



STRATHMORE MILL

More Costs Loom

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LISA'S SOAP

New Shop Opens

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 7

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 11, 2010

Immigrants Help Sustain Local Population Base, Economy

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - Franklin County and Hampshire County would be losing population, following a long-term trend, if it were not for immigrants moving into the area.

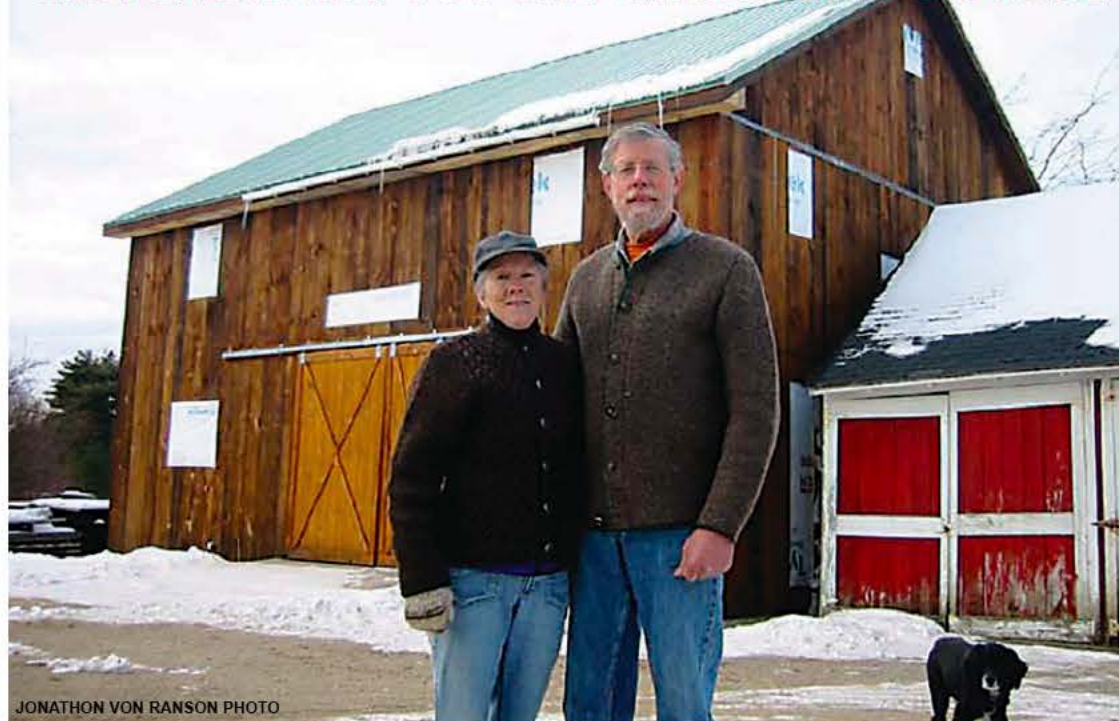
Center for New Americans director Jim Ayres told a crowd of about 45 at the November 4th Senior Symposium at Greenfield Community College's downtown center, "We have an aging population. Younger people are leaving the area. We would be wondering how to harvest our fields and staff our hospitals," if it were not for the influx of immigrants.

"One of my doctors is from Peru, and one is from Uruguay," offered one of the senior citizens in attendance.

According to the 2010 preliminary census, the population of Franklin County increased .03% since 2000, and Hampshire County grew by 2.5%, Ayres said. Figures show recent immigrants make up 4% of the population in Franklin County, 7% in Hampshire County, and 12%

see IMMIGRANTS pg 10

SIMPLE LIVING VS. THE MASS HEALTH CODE



JONATHAN VON RANSON PHOTO

Susan and Jonathan von Ranson in front of the barn where they hope to build and inhabit a non-electric apartment

BY KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL - At the Wendell board of health meeting on Tuesday, simple living contended with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR), and the outcome was unclear.

Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, of Lockes Village Road, asked the board to inform them of the status of their "simple living" application to build a non-electric apartment in their barn. The

couple hopes to reduce their own carbon footprint by moving into the apartment, and using a hand pump for water, lanterns for light, a masonry wood stove for heat, and a composting toilet.

The von Ransons first presented their plans at the board's July 13th meeting. At the August 10th meeting, they were given an unsigned letter saying their plan does not comply with state health regu-

see LIVING pg 11

Broadband Access Draws a Standing Room Only Crowd

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - The longest mile is the one that brings broadband to your door.

More than 60 people turned out for a hearing in Leverett Tuesday night with Jason Whittet, deputy director of the state's Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), the agency responsible for rolling out 1300 miles of "middle mile" open access broadband fiber to 123 underserved communities in Western and Central Massachusetts over the next two and a half years. MBI is working with a mandate from the governor to find and reach residents who do not have access to the internet, and has \$26.2 million in state and \$45 million in federal stimulus funding to work with in order to provide it.

But the federal funding comes with guidelines not to hook up individual homes, but rather to reach cornerstone community institutions like schools and libraries, and to bring fiber within three miles of 99% of homes, in underserved communities like Leverett.

Whittet explained the concept of 'middle mile' fiber is intended not to provide the 'last mile' hook up for homes and businesses, but to "leverage last mile connectivity and make those economics attractive," to other providers.

But the crowd quickly grew impatient with the power point presentation of the middle mile's middle man. They wanted to know one thing.

"Who's gonna' hook me up?"

"Leverett didn't get electricity until the government mandated it," said Auda Goscenski, from the back of the room. "Leverett didn't get phone service until it was mandated by the government. I don't see us getting last mile until it will be mandated by the government."

Peter Danielson said the internet has risen to the level of a utility, like phone service or electricity, whether it is regulated or not, and he said he had no truck with a business model that would allow last mile providers to pick and choose which customers get served.

"The middle mile doesn't matter to us at all," said Ken Langley. "What matters to us is who the last mile provider is that connects you to the network."

"You don't suppose ComCast and Verizon will hold a secret dis-

see LEVERETT pg 12

Dennis Rindone Memorialized for Route 2 Improvements



COURTESY OF TOWN OF ERVING

Dennis Rindone

BY KATIE NOLAN

ERVING - "He was not just a good man, he was a great man," Robert Brighenti told the people crowded into Erving town hall to honor his late friend Dennis Rindone. The crowd of over one hundred came to join the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) in dedicating a portion of Route 2

as the Dennis E. Rindone Roadway.

Rindone, who died unexpectedly on March 1st, 2009, served as the town administrator of Princeton for the last decade of his life, and was a three-term selectboard member for the town of Erving. In that capacity he worked to band together small towns and big cities along the

Route 2 corridor to fight for safety improvements to that roadway. In addition, through the organization STAR (Stand Together Against Repression) he spearheaded in 1996, Rindone worked with other small town administrators and selectboards to secure fair payments in lieu of taxes from Boston for state owned land throughout the Commonwealth, and for fair tax payments from deregulated utilities. He served on the finance, school and water commissions in Erving. Rindone was at work on a comprehensive catalogue of all veterans memorials in the state, for a book project called the Honor Roll of Liberty.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) executive director Linda Dunleavy praised Rindone's "remarkable achievement" as chair of the Route 2 Safety Improvement Task Force from 1994 until his sudden death in 2009. She said he was a "relentless advocate" for safety improvements to Route 2 and called the road dedication and signs "a small tribute to a great man."

State senator Stephen Brewer

(D-Barre) mentioned the "long, long, long battle" before the Route 2 task force was formed. He characterized the battle as "low profile" versus "save Erving from destruction," referring to the controversy when the state's proposal to re-route the east - west artery through Wendell State Forest was opposed by the grassroots, coffeehouse-fueled citizens opposition group Save Bear Mountain in Wendell, and the alternate "low profile alignment" through the center of Erving ran into a solid wall of opposition in Erving.

Luisa Paiewonsky, administrator of MassDOT's highway division, commented that, despite the years of conflict over the Route 2 alignment, Rindone wouldn't accept the idea that nothing could be done to improve the road's safety.

Similarly, Erving town administrator Tom Sharp praised Rindone's ability to effect change, saying when faced with an obstacle, Rindone would roll his sleeves up and tear down the barriers. Ultimately, under Rindone's chairmanship, the Route 2 task force monitored and advised MassDOT on approximately \$50 million in safety improvements to Route 2

see RINDONE pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Southern Charm



Sammy

My name is Sammy and I'm a seven-year-old male coonhound/treeing walker hound in need of a good home. I am new here, but the staff thinks that I will be OK with other dogs, and cats. I am a sweet and playful boy. I am a Dixie Dog.

Dixie dogs are transported to northern adoption centers from southern shelters that are overrun with friendly and healthy dogs. My ideal home would provide plenty of exercise, play, and affection. The staff here thinks that I would be OK with kids, but I will need to meet the whole family to know for sure before being adopted. I am currently in a foster home. If you think that I might be the dog for you, ask the staff for the chance to meet me! To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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The Montague Reporter

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Local Subscription Rates:
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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Pastel Workshop for All Ages

Find your inner creativity at the Erving Library on December 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the workshop featuring Post Impressionism: Van Gogh's *Starry Night* - Expressive Pastel Painting.

This pastel painting workshop is designed for adults and teens, for sheer beginners to advanced participants who want to paint expressively. The workshop includes all materials: Indigo paper, white charcoal pencils, black paper, Rembrandt soft pastels, Nupastels, French and English pastel pencils, assorted

colored mid-toned Canson pastel paper and other materials. All participants will keep their pastel painting(s).

The Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street, call (413) 423-3348 or email ervinglibrary@netscape.net for more information. Library hours are Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday, 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. View our latest newsletter online at ervingpubliclibrary.wordpress.com.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Historic Maps Presentation; Cat Ballou

Land surveyor David Allen presents Historic Maps of Wendell and Franklin County on Thursday, November 18th, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Allen will give an overview of historic maps of Massachusetts from the earliest known Colonial creations through the detailed maps of the mid-19th century, with homeowner names. He will focus on the old maps of Franklin County and Wendell, including examples of how to use them to find old roads or an ancestor's house site.

Wendell resident and historic commission member Pam Richardson will also talk about the 1858 map of Wendell, for which she has indexed all the named homeowners and noted how many of their old homes are still standing, and which are lonely cellar holes today.

Allen recently researched and compiled 15 maps of Wendell, dating from 1753 to present. This set of maps is now part of the

Wendell Library's collection. All 15 of the large scale reprint maps will be available for viewing at the free program, and by request during regular library hours.

For further info, call the library at (978) 544-3559, or Allen at (413) 772-2801. For previews of the maps, see: vhist.com/mcc/towns/wendell/.

COA Movie - Cat Ballou

The Wendell COA Film Series at the Library continues Sunday evening, November 14th, 7:30 p.m. with the 1965 classic *Cat Ballou*, starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin. The film is rated G, about 96 minutes long. All are welcome to attend.

For this month only, show time is 7:30 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m. because of the 5:00 p.m. workshop, "Take Charge of Your Future," being held at the Senior Center. Go to the workshop and take care of some serious business, then come over to the library for a very funny film!

Turkey Programs at Carnegie Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Next week two programs on turkeys for children at the Carnegie Library with children's librarian Linda Hickman. On Wednesday, November 17th, the Harvest Bounty Homeschool Program

will end with an informative session on turkeys at 1:15 p.m. Homeschooling families with children of all ages are welcome. On Saturday, November 20th, at 10:30 a.m. a fun program on turkeys for children of all ages. For more info: call 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - November 15th - 20th

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 Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. **Annual Holiday Lunch** at the Tech School is Tuesday, December 7th. Tickets are on sale at the Senior Center. 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. Don't miss our **Annual Holiday Bazaar** and Raffle on Saturday, November 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. **Raffle tickets available at the Senior Center now.**

Monday, November 15th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pot Luck and Bingo
No Knitting Circle
Tuesday, November 16th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, November 17th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Fire Safety Talk
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, November 18th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, November 19th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
No afternoon activities
Saturday, November 20th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Holiday Bazaar & Raffle at the Center

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 info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim



Nicole Fuller was the Queen and Jack Hubert was the King of the Turners Falls High School Booster Day Parade

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from the Gill-Montague Bridge dedication booklet, published for the ribbon cutting ceremonies that took place on Saturday, September 10th, 1938.

The approximate total weight of the structural steel on the bridge is 6,857,362 pounds. 45,888,000 pounds. The weight of the bridge is 6,857,362 pounds. More bridge facts next week!

Advanced Directives Workshop

WENDELL - There will be an informative discussion in Wendell on Sunday, November 14th at the Wendell Senior Center about the documents that can ensure that our wishes for our own future are respected if we are unable to speak for ourselves.

Advanced Directives along with Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Power of Attorney and Last Will and Testament will help guide health providers and loved ones who may suddenly find themselves in charge of making important decisions.

Discussion facilitators, Lynne Davis, Social Worker and Nancy Spittle, RN, have assisted many individuals, and their families in understanding why it is so important to have these documents in advance of need, how they become enacted and some of the issues to consider relating to these decisions.

A variety of sample forms and informational handouts will be

available. (Please bring pens and clip board or something of the like, to write on).

Wendell folk of all ages are welcome to this discussion because events leading to temporary or permanent loss of ability to make decisions on our own behalf may occur at any age. Please join us!

Questions? Please call Lynne 978-544-2067 or email, lcdavis@crocker.com.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Jordyn Fiske

Grade 7

Rachel Waldron
Sadie Pelletier

Grade 8

Alex Carlisle

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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 - An old fashioned "Sock Hop" with 100% of the proceeds going to "Warm the Seniors" will be held at the Greenfield Elks, on the corner of Federal & Church Streets in Greenfield, 7:00-11:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 20th. The event is presented by the Greenfield Elks, the Emblem Club and Bobby C. Music also provided by Bobby C. Snacks and beverages are available with admission of \$5.00 at the door.

"Turkey Anyone?" at Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls on Thursday, November 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Have you ever been curious about wild turkeys? Just how did they get associated with Thanksgiving? Stop by the GFDC and learn from Joe Judd, an expert in the area of turkeys.

Join **Northfield Mountain Naturalist Beth Bazler** on Saturday, November 20th, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a hike to enjoy our newly opened, leafless, views of the area's beautiful scenery. The hike is designed for ages 12 and older. Hikers must preregister to receive directions to the starting location. The trip will be in the 4 or 5 mile range with up to 800 feet of climbing. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress for the weather, bring water

and a hearty snack for this free program. Heavy rains will cancel.

The **14th Annual Gem and Mineral Show** will be held on Saturday, November 13th from 9:30-4:00 p.m. at Greenfield High School on Lenox Avenue. More than a dozen vendors display their rocks, gemstones, fossils, jewelry and fine art in the school cafeteria. Videos, posters, books are also for sale and there are featured speakers with demonstrations for children.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries and Ed's Barber Shop both located on the corner of Third Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls, are open for business after being shut down for 34 days because of water damage caused by the sprinkler system in the upstairs Moltenbrey Apartments.

Please help warm the children by bringing a pair of new mittens to any Greenfield Savings Bank location and hang them on the mitten tree. **Warm the Children** is a non-profit organization, sponsored by the *Greenfield Recorder*, dedicated to providing winter clothing to children in the local community.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

Home Care Honors Outgoing Rep. Donelan

Seniors and providers for seniors, caregivers and persons with disabilities attended the Franklin County Home Care Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 3rd at the Greenfield Grille in Greenfield.

Outgoing State Representative Christopher Donelan was presented with the Cevasco-Manwell-Quinn-Advocacy Award, named in honor and memory of elder advocates Bea Cevasco, Frank Manwell and Joseph Quinn for advocacy and service to elders. This fourteenth annual presenta-

tion of the award honored the work of Rep. Donelan, 2nd Franklin County District "for his tireless advocacy, dedicated

service to elder constituents, commitment to Equal Choice and home and community care."



(L to R) Elaine Barkin of Leverett, long time elder advocate and former FCHCC board member, Judi Fonsch, FCHCC board member, Denise Coyne, Greenfield Savings Bank at FCHCC Annual Meeting.

Wendell Sub Drive and Thanksgiving Raffle

For Wendell residents, this is an especially good week to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, thanks again to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. As in past years, these supporters have put up funds to purchase great raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added by November 17th will get their name entered to win.

First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg

Farm. And there will be FIVE! second prize winners, each of whom will receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

Subscribers get news from the Wendell selectboard, Wendell town meetings, local profiles and community features, news from the Wendell Free Library, field notes from the Wendell energy committee, listings at the Deja Brew and the Full Moon Coffeehouse, poetry

readings and even the occasional Wendell police log!

All that, plus the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to keep the Voice of the Villages growing and serving your town.

Use the subscription blank on Page 4 to subscribe, and your name will be entered to win the raffle. We must receive your subscription postmarked by November 17th in order for your name to be entered in the drawing.

SHINE Program Offers Help for Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D) and Medicare Advantage Plans change every year. Many plans will no longer be available in 2011.

All people with Medicare should:

- Review the 2011 costs and coverage of their current plans.
- Compare with other plans
- Choose a plan that meets their needs and budget

The Medicare annual open enrollment period runs November 15th through December 31st for coverage beginning January 1st, 2011.

There are significant differences between plans. Starting in 2011, different Part D plans in our area will have monthly premiums from as low as \$14.80 up to as high as \$120.10. However, monthly premiums are not the only things to consider. Plans have different deductibles, co-pays, covered drugs and restrictions. Plan information and cost estimates can be found by enter-

ing a drug list into the Medicare Plan Finder on www.medicare.gov.

The Franklin County Home Care Corporation's SHINE program can help you. For help understanding your options and finding the lowest cost Part D plan for you, call SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders). Trained counselors provide free assistance in your community, at the Turners Falls office or in some cases in your home. Contact SHINE at info@fchcc.org or call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259.

You may also contact your local senior center to schedule a free appointment with a SHINE counselor. Senior center contact information can be found at www.fchcc.org/resourceslinks/countylinksonaging.htm or by calling SHINE.

When you see a SHINE counselor bring all your insurance information and a list of your prescription drugs with dosages.

Catalog Pick-up, Ice Cream Social Caps Shop Local Fund Drive

NEW SALEM - The catalog pick-up and marketplace ice cream social for the Swift River School "Shop Locally" fundraiser will take place next Thursday, November 18th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Swift River School, located at 201 Wendell Road, New Salem.

Anyone who ordered from the catalog and who didn't order through a student needs to pick up orders on this night, or else call to arrange delivery or pick-up of your items for another time.

Everyone is welcome at the event, which features free ice cream donated by Wendell Country Store and New Salem General Store.

This is a great opportunity to shop and support the school, even if you didn't place an order through the catalogue!

Senior Center HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Saturday, November 20th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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Gifts—Crafts—Silent Auction—Raffle—and Bake Sale

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Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Solutions

News this week from a number of energy fronts has us considering the future of power production in our region, our nation, and the planet as a whole. There is no more pressing issue for government at every level to be grappling with, yet it is clear Washington, in the year of the Gulf Oil Spill and the Upper Big Branch mine disaster, has lost the will to do so.

Locally, the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, tottering toward retirement as its 40-year operating license runs down to 2012, sprang a leak Sunday in a two foot wide pipe that circulates radioactive steam under extreme heat and pressure. The plant had to shut down for repairs. On the same day, Indian Point Unit 2, located 24 miles north of New York City, experienced a transformer explosion and fire, taking that reactor off line.

As Entergy, the corporate owner of both reactors, continues to pressure legislators and regulators to extend the operating licenses of their aging nukes for 20 more years, these accidents point to the extreme vulnerability of populations living downwind, including ours. Each reactor contains an inventory of lethal radionuclides sufficient to render large swathes of the Northeast permanently uninhabitable in the event of a loss of coolant incident. There is no safe way to handle, transport, or permanently isolate the wastes produced by nuclear power plants. For these and many other reasons, including the casual release of daily, carcinogenic, doses of ionizing radiation as part of every nuclear plant's standard operating procedure, all nuclear power plants should be immediately and permanently shut down and decommissioned.

Here in Franklin County, the Concerned Citizens group, that has worked to halt construction of a planned 47 megawatt biomass power plant in the Greenfield industrial park, presented oral arguments in Franklin Superior Court on Monday, seeking summary

judgment to void the special permit granted to Pioneer Renewable Energy to build the plant. The group argued that since Greenfield voters overturned, by an 84% margin, permission granted by the town council for PRE to use the town's wastewater stream to cool the plant, the special permit based on wastewater cooling was no longer valid.

We hope the judge agrees. The PRE plant would make 47 megawatts of electric power, but it would do so by wasting 75% of the heat produced by burning biomass – trees and tops of trees left over from commercial logging operations. That is an inexcusably profligate use of a precious natural resource, and would contribute too heavily to the growing threat from CO2 pollution to the Earth's atmosphere.

Meanwhile, last week's national elections spelled the end of efforts to create any semblance of a national energy policy to counteract the proven and cumulative effects of our reliance on fossil fuels. The concomitant release of CO2, which is swiftly piling up in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere, is altering delicate ecosystems worldwide, and condemning our children to a world of rising temperature and climate chaos. This makes efforts undertaken on the state, local, and individual level to conserve energy use more urgent than ever.

We must all rally to the task, and support visionary efforts by towns like Wendell, which last month took a pioneering approach to fostering local food production by appropriating funds to hire a town food coordinator. Transporting food from industrial farms across oceans and continents is a vastly wasteful use of fossil fuels.

At the same time, consider supporting the forward thinking efforts of Wendellites like Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, who are expending a great deal of energy (their own) to try to convince a reluctant town board of health to interpret

see SOLAR pg 5



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations on Your Victory

On November 2nd, Peter Shumlin, the Democratic candidate for Vermont governor who as state senate president drove the debate on denying the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant a 20 year extension on its operating license, defeated Republican Brian Dubie by a little more than 3,000 votes. Below, an open letter to Shumlin from Deb Katz, the president of the Citizens Action Network.

Dear Governor-elect Shumlin,

Please attend a benefit to support the rebuilding of the historic Box Car Restaurant, on Sunday, November 14th, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Wheelerville Club on Brookside Road in Orange.

The Box Car is a critical gath-

I want to take a moment to congratulate you on your victory. I am proud to say that I am one of the 35,000 people who supported you because of your strong commitment to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in March of 2012 as scheduled.

The news the day after the election by VY that their aged, leaking plant is now up for a fire sale was designed to put you on notice that a no-holds-barred battle is coming your way from VY, the utilities and those who sup-

port the continued operation of this old plant. We know these voters supported your opponent and are in the minority.

We are delighted you now have your hand on the rudder for the state of Vermont, and we look forward to supporting you every inch of the way. We will stand by you during what is sure to be a fierce battle. We know we can count on you to follow through on your promise to close it down in 2012.

- Deb Katz
Rowe, MA

Box Car Benefit

ering place for local families, area travelers, and for me since I started my campaign.

I invite everyone to come and enjoy being part of rebuilding a special business in our district. Let's continue being present with

our neighbors and making a positive difference when possible.

There will be food, music, raffles and fun for all ages. All are welcome! - Denise Andrews
State Representative Elect
Orange

Privatizing Education Hurts Children

In response to your editorial "Hold On... It's 1994 All Over Again," I agree with everything you said except the idea that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan "proceeds to enact the smartest, results oriented, 'laboratory of the states' education reforms of the modern era."

You say, and I agree, that Obama is no socialist. The move to privatize our public schools, of which both President Obama and Secretary Duncan are champions, is an extremely conservative agenda. Yes, it's true, as you say,

that state and local governments are no longer making decisions about our public schools. Who is making those decisions now? Large multi-national corporations and a handful of billionaires.

The philosophy of Race to the Top is that competition and the forces of free-market capitalism will improve education. Schools should be run like businesses, according to Duncan. They should market themselves to parents who will then shop for the school they like best. Schools will be forced to compete for students, and federal money, and this will improve the quality of education kids get. This sounds like something a libertarian like Rand Paul would suggest.

Privatizing education is hurting all students in public schools, but especially poor and minority children. Segregation in schools is on the increase. Poor and

minority children are getting a completely different education from that of middle-class children. Even middle-class children have to spend more and more time taking and preparing for standardized tests, while we spend billions of tax-dollars paying for the tests. All of this public money goes to private corporations who are making a killing on Duncan's brand of capitalist "school-reform."

Duncan recently lost a race discrimination lawsuit in Chicago, where he was 'CEO' of schools before becoming the federal Secretary of Education. The U.S. District Court agreed his firing of mostly black and female teachers was discriminatory.

Obama's education policy is another area where he has compromised with an extremely conservative agenda. Remember this is a continuation and strengthening of George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind. Race to the Top is good for corporations and harmful to children and teachers.

- Eloise Michael
Turners Falls

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Weed Removal Going Forward on Leverett Pond

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Shoreline Weed Control, of Winchendon, MA, will be dredging the aggressive milfoil from the channel leading to the fire hydrant on Leverett Pond in the coming weeks. The Friends of Leverett Pond will pursue a separate campaign to remove milfoil from the center of the pond.

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau said the contractor had come down on his price to meet the town's approved budget for the dredging - \$9,500 - to clear the fire hydrant channel. The highway department will assist the weed removal by trucking the milfoil to the transfer station for composting.

The selectboard considers this to be a short term solution to the needs for fire protection in the central village, as the weeds, once removed, will grow back to once again choke off the

water supply for the single hydrant in the center of town. The board will pursue a longer range strategy of seeking \$75,000 in community preservation act funding to install an underground water storage tank and hydrants near the playing fields at the elementary school.

Fire chief John Moruzzi reported that a \$375,000 federal grant request to purchase a new fire truck, to replace Leverett's 1988 KME pumper had been denied for the second time. The open cab truck has experienced pump problems recently. And sometimes the lights go off during calls at night.

Moruzzi said the department is short about five recruits, at present. A particular need is to find younger residents willing to serve on the call fire department.

The board appointed Richie Roberts to the capital planning

committee, and accepted a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the Leverett cultural council, in the amount of \$3,870.

The board signed a letter of support for the historical commission to apply for a planning grant to hire a professional consultant to complete survey work for three village areas in town - North Leverett, Moores Corner, and East Leverett - pursue listing Leverett's other village centers in the National Register. Leverett Center received historic designation status in 2008.

The letter stated, "We hope that in conjunction with a matching grant from the town's community preservation act funds, the historical commission will be able to meet their goal to have all four villages listed under the National Register."

What, no historic Dudleyville?

SOLAR from page 4

state regulations regarding home use of water, heat, and lighting in a way that honors both the need to preserve publichealth and the need to protect planetary health. The couple hopes to lead the way towards legalizing simple living, allowing conscientious citizens anywhere in the Commonwealth to lower their carbon footprint by living without electricity. The Wendell board Anyone who cares about the future of our race, and our ability to lighten our toxic impact on a planet we are

busily polluting, would do well to weigh in with the Wendell board of health before they issue their ruling on the von Ranson's petition in another month. State legislators, your voices are needed here as well.

In general, solutions need to be found to meet our energy needs in ways that work with the earth's natural systems, rather than against them. At least for now, other nations will have to lead the way to a solar powered future, with a gentler mix of energy sources - tidal power,

methane from cow manure, run of the stream hydro, wind, geothermal, and other means we have yet to discover of keeping our homes warm, and food delivered to our tables, without destroying the environment we all depend on for our lives. Until then, support your local energy committee, carry a canvas bag to your local market, ride a bicycle whenever you can, hang your clothes up to dry, and try in every way you can think of to lead a simpler life



Costs Mounting for Strathmore



The Strathmore Mill

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Taken from phone interviews and selectboard meeting notes -

TURNERS FALLS - The town of Montague is spending more money to secure and winterize the Strathmore Mill.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard on Monday that a contract not to exceed \$16,000 has been signed with Renaissance Builders to repair storm damage on the roof of Building #1. That work should get under way this week.

That money will come from the town's unsafe building account, Abbondanzio said. Town accountant Carolyn Olsen said there is \$44,000 in that fund's balance.

Additionally, the town may decide to spend up to \$80 per

window to secure up to 100 windows with broken glass of failed sash and frames with UV resistant composite fabric. Town building inspector David Jensen said, "The more cold-air blowing through the winter the worse."

Security improvements, "getting all the doors barred and proper locks in place," in Jensen's words, including a locked gate across the access road to Strathmore that various town departments will be able to open, are also high on the town's punch list for the 244,482-square-foot mill complex. The town came into possession of the mill, built in 1871, in February, after former owner John Anctil failed to maintain security (or pay taxes) for the mill.

Other items that may cost the town money at the mill in the

see COSTS pg 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Break In at Discovery Center

Wednesday, 11/3
10:21 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for probable cause arrest for an outside agency.
2:15 p.m. Larceny on Greenfield Road in Montague. Report taken.
Thursday, 11/4
4:54 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.
Friday, 11/05
10:22 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a warrant of apprehension near the Gill-

Montague Bridge on Avenue A.
11:03 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault, threat to commit a crime, and intimidating a witness, on Coolidge Avenue.
1:35 p.m. Hit and run accident at railroad bridge at Cheapside in Greenfield. Services rendered.
2:07 p.m. Motor vehicle disturbance at Montague Town Hall parking lot on Avenue A. Investigated.
3:46 p.m. Larceny on Fourth Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 11/6
6:55 p.m. General disturbance on G Street. Advised civil action.
Sunday, 11/7
1:40 a.m. Fight at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Investigated.
8:51 p.m. Larceny on Court Square. Advised of options.
Monday, 11/8
12:23 a.m. Suspicious auto by Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard. Services rendered.
5:03 p.m. Illegal dumping on Pine Street. Referred to an officer.
9:25 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Poplar

Street. Investigated.
Tuesday, 11/9
8:08 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at shed of Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Investigated.
11:45 a.m. Suspicious other near the 11th Street Bridge along the bike path. Referred to an officer.
1:08 p.m. Natural gas odor in the area of Cumberland Farms. Referred to other agency.
3:27 p.m. Suspicious person on Millers Falls Road. Investigated.
3:36 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Central Street. Peace restored.

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NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Drive-Through Business Zoning Discussed

BY KATIE NOLAN - At its October 28th meeting, the Erving selectboard revisited last year's controversial special town meeting decision on gas stations and drive-through businesses.

Erving town counsel Donna McNicol provided the selectboard with an opinion that Eric Semb, owner of the French King Bowling Center, may not resubmit failed zoning Articles 3 and 4 from the October 5th, 2009 special town meeting until at least October 6th, 2011.

McNicol wrote that, because the articles were not recommended by the planning board, a two-year waiting period is required by state law.

Special town meeting Article 3 would have allowed a gas station within the town's groundwater protection district; Article 4 would have allowed drive-through businesses in certain districts. Neither article received the required two thirds affirmative vote. Therefore, Semb's plans to construct a drive-through quick stop and gas station opposite the French King Bowling Center, on the former site of the Cintree Living Restaurant, did not go forward.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said Article 4 as it appeared at the annual town meeting on May 5th, 2010 was significantly amended, and it was the amended motion that

was voted down.

"I don't think Eric Semb's article was ever voted on," Goodwin said, concluding that the two-year waiting period should not apply to the drive-through article.

Article 4 as it appeared on the annual town meeting warrant would have created a neighborhood commercial district where drive-through businesses would be allowed. The amended article eliminated the neighborhood commercial district and allowed drive-through businesses in the central business district.

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to get further clarification from McNicol about restrictions that may apply to re-submitting the Article 4 to town meeting.

Montague and Erving Talk Shared Cost

Sharp told the selectboard that Erving and Montague have been working and sharing data "engineer to engineer" about the capital costs of recently completed sewer plant improvements in Erving.

According to a 1973 agreement, Montague should share the costs of upgrades at the facility proportionally to the amount of flow it contributes to the plant. Noting the agreement says that the towns should meet annually, the selectboard decided to send a letter to the Montague selectboard, inviting their members to a meeting December 9th at 7 p.m.

The town of Erving did not notify Montague of its plans to implement a \$5.2 million upgrade to the plant in Erving, a project the town of Erving completed and paid for on its own. Recently, the 1973 agreement came to light, and since then, Erving has been trying to interest Montague in sitting down to talk about the problem of shared costs for the treatment plant.

Montague's town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, said earlier the town of Montague would have sought grant funding to pay for any shared costs on the treatment plant, if Erving had notified Montague in advance. That option was ruled out by Erving's failure to give Montague advance notification before it undertook the \$5.2 million project.

Senior Center

Goodwin asked Sharp, the selectboard's liaison to the senior center building committee, to tell them "to save every penny they can...we're not looking to entertain lots of extra charges."

The selectboard commented unfavorably on one proposed extra - a separate bathroom for kitchen workers requested by board of health agent, David Zarozinski.

At their November 9th meeting, the senior center building committee elected

see ERVING pg 11

NOTES FROM MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Orange Seeks Assessment Relief

BY KATIE NOLAN - On Monday, Orange town administrator Richard Kwiatkowski and finance committee chair Jane Pierce asked the Mahar Regional School committee to return \$75,000 from the regional school's excess and deficiency account to the town. The unusual request comes as Orange struggles to close a large budget gap.

Should the school committee agree, funds totaling \$24,000 would return to the other member towns - New Salem, Petersham and Wendell - proportional to their share of the budget.

State regulations require that at the end of each fiscal year, the excess and deficiency account receives any surplus or deficit in the

district's general fund. This fund functions essentially as the school district's savings account. Currently, Mahar has approximately \$580,000 in the excess and deficiency account. This amount is slightly above the state mandated maximum of 5% of the school budget, so a total of \$2,400 was already due to be returned to the member towns on their FY'11 assessments.

Kwiatkowski said Orange is facing a deficit of approximately \$416,000, and is filing a home rule petition with the state legislature for deficit borrowing. A reduction in the Mahar assessment would help Orange balance its budget, a requirement for obtaining the home rule

petition.

Orange's deficit is a result of closing out the trust fund associated with its former self-insured health insurance for town employees. The town is changing to traditional premium-based health insurance for town employees, but is still responsible for claims that are "in the pipeline" - incurred before the change to traditional insurance, but not yet paid.

Committee members discussed the request at length, and decided to vote on it at their December 7th meeting.

The town of Orange has seven representatives on the Mahar school committee; Petersham has two, New Salem and Wendell each have one.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Expands Scope of Energy Performance Contract

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Montague is expanding the scope of its energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies. Originally focused on the replacement of the boiler and the installation of an energy management system at the town hall, the town will now look at energy saving upgrades to the Carnegie Library, the DPW garage, the wastewater treatment plant, and, if the school committee agrees, Sheffield and Hillcrest Schools.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard on Monday night, "I'm pleased we're moving in the right direction. We're no longer looking at a two phase project."

Montague energy committee chair Chris Mason said, "We're finally going to get an actual investment grade audit, with price estimates and hard energy analyses."

Mason credited the town's project manager Beth Greenblatt for forcing Siemens to squeeze more cost savings from the town hall project in particular, in order to justify expanding the scope of the performance contract to include the

other town buildings. The energy performance contract is designed to allow small towns to band together to have Siemens upgrade a number of buildings at one time, and pay for the costs of those upgrades through guaranteed energy savings over a ten or twenty year time frame.

Montague town meeting may need to approve additional financing for the expanding scope of work, Abbondanzio said. At present the town is working with a ceiling of \$750,000 in authorized borrowing see MONTAGUE pg 12

see MONTAGUE pg 12

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Expected Loss of State Aid May Complicate FY'12 Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – An anticipated decline in state aid may cost the town of Gill up to \$50,000 on next year's 'cherry sheet,' a loss that selectboard member Ann Banash said would be "devastating" to the town.

The board discussed the potential loss of state aid in the context of preparing guidelines for town departments, in advance of next year's budget deliberations.

Although budget makers on Beacon Hill dodged a bullet last week when voters decisively rejected a statewide ballot initiative to reduce the state sales tax from 6.25% to 3% – which would have deprived the state of about 2.5 billion in revenue – still, with the loss of one time federal stimulus funds, and not much prospect of any more help from Washington, Massachusetts is facing an estimated \$2 billion deficit heading into the next fiscal year.

"They're talking about a 20% reduction in state aid," said Banash, "even though tax revenues are higher than anticipated." If the town of Gill loses 20% of the approximately \$245,000 in

state aid that came its way from the state last year, that would tear \$49,000 from its balance sheet.

"There would definitely be a large reduction in town services if that comes to pass," said Banash.

Nonetheless, the selectboard gave approval to administrative coordinator Ray Purington to look into options for handling dog control complaints, and fire chief Gene Beaubien's request to work up a cost estimate for renovating an unused storage space above the radio room at the fire station for "situational training."

Purington said there have been a few incidents lately when dogs have been wandering loose, or have been found to be unlicensed, in violation of the town's dog control bylaw and the state dog licensing law. The town's bylaw stipulates that dogs be "under the control of their owner," when off their own property.

Since Gill does not have an animal control officer at present, Purington said such complaints are now handled by the town clerk trying to contact the dogs' owners, or by the police trying to round the loose dogs up.

Purington said the topic of shared animal control services is on the agenda of the next Franklin County selectboard association meeting, on November 18th.

Beaubien came before the selectboard to seek approval to contact the county building inspector for an opinion about the structural integrity of an upper storage room at the fire station, in advance of getting cost estimates and a plan together for renovating that space into a situational training room. The department hopes to use the space, which would require the installation of a partial floor, to train new firefighters to climb ladders, clear obstructions, and conduct rescue operations in a smoke filled room.

Purington said money from the annual emergency management fund, which relies on a yearly donation of \$7,500 from Vermont Yankee, would be put toward the cost of renovating the space, if the selectboard agrees to the final plan.

In other news, the board approved taking out a short term loan for \$190,002 for the 12-acre Mariamante property at the Greenfield Coop Bank, at 1.12%

interest, at the recommendation of treasurer Ronnie LaChance. The town has paid off about \$50,000 in the principal of the original purchase price of the Mariamante property.

A meeting with Native American tribal representatives, the Indian County Conservancy, and Mount Grace Land Trust, about purchasing and permanently preserving that land, which is suspected to contain Native burials, has still not been scheduled.

The board approved Beaubien's request to spend up to \$1,600 to purchase new tires for Engine #2, an amount based on a quote from Pete's Tire Barn. The fire chief will seek a second quote from Lodge Tire.

The town spent \$8,000 from the NMH fund to purchase an 160 gallon tank with an integrated five gallon foam cell to retrofit a state surplus pick-up truck into Gill's new brush truck. That new tank arrived on Saturday.

Coincidentally, Purington told the board, the annual \$10,000 donation from Northfield Mount Hermon toward the town of Gill's police and fire services arrived on Monday, to replenish that account.

Purington said he planned to schedule a meeting soon with NMH CFO Rick Wood to "discuss future years," and the private school's contribution to Gill's emergency service departments.

MONTAGUE SEWER BILLS MAILED

The first half of the Fiscal '11 sewer use bills were mailed on October 28th and are due by Monday, November 29th, 2010.

Town of Montague residents can pay sewer bills online. To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand and go to www.montague.net, click on departments, treasurer/collector, online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. We now accept credit cards for online payments only. Please

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To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment. Any new owner not in receipt of a sewer bill should contact the tax collectors' office at 863-3200, ext. #202. The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Gill-Montague OKs Compromise Budget

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

In advance of the special district budget setting meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee Tuesday approved a budget compromise to reduce town assessments by \$235,000. The school committee agreed to take that additional amount out of the district's excess and deficiency (reserve) fund, to bring down the town of Montague's and Gill's contribution toward the overall level funded \$16,408,162 district operating budget for FY '11.

The compromise budget will be placed on the warrant for the special district meeting to be held on November 18th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School. The town of Montague will be asked at that meeting to contribute an extra \$200,000 from reserves to bridge the gap between what Montague town officials have said the town can afford and what the district has said it needs to operate the

schools this school year.

All told, the school committee has now agreed to contribute a total of \$586,596 from the district's excess and deficiency (E&D) funds. The district had previously approved the use of \$351,000 of E&D funds to reduce town assessments, and the committee appeared set to vote to approve the additional sum, but were stopped from voting by district business manager Lynn Bassett, because the E&D funds have not yet been certified by the state Department of Revenue.

Bassett said she expects the certification to be complete "any day," but the school committee cannot vote to expend additional funds from the E&D account until that happened. The school committee agreed that an amendment would be offered at the district meeting, to include the additional use of E&D funds.

The school committee's motion will support a total

assessment for the towns of \$8,587,811 (less debt). This breaks down to \$7,238,066 for Montague, a 3% increase from last year, and \$1,349,745 for Gill, a decrease of 1.6%. The reduction to Gill reflects changes, in part, in students enrolled in district schools from that town.

The compromise budget for FY '11 adheres to the recently approved compact for fiscal stability between the towns and the schools. Committee member Jenn Waldron of Gill said, "I'm hoping this will be a new beginning for us and the towns, with each of us giving a little bit. I feel we're all working together."

On Thursday, Gill finance committee chair Tupper Brown said a letter from the district's state legislators arrived, "Extremely supportive of the work done in the compact plan and very optimistic of the numbers the plan contains regarding Chapter 70 funding."

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B Sixth Plays with Turners Falls

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Add F, G, and D to B flat and what do you get? One very mellow outdoor sound garden.

Powered by the sun, the 20 Sun Boxes in Craig Colorusso's audio installation took their places on the lawn of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday. The clouds scudded off and the sun came out to play - well, literally in this case - a moody and resonant B flat sixth.

The small sound boxes, built neatly out of birch ply by Colorusso, who lives in Hingham and moonlights as a carpenter when he isn't making sun powered sound scapes, each contained a sound board with one of those four notes prerecorded on an endless loop. As the clouds moved away and the sun struck the photovoltaic panel on each box in turn, the notes played softly, then louder as the sunlight grew stronger.

Sometimes the individual notes shone forth strongly, some growing in magnitude, some fading away. Occasionally, the notes resolved into the entire chord, but rarely. More often, it was like some Moody Blues album, *In Search of the Lost B Flat Sixth*.

"I wanted something uplifting," said Colorusso, a former rock musician, who used to live in Northampton and play with a band called China Pig. "I settled on the B flat sixth. I wanted the whole thing to resolve, but not as quickly as a B flat. I wanted there to be just enough information for people to stop think about their lives."

The music escaped the confines of the field and floated down the brick lined walks and blocks of the Avenue, lending an unusually mellow vibe to downtown. Boys skated by on skateboards, bike riders pulled up to

hear what was happening. Some people came by on purpose; others wandered by unaware and stopped to meander through the field, as if drawn by some giant musical magnet.

A flock of starlings in the overhanging oak tree whistled in harmony as the wind rattled the dry leaves in percussive counterpoint. Then the birds took off en masse, withdrawing their music from Colorusso's ad hoc symphony. The river continued to add its own music, a susurrant, sibilant tone like a dryad blowing continuously over the top of a fluid Pan pipe, from the walls of the nearby canal.

It all worked together, the sound of traffic, the sound of birds and wind and water, the sound of the sun playing with its boxed xylophone - quite wonderful.

Sun Boxes return to Turners Falls, courtesy of RiverCulture, for



(L-R) Lucille and Penelope Pletcher enjoyed the Sun Box display on Saturday.

two more weekends - from November 12th - 14th, (sun permitting) in Peskeompskut Park (11:00 a.m. - sundown) and November 19th - 21st, same

time at the beginning of the bike path, near Unity Park. This is an experience hard to describe but easy to experience. Go listen.

Lisa's HANDCRAFTED Soap Comes to 3rd Street



Lisa Adams holds a vintage photo of her store when it used to be a bar.

BY JOHN FURBISH - Lisa's Handcrafted Soap, a new specialty shop is now open for business at 100 3rd Street. As Lisa Zawinski Adams was growing up, her father always pointed out the charms of their village, Turners Falls, and now this Lake Pleasant resident has come back downtown to set up shop.

Adams graduated from Turners Falls High School, and got a degree in graphic design from San Diego State University. But her practical education in soap making began from circumstance, when she found that fac-

tory-produced soaps were bad for her skin.

Remembering the lye soap made by her grandmother, raised on a Northfield farm, Adams took a course in soap making on Cape Cod 13 years ago, that changed the direction of her life. With more research, and by trial and error, she mastered the craft of making additive-free soap that moistens the skin instead of drying it out.

For years, Adams tried selling her product at craft fairs and farmers markets. But as she kept improving her soaps with more

costly ingredients from across the globe, she decided she would have to sell her wares through a regular business to find commercial success.

Adams has been active in the community as a member of town meeting, and a girls softball coach. Now, with her stepson growing up, it seemed natural for Adams to set out to make her own mark in Turners Falls. She and her husband, contractor Robert Adams, bought an old apartment house on 3rd Street, gutted the first floor unit, and have now completely remodeled it into a cozy storefront to create Lisa's Handcrafted Soap, a small workshop, museum, and sales gallery conveniently located half a block south from the Avenue.

The first archeological traces of soap date from Babylon, where a soap-like material was found in clay cylinders dating to 2800 BC. Native Americans may have discovered their own version of soap by tossing unused animal parts with fire ash into river water, and voilà a new, useful amalgam appeared.

The basic ingredients of soap are fats or oils and lye. Modern day commercial soap makers too often shave production costs by using cheap tallow (beef fats) to consume the alkali, and put in too

much glycerin, so commercial soaps habitually fail to moisturize the skin.

Lisa's Handmade Soaps are more organic than industrially produced bar soaps. They have a distinct, unique character that avoids synthetic chemicals in favor of natural coloring and fragrances. Adam's soaps clean your skin, and do not smother it with chemical additives. Her soaps smell naturally fresh, and leave your skin smelling the same way.

Her recipes are basic and simple. No tallow. She chooses high quality oils such as patchouli (East India), lime (Mexico), cade and pomace olive oil (Spain), cocoa butter and shea butter (Ghana), and petitgrain (Paraguay), along with other essential oils, fragrances, and colorants.

Check out the display of Adams' storage jars in the storefront cabinet. You'll see proof of the natural origin of many of her ingredients in the bulk quantities of lavender (imported from Bulgaria), St. Johnswort, chamomile, comfrey leaf, bentonite clay, rosehips, arnica flowers, and rolled oats. Ask her to explain how she combines these ingredients in her soaps.

Adam's store has the old timey feel of a country museum, with a lot of Americana on display. The walls are adorned with metal signs from back in the day of buggies and early automobiles, advertising Woodbury Facial Soap, Twenty Mule Team Borax, Renee's Magic Oil, and my favorite, Grandpa's

Wonder Soap. She's got a wooden Milford Soap Box on display.

Her more modern wares are arranged on wooden tables and open cabinets. There are soy and beeswax candles and candle kits (with soap-making kits soon to come). Candles and soap can be purchased in matching scents or colors. There are handmade cards for all occasions, bath tea, packets and sachets of herbs, creams and lotions, and of course different-sized cakes of handmade soap.

Right now, her inventory includes ten varieties, but new soaps appear almost weekly. Check out the Checkerboard Cake (cake of soap that is) - you can purchase some by the slice. In honor of Adam's nine-year old daughter, an extra-gentle "Baby Line" for youngsters will soon be added.

A framed photograph shows the same storefront space way back when it was utilized as a bar, probably in the days before Prohibition. A hutch on the west wall displays a half dozen shadow boxes relating to soap and cleanliness from the "Arnie Collection," and folk art of six "clapboard paintings" of local scenes by Adams' grandmother.

The store is open 9:00 - 6:00 on weekdays.

At home and at work, Lisa tries to conserve and recycle. If you bring in eight half-gallon milk cartons (to use as molds), she will give you a free bar of soap. A lift for handicapped accessibility will soon be constructed at the front of Lisa's shop. A soon to be announced grand opening, with giveaways and samples, a "Melt-and-Pour" soap-making session for kids, expanded hours, and more.

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Making Fire with Friction

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREAT FALLS - Saturday afternoon, while the sun made music on the field and the river whispered a melodious tune nearby, a foreman from All Set Concrete working on the massive bridge repair job paused on his rounds and stopped his pickup long enough to peer out the window at a curious sight. There, by the access road to the canal, a small group of parents and children were struggling to make fire with bow drills and cattail fluff, under the expert guidance of a young man wearing black nylon pants and just one shoe.

Local business owners in Turners worried before bridge construction began that the traffic detours would set the town's economic revival back. But nobody imagined we might be returning to the Stone Age.

Still, just in case, Chris Poulin's workshop on fire making by friction at the Great Falls Discovery Center drew 17 apprentices to try their hands at spinning a red cedar spindle in a notched hole in a cedar hearth board with a hand bow. Spin the spindle fast enough while pressing down on top with a small bearing block, and the force com-

biner with friction to heat up the hearth board, and, if you get the hang of it, grind enough cedar fiber into powder in the notched groove to form a glowing ember.

Transfer that glowing ember on a dry oak leaf to a small handheld pile of cattail fluff, or the separated fibers of red cedar bark, and then blow gently on the smoldering ember. If the wind doesn't blow too hard and the tinder is dry enough, in a moment or two, as if by magic, tongues of flame burst into bloom between your cupped hands. From that point, warmth, food, and civilization are all possible.

"This is part of your natural heritage," said Poulin, earnestly, as his audience gathered in a small circle around him. "This is one of dozens of primitive fire making techniques - the bow and drill is the most common type you'll see. At some point in the past, one of your ancestors had to do this in order to survive. It's your right to learn these skills and become proficient in them."

Poulin said he learned the skill of fire making by friction from students of an elderly Apache grandfather who was associated with the Vermont Wilderness School. He said he spent years

staring at a computer screen like other Morlocks of the modern age. "Then I said, 'What am I doing with my life?' and I went outside."

Now, Poulin works as an intern in another primitive trade, journalism, at the Hadley office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and teaches "animal tracking, how to make things with natural materials, what's good to eat in the woods..." and how to make fire without matches.

After a bit, Poulin got down to business, and upended a black garbage bag full of separated cedar fibers for tinder, and ten sets of bows and spindles, blocks and hearth boards, which he passed out to workshop participants, and few stray passersby. He set up shop on the concrete sidewalk, because the field was wet from recent rain. Starting fire by friction is a difficult skill to master, and it can be much more challenging in wet weather or winter snow.

"I spent many days walking around in the woods picking up different wood and plants, trying to find what might work best," for fire making. "You can make fire with many combinations of



Chris Poulin makes fire as our ancient ancestors once did, as Peter Conway (far left) and other workshop participants look on.

wood." But Poulin finds red cedar works very well for the fire board; birch bark (with a flammable oil inside) works very well added to the tinder of dry cattail fluff or friable cedar fibers. He uses parachute cord for stringing the short, straight bow, tied fairly taut with a half hitch at two notched ends. He uses parachute cord for his shoelaces, for that matter, so he'll have some handy if need be, when he's out in the woods. He notches the fire board with a jackknife, but he's used chipped stone with success, and

could manage without any modern implements if need be.

"You can string the bow with corded natural fiber," he added.

He took off one shoe and knelt down to demonstrate the proper technique for making the ember. Poulin said he gets better purchase on the fire board when he's barefoot or sock foot.

Then, with the spindle twisted once in the string, hold the bow horizontal to the ground with your dominant hand, he told his audience, and tuck the crook of

see **FRICION** pg 13



Mark Hildreth, (l-r) Louise Krieger and Kip Fonsh in the Country Players Love, Sex & the IRS

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Bob Delaney, in his first time out directing for the Country Players, pulled off a small masterpiece of pacing and slapstick comedy with this week's offering - *Love, Sex and the IRS*. Because this is a family newspaper, we cannot reveal some of the tawdrier details of the plot.

Oh, what the heck, at the risk of spoiling everything, how likely do you think it is for two men filing jointly on their tax return from an apartment in New York to get away with it? This is, after all, New York City, not Boston.

Well, throw in a little Mung Powder Stew, a bottle of scotch, and anything can happen, and in Delaney's tightly wound production of William van Zandt's summer stock theater classic, it does.

Prepare yourself for a fine night out, in the company of some very funny actors and actresses, and one very fine actor

acting as an actress. That would be Mark Hildreth, who brings a devil-in-a-Salvation-Army-dress dazzle to his role as Leslie, as convincing a leading lady impersonator as we've seen on the Shea stage since Michael Haley trod the boards as Lady Jane Wilde. The only trouble is he inhabits the role so well, it's hard to see why the IRS would have any doubts about his gender. Hildreth maintains a smart, Matthew Broderick-like insouciance throughout, making for a performance a cut far above your average odd couple farce.

Kip Fonsh plays Floyd Spinner, a rat terrier of a man, determined to ferret out any hanky panky on the government forms he's paid to audit. But loosen his leash and ply him with scotch and he's a man like any other, just a bit smarmier.

Cristen Rosinski plays Kate, the lass that causes Spinner's functionary eye to wander, while

she adroitly plays Leslie's affections off against her fiancée's. It's a balancing act that might overwhelm a lesser actress, but she handles complexities in romance like a chef handles complications in a recipe, stirring it up with spice, and ladling on the sauce.

Her soon-to-be-husband Jon, (Chris Patten), is cool under pressure, and the perfect foil for the antics of his roommate and for the motley crew of extras who swirl around the four main protagonists - not least among these the sublimely gross Paul Rothenberg as the building's manager and resident chauvinist pig, Mr. Jansen. He's so gross he's beautiful. I wonder what he would look like in a wig?

Three cheers for the Country Players for bringing this rollicking, fast paced comedy to the Shea, and for Delaney for dishing up such a delightful offering from such excellent main ingredients.

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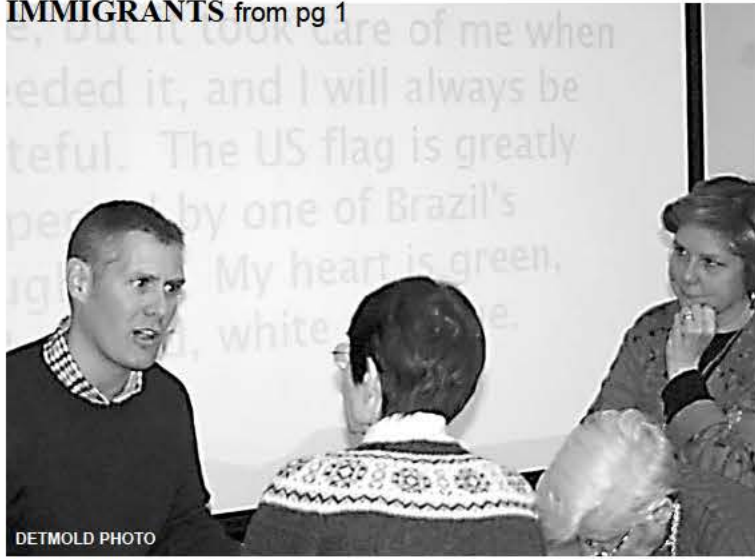
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IMMIGRANTS from pg 1



DETMOULD PHOTO
Jim Ayres speaks to symposium attendee Carroll Pettengill Thursday at Greenfield Community College, as Sandy Thomas (far right) looks on.

statewide. Ayres said the immigrants who turn up at the Center for New Americans English immersion classes in Greenfield, Northampton, and Amherst run the gamut from college grads with specialized training to people who left their home countries

with less than a second grade education – people who are not literate even in their native tongues. Eighty percent of recent immigrants in Western Massachusetts are “low income people,” Ayres said, with a mixture of legal statuses, including refugees from political or religious persecution, people with documents allowing them to be in this country, and people who are here without such documents.

In Greenfield, more than half

of recent immigrants are from Eastern Europe, Ayres said. Many of these are evangelical Christians fleeing a kind of “passive persecution” from the dominant Russian and Romanian Orthodox churches in Moldova. Ayres said in Moldova, evangelical Baptists are discriminated against in jobs and education. They now flock to the Moldovan Baptist Church on Federal Street in Greenfield, where more than 200 families worship. According to Center for New Americans volunteer Mary Ellen Preston, Moldovans are well represented on the honor roll and soccer team at Greenfield High School and Middle School.

Most other recent Franklin County immigrants are coming here from Latin America and Asia, while very few come from Africa, the Middle East or elsewhere.

In Hampshire County, Latin Americans make up the bulk of recent immigrants, and many of these come from El Salvador, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Brazil, seeking economic opportunity. “They say you can’t have a meal out in Hampshire County without someone from El Salvador or Ecuador helping to bring it to your table,” Ayres said.

In Turners Falls, a Latin American immigrant community from Guatemala and southern Mexico is well established, Ayres said. The Puerto Rican community came earlier, but Ayres places them in an ambiguous category of immigrants. Since Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States,

immigrants from that island did not actually come here from another country.

Many of the restaurant workers at local Chinese restaurants come to Franklin and Hampshire County from a New York employment agency that takes a cut of their pay. These and many other groups of immigrants striving for economic opportunity often work in kitchens or at the night shifts in hospitals or factories, contributing to their sense of isolation. These “pioneer” immigrants are cut off from their families at home and from their new communities, and wind up feeling “invisible.”

Risky Case spoke of the time when Greenfield had only two African American families living in town. “People used to talk about being absorbed in the culture,” she recalled. “That’s not true anymore. The culture is not as simple as it used to be.”

Ayres’ organization, which got its start about 20 years ago from a project initiated by the English as a Second Language program at Greenfield Community College in response to the influx of Tibetan refugees to Hampshire and Franklin County, works to counteract the isolation of immigrants. “We help them learn English and understand the culture and become involved in their new communities,” Ayres said. “They typically are not coming from English-speaking cultures.”

When he asked about the immigrant background of the Franklin County seniors sitting in the symposium, only one raised her hand to say she was born in a foreign country – Canada. But when he asked how many of their ancestors were native to this continent, none raised their hand either – there were no Native Americans in the crowd. More than half of the seniors in the room had ancestors who emigrated from Western Europe; nearly an equal number had family roots in Eastern Europe – none came from other parts of the globe.

Ayres said immigrant groups (including those represented by the seniors at the symposium) often display a “last one in, shut the door” attitude toward new arrivals, even if America’s history is one long patchwork of such transplants. And we tend to view the past of our own immigrant groups in rosy terms.

Ayres paraphrased common themes: “We spoke English right when we landed. We made friends right away. We integrated. Why don’t these groups assimilate?” But the challenges of assimilation for newcomers are as severe now as they were for the Polish, or the Irish or Italians when they arrived on these shores.

“The Irish came here to escape famine,” pointed out one symposium attendee.

“So did the French Canadians,” said another, not to be outdone.

“So did the Polish,” called out a third.

“OK, let’s move on,” said Ayres.

Ayres said the American Dream of personal liberty, freedom from persecution, and upward economic mobility is still very real, but for immigrants it is often a dream deferred to the second generation.

“We know doctors who literally sweep the floor in the hospital as they work to get re-documented.” Accredited health professionals often re-enter the workforce in America as nurses, Ayres said, because the wait would just be too long to get relicensed in their original fields of specialization.

The Center for New Americans works with PhDs and immigrants with elementary school education, all in the same class. There is no set curriculum for its English immersion classes. “We ask our students, every single week, ‘What do you want to learn? Who do you want to speak to?’ Time pressure on new refugees is really strong,” to be able to get and keep new jobs.

Often the language classes begin by helping to interpret and enunciate useful phrases. “Paper or plastic?” Ayres said, “We help them understand what that means.”

Ayres, who said he has a couple of New Americans of his own, with a 4-year-old and a 7-month-old keeping him up at nights, showed a photo of 20 new immigrants getting sworn in as naturalized citizens at an outdoor ceremony in Northampton on July 4th.

“We thought it was the perfect way to celebrate the Fourth of July,” he said.



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LIVING from pg 1

lations, which require hot running water, septic systems and electricity for fire alarms.

Jonathan von Ranson asked the board to support their quest to live using less energy. "Let us know how to make it happen," he said.

At this meeting, health agent Elizabeth Swedberg responded to the von Ransons by listing her concerns with their proposal. She provided the von Ransons, the board, and attendees with copies of sections of the CMR, the 1997 Massachusetts Board of Health Guidebook, and a composting toilet manual, with relevant text highlighted on each copy.

Swedberg's concerns with the von Ranson proposal included:

- Under 105 CMR 410.840, the board does not have the authority to give a variance for the non-electric residence proposal.

- Their proposal does not explicitly comply with the requirements of 105 CMR 410.750 (A) through (O), which enumerates conditions deemed to endanger or impair health or safety.

- The Gap Mountain composting toilet is rated for a temperature of 55 degrees Celsius for 6 hours and does not meet the standard of Title 5 that requires a

temperature of 55 degrees Celsius for 3 days to control pathogenic organisms.

A fact-checking search of Title 5 regulations, 310 CMR 15.000 found no temperature requirements for composting toilets. The 55 degrees for 3 days standard is found in a fact sheet on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection website, www.mass.gov/dep/water/waste/water/septicsy.htm#ia.

Swedberg said local boards "are very responsible to enforce the codes," and can be more stringent than the CMR, but "we cannot act less than the state regulations." She also said, "I do not feel comfortable as a health agent to go under the minimum standards."

Jonathan von Ranson said by taking carbon emissions into consideration, their proposal was more stringent than the CMR.

"The sanitary code is lax about energy use. We're trying to reduce our energy use. There are more efficient ways to reach those goals" enumerated in the CMR.

The letter the von Ransons presented to the board states, "The methods proposed are based on a broader conception of local and planetary public health and safety than the code-given

methods, which consume energy and damage health and safety in their manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and dependency on energy delivered over fragile international supply lines."

In their letter, the von Ransons list requirements (A) through (O) of 105 CMR 410.750 and the methods they plan to use to meet those requirements. Jonathan von Ranson told the board their plan differs from the code, but does provide the necessities of potable water, hot water, lighting, and safe disposal of human wastes.

Swedberg suggested the von Ransons live simply in their current house by not using the electricity in that house or by minimizing electricity use there. "You could be a model for the average Joe," she said.

Jonathan von Ranson replied it would be "more elegant to make a break from electricity" in a house specifically designed to be non-electric. Susan von Ranson explained that their well is too far from the house to allow use of a hand pump. Jonathan von Ranson said retrofitting a non-electric hot water system in the current home would be very difficult.

Board of health chair Lonny Ricketts would not allow any of

the four other attendees to speak, citing the state's open meeting law, and saying only those people specifically listed on the posted agenda are allowed to speak at a public meeting. Jonathan von Ranson disputed this interpretation, saying he had read the law and had not found that restriction.

"Better safe than sorry," Ricketts told him.

Jonathan von Ranson told the board, "We would like a definitive statement about where we stand."

Ricketts told him, "We will discuss it and contact you by mail."

After the von Ransons and other attendees left, the board decided to review the material provided and make a decision on the von Ransons' application at the November 23rd board of health meeting.

LBGT Bereavement Group

MONTAGUE CITY - A Lesbian Bisexual Gay and Transgender bereavement group will be held at Franklin County Home Care starting November 30th. This free six-week group offers a safe and welcoming environment for LGBT people to process loss and move forward with their lives. The holidays can be a difficult time for people coping with the loss of a loved one, so this group, open to LGBT people of all ages, will run throughout the holiday season.

If you know someone who has lost a partner, spouse, family member or friend, please share this information. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting November 30th, and ending Tuesday January 18th, 2011, at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road. This facility is wheelchair accessible. To register: contact Beth Prullage, LICSW at 413-695-2236.

ERVING from pg 6

Jacquelyn Boyden chair, Margaret Sullivan vice-chair, and Sharp clerk. The committee set November 22nd as the date for the groundbreaking ceremony, and decided the extra kitchen bathroom was not necessary.

In a related item, the library trustees informed the selectboard they would like to walk through the current senior center on Pleasant Street on November 16th and consider whether the building would be a good location for a new library.

Free Truck

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said the free used truck the state had offered to the fire department would not meet 2009 National Fire Protection Association specifications and it would be costly to upgrade it.

Selectboard member Jaime Hackett said, "I would like to see an itemized list of what's in the fire station," before the fire department gets any more new

equipment.

Goodwin said, "I'd rather wait until we see hard numbers for the retrofit and an inventory list," before accepting the truck.

Sharp told the selectboard the town had an overwhelming response (28 applicants) to the help wanted ad for an entry level position at the wastewater treatment plant. Five finalists will be selected for the selectboard to interview.

Jeff Budine of Forest Street asked the selectboard to clarify his responsibility for his connection to the town sewer. Although the homeowner is usually responsible for the connecting line from the house to the sewer main, it appears that Budine's connection line runs under Forest Street and Moore Street (Route 63). "The pipe runs under a state road which I have no control over," said Budine.

He said it was possible that during recent road repairs conducted by the state, the connec-

tion line was damaged by the heavy equipment moving over it, resulting in his backup. Budine said the department of public works was very helpful during the backup and with searching for the sewer connection. Pete Sanders of the water department said they would be checking into the connection problem further.

Charlene Galenski, principal of Erving Elementary School, asked the selectboard to approve a plan to recycle parts from ten old broken laptop computers to make two or three working laptops. The board voted to declare the ten laptops as surplus so they could be recycled.

The selectboard signed contracts with the Conway School of Design and CSD student Karen Dunn for her uncompensated work on a study of the former Usher Mill property, to evaluate whether a "park-like design" would be appropriate for the location.

Local Food Committee Seeks Members

WENDELL - There's a new official committee in town to promote local, sustainable, food production and exchange, and it has a few seats open for individuals with a passion about feeding our population - ourselves - more locally. As we grapple with fossil fuel decline, transitioning from global agriculture to local will be a critical part of our future.

The Wendell energy committee is forming a subcommittee, with a budget of \$5000, appropriated at the last special

town meeting with the mandate to decide how to best use this money to reduce our dependency on food imported from outside the region and build up the pattern of local food production and exchange.

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BROADBAND from page 1



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jason Whittet (r) addresses the crowd at the Leverett broadband hearing

cussion and divide up Leverett and charge us through the nose?" asked Robert Hallock.

"They're going to milk us for the last mile charges after the federal government provided the investment for the work they wouldn't do," declared Dick Mathhorst. "I want Leverett to put together a coop and do it ourselves."

"Do it!" Whittet urged, as the crowd applauded Mathhorst. Then Whittet continued in a more neutral tone, "Our network is open access. We can't say [to any provider] you can't use it. But we can make sure some big provider doesn't come in and do big cuts and leave the corners."

More people came out to the broadband hearing than the selectboard had seen in a month

of Sundays. Residents spoke of being frustrated living within sight of homes across the border in Amherst with access to high speed internet. Tales of the difficulty of dealing with dial-up access in a town with notoriously spotty telephone service drew supportive groans. Residents wanted a clear explanation from Whittet about why a preliminary map showed the MBI's middle mile fiber running only as far as the elementary school, skipping North Leverett entirely, along with most of Route 63. (He said he was urging engineers to revise that map to route fiber through North Leverett.) Several spoke in favor of immediately surveying all residents in town about the demand and pricing requirements for last mile hook-up.

loops to the target communities in western and central Massachusetts. But it's not quite time to start with surveys in individual towns to see what the demand for hook-ups will be.

Whittet said Leverett had about 650 homes for a population of 1600 people, at an average density of 24 homes per mile. Until MBI brings the middle mile fiber at least to the center of town, the economics of hooking up those households would be daunting for commercial

Not so fast, said Whittet. "We are building 288 strands of fiber. We've already completed the 1-91 backbone" (from Springfield to the Vermont border). Soon, Whittet said, MBI would complete the inventory of 35,000 utility poles needed to begin running fiber in three simultaneous

providers. But once that barrier is removed, then what, if the internet remains an unregulated, open access medium.

Whittet said MBI's approach would be to allow any provider that demonstrates the experience and fiscal capacity necessary to have access to the middle mile fiber, to make the last mile connections to individual homes and businesses. Nowadays, broadband fiber can carry telephone, cable and data, so the last mile provider will inhabit a key niche in the delivery of essential services.

"There are places where wireless is the reality," added Whittet. "If you live off the grid, a mile from a paved road, bringing the last mile of fiber is going to be tremendously difficult."

"Yes, but that's Wendell; this is Leverett," said selectboard member Peter d'Errico, to general amusement.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said, "Leverett should get into it," by forming a municipal department to provide internet service, and tax all residents for the service, so that monthly charges would be zero, thus undercutting the major cable providers. "We should get rid of

Verizon entirely."

Barzeau pointed to the unanimous vote of neighboring Shutesbury on October 26th at a special town meeting, where voters made Shutesbury the first town in Massachusetts to approve forming a telecommunications division to make last mile broadband access available to all residents.

Shutesbury acted on a proposal from Wired West, a recently incorporated municipal cooperative of 47 underserved towns formed with the purpose of providing least cost universal access to high speed internet service for its member towns. To do this, lawyers working with Wired West have determined the best approach would be to use enabling state legislation passed in the 1920s to allow towns to set up their own municipal electric distribution companies, recently amended to allow towns to set up their own telecommunications departments. Towns would need to take two positive town meeting votes to set up a telecommunications department. Wired West representatives were at the Leverett hearing to encourage residents to take that step.



MONTAGUE from pg 6

and about \$305,000 in grants to pay down the total cost of the project.

In other news, the selectboard

- approved a plan to combine positions at the police dispatch center to create a dispatch manager - office administrator post, which will be paid \$19.56 an hour.

- approved a permit for public assembly for the Great Falls Skate Park committee to close the ramps at the temporary skate park, on 11th Street, on Saturday, November 13th, from 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and then lead a procession of skaters on public sidewalks to Williams Way, next to Unity Park, the planned home of the permanent skate park. Once there, the skaters will view plans

for the new park.

- approved use of public property for the Montague parks and recreation commission to hold the annual January 1st 10-K Sawmill River road race. Parks and rec director Jon Dobosz said the race would begin at 10:00 a.m. and wind down around 11:30, with registration and refreshments centered on the Montague Grange. But when the selectboard tried to specify which part of the public's property would be permitted for the race, Dobosz said, "It encompasses most of the village of Montague," which is quite true. The race, now 20 years old, follows a course down Greenfield Road, to Meadow Road, to Old Sunderland Road, and back to the common.

For more information, call 413-863-3216.



RINDONE from pg 1

Greenfield, including the massive road relocation at the Erving Paper mill.

The section of Route 2 from the border of Orange west to Mountain Road will be dedicated to Rindone, including the Erving Paper mill bypass, with its massive stone retaining walls.

According to several speakers, Rindone's personality was a key to his effectiveness. Brewer praised Rindone's dedication to quality, saying he was "always adding that cherry on top of the ice cream sundae, always adding class."

Paiewonsky commented on Rindone's ability to focus. "He did not let up on details, he would not accept vague commitments."

Robert Andrews, vice-chair of the Orange selectboard and current Route 2 task force chair, said he respected the energy Rindone brought to his projects.

Sharp said what he liked best about Rindone was "his smile - he had the ability to make you feel good inside." Charles Ponusky, Rindone's Athol High

School classmate, also remarked that Rindone had "a great smile - he could light up a room."

At the time of Rindone's passing, Sharp said, "The man was a giant. He was one of the few individuals I have known that without holding state office was nevertheless able to influence state decisions, and I mean that most respectfully."

Among those attending the ceremony were Rindone's

widow, Sandra Rindone, representative Chris Donelan (D-Orange), representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst), and Natalie Blais, representing congressman John Olver (D-Amherst).

Paiewonsky said signs reading "Dennis E. Rindone Roadway" will be installed on Route 2 this week.



STEVE YOUNG PHOTO

Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre), (l-r) Representative Chris Donelan (D-Orange), Sandra Rindone, Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst).

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — *Q. What foods are good for keeping your cholesterol down?*

Oatmeal contains soluble fiber that reduces your low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the bad cholesterol that can increase your risk of heart attacks and strokes. This type of fiber is also found in such foods as kidney beans, Brussels sprouts, apples, pears, barley and prunes.

There are other foods that work against cholesterol. These include soy protein, walnuts and fatty fish.

Soy protein is found in tofu, soy nuts, soy milk and soy burgers.

Walnuts can significantly reduce cholesterol and may also help keep blood vessels more healthy and elastic.

Omega-3 fatty acids in fish are noted for lowering triglycerides, another form of fat in your blood. The highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids are in mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, albacore tuna and salmon. Other good sources of omega-3 fatty acids include flaxseed, walnuts, canola oil and soybean oil.

Of course, if you're a geezer and you plan to make a change in your habits that could affect your health, it is recommended that you consult your doctor first.

Q. What is the most popular drug in the USA?

Caffeine. About 90 percent of Americans consume caffeine daily. More than half of all American adults consume more than 300 milligrams of caffeine every day.

Caffeine occurs naturally in many plants, including coffee beans, tea leaves and cocoa nuts. It is therefore found in a wide range of food products. Caffeine is added artificially to many others, including a variety of beverages. The most common sources of caffeine for Americans are coffee, tea, colas, chocolate and some over-the-counter medications.

Here are some useful numbers to help you determine how much caffeine you take in:

- A 6-ounce cup of coffee — 100 mg
- A 6-ounce cup of tea — 70 mg
- A 12-ounce can of cola — 50 mg

An ounce of chocolate — 6 mg

One tablet of Extra Strength Excedrin — 65mg

One tablet of Anacin — 32 mg

One tablet of Maximum Strength NoDoz — 200 mg

For most people, 200 to 300 milligrams a day of caffeine aren't harmful. But, if you are sensitive to caffeine, you may want to cut down or eliminate caffeine from your diet.

Q. How long has marijuana been used medicinally?

Marijuana refers to the parts of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, which has been used for medicinal purposes for more than 4,800 years. Doctors in ancient China, Greece and Persia used it as a pain reliever and for gastrointestinal disorders and insomnia.

Cannabis as a medicine was common throughout most of the world in the 1800s. It was used as the primary pain reliever until the invention of aspirin. The United States, in effect, made prescriptions for Cannabis illegal through the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937.

One of marijuana's medical uses is for the treatment of nausea. It can improve mild to moderate nausea caused by cancer chemotherapy and help reduce nausea and weight loss in people with AIDS.

Glaucoma increases pressure in the eyeball, which can lead to vision loss. Smoking marijuana reduces pressure in the eyes. Your doctor can prescribe other medications to treat glaucoma, but these can lose their effectiveness over time.

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

COSTS from page 5

near future are removal of debris inside the buildings, which Jensen categorized as a mix of "trash, paper rolls and pallets." Abbondanzio said one estimate of the amount of debris inside the main buildings still needing to be removed equaled "nine truckloads, at a cost of \$1,500 each." Abbondanzio told the selectboard cleaning out the buildings is not a high priority at the moment, but the building inspector said he would like to see the buildings cleaned out.

Mike Brown, head of the Turners Falls Water Department, has raised concerns about the state of the exposed water pipes at the mill. Many of them are quite old, and prone to fail. Jensen said the exposed pipes are heat taped and insulated, in most instances. He said the sprinkler system is functioning, at least this week. Jensen said there was a recent break in an underground water pipe at the mill, which the water department fixed.

"We had a major sprinkler repair last winter that cost a couple of thousand. The sprinkler system is now in a state of repair that is actually better than it was when we first installed it," Jensen said.

Following the May 26th, 2007 arson fire that destroyed Building

#11 at the mill, Montague town meeting appropriated \$300,000 to repair the roofs on two adjoining buildings, and to convert the sprinklers to a dry release system.

Olsen said the town has now spent all but \$1,079 of that \$300,000.

So, taxpayers may be asking, what is the plan?

The town is readying a request for proposals for the Strathmore. But a recent RFP for the Montague Center School, issued in May and due in August, and targeted to 400 developers who might have interest in an empty brick building in relatively good condition in Montague with a specific market study attached got no bites at all.

"The market is horrendous," said Abbondanzio.

"We're still at the bottom," agreed board chair Pat Allen. "It's a terrible time for any of this. I really have no idea at this point what we can do."

Allen said it may be time for the town to consider a phased approach to redeveloping the Strathmore, perhaps starting with the building that since the fire stands by itself, closest to the Southworth Mill.

"The big thing," the town is preparing for the Strathmore Mill, at this stage, Abbondanzio said, is a planning exercise called

a charette, sort of a community brainstorm, which will be conducted on December 1st by members of the Urban Land Institute. That day, at no charge to the town, representatives from this well respected planning institute will travel out from Boston to conduct a day long series of interviews with community stakeholders to help the town refine the nearly completed RFP for Strathmore.

But Abbondanzio said he is well aware the cost of redeveloping the Strathmore may be nearly prohibitive, in any market. "The question is, will the potential use be attractive enough for someone to take that on."

In 2005, before the fire left a mountain of asbestos tainted debris in the middle of the mill complex, the towns hired FXM Marketing to do a study of redevelopment costs at the Strathmore. Their report came back: it would cost about \$14 million to bring the place up to code and make it ready for tenancy, about \$12 million more than market rate rents could support at that time.

Abbondanzio said the town is aware of the difficulty posed by those daunting costs, and has applied for a state Public Works Economic Grant for removing the contaminated debris left over

from the fire, and also to replace or renovate the condemned footbridge that would provide the main access to the parking challenged mill from Canal Street. The town hopes to hear back by the end of the month on the PWEG application.

"Our biggest problem with Strathmore [in applying for PWEG funding], we don't have a project in final design, and we needed something to make it more viable," said Abbondanzio. "On the other hand, without the pedestrian bridge, the project is a non-starter."

Abbondanzio said First Light Power has inherited a nearly 100-year old deed, which expires next

April, agreeing to maintain the footbridge. That deed was originally held between Keith Paper Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, or its corporate ancestor. But "the utility has backed away," from honoring that commitment, said Abbondanzio, and has offered to turn the bridge over to the town.

"The neighboring tenants, Southworth and Turners Falls Hydro have potable water, sewer and telephone lines," suspended from that footbridge, Abbondanzio pointed out. "We have issues with the people there right now."



FRICION from pg 9

your other hand (the inside of your wrist) tight against your bent knee, to bear down forcefully on the block and spindle.

"You need stable architecture and a stable body. Slowly move the bow back and forth to get the feel of it. Then speed up." Within seconds, smoke rose from Poulin's fire board.

From a safe distance, the All Set foreman watched incredulously, then drove off to continue fixing the bridge.

"By the time they were ten years old, indigenous people of this continent were able to make

fire and survive on their own," said Poulin, as he laid aside his tools to help others in the crowd experiment.

"I'm going to buy a lighter," said Brian McCue, as his son looked on doubtfully.

But after a while, more progress was made, and a number of the workshop participants were able to make smoke. Some got as far as trying to bring the glowing ember to the tinder.

Once they get the hang of it, smelting of iron, forging of steel, and major bridge repairs are all just a matter of time.



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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 32: Birthday Party For Birthday Betty

JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON
MONTAGUE CENTER – The adoring guests huddled in a circle as the birthday girl stumbled over to the pile of gifts. “Baby Betty — open this one!” called her grandmother.

“We should stop calling her Baby Betty, now that she’s turned one,” Nell reminded her mother.

Betty ripped apart the wrapping and extracted a shiny bright orange and gold jumpsuit bearing the label “EcoSprouts.”

“Could I have a look at that?” Jane asked. It was, as she’d suspected, designed by none other than Beverly Bartlett. The label showed it was made in Honduras,

the fabric was bamboo and silk, and the price on the tag, still faintly visible, read \$79.95.

“I got it at the EcoSprouts boutique downtown,” Nell’s mother said proudly. “The fabric is all organic, and the owner says it was hand-loomed.”

“That one is from Aunt Martha,” Nell said, nudging Betty towards a giant package wrapped in Princess wrapping paper.

What emerged was an elaborate kitchen playset complete with plastic oven, stove, refrigerator and grill, hanging utensils, and plastic pots and pans. To go with it, Betty’s aunt had bought a jar brimming with plastic food — everything from little corn on the cobs to plastic hot dogs and mashed potatoes.

Next, a collapsible baby stroller appeared, followed by a pink plastic Disney Mini Mouse shopping cart, which Betty dutifully pushed around the room and filled with plastic food and toys.

Nell breathed an inward sigh of relief when the guests bid their farewells. Then Jane said “Your

mother needs to stop buying all this stuff for Betty — doesn’t she have a clue about what she needs?”

“She’s only trying to show her love,” Nell answered defensively.

“Well, maybe she should just find another way,” Jane huffed, assessing the peanut butter on the couch and cake crumbs on the floor. Birthday gifts displaced most of the floor space in the living room. All these new additions were especially inconvenient, considering they’d just begun the GGF Stuff Challenge.

“She doesn’t need half of these things,” Jane said, observing that at the moment, Betty preferred playing happily in the pile of shiny ribbons and discarded wrapping paper. “We have a whole basement full of stuff she’s only used for a month or two, and plenty that she’s never played with at all. Plus, you know how I

feel about plastic,” Jane observed.

Nell knew only too well. Ever since learning about the research linking BPA plastics with harmful health effects to children, Jane was on a campaign to rid the house of everything plastic.

“I think it’s time for a tag sale. At least we can pass along all the junk in the basement. It’s funny how all that stuff we couldn’t live without six months ago — the baby Bjorn, the swing, that mobile she loved when we changed her diapers — now I can’t wait to get rid of it.” Jane stated.

By the end of their discussion, Nell and Jane had decided to organize a neighborhood tag sale. That way they could afford to rent the Mill River marketplace downtown and draw a bigger crowd of potential buyers.

- Continued next issue

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT: WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 16th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, to discuss a zoning map amendment to the Water Supply Protection District (Section 9 of the Montague Zoning Bylaws). The proposed area to be included in the Water Supply Protection District encompasses the Zone II aquifer recharge area surrounding the Hannegan Brook well. This source is the backup water supply for the Turners Falls Water District. The boundaries of the district are approximately from the east side of Lake Pleasant to the west side of Route 63 and from mile marker 11 on Route 63 north to the Millers River in Millers Falls.

A map and text of the proposed changes are available for review at the Planning and Conservation Department, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 8:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

UTILITY POLE HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held at the Erving Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th, 2010 on the petition of National Grid and Verizon New England to locate a utility pole opposite 190 Mountain Road.

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~EOE~

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The town of Erving seeks a Facility Maintenance worker. Full time, 40 hours a week. Drivers license and minimum of one year of related experience required. Drug screening, driver background, and CORI checks will be performed. Hourly range of \$14.20 to \$15.18. Applications available at town hall, 12 East Main Street. Deadline 11-24-10 by noon. AA/EOE.

Montague Renaissance Fair Meeting

You were thrilled by the Soapbox Derby. You were amazed at the Pumpkin Fest. Now you can help plan the next incredible event – an annual Renaissance Fair in Montague to take place at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club in Turners Falls (near Roberto’s Pizza on Turners Falls Road) this

Saturday, November 13th, at 3:00 p.m. Everyone who enjoys these kinds of festivals or has ever been involved in creating one is enthusiastically invited to attend. We are considering Saturday, June 18th, 2011 for the festival date. For more info: (413) 522-5366 or mikeybsr@comcast.net.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Break In on French King Highway

Wednesday, 11/3 9:15 a.m. Several bags of trash dumped on River Road by a non-resident.	Port-a-potty at Box Car Restaurant. 11:00 p.m. Report of intoxicated disorderly female at French King Highway. Refused services. Left with sober friend.	disturbance at French King Highway apartments, playing loud music and profanity. Advised to quiet down. 3:45 p.m. Assisted Department of Children and Families with removal of child from a North Street Residence. 9:33 p.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer crash at Route 2 and Old State Road.
Thursday, 11/4 5:40 p.m. Assisted Gill police with an unwanted person at French King Highway residence.	Sunday, 11/7 1:11 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering at a French King Highway residence.	
Saturday, 11/6 1:00 p.m. Tipped over	Monday, 11/8 2:11 p.m. Report of a	


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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Turkey Anyone?* Learn about turkeys from Joe Judd. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse*. Dana & Susan Robinson: original songs on landscape & old time Appalachian mountain music. 7:30 p.m.

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose & Poetry night* with a tribute to the memory of poet Art Stein. Readings of his work followed by an open mic.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*. Blues/roots. 8 to 10 p.m.

Northfield Coffee & Books: *Slate Roof Press tribute to Art Stein's poetry*. Readings and sharing of remembrances. (413) 624-7119.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Francie Jones*. Acoustic, folk. 8:00 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. 9 to 11 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House: Wendell Old Town Hall: *Mawwal*. Dessert-O-Rama & open mic. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, dance party. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Talon of the Blackwater*, folk. 4 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Pat and Tex LaMountain w/ John White*. Americana. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *An Irish Session*. Featuring Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends. 8 to 10 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: PowerTown Music presents *Chip Taylor and Carrie Rodriguez*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS in NOVEMBER
Green Trees Gallery, Northfield: *Focus on Fiber*. Master weavers display and sell their works. Weaving demonstrations 1 to 3 p.m. (413) 498-0283.

FRIDAY to SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th to 13th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Country Players present *Love, Sex and the IRS*. Fri and Sat. 8 p.m. Additional show: Sunday, Nov. 14th at 2 p.m.

THURSDAY to SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11th to 13th
Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *The Merchant of Venice*, Rhodes Arts Center. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Roland Lapierre*, alt country, at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*. 7 to 9 p.m. Free.

Bookmill, Montague: *Murray and Falkenau*, 8 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Short Bus*, Rock & Roll covers.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
Montague Grange: *Montague Scandia Dance*. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Music: Stefan Ohlström, Matt Fichtenbaum,

Andrea Larson & Lydia levins. All levels welcome. www.montaguescandia.org

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bela's Bartok*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*.

Bookmill, Montague: *The Toughcats*, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Bombogenesis* 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 14th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Slope Editions Reading Series* featuring the work of Greenfield's Poet's Seat poet, *Frederick Goddard Tuckerman*. 5 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOV. 15th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m. Free.

Bookmill, Montague: *Therese Soukat Chehade* reads from her new novel, "Loom" 7 p.m. Free.

Bookmill, Montague: *Gwynfyd and Tongue Oven*. Welsh Psych-folk duo: Pamela Wyn Shannon & Eifion Wyn Williams. Traditional songs. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16th
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Shea PYP Series presents Tony Vacca's Rhythm Griots*. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17h
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Quiznite Quiz*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Holiday Craft Fair*. Shop locally & support art. 5 to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18th - 20th
Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Velocity*,



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Bookmill, Montague: *Paper Castles and the Maryse Smith Band*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tobacco Valley Rollers*, honky tonk, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie, Johnny Cash favorites*. 9 to 11 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Hannah's Field*. Gypsy Reggae. 8:00 p.m.

Bookmill, Montague: *Bionaut*. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Outdoor Skills Workshop Series: Cordage Making*. Open to all ages. 1 to 2:30 p.m. 413-863-3221.

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- 3. SAW 3D R DAILY 3:00 9:30**
- 3. RED PG13 DAILY 12:00 7:00**
- 4. SECRETARIAT PG**
DAILY 12:15 3:15
- 4. SOCIAL NETWORK PG13**
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- 5. DUE DATE R**
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:30 9:30
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION *November Garden*

ocean on Columbus Day weekend, crying up high both day and night.

It's time, I think. The crops have been harvested and the garlic cloves tucked into rich, moist soil. Despite the drop in temperature, the soil can still be worked easily, so it's not too late to plant some spring flowering

bulbs to signal the new season.

Crocuses and daffodils are the easiest, least fussy and least attractive to underground creatures. For a small bit of labor, these bulbs will reward you with bloom and some with scent for years to come. Plant at a depth of the size of the bulb: two to three inches for crocus bulbs; six or so for daffodils.

Daffodils grown for naturalizing can be planted anywhere there is room for them to double

or triple in size. My favorites are scattered through the woods at the edge of the yard where they come on before the trees leaf, producing a wonderful early spring bouquet.

Over 30 plus years here, I've planted a couple hundred of several varieties. This led to a succession of blooms that lasts several weeks in spring, unless we get an unseasonable burst of heat.

I've taken down the purple mum and have hung my bird feeder again. Of course, there is plenty of natural food on offer, seeds and berries, but in the damp, dark cold the chickadees are grateful, the titmice attend, and this morning a pair of cardinals appeared.

Nonetheless, the seed level in the feeder seemed to drop dramatically. On the weekend, I see why. Despite the red pepper flakes I've added to the seeds, one smart and bold squirrel has arrived again, jumping from the

chimney to the feeder. He's become very savvy, straddling the bar that was intended to dump his weight and eating away greedily.

There are many squirrels in the neighborhood, perhaps because of all the oak trees. Fortunately, only one squirrel on my block has learned this annoying acrobatic trick.

Fall is also an excellent time to plant or transplant many kinds of trees. Since the greatest risk to new trees and shrubs is lack of water, this season's frequent rain followed by snow takes care of the hydration problem. Dig a decent hole for root development and press the earth down firmly to protect the roots from over aerating.

I have a small nursery of Balsam firs brought back from Maine as one or two inch seedlings. They are now six to eight inches tall and need to be separated and planted out. I will set them out a foot or two apart in case of loss and mark the spot with a garden stick. If they all survive, I can transplant them again next fall, giving each tree

several feet of root room to call its own.

These beautiful firs will eventually define the property line and provide home and seeds to many small birds. If you end up with too many, you can always harvest your very own Christmas tree.

Some local nurseries still have trees and shrubs at bargain prices. Do not try to plant large trees or shrubs, as they will not do well. Choose small specimens, and after planting give some mulch in the form of leaves once the ground has frozen hard. Some trees do not do well with fall planting, preferring to be started in the spring. Avoid magnolia, dogwood, red maple, birch, cherry and plum trees for this reason.

If you have cleaned out all of the dead plants and weeds from your garden space, it's time to put it to bed. Take a moment to spread any soil enricher you have handy: manure, compost, or left-over potting soil. Let it all rest and then in the spring (which will come) rake the surface and plant the new seeds and seedlings for the coming season.

Happy Gardening!

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The early days of November have brought a killing frost at last.

I've only kept records since 1998, but since then, the date of the first frost has ranged from early to late October, and most recently into November.

The geese are more reliable weather barometers, traveling southward often at the first full moon of October. There were huge flocks of them over the

Art and Poetry in an Old Tool Factory

BY TAMI STILES

ERVINGSIDE - Tucked away on River Street on the Erving side of Millers Falls, the Renovators Supply company in the sprawling former home of the Millers Falls Tool factory hosted an open gallery of artist Paul Palmgren and poet Randy Welner on Sunday. The one day show "Tree Out Roots In" was the result of a three-month collaboration between the artists, in canvas and words.

With the use of acrylics and watercolor wash, Paul Palmgren's abstract works

included "Reflections of the City," "Calculating Distance," "Through the Glass," and "Tower of Souls." Each piece was a balance of light and color, giving room for the eye to scan the canvas and sink into the pieces with reflective ease.

Mounted alongside each canvas were poems by Welner.

"The poems are an extension of the art," Welner said. "It's all one experience."

With such pieces as "Wheel of Life," complementing the painting "Tower of Souls," one could sense the evolution

of the art. "It's a taking in and taking out. One moment I would take away a section of the piece, then I added it back," Palmgren said.

Palmgren and Welner started off as casual acquaintances, tightening their bond through adventures on their mountain bikes. On Sunday, in a former tool making factory, the two finally emerged to the public as artists blending their talents to create an experience where art and poetry work together to engage the public in a dialogue on art.



TAMI STILES PHOTO

(L- R) Randy Welner with artist Paul Palmgren's Tower of Souls

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