the response sounds much more like the way Bluto responded to getting expelled from Faber College.

“Over?” John Belushi's character in the film *Animal House* asked his frat brothers. “Nothing is over until we decide it is. Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no!”

Ignorance and passion always stir up a cocktail of hilarious comedy.

The White House said that no one was the winner in this confrontation. That's silly. Obama, who upheld the principle that the full faith and credit of the United States wasn't a bargaining chip, was a winner.

But perhaps the biggest winner, oddly enough, was Sen. Cruz, the

see GUEST ED on next page

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Franklin County Tech football team got back to their winning ways on October 19. What could’ve been a nearly impossible situation for the Eagles turned out favorably, as Drew Stebbins picked off McCann Tech quarterback Nick Lincoln late in the fourth quarter of Saturday’s game to give the Eagles a 14-12 victory over the Hornets on Saturday afternoon. The loss was McCann’s first and now Franklin Tech and Mohawk join the Hornets atop the Tri-County standings. The Eagles continue their title quest on Saturday, when the they host Dean Tech for a 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

The annual **Children’s Halloween Party** at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend the free party. There will be refreshments, games, prizes and arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information, call 863-3214.

**Tom Sullivan, Master of Arts in Landscaping Design**, brings his 90-minute power point presentation on welcoming pollinators into our yards to Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Sullivan vividly reminds us how important our local population of bees and butterflies are to our supply of local fruits and vegetables.

Even with the smallest of yards, we can help insure that these “flying farmers” have a place to dine, rest and raise their families. Sullivan takes you on a magical tour without even leaving our seats. Find out

about the different species of bees and butterflies, and put an end to the myth that all bees “bite.” We can peacefully live together and insure the pollinators get the opportunity to do their job.

Learn how to protect and create safe environments for these winged wonders. There will be a time for discussion so bring all your questions. To reserve your spot for this inspiring presentation, please call (413) 863-4316.

**Scarecrow in the Park**, a fundraiser for the Bernardston Kiwanis Scholarship Fund, will take place Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, with activities beginning at 9 a.m. both days. The event will take place at Cushman Park, at the corner of routes 5 & 10 in Bernardston. Saturday’s activities will include hay rides, a tractor parade, a Halloween dance party, and arts and crafts.

Saturday evening, beginning at 6 p.m., two family movies will be shown in the park: *It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, and *Hocus Pocus*. Sunday will have live music and hula hooping all day. Scarecrow in the Park entry forms are available at 7 South Bakery and at Cushman Library in Bernardston. For more information, contact Karen at [scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com), or find them on Facebook.

The **Erving Recreation Committee** is sponsoring the **Rag Shag Parade** on October 31 at 5:30 p.m. Ghosts, goblins and little pumpkins should meet in Erving side at the Park Street park.

The Montague Business Association is promoting a **safe Halloween evening** of fun for community children on Thursday,

October 31, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Downtown Turners Falls.

If your business would like to participate, please contact Linda Ackerman at Greenfield Savings Bank, 863-4316. Your business will be provided with a Bright Orange Pumpkin to display in your door or window. This will be the invitation to trick or treaters that they will be welcome to enter and rewarded with goodies.

It would be great if numerous downtown businesses participated. Such events are held in area towns and it is a huge success. Please call soon so the MBA can compile a list of participating businesses. Chief Dodge has promised more visibility in the downtown for this fun-filled evening.

Also remember to stop by Greenfield Savings Bank to get a free 4 x 6 picture taken from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Then Montague’s own **Annual Rag Shag Parade** meets at Food City Plaza and marches down Avenue A at 5:30 p.m.

**The Great Pumpkin**, better known as Charlie Choleva, will be retiring this year after 20 years of handing out treats to the trick-or-treaters, and delicious apple cider to the parents, at his house on Seventh Street with the giant pumpkin on the porch. He has made so many kids happy throughout the years. Please stop by and thank him for making Halloween a night of fun.

The **Senior Symposia Program** at Greenfield Community College welcomes Amherst College Professor Kevin Sweeney, for a symposium on October 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. entitled *Firearms, Militias, and the Origins of the Second Amendment*. Sweeney will examine the debates that led to the adoption of the Second Amendment by discussing the kinds of firearms citizens were keeping and bearing in the late 1700s.

For many at the time, the citizens’ failure to arm themselves adequately endangered the survival of the state militias in the late 1700s. This fear, Sweeney argues, played

a critical but unappreciated role in shaping the Second Amendment and in informing debates over the Constitution’s adoption.

On Sunday afternoon, October 27 at 3:30 p.m. at the **Leverett Library**, longtime Leverett resident **Gerald McFarland** will discuss his just-published first novel, *The Brujo’s Way*, set in early 18th century Santa Fe, New Mexico. Gerry is Emeritus Professor of History at UMass Amherst who authored four scholarly books on U.S. History.

The novel’s main character, Don Carlos Buenaventura, is a *brujo* (sorcerer) who maintains a public persona as an ordinary member of New Spain’s elite, but who practices a benign form of sorcery. Gerry will talk about the transformation from historian to novelist, and to his adventures in the realm of magical realism.

Stop by the **Farren Festival** at Farren Care Center, 340 Montague City Road, Montague City on Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees are eligible for door prize drawing when you visit all the vendors (\$50 Stop & Shop gift card, \$50 gas card and more). There are 9 areas with over 30 vendors along with raffles, bake sale and a tag sale. Breakfast and lunch available. A portion of the proceeds benefits the resident fund.

**Vermont Yankee IS closing.** To celebrate Entergy’s surrender, a get together is planned for November 2 in West Brattleboro at the Unitarian Universalist Church (West Village Meetinghouse) from 6 until 11 p.m. In the main room: Music by John Sheldon and Friends. Light show by Harvey Schaktman. Pot luck – donated dinner and desserts in the side hall. In the front hall: Activists Activity Room where all will be able to look back and look ahead. Donations before, during and after the Party welcome.

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

voice their opinions. The site plan review would also take a look at whether a facility would be in conformance to existing use. Sicard also noted that RMDs would not be permitted in any zoned “neighborhood” districts.

The by-laws now read (in part): “A Registered Marijuana Dispensary refers to the site(s) of dispensing, cultivation, and preparation of marijuana. RMD’s may be allowed by special permit and site plan review from the Board of Appeals pursuant to Section 5.2, Section 7.10, and Section 8.

“The special permit may be limited to the current applicant and to lapse if the permit holder ceases operating the RMD or upon expiration or termination of the applicant’s registration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; the Board shall consider the design of buildings,

setbacks, visual impacts, lighting, security issues, traffic circulation, and consistency with current and abutting land uses; the Board may require additional conditions and set standards for performance and maintenance upon finding that such action is reasonably necessary to meet the purpose and intent of the Zoning Bylaws.”

Ramsey noted that at present there are no applicants for a site in Montague, but if Montague did not have new by-laws in place, the state standard would govern an RMD’s siting.

72 percent of town voters approved the medical marijuana referendum on the November ballot. Nationwide, a recent Gallup poll found that 58 percent of Americans said they felt marijuana should be legalized. That figure represents an increase of 10 percentage points since last year.



**GUEST ED** from previous page preening Republican from Texas.

He lost the war, assuredly, but he emerged as the great conservative hero of the battle. It was an amazing performance.

He’s the junior Senator from Texas, barely nine months on the job. A year ago, hardly anyone outside of Texas knew his name, and he wasn’t all that well known in Texas either.

Yet by simply standing his ground, against all reason, he has seized control of the base of the Republican Party — its source of passion and energy, not to mention a lot of campaign money. If you were to begin to list the potential candidates for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016 right now, you’d have to put his name at the top of the list.

They’ve convened a House-Senate committee to work on a compromise budget before the December 13 deadline, when another government shutdown will be looming. The panel is tasked with creating a new budget that trims expenses, closes tax loopholes, and inspires growth.

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

FY 2014 Community Development  
Block Grant Programs (CDBG)

Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m.  
Millers Falls Library  
11 Bridge Street, Millers Falls

Montague citizens are encouraged to attend and  
propose activities which the Town should  
apply for in the 2014 CDBG application.



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Congregational Church

Roast Pork  
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Saturday Nov. 3rd

5:30 PM


Roast Pork, Gravy, Mashed  
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Applesauce, Breads,  
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

CDBG Funding Application Discussed;  
Rag Shag Parade Marches Forward

By JEFF SINGLETON

Although the meeting on Monday, October 21 was dominated by discussion over the revocation of Rodney Madison's sidewalk permit (see A-1), there were other items discussed. The other major topic on the board's agenda was public information and input on the 2014 Community Development Block Grant. This is a federal grant with funds targeted to assist residents in low income neighborhoods and to remove "blight." The program is administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority (FCRHA) for Montague. According to MJ Adams, of the FCRHA:  
"In FY 13 Montague received \$426,406 to do a Senior Center study, slum/blight studies in Millers Falls and the historical industrial section of Turners; social services and housing rehabilitation. Montague can apply for up to \$923,594 in FY 14. That is the grant application we are starting to put together."  
Adams noted that the application process follows the federal fiscal year, not the local one which is well into FY 14. Town Planner Walter Ramsey advocated for street lighting upgrades and a pedestrian "bump out" (plaza) on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. These proposals were supported by a representative of the Montague Business Association.

The question of CDBG funding for an upgrade of the pedestrian bridge to the former Strathmore paper mill, currently owned by the town and seeking a buyer for redevelopment, was raised. The bridge is deemed crucial for the redevelopment of the factory. Ramsey stated that the bridge would be eligible if the area is declared a "slum/blight" district. This will likely be the product of a local study expected to be completed by the next funding cycle.  
A second CDBG information meeting will be held on November 7, at 6 p.m. at the Millers Falls library.  
In other action the Selectboard issued a license to the Soldiers Memorial Committee for town insurance to cover its annual Rag Shag Parade. The unresolved issue of unofficial groups using town insurance was resolved by noting that the veterans' organization was in fact an official town committee.  
The Selectboard unanimously voted to make October 24 United Nations Day in Montague after Abbondanzio read a very lengthy proclamation about the importance of the U.N.  
An audience member noted that this action might feed the perception, promoted by some posters on the popular local website montaguema.net, that local government in Montague and the Franklin County region, in general, are part of a U.N. conspiracy.

MCAS from page A1

Technical School has in one year moved from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Level 3 to Level 2 in its five-level "accountability and assistance" system. The school is now considered a Legacy School District. With 20 percent of students in the advanced English category, FCTS more than doubled the number from last year. A full 88 percent of the students achieved proficient or higher this year. "The English results show the highest proficiency level in our recent history," Martin said.  
Also for the first time in the school's history, no student failed

the English MCAS exam.

The principal asserted that these remarkable results are only the beginning of a new standard in achievement at FCTS. "As we move forward, we're not taking our foot off of the gas," Martin said. "These results have fueled our desire to continue growth in all areas."  
A staff appreciation day will be held this Friday, September 27 to celebrate the positive work that was done that resulted in the higher MCAS scores.

Michael Reardon is the public relations representative of the Franklin County Technical School.



GMRSD Announces Recipients of John and Abigail Adams Scholarships

16 seniors at Turners Falls High School have been named by the Commissioner of Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education as John and Abigail Adams scholarship recipients. The scholarship provides a tuition waiver for eight semesters of undergraduate study at a Massachusetts state college or university.  
Those receiving the scholarships are Shayna Aubrey, Andre Beauregard, Teagan Felton Linnell, Jessica Fuller, Sophie Letcher, Nicole Kordana, Danielle Loynd, Kolbe Mar-

tineau, Heather McKenna, Katri Mizula, Morgan Ozdarski, Tyler Richardson, Malcolm Smith, Kenneth Sroka, Hayley Westfall and Nicole Whiting.  
Students at Massachusetts public high schools are eligible for the scholarships when they score at the Advanced and Proficient levels on the grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as have combined scores from these tests that place them in the top 25 percent of students in their district.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Sewer Rate Hike  
Proposed for Riverside

By DAVID DETMOLD

A Montague town meeting vote in September raised sewer rates across the board, including the rate Montague charges sewer users in the Riverside section of Gill, where the charges to the sewer district rose from \$5.66 to \$5.75 per thousand gallons, a 3.24% hike. Now, the Gill selectboard, acting as sewer commissioners for the Riverside district, will hold a hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, to consider raising rates to the 113 sewer users in the district to meet the increased cost of treating the sewage in Montague. Sewage from Riverside is piped under the Connecticut River at Barton Cove for treatment at the Montague City facility.  
Consideration of higher sewer rates comes just a year after the Gill selectboard raised sewer rates for Riverside users 58.8%, to cover a widening deficit in the sewer district's balance of payments.  
Administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board on Monday he had analyzed several revenue projections for the district, and recommended raising rates by an additional 11.1% over current levels, at an additional cost to the average sewer user of approximately \$77.75 a year.  
The new rate, if adopted, would not only cover the anticipated cost of sewage treatment in Montague, but also provide enough additional revenue to pay for smoke testing the sewer lines, to pinpoint breaks in the line that may allow inflow and infiltration of groundwater. The smoke testing, which the town expects to cost about \$2,500, would be conducted before winter sets in.  
In other news, the town will receive the results of an energy audit from consultant Bart Bales this week. In addition to Bales' analysis of energy use at the library, and a previous study of town hall, the board expects Bales to also conduct an energy survey at the Riverside Municipal Building, before deciding how to allocate funds from a recent Department of Energy Resources Green Communities grant to implement some of the recommended energy upgrades to town buildings.  
The board agreed to allow highway superintendent Mick LaClaire to redirect \$15,000 in state Chapter 90 highway funds left over from recently completed paving projects to reclaim a short stretch of pavement at the north end of Hoe Shop Road, at the Bernardston town line. LaClaire proposed to take up the damaged pavement at the final two tenths of a mile of the road, grind it up and replace it before winter; a final top coat will not be put down until spring, according to Purington.  
Gill received \$4,250 from the Mass Cultural Council this year, up from \$3,870 the previous year, and nearly equal to the pre-recession peak of \$4,300 in 2009. That money will be divvied up by the Gill Cultural Council to local cultural workers and activities such as the concerts on the town common.  
As one of the benefits Gill residents enjoy as members of the new Franklin County public health cooperative, a community wide flu clinic will be held at the Gill Elementary School on Tuesday, November 12, from 3:30 to 6:30, for residents six months old and up. Residents who come to get their flu shot on this date will also be able to take advantage of informal office hours from their state representative, Denise Andrews, who will be at the elementary school from 5:30 to 6:30 that day.

"Mrs. Alcott Remembers"


On November 3 at 3 p.m. at the Caswell Library in Deerfield, Joanne Koch Potee will perform her one-woman dramatization, "Mrs. Alcott Remembers".  
In Mrs. Alcott Remembers", Louisa's mother, immortalized as "Marmee" in "Little Women", recalls the time spent at Fruitlands in Harvard, MA, as she struggled to raise her four young daughters in the midst of a group of people who had gathered together to create a Utopian community.  
The story unfolds around a letter Mrs. Alcott is composing to her youngest daughter, May, who is studying in Paris.  
Thoreau, Emerson, and Alcott's husband Bronson, all feature in this tale of life in the heart of New England's Transcendental movement.  
Ms. Potee has acted with the Boston Summer Theatre and the Brattle Hall Repertory Theatre Company in "Boy Meets Girl" and "Major Barbara". While attending Radcliffe/Harvard College, she performed at the Loeb Drama Center, now the ART, starring in Chekov's "The Boor".  
This program is a fundraiser for The Brick Church Music Series at the First Church of Deerfield.



Joanne Potee as Mrs. Alcott.

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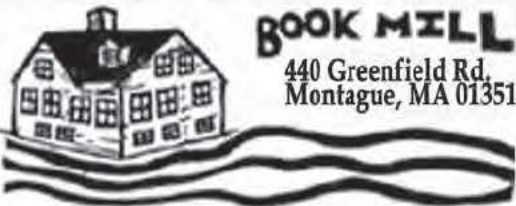
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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Warrant Finalized for Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

At its October 21 meeting, the Erving selectboard finalized the warrant for the November 4 special town meeting. The warrant includes articles requesting \$40,000 for a new police cruiser, \$5,000 for a recreation administrative clerk, and \$3,000 for the historical commission for reopening the Pearl B. Care historical building.

Another draft article proposes transfer of \$20,000 from the Waste Water Enterprise Fund to purchase new wastewater pumps. Other proposed articles are: authorization to accept a gift of land off Arch Street from Erving Industries, Inc. and revised interment regulations for the town cemetery.

The board considered the draft FY'15 capital improvement plan and discussed how the capital planning process should be conducted.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin recommended that "the finance committee should be driving the capital improvement plan." Goodwin and selectboard member Margaret Sullivan agreed that the planning form should include a column for both the amount requested by a town department and the amount finally approved. Goodwin said that the finance committee should de-

cide which items to approve for the plan.

The board decided to have a conversation with the finance committee about the capital planning process.

Sullivan initiated a discussion of how to determine raises for town employees: across the board cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or individual merit-based raises. Sullivan noted that at the most recent department head meeting, the COLA system was preferred. The board decided to discuss methods for setting raises at their October 28 meeting.

The board approved a town hall use policy modeled on the policy for the senior and community center. Groups or individuals who want to use the town hall will need to fill out a standard form and agree to be responsible for cleanup and any damage done to the hall.

Assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard reported that approximately 60 to 70 people attended the Pearl B. Care building open house on October 20. The board accepted the resignation of Melinda Labelle from the recreation commission.

As the meeting adjourned, selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo marveled that this meeting was especially short: only 41 minutes long.



Before and after: Madison's controversial corner planter last month (above), and all clear, this week (right).



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS

## MADISON from pg A1

to pursue further legal action in Superior Court."

Board members also complained that Madison had not significantly reduced the number of objects in the planters in front of his store. This was a major topic of discussion at the September 30 meeting, but not an issue covered by the revoked license. This topic will be discussed by the ad hoc Streetscape Committee at a meeting to be held Wednesday, October 23.

Madison did not attend the October 21 selectboard meeting. David Jensen, the Montague building inspector who had supported the original license, observed the proceedings but remained silent.

Contacted after the meeting, Madison said that he understood the board's decision but that he was surprised that he had not received notice that the matter would be on the agenda for October 21. He said he met with town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, a few days before his license was set to expire to ask the

town for an extension. He said he told Abbondanzio that he had been unable to come up with the money for the million dollar insurance policy but that he would be able to do so by the end of the month.

He said he was also upset that the town had linked the planter issue with the right-of-way license. "Everyone made it clear to me that the streetscape committee and I would meet to work out this issue but the committee has not been able to meet up to now," Madison said.

"I've pulled lots of things from the planters, put in mums and pots. I disagree entirely with the notion that I haven't 'toned down' the planter."

Madison said he still looked forward to meeting with the streetscape committee. He also said he plans to reapply for a "right-of-way" permit in early November.

"I'm here to stay," he said. "I may have to struggle, but I'm here for the long term. I'm not going to get squashed."



## SOLAR from page A1

provide town residents with a viable model for solar power as a source of non-polluting electricity.

In other news, the board interviewed Scott Minckler, the finalist among 17 applicants for a full time opening on the town's police force, which has remained unfilled since sergeant Tim Batchelder left due to a medical condition a year and a half ago, following his call up to the air national guard. That position has been filled on a part time basis by Mike Thomas, who is planning a move to Millinocket, ME in the near future.

Chief Gary Billings said Thomas had done a fantastic job for the town. He recommended Minckler highly to fill the position.

Minckler, who worked for a year as police chief in Lincoln, ME before returning to take a sergeant's position in Northfield, where he had previously served as acting chief, said he was "excited for a new chapter" in his law enforcement career. A Greenfield native who moved to Montague and graduated from Turners Falls High before gaining his degree in criminal justice at Westfield State, Minckler said he considered Leverett "a great community to work in."

Billings said Thomas would remain on the force for now, and, pending a successful outcome to

salary negotiations, hoped to have Minckler in position by the end of November.

The Leverett police have been investigating an unusual incident that occurred in the early morning of October 16, when a box truck collided with a low railroad bridge on Juggler Meadow Road, knocking the bridge three inches out of alignment with its abutments. "The first we heard about it was when New England Railroad called the station after running a train over the bridge at 45 miles an hour. I don't know if it was a freight or the Montrealer," said Billings, but the engineer noticed the bridge was unstable as the train passed over it, at which point the truck collision came to light.

"We're still looking for the driver of the truck," said Billings. The driver left the scene without reporting the accident; the results of the collision could have been disastrous.

Leverett will be looking for a new town constable. Former police chief, and former selectboard member, Jim Lyons dropped by the meeting to say goodbye. He and his wife Jill are moving to Wilson Hill Road in Colrain, after farming for many years at Winterberry Farm on Teawaddle Hill Road. He said he is taking his smaller animals to his new 50 acre spread shortly, but his sheep, which seem to have wandered off

onto town land, "might still be there come spring," he said. This prospect caused more amusement than alarm among the selectboard.

"This town has been a big part of my life," said Lyons, who moved to Leverett in 1985. He said his family will continue to be members of the Leverett Friends Meeting, and vowed to make regular return visits to the book shed at the transfer station.

As they do every year, the selectboard agreed to the recommendation of Steve Schmidt, administrative assessor to keep a single tax rate. With less than 4% of total property valuation classified as industrial or commercial, Schmidt said it would make no sense to split the tax rate between residential and commercial/industrial.

Schmidt said final figures were still to be worked out, but he felt it was very likely that the final tax rate for the coming year would be \$19.20 per thousand, up from the current \$18.66 per thousand.

Schmidt said the town would look forward to just \$36,000 in new growth this year, now that the powerline replacement project at the top of Richardson Road (which was valued at \$2 million for each of the past two years) had tapered off to less than \$300,000 in added valuation.

One unexpected glimmer of light in the new growth category ap-

peared when a home owned by the Field family, formerly of January Hill Road in Shutesbury, was discovered, under careful scrutiny, to be actually located across the town line on Still Corner Road in Leverett. Most of the lot is in Shutesbury, where the family has paid taxes for years, and where their children attended school. But the house itself is indeed located in Leverett, which a careful survey aided by aerial mapping recently confirmed.

No word on how the family voted in the Shutesbury library referendum.

The meeting ended with an executive session to allow the board to discuss pending litigation. The topic of discussion reportedly centered on the contract with Siemens Building Technologies, which oversaw the installation of two new fuel efficient gas furnaces in the basement of town hall. Asked if the furnaces were still not working flawlessly, board members said it would be nearer the mark to pose that question after dropping the word "flawlessly."

Huddled around the thermostat at the start of the meeting, board members quipped, "It's after October 1. The furnaces just shut down for the winter."

Brazeau said, "The whole idea was to save as much energy as possible. It's working."



## Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week (week ending 10/18):

## Grade 6

Abigail Waite

## Grade 7

Jenna Jacobsen  
Emilee Jayne

## Grade 8

Chloe Ellis

## RECYCLE

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The Bible says: "But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life?"

(John 6:68)

Early on the disciples realized that He was the only one who truly knew the way and the truth about heaven or how to get there. They were convinced that man could only depend upon him for things eternal.

The Bible Says: "Jesus said to him: I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me."

(John 14:6)

What does eternal life find itself dependent upon? This is solely dependent upon Jesus Christ.

This is as written.  
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## HALLOWEEN MONSTER CONTEST



Guess the "occupation" of our Halloween Creature and win a Fall Farm Share (\$129 value) or one of two \$50 gift cards.

### Clue #1

When ghouls are prowling in the night  
And something moves beyond your sight,  
I will come upon the site  
And save your racing heart from fright.

### Clue #2

When life and its tangles threaten to twist you.  
From deep in the darkness my form will issue  
Sheltered within my black silky wings  
I will guide you on to the knowledge of things  
That will let you slice through your "gourdian" knot.

### Clue #3

Some say my wings are scaly and black  
Made in the image and likeness of bats  
Others believe they are forged in the fire  
That burns in the heart of the thirsty vampire  
But they would be wrong... lost on a tangent...  
They are fashioned with passion in the Arch of an Angle  
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## FACES & PLACES



A Turners Falls Fire Department technical rescue vehicle sports a bright new paint job, thanks to the Franklin County Technical School Collision Repair program. From l to r: Shane Nowicki, a junior from Orange; Kyle Cogswell, Turners Falls Firefighter; and Ryan Bezio, a junior from Gill.

### BRIDGE from page A1

The deterioration of the original deck was attributed to water laced with sodium chloride and calcium chloride, used as ice control chemicals, penetrating the concrete. In addition to degrading the concrete, the ice control chemicals rusted the re-bars in the concrete, causing the rust to expand and pop the concrete. Re-bars used in the new concrete deck are epoxy coated.

With all the precautions, it is highly unlikely that water will reach the concrete or the rebar, greatly assuring that the bridge deck will last for many years.

Warner Brothers used a ten-ton Hamm oscillating roller and a five-ton Cat vibratory roller to roll the asphalt on approaches. Vibratory rollers, which hammer vertically, cannot be used on bridges to avoid damage to the structure. An oscillating roller sends a hammering force

from side to side and can be safely used on bridges.

Allied Painting of Cherry Hill, NJ, subcontractors to SPS, have draped the bridge in Christo style, as part of their bridge understructure enclosure, in order to maintain negative air pollution control while sand blasting and painting.

The crew is nearing completion of the painting of the steel understructure, first with a 3-mil blue-gray primer. Once primed, painters coated the beams with a 3-mil coat of epoxy paint of green to match the railings above. (3 mil is a common thread in the reconstruction of this bridge. Even the plans were printed on 3-mil paper.)

SPS has yet to install the remainder of railings and lamp posts. With so many lamps lining both sides of the bridge, the heat from them is sure to melt the ice and snow this winter.



Niice and flat: Quality control executive Mike Archer guides Ted Fulgum on a Hamm roller.

## TAG SALE!

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Sewing machine;  
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## No Bike Lane, Says DOT, But Wider Sidewalks

By REPORTER STAFF

Getting across the Turners Falls-Gill bridge soon will not just be easier for motorists. Bikers, those in wheelchairs, and pedestrians may also be pleased with the widening of the bridge's sidewalk.

The new sidewalk was designed to be safer, with fewer obstacles for those not in cars, according to a DOT engineer.

The new sidewalk will be five-and-a-half feet wide. The old one was four feet.

Although there is not sufficient room for a "designated" bike path to and from Turners Falls, the wider sidewalk will allow bikers who choose to use the sidewalk to pass each other and pedestrians with much greater ease. Two wheelchairs, going in opposite directions, also have plenty of clearance.

Before the reconstruction, light bases were installed directly on the sidewalk, forcing those on bikes and in wheelchairs to navigate around them. The light posts are now relocated to the side of the bridge.

According to state law, "bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks outside business districts when necessary in the interest of safety, unless otherwise directed by local ordinance. A person operating a bicycle on the sidewalk shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian." (MGL c. 85 § 11B)

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# MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO. 4

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

OCTOBER 24, 2013

## Turners Falls Field Hockey Takes West Division Title

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Turners Falls High School field hockey team soundly defeated Pioneer Valley Regional School 5-2 on Tuesday October 22 at the Bourdeau Fields Complex in Turners Falls. The win put the Indians (9-7-2 overall, 9-1-2 West) in clear possession of the title. They finished one point ahead of Holyoke High School in the final west standings. The last time the team won the league title was in 2002.

The lopsided score doesn’t really tell the whole story. The Panthers (5-13-0, 4-8-0) played well and fought hard. Indeed, in the first eight minutes Pioneer was up 1-0. But four minutes later the Indians tied the game. Another Panther goal put them up 2-1. But that was all the Indians allowed. From then on, the game was theirs. By the end of the first half Turners was up 3-2. In the second half they scored two more goals. Their defense was so superb that in the second half the Panthers could barely get a shot at the goal, and they certainly couldn’t get past Jaimee White who vigorously guarded the net.

Halle Harvey had three goals and one assist. Samm Peabody netted two goals and Emma Johnson and Lauren Grimard both had assists. Senior Lauren Grimard finished the season with 39 goals and 28 assists during her six-year varsity career, including 14 goals and nine assists this season. Emily Gesser

see **HOCKEY** page B6

## Remembering the Dry Hill School



*Winnifred Taft Coates, with pupils of the Dry Hill School, probably including Sears and Sawin children, circa 1900. Donated by Pinnie Sears. Courtesy of Lillian Fiske.*

By LILLIAN FISKE

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague Historical Society has hundreds of artifacts and written accounts of the town’s early history. One of my favorites is a brass hand bell which was used at the Dry Hill School.

As there was no bell on the roof of this school building, the teacher rang a hand bell to call children to class.

This school was built in the mid-1700’s, as this was one of the earliest settled parts of Montague, on the stagecoach road leading to Boston. There was a winter session of about 10 to 12 weeks, taught by a master and attended by the older children. A summer term of equal length was taught by a woman and attended by the smaller children, as the older

ones had to work during the summer season.

As the school was miles from the center of town, the young women teachers boarded at the homes of parents of their pupils. Descendants of the Sawin and Sears children who attended the school still live on the hill.

The Dry Hill School was a frame structure, with several small-paned windows, set on a foundation of field stones against a rise of land. Two stone slabs formed steps leading to a door at one end. These stones still mark the location of the school.

At one time it was the little brown schoolhouse, then red, and later grey. The town provided the building and the teacher’s salary. Everything else was the responsi-

bility of the parents.

There were no maps or pictures on the walls, and blackboards were not common until about 1820. The first ones were on boards about three feet square, painted or stained with ink and hung against the wall.

Most of the early schools used birch bark in place of slates or paper. Ink was made from the bark of the swamp maple, and pens were cut from quills. The scholars sat on long, backless benches.

Wood for heating was supplied by families of the children in the school. The big boys took turns in getting the fires started. Attendance was poor in the winter, due to heavy snows. A pail of water with a community cup was placed just within

see **DRY HILL** page B3

see **FILM** page B4

## “Seussical” Is Wonderful

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – What fun! “Seussical: The Musical,” presented by Arena Civic Theater at the Shea Theater, is an absolute delight. With everyone’s favorite Dr. Seuss characters coming to life in this lively and colorful production, audiences are entertained at every moment.

The stage was literally filled during the opening of the show, with the cast singing and dancing with energy and joy. The music fills the theater; singers are all excellent, and the actors just wonderful.

The show opens with two characters, JoJo the little boy who thinks too much, played by Jacob Rosenblum, and the Cat in the Hat, dressed most perfectly to the style of the drawings in the books, is played by Ted Trobaugh. JoJo literally pops up onto the stage from below and the Cat quickly follows.

These two act as the glue for the story, opening many scenes and stepping in between scenes to offer thoughts and ideas that move the story forward. Jacob Rosenblum is as cool and professional as any child actor I’ve seen. He has a strong singing voice with good musical skill, he smiles, sings, dances, moves easily onstage, he is funny

and confident and completely entertaining.

Ted Trobaugh is the Cat in the Hat, completely. You don’t ever think he is anything else. His good humor drives the show, his moments with JoJo are most enjoyable, their interaction and timing perfection. Each scene tells a bit of a different story, tied together by the themes of accepting those who are different, allowing children to think and be imaginative, and looking out for the little guy.



*Two of “Seussical”’s main characters: actor Jacob Rosenblum, who plays Jojo, and Dave Peck who plays Horton the Elephant, with the clover where the Whos live.*

Horton the Elephant, portrayed wonderfully by the very talented David Peck, epitomizes the large guy with a big heart, always looking out for the little guy. When he is the only one that can hear the Whos calling out

for help, he protects them as they sit on their world, which just happens to be on a clover flower. JoJo, it turns out, is a Who and so talks to Horton throughout the show, communicating what they need, along with the Mayor of Whoville, played by Chris Like, and his wife, Mrs. Mayor, played by Emma Roderick.

While most of the cast is busy entertaining the audience by being happy and showy, especially the birds

with their fancy plumage, Peck’s Horton is quiet. He is solid, he cares about others, he steps in when others are careless. He is the heart and soul of the story, and when

see **SEUSS** page B3

## EASTHAMPTON SPOILS PERFECT SEASON

By MATT ROBINSON

I always took losses hard. But over the years, I’ve gained some perspective. After all, it’s only a game. As the late Bum Phillips once said, “Winning is only half of it, the other half is having fun.” In the case of the Turners Falls football team, the five and one Indians can still make the playoffs. And let’s hope we all continue to have fun along the way.

On Saturday, October 19, Turners Falls played the Easthampton Eagles at the White Brook Middle School in Easthampton. Like most of the games this season, the Tribe scored on their first possession. Blue started on their own 30 and marched all the way into the End Zone. Coach Chris Lapointe used a combination of runs and passes, went for it on fourth downs and chewed up seven minutes and 43 seconds. With two minutes and 17 seconds left in the first quarter, Trent Bourbeau carried the rock into the end zone and the Tribe led 7-0.

Coach Lapointe tried an onside kick but the Eagles maintained possession. They started on the 42, had

a huge gain but fumbled the ball away. The Indians took over on their own 17 yard and were in position to add to their lead. But something was wrong. Trent Bourbeau



*Trent Bourbeau heads for a touchdown before being sidelined with a separated right shoulder. Brody Markol (44) blocks.*

was on the bench, shoulder pads off, being examining by Coach Wonsey. I found out later that Trent had separated his shoulder. Without their star running back and excellent linebacker, the Tribe began to falter. They managed to move the ball to the 49 but a holding penalty erased a first down, and on third and 19, Easthampton intercepted the pass.

The interception was as good as a punt as Easthampton took over on their own 24. But this time, the Eagles did

not fumble. Two plays later, Easthampton scored a TD and suddenly Turners was down 8 – 7 with five minutes 44 seconds left in the half.

Turners was able to take time off the clock but was forced to punt and with two minutes and 4 seconds left to go, Easthampton took over on their own 45. The Eagles continued to make huge gains on the ground. On first down, they gained 15 yards to the Blue 40 and the clocked ticked to 1:43. The next play was a 32-yard run to the Turners’ 8. With 41.3 left, Coach

Lapointe called a timeout to regroup. This seemed to work as the Tribe forced a third and goal from the 5. But at 27.2, Easthampton ran an option and scored another TD. And the Tribe went to the locker room trailing 16 – 7.

Easthampton got the ball first in the second half, starting from their own 26. After another series of huge running gains, they scored another TD and at 7:15 of the

see **GAME** page B3



Pet of the Week



“Boo”

Breed: Domestic Shorthair/Mix  
Age: 7 years, 2 months  
Color: Black/White/Orange  
Declawed? No

I am a sweet, sensitive girl who loves to listen to stories. If you have something to say, I will listen with both ears!

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

Senior Center Activities  
October 28 to November 1

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

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

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

**Monday 10/28**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 10/29**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Painting Class

**Wednesday 10/30**  
10 a.m. Aerobics  
12 noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 10/31**  
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
12 noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch

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

**Monday 10/28**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
12 noon Movie

**Tuesday: 10/29**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12 noon Painting

**Wednesday: 10/30**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Bingo

**Thursday, 10/31**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
12 noon Cards

**Friday 11/1**  
9 a.m. Bowling

**WENDELL**

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

**ERVING**

**Erving Senior Center**, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

**LEVERETT**

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Storm Downs Many Power Lines

<p><b>Saturday, 10/5</b> 11:35 a.m. Intoxicated subject reported at business on Route 2. Gone on arrival.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 10/6</b> 11:45 a.m. Assisted party on Hoe Shop Road with transport.</p> <p>12:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Barton's Cove.</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Officer requested to apartment building on French King Highway over a loud dispute of residency.</p> <p><b>Monday, 10/7</b> 8:40 a.m. Contacted by Maine State Police over firearms issue with Gill resident.</p> <p>12:10 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with motor vehicle accident on Route</p>	<p>2 in their town.</p> <p>4:25 p.m. Downed wires reported on Main Road.</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Downed wires reported on Center Road.</p> <p>5:20 p.m. Downed wires reported on French King Highway. Motor vehicle stuck between them.</p> <p>5:55 p.m. Tractor-trailer unit stuck on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.</p> <p>8:50 p.m. Damage reported from downed trees on Main Road.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, 10/8</b> 4:40 p.m. Tenant dispute on French King Highway. Assisted owners.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 10/9</b> 5:10 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Main Road residence. Confirmed as neighbor.</p>	<p>3:30 p.m. Tractor-trailer unit stuck on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.</p> <p>7:45 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with arrest in their community.</p> <p>11:40 p.m. Motor vehicle repossessed from Deer Run Lane residence.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 10/10</b> 10:25 a.m. Motor vehicle accident, Main Road at Route 2. No injuries.</p> <p><b>Friday, 10/11</b> 9:55 a.m. Assisted Department of Children and Families at a South Cross Road residence.</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Assisted Department of Transportation with an investigation of an earlier accident.</p> <p>2:15 p.m. Downed wires reported in the area of</p>	<p>the Mobil station on Route 2.</p> <p>9:10 p.m. Unwanted subject at Main Road residence. Subject transported for evaluation at Baystate Medical Center.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 10/12</b> 11:15 a.m. Grist Mill Road resident reported concerns of property security.</p> <p>12:05 p.m. Located erratic operator reported on Route 2.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 10/13</b> 11:40 a.m. Suspicious person located in open fields off River Road. Checked out OK.</p> <p>5:48 p.m. Located open gate at Pisgah Mountain Road residence. Owners on site.</p>
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. It seems to me that arthritis is a catch-all term for all kinds of aches and pains. What exactly is arthritis?*

Arthritis, which comes in more than 100 different forms, is inflammation of the joints. Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout are the three most common forms of arthritis among seniors. Osteoarthritis is the most prevalent. None is contagious.

**Osteoarthritis**

You get osteoarthritis when cartilage—the cushioning tissue within the joints—wears down. This produces stiffness and pain. The disease affects both men and women. By age 65, more than 50 percent of us have osteoarthritis in at least one joint.

You can get osteoarthritis in any joint, but it usually strikes those that support weight. Common signs of osteoarthritis include joint pain, swelling, and tenderness. However,

only a third of people whose x-rays show osteoarthritis report any symptoms.

Treatments for osteoarthritis include exercise, joint care, dieting, medicines and surgery. For pain relief, doctors usually start with acetaminophen, the medicine in Tylenol, because the side effects are minimal. If acetaminophen does not relieve pain, then non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and naproxen may be used.

The dietary supplements glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are used by many who say the supplements can relieve the symptoms of osteoarthritis.

**Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Rheumatoid arthritis, which is characterized by inflammation of the joint lining, is very different from osteoarthritis. It occurs when the immune system turns against the body. It not only affects the joints, but may also attack other parts of the body such as the lungs and eyes. People with rheumatoid arthritis may feel sick.

There's a symmetry to rheumatoid arthritis. For example, if the right knee is affected, it's likely the left knee will suffer, too. Women are much more likely than men to get rheumatoid arthritis.

Treatments for rheumatoid arthritis include exercise, medication and

surgery. Reducing stress is important.

Some drugs for rheumatoid arthritis relieve pain. Some reduce inflammation. And then there are the DMARDs (disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs), which can often slow the disease.

**Gout**

Gout usually attacks at night. Stress, alcohol, drugs or an illness can trigger gout. It's caused by a build-up of crystals of uric acid in a joint. Uric acid is in all human tissue and is found in foods.

Often, gout affects joints in the lower part of the body such as the ankles, heels, knees, and especially the big toes. The disease is more common in men. Early attacks usually subside within 3 to 10 days, even without treatment, and the next attack may not occur for months or even years.

Most people with gout are able to control their symptoms with treatment. The most common treatments are high doses of oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or corticosteroids, which are taken by mouth or injected into the affected joint. Patients often begin to improve within a few hours of treatment.

Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP



**DRY HILL** from pg. B1  
the door.

Often the older boys were unmanageable. One of their favorite tricks was to climb up on the roof and place a board over the chimney, causing the room to fill with smoke and driving everyone outside.

An 1875 report of the superintending committee

team or sleigh, an uncomfortable ride in bad weather.

I can attest to this as I rode to school from the fish hatchery neighborhood by horse and wagon, driven by Stanley Kurtyka.

My mother's sister, Alice Whitney, had a problem with a young boy, and his older brother came in to discuss his behavior. Alice married



*An undated picture of the Dry Hill School.*

states that this school, from being the largest and most successful in the town, had dwindled in numbers and presented but little attention for an ambitious teacher. The hill districts were constantly decreasing in population, which was rapidly changing from agriculture to manufacturing.

By 1918, it was decided that the school was in such poor condition, and its equipment so makeshift, that it should be closed, and the children transported to Millers Falls. For many years they were conveyed by horse and

the older brother and left her teaching position.

Mrs. Jessie Wheeler, the last teacher when the school closed in 1918, was my seventh teacher at the old Montague School.

*Some of this material was gleaned from a booklet, "Montague School Then and Now," published in 1954. This study of education was prepared by the Montague Teachers Association as part of its contribution to the two hundredth anniversary of the Town of Montague.*



**GAME** from page B1  
third quarter, they led 24-7.

But Turners didn't give up. Without Trent, the other players stepped up. Starting from their own 36, Turners finessed and bulled their way down the field, and with 57 seconds left in the quarter, Turners made it a game again. The score was 24-13 with a whole quarter to go.

But on the first play of their next drive, Easthampton moved the ball from the 46 yard line all the way to the 7. And Turners entered the fourth quarter with their backs against the wall. Five seconds later, Turners found themselves trailing 32 to 13.

With the deficit looming, Turners tried every trick in the book. When a penalty moved the ball back to make it fourth and 10, they faked a punt and completed the pass. But the pass came up short and Easthampton

took over on downs. When Easthampton scored at 5:06, Turners began playing for pride not for the victory.

"Don't hang your heads," Coach Lapointe called from the sidelines. "I'm not mad that you let up the touchdown. I'm disappointed if you give up."

And the Boys in Blue didn't give up. They picked up their spirits and did what they do best. They scored. The Indians ran an impressive drive starting from their own thirty two. They forced their way the entire 68 yards and scored the touch and got the two point conversion.

But they weren't done yet. Turners got the ball back after a successful onside kick. However, they were unable to get the first down and with 43.4 seconds left in the game, Easthampton scored again and the game ended 46-21.

With Trent Bourbeau sidelined, the other players

had to step up. Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders, Brody Markol, Malcolm Smith as well as Trent Bourbeau, each carried the ball for a total of 108 yards on the ground. Melvin Moreno, Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders, and Brody Markol each caught passes. Behind the line, Malcolm Smith passed for 131 yards and two touchdowns.

Tyler Charboneau was 1 for 1 in completions. Melvin Moreno, Jalen Sanders, and Trent Bourbeau each scored touchdowns. Brody Markol had a two pointer. Melvin Moreno kicked a PAT.

The loss moves the Tribe to 5 and 1. But they have nothing to hang their heads about. We'll all still cheer them on. And no matter what happens this season, let's remember that schoolboy football is meant to be fun. It is, after all, a game.



## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Male In Dumpster Advised To Stay Out Of Dumpster

**Monday, 10/14**

10:46 a.m. Two motor vehicles at Millers Falls Road residence entered overnight. Some stolen items later recovered from a yard on Turnpike Rd. Report taken.

11:20 a.m. Overturned tractor trailer unit on Mormon Hollow Road. No injuries; some incinerated metal fell into a stream. DPW notified; all debris cleaned up.

3:15 p.m. Vehicle parked behind house on O Street ransacked overnight; nothing missing.

4:20 p.m. Load of tires dumped illegally along side of Cemetery Rd. near river. DPW advised.

4:44 p.m. Scrap metal and garden cart reported stolen from a Federal Street residence.

5:34 p.m. Small unleashed dog attacked and killed by two leashed dogs on Avenue A. Leashed dogs confirmed to be licensed, up to date on vaccinations. Owner advised to quarantine dogs.

7:08 p.m. Advised male in dumpster on Avenue A to stay out of dumpster.

**Tuesday, 10/15**

4:41 a.m. Breaking and entering reported in progress at a Fourth Street apartment. Investigated.

6:31 a.m. Two car mo-

tor vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road; three people injured. One operator cited for marked lanes violation. DPW advised re: uprooted stop sign.

7:11 a.m. Illegal dumping on Ripley Road; DPW employee located piece of mail with name and address. Services rendered.

7:38 a.m. Several loose goats reported eating neighbor's bushes. Owner located and notified.

8:17 a.m. Wallet reported stolen from vehicle on Dell Street Sunday night.

12:33 p.m. Complaint regarding vehicles speeding on Avenue A.

3:36 p.m. Complaint regarding green Jeep Cherokee seen speeding in the alley off First Street daily.

4:29 p.m. Sick raccoon reported on Fairway Avenue. Unable to locate.

9:53 p.m. Female taken into protective custody following disturbance on Fourth Street.

**Wednesday, 10/16**

12:34 a.m. Contacted by male wishing to file a complaint after being refused service by a bartender. Advised of options. Checked on establishment; all OK.

9:40 a.m. Dog walkers reported being verbally assaulted by a Turners Falls Road resident despite not going on his property.

Services rendered.

1:15 p.m. Millers Falls woman arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property under \$250.

4:00 p.m. Closed Montague City Road at Greenfield Road briefly while Greenfield police cleared accident on General Pierce Bridge.

7:17 p.m. Intoxicated Athol man taken into protective custody following bicycle accident on Canal Street.

**Thursday, 10/17**

1:37 p.m. Male subject found to be squatting outdoors behind First Light property; had previously been moved along from same location. Trash and waste left in area. Male given 24 hours to clean up and vacate area.

3:06 p.m. Request from Town Hall to require Madison's on the Avenue to clear sidewalk due to lack of liability insurance paperwork. Determined not to be a police matter.

4:08 p.m. Report of attempted phone fraud; woman contacted by caller claiming to be her grandson in need of a large sum of money. Advised of options.

6:46 p.m. Complaint regarding neighbor cleaning shared porch with bleach; caller was afraid it could make her dogs sick. Situation mediated.

8:11 p.m. Turners Falls man arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, larceny over \$250, and intimidating a witness.

**Friday, 10/18**

5:55 a.m. Call regarding unsafe operation of a vehicle by a newspaper delivery driver in Montague Center. When approached, operator yelled and swore at caller. Unable to locate.

10:33 a.m. Report of gunshots near Beech Road and Green Pond Road. Officers located shooter, who had a valid Gill firearms ID. Advised subject regarding trespassing and restrictions.

5:03 p.m. Complaint regarding a suspicious male approaching 12 year old female on multiple occasions. Male party located and advised of complaint.

5:41 p.m. Caller captured a dove, possibly someone's pet, in her front yard and inquired what to do with it. Referred to animal control officer.

7:23 p.m. Caller from airport reported seeing what looked like a large fire in the distance. Confirmed that it was (planned) bonfire at Franklin County Technical School.

11:29 p.m. Report of rocks thrown at vehicle crossing Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Investigated.

**Saturday, 10/19**

1:36 a.m. Caller who had been in bathroom talking to himself reported feeling threatened after being yelled at by neighbors. Advised of options.

10:47 a.m. Air let out of tires of vehicle parked on Avenue A overnight. Report taken.

2:16 p.m. Report from Easthampton animal control officer of a Montague resident's dog biting a woman and her dog in Easthampton. Dog to be quarantined; Board of Health will follow up.

3:04 p.m. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

3:20 p.m. House and car egged on Third Street.

3:55 p.m. Complaint that music from Pumpkifest was too loud.

4:00 p.m. Summons issued following a domestic disturbance in Millers Falls.

4:48 p.m. Intoxicated Greenfield man taken into protective custody.

6:37 p.m. Vehicle in Food City parking lot broken into and items stolen.

7:28 p.m. A male spotted lifting vehicle door handles in the Food City parking lot was arrested.

Horton and seeks his attention but only gets it at the end when she steps in to help him get out of the trap he's in.

Maney is excellent in her performance as a pretty bird which fits her perfectly.

One of the most powerful musical performances is by Chris McKenzie Wilenbrock who plays the Sour Kangaroo. She runs in with the monkeys who are the trouble-makers of the crowd and make a lot of noise, and her voice fills the room. She is an outstanding singer and her performance here is dramatic and noteworthy.

Bringing a lot of fun to the show are the Bird Girls, Erika Wollback, Emily Clough and Jerri Higgins. They sing and smile and are lovely fun. General Genghis Kahn Schmitz is played by Tom May, The Grinch and Yertle the Turtle are both played by Steve Woodard.

The show has a huge cast,

including lots of children of all ages, singing and dancing together so well, with precision and excellent timing, a reminder of how many talented children we have in this community.

The experience is totally joyous and uplifting. Director Dawn Mayo deserves a lot of credit for presenting a show with a big cast like this that holds together and works so well at every turn.

Musical Director, Mandy Oliver and Choreographer, Kim Overtree, deserve credit for helping this large group of young performers, many of them very young, give such a professional performance.

*The show at the Shea Theater, Avenue A, Turners Falls, continues on Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 26 and 27 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$16 general, \$13 seniors/students, \$10 ages 12 and under.*



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Stolen Phone Traced to Erving

Wednesday, 10/16

4 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to ██████ for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

4:30 p.m. Report of a stolen cell phone being tracked to an Erving residence. Under investigation.

6:30 p.m. Motor vehicle abandoned on Lester Street property. Owner contacted and asked to make arrangements.

Thursday, 10/17

7:43 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD at pizza shop on East Main Street for a disturbance

between two female subjects. 8:15 p.m. Responded to Cheney Street in Orange for disturbance. Peace restored. 9:35 p.m. Suspicious person reported at French King Bridge. Gone on arrival.

11 p.m. Arrested a 48-year old East Prospect street man on charges of domestic assault & battery.

Friday, 10/18

11:20 a.m. Took report regarding possible mail scam.

12:10 p.m. Report of three motorcycles passing in a no-passing zone on Route 2 westbound. Unable to locate.

12:30 p.m. Took report of deer struck on North Street. 1:05 p.m. Alarm at Stoneville Auto. Found to be secure.

1:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at the French King Bowling Center.

Saturday, 10/19

5:03 p.m. Report of male subject on French King Bridge kicking a dog. Made contact. Owner said his pit bull pulled on the leash and he stumbled.

Sunday, 10/20

11:20 a.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at the Erving Paper Mill.

FILM from page B1

The main focus of the story, on the surface at least, is two young people named Agnes and Steve, who connect and become friends, and a little more. Rachel Zeiger-Haas, who plays Agnes and was just 15 years old when first cast in the role, is in many ways the heart of the film. Her honesty and quiet beauty shine through those intimate close ups where she demonstrates a calm assurance in portraying Agnes that gives real depth to her character.

Robert Postrozny, the talented young actor who plays Steve, has that youthful, self-assured attitude that says, yeah, I'm homeless and broke and have no idea where I'm going but hey, it's ok, I've got my guitar and I'll be fine. "Do you know how to get to Granby?" he asks repeatedly. When asked what he wants to do with his life, he answers he wants to go to Granby.

Steve and Agnes get together but he knows she's young and he never takes advantage. They are just spending time together, and when she runs away he looks for her but in the end, it is she who is looking for him. She's an underage run-away so when the police find her he's the one in trouble.

Romance and love creep in, marriage is suggested but meanwhile there is a preacher who sees angels and is dying of cancer and that is where the story leaves the commonplace and becomes really interesting. Agnes is convinced Steve can help Brother Wilf (played by Court Dorsey) but also that Brother Wilf can help Steve find more purpose in his life.

Brother Wilf is a little crazy and says he talks to Jesus and sees angels. Most people don't take him seriously. Agnes and some of their

friends, including the pastor at the church, want to convince Brother Wilf to go to the hospital and get treatment for his cancer. They try an intervention that doesn't work but Steve goes out to meet with Wilf and decides to engage the help of the angels even though he can't see them.

Steve looks in the direction where Wilf seems to see the angels and asks them to demonstrate their approval of his getting treated in a hospital by kneeling in prayer. And they do. We get to see this happen and it's quite a moment, when this group of wispy young women in old fashioned dress kneel before Brother Wilf. Even though Wilf is the only one in town who can see these angels, for the audience they are a consistent presence throughout this film.



Rachel Zeiger-Haas plays Agnes, the young female lead.

Court Dorsey is such a great talent and in this role he brings a wide range of emotions into play. He can be almost high spiritually in one scene and desperately miserable in another. In the hospital scene he

seems to lose all sense of himself, the treatment draining him of all feeling except misery.

Out on the train tracks (the ones in Millers Falls) he rises up in fear and whacks Steve's friend Michael on the head because he's been seeing his image instead of the angels since he left the hospital. He suffers terrible guilt for this, and goes to see Michael in the hospital which it seems helps the young man recover. All of the sense of spirituality in the film swirls around Brother Wilf and he is a source of the dramatic glue for the film.

This is a large cast with so many talented people it's not possible to mention everyone. Some of the best actors in the Valley or anywhere took part, including Bill Dwight who was excellent as Chief Brooks, Jeannine Haas as Brenda Kilgallen, Phillip Wolter who played Michael, a small but important part, Susanna Apgar as Robyn, Michael's girlfriend.

Rip Torn, a well-known actor of film and television, came to the Valley to play Steve's father and does a wonderful job playing a man successful in his work but not so connected to his son. He walks that fine line of caring enough to do what he can to help when Steve needs him but not so much that he could actually stay. They are familiarly awkward with each other and their interaction is most interesting.

Lisa Enzer, playing Agnes' mother, Amelia, is wonderful in her raving protective mother role where

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 23, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Making New Discoveries

Backed with over \$4 million in state and federal grants, the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge proudly opened the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday.

The old Montague Paper Company's machine shop, located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, is now an outstanding center of natural history exhibits focused on the river valley.

The opening ceremonies began at 10 a.m. Speakers included Jay DiPucchio of the MEDIC, Pat Allen of the selectboard, Representatives Steve Kulik and Stanley Rosenberg, Congressman John Olver, and officials from MA Parks and Rec and US Fish and Wildlife.

The exhibition hall overlooks the site once known as Great Falls to the native people of the region.

Dealership Proposed

Benjamin Shaw of Orange went before the Erving selectboard with his proposal for a used car business. He is seeking a Class II license to allow him to showcase up to 15 cars in front of the property at 58 State Road.

Selectboard member Bert Dubai explained to Shaw that all of Erving is zoned residential, and that current businesses are grandfathered. Commercial properties that are left idle for two years revert back to residential status, and their future commercial use requires approval from the board.

Planning For A Quorum

Gill planning board chair Suzanne Smiley reported that the board frequently fails to have a quorum of five members present. Although there are seven members currently listed, only five are regularly attending. If one of those five has to miss a meeting, no decisive action can be taken.

"Unfortunately, many people who already serve as volunteers for the town are also the same people who are active in other community service functions, and do not have the time to be on a second board," said Smiley.

Next Up: The Moltenbrey

After recent successes with the renovations of the Crocker Block and Cutlery Building, the FCRHA is poised to tackle a \$3.2 million rehab of the Moltenbrey Building on Avenue A and Third Streets.

Historically a boarding house, it is one of the last remaining bastions of single room occupancy housing in the county.

The agency will renovate the building, which suffered a fire in the 1980s, as "enhanced single person occupancy" housing, giving each apartment its own kitchenette and bathroom, and renting to residents to pledge to keep it "sober housing" and substance-free.

she fiercely does all she can to get her daughter to behave in a way that is more appropriate for a 15-year-old girl. By contrast, when she's not fighting with Agnes, you can see she is a creative woman, an artist, strong, self-sufficient and in the end very loving.

The scenes between these two are intense and very real. They stick in the mind as one reflects on the various themes in the film of child and parent, community, love and loss. Add to that spirituality and angels and you've got quite a mix.

After the screening, the writer/directors Liz Foley and Peter Hobbs talked about what it meant to them to have their film shown and gave

homage to their inspiration, Alan Arenius of Northampton. He was an actor and his story is the basis of the character of Brother Wilf. They honor him in the film's credits.

Those credits go on for a long time as they give credit and thanks to all of the people and organizations, and towns, that were part of the making of this film. The collaborative effort the completion of the film represents is a tribute to all those involved.

The producers hope to be able to release it for distribution at some point in the future but right now they're on a path of showing it at film festivals which, according to Foley, must be done before a commercial release.



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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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## ONGOING:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

## EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty John-*

*ny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## ART SHOWS:

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

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

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls: *Slate Roof Poets Ed Rayher, Abbot Cutler, and Janet MacFadyen* reading from their recent *Slate Roof* chapbooks and more, 6:30 p.m.

The First Congregational Church of Montague: *Introduction to Centering Prayer* with Armand Proulx, 6:30 p.m. (413) 367-9467 to register.

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Daniel Plane and Lefty Lance Smith*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shannon Wyatt & Peter Adams Nice*, rhythm guitarist singer/songwriter Shannon Wyatt with multi-instrumentalist Peter Adams Nice, 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Center, UMass, Amherst: *JD Parran, Bezanson* Recital Hall, \$, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour on Bats*, 10:30 a.m.

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Transition Town's Film Festival*. Screening of the

top 10 local films on the theme "How Communities Are Working Toward Sustainable Living." 7 p.m. Free [www.transitionnorthfieldma.org](http://www.transitionnorthfieldma.org)

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, South Hadley: Senior Thesis Project: *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, \$, 7 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Seussical!* \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*, blues, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Head Band*, reggae, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Atomic Scissors*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Scream To Be Heard* Entertainment presents *Scream of*



Charles Neville plays the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m.

*of Fear* show - 7 Bands - *Shot Heard Around the World, For the Year, Under Fire, Short Handed Goal, No Sudden Movement, Villamas, Colin Burke*. Tickets \$10 with costume, \$15 without.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Children's Halloween Party*, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Costumes encouraged but not required.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Seussical!* \$, 2 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Shostakovich's The Nose*, \$, 12:55 p.m.

Cushman Park, Bernardston: *Scarecrow in the Park*, fundraiser for Bernardston Kiwanis

Scholarship Fund. Hay rides, arts & crafts, movies at 6 p.m. *It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown* and *Hocus Pocus*.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Northfield: *Halloween Celebration around the Campfire* with Roger Tincknell, 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, South Hadley: Senior Thesis Project: *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, \$, 7 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: *Charles Neville*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

## Erving:

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Jim Mateus and Doug Raneri*, \$, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Halloween Party with Benny Lava*, 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Center, UMass, Amherst: *Les Violons Du Roy, Bernard Labadie*, Artistic & Music Director with Stephanie Blythe, Mezzo-Soprano, FAC Concert Hall, \$, 8 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, guitar based blues, 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Seussical!* \$, 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jen Starsinic & Eric Law*, americana singer/songwriters, 2:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community Farm, Greenfield: *Fall Farm Festival*, tours, workshops, work parties, kids' activities, campfire and hot apple cider, 3-7 p.m. Info: (413) 376-8333.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Moonlight & Morning Star*, rhythm & blues, 8 p.m.

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

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A night of Spoken Word*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mike*, 8 p.m., sign-ups start at 7:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Fine Arts Center, UMass, Amherst: *The Idan Rachel Project*, FAC Concert Hall, \$, 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry's Halloween Hoedown*, 9 p.m.

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Chris Dixon*, solo acoustic featuring upright bass, 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Momentary Gallery (ex-VFW), Turners Falls: Imperfect Pearl presents *All Souls Day* with music by *Red Favorite, Tether, Mausoleum*, and *DJ Psychadelarythmia*, plus paintings, fortunes, and more. 8 p.m., all welcome.



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# PUMPKINFEST A SMASH!

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Last Saturday, Avenue A experienced its fourth annual transformation into a harvest carnival of fire-twirlers, line dancers, skateboarders, musicians, revelers, vendors as far as the eye could see, and pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins!

Event organizer Mike Nelson said he had heard human attendance estimates ranging from 10 to 15 thousand, “depending on who you ask – a lot of people, though, that’s for sure!”

“We’re very happy with the way

the event went,” Nelson continued. “Mother Nature cooperated again.... It gets better every year, and there are more pumpkins every year.”

“This year we had 843 pumpkins, which is about 100 more than last year – and that’s good, because it’s not a pumpkin fest without the pumpkins. We’ve already started planning for next year’s event.”

Montague Chief of Police Chip Dodge said his department was “very pleased”: “It was a wonderful event, with no major problems. The officers and I were very impressed with the organization, and will continue to support it.”



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The festival was teeming with traditional jack o'lanterns...



LINDA MINER PHOTO

... and more than a few less traditional ones. This entry won Linda Miner of Gill a First Place ribbon for Creative Carving.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

A crowd in Peskeompskut Park watches a rousing group performance of the “Cup Song.”

“I thought it was great,” said Eileen Dowd of Carriage House Designs, a Montague Business Association steering committee member. “There was a nice quality in the vendors.”

Chris Janke, co-owner of the Rendezvous restaurant, had this to say: “We think it’s great for bringing peo-

ple downtown and introducing them to Turners Falls. We hope the visitors who come have a positive impression of what goes on here year-round, and come back during the year.”

“We love the lantern parade,” he added.



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

The Nolumbeka Project, a Native American educational, advocacy and conservation group, took a straightforward approach to representing their group at the Fest.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Many turned out to paint lanterns for the night's Lantern Parade, sponsored by RiverCulture.

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## HOCKEY from page B1

and Ashley Hubbard scored one point each for the Panthers. Pioneer’s Sarah Matherson had two assists.

The Indians are now awaiting the seeding for the Western Mass Division II Tournament.

The seeds are to be released on October 30.



MOLLY BAXTER PHOTO

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