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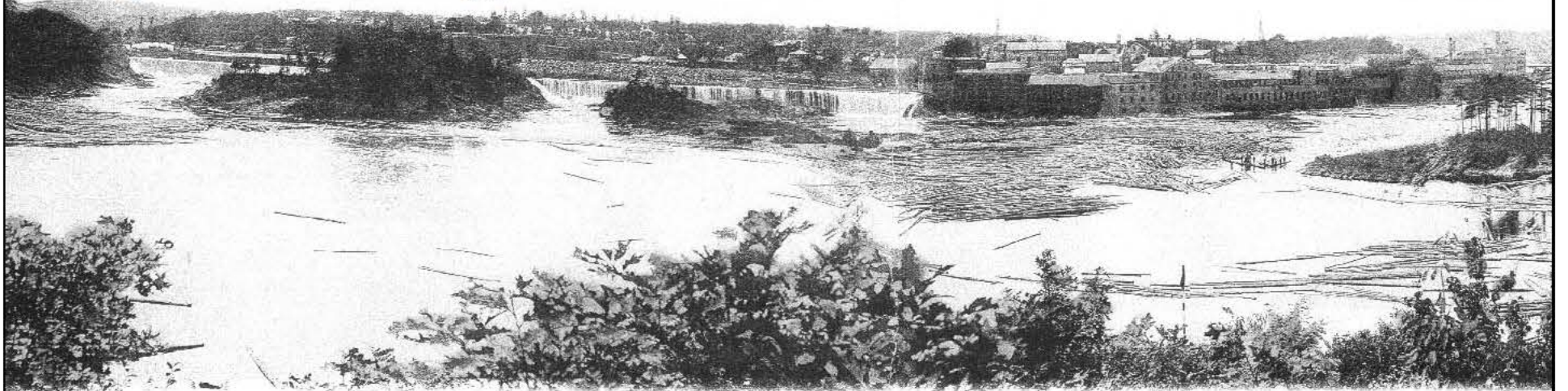
The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 24, 2004

Papermaking and the Turners Falls Canal



As the town of Montague continues its conversation about the future of the Strathmore Paper Mill, it may be a good time to recall the central role the mill and the power canal have played in the town's history.

BY BRAD PETERS

The Canal

The power canal along the Connecticut River in Turners Falls has been the industrial and commercial center of the area for more than two centuries. The paper industry has

been the focus of that canal business since 1871.

In 1792, the "Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal" linked Hartford, CT with Wells River, VT by building a lock and canal on the Connecticut River in Turners Falls. Canal boats carried passengers and prod-

ucts to and from the river towns along the Connecticut.

In 1865, Colonel John Alvah Crocker, paper manufacturer and railroad magnate, purchased the stock of the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal and became the first president of the company that is now Western

Massachusetts Electric. Crocker had previously established the Fitchburg Railroad with its terminus in Turners Falls. With the railroad in place and connections to other railroads to the north, south and west, he saw opportunities for industry along the canal. The railroads

"Log Drive on the River" vintage postcard courtesy of the Montague Historical Society

see CANAL, pg 16

Wilde Irish Women Come to the Shea

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Montague had its Irish up Saturday night (November 20th), as *Wilde Irish Women*, an original musical by Irish-born Greenfield resident Rosemary Caine, took the stage (where else?) at the Shea Theater. Written in witty rhymed verse, the play brings to life some of the women who have shaped the history of Eire - from mythic queen Maeve and the bawdy fishmonger Molly Malone to real-life heroines like revolutionary Maud Gonne and the fearless journalist Veronica Guerin, gunned down by the drug lords she exposed in modern day Dublin. The play's conceit brings these epoch making women - and many more - to the Marion Square parlor of Oscar Wilde's mother, Lady Jane, where they stir up quite an Irish stew of ribaldry, tragedy, and song to the tune of fiddle and penny whistle, along with the backing instruments of a very accomplished band. There was not an empty seat in the house.

Much of what transpired on the stage was sheer delight, and though the proceedings stretched a bit thin toward the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE RADER
Montague's own Marina Goldman (Grainne Mhaol), left, swings Michael Haley (Lady Jane Wilde), center, in Wilde Irish Women, an original musical by Greenfield's Rosemary Caine. Anne Steinhauser, (back to camera, alas), plays the winsome fishmonger, Molly Malone

middle of Act II, Alana Martineau's swan song as Victoria Guerin more than made up for it before the curtain fell.

The show started with a spellbinding dance by the martial Queen Maeve, performed in pantomime by Nicole Freeman, who returned to equal applause in the role of Brigid, another

see WOMEN pg. 13

Hands on Learning at NMH Farm

BY MARTHA RULLMAN -

GILL - In recent years, along with a growing organic agriculture movement and a heightened awareness of the need to assure the future of farming, there has been an increased interest in projects that connect schools and farms. Many schools across the state have implemented innovative school garden and farm-to-school projects.

On the Gill campus of the Northfield Mount Hermon School, students can learn about the ins and outs of working on a farm as part of the school's farm program. Richard Odman has been directing the farm program at NMH since 1977. With the help of assistant farm manager Alex Loud, Odman works with several dozen students each term who choose to satisfy the school's work program requirements at the farm.

"I think one of the great things when kids work here," Odman said, "is that they may go out and pick apples or make cider one day, and later that day it will be served in the dining halls."

As on any farm, much of the

work revolves around the seasons. In addition to caring for the horses or milk cows, depending on the time of year students will find themselves harvesting wood or clearing brush, making apple cider or maple syrup, assisting with the birth of a calf, or harvesting raspberries and making jam. Everything grown at the farm, except for the apples, is certified organic.

In February, students will help with sugaring. They make about 650 gallons of syrup, most of which is sold at the school. Since spring break takes place right in the middle of sugaring season, there's a program at the farm where twenty-one students volunteer to spend six straight days sugaring. The students are divided into three crews of seven and spend the whole time working, eating and living together at the farm. They may have to get up at six a.m. to collect sap, or stay up until midnight boiling it down.

Teachers may also have students take on projects at the farm that connect to their class work. In one English class recently, the students were reading a book set in modern

see FARM pg. 8

PET OF THE WEEK**Naturally sweet****Honey**

Honey is a 5-year-old female short hair cat in need of a good home. She has big huge eyes and pretty tortoiseshell markings. She has been declawed so she must live indoors only, as she can not protect herself. She would like to be your one and only cat and your new best friend. To find out more about adopting Honey, please contact the Dakin Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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Subscription Rates:
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Library News**Lottery Tree Raffle**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

Lottery tree raffle tickets are available at all three Montague Public Libraries. The winner of the raffle will receive \$150 worth of scratch tickets. Tickets are one dollar each or six for five dollars. The raffle is a benefit for the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. The drawing will be held at the Carnegie Library on Monday, December 13th at 4 p.m. The Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, is open Monday - Wednesday



Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. None of the libraries will be open on Thanksgiving or the day after. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

photos: Linda Hickman

from 1 - 8 p.m., Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 - 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 - 5 p.m. The Millers Falls Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Montague Center

Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. None of the libraries will be open on Thanksgiving or the day after. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

**MORE LIBRARY NEWS****"Volcano Worlds" Day**

Merle, Steve and Lorena Cushing of Lake Pleasant watched one of their clay volcanoes erupt at the "Volcano Worlds" program at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, November 20th.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Nov. 29th - Dec. 3rd

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Lunch reservations need to be called in by 11:30 a.m. the day before. Call Bunny Caldwell at 863-9357 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Leave message on machine at other times.) Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the parking lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

Monday, 29th
1:00 p.m. Crafts
Tuesday, 30th
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, 1st
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 2nd
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 3rd
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided

for meals, shopping (Thursdays), or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 29th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 30th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, 1st
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 2nd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 noon Transportation for Shopping.

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

FACES & PLACES

PARZYCH PHOTO

Radar, a dyed-in-the-wool democrat, gnashed his teeth, and let out a cry of anguish, with the hair standing up on the back of his neck, when asked what he thought of the recent election. That is not a Bush for President hat he is wearing. Radar is an honored, but opinionated, guest at the Joe & Nancy Williams' farm in Gill.

Santa's Magical Holiday Parade at Yankee Candle

November 27, 2004
Festivities begin at 9:30 am
Parade begins at 9:45 am

Parade will begin at the UPLINC building parking lot across from Yankee Candle Flagship Store in South Deerfield.

Parade will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus on a horse-drawn sleigh with Noah, the four-year-old "Make a Wish" child Yankee Candle employees sponsored in 2003. Also featured will be Santa's Elves, Frosty the Snowman, The Grinch, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, a Dixieland band and Deerfield Fire and Police Department equipment. Event is free and open to the public.

Open House

Sunday, December 5th,
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Hallmark Institute of Photography invites prospective students and their families to an open house. Tour will feature recently expanded Educational Center, photographic demonstrations, multimedia presentations, and a chance to meet the faculty and staff. Current students and faculty will also demonstrate a day in the life of a Hallmark Student.

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New England Coalition and State of Vermont Granted Hearing on VY Uprate

STAFF REPORTS

BRATTLEBORO, VT - Late in the day, on Monday, November 22nd, a panel of three judges assigned by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic and Safety Licensing Board issued an order granting a hearing to the New England Coalition and the state of Vermont on Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee's application to boost power at the Vernon reactor.

If permission is granted to run the 31-year-old plant at 120% of its original design power, that decision will now be held off until a hearing is completed - not likely before mid-summer next year - just seven years short of the reactor's scheduled retirement in 2012.

In its ruling, the panel accepted for adjudication two of five issues (contentions) raised by the state of Vermont and two of seven issues raised by the New England Coalition. The panel deferred the question of whether it will offer a formal or an informal hearing until a later date when, it is anticipated, a second order will establish a schedule for the proceedings.

The state has filed one additional late contention not considered in the order. Late filed contentions may be submitted when they are based on new



information not previously available to the intervening parties. Raymond Shadis, staff technical advisor to the Coalition, said the group's examination of emerging technical issues has been interrupted by the NRC's recent closure of its electronic public document system pending a security review of the contents. However, he said, the Coalition "fully intends to submit additional contentions," including contentions based on an NRC Team Engineering Inspection completed on September 5th.

"The NRC examined maybe 1/2 of one percent of the plant," Shadis said, "and found eight significant uprate-related issues. If they had done the full-scale examination area people had asked for, how many more issues could we reasonably have expected would be found? Fixing these problems will not fix the problems that may reasonably be expected to be lurking in the remaining 99.5 percent of the plant. The NRC has to be forced to do a complete

and thorough review."

Shadis faulted the NRC hearing process for "losing sight of the end purpose of establishing a hearing process in the first place. Those people whose health, safety, and property are put at increased risk should be given a real hearing on any legitimate health and safety concerns they raise," he said. "Simple as that. Many of the contentions the panel eliminated because of procedural technicalities, both the state's and ours, raised real, significant issues about uprate safety, and they should be heard. But because of pure gamesmanship, they will be deferred. When this is the case, Entergy is the winner; public safety the loser."

The two Coalition contentions to survive the ASLB process asserted that ENVY lacks seismic analysis of a portion of the plant's cooling tower system that is designed for emergency use should normal cooling systems fail; and that ENVY should not be allowed a requested exemption from testing at full-power conditions prior to uprate operation.

Peter Alexander, executive director of the New England Coalition, said, "We're feeling pretty excited and vindicated. We've been operating with a minimal budget behind unten-

able rules established by the nuclear industry and its handmaiden, the NRC. It's a miracle that we've been able to get standing in this case. If it were not for the selfless contribution of time and energy and expertise from our nuclear experts and technical advisor, Ray Shadis, none of this would have happened."

Shadis, commenting on the danger to public health and safety raised in the NEC contentions, said, "Two technical issues were raised. This plant has cooling towers. At the base of two of the 20 cooling towers is a basin full of water, like a gigantic swimming pool, designed to function in emergency situations to prevent a meltdown at the plant. Therefore they must be able to withstand a shock from an earthquake or a comparable shock from a vehicle delivering a bomb." Though New England is not known as a center of earthquake activity, Shadis noted earthquakes have occurred in the region within the last hundreds of years, and risk assessments should adopt a long range view. Besides, seismic standards for emergency components at nuclear plants "is not some issue dreamed up by the NEC. It's right in the NRC's regulations. But no updated

seismic study has been done on the cooling towers since they were modified in the 1980s."

The other issue raised by NEC contention relates to Entergy's request for an exemption from "large transient testing," by which plant systems would be tested at the actual conditions they would face under a boost to 120% power, prior to receiving final uprate approval. "All systems would be tested under a full range of pressure, flow, and temperature," under this procedure, said Shadis. He pointed out this procedure, too, is mandated by NRC regulations. "But the company asked for an exemption, and it looked like the NRC was going to grant it. Entergy said they had developed computer simulations to show how the plant's systems would operate under increased pressure. But as Dave Lochbaum, of the Union of Concerned Scientists has said, the plants that have been granted uprates greater than 13% 'are literally shaking themselves apart.' They're putting more steam through them than they were ever designed to hold. The Quad Cities Plant in Cordova, IL, has been ordered to revert to pre-uprate power until its problems can be sorted

see YANKEE, pg 5

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The Montague Reporter

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Thanksgiving Past

Giving thanks for what we are given, the fruits of the harvest, the blessings of home and hearth and family, is an age-old tradition in every land. Hereabouts, it may be instructive to recall a few Thanksgivings past, in consideration of the bounty we share. A few items culled from old newspaper articles from the *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* and the *Impartial Intelligencer* from the database of Lake Pleasant historian Barbara Stewart, will illustrate the quality of the day.

Athol (1872) The Gage family made their annual pilgrimage to the Hermit of Erving Castle. On their arrival they were received with open arms by the Hermit, who escorted them to his Palace on the hill, expressing his thanks for the honor conferred upon him by the pilgrims, arriving safely at the castle after innumerable hairbreadth escapes. The party indulged *te deums* of thanksgiving for their safe arrival, after which the whole party, numbering in all 54, (22 of whom were Gages) partook of a bountiful dinner, and were then photographed by an Athol artist.

Hoosac Tunnel (Dec 1st, 1873) - The heart of Hoosac Mountain was the scene of a novel celebration on Thanksgiving day, the completion of the longest railroad tunnel in America. As befitted the final act in a work of such magnitude, forms and ceremonies were lacking, and the only noticeable thing in the accessories was the gathering of a few officials and

a company of newspaper men, who braved the dreary winter ride from North Adams to that region which some cynical old settler of Berkshire styled Florida as a frigid joke. They made the descent of the central shaft, and then traveled something over a quarter of a mile underground, till they approached the narrow wall of rock that constituted the only remaining barrier. The headings from the central shaft and the west ends were within 18 feet of each other Wednesday, and with the same drill used to pierce the hole through that other barrier which divided the east end from the central shaft last December, the center hole was drilled, through which Mr. Rockwood, the central shaft superintendent, communicated with Mr. Hicks at the west end heading by 6 o'clock. The meeting was effected at the distance of 2054 ft. from the central shaft. Mutual congratulations followed, but for once there were no speeches, and indeed, none of the Fourth of July spirit anyway, for the contractors lack this by birth, nor is it theirs by acquisition.

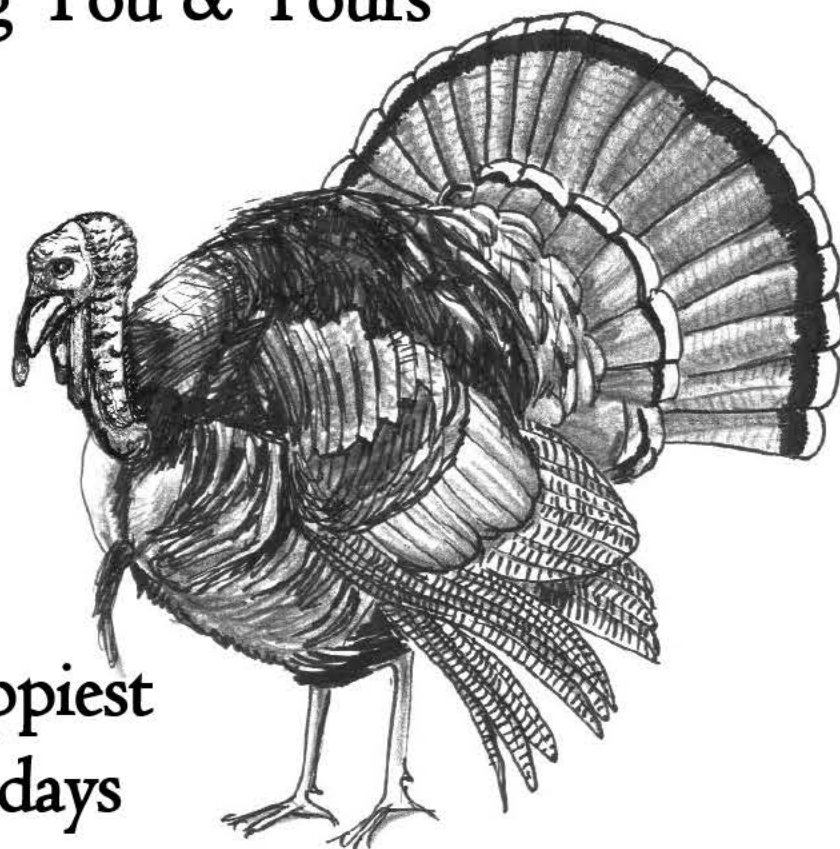
Turners Falls (December 8th, 1873) Luke Thornton and Ernest Wait, two boys belonging to Riverside, went through the ice on Thanksgiving Day and came near going to their long homes. Had not Cornelius Field been at hand to render timely assistance, nothing would have prevented them from ceasing to drift down the stream of time and the Connecticut River



PHOTO RICK BRAGG

Narragansett youth drumming at a recent Thanksgiving ceremony at Wissatinnewag

Wishing You & Yours



the Happiest of Holidays

- The Massachusetts Wild Turkey Association

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

His Name is John

We are writing in response to the article entitled, "My Dinner with Jessamyn," in your November 11th issue. The author should have stuck to his intentions and written about a play; at least then he would have known what he was talking about.

Someone who has only been to the Shady Glen twice, and, speaking of the former owner, says "I think his name is John," has no business critiquing John Carey. A business does not do as well as the Shady Glen has for the last 40 years because of poor relations between the patrons and the proprietors.

John Carey has given more

to this community and has helped more people out of the kindness of his heart than we could ever do, not because he had to, but because he wanted to. He has given food for community meals, donated food to Meals on Wheels, helped local churches provide meals for people who can't otherwise afford them, and asked nothing in return. For these and many other reasons, he was also chosen Franklin County Citizen of the Year in 1999.

Not only did he take care of the community, but he looked out for his employees as well. For many years John has given his employees a sense of securi-

ty by treating them like family. Even if an employee had a problem that wasn't work-related, John would want to know what was bothering them and he would do what he could to help them through it.

As employees of the Shady Glen, we just wanted to set the record straight. John Carey should be remembered for his generosity, not because he forgot to give someone their change.

John Carey will always have a place in our hearts.

- the Employees of the Shady Glen

The Extra Mile

When Mr. Monroe states (in "My Dinner with Jessamyn," November 11th) that he did not appear to be the "average customer" at the Shady Glen, he misses the beauty of the Shady Glen: that there is no "average customer." I have to vouch on

John's behalf. He is the kindest, most giving individual, who never turned his back on anyone. He went the extra mile for many.

Sincerely
- JoAnne Olsen
Dover, PA

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US FORCES
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Wounded in Action **9,956**

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

GUEST  EDITORIALS

Giving Thanks for Family

BY MARVIN SHEDD

As the last leaves drift to the ground, buoyed by the gentle fall breeze, and the temperature starts its downward trend - a solid indication that Jack Frost is around the corner - our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving. A holiday marked by food, family and football, it is the time of year when we count our blessings and give thanks for all that is good in our lives. It is a time for reflection.

Thanksgiving marks the unofficial start of the holidays, heralding the Christmas season, and all its craziness. Soon, we will be consumed with shopping, wrapping presents, and decorating. Our schedules will be filled with holiday gatherings, baking cookies and singing carols. It's often hard to find time to enjoy all that is good and special about

the holidays. Thanksgiving, however, is generally a little less hectic, a lot less commercialized and for the most part, soundly rooted in those old New England values so many of us were raised on.

Thanksgiving traditions are many and varied, but most involve a gathering of family and friends, a table filled with food, generally, but not always, centered around a turkey. My wife, Sue, and I will host some twenty people or so in our log home in Bernardston. The number is never definite as frequently an unexpected relative or friend will pop in to join the festivities. No matter, another chair can always be brought to the table; another plate filled with food, another voice welcomed to the merriment.

Each guest will bring something to the feast, perhaps a favorite family recipe or a special dessert. After the meal, the younger crowd will disappear to the cellar for a round of pool, others will convene the annual cribbage game and some of us will sit by the fire, listening with respect as grandparents relate stories of what Thanksgiving was like when they were little. Soon it will be time for a second piece of pie, complete with the knowledge we don't really need it, but buoyed by the fact that, well... it is Thanksgiving.

Soon it will be time for the guests to leave, and the round of goodbyes will begin. Many guests live in the area and will return again for Christmas, but some we are not likely to see until Thanksgiving rolls around

again. After everyone has left, each with a parcel of leftovers, we collapse by the fire, content in the knowledge we have maintained the holiday traditions that have existed in our families for years and happy that our boys revel in the majesty of it all. Frequently, they join us in this moment of reflection, a time of family togetherness.

The boys soon move off to the floor for a game of Uno, and Sue and I settle in with the newspaper we had been too busy to look at earlier. As I survey the scene in front of me and reflect on the day's gathering, I am reminded of the thing I am most thankful for - family. I am grateful for the fact we are all together in the comfort of a loving home and a warm fire. As the fire snaps and crackles, my mind drifts to a dif-

ferent, yet similar scene. In this scene, it is me with my brothers on the floor playing cards, my own Dad in the chair with the newspaper. As I am snapped out of my reverie by the sound of my oldest son's voice, wondering if there is any more of Gram Shedd's pumpkin pie left, I realize more than ever that, despite the problems and conflicts that confront us, we have much to be thankful for.

This Thanksgiving, after the football game and that second piece of pie, may each of us find time to reflect on all that is good in our lives. Remember loved ones past and present, those who helped shape our lives, and those who make our life complete by their presence in it. May all your Thanksgivings be happy, comforting and joyful.

Gill Forum on Vermont Yankee

BY SALLY SHAW

A public forum on living in the evacuation zone of Vermont Yankee will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Gill town hall. Come meet with neighbors to learn and share concerns about the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor power "uprate." The reactor is situated just nine miles from the center of Gill. Entergy Nuclear will risk our health and safety in order to increase their profits by running the Vermont Yankee reactor at 120% of its original design capacity, before its license runs out in 2012 and its spent fuel pool fills up in 2008. There will be opportuni-

ties to ask questions, get answers, and join the efforts of many concerned citizens who are participating in the regulatory process for the safety of our children, our families and our homes.

See the video "Fatal Fall-Out," an award-winning documentary that features nuclear physicists and medical professionals describing the health risks of "low-level radiation" released into the air by commercial nuclear reactors such as Vermont Yankee. The risks of ingested or inhaled alpha or beta particles (emitted by radioactive Strontium, Iodine, and Cesium, and other isotopes routinely released into our air

and water by operating nuclear reactors) have long been downplayed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear industry. Instead, risk assessment by the NRC still uses a model of whole body irradiation based on flawed studies of the aftermath of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

According to Ray Shadis, an expert on nuclear power who is the staff advisor to the New England Coalition, in his testimony before the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel, the 20% uprate at Vermont Yankee will:

- increase the likelihood of a nuclear accident

- increase the consequences of a major accident by 30-40%

- increase routine radiation releases to public space by 20-30%

- increase high level waste production over the life of the reactor by 20%.

NRC Exit Hearing Cancelled

This fall, the NRC scheduled - then cancelled - a public "exit meeting" on November 9th in Vernon at which they were to present the findings of the scaled-down engineering assessment at Vermont Yankee and their review of the lost fuel rods fiasco. Due to pressure from the press and public offi-

cials in Vermont, the NRC will reschedule an exit meeting at which the public will be allowed to comment, at a time and place yet to be announced.

In the meantime, on December 1st at the Gill town hall, we have an opportunity to get informed and plan responsible action as we await the NRC meeting. Please pass the word, and attend if you can.

Traprock Peace Center, New England Coalition, and Citizens Awareness Network co-sponsor this viewing and the discussion to follow, on "How we can take responsibility, when the NRC will not." For more information, call 413 863-4992.

YANKEE

continued from pg 3

out, and the Dresden plants, Units 2 and 3, have been shut down to correct problems in "either their turbine shafts or generator shafts. And believe me," said Shadis, "you don't want to have a turbine or generator shaft come apart. Parts weigh easily 500 or 600 pounds, and they are moving at quite a clip, 1800 rpms," he said. "For example, we know the generator at VY was out of balance, and the operator did a hustle job to rebalance it in the field during the recent shutdown. It's like having a shade tree mechanic rebuild an engine and put it out on the race track hoping it will run, without testing it first.

"These are issues that

should have been flagged by the regulators. Thousands of local residents, joined by state and local officials, asked for an independent safety assessment at the plant, comparable to the one conducted at the (now closed) Maine Yankee plant. Instead, the NRC conducted an assessment less than 1/10th that size at Vermont Yankee, and still these eight safety issues emerged. When citizens groups can find flaws, what is the value of the regular run of inspections? The answer is, 'Apparently none.'"

Shadis said the two contentions granted standing for the state of Vermont both related to the issue of "containment overpressure." This term refers to an emergency operating procedure that "may pose a challenge to the containment,"

if the NRC were to overrule its own regulatory guide and allow VY an exemption to permit it. Relying on containment overpressure would allow the operator of the uprated plant to fall back to "overpressurizing" the reactor vessel to avoid the potential of cooling water boiling and causing emergency core cooling pumps to fail during an accident.

"The heat removal margins at the reactor are at very slim limits now. My experts - who have 75 years of nuclear plant experience between them - don't see how these margins can be preserved at 120% of power. They're going to irradiate 20% more fuel. They're going to crank it up and pump that much more steam through the system. Allowing containment overpressure on top of

that would be a violation of everything they had on the books."

Vermont's Congressional team, Senators Jeffords and Leahy, and Representative Sanders have repeatedly and pointedly asked for NRC's close attention to safety concerns with respect to the proposed power boost. They have asked directly for the NRC to hold a public meeting in Vermont dedicated to discussion of the NRC Team Engineering Inspection. The New England Coalition continues to press for Congressional Hearings with respect to the NRC's performance in this and other extended power uprate cases. Fewer than a dozen plants have sought and received approval for extended power uprates of

13% or more since the uprate program began just four years ago. Five of those plants have experienced failures of major components, including major components within the reactors. Two plants are now in extended shutdown for major repairs.

Entergy Nuclear was informed by letters from NRC on November 13th and 15th that a decision on its extended power uprate application would be delayed "several months" until questions regarding one major failure at other plants, fracture of the reactor's steam dryer - a thirty ton steel hood mounted directly over the nuclear fuel - and issues emerging from NRC's recent Team Engineering Inspection, could be resolved.

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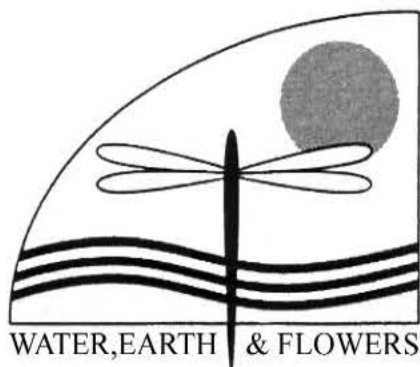
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Civil War Monument Finalized

BY IVAN USSACH

ERVING - Dennis Rindone gave the board an early preview of next year's Memorial Day events, at their November 22nd meeting. Plans for a Civil War monument have been finalized, and Athol Granite was awarded the contract to erect the memorial for \$10,498.50. The selectboard voted to support the award. A parade marking the installation of the long overdue monument will take place on May 21st, commencing on the Montague side of Millers Falls and proceeding through Ervingside, one week

before Memorial Day weekend, to ensure participation. The 10th Massachusetts Regiment has committed to performing reenactment activities at the event. A dedication ceremony will follow.

The Erving selectboard then moved quickly through a number of routine business items at the meeting.

Newly hired town accountant Deborah Mero will begin her job December 2nd. During her training with former town accountant Dick Pomeroy, Mero will be paid an hourly rate.

Ann Perkins of Rural

Development, Inc. advised the town of a rubbish pile that town administrator Tom Sharp inspected and found not to be on town property.

The board approved Peter Sanders as a temporary water operator, effective December 1st. Chair Andy Tessier abstained from the vote.

The board reviewed financial questions received from Standard & Poor's, to be used in determining the town's bond rating.

The board approved \$200 to be used by volunteers to paint Fire Station #1.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MCAS Scores Need Improvement

BY KATE ARSENAULT

The need to increase MCAS scores while keeping the importance of testing in perspective was a hot topic at the meeting of the Gill-Montague school committee on November 23rd. Superintendent Sue Gee reported increases in MCAS scores in the district in the last two years in most grades. However, in the Spring 2004 test, students only showed improvement in Grade 7 English, Grade 10 English, and Grade 10 Math. Even with these increases, the only grade level test results above the state average were in Grade 7 English. Gee said the school district is analyzing the results, and is looking at ways to improve test scores.

Gee said she could see a possible correlation between severe budget cuts and the low test scores. She noted that Title 1 reading support teachers at Sheffield and Hillcrest schools were placed in teaching positions in classrooms last year to prevent class sizes from rising above 30 students. Gee said while this allowed more time for teachers to work with small groups or with individual students, it has removed long-term supports for individual students, including those who are having difficulty learning to read. Budget cuts also impacted the middle school, where newer teachers were laid off. This forced the district to shift elementary general subject teachers to more specialized teaching positions in the middle school. Gee said that while the teachers were certified to teach at that level, they were not specifically prepared in mathematics for grades seven and eight. "We could say that severe budget cuts have had a major effect," said

Gee.

Plans to improve student achievement on MCAS scores include restoring the Title 1 support teachers to Sheffield and Hillcrest. "We do have a federal grant at Hillcrest entitled Reading First, and we know that as we implement this new program, we will see additional students reading at the proficiency level as they move forward to Grade 3," said Gee. Math was noted as an area that needs particular improvement. Gee reported that math teachers have been restored to the middle school. She also said the GMRSD is exploring the possibility of forming a partnership with Boston College, where Dr. George Ladd, who leads the Data Analysis and Strategic Planning Project, would help the district analyze math scores and offer strategies to improve test scores. "There are many factors, and we will address them one at a time," said Gee.

While there was agreement on the need to improve scores, Gee and other school committee members pointed out it is important to keep MCAS test results in perspective. She said MCAS scores are only one measurement of a student's achievement, and may not give a true picture of a student's ability. She pointed out that high-stakes tests produce test-taking anxiety in many students, causing them to forget important facts and concepts. Students who are new to the country, and those with certain learning difficulties can misread, or have difficulty understanding, questions. These are some of the factors that can lower scores, masking students' true ability.

Montague representative Tony Guglielmi agreed with the need to

put the test in perspective, saying test scores might not always correspond with classroom performance. "This kind of emphasis on standardized testing would leave an Einstein out on the streets," he said. Guglielmi added that while the MCAS can be used, it is not an educational end product.

Electronic Report Cards

According to Sue Gee, new electronic report cards should help teachers see whether classroom performance is corresponding with MCAS scores in specific skill areas. Teachers' association president Nancy Daniel Green backed the use of the new cards, saying teachers will now be able to enter grades and comments into electronic grade books, an improvement on the old method. She noted teachers will be able to quickly produce individualized reports for students, and the new cards will hopefully provide a more cohesive view of student progress. The report cards give detailed accounts of student progress in specific skill areas. Teachers can also write a narrative on the card if necessary. She said a primer on the new report cards has been sent home to parents. While Green called the electronic card system a work in progress, Gee said she thinks the cards will be a wonderful, new asset.

Grade inflation is a concern to school committee members. Nancy Daniel Green said the district is working with teachers to explain that not every child will receive an A, and that if a child is doing his or her best, this will be reflected in the narrative section of the report. "We're raising the standards," said committee member Mile Langknecht.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Perc Tests and Drug Tests

BY JOSH HEINEMAN

On November 17th, the Wendell selectboard discussed the library and town office construction projects, the date for a hearing for the Deja Brew pub proposal, and the drug testing policy for highway department employees. Jenny Richards, a representative from the Mahar High School student council, attended the meeting, and the board heard from town accountant, Nancy Riebschlaeger, and treasurer Carolyn Manley.

Selectboard member Christine Heard reported that the roof on the front of the current town office building was finished last week. The back half of the roof had been shingled a year ago, so now the whole building is waterproof, at least from above.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked the board if the town could grant a special permit for a wedding party on the town common to serve alcohol. Chair Ted

Lewis said a wedding on the common would be fine, but town liability insurance would not permit the imbibing of alcohol on town property. If the wedding family wanted to, they could purchase their own liability insurance, Lewis said, but he doubted they would want to incur that expense.

For the library and town office construction project, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported the town-owned properties on Locke Hill road had failed perc tests. The selectboard and engineer Bob Leet were somewhat confused about the property lines and locations of those lots. Manley brought in tax maps and records that the board tried to bring into line with their experience on the ground. Among the parcels is a 7-acre parcel that could be divided into two house lots, but Leet said the land would never perc. The board had been looking into the possibility of swapping one of the parcels for property near the com-

mon owned by Anne Marie Metzler, where new town offices might be built.

Keller said the whole idea of a land swap with Meltzer was illegal, because in selling land, the town must put it up for auction, and sell to the lowest bidder. On the other hand, in pursuing a purchase of land from Meltzer, the town has acted legally because her response was the only one the town received that met the criteria of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for suitable land for a new town office building.

Keller added that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners wanted a topographic map (of the Meltzer property), not just a border survey, and the current surveyor, Mary Anne Milewski, said that would cost an additional \$1,200. After some discussion the board concluded it would not be necessary to put the additional expense out to bid, because the dollar amount was

not over the threshold requiring an open bid, and Milewski's original bid for the border survey was well below all other bids they received.

The board plans to hold a special town meeting in January, when both town clerk and moderator are available, to seek voter approval for whatever action the town may take on the library and town office construction.

The required 35 days have passed for departments to state their concerns about the proposed pub at the Wendell Country Store. Police and fire departments did not respond, so their approval is assumed. Responses from the board of health, the highway department, and the planning board have been forwarded to the Scutaris. Before a hearing is held, not only abutters, but households within a given radius must be notified in writing, and the hearing must be advertised and posted for two weeks. A 20-day appeal

period follows the hearing. The board decided to postpone the hearing until January to allow sufficient notice to be given, and to avoid conflicts with the holidays.

Keller had reported in the last meeting that Choice Point, the company that randomly selected CDL drivers for drug tests, was also responsible for vote counting irregularities in Florida in 2000. The board decided to switch to the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) to administer the highway department's drug tests. Highway workers are the only CDL licensed town employees. Highway workers can belong to their own one town 3-driver pool, in which case one of the three would be chosen for testing every quarter, or to a statewide pool. In a statewide pool, one driver could be chosen every month, or months could pass with no driver tested. The board voted to join the statewide pool.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Newt Guilbault Throws a Curve

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Frank Campbell, president of the Newt Guilbault League came to discuss the licensing arrangement by which his league hopes to continue their longstanding use and maintenance of two fields near the Sheffield School, bordering Montague Road. The town-owned land is leased to the Gill-Montague Regional Schools; the chair of the GMRSD school committee, represented the schools' interests in the matter. Campbell raised questions about a clause in the license agreement that stipulates 'school-related activities shall supercede the rights of the licensee.'

"That would be us," Campbell pointed out. He asked for more time to review the agreement with the league's attorney.

"You're kind of throwing us a curve," said board chair Pat Allen. "We thought we were here to sign the lease."

Board member Allen Ross praised the effort of the league in maintaining the fields and providing recreational opportunities for area youth over the years, and

proposed ongoing quarterly meetings between the town, the league, and the schools.

Dodge Acting Sergeant

On the request of acting police chief Gary Billings, the board appointed officer Charles (Chip) Dodge to the post of acting sergeant for the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. He will take on the new post, at \$20.44 per hour, beginning December 24th. Dodge was one of two Montague officers, along Harlow, who took the Civil Service sergeant's exam; the results have not been announced yet.

The opening for a new sergeant was created when acting sergeant Jen Harlow moved on to Newport, VT, joining the police force there. Allen told Billings the board may rethink the need for four sergeants in a 15 person force. "We need more officers. You've got enough chiefs."

Billings replied he needed sergeants on each shift to provide a clear delineation of authority. "You need someone in command on every shift."

Besides Billings, Richard

Suchanek and Chris Williams are the other sergeants on the Montague force.

Dry Hill Roundabout

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio gave the board an update on the status of negotiations with James Senn over access to the Dry Hill Cemetery. Senn hired an engineer from SVE Associates to walk the longer route - Dry Hill Cross Road - and the upper section of Dry Hill Road to the cemetery, with a view toward bringing that 3-mile road up to the town's specifications. The board will now seek to set up a meeting with Senn - in executive session (ostensibly for discussion of real estate) - to determine whether Senn would be willing to pay or provide service in kind to bring the longer route up to passable standards.

"None of us want to take the longer route," said Allen. Ross said, "We need to establish the town's clear right to its historical route," from Wendell Road directly up to the cemetery, less than a half mile up Dry Hill Road. Two short, passable alternative routes

from Wendell Road have been opened by Senn up to the cemetery, and the board has expressed willingness to swap easements with Senn for one of these, rather than reopen the historical route of Dry Hill Road which runs between Senn's home and garage.

Creche on Town Property

In the board's discussion of a request by the Montague Center Firemen's Relief Association - a volunteer group - to use a portion of the Montague Center village common to put up a Christmas crèche, board member Ross said he supported the proposal because, "other religious groups could also use the property for a religious display," and no public funds were being expended in storing or putting up the crèche.

The request was approved unanimously.

Website Up

The town's updated website is finally up and running, at HYPERLINK "<http://www.montague.net>" www.montague.net. The official town website had not been updated for some years..

"Did I get elected to the selectboard yet?" inquired Patricia Allen. Ross, who had coordinated the implementation of the new site, replied, "Yes. There have been a lot of changes."

A petition signed by 77 residents of the Patch called on the board to consider the safety of residents in the island neighborhood before allowing the Bailey Bridge to Power Street to be posted for one way traffic. Such a move, in advance of the proposed development of an 88-apartment complex at the old Railroad Salvage, would route all outgoing traffic from that site through the residential neighborhood and over the 11th Street Bridge. The ZBA, which granted conditional approval to Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk for the mixed use project, have made completion of a traffic study a condition of approval for the special permit.

The selectboard took the petition under advisement, before entering into executive session for the discussion of real estate.

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New Life for an Old Firehouse

BY FLORE -

TURNERS FALLS - Can you roll yourself comfortably back to the beginning of the last century? This is exactly where my story begins. In closing your eyes and cupping your ears, are you able to distinctly hear sounds, bellowing, alarms? Whether church bells or strident sirens, are you catching the commotion they create?

Add to the scene people in the streets, going to and fro, filling up pails right to the brim. For sure they are taming the flames about to devour the wood panels of a nearby barn. Someone shouts, "all the cattle are still inside; we've got to act quick to save their lives. Get them outside!"

Frantic fire crew on duty, slide down the gigantic central pole; can you perceive their trampling? Precisely as if the earth is

tuning to constant drumming?

To help you further, in case you haven't guessed yet. Now, do tell. Who wears a prized festive brick robe? Can you feel my unhidden pride of saving many lives, as you climb the squeaky stairs? Have you discovered, finally, right above, a full spread-winged sculpture of a gorgeous eagle about ready to take off? Lift your head, look closer, pierce further, doesn't it look as if, pinned on the peak of the roof, it prefers to watch now, quietly, passersby?

You guessed right. I am the "Old Fire House" of Turners Falls.

No need any longer to shiver at the thought of being discarded, put to pasture, trampled down. After so many years of active duty, I am still around. Yep, mighty pleased, in fact, to keep on

meeting tremendous new, lively, tenants. First the local cable television station held forth in my walls; their producers work their still! For years we have had great times together. Now, my ground floor and half the top is reserved for the activities of the Brick House Community Resource Center, and teen center. Believe me, from what I listen to and hear of their goings-on at their meetings, activities about to blossom here are breathtaking. Wait and see: they are loaded with ideas. Then, on the second floor, where once the brave fire crew bedded down to wait the next alarm, are the offices of the world-famous Montague Reporter, would you believe?. What a place!

On the comfortable, inviting sofa, lounging, the Muse of the Newspaper will meet you. You



The Calico Sphinx on her favorite perch outside the Old Fire House.

heard me right, a real Muse. This mystic calico looks as if she may be the misplaced living soul of the Sphinx of Cheops. Better beware!

Speaking of rejuvenation, this is indeed the place. How could I not count my blessings, especially at Thanksgiving?

FARM

continued from pg 1

day France about a character who was a distiller by trade. When I stopped to buy some maple syrup one day, the teacher had brought the class down to the farm to distill rosemary oil and learn how the distillation process worked. After the students gathered the rosemary plants and put them in the seven-bushel stainless steel steam kettle, Odman explained the distilling process originated around 350 BC in China, Greece or Egypt. Afterwards the students went into the sugarhouse and Odman showed them some of the finished products made from the oil. The students displayed a varied set of reactions smelling the oil as the bottle was passed around.

The original distillery was acquired when Odman retrofitted a 60-gallon steam kettle he purchased from a maple farm in New Hampshire in '96. This kettle was lost in a fire at the NMH farm that destroyed three barns in 2000. After the fire, a new timber frame barn was raised in May,

2002. Many students, with hammer and chisel in hand, helped with the joinery on this 45' by 80' barn. Since the fire, Odman retrofitted a second steam kettle.

The distilling process is very labor intensive, Odman explained. From a half-acre of lavender plants, about three quarts of oil are produced. Used in by-products such as soap and lavender balm, that oil can be made to go a long way.

The beginnings of the NMH farm go back to the founding of the school in the 1880s. Up until the late 1950s, the school had a large, diversified farm including a prize-winning herd of dairy cows. The agricultural program at UMass used to borrow Mount Hermon's bulls. In the late 50s, the farm was shut down, but in the 70s a group of dedicated and energetic students and teachers revived the program and started a makeshift sugaring operation. When Odman arrived in the late 70s, he started working with the students who were volunteering on the farm. The school created a part-time position for him as farm manager, and this evolved into a full-time position.

When I visited the farm one day in mid-November, Odman was sorting, washing and packing apples. Working with him was Dirk Delacour, a friend and former student at the school who had come to visit and help out. Delacour had worked for two summers on the farm, before graduating from NMH in '89, and going on to study film. He came back to the farm with a film crew to shoot a documentary on sugaring.

Odman explained that after packing the apples, the crated fruit would be brought to an orchard in Shelburne for cold storage. The NMH farm grows eleven varieties of apples; most of the apples and cider go to the dining halls, where they run through about two hundred gallons of cider a week. Cider and apples are also sold at the sugar house, and other products made at the farm are available there as well, including maple syrup, raspberry jam and vinegar, cider syrup and cider jelly, and lavender oil and soap.


The farm also participates in two annual agricultural events; the Lavender Day Festival in the

summer and the Cider Days Festival in the fall. These events bring many people from surrounding communities and beyond to area farms to meet farmers, growers and artisans and experience culinary and sensory agricultural delights. At the recent Cider Days Festival, the NMH Farm made cider and cider jelly. Odman learned the process of making these two products from Neil Smith, a farmer who fine-tuned the process at his own orchard in Northfield. Odman displayed the cider pan, similar to a maple syrup pan, where the cider is boiled down. The cider syrup is similar in consistency to maple syrup, but the product is surprisingly tart.

During the summer, two students each week work at the farm. This is the time when lavender is grown and distilled. The farm has grown lavender since '87 after Odman took a trip to England and was inspired by the lavender he saw being grown and distilled there. The NMH farm primarily grows *vera*, an English lavender. Although this hardy variety survived the severe cold winter last year, the *grosso*,

a more Mediterranean variety also grown at the farm, didn't fare so well. This is unfortunate because the *grosso* yields five to seven times as much oil as the *vera*.

At the milk house, built after the fire, NMH has recently begun to produce milk from their three cows. This makes the school's farm the state's smallest licensed dairy. The farm has also started making its own cheddar cheese, which will soon be sold at the farm. Making cheese is a good way to use up excess milk at times when the students are on break. Raw milk is also sold at the farm.

When asked what he loves most about his job, Odman says it's the students. "The NMH farm is indeed a small, diversified farm that grows a variety of crops. The most significant crop on this farm, however, is the students themselves. This farm is all about creating a context in which adolescents can themselves grow to enjoy purposeful, hard work and to appreciate all that is involved in raising animals and producing food." 

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Autumn Memories of NMH Farm

BY JOE PARZYCH -

GILL - On Homecoming Weekend earlier this fall, Northfield Mount Hermon farm program workers showed their stuff. They set up a stand selling apples, cider, cider syrup, maple syrup, pumpkins, lavender and rosemary scents and lotions, distilled at the school from plants fertilized by their horses, and harvested by their students.

The work program isn't new. Work is one of the cornerstones of the school founder's motto - Head and Hand and Heart. Evangelist Dwight L. Moody founded Northfield Seminary for young ladies in 1879, after chancing upon a couple of farm girls weaving straw hats in an effort to eke out a living for the family after their father was crippled in a farm accident. He was so moved, he decided on the spot that poor girls in the area deserved a chance for a better life.

Head refers to academics, Hand, work, and Heart, spiritual growth and reaching out to others. Four years of Bible study and daily chapel service were part of the curriculum.

Two years later, Moody founded Mt Hermon School for Boys, also as a "Boy's Town" type of school, aimed at helping poor kids in the area transcend their lot in life. Moody raised money by holding religious revivals and by appealing to captains of industry and other philanthropists. In Moody's time, students worked four hours a day. His ideas about educating young people appealed to donors, and they gave generously. Later, the schools expanded the scope of enrollment to accept deserving young people from other parts of the world.

In the early days, the school was largely self-sufficient. Coal plants co-generated steam heat and electricity and provided students with firsthand engi-

neering experience. Teachers often held science classes to study boilers, steam production, horsepower, and electrical generation. In the farm program, students helped build the barns and maintain the buildings. They took care of stock, and raised most of the schools' food: fruit and vegetables, cows, pigs, chickens and eggs. The farm had a creamery to process milk from the dairy herd, and a blacksmith shop where students learned to repair farm equipment, including how to forge-weld iron and steel, and later to arc weld.

When Jake Mayberry ran the farm program, he relished the job of educating students about farm work, especially the art of manual labor. If a new student was foolish enough to report for a work assignment wearing a suit and dress shoes, hoping for a job in the farm office, Mayberry would send him to work in the manure pit. "That'll educate 'em," he would say.

As the schools evolved, aiming at more affluent families - annual tab nearly \$30,000 - self-sufficiency became less of a goal. The schools quit raising chickens, closed the piggery, got rid of work horses, ceased keeping dairy and beef cattle, let the orchard go to ruin, and scrapped the electrical generators.

In recent years, a revival has

seen a replacement of the apple orchard, featuring a wide variety of apples, including old favorites like Baldwins. The dairy, piggery and poultry farm are gone the way of the dodo. But under the guidance of farm manager, Richard Odman, maple syrup production has

Hermon as a day student during the Holy Roman Empire, the workload was ten hours a week, down somewhat from the four hours a day of Moody's original curriculum. Girls were still kept on the Northfield side of the Connecticut, and the boys on the Gill side. That

arrangement was not always a deterrent to an amorous young man bent on seeing his ladylove. Going co-ed in the 1970s took away most of the mystique of the opposite sex and all the fun out of sneaking across the river. Boys and girls, now, work side by side in the farm program,

seemingly unaware of each other - ("seemingly" being the key word).

As a day student, I did not participate in work at the school. However, I did work at Mt Hermon for a month one summer before enrolling. I needed to earn enough money for books, lab fees, lunch money and clothes. The school

ly riding horses. The remaining workhorse is now used for riding.

Though 22-years-old, Jacques still has the spirit and appearance of a warhorse.

Nowadays, students work 4 ½ hours a week; and are graded on their performance. When I attended

had a dress code, requiring a suit jacket and tie in the dining hall and when attending chapel, which was compulsory in those days.

While working that month at the school, I worked a wide variety of jobs from bean picker to teamster. When I got my first month's pay of \$16 and realized I was only earning ten cents an hour, I quit.

Local farmer, Tony Kendrow, heard I had quit, and came to see if I would work for him. He paid me 50 cents an hour; but I still did not have enough money to enroll until the following year. It was a struggle, but I graduated in 1949.

In 2003, Mount Hermon built a timber-framed barn to replace one destroyed by fire. About 30 students helped build the new barn, under the guidance of the Timber Framers Guild; many of whom volunteered their services.

School administrators did not allow students to use power tools for safety reasons. In the old days, a student did the work of a man and there were no restrictions to the use of power tools. Hired help now maintains the buildings, though students do light maintenance, work in the dining hall and kitchen, work in the stables, in the orchard, and in the fields raising produce.

Richard Odman has worked to rebuild the farm program. Students work to grow and distill lavender and rosemary for a variety of products. They also participate in pressing cider and making cider syrup. Maple syrup and maple candies are also made and sold. Students raise and sell cut flowers for ten cents a stem. They evidently enjoy the farm program and take pride in growing and selling the products of their labor.



Sarah Gillig picking apples at NMH



Anna Mueser sorts the fruit at the cider press

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Slashed Tires and Injured Deer

Wednesday 11-17

2:15 p.m. Vandalism reported in the Food City parking lot. Tires were slashed. Report taken.

Thursday 11-18

8:59 a.m. Minor motor vehicle accident reported on 3rd Street. No injuries. Report taken.

7:30 p.m. Parent at a Montague Street residence called for advice on how to handle a teenaged daughter. Juvenile female arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, larceny under \$250, and possession of a class D drug.

Friday 11-19

5:17 p.m. Report of a minor motor vehicle accident with no injuries on Park Street at 7th Street. Report taken.

11:21 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday 11-20

10:20 a.m. Report of tires slashed at Judd Wire. Report taken.

4:19 p.m. Report of a gas drive off at the Exxon on 3rd Street. Subject could not be located.

Sunday 11-21

1:02 a.m. Report of a suspicious car at the Exxon on 3rd Street. Officer spoke to subject.

8:02 a.m. Report of pool chemicals in the road at an intersection on Highland Street in Millers Falls. DPW notified.

6:49 p.m. Two car motor vehicle accident with no injuries reported near Food City on

Avenue A. Report taken.

9:05 p.m. Stereo reported stolen from a car at a Central Street address. Report taken.

Monday 11-22

7:07 p.m. Report of a minor motor vehicle accident with no injuries on Avenue A at 3rd Street. Report taken.

7:27 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering into a motor vehicle at an E. Main Street Millers Falls address. Found to be a dispute with a past employer.

4:34 p.m. Report of a larceny at the Survival Center on 4th Street. Under investigation.

Tuesday 11-23

7:07 a.m. Report of an injured deer by the airport. Animal Control officer could not locate.

Man Pleads Guilty in Bald Eagle Shooting

From the Mass Wildlife News

A Pittsfield man was convicted November 4th in federal court of killing a bald eagle last October in Cheshire. Joseph Donahue, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty to violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

In October of 2003, a pheasant hunter came across the carcass of an immature bald eagle and reported it to MassWildlife Western District Manager, Tom Keefe, who picked up the bird. The carcass was x-rayed by local veterinarian, Dr. Keith Beebe of Waconah Mobile Veterinary Services. Numerous metal fragments were found that were later verified as shot from a shotgun. The Massachusetts Environmental Police and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were notified and began an investigation.

Several newspaper stories ran in the Pittsfield area after the bird was discovered, and several sportsmen who had been hunting in the area prior to the discovery of the bird came forward to assist



local and federal law enforcement during the investigation. These witnesses stated that a large bird was seen in the air above a field in which several parties were hunting. The

witnesses identified Donahue as the shooter saying they saw him raise his gun and shoot, and then saw the bird fall. The sportsmen said that, although they were uncertain about the exact species of the bird, due to its large size and wing span, they knew it was a raptor and therefore could not legally be hunted. "I can't stress how much easier our job became, once we heard from witnesses," said USF&W's Tom Ricardi.

Sentencing has been scheduled for January. A violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is a federal misdemeanor with a maximum term of imprisonment of one year and a fine of up to \$100,000. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act carries a maximum term of imprisonment of up to six months and a fine of up to \$15,000.

Wendell Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 4th (9 to 5) and Sunday December 5th (9 to 3) at the Wendell Town Hall.



Solo acoustic guitarist Fran Doughty will perform Sunday, December 5 from 12 to 2 at the Wendell Holiday Fair. A Wendell resident, Doughty has been featured in a variety of radio and television appearances including NPR's *Here and Now*.

Holiday shopping featuring local artists, crafters, and businesses. Art prints, jewelry, pottery, blown glass, wreaths, herbs, maple products, crystals and gemstones, massage, tarot readings, astrology, hand-painted silk, chimes, software, and more.

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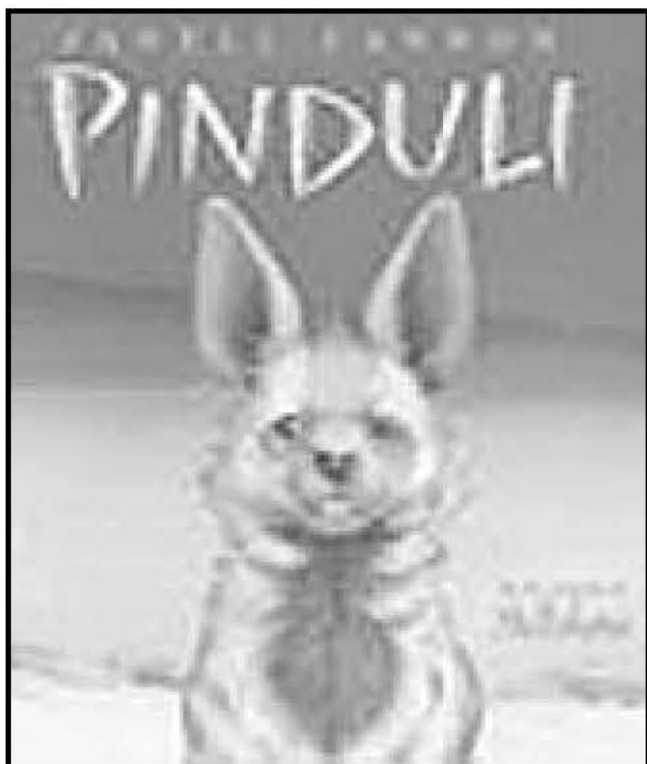
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THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Pinduli Sets a Task

BY KATHY NOWICKI

Janel Cannon, writer of the celebrated children's story about a misplaced bat, *Stellaluna*, has written another captivating tale. *Pinduli*, (Harcourt, 2004) for ages five and up is a story about a young hyena and her life in East Africa. One morning as she explores her territory, Pinduli meets a pack of wild dogs that make fun of her rather large ears. She flattens them against her head. Later, when she



Pinduli by Janel Cannon is a book offering wise counsel: "Find your tormentors and make peace."

comes upon a gruff old lion, he makes fun of her coat. "The prickly fringe hardly becomes you, young lady." Pinduli now questions the appearance of her coat. Is it really so bad? A while later, Pinduli runs into a zebra who tells her, "Good grooming...will take some of that unpleasant haziness out of your patterns." She now believes she doesn't have anything beautiful about her appearance, so she rolls in the dust hiding all of her stripes, pins back her ears, and flattens her coat. Now Pinduli is late for dinner and is very hesitant about going home to a grumpy mom. But go she must. As luck would have it, on her way home to dinner Pinduli meets the very same dogs, the same old lion and zebra that scoffed at her before. But as she approaches the group they look very frightened. What do they see,

she thought? They are looking at her and with her flattened ears and dust-covered coat they think they see a ghost! A Great Spirit! Pinduli is suddenly puffed up with a feeling of power. When the animals feel the Great Spirit is going to punish them for acting badly toward Pinduli they begin to ask forgiveness. As it turns out, the dogs, the lion, and the zebra had all been insulted by other animals at one time or another.

Pinduli thinks. What would a ghostly Great Spirit say at a time like this? Well, she thought, "Spirits always give tasks and want offerings." So Pinduli sets a task she thinks her mother would definitely approve of. "Find your tormentors and make peace."

The animals are grateful to Pinduli for giving them a way out of their predicament.

Pinduli's situation mirrors a

common scenario among young children. In order to feel better about themselves, or more powerful, they will often criticize others. This is a great book to read and talk about with young children.

Also recommended:

Omnibeasts, Animal Poems and Paintings, by Douglas Florian, (Harcourt, 2004), for all ages.

This delightful book is full of humorous, colorful animal illustrations,

which are complimented by liting, rhyming verse for children. For example, *The Boar*: "The boar at best/is just a pig/that wears a vest/and coat and wig." This book is great for language development and new vocabulary words.

Why Epossumondas Has No Hair On His Tail, by Colleen Sally, illustrated by Janet Stevens, (Harcourt 2004), for ages 5 - 8.

Epossumondas sits on his front porch swing saying hello to all his animal friends as they go by. One thing each of them has that Epossumondas does not is a tail, a big bushy tail. So why doesn't he have one?

This fun folk tale, full of descriptive words and phrases, tells the tale (so to speak) of how Epossumondas got his tail.

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All my Villages

BY P. YORK

While some real-life locations and events are used in the following, all characters are the invention of the author and are in no way intended to resemble actual persons living or deceased.

Part XXIII Slapjack

Officially, the Bistro was closed on Mondays, but Brigid had taken to serving bread and soup to a small group of invited friends at seven o'clock on Mondays when she was in the mood. Coach, Barbara, Sunny when he was off work, sometimes Oceania, and even the Chief once in a while joined her. After they ate, some people would hang around to play board games or cards, and Brigid would get a taste of what family life might have been like in a household where she wasn't the only child of a single mother who worked long hours.

This Monday night the card game was Slapjack, at Tina's request, and there was real family around the table in front of the big window looking out onto the Avenue. Barbara, Sunny, Brigid, Brigid's new-found niece Tina Frontenac, and Brigid's long-lost sister, Yvonne/Shavonne/Siobhan Sutnick Pray Frontenac.

"So what I want to know," said Barbara, *Slapjack!*" is when you started getting an inkling, Brigid, that Tina's mom was your sister."

"It's strange," said Brigid. "'Hey, stop that, Sunny, you can't peek at your card before you turn it up. Anyway, I see now the reason I always liked having Tina around the Bistro was I loved looking at her little face. Siobhan and I look nothing alike. And of course, we had different fathers, so that's not particularly odd. But Tina looks just like my - our - mother, especially just like pictures I have of mother when she was

a little girl. Widow's peak, heart-shaped face, light eyes,

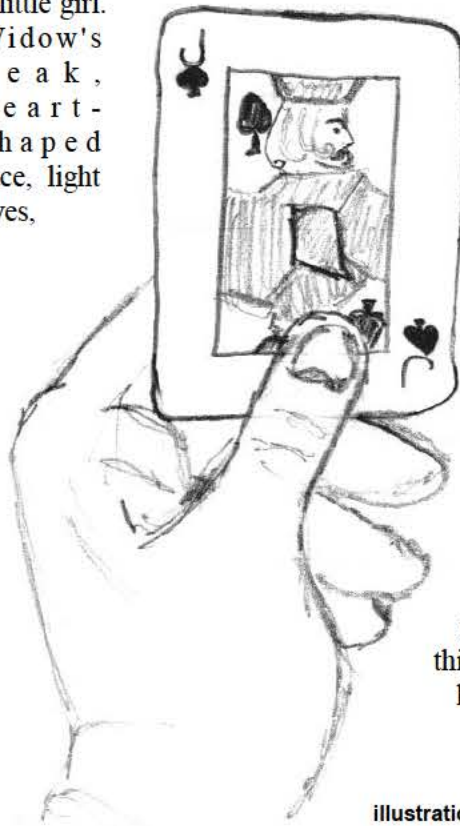


illustration by

Justine Reqish

aristocratic nose..."

"That means long," Sunny told Tina. "She's saying you got a long nose. And if I can't peek at my cards, you can't either. *Slapjack!*"

"But I didn't really figure it out from that," Brigid went on. "She just sort of haunted me

without my knowing why, until that day I went with Tina to the apartment and saw Siobhan's m a i l - n o t addressed to Yvonne, the name I knew Tina's mother by, but Shavonne. The Irish name Siobhan is pronounced like that - Shavonne - and one of the few things I knew about the baby my mother gave up thirty years ago was that her name was Siobhan."

Coach turned to Siobhan. "How come you moved into town right down the street from your sister and never let her know who you were?"

Siobhan pushed back her curly brown hair and sighed. She still looked a little worse for the wear from her two weeks of captivity, but she was gaining ground fast. Every time she looked at Tina or at Brigid, her thin face brightened. "I didn't know who she was, or who I was, for that matter. My cousin Ray Pray was just giving me clues, driving me crazy. His angle was always 'I'll tell you who your "real" family is, if you'll sign papers giving up any claim to my family's money.' Once he found out - after they died - that I was adopted, it made him more furious than ever that their money went to me, when he was their only living blood relative. The money wasn't all that much. If I hadn't had Tina to think about, I might have just given it to him. But I put half of it away so she could go to college some day and lived as cheaply as I could on the rest while I tried to find my birth family."

"But," asked Barbara, "How did your cousin know you were adopted if you didn't?"

"I told him," said Brigid. They all stopped playing and stared at her.

(to be continued...)

"And then there was the Trixie Belden," Tina reminded her. "*Slapjack!* Oops, sorry!"

"No problem," said Coach. "I don't need that finger."

"Yes," Brigid went on, "I went running back into Tina's room to look at that stack of Trixie Belden's she had. I thought it was odd when I saw them that a girl in this decade would be reading and collecting old musty dusty Trixie Belden's. And sure enough, way at the bottom, I found *The Mysterious Visitor*, and on the flyleaf, written in my own 11-year-old cursive, *To S, from B - I love you*. Mom said I could give the baby a goodbye gift, and that's what I had to give."

"And what about you?"



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WOMEN

continued from pg 1

applause in the role of Brigid, another legendary prototype of the Gaelic feminine ideal. To judge from the night's performances, that ideal walks a wavering line between bawd and warrior goddess, with a dram of unattainable love tossed in for measure.

Freeman was wonderful, and most of the audience longed to attain even a glance from her by the end of her dance.

Next on center stage, Marina Goldman epitomized the duality of fighting Irishwoman and muse of the lovelorn in her twin portrayal of Grainne Mhaol, female pirate of the 16th century who laid waste Turkish ships while winning the hearts of crew and countrymen, and Maud Gonne, who inspired the unrequited Yeats to some of the finest poems in the English language, while devoting herself to causes like women's rights, prison reform, and revolution in 19th century Dublin. Goldman struck a dashing figure in both roles, and leant an improvisatory air to some of her songs and speeches.

Indeed the whole evening had the feel of beautifully crafted art performed and enjoyed by the kind of friends who might gather around the fire in a country cottage to recite poems, sing songs, and play music together. First among these friends for the



Harpist and playwright, Rosemary Caine

beauty of her song and the mastery of her craft was Caine herself, who played the harp with tenderness and finesse throughout. It was a wonderful thing to hear the old language come trippingly from her tongue, and that of others in her talented cast - notably Alice Duffy - on such traditional airs as *Thugimar Fein (We Bring in the Summer)*. Centuries of English overlordship fell away as the audience listened raptly to these haunting Erse melodies.

And they could not take their eyes off the most essentially Irish of all the heroines who flounced their way across the boards that night, Molly Malone. Played by the flaming red-head Ann Steinhauser, who held down directing credits while designing the breathtaking, flawless costumes (that won her an

award from the Dundalk Theater Festival in Ireland when *Wilde Irish Women* toured there earlier this year), Malone is a marvel of broad wit, warmth, and wisecracks, and a sight for sore eyes in her fishmonger's finery. She showed how a resourceful Irish lass must make shrift to keep more than a few tricks laced up in her bodice.

A queen among her harem, Lady

Wilde was the comedic standout of the show. Played grandly and over-the-top - with exquisite timing - by Conway's Michael Haley, a man who has helped produce and direct and act in a long line of Hollywood films over the past four decades, including *Postcards from the Edge*, *A League of Their Own*, and *Groundhog Day*, Lady Jane was the impresario presenting and playing off the night's gala array of Irish womanhood. Oddly fitting that she was a man in drag.

Oh, Ireland, you are never what you seem. Go see *Wilde Irish Women* the first chance you get.

The Central Street Neighbors

would like to thank our neighbors on Prospect Street

- Pam & John Hanold
- Chris Sawyer-Laucanno
- Joanne Potee
- Members of the Calvary Baptist Church

for all the hard work they did at the Neighborhood Cleanup Day on October 23rd.

Special thanks go out to Patricia Pruit for her extra efforts.

The neighborhood is a much better place to live because we all care.

The Pioneer Valley Institute's

Annual Meeting Program:

Friends of the Wissatinnewag

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Thursday, Dec 2, 7:00 pm

The Friends of the Wissatinnewag, will present an informative program on the history of the village of Wissatinnewag, the burial sites reported to be there, and the issue of Native American grave protection. All are invited. For more information call PVI at 775-1254.

A Streetcar Named Desire at Northfield Mount Hermon

Northfield - The Northfield Mount Hermon School's theater department announces its production of Tennessee Williams's classic American drama, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The play takes place in New Orleans and is about adult relationships, the drama of dreams and their destruction in the lives of a woman, her husband, and her



Julian Giat has some big shoes to fill

sister. The character of Stanley Kowalski has become an iconic figure in mid-20th century theater. The roles are challenging, as Williams' plays are recognized as benchmarks for good acting.

Starring are Julian Giat '06 as Stanley, Andrea Sepenzis '05 as Stella, and Devon Werden '05 as Blanche Dubois. The play will be seen on Thursday, December 9th, at 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, December 10th and 11th, at 7:30 p.m. All performances will be in the Silverthorne Theatre on the school's Northfield campus.

Admission is \$2 for NMH students, faculty, and staff, and \$5 for all others. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. They may be made via e-mail at david_rowland@nmhschool.org.

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MONEY MANUAL

CD Rates Got You Down?

BY FRANCES RAHAIM, MONTAGUE CITY - Many conservative investors relying on Certificates of Deposits are frustrated and disappointed at low returns. Unfortunately, safety oriented investors often view CDs as their only option.

Despite some slight increases, bank rates continue to remain low. Current average nationwide rates, according to bankrate.com:

- Money market account: 1.41%, down from 1.45% last week
- 6-month CD yield: 1.79%, down from 1.82% last week
- 1-year CD yield: 2.40%, down from 2.41% last week
- 5-year CD yield: 3.83%, down from 3.88% last week.

After taxes and inflation, CD holders are actually losing money each year!

That's tough to take if your chief goal is preserving and protecting your capital.

So, what can you do?

While Bank CDs are insured by the FDIC, and other products may be backed by the state guarantee funds or other methods, learning about the differences and comparing the pros and cons is the best way to decide if an alternative investment is for you.

If you seek safety of principal, and a higher return than CDs, you might consider one of the many annuity products



utilizing them as a conservative type of savings vehicle.

Another possible solution is a hard asset account. This can be a good choice if you are willing to accept some risk, but feel more comfortable with your funds backed by a tangible hard asset. If you choose this option, you should be willing to commit to a five-year minimum term.

available today. Some offer a fixed rate of return while others offer returns linked to the S&P500 or other index, with a minimum rate guarantee. Also, annuities are tax-deferred, and avoid Probate automatically.

If you are being taxed on your Social Security Income, due to your annual income level, you may enjoy an added benefit of annuities. The fact is that gains in a taxable account such as a CD are considered income whether or not you've withdrawn them from your account. If you don't need to withdraw your earnings, you may be able to lower or even eliminate that tax simply by moving your funds into annuities, and taking advantage of their tax-deferral.

Annuities have long been recognized as a way to provide lifetime income.

Today, many investors are

Historically these accounts have well outperformed other conservative types of accounts. In 2004 they are up an impressive 9 1/2% and are expected to rise another 7% or more before year's end. These accounts may be used to provide immediate income, or you may leave the returns in for future use.

Remember, knowledge is power. Ask your financial advisor to explain these alternatives to you. Then, weigh the pros and cons, and make an informed, prudent decision you can be comfortable with.

Frances Rahaim, PhD, a resident of Montague City, is a graduate of LaSalle University in Finance: Insurance and Risk Management. For free information contact MoneyManual.com at: 413-773-3330 or 888-977-8880.

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Help Wanted

Busy podiatry office seeking experienced part-time medical receptionist. Monday in Amherst office. Thursday in Greenfield office. Call Kelli at (413) 256-0161.

Can You Sell? The Montague Reporter is expanding and is now looking for an Advertising Director. Can you help us grow? We're hiring now! Create a relationship with the business community, Bring on new clients and maintain current clients, Display, Business Cards, and Classified Ads, Work by commission. Submit resume and work history: reporterAds@MontagueMA.net or call 413-863-8666

The Town of Gill is Seeking: Truck Driver/Laborer 2 yrs experience heavy equipment operator and snowplowing. MA CDL Class 2 and Housing License For further info. or for application contact the Administrative Assistant, Town of Gill, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01376 or 413-863-9347 EOE

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SEE EVERYTHING YOU MISSED in the Montague 250th Anniversary Parade: every float, every band, and all the crowd. Are you in this video? Call MCTV 863-9200 to order. Also for sale: Turners Falls Girls Softball Championship Game videotape. Both tapes on sale now at the Libraries and Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners or by calling MCTV at 863-9200.

'86 Chevy Van, needs work/parts, \$300/offer- '98 Lumina LS, 135k, good shape, \$750, needs trans. Call 367-9132 evenings or e-mail stew@library.umass.edu

Really nice, heavy black jacket from Howard's Leathers. Perfect condition. Snap in liner. Good fit on 6'3" 220 Lbs. \$275 new, will sell for \$150. Call 367-0350.

Ride Needed

BOSTON SYMPHONY FRIDAY SERIES - Is there anyone in the area who attends the regular Friday afternoon concerts? Need ride. Will share gas and parking costs. Steven 413-863-9922

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20 words for \$5.00 a week, extra words 10 cents each. \$10 for 2 weeks with the 3rd week FREE. Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

Firsts and Seconds on Third St.

The Brick House will be holding its first annual "Firsts and Seconds on Third Street" Art and Crafts Sale on December 4th and 5th. This will take place in The Brick House's new art education and gallery space, Third Street Village Arts. This venue is situated in the front portion of The Brick House building at 24 Third Street, which was once home to the village of Turners Falls fire engines.

This sale is targeted to the thrifty local shopper who still wants quality items. Jewelry, ceramics and fiber arts will be among the selection.

The art and crafts sale will be part of an open studio walking tour, the "Arts & Eats", that will be happening that same weekend. Six artist studios, a gallery and a lighting showroom will be open as well as a number of local eateries, all in easy walking distance in downtown Turners Falls.

The Brick House is seeking additional arts and crafts people who would like to participate in the sale. All sales are on consignment, with The Brick House taking a 30% commission. The sale will go from 10 to 4 on both Saturday and Sunday

Artists who are interested in participating in the sale should contact Michael or Karen at The Brick House (863-9576) to receive an application form.

The Bells are Ringing for Northfield's Annual Tri-Church
CHRISTMAS FAIR
 First Parish ~ St. Patrick's ~ Trinitarian, all on Main Street in beautiful Northfield
December 4th ~ 9 a.m. 'til 2 p.m.
 Browse for gifts: Quilts, original art, jams, relishes, pies, breads, ethnic foods, handcrafts, knits, pre-loved treasures & more. Treat the kids: Face painting; Santa Claus. Enjoy Lunch: Soups, chili, sandwiches, desserts!
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CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOV. 26TH

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Walk off some of your turkey feast - hike through gorgeous upland forest and farmlands and reach the top of Crag Mountain. Total hike is over 3 miles. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Directions: 800-859-2960.

Four on the Floor performing at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. 659-3384.

Images Texts and Artifacts

New works by

Bernard Banville Zöna

Art opening 5p.m. to 10p.m. at Gallery 17, 8 Deerfield Ave., Shelburne Falls. For more info call 413-625-9361 or visit zona@mtdata.com. Gallery hours: Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27TH

Drunk Stuntmen performing at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. 659-3384.

SUNDAY, NOV. 28TH

Tuba Christmas

An outdoor concert held on Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. Dozens of tubas, sousaphones, and euphonium. 2:30 p.m. 413-863-2850.

Got Kids? Montague Grange Family Dance Series at 4:00 p.m. The Montague Grange continues this wonderful family series, now in its fourth year. The series goes from October through April. The series features family-style contra dancing, paced for little feet (no age restriction) or adult beginners, in a beautiful, restored historic building, across from the Town Commons in picturesque Montague Center. Each dance is on the last Sunday of the month, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, priced a sliding \$5-\$10, and includes a light snack.

FRI & SAT, DEC. 4TH & 5TH

Arts and Eats

Turners Falls Open Studio Walking Tour

Featuring studio and gallery tours and presentations by local artists from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The event is sponsored by local eateries where you can pick up maps that include contact information for the participating businesses and artists for future reference. Get your map at the Shady Glen, Cup O' Joe, bellybowl, Equi's, Turners Falls Pizza or Chinatown all located in beautiful downtown Turners Falls.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30TH

Art Steele Blues Jam performing at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. 659-3384.

FRI, SAT & SUN, DEC. 3RD, 4TH & 5TH

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts and Nick

Waynelovich are proud to announce the

Ja'Duke Christmas Spectacular

at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday December 5th at 2 p.m. General Admission is \$12.00 - 65/over and 12/under \$10.00. This Christmas Spectacular features The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts members as well as Ja'Duke Productions vocalists and features a cast of over 140 performers. It is an old fashioned Christmas show with music and dance that will entertain the whole family. Holiday music will be performed featuring songs like Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, Oh Holy Night, Blue Christmas, Jingle Bells, The Gloucestershire Wassail, Winter Wonderland, The Christmas Song, Ave Maria, Have Yourself A Merry Christmas and many, many more! Ja'Duke Productions staff includes the internationally award winning tap dancer Kimberly Waynelovich as choreographer, and producer/director Nick Waynelovich. This unique father and daughter team brought you the dynamic and very popular Footloose, Crazy for You, Chicago and 42nd Street. Ja'Duke Productions brings you this classic Christmas Spectacular underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Tickets are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or for reservations please call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281.

Drunk Stuntmen Rt. 63 Roadhouse Millers Falls Sat, Nov 27th



WENDELL HOLIDAY FAIR

at the Wendell Town Hall (Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Holiday shopping featuring local artists, crafters, and businesses. Special guest Fran Doughty on acoustic guitar, Sunday 12 to 2 p.m.. Food sales to benefit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse and the Wendell Women's Club. Sponsored by the Wendell Community Development Planning Committee to support local economic development goals.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5TH

Wild Asparagus

will host a Family Contra Dance to benefit the Greenfield Center School from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Guiding Star Grange at 410 Chapman Street, Greenfield. Advance tickets and T-shirts are for sale now. This is both a GCS fund-raiser and "fun" raiser, so let's show some love for our school! Visit: www.guidingstargrange.org for info. & directions.

ONGOING THRU DEC. 5TH

Art exhibits and sales at

Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center

Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during the week. Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. Call (413) 548-9070 or (413) 548-3939 for more information.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6TH

World Eye Bookshop's Seasonal Signings featuring Julia Spencer-Fleming, author signing *In the Bleak Midwinter; A Fountain Filled with Blood: A Mystery* and also with Evan Haefeli & Kevin Sweeney, authors signing *Captors and Captives:*

The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield at World Eye Bookshop located at 156 Main Street in Greenfield. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 413-772-2186

ONGOING THRU DEC. 15TH

New Hampshire artist Julia Ferrari likes to think not only in terms of landscape, but also the human interaction with that landscape. It's with this in mind that she approached her new exhibition, *The Further Mound Series*, at the Northfield Mount Hermon School's Nada/Mason Gallery. *The Further Mound Series* will continue at NMH through December 15th. The Nada/Mason Gallery is located in the Bolger

Arts Center on the school's Northfield campus. For more information, call (413) 498-3297.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7TH

Holiday Concert with Montague Community Band featuring holiday music and the McDonald Family Singers during intermission at St. Anne's Church, J Street in Turners Falls. 7:00 p.m. 413-863-4243

DEC. 9TH

The 14th Annual Poet's Seat Poetry Awards

Ceremony at 7 p.m. at All Soul's Universalist Church, 399 Main St, Greenfield. (across the street from the Greenfield Public Library.) Award winners in both the Adult and Younger Poets categories will read their poems and light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call: 413-625-0105.

Montague Grange MOVIE NIGHT

THE UNFORGIVEN

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WED. NOV. 29TH - THURS. DEC. 2ND

- 1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS PG
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MAT WED 12:00 3:00
- 2 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MAT WED 12:00 3:00
- 3 ALEXANDER R
DAILY 8:00
MAT WED 12:00 4:00
- 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS G
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MAT WED 12:15 3:15
- 5 INCREDIBLES PG
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MAT WED 12:15 3:15
- 6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS
- 7 NATIONAL TREASURE PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MAT WED 12:30 3:30

2 Shows - 6:45 and 9:15 p.m.
Fri, Nov 26th
North By Northwest with Cary Grant
Sat, Nov 27th
Being There with Peter Sellers
at 105 Main St, Northfield in the Green Trees Gallery.
Reservations call (413) 498-2100

SUNDAY, DEC. 12TH

Concert featuring Rani Arbo, Patti Carpenter and more at the Shea Theater, 171 Avenue A in Turners Falls. 413-863-2281.

Mabel Zobel
By Sandra Facto

COFFEEEEE!!

CANAL

continued from page 1

quickly put the canal out of business for transportation purposes, but the new availability of rail, power and water made a perfect match for papermaking and other manufacturing along the canal.

Development on the Canal

Development was rapid on the canal. The first manufacturer to set up shop there was the John Russell Company in 1870, with a very large cutlery plant just below the falls. Next was Montague Paper Company in 1871, built on the property just south of the present Esleeck Paper Mill on the canal. Keith Paper Company was established in 1871, producing fine writing paper. It burned down in 1877 but was quickly rebuilt. John Keith, the founder, was an industrialist from Holyoke, MA.

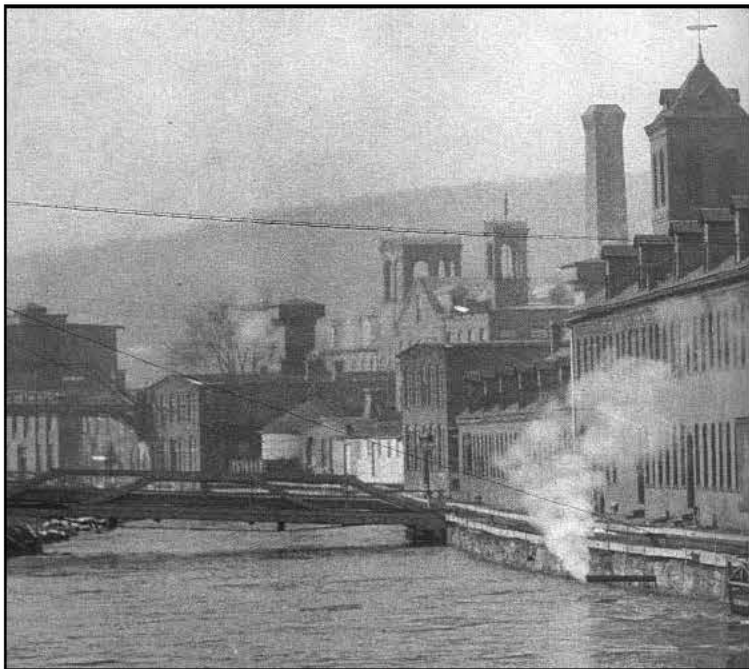
Turners Falls Paper Company was established in 1879, and at the time was one of the largest producers of newsprint in the country. It was located at the intersection of the river and the canal where the idle co-generation plant now stands. Also in 1879, Joseph



A view of the Montague Paper Company from the far side of the river, circa 1890, photo courtesy Kyle Scott

Paper Company became part of the largest paper company in the world with the creation of International Paper Company in 1898. At the time, IP produced 60 percent of the newsprint in the country, and today is the largest paper company in the world.

The Turners Falls Mill was seriously damaged by fire in 1932 and never came back to full operation. All that remains of that mill today is the machine shop that now houses the Great Falls Discovery Center. The only remaining structure of the Montague Mill is the storage building beside the Franklin



A view along the canal, circa 1915, photo courtesy Kyle Scott

Griswold of Colrain built a cotton mill on the river (now better known as the former home of Railroad Salvage). Marshall Paper Company started in the late 1800s and soon failed, but was bought by William Esleeck. He founded the Esleeck Manufacturing Company that still manufactures fine papers today.

The Montague Paper Company and the Turners Falls

County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

In November 1953, Strathmore Paper acquired Keith Paper Company. Strathmore's 100th Anniversary book said, "This facility was to become Strathmore's Turners Falls Mill, the first in the company not situated on the Westfield River. Its three for-drainers (paper machines) brought the company's manu-

facturing complex to nine paper machines."

Keith Paper's Later Years

The "new" Turners Falls Strathmore Mill became an important part of the country's best known and highest quality producer of fine and artist papers. The Strathmore organization had established the most sophisticated marketing program of any paper manufacturer in the country and Keith Paper benefited from that marketing. By today's standards, Keith Paper was nearly handmade and inspected, in some cases, sheet by sheet. Cotton papers were a major portion of Strathmore's business.

The Keith paper machines were old (some parts dated to the turn of the century) and very small by today's standards. The width of the paper rolls produced at the mill was about five feet compared to rolls 30 feet wide at modern mills. The mill produced about 45 tons of paper a day compared to 350 tons at larger paper mills. Although a small mill, the Keith workforce always took great pride in the quality of their work. The quality of the mill's workforce and products was confirmed when the mill became ISO Certified in 1993, an international recognition of quality products and processes.


Although production was limited, the product quality was so good that the paper sold at premium prices. Papermakers for all Strathmore mills knew that to keep the business they needed to produce the best paper possible at maximum capacity and they did so year after year. In the meantime, Strathmore was acquired by Hammermill Paper in 1962 and then Hammermill was acquired by International Paper in 1986. Now, another canal mill had

become part of the largest paper company in the world.

Worldwide paper production economics caught up with the Keith mill in 1994. On August 3rd, 1994, Strathmore announced the mill would close later in the year. A

spokesperson for Strathmore said, "The final decision was made because the

outmoded paper machines are the smallest and slowest of all machines used in the Fine Papers Division of International Paper Company."

A message to Turners Falls Mill employees on August 3rd read in part, "Each of you have helped make the Strathmore franchise what it is today. Our reputation in the market is directly attributable to the fine paper made here for many years." Later in the year, the mill closed with 130 local people losing their jobs. The men and women of the Keith/Strathmore mill had efficiently produced high quality fine papers for 125 years. 

Watermarks

The Keith Paper Company mill produced high quality, cotton, watermarked business papers. Many large companies, public institutions and governments used letterhead produced by local

papermakers in Turners Falls. Watermarks were first introduced by Italian papermakers in 1282 and continue to be seen today in high-end business papers to either promote an institution or the paper itself. At Keith, the "dandy rolls" which produced the watermarks in the paper while the paper was being made were stored on the fifth floor of the mill. Many of them dated from the 1940s and 1950s. Some

of the organizations buying their letterhead paper from Keith included: Kodak, RCA, Falstaff, Shawmut, Strathmore Paper, Ford, National Geographic, Brigham Young University, the University of Colorado, Cornell University and The Republic of Venezuela Defense Minister. Examples of these and a few other watermark screens were salvaged by the author and his wife before the dandy rolls were scrapped, and are reproduced here.



The International Connection

After operations ceased at the Keith mill, International Paper sold the nearly 100 year-old paper machines to a Turkish paper company. For several months, a group of workers from Turkey carefully took apart the three machines, catalogued the parts, and loaded them into shipping containers to make the journey to Turkey. The machines were reassembled and paper was again produced on the old Keith Paper machines and sold in Europe. The paper was marketed as "made on Strathmore Paper machines." The Turkish company was reminded that it was inappropriate to use the Strathmore brand name in its marketing since the brand is still very active today. They ceased using that reference but continued to produce paper.

Brad Peters of Erving, served as a public relations professional for International Paper for more than a decade, including manager of public relations for Strathmore Paper at the time of the closing of the Turners Falls Mill in 1994. He has researched and written articles on the history of International Paper for both local and national audiences.



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