



# BLOCK PARTY!

## Another Stand-Up, Crowd Pleasing, Day on the Ave

Pg 11



LAKE PLEASANT   MILLERS FALLS   MONTAGUE CENTER   MONTAGUE CITY   TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 43

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 25, 2011

## MCTV MANAGER FIRED

### Petition Calls for Reconsideration of Decision to Dismiss Robin Mide

**BY CHIP AINSWORTH**  
MONTAGUE - Battle lines have been drawn regarding the recent dismissal of Robin Mide from her position as station manager at Montague Community Television on 2nd Street in Turners Falls. 62-year-old Mide was terminated by Montague Community Cable's (MCCI) six-member board of directors following an investigation of what board member Michael "Mik" Muller said was "an event that called her viability into question."

it came from out of the blue." Asked when Mide's appeal would be heard, MCCI board chairperson Anne Harding said, "I don't know yet, I'm waiting to hear from Robin to set a date. I have to juggle my board, the cable advisory committee, and Robin's schedule, so it's complicated. I'd hope it would be within the next week, and I hope we can come to some sort of amicable conclusion to this."

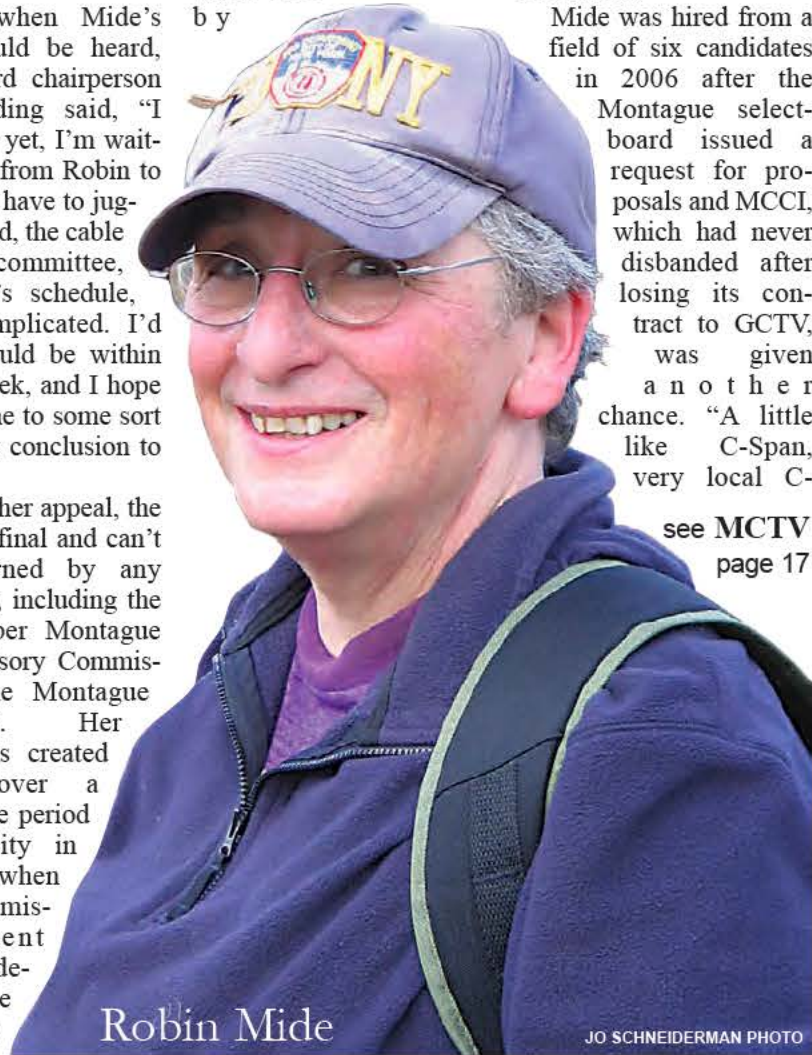
Pending her appeal, the decision is final and can't be overturned by any other entity, including the eight-member Montague Cable Advisory Commission or the Montague selectboard. Her absence has created concern over a return to the period of instability in 2002 when financial mismanagement and inadequate staffing

caused the station to be taken over by

Greenfield Community Television.

Mide was hired from a field of six candidates in 2006 after the Montague selectboard issued a request for proposals and MCCI, which had never disbanded after losing its contract to GCTV, was given another chance. "A little like C-Span, very local C-

see MCTV page 17



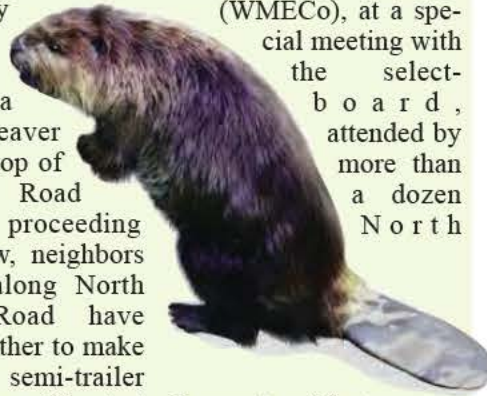
Robin Mide

JO SCHNEIDERMAN PHOTO

## WMECo Promises Trucks will Go Slow on North Leverett Road

**DAVID DETMOLD** - Permitting on the work Northeast Utilities needs to do to replace partially submerged utility pylons in a 20-acre beaver lake at the top of Richardson Road has been proceeding slowly. Now, neighbors who live along North Leverett Road have banded together to make certain the semi-trailer trucks that will start traveling up to the work site this Friday proceed slowly too. Eight 80-ton semis carrying massive wooden mats to construct a staging road and work platforms in the beaver lake will run three trips a day up the narrow country road, for the next four weeks.

down," promised Matt Lagoy, project manager for Western Mass Electric Company (WMECo), at a special meeting with the selectboard, attended by more than a dozen North



Leverett residents on Wednesday, August 17th.

That meeting was called after neighbors got up a petition, with several dozen signatures, calling on the selectboard to make sure traffic laws were obeyed during the course of the multi-million dollar construction project.

"You will never have a truck run down North Leverett Road without a pace car leading it, up or

Larry Bruffee, supervisor for Northern see WMECO page 14

## THE CIVIL WAR, FOUGHT BY SHILOH RULES A Theater Event by Pauline Productions



COURTESY PAULINE PRODUCTIONS

Left to right: Sue Tracy, Susan Duncan, and Su Hoyle in Shiloh Rules

Goshen for one more weekend, staged in the outdoor theater-in-the-round by Pauline Productions.

Flanked by opposing sides of Yanks and Rebels, a female African American park ranger's temperament is tested when the battle begins before its scheduled time. Ranger Wilson is not thrilled about being on duty during this annual event, nor does she favor the historical era being replicated. The people who give her the most grief — and from whom she learns the most — are four women from the war's opposing sides.

"Yankees thrive on bloodiness," spits southerner Cecilia Pettison (Su Hoyle), who quickly gathers her grace and asserts that Southerners trump the Yanks with "strength of character." Alternately genteel and fierce, Pettison admires the evening stars, and sees in them one more "cause for freedom and liberation" from the Yankees.

However, Ranger Wilson is unmoved. "We've got enough civil war going without reenact- see SHILOH page 15

**BY NAN DE PLUME**  
GOSHEN - The Battle of Shiloh took place during the Civil War on April 6th and 7th, 1862 in Shiloh, Tennessee, under bloom-

ing, fragrant peach trees. This battle was one of the most critical in American history. A modern day reenactment provides the grounds for comedic drama in

## Japan: Before and After



COURTESY OF LAUREL FACEY

Ruth Phelps Iida

**BY LAUREL FACEY**  
NORTHFIELD - Smiling, gracious, eager to greet everyone at the reception that began a weekend of festivities for the Pioneer Valley Regional School (PVRs) class of 1980, Ruthie Phelps Iida and her former classmates gleefully photographed each other as they arrived at the school Thursday evening, August 18th. Many came from a distance, but Iida came almost 7,000 miles from the land where her family awaited her return.

Iida, daughter of Ed and

Beverly Phelps and a Bernardston native, promised an intimate look at her life after high school graduation, and her listeners in the comfortably air conditioned auditorium were not disappointed. She related how, after attending Berea College in Kentucky, she went from a fellowship in London in 1988, where she met her future husband, to having two marriage ceremonies: one in the Bernardston Congregational Church and one, without her even knowing how to speak Japanese,

see JAPAN page 13

## PET OF THE WEEK Elegant



### Cowgirl

My name is Cowgirl and I'm a four-year-old domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a sweet girl who loves to be petted and stroked around my head and chin. That just makes me purr!

I was found a stray and so I'm pretty thin right now, but with a loving home and some delicious food I will be svelte and elegant. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or email at info@dpvhs.org.

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## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### This Summer Reading Program's Happy Ending

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
MONTAGUE - The summer reading program is winding down at the Montague Public Libraries. Two hundred and fifty children participated. The annual costume party was held at the Montague Center Library on Monday, August 22nd. Twenty children and adults attended, with almost all of the younger children in costumes.

Tom Ricardi brought birds of prey to the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, August 23rd. Ninety people attended the program, which included a screech and great horned owl, a red tailed hawk, a peregrine falcon, a turkey vulture, and a golden eagle. Twenty-two children and adults attended the Millers Falls Summer Reading program party on Tuesday, August 23rd. They enjoyed a wide variety and quantity of donated door prizes. Summer Reading Program reading incentive prizes will continue to be awarded until the last day of summer vacation, Wednesday, August 31st. The funding for this year's prizes

Photos by Linda Hickman  
**MONTAGUE CENTER - Cinderellas were the most popular costume choice at this year's Summer Reading Program Costume Party.**



was provided by the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership. Participation certificates are available at all three libraries. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library at 413-863-3214.



**MILLERS FALLS - Grace Korpiewski of Millers Falls (above) modeled one of the door prizes she won at the Millers Falls Summer Reading Program.**

**TURNERS FALLS- Abbey Hoynoski of Turners Falls held several of Tom Ricardi's owls, including a great horned owl, at the Birds of Prey show at the Carnegie Library**



### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - August 29th - September 2nd

**GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Call or visit the Center for schedule the week of September 5th through 9th.**

**Monday, August 29th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, August 30th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
**Wednesday, August 31st**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 Bingo  
**Thursday, September 1st**  
No Tai Chi

10:30 a.m. to noon Brown Bag  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, September 2nd**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

**ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call or visit the Center for schedule the week of September 5th through 9th and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.**

**Monday, August 29th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
12:00 Pitch  
**Tuesday, August 30th**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting



Wendell Citizens of the Year - Vic and Patti Scutari, owners of the Wendell Store and Deja Brew Pub.

### Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge (and other bridges).

Flood Perils continued . . .

The first bridge in the township, at Montague City, was built by the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation in 1801-02, to establish a connecting link from Greenfield to Athol for the old post road. The bridge was swept away in 1824. It was replaced two years later but was again partially destroyed in July of 1828. The following month, before repairs had been made, it was totally wrecked by yet another flood. Again in 1842, there was extensive damage.

More bridge facts next week!

Bette Black - on your Birthday we wish you an Axl Rose, a Scotch and a Splash, and may you stay Forever Young.

### Psychic Fair

**LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a Psychic Fair on Saturday, August 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Thompson Temple, across from the post office in Lake Pleasant. For more information and directions visit: thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org**

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# Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - Stop by the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Sunday, September 4th, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and learn about **brick manufacturing** in the town of Montague and the architectural styles and designs using those bricks. This program is in conjunction with the September Artist Exhibit in the Great Hall by Anne Harding.

Harding will be displaying knitting based on brick designs in Turners Falls and brick photography in the Great Hall starting September 1st. An open reception for the art work will be held on Saturday, September 3rd, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Erving Police Association is holding a **K-9 Raffle** to help support their newest member, a K-9 officer named Badge. This is a chance to win a pair of Boston Red Sox tickets for the day game on Wednesday, September 14th at Fenway. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 each, and available at the Erving Police Department, Erving Town Hall, the French King Entertainment Center, or see an officer on duty. The drawing will be held at the Entertainment Center on Tuesday, September 6th.

The Thomas Memorial Country Club of Turners Falls will be hosting their **3rd Annual Patriot Day Golf Tournament** on Labor Day, Monday, September 5th. A donation from each player will be made to the Folds of Honor Foundation. Over \$1000 has been raised each of the two previous years. The club will also be accepting donations from the local business community for raffles and prizes. Call 413-863-8003, or stop by the club to register your name or team. A hamburger and hot dog BBQ will follow the tournament. There will be a beer cart for thirsty golfers.

The Franklin Area Survival Center Thrift Store, 98 Fourth Street, in Turners Falls is having a

**50% sale on all summer clothing** through September 16th. Thrift store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Vendor applications for the 2011 Franklin County **Pumpkinfest** are now available. Vendors from last year's event should have already received an application in the mail. If your business, group, or charity, is interested in participating either as a vendor or event sponsor, please contact Michael Nelson at 413-522-0712 or michaelnelsonmba@aol.com.

The 2010 inaugural event brought over 8000 people and 1,350 pumpkins to Avenue A. Nelson expects well over 10,000 visitors at this year's event on October 22nd, to take place in downtown Turners Falls from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. More information about the event can be found at [facebook.com/pumpkinfest](http://facebook.com/pumpkinfest).

On August 26th between 5 - 9 p.m., Jake's Tavern located at 66 Avenue A in Turners Falls has offered to participate in our **Eat for The EDGE Basketball Club fundraiser**. The owner, Bill Holbrook has agreed to contribute 10% of all sales during these hours to this youth basketball program. There will also be raffles and prizes. Stop by and enjoy great food and company. For more info check out [www.EdgeBasketballclub.com](http://www.EdgeBasketballclub.com)

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

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## Montague Soap Box Derby Rolling Along

BY MICHAEL MULLER

**TURNERS FALLS** - The stars are aligning for the Second Annual Montague Soapbox Derby, rolling into town on Saturday, September 17th, high noon.

Racer entries are streaming in, and spots are filling up. Many racers from last year are coming back, some even entering two carts this time around. There will be many new racers coming from as far away as Nazereth, PA! Apparently Montague's derby is now listed on the North East Derby Circuit, which includes Great Barrington and Brattleboro, VT.

Those interested in racing this year have a fast approaching deadline - Wednesday, August 31st, by 6 p.m. Contestants will not be allowed to enter on the day of the race.

In advance of the derby, the committee has scheduled a promotional event at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 27th. Drivers from last year and this year will take over the parking lot between the Rendezvous and Burrito Rojo to show off their carts and share in food and beverages. There may even be some live music.

The Rendezvous event was supposed to be a pre-race party for those in our area who were planning on racing in the Brattleboro race on Sunday, but that race was postponed due to the impending Hurricane Irene, estimated to reach Brattleboro just as the starting gun was to go

off. Racers will also be bringing their carts to the Franklin County Fair Parade on Thursday, September 8th.

### Race Changes for 2011

The Montague Soapbox Derby will be different from last year's race in some ways. The weight limit for each of the three divisions has been increased by 50 pounds, to be in line with many other races. This will facilitate cross-race participation, as up to ten racers from Sharon, CT are expected.

Additionally, two carts at a time will be sent down the hill. This will allow twice as many carts in the same amount of time, as well as provide a more exciting race experience for spectators. Of course this makes the race a bit more dangerous, so it has been stipulated that drivers must stay in their lanes, and safety cones will line the center of the road to prevent drivers from drifting into the other lane.

Also, the First Street hill has been paved, thus the ride will be smoother, but for some reason, may now be slightly slower. To ameliorate that, the committee is planning to build two ramps for the top of the hill for the adult racers. This should increase their speed by about 5 mph.

All in all, the 2011 race will be a fantastic day filled with thrills and racing fun.

The Montague Soapbox Derby is a fundraiser for MCTV's Facility Upgrade Campaign. MCTV is a project of Montague Community Cable, Inc.

## Gill Arts and Crafts Fair September 17th - 18th

The 19th Annual Friends of Gill Arts and Crafts Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th. The Fair will be held on the grounds of the Riverside School Building, Route 2 in Gill from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

The work of many skilled artists, music, demonstrations, hands-on activities for children of all ages, a Farmers Market, great food and the famous Gill Apple Pies are all features of the fair.

Make the Gill Arts and Crafts Fair a must stop for your weekend!

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## Overdue Water Bills

**TURNERS FALLS** - Beginning Tuesday, September 6th, the Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting water off at properties with bills that are more than 90 days overdue.

The original semi-annual bills were mailed on May 1st and were due within 30 days. Payments can be made at the water department at 226 Millers Falls Road. The department is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A drop box is located at the offices to the left of the entry door. To obtain a receipt of a bill, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with payment.

Questions may be directed to the clerk's office 413-863-4542.

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KHALIL BENDIB CARTOON / WWW.OTHERWORDS.ORG

## Help Wanted: We Need Jobs

August is considered the silly season for newspapers, and certainly the coverage of the Republican presidential debate and straw poll in Iowa proved the point.

Our favorite comment came from former Massachusetts governor and putative GOP frontrunner Mitt Romney, who said, when cornered at the Iowa State Fair by voters critical of his vow against raising taxes on the rich or on corporations, "Corporations are People, my friend."

There it is – the Republican platform in a nutshell.

Corporations are sitting on trillions in cash while flesh and blood Americans are sitting in unemployment lines. And while average Americans struggled to heat their homes, fill their gas tanks and pay their taxes, the corporations weren't feeling the same pain. Indeed, the surge in gas and home heating oil prices pushed Exxon Mobil's profits to \$10.7 billion in just the second quarter of this year.

More than six million workers have been unemployed for more than six months in this country; about 25 million are currently either unemployed or underemployed, unable to find a fulltime job. Think about that. Twenty-five million Americans unable to bring in enough money to pay their bills and put food on their tables, while the corporate elite are giving luxury retailers a banner year.

Millions of average homeowners are facing foreclosure, while tax rates on millionaires have been declining for decades. Many corporations reduce their tax bill to next to nothing, taking advantage of loopholes or claiming exemptions for being headquartered offshore or for profits overseas. According to the *New York Times* neither Exxon Mobil nor General Electric paid any income tax at all to the U.S. in 2010. Also according to the *Times*, only one in four of the largest US corporations paid any taxes at all to the IRS.

Since the 2009 Supreme Court decision in the ironically named *Citizens United* case opened the spigot on anonymous corporate campaign spending, the trough of corpo-

rate swill slopping DC politicians' insatiable appetite for cash in our unending campaign cycle has swelled to bursting.

Is this the Republican vision of economic growth?

We need a Democratic president, and a Democratic party willing to push a real jobs program for real people. We need a Franklin Delano Roosevelt to deal with the ongoing economic mire that has sucked up the aspirations of college graduates and laid-off workers, the plight of jobless homeowners unable to get out from under their waterlogged mortgages, the fears of senior citizens facing uncertain prospects in their declining years. Instead, we have a Barack Obama, willing to trade away the economic safety net on which our poor, disabled, out of work, and elderly depend in exchange for... well, in exchange for what, exactly?

Another free ride for the wealthy, and another week of wild rides on Wall Street.

People need jobs, but Washington's corporate puppet masters aren't hiring. With automation, with overseas workers willing to do what Americans once did at a fraction of the cost and with no regard to workers' rights, the environment, or the quality of the end product, why would American jobs be fooled into thinking that mollicoddling corporations and the wealthy will lead to any kind of economic gains in the States?

It is not the politicians in Washington who are fooled. It is the foolish voters who elect them, and then get the shaft in return.

Unemployment benefits? Can't afford them. We need to extend tax breaks for millionaires.

Medicare and Medicaid? We can't allow European-style Socialism to sap America's can-do spirit. You saps.

A government jobs program? What are you, a Communist?

No, just a real, flesh and blood person, looking for a chance to earn a decent living again in the land where corporations have cornered the market on opportunity, and are hoarding every ounce.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Support Vermont – Shut Down Vermont Yankee

Interesting times we live in, what with the new extreme climate, famine and the crisis of world agriculture, peak oil and peak everything else, and the breakdown of systems and rationality at the governmental level, to name a few signature features. At the same time, I sense a resurgence of community spirit and creativity. I rejoice in wonderful local initiatives around food and energy, and people working in so many ways, in and out of local government, busily creating a sustainable and enjoyable future.

But a clear and present danger called Vermont Yankee imperils all this. A tiny fraction of its massive deadly store escapes its confines in Vernon, VT on a regular, daily basis, and has been poisoning us for almost 40 years. More has been released as a result of accidents, of which there have been many. A large accident with the potential in a moment to erase all our endeavors and end our lives or change them forever is a distinct possibility.

Nuclear power was con-

ceived and promoted as a fig leaf for the development of nuclear weapons, and it is not now and has never been a wise and economical way to provide electricity. Simple conservation efforts can offset the power supplied by Vermont Yankee. Entergy Corporation is determined to keep this obsolete and dangerous plant operating, because it continues to make money for them and they don't have to pay the liability insurance. We, the people, through our taxes, pay for that, and that's not the only subsidy we throw their way.

Entergy is also determined to prevail over the State of Vermont in its determination to close the plant, because of the domino theory. Who knows, New York State, for the safety of the 40 million neighbors of the Indian Point reactor on the lower Hudson River, might decide not to renew its license. Indian Point is also coming to the end of the life for which its engineers designed it and for which government licensed it.

The federal government has

not been our friend when it comes to the nuclear industry. Government has repeatedly lied to us about the cost and danger inherent in the production of nuclear power. It has repeatedly failed to detect and intervene in dangerous situations. Three Mile Island was far from being the only serious accident in U.S. nuclear history. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission knows there is a very high probability of a major accident in the future, but, because it believes its former mandate to promote and develop nuclear power is more important than its regulatory role, it has repeatedly failed to protect the public.

The State of Vermont has been responsible, and brave in denying Entergy permission to continue operating the reactor in Vernon. We must be active and creative in doing everything we can to support Vermont and its governor in shutting down the Vernon reactor on schedule, for Vermont is defending our interest even as it defends its own.

- Jim Perkins  
Leverett

### Montague Old Home Days

The Old Home Days committee would like to thank our community for the wonderful support with the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition. We regret we had to shorten the festivities, but we are pleased with your understanding and attendance. This event is a major fundraiser for our Congregational Church.

We are thrilled you chose to spend the day with us! A big

thank you to the many businesses that supported our efforts. Montague, is a great family community.

Thanks again. We hope you had as much fun as we did.

- Ann Fisk  
Montague Center

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**U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 8/24/11**

**US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date**

**4,446**

Afghanistan **1,731**

Wounded in Iraq **32,227**

Wounded in Afghanistan **13,011**

**Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule**

As a small town weekly, *The Montague Reporter* follows the news of local boards, many of which switch to summer schedules this time of year.

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on September 1st, we resume weekly publication on September 8th.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**School Year Opens to the Possibility of a New Region**

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**LEVERETT** – Leverett Elementary kicks off another school year with a back to school picnic on Tuesday, August 30th at 5:30 p.m. All school families are invited to bring a picnic supper to school that evening. Classes for grades 1 - 6 start the next day, at 8:30 a.m.; kindergarten and pre-K begin Tuesday, September 6th.

For the first year, a breakfast program will be offered for LES students. Cold breakfast will be served at 8:30 each morning in the cafeteria, at \$1.25 per day. The free and reduced program will cover breakfast as well as lunch.

The school committee approved the breakfast program out of a concern that some students were coming to school too hungry to learn.

The greenhouse was completed with volunteer help over the summer, and is ready for planting to begin. The greenhouse will not only contribute to fresh salads for the lunch line, but will also be integrated into the curriculum for student learning.

New faces at the front of the classroom will include Christine Paglia-Baker, teaching grade 5, and Allyson Bull in grade 6.

Meanwhile the public is welcome to the next meeting of the school committee, on Monday, September 12th, at 6:00 p.m. where the summer's discussion of possible new regional arrangements for school governance will be shared.

School committee chair Farshid Hajir said a joint meeting of the education subcommittees of the towns of Leverett, Shutesbury, and Pelham agreed on July 13th to form a provisional regional school committee, to explore the possibility of forming a K-12 region among those towns.

Such a move would likely spell the end of the century old Union-28, under which the towns of Shutesbury and Leverett have shared a superintendent with New Salem, Wendell, and Erving.

Hajir said those towns have been invited to join in the conversation of forming a new region, but so far have not expressed an

interest in doing so.

"The full committee and selectboard and finance committee are ahead of the public on this," said Hajir, who urged interested residents to attend the meeting on September 12th at the elementary school library.

The Leverett selectboard backed the recommendation at their July 26th meeting, and appointed Julie Shively, Catherine Brooks and Don Gibavic to the provisional regional committee. The intent is to set up a more formal process of exploring a new school region under Section 14, Chapter 71 of Mass General Laws at a fall town meeting, Hajir said.

One possible arrangement would have the three towns share a superintendent with Amherst.

Hajir said, "There is a desirability to have one superintendent, K-12, for all the kids." He spoke of the educational value of having curricula aligned through all grade levels. The financial pros and cons include regional transportation aid, though the downside costs may include matching the benefit and salary levels of Pelham's teachers, and then bringing other Leverett employees up to parity with the teachers' benefit package, should the regionalization plan go through.

Hajir noted, "The schools and the towns [of Shutesbury, Pelham and Leverett] are all the same size and they have all the same educational philosophy; they all cohere." He said unlike U-28, which has not seemed to make a strong effort to pull the five towns in the Union together to set budgets, policy and goals for the elementary schools over the years, the Amherst-Pelham region has made an annual tradition of doing so for the upper school, so Shutesbury, Pelham and Leverett already feel part of the same educational community in a real sense.

Speaking of the possibility of accessing a state planning grant and hiring a consultant to advise the towns, Hajir said, "It would be really good to have a professional evaluation of the pros and cons."

*Random Act of Kindness*

**TURNERS FALLS** – It was at the park playground adjacent to the Hillcrest School. One day last month, Linda Dagilus and Linda Ackerman lived up to the Spanish meaning of their first names and pitched in to beautify the playground by scraping, raking, clipping brush, pulling weeds and painting the playground.

"It looks a whole lot better with just about a day's work," said Ackerman, the manager of the Turners

Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank. "The hardest part was moving the ladder and the breeze blowing the paint back on us!"

Random act of kindness is a monthly community service of the Greenfield Savings Bank, where Dagilus is the regional manager.

We're sure the neighborhood children will notice the difference. "¡Qué Linda!"



*The refurbished playground at Hillcrest*

LINDA ACKERMAN PHOTO

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## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Leverett Buys a New Fire Truck

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
After a personal inspection in Lyons, South Dakota by firefighter Stewart Olsen, who flew out there last week, the town has decided to purchase a demonstration model Rosenbauer Frontline custom pumper with a tank capacity of 1000 gallons and 12,000 miles on the odometer for a total cost of \$344,906. After a number of modifications specified by Olsen are completed at the Rosenbauer factory, including upgrading the engine from 330 to 360 horsepower, adding 4 LED site lights, and an additional seat in the rear

investment, since the engine being replaced was distinguished by an electrical system that tended to fail on night calls.

Olsen said the trip to South Dakota was interesting, in that the Rosenbauer factory employs 250 people in a town with a total population of 80. They had a difficult time finding a hill to test drive the engine.

"With all the equipment the engine has on it, I think this is an incredible deal," said Olsen, who won the board's unanimous approval for the purchase.

At the July 26th meeting of the selectboard,

Shoemaker and Don (not a member of the board of assessors) Robinson will be needed more than ever during the month of September, since the police department will be assisting with traffic control on North Leverett Road during the shipment of tens of thousands of large wooden mats to be used for staging platforms at WMECo's work site at the beaver dam at the top Richardson Road, where the multi-million dollar replacement of eight partially submerged wooden pylons carrying a power line there will soon be in progress.

Speaking of



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEWART OLSEN

*Leverett's new fire truck - at the Rosenbauer factory in Lyons, SD. Delivery is expected by early in the fall, after final upgrades are complete.*

of the cab, among other minor improvements, the practically new fire engine will be driven out to Massachusetts in about a month's time. Olsen said it was likely the fire department would be able to show the fire engine off at the October Harvest Fest at the elementary school, after radios, siren, and tools are mounted on the vehicle.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico suggested just turning the lights on and showing that they work might be enough to satisfy residents that the town had made a wise

Olsen had been in to report on the problem of attrition within the ranks of the town's call fire-fighting force. Perhaps the new engine will be a drawing card for new volunteers. (Anyone interested in serving on the town's fire department is encouraged to call town administrator Margie McGinnis at 413-548-9699.)

Police chief Gary Billings received the approval of the board to fill out the ranks of his department with two highly qualified part time officers, to work "two to three shifts a month." David

Shoemaker, a part time officer in New Salem and Warwick, and Robinson, a part time officer in Shutesbury, Billings said, "They should both fit right in, with some minimal training on our in-house procedures."

When talk turned to the WMECo construction project at the top of Richardson Road, Billings noted that a lot of the heavy equipment, including cranes, will have to be transported to the job site via West Chestnut Hill Road, all the way up to the north side of Chestnut Hill see **LEVERETT** pg 9

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Vertical Axis Wind Power a "No-Brainer" for Wendell

**BY JOSH**

**HEINEMANN** - Urban Power USA is offering to erect and maintain a single 35-foot, 5-kilowatt vertical axis windmill on town land at no cost to the town. The town would buy electricity from Urban Power for 11% less than it pays for electricity from its current provider. Urban Power would pay for insurance, and as owner would have incentive to install upgrades as they become available. If in five or ten years the town wants to take control of the generator, it may opt to buy it, but if not Urban power is ready to continue indefinitely the power purchasing agreement (PPA).

That was the message Mark Maynard of Urban Power USA delivered to the selectboard on August 17th. Urban Power is an Easthampton-based start up, and Maynard is looking for locations to test his prototype wind turbine, which requires much less in the way of average wind speeds than typical wind turbines to operate efficiently. Maynard said he wants to get units like the one on offer to Wendell up and running so he can attract investment.

He estimated the 5 kilowatt tower would generate 40,000 kwh of electricity a year.

The structure would be no taller than most grown trees, so it would not be a cause for complaints around visual pollution, like the turbines in tall wind farms. It requires only an 18 foot square concrete pad on a windy site. It functions like a waterwheel on its side, and poses no hazard for bats and birds. It generates best at wind speeds up to 15 mph, and begins to shed wind at speeds above

25 mph. The tower structure is rated to withstand winds of up to 100 mph.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the proposal seemed like a "no brainer."

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich brought up the fact that Wendell buys electricity for town buildings from Hampshire Power, which may need to be brought into the discussion. Considering town property in the center where wind is relatively strong and steady, a few potential sites were suggested, but each had problems.

Highway commission chair Harry Williston informed the board the commission would like to hire a temporary part time employee, Josh White, for 30 hours, to cut brush and weeds below guardrails along town roads. His employment would end October 13th.

Williston also said the Department of Environmental Protection is requiring a full time monitor of water quality during the replacement of the Cooleyville Road bridge, another expense for the project, and another delay.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked, "What water?"

Aldrich said towns are now required to maintain the reflectivity of road signs. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is considering buying a reflectivity meter to assist towns. But she also said that if a person 65 years old or older can see the signs from an appropriate distance that constitutes a valid test. The town must have a plan in place to maintain reflectivity of road signs by January 2012.

Williston said soap and water may be enough to

restore some signs, and that the highway department has a routine in place for replacing worn out signs in sequence.

Speaking of reflective signs, a \$2,500 Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) matching grant has arrived, but it cannot be used for reflective house number signs. Materials for that project have already been gathered - reflective numbers, templates, sign blanks, stainless steel lock nuts, bolts and washers, and posts. Now all that is needed is volunteer labor on Saturdays through the fall to get the house numbers installed.

As to the MEMA grant, emergency management director Lonny Ricketts had asked for 30 cots, but found that if he buys 50 he gets a much better deal. Keller said he would talk with librarian Rosie Heidkamp about storing cots, which could be used in a possible emergency, in the library cellar.

Finance committee members Michael Idoine and Jim Slavav came in to discuss the warrant for the special town meeting that will be held on Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. But they began their time in the meeting by providing an update on regionalization efforts. Idoine said the regionalization subcommittee of the Mahar school committee is asking for approval of a plan that has not been formulated yet. One complex problem is the fact that Petersham pays \$2,000 per student more than the state minimum and Orange pays less than the state minimum.

State law requires that as members of the same region member towns would be required to pay see **WENDELL** pg 8

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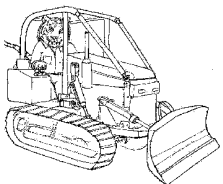
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**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

**Dog's Life Spared**

**BY MATTHEW SMALL**

In a move sure to please animal rights proponents, the selectboard on Monday, August 15th reversed a previous decision to destroy a dog involved in a recent biting incident.

Maggie Houghton, Wendell animal control officer, gave a report on the four dogs removed from the property of William Hunting in Millers Falls, near the Wendell border.

Houghton, who did not personally conduct the behavioral tests, told the selectboard three of the four dogs were entirely non-aggressive and suitable to be re-housed as companion dogs. The fourth dog, Buddy, a Marrema sheep dog, bit a woman riding her bike in July at the far end of East Chestnut Hill Road. At a prior dog hearing, the board ordered Buddy to be euthanized.

The behavioral tests found Buddy to be unsuitable for adoption as a companion dog, but well suited for the life a livestock herding dog. Buddy will take a

trip down to Pennsylvania to gain a new lease on life as a livestock guard dog.

The meeting was attended by several people, some representing groups and some who simply heard about the dogs and were moved to offer the board information about their experiences with them. Through the help of the various rescue agencies contacted on behalf of the dogs and the efforts of Dr. Lauralyn Brown, Montague veterinarian, who offered to make sure the dogs are all current on their vaccinations, the animals will be divided and re-housed.

Board chair Mark Fairbrother thanked the residents who came out to show support for the animals, saying the rescue wouldn't have been possible without their extraordinary efforts.

**Riverscapeing Project**

Thom Long, Five College assistant professor of architecture, attended the board meeting to request the support of the selectboard for the use of

Strathmore Building #11 and the adjacent concrete pad for the purpose of a public art installation.

The installation is part of a larger project entitled Riverscaping, funded by the European Union. The Riverscaping project is designed to draw together communities along the Connecticut River.

The four pilot communities for public art along the Connecticut are Turners Falls, Hadley, Holyoke and Springfield.

Long described the goal of the project as showcasing the unique identities of the communities involved while helping to envision the participating cities as part of "one big community" along the river. The art, the nature of which will not be known until submissions are made for the project, will be displayed for one to two years, and the funding of the project will include money to remove the art if the municipality chooses not to maintain it.

RiverCulture director Lisa Davol said the Strathmore site is significant. **see MONTAGUE pg 14**

**Montague Approved for Loan to Clean Up Strathmore Debris**

The hazardous waste committee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has approved a grant of \$200,000 to the town of Montague, conditioned on approval of town meeting to borrow \$112,000 in additional matching funds, along with the \$24,000 in program income funds the town has already committed, to clean up the pile of asbestos tainted debris left in the footprint of Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill. The \$336,000 cost estimate for removing and disposing the hazardous material is significantly less than originally estimated.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said

borrowing costs for the \$112,000 match would be set at 2.5% over the course of 20 years.

Building #10 was burned to the ground in an arson fire set by Jonathan Tanzer, a laborer who worked for former Strathmore Mill owner Jerry Jones, on May 26th, 2007. Tanzer is serving time for that crime.

The town of Montague came into possession of the 244,482-square-foot, 1871 vintage Strathmore Mill complex early last year, when John Anctil, who purchased the mill for \$50,000 in 2008, failed to pay back taxes due or secure the property.

Since the fire, the town

has invested over \$300,000 in securing the mill complex and replacing the fire damaged roof on Building #1. Town planner Walter Ramsey has set up a website to market the historic mill, but the town has acknowledged large obstacles remain in the way of redevelopment, chief among them access, parking and the hulking pile of hazardous debris centrally located between Buildings #11 and #1.

The grant and loan offer from FRCOG could signal a big step forward in the town's efforts to seek a qualified developer for the mill. The issue will come before a special town meeting in October.

**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

**Boiler Project Complete at Gill Elementary School**

**BY PATRICIA CROSBY**

In its August 15th meeting, the Gill selectboard deliberated Gill's role in a prospective community public health delivery system, signed off on a municipal bond for the Siemens energy-saving project, and accepted with gratitude a significant contribution to the community from Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Siemens Building Technology, working in towns and school districts across the county on an energy performance contract to upgrade the efficiency of municipal and district buildings, has completed asbestos abatement and removal of the old boiler at Gill Elementary School, and the new boiler is installed, just in time for next week's start of classes.

At a cost of several thousand dollars, the pump and pump motor at the elementary school have also been replaced. But a meeting with former highway superintendent Ernest Hastings helped persuade the town not to dig further down to in an effort to get to the bottom of water quality problems that have shown up in water tests at the school from time to time. Hastings said the high water table and other factors would complicate an exploratory dig at the well head. The town may wish to plan for replacement of water tanks inside the school soon, a project that will cost approximately \$6000.

Board members Randy Crochier, Ann Banash, and John Ward next turned their attention to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, where the town will soon have to make a decision regarding its role in a planned comprehensive public health district. County towns will

have a choice between being full members, partial members with access to selected services, or participants strictly on a fee-for-service basis. A new structure could bring costs down, but a lot will depend on decisions other towns make.

Purington asked if the voting structure for the district would be one town, one vote. Crochier, who is Gill's representative in the process, said that would depend on membership status and what part of the plan a town chooses. A decision will have to be made about membership in early September, when the proposal and plan are submitted by FRCOG.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of long-time custodian Jim Connelly, for health reasons. Connelly has maintained the school and town buildings for 26 years. His thoroughness, consistency and reliability were commended, and board members noted he will be difficult to replace. Currently the job is only a little over four hours per week, but members discussed whether they should consult with other departments to see if they would like to see a new position expanded to include some hours at the safety complex, as one example. The pros and cons of turning to a cleaning service were also considered. The decision was made to post the job in the next few weeks.

The selectboard turned next to the happy task of accepting a \$25,000 check from Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) toward town emergency services. This represents a substantial increase in the private school's payment in lieu of taxes to the town over prior years.

Traditionally, a \$10,000

annual contribution from the private school has gone to support fire department operations and has also been used for town matching funds for grants. The amount this year may afford an opportunity to defray other costs, and there was some discussion of which of these might be appropriate.

The fire department has delayed purchase of turnout gear and the police department a cruiser: possibly funds could support one of these. A leaky roof in the safety complex is a problem, but that seemed better addressed as a capital expense.

Options will be further discussed with the appropriate departments, but before moving on to other topics, board members emphasized the excellent relationship between the town and the school, and noted that NMH has consistently been a good neighbor. In addition to annual donations, NMH staff serve on many town committees and take a lead role in Gill sports and recreation programs. Because of off-campus land and housing owned by the school, the school is also the town's second largest taxpayer.

Also on the agenda was a meeting with David Eisenthal, vice president and senior fiscal advisor with UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. Eisenthal explained the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) which the Town will issue to finance \$127,500 for the \$281,750 boiler replacement and energy efficiency project at the Gill Elementary School. The balance of the work will be funded by a \$150,000 state grant the town received (from federal- **see GILL page 14**

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# Here's How to Get Out of Level 4



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO  
CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTOCOLLAGE

Associate Commission Lynda Foisy addressed the school committee, town officials and community members in the Turners Falls High School auditorium on August 16th on the way forward for the Gill-Montague school district.

## BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE

Associate commissioner Lynda Foisy, from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, stood at the podium of the TFHS auditorium for an hour and a half answering questions from school committee members and town officials on what it will take for the Gill-Montague regional school district to get out of Level 4 (Needs Improvement) status last Thursday. The select-boards of Gill and Montague called the meeting, through the school committee, to clarify what has been described as the ever

changing criteria for pulling the district out of Level 4 status.

Foisy met the sometimes contentious questioning with calm, patient, and detailed answers.

Foisy, whose full title is Senior Associate Commissioner, Center for Targeted Assistance, Division for Accountability, Partnerships and Assistance at the Massachusetts DESE, said the department had made mistakes in years past when they concentrated on improving individual schools without taking into account the importance of district-wide improvement in governance. So with assistance from

the state, a school might improve for a while, but without needed structural improvements in the school district, once the DESE support was withdrawn the schools would often slip back, and educational gains would fail to be sustained.

That is why, Foisy said, the focus has now shifted to support for the whole district, and why even with no schools in Gill-Montague school district considered underperforming the district remains in Level 4 status.

Foisy also made clear that whatever steps had been taken up until now, the district must start

from where it is today and show consistent sustained improvement for two years in order to get out of Level 4 status.

Taking a moment at the beginning of her presentation to acknowledge the number of people in attendance, Foisy said she considered it a very positive thing that the townspeople took the time to come to the meeting and get involved. She said it showed the community cares about the education of their students and are committed to supporting their schools. Foisy said she was also very impressed by the new interim superintendent, Nadine Ekstrom, and said the district was fortunate to have someone step in who knows the district well, understands the issues it faces, and is committed to seeing it improve.

Foisy then presented what she called the clear steps towards getting the district out of Level 4 status. "It's not rocket science," she said.

She explained the DESE is focused on "improving district systems of support so that schools and all of the students, teachers and administrators have the necessary tools to move forward." In this regard, the superintendent, with the assistance of the state-provided plan manager, needs to develop an Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP), approved by the commissioner. This plan will have a singular focus on addressing the key challenges in the district that need improving.

This leads to the second requirement, Foisy said, which is to show a trend of "significant and sustained improvement, as indicated by MCAS scores, in the aggregate and across all sub-

groups." This pattern of test score improvement needs to be demonstrated over a period of two years, and must be coupled with similar improvement in the growth of student performance as indicated by state standards of Adequate Yearly Progress.

At a subsequent meeting of the school committee meeting, on August 23rd, Jen Waldron pointed out the district did in fact meet adequate yearly performance goals for two successive years while in Level 4. But this progress apparently will not avail the district in emerging from Level 4 status now.

Questions and comments following Foisy's remarks were blunt and in many cases expressed frustration with the process as well as the box the district finds itself in. Some statements referred to the "unfairness" of the situation, that with no schools in underperforming status there appeared to be no justification for the Gill-Montague district remaining in Level 4.

Tupper Brown, finance committee member from Gill, said it was unfair to "impose this on us," and called the status a "burden" students and the towns would now be forced to carry for two more years. Brown felt the onus of Level 4 status put the district at a disadvantage in terms of school choice - that the district is viewed by the state as needing improvement may cause parents to choose to send their children elsewhere. He asked for the DESE to show the towns a standard by which the district is held to be in this status, a justification that could be found in the DESE's standards.

Brown said he found no justification for the DESE's action.

see LEVEL 4 page 12

**WENDELL** from page 6  
the same amount per pupil.

Possibly the most expensive article on the special town meeting warrant would pay for cleaning the mold out of the town vault.

Keller has said most of the mold is on the leather bindings of old town record books. The new town clerk, Gretchen Smith, has said the old paper ballots can be tossed, which would eliminate about half the volume. Other documents may also

be discarded, but sorting them will be a painstaking process.

The lowest bid for the mold removal - \$6,000 - came from ATI, but that bid does not include creating a system that removes moisture and limits new mold. Slavos suggested the complete job would include new metal shelves to replace the cardboard boxes that records are kept in now in the storage vault.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Attempted Break In, Trespassing

**Tuesday, 8/9**  
9:10 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with felony warrant arrest on Four Mile Brook Road.  
**Wednesday, 8/10**  
6:10 p.m. Suspicious person on Route 2 near Old State Road. Possible domestic situation. Found to be verbal argument. Both parties calmed down.  
**Friday, 8/12**  
5:30 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant and possession of

dog chasing walkers on Central Street. Spoke with owner, advised to leash dog.  
**Thursday, 8/18**  
5:40 p.m. Report of intoxicated male subject on Lester Street. Located male returning to French King Highway residence.  
9:33 p.m. 911 disturbance call on Old State Road. Verbal argument only. One subject left for the night.  
**Friday, 8/19**  
12:15 a.m. Assisting Montague police at East Main Street for an altercation.  
12:45 a.m. Located broken flat and poles at Erving Elementary School.

**Saturday, 8/20**  
12:15 p.m. Loud music at Pratt Street residence. Music was turned down prior to arrival.  
7:50 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a subsequent offense of operating a motor vehicle without a license on Forest Street.  
**Sunday, 8/21**  
1:05 a.m. Assisted Gill police with a domestic assault and battery case.  
**Monday, 8/22**  
3:45 p.m. Suspicious activity at International Paper Mill. Told trespassing subjects to leave.

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**LEVERETT** from page 6

Loop, and then down to the job site from that direction, to avoid narrow bridges along North Leverett Road, East Chestnut Hill, or the southern end of Chestnut Hill Loop. The alternate route will bring the tallest and heaviest equipment directly past Billings' home, so he can keep an eye on it.

Not to be upstaged by the fire department, Billings said the police department had received its new Dodge Charger V-8 cruiser, and was very happy with the purchase.

Will Stratford, the town's highway boss, came to discuss spending the lion's share of this year's Chapter 90 state aid to resurface a mile long section of Montague Road from the town common to the highway department. That road had last been repaved 16 years ago, Stratford said. He calculated the total cost of the project, including police details and line painting, would come to around \$140,000, leaving just \$60,000 remaining in the highway department kitty for other emergency road repairs that might be necessary before the next annual infusion of state Chapter 90 aid.

As part of the project, the

selectboard told Stratford to go ahead and repave the parking lot across from town hall, used by the Congregational Church, but owned by the town. If Stratford is to repave the driveway that runs from the parking lot in front of the church, however, the board said the church should be asked to contribute a modest sum toward the effort, and board chair Rich Brazeau said he would inquire about that possibility.

D'errico asked Stratford to photograph the condition of North Leverett Road prior to the commencement of heavy truck traffic up to the WMECo job site. Semi trucks are expected to begin rolling this Friday, August 26th, and continue for a solid month, totaling more than 1000 trips back and forth.

Stratford said he would make sure those photos were taken, but he could already describe the condition of North Leverett Road.

"The shape it is in right now is poor. It needs overlayment. It needs reconstruction," Stratford called North Leverett Road "an old cowpath that got blacktopped."

Still, he thought with the money remaining from this year's Chapter 90 funds, com-

bined with the highway department's own funds, there would be enough available to repair any further damage to North Leverett Road from the anticipated heavy truck traffic, and to keep the road passable before winter.

Stratford also talked about the need to someday soon replace the deck on the Dudleyville Road bridge, near the Leverett Village Coop. That job will require engineering in advance, and careful planning, since all traffic will have to be routed through Shutesbury while that span is out for repair.

Meanwhile, sandblasting is going forward on the Cave Hill Road bridge this week, in preparation for painting that bridge. While the dam downstream is under repair by the Curley family, the town took advantage of the low water to dredge out the accumulated silt that had been choking some of the bays beneath the bridge.

In other selectboard news, the town received a \$10,550 trails grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to begin the development of a trail network in East Leverett. The conservation commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will

collaborate on this effort, which is hoped to result in two new trails, one on the 4-H Forest land and a parallel path on the Woodard Corners Trail on the east side of Doolittle Brook.

The school window repair project has been delayed (due to the backlog on ordering windows after the Springfield tornado) until next summer, but slate roof repair at the elementary school will go forward as planned in the coming weeks. The selectboard awarded the \$78,000 contract to Sunderland Roofing.

Kurtz, Incorporated, of Westfield, was the low bidder (at \$107,000) for the town hall siding project. After a review of the scope of work, the selectboard will vote on awarding the contract for that job to Kurtz. The job entails "taking off all existing siding with proper disposal of lead paint, installation of house wrap and new pre-primed clear vertical grain cedar clapboards," and finish painting of same, according to town administrator Margie McGinnis.

Siemens Building Technologies has already completed the insulation of the town hall as part of their ongoing energy improvements to town buildings.

The town locked in a bid for 18,000 gallons of fuel oil (almost 16,000 of which will

be used for the school and safety complex) for the coming heating season, at \$3.156 a gallon.

The selectboard is urging the education study committee to move forward on an exploration of the possibility of regionalizing with the towns of Shutesbury and Pelham for a new elementary school district, which could possibly contract to share the service of the Amherst-Pelham superintendent.

In urging this approach, the selectboard is contemplating leaving the century old U-28 school district with Erving, New Salem, Wendell and Shutesbury, in favor of a region that would graduate students into the Amherst-Pelham upper school district, where Leverett and Shutesbury send seventh graders now.

Selectboard member Julie Shively said the town would gain state aid for regional transportation under the contemplated new district. A drawback would be raising salaries and benefits to match the higher rates paid to Pelham teachers. Brazeau said if Leverett teachers got the better benefit package (75% of health benefits paid, and family plans afforded) that Pelham now enjoys, then all town employees would have to get the higher rates and benefits in fairness.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Break In, Assault, Drunk Driving Arrest**

**Tuesday, 8/9**

10:52 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for malicious damage to a motor vehicle.

**Wednesday, 8/10**

11:01 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.

2:05 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G Street. Report taken.

**Thursday, 8/11**

11:53 a.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted] in Greenfield.

9:29 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Coolidge Avenue. Investigated.

**Friday, 8/12**

7:10 a.m. Odor investigation on Greenfield Road.

8:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for assault and battery on an elder aged 60 years or more or on a disabled person. 11:30 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street. Investigated.

**Saturday, 8/13**

7:14 p.m. Missing person at Turners Falls Block Party on Avenue A. Services rendered.

7:45 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

**Monday, 8/15**

1:22 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for speeding, marked lanes violations, and leaving the scene of property damage.

5:39 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Church Street. Advised civil action.

8:17 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on East Main Street. Investigated.

9:59 p.m. Assault on L Street. Investigated.

**Tuesday, 8/16**

8:36 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

3:43 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

3:53 p.m. Domestic distur-

bance on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Verbal warning.

5:21 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Coolidge Avenue. Report taken.

5:24 p.m. Vehicle breaking and entering on Park Street. Report taken.

6:00 p.m. Assault on Fourth Street.

11:52 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, violation of a restraining order, intimidating a witness, and threatening to commit a crime.

**Wednesday, 8/17**

5 p.m. Unwanted person at the Great Falls Farmers Market on Avenue A. Advised of options.

**Thursday, 8/18**

2:09 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Peace restored.

**Friday, 8/19**

2:53 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fifth Street. Investigated.

5:58 p.m. Assault on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

10:25 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Twelfth Street. Services rendered.

**Saturday, 8/20**

5:15 p.m. Safety hazard at Rifle Club on Lake Pleasant Road. Services rendered.

6:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for operating a vehicle under the influence, child endangerment while under the influence, and marked lanes violations.

**Sunday, 8/21**

7:55 p.m. Assault on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

11:10 p.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted]

**Monday, 8/22**

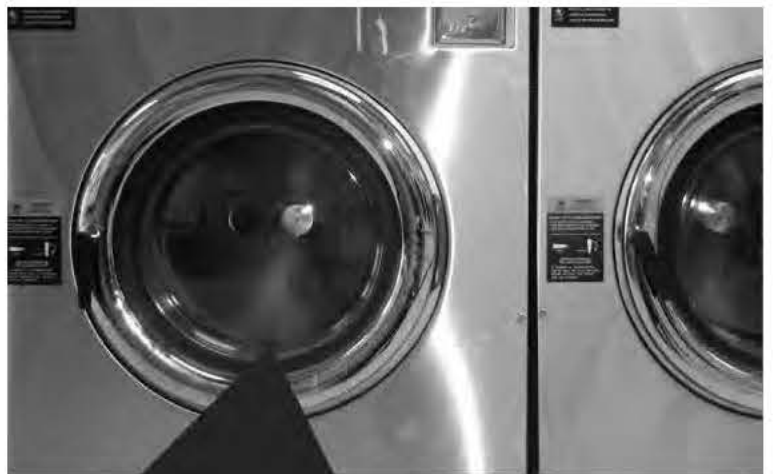
12:55 p.m. Shoplifting at Food City on Avenue A. Services rendered.

5:55 p.m. Assault on Avenue A. Investigated.

**Tuesday, 8/23**

1:38 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turnpike Road. Investigated.

2:03 p.m. Hit and run accident at Food City parking lot on Avenue A. Investigated.



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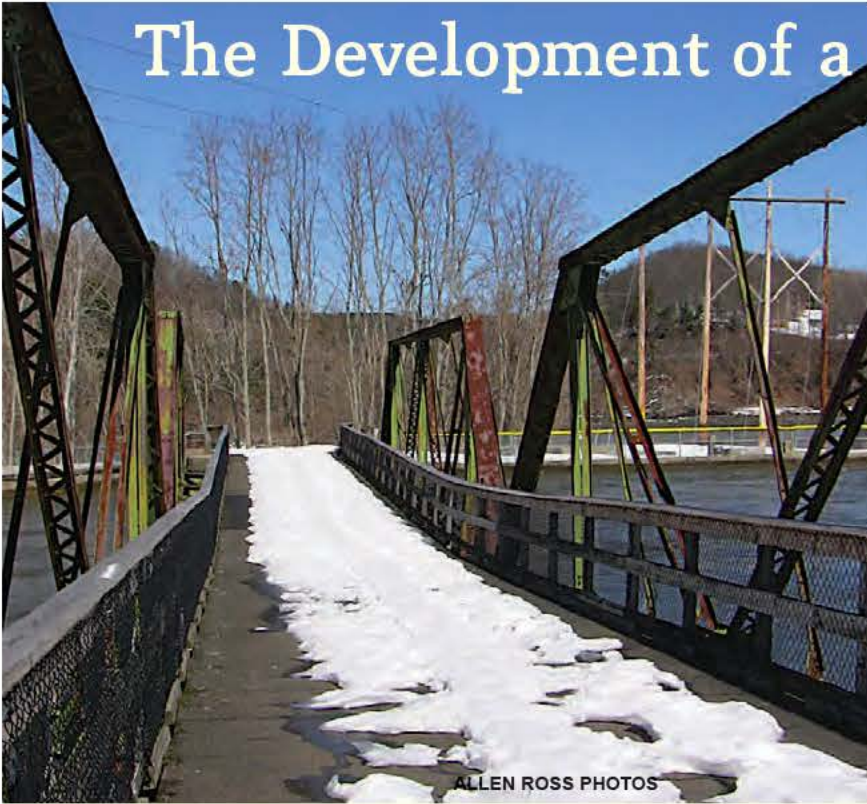
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# The Development of a Planned Industrial Community at Turners Falls



ALLEN ROSS PHOTOS

The International Paper Co. footbridge across the Power Canal. Most mills on the island had their own pedestrian bridges; Turners was designed for workers to walk to work.

**BY ANNE HARDING** - It's a story that's been told many times before, but never so

well, nor so comprehensively, as when Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the tale of the planned industrial development of Turners Falls. He spoke to about 30 people at the Great Falls Discovery Center last Thursday night, going over the history of Power Town in three stages of development - from 1868 to 1915.

While the area around the Great Falls had been used as a center of fishing, trade, and intertribal concourse for thousands of years by native communities, it was opened up to commerce of a different sort in the late 1700s when the first canals were built and the transport of goods on the river expanded.

Following the establishment of the canal system, under the ownership of the Proprietors of Locks and Canals, the village of Turners Falls subsequently became the nexus of a thriving

Some of the logs were milled at the Turners Falls Lumber Company; others journeyed further down river to Holyoke and Springfield to help build those growing metropolises.

The years 1868 - 1873 were the boom years of industrial development in Turners Falls, when 75% of the buildings and mills that came to dominate the village's economy were built.

The Panic of 1873, brought about by speculation and government retrenchment (sound familiar?) put an end to that five year boom time in Turners, and a long period of

stagnation followed. It was not until 1904 that the generation of hydroelectricity led to another of the periodic renaissances of Power Town.

But before there was hydroelectricity, there was plain old hydro power, the kind that turned a different kind of mill wheel. Abbondanzio profiled visionary engineers and investors like Alvah Crocker, Bernard Farren and Charles Hazelton, (whose curricula vitae have been offered in these pages before) who saw the potential in the 30-foot drop of the Great Falls and the delivery of that power through

for their planned community to be: attract a railroad, build bridges across the river to Gill and Greenfield, build a first class hotel, and establish a bank. Shortly, all those criteria would be realized in Turners Falls.

In 1868, the John Russell Cutlery factory was the first mill to relocate to Turners, from Greenfield. Formerly known as the Green River Manufacturing Company, the new mill (no longer standing) was built to employ 1200 workers in 200,000 square feet. This capacity was never fully realized. The largest



Many of the old mill buildings along the Power Canal have fallen into disrepair.

an expanded power canal. They applied their skills and finances to enact a post-Civil War version of Build it and They Will Come in Turners Falls.

number of employees the mill ever held was 900. But it had many successful products, (protected by high U.S. tariffs) including the Bowie knife, that travelled west with settlers of the newly opened Indian lands.

In 1871, the Montague Paper Company bought up 900 feet of riverfront and five acres. This mill was one of the very first to make paper from wood pulp, a much cheaper manufacturing process than using rag stock. But buyers were slow to accept the prod- see **PLANNED** page 13

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## Wendell Old Home Days – the Best Ever



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO



JONATHAN VON RANSON PHOTO

The Mushroom Museum, an annual favorite at Wendell Old Home Days

Charlie O'Dowd, postmaster, with drum sticker and Wendell Old Home Day cancellation mark.

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - It's always the best ever at Wendell Old Home Day, Saturday, August 20th. This year was no exception. Among the best parts of this annual tradition were the many outstanding musicians who came out to contribute to the party atmosphere of the day.

Wendell Old Home Day is a great community experience, with everyone one from little babies and small children playing on the common, to families and everyone else out playing in the sun, having a great time. There were well-behaved dogs, resting or wandering, letting kids pet them or snuggling with their friends. Lemonaid, French fries and other goodies were available. So were vendors offering a wide variety of wares, arts, and scarves. A Mushroom Museum was very popular. The Community Garden had a booth sharing cut flowers and fresh vegetables for free. As the heat of the day passed, lots of people began dancing to the music, filling the common with free flowing energy and having a great time.

Winner of the Wendell Citizen of the Year award were Pat and Vic Scutari, owners of the Community Store and Deja Brew, honored for their ongoing contributions to the community. Honorable mention awards went to Chris Wings, Stephen Broll, and Ted Lewis.



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Lillian Fiske and Ruth Viens at the Quilt Show

## A Great Old Home Day in Montague

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - The lively 52nd Montague Old Home Day had broad appeal. There was a parade, musicians, a magician, and old friends from near and far perusing the booths and tables set up on the town common under sunny skies.

A quilt show in the Congregational Church had 30 quilts or more, on display. "We never show a quilt twice," Lillian Fiske said, "yet look at all the entries. And, no two look at all alike. They're all original designs."

Ed the Wizard held the interest of children and adults alike. A 1929 Chevrolet sedan donated to the Montague Fire Department by the family of the late Ray Ellis drew a steady stream of men who talked of cylinders, vacuum windshield wipers, horsepower or the lack thereof, mechanical brakes, the perils of hand cranking an engine and the ability of old cars to plow through snow drifts with ease due to their large diameter wheels and high ground clearance. Raffle ticket sales for the old Chevy were brisk. One old car buff, determined to win the Chevy, bought over \$300 in raffle tickets to sweeten the odds in his favor.

Tag sales, fried dough, kids' games and performing dancers kept the Old Home Day lively. And that's the way it always was in Montague Center.

## Another Excellent Block Party



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTOS

A Good Time was had by All

Avenue A, Saturday, August 13th. The lawn chair brigade was out in full force, but the zombies seemed to be dying off in this year's kick-off parade. We're hoping they'll be back for the dread next year.

Vendors of all sorts lined the streets, along with community agencies and plenty of great food stands. This year, the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership grabbed the reins from RiverCulture to organize the event, so the focus shifted slightly to more child-friendly activities, and to enhancing our already connected neighborhood.

Recycled materials were turned into fashionable outfits, as eight models strutted their stuff down the Avenue in the 3rd annual Fabrication fashion show. Musical acts of all sizes played at Spinner Park,



BMX bikers showed off their chops all day on the Avenue

BY JEN DOWNS Annual Turners Falls Block Party rocked the bricks on

Between the Uprights, the Shea Theater and the 2nd Street Baking Company. The culminating event this year was the River of Lights, a see BLOCK PARTY pg 20

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE****Back to School Plans Outlined at Gill-Montague**

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Principals and administrators from the Gill-Montague schools talked about their opening day preparations at the school committee meeting on August 23rd.

Maureen Donelan, the new principal at Montague Elementary, said she had been busy over the last two months hiring new staff, including a new kindergarten teacher, and soon a new pre-K teacher.

Interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom said overall, the district has hired 23 new staff members this summer, 10% of the total staff population.

Donelan said preparations for the move of 1st grade students back across the campus from the Sheffield building to Hillcrest are complete. When school opens next week, there will be three pre-K classes, four kindergarten and first grade classes, and three

classes each for grades 2 - 5, at MES. "But those classes will be expanding too," said Donelan, once the growing primary grades move up.

To emphasize the 'one campus, two buildings' concept unifying Montague Elementary, Donelan said the grounds crew - with the help of workers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department - recently removed the chain link fence between the two buildings. "It opens it up, and gives it a nice, warm feeling," said Donelan.

Stairs at the entrances to Sheffield have been removed and replaced with wheel chair accessible ramps.

Elementary school start time in Montague and Gill has been moved up to 8:30 a.m., to allow for the required amount of time to be devoted to classroom learning. Apparently, the district had

been shortchanging students 15 a minutes a day on classroom learning, according to state requirements, in past years, said interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom.

Students and their families are invited to a playground party on Tuesday, August 30th at the Sheffield building, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., before the first day of school on September 1st.

Donelan said she had enjoyed taking a week-long training in Responsive Classroom techniques over the summer. "I believe social skills are just as important as academic achievement," she said.

Newly hired Gill Elementary principal Kathleen Adams said she was, "Extremely impressed with the expertise of the staff," at her new school, "and honored to be a part of that team." With first grade teacher Kristine Dion moving over to Montague Elementary, she has recently hired a new first grade teacher with years of experience and a background in nature education

to take her place.

Adams said she was thrilled the old boiler had been replaced, the building envelope buttoned up, and the energy performance of the entire school improved with new, efficient lighting fixtures and heating controls. "Gill is going Green!" she exclaimed.

As part of that, new raised beds are being planned for the front of the elementary school, to grow vegetable snacks for the students, Adams said.

Ekstrom reported that the high school's successful greenhouse program will soon be replicated with new, 12 foot by 18 foot greenhouses at Gill and Montague Elementary.

An ice cream social is planned for Adams to meet with parents and students at Gill Elementary at 5:30 p.m. on August 30th.

With Donna Fitzpatrick unable to attend, middle school assistant principal Kim Hearn reported the upper school has also been busy hiring new staff, including a French and Latin teacher at the high school, where

advanced placement courses are being expanded.

A meet and greet is planned at the middle school for parents and students at 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Wednesday the 31st.

She said, preliminary MCAS data looks really positive," for the upper school. "No one was in the warning category," for English Language Arts, and for math, "67 students in 10th grade took the MCAS, and 32% were ranked advanced, 33% proficient. I thought that was very good."

The middle school also showed steady gains in both English and Math in the preliminary data, Hearn said.

Despite these glowing indicators of test score improvements, Ekstrom said she had heard from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that the district has not made sufficient progress on spring 2011 MCAS scores to move up from the baseline status by which future district achievement will be judged.

see G-M page 18

**LEVEL 4 from page 8**

Another point made was that the successful resolution of the budget standoff that had led to the DESE takeover of district finances for two years seemed to have no positive impact on the way the DESE views the Gill-Montague school district.

Michael Langknecht, school committee chair, did his best to moderate the meeting and give those who wanted to ask questions or make statements a fair chance to speak.

Sandy Brown, school committee member from Gill, questioned Foisy about the role of the plan manager and monitor, and how the process would work.

The history of the DESE putting up requirements for the district to meet, with a Turnaround Plan under interim superintendent Kenneth Rocke, a Strategic Vision developed by superintendent Carl Ladd, and now the new AIP plan developed by Ekstrom with a template provided by the state, complete with a plan manager and state provided monitor - all this was met with a certain amount of skepticism.

Sandy Brown wanted to know, what are the guarantees that the district won't find itself, in two years, forced to implement yet another plan?

Foisy replied the process will be set out in the annual improvement plan, which is being developed by the superintendent with measurable benchmarks. Along the way the state provided plan manager and monitor will help keep track of the success of the plan, and will report back regularly to the school committee and community on progress or the lack thereof.

If there are problems in student progress, as measured by the benchmarks, or other aspects of the plan, this should be clear early on. In that case, a reassessment by the district can be undertaken and changes implemented. There will be no surprises at the end of the process, Foisy said.

She said the purpose of the state supported monitor will be to keep track of the district's progress and report back regularly to all parties involved. The plan manager will not just help develop the plan but will continue to work with the superintendent throughout the two year process, she said.

At the end of the two years, there will be steps to complete the district's movement out of Level 4 status. The superintendent will make a formal presentation to the school committee

and community that chronicles the district's improvement and the results achieved. The monitor will make a summary report with evidence of improvements in place. The final step will be the department of education making an on-site observation of classroom practice at selected sites.

Foisy said emphatically this will not be like the district review, but simply the state cannot evaluate the district properly unless they send representatives from the DESE to visit classrooms and see for themselves the "essential conditions of classroom practice."

"In short," Foisy said, "you need a strong plan in place approved by the commissioner; the district has to execute the plan, meet goals; and we need to be assured systems are in place for optimal learning and conditions for teachers and students."

Foisy responded to the continued expressions of frustration with a statement of understanding, and said the DESE officials had discussed many of these issues themselves, but there is no use fighting it - the position of the department is firm. Rather, Foisy suggested the school district and community look at this as an opportunity to recalibrate

relationships among the various parties, start fresh with a new superintendent and administration, and take advantage of the help being offered by the state, assistance that is available to the district only because it is in Level 4 status.

Foisy urged the audience to celebrate their successes, like the fact that Montague Elementary is now a Commendation School, having made improvements at all levels, exiting Needs Improvement status and narrowing the proficiency gap significantly. This provides the district an example, she said, of what can happen when educators work together to achieve a specific goal of educational improvement.

Karl Dziura, president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, said he felt the state hasn't grappled with the effect of school choice on small school districts like Gill-Montague. He asked Foisy if the DESE would consider making a provisional designation after one year that the district is on track to get out of Level 4 status, with the understanding that it needs to be sustained. Foisy said she hadn't thought of this before, but said it was a good idea which she would bring back to the com-

missioner.

Nadine Ekstrom invited Foisy to stay for her presentation of the AIP but she said she had a long drive back to Boston.

Earlier in the meeting, Deb Moiles and Bob Gass, consultants from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, tasked with providing professional development workshops for the Gill-Montague school committee reported the results of the self-evaluation survey committee members filled out. Several members disagreed with the results.

The workshops will constitute another piece of the process of state support for district improvement. Two, three hour workshops will be scheduled as soon as possible for the school committee. They are titled, Development of Operating Protocols: Session 1: Working in Partnership with the Superintendent and Development of Operating Protocols: Session 2: Designing behavioral norms for doing the business of the committee. Topics for further professional development will be determined after the completion of these workshops.



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**JAPAN** from page 1

in Tokyo. Her early married life was spent in New Jersey with two babies while her husband taught at Princeton. Now, her home is in Japan, just south of Tokyo, where she lives with her extended family.

Beautiful images of family life and traditional Japanese customs glowed from the screen as Iida spoke of her journey as an honors student at Pioneer Valley Regional School to her present life as the wife of a Japanese university professor in Tokyo. She shared views of iconic Mount Fuji (on clear days, when the snow-capped mountain could be seen), photos of pink cherry blossoms, shrines, Buddhist temples, and the people – Iida's students at the Rainbow Phonics school which she began, her friends, her children and the uniforms they wore once they began private school at junior high school age – pictures of her new life that enraptured her fellow 1980 graduates, retired staff, and the friends and family members present.

Do you want your child to be bi-cultural as well as bilingual? Iida and her husband did, so they took a year away from Princeton when their son, Clayton, then 3, and their daughter, Ellen, then 1, seemed most apt to benefit from the experience. They lived with their in-laws in Hadano City in

the prefecture of Kanagawa, in a multi-generational home which is not at all unusual in Japan. For the children and perhaps the mother as well, total immersion in the Japanese language was not easy. It was a place of beauty however, one that Iida would come to love and know as home. While raising her young family, Iida volunteered to work at various nursery schools, helping the staff and supporting her young children in a foreign environment. Her volunteering led to her own career of teaching. She clearly loves children, as some of her projected pictures, arranged as though in a family photo album, revealed. She learned Japanese and the three alphabets that are used in Japan, and her children grew up knowing their "Mama" and "Papa," as her husband's parents are known.

Open to the public, Iida's talk inevitably turned to less pleasant topics as she approached the present. Iida clearly wanted to dwell on the loveliness of Japanese society, but she had forewarned her audience that she would inform them of what it was like to have been living in her adopted country on 3/11, the date the earthquake and tsunami struck the northeast coast.

On Japanese television that afternoon, images of billowing black smoke emanating from the

Daichi nuclear plant in Fukushima were seen. Authorities were asked if there had been an explosion, and all they would say was, "There was a noise like a big boom." Was there a hydrogen explosion? "There was a noise like a big boom." In actuality, there had been three hydrogen explosions soon after the earthquake, and as the fuel rods lost their cooling water, the unthinkable happened. Meltdown!

Even English-only speaking people, watching events unfold in Tokyo, knew they were not being given correct information. As for Iida, "It was disconcerting. It was worse than disconcerting." She was at her school, waiting for her students. There was no way to communicate with them with the cell phone service jammed and land lines down. She could not call her husband, who ended up staying the night at the university. She could not contact either of her children, who also spent the night elsewhere. And for the millions who were at work that afternoon, it was the beginning of a desperate attempt to get home, to reconnect with loved ones, to take stock of their lives in a Japan that would be without full power for many months to come.

Japan is a land of earthquakes. Regular drills are practice sessions for the next ones, and the

general lack of panic reflected the readiness of the public for everything but the thing that is still happening – the widespread release of radioactivity from the damaged nuclear fuel, the invisible effects of multiple reactor meltdowns.

Pictures depict the destruction due to the quake and aftershocks, the tsunami waves, and the many fires. Oil refinery fires burned for two to three days. Debris in mud left behind by the tsunami filled buildings and covered the land for miles. One reaction that made Iida proud was when U. S. military troops from a nearby base went into Sendai and helped to reopen an airport covered with muck and debris, allowing rescue teams to enter the stricken area. Yet rescue efforts were hampered at every turn when roads were found to be impassable. And always the question, "What about the radioactivity?"

Farmers felt the economic effects first when they were ordered to "cull" (meaning "kill") their herds. Milk from the area closest to the stricken nuclear reactors was destroyed. With no income, no hope, no way of saving their animals, many farmers have committed suicide. Faced with heavy debt ("deep debt" from which there is no recovery), many others are choosing this "honorable" way out. Iida's

blog, "Kanagawa Notebook", ([notesfromhadano.wordpress.com](http://notesfromhadano.wordpress.com)) tells their stories with great feeling. Reading blogs is the best way to find out what is really happening in Japan today.

The audience sat in the quiet auditorium at Pioneer Valley Regional School in stunned silence as Iida finished her talk and slide presentation. She offered the opportunity to ask questions, yet there was nothing but silence. Finally, with her indomitable sense of humor, she said that any and all questions were OK, but silence was not! In her blog, she quoted Yabuki Shin who said, "...if we remain silent about the present situation...we're likely to become an international laughing stock, known only as the docile Japanese. People of Japan (he implored) it's time to take a stand!"

As surely as the ground shifts under the force of an earthquake, the culture of Japan is undergoing a shift in its traditional acquiescence of official pronouncements. Protests are now occurring in Tokyo and elsewhere, and, as Iida said in response to a question that finally came about how life has changed since the triple disaster of 3/11, "It's now cool to speak up in Japan!"

**PLANNED** from page 10

uct; in fact the *New York Times* rejected a shipment for fear that it would not hold up to the printing process.

The Great Hall of the Discovery Center where the talk took place was Montague Paper's former machine shop.

uct; in fact the *New York Times* rejected a shipment for fear that it would not hold up to the printing process.

The Great Hall of the Discovery Center where the talk took place was Montague Paper's former machine shop.

The Keith Paper Mill, built between 1871 and 1873, now called the Strathmore Mill, was built by mill owner John Keith, who moved up from Holyoke. The site encompassed 11 buildings, and burned down in 1877. Showing dedication to the workers and the community, Keith rebuilt the mill in spite of the economic recession gripping the country in those years.

In 1872, the suspension bridge to Greenfield was built to help get workers to the factories, followed in 1878 by the suspension bridge to Gill.

A brief resurgence of economic growth in 1879 spurred the development of the Turners Falls Paper Company, located where the Housing Authority is located now, and the Griswold Cotton

Mill, (whose crumbling remains are now known as the Railroad Salvage building.)

The cotton mill took five years to build and was one of the most modern in the world. Workers were recruited from Quebec to work at this mill. French Canadian workers were considered tractable, industrious and stable, and they tended to have large families to help supply the many child workers in the mill. Abbondanzio said mill owners considered French Canadians a good counterweight to the Irish, who tended to organize unions and go on strike.

By 1880, there were five good sized mills in town providing 1500 jobs and producing \$1.4 million in manufactured goods annually.

The Esleek Company (now Southworth), was added to the line up along the power canal in 1895. This is the only one of the original mills that remains in production today.

The population of Turners rose steadily. By 1900 the town population had risen to 6,000 – a diverse community of immigrants. About 40% of these were French Canadians, 20% Irish, 18% German, followed by English, Bohemian cutlery workers, and others. Abbondanzio said, regretfully, the Italians never made much of a dent in the melting pot in Turners.

Abbondanzio took his audience on a lively virtual tour of downtown Turners Falls as it developed along the 100 foot wide, tree-lined Avenue A and its bustling side streets and ethnic neighborhoods. An electric trolley was first proposed in 1888, and ran until 1936. The Crocker Bank was established in 1869, despite Greenfield legislators disputing its charter. Most of the commercial blocks on the Avenue were built during the decade of the 1870s, during the height of the national recession.

In 1874, Frederick and Marie Colle built and gave their name to a 1000 seat opera house. In 1886, electric lights were installed on the Avenue, shortly after they were introduced in New York City.

Agitating against the annual incursions of thirsty loggers were an active contingent of teetotalers, who railed against the proliferation of taverns like the Jacobus Brothers' on 2nd Street and the American House, conveniently located next door to the police station on 4th. Efforts were mounted to persuade the selectboard to deny licenses for these establishments, and to get town meeting to back prohibition, or to pass a statewide referendum banning the sale of alcohol in 1889. Montague Center voted favorably on the ballot measure; Turners turned it down. Alcohol

continued to fuel debates on town meeting floor (and on barroom floors) in Montague down to the present century.

Abbondanzio swore to the veracity of a tall tale about heavy-weight champion John L. Sullivan visiting the American House one day and challenging any man in the house to a fight. A logger at the bar complied, and knocked Sullivan out cold. When he learned the name of his opponent, it's said the logger high-tailed it out of there.

Cecil T. Bagnell, legendary editor of the *Turners Falls Reporter*, once inveighed in an editorial against a move by the teetotalers to deny permission for a German 4th of July picnic to serve beer. Bagnell said a German 4th of July picnic without beer would be like "the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out."

Abbondanzio presented maps based on old census data showing where the different ethnic neighborhoods were located. Germans lived in the neighborhood around 2nd and 3rd Street, part of L, and 4th. The French Canadians were centered around Ste. Anne's church and parish school. The Irish lived in the South End, dubbed the Patch (short for a Patch of Ireland). The Poles came later, and pretty much took over the Patch when all was said and done. The Yankees were up on the Hill, on streets like Prospect

and High, looking down on the millworkers below them. Many social, cultural and religious institutions kept these neighborhoods cohesive for years, along with small neighborhood schools.

It will be interesting to see how the patterns of assimilation and cultural integrity repeat themselves with the recent immigrants to Turners, which has lately seen an influx of Spanish speakers from southern Mexico and Guatemala.

Abbondanzio spoke only briefly about the third phase of development in Turners – the advent of hydroelectricity. The first hydro generating station came on line between 1904 – 1907, with seven small generating units. It ran until the 1970s, and was then taken out of service before coming back online in 1982 with five units.

From 1913 – 1916 the dam was rebuilt and the power canal was expanded and extended to Cabot Station. Fifteen hundred workers pitched in on this project. Cabot Station came on line in 1916 with six hydro units and a station capacity of 52 megawatts. Following a series of unit overhauls the station improved turbine efficiency in the early 2000s and increased the station output to 61.8 megawatts. Both stations continue to operate today, helping Power Town continue to live up to its name.



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**MONTAGUE** from page 7

significant. "It is one of the top ten endangered historic sites in the state. Montague has just begun to aggressively market the mill to developers as a potential major economic engine for the downtown. We think public art will help to attract attention to the site, both nationally and internationally.

Davol added, "We hope to get permission to include the concrete silo (remaining from the former Indeck co-generation coal plant) in the design-

build for the site. For one thing, it's an interesting structure. For another thing, all the workers for the old cutlery mill that once occupied that site were recruited from Germany and Bohemia, so that will be of interest to our European Union partners.

Davol is recently returned from a tour of the industrial city of Hamburg as part of the Riverscaping project.

She said, "The beauty of this project is we won't know the nature of the public art until we get submissions. We're looking for the most

interesting thing that will have the biggest impact. Architects and artists on the Riverscaping committee will vouch for the feasibility and artistic integrity of whatever submission gets chosen." Montague building inspector David Jensen serves on that committee, Davol added.

While the selectboard did agree to endorse the concept of using the building along the canal for public art, Fairbrother noted the board reserved the right to approve the art before it is installed.

Pat Allen described the use

of the building as "wonderful" noting that at the moment, "we don't even like to think of it" but that using it in a creative way would mean something to community.

Geoffrey Rogers of the Hampshire Council of Governments Hampshire Power program presented a new contract to the selectboard and explained that the town's current electricity plan will no longer be offered. The town has been on a profit sharing plan with Hampshire Power, and has realized a \$25,000 rebate over time from that program.

"We share the profits," Rogers said, "but not the risk."

The new plan will be based on real time electricity rates, with their ups and downs. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town would have made (or saved) twice as much if they had gone with a real time plan with Hampshire Power originally.

The selectboard accepted the proposed contract for review, but tabled discussion of it until each of the members had a chance to review it.

In other news, wastewater treatment supervisor Bob Trombley submitted the sewer rates for the fiscal year 2012. The rates remained the same as last year — a feat made possible by a 5% decrease in the budget of the WPCF.

"I think everyone will be pleased," said board member Chris Boutwell, "that we're keeping the fees down in these tough economic times."

The 5th Street Bridge over the canal will be closed from September 11th through

September 19th while the canal is drained for annual repair and maintenance. The bridge will be repaired at the same time, in order to once again allow truck traffic over the short span between Canal Street and the island, connecting with the White Bridge to Greenfield.

The work will be done by SPS, contracted by the Mass Department of Transportation, and the bridge will be made to withstand the weight of heavier trucks, allowing the passage of shipping vehicles as well as emergency vehicles.

The Saint Stanislaus Society is turning 100! In celebration, the society will have a dinner and outdoor party on September 17th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio and health board chair Gina McNeely met with representatives of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the issue of idling trains in Millers Falls. Abbondanzio reported the meeting was productive and that a follow-up meeting will be scheduled for late September with representatives from those agencies and representatives from the railroad and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The selectboard appointed Robert Obear as a representative to the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments planning board.

The next regularly scheduled selectboard meeting will take place on Monday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m. at town hall.



**WMECO** from page 1

Construction, the contractor responsible for the work, said the trucks will be running 130 trips a week up North Leverett Road, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., carrying wooden mats made from sawn timbers joined by threaded rods.

The mats will have been shipped by rail and freight to Westfield from Maryland and Michigan. They will be eight inches thick, four feet wide, and sixteen feet long. Before the staging work is complete, 10,500 of these mats will be trucked up North Leverett Road in 520 separate trips to the work site.

Bruffee said the plan is to crisscross the wooden mats in sufficient depth to create elevated work platforms above the level of the beaver lake, platforms sturdy enough to support drilling rigs, cranes, and other heavy equipment.

The power company plans to remove eight wooden pylons whose bases have been partially submerged in lake water since the beavers dammed Williams Brook 30 years ago or so. Those wooden pylons will be replaced by metal tow-

ers that will stand from 90 to 150 feet tall on concrete foundations, two in the lake and two on each side, carrying the 345 volt power lines. All this work will be done without draining the lake, or unduly disturbing the active lodge of beavers still living and working there, Bruffee said.

The neighbors along North Leverett Road want to make sure the utility company takes as much care with their old homes as it intends to take with the beavers.

Nancy Emond said, "Our houses are old. They are all from the 1800s, on field stone foundations, all built very close to the road. When a truck goes by, you feel it. The whole house shakes."

Other neighbors talked about the danger to pedestrians walking dogs, children riding bikes or waiting for the school bus on the curving, narrow road. One resident said, "I watched a moderate sized dump truck come up the road today. When they come around the corner and past the church and see that hill, they'll accelerate. The weight of that will be distributed all around the

houses there."

After hearing the neighbors' concerns, Lagoy promised to keep a fleet of pacer cars, at WMECO's expense, ready to meet the trailer trucks at the intersection of Route 63 and North Leverett Road, to lead them up to the utility's right of way gate, across from the Plain View Cemetery, at 30 m.p.h. Lagoy said the pacer cars would also lead each truck back down to the intersection. The pacer car drivers' only concern, Lagoy said, would be to make sure the trucks obeyed the speed limit.

"That's the only way I know how to do it," said Lagoy.

This offer was met with a chorus of "Bravos!" and "Do it!" from neighbors assembled in the meeting room.

"I think that is an admirable solution," said Gordon Fretwell.

The selectboard will hold a follow up meeting to review the implementation of the agreement in the second week of September.



**GILL** from page 7

al stimulus funds), plus \$4,250 in one-time rebates from WMECO.

The QECB, which is being purchased by Greenfield Cooperative Bank, is a tax credit bond, which means that most of the bank's "revenue" on the bond comes from ARRA/Stimulus-funded income tax credits issued by the IRS. In addition, the town will pay the bank 1.15% interest over the 16-year life of the bond.

Repayment of the bond will come from guaranteed energy savings that result from a more

efficient boiler, more efficient lighting, and better temperature controls throughout the school building.

The selectboard voted unanimously to proceed with the sale of the QECB to Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and then worked their way through signing their names 16 times on the multiple copies of four different documents.

Selectboard members expressed their thanks to administrative assistant Ray Purington and treasurer Ronnie Lachance

for their perseverance in finding and negotiating an excellent financing package for the project.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**

**Accident, Assist Other Police, Break In**

**Monday, 7/25**  
4:45 p.m. Officer sent to Bull Hill Road for a single motor vehicle accident. Driver swerved to avoid an animal and struck utility pole. No injuries, vehicle towed to Rau's.  
**Tuesday, 7/26**  
8:25 p.m. Officer assisted Shutesbury police with arrest and booking of a juvenile on a Child In Need of Services warrant.  
**Tuesday, 8/2**  
5:10 p.m. Officer sent to the Leverett Elementary School for a fire alarm sounding. Leverett Fire on scene. No problem.  
6:10 p.m. Officer took a report of a past breaking and entering into a Long Plain Road residence. Change jug and necklace stolen. Under Investigation.  
**Friday, 8/5**  
2:20 p.m. Officer sent to a Laurel Hill residence for an alarm sounding. Malfunction, officer cleared.

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# Castles in Poland

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - My recent trip to Poland was not my first. Twenty-one years ago, my daughter Deborah took me there.

She was my first born. At the hospital she was an angelic baby, but began howling as soon as we crossed the threshold of our house. I took the baby from my wife, who was exhausted from the ordeal of giving birth and her first encounter with a baby, and a howling one at that. I took the howling monster from my wife and she went off to bed. I gently bounced Debbie and sang a lullaby. We bonded instantly. She stopped crying almost immediately and promptly went to sleep. Later, when she was older, I took our kids to visit the Northfield Chateau. She fell in love with it and was hooked on castles from that day forward.

On our trip to Poland, she had six castles listed on our itinerary. Unfortunately, her husband came along too. He had no interest in castles, insisted on driving as fast as possible to rack up as many miles as he could each day. We largely saw the roadside whizzing by, and only caught a glimpse of a castle in the distance on our last day, as he barreled off to the airport for our flight home.

"Don't worry, Dad," Debbie said. "We'll visit the castles next time."

But there was no next time for Debbie. She had a reaction to chemotherapy when she was being treated for breast cancer, and doctors temporarily put her

on a ventilator. Her husband, who had power of attorney, insisted that doctors shut off the ventilator. I held Debbie and sang her childhood lullaby to her



*The Konik (small horse), bred back to their prehistoric traits, lives at Biskupin, an archaeological reservation in the southeastern Lusatian region of Poland. The discovery of the excellent state of preservation of wooden material comprising a large early settlement of the Iron Age caused a sensation. Remains from the Stone and Bronze ages were also found at the site. The men picture are part of the ongoing archaeological dig.*

as she struggled to draw her last few breaths. She was 47.

When I heard about a tour of Poland that would be visiting castles, I signed up. We not only visited castles, but stayed in them, too.

One evening, when I slipped away to scatter some of Debbie's ashes, I returned to find people from the group worried, out searching the grounds for me. A

young woman from Texas gave me a big hug when she found me. I explained that I scattered some of Debbie's ashes at each castle we visited. Later we discovered that the castle where we were staying has a "lady in white" who materializes from time to time. Perhaps, now, there will be two, I said.

progress of a Stone Age village. Artifacts and replicas of the village were on display. As we know, Native Americans were not the only people to fashion arrowheads, hunt game with bows and arrows, or fire earthenware.

The prehistoric Poles also constructed long houses, cen-

and replicate much of what other primitive people were doing in other far away parts of the world.

The Polish Stone Age people engaged in farming as well as hunting and gathering. But the Stone Age Poles had horses, early on — short legged horses with stocky bodies, thick necks and a black dorsal stripe along the backbone. They are blue dun colored and semi feral. Native Americans did not have horses until the Spanish Conquistadores brought them to the New World.

Poland established several breeds of horses for riding, driving, as draft animals and war horses. The Swedish invasion during the 17th century depleted the stock of Polish horses. During WWII, the Germans took most of Poland's horses to Germany to use for transporting goods or to slaughter for human consumption. After the war ended, the Germans returned some of the few remaining horses as part of the conditions of surrender. Stocks of various breeds, such as Arabians, were rebuilt. Semi-wild Konik horses, or Koniki (pl.) now roam state forests and preserves. Poland, which is about the size of New Mexico, is now the world's second largest breeder of Arabian horses, next to the United States, which is first.

Debbie would have loved a second trip to Poland. She was a ray of sunshine and I sorely miss her. Seeing the castles and sleeping in them somehow eased the ache in my heart. I hope that she can rest easy, now that her ashes are scattered amidst flowers on various castle grounds that they might draw nourishment and bloom more brightly.

## SHILOH see page 1

ing an old one!"

The mystery of Pettison is that no one ever sees her come or go from any reenactment event. Some suspect she is a ghost who reappears during the reenactments at Gettysburg and other such events. Hoyle's riveting portrayal of Pettison certainly suggests an apparition, and there is anticipatory wonder throughout the play. Pettison's sidekick, Lucy Gale Scruggs (Tina Padgett), stands in awe and not a little fear of Pettison.

Meanwhile, the northern nurses (Sue Tracy and Lily Kaufman) must press on through the hell of tending the wounded. For them, "Action is [the] only relief," as they move among the fields of wounded, dead, and dying, bringing the sufferers water and tending their wounds, as each side soldiers on, believing righteousness guides them to victory.

"I'm not fighting for any cause; I'm fighting for the restrooms!" storms Ranger Wilson as word comes from the Visitor's

Center that the reenactors have blocked all roads in the park, stranding the innocent, modern-day park-goers.

The reenactment battle changes people. Nurse Clara May Abbott (Tracy) who at the play's beginning is as stoic and determined as her role model, Civil War nurse and Red Cross founder Clara Barton, grows war-weary and disoriented from all the blood and the heat of the day.

Her nurse-in-training (Kaufman) takes up the cause and turns a triumphant corner in the climax of the action. "The angel of Antietam lives on."

When the reenactment is all over, a hush falls over the battlefield littered with bodies. "So quiet, you can hear the birds, or something," reflects Ranger Wilson. Unlike real war, a reenactment ends with all attendees alive. And with an official call, "Resurrect!" the men begin to get up and walk away through the imagined, historic fields.

"How can you not take sides?" asks Ranger Wilson. She

asks this of Widow Beckwith (Jen Wall), a Mother Courage-type character, who does what any survivor does: stay alive by any means possible, even if it means betraying her ideals.

Out in nature, in the open, people can often feel defenseless. The outdoor venue underscores this feeling of vulnerability, highlighting the reenactors' sweat and moans, the sweltering heat, bugs, disease, improper medical care and insufficient understanding of how best to treat the wounded. Heartbreak does not begin to describe the confusion, defeat, elation, death, adrenaline, and loss that accompanies such conflicts. In Shiloh, there are no rules.

Cecilia Pettison observes the final resting places of the unknown soldiers long after other reenactors have changed back into modern clothing. Her strides are pained yet confident. She walks and points to individual graves, "Richard, Anthony, Nathaniel, John. Someone named you once; I name you again."

turies before Native Americans, but with pitched roofs. Their houses were thatched with reeds, unlike the long hoop houses the Algonquin Indians built. It seems as though these early people communicated over the globe by some magical means to exchange information on how to fire pottery, assemble stone axes, conduct farming, fashion fish hooks, arrow heads and spear points,

"Shiloh" means "peaceful." The Tennessee battle site is named for the Methodist church that stood there at the time, but did not survive the battle. A reconstruction of the church was built in 2003 and is part of the national forest that encompasses the battleground.

Some of the biggest figures of the Civil War — Grant, Sherman, Johnston, Bragg, Beauregard, Buell — all fought at bloody Shiloh.

According to one often quoted Union veteran, "No soldier who took part in the two day's engagement at Shiloh ever spoiled for a fight again. We wanted a square, stand-up fight [and] got all we wanted of it."

The battle ended with the withdrawal of Confederate troops, but it was hardly a Union victory. The Federals had lost over 13,000 men; the Confederates, more than 10,000.

In this time of drone attacks and entirely different kinds of war, it is thrilling to be catapulted back in time to a day when men waited to see the whites of


each other's eyes before they pulled the trigger. Wasted human lives are no less devastating then than now. But this show is an excellent history lesson, laced with pathos, and touch of humanity, and, yes, laugh-out-loud humor.

For captivating performances from six remarkable women and a visceral experience to remember, go see *Shiloh Rules*. Bravo to director Jeannine Haas, and playwright Doris Baizley, for presenting a profound experience that reflects many aspects of the battlefields of our lives.

*Shiloh Rules* runs for one more weekend on Friday and Saturday, August 26th and 27th, at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. The Three Sisters Sanctuary is located at 188A Cape Street, Route 112, Goshen. Folding chairs are recommended, as well as bug spray. For ticket reservations and information on this and other upcoming Pauline Productions events, go to [www.paulinelive.com](http://www.paulinelive.com), or call 413-268-3850.

Enjoy the show!





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## West Along the River

# The Zen of Porch Repair

BY DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** - A few weeks back, this being the month of August, it was high time to repair the back porch.

It is an open affair, there being no roof on this sort of a deck, and some of the floor boards were getting punky, pushing up mushrooms, getting along into rotting and such. And although the resident chipmunks, Hoover and No-Tail Ryan, used that state of affairs to their advantage, peering through the worn boards up periscope, and diving under at the slightest movement, nails had worked their way through the punky parts and some of the 12-footers needed replacing.

Now, as with many aspects of this old house, I approach any tampering with the spirits here with great caution, reverence and even reluctance. So it takes me a long time to get around to doing things here.

The current edition of the back porch, which some would call a deck, although our version doesn't quite aspire to that designation, was the work and creation of my father, his pal Babe Fritz, and me, back in the 80s. I've told you before about our man Babe and his enigmatic carpentry ways. A man of few words, dry wisecracks, and intensity. You never wanted to tell Babe about your projects too far in advance for he was an early riser, and he'd be at the front door by 5:30, 6 o'clock ready to get started if you didn't watch out! So, tampering with his work done years ago, even repairing his handiwork, had to be approached with respect.

Truth to tell, this house does have a front porch built by great-grandfather Judah before the turn of the last century. That porch, though, is on the north side, always out of the sun, which suited folks in the 1880s who wanted to sit in the shade, rock back and forth, drink lemonade and watch the

neighbors across the street.

Back then, they called it the 'piazza'. As in "Abe's out front on the piazza." Sure enough, most times when we grandchildren showed up down here on the Flat, grandfather Abe would be out on the piazza in his homemade Adirondack chair, smoking his pipe, drinking luke-warm Narragansett, and

First thing we did in moving in after Abe was to build a back porch. So the first edition of the porch came about in 1974, when we needed a dry place to sit outdoors, a place for dog and boy to play in the sunshine, a surface above the dew-damp grass, where we could live just outside the kitchen whenever we wanted. After all, this is

Abe had saved all the nails from those boxes too, so we had buckets of them to use without going to the hardware store.

Walter Carlisle, my parents' neighbor, provided some discarded telephone poles for the posts and underpinnings. Soon we secured a good number of 2x4s from Rugg Lumber, put Abe's boards and nails to good use, and we had ourselves a deck.

Of course, after a number of years, that makeshift deck was showing age and wear, and that's when we put in the second edition of the porch. And now that edition is showing its age too, but replacing a board here and there won't be too hard.

I do have to rummage around for the tools however, since tools like to get up and change places on you when you're not looking. I've only got hand tools to use; that's all I want really. They are all hand-me-downs and require no electricity, leave no carbon footprint, no nuclear fuel-generated energy.

Having no need to rush, work fast nor move on to another building project, I can appreciate and enjoy direct contact with the wood, the direct contact with my work. I hear no shrill whine of an electric skill saw, no mechanical repetitive firing of a compressor-driven hammer.

I locate the hand saw, salvaged from the Old Camp on the Connecticut, before we closed it up — it was grandfather Joe's saw, probably acquired sometime in the 50s, but it still holds a true cut in a 2x4 and needs no sharpening in spite of its 60-odd years. The back and forth, scree and scraw is music and rhythm, it produces fragrant perfume out of sawdust, and I can pause to hear the catbird in the lilacs, watch the yellowthroat in the

flowers without my ears ringing with the scream of steel in wood.

The hammer, the nails, the saw, the pause between efforts. Nothing comes between you and your work but cadenced muscle power, silence between strokes.

So this day, the tools are gathered and laid out on the workbench on the back porch. That homemade table serves as workplace, writing surface, choice spot for summer and late fall dining under the bats and the stars, bird feeder in the winter.

The hammer that pounded generations of nails for generations of house dwellers here, the aforementioned saw, a Millers Falls Tool Co. level and tape measure, a square and a Number 2 pencil all came with the house. That's how it is when you live in the family homestead. One time I needed an adjustable wrench, and something led me to a toolbox lurking in a corner of the dirt floor cellar. Inside was the wrench I needed, left there 50 Christmases ago by an uncle who abruptly left us on a winter's night in darkest December. The wrench did its job, and back to its spot it went, waiting for the next call to use.

The catbird twitches while she watches me set up for my simple task. The hummingbirds hum, and the tinhorn nuthatch calls as I move around the job, contemplating the angles, savoring the thrust of the saw, feeling accomplishment at the driving of a beautiful nail into a new pressure-treated 2x6.

When we built this edition of the porch, there were the three of us, back in the 80s. I finish up, alone now. But this repair job brings us back full circle, to me, replacing boards, getting in touch with the old guys, bringing them forth in the silence between the blows of the hammer on nail, in the pause between the scree and scraw of the ancient handsaw.

*"It's good to reach the end of a journey,*

*But it's the journey that matters, in the end."*

—Ursula Le Guin



Yellow-throated Warblers. Illustrated by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

occasionally spitting over the railing.

Many the pleasant hour Cousin Tom and I spent there while Abe told stories, tall tales and lies mostly, to see if we were paying attention. Our first taste of beer came in those days, but between the flat 'Gansett and the wicked home brew he concocted down cellar, we were cured from wanting the beer for a few more years, until our taste buds began yearning for it.

That piazza is still here, held together with 19th century workmanship and countless coats of paint. But on the south side of the house, just outside the kitchen door, there was nothing but some steps and a small spread of cinders on the edge of the grass.

what we left Paris for back then — we needed our outdoor café terrace, a promenade deck, an observation post from which to watch birds, daydream, play, and lie on our backs to look at the sky.

That first edition of a porch came mostly from materials salvaged from the Millers Falls Tool Co., where Abe worked. He was an expert at hoarding things, and had filled the cellar with box boards he had salvaged from the shop, along with paint brushes, screwdrivers, wood chisels and all. Enough to last two lifetimes or more.

Don't know what he had in mind, but those boards were perfect for a porch. Fourteen and sixteen foot boards came up and out to the light of day.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** Whenever I go to the doctor and she takes my blood pressure it is a little high. Then, at the end of the office visit, she takes my pressure again and it's normal. Do you know what causes this?

What you describe is a common symptom of "white-coat

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:**

# White Coat Hypertension

hypertension." This means that your blood pressure goes up whenever anyone in a white coat (or reasonable medical facsimile) comes near you. I suffer from this myself so I have a visceral understanding of the problem.

In a recent study employing 24-hour ambulatory monitoring, about a third of patients thought to have "resistant hypertension," actually had white-coat hypertension. The study was published by the American Heart Association.

Resistant hypertension occurs when a patient's blood pressure remains above treatment goals, despite using three different types of drugs at the same time.

"Ambulatory monitoring showed that many of these

patients' blood pressures were in the normal range when they were at home or participating in their usual activities," said Alejandro de la Sierra, M.D., lead author of the study. "While those who actually had white-coat hypertension are not risk free, their cardiovascular outcomes are much better."

You can determine if your high blood pressure only occurs in the doctor's office, or if it's a persistent condition that needs treatment. All you need is a home blood-pressure monitor that you can buy in a pharmacy.

All monitors have the same basic parts — an inflatable cuff or strap, a gauge for readouts, and sometimes a stethoscope, depending on the type of monitor

you choose.

The cuff consists of an inner layer made of rubber that fills with air and squeezes your arm. The cuff's outer layer is generally made of nylon and has a fastener to hold the cuff in place.

Blood pressure monitors are either digital or aneroid. The aneroid monitors have a gauge with a dial on it that points at a number related to your blood pressure. Some older gauges look similar to a thermometer.

There are two types of home blood pressure monitors: manual and digital devices. Manual blood pressure monitors use a stethoscope and an inflatable arm cuff connected by a rubber tube to a gauge that records the pressure.

Digital monitors have a cuff and a gauge that records the pressure. The cuff automatically

inflates at the touch of a button. These devices automatically calculate heart rate and check your blood pressure. Digital monitors can be fitted on the upper arm, wrist or finger. Arm devices are the most accurate.

Doctors say you have high blood pressure if you have a reading of 140/90 or higher. A blood pressure reading of 120/80 or lower is considered normal. "Prehypertension" is blood pressure between 120 and 139 for the top number, or between 80 and 89 for the bottom number.

The first number represents your "systolic" pressure when the heart beats. The second number represents the "diastolic" pressure when the heart rests. If only one number is elevated, you still have high blood pressure with all of its dangers.

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

**MCTV from page 1**

Span," Mide said of the station's mandate to air various town and school committee meetings to cable subscribers throughout Montague, Gill, and part of Erving.

Prior to Montague, Mide worked in a similar capacity at Brattleboro Community Television. She hails from Queens, graduated from the Mass. College of Art and started working in public access television in 1980.

During her tenure in Montague, said Mide, "I worked very hard. I wasn't just involved in programming. There was a lot of production. I could easily say that I helped people do every local program that was on that station. I was hired to put the place together and that's what I did for five or six years, and then they just booted me."

Proponents of Mide's management style call her a hard worker and tough negotiator. Detractors claim she's abrasive and difficult to work with. Chris Sawyer Laucanno of the eight-member CAC said of her skills: "Robin was extremely well respected for her acumen, outreach and understanding of how TV worked. She worked with anyone who wanted to learn to film or edit. It's exactly what we hoped would happen when the

contract was awarded to MCTV."

Laucanno, a retired MIT professor, said he heard of Mide's job being in jeopardy in July, when MCTV board of directors chair Anne Harding told him there had been "an issue with Robin."

"Anne said that Robin had lost her temper with the assistant station manager Dean Garvin over various issues, including his inability to cover the station when he was supposed to. The version I have is she told him off in no uncertain terms."

The board of directors issued Mide a warning letter on July 19th that put her on probationary status, after which she went on medical leave. She returned to the station on August 1st and was met by board members Mike Langknecht and Brent Eaton.

"She said she felt somewhat ambushed," said Laucanno. "She became somewhat emotional, and they decided she had transgressed the terms of the warning letter."

When told of this version of events, Langknecht responded, "There was disciplinary action. I wouldn't say it had anything to do with her co-worker regarding station policy. I won't get into details except to say she was issued a letter of reprimand that included a warning. There was one action and then a subsequent

action.

"We don't micromanage," added Langknecht. "We're not there every day. But there's more than one set of eyes on everything. We've got six board members and every one of them knows what happened through every step of the process. In the end it was all above board, and how we voted was important to our stability as an organization."

According to various sources, Mide's dismissal was the direct result of her inability to keep a lid on her temper. "She does not play well with others," said a former business colleague.

Longtime MCTV volunteer Don Clegg rebutted that contention, saying, "She has a tough personality with people who are entitled, privileged and slackers. She doesn't have a tough personality with people who want to learn, who want to volunteer and who are young and in need of direction."

Apparently, however, Mide's temper got the best of her once too often. "It's touchy," said MCCI board member Muller when asked what specific event led to Mide's dismissal. "I'll say this. Robin and I were good friends and she admitted being quick to anger and easily quick to question peoples' motives. I can tolerate all kinds of behavior in my friends, but she became more agitated as time

went on, and she brought more into it."

Clegg, formerly of Lynn and a Boston College graduate, said he met Mide shortly after he moved to Turners Falls in 2006. "I was walking near the Great Falls Discovery Center when I saw a sign saying they needed people to videotape. I offered my services and Robin taught me everything."

"This isn't just about watching Channel 17," he added. "She's a tough negotiator and MCTV will soon be dealing with Comcast about a new contract. It's about stringing more lines and extending Comcast to outlying areas. Nobody's more fluent in negotiating those needs than Robin. Otherwise you've got to hire an outside consultant, but you've got to pay them."

Currently MCTV receives about \$100,000 a year from Comcast to operate its station. About half is used for payroll and the rest is budgeted to buy equipment and cover overhead.

"It's been successful," said Laucanno. "My concern is they had a sterling individual who's gone and I'm worried how this will affect programming. Robin was exceedingly good at her job."

Meanwhile the show must go on. "It's running," said Garvin. "We've done live shoots, the Block Party, and all the meet-

ings without a hitch. We've covered everything we're obligated to and more."

Clegg has organized a petition aimed at convincing the board of directors to reconsider its position on Mide's dismissal. At this writing he'd garnered 80 signatures and plans to have over 100 by the time he presents the list to the Montague selectboard on August 29th.

"Besides," added Clegg, "I doubt they'll find someone as capable as Mide willing to work for \$500 a week."

To which Langknecht replied, "In this economy we won't have the tiniest bit of problem finding someone to do the job. Irreplaceable? I don't know of anyone who's irreplaceable. I respect these peoples' opinions but I've got guys down at the bowling alley who will tell me how to do my job."

Muller suggested that despite her outstanding contribution to MCTV, Mide's overall usefulness to the station had simply run its course. "It's really unfortunate what happened. I'm probably one of the most upset on the board, yet I was not the person who abstained. This was the toughest decision I had to make during my entire ten years on the board."

"We've hit a rough patch," he said, "but we'll get through it."



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## Ferry Meadow Farm - part IV

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico ñ 2017

# N I G H T S H I F T

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - "Listen, Theresa," Diana says. "People were nervous about copying and destroying their bodies, so Neil's team came up with the Doppelganger idea."

"So that people won't have to sleep," I say, still not fully believing what Diana is telling me.

"Yeah," she says.

"But I like sleeping."

"So does everyone. Doppelganger allows you to sleep all the time. And to get twice as much done. I mean engineers, programmers, researchers, whatever, they could

really get a jump on their competition. And you can make a lot more money if you work all night."

"Case Pearman would like to get all of us Doppelgangers right about now," I say.

"Yeah, we could completely dominate the point-of-sale software."

"Just what I want to do - work for Case Pearman twenty-four hours a day. At least now I get nights off."

"But if you had one, and no one knew, then you would have the nights to yourself."

"Honestly, Diana, what would I do with that time?"

"It's easier than you would think to come up with things to do."

I look at her, and then I know. "You've tried it."

"Yeah," she says quietly. "Neil and I both have them."

"So where's - you know - the other body?"

"Oh, well, you can't travel with the other body, obviously."

"Right. Obviously," I say sarcastically, like it's the most normal thing in the world to keep a copy of yourself sleeping at home while the real you is out and about.

"You have to destroy the copy and make a new one when you're home," Diana explains. "I guess that kind of maintenance would be included in the price."

"What's the price?" I ask.

"I don't really know. Neil doesn't either exactly. We don't even know which company he is working for, really."

"Seriously?"

"Well, they kind of want to keep it a secret right now."

"But you are allowed to have one? And Neil?"

"They don't exactly know that."

"Hang on, you stole the technology?"

"Neil invented it. That's not

quite stealing."

"And the rest of the team?"

"They have them, too. We're testing them out, kind of. It's part of Neil's research really. The company that owns the technology, they don't seem that interested. They would notice if we were selling Doppelganger, you know, competing with them. But if we give them to some friends, like you..."

"Diana, why would I want one?"

"Trust me, you would."

"It's 3:00 in the morning at home," I say, glancing at my watch.

"Yeah, I'm tired, too."

"You'll have to actually sleep tonight," I say.

"Yeah," she says, "it's going to be weird." Then she says, "You could try it, you know, when we get home."

"I think I need to sleep on it," I answer her. "This is kind of crazy."

"Yeah, it is," Diana agrees. "Should we head back?"

We walk back to the resort, which is easy enough to recognize, the brightest, most expensive hotel on the beach. As we draw nearer, we drop our conversation and walk the last stretch in silence. Inside the lights feel too bright, and I dread making small-talk with coworkers. They probably all feel the same way, I remind myself. We are lucky to have jobs in one of the few sectors that is actually growing. And we want to hang on to them, otherwise none of us would choose to be here.

So I immerse myself in Case Pearman for three days. There are so many meetings that I am not on the beach again until the day I am ready to fly home. Maybe one day I will come back to Mexico and actually see some of it, I tell myself.

*Continued Next Week*

### Northfield Mountain September Program

Parting of the Seas: The Canal Draw Down at Turners Falls on Saturday, September 10th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m. The annual dewatering of the Turners Falls Canal allows for maintenance on the Cabot Power Station and the canal walls. Participants assemble with buckets and boots to collect mudpuppies, young sea lamprey, eels and other fish, plus invertebrates, like dragonfly nymphs, that live in the canal. Creatures are then released in the main stem of the river with the help of Silvio O. Conte Fish Lab Biologists. This free program is for ages 7 and older. Pre-registration is required. For information and to register contact Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center by calling Beth Bazler at (413) 659-4461 or Kim Noyes at (413) 659-4462.

### Erving Seeks Facility Worker

The Town of Erving seeks a Facility Maintenance worker. P/T, 10-15 hr/wk. Early morning and some weekend hours typically. Must be able to work flexible hours on a week to week basis. Driver's license and minimum of one year of related experience required. Drug screening and CORI checks will be performed. Applications available at Town Hall 12 E. Main St. Deadline to apply is noon on 9-1-11. AA/EOE.

from G-M pg 12

Kelly Dubay, vice president of the junior class, laid out plans for the senior prom on May 12th, 2012. In a first for TFHS, the prom will involve a bus trip to Boston and a four hour dinner dance cruise on Boston Harbor. She said advance tickets cost \$60, and only students arriving by bus will be able to attend. "We'll be getting back by midnight," said Dubay. She grinned broadly when she said the word midnight, as if speaking of a time adults would not understand the meaning of.

Ekstrom said plans first developed by former principals Chip Wood and Chris Jutres to introduce a pre-K program at the upper school, for the benefit of AP psych classes, Life Skill students, and School to Work students, have been dusted off, and are ready to go forward in January.

"This will give us a chance to establish an early childhood education center at a time when many other districts in our area have dropped them, and possibly connect with G.C.C." said Ekstrom. She said the new program would be revenue neutral, but would involve constructing a new bathroom in a middle school classroom, and modifications to the playground.

Teacher Faith Kaemmerlen gave a report on the online, digital Apex program, which has 19 students enrolled. The program, which is aligned with state standards and differentiated to meet the individual needs of students - particularly those who have failed courses in regular classrooms or are at risk of dropping out, has offered 18 different programs. So far, 40 students have made use of it.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Identity Thefts, Animal Complaints

**Tuesday, 8/2**

4:15 p.m. Resident from Mount Hermon reports identity theft.

8:30 p.m. Animal complaint from River Road. Fox removed from area.

**Thursday, 8/4**

9:40 a.m. Animal complaint from Walnut Street. Owners warned of future charges if additional complaints received.

4:50 p.m. Identity theft reported from resident from West Gill Road.

9:10 p.m. Animal complaint from West Gill Road.

**Friday, 8/5**

9:30 p.m. Reported found dog from last evening, owners notified.

12:50 p.m. Assisted resident with custody and domestic issue from Main Road.

**Saturday, 8/6**

10:25 a.m. Public health issues reported at residence on South Cross Road. Further investigation required.

12:55 p.m. Past breaking and entering investigation assistance to Northfield police.

**Sunday, 8/7**

10:20 a.m. Animal complaint from Walnut Street, charges to be filed against owner.

11:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with home search for squatters.

**Monday, 8/8**

8:45 a.m. Investigation of dead animal complaint on South Cross Road with Board of Health and Animal Inspector.

12:30 p.m. Larceny of fuel at Gill Mobil Station.

10:35 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a stabbing victim and suspect.

**Tuesday, 8/9**

11:20 a.m. Assisted resident with child safety issue regarding the buses for school.

**Thursday, 8/11**

8:30 p.m. Intoxicated subject on Chappell Drive reported with family dispute.

**Friday, 8/12**

6:25 p.m. Domestic dispute reported at French King Bridge, parties spoken to.

10:20 p.m. Report of subject headed to French King Bridge to jump. Stood by until subject was located.

**Saturday, 8/13**

9:05 p.m. Report of illegal drug activity on Oak Street.

9:20 p.m. Report of loud party, noise complaint from FC Boat Club. Investigated.

**Sunday, 8/14**

1:20 p.m. Past hit and run incident at state boat ramp.

**Monday, 8/15**

6:50 a.m. Domestic disturbance causing a motor vehicle accident on Main Road. No injuries.

**Tuesday, 8/16**

10:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. All wires down, road closed. No injuries reported.

**Friday, 8/19**

2:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic disturbance on Fox Hill Road.

3:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest at Kringle Candle Company on South Street.

4:45 p.m. Traffic issue at Gill-Montague Bridge with tractor trailer unit attempting to turn onto the bridge.

**Saturday, 8/20**

12:35 a.m. Reported breaking glass on the Gill-Montague Bridge. No one located at scene.

1:00 a.m. Assisted Erving police with roll over accident on Route 2.

3:30 p.m. Spoke with Riverside resident regarding on-going dog complaint

9:30 p.m. Riverview Drive resident filed report of noise and trespassing complaint at the old bridge abutments on Riverview Drive.

**Sunday, 8/21**

1:07 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance on Chappell Drive.

1:46 p.m. Arrest on Boyle Road for a domestic disturbance.

1:52 p.m. Arrest of second party for domestic disturbance on Chappell Drive.

4:30 p.m. Restraining order issued for victim of domestic violence.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th**  
Latin Festival at the Energy Park, Greenfield. Music by *Los Hermanos Unidos*, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by Representative Denise Andrews.

Ivory Summit LARP, 6 to 11 p.m. We are a collaborative, improvisational game based on the Changeling: the Lost table top system designed by White Wolf Publishing. We are located in Western Massachusetts in the Pioneer Valley next to the Connecticut River. We play on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Montague Grange, Montague Center.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Montague Soapbox Derby preview party, 3-7 p.m. *T.Fredric Jones/Francie Jones/Lazy Goslings*, folk, 9 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Jazz Demolition Project*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Elingtones*, 9-11 p.m.

FirstChurch of Northampton: *Moonlight and Morning Star's, The Gospel According to Moonlight* featuring *Uplift All-Star Singers, Spirit Brothers Band*, and special guests, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canal-side Bike Path Nature Walk*, 8 to 9:30 a.m. Leisurely explore level paved bike trails

starts September 12 on Monday evenings

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open mic with DADA Dino. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, featuring Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin, 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Falltown StringBand, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd**  
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Rosie Cain and Trine Cheile*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Damon Reeves & The Love Thieves*, 9-11 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd**  
Historical Photography Exhibit by Anne Harding at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Artist Reception, 1 to 3 p.m. Work on display through September 30th.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Marco Benevento*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Heather Maloney*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9-11 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History: Brick by Brick* Learn more about brick manufacturing in the town of Montague and architectural styles and designs using brick in town. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc.*, 8:30-11 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th**  
Great Falls Coffee House: *Molly Scott*. In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Coffee and home-baked treats are available, and the museum and museum store open during intermission.

**SEPTEMBER 9th to 25th**  
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *October 2011 Graduating*

Class Hallmark Institute of Photography is proud to present *Evolv[ED]*: images selected from October Class of 2011. This work represents almost 10 months of intense training in the field of professional photography and imaging arts. Evolution is the change over time of the inherited traits found in populations of individuals. The Gallery is open Friday through Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00pm.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th & 10th**  
Pothole Pictures: *Goldfinger*, with Sean Connery, PG, 1964. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie, on Friday is Denise

Gendron - James Bond Cello. On Saturday: Leo T. Baldwin - folk/rock.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th**  
Drama Circle at the White Elephant: reading of *Unspeakable* by Gardner playwright Matt Richardson. At the White Elephant, Orange, 2 to 5 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 17th**  
Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Mill, Montague Center open house., 2 to 5 p.m. [www.sawmillriverarts.com](http://www.sawmillriverarts.com).

### MONDAYS in AUGUST

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Introduction to Electronic Design with David May*, 7 p.m. Come join us in Nerd Heaven!

### TUESDAYS in AUGUST

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, story, activity, and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Second Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market* at Avenue A and Second Street, 2 - 6 p.m.

### THURSDAYS in AUGUST

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Primate Fiasco*, 8 p.m.

### EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultzzy* from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*

### EVERY SUNDAY

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, 4 p.m. Free. Draw for fun! No previous drawing experience necessary.

### EVERY DAY in AUGUST

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Rollin Atkinson*, photographic exhibition.



Heather Maloney kicks off her six week tour performing from her album "Time & Pocket Change" at the Montague Bookmill, Saturday, September 2nd at 8 p.m.

### NOW THROUGH AUGUST 30th

Leverett Library: Photography exhibit of landscapes by *Judith Davidov*.

### NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: Exhibit *A Space for Faith, The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*, 1 to 5 p.m. Photographs by Paul Wainwright.

### NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *New Work by Ariel Jones*, Old New England buildings and details from the Cape and Western Massachusetts, in mixed media.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sandy Bailey*, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ton of Blues*, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shokazoba and Emefe* (afro funk) 9 p.m.



September's Artist Exhibit in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center by Anne Harding. A display of her knitting based on brick designs and brick photography of Turners Falls.

and village sidewalks. Meet outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center at 8 a.m. Learn about plants, animals, and mill town history along the Canalside Bike Path of Turners Falls.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Sturdy Temple*, 8-10 p.m.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 29th

Montague Center Library: *Evening Sing-a-long*, 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

The First Congregational Church, Montague Center: Free introductory talk on Mindfulness, 7 to 8 p.m. Ongoing 8- week group now forming -

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### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Weeds Don't Take Vacation



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - We have capped the delights of an ocean-side vacation with the staggering beauty of a tour of the White Mountains. These towering peaks bring on the same sense of human insignificance as can be felt in the presence of the endlessly moving ocean, vast and powerful.

The mountains sit so high they rule the clouds and mist, which change like the sea with the whimsy of the wind and the air currents. One more treat for the soul before returning to our regular routine.

While we have rested, hiked, overeaten and indulged ourselves

in many pleasures, the garden has continued to burgeon. We return to the monsoon. Armed with a rather useless umbrella and my feet bared to the wet grass, I run a brief inspection.

The pumpkin plants and blossoms have burgeoned; the beans prepare for blooming.

Two of the tomatoes have begun producing ripe fruit: the tangy cherry Sungold and Early Wonder. Both prove delicious. The cherries are wonderful just eaten out of hand; the small Early Wonders are compact and meaty with good tomato flavor.

Left to their own devices, the garden varmints have sampled the unfenced fruit without check. The cabbages, rescued from rejection, clearly improved in the rich dirt, only to be grazed by the deer, or perhaps the woodchuck. The Swiss chard has been decimated.

Today, however, human vigilance has returned and I need only move in the sunroom for the

woodchuck to sense danger and return to his burrow. The small rabbit has not ventured out in the rain, or if he has, he's confined his munching to the prolific clover in the grass that waits for mowing.

The beets and garlic need pulling. The leeks look stout and healthy. I pick two sweet peppers that have turned red in our two week absence and note two others that will soon be a warm, ripe yellow. The larger tomatoes, Pineapple, Brandywine, Rose and Sioux are starting their slow turn to ripeness. Before long we will be able to indulge in the long awaited BLT graced with a huge slice of sun-warmed beefsteak tomato.

This summer, the first in more years than I prefer to number, I will not be returning to start another school year. This year there will be no excuse for failing to preserve as much of the garden bounty through pickling and freezing as we can set aside from immediate greed of consumption.

The asparagus bed looks very healthy, although it is ready again

for weeding and late this month for a feeding. The Crocus Rose is in its second blooming, most of the day lilies are done, and the beach roses are plagued with Japanese beetles.

In Maine, the season is delayed and we have found rhubarb and strawberries as well as the first of the crop of wild blueberries for sale. We have eaten much fresh fish and crustacea: lobster, shrimp, shark, swordfish, crab and salmon. We have sampled and enjoyed wine from the many local Maine vineyards. When the heat provoked a different thirst, we also dabbled happily in the beer and ales of the midcoast region. I also regretfully confess that we became enamored of the Maine Whoopie Pie.

The state of Maine claims to be the originator of this sweet, chocolaty delight. We can attest, having tasted three offerings, that Mainers are probably correct in this assertion. None were bad. Two were exceptional: the Whoopie Pie from Moody's famous diner in Waldoboro, a good five inches across, sporting

moist, rich dark cake filled to oozing with sweet white cream and sugar. Also the Whoopie Pie from Steve's Snacks Bakery in Skowhegan, available as close to home as you are to our local Food City. Perhaps the size of a hamburger bun, this beauty satisfies without any greater expenditure than the \$1.99 incurred in Maine.

Understand this is not health food. It is made largely from flour, eggs and sugar. Nor is the Whoopie Pie calorie free. However, one bite can transform a gloomy mood and induce a great feeling of contentment. All that for a bag of calories and less than two dollars. Good thing it's a long time until next summer's return to Maine. Perhaps they'll run out of them soon at Food City.

We resolve to be good for the next year and to exercise as soon as the rains abate. In the meantime the garden grows apace, as do the weeds and the lawn. When it dries out, there will be time for tending again. We will not complain of these chores. We have returned rested and renewed, ready for whatever new challenges await before the season's close into another late fall, and the final rest of winter.

from **BLOCK PARTY** pg 11



Amy Lang and her niece Phoenix Kimball-Phillips were dressed in their finest for the occasion.

RiverCulture sponsored Lantern Parade, in which the public was invited to make or bring their own lanterns. After 8 p.m., over a hundred people marched through the streets, then down

the bike path to illuminate a pitch-black Unity Park with shining beacons. Three Thai-style lanterns, filled with the community's hopes and dreams, were launched from the park

and floated gently away over the Connecticut River, inspiring awe in Turners, and perhaps UFO reports in Gill.

Many people volunteered their time to make this annual party a resounding success. In particular, thanks go to Lisa Davol, Ellen Spring, and all the members of the planning committee, to the Montague DPW, Parks & Recreation and the powerhouse volunteers that set up and helped make this once again a safe and successful event.

Anyone wishing to give feedback or join next year's planning committee is invited to meet at Jake's Tavern, Tuesday, September 13th at 6 p.m.



LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Parade organizers Hunter Greenwood-Swanson and Alexis Arcaro about to release lanterns.

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