



## SKATE PARK PLAN A GO!

Parks & Rec Gives Thumbs Up in Montague

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 19

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

## NOISE ON ICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF TORSTEN ZENAS BURNS

Torsten Zenas Burns at the Peskeomskut Noisecapades

"As I descended into impassable rivers I no longer felt guided by the ferrymen."

— Arthur Rimbaud

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**GREAT FALLS** - The word on the Avenue was, "An outdoor winter landscape sound and performance festival will take place on our main vein, the Connecticut River, at the intertribal nexus of the Peskeomskut Noisecapades," at high noon.

But at 12:00 p.m. on February 5th, with sleet and freezing rain tiptoeing down the Doppler and the barometric pressure fleeing south, no one showed on the path down to the river except one slim Asian woman wearing an onion domed fur hat.

Saner minds had prevailed and the event, which was to have taken place on the frozen river beneath the dam, had been cancelled, so people could stay warm indoors and prepare for the Superbowl.

I followed the Asian beauty, in case she might be lost, in deep snow, trundling across a slanted footbridge over blue, oxygen rich canal water colder than freezer gel, then slantwise down a broken Z path to the riverbank, where a man in a bright yellow and pink hazmat snow suit wearing a long-haired monster mask waited with a spray painted camera on a tripod pointed at the slate grey sky.

"It's a Sony '76 Etheric Port-a-Pak," explained

Torsten Zenas Burns, from Holyoke.

The art scene around here has gotten totally out of hand.

Not punctual, not well-rehearsed, not making sense, but carefully slapped together to destroy any remaining cultural mores or stray vestiges of Western Civilization that may have survived three stultifying decades of Hip-Hop hegemony, within the next half hour more than 70 'noisicians' and four dogs from as far away as Springfield found their way down the path to the gelid river where they held a phantom noise exchange, a stone's throw from the one lane bridge over the concrete falls within sound if not sight of the town named for the man who christened them in blood a mere 335 years ago this spring.

Performing for themselves alone, and their electronic recording devices, individual noise artists gave 24 five minute concerts in rapid succession, some standing on chairs, some on blankets, some in the freezing rain, which fell steadily after the first half hour but did nothing to dampen their revel.

It was Noise on Ice.

The event was the brain infarction of Neel Young, a Central Street denizen who curated 28 successive noise and performance exhibitions of the Phantom Brain Exchange at the Rendezvous ending in a flash of sulphur last

October with unheralded appearances by Connecticut hardcore psych-freaks the Bimbo Shrineheads, Kieran Lally on flour-powered solo guitar explosions, and a lecture by Mary Carol on the meaning of finality.

That was nothing compared to Saturday's episode.

"I was a big fan of the Phantom Brain Exchange," gushed Zenas Burns, a video artist who moved to Holyoke from NYC five years ago, and has since been involved with "reimagined performance events" taking place seasonally at Parson's Hall down in the Paper City.

On the river, Zenas Burns was like a mutant electron orbiting the nucleus of the Noisecapades with his other etheric videocam pointed in any direction but toward the rest of the performers, as he wandered the slushy purlieu, frozen in athletic poses or occasionally sprawled inert on the ice in his green monster mask, like some slack miscegenate outcast of the arcturean realm.

The woman in the onion dome hat turned out to be Aya Yamasaki Brown, and she hailed from Beppu City on Kyusyu Island in the south of Japan, a place known for its hot springs.

"This is a really nice experience for me," said Brown, as the sleet came down and stung her face. "It's really nice for creative health. Art is not only for inside, or under the roof."

She and her husband Jason Brown provided storytelling, with a minimum of noise. With numb fingers, Aya gently turned delicate watercolor paintings like batik prints on her husband's handheld stage, while Jason told the tale of 'How the Moon Hare Lost His Ears.' It was like an ancient Japanese fairytale pressed through the sieve of a Gahan Wilson reverie with Native American garnish. "And so the villagers decided to wake the giant Hobomok on the nearby mountain. He fought with

see NOISE pg 9

## Klare Calls Oil the Source of Present and Future Wars



DETMOLD PHOTO

Michael Klare at the Leverett Town Hall

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**LEVERETT** - Michael Klare, the Five College professor of Peace and World Security Studies, told an audience of more than 50 people at the Leverett town hall on Thursday night, February 3rd, that the growing demand in coming decades for increasingly scarce oil will be the primary fuel of future conflict in a resource hungry world.

"The path to peace has to be through equitable resource access," said Klare, who also serves as the defense correspondent for the *Nation*, America's oldest weekly magazine. "There is no other path."

Klare came to Leverett as the first in a series of speakers and events organized by the committee working to establish a first in the area town peace commission.

Former selectboard member Jim Perkins, when he first proposed the formation of a Leverett peace commission at the December 14th meeting of the selectboard, asked, "Is war necessary to the existence of global capitalism?"

On February 3rd, Klare supplied at least part of the answer to that question.

"I believe wars are see WARS pg 12

## RiverCulture Goes to Boston



CHRIS MARION PHOTO

Turners Falls RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol with Governor Deval Patrick as RiverCulture picked up the state's top cultural honor at the Commonwealth Awards on Wednesday.

**BY ANNE HARDING** - It was an exciting day at the statehouse for Turners Falls arts czarina Lisa Davol and the many economic and municipal partners of Turners Falls RiverCulture who travelled to Boston to watch her pick up the prestigious 2011 Commonwealth Award, the state's

top cultural honor, for 'Creative Community.' The day started with an informal luncheon where guests and award recipients were welcomed by Anita Walker, executive director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and several other speakers.

A common theme was

the 'creative economy' and the importance of vibrant cultural communities to the general well being of the state. Thirty-seven thousand jobs statewide are attributed to the creative economy, with an annual impact of \$2 billion in cultural tourism - not to men-

see BOSTON pg 16

## PET OF THE WEEK Darling



### Mustache

My name is Mustache and I'm a four-year-old female longhair cat in need of a good home. I am a wonderful, darling, loving, happy cat. I have super manners, too. I have one secret: I have a condition called FIV. It's a cat-only immune condition. Humans and other animals can't get it, and it's even hard for other cats to get it. Most likely I'll live a long, healthy normal life with no problems, although it's best for me to be an indoor-only girl. According to Best Friends, it should be fine for me to live with other cats, too, as long as everyone gets along. The staff here can give you all the details about FIV. I've been here so long that I'm a Lonely Hearts Club cat, which means my adoption fee is 50% off. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Annual Valentines Party

**TURNERS FALLS** - There will be a Valentines Party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 12th, starting at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages and their families can make fun valentine inspired crafts, cards, and other heart themed projects

with Ruth O'Mara and Linda Hickman. This is a free program and the craft materials will be provided. The refreshments include a chocolate fondue fountain. For more information contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 863-3214.

## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS Presentation, Seed Swap, Film *The Fly*

Four-Season, Small-Plot Food Production: an introduction to "permaculture"-influenced, backyard farming, with Daniel Botkin at Wendell Free Library on Thursday, February 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This presentation is free of charge.

Also at the Library, there will be a Seed Swap on Sunday, Feb 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet new Local Foods Coordinator Liz Carter, share ideas, swap last year's leftover seeds, get free seeds to start a new garden, and learn about seed saving with Dan Botkin from Laughing Dog Farm (his heirloom vegetable seeds will be available for sale). For more

information contact Liz Carter at [liz.k.carter@gmail.com](mailto:liz.k.carter@gmail.com).

Monthly Science Fiction/Horror Film Series feature at the Library is *The Fly* on Saturday, February 12th, 7:30 p.m. A scientist has a horrific accident when he tries to use his newly invented teleportation device. Unrated. Free Admission (but seating is limited).

COA Film Series presents *Charade* along with short feature *Solartopia* by Dan Keller on Sunday, February 13th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at [www.wendellfreelibrary.org](http://www.wendellfreelibrary.org) or call (978) 544-3559.

## Book Connect Community Reading Program

This year nine local libraries are participating in the Book Connect community reading program. But unlike past years - this year the libraries have chosen three different books to emphasize themes of immigration and Native inhabitants.

Montague, Erving, New Salem and Greenfield libraries are encouraging their residents to read *The Foreigner*, by Francie Lin, while Deerfield, Shutesbury and Sunderland are holding programs and book discussions on *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Wendell and Leverett libraries have picked a book about a dark, seldom-remembered aspect of American History - the first widespread conflict between the indigenous inhabitants and the newly arrived immigrants from Europe.

*King Phillip's War*, by Eric Schultz and Michael Tougas, considers the History and legacy

of America's forgotten conflict. Next week, programs in Leverett and Wendell will begin to bring the topic of King Phillip's War to life locally with a presentation on Wednesday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m. at Leverett Library. Mitch Mulholland, Director of UMass Archaeological Services, will show slides and discuss the archaeology of the Connecticut River Valley, including findings relating to King Phillip's War.

On Friday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. Wendell Public Library hosts the presentation *Hidden Landscapes: New Investigations into Ancient Stone Ruins of New England*, with Narragansett Tribal Preservation Officer Doug Harris and Filmmaker Ted Timreck. The presentation includes a showing of Ted's new film, *Great Falls: Discovery, Destruction, and Preservation in a Massachusetts Town*.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - February 14th - 18th

**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. AARP tax preparation appointments are available now for March 28th. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

**Monday, February 14th**  
9:00 a.m. Foot clinic by appointment  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, February 15th**  
10:30 a.m. Yoga  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
**Wednesday, February 16th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, February 17th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, February 18th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating 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



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

## Handicapped Post Office Parking

By Joseph A. Parzych; Turners Falls - Good news for handicapped drivers who wish to park in front of the Turners Falls Post Office. If you look closely, you can make out the sign reserving a parking space for handicapped drivers. Not once, all winter, has any illegal parking occurred in the reserved space. To use the parking space, all a handicapped person needs to do is to shovel away the snow. Who knows? There may already be a car parked under there.

## SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

### Valentine Crafting Workshop

**GILL** - Slate Library on Main Street in Gill will host a Valentine workshop on Saturday, February 12th at 10:00 a.m.

using stamps, glitter and glue? Come join us for a fun filled morning creating Valentines for family and friends. All ages are welcome.

Do you like to make things

All ages are welcome.

## Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge in 1937-38.

- On May 25th, 1937, to make way for the Turners Falls abutments for the Gill-Montague bridge, the International Paper Company (formerly the Montague Pulp Company) began razing the boiler room section of their mill, adjacent to the bridge approach.
- At 6:15 a.m. on June 8th, 1937, the 100-foot steel smoke stack was removed and subsequently disassembled or cut up to be sold for scrap. It was necessary to do this work early in the morning in an attempt to avoid a large crowd gathering to watch the demolition.
- This timetable was designed to eliminate any potential injury that may have resulted to the sidewalk superintendants.

More bridge facts next week!

## Correction:

In the Barn Collapse in Montague Center story in last week's issue, we gave the wrong job title for barn owner Dean Garvin. He is the associate station manager at Montague Community Television, not the administrative director.

## Note from the Gill Tax Collector

The Property Tax bills for the Town of Gill were mailed out on February 8th, and are due on May 2nd. Because of a printing error, some bills show an incorrect due date.

The correct due date is May 2nd, 2011. If anyone has any questions, please call Ronnie LaChance at the Tax Collectors office at 863-2105.

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### Monday, February 14th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch

### Tuesday, February 15th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Painting

### Wednesday, February 16th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, February 17th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

### Friday, February 18th

11:30 a.m. Lunch - Roast Pork

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



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) **Universal Access Program** will offer cross-country skiing, kick sledding, snowshoeing, ice skating, sled hockey, and snowmobile rides for individuals with disabilities, their families, and friends at Wendell State Forest in Wendell, on Saturdays, February 12th and 26th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free use of accessible equipment and staff assistance will be available. Pre-registration is required, please call All Out Adventures at 413-527-8980. To contact the state forest directly, call 413-659-3797.

In addition to the 1830s-era barn on Center Street that collapsed under the weight of recent snow and ice, as pictured on the front of last week's issue, at least two other old barns have collapsed in recent days in Montague Center - one on Greenfield Road and one on Meadow Road. A chimney on the 1850s town hall fell down, and another chimney on that same structure appears to be in danger of following suit. Let's hope the temperature rises soon, so we can get some thawing action on overburdened roofs and buildings.

The **Second Saturday Childrens' Series** continues at the Great Falls Discovery

Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls on February 12th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Activities will include arts and crafts focusing on local winter birds. Children will also make a bird feeder to take home, learn how to identify local birds and investigate how a bird's beak affects their choice of bird food.

The **United Way of Franklin County** has shared their wealth of donated blankets with Franklin County Home Care on Tuesday, February 8th. The blankets were a gift from E&R Laundry of Manchester, NH in honor of their work with Deerfield Academy. More than 1000 blankets were donated. Sixty blankets were given to FCHCC to distribute to elders in their care. The remaining blankets were shared with the Franklin County Community Meals program and the Greenfield Family Inn.

The Northfield Mount Hermon Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble will present a benefit concert for senior citizens in Franklin County to **benefit the Meals on Wheels program** on Sunday, February 20th, at 3:00 p.m., at the Rhodes Art Center in Gill. The program will consist of music "As You Remember It," including Classical, Americana and Big Band hits. The concert is free and open to the public; a

donation will be taken for Meals on Wheels. For more information or directions contact Anna Viadero 773-5555 x 2296.

A **"Supper for Six"** bag is a reusable grocery bag filled with non-perishable items for dinner, and in many cases breakfast or lunch, for a family of six. The February 2010 "Supper for Six" drive and event gathered more than 350 reusable grocery bags filled with more than 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items that were subsequently distributed to families in need across Franklin County.

This year's "Supper for Six" event will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15th, at the Bement School, 94 Old Main Street in Deerfield. Women's Way members and supporters will bring and sort the food bags. Donors unable to attend can drop off their bags at the United Way offices, 51 Davis Street, Suite 2, in Greenfield.

All bags will be distributed to families in need across Franklin County by the Center for Self Reliance in Greenfield and by the Franklin County Community Meals Program's Food Pantry in Orange.

**"Disney Camp Rock, the Musical"** is being presented by Ja'Duke Productions of Turners Falls, at the Greenfield High School auditorium located on Lenox Avenue in Greenfield on Saturday, February 19th, 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 20th at 2:00 p.m. For ticket info, call 413-863-0001.

Send items for local briefs to: [reporter-local@montague-ma.net](mailto:reporter-local@montague-ma.net)

## Wendell Health Workers Head to Haiti

Mary Collins, an emergency medical technician, and Florian Coco Schachtl, a registered nurse, both residents of Wendell, will be heading to Haiti on Monday to spend two weeks assisting with the delivery of primary health care at a small clinic on the north coast. The two are still raising the funds needed to pay for their humanitarian effort, and will be assisted in that effort by a fundraiser at the Deja Brew pub in Wendell the night before they leave. On Sunday, February 13th, from 8 - 10 p.m., Annie Hasset and Gangly Heart (Bob Rosser, Tina Horn, Smiling Steve) will play, and all proceeds from the show will go to Collins' and Schachtl's trip, along with 10% of food and drink sales at the pub from 8 p.m. on. (If people come for dinner earlier and mention the benefit, 10% of their bill will go toward the Haiti trip as well.)

Collins and Schachtl will work at a clinic named *Sante Pou Yo* (Health for All) in the village of Bod Me Limbe, to the west of Cap Haitien.

The clinic serves the population for a variety of health issues including cholera, malaria, HIV, intestinal parasites, pediatric diarrhea and malnutrition. The clinic focuses on treatment and prevention, conducting outreach in surrounding villages on cholera and malaria prevention, sexual health and birth control counseling, water sanitation, and nutrition.

The two Wendell health workers will help assess, treat and triage patients, train and support staff and translators in assisting with patient care, and organize

and conduct community outreach programs.

Contributions can be made online at [www.razoo.com/story/Coco-And-Mary-Volunteer](http://www.razoo.com/story/Coco-And-Mary-Volunteer) via the partner 501c3 organization HaitiCorps International, where more details on the expedition can be found.

The two will also bring medical supplies, including urine dipsticks, children's Tylenol in chewable and liquid form, baby aspirin for cardiac patients, and erythromycin cream for neonates.

For more info: [cocoschachtl@gmail.com](mailto:cocoschachtl@gmail.com) or (978) 544-2121.

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## Snowshoeing in the Moonlight

Northfield Mountain is a magical place on a moonlit evening. Join Northfield staffers on Friday, February 18th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to explore how to best navigate at night, share inspiring quotes from literary lovers of the moon and stars, and take a short "solo" walk by moonlight. A warm cup of cocoa and snacks will be the perfect ending to this two-mile hike. No previous snowshoeing experience is necessary for these adventures by the light of the moon.

Preregistration is required by calling (800) 859-2960. Program cost is \$5.00 per person or \$17 per person with snowshoe rentals. Bring a water bottle for the trail, wear wind pants or gaiters if you have them and dress in warm layers that can be shed as we get moving.

Northfield Mountain Visitor Center is located at 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield



## 3rd Annual TFHS Food Drive Underway

**BY NANCY HOLMES**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Members of the Turners Falls High School class of 1969, along with members of the TFHS Alumni, are holding their third annual food drive to support the Franklin Area Survival Center.

Any non-perishable food items are accepted. Items most requested are peanut butter, macaroni and cheese and canned tuna or chicken.

Four pounds of food feeds one person three meals a day for one day. Also needed are household items, Kleenex, toilet paper,

paper towels and baby diapers and wipes. Monetary contributions are more than welcome, as they are more than doubled by the Survival Center shopping at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Please make checks payable to FASC at 90 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, and in the note line write: TFHS Alumni. Drop off sites are located at Scotty's and the Food Pantry. For pickup of food items, call 863-2213. Alumni will be at Food City on Saturday, February 12th from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m., so stop by and say 'Hello'!

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## Remote Control War

BY JIM CASON

**WASHINGTON** - The failure of the U.S. war strategy in Afghanistan to contain the anti-government insurgency has led the Obama administration to expand the undeclared war in Pakistan.

According to the *Long War Journal*, the number of U.S. attacks in Pakistan, using unmanned Predator drones, has gone from five in 2007 to 117 in 2010.

Government officials here in Washington say privately they expect the covert war to expand even further this year. Yet Congress and the public have undertaken no significant examination of this new war's consequences.

Members of Congress have almost daily reminders of the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in the form of the dead and wounded U.S. soldiers returning home. Lawmakers travel regularly to attend funerals of the fallen.

The U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan produce many casualties, but none of those killed are citizens of our country. The pilots operating the remote-controlled drones used to launch missile attacks in Pakistan usually sit behind computer screens far from the battlefield. For policymakers in Washington, this is a war without hometown casualties.

The English language press in Pakistan often relays reports of civilians killed in these attacks. But those reports rarely make headlines in the United States. The only ongoing reminder of this war is the occasional headline suggesting the United States has successfully killed another al-Qaeda militant. For most Americans, that's justification enough for this new war by assassination.

Having closely followed the Congressional investigations of CIA assassination attempts in the 1970s, I find the current shift in public attitudes alarming. Back in the 1970s, when investigations led by Senator Frank Church

revealed that the CIA had engaged in targeted killings of foreign leaders, President Gerald Ford felt obligated to sign an executive order banning intelligence agencies from engaging in assassinations.

I'm not naïve enough to believe that the United States halted its involvement, but at one time the public attitude was that such assassinations were wrong. We are a nation of laws. As recently as 2001, when Israel engaged in targeted assassinations against Hamas leaders in Gaza, the U.S. ambassador to Israel was forced to go on record against the killings (although our government did not cut off assistance to the Israeli units involved in these murders).

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush authorized U.S. intelligence agencies to kill al-Qaeda leaders operating anywhere in the world. In my view, these campaigns were ineffective and violated international law.

President Obama's startling expansion of this drone assassination campaign has gone by largely unnoticed. Missile attacks from drones often target a single person for assassination, but end up killing dozens. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in Pakistan by drones since 2006, yet Congress has held only one public hearing on these weapons. Instead, Congress inserts even more money than the president requests for them into the Pentagon's budget — and there's even a special caucus to promote the drones.

As the Obama administration exponentially expands the use of remote-controlled drones for assassinations, Congress should take a second look at this new kind of fighting that's done in our name. You don't have to work for a Quaker lobby to question whether remote control killings in Pakistan are helping to make our country more secure. Within Pakistan and



### Big Box Hearing Postponed

The Greenfield planning board's final public hearing on the 135,000-square-foot combined retail – grocery store proposed for the French King Highway was postponed from February 3rd until Thursday, February 17th, at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield High School.

Yemen (where the United States has also used such drones), the strikes have become a rallying cry for anti-government political groups and a recruiting tool for the same violent, extremist organizations the U.S. hopes to dismantle.

There's a bumper sticker that sums up this problem. It reads: "We're making enemies faster than we can kill them." Congress, and the nation as a whole, need to decide if our goal is simply to kill more people or to make this country safer. If our goal is the latter, then assassinations by drones or any other means doesn't belong in our policy tool kit.

*This editorial first appeared in Other Words, a project of the Institute for Policy Studies. Jim Cason is an associate executive secretary at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobby in the public interest.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Clear Reporting on a Hot Topic

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough report on Foster's grocery store in Greenfield and its co-owner, Jason Deane (MR IX #15: *Saturating the Grocery Market*).

Your reporting made it very clear why we do not need any more large grocery stores in Greenfield or our neighboring

towns.

What a pleasure to read real information on this hot topic in our town, along with rationale for why it would not be a good fit, rather than reporting written primarily from the developer's point of view.

Sandy Thomas  
Greenfield

#### Big Box Stores Destroy Towns

There is a Wal-Mart very close to the center of the towns I am about to list. These downtowns have been devastated. Drive through them if you think I am wrong: Winchendon, Gardner, Fitchburg, Orange, Athol.

There is a Wal-Mart within five miles of each of these Central Massachusetts towns.

We are all worried about the effect on local food stores from the planned 135,000-square foot superstore planned for the French King Highway. Well, guess what? If a Wal-Mart shows up we may also see the doors closing on local hardware

stores and other retailers. And if this Wal-Mart has an automotive section, how will our local service stations compete for oil changes, tires and battery service? This goes far beyond food sales.

Wake up. Wal-Mart is bad news for us.

If for some reason you think I might be wrong, let me tell you, I owned a home in Winchendon and worked for GE in Fitchburg. I saw firsthand these downtowns going right down the tubes.

- Don Clegg  
Turners Falls

#### A Thorough Report

Many thanks and commendations to David Detmold for the extraordinarily thorough, accurate, and intelligent summary of a lecture I gave at Amherst (MR IX #18: *Speaking of Lucretius*).

I have read many articles

attempting to summarize lectures, mine and those of others, and I have rarely encountered anything as impressive.

- Stephen Greenblatt  
Harvard University  
Cambridge

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### U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan

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### Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: reporter-poems@montaguema.net for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

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# the Gill Gourmet

## Creamy Kielbasa Soup

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** – Stella Skrypek recently stopped me in Food City to say she hadn't seen any of my recipes in the *Montague Reporter* lately. So, I'm submitting this recipe in her honor.

Since kielbasa comes in all sizes, some big enough to jump rope with, I'm going to recommend a kielbasa small enough to wear as an Easter bonnet. That way, Stella won't be eating leftover kielbasa soup until next Easter.

This is a reasonably healthy recipe. Since most kielbasa has more salt than you ever want to tell your doctor about, the rest of the ingredients will be salt free to ease your conscience.

If you use good old Polish Kielbasa made of pork and beef, which has a stronger flavor plus the most salt, I won't tell anyone.

### Creamy Kielbasa Soup

- 1 turkey kielbasa, the size of an Easter bonnet
- quarter cups of diced red onion
- three medium red potatoes
- 16 ounces of fat free sour cream
- 1 heaping tablespoon of flour
- three packets of salt free beef bouillon powder
- 1 egg
- fresh ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon of Balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon of crushed caraway seeds
- 1 sprinkling of powdered dill weed
- a quarter teaspoon of cream of tartar

Fry the onion in olive oil until transparent in the biggest frying pan you own. Toss in the kielbasa, add water and crushed caraway seeds, leaving enough room for the sour cream. While the kielbasa, cut in four inch pieces, is cooking on medium-low heat, cut the potatoes into half inch cubes and boil in a separate sauce pan until just cooked and not mushy.

In a blender, blend sour cream, vinegar, egg, flour, cream of tartar and a couple of cooked potatoes, along with a cup of the kielbasa water. Don't get too exuberant with the kielbasa water because the mixture, including the potatoes, will whip up, making it delightfully creamy but increasing in volume, which may be too large a quantity for your frying pan.

Pour the whipped mixture into the frying pan. You may need to use a big soup pot if the frying pan is not one that's big enough to bathe a baby.

Stir the mixture and cook at low heat, so as to not curdle the mixture. Add the rest of the potatoes and season with freshly ground black peppercorns and a sprinkling of dill weed. For a more zesty taste, you can experiment with a dash of red pepper. Try it on a bowl of soup so that you don't have to throw away a whole pot full if it gets too hot!

If you are making soup for more than just one or two people, buy the jump rope size kielbasa and increase the ratio of other quantities to match, in a big soup pot.

## Don't Wait for Valentine's Day to Say I Love You

**BY MARVIN SHEDD BERNARDSTON** - The phone call took me by surprise. It came from one of my oldest and dearest friends, someone who is like a sister to me.

When my wife said it was Dale on the phone, asking for me, an immediate sense of dread took hold. In those seconds before putting the receiver to my ear, a number of possible scenarios crossed my mind. When I heard her voice I knew right away something was terribly wrong. When she told me she was at the hospital awaiting transport to Baystate Medical Center for emergency heart surgery, my own heart sank.

The call was brief. She told me only that she hadn't been feeling well, so she had gone to the emergency room where the doctors discovered a blocked artery. I wished her well and told her I would be thinking of her.

As I hung up the phone, it occurred to me I hadn't told her that I loved her. We get conditioned to be careful about express-

ing our feelings to people we aren't in a relationship with, and God forbid we actually use the word love. Never one to follow society's dictates and always quick to tell people how I feel about them, I hadn't said what I felt and it bothered me.

Dale and I enjoy one of those rare friendships, one of only two that I have experienced in my life, where you feel completely comfortable saying what you feel, expressing who you are. We knew each other in high school, but it wasn't until the early 80s, while playing on a local softball team, that we became close friends. We shared a similar outlook on life and spent many evenings over a glass of wine or a cup of coffee discussing our hopes and dreams, each encouraging and supporting the other.

We've enjoyed our share of adventures over the years, like the time we were trying to move a dryer into my house. Dale pulled, I pushed and we finally got it there, and then laughed until our

sides hurt. One morning she called to say her roof was leaking and she needed help patching it. By the end of the day, we were both covered with roof tar, but drank a beer on the roof when we were finished. When my eighteen-month old son had a series of seizures, it was Dale I called at two in the morning to accompany us to the hospital. She stayed by my side the whole night, leaving only when she was sure my son and I were OK.

As I sat in the intensive care unit at Baystate, holding my son's hand, I realized more than ever how quickly the people we love can be taken from us. It reinforced my belief that we should always tell those we love what they mean to us - parents, husbands, wives, sons, daughters and yes, even those who are not part of our families but who, nonetheless, enrich our lives by their presence in it.

I plan on calling Dale in a few days to see how the surgery went, and to see how she is feeling. This time, I'll tell her I love her.

## Everyone at the Table

### Education Finance & Regional Collaboration

Public education finance is the theme of a seminar on Saturday, February 12th at Greenfield Middle School from 8:30-1:30. Area school committee members and the public will learn about "Chapter 70: Problems with the Formula," "The Gill-Montague Challenge" and "Franklin County Collaboration & Education Finance."

**Saturday, February 12th • 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Morning Coffee • Light Lunch Public Invited**

Panelists include: Paul Dunphy, District Affairs Coordinator, Office of Rep. Stephen Kulik Dr. Carl Ladd, Superintendent, Gill-Montague Regional School District Glenn Koocher, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees along with Jeff Singleton, Tupper Brown, Jim Slavas, Michael Idoine and other area school committee and town finance committee members

The forum is sponsored by the Franklin County School Committee Caucus ([fcsc.wordpress.com](http://fcsc.wordpress.com)) as part of its ongoing advocacy program for area public school districts. Lively discussions will take place among municipal finance officials, school committee members, and educators.

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD****Erving Paper Mill Calls Proposed Revenue Sharing Agreement Unfair**

BY KATIE NOLAN - "We were confused and bewildered," Morris Housen told the Erving selectboard, and approximately 20 other people attending the board's February 3rd meeting.

The cause of the Erving Paper Mill CEO's confusion was a letter from Erving's attorney, after months of executive session discussions with the selectboard over the revenue sharing agreement between the town of Erving and Erseco, the paper mill subsidiary that operates the town-owned wastewater treatment plant in Erving Center.

Erseco treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, Erving Center residents, and also from fee-paying 'third party' septage haulers. The town pays Erseco \$1 per year to treat the Erving residential wastes and has been receiving approximately \$150,000 annually from Erseco as its contracted share of third party fees.

In December, the selectboard agreed to forgive a year's worth of revenue-sharing payments and to renew the existing contract for three years, starting in fiscal year 2012.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said, "It was a good move for us to help them out," because the paper mill is presently operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Erseco rejected the town's offer in a letter dated December 16th of last year.

In January, the selectboard extended the existing agreement until February 28th.

Tom Newton, Erving Paper Mill general manager, told the board that company executives had come away from their joint meetings "with the impression that the board understood the inequity of the agreement" and was willing to restructure the contract. He said the paper mill had submitted two proposals for restructuring, and company executives were surprised when they received a letter from the town's attorney that "did not reflect the tone of our conversation."

Newton said, "We appreciate the offer of a one-time reprieve, but it wasn't anything we discussed together."

Goodwin replied, "As a board, three people have to agree, and there were different views on the board." He said the letter from the town's attorney reflected the vote of the board.

Newton asked if the board was open to further discussion, because the letter seemed to present "the town's final position, subject to no further negotiation."

Housen asked the selectboard, "How do

you justify this agreement?" Regarding the third party septage revenue, he said, "We built this business from nothing."

Goodwin noted the treatment plant is a town-owned asset and the town is the treatment plant's permit holder. "If Erseco doesn't treat the waste properly, we own the risk."

Selectboard member Jaime Hackett said the town wants to help the paper mill because over the years many Erving residents have worked there. "If you don't make it and we have to spend \$2 million to downsize the treatment plant, it affects all taxpayers in town."

Newton said he felt "the spirit of the original agreement" was that the paper mill would run the treatment plant and treat town wastes for free. He said as the paper mill became more efficient, it reduced the amount of waste it produced, thereby creating excess capacity at the treatment plant. "The excess capacity was not a commodity created by the town." He added, "There is no terminology like 'capacity' in the original agreement."

Erseco general manager Peter Coleman said costs for operating the treatment plant are "a heavy load" for the paper mill.

see ERVING pg 10

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD****Budget Badminton at First Joint Hearing**

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett School Committee held their first meeting of the budget season with the selectboard and finance committee on Tuesday night, an experiment that generated more heat than light.

Though a cut in state aid of between 5% and 10% has been anticipated for FY'12, higher than expected tax receipts over the last few months have raised optimism on Beacon Hill that steep cuts may yet be avoided.

Nonetheless, the stimulus funds that have propped up state and local budgets for the past two years are drying up and rolling away: 77% of the extra \$7.1 billion the federal government committed to Massachusetts since February of 2008 has already been spent; the rest will be gone by the end of this year, leaving gaping deficits to which neither the Leverett Elementary School nor the town itself will be immune.

Farshid Hajir, chair of the Leverett school committee, told the joint board meeting that loss of federal stimulus funds and other grants, coupled with an ongoing decline in the number of school choice students enrolled (and the \$5,000 per pupil average state aid they bring with them) has resulted in a drop in revenue for the elementary school of \$24,441 coming into FY'12. "We hope the selectboard will hold us harmless for that

loss," said Hajir, as he began his budget presentation.

Hajir said before the selectboard had sent out instructions that all departments should plan on level funded budgets, at best, for FY'12, the school committee had proposed a \$57,933 (3.41%) increase over last year's local expenditure, to support a \$2,031,298 elementary operating budget.

Town administrative coordinator Marjie McGinnis said \$57,933 would consume more than half of the town's expected revenue growth for FY'12.

In addition to the loss of grant funding, Hajir has said the school committee is trying to restore some needed funding for line items for materials and maintenance that have been cut steeply in recent years.

To get to level funding for FY'12, Hajir offered an outline for how the school could cut \$8,354 for new textbooks, professional development for teachers, audio visual materials, instructional equipment and supplies, while applying \$25,137 in Medicaid funds to fill much of the remaining gap.

But the selectboard did not appear inclined to concede that the elementary school should be held harmless for the expected loss of \$24,441 in school revenue, whether from federal stimulus funds or the decline of school choice students coming to Leverett Elementary.

"You don't have that money to spend, but you want to permanently add it to your budget," said Peter d'Errico. "There's a sense I get the schools are kind of a sacred cow. I for one don't think the schools are any more important an institution... the kids are no more important than the elders."

D'Errico continued, "We need a fire truck. Our public employees are not paid that well. There's a piece of pie here and it's shrinking."

School committee member Kip Fonsh replied, "I'm bouncing back. I understand the content of what you're saying, but I'm struck by the intensity of what you're saying. It is our responsibility to bring forth a good faith budget. I remember both sides feeling good about the outcome last year."

"If it had come in level funded, that would have been the end of story," said selectboard member Julie Shively.

A tense *pas de trois* ensued over cost of living raises and step increases for teachers as compared to highway, police or firefighters.

"My discomfort is around salary negotiations happening out of sight of most of us," said finance committee member (and call firefighter) Nancy Grossman. "I think every town employee deserves a decent raise."

Hajir attempted to pass see LEVERETT pg 11

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

District Review Calls for Accelerated Plan to Move GMRSD out of Needs Improvement Status

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - Deputy commissioner Karla Baehr said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) wants to work with Gill-Montague School district to see the district succeed. Associate commissioner Lynda Foisy said the department is willing to put money into the school district to help it succeed.

Foisy said the department has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money and program assistance to provide professional development for Level 4 (needs improvement) school districts like Gill-Montague, but the department feels there is a piece missing in on-site accountability. So the DESE is offering to provide Gill-Montague, and the other three Level 4 school districts in the state (Southbridge, Randolph and Holyoke districts) funding for a half-time project manager to oversee the development and implementation of an accelerated improvement plan.

Along with Eva Mitchell, director of the Center for District and School Accountability at the DESE, these top officials from the state education department came to the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on Tuesday night to explain the Department's recently released District Review

report. Their presentation was offered in a spirit of cooperation and willingness to help the district climb out of Level 4 status. The DESE officials answered questions from the school committee members, and gave detailed advice as to how they hope to see the district improve. Baehr emphasized finding ways to collaborate with other districts to provide services to the students that a small district like the GMRSD may not be able to afford on its own.

Foisy emphasized the development of the accelerated improvement plan for the district, with targeted goals and benchmarks, overseen by the project manager, rather than allowing the district to wait to see whether long-term goals have been achieved. Foisy said the project manager, whose salary would be paid for by the DESE, will work with the district and the school committee to set those benchmarks, with short-term goals and methods of determining whether they have been met shared throughout the process.

Asked about the time frame for the accelerated improvement plan, Baehr said, "We hope we can partner with you and two summers and a year from now we'll all be cheering over the success we've had."

In discussions after-

wards, the school committee gave unanimous approval to accepting the assistance offered by the DESE for a half time project manager, with salary paid by the department.

FY'12 Budget

Superintendent Carl Ladd presented his preliminary FY'12 budget for the school district, with a detailed line item report for the school committee to examine. As forecast in last year's budget compact with the member towns, this will be a level funded budget, holding the bottom line for the district at \$16,408,162, the same amount allocated for the FY'11 budget.

To achieve a level funded budget, the district needs to cut \$340,000 from the projected level services operating budget. Ladd presented a reconfiguration plan to achieve this, with cuts to central office administrators (saving \$170,000), the elimination through attrition of several staff positions, and changes in responsibilities for others to compensate for the loss of staff.

Ladd said his priority will be to maintain class size and building level administrators, and not to harm any classroom programs.

In the meeting Tuesday night, Ladd said he was confident the district could achieve level funding without doing harm to the educational priorities of the district. He also said he

was optimistic that state funding, through Chapter 70 aid, regional transportation reimbursement and circuit breaker funds for special education will either be the same or



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Left to right, Eva Mitchell, Director, Center for District and School Accountability, Lynda Foisy, Associate Commissioner, Center for Targeted Assistance and Karla Baehr, Deputy Commissioner of Accountability and Assistance, from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Gill-Montague Regional School District school committee Tuesday night. They were here to present the results of the state district review and answer any questions regarding their recommendations.

increase slightly in FY'12. He said the state's economic indicators were "looking better," and earlier concerns that this year would be worse than last in terms of state aid to the district - so far - were not materializing.

The school committee will meet next Tuesday,

February 15th for a budget hearing at Turners Falls High School in the TV studio at 7:00 p.m., where they will discuss the budget in more detail.

Nomination Papers

Nomination papers for school committee seats are now available at the Gill-Montague school superintendent's office, 35 Crocker Avenue, in

Montague town elections will be held on May 16th, and the school district election will run simultaneously in the two towns.

Members whose terms expire this year are Sorrel Hatch of Gill, Michael Langknecht and school committee chair Emily Monosson of Montague. When asked, Hatch said she will not be running for

Turners Falls. Completed nomination papers are due in the superintendent's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7th. There is one 3-year Gill school committee seat and two 3-year Montague school committee seats open. The Gill and

another term, but said she felt her time on the school committee had been well spent and that the committee has been able to achieve a lot in the past year. Monosson is undecided on whether she will run again. Langknecht said he will seek another term.

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# Cameroon

**BY ALI URBAN** - Our plane descended into inky blackness. The darkness of Cameroon was my first impression of the country. Few lights greeted the single plane on the tarmac, and few lights were visible from the capi-

tal city of Yaoundé. As I stood in line at immigration, clutching my Yellow Fever vaccination card, I watched a woman bribe an airport employee to enter the country without proper documentation. In my jetlagged state, I felt like the darkness was closing in on me.

Yet when I passed into the arrivals hall, the night exploded into vibrant color. Women clad head to toe in elaborate, impeccably tailored dresses made from peigné, colorful African cloth, rushed to greet their loved ones. A long line of bright yellow 1980 Toyota Corolla taxis lined the exit. The blue, yellow and green umbrellas of hundreds of street vendors whizzed past as I made my way along the rutted, red-mud covered streets of the city. And so I began my complicated relationship with

Cameroon. In September I came to this Central African country, a country I chose largely by chance. I wanted to live abroad in a French-speaking nation, and I wanted to study microfinance, a development strategy that offers small scale financial services to the poor.

I decided to spend a semester of my junior year of college with the School for International Training's Development and Social Pluralism program in Cameroon. I was one of ten American students who flew there to live with host families, complete independent research, explore the ecologically and culturally diverse country and improve my French.

*Laissez-moi tranquille!* Leave me be! This was one of the first phrases I learned in Cameroon. Being a young white woman walking down the street often elicited unwanted attention. When hassled on the road or at the market, I observed that



Taxis maneuver a potholed road in Bafoussam, Cameroon.

Cameroonian women would yell this response to the person disturbing them rather than constructing a firm yet polite brush off.

I picked up their effective habit and found it refreshing to be so candid. At home I would have been taken for rude, anti-social, but in Cameroon, I was simply being direct. It was this sense of frankness that has stayed with me since I left the chicken-shaped country nestled between Nigeria and Chad. I felt

that everyone said exactly what they meant. No minced words, no euphemisms, no sly, back-handed comments.

More, I learned in Cameroon that living authentically is incredibly invigorating. I didn't wash my hair for weeks on end; even when there was access to running water, the privatized water company would cut the water for days at a time. I walked up to strangers and asked them

see CAMEROON pg 11



ALI URBAN PHOTOS

Urban's host brother Michel Nkeulia hugs his friend after soccer practice.

## FINAL DESIGN APPROVED FOR SKATE PARK



An artist rendering of the 7300 square foot skate park plan at Unity Park.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MONTAGUE** - The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the final design for a permanent 7,300 square foot concrete skate park at Unity Park on Wednesday. The price tag is expected to come in somewhere around \$400,000, and the skate park committee, working with the town, hopes to raise most of that through a combination of state and federal grants, private foundations, and local fundraising. The skate park will be located on the footprint of the former one block long Williams Way, a cutover from 2nd Street to 1st Street that was discontinued by town meeting in 2009, and joined to Unity Park.

Skate park committee spokesperson Ellen Spring said, "It's been a long haul. We've spent three years going to town meetings. We have street to put our park on. We have a wonderful concept for a park. Now, in a few weeks, we will have design

ready plans for that park." The committee said the best case scenario, if all hoped for grants come through, is that the skate board wheels will hit the pavement on the new park in the summer of 2013.

This is an effort that has been more than a decade in the making. In 1998, dozens of Montague teenagers worked with town officials - notably building inspector David Jensen - to design and build the town's first skate park, in the disused parking lot behind the former Chick's Garage on 3rd Street, adjoining Unity Park. But the plywood ramps wore out through repeated use and abuse, and the parks and recreation commission eventually locked the park gate as a safety measure in the summer of 2003. Teens organized under the auspices of the Brick House worked for the next four years to get the skate park back in adequate shape to reopen, which they were finally able to

see SKATE PARK pg 10

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DETMOLD PHOTO

**NOISE** from pg 1

*Jeff Hartford, of Springfield, performs at the Noisecapades*

the Great Hare and pinned him to the Full Moon..."

Josh Burkett worked with the weather and let the hail play his battery powered acoustic guitar, with mesmerizing result. Abortus Fever played a Japanese Fender through a number of distortion devices, sounding like Jimi Hendrix with his fingers caught in a very small blender. The lissome Cathe Janke passed out party favors from a plastic bag, singing the coda from "Hallelujah I'm a Bum" as she made the rounds.

Pronoblem Baalberith, another Holyoke noisician who

made the scene, had this to say about the day: "This is the way it should be. Chaos and Order and Nature. Noise Music is the only true spiritual music. To do it outside with all these people, it is Truth, right here."

Baalberith was dressed in a shaggy handmade Grendel outfit with a gourd mask, topped with antlers scavenged from road-killed deer donated by a state trooper friend of his.

J. Mascis, of Dinosaur Jr., was in the audience, along with Thurston Moore and Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth. So why not Michael Jackson?

As the hulking carapaces of Kobelco excavators looked down from the overarching bridge, MC Neel told the gathering, "This place is my favorite place in Western Massachusetts." He welcomed all to the inaugural Peskeomskut Noisecapades, and got right into his own performance.

He beat two metal bars together with a sonorous bing. He hit two beheaded Tropicana jugs with an electronic whirligig, making a weird noise. He dropped things on a beat up

tom-tom, conjuring up a small, inconsequent rattle. Dogs meandered nearby in the snow. On a taut wire, he made very tiny serrated scratching noises in a high rough timbre growing in intensity as his audience got cooler. He scraped a saw and a bow across various surfaces, roughing up the soundscape. People applauded, or moved their arms rapidly back and forth to generate body heat.

When an implausible silence stretched out on the blue white river, MC Neel finally cried, "This is just like a Quaker Meeting. Somebody better drop it!"

And they did.

For more on the First Annual Peskeomskut Noisecapades, go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK7eW29oqbo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK7eW29oqbo) or [phantombrainexchange.such-fun.net/pnc2011.html](http://phantombrainexchange.such-fun.net/pnc2011.html)

**Gill-Montague Bridge Update**  
**Earning their Money**

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
GREAT FALLS - SPS workers cut loose a concrete covered I-beam from the edge of the Gill-Montague Bridge on Monday. The Kobelco and Link Belt excavator operators worked in tandem to lift the beam after an iron worker sat on the beam with a cutting torch to cut it loose from lateral beams, high above the river and rocks below.

The workmen on the bridge are tethered to a safety line attached to the Jersey barriers, bolted to the bridge deck.

The excavator operators travel back and forth with the

huge excavators on the edge of the deck, with the outer beam removed. These men earn their money.

SPS trucked the beams to Mitchell's gravel pit in Northfield for concrete

removal. The beams are then trucked to WTE recycling yard in Greenfield.

So far, the bridge reconstruction project is ahead of schedule, and SPS shows no signs of shutting down for the winter, despite the stormy weather.



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

*Don't Try this at Home*

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~ William Shakespeare

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**ERVING** from pg 6

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said he would like to get "a better understanding" of the costs of running the treatment plant. But Newton said there is no way to quantify how much it costs to treat the wastes.

Housen said, "We think the agreement is unfair," and asked the board to "continue the conversation."

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said the board was open to further discussion, but there were still a lot of unknowns, including the actual costs of the treatment process.

Erseco agreed to provide the town with more information about treatment plant costs, but Coleman noted, "There are some intangibles that are hard to quantify."

The selectboard agreed to schedule a working meeting about the agreement after the expense information is made available.

After the Erseco executives left the meeting, Hammock

commented to the selectboard, "It's not an easy job you have. I encourage you to keep talking."

Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp reported there have been two break-ins at the public library recently in which petty cash was stolen. He said it appeared the thief was coming into the library during the day, unlatching a window lock, and entering through the unlocked window when the library was closed.

Sharp said the library staff was now more careful about securing windows when closing up for the day.

Hackett agreed to ask police chief Christopher Blair for recommendations for preventing additional thefts.

The finance committee and selectboard met jointly to consider the FY'12 budget. Draft budget spreadsheets and back-up documentation from town departments were handed out to the selectboard and finance committee, who agreed to review the budget and meet with town departments inde-

pendently, before meeting jointly on April 7th to develop the final budget in advance of the May 4th annual town meeting.

Sharp told the selectboard that MCMUSA, the general contractor for the senior center building project, has formally given notice they are calling a halt to construction because of winter weather.

Sharp said the completion date will not be pushed back, because a contingency for bad weather was included in the original schedule.

First-term state representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange) told the selectboard that Federal Reserve workshops for state legislators had convinced her that the state and towns are facing "four more years of tough fiscal challenges." She said that the economic development advisory team she has instituted would "cross-pollinate local resources and ideas and market our assets to the state." Andrews said the state economic development office is promoting opportuni-

ties in biotechnology, the environmental sector, and energy, and she would like to develop a district vision and economic development plan. Andrews plans to continue meeting with the selectboard periodically.

Klepadlo reported that Union #28 is looking to the state legislature for special legislation to set the percentages for employer/employee costs for health benefits for school union employees and retirees. Individual towns in Union #28 have different benefit percentage agreements with their employees, but since Erving is now the lead town in the union (with the most students enrolled), it sets the percentage at which employees and retirees are compensated by all the member towns. Erving pays a higher percentage (86% for active employees with a single or family plan; 79% for retirees for a single or family plan; along with a monthly contribution toward dental) than any of the other member towns in the union, which has led to recent friction.

Town treasurer Margaret Sullivan was appointed as the town's representative to the Union #28 special legislation committee.

Hackett said citizens had complimented the town on its recent efforts clearing snow from sidewalks abutting town

buildings. Selectboard members said they had received an anonymous letter complaining about lack of snow removal at specific private properties, but decided not to act on the letter because it was sent anonymously. Klepadlo reported he had noticed Northfield Road properties where snow was not removed from sidewalks.

Sharp told the selectboard the town does not have a snow removal bylaw. He agreed to research snow removal bylaws from other towns to help draft an article for the annual town meeting.

Sharp told the selectboard the town's engineering consultant, Tighe and Bond, presented an estimate of \$9,250 for evaluating the stability of the Powerhouse Building at the Usher Mill property, and an estimate of \$4,500 to explore property re-use options at the arson damaged mill complex. The board also received a letter from Bob Leet of Whetstone Engineering offering to provide an estimate for structural analysis of the Powerhouse Building. The board asked Sharp to follow up on an estimate from Whetstone before taking action on the Tighe and Bond proposal.

Cyd Scott of Flag Hill Road was appointed to the vacant board of health position.



**SKATE PARK** from pg 8

do in 2008 - but only for one year, until landlord Tim deChristopher decided against extending the original ten year lease on the space.

Since then, skaters have made do with a postage stamp sized lot on 11th Street leased from Jim Capen, while plans for a permanent park on the former Williams Way slowly took shape.

On Wednesday, parks and recreation commission chair Dennis Grader spoke in favor of approving the final design, saying, "We have a group of enthusiastic and hardworking people. We don't want to squelch that."

Commission member Linda Ackerman said as the committee's fundraising efforts get into gear, "I know a friendly local bank where you could put that money, and grow interest."

Selectboard chair Pat Allen said, "I'm looking forward to seeing a skate park that is part and parcel of the parks and recreation, rather than an orphan off by itself."

The skate park committee intends to run a wide range of fundraising activities, from raffles to benefit concerts, and welcomes any help local residents can give their effort, either by individual donations (made payable to the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, and earmarked for the Great Falls Skate Park) or by donations in kind of materials, fill, landscaping, or other needed items once sufficient funding has been obtained to begin construction.

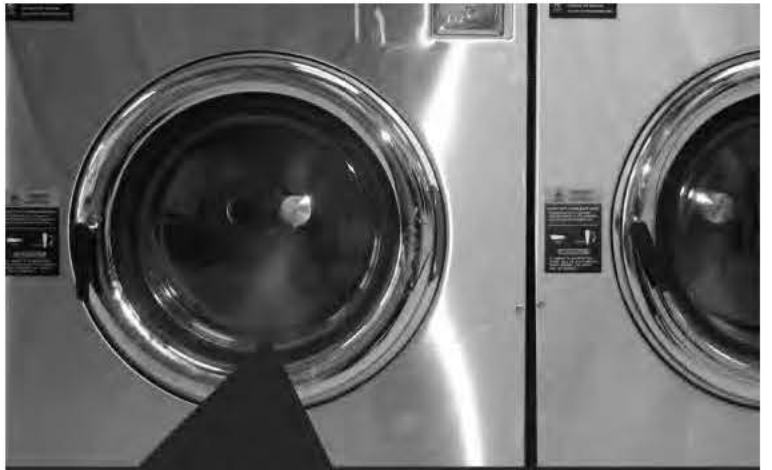
The parks and recreation commission is hoping to receive \$597,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding (CDBG) for the first phase of overall improvements to Unity Park, including tearing up the concrete on Williams Way. The town hopes to secure a second phase of CDBG funding for Unity Park improvements in 2012, and will also be applying for funding specific to the construction of the skate park from a Massachusetts Parkland

Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant. That grant source would require a 30% local match, and the tearing up of the blacktop on Williams Way, for example, may qualify for part of that local match.

But local fundraising, and private foundation support - as from the Tony Hawk Foundation - may have to make up much of the rest of that match.

Skate park committee spokesperson Brian Dolan said a number of foundations would be more likely to provide grants if the skate park could include an educational component with a community garden, as foundations are interested in backing proposals that get young people exercising and being more conscious of nutrition at the same time.

The park commissioners seemed open to the idea of locating a community garden between the skate park and First Street, to make that fundraising potential easier to realize.



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**LEVERETT** from pg 6

around a letter showing that teachers had received cost of living increases (COLAs) equivalent to town employees over the last decade. D'Errico and Shively insisted this comparison was false, as it did not take into account contractual annual step increases teachers also enjoy. Hajir countered that teachers are hired at an artificially low base rate of pay, with the expectation that they will be brought up to parity over the length of their tenure. Shively responded that town employees receive step increases based on merit, but teachers simply receive raises by staying in their job.

"We gave a police officer a step this year because his performance has been outstanding. We wouldn't have given him one otherwise," she said.

D'Errico took issue with superintendent Joan Wickman's projected 6.2% salary increase.

Wickman said she had been hired at a low salary, promised parity, and was still paid lower than all other Franklin County superintendents, though she attends 120 night meetings a year shepherding four school committees in the union.

Finance committee member Tom Powers said the town ties COLAs to the Northeast Consumer Price Index, but "You guys build them in with no idea what the price index will be," in the second or third year of the teachers' contract.

People began to cut each other off in mid sentence.

"Talk about underpaid!" exclaimed Shively, beginning to respond the Hajir's statement that to do away with step increases in the teachers' contract would require raising their starting pay.

"There's a culture that has developed. It's in the union and the administration. It's a deceptive formula," said d'Errico, reiterating that town employees do not get travel pay, conference pay, and most do not get steps on top of COLAs.

Fonsh and d'Errico feinted back and forth about closing the meeting to the press to talk about what kind of placeholder had been built into the budget to accommodate expected salary increases for teachers as a new contract is negotiated this year.

Finance committee member

Ann Delano said, "This is a national dialogue about pay for performance or longevity. We're dealing with an existing system and we don't necessarily have a lot of latitude to change that system. In negotiations we can at least introduce the opinion of the town, without derailing the contact, and move toward performance based raises."

And so it went, back and forth, at the first of what will certainly be many meetings on the school and town department budgets, in this banner year for Wall Street bankers and executives, at a time when the top 1% of Americans continue to control as much wealth as the bottom 90%, and the small towns of America fight over the crumbs. The next budget hearings will take place at the elementary school, at school committee meetings on March 1st and 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

In other news, Leverett will hold a special town meeting on Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the elementary school to vote on two warrant items: to allocate \$40,000 from town reserves towards the school roof and window replacement project, and to begin the process of forming a municipal lighting plant to enable Leverett to join with other towns to form a municipal coop and provide high speed internet connections to individual homes.

The finance committee and selectboard agreed to allow the highway department to deficit spend for materials for snow and ice removal - sand and ice - since the department has already plowed through the entire \$32,677 allocated for materials during the first half of this difficult winter. Ben Eddy was hired as a temporary plow driver.

The board signed a letter to relevant state and federal agencies calling for the safe and timely decommissioning of the 38-year-old Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, noting new leaks of radioactive had been detected in test wells further from the plant than last year's leaks. The board reviewed a \$2,500 report on hazardous materials at town hall (lead paint on the exterior, some asbestos cladding on a section of basement pipe and behind the kitchen stove) and noted it would take about \$4,500 to remediate the interior materials.



**Doubts Aired on Proposed Peace Commission**

**BY DAVID DETMOLD LEVERETT** - "We don't have a foreign policy," said selectboard member Peter d'Errico on Tuesday, as the selectboard departed from the printed agenda to mull over the advisability of instituting a town peace commission, as a number of Leverett residents have proposed. "I don't know why we need a peace commission."

D'Errico said he would be more inclined to see the commission established as a committee outside of town government, and gave the example of a historical society, rather than a historical commission as a model a peace committee might follow.

Nevertheless, the petitioned warrant article calling for a peace commission is winding its way toward annual town meeting this spring. If approved, it would establish a first of its kind local elected commission to assist with mediation programs in the schools and conflict resolution efforts in neighborhood disputes, to support the police department in rooting

out domestic violence, and more broadly, to consider ways and means to reduce resource consumption that may lie at the root of modern warfare, by fostering efforts at community self reliance.

Appointed peace commissions are in place in Cambridge, New Haven, CT and Oakland, CA.

"If it made an attempt to support all factions, I would support it," said board member Julie Shively.

Board chair Rich Brazeau noted the town frequently places articles on the town meeting warrant sponsoring everything from designating Leverett as a nuclear free zone (a warrant still in force in Leverett - though the signs saying so have disappeared - which Brazeau said would prevent the shipment of radioactive materials over town roadways) to welcoming Guantanamo detainees to settle in town.

"What kind of leverage does the town of Leverett have?" asked d'Errico, suggesting the town would not be in the position of sending ambassadors out to the

world's trouble spots. "Might be better than the people we send over from our government," commented Brazeau.

"I'm also wondering about the election piece," continued d'Errico. "How do you run for the peace commission?"

Leverett is the last town in the Commonwealth, by all accounts, to nominate and elect candidates for town-wide office from the floor of town meeting, a tradition residents proudly defend.

D'Errico, reading from the petition warrant, said, "...Reduce our demand on resources..." That's something we can do. I like to know that when we're doing something as a town, we should have some power to do something."

Shively said, "Let's see them do something for a few years and see how it jives with town business. Will they really do some mediating?"

Brazeau had the final word when he asked, "When have we ever shied away from anything controversial?"

**CAMEROON** from pg 8

to explain ridiculously simple things. When I asked her if she had any oranges, the elderly fruit vendor patiently explained that I was holding one. In Cameroon, the skin of an orange is green.

Cameroonians are refreshingly genuine and straightforward. Motives are clear, aggression direct and true affection sincere.

The most striking example I experienced of this sincerity and immediate affection came in the form of a bulky parcel from a woman I knew for only two weeks delivered to me by a traveling nun. My host mother in Kribi, a seaside town about five hours west of Yaoundé, was a tall, striking woman. Anywhere between the age of 50 and 65, she had bravely divorced her abusive husband and was in the process of building herself her first home with money she saved from her time working as a housekeeper.

Distrustful of the postal sys-

tem, my MaDo - short for Mama Dorine - tracked down a nun who was headed to Yaoundé and convinced her to take a ten-pound bag of coconuts to me. MaDo wanted to make sure her "daughter" (to her the word daughter had no quotation marks) had a gift to bring to her American mother and grandmother and to share with them a small piece of her village. She certainly didn't have to do this, and getting a package safely delivered anywhere in Cameroon is a significant achievement.

One morning, while I was jammed in a taxi with seven other people, I got a phone call from a strange woman. She explained she had met Dorine - she understood I was her American daughter - and that she wanted to meet me to give me a package. The thoughtfulness of MaDo to arrange for this delivery, and the generosity of the nun to haul a heavy bag of coconuts into the city for a complete stranger reminded me of the

quick, strong and genuine bonds that formed among friends and family during my time in Cameroon. Although many people do not have simple necessities, they are accepting of strangers and welcome them fully into their families.

There were times when that initial darkness seemed to descend on me again. Times when I was sick and tired of arguing with vendors to give me a fair price, tired of being grabbed and called "la blanche," white woman. But even at my lowest moment, a time when I was ready to bribe and bully my way on to the next plane out of Cameroon, I reminded myself of the color of the country and the sincerity of so many of its people.

Ali Urban interned with the Montague Reporter for the month of January, before returning to Middlebury College.



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**WARS** from page 1 largely fought over critical resources," said Klare, "and in the current period over oil. Without sustainable resource equity," he added, "there will be no peace."

Not bothering to critique the dominant rationale for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, dismissing out of hand the supposition that these wars are being fought to "rid the world of evil-doers," or to defend America from terrorism, or locate weapons of mass destruction, Klare said until the people of the world have sustainable equity in vital resources — food, water and energy — "War is inevitable."

Klare offered a case study in the two week old protests aimed at toppling the regime of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, sparked in part by rising food prices. Mubarak's "brutal suppression of opposition" with secret police and thugs has been "backed totally by the United States," by every president, Democrat and Republican — "for the last 30 years," Klare noted.

Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. aid, and a primary focus for American military training and equipment, police assistance, and officer training, yet Mubarak has kept his nation under virtual lockdown under a three decade state of emergency permitting arrest without charge, detention without trial, secret courts and the prohibition of free speech and assemblage.

"Mubarak has sustained a Cold War against his people,

financed by the United States," Klare asserted.

How does it happen that a nation like the United States, which considers itself to be the beacon of human rights and liberty in the world, has continued to support a brutal dictatorship in the most populous country in the Arab world for 30 years?

"Egypt is of strategic importance far beyond its own borders," said Klare, who cited former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's peace treaty with Israel, upheld by Mubarak for the last three decades, as a lynchpin of Egypt's geopolitical significance to America, along with Mubarak's willingness to help Israel contain the militant Hamas movement in the Gaza strip.

"But oil is the dominant concern in the region." Ever since 1945, when US president Franklin Roosevelt met King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia on a cruiser on the Suez Canal, and promised military security to Saudi Arabia in exchange for access to oil, Klare said, "It has been U.S. policy to maintain dominance of oil."

This policy was enshrined in 1980 in the state of the Union address by president Jimmy Carter, in what came to be known as the Carter Doctrine: "An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

In 1983, U.S. rapid deployment forces were officially reorganized under the newly formed U.S. Central Command to project U.S. power and fight wars in the Middle East and Central Asia.

In 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war, under the presidency of Ronald Reagan, the Carter Doctrine was invoked in the U.S. reflagging of Kuwaiti oil tankers, affording American military protection to the unimpeded flow of oil through the Straits of Hormuz.

In 1990, when America's former ally in Iraq, Saddam Hussein, invaded Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia, president George H. W. Bush led Operation Desert Storm to drive Hussein's forces back across the border, an operation in which Egypt played a crucial role by

mustering Arab opinion in support. President Clinton carried on the economic blockade and bombings in Iraq, again invoking the Carter Doctrine, and the second president Bush decided to eliminate Saddam Hussein by military means.

"I don't think we've necessarily seen the end of war for oil in the Middle East," said Klare, who continued, "I believe the Iranians have pursued a nuclear deterrent to discourage another war for oil. I think it is 50 – 50 whether we will see that [war with Iran] or not."

Klare touched back to the grassroots, largely nonviolent protests to overthrow Mubarak, saying, "The U.S. support for Egypt has provided Mubarak with the means to stay in power. The fact that the Egyptian people have suffered never entered the equation. Oil has been the driving factor for the United States in the region for the last 30 – 40 years. That will continue to be the case as long as the United States relies on imported oil."

"Now," said Klare, "we may fight in Africa and the Caspian Sea region of Asia. As if to signify this shift," the second president Bush, "created the U.S. Africa Command in 2008, to handle responsibility for U.S. military operations in Africa. This is the first new American forces command created since the Central Command was set up to police the Persian Gulf in 1983.

Klare dubbed this development, "the globalization of the Carter Doctrine."

He said, "To protect the flow of oil to the United States, we are increasingly turning to military means." And, he warned, "China is following in our footsteps."

At present, Klare said, "China imports about half as much oil as the United States — five million barrels a day, compared to eleven million barrels a day for the U.S. But by 2035, China will overtake the United States, needing 12 million barrels a day. If this comes to pass, this means a very dangerous world."

Klare continued, "The world is about to reach a point where the maximum amount of daily oil production will begin to decline," sometime between now and the year 2015, he estimated. So by 2035, China and the United States, along with Europe, Japan,

India and other developing countries will be vying for an increasingly small supply of oil from Africa, Brazil, Central America and the Middle East.

"The dependence by China and the United States on imported oil is the greatest threat to peace in the world today."

Klare said, "There will be no peace in the world so long as oil is considered an essential strategic commodity, and so long as we consider it legitimate to use military force to gain access to oil."

Klare added, "Some say the easy solution is for the United States to gain access to oil by plundering our wilderness areas and the Gulf Coast. This is a fraud that will lead to more Deep Water Horizons and environmental disasters. The only way forward is to eliminate our dependence on oil," by "accelerating a transition based on renewable sources of energy from the elements around us: the sun, the wind, the waves. That is the route to peace."

Klare said, "Natural gas, coal and uranium, too, will be sources of conflict so long as we depend on finite sources of energy supply. This is also true of food and water. Humans will do desperate things to obtain them if they are systematically denied access."

He added, "Global warming's greatest threat is to food supplies and water, "in Africa, Central America, Asia, and island cultures," and the desertification of inhabited areas.

Klare said, "Right now, food prices are at their highest level since 2008, when they reached their highest level ever. Food security lies behind all the crises we're seeing in the Middle East," and North Africa. "When food prices rise, the rich are not suffering. It's the poor people living on the margins of society who are suffering, as they realize they can't afford food anymore." He mentioned riots and upheavals in

Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen and Sudan, by disenfranchised poor majorities in these countries. "So far," Klare noted, "these grassroots revolts have been largely peaceful. But history suggests increasing violence in the future if food becomes increasingly scarce."

"We're adding 80 million people a year," to our planet, Klare said. "The Earth's population will reach seven billion in 2011," he noted, "and will rise to eight billion in another 11 years."


Meanwhile, "Global warming is creating havoc in global weather patterns."

One third of the wheat harvest was lost last year in Russia, following record breaking heat, while China and Argentina are now experiencing "massive drought," and Eastern Australia is "under water."

Klare said, "Severe weather is the new normal. Speculators then jump in," and drive food prices higher, leading to global destabilization.

He closed his talk by referencing a book by Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, where the author compared the fates of two remote South Sea Islands — Tikopia and Easter Island.

In Easter Island, Diamond contends, an ever increasing use of the island's finite resources were put to use to glorify the elite, resulting in the eventual collapse of the ecosystem and the population. Whereas in Tikopia, an even smaller island, a decision was made to avoid the excessive use resources, leading to a sustainable society, generation after generation.

"The path of Easter Island leads to planetary collapse and violence," warned Klare. "Choose equitable resource access, and we can all share this planet in peace. That has to be the vision as we move forward." 

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - *Q. Pop-Pop, don't feel bad that you gave me a cold in my eye. It wasn't your fault... was it?*

This question came from my seven-year-old granddaughter, Maggie. She got conjunctivitis — known colloquially as “pink eye” — a week after I did. Subsequently, Maggie’s mother and grandmother also got nasty cases that required multiple vis-

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Containing Viral Pink Eye

its to an ophthalmologist.

Conjunctivitis is an infection of the transparent membrane (conjunctiva) that lines the eyelid and part of the eyeball. The infection creates swelling of the eyelids and a reddening of the whites of the eyes.

Pink eye is caused by bacteria, viruses and allergens such as pollen. Pink eye from bacteria and viruses can be highly contagious for as long as two weeks after symptoms begin. Allergic conjunctivitis is not contagious.

In addition to swelling and discoloration, pink eye also makes your eyes itch and water. Often, you feel like you have sand or an eyelash caught in

your eye. The infection clouds your vision. When you sleep, a crust forms on your eye and makes it difficult to open. Your eyes become light sensitive.

My experience with pink eye should be instructive.

I am allergic to all kinds of pollen. These allergies usually irritate my eyes, especially in the fall. When I had mild symptoms recently, I assumed it was the pollen in the air. I exposed everyone in my family before my eye worsened and I discovered I had a viral infection. If I had gone to a doctor immediately for a diagnosis, I might have been able to prevent the infection from spreading by being

more careful about contact.

Next time I have any kind of watery, itchy eyes, I will be much more careful. Sorry, Maggie.

My family physician gave me antibiotic eye drops in case the infection was bacterial. I was instructed to see an ophthalmologist in two days if there was no improvement. No improvement would indicate that I had a viral infection. My eye didn't get better, so I went to an ophthalmologist who gave me steroid eye drops to help relieve the symptoms. Only time corrects viral conjunctivitis — two to three weeks.

Maggie had a minor case of pink eye that disappeared in days. Her mother and grandmother suffered the way I did.

Pink eye has a quaint name,

but it doesn't begin to describe what the adults in my family contracted. The three of us looked like we had been repeatedly jabbed in the face by Muhammad Ali. My left eye was so bad it made my ophthalmologist actually say, “Yuck.”

While suffering from pink eye, there are ways to deal with the symptoms. Warm compresses help if you have viral or bacterial conjunctivitis. Cool compresses are better for allergic conjunctivitis. Non-prescription artificial tears are soothing.

To prevent the spread of pink eye, wash your hands often and avoid contact with others. Don't share washcloths or towels. Change your pillowcase often.

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

## Ste. Anne's Taps New Technology to Receive Messages from the Heavens

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** - Chris Perkins and his two assistants, Robert Noletti and Jason Chafe, are installing antennas and third generation technology for AT&T in the steeple of the former Ste. Anne's Church on J Street. The installation will enhance AT&T's data and voice capabilities in the Turners Falls area. Beats lighting a candle.

None of the crew were hearing confessions, but Perkins and Noletti said Chafe might need to confess a few. I declined to hear them, being also in need.

The crew, who work for Centerline

Communications, have been in the area updating communication equipment since April. They'll be at Ste. Anne's until the end of the week, and quite possibly will still be around beyond next April. Cell phone communication in places like Main Road in Gill hasn't advanced much ahead of sending smoke signals, Perkins conceded.

The five foot by eight foot fiberglass panel, visible on the steeple,

is one of three. There are two antennas per panel, making a total of six. Cell phones are essentially two-way radios, and radio signals pass more easily through plastic reinforced fiberglass. Steeplejacks are scheduled to return to finish the panel installations to closely, if not exactly, resemble the slate cladding the steeple.

According to Perkins, T Mobile has already installed third generation equipment in the former church, with three much larger antennas already in place. There are no visible signs of T Mobile's panels on the steeple. Apparently, the steeplejacks are adept at concealing panels.

It is not unusual for churches to contract with communications firms as a source of needed revenue to avoid closing, as Ste. Anne was forced to do, in 2005.

*The panel visible on the steeple will be concealed by steeple jacks when the panels are all booked up.*

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Domestic Assault, Under the Influence, Structure Fire

**Tuesday, 2/1**

11:20 a.m. Arrest of [redacted], for domestic assault and battery.

**Wednesday, 2/2**

8:16 a.m. Open door/window at Shea Theater. Services rendered.

10:40 a.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

3:01 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Twelfth Street. Services rendered.

**Thursday, 2/3**

9:50 a.m. Trespassing on Randall Road. Referred to other police.

2 p.m. Larceny at Miskinis Television on Avenue A. Referred to an officer.

4:14 p.m. Fraud on T Street. Services rendered.

5:05 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Thirteenth Street. Services rendered.

**Friday, 2/4**

10:16 a.m. Environmental incident at

Third Street Laundromat. Referred to other agency.

1:20 p.m. Structure fire on Fourth Street. Referred to other agency.

4:24 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Main Street. Investigated.

10:15 p.m. Structure fire on Montague Street. Referred to other agency.

10:28 p.m. Arrest of [redacted], for

third offence of operating a vehicle under the influence, operating to endanger, operating without a license in possession, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor and marked lanes violations.

**Saturday, 2/5**

8:05 p.m. Suspicious person on Second Street. Investigated.

**Sunday, 2/6**

11:50 a.m. Structure fire on Chestnut Street. Referred to other agency.

**Monday, 2/7**

1:17 a.m. Suspicious person in the area of the treatment plant on Greenfield Road. Investigated.

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# GO GREEN FAMILY

## Episode 44: Young Activists

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Back home, Jane had barely removed her coat, when she heard her partner Nell shout, “Come quick, Jane—you’re going to want to see what’s on the local news.”

Jane was just in time to catch an image of a group of protestors—high school and college age, by the looks of them—being dragged away from a building by police officers as one of the news anchors said “...the protestors, who call themselves the Western

Massachusetts Greenwashing Guerillas, say they are opposed to burning coal... twelve were arrested, including Alex Tinker and Jayden Bartlett, both contestants in the WGBJ Go Green Family competition.”

The camera zeroed in on the impassioned face of Jayden Bartlett. “Climate change is killing people. We’ve got to stop burning coal if we want to save our planet,” she shouted as two police officers hauled her limp body into a waiting patrol car.

From the studio, the perky blonde news anchor said, “Just last week, State Representative Rita Tinker voiced her support for clean coal and nuclear tech-

nologies.” They cut to a clip of Rita’s acceptance speech. “There seems to be a difference of opinion in the Tinker family, wouldn’t you say, Bill?” the newscaster asked. “Makes you wonder what the Tinker boy and his Greenwashing Guerillas have to say about nuclear power.”

“That’s not all,” Nell said, “Have you seen Ruby Tinker’s video yet? It’s gone viral—three people sent me the link today!”

Jane watched Ruby’s “Feet’s Too Big” video, and couldn’t believe Ruby’s charisma. She was more than engaging, singing to the world as if her life depended on it while

climbing a tree, dancing in oversized red sneakers, and poking her head out of the driver’s seat of a pickup truck. Her song was compelling and annoyingly catchy. This is what the kids in Bridge Street Elementary School needed to see, and what her climate change presentation was missing—a local kid their own age, with the ability to inspire action! Jane picked up the phone.

“Could I speak with Ruby Tinker, please?” Jane asked.

“Who’s this?” Ruby answered. “It’s Jane Robbins-Levine from GGF. Ruby—I’m calling because I’m so excited about the song you wrote—I’m doing an education program on climate change and sustainable solutions in elementary

schools, and I’d like to use it—with your permission, of course.”

“You should come to my school,” Ruby said. “They hardly teach us anything about living sustainably or ever talk about climate change. I’m going to start a kids’ organization called Green Pioneers so that kids can learn about stuff like building solar panels and electric cars and geothermal energy.”

“Green Pioneers? That’s a terrific idea! Maybe I can help. Could we get together?”

“Sure,” said Ruby. “If you want, you could meet me at the Lady Killigrew tomorrow morning. Alex is meeting some friends there, and he promised to take me along.”

*Continued next issue...*

## Jazz Concert to Benefit Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

**AMHERST** – The Amherst College Jazz Ensemble will perform the world premiere of Ayn Inseto’s new work “Down a Rabbit Hole” on Saturday, February 26th at 8 p.m. in Buckley Recital Hall in the Arms Music Center at Amherst College. The concert benefits the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and features guest guitarist Freddie Bryant, Class of ’87. The suggested donation is \$5 and canned goods.

Inseto is the 2011 Robin McBride ’59 Jazz Commission Series composer. She is considered to be among the most prominent young jazz composers of her generation. Jazz guitarist Ben Monder describes Inseto’s music as “intricate yet economical, harmonically intriguing, and display[ing] a vast and alluring textural palette. The work remains personal while showing great versatility.”

The ensemble will also perform the works of John Carisi, arranged by Leigh Pilzer; Charles Argersinger; George Benson; Stevie Wonder; Count Basie; and guest performer Freddie Bryant.

For a complete listing of upcoming Amherst College Department of Music events, visit us on the web: [www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events](http://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events).

## Montague WebWorks Offers Training Session

After three years working together, Mik Muller has bought out his partner Patrick Davis in their company, Montague WebWorks. Davis will move on to focus on his own sales, communications and marketing work.

Montague WebWorks formed in 2008 to cater to the local Pioneer Valley business market. Since then they have gained 90 clients, more than half from Montague and Greenfield.

Davis said, “I believe in Mik, and wouldn’t trust our customers with anyone else.”

Muller said, “The small business software I wrote, which was recently renamed RocketFusion, will become the main focus of

Montague WebWorks.

Customers using the website software will see significant software improvements over the next few months regarding speed and ease, with many new features. For new customers, time-to-market has been reduced to days, not weeks.

Montague WebWorks will offer a WebWorks refresher training session on Monday, February 28th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, 324 Wells Street, in Greenfield.

For more information, call 413-320-5336, or go to [www.MontagueWebWorks.com](http://www.MontagueWebWorks.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Auto Theft, Assist Fire Department and Other Police

Tuesday, 2/1

11:50 a.m. Report of stolen motor vehicle. Subject called and stated she let a Pratt Street resident borrow her motor vehicle and they were unwilling to return. Under investigation.

12:50 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for malicious destruction of property.

1:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

[redacted], for accessory after the fact of a felony.

8:20 p.m. Motor vehicle in parking lot at River Street. Heavy damage to driver’s side door.

11:07 p.m. Report of smoke in the attic at West High Street residence. Assisted fire department.

Wednesday, 2/2

7:35 a.m. Report of motor vehicle in the roadway on Central Street, blocking snow removal. Advised owner to remove same from roadway.

7:00 p.m. Erving fire responding to Mountain Road residence for water leaking through the roof.

Thursday, 2/3

1:00 a.m. Report of motor vehicle rollover. Unknown location on Route 63. Vehicle located at Northfield residence. False reporting. Northfield police handled same.

7:50 p.m. Trash found on East Prospect Street. Spoke to owner of trash. Snow plow hit trash. They’ll pick up.

Friday, 2/4

12:29 a.m. Assisted state police with motor vehicle crash with injuries in Gill.

7:15 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle in area of French King Highway and Forest Street. Vehicle gone on arrival.

Saturday, 2/5

3:50 p.m. Report of vehicle off road on Route 2 east of Old State Road. Found vehicle off road.

7:19 p.m. Assisted Orange police with 911 call from East River Street in Orange. All Orange officers tied up. Found to be domestic, verbal only.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHJIN ILLUSTRATION

## EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

The Arts Block, Greenfield: February residency with *Alan Evans*, the drummer of the seminal funk, soul band Soulive. Every Thursday night at 9 p.m. Soul funk syndicate *Play on Brother*.

## EVERY FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY

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

## Now Through FEBRUARY 26th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fine Fishing Artwork* by *James Roszel* in the Great Hall. Open Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artists reception on Saturday, February 5th 1 to 3 p.m.

## Now Through FEBRUARY 26th

Gallery A-3, Cinema Building, Amherst: *Gloria Kegeles, Mirages*, with *Lourdes Morales*, photos and mixed media. Wednesdays through Sundays, 1 to 7 p.m.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Annual Valentine's Day Aphrodisiac Massacre to benefit NELCWIT. 7:30 p.m. by donation. Adult fun and games.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Bruce Scofield*, Acoustic & Electric Classic rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Mando Paradiso Mandolin Orchestra* at the *Great Falls Coffeeshouse*, 7 p.m.



Chicago Afrobeat Project plays at the Arts Block in Greenfield on Friday, February 18th, with *Shokazoba*, at 10 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Junk-folk trio *Rusty Belle* at 8 p.m. CD release: *On A Full Moon Weekend: Sunday*. A companion to *On A Full Moon Weekend: Saturday*, the latest release is a delicate work of waltzes, seafaring tunes and cosy harmonies.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *1940's Dance Party with DJ Bex and birthday broad, Anja*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic driven originals, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Bistro Boys*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Dan Daniels and Your No Good Buddies*, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc.* 9 to 11 p.m.

Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett: *Magpie*, featuring *Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino*, will perform music for social change, 7:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

Greenfield Teen Center: *Recover Project's 8th annual Winter Dance*, with DJ Flashback and The Fabulous Laurie B. Formal dress optional. (413) 774-5489. This is a drug and alcohol free event. 8 to 11 p.m.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Montague Reporter Poetry Page* presents, *Love Poetry open mic*. Bring your own bad and good love poems or love poems from your favorite poet. 2 p.m. Free.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive Project Show*, featuring *Marisol Celestia, Krystal Glushien, Josh Warren, Mojie Crigler, and Zach Holmes*, 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Have a Heart for Haiti*, Music by *Annie Hassett and Gangly Heart*, Benefit Dance Party to help send *Coco Schachtl and Mary Collins* to assist medical relief workers in the devastated country of Haiti, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th  
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Reggae Night*, 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Read it Leverett* event, *Mitch Mulholland* presents a slide show and talk on the archeology of the Connecticut River Valley, including findings related to King Philip's War. 7:00 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Nite*, 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Climate change and water resources: expectations and uncertainties* in natural systems. *Timothy Randhir*, Associate Professor of Watershed Management and Water Quality at the University of Massachusetts, to learn about the relationships between climate change and the hydrologic cycle. 7 to 9 p.m.

Northfield Coffee and Books: *A new monthly open mic*. Featured reader *Trish Crapo*, followed by 5-minute open mic readings. Third Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, Blues based Roots Music, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*. Singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Chicago Afrobeat*

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project, with *Shokazoba*, 2010 Chicago Music Award Winners, Best African Act, 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hi-Country Lo-Fi*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19th  
Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Heather Maloney*, folk rocker, 8 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House: *Old Wendell Town Hall: Viva Quetzall* with *Harp beat and Fatbeard*, Show at 8 p.m. Open mic at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20th  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Northfield Mount Hermon Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble* will present a benefit concert for Senior Citizens in Franklin County to benefit *Meals on Wheels*, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29th  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*, 8 to 10 p.m.

*Christina's*  
A Taste of Italy  
Fri. Feb. 11th 7:00 - 10 pm  
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4. NO STRINGS ATTACHED PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. JUST GO WITH IT PG13 DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
6. JUSTIN BIEBER: NEVER SAY NEVER 3D DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:00

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - I am glad to see the back of January.

The long nights, the early dark and the mountains of snow and ice have become disheartening. We have shoveled twenty-nine inches of the white stuff during just that one month, seventeen on the 12th alone. The piles that edge the driveway are so high I can't reach to add any more.

To date, the winter accumulation is a hefty 46 inches of snow and ice, producing four snow days for school.

The compost bins, the grill

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Start Seeds in February

and the stump planters sport pyramids of snow like pointed winter hats. I should be glad of the deep cover blanketing the fragile roses. Still, it is a daunting amount, and it makes it hard to believe the garden will ever emerge.

February brings hope. The sun is high and strong, bringing some melting warmth after the frosty nights. It's time to watch the mail for the seed orders, and to prepare to start seedlings for the coming season.

Buy some soilless seed starter, or make your own with a one to one mix of sphagnum moss and perlite. If your materials have been opened and stored since last year, it is best to spread what you need in a large, flat pan and bake it at 350 degrees to kill any mold or fungus.

More seedlings die from damping off than from mold or

fungus, however. Damping off can be caused by non-sterile soil or over-watering.

Although seeds come with their own built-in food supply, pick up some plant food for the burgeoning seedlings you will soon have to care for. I like to use a mild solution of liquid seaweed and water. Seeds, starter mix and plant food are all you need to purchase.

Seeds can be started in any flat container that can be perforated with holes for drainage. Pre-moisten your starting medium to a damp but not saturated wetness. Spread your starter mix in clean, well washed containers. Lay the seed on top and press down to make sure of good contact with the medium. Cover your seeds with more planting medium in an amount twice the size of the seed.

Find the warmest spot in your house. Most seeds need 65 to 75 degrees of warmth to germinate.

You can find these tempera-

tures in a sunny south window,

on top of the refrigerator, or you can use a warming mat especially designed for the purpose.

Place your seed containers in a pan or tray so you can water from the bottom only. If you find that the surface soil dries out too quickly, spray it with a misting bottle.

Less is more with the watering. A good way to avoid damping off is to provide a source of moving air like a fan. Use plastic wrap or clear plastic lids to keep moisture even.

After the seeds germinate and sprouts have developed, cover only at night. Turn the seed containers daily to keep stems strong and even.

When the true leaves of the plant emerge, it's time to start weekly feedings with a weak mixture of food and water.

The goal is to feed a healthy plant, but not to rush growth to the extent of legginess.

When your seedlings have reached this size, you need to thin

them out. Be ruthless. You cannot develop strong, healthy plants when they are overcrowded.

In the next week or two you can start any cold loving plants you would like to have in your early spring garden. Try onions or leeks, leafy greens, broccoli and hardy annuals like pansies, any of which can be set out as soon as the soil can be worked in late March or early April. Wait a bit more to start the sensitive crops like tomatoes and peppers. I am always hoping to set these out in mid to late May, so I will start them in mid-March, planting and repotting to develop thick stemmed and many leaved young plants, about a foot high.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for the annual bulb shows at Smith and Mt. Holyoke colleges at the beginning of March. Treat yourself to a bunch or two of the Dutch daffodils that will appear in local stores before too long. Order some perennials for summer planting. Sit in the sun, bundle up and take a walk in the warmth of the day, make plans for a summer vacation.

Enjoy the lengthening days, the late winter sports, and the warmth of the evening hearth.

**BOSTON** from pg 1

-tion the \$4 billion attributed to the non-profit cultural sector.

State senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) and representative Steven Kulik (D-Worthington) recognized the achievements of Turners Falls RiverCulture with a special citation.

Luncheon was followed by a performance of honorees from Las Pleneras de La Villa – a troupe of senior Latina women from the Boston area who celebrate the rich Puerto Rican culture of song and dance. Then it was on to the Great Hall of Flags where Walker extolled the ways that art, poetry and music speak to the human spirit. Governor Deval Patrick spoke of the state's investment in the Cultural Facilities Fund and the rebuilding of arts institutions. He challenged visitors to bring the arts into every niche of their communities and find the quiet forgotten corners so that all citizens have the opportunity to experience the cultural joys in their midst.

The audience was treated to a virtuoso performance by violinist Lynn Chang, one of the founding members of the Boston Chamber

Music Society who performed on December 10th at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, honoring Chinese writer and human rights activist Liu Xiaobo – forbidden by the Chinese government to attend the ceremony to receive his prize.

The Commonwealth award winners came from all over the state and were honored for a variety of accomplishments, from the leadership awards of former G.C.C. president Kay Sloan, now of Massachusetts College of Art & Design to the creative learning accomplishments of Plimoth Plantation and Revere High School teacher Nancy Barile to the great achievements of the Williamstown Theatre Festival affectionately known as "WTF."

The Creative Community awards honor the work of cultural organizations that work to develop a viable and sustainable arts economy. Turners Falls RiverCulture was in good company with Team Haverhill and the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts in receiving one of the awards.

Davol said she felt overwhelmed by the honor.

"There were about five hundred people there, and I was one of only ten wearing award winner ribbons. People I didn't even know were coming up to tell me we really deserved the award, and they couldn't wait to come out for the next event we produce. I was just amazed that people all over the state, from Pittsfield to Worcester to Boston said they knew what we were doing, or were coming up to me for pointers and advice. Turners Falls is really on the map."

RiverCulture formed in 2006 when artists, organizations, business leaders and town officials came together to create program-

ming around Turners' diverse cultural offerings, scenic beauty, and historical integrity. In an interview the same day back in Turners about the Commonwealth Award for Channel 22, RiverCulture producers committee chair Chris Janke said, "I think we may be the smallest

town to have success in a program like this anywhere in America."

Why stop there? It was clear from the Commonwealth Awards Turners Falls is going places.



RiverCulture partners and friends attending the Commonwealth Award ceremony at the Statehouse on Wednesday (l-r) Ken Garber, Robin Sherman, Janet Haas, Pat Allen, Frank Abbondanzio, Lisa Henry, Walter Ramsey, Lisa Davol, John Kruger, Lynn Nichols, Sara Campbell, Bill Gabriel, Ann Hamilton, Anne Harding, and Sara Doyle.

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