



OLD HOME DAYS

Fun for the Whole Family

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West Along the River

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 42

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 21, 2008

Jonathan Edwards School Closes

BY JOE KWIECINSKI
MILLERS FALLS - According to the Reverend Bob Davis of Covenant Church in this picturesque town, the recent closing of Jonathan Edwards Academy in Turners Falls is a mixture of joy and sorrow, of celebration and grief.

"It's such an emotional time for us," said the Rev. Davis in an interview with the *Montague Reporter* at his office in Fellowship Hall. "When we opened the school in 1997, we had some lofty goals. We even envisioned our school as being something like Deerfield Academy. We succeeded in so many ways, but we just couldn't balance our budget for the 2008-2009 school year."

It was the Rev. Davis who helped found Jonathan Edwards along

with Headmaster Ronald Baines and the Rev. Jerry Bricker of Greenfield's Christ Church.

"In the last four years," Davis said, "we simply had a decline in enrollment. And even though we had financial reserves over the years, they were eventually eaten up. We could have continued operation this fall, but we didn't want to go out in debt and close in the middle of the school year."

The Christian school's home was a space rented at the Turners Falls Industrial Park. Last school year, 40 students were enrolled from kindergarten to 12th grade under the tutelage of 12 teachers.

When you crunch the numbers, it's a bit of a latter-day miracle that Jonathan Edwards Academy flourished for see **SCHOOL** pg 11

Sunshine for the Block Party



A Baby meets a doggy parade participant at the Turners Falls Block party.

JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

four-legged marchers and their companions. My dog Flame was in the parade accompanied by Dottie Janke. (I had been coerced into joining the drill team.) Flame was not as well-dressed as some, but the treats provided by dog organizer and select board member Patricia Pruitt were enough to ensure her good behavior. According to Patricia, there were "no fights and no bites."

see **PARTY** pg 3

... and a Good Time was had by All!

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - To best describe the mood of the parade that kicked off the 2008 Turners Falls Block Party, I have to defer to lawn chair drill team member Mike Szteliga, whose t-shirt read "Different is Good."

Or to the tiny wagon pulled by Jin Jin Dickson toting a load of frogs and fish with a sign that said,

"I (heart) Turners Falls."

Or to the well-dressed four foot tall stuffed bear that hung out at parade central bearing a reversible sign that started out saying, "Turners Falls, That's What I'm Talking About!" and later sat by the stage sporting the message "Home Grown."

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno led 30 or so



JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

MEN OF IRON

BY LYN CLARK

You hear a lot these days about fitness. You may even think that you are reasonably fit. There may be some minor avoirdupois starting to pad the waist-but, hey, you're not twenty anymore, right? If you get a little out of breath walking from the village up the hill, well, doesn't everyone? You don't smoke, you're a moderate drinker, you don't eat junk food-not too much, anyway. And just this year your doctor pronounced you 'fit'.

Well, just in case you weren't aware of it, there is fit, and then there is FIT. Meet Bob Sagor, DVM, who takes care of my dogs and very possibly yours at the Greenfield Animal Clinic. You know him as a tall, rangy man in a white smock gently handling the



Dr. Bob Sagor of the Greenfield Veterinary Clinic, in a recent Iron Man competition.

smallest of his patients. Meet his alter ego, the other Bob Sagor, the quintessential athlete. You may have seen him in his cycling gear crouched

over the handlebars of his bicycle looking like a competitor in the Tour de France as he tears up the roads of Franklin County,

see **SAGOR** pg 10

Cleanup of the Strathmore

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETS

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY
MONTAGUE

Sidewalk replacement project information was presented by Dan Lawrence of Weston and Sampson to the selectboard on August 11th. A combination of block grant money and town funding will be used to improve sidewalks along Unity St., Seventh St., Spring St., Stevens St., Center St., and Union St. The completed project should result in improved pedestrian access near schools and parks and more clearly defined pedestrian and parking areas surrounding Scotty's Store. The block grant money will be spent first, as it expires in December. A tree meeting was held on August 13th to hash out concerns from neighbors about tree

removals associated with the sidewalk improvement project. A compromise was reached: Diseased and unhealthy trees, as determined by an arborist, in the path of the sidewalk improvements, will be removed. Other more viable trees will have asphalt paved over their root structures rather than concrete so as to extend their lives.

An emergency preparedness update was then presented by Bob Escott, Emergency Management Director, and several others. A few hypothetical scenarios, such as a flu pandemic, were discussed, such as who gets vaccinated if there aren't enough vaccines for everyone in the area who wants one. Planning, brainstorming, and discussion are on the

agenda for September to get a more clearly defined emergency management plan in place. Everyone acknowledged the difficulty of the project given there are so many different kinds of emergencies that our community might encounter, everything from flu pandemics, to nuclear accidents, to homeland security issues, and more.

The selectboard approved an agreement with the Swift River Strathmore Development LLC that puts a back taxes repayment schedule in place. All back taxes should be paid by June 30, 2009 for a total of \$213,000. The town will retain ownership of the property until then, while licensing out to SRSD LLC access to the see **MONTAGUE** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK
Friendly Girl



Lady Bird

My name is Lady Bird and I'm a 4 year old female English setter mix in need of a good home. I'm an easy going, friendly girl from Kentucky. I'm hoping to find my forever home up here in New England. I'd like to go home with someone who will play with me, take me on walks, and give me lots of love and attention. I've traveled a long way and would like to go to a home. Am I the dog you've been looking for? Kids 10+, No Cats, Dogs ok. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dphs.org.

Hospice Volunteer Training

Hospice of Franklin County has scheduled a nine-week training course for volunteers beginning Wednesday, September 17th at the office of Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street in Greenfield.

Classes will run on nine consecutive Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Hospice would especially like to hear from interested individuals in the outer laying towns within Franklin County.

To schedule an interview or to obtain more information, contact Jayne Allen, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 413-774-2400 or jgallen@hospicefc.org.

Put the Kettle On Again, Ev!

Mik Muller was the first to tell us that Avenue A Cafe has officially re-opened its doors. Owner Evelyn Daly has handed full management to her husband Brian Daly.

"I spent the last two and a half days, with a 21-hour stretch awake, going over the numbers," Daly told Mik, "and decided to take it on. I can do it."

Counter staff person Nicky said "Isn't it great? We're going to have regular hours from 6:00 to 2:00, and we're going to repaint the front facade and brighten up the windows a little, and move the marble counter

back where it was after removing the unused pastry display case." Nicky added "we're also looking for 'booth benches' to add more seating."

A customer commented that when the cafe, at 111 Avenue A, closed down the previous week, the suddenness shocked the downtown. It was like a gap-tooth feeling.

Daly responded "Yes, the neighborhood was really feeling it. People were walking around like zombies, looking for their coffee. Well, we're back. Let everybody know."

FACES & PLACES



JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

This artistic expression, seen at Third and L Streets, brings a whole new dimension to the shopping experience. We particularly admire the eye for detail, the flow of line, the poignant but uplifting mood of the piece, and wonder what unknown artist created this lovely bit of street art that so aptly expresses what is best about Turners Falls: its offbeat, creative spirit.



Happy 25th to a great couple!

Gill Bike Rodeo

Town of Gill Bike Rodeo Saturday, Aug. 23rd, at the Gill Fire Station. Bring your bikes from noon to 3 p.m. Safety tips, bike tune-ups, and obstacle courses! FREE HELMETS TO GILL RESIDENTS while supplies last Hot dogs, snacks and fun for kids of all ages!

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
A Visit from Chewie



HICKMAN PHOTO

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- Danielle Kaiser and Sage of Turners Falls enjoyed petting Chewie the chinchilla at the Wild Reads at Your Library Summer Reading Program Party at the Carnegie

Library on Wednesday, August 20th. Matt from Animal World Experience in Stoughton also brought a bearded dragon lizard, a giant millipede, an alligator snapping turtle, a tree frog, and a royal python. 85 people attended the party, which was for summer reading program participants and their families. Smaller parties were also held on Monday and Tuesday at the Montague Center and Millers Falls Libraries.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Aug. 25th - Sept. 5th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Monday 1st
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday 2nd
9 a.m. Walking Club
Wednesday 3rd
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 4th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 5th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

Monday, 25th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 26th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 27th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 28th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
Monday, 1st
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 2nd
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 3rd
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 4th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

Monday, 25th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 26th
9 a.m. Walking Club
Wednesday, 27th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 28th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 29th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

DAD, YOU ARE AWESOME!
Love, Christine
(Joe Parzych's daughter)

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PARTY from pg 1

Next came the folks from the Parks and Recreation Department, joined by roller bladers and skate boarders, belly dancers, and a couple of strolling musicians - JD Keating on trombone and Rob Skelton on drum. There were a number of bicyclists including a cadre of "solar rollers" getting ready for their two-week road tour to try to prevent the relicensing of Vermont Yankee.

Some images:

- Tim deChristopher, wearing the latest in non-OSHA certified hard-hats, driving a festooned forklift carrying a huge millstone;
- Kevin Smith with tuba and top hat, and Skye Dix on guitar; a cyclist toting gypsy fiddler Luke Eaton in a cart and occasionally wowing the crowd by pedaling in reverse; a pick-up truck carrying Curtis and a full set of drums that seemed precariously perched on the open tail gate-perhaps to keep the lawn chair team in step;
- The Brick House zombies with their gruesome makeup and well-practiced zombie-like behavior as they managed to stay in character throughout the day;
- Elizabeth Nash resplendent majordomo of the Lawn Chair NON-Precision Drill Team-this whistle-toting, butterfly-baton carrying leader had her work cut out for her but she managed to keep the ten-member lawn chair group somewhat in step. What a way to celebrate her birthday!!

Stage manager John Laprade kept the music acts flowing smoothly with JD Keating doing the intros (and occasionally picking up his horn to join



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

The Lawn Chair Precision Drill Team perform in the Block Party Parade.

the acts). Klondike Sound did a fabulous job of sound engineering, and MCTV was catching the event on video as two blocks of Avenue A between Third and Fifth Streets were closed to traffic. People were dancing in the streets all day.

Just some of the tastes:

- Second Street Baking Company was on hand with funnel cake, fried dough and an assortment of delectable treats while the Rendezvous had a variety of Panini and beverages for sampling.
- Sweet Charlotte & family were serving up the Soul Food her nine boys thrived on growing up and Patty Cake Patty Cake served desserts galore - cookies, delectable pie slices and much more. Hot slices from Turners Falls' own Pizza House and the Sheffield School Council with cotton candy and sno cones.
- The ever-present Turners/Gill Firefighters were grilling burgers and dogs and serving up hot french fries while Grumpy's Pantry focused on seafood and grilled sausages. Ristorante DiPaolo served all

kinds of eats and frozen drinks on the patio and party goers seemed to appreciate a lovely place to sit and rest their feet while watching their children just a few steps away.

There were things to do and see:

- Karen Adam's acupuncture sessions at Montague Catholic Social Ministries;
- Tae Kwon Do demonstrations;
- Budding Picassos at the Southworth Company tent and Southworth's archival photos of the history of paper-making in Turners Falls;
- The Swift River Group visions for the Strathmore building ;
- Tristan Metcalfe's renderings of a proposed use for the 135 foot tall concrete coal silo on the former MEG site - to install a Foucault's pendulum (possibly the world's largest) and create a spiral walkway.
- Jon Dobosz and Linda Ackerman's games for children;
- The Brick House Healthy Start information for healthy ways to start the day.
- Brent Eaton at the MCTV

booth with his air brush - painting amazingly realistic water-based art ;

- Children and adults alike running through an open sprinkler whenever they needed to cool off.

The Fabulous Maurice and his accordion started off the day's musical entertainment followed by the fun, irreverent folk duo of Fletcher & Manzi. The Vaudevillians (formerly known as Taxidermy Grandma) were on hand with their unique brand of gypsy punk. TMD (Touching Mrs. Dash) took the stage with a pop ska rock performance followed by US - the junior members of the show ranging in age from 10-14. Their rousing NRBQ medley was a show stopper and if you missed it they'll be portraying NRBQ at the upcoming Transperformance at Look Park.

Next on stage was Turners Falls own wonderful Ghost Quartet, followed by Andrew Jones and Spirithouse with their unique brand of rockalypso - the Bahamian island influence of Nassau native Jones mixed with the rock and roll influence of

Spirithouse.

Show closers Amity Front were joined by Lonesome Brother Jim Armenti. Well-known for their rousing live performances, The Amity Front lived up to their reputation and encouraged by the enthusiastic audience they stayed for a few extra tunes.

If that wasn't enough for one day, the lower case G's hosted an after-party at the Rendezvous with many of the day's musicians joining them for a improv jam sessions. Block Party coordinators Lisa Davol and Jen Audley were in the audience-sitting for the first time all day I would guess. They were "totally psyched" about the success of the Block Party and glad to see so many people enjoying the day.

Just a few of those they thanked:

Ray Godin, Ray Zukowski, Tom Bergeron, Dan LaRoche and the Selectboard; Bob Fritz for overall logistics, and Rick Kuklewicz for installing the electricity on Avenue A. And a special thanks to Steve and Suzette Snow-Cobb for schlepping all the bags of garbage down to the DPW dumpster.

Lisa and Jen, along with music maestros J.D. Keating and Don McAuley and parade master Justine Regish deserve a lot of credit for another fine event.

It wasn't until the next day, Sunday, August 10th, as storm clouds moved in and the rolling thunder led to the seemingly inevitable daily deluge, that I was reminded how fortunate we were to celebrate the Turners Falls Block Party under clear blue skies just a day earlier.



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"The Voice of the Villages"

Carry a Big Shtick

BY WES BLIXT
GREENFIELD - As those of us who were there already know, the Turners Falls Block Party was truly exceptional. An amazement. This sense of community, of celebration, and of odd communion does not happen often or everywhere. And when it does, it is to be treasured. And celebrated all over again.

For those of us who were not there-or who don't live in Turners, or even in Montague, or even in the villages served by this newspaper-there is also a real sense of amazement in this event. That amazement, however, may be tinged with longing, even a certain wistful sadness.

to argue (except perhaps members of your own Town Council . . . but even they should, as least, be able to agree on this one. Maybe.)

2. Enlist the state in helping lure at least one, and maybe more than one, high-end bike frame designer and builder to occupy some of the abundant manufacturing space and machine tool expertise.

3. Enlist your local bike shops, fitness business and health providers in developing a sustained Ride It campaign to reduce fuel consumption, emissions, obesity, blood pressure and parking congestion.

4. Organize small monthly races for riders of every ability, and an annual 100-mile-classic through the hill towns-attracting elite competitors who are simply sick and tired of crowded circuit races.

5. Enlist every bar, club, restaurant, B&B and hotel in sponsoring its own race colors for local amateur competitors-and then fill those bars and restaurants on race day.

6. Put a bike or a frame in every downtown window.

7. Celebrate your historic legacy as the Bicycle Capital of Massachusetts. Or of New England. (Again, who's gonna argue?)

There. You are special. You have a shtick. Could be anything, as long as it's yours.

And what is the Turners Falls shtick? What makes Turners special?

Simply being the very best Turners Falls around.

Why, after all, does this not happen everywhere? Other communities have their Harvest Suppers and the Old Home Days. But the Turners Falls Block Party was special. After some consideration, we believe that this is because Turners is special. Turners has a shtick. It is something that other communities can learn from Turners.

It is in this spirit that we offer the following proposal for a neighboring community that clearly is trying to figure out things out, and has been for quite some time. Our advice is this: Pick a shtick. Any shtick. It doesn't matter what shtick you choose as long as you do it well. For instance:

1. Declare yourselves to be the "Bicycle Capital of Massachusetts." Who's going



GUEST EDITORIAL

Democrats are Losers

BY WESLEY BLIXT
GREENFIELD - It's so very sad, and so very true.

I offer this observation as a registered Democrat who will vote for Barack Obama, and I offer it not as a polemic, but as a simple matter of fact.

The Democrats have controlled the White House for only 12 of the last 40 years. In that time, they have declined to have an appreciable or lasting impact on a major piece of public policy; have utterly failed to build a progressive base in any of the three branches of the federal government; and have somehow handed the mantle of American populism over to an unruly gaggle of rich folks and neo-fascist crackpots.

The Democratic Party has capitulated and compromised its way to irrelevance-standing mute and hamstrung and helplessly wringing its collective hands while Republicans have systematically lined the pockets of the most powerful, and exercised their cruelty on the most vulnerable.

Just how liberals and progres-

sives have given up so much so fast is almost inexplicable. Personal liberty and government non-interference used to be our territory . . . progressive territory. Somehow, conservatives grabbed it, even if they don't really believe in it. Conservatives, in fact, don't believe in much of anything. Conservatism isn't so much a belief system as it is an institutionalized excuse for greed, ignorance and bigotry.

Even more painful, ultraconservative bullies are fairly accurate in describing why Dems are so vulnerable: Democrats, quite simply, are losers because they are weak, and they are weak because they are losers.

Losing, unfortunately, is built into the Democratic Party, not added on. It is precisely the posture of tolerance, fair play, civility, and thoughtfulness-upon which we Dems pride ourselves-that is our undoing.

Perhaps I should say their undoing. I no longer have any interest in any of it. I no longer have any interest in civility, tolerance, respect, persuasion or

debate-not, that is, when it comes to issues like ending the war and abolishing the death penalty, guaranteeing gay, same sex union, and abortion rights, or providing access to universal education and health care. They should not be matters of debate for progressives.

Frankly, they should not be matters of debate for anyone.

I am always astonished to hear folks in progressive circles complain about the manipulative and excessive way conservatives wield power. We would never do that, they say, confident that everyone will ultimately see how . . . well . . . really awful the opposition is, and how flawed and retrograde and aggressive their reasoning it is. It is just all so unfair.

And effective.

Politics is power. Political power is squandered unless it is exercised broadly, surely and when necessary, ruthlessly.

Democrats aren't able to do that. It goes against the grain. And we are going to lose again in November.

Summer Schedule
The Montague Reporter is printing on our summer schedule, every other week. Regular weekly publication will resume September 4th. Have a good summer!

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American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 8/19/08

(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

In Praise of Town Officials

I am writing to praise the work of two especially dedicated Gill officials.

Town clerk and assessor's clerk Lynda Hodson Mayo is a caring and hardworking individual. Her commitment to the assessor's office is of particular advantage to the town. My own experience as an assessor enabled me to have the pleasure of working with Lynda. She has learned a great deal in a short time and is always helpful and courteous. It is my hope that Lynda continues in the assessor's office for a long time.

Treasurer Ronnie LaChance puts in an amazing amount of hours in order to do the job as it should be done. The taxpayers of Gill do not realize how much work and knowledge a person needs to do her job. Ronnie is always very helpful, and seems to care deeply about doing a good job.

The town of Gill is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated town officials.

- JoAnn Greenleaf Gill

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Land, Schools & Elders

BY P.H. CROSBY

GILL - Dick French of Main Road, who plans to remove 25 acres of wooded land on the west side of Ben Hale Road from Chapter 61, was present to ask the board to make a decision about exercising its right of first refusal, since the land will-as a result of his planned sale-be converted to residential use. Board members Nancy Griswold and Leland Stevens, after some discussion, decided to wait until their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd (post-poned one day due to the Labor Day holiday) to make a decision with the full Board present.

The board, like a number of Gill citizens heard from in the past several weeks, is concerned about the prospect of eight new building lots in an area valued for its seclusion and wildness; but they have also been made aware by French-who is responsible for a number of land management and land negotiation actions leading to preservation of several treasured Gill locations over the past few years-that allowing reasonable development in areas of Ben Hale Road may afford him the opportunity of protecting sites even less appropriate for residential development, in terms of agricultural, scenic, and rural character features.

In other business, the town reviewed the Franklin County Technical School response to a letter sent to them by the Bernardston selectboard and copied to all selectboards of FCTS district towns. Bernardston has raised the issue of how FCTS selects or fails to

select for admission applicants from member towns, before moving on to accept applicants from non-member towns. Bernardston would like to see the applicant's status as a citizen of a member town more heavily weighted in the selection process. In the original letter, the Bernardston board also questioned why FCTS should be able to refuse students who fail to meet certain criteria when other

public schools do not have the same option.

FCTS noted in its written response that they are reviewing the policy and that the topic will be on the agenda of the first full FCTS board meeting in September. In a note to the Bernardston selectboard, Gill Administrative Assistant Tracy Rogers noted that Gill is "awaiting a list of Gill's admissions ranking to see how it compares." She also noted that the Gill board was interested in continuing the discussion with school committee representatives from all member towns included.

School items also included review of a response from Mitchell Chester, new Commissioner of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, (new acronym: DESE), to the resolution adopted at the Montague town meeting of June 17th regarding school funding issues. Chester noted the need for a district wide meeting to set the school budget and the fact that the Department's role in the matter would end if voters approved the school budget as proposed. Chester also noted that if the towns refused the

school's proposal, the towns should definitely recommend an amount "affordable for taxpayers and adequate for the district's needs," and that this recommendation would "help inform any subsequent budgetary decisions by the school committee and this Department."

The Commissioner went on in the letter to respond to several other issues raised by Montague, including whether the minimum local contributions under Chapter 70 should govern the establishment of an interim regional district budget (answer "no"); and the problem of the

see LAND pg 6



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Gifted Montague Student Honored

August Siena Thomas of Montague has been named as a 2008 Davidson Fellow, and will receive a \$25,000 scholarship from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development—a national nonprofit organization that supports profoundly gifted youth.

Thomas's portfolio, "Rewriting History," contains a range of pieces: a historical novel that she began at the age of twelve, a literary reflection, a drama and a historical interpretation. In these works, the 17 year old Thomas explores themes of power, redemption and choice.

Homeschooled by her mother from the age of nine, Thomas is a senior at

Commonwealth College, Honors College at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she is completing majors in Linguistics, "The Ancient World", and Italian. She began her college career at the age of

fourteen.

Bob Davidson, co-founder of the Davidson Institute, has said that "with nurturing, gifted students will be among those who will solve the world's most vexing problems, now and in the future."

CT River Cleanup

The Connecticut River Watershed Council's 12th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, scheduled for October 4, is New England's largest river cleanup event. It encompasses river banks and tributary sites along the 410-mile Connecticut River from Pittsburg, New Hampshire to Old Saybrook, Connecticut. New and returning volunteers are asked to register with CRWC by Friday, September 5. For more info: visit www.ctriver.org, contact Christine Luis-Schultz at 413-772-2020, ext. 201, or email: cleanup@ctriver.org. A full tally of last year's cleanup and participating groups is available on the CRWC web site.

LAND from 5

overall level of state financial support in K-12 school districts ("We are acutely aware of the fiscal pressures"..... "... have issued a report documenting this problem".... and.... "... a Readiness Finance Commission has been established to study and make recommendations.")

The Commissioner's letter closed with a suggestion that the towns seriously consider whether-- "with less than 1200 students"--they are a large enough district "to provide the full range of required

educational programs and services at an affordable cost." An invitation to meet with Department officials was extended and will apparently take place August 27th at the Statehouse through Representative Steve Kulik.

Gill selectboard members also noted a response from the State Auditor's office about their query regarding whether the current 1/12th school budget imposed upon them constitutes an "unfunded mandate" subject to the provisions of the Local Mandate Law, G.L. c.29, s.27c.

The State Auditor advised that they are looking into the matter and will also be present at the 8/27 meeting at the Statehouse.

Among remaining items for discussion was a positive response to a request for the Franklin County Home Care Corporation to present at an upcoming selectboard meeting. There has been a dramatic increase in calls to FCHCC by area seniors, and the agency would like to share updated information about current programs and resources.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Appropriation Oversight Corrected

BY KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL - The 7:00 pm meeting on August 12th proceeded briskly, passing the five tax- and finance-related warrant articles in 25 minutes.

Four of the articles were passed unanimously:

- In order to correct an oversight, the meeting rescinded the June 3, 2008 Annual Town Meeting appropriation for the Mahar School District. A special town meeting in July had approved a revised Mahar appropriation after voters in three of the other four towns in the district approved a different version of the budget, but the original appropriation had not been rescinded at that special town meeting.

- The meeting approved amending Annual Town Meeting Article 20 to allow spending \$2,500 to update the Open Space Plan in the event that grant money was not available. Marianne Sundell of the Open Space committee said that it was not likely that the town would receive grant money for the update.

- The meeting approved a semi-annual preliminary tax payment system, which will allow the first real estate tax bills to be sent to property owners before the tax rate is set.

- The tax collector's salary

was increased by \$1000 because she has received certification from the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association.

Article 5 asked for \$7,500 appropriation to pay the deductible insurance costs for settlement of the lawsuit against the town by an abutter to the new Town Office building. Delores Williston asked what would happen if the town didn't vote the amount. Select board member Dan Keller said the select board would need to find the money elsewhere and pay the amount in order to keep the insurance policy. Finance Committee member Michael Idoine reported that the money would come from the stabilization fund and would not raise the tax rate. Speaking in favor of the article, Myron Becker noted that the select board had put a lot of effort into negotiating to reduce any cause for the suit, trying to keep the cost to the town low. The article passed by a simple majority.

Before adjournment, select board members noted that several town committees need members, including the Website committee, the Open Space committee and the Recreation Committee. Volunteers are invited to contact the select board.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disorderly Conducts and Assaults

Wednesday, 7/30

4:24 p.m. Report of burglary at a Bridge Street address, Millers Falls. Investigated.

6:38 p.m. Report of a fight on Avenue A, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct.

9:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on two default warrants.

10:06 p.m. Report of a fight on Avenue A, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and assault.

Thursday, 7/31

3:12 p.m. Report of pedestrian accident at Unity and Chestnut Streets, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.

7:16 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft from L Street, Turners Falls.

Investigated.

Friday, 8/1

12:28 p.m. Report of assault at a Highland Circle address, Turners Falls.

Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with domestic assault and wanton destruction of property over \$250.

9:54 p.m. Report of a fight at Montague Elks Lodge #2521. Peace restored.

Sunday, 8/3

12:30 a.m. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct and furnishing a false name or social security number.

8:25 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant.

Monday, 8/4

3:12 p.m. Report of hit and run accident at Sirum Equipment, Federal Street, Millers Falls.

Tuesday, 8/5

1:05 a.m. Report of assault at a Second Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with domestic assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon and assault on a police officer.

3:24 p.m. Report of a structure fire on Walnut Street, Turners Falls. Referred to other agency.

8:16 p.m. Report of a brush fire in the area of Kretzinger Farm, Montague.

Referred to other agency.

8:38 p.m. Report of assault at a J Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Friday, 8/15

2:45 p.m. Report of larceny from Demers Landscaping, Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

5:34 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at the remains of the Indeck building, Canal Road, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted] on a default warrant.

Saturday, 8/16

5:06 p.m. Report of hit and run accident in the area of St. Kazimierz on Seventh Street. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, operating a motor vehicle to endanger, leaving the scene of property damage, marked lanes violation and failure to use care starting, turning or backing up motor vehicle.

6:55 p.m. Report of larceny from

ExxonMobil gas station on Third Street, Turners Falls.

Sunday, 8/17

6:27 a.m. Officer noticed brush fire at railroad tracks, East Main Street area, Millers Falls.

5:29 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with domestic assault and battery, intimidation of a witness and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Monday, 8/18

9:31 a.m. Report of vandalism R.H. Excavating, gravel pit, Route 63, Millers Falls. Investigated.

9:08 p.m. Report of trespassing in a Greenfield Road hay field. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with trespassing with a motor vehicle.

Tuesday, 8/19

12:47 a.m. Officer found vandalism at the railroad trestle in the area of Franklin and Newton Streets, Millers Falls.

2:56 a.m. Officer found vandalism at Judd Wire, Inc., Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Tax Bills and Leaky Fluids

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - August 6: Selectboard members Dan Keller and Ted Lewis, present.

Marianne Sundell, Chair of the Open Space Committee, reported that there is no grant money available for updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, but there are eleven townspeople who have volunteered for the town's part in creating the new plan, and the committee used its own money to hire three student interns for some of the time-consuming work. An article on the August 12th special town meeting warrant would allow money authorized at the annual town meeting for matching a grant to be used for a consultant's help in updating the plan. The forester working on cutting plans for town-owned properties would be paid with conservation commission money.

On a separate issue, Sundell was concerned that the auctioneer the town is using for sale of town-owned properties recommended selling properties

as is, instead of having them cleaned up prior to any sale. Although leaving cleanup to the purchaser would probably save the town money, she felt it would not ensure that the properties are cleaned up. Liability might not belong to the town but an empty littered trailer would still be an enticing hazard for children or teens.

She said that one property has buried automobile parts leaking fluids and the town should use brownfield money for cleanup, and land stewardship should be one of the town's concerns in any of its actions.

The finance committee suggested getting tax bills back onto a twice yearly schedule without putting an extra burden on the assessors. The first tax bill in November could be called "preliminary" instead of "estimated," and the DOR allows that it can be half of the prior year's bill plus up to 2 1/2 %; the change would add work for the tax collector but not the assessors.

Michael Idoine of the finance committee said that Governor Patrick vetoed the appropriations bill that would have reimbursed Wendell for Tornado cleanup expenses. The House and Senate overrode that veto, but the amount that Wendell will receive is \$150,000 less than the amount in the original bill. Idoine was not sure when Wendell will get that money, and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she would keep checking with the Office of Tourism and Travel, which is the office disbursing the money.

Idoine suggested taking the town's deductible payment for the liability settlement out of the stabilization fund rather than taxation.

Jim Slavas of the finance committee asked about repairs for the basketball court. Money was appropriated for materials but the wet summer has delayed work that was to be done by the highway department. Keller said he would check with Police Chief Ed Chase to see if there was community policing money that

could be spent for the work.

Lisa Hoag and Myron Becker are studying a town noise regulation. There are already DEP regulations for noise, but other towns in the area have passed their own bylaws.

Lonny Ricketts volunteered to be the town's Emergency Management Coordinator.

The selectboard agreed to ask Road Boss Dan Bacigalupo to remove the forsythias that are growing right next to the new Senior Center. Lewis said that they are keeping the building walls wet and the clapboards are rotting.

The selectboard voted to accept a bid of \$32,650 from Orange Oil for 7,000 gallons of heating oil at \$4.45 a gallon, and 10 evening and weekend and 20 regular service hours at \$50 an hour. They will have a service person look at the town hall hot air furnace, which is not working even though there is fuel in the tank.

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative has a program that would provide solar power for a small low monument. The War Memorials by the bandstand would be perfect but they have no direct exposure to the

southern sky.

Aldrich reported that the COG has a plan for a six-step process in energy conservation. The first step: a no-cost audit by Energy Services Company (ESCO). Keller said that the new town buildings are energy efficient, but the town hall is leaky, the Senior Center has been improved, and the highway garage and fire station are sieves.

The two selectboard members agreed that the town should raise the mileage compensation from 30 cents to 50 cents a mile which is closer to the Federal allowance.

Keller reported that a family recently had a knock on their front door at 4:00 am. The polite young man, AWOL from Maple Valley School, asked for a ride to Orange, but the family did not let him in the house or give him a ride. Aldrich said that the school has a list of neighbors and a telephone tree for notifying them when a resident is missing, but the family had received no call. Keller and Lewis agreed to set up a meeting with the school and neighbors so concerns can be addressed and the established process for informing neighbors will be used when it is called for.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Road Resurfacing Costs Increase

BY DAVID BRULE

ERVING-The selectboard met on Monday evening August 11. A number of items were on the agenda, including:

-Discussion of the Franklin County Technical School's admissions policy. This was prompted by a letter of inquiry the board received from the Bernardston selectmen. The Superintendent of the Technical School has been invited to discuss policies with the Erving Board on August 25.

-Highway Department Superintendent Paul Prest informed the selectboard that the cost for plans to resurface Poplar and Swamp Roads has risen by an additional \$30,000. The Town will need to request

the additional monies to do the project from the MassHighway Chapter 90 grant fund. This was prompted by a \$24 a ton increase in the cost of asphalt. The cost of the project rose from \$137,000 to 167,000.

-An article to increase the salary offered for the Ervingside Library Director's position will be placed on the warrant of the next special town meeting, yet to be scheduled. Support for the increased offer came from a number of interested residents, in hopes of attracting more candidates for the position.

-The Planning Board met with the selectboard to discuss filling a vacancy on Planning. Three candidates have stated

their interest in the filling the position until the next election: Laura Herbert, Bill Newton, and Jacquie Boyden.

-Peggy Sloan of FRCOG presented possibilities for the town to take advantage of Chapter 43 D funds that help towns foster economic development. The grant could help the town hire specialists to review town policies and by-laws to create more business-friendly incentives. Town Administrator Tom Sharp mentioned possibilities to develop the Usher Plant site in Erving Center and the recently closed Strathmore Paper site in Ervingside, using grant support of this type.

-Tighe and Bond, the engineering firm hired by the town to oversee the upgrading and improvements to the POTW#1 sewage treatment plant in Ervingside, reported

bids submitted by contractors. R.H. White of Auburn, Mass submitted the lowest bid at \$4,296,589 out of nine bidding companies. Sharp stated that this was a sign of the times that so many bids came in, and the lowest bid was almost \$1,000,000 under the anticipated budget. DEP will be notified of the intention to award the contract to White.

-Gene Klepadlo addressed the board concerning the recent demolition of the Boy Scout building, which had been condemned by the Building Inspector. Klepadlo requested that research be done to confirm ownership of the site and the building, in the hopes of locating another site or building for a new Boy Scout facility. The board appreciated Klepadlo's interest and confirmed they would research where the

Scout facility could fit in future building or renovation plans.

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

- William Carlos Williams

The editors would like to thank the
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**Anonymous, Klondike Sound,
Carlin Barton, Montague Dental
Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Harry
Brandt, Green Fields Market,
Michael Farrick, and Michael Muller.**

Poetry Page edited by
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War Criminal as His Own Lawyer

Beard and white hair
do not hide your eyes.

Reflections of women raped,
young boys shot between the eyes,
your soldiers laughing

Oh, but you, the ultimate genius
pink skin clean shorn

represent yourself before the Hague
stalling -

but the gallows are patient
swinging in the wind.

How is it that a random boy
can be decapitated

on a Greyhound bus
to Canada

But you, monster

you who blew smoke and mirrors
with amulets and quack cures

in the blood guilt
streets and bars of Serbia

now get to wear
a neat shirt and tie?

--Ray DiDonato
Wendell



The Dead

are so quick to surface, rising dusty
from ashes or moldy from damp earth,
they stream into any open moment
attracted by the smell of chocolate cookies
or, this night, a little Welsh song on the radio.

In Pacific rain, Seattle glitters brokenly
around my car, and there you are,
my passenger, my father. Waves of silver
hair you always combed from front to back,
the starched white shirt and silken tie.

A natty man, a wit, but you couldn't tell me
stories of your father, drunk after work
in the mines, beating your sainted mother,
who took refuge in the Welsh church.
You never got to college, never taught math.

Instead, life carried you into my mother's arms,
you entered her from love or need, to make me.
Offering a daughter shelter, and your own lost dream.
I've taught your students all my life. If one generation
gives up its chance to the next, whose life is being
lived,

and who's the driver, who's just hitching a ride?

--Mary Clare Powell
Greenfield

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Lyn Clark, mother, grandmother and dog lover, retired after many years working in many fields, author of *The Bolt Hole*, is now having fun as general factotum at the Montague Reporter where she is also on the board of directors. Visit www.melmuseum.org to see the painting by Grant Wood mentioned in Clark's poem.

Poetry Reading Series. She teaches at Lesley University in Cambridge and has published two books of poetry: *Things Owl Ate* (Amherst Writers and Artists Press, 1998) and *Academic Seal* (Extra Virgin Press, 2003).

P. Crosby lives in Gill.

Mary Clare Powell will be reading on September 8th at 7 PM at The Rendezvous for the Slope Editions

Ray DiDonato lives in Wendell with his wife and children.

At Annie's Garden Store

a box labeled "Possibly Sharp Tools"
makes you think before reaching in.
Not every tool inside will cut, but
there's always one possibly waiting
for your soft palm and fleshy fingers.
Possibly sharp, possibly tools,
possibly some other danger
waits under this lid, whether
particularly sharp or partially sharp
there are possibly tools, possibly sharp.
You have your warning.

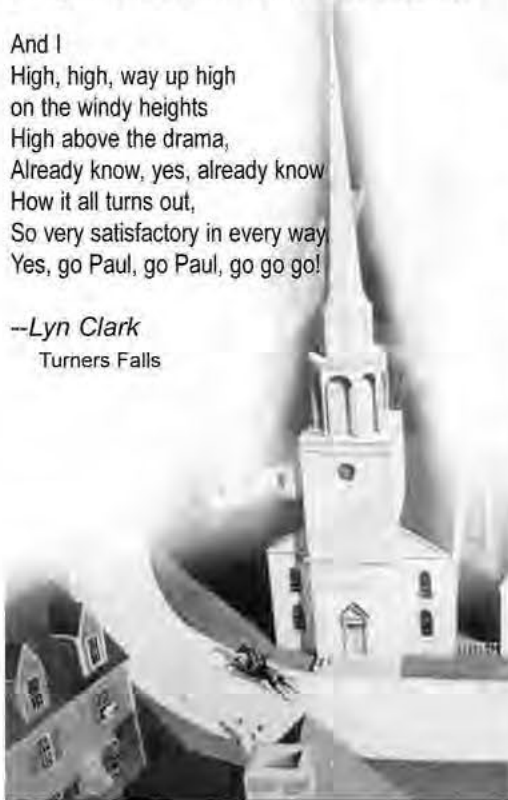
--Mary Clare Powell
Greenfield

On seeing Grant Wood's Painting: The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Ah, those soft, improbable trees,
In the dark improbable town
And the almighty thrust of the spikey-spike spire
Sharp enough to put your eye out!
And far below,
A tiny Paul, a miniscule Paul on his miniscule pony,
Lifting sleepers from their beds with a tiny shout!

And I
High, high, way up high
on the windy heights
High above the drama,
Already know, yes, already know
How it all turns out,
So very satisfactory in every way
Yes, go Paul, go Paul, go go go!

--Lyn Clark
Turners Falls



For Richard

I was surprised to encounter you last night
In front of a white hotel, part of the set
Of a jumbled dream.

It's always nice to see you, Richard,
Even within the context of an utterly absurd plotline.
But isn't this just dream imitating life?

When I awake from seeing you,
It always takes me back to that week,
Right before the 2000 election.

The e-mail appearing in my Inbox,
A message I had begun to dread when we didn't see you
That weekend and you didn't show up for work.

I remember your modeling seminars,
Taking complex physical interactions
To show us an enzyme hugging its substrate.

But how does your death fit any model?
What complex, intertwined molecular interactions
Computed to your dying so young?

Way to Go!

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

You know the one I mean, the mighty, colossal one
That towers over K Street passersby.
Now, there's a tree! Magnificent!

That's the one I have my eye on,
The one I watch each spring;
Already it's slipped its leaves out
like a gentleman 'shooting' his cuffs-
No fan fare, just unimpeachable dignity.

But just you wait, it will happen, mark my words.
It takes but one small tug by that Goliath,
A slight sensation of something giving way,
A silent rending beneath the earth, then a sliding,
and a 'pop', and the first root will be free.
And this simple act will place in motion
events of such magnitude, such seismic significance,
That nothing will ever be the same again.
One by one it will pull its roots from the earth,
Shake them-tentatively at first-then vigorously,
as a dog shakes, dirt flying in all directions.
And then my mighty, mammoth Copper Beech
will take off without a backward glance,
shuffling at first, unaccustomed to locomotion,
Then hitting its stride as off it goes, down the hill.

And the small pea-brained fringe tree, the locust,
and finally the maples will mark its passage,
and startle themselves into action,
imitate its bid for freedom, reeling and shambling
and making a terrible racket,
limbs and leaves flying joyously
as they form a congo line after it
down K Street and into town.

And we neighbors will stand, awestruck at first
amid gaping holes in the earth,
Looking at each other in wonder
even the dogs struck dumb.

And then-who would have guessed it?-we'll cheer.

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

--Lyn Clark
Turners Falls

The Shiny Kissing Ball

(apologies to William Carlos Williams)

So little depends upon
the shiny kissing ball
doused by the sprinkler
surrounded by whirly-gigs.

--P. Crosby
Gill



But you - we - lived, didn't we?
As you said at the bar at my wedding -
"Richard, how's it going?"
"Well, I'm Livin' la Vida Loca" you replied,

A Ricky Martin song playing - we laughed.
Had I known you'd be gone in eight months,
I'd have spent longer at the bar with you.

In one of these dreams, I want you to show me the model,
I want you to tell me how it all ends,
I mean - not me - but us, people, humankind.

Do we get it right?

I want you to show me the equation for it all,
How losing you fit into it, and how
You can make a model for learning to accept loss.

--Ray DiDonato
Wendell

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Teachers Go Above and Beyond

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

TURNERS FALLS - At the August 12th meeting, a citizen who asked me not to use his name stopped school committee chair, Mary Kociela, as she walked to the front door of the Turners Falls High School where the school committee meetings are held. He had a complaint about how citizens of the town are treated, and she said that in the meeting he would have three minutes to speak to the school board.

His complaint: was that volunteers were asked to apply for in-house behavioral programs. He applied and never got a response, not even an acknowledgement that his application had been received. He said, "Follow-through is important." He said he had already made a written complaint, and had gotten no reaction from that either.

Ted Castro-Santos was given a certificate of appreciation for his work on the School Committee. He will choose a

book to be donated in his name to the school library, and in leaving he said, "What the school committee does now will shape the towns' future for decades," and he wished the committee good luck.

The board approved by roll call vote expenditures for fertilizing school grounds, for lunches, and for employee out of pocket expenses.

Interim Superintendent Kenneth Rocke said it has been a busy summer with many changes. Chip Wood, in charge of elementary schools, said that the physical job of moving from the Montague Center School and the Hillcrest School is done, with recyclable material sold to WTE and money returned to the schools. Artwork from Montague Center School will be moved to Sheffield School

There is a question of whether memorials should be moved as well or if they should stay at the building site when it is turned over to the town on September 1. A walk through of the Montague

Center School showed that it is clean and ready to be turned over. At the Sheffield School, renovations are complete and its washrooms are wheelchair accessible. Hillcrest School is almost full with 105 students. Gill has 127 and Sheffield has 277, some of the increase resulting from advertised school choice openings. Six teachers have been hired to replace retirees.

Jeffrey Kenney, Principal of Turners Falls High School, reported very small turnover, only three new people hired, Kimberly Matthew, Assistant Principal; Elizabeth Thornton in Guidance; and Jonathan Chapel in Visual Programming. This will be the second year of the Freshman Academy which resulted in better discipline and better attendance, and there is thought of a Sophomore Academy. An advisory group will meet with Greenfield Community College administration with the intention of establishing dual enrollment.

Donna Fitzpatrick, promoted from Assistant Principal to Principal of Great Falls Middle School, reported that hiring is complete for the middle school, and that several teachers worked on professional development over the summer.

Marty Espinola and John Day, in technology, said they had redesigned the network and expected that email would be more reliable, spam less prevalent, and storage much larger. New computer tables with wire troughs will make walking through computer labs less of a hazard.

The exact savings of closing the Montague Center School is hard to determine, but Rocke said that instead of struggling with four inadequately-staffed buildings, the towns now have three well-staffed and filled buildings. Every school will have a fulltime nurse. There were some objections to having teachers pack and move their materials instead of using cheaper laborers, but the teachers did it with the great care as they will have to live with the results. They worked four to ten hours for every paid hour which

contract laborers would not have done. Teachers are following their students to their new schools. The towns did not save a million dollars, but that was never a possibility.

Mike Langknecht, of the strategic planning committee, recommended that all Franklin County school committees meet without an outside filter to find ways that different districts can cooperate, share services, and work together with school choice. He asked Kociela to contact other school committee chairs to set up joint meetings.

Rocke said that he was willing to attend a regional collaboration meeting with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, but he was hesitant, because he thought his personal opinion might be taken as the consensus of the school committee because of his position as acting superintendent. School committee members voted that he should attend even with that concern.

The school committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday August 26th.

Montague Old Home Days - 2008 Mug Race Fun For All

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

MONTAGUE - "I love this race," said Kelly Anne McKeown of Deerfield after being the first female finisher in the 2008 Montague Old Home Days Mug Race. Blessed by sunny skies on Saturday and with as much graciousness as any Olympic gold medalist, she explained that if she ever got her name in the paper for running that she would have to thank "The Coffee Cake Club Runners," her Deerfield running group. So be it! Her winning time was 38:48 for the 5.5 mile road race.

The first male finisher in the Mug Race was Jesse Regnier of Amherst with a blistering time of 29:36. Perhaps the Atlantic 10 Student-Athlete of the Year in men's cross country was using the Mug Race as a little warm

up for the upcoming UMASS cross country season. Regnier's secret to post-race recovery? A nice soak in the Sawmill River. Smart man.



Ed the Wizard wows crowds with card tricks during Montague Old Home Days

Top finishers in the 2.0 mile Mini-mug race:

- Elite Male 0:15:14 Massaro, Bob
- Chicopee Open Female 0:17:18 Kennen, Alice
- Leyden Male 0:27:31 Emery, George
- Montague Senior Female 0:15:53 Scoville, Laura
- Sunderland Male 0:15:54 Mulligan, Kevin
- Westfield Veteran Female 0:17:36 Churchill, Abby

Northfield Male 0:29:36 Regnier, Jesse

- Amherst Senior Female 0:41:31 LaPierre, Jeanne N.
- Granby Male 0:14:08 Mako, Natalie
- Sunderland Male 0:12:52 Mako, Calvin
- Sunderland

Top finishers in the 5.5 mile Mug Race:

- Elite Male 0:39:22 Kaynor, David
- Montague Open Female 0:38:48 McKeown, Kelly
- Anne Deerfield male

0:29:36 Regnier, Jesse

- Amherst Senior Female 0:41:31 LaPierre, Jeanne N.
- Granby Male 0:14:08 Mako, Natalie
- Sunderland Male 0:12:52 Mako, Calvin
- Sunderland

Bellerose Male 0:30:07 Lebo, Scott

- Pottstown Youth Female 0:41:31 LaPierre, Jeanne N.
- Granby Male 0:14:08 Mako, Natalie
- Sunderland Male 0:12:52 Mako, Calvin
- Sunderland

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MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: August 22nd-28th

Eagle Cam: Not airing until further notice.

Friday, August 22
 8:00 am Fall Town String Band
 10:00 am Bech Interview
 11:00 am In the World Not of It
 11:30 am Changing Face of Turners Falls
 6:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Sheriffs Office
 7:00 pm GMRSD (8/12/08)
 10:30 pm Girls Softball

Saturday, August 23
 8:00 am Independent Voices
 8:30 am Journey to Wissatinnewag
 9:00 am Naturalist Laurie Sanders
 9:30 am Over the Falls: Public Education
 10:30 am Physician Focus: Geriatric Care
 11:30 am Poetry Music Jam
 12:30 pm The Well Being: Ergonomics
 6:00 pm The Well Being: HIV
 7:00 pm Underground Railway Concert
 8:30 pm White House Chronicles
 9:30 pm The Epics at the Vou
 10:30 pm Tapping Maple Ridge
 11:30 pm Silly Wizard Fantasy Fish

Sunday, August 24
 8:00 am Sheffield Play: Mighty Minds
 9:00 am Senses of Place
 10:30 am Safe and Green Campaign Forum
 12:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Helen Nowoszynski
 1:00 pm Children's Mental Health
 6:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: Prodigal Children
 7:00 pm Bech Interview
 8:00 pm Amanda
 9:30 pm 9-1-1 People, Facts and Stories
 10:00 pm Coffee House: Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio
 11:00 pm On the Ridge: Turkey Hunting

Monday, August 25
 8:00 am On the Ridge: Turkey Hunting

9:00 am Preachin the Blues
 10:00 am Refusal
 10:30 am Medication Assisted Therapies
 12:00 pm The Well Being: Ergonomics
 1:00 pm 9-1-1 People, Facts and Stories
 6:00 pm The Epics at the Vou
 7:00 pm Select Board (Live)
 10:00 pm The Flow of Time
 11:00 pm The Western Mass Democrat

Tuesday, August 26
 8:00 am This is Montague
 8:30 am Turkey Day Game
 11:30 am The Well Being: Sexual Abuse Healing
 12:30 pm Wisdom Way Solar Village
 6:00 pm White House Chronicles
 7:00 pm GMRSD (Live)
 11:00 pm Women Girls & HIV

Wednesday, August 27
 8:00 am Valley Idol Finals
 10:30 am The Well Being: Growing a Green Community
 11:30 am Tiny Tim
 12:30 pm Falls Table: Margaret Fitzpatrick
 6:00 pm Common People Concerts: Tim Van Egmond
 7:30 pm Discovery Center: John Root
 9:00 pm Denmark the View the Vision
 9:30 pm Bernanke
 10:30 pm Surviving the Vernon Reactor

Thursday, August 28
 8:00 am Teacher at Sea
 8:30 am The Epics at the Vou
 9:30 am The Flow of Time
 10:30 am The Western Mass Democrat
 11:00 am The Rise & Fall of Lake Hitchcock
 12:00 pm TFHS National Honor Society Induction
 12:30 pm Teachers at Sea
 6:00 pm The Rise & Fall of Lake Hitchcock
 7:00 pm Select Board (8/25/08)
 10:00 pm Surviving The Vernon Reactor
 11:00 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant

SAGOR from pg 1

but don't expect to keep pace with him. This is a man who, with his fellow training partner and friend, Brian Wadman, keeps to a strict schedule, bicycling and swimming three days a week, and running four, some days working on strength, some on speed, some on distance and endurance. They do it for fun and for fitness, and they do it to compete, even while to most of us it looks like an awful lot of work and a whole lot of pain.

On July 20, Bob and Brian participated in the Ironman USA triathlon at Lake Placid in New York, a sport that combines swimming, bicycling and running for distances that are to most of us totally unachievable. They began with a 2.4 mile swim back and forth twice across a lake, then biked for 112 miles, and topped it all

off by running a 26.2 mile marathon. And they did it all in unremitting, day-long rain.

"Wasn't it very painful?" I ask Bob.

"The signs all along the route read, 'the pain is temporary, the pride is forever,'" he replies. This, he explained, helped him to endure and prevail. Instead of thinking about the entire course, he concentrated on small segments-the next lap across the lake, the next corner in the winding, twisting road, the next hill. The marathon run-which is more taxing than either the swim or the bike ride-is the most challenging of the three events that make up the triathlon, especially when it occurs at the end when a runner has already expended so much energy. But since the swim, of the three events, is Bob's weakest, and the run his strongest, Bob gained momentum event by event.

Once out of the water, "I was constantly passing people all day," he says - 1056 other contestants, to be exact, which he concedes was a psychological boost. Even more remarkable, Bob-who is 62 years old-finished in the top 38% (882 in a field of 2340) and 4th in his age group, crossing the finish line in 12 hours, 19 minutes, and 54 seconds. There were only eleven people older than Bob who competed. Brian Wadman, 49 years old, who lost time changing a flat tire, finished close behind in the top 50%. These really are Men of Iron.

Bob did not always live in Greenfield. Prior to his attending the University of Guelph in Canada where he obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, he and his wife Claire owned Sagors Bookstore in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia-still there under the same name at 686 King Street. For seven years he had a dairy practice in Antigonish, Nova Scotia (shades of All Things Great and Small?) before the family moved to Greenfield. He established his present practice at the Greenfield Veterinary Clinic in 1991.

Claire accompanies Bob to the half dozen or so events in which he competes during the summer. Next year he plans to run for the first time in the Boston Marathon. Another famous runner, John J. Kelley, ran his 32nd Boston Marathon at age 62.

"I'll be 63," says Bob. "If I'm going to do it, I better get it done."

Move over, John Kelley.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Trees, Power Lines Create Havoc

Wednesday, 8/6
 9:22 p.m. Tree fell on vehicle at fire station, knocking down power, phone lines to public safety complex. Fire department bay doors blocked due to down tree, wires, unable to leave station.
 9:30 p.m. Burning tree on power lines on French King Highway.

Thursday, 8/7
 10:40 a.m. Assisted Maine police department with locating possible suicidal subject in town.

Friday, 8/8
 7:50 a.m. Report of power lines down on Center Road, checked and advised telephone company.
 4:30 p.m. Medical assistance requested in the Meadow Street area. Officer assisted BHA with transport.
 10:30 p.m. Mutual Aid assistance for Northfield - Large party in the West Road area.

Saturday, 8/9
 10:45 p.m. Noise complaint in the state boat ramp area.
 11:30 p.m. Mutual Aid assistance to Bernardston police with domestic violence call.

Sunday, 8/10
 1:55 p.m. Tree down in Barney Hale Road area, officer stood by for power company.
 11:39 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at Main Road business.

Monday, 8/11
 9:30 a.m. General alarm call at NMH school.
 10:15 a.m. Report of a stolen bicycle from the Riverside area.

Tuesday, 8/12
 7:18 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at a Main Road residence.
 9:36 p.m. Assisted resident with obtaining an emergency restraining order.

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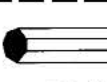

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SCHOOL from pg 1

the better part of 11 years. "I did a complex demographic study 20 years ago," noted Davis, "and, among many things, we learned that only about 18 percent of Franklin County even identified itself as Protestant. Also, our tuition was \$6,000 per year. We were asking people who pay taxes that finance the public school system to pay even more to enroll their kids at Jonathan Edwards. When we started, other Christian schools in the country told us we were crazy to even try to open a school."

Nonetheless, the school had 34 students set to attend this fall. 52 were needed to balance the

budget.

"Many of us poured our hearts into this endeavor," observed the Rev. Davis. "I can tell you we paid our teachers horribly, and everyone else was a volunteer. Yet, we had so many wonderful people who gave of their time. It was a great community effort."

Among other things, the area is losing an academy whose educational method clearly differed from any other school in the entire Pioneer Valley. "We wanted to train our students to think logically," Davis said, "so we followed a classical model of education based on the trivium of grammar, logic and rhetoric. Grammar refers to the core facts of each academic subject, the

basic structure of each subject. Next, we emphasized the logical relationship among those facts. Finally, we taught rhetoric, the practice of speaking and writing competently."

The inspiration for the academy was the legendary Congregational pastor Jonathan Edwards, who emphasized the classical education model. A somewhat controversial figure and a brilliant scholar, Edwards today continues to be a figure of great importance in the history of American religion and thought. He entered Yale University at the age of 13, graduated, and went on to enjoy an outstanding career, gaining great fame as pastor of his congregational church in

Northampton. A modern, beautiful Edwards Church still stands and serves its parishioners at 297 Main Street, diagonally across from another landmark, the Academy of Music.

A spellbinding speaker, Edwards' ringing sermons could transfix an audience. "I'm a student of Jonathan Edwards," said the Rev. Davis. "Some say he was the greatest intellectual in American history. But he was also a man of the heart who was known to weep in the pulpit. He was very tender with children--a man who blended intellect with compassion. He could transcend experience and knowledge and was a speculative philosopher." Jonathan Edwards Academy

was scheduled to hold a farewell dinner last Saturday night (Aug. 16), celebrating the school's successes while observing its closing. Teachers, students, families, and donors, among others, were slated to attend.

After 26 years at Covenant Church, Davis himself is moving. He will become the pastor at Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church in Draper, a town in Southwest Virginia. Possessing a sense of humor, Bob grinned. "The school's closing and my new pastorate have nothing to do with each other."

The only other Christian school remaining in Franklin County is Cornerstone Christian School in Greenfield.

Household and Agricultural Hazardous Waste Collection

September 13th from 9-1

Residents must pre-register by September 5th, using the form below. Online registration forms must be completed by September 8th at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. The collection is free to

residents in the towns listed in the announcement below with the exception of Gill residents who must pay to participate.

Businesses must submit an inventory of their wastes and will be charged for disposal. Call (413) 772-2438 for business

registration information.

For a complete list of acceptable items, refer to the District's website: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

Farms, commercial greenhouses, and other

agricultural operations in Franklin County may dispose of pesticides at no cost but must pre-register by September 3 at (413) 772-2438 or by emailing info@franklincountywastedistrict.org and should be prepared to submit an inventory of their

waste when they register.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438 or visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

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Saturday, September 13th
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



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You Must PRE-REGISTER to Participate

Register on-line at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

Registration Deadline is September 5th. Space is limited.

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For more information, visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or call the Franklin County Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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Montague Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk's Office for the September 16th State Primary. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, September 15th. To vote absentee you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by the close of the polls

on September 16th. The polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Registered voters who belong to any one of the four parties, Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow or Working Families must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the four party ballots.

The Town Clerk's Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For information call 863-3200, ext 203.

Traffic on Greenfield Road

Construction work relating to the improvements at the town's waste water plant on Greenfield Road will impact traffic flow during the next week. Although the majority of the heavy construction associated with the new chlorine contact tank is complete, modifications to the manhole structure near the intersection with Sherman St. and the new bike path require barricades

which will result in reducing the available width of the road. A concrete barrier will be placed to direct traffic around the structure while workers from Penta Construction install a valve to redirect the flow. A pump will be set up to direct the sewage flows around the structure and keep it dry during the work. Work is expected to take one to two weeks and begin on Monday, August 25th.

MONTAGUE

continued from pg 1

building so that clean-up can continue. So far 84 truckloads of waste paper have been removed as have 20 dumpsters of trash, according to Sasha Statman-Weil, SRSD LLC Business Manager. Work also continues by SRSD LLC to remove #6 oil and asbestos from the site and to make dents in the rubble piles from last year's fire. Select board member Allen Ross said that the Swift River Group had done a "wonderful job of cleaning up the buildings."

The plan approved by the select board also includes what was described as a "deferred payment loan" for the \$300,000 that the town spent last year on securing the

property (roof and sprinkler improvements), also approved by Town Meeting at that time. The loan will become a grant, if, after ten years, the Swift River Group is still the owner of the Strathmore property. Several people from the town worked closely with the Swift River Group on the agreement, including town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, town planner Dan Laroche, and building inspector David Jensen, selectboard members, and others. Ross said that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the plan would be successful, and he noted that the goals of the Swift River Group, to build a film school and studio, were in line with the creative economy that the town is trying to foster. The select board also agreed to

have a letter written in support of the Swift River Group for their application for the Massachusetts and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

The select board also approved the spending of additional engineering fees associated with the sewer overflow project.

Parts of the bike path along the Turners Falls power canal may be out of service from September 8-13th while First Light performs maintenance.

New Town Hall Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Closed Fridays.

The next selectboard meeting is Monday, August 25th at 7 p.m., Montague Town Hall, upstairs meeting room.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Storm Damage and a Stolen Car

Tuesday, 8/5

5:00 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in the Maple Avenue area, man slumped over steering wheel. Checked well-being, driver okay. Waiting for assistance with flat tire.

10:45 p.m. Checked motor vehicle in Freight House Antiques parking lot. Vehicle had passenger side window smashed out and interior light on. Building was secure.

Wednesday, 8/6

1:30 p.m. Family disturbance on North Street. Found subject walking on North Street. Stood by until family member arrived to take custody of same.

8:35 p.m. Assisted Gill police with traffic due to tree down on power lines.

Thursday, 8/7

2:30 p.m. Severe thunder storm with wind, hail and heavy rain. Report of trees down on Pine Meadow Road, Northfield. Assisted with traffic while Northfield Highway cleared.

Saturday, 8/9

12:46 p.m. Report of loose dog on

Mountain Road. Spoke to owner of same to keep dog in yard.

1:07 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted], for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

5:15 p.m. Assist Montague police with two-car motor vehicle accident on Federal Street.

8:30 p.m. Disturbance at a West High Street address for fireworks.

8:57 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for marked lanes violation, open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

11:13 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license and speeding.

Sunday, 8/10

1:15 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on a default warrant.

Monday, 8/11

10:58 p.m. Report of male/female disturbance at a Pratt Street address. Male subject fled on foot.

Tuesday, 8/12

3:45 p.m. Report of hit and run accident on River Road. Subject ran over mail boxes, then fled the area. Under investigation.

7:52 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on an arrest warrant.

Wednesday, 8/13

11:30 a.m. Assisted Massachusetts parole officer looking for subject for parole warrant at French King Highway address. No contact made.

Thursday, 8/14

1:15 a.m. Report of stolen motor vehicle from French King Highway area. Subject stated that daughter had stolen his car. Located same. Summons issued to juvenile for unauthorized use of motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of motor vehicle and intimidation of a witness.

Sunday, 8/17

3:21 p.m. Report of vehicle over embankment in the Farley area of Route 2. Checked area, report unfounded.

6:53 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for license not in possession and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Monday, 8/18

11:55 a.m. Report of shots fired from Laurel Lake beach area. Found to be fireworks at Camp #1

If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.
~ J.R.R. Tolkien

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I've been depressed lately and a friend told me to take St. John's Wort. What is it? Does it work?*

St. John's Wort-also known as hypericum herb, klamath weed or goat weed-is a plant with yellow flowers that are used to make teas and tablets. For centuries, the plant has been considered a remedy for mental problems, including depression and anxiety.

Does it work? St. John's Wort is not a proven therapy for depression. There is some scientific evidence that St. John's Wort helps in the treatment of mild-to-moderate depression. However, there have

been two major studies that showed St. John's Wort is no better than a placebo for treating moderate depression.

Before you go to a store to buy some of this herb, consult with your personal physician. There are negative side effects from taking St. John's Wort. These include: sensitivity to sunlight, anxiety, dry mouth, dizziness, gastrointestinal symptoms, fatigue, headache, or sexual dysfunction. This plant can also interact with drugs you're taking.

If you believe you are depressed and want treatment, there are approved antidepressant medications that work. Most people with depression get better with treatment that includes these medicines. You've probably heard some of their brand names such as Prozac, Zoloft and Wellbutrin.

Antidepressants are used most often for serious depressions, but

they can also be helpful for some milder depressions.

There are many antidepressants that work in different ways to alter brain chemistry. The changes can improve your emotional state. The antidepressants affect the chemicals that carry information about emotions and many other functions. These chemical messengers in the brain are known as neurotransmitters.

Two significant neurotransmitters are serotonin and norepinephrine. Low levels of serotonin and norepinephrine have been linked to depression.

Antidepressants are categorized by the chemicals they affect. These categories include:

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) such as Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac, Paxil, Pexeva and Zoloft; Tricyclics such as Elavil, Norpramin, Tofranil, Aventyl and Pamelor; Serotonin

Cymbalta; Norepinephrine and Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRIs) such as Wellbutrin; Combined Reuptake Inhibitors and Receptor Blockers (no acronym) such as Desyrel, Serzone, and Remeron, and Monamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs) such as Marplan, Nardil, and Pamate.

Many doctors start by prescribing the SSRIs, because they work well and have more tolerable side effects than other antidepressants. All antidepressants have side effects. These include dry mouth, nausea, nervousness, insomnia, sexual problems, appetite loss, headache, insomnia, fatigue, weight loss.

Some people who take antidepressants notice improvement in two weeks. But most who take these drugs have to take them at least six weeks to relieve depression.

Contrary to what some believe, depression is not just a "normal" part of aging.

There are a lot of problems to face as you get older. There are losses of all kinds that can get you down. And feeling blue for a while is a normal part of living at any age. But, unrelenting depression is not normal. If you feel this way, you should seek medical attention. Most people get better if they treat their depression.

The following are common signs of depression. If you have several of these, and they last for more than two weeks, get treatment: anxiety, fatigue, loss of interest or pleasure, sleep problems, eating too much or too little, abnormal crying, aches that can't be treated successfully, diminished concentration or memory, irritability, thoughts of death or suicide, and feelings of despair, guilt and being worthless.

Depression is a serious illness. It can lead to suicide. Don't waste time; find help.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeez.com

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Wet Summer Gardener

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY

According to the weather folks, we had at least 10 inches of rain in the month of July here in the Pioneer Valley. That's a lot more than usual and I didn't need them to tell me.

While my tomato plants are producing a large supply of fruit, the vines are browning off from bottom to top from too much rain. That this more typical end of season behavior is occurring now is further evidence of the weatherman's information.

Since I returned home from my end of July vacation, I have discarded many fruits from the cherry tomato plants because they have split and then molded. On the one hand, I have some of the largest cherry tomatoes I've ever grown from the same variety, Gardeners' Delight, but this

is also the earliest I've lost fruit. My other plants continue to bear heavily but have also reached the end of the production. In a normal season, the indeterminate varieties would have continued to produce until frost.

The tomato flavor, however, is undiminished by the overwatering. My neighbor recently shared some local peaches with me. The fruit is huge, but as he warned me, not hugely flavorful. He blames this on the periods of monsoon we frequently experienced on a daily basis this summer. I haven't done my own research on these theories but can say that the California peaches I bought this summer have been far superior in flavor. The tomatoes, however, are supremely tasty, needing only a light salting or sprinkle of oil and vinegar dressing to accentu-



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

ate their tangy sweetness. They are best enjoyed this way, sliced as salad, fresh, but if you are inundated, you can always can them for future eating. Personally I wait all winter for the sweet-tart tang of a fresh tomato; I eat them in large number now. The preserved ones are good but are also an entirely different breed.

Now we seem to be enjoying a spell of spectacular late summer New England weather with cool mornings and evenings sandwiching warm midday temperatures. Crops other than the vulnerable tomatoes are doing very well. The garden is going to

produce a bumper crop of sweet peppers which will be ripe earlier and much larger in size than usual. The kale is huge; perhaps it benefited from the repeated trimming the woodchuck provided.

Speaking of that varmint, I have just watched my last attempt at a row of green beans break the ground and leaf out. I will be sure to be extremely assiduous in renewing the ammoniated rags around that planting! I have also just put in a last seeding of both spinach and lettuce. There should be plenty of time for these crops to mature and they will respond well to the early and late cooling of the day we are experiencing now.

The leeks look thick and thrifty. I will leave them to grow until it is too cold. The few onions the neighbor's cat left undug will no doubt size up. The garlic, however, is puny this year and I am not sure why. The winter squash has come back one more time since being sampled by the woodchuck family and has spread hugely as if prun-

ing was just what it needed. Whether the season will allow time for fruit to develop and grow is another matter which will remain unfathomed until the end of summer. In any case I haven't seen any member of this voraciously appetite-filled family for a week or so. Maybe he has fed so well on the garden he needs the respite of a late summer nap.

I am digging in my heels. My showy plantings of petunias and geraniums have become tired and leggy, but I refuse to replace them with mums until it is really fall. I fight this change of season just as I anxiously await the beginning of the new school year. Once fall has arrived, of course, I thrill in its zesty combination of heat and chill and in the spectacular colors this new season brings. The new school year will bring the same zest of new energy and brightness. Perhaps, like the woodchuck, I need to take a brief nap and wait to open my eyes when these transformations are here.

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JEP'S PLACE Part LXXXVII

Home Alone

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL -- Pa loved to drive around the countryside in first the emerald Essex and then the tan one. He especially liked to visit Mr. Taradana, who lived in Easthampton, the town Pa had left in the dead of the night when he was down and out. I think he wanted to show his old friends that he'd become prosperous again.

Later, when Mr. Taradana moved to Hartford, Connecticut, Pa began driving down to see him there, when the mill laid him off and when he was recovering from his heart problems. Sometimes Ma and Pa would leave for a day's

visit and stay a week or two, leaving us alone to light kerosene lamps and start a fire in the wood stove to prepare our meals. Sometimes they would take one of the children with them. On one occasion, I was chosen, but I did not like the city and begged to go home. They did not take me again.

One day when we were home alone, Emmy poured kerosene on a smoldering fire. At first the kerosene hissed and smoked before it exploded. The stove lids flew off. Fire singed her eyebrows and hair. Flames leaped up to the ceiling. Smoke filled the house. One lid was made up of a series of rings. The rings scattered over the stove and some fell to the floor.

Meanwhile smoke poured into the kitchen and flames licked the ceiling. We hurried to get the hot lids back on before the house caught fire.

After Emmy left home, we were left alone when our parents went away. They left Irene in charge. She was twelve. With Emmy's experience with the stove fresh in our minds, she dared not build a fire to cook meals or even light the lamps. We sat waiting in the dark, late into the night one long day. It got later and later. We worried that the barn chores hadn't been done. Pa often said cows would dry up if not milked on schedule. But we were afraid to light a lantern to go out to the barn to try to do the chores. We sat huddled in the dark, cold and hungry with our stomachs growling, feeling abandoned.

the night with heavy footfalls. For supper, we got leftover soup stored in the cellar and heated on the wood stove, once a fire was going. The barn chores got done after a fashion.

We had mixed feelings about our parents leaving us alone. Sometimes, when the older kids were still home, they'd dig out the ice cream churn, round up eggs, cream, ice, and make a batch of ice cream. For that, we had to enlist the aid of a neighbor boy who lived on his bachelor uncle's dairy farm. He brought ice from his uncle's ice house and additional cream to round out a batch. While we crushed ice to mix with rock salt for the churn, the girls cooked vanilla, sugar, eggs, and cream in an enameled kettle over the wood stove. We had to hurry to get the ingredients

assembled, the mixture cooked and churned, the ice cream eaten, and everything cleaned up and put away before our parents got back.

Without a double boiler, the girls invariably scorched the mixture in their haste. Even with a lookout posted, we had more than one narrow escape when Ma and Pa came home early, and we had to scurry around concealing the evidence. I don't know if it was the scorched mix or the fact that it was forbidden fruit, but no other ice cream has ever equaled that homemade delight. But later, despite being free to do what we wanted to do-or dared to do when our parents left us alone-we always felt uneasy. Sure, enough; disaster followed them home one night.

- Continued next issue

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COORDINATOR SOUGHT - Commonwealth Corps Opportunity: North Quabbin Timebank Coordinator. We are hiring a coordinator of the North Quabbin Timebank to make it a meaningful part of our regional economy and community. The NQ Timebank serves the 9 towns of the North Quabbin and is a free web-based community currency enabling members to exchange services without the use of cash. We currently have 41 members and are inspired by the successes of the Portland, Maine Time Bank which has 700 members who exchanged 20,000 hours of services last year! To see a short video about our Time Bank: www.nqtimebank.org. Compensation will start at \$10,000 for a total of 1600 hours of service over the year, with a \$2000 bonus at completion. There is a generous health insurance benefit. Questions and letters of interest, contact Karen Werner: kwerner@montaguema.net

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POSITION OPEN - at Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Family Support Worker. 20 hour/ week. Provide strength based home visiting services, support and advocacy to families who are referred to MCSM. The primary focus of this grant is on early and family literacy. Bachelor's Degree preferred or a combination of an Associates Degree and extensive strength based home visiting experience. Experience working with diverse families, knowledge of child development, early literacy, and providing family support and parenting education will also be considered. Strong collaborative skills are essential in working with social workers and other providers in the community. Rate of pay commensurate with experience. Interested candidates submit resume to: MCSM P.O. Box 792, Turners Falls, MA 01376, Attn: Sharron Denman, Executive Director.

SOLE ELLIPTICAL MACHINE - For sale. Model # E25. Originally \$2,000, bought for \$1,000. Selling for \$800. Used last winter only. Call (413) 863-2213. Possible help with delivery.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

HFRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jones Trio*, jazz that thumps. \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kallanna* - acoustic folk rock. 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Bus Drivers*, rock & roll covers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd
Baystate Franklin Medical Center 's A Bouquet of Music concert: singer/songwriter John Currie, of Orange. 12 to 12:45 p.m. in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden on the ground floor of the hospital. Refreshments will be served.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae. \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Millers River Band Revival*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Strange Brew*, rock & roll covers, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

Zydeco at Performing Arts Center of Easthampton (PACE), 141 Union St. Easthampton: *Zydeco Connection* plays a spicy mix of zydeco, blues and boogie woogie, 8 p.m. \$10 general, \$8 members. (413) 527-3700. www.pioneerarts.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th
Hike to the Rock Dam with geologist Steve Winters. 9 to 11 a.m. Hike will involve easy walking along the Migratory Way, Turners Falls but the hike down to the river may be steep and slippery. Information, call 863-3221 or www.greatfallsma.org. Registration is required, free event.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nathan Blehar & Melissa McCorty*, 8:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, warped americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m..

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Zydeco Connection plays a spicy mix of zydeco, blues and boogie woogie, 8 p.m. Saturday, August 23rd. \$10 general, \$8 members. at Performing Arts Center of Easthampton (PACE), 141 Union St. Easthampton: (413) 527-3700. www.pioneerarts.org.

cana, 7:30 to 10 p.m..

Evening Sing-a-long Held at the Montague Center Library, 6:30 p.m. Children's Librarian, Linda Hickman, plays guitar and banjo and performs a variety of children's music.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH
Great Falls Farmers Market: rain or shine on the corner of 2nd St. Ave A, Turners Falls. 3 to 6 p.m. Fresh Farm products in season, crafts, baked goods, maple, grass fed beef.

Ultimate Frisbee in Wendell, Each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. on the town common. Non-competitive and fun for the whole family. Beginners welcome! Bring water and a light and dark shirt. Call Jody (978) 544-2537.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Montague Phantom Brain Exchange*, variety! \$5 cover.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sky Dix and Hillary Graves*, aka Ambience, \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, country & city blues guitar, 8 to 10 p.m..

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 28th TO 31st
Zen Peacemakers Montague: *Young Buddhists Retreat*. Begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 28 and ends at 12 p.m. on Sunday, August 31st.

This is a one-time program. Registration fee, register by **August 27th** The weekend will include traditional practices like meditation and private interviews, but also innovative breakout workshops, performances and other special events. Info www.zenpeacemakers.org/maezumi_institute/events/events.htm?z=260 or 367.2080, ext. 3#

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance or Die*, electro/indie djs, \$3.

The Book Mill, Montague Center: *Walter Strauss and Tensleep*. Fingerstyle guitar wizard Walter Strauss is a one man guitar festival. His music is both fiery and refined, and his multi-layered guitarwork gives the impression that several instruments are playing at once. Arrive early for couches, armchairs. Shows begin

work of Bee Emily, an award-winning nature & wildlife photographer. See web site: www.SeekingBeauty.NET

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31st
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Le Cabaret de Rende-vo* (open mic), 8 p.m., no cover.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *One Year Anniversary Party!!* With the *Jones Trio* & more, free!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
Public meeting. 6:30 p.m. Greenfield Community College Downtown Campus conference room (270 Main Street, Greenfield), to discuss the update of the Franklin County Bikeway Plan Public input welcome. (413) 774-1194 ext 104.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th
Franklin County Fair Parade. 5 p.m. Join the Solar Rollers on bicycles in the No Nukes contingent. Parade begins at the Greenfield Middle School parking lot. Info cchang@nukebusters.org.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Lovewhip!* New wave, electro dance band from Boston.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th
At The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Monarch Mania!* - Explore the life cycle and migration of the Monarch Butterfly, 1 - 3 p.m. Join educator Rachel Roberts and Ranger Sue Cloutier for an afternoon learning about Monarch butterflies & tag and release Monarch butterflies into the wild. No pre-registration required, free for families with young children. Info www.greatfallsma.org.

Hallmark Institute of Photography public reception for Andarge Asfaw & Lynn Goldsmith - 1 to 5 p.m. Artist Talk in the auditorium at Hallmark Institute of

around 8 p.m. Cover \$5-10. Food, beer, wine at *The Lady Killigrew*.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Lov Bomb*, rock & roll, come to dance, 9:30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30th
Solar observation, 9 to 10 a.m. Nationally known solar observers bring their amazing telescopes to Northfield Mountain and watch our closest star neighbor. This year you're invited to the party! For ages 10 and older. Pre-register (800) 859-2960.

The National Spiritual Alliance sponsors a *Psychic Fair*, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant. Astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Reiki & spiritual healing. www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovering the Montague Sandplain*. Join Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpreter Steve Winters to hike the Plains for a general introduction to fauna, flora, and geology of this amazing and threatened habitat. Walking and some hiking will be of easy-to-intermediate difficulty. 9 to 11 a.m. Free, registration required. Call 863-3221 or interpreter@greatfallsma.org.

Benefit concert for the Brookfield Institute new veterans programs: *Tred Fure*, held at North Hadley Congregational Church: 7 p.m. More info www.brookfieldinstitute.org. or (413) 477-1015. Tickets are \$25, which includes the chicken barbecue and corn roast dinner prior to the concert.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bok Choy*, jazz quartet, standards & originals, \$3 cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tom Hambridge & The Rattlesnakes*. *Ottomatic Slim* opens at 8 p.m.

UNTIL AUGUST 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: On display in the Great Hall, the

Photography, Turners Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Conference at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Working Woodlands & Land Trusts: Responsible Forest Management as a Conservation Strategy for Massachusetts*. Info (413) 397-8800 or emily@masswoodlands.coop.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th & 21st
The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. Forster's Farm, Orange. www.garlicandarts.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th
12th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Dozens of groups return for 4-state effort help out on the Connecticut River Watershed Council's Cleanup. New and returning volunteers are asked to register with CRWC by Friday, September 5. Please visit www.ctriver.org for info!

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Saturday, 8/23, 9 - 11 p.m.
Millers River Band Revival
Sunday, 8/24 - 7:30 - 10 p.m.
Warped Americana:
Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick
Thursday 8/28, 8 - 10 p.m.
Country & City Blues Guitar: *Larry Kopp*
Friday, 8/29, 9 - 11 p.m.
Harmonic Eclectic Rock: *Nexus*
Saturday, 8/30, 9 - 11 p.m.
60's & 70's Covers: *Eric Love*
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- THE DARK NIGHT** PG13
DAILY 12:00 3:15 7:15
- MIRRORS** R
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
- PINEAPPLE EXPRESS** R
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
- TROPIC THUNDER** R in dts sound
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- THE HOUSE BUNNY** PG13 DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Late Summer Almanac



BY DAVID BRULE

ERIVINGSIDE - Every summer day is a good day at this house on the edge of the river. Writing this in a lilac arbor under green branches and blue sky, no rain for a change. A noisy family of wrens inspects the fence nearby, cardinals and jays bring their families into the yard for food and a bath. Sure, there's always the summer chores: either paint the porch, bring in wood for the winter, repair the roof, get the car inspected, or, pick up some sweet corn for roasting over the campfire tonight, and schedule the afternoon in the hammock, for example.

Some lazy days start with efforts to outfox the big grandfather of a bullfrog who lives in our pond. He spends his mornings sitting at the base of the big oak tree on a nice emerald moss cushion a few feet over the pond. Everyday I try to sneak up on him and every day he sees me coming and pulls off an Olympian dive into the pond leaving a perfect ring on the surface and nary a watery splash. I'm concerned for him though, we spotted the Loch Ness monster in the little pond, that Jurassic survivor of a snapping turtle that could come up on our froggy dodger like Jaws from the depths. Not today though, he has glided home safe underwater to the base of the yellow river iris where he'll spend his morning cannibalizing pollywogs, probably his own offspring. Outwitted by the batrachian again.

In a cove along the river two young female kingfishers practice their fishing techniques from a log jutting out from the shore. They don't seem to be too serious about it, splashing noisily into the water several times in succession before returning empty-billed to perch and preen in the welcome sun before diving carelessly into the river again.

A pair of dapper yellowthroats, masked, sleek and yellow-green are working themselves to the bone to feed a monstrous baby cowbird who follows them everywhere pleading for more food. Reminds one of any number of teenagers in any given family. It would almost be comical if not for the fact that it would be better if they were feeding their own baby yellowthroat with his sweet warbler voice rather than this illegitimate offspring slipped into their nest. The female cowbird, programmed to be a deadbeat parent, is probably now off gallivanting and hanging out with others of her tribe, free from ever having to raise her own children. Let someone else do it.

July seems to have been one tropical rainstorm after another. The edge of the woods has become a wall of green. Rainforest growth has put up an almost impenetrable tangle along the river's edge. High water has erased the shoreline and minnows swim in grassy underwater forests, where brilliant cardinal flowers glow

beneath the surface. Mushrooms and mosses seem to feel content and at home to be growing on the back deck. Soggy blue jays enjoy the birdbath under a drenching shower.

In early August the rain seems to have stopped. On one of those dry mornings, I spotted twin fawns moving daintily along the spring in the middle of the woods. Actually they were already spotted when I saw them. They were all legs, like newborn colts, large eyes and ears, backs still dappled as with snow or apple blossom. Born a few months ago, they were moving through our woods, munching on touch-me-nots, sprouts and shoots growing from oak and maple stumps. Like magic, they disappeared behind their mother into the foliage, in an instant.

Other sunny days bring hummingbirds and bees to the flower garden. The bees are all of the bumble variety, the honeybees are totally absent this year, more than likely under severe assault from evil viruses and blight affecting their hives. Luckily the bumblebee continues his job, visiting flowers and bringing pollen from one to another. Deep inside the foxglove he goes, and then stumbles his way good-naturedly out the chute and, a little bit tipsy, on to the next flower tavern. Curious-looking hummingbird moths move among the blossoms too, some imitating the colors of

pink bee balm and coral columbine, one other totally disguised as a bumble bee complete with a bumblebee suit in yellow and black stripes. The hummingbirds themselves move among the blossoms or alight on their bamboo perch an instant, before launching a vicious attack on another hummer intruder.

During the second week in August, a violent windstorm burst upon the town, with hail hammering every surface. The hail shredded the forest greenery, riddled leaves of rhubarb, and pockmarked melons and fruit from Millers to Wendell. A walk through the woods in the aftermath was strangely brighter now by light reaching the forest floor more easily through broken branches and missing leaves.

Since then however, evenings in early August have been dry. Taking a break from the Red Sox game, it's the seventh inning stretch around 9 o'clock. Time to lie down on the back lawn and wait for the bats. Instead of going bats over the frustrating game going on inside. The high peak of the old house and its ridgeline run north to south, now silhouetted against the twilight sky. The peak often serves the dove who spends her time up there calling to the nearby woods in gentle

fluting. She watches our comings and goings with inquisitive eyes fixed on the familiar household activities. Sometimes a jay sits on the peak on the lookout for seeds that seem to spring from our hands. More often than not a squirrel watches us, inquiring eyes focused down the twitching nose with the impertinent expectation that I do something for him. Once even a gentle wood duck had her favorite perch up there. Once a whippoorwill too. Maybe related to the one that had called all through the Depression and the War, as my mother tells it.

That peak has sailed on through the blizzards of 1888 and 1978, the hurricane of '38 like the prow of a ship; neither flood nor storm has gotten the best of her yet! A roof over dozens of lifetimes of family in those 140 years. You think about things like that while lying in the grass, looking up through the fireflies, and waiting for bats. Sure enough, the four of them come tumbling out into the sky from who knows where. They tilt and whirl, pirouette and chatter, tease and almost collide but not quite. Cleaning the air of insects as they go. It is said that their babies accompany their mothers on these wild hunts, clinging on tight throughout the roller coaster ride. Such joy in seeing our bats back again, especially since there were dire warnings of disease, disorientation, and death in their winter caves. But ours made it back to their summer homes again. The stars pivot over the house, the bats move on to another spot on the river. Time to get up out of the grass to see if the Sox will pull it out in the bottom of the 9th, once again.

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