



SK8 PARK RALLY!

In Unity Park
Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 8

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Peer Mediators Train for Conflict Resolution at GMRSD



Nolan Beauregard and Wileshaka Vega work through a role play at the Great Falls Middle School, during this week's peer mediation training.

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL-MONTAGUE - "I'm kind of scared of LaShon, 'cause she's black," says Beth, a sixth grader at Great Falls Middle School, slowly. "I feel uncomfortable. I wish I knew more about her."

Sitting across from her, LaShon, another sixth grader, looks down at the table. "I'm kind of angry, cause I feel left out. Beth seems like she's always put-

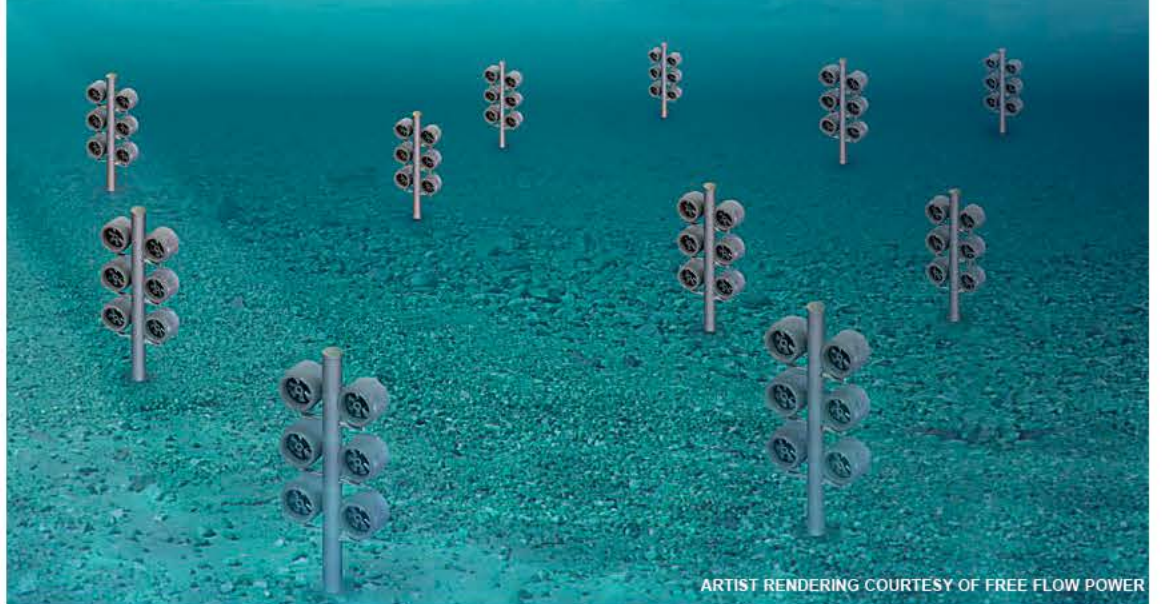
ting me down - mostly because of my skin."

The two mediators who are guiding this conversation call for a pause and go out in the hall to confer.

"I think it's time for a private session," says the older, a seventh grader named Claudia, and her colleague, a sixth grader named Wileshaka, agrees.

In a one on one session with see **PEER** pg 12

Hydro Power without Dams



A computer generated graphic showing an array of riverbed mounted hydrokinetic turbines. A prototype of a 40 kilowatt hydrokinetic turbine was tested at the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Lab over the last two weeks.

BY DAVID DETMOLD THE SOUTH END, TURNERS FALLS - Within the next ten years, Edward Lovelace hopes to install 88 commercial hydro turbines in the Mississippi River between St. Louis and the Gulf of Mexico. "Each site has full commercial capacity between 5 and 50 kilowatts," said Lovelace, "for a total of one gigawatt of power," without

installing a single dam. On Monday, Lovelace and a colleague from Free Flow Power, a Gloucester based company, were over at the fish passage building of the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Lab to test a prototype of a ducted axial flow turbine, with a capacity rated at 40 kilowatts. Lovelace said he was pleased with the test results. "Overall, things are perform-

ing more or less as expected," he said, taking a break from studying computer readouts, as water poured through Free Flow Power's turbine, manufactured out of glass reinforced composite. The oblong cylinder, looking a little like a submerged jet engine, barely fit in one of the Conte Lab's ten foot wide concrete flumes. In place in a river like the see **HYDRO** pg 11

Wild Thing Songwriter Returns with Carrie Rodriguez



Chip Taylor and Carrie Rodriguez

BY PETER HAMELIN TURNERS FALLS - On Sunday, November 21st PowerTown Music presents Chip Taylor and Carrie Rodriguez, when they come to the Shea Theater to release their new album, *The New Bye & Bye*.

Chip Taylor, best known for penning the song *Wild Thing*, is a prolific songwriter who has hit the charts in five different decades. Born James Wesley Voight on January 1st, 1944, the son of golf professional Elmer Voight, and raised in Yonkers, NY, he has two older brothers, Barry and Jon. The eldest, Barry, is one of the foremost geologists in the world in the area of interpreting volcanic activity, and is a professor of geology at Penn State University. The middle brother is Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight.

Taylor's love affair with music began early in life. At the age of eight, he convinced his parents to let him stay up late to hear a country radio station whose signal emanated from West Virginia. His penchant for the country genre found an outlet in his high school band, Town and Country Brothers (King Records). After the band broke up, Taylor tried his hand as a professional golfer. He met with some success, but was soon sidelined with a wrist injury. It was then he decided to give music his full atten- see **WILD THING** pg 12

Community Health Center Expanding Medical Ctr. Moving to Greenfield; Dental Stays Put



Former director Bridgette Madden has moved on, to be closer to her family.

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON MONTAGUE CITY - Several major changes are in the offing for the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC).

In the next half year, if all goes as planned, both the medical and the administrative sections of the health center will be leaving their quarters in a wing of the Farren Care Center on Montague City Road to move across the river to more spacious quarters in Cherry Rum Plaza in Greenfield.

Acting executive director Jim Worden, describing the plans, said the dental offices will remain where they are.

The health center will simultaneously be converting to elec-

tronic medical records. And finally, the top half-dozen candidates are about to be interviewed for the permanent executive director position left open when former executive director Bridgette Madden resigned in mid-September after two years on the job.

Over 40 people applied when the position was posted "up and down the Valley, in newspapers and on Monster.com." Worden said Madden had been commuting every other weekend to Pennsylvania to help with the needs of her family there, and it had become too much of a strain for her to sustain.

Clearly, the Community see **HEALTH** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Pretty Eyes



Harriet

My name is Harriet and I'm a six-year-old female short hair cat in need of a good home. I haven't had an easy time of it. I was rescued from a hoarding situation and was in kind of rough shape when I came to Dakin. I'll brighten the lives of my new family with my cheery cow-cat markings and my pretty yellow eyes. I do want you to know that I have a bit of a heart murmur; my Dakin friends will explain to you about that. Yet it's also saying "I'm a good good cat." To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org

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THANKSGIVING TRASH AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Montague - Due to the holiday the trash and recycling pickup in Montague next week will be as follows:

- Tuesday and Wednesday no change.
- Thursday will be picked up Friday.
- Friday will be picked up Saturday.

The Montague Reporter

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Evening Family Sing Along on Mondays

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE CENTER - Families with young children are invited to come enjoy an informal music time with children's librarian Linda Hickman at the Montague Center Library on Monday evenings around 6:30 p.m. Linda plays familiar

childhood tunes on the guitar and banjo.

This is a relaxed alternative to the very popular but crowded weekly Music and Movement series.

For more information, call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Story Telling Saturdays

New Salem Public Library continues its Library for all Seasons programming with story-telling, crafts, and more on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

This month's activity focus is National American Indian Heritage Month.

Psychic Fair

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday, November 27th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. An a la carte luncheon will be served.

For more information, contact the TNSA website (www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org).

Bullying Awareness Focus Group

TURNERS FALLS - In partnership with the Erving police department, on November 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to noon, the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, will present a free Bullying Awareness focus group, from 11 a.m. to noon in the GSB community room.

The featured speaker will be patrolman James Loynd of the Erving police. Come with ques-

tions, concerns and situations. Seating is limited to 24 adults. Call Linda or Kerri at (413) 863-4316 for reservations.

"If you want your children to be brilliant, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be geniuses, read them more fairy tales."
~ Albert Einstein

Coffeehouse to Benefit Friends of Wendell

BY SUSAN VON RANSON - On Saturday, November 20th, the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse will help finance Friends of Wendell, a group that processes and approves financial help for Wendell folks who are in temporary need. The money is given with no strings attached, though often the receiver will eventually return some, or all of the amount. An example might be someone in need of buying a cord of wood at the end of an unexpectedly cold season, or someone needing gas money to make a series of long-distant trips for chemotherapy.

The November 20th performance is by *Mawwal* - a spirited

acoustic and electric ensemble that performs beautiful trance-inducing world fusion music and original arrangements. Come dance!

Doors open at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall; admission is \$6 - 15, sliding scale. Open mic starts at 7:30 p.m. with local performers who have signed up beforehand. *Mawwal* will start at about 8 p.m. A wonderful array of homemade goodies, Dean's Beans coffee, and cider will be for sale during the evening. Come join the fun.

Donations are also gratefully accepted for the Friends of Wendell at PO Box 962, Wendell, MA 01379.

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 22nd
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, November 23rd
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, November 24th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, November 25th
Senior Center Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, November 26th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at



(L-R) Commander Michael Walsb, US Navy, Chris Boutwell, John Murphy, Leo Parent, and Pat Allen sing God Bless America at the Veterans Day observance on Avenue A in Montague

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 weight of the reinforcing steel, used with the concrete, during the construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge was 1,061,649 pounds. The weight of the concrete was 36,369,000 pounds.

More bridge facts next week!

Wendell Holiday Fair

The two-day fair will take place on Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Once again this year, the Wendell Holiday Fair will be a fundraiser for the Swift River School music and art departments to benefit the children of New Salem and Wendell. Last year we raised \$2000 thanks to you, the vendors and merchants who supported the fair.

This year's event promises again to celebrate community, art, music and children in a very special way. Each day from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. you will be able to enjoy lunch from Diemand Farm. First come, first served.

Come enjoy the fair with your neighbors and children, at the Wendell town hall; free parking near the common. Free admission.

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the hours listed in last week's issue for a new store in town, Lisa's Handcrafted Soap, at 100 3rd Street, in Turners Falls, were inaccurate. The store is actually open from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We apologize for the error.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG
F.M. Kuzmeskus, Inc. & TravelKuz have partnered with the United Way of Franklin County this holiday season in a charity drive to fill a yellow school bus with new toys, non-perishable food items, and new children's warm winter clothing. In the hopes to make this a truly community-wide event, TravelKuz is reaching out to area businesses for help. Perhaps your workplace could purchase mittens, or peanut butter, or a few board games to help fill the bus.

The bus will be parked at the Greenfield - Turners and the Franklin Tech - Pioneer Thanksgiving Day football games. Please give Pam a call or drop her an email to learn more about this charitable event, at (413) 863-2595 x 22 or pam@travelkuz.com. The donation drive continues through Dec. 15th.

The **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** sponsored by Interfaith Council of Franklin County including prayers, reflections and musical selections representing various faiths and spiritual traditions in the area. Service will be followed by a potluck supper. The public is invited to join in giving thanks for our blessings. Bring a dish to share and a non-perishable food offering. Event takes place at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street,

Turners Falls on **Sunday**, November 21st, starting at 4:00 p.m.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the town of Erving's new senior center will be held on site, off Route 63, north of the Erving Elementary School, on Monday, November 22nd, at noon. Please join in the celebration of this long awaited asset to our community. For more information and directions please call 422-2800 X100.

The **Friedman Pottery show** will be held at the Leverett Crafts and Arts Center on 13 Montague Road in Leverett on Saturday, November 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On view will be functional and decorative pottery in an array of colorful designs. Stop by and see the two newest glazes - Spring Green and Autumn Landscape. Refreshments served. For info: www.joyfriedman.com or call 413-548-9673.

The **Gill Annual Cheese Tasting** will be held Friday, November 19th, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Gill Congregational Church on Main Road (across from the Gill Tavern). These sample cheeses are crafted by Gill farmers from Laughing Dog Farm, Upinngil Farm and the Northfield Mount Hermon School Farm. Suggested donation of \$2.00 per person; sponsored by the Gill Agricultural Commission.

The **Gill Congregational Church** will host their Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Lunch starting at noon on

Thursday, November 25th. The entire meal is provided and prepared by church members. There is no reason to be alone or hungry on this day of celebration and thanks. All are welcome.

Load up your tired, your broken, your obsolete electronics and appliances and bring them to Greenfield High School on Saturday, November 20th, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A small fee will apply to each item recycled, with all of the proceeds supporting youth programs at young Entrepreneurs Society, Greenfield High School and the Thrive Project. A moving crew will be on hand to unload articles from vehicles. For more information contact Marie Coleman at 978-544-1869, or marie@yes-inc.org.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and the growing need for fresh produce at our local food pantries **Girard's Valley View Farm** of Gill has donated tons, yes thousands of pounds, of fresh butternut, acorn and blue hubbard squash to the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry in Turners Falls along with sugar pumpkins, cabbage and most recently Brussels sprouts.

Many local farms have also been donating end of growing season produce but a special thank you should also go out to **Everett Hatch** of Greenfield who made a commitment to provide two local food pantries and a community meal with fresh produce throughout the year. He did that, with tons of tomatoes and peppers and now several varieties of squash. Thank you. Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

Superintendent's Award Given to Erin Casey



DETMOLD PHOTO

Erin Casey

BY CARL LADD GILL-MONTAGUE - Each year the Franklin County superintendents present a graduating senior with an award honoring the pursuit of excellence, both academic and extra-curricular. This year, I am pleased to present this award to a young lady who has shown by example that hard work and dedication can pay off. She is currently ranked first in her very

competitive class, has won numerous academic awards including the Smith College Book Award, she is a member of the cross country and track and field teams, and has been an active member of the parks and recreation program, teaching children how to swim, and as a fundraiser and participant in the 24-hour Relay for Life to benefit cancer research. These are just a few of her many impressive awards and accolades.

This student will be honored at a reception of all Franklin County award winners and their families on November 30th, and I will be presenting her official certificate at that time.

It is with great respect and admiration that I announce the 2010 Superintendent's Award for Excellence will be awarded to: Erin Casey.

Carl Ladd is superintendent of the Gill-Montague schools.



Last month, the Route 2 bridge that crosses over Route 2-A at the Wendell Depot intersection was named in honor of Purple Heart veterans. At the bridge naming ceremony in the Orange town hall on October 15th, state senator Stephen Brewer (far left) and veterans agent Leo Parent, Jr., (center) were joined by purple heart veterans (l-r) Alton Fellows, Richard Kells and David Burnett. The Department of Transportation has put up signs officially designating the bridge the Franklin County Purple Heart Memorial Bridge.

Cotswold-style Morris Dance Class

BY FRED DEVECCA
MONTAGUE CENTER - A class in Morris Dancing for men will be held each Tuesday at 7 p.m. beginning November 30th at the Montague Grange, located at 34 Main Street in Montague.

Morris Dancing is a centuries-old English folk tradition done to celebrate the changing of the seasons, featuring waving hankies, clashing sticks and ringing bells. It's a fun, vigorous and healthy activity. It's not only terrific street theater but also a chance to share friendship and camaraderie with a group of musical, upbeat and convivial guys.

These classes will be offered by the Marlboro Morris Men, one of the oldest Morris teams in America, and will feature dances from the Cotswold villages of Bampton and Longborough, and also some original dances.

Classes will last about 90 minutes. Participants should wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. If you can't make it to the first class, you should be able to pick up the moves easily by joining in subsequent sessions. There is no charge. There is no need to pre-register; you can just show up, but if you need more info, call 413-625-2896.

Winter Gardening Workshop

GILL - On Sunday, November 21st, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Laughing Dog Farm on Main Road in Gill will host a workshop in "Extending the Season with Winter Gardening." This class offers harvest-extension techniques suitable for backyard gardeners, micro-farmers and others, including use of coldframes and low and high "hoophouse" structures. Learn to grow productive, nutrient-dense greens and food gardens through the fall and winter, utilizing ultra-cold-hardy crops and simple, mechanical protection. For directions, email: dbotkin@valinet.com

Holiday Bazaar

Sponsored by Friends of the Gill/Montague Senior Center
Saturday, December 20th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center
Gifts, crafts, silent auction of items donated by local businesses and craftspeople
Bake sale, Ticket sales and Drawing for the annual Senior Center Raffle of prizes

Prizes include a \$100 savings bond, \$50 gift certificates, a \$50 cash gift, an original Ted Graveline painting, a Mary Melonis crib quilt and many other prizes.

This is the major fundraising event by the Friends to supplement the Senior Center's budget. People of any age interested in supporting the Gill-Montague Senior Center are welcome.

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Hugh Corr
David Brule

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Layout & Design
Claudia Wells
Boysen Hodgson
Katran Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

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- IN THE COMMONWEALTH - Thousands Struggle to Put Food in the Table

BY ELLEN PARKER

EAST BOSTON - Project Bread, the state's leading anti-hunger organization, released numbers from its upcoming annual Status Report on Hunger in Massachusetts 2010 earlier this month. The report notes that nearly 660,000 people in the Commonwealth are struggling to put food on the table — a 20 percent increase over the past year.

Food insecurity has found its way into middle class suburbs and has driven low-income people further into crisis.

Unemployment, lost savings, and foreclosure are becoming all too familiar to families who once felt securely middle class and now are facing hunger for the first time. These families are not only stretching their food dollars to make sure everyone eats, but also compromising their health.

Over ten percent of households (253,600) in Massachusetts struggle with food insecurity, a measurement that captures the degree to which an individual or family cannot obtain adequate nutritious food for a healthy life.

Poverty directly correlates with hunger. In low-income communities including Lawrence, New Bedford, Fall River, and Springfield, poverty has grown to over 20 percent in five years.

The report argues for a public health approach, and asks the state to continue to bring systemic solutions to scale — especially healthy school and summer food programs for kids. These programs are designed to help entire populations of low-income children, while they also bring federal dollars into the Commonwealth.

The current economic problems are driving a crisis in food insecurity that is broader and

deeper than we've seen before in this state. There is every indication that hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts citizens will now need help to cover the basics — including many who have never needed help before.

Other findings of the report include:

- Children face the brunt of the recession. Although the statewide poverty rate has remained constant, the poverty rate for children has increased from 10 percent in 2007 to 13 percent in 2009.

- Unemployment continues to hover at nine percent in Massachusetts, where over 37,000 families faced foreclosure in 2010.

When seniors are hungry, they are more likely to be hospitalized and to have chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Over 25 percent of callers to Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline have at least one senior living in their household.

Schools are the most significant anti-hunger program for low-income children because the meals are federally reimbursed and can be made nutritious and non-stigmatizing. Low income children rely on school meals for over 50 percent of their daily calories.

As the state's leading anti-hunger organization, Project Bread is dedicated to alleviating, preventing, and ultimately ending hunger in Massachusetts. Through the Walk for Hunger, the oldest continual pledge walk in the country, Project Bread provides millions of dollars each year in privately donated funds to over 400 emergency food programs in 130 communities statewide. We advocate for systemic solutions that provide food for families in natural, everyday settings, such as schools, after-school programs, summer programs, community health centers, hospitals, and elder home care organizations.

For more info, visit www.projectbread.org/statusreport.

Ellen Parker is the executive director of Project Bread.

I missed the last connecting flight...

Now I'll never get home in time for Thanksgiving with the family.

(Sigh.)



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is the Bridge Detour Safe?

Were tests done to determine the maximum load and vibration capacity of the two crumbling old bridges over the Connecticut River and canal currently being used as a detour while the Gill bridge is being repaired?

For the first time, on Friday night, I was in one of several eastbound cars backed up on these bridges during our version of rush hour. The vibrations caused by westbound traffic in the opposite lane was alarming, as we sat there with literally no escape if

something awful were to happen. Can these little old bridges hold the weight of the 15 or so cars backed up going eastbound plus the weight and vibrations of westbound cars and trucks?

The citizens' solution: eastbound traffic backs up whenever the lead car turns left onto Canal Street off of the bridge. If everyone heading east were to turn right off of the bridge, there would be no back up. Turning right takes you around past Aubuchon's and puts you onto

Avenue A at the 7th Street traffic light, from which just about everyone can find his or her way. This would be an extremely minor inconvenience that adds at most a few hundred yards to your trip.

This may not be necessary if engineers have tested these bridges for their current added load, but I, for one, will be taking another route anyway.

- Mary Thomas Wendell

Legislators Support Proposed Fiscal Plan for Gill-Montague Regional School District

We have met with local officials and members of the oversight group and technical panel to review and discuss the proposed Compact for Funding Education and the accompanying plan for fiscal stability. We are impressed with the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of the plan, and we believe it presents a reasonable set of assumptions and expectations for future state funding in order to achieve the goal of sustaining quality in both the educational and municipal services in the towns of Gill and Montague.

Along with the other participants in this effort, we recognize that following this plan will not always be easy, but it is important that we all make our best efforts to have it succeed.

We also look forward to the forthcoming report which we requested from the Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on the fiscal and programmatic analysis of the school district's operations. This may yield additional recommendations for steps that can be taken to strengthen and stabilize the district's finances.

We know that the next several years will continue to be economically challenging as Massachusetts slowly emerges from the deep national recession. However, we believe the plan's assumptions about potential increases in Chapter 70 being roughly equal to inflation are reasonable. Based on the history of state education funding following previous economic downturns, these amounts should be achievable.

We will always work for the highest possible level of Chapter 70 funding for the GMRSD and for all school districts, and we

believe that the state figures contained in this sustainability plan are realistic, if the state experiences the economic recovery we hope for. If it appears these fiscal goals cannot be met on the state's part, we look forward to continuing to work closely with town and school officials to develop any necessary adjustments to the plan in order to achieve a balanced and sustainable solution for the successful operation of the Gill-Montague Regional School District and its two municipalities.

- Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)

- Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington)

- Representative Christopher Donelan (D-Orange)

- Representative-elect Denise Andrews (D-Orange)

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/17/10



Fair Representation Needed

To: Amherst, Pelham, and Regional School Committees,

We are writing in regards to the composition of the superintendent search committee. We are aware of a letter signed by a significant proportion of the teaching faculty asking for reconsideration of the composition and size of the search committee and the manner of selection of the teacher and administration representatives.

We fully endorse the requests made by the teachers in their letter of November 9th, 2010 presented to the joint session of regional and Union 26 committees on that date. In particular, we strongly recommend including a student representative on the search committee and allowing the teachers to select their own representative(s).

It is evident that it would be see **SEARCH** pg 5

Beaver Deceiver Reduces Water Level at Richardson Road Pond



A 'beaver deceiver' device (lower left) has been installed to lower the water level of the beaver pond on Richardson Road.

BY LIZ CARTER

LEVERETT & MONTAGUE - Beavers are a big part of the North American landscape — partly because they help shape it. They need standing water to build their lodges, but are driven to settle streams and creeks, so they renovate.

By damming running water, beavers create a unique, often enduring wetland habitat. Whole ecosystems develop around their aquatic landscaping. Their impact on their immediate surroundings is so profound that it is thought to be second to only one other species — humans.

So it comes as no surprise that coexisting beavers and humans can experience an occasional conflict of interests.

We've been seeing this play out locally at the beaver pond on Richardson Road. This is not a new story. About 35 years ago, the Western Mass Electric Company installed a power line on wooden utility poles on the border of Leverett and Montague. About 30 years ago, beavers dammed a nearby stream, flooding the land around five of those poles. Over time, other species — including protected species like river otters, great blue herons, ibis, wood ducks, and box turtles — have made a perennial home of the pond. It became part of the local landscape, and residents of Leverett and Montague have lived alongside it, viewing it as either a living engineering marvel or a soggy nuisance.

"Thirty years of neglect by the

power company and the dam became an established wetland. Frogs, ducks, geese, all live here. It's a good recreation area, too... On the whole, it's been an asset to the community," said Dan Bennett, who co-owns a parcel with the beavers. "I'm not defending the beavers; I just like the space they've created."

Not all people affected by the pond agree. Other residents of Leverett and Montague whose land abuts the beaver pond have voiced concerns about water borne disease, mosquitoes, loss of acreage, and the potential risk of flooding if one of the dams near Richardson Road were suddenly to fail.

In 2000, Northeast Utilities hired a company to install a 'beaver deceiver' on the Leverett side to lower the overall water level in the pond by two feet, without destroying valued habitat. This device is simply a plastic pipe installed in the face of the dam at the desired water level.

But it seems the beavers were not so easily deceived. "They stuffed wood under the pipes and it stopped working," said Bennett. Score one for the beavers.

In the summer of 2009, with the wooden utility pylons in need of maintenance and still unreachable, Northeast Utilities proposed a more dramatic approach: breach the dam and trap the beavers. This plan, while applauded by some, was met with forceful resistance by other members of the (human) community.

The beavers had built something that was hitting close to home. It was clear that a conversation was needed.

So, last May, Northeast Utilities initiated a community-based model seeking a solution that suited everybody. Four facilitated public meetings were proposed. Representatives from Montague and Leverett were invited, including abutting property owners, local officials focused on land use, the project manager from Northeast Utilities, the field supervisor for transmission line maintenance, and an environmental consultant.

According to Western Mass Electric Company spokesperson Frank Poirot, after two meetings, "a mutually agreed upon plan of action" was created. An attempt would once again be made to lower the water level in the pond by two feet to allow access to existing transmission structures, and Northeast Utilities would design and install new structures capable of withstanding wetland conditions.

A pond leveler, also known as a 'beaver deceiver,' would again be installed in the Leverett dam.

Will the beavers out-engineer us twice?

"This new device has a screened inlet to prevent debris accumulation," said Poirot. Northeast Utilities has hired the private consulting firm, Integrated Wildlife Control, of Florence, to oversee the operation. Integrated Wildlife Control

see **BEAVER** pg 10

ANOTHER LETTER

Planning My Memoirs

My grandson, Todd Sibley, who is studying for a PhD in political science at Howard University, wants to write a book about my life. It will start when I was a boy in Boston, and tell how my friends and I used pieces of wood or a foot long piece of a bicycle tire to play baseball with. A jack knife was many times the only gift a boy would get at Christmas.

I saw Babe Ruth play at Fenway Park. I sat in the bleachers at Boston Brave's Field for 50 cents. I made my first Turners Falls friends when I was in the Civilian Conservation Corps. I remember when the influenza epidemic hit, and 53 young men in the CCC were running temperatures of 103. I can still picture crowds of people yelling and screaming at a closed bank as I

lived through the Great Depression.

Several years ago, I had two or three minor strokes and for some reason I cannot remember much about when I was the instructor of the Color Guard of the Millers Falls Drum and Bugle Corps. I can only remember carrying the large drum in my beach wagon and stopping at one of the first MacDonald's, as the Color Guard girls bought French fries, a hamburger and a milk shake at ten cents each. It would be nice if some of these members would write me about their experiences. I owe it to them to have them in my book, because of the happiness they brought me.

There will be many names in this book of only nice people, living or dead, so I can only say nice things about them. If anyone living doesn't want their name mentioned, I won't write anything about them.

-Allan Adie
9 Walnut Street
Gill, MA 01354

SEARCH from 4

democratic for the committee screening applicants for the position of superintendent serving multiple towns to include representation from each of those towns. Currently, Amherst and Pelham are already represented on the screening committee. It is our expectation that the towns of Leverett and Shutesbury will be represented on the superintendent screening committee by at least one resident each as well.

We are at a loss to understand the resistance of the regional and Union 26 committees to ensuring

the inclusion of a wider array of stakeholders in this important process. As representatives of the town of Leverett charged with the well-being of our educational system, we respectfully offer these thoughts and trust that our concerns will be addressed.

-The Leverett School Committee



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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Tax Shift Approved

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

The talk was of taxes, on Monday night, as selectboard member Chris Boutwell took a stand for residents over business and industry, voting against the town assessors' recommendation for a 1.34% shift to the Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property classes (CIP) for fiscal year 2011, an ever so slight decrease from the shift of 1.35% for 2010.

Ultimately, the votes of selectboard chair Pat Allen and member Mark Fairbrother prevailed, and the assessors' recommendation carried. According to Boutwell, that placed the burden of explaining the shift to residents on Allen and Fairbrother, and not on him.

The town of Montague has a split tax rate structure, meaning property tax rates are established separately for residential and open space class properties, and for CIP (business) classes. The tax rates for fiscal year 2011, which now await Department of Revenue approval, will mean a 7.5% increase in the tax rate for residents and a 7.1%

increase for CIP.

Noting the disparity in the increases, Boutwell said, "There's no way I would support that." He said the current economic downturn has been tough for many residents, and the higher rate would add to the burden faced by residents with fixed incomes, especially seniors.

But director of assessing Barbara Miller explained the increase in rates is actually a reflection of the overall decrease in residential property values this last year during the economic downturn, as well as some increases in personal property values for businesses, such as First Light, Hallmark, WMECo, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

Miller said the decline in residential property values is not uniform across town. But, extrapolated from residential sales and expressed as an average, residential property values have declined 1.91% over the past year.

In 2010, Miller said, the cost of an average single family home in Montague was \$194,956; in 2011, the cost of an average single

family home in Montague was \$191,244.

Miller said once the tax rate is set, the average tax bill for a single family home will go up 5.5% this year. But she reminded the selectboard that the "sticker shock" of recent debt exclusion votes, especially to pay for the new safety complex, is part of the reason for the increased tax rates.

Miller said if the \$298,959 in this year's additional debt exclusion money were subtracted, the average single family home's tax bill would be going up by 3%. Reflecting new growth in the CIP categories, the average commercial tax bill will increase by 11.6%; the average industrial tax bill will increase by 9.7%.

Allen voted to go with the assessors' recommendation because she said she had confidence in the assessors' ability to consider the impact of tax rates on both residents and businesses.

Miller also noted that businesses in town include all of the 'mom-and-pop' shops along Avenue A, so it is not just larger businesses that are impacted by the shifting tides of taxes.

Miller's metaphor for the process was a see-saw. When property values go down, taxes go up, so town needs can still be met.

Railroad Salvage

In other news, demolition at the Railroad Salvage building on the Patch is see MONTAGUE pg 10



JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

Railroad Salvage

NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wired West Vote May Come as Soon as December 15th

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

When he was first elected, Governor Patrick said providing internet access to every home in the Commonwealth was his first priority.

Four years later, Wendell broadband committee member Robbie Leppzer told the selectboard, the arrival of high speed broadband in Wendell is still years away, with legal and logistical barriers still waiting to be resolved.

On November 10th, Leppzer gave the board an update on the progress of Wired West, a collaborative effort between 47 Western Massachusetts towns aimed at getting high speed internet access to every home, even the houses furthest from the fiber optic trunk lines the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) is promising to build to 123 underserved town centers in Western and Central Mass over the next two years.

The legal structure Wired West has decided to adopt - a municipal cooperative model - follows the method used to bring electricity to the hilltowns, by dusting off a state law from the 1920s that allow a town, or a cooperative of towns, to form electrical distribution departments. That law was amended recently to include telecommunications services.

In order to join, Wendell would have to sign on at two town meet-

ings, two to thirteen months apart, and with a two thirds ballot majority. Wendell would have to approve articles to create a "municipal lighting plant," a town department managed by the selectboard, or a municipal light board of three to five elected officials.

Those actions would allow Wendell to join the encompassing municipal cooperative known as Wired West, which would oversee the construction, operation, maintenance and financing of a 'last mile' network of internet hookups to individual homes. Homeowners would pay for internet access. Wired West's projections show the construction debt being paid off in seven to ten years, after which profits would return to the towns. Each town would likely pay a one-time membership fee of \$1,000, and annual dues of \$500 to Wired West, to allow for maintenance of the system.

Towns that join early would likely be wired early, Leppzer said.

Leppzer provided a model warrant article, and Heard said the first of the two votes could happen at the special town meeting tentatively scheduled for December 15th.

A dog hearing scheduled for the November 10th Wendell selectboard meeting was inconclusive because neither the dogs' owner nor the complainant

attended.

At a previous hearing on March 17th of this year, Claude Masson of Kentfield Road was told he had to make sure his dogs were securely restrained at all times, or the dogs would be ordered out of town. At that time, Masson said Kentfield Road is a relatively lawless part of town, and restrained dogs are no protection from intruders. Masson owns an Akita, and at least one other dog.

The board received a subsequent complaint about Masson's dog or dogs running free again in September.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she had sent a certified letter to Masson nine days before the hearing date advising him to appear, but according to Wendell Depot postmistress Anna Hartjens, Masson had not yet picked that letter up.

Dog officer Maggie Houghton and Wendell resident Mason Phelps came to the hearing. Houghton said she had called Masson, but had only reached his answering machine. Houghton suggested that a town constable could hand deliver a message asking Masson to install a six foot high solid fence to restrain his dogs, because the leads and clips Masson has been using have failed.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said all see WENDELL pg 9

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Leverett Seeks Representation on Superintendent Search

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett school committee voted unanimously on Tuesday to call on the Amherst-Pelham regional school committee to include representatives from Leverett and Shutesbury on the search committee for a new superintendent of schools.

Maria Geryk has been acting as interim superintendent of the Amherst-Pelham region since the sudden departure of Alberto Rodriguez in March of this year. Rodriguez was the fourth superintendent for the region in the past two years.

The region also saw the unexpected departure of middle school principal Glenda Cresto, four days into the school term in 2009. This was followed by the announcement of Wildwood Elementary principal Michael Behnke's resignation in Amherst in April of this year, and an upheaval on the school committee, with former chair Farshid Hajir resigning in July, citing divisive behavior among his colleagues.

At the specially scheduled meeting on Tuesday, the Leverett school board also voted to support broadening the superintendent search committee to include a student representative, and a representative of school administrators, and to allow teachers to pick their own representa-

tives to the search committee.

The search committee as presently constituted will have eight members, with representatives from the Amherst and Pelham school committees each guaranteed a slot. Rick Wood, an Amherst resident who now chairs the regional school committee was tapped to be on the search committee on November 9th. Kip Fonsch, who represents the Leverett school committee to the region, said it seemed likely the slot for a local government representative would also go to an Amherst official. Two slots are reserved for teachers, and there is no guarantee that the remaining parent and community member slots would be allotted to residents of Leverett or Shutesbury.

"I think it's really important to be inclusive of as many voices as possible," said LSC member Pam Stone.

Hajir, who now chairs the Leverett school committee, pointed out that Leverett and Shutesbury have been members of the Amherst-Pelham region for 50 years, and said, "My concern is I think the steering committee should have at least one member from each town on it. To me it seems clear the composition should include representatives from all towns in the region."

Hajir read a letter from Shutesbury school commit-

tee chair Michael DeChiara to the Amherst Pelham regional committee, which said in part, "I've been surprised and disturbed at the lack of geographical diversity on the superintendent search committee... I would certainly hope two of the seats would be reserved for hilltown representatives from Shutesbury and Leverett."

Fonsch reported that his motion to the region on November 9th to expand the search committee to ten members, to make room for a student and administrative representative, was defeated, and a subsequent motion he made to allow the teachers to choose their own representatives, rather than have the regional school committee choose the teachers' reps for them, was tabled.

The Leverett school committee composed their letter to the Amherst-Pelham regional school committee on the spot, and then gave some thought about how to deliver it. Recording secretary Aaron Samoza said, "I was thinking of getting some parchment and some nails and going down there and nailing it to their door."

In other news, Hajir said more community participation is sought to fill seats on the newly established education study committee to explore future public education options for the town of Leverett. That committee also has eight seats, see LEVERETT pg 11

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

G-M Contract Ratification Vote Delayed

ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE - The Gill-Montague school committee had planned to vote on ratification of contracts for teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants and food services workers at their meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, but agreed to put it off at the request of town officials.

Pat Allen, Montague selectboard chair, and Ann Banash of the Gill selectboard came to the school committee meeting and asked the committee to wait to vote on the contracts until after the district review report is published by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE). The district review included an analysis of the school district's fiscal capacity.

Personnel costs make up approximately 63% of the school district's annual operating budget, according to G-M business manager Lyn Bassett, including salaries and wages plus benefits, and not counting personnel costs paid through grants.

Allen said it would be better to delay the vote until after the special

budget setting district meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th. "You don't need to do this now," she said. Referring to the pending agreement between town, district and state officials for a five year plan for fiscal stability for the school district, Allen said if the school committee "decides unilaterally" to ratify the contracts, this would "not be a very collaborative response."

Allen said in the past, a municipal representative had been included in contract negotiations, but that had not been the case this year. She said this was an oversight, and she would be sitting in on any future contract negotiations as the representative of the town of Montague.

Committee member Jane Oakes of Gill said she had great respect for all the work accomplished by both towns in collaboration with district and state officials, but in reference to the DESE, said, "I think they need to do a better job of coming through for us. This puts us in a position of not doing the job we need to do, and leaves us

treading water."

Michael Langkecht said, "I've been very outspoken in my opinion on DESE asking us not to vote on the contracts. This is a different matter, to have a request from our towns," to delay the vote.

Langkecht first voiced his objection to putting off a ratification vote at the September 28th school committee meeting, when the vote was first scheduled. Present at that meeting were members of the district review board, who were about to begin their review process.

On November 9th, Langkecht said he would support delaying contract ratification at this juncture, since the request to do so came from the towns.

The school committee agreed to put off the contract vote, with the majority agreeing to wait until after the district meeting and the report from the district review, until such time as the superintendent and committee have had a reasonable time to review that report.

Superintendent Carl Ladd said he had no idea when the DESE report would become available.

Gill Moves Forward with Pump Station Repairs

BY DAVID DETMOLD RIVERSIDE - A pair of thirty year old sewer pumps capable of forcing 245 gallons of flow a minute under the Connecticut River to Montague are heading towards retirement at the Fairview Street pump station.

The pumps, which are nearing the end of their useful life, will be replaced with similar models during a planned \$65,000 upgrade at the pump station.

The cost of construction will be paid for from a revolving fund maintained for the town of Gill at the Franklin County Regional

Housing and Redevelopment Authority. That fund, which is periodically replenished as zero interest housing rehab loans are repaid by Gill homeowners, currently has a balance of more than \$90,000, according to town administrative assistant, Ray Purington.

He said the pump station repairs can be paid for out of the FCRHRA revolving fund, because a survey of households served by the Riverside Water District showed the majority of residents are low or moderate income.

Gill hired engineering consultants Tighe and

Bond to prepare an engineering evaluation of the pump house; the selectboard reviewed their report on Monday. Among the findings, the consultant's report showed that the Riverside pump station, which serves more than 100 households and businesses south of Mountain Road, handles 22,000 gallons per day on average, rising to 55,000 gallons in wet weather.

Since the town of Montague permits Gill to pump a maximum of 64,000 gallons per day, and charges Gill "by the gallon," the report recom-

see GILL pg 8

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assistance to Other Departments

Monday, 11/8

10:40 a.m. Report of a past motor vehicle accident in Barton Cove area.

Tuesday, 11/9

10:45 p.m. Report of a disturbance near the intersection of French King Highway and Barton Cove Road.

Saturday, 11/13

5:31 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on French King Highway.

Sunday, 11/14

3:02 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with a disturbance on Maple Avenue.

7:01 p.m. Assisted Bernardston

police department with a domestic disturbance at Windmill motel on Route 10. 8:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at French King Bridge.

Monday, 11/15

3:38 p.m. Assisted fire department with an alarm on Mount Hermon Campus.

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Sk8 Park Rally!

GREAT FALLS - About 30 skaters and their allies gathered at the Brick House on Saturday afternoon for a march and rally at the proposed site of the permanent concrete skate park in Unity Park. The park is planned for construction on the footprint of the former Williams Way, a one block side street the town of Montague discontinued and merged with Unity Park in June. Construction of the permanent skate park is dependent on the town receiving Community Development Block Grant funding for Unity Park improvements, but the skate park committee has been active with fundraising and organizing in the meantime. Saturday was a day to gather their forces, celebrate, and prepare for the work ahead.

LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Tree Down on North Street



MONTAGUE CENTER - A main trunk of a large maple fell across North Street narrowly missing the Bridges' house on Wednesday, just as folks were getting ready to head to work. No cars were able to get in or out all morning as cleanup proceeded. Power was restored at 2 p.m.; phone and cable took longer. Don Loveland surveys the scene.

GILL from pg 7

mends the town may wish to consider a future program to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration to the sewer lines in the future. The report notes that water consumption in the Riverside water district is approximately 17,000 gallons a day; but peak flow in wet weather is more than three times this amount.

The town of Gill pumps sewer under the river to Montague, for treatment at the Montague City plant, via a six inch ductile iron pipe encased in concrete. An air relief valve at the manhole on Fairview Drive just prior to the river crossing has failed, and also needs replacing.



HEALTH from page 1

Health Center, which maintains satellite offices in Northfield and Orange, is expanding, particularly in mental health and pediatrics. Dr. Daniel Zinn, a long-time local pediatrician in Greenfield, has already joined, and another pediatrician is on the way. So, space has gotten "pretty cramped here," Worden said.

The new location is the leasehold left empty when Valley Medical Associates moved to new quarters about five years ago. The space should not need much renovation, Worden said, since it was used for similar medical purposes, though CHCFC already has a grant

award of nearly a half-million dollars on hand for "limited renovations."

One task ahead is submitting specific plans for the use of the space to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for its "stamp of approval." That and other details "can take five to six months overall," Worden said.

A lease for the new location is on the verge of being signed, after which the Farren will be formally notified. Worden said he understood that Home Care Corporation, a present tenant of the Farren, "has expressed interest in moving into some of our space."



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WENDELL from pg 6
 dogs in town need to be restrained, and she said the selectboard will inspect Masson's property on Saturday, December 4th to ensure that his dogs were contained within a fence.

Buildings and grounds coordinator Ted Lewis will auction off surplus town property, including a 1985 Ford truck chassis (as is), a 1994 five to seven yard dump body, two 275 gallon oil tanks, a diesel generator, old chainsaw parts, and other items at the highway garage on Saturday, November 20th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he would update the list of things to be auctioned on the town website, but new items may be added in the final minutes before the auction.

Two bids arrived on time for a replacement poly tank to replace the rusted steel tank on the fire department tank truck. The selectboard accepted the lower

bid from Bulldog Fire of Woodville, MA for \$25,998 for a 3300-gallon tank. A third bid arrived late by Fed Ex, and by law Aldrich was not allowed to even open it.

Town clerk Hartjens turned over to the selectboard a resignation letter from school committee member Melissa Newcombe, leaving an opening on that board. The selectboard may now post the position, and appoint a replacement to serve until the spring town election.

Finance committee members discussed financial issues for the upcoming special town meeting on December 15th.

The highway garage and fire station furnaces both are in need of replacement. One failed already this season, and Orange Oil got it patched up and running again. The other furnace is in similarly tough shape.

Funding to update the open space and recreation plan was authorized previously, but was not spent within the allotted time

frame, and so must be reauthorized.

The town has received bids for installing gutters on the police station and town hall to prevent water from splashing up between the buildings, rotting the siding, and washing onto the neighbor's property, creating an unwanted wetland there. After the gutters are installed and the water directed to a catch basin in front of the buildings, the road crew can build a line to bring that water to the drains on the side of Morse Village Road, costing the town highway work hours.

Thinking of the summer's drought, finance committee member Barbara Caruso wondered whether there might be a way to hold the runoff in a cistern, but others thought that might be too much to ask for.

Aldrich reported Wendell's free cash has been certified at \$249,544.

That money is available to be spent this fiscal year.

Before memories of summer drift too far downstream, here's a story by Lucia Mason, who attended Woodland Village Native American camp in Montague City, and wrote this story for the camp's newsletter - the Regular Rant.

Down the Connecticut by Birchbark Canoe



JEANNE WEINTRAUB PHOTO

Footie (left) and Traveling Medicine Dog

BY LUCIA MASON

MONTAGUE CITY - An expedition set out from Korahagen on Monday, August 2nd, consisting of two birch bark canoes, Footie, Rufus the dog, and TMD (Traveling Medicine Dog).

Korahagen is the original Native American name for this place along the Connecticut River in Montague. The two men intended to paddle all the way to the ocean, only touching land to camp and to cross dams, leaving poor TMD's wife (Footie's sister Blacksnake) and Otter (Blacksnake's daughter) behind to worry.

The first night TMD called Blacksnake, the news was not good. They had only gone half the distance they were supposed to.

"My heart was on the ground when I thought of them paddling for more than ten hours. I know how exhausted they must be. I was afraid they might have to give up their trip," said Blacksnake.

The next day TMD and Footie set out at about 8:00 in the morning, in hopes of making more headway than the day before. No luck—the 19 miles-per-hour wind kept funneling up the river right into their faces. They made the same amount of headway a car would in five minutes.

Blacksnake said, "When I first saw them, I thought I would cry. They looked exhausted, dirty, and discouraged. I wanted them to come home. TMD's eyes were bloodshot. I never see CANOE pg 10

Finding Funds and Partners to Protect Open Space are Top Priorities

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - Bike riding in Wendell? Not a priority.

About 15 Wendell citizens attended the November 4th public forum to help shape the update to the open space committee's open space plan by placing stickers on action steps they considered important. Recreation is part of the equation, but bike riding on and off Wendell roads did not even make the top ten.

The number one priority? "Identifying funding sources for further land acquisition." That got thirteen stickers.

The tension between preserving open space and maintaining an adequate tax base with room for growth in town did not seem to be a concern among the people who turned out for the forum last Thursday at the town hall.

Second choice for priorities on open space planning was, "Work with local land trusts to identify potential conservation buyers." Third choice with was, "Ensure adequate support for town departments that regulate, protect, monitor, and maintain Wendell's open space."

Other action steps that received runner up status were, "Encourage cottage industries," "Post signs on roads coming into

town identifying Wendell as a 'Right to Farm' community," and "Identify parcels under Chapter 61 temporary protection that might be considered for permanent protection."

Wendell has to update the open space plan to keep the town eligible for state grants and programs. The Franklin Council of Governments (FRCOG) is collaborating on the draft plan.

Kristina Stinson, speaking for the Wendell Forest Conservation Alliance, said the group supports having state forest land in Wendell put into reserves. According to a proposed new state classification system, forest land placed in reserves would be closed to almost all human impact, including logging and road maintenance.

Stinson said the lost economic potential from sale of timber on forest land would be offset by the gain from growing recreational use. She countered the idea that logging increases habitat for wildlife by creating cleared areas with young trees that provide food. Stinson said natural disturbances such as windfalls and lightning strikes do a better job of preserving biodiversity.

Open space committee chair Marianne Sundell said the new

plan would help Wendell prioritize resources for conservation.

Beckie Finn mentioned changes that have taken place in Wendell since the 2002 open space plan was approved. Access to information has increased dramatically. Enrollment of Wendell children at the Swift River School has dropped from 109 to 50. A Right to Farm bylaw was passed in 2009, a secondary dwelling bylaw was approved in 2002, and an innovative conservation development bylaw is in the works. The town owns one newly protected property, Fiske Pond. No water body in town is in worse shape than it was in 2002.

Finn listed species living in town that are rare, threatened, or endangered. The New England bluet is of special concern; the spine crowned dragonfly is endangered; and the water shrew is of special concern. The last time one was seen in Wendell was 2001.

Invasive species include the Asian longhorn beetle, the wooly adelgid, and Japanese knotweed. Japanese knotweed is tasty if it is picked young, Finn said.

Copies of the draft updated plan are available at the library and the town office building.

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MONTAGUE from pg 6
behind schedule, but proceeding, according to building inspector David Jenson. The owner of the property, James Bent, has been in town during the last three weeks evaluating the property and filing the necessary permits with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, in order to have asbestos removed safely before completing the demolition of the building's upper story.

Clean-up of the building's interior debris was originally mandated by court order to be completed by November 15th.

The selectboard requested an update from Jensen at the next selectboard meeting, scheduled for November 29th, so the town can monitor progress, or lack thereof.

Meanwhile, the selectboard debated whether repairs were indeed needed on the roof above an elevator shaft at Building #1 at the Strathmore Mill. The select-

board requested further information from Renaissance Builders, contracted to perform the roof repair at a cost not to exceed \$16,000, as to whether repairs are indeed needed. The roof appeared to have been damaged during the severe windstorm in May, but the damage is difficult to assess from beneath.

Jensen said he thinks repairs to the elevator shaft roof may not be necessary to prevent damage to the interior from the elements. He emphasized the work on the roof "is a dangerous thing to do," given the location of the storm damage.

Fairbrother questioned why the decision to repair the elevator shaft roof keeps getting revisited, but ultimately the members of the selectboard agreed more information is needed before proceeding, or not proceeding, with repairs.

Shared Sewer Costs

The Montague selectboard has

been cordially invited to Erving town hall on December 9th by the Erving selectboard to review whether the town of Montague has any responsibility to pay for a portion of recent sewer system improvements at the Erving wastewater treatment plant.

The Montague side of the village of Millers Falls contributes about 50% of the flow for that plant, now that the paper mill in Erving is closed.

A 1973 agreement between Montague and Erving obligates Montague to share the capital costs of sewer plant improvements in Erving in proportion to the amount of flow Montague contributes. Recent sewer plant improvements - with a price tag of about \$5.2 million - were planned and carried out and fully financed by the town of Erving, but Montague was not consulted in advance, which was required according to the agreement.

The Montague selectboard members all agreed they do not

have sufficient information to meet with Erving at this time. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio will follow up to see if more information can be obtained from Erving on questions, such as how much of the recent Erving wastewater treatment plant upgrade "is really helping the town" of Montague? He noted that if Montague paid their portion of improvements, the annual cost to Montague would be \$230,000 for 20 years, in addition to the \$165,000 that Montague already pays to Erving each year to handle the sewage from Millers Falls.

A future town meeting vote may be needed to clarify the letter of town bylaws regarding the number of unregistered vehicles that can be kept on a property not classified as a Class 3 junkyard. The selectboard recommended the town work to improve the language of its bylaws on the issue. The intent of the bylaw, according to the selectboard, is

that only one unregistered vehicle can be visible on a property at a time. Using a tarp to cover a vehicle is not sufficient to meet the intent of the bylaw, in their view. Extra unregistered vehicles must be hidden in a building or otherwise completely screened by fences or hedges. The board noted health concerns with leaking fluids from unmaintained vehicles being absorbed into groundwater and with animals possibly congregating under tarp areas for shelter or for antifreeze.

With regret, the selectboard accepted the resignation of Jay DiPucchio from the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

Ron Sicard was appointed by the selectboard to a one year term as Montague's representative for the Wells Trust. The trust selects high school and college students from the area to receive scholarships.



CANOE from page 9
saw him so tired," Blacksnake said.

She took Rufus home because it did not seem fair to make him sit in the sun, bored all day.

TMD said, "I was happy to see her but also sad, because I would only be with her for a little while. I almost did not want to see her because I knew it would be so hard to leave her again."

The next day, the wind died down, and once in a while gusted from the other direction, helping TMD and Footie. But they still didn't make as much headway, because of the Enfield Dam. It was supposed to be a short crossing but there was construction and they had to go around. Then

they came to a swamp, and had to trudge through ankle-deep mud. Finally they got to a canal that connected to the Connecticut River.

That night they found a perfect camping spot on an island. They set up camp and went to bed. The next morning Footie woke up earlier than expected, and soon roused TMD because the water was rising. Soon the canoes were set and TMD and Footie were ready to go.

They set off just as droplets of rain began to fall. Soon there was thunder and lightning, so they paddled over to the bank. Before flipping the canoes, they looked back to see that the island had shrunk to the size of a pitcher's

mound, because the water had risen so much.

That day after the rain, the travelers made lots of headway. The wind from the south had completely stopped, and the north wind was gusting heavily, with only 39 miles to go and three days to do it in. They were in very upbeat moods. They stayed that night with friends who live right on the river! So TMD and Footie had a hot shower, a good night's sleep and delicious food.

The next three days went well. With the wind at their backs and the current helping them, they

made great headway. In no time they were at the ocean, waiting for Blacksnake at the dock.

"When I saw the big green van pull up I started jumping up and down, I was so happy. I was happy that I finished the trip and because I got to see my wife," said TMD.

Blacksnake said, "When I pulled up and saw my husband jump out of his seat with such a loving look on his face, we just jumped into each other's arms. We did not care how many people were staring at us. We were lost in our own little world of happiness, just glad to be togeth-

er again. I threw up my hands in the air and shouted, 'Ya-hoo!'"

TMD said the ocean was the scariest part of the journey because of the big waves and boats. When you are in a 16 inch deep birch bark canoe it can be very scary, but he also said it was a great trip and he would certainly do it again.

Blacksnake said, "The trip really confirmed there are two sides of the truth. On one side I wanted them to come home. On the other I wanted them to keep on going and not to give up. And that's what they did."



BEAVER from page 5

is responsible for comprehensive project monitoring, including biannual progress reports and annual meetings with the Leverett conservation commission.

The device was installed in early October and has successfully maintained a lower water level to this point.

In a meeting with the Montague conservation commission on November 4th, Northeast Utilities requested to breach an inactive beaver dam in the northernmost part of the pond, near Richardson Road, but withdrew the proposal several days later.

As for the risk of damaging floods from this dam failing,

"The dam is built like a fortress," said Montague conservation commissioner chair and selectboard member Mark Fairbrother. "It's been there for a long time. Also, with the drawdown in water at the Leverett dam, there's not enough water to cause any great risk of flooding."

In order to maintain communication with all invested parties, Northeast Utilities has agreed to notify everybody who lives or owns property within 100 feet of the pond before the beginning of all phases of work.

"I think we settled on a solution that works for all of us and still preserves a beautiful environment," said Bennett.

As to the replacement of the compromised wooden transmis-

sion pylons, Northeast Utilities is still in the engineering phase. "We're hoping to start and complete the work next summer," said Poirot.

The utility will have to go through another round of permitting with both the Montague and Leverett conservation commissions before any new construction begins. This process is open to the public.

Meanwhile, the beavers may have outsmarted us again. For reasons of their own, the beavers appear to have taken the opportunity to vacate the premises in advance of the planned construction. Bennett said he has seen no sign of them swimming in the pond as usual, or gathering winter food this year.



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HYDRO from pg 1

Mississippi, a turbine such as this would sit on pilings cemented to the river's bed. On the 88 sites on the Mississippi where Lovelace's group has obtained preliminary permits for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the turbines would sit 20 feet below the lowest navigational depth of ship passage, and take up less than one thousandth of the river's bank to bank width.

But if a fish happened to take a direct course through the turbine rather than around it, the turbine's seven oblique blades are designed to spin slowly enough, with tips shielded by a protective outer ring, and enough space between the blades to allow fish to swim safely through the turbine without harm.

Hydropower has come to be associated with images of concrete dams blocking the free flow of rivers. Hydro dams produce electricity by forcing a large volume of impounded water to flow through turbines underneath the dams. But the practical benefits of this kind of renewable energy have come to be weighed against the environmental impact of damming rivers, including the removal of sediment from downstream flow, the resultant increase in downstream erosion, and the blockage or impediment of fish passage, among other concerns.

Lovelace, and others in the

emerging field of commercial hydrokinetics, hopes to change all that.

Hydrokinetic generators are designed to operate by the movement of waves or current through a device, like the turbine Lovelace and his colleagues tested over the last two weeks in Turners Falls. Rather than tidal currents or ocean waves – which are also readily available sources of hydrokinetic energy – Lovelace said he decided to focus on the hydrokinetic potential of rivers, an emerging field where no other company has much of a head start, either domestically or globally.

Free Flow Power received some U.S. Department of Energy start up funding. Once the three-year-old company reaches the commercial development phase, Lovelace is confident investment capital will be available.

"Even though hydropower is the largest renewable energy source in the United States, small scale hydropower is just beginning. Conventional hydropower, which uses dams, has been relatively stalled because of environmental concerns. The new area of hydrokinetics operates simply by

the natural head drop of the river. You don't need fish ladders, obviously," as the turbines are designed to operate without man-made obstructions to block or

Hydrokinetic turbines, like other forms of hydropower, are better suited to providing base load power than intermittent forms of renewable energy like solar or wind. Hydrokinetic turbines will produce power on a 4 – 1 average ratio, Lovelace explained, meaning a 40 kilowatt turbine like the one being tested at the Fish Lab would operate on a yearly average at about 10 kilowatts of output, given that a river's flow volume varies from spring to fall. This is a considerably better ratio than that produced by solar power or wind power, where 100 kilowatt systems may average closer to

times" the 60 megawatt output from Cabot Station, below the Turners Falls dam.

He thanked Alex Haro, section leader at the Silvio Conte Lab, for making the space available to his company (among a number of other hydrokinetic companies who have rented space and paid for staff assistance at the Fish Lab this year) to test the turbine's performance in real world conditions. "Not only is the Fish Lab in this state, it's also the only facility that can fit our turbine and produce these flows."

Haro confirmed the Conte Fish Lab's capacity to test hydraulics for start-up hydrokinetic turbine manufacturers was probably unparalleled in the United States. Given the 60 foot drop between the power canal and the Connecticut River, the Conte Lab is able to move water through the indoor fish passage flumes at rates up to 400 cubic feet per second. "That's a lot of water," Haro said.

Electronics specialist Steve Walk, who works at the Conte Lab, helped Lovelace and company with the performance trials over the past two weeks. On Monday, he gave his take on the potential of hydrokinetic turbines. "I think this is pretty good. It's great you don't have to build a dam or build any manmade objects that impede the movement of fish," in order to produce electricity.



Ed Mamo, of EVP Power, inspects Free Flow Power's hydrokinetic turbine at the Conte Lab

channel the river's flow.

Lovelace said the Mississippi is an ideal watercourse to begin producing hydrokinetic electricity for several reasons. South of St. Louis, the river rarely freezes; the river bed has been heavily engineered to insure stable year round flow; and his company has identified over 400 industrial facilities right on the riverbanks that would be likely customers for hydrokinetic power. "Our transmission and distribution needs will be minimal," Lovelace predicted.

10 to 20 kilowatts in actual output over a year.

Lovelace said other companies are also working to develop river based hydrokinetics, but he sounded confident that Free Flow Power would receive their first commercial license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by 2013 and soon offer, "The largest such roll-out anywhere in the United States."

Lovelace said the total output from his planned project at 88 sites along the Mississippi would be equal to "fifteen or twenty

LEVERETT from pg 7

with slots reserved for two school committee members, one representative each for the selectboard (Julie Shively will fill this one), and finance committee, two parents and two community members. Hajir said the education study committee will be formed by December 7th, and interested parties should contact him at 549-5974 or farshidhajir@gmail.com.

The interim superintendent of the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools, Maria Geryk, and the principal of the Amherst Middle School, Michael Hayes, will be in attendance at the next meeting of the Leverett school committee on Tuesday, December 7th, to answer any questions or concerns of Leverett residents about the upper school.



MONTAGUE CITY - On Wednesday, Valley Concrete from Bernardston, with the assistance of Lane Construction of Northfield, poured concrete for the foundation walls of the new garage at the Montague wastewater treatment plant. The extension of the operations building will make room for a new Fournier rotary dewatering press to reduce the volume – and the cost – of sludge hauling from the plant.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Out of Gas on River Road

Wednesday, 11/10 9:40 a.m. Report of a wild animal trapped in a trash can on High Street. Animal removed. 8:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on River Road, out of gas. Friend responded with gas.	Bernardston police with domestic situation on Raymond Road. Subjects separated. Saturday, 11/13 11:30 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on River Road, out of gas. Friend responded with gas. 4:00 p.m. Report of motor vehicle vs. dog on	Mountain Road. Sunday, 11/14 2:56 p.m. Domestic dispute on Maple Avenue. Verbal only. One subject left the residence for the night. 8:45 p.m. Suspicious person and motor vehicle on French King Bridge. All set.
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WILD THING from pg 1
 tion. He signed a contract with Warner Brothers Records in 1961, and had his first top 100 hit single, "Here I Am."

Soon after, Chet Atkins heard a few of Taylor's country songs and said it was hard to believe he was born and raised in New York. Atkins started recording several of Taylor's compositions with artists he was producing, and Taylor had his first big hit as a country songwriter with Bobby Bare's version of "Just a Little Bit Later on Down the Line."

Taylor's ability to write in varied voices and styles is demonstrated in two of his best known songs, "Wild Thing" and "Angel of the Morning." The ubiquitous "Wild Thing," (Jimi Hendrix, The Troggs, X) with its guitar driven, sexually charged theme is in direct contrast to the hauntingly romantic, "Angel of the Morning," (Merilee Rush, Juice Newton, Chrissie Hynde).

Other Chip Taylor songs that

are ingrained in American music are "Try (Just a Little Bit Harder)" a performance favorite of Janis Joplin, "I Can't Let Go," (The Hollies, Linda Ronstadt) and "Country Girl, City Man," (Ike and Tina Turner). He released six solo albums in the 70s and 80s, including *Chip Taylor's Last Chance*. Rolling Stone magazine acclaimed this work as one of the best country albums of 1973.

Carrie Rodriguez's journey from teenage violin student to touring the world with Taylor, Lucinda Williams and Alejandro Escovedo has resulted in a prodigious output of recordings – eight albums in as many years – for the young musician.

Her professional career was launched in 2001 when Taylor first saw her perform at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, TX, and took her on as a recording and touring partner.

After some time pursuing solo projects, Chip and Carrie are touring together again in support of their new album. *The New Bye & Bye* features four new songs, plus the best of their first four albums.

The show will be at the historic Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls. Tickets can be purchased at www.powertownmusic.com, at World Eye Books in Greenfield or by calling 413-863-9657. Heather Maloney will open the show.

PEER from page 1

Beth, the mediators discover the youngster would actually be inclined to bridge the gap. "I'd like to be friends with Lashon," says Beth, "if my father liked black people. But he doesn't."

In her private session, LaShon confides, "It would be nice if we were friends." She adds, "Why can't we exist in the same space?"

Peer mediation provides that space, and it's a method of conflict resolution that seems to be taking hold at the Great Falls Middle School and the Turners Falls High School under the guidance of mediation coordinator Hipolito Baez.

Two years ago, when Baez began working part time at the middle school, he trained 14 students to be peer mediators. Now, with Baez working fulltime, the program has expanded into the high school, and this week the 20-hour, four day training comes to a close with 28 students completing the course. About a third of them are from the high school.

But the four who played the parts of LaShon and Beth and their two mediators in Wednesday's role play were all middle schoolers, and the middle school is where Baez said the program has met its most enthusiastic response.

Baez, a Springfield resident who works for the Mediation and Training Collaborative of

in the Hartford court system, into practice at the GMRSD.

When these 28 students have completed their training, they will swell the ranks of peer mediators in the classrooms of the upper school to about 74, Baez said. These students make themselves available to assist with the resolution of disputes among the student body, using techniques like "active listening, paraphrasing, reframing, knowing when to do a private session, and knowing how to ask the right questions to get the full story, to get to the issues," he said.

Baez sits in on all the peer to peer mediation sessions, which often deal with problems brought on by petty misunderstandings and rumors. But he tries to let the students resolve the issues by themselves. They learn more from the mediation that way, and it increases their self esteem to settle disputes non-violently, without the intervention of adults.

Baez emphasized mediation is not an appropriate recourse in conflicts that fit the definition of bullying, where a person (or group of people) with more power intentionally and repeatedly harass or intimidate a less powerful victim or victims. In such an instance, mediation may have the unwanted effect of "bringing the victim back to the table to be revictimized," Baez said.

GMRSD superintendent Carl Ladd concurred. "Peer mediation is not an anti-bullying strategy, per se, because it is counterproductive to put a target of harassment or bullying in a room with their harasser and expect that to resolve the issue. Research is pretty clear, and common sense would tell us, that it only exacerbates the problem because there is already a power imbalance between the parties involved, and now we've only made it worse by expecting the target to overcome their fear and safety concerns in order to confront their harasser and to expect the harasser to actually listen to the target's concerns and somehow gain empathy from the exchange."

With recent alleged incidents of bullying leading to the suicide of victims in South Hadley and other public high schools around the nation, Baez said, "Right now we're being extra careful. I work with school disciplinarians and the school administration to fig-

ure out when it is helpful to refer alleged bullying to mediation."

But Baez said there are plenty of examples of conflict among students that are conducive to successful resolution through mediation. "Name calling, back and forth bickering, friendship issues – those things are mediatable."

Baez said he has won the trust of teachers and staff over the last three years, and overcome initial resistance to the program. "Teachers feel pressure with MCAS and accountability with the state, so anytime students miss time in class they get anxious about that."

Baez said he gets referrals from administrators, teachers and from students themselves, and tries to carefully match peer mediators to the subject at hand. Mediation takes place in sessions that last anywhere from 20 minutes to 45 minutes, and Baez negotiates with teachers to have the students involved make up class assignments later.

"I listen in to every session. I'm there every time. I interfere as little as possible. I give them feedback after every mediation."

Baez said he is especially pleased to receive referrals from students, because that shows how much mediation has become a part of the upper school culture. "We have real buy-in for mediation as an effective means of resolving disputes," he said.

At the end of the mock session between the middle school students on Wednesday, Beth agrees to stop calling LaShon names, and says she will try to speak to her father to see if he would let the girls be friends. Maybe even allow her to invite LaShon to a party with the other girls on the volleyball team. But no matter what her father says, "We can still be friends at school."

Claudia, playing the role of peer mediator, says, "What happened in the past, stays in the past." A confidential document is drawn up affirming the agreements the parties have made, and all sign it.

Baez, whom the students call "Mr. Hip" has overseen the entire session, and given suggestions along the way. "This is definitely hard work," he says.

But as LaShon points out, it's worth it. "They got us to solve the problem."

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Changes in Newborn Caregiving

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. *I'm going to become a grandmother for the first time, and I was wondering how things have changed since I took care of a newborn many years ago.*

Probably the most important change is in the approach to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), the abrupt, unexplained death of an infant younger than a year. SIDS is often called "crib death" because many victims are found in their cribs.

SIDS is the leading cause of death in children between a month and a year old. Most SIDS deaths occur in children between two and four months of age. There are 2,200 SIDS deaths in the United States each year. More than 80 percent of the deaths may be caused by unsafe sleeping practices.

Many of us used to put babies on their stomachs to sleep. They seemed to like it and slept well. Today, that's a no-no.

Here's what you're supposed to do to prevent SIDS:

- Put babies on their backs to sleep. You can rest them on their stomachs when they are awake and being watched. You should

not let babies sleep on their sides, because they can roll onto their stomachs.

In 1994, a "Back to Sleep" campaign was launched to reduce SIDS deaths caused by putting babies on their stomachs to sleep. The lead partners in this campaign include the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American Academy of Pediatrics, First Candle/SIDS Alliance and the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs. Since the campaign started, SIDS deaths have declined by over 50 percent.

Babies should sleep on a firm surface, such as a crib mattress covered with a fitted sheet. Crib bumpers are unnecessary. No pillows, blankets or stuffed toys should be placed in the sleep area with the baby. Put babies in blanket-sleepers. Make sure the baby's head is uncovered.

Sharing your bed with a baby increases the baby's risk by as much as 40 times. Research does, however, suggest that room sharing is protective against SIDS.

Research indicates that pacifiers reduce a baby's risk for SIDS. While the connection is not clear, some believe that pacifiers may discourage babies from turning over onto their stomachs during sleep. Another theory is that the pacifier helps keep their tongue positioned forward, keeping their airways open.

Make sure babies don't over-heat. The baby's room temperature should feel comfortable to a lightly clothed adult. Don't overdress the baby.

Don't expose babies to tobacco smoke. Babies whose mothers smoke during pregnancy are three times more likely to die from SIDS. Studies have found that the risk of SIDS increases with each additional smoker in the home.

Researchers have ruled out a number of possible causes of sudden infant death syndrome, including suffocation, vomiting or choking, and infection. There is evidence that many SIDS babies are born with brain deficiencies. Studies of SIDS victims reveal abnormalities in a portion of the brain that controls heart rate, breathing, temperature and the ability to wake from sleep.

SIDS can strike any infant. However, some babies are at higher risks. These include babies who are: male; premature or born with a low birth weight; anemic; Black, American Indian or Native Alaskan; born in the fall or winter; recovering from an upper respiratory infection; siblings of a SIDS victim; inadequately nurtured; first-borns of teen mothers, and born to mothers with a history of sexually transmitted diseases or urinary tract infections.

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

Andrews Hosts Forum for Business Leaders

BY DAVID DETMOLD - ATHOL - Denise Andrews (D-Orange) hosted a forum of business leaders from the 2nd Franklin District at the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol on Friday, November 12th. Over thirty people gathered to share thoughts on how to boost the region's economy with their recently elected state legislator, who will soon take the seat being vacated by Chris Donelan.



Denise Andrews

It was an unusual session that had the hallmarks of a corporate development workshop. Brief motivational remarks from Andrews were followed by attendees breaking out to small groups, where they wrestled with questions of "barriers to growth," and "key resources" needed, before returning to the large group session for a report back from the small groups.

Participants talked about things that unite the district, which stretches along Route 2 from Greenfield to Athol, and includes the towns of Gill, Erving, Warwick and Orange. They spoke of recreational tourism potential on the Millers River and nearby walking trails, and inhibitors to growth, such as the problem of expanding Route 2 into a major four lane highway to speed commercial development. Greenfield, some said, suf-

fers from a lack of available industrial space, while Orange and Athol with an abundance of commercial and industrial space going begging.

However Noel Vincent and Zita Rasid, partners in the Orange Innovation Center, housed at the former Minute Tapioca Factory, better known to many in its later incarnation as the Bedroom Factory, say their small business incubator is nearly full. And business leaders from Athol were proud to note the arrival of Organic Renaissance, a farm to market organic food distributor, at a hydro-powered warehouse in Athol, midway between Western Mass, Southern Vermont and New Hampshire farms and the

see BUSINESS pg 14

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Domestic Assault Arrests

Wednesday, 11/10

3:33 p.m. Missing person reported at Turners Falls Middle School. Returned to home or family.

4:07 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.

5:42 p.m. Assault at Sheffield Elementary School on Crocker Avenue. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 11/11
1:02 a.m. Unwanted person on Turners Falls Road in Montague. Report taken.

3:27 p.m. Assault and battery on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

4:41 p.m. Safety hazard behind The Shea Theater.

Dispersed gathering.
9:58 p.m. Shoplifting at Jay K's Liquors on Avenue A. Report taken.

11:50 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Park Street. Peace restored.

Friday, 11/12
3:48 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery on New Street in Millers Falls.

1:49 p.m. Report of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. No such person can be found.

3:05 p.m. Hit and run accident on Montague City Road. Report taken.

5:42 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

11:42 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant for possession of a class B drug, a class C drug, and two class E drugs.

Saturday, 11/13
6:33 p.m. Suspicious person on Third Street. Services rendered.

9:44 p.m. Unwanted person on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

Sunday, 11/14
12:12 a.m. Suspicious person on Central Street. Services rendered.

12:22 a.m. Fight at alley between Third and Fourth

Streets. No such person can be found.

2:03 p.m. Trespassing at Food City on Avenue A. Services rendered.

3:16 p.m. Brush fire at Stewart's Nursery on Millers Falls Road. Referred to other agency.

Monday, 11/15
9:46 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a probation warrant.

1:52 p.m. Missing person on L Street. Services rendered.

7:26 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

10:18 p.m. Disorderly conduct and general disturbance at Farren Emergency Shelter on Farren Avenue. Peace restored.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 33: We Are Blessed

JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – On Election Night, Rita Tinker’s campaign supporters were ordering up drinks at the Hope and Olive when Rita’s cell phone rang. There was a pregnant pause, as the dozen or so neighbors and Western Massachusetts Tea Party Patriot members anxiously watched Rita’s face.

“I won!” Rita shouted “By ten percent! You are looking at the new state representative of

Franklin County.”

“Who-hoo!” someone cried, and the group raised their mugs to cheer Rita’s victory.

Later, when Rita admitted she was nervous about her first press conference, Stephanie, a staunch supporter, reassured her. “It is God’s will, Rita, that you’ve been elected. He will guide the way.”



Rita’s victory speech the next day was held against the backdrop of the Northfield Mountain hydroelectric plant, chosen to highlight her commitment to clean energy. She unbuttoned

her red wool coat and reapplied her lipstick before stepping in front of the crowd.

“Hi, Franklin County, Massachusetts! I appreciate speaking directly to you, the people I serve, as your new representative. Serving you is the greatest honor I could imagine. There is such a need to build up and fight for our part of the state. We have such resources — we can reach our goal of clean energy without a biomass plant — if we develop our natural resources. Clean energy — this hydropower plant right here in Northfield pumps water and

stores it for later — to release it again so that we can have this good green electricity for our houses.” Pausing for the cameras, Rita gestured dramatically towards the Northfield Mountain reservoir behind her.

“Here in our proud country we are blessed with clean air, water, wildlife, and clean coal and nuclear resources. Clean coal doesn’t put pollution into our air. And the nuclear — nuclear power has zero carbon dioxide for global warming. God gave us this energy — it’s clean energy! I’ll work hard to make sure we responsibly develop all of our resources because they were created for us to better our world. Thank you.”

“Rita! Rita!” someone called from the press, “Your Go Green Family challenge this time is

‘stuff.’ What approach will your family be taking?”

“We will reduce our consumption, to not end up with all that packaging — styrofoam and plastic bubbles. Clothing, furniture, gifts — our family has chosen to make whatever we can ourselves. My beautiful children, Ruby and Alex, my husband Billy — we are so handy in our family that we — making our own things comes naturally to us.”

Rita smiled confidently and waved at the camera before turning away to make it clear that question time was over. On the way home, she sighed with dismay, as her cell phone rang yet again. She was about to let her voicemail answer, but changed her mind when she saw the caller’s name appear on her phone.

“Hello, Rita, this is Senator Scott Brown calling to congratulate you on your well-earned victory last night.”

Continued next issue...

BUSINESS from pg 13

destination food stores and restaurants in the Boston area.

Forum participants suggested Andrews work to bring together educators from Greenfield Community College and Mount Wachusett Community College to establish a satellite higher learning center in the Orange-Athol area, with a focus on workforce development training. Improving the public profile, as well as the price and schedule, of bus service from Greenfield to Athol was also recommended. The need to make high speed internet access rapidly available for all residents in the district was mentioned. Another participant suggested passing enabling legislation to help municipalities set up and own their own green power production facilities.

At the end of the session, Andrews said, “We know what this place has been. We see what it could be again. And we see some wonderful bright spots that give us hope.”

Afterwards, Andrews said, “I gained additional important perspective on the dreams and

vision, the barriers that must be addressed and the key resources and work occurring to support and accelerate economic development for our district. These perspectives and work sheets will be key input and a foundation for my plan to lead collaborative work for economic development for the 2nd Franklin District.”

As a next step, Andrews plans to form an economic advisory board, to assist in the economic revitalization of the district. “I have received initial suggestions on individuals interested and recommended to serve on this leadership council. If others are interested in suggesting themselves or others to serve on this council, they can contact me directly at deniseandrews2010@gmail.com or 978-633-4302. I will be finalizing the council make up by January 1st, 2011. I will be setting up a web page and a newsletter that will allow all who are interested to stay informed and engaged on this work. Also, I am available for input and questions directly via email or phone.”



WANTED: LOCAL FOOD COORDINATOR

The Wendell energy committee is currently seeking to contract with a local food coordinator, to develop a strong network of local food growers and buyers by both building our capacity to grow more of our own food within Wendell, and by enhancing opportunities for distribution of these goods. Strong community organizing skills required. Knowledge of permaculture, animal husbandry and food preservation helpful. Approximately five to ten hours a week. Please send a cover letter and resume with references to Paul Costello at paul_c_c@hotmail.com, or PO Box 882, Wendell, MA 01379 before December 18th. Call Paul at (978) 544-7089 for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Arrest for Shooting at Cars

Sunday, 10/31

1:30 p.m. Fire alarm at Leverett Elementary School. Checked school with fire department. Alarm malfunction.

Monday, 11/01

12:00 p.m. Anonymous complaint of a noise disturbance from a generator being run at a camper located on Dudleyville Road. Complainant reported that the campers were there in violation of Town By-laws referenc-

ing the amount of days they could stay there. Referred to the building inspector.

3:45 p.m. Erratic motor vehicle operator following a school bus on Route. 63. Officer checked area. Unable to locate.

4:30 p.m. Complaint of illegal construction on Putney Road. Referred to building inspector.

Wednesday, 11/03
10:00 p.m. Officer assisted state police in

Shutesbury with intoxicated male subject allegedly shooting at cars with a pellet gun. Subject located at Town Hall and arrested by state police for disorderly conduct.

Friday, 11/05

12:20 p.m. Subject walked into station to report loose horses on Cave Hill Road. Owner located and advised to retrieve horses.

Comedy at the Shea

Comedy at the Shea returns to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls with another hilarious show on

Saturday, November 20th




Comedy veteran Bob Seibel, recently honored at the Boston Comedy Festival and still one of the most energetic comedians on Boston stages, headlines a lineup that also includes Vermonter Nathan Brady Crain and two Boston favorites: Steve Albert and Jessie Baade.

Nathan Brady Crain is a stand-up comic and singer/songwriter from Vermont, performing at colleges and clubs nationwide.


Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$15 in advance (\$17 at the door), available at the World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main Street, Greenfield, and at www.SheaComedy.com. Reservations may be made at the Shea box office at (413) 863-2281.


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy at the Shea*. Bob Seibel, Nathan Brady Crain, Steve Albert, Jessie Baade. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Crisis*, top 40 country/southern rock band.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Shoes and Flabberghaster*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Test Your Tastebuds at our Blind Beer Taste Test*, 8:00 p.m. followed by *Rock 201*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina*, Folk Rock. 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
Montague Grange: Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Free.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Northfield Coffee and Books: *Photodocumentary and book signing* by Northfield photographer Cate Woolner. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open mic with emcee John Landino*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*. Special Poetry night menu available, bring a friend and your appetite. Open mic at 7 p.m. Guest readers 8 to 10 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.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18th - 20th
Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Velocity*, senior and junior dance companies. 7:30 p.m. in the Rhodes Arts Center. Tickets: dancetickets@nmh-school.org.

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

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

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry night* with a tribute to the memory of poet Art Stein. Readings of his work followed by an open mic. 7 p.m.

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Robin*



Route 63 Roadhouse, in Miller's Falls: *Girls Guns and Glory*. Americana. 9:30 p.m. Country twang mixed with the genuine rock and folk sentiment. \$5 Ages: 21+ Lane and The Interlopers. Free.

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 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Miller's Falls: *Girls Guns and Glory*. Americana. 9:30 p.m.

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

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: *Old Town Hall: Mawwal*. Dessert-O-Rama and open mic. 7:30 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/bass and Craig Manning/lead guitar*. Americana. 8 p.m. Free.

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

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd
Wendell Free Library: *Dark Legacy: George Bush, Sr. and JFK's assassination*. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th
Montague Grange: *Mid-Week Contra Dance with David Kaynor*. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ron and Adrian Meck*, Traditional and Contemporary, Celtic and Folk. 9 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ghost Quartet*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, Harmonic Eclectic Rock. 9 to 11 p.m.

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Donna Horn Shows at the Wendell Free Library



"August"

BY RICHARD BALDWIN - The Wendell Free Library is proud to present an exhibition of paintings by one of Wendell's best known local artists, Donna Horn.

Most residents are quite familiar with her work. Indeed to have lunch or a cup of coffee at the Wendell Country Store generally means sitting under one of her paintings. She has displayed her work there since she first moved to town 17 years ago. Besides visiting the library to see this exhibition, readers are encouraged to stop by the store and view samples of her work, or visit her blog, donna-horn.wordpress.com.

Horn earned her BFA from the UMass in 1990, studying painting with Leonel Gongora, James Hendricks and Jeanette Cole. She has shown in numerous venues in western Mass, participated in the area's annual Interface event, and recently had a

one person exhibition at the Deerfield Gallery in South Deerfield.

Horn has been painting all her life, finding in the process a refuge as well as a means to express herself more clearly and wholly than in language. She is forthright about wanting her work to stand on its own, writing in her exhibition statement, "Painting expresses feelings, thoughts, and discoveries that words just can't capture. Painting eliminates the obligation to explain. You can take from my paintings whatever you please."

At her library show, a central element is Horn's self-portrait, which serves as both specific referent to the artist and a symbol of woman. One of the engaging aspects of Horn's work is that whenever the figure of a woman or animal is prominent, the eyes are always focused directly on the viewer. This is even the case in "The Conversation" where two profiles face each other across a thin but present barrier. The effect is an immediate personal and emotional

contact between artist and observer.

Many paintings here suggest an influence of early Christian icons and medieval art, where a central figure is often surrounded by animals, set in nature within an overall symmetrical composition. The painting "In My Forest" is a good example. Here a female figure is surrounded by animals, some fantasized, with loosely brushed tree forms reinforcing the arched composition. The figure seems to be attended by, or is caring for, the animals and looks directly at the viewer.

Horn's work expresses a veritable landscape of feelings, ranging from the peaceful "Horse, Daybreak" to the more dramatic confrontation in "The Conversation." Her use of a whole palette of bold colors, a wide range of values, energetic brushwork and pattern make for a vivid exhibition.

The show runs through December in the Herrick Room at the Library, open: Tuesday 3 - 6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Northfield Mountain from the Sky

Aerial photos and text by Joseph A. Parzycki; photos taken in mid-October.

The Northfield pumped hydro facility shut down at the beginning of May to dredge silt from the upper reservoir. When silt clogged the intake tunnel, a round the clock effort was mounted to clear the tunnel. In August, the EPA called a halt to First Light Power's discharge of silt to the Connecticut River.

Cleanup and repair operations continue. The plant has yet to reopen.



Top Photo: The car in left foreground is on Route 63. In the right foreground is a crushed stone parking lot by the pump house where trucks were loaded by a 5 inch concrete pump in the intake tunnel, 80 feet below the ground. Later, silt from the blocked intake tunnel was pumped with the 12 inch ABS pipe to settling ponds, center left. On the lower right is Ferry Road. Upper right is the intake bay where Davenport's red crane can be seen at the tailrace.

Bottom Photo: At the top of the Mountain, the vessel in the nearly drained reservoir is a barge. It

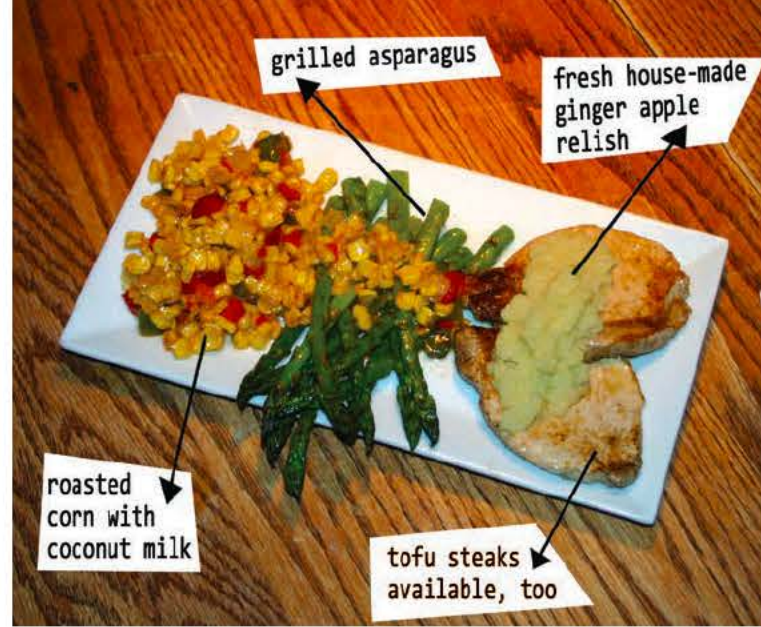
carries a large pump used to flush silt from the tunnel, and some day to prime the turbine and pumps when they eventually resume pumping. There is a concrete dam across the entrance of the rock channel (that appears black in the shadows). The dam was raised recently, apparently to keep silt from plugging the tunnel again. The reservoir is relatively clear. Damage to some turbines and spherical valves needs to be repaired.

On the lower right of the photo is a gray area that appears to have rows of stubble in a corn field. It is the six acre clear cut

area where vacuum trucks dumped silt from the weir tanks at the tailrace. The rows are tracks left by a bulldozer that leveled it. To the left is another gray area with a stone wall on the left and lines converging in the center, where an overflow outlet carries excess water to a brook that runs down to Farley, when the reservoir is overfilled.

In the upper right, inside the dike, silt dug from the (black) channel leading to the penstock was dumped there by Davenport Trucking in May using ten off-road haul trucks, working 24-7, for a month.

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