

**BRIAN WILLSON**

**RETURNS TO THE AREA  
WITH A NEW BOOK**

Page 8



**EDIE CLARK**

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Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 3

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 13, 2011

## Gill Weighs in on Riverbank Erosion



Woody debris is anchored by the bank of the Connecticut to prevent erosion in Gill.

But is the experimental method working? The conservation commission wants more monitoring.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Treading very carefully, the Gill conservation commission is entering the turbulent debate between landowners along the Connecticut River concerned about erosion to their land and engineers at the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro project of First Light Power Resources, charged, as a condition of their federal license, with mitigating areas of riverbank erosion that may be caused by the operations of their facility.

The landowners, working in association with the

Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee (CRSEC) and the Connecticut River Watershed Council, have actively disputed the most recent (2008) Full River Reconnaissance Report, commissioned by First Light Power, which generally found the utility's erosion control methods along the river to be working satisfactorily as planned.

As a condition of their operating license, First Light Power must survey the banks of the Connecticut River from the Vernon Dam to the Turners

Falls Dam - an area of the river the utility considers the "lower reservoir" of the Northfield Mountain station - to show the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that erosion is being successfully mitigated. But landowners along the river in Gill and Northfield, and members of the CRSEC contend that in the 2008 report, First Light changed the methodology of measuring changes to the riverbanks, making it difficult to compare the results with the company's previous sur-

see **EROSION** pg 11

## Germany Greens its Power Supply



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

Jochen Flasbarth, head of the German EPA, appeared at the Centre Congregational Church of Brattleboro on Monday to describe how his country will shift to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD BRATTLEBORO** - The head of the German equivalent of the Environmental Protection Agency came to Brattleboro on Monday, and told an audience of 50 or so local residents that Germany's decision to shut down its nuclear plants by 2022 will lead to more jobs and competitiveness for Germany, with no decrease in the consumption of power or the standard of living in

one of Europe's most highly industrialized societies.

Jochen Flasbarth, president of the Federal Environmental Agency (*Umweltbundesamt* - UBA) of Germany, said the decision of Chancellor Angela Merkel's government on May 30th of this year to permanently close all of the country's 17 nuclear plants by 2022 was taken due to a shift in awareness of the danger of

nuclear power, following the multiple meltdowns in Japan after a loss of offsite power to the Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex resulting from the 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami of March 11th.

"The German political class realized that even in a high tech country like Japan there is no 100% safety and that if something goes wrong it has long lasting consequences" see **GREENS** page 10

## Residents Demand Action on Flooding Problem



ED KAMANSKY PHOTO

Flooding in March of 2011 on Bull Hill Road

**BY DAVID DETMOLD LEVERETT** - Angry residents of the Bull Hill Road area of Leverett flooded the selectboard with complaints on Tuesday. They were mad

about the slow pace of response to neighborhood demands for action on drainage problems along Long Plain Brook that led to water in basements and closed roads earlier this

year - and on multiple occasions before that.

After heavy rains at the end of winter, the central north-south artery Route 63 was closed and traffic detoured on

Monday, March 7th, when residents in the affected area reported up to a foot of water in their basements.

At the time, neighbors on Bull Hill Road and Long Plain Road (Route 63) came to the selectboard calling for action to prevent a repeat of the flooding, which has occurred up to a half dozen times over the last decade or so, they say. The residents, some of whom have backgrounds as engineers and water department employees, point to three interlocking factors contributing to the problem, but said the simplest, quickest solution would be to replace an undersized culvert on Bull Hill Road with a much larger cement box culvert.

On Tuesday, residents again described the saturated water table north of the Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, where beavers have impounded

Long Plain Brook behind a large dam, as one aspect of the flooding problem. The choked channel of Long Plain Brook south of the beaver dam, where some private landowners have failed to clear brush for a number of years, exacerbates the problem by decreasing the streambed's natural capacity in periods of heavy rains.

But both of these issues pale in comparison, residents say, to the effect two undersized culverts beneath Depot and Bull Hill roads have on backing up the brook and causing havoc in their basements.

"This is the fourth time we've been up here," said an irate Bill Sieruta. "It's progressively getting worse. My brother and I pay \$20,000 a year in taxes, and we can't get a simple box culvert put in on Bull Hill Road."

Board chair Rich Brazeau defended the selectboard's approach, saying an engineering study and permits would be needed before the town could act. But former selectboard member Fenna Lee Bonsignore, a Long Plain Road resident who has had to replace her furnace twice over the years as a result of basement flooding, said further study was pointless. "Put those two culverts in and see what happens," she said.

George Kamansky said, "We've lived by Bull Hill all our lives, and never seen that type of flooding." He promised that if the selectboard would just replace the narrow culvert through which Long Plain Brook is meant to flow under Bull Hill with a larger capacity box culvert, the residents would make sure the channel was cleared of brush by work- see **FLOODING** pg 6

## PET OF THE WEEK Home Helper



### Leah

My name is Leah and I'm a five-month-old female shorthair cat in need of a good home.

You're working on the computer? Let me press the keys. Reading the paper? I'll hold the pages down for you. Watching TV? I'll just plop in your lap so you can pet me.

I love an orderly household, don't you? I'll help you with all your chores, and I'll help you relax when we're done. You'll wonder how you ever managed without me.

To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

## LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

### Friends Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Leverett Library Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23rd at 2 p.m. in the Community Room of the library. Natick author, Juliette Fay, is the guest speaker. Her books will be available for borrowing and for sale after her talk.

RECYCLE

### BOTTLES & CANS!

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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Children's Halloween Party

**TURNERS FALLS** - A Children's Halloween Party will be held at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 22nd from 10:30 a.m. - noon. Children of all ages and their families are invited to

attend the free party. There will be refreshments, games, prizes and arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information, call 413-863-3214.

## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

### Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein in Wendell

The Wendell COA Film Series presents a Halloween Special: *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* plus "Cat Dreams," an experimental video.

Wilbur Grey (Lou Costello) is chased by Count Dracula (Bela Lugosi) who wants to transplant Chick Young's (Bud Abbott) brain into the skull of Frankenstein's Monster. The Wolfman (Lon Chaney, Jr.) thwarts Dracula's plans, however. Even the Invisible Man makes a non-appearance in the superb horror comedy, *Abbott*

*and Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948, 83 minutes, rated "PG"). This film is included in the American Film Institute's Top 100 Comedies of all time.

An experimental video, "Cat Dreams" (2010, 4 mins) will be shown beforehand. Cats are associated with Halloween, and this video has a cat in it, so there you go.

The free films show Sunday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wendell Free Library. For more information, contact Douglas Dawson: 978-544-7762 or ddawson@post.harvard.edu

## Franklin Tech Golf Champs!



*Franklin Tech golf pros (Left to right) Troy Miller, Matt Weeden, Justin McCloud, Josh Dempsey, and Cody Booska came out on top at the Massachusetts Vocational School statewide golf tournament at the Ridder Farm Golf Club in East Bridgewater last week. "Twenty teams from across the state competed, and we came out on top!" said Franklin Technical School plumbing instructor and golf coach Paul Doran. Doran guided the golf team to a second place showing last year. Now his team can claim top bragging rights in the state. Way to go, guys!*

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 17th - 21st

**GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. • **Please join us for a SHINE presentation on Tuesday 10/18.** • **Tickets are still available for the November 7th holiday trip.** For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

**Monday, October 17th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, October 18th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1:00 p.m. SHINE Presentation

**Wednesday, October 19th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:10 a.m. Third Wednesday Book Review  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, October 20th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, October 21st**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

**Monday, October 17th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



Sunflowers

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

## Historic Bridge Facts

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

In the early 1930s, both the upper and lower suspension bridges had become so unsound that loads were limited. The situation became highly critical in 1933. Town selectmen appealed to the Department of Public Works to consider building a single bridge at the dam to replace the tandem of weakened structures.

The vicious flood in March of 1936 left Turners Falls and Gill an all too vivid a reminder of the needs for a new bridge. Action was finally taken by the state via federal funds that were made available for emergency needs. A temporary bridge was built to replace the White (Lower Suspension) Bridge, and the following year final approval was given to begin construction of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge that we know today.

More bridge facts next week!

## Democratic Senate Candidates to Debate

**ATHOL** - The Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate will gather at Ellinwood Country Club on Thursday, October 27th at 7 p.m. The candidates will answer questions from the audience that reflect concerns facing central and western Massachusetts.

The event will be moderated by political strategist Tony Cignoli of Springfield and is sponsored by a coalition of Democratic town committees from across the area. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the Orange Democratic Town Committee outreach coordinator, Genevieve Fraser at (978) 544-1872, or by email at FraserGenevieve@gmail.com

## Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

### Grade 6

Hannah Bogusz  
Kasia Dobosz

### Grade 7

Tahner Castine

### Grade 8

Sydney Upham

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# Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - A piping hot bowl of spaghetti with homemade tomato sauce. A garden fresh salad. Grilled Italian sausage from Millstone Market. Locally grown garlic bread, and a fresh filled cannoli.

It's a delicious Italian meal one night only in Leverett, this Saturday at 5 p.m.

It's the Sixth Grade Spaghetti Supper, created by parents of Leverett sixth graders, and served by the kids! It costs only \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids under 13 in advance (\$9 and \$7 at the door), at the Leverett Elementary School cafeteria. Tickets are available online via [www.leverettschool.org/home/PTO.htm](http://www.leverettschool.org/home/PTO.htm), at the Leverett Harvest Festival on October 15th, and at the door starting at 5 p.m.

The annual meeting of the **Montague Historical Society** will be held Monday, October 17th, at 7:00 p.m. at the meeting room of the safety complex on the corner of Turners Falls and Turnpike Road in Montague. The featured speaker will be Peter Miller, author of numerous books of historical research. Miller will talk about the canals of Montague, and their influence on the growth of the villages, as well as other topics. For more information please call 367-2280, Lillian Fiske, president of the Society.

Montague Center Firefighters Relief Association is asking, "Help us, help oth-

ers." Come visit the association at the Second Annual Franklin County PumpkinFest on Saturday, October 22nd, at Avenue A and 5th Street, across from the post office. Bring any non-perishable food item, and receive a free bottle of water. All non-perishable food items will be donated to the Franklin Area Survival Center.

Get your raffle tickets for a 1928 Chevy at the booth during Pumpkinfest. The drawing will be held at the annual open house on October 29th at the Montague Center Fire Station.

Where do the **birds around Turners Falls** spend their winters? Come join Scott Sumner from the Hampshire Bird Club and help kick off our fledgling group of birders. Sumner will share some remarkable information about bird migration and highlight what to look forward to when spring returns. Where do the birds we see here in the Turners Falls area go in the winter? What birds stay in the area and why?

If you are interested in birding and would you like to learn the answers to these questions and many more then come get this group flying. Held in the Great Hall of Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Thursday, October 20th starting at 7:00 p.m.

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

# Targeted Tree List Pruned

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN WENDELL** - On Wednesday, October 12th, ten Wendell residents attended the second hearing on National Grid's proposal for cutting and trimming trees on the town right-of-way along Wendell Depot Road, Lockes Village and Lockes Hill roads. Tree warden Peter Zera told the hearing that after reviewing information from foresters (and Wendell residents) Pru Smith and Gretchen Smith and revisiting the trees in question, he had made final decisions. The number of trees to be removed was reduced from 123 in the original proposal to 96. The number of trees slated for trimming was increased from 9 to 21. National Grid project manager Michael Meyerdierks said that 14 trees are now classified by National Grid as "refusals," that is, trees the power company thinks should be removed, but

the town wants to preserve. Meyerdierks said his company considers these trees as potential problems that trimming would not improve, so they will not touch the 14 trees at all.

Eight trees that Pru Smith and Gretchen Smith recommended for trimming or other actions, such as insulating wires, rather than removal, were retained on the removal list.

Smith described one as "a healthy beech with a healthy crown and no sign of beech bark disease." She said most beeches do show signs of the disease, and healthy ones should be saved. She described a red maple on Lockes Hill slated for removal as "a landmark tree, a significant roadside asset."

Selectboard chair Dan Keller, who chaired the meeting, said that decisions on which trees would be removed rests with Zera, but residents could appeal

his decisions with the selectboard.

Morgan Mead complained he had come to the meeting to "rant and rave about saving a specific oak on Wendell Depot Road, but you stole my thunder and took it off the removal list."

Meyerdierks said that all work would be completed by April 1st. He said that wood from the trees and wood chips are considered waste, and would be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the tree warden. Zera said abutters would have the right of first refusal for wood, and he would maintain a list of people interested in wood not wanted by abutters. But he added that anyone wanting wood delivered would have to accept it as a full truck load of whatever length the trees are cut to (up to 16 feet), and would need a safe place for a log truck to deliver it.

## Design-Build Applications Sought for Public Art at Strathmore Mill

**TURNERS FALLS** - RiverCulture director Lisa Davol spent a week in Germany this past summer as part of the Riverscapes Project to learn how the progressive, environmentally conscious and artistic community of Hamburg achieved its goals.

The next part of RiverCulture's involvement with Riverscapes includes a public art design-build competition to engage with our local communities and develop four pieces of public art for four cities and towns along the Connecticut River.

One of the sites for this competition is Building #11 of the Strathmore Mill in Turners

Falls, with the other sites located in Hadley, Holyoke and Springfield.

This design-build competition is open to all northeast USA applicants and allows artists, environmental designers and architects to imagine how creative interventions can effect or transform a site or region at two scales.

Four \$7500 awards for building and installation of public art will be granted; the deadline for application is December 10th.

For a full project overview, details on the Hamburg trip, and details on the design build competition, go to the [riverscapes.org](http://riverscapes.org) website.

## Shop Locally Catalog - Available Now

**NEW SALEM** - The second annual Swift River School Shop Locally Catalog, the catalog that allows you to support local businesses while raising funds for the school.

The catalog provides a perfect opportunity to start your holiday shopping, stock up on gift certificates to local stores and service providers, buy some local crafts, or treat yourself to some delicious food or drink. Chances are

you are already supporting these area businesses, so buying items through the catalog will save you money and provide a bonus for the school - a win-win!

Catalogs and order forms are available at the Wendell Free Library, Wendell Country Store, Diemand Farm, New Salem Public Library, and New Salem General Store, as well as online at [swiftriverschool.org](http://swiftriverschool.org). Or find your nearest Swift River student

and help them win a prize by giving your orders to them.

Orders are due Friday, November 4th and can be sent to the school or dropped off at the Wendell Library.

Order pickup will be on Friday, December 2nd, from 3-7 p.m. at the school.

Call Amy Simmons at (978) 544-5324 or Laurie DiDonato at (978) 544-8270 for more information.

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## Mitt Romney Believes in Corporate America

BY RANDY BORNTRAGER  
WASHINGTON, DC - At an Iowa campaign stop in August, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney made a startling assertion. Asked about his refusal to raise taxes on corporations while millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet, he replied, "Corporations are people, my friend."

It wasn't a slip-up. A look through Romney's economic plan shows that, as president, the former Massachusetts governor would care tenderly for big corporations while ignoring the needs of flesh-and-blood Americans.

Romney calls his economic plan, "Believe in America." But it's clear that the America he believes in is one where working families pay for corporations to thrive. Romney's plan prescribes corporate deregulation as the cure-all for the country's ills, while conveniently neglecting to mention the real harm that rampant deregulation can cause. Rampant deregulation of the financial industry in the Bush years, for instance, helped to catapult the United States into our current recession. Lax federal oversight of mine safety and offshore drilling has contributed to tragedies that cost many lives.

In the face of a soaring national debt brought on in large part by President George W. Bush's massive tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, Romney is demanding even more tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy. Romney wants to make permanent Bush's tax cuts for the rich, abolish the estate tax entirely, and reduce corporate taxes to "put American companies on a level playing field." He doesn't discuss how the Bush-era tax cuts helped cause our current fiscal nightmare or that, given our existing system of corporate welfare, corporations like Bank of America and GE paid no federal income

taxes in 2010.

Regarding energy and the environment, Romney echoes Sarah Palin's infamous battle cry, "Drill, Baby Drill." According to his campaign's official economic plan, a Romney administration would strip away nuclear power safety regulations and permit oil extraction in "the Gulf of Mexico, both the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelves, Western lands, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and off the Alaska coast," even as the Gulf Coast struggles to recover from last year's devastating oil spill.

Romney, like many of his fellow Republican politicians, ignores the fact that lax regulation led to the implosion of the housing bubble and the BP oil disaster. He chooses not to heed the overwhelming majority of scientists who are warning that the government must step in to mitigate the long-term catastrophe of climate change. He chooses to ignore that even as corporate profits soar and the rich get richer, unemployment remains high and millions of Americans are tumbling from the middle class into poverty.

Romney reminds us that when he turned 21, unemployment stood at 3.6 percent. Romney turned 21 in 1968, when Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson was president, the top corporate tax rate was 52.8 percent, and income inequality was nearly 20 percent lower than it is today.

Under President George W. Bush, corporations were handed huge tax breaks and free rein to regulate themselves. Today, the biggest corporations are enjoying record profits and record-low tax bills, while ordinary Americans are struggling to get by.

*Randy Borntrager is the political director of People for the American Way (www.pfaw.org). This article first appeared in Other Words.*



with apologies to: #OccupySesameStreet

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

One Cookie Monster Eats 99% of All the Cookies

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Why I'm Going to Occupy (and You Should Too!)

6:30 p.m. - FRIDAY, OCT. 7th

In a few hours, a small group of young students and I will be on our way to Occupied Dewey Square in Boston. It will be the first time I have ever been in the city that long, and the first protest any of us has been to. All of us, however, have been watching the world collapse in front of us.

The recession saw hardship, job loss, pay cuts, and rising food prices. All of this assured us that the world we are growing up in is not the world we wanted.

The Occupy movement is a perfect expression of this. We will never put out demands, because a few demands simply won't be enough. We face war,

student debt, and a massive corporate machine that places profit above lives. The only thing that can stand up to it is an equally massive display of outrage: years of pent up frustration with a system slowly collapsing on itself.

Amid the rubble of this crumbling society, a movement has emerged. Less than 100 people started camping in Zucotti Park, near Wall Street in Manhattan last month. They had no single message to deliver, besides a passionate anger with the status quo.

As the days went on, people joined. First they trickled, then flooded, into the park. As the word spread, other cities began occupations of their public

spaces. Only a few weeks after the first handful of protesters settled in at Wall Street, dozens of other cities have followed suit.

I am going to occupy to give myself and my generation a future to look forward to, a world where people are not faced with oppression and violence wherever they go. We believe in the audacity of hope (real hope) and a better world. Call us naïve, call us misguided, but we're the future for better or worse.

*Mark Hudyma is a Senior at Turners Falls High School*

- Mark Hudyma  
Turners Falls

## Franklin County Residents Join in Global Day of Action

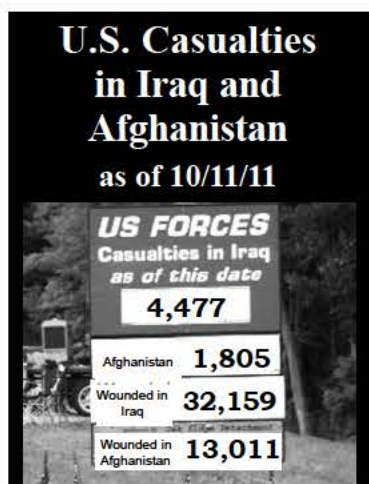
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 10:00 A.M. ON THE COMMON IN GREENFIELD

BY ANDREA NASCA  
TURNERS FALLS - Join us for Occupy Greenfield, this Saturday, October 15th, in sol-

idarity with people all around the country and around the world who are speaking out against the injustices forced upon us by corporate greed and insanity. I have been watching video coverage of Occupy Wall Street since Day 1, at

www.livestream.com/global-revolution. I have watched this group of amazing people, peacefully swell from a dozen to over 30,000 individuals, all crying out for a better future, starting today. Many and diverse people have come to Occupy Wall Street from all over the country. As you look around at the crowds, they all have one thing in common - they feel compelled to join with others, in peaceful protest and civil disobedience, to help create positive social change in America. With 106 cities around America holding Occupations, Greenfield is

see ACTION page 13



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**GUEST EDITORIAL**

# USFWS Seeks 'Emergency' Funds for Wrecked Salmon Hatchery, while Native Fish Runs Fail

**BY KARL MEYER**

**BETHEL, VT** - Wendi Webber, acting regional director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region in Hadley, MA, and deputy assistant regional director of fisheries Bill Archambault want a boatload of pork for the failed Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's (CRASC's) salmon program.

Through an act of Congress, Webber and Archambault are seeking \$10 - \$14 million in emergency funding to rebuild the White River National Fish Hatchery (WRNFH) in Bethel, VT, after that facility was wiped out by Tropical Storm Irene in August. Webber sent out a letter requesting the Congressional funds in mid-September.

The primary product of WRNFH is salmon eggs — six million of them annually — for our river's longest running fail-

ure, the 44-year attempt to recreate an extinct salmon strain on the Connecticut River. This season, 107 fish returned. What will Senators Kerry, Brown, Leahy and Sanders do with this request in a time of paper-thin budgets and collapsing native herring and shad runs?

Last year, the WRNFH got \$723,000 in federal stimulus funds for a makeover. Over \$420,000 of that went to a refrigeration manufacturer in Missouri for an egg-chiller. Ironically, a \$100,000 egg chiller has sat useless at the Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland, MA for years. Upon delivery, it simply never worked.

Four years ago White River spent millions in taxpayer dollars to build a well system to supply its hatchery salmon. Upstream, the White River had become infected with the invasive, bottom-smothering algae

didymo, which could be transported via the eggs and fry they disperse to tributaries, and to school programs. Now, WRNFH want to start again.

Meanwhile, state and federal CRASC commissioners seem willing to play fast and loose with the potentially-disastrous dispersal of didymo to Connecticut River tributaries through hatchery fry. Right now, the CRASC is devising a rush plan to parcel out the surviving 900 "broodstock" hatchery salmon at White River to hatcheries in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut — though they admit they can't be "one hundred percent certain didymo won't be taken out of the (White River) facility." They'd jeopardize an ecosystem for their program.

All this was revealed at an emergency CRASC Tech Committee meeting on

With \$14 million you could do a lot of good for the Connecticut River. With just a fraction of that money, independent scientists could conduct investigations and get real answers about why millions of migratory American shad have remained blocked from getting upstream to Vermont and New Hampshire on the main stem Connecticut at Turners Falls for decades, abandoned to a treacherous power canal literally behind the federal Conte Fish Lab.

A tiny share of those dollars could begin getting real answers to why a flood of 630,000 blueback herring passing the Holyoke dam in 1985 collapsed like the September Red Sox into a "run" of just 138 fish here in 2011.

Less than half of \$14 million could easily build an independent, Five College-based river ecology lab that would advance our understanding of native fish, the food web, and the mix of seasonal life cycles critical to sustaining a healthy ecosystem. Massachusetts is the crossroads of the Connecticut — where migratory fish have remained blocked from Vermont and New Hampshire waters since 1798. Once built, a sustaining endowment could surely be found for such a facility. New England's River would finally have a think tank worthy of its critical importance.

Today, just a few hundred thousand dollars could easily get an answer to the simple question that's left New Englanders in the dark for generations: Why hundreds of millions of dollars spent on an extinct, cold water fish is never going to sustain anything but pork production for the 44-year old Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission — on a warming river in the era of climate change.

In 1967, New Englanders from Enfield, CT to Walpole, NH, and Bellows Falls, VT were promised great fishing and a bounty of seafood by the New England Cooperative Fisheries Restoration Program, today's

CRASC. The chief objective of this federal and state amalgam was to "provide the public with high quality sport fishing opportunities in a highly urbanized area as well as to provide for the long term needs of the population for seafood." Runs of a million American shad, commercially harvestable blueback herring returns — and a hypothetical run of fishable (though centuries extinct) salmon were promised. Instead, we're left with an endless conveyor of salmon pork, no seafood - and damned poor fishing.

It's time to stop this recklessness and waste on the Connecticut. It's time for accountability from the USFWS. Jettison the Age-of-Aquarius salmon scheme; refocus the program on still-living native runs. A new name, the "Connecticut River Migratory Fisheries Commission" would help; all new commissioners and an ecosystem focus would be a real start.

*Greenfield, MA environmental journalist and author Karl Meyer writes frequently on Connecticut River issues. Read his blog at: www.karlmeierwriting.com.*



J. ABATEMARCO NJDEP

J. ABATEMARCO NJDEP PHOTO

*Native Blueback Herring runs have been collapsing in the Connecticut River*

## Massachusetts Tool Maker Will Pay \$227,500 for Clean Water Act Violations

**SHELBURNE FALLS** - Mayhew Steel Products, a tool manufacturer in Shelburne Falls that has recently expanded operations at the Montague industrial park, has agreed to pay penalties totaling \$227,500 to settle two separate claims by EPA that it violated the federal Clean Water Act.

According to EPA, Mayhew discharged wastewater to the Shelburne Falls sewer system containing more zinc and with a higher acidity than allowed by

federal standards. EPA also alleged that Mayhew failed to meet its reporting requirements for discharges to a public sewer system, failed to obtain a permit for stormwater discharges to the Deerfield River, and failed to develop a plan intended to prevent spilled oil from harming nearby waterways.

Mayhew will pay \$157,500 for the pretreatment violations and \$70,000 for violating stormwater and oil spill (SPCC) regulations.

September 23rd of this year. The capital-intensive, million dollar system of four federal and two state hatcheries floats a small number of well-benefitted government jobs, while ignoring native migrant fish and the lessons of the Connecticut River ecosystem. The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon program is a public relations machine reaching into public schools, assisted by a few hundred, spawned-out hatchery salmon dumped into lakes and streams to mollify anglers conned into believing the program will eventually lead to a self sustaining supply.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# New Interim Principal Hired to Assist Fitzpatrick at TFHS

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE** – Interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom said the district is in the process of hiring an interim principal to provide support to high school principal Donna Fitzpatrick who is facing a health challenge at this time. The administration has chosen Joseph Fleming to fill the position of interim principal.

Fleming is a retired principal from Connecticut. According to Ekstrom, he has great references, and comes to the district with many ideas for improving the drop out and graduation rates. Fleming will work the same hours as Fitzpatrick, and will be the person in charge when she is not available.

Ekstrom said Fleming may only be needed through March 2012 but his job may last until the end of the school year.

The school committee voted unanimously to pay Fleming from a line-item transfer of \$54,865 from the health insurance account, which has a surplus, to be divided into two supervision accounts for the high school and middle school. Fitzpatrick is principal for both schools, and will supervise Fleming during the time when he will perform the day to day work of administering those schools.

The school committee also voted to approve a new policy for pregnant students. Students who are

pregnant will no longer be required to get permission from a physician in order to attend school or return to school after giving birth. They will be encouraged to remain in school in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Education regulations and guidance, which requires that a student who is pregnant be permitted to remain in regular classes and participate in extracurricular activities throughout her pregnancy and return to these same programs after taking leave to give birth.

The new policy states that pregnant students will be encouraged to continue to attend school. "Every effort will be made to see that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible, that return to school after delivery is encouraged, and that every opportunity to complete high school is provided."

At the request of the school committee, Andrew Paquette, president, and David Lockwood, CEO of TMSolution offered a Power Point presentation on their program, The Management Solution. An alternative approach to having district employees in charge of business management, TMSolutions say they offer "an innovative, cost effective and efficient solution to all aspects of school business management." The company produces all required reports and provides all services

normally expected of business office staff. They said savings could come from not having to provide health coverage for employees, and other improvements in providing contracted services.

A review of business office practices at the school district performed last year showed need for efficiencies. The school committee asked for the presentation in their examination of alternative approaches to managing district finances.

The new student council representative, Sam Danford, a sophomore at Turners Falls High School, announced at the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on Tuesday night that this week is Booster Week. He said students have been working on making floats to prepare for the parade on Saturday, October 15th in Turners Falls. The festivities conclude with a football game at the high school at 1 p.m. against Pioneer.

Ekstrom reported to the school committee that the district's revised Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) had been submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on Monday, October 10th. The DESE will get back to the district about the AIP within two weeks.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25th, at TFHS at 7:00 p.m.

from FLOODING pg 1  
ing with their neighbors to get that job done.

Bonsignore said the Friends Meeting had been more proactive about maintaining the beaver pond level with beaver deceivers since the spring. The board encouraged the residents to write to the board of health, describing the threat of flooded septic systems downstream of the dam, in hopes of getting the situation declared a public health nuisance, so the dam could be breached, the beavers trapped, and the water table allowed to revert to its normal level.

But on the issue of replacing the narrow culverts, particularly the one under Bull Hill Road, where the roadbed's elevation acts as a dam in its own right when the culvert backs up under heavy rainfall, the discussion took on an increasingly hostile tone, with the group of half a dozen residents pointing to emergency work the town performed dredging the fire pond at the intersection of Cave Hill and North Leverett roads as a recent example of how quickly the town can rally to spend resources when the selectboard chooses to do so.

Brazeau maintained that even without further engineering studies, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would still require permits before any culvert replacement work could be undertaken at Bull Hill Road or Depot Road.

Finance committee chair Don Gibavic disputed that, and others joined him in what became a rapidly escalating free-for-all.

When the residents eventually left the room, Julie Shively asked town administrator Margie McGinnis to contact highway superintendent Will Stratford, to ask him to develop plans to replace the culverts on an emergency basis. In consideration of the possibility of flooded septic systems, Brazeau suggested the town should seek an emergency certification from the conservation commission.

A similar approach was taken successfully with the dredging under the Cave Hill Road bridge earlier this year.

### Water Line Plan Denounced

Over by Roaring Brook, another ongoing water problem seeped into the board meeting on Tuesday, causing another fracas. For many years, the town has been paying for monitoring and in some instances the delivery of bottled drinking water to a number of residents who live on Cushman and Teewaddle Hill Road, down gradient of the town's former landfill. Trace amounts of certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and now manganese has been measured in a plume that appears to be emanating from the former landfill, at levels high enough to cause the DEP to require quarterly testing, charcoal filters, and bottled

water for up to half a dozen households in the affected area.

Last year, the town paid \$42,000 to put a new private well in at 7 Cushman Road, drawing from an area uphill from the former landfill. That new well has tested clean since then.

But the problem has not gone away for the other homes. Brazeau said the town is paying around \$33,000 a year on monitoring the problem wells on Teewaddle. Locating an area where a new public water supply well could be dug to feed all five homes on Teewaddle Hill, or to put in five private wells for those homes, has proven to be an elusive task.

As water quality standards tighten, the board, anticipating an order from the DEP to come up with a permanent solution to the problem, has been in contact with the water department and selectboard in Amherst to see if the water line on Cushman Road could be extended to feed the five homes on Teewaddle Hill Road, to the east of the brook. Although the Amherst selectboard has not replied in writing to the Leverett board's recent inquiry, Brazeau said in his discussions with Amherst DPW superintendent Guilford Mooring, an offer was made to install a four inch water line for the mile or more needed to reach the affected Leverett homes – for \$1.7 million.

Consequently, the see FLOODING pg 7

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**NOTES FROM THE MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MCAS Scores Show Mixed Progress as Mahar Exits Level 3 Status**

**BY KATIE NOLAN** – Mahar Regional High School principal Ishmael Tabales presented mixed MCAS results to the Mahar school committee at its October 4th meeting. He told the committee the school is “exiting Level 3 and moving to Level 2” accountability status. Level 3 schools are among the 20% of lowest performing schools, while Level 2 schools are working on corrective actions or restructuring.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that schools make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward student performance goals. According to the

state MCAS website, Mahar did not make AYP for 2011. The percentage of tenth grade students with proficient or advanced results in English Language arts, math, and science technology testing was similar to 2010. Eighth graders showed slightly improved scores in all three areas over 2010. For seventh graders, English Language Arts scores were similar to 2010, but the percentage of advanced or proficient results were lower than in 2010. Tabales said the school is adding a certified math teacher to provide additional instruction.

Mahar tenth grade students showed very high student growth percentiles (SGP), the fourth highest in the state for English Language Arts, according to Tabales. The SGP is a measurement of a student’s increase in scores compared to other students with a similar test score history. Mahar eighth graders showed average SGP, while seventh grade SGP values were among the lowest in the state.

Committee member Michael LeBlanc of Petersham commented that with K-12 regionalization curriculum problems could be identified earlier and

adjusted before students enter Mahar.

Andrew Goodwin of Mount Wachusett Community College introduced the Talent Search program, which focuses on promoting college education for low income students whose parents have not graduated from college. The program provides mentoring, workshops, early college planning, career fairs, and help with college applications. The grant-funded Talent Search will have a staff member present at Mahar three days a week.

Superintendent Michael Baldassarre told the committee

that the losses from the school cafeteria account were larger than previously reported, the result of an accounting error (classifying income in the wrong category). Baldassarre said he had reviewed information from cafeteria operations in other schools and found similar problems with losses. The Leominster school system showed a profit after changing to a third party vendor for food service. However, Baldassarre asked that the committee support continued in-house food service and promised regular updates on the status of cafeteria finances.

**from FLOODING pg 6**

board included a warrant article on the October 25th special town meeting for \$28,900 to pay for design costs for the water line extension to connect the affected homes on Teewaddle Hill to the Amherst water system.

Finance chair Don Gibavic did not receive news of this warrant article favorably.

“You want us to sit up front and approve this?” Gibavic asked incredulously. “You’re nuts!”

Gibavic said the town should take the affected properties by eminent domain, and end the problem by demolishing the houses.

Brazeau called that solution, “Brutal.”

Shively said such a move would in effect be not only evicting residents from their homes, but kicking them out of town, because in an

adverse taking the town cannot pay more than the homes’ assessed value, and the assessed value would not be adequate to purchase another house in Leverett.

“The residents have already said, ‘No way!’” said Shively. “Some of the residents have lived here a long time and participated in the town. We’d be telling them, ‘I’m sorry, you’re out of here.’”

Brazeau, who suggested the state had a revolving loan fund and grant program to assist towns with correcting water supply problems like this, said the board would be willing to pass over the warrant article and hold a discussion at town meeting on possible solutions to the problem on Teewaddle Hill instead.

“The unfriendly taking of land for all these homes – if the town

wants to go through that – I don’t want to make that decision,” without town meeting first providing direction, he said.

**Regionalization**

School committee chair Farshid Hajir said the towns of Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury would all be voting on warrant articles similar to the one Leverett voters will face on October 25th, to establish regional school district planning committees that could then choose to join together to form a regional school district planning board.

As the Leverett warrant article states, “The purpose of the board is to perform a detailed exploration and make recommendations to town meeting regarding forming a regional school district for our K-6 school, or take any action relative

thereto.

Hajir said money could be available from the state to hire a consultant to assist the towns in that study.

Shively said the town needs to be aware that regionalizing with the towns of Shutesbury, Pelham and Amherst may cause Leverett to have to raise teacher salaries to equalize salaries in the new district, and also to raise benefits for teachers, and consequently for other town employees as well.

Hajir said just equalizing the teachers’ salaries at LES would probably cost the town of Leverett around \$80,000 annually, but he said there is room in the new ‘Innovation School’ model for Leverett teachers to agree to a separate (lower) pay and benefits package.

Hajir said Amherst has “an abundance of ele-

mentary school children. They’d like to redraw the lines,” in a four town region so more Amherst children could go to the elementary schools in the smaller towns, which need more elementary students to be viable.

Hajir said an Innovation School model could give the Leverett Elementary School more cachet, as a draw to retain students from Leverett in the public school. He said four students from town are currently attending a charter school, depriving the local elementary school of around \$60,000 in state funds.

Shively said that in a four town region, “You could have one foreign language teacher for all four [elementary] schools,” stressing that as a district employee, that teacher would not be considered a “shared

employee,” with the attendant problem of billing each town separately for a percentage of that teacher’s wages and benefits.

Matt Boucher, who has been filling in on a temporary basis for injured highway worker Charles Allen, was given permanent status as a highway employee by the board on Tuesday, and the right to earn benefits, retroactive to July 1st.

Town administrator McGinnis said the town needs to revise its personnel policy to clarify the position of long-term ‘temporary’ employees, who, as in Boucher’s case, would essentially be doing the work of regular employees but unable to earn benefits.

The board appointed Long Plain Road resident Jon Foster as a call firefighter, at \$16.13 an hour, see FLOODING pg 12

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# Brian Willson: Blood on the Tracks

*Editor's Note: S. Brian Willson, a former intelligence officer, prison rights' advocate, legislative aide, and dairy farmer lived in Greenfield during much of the early 1980s, working as a partner in the New England Country Dairy, and later as director of the Veterans Outreach Center. He left the region in 1986 to visit Nicaragua and to begin an open-ended 'Fast for Life' with three other vets on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in opposition to U.S. foreign and military policy in Central America and elsewhere. They ended that fast after 47 days to begin a peaceful blockade of the rail tracks leading to the Concord Naval Weapons Station outside San Francisco - where, on September 1st, 1987, a train carrying weapons to the right wing regime in El Salvador accelerated as it approached the protesters and ran over Willson, nearly killing him and severing both his legs. Since then he has traveled the world on prosthetic legs (and on a hand-crank bike), both preaching and modeling a rejection of the American Way of Life (AWOL) and embracing a social organization based on horizontal equality and sustainability. He now lives in Portland, OR.*

*Willson is the author of a newly published memoir, Blood on the Tracks: the Life and Times of Brian Willson, (441pages. PM Press. \$20.) He will return to the area October 14th - 16th for the first time in many years. On Sunday, October 16th, Willson*

*will appear at the Leverett Peace Pagoda at 2 p.m., and at the Second Congregational Church at 16 Court Square in Greenfield for a 6 p.m. potluck and a 7 p.m. talk and book signing.*

**- Wesley Blixt  
Greenfield**

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of the Hotel Warren in South Deerfield on a warm fall evening in 1982, and of Brian drinking beer with John Kerry at a fundraiser for Dana Wolfram and Doc Storozak, two Vietnam Vets who had recently been wounded in a bizarre and deadly dance on the front lawn of a house on Elm Circle when EMT Wolfram attempted to help armed and delusional PTSD victim Storozak. Brian, newly drafted as one of Kerry's Commandos, stood out for his ability to give solemn depth and meaning to such odd and



## BLOOD ON THE TRACKS

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF S. BRIAN WILLSON

S. BRIAN WILLSON

INTRODUCTION BY DANIEL ELLSBERG

volatile scenes.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of his little cabin in Chelsea, VT where I showed up one summer day with my canoe strapped to my car, thinking that perhaps we would paddle away a languid afternoon. Instead, Brian told me that he was bound for D.C. where he would begin a fast that might end his life, if it did not redirect U.S. foreign policy first. I left stunned and disoriented, and returned home to my wife and our new baby boy.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of early September, 1987, and the sharp sunlight on the railroad tracks and on the dry fragrant hills northeast of San Francisco near Concord, and of Brian in a hospital bed in nearby Walnut Creek, mauled beyond recognition, a removable metal plate in his head, his legs newly severed.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of a blue sofa where Brian adorned his stumps with cartoon faces and, leaning back, entertained our two-year old son with stump puppets. He seemed entertained if not delighted at the time. He has since claimed to have had nightmares about it.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of other heroic souls who came to share his orbit: vets who were committed anti-imperialists; vets who weren't; vets who became deranged and vets who started out deranged; vets who had served as tunnel rats and vets who came home to become tun-

*continued on next page*

## Yankee's Edie Clark Reads in Bernardston

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH** - Edie Clark, writer and editor at *Yankee Magazine*, came to the Cushman Library in Bernardston on a rainy

Thursday evening, September 29th. Twenty-seven people braved the dismal weather to hear her read and answer questions from the lively audience.

*Yankee* when I first began writing for the prestigious magazine. She could give the thumbs up, or down, on a query or submission.

I was especially interested in meeting Clark, since she was an editor at

Clark said she'd taught writing at various colleges and universities, including Emerson and UMass. She advises students to follow the advice of E.B. White, who co-authored *The Elements of Style* with William Strunk Jr. "Write as though you were writing a letter to a friend." And, as Edie read, it was plain to see she



PARZYCH PHOTO

Edie Clark

tioned I was Edie Clark from *Yankee*, they were happy to talk to me, and I was never turned down."

She said she enjoyed reading at places like the Cushman Library because it's like sitting down and having a conversation with friends. As she read, the conversational tone of her writing came through, just as she advised students.

The books Clark brought to the reading soon sold out. They were, *The Place He Made*, *Monadnock Falls*, *Saturday Beans and Sunday Suppers*, *The View from Mary's*

see CLARK page 14

followed White's suggestion.

Clark said working at *Yankee* as an editor opened a lot of doors for her. "When I call to request an interview," she said, "as soon as I men-

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*from on previous page*

nel rats; vets who argued cases before military courts and vets who received life sentences in civilian courts; vets who had taken body counts and vets who now joined the body count – like Tony Melchionda, an Amherst physician poisoned by Agent Orange, who died before his name could be recorded by the Agent Orange Registry Brian helped to start.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of the stuffy interior office at the Veterans Outreach Center in Greenfield where Brian would sit listening patiently to resident military attorney Stu Steinberg and vet Richard Papineau, now doing a life sentence for the aimless and arbitrary murder of a fellow vet. Even then, the air thick was thick with conspiracies, grand plans and criminal pathology.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of the container of kefir Brian always had in hand after he arrived in the Valley and joined a fermented dairy products business, the New England Country Dairy, with Jon Lagreze and Andy Ferguson, who then looked on in stunned resignation as they realized the simple New York dairy farmer with whom they had teamed up and who had seemed determined to escape the fray was now seeming less and less simple and more and more drawn to the fray.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of the house on Haight Street in San Francisco that he shared with Karen Fogliatti (living here now) among others, and where he attempted to reach as much stable domesticity as anyone can who has recently been run over by a train and received the Medal of the Order of Sandino from Danny Ortega himself, and has been received by likes of Jean Bertrand Aristide and Miguel d'Escoto.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of Norman Morrison, Brian's homeboy who immolated himself on the steps of the Pentagon in 1965 and in doing so not-so-gently presented Brian, and the rest of us, that singular challenge of martyrdom and a singular model for self-sacrifice, but whose legacy Brian said he did not understand until he found Morrison's portrait on a

North Vietnamese postage stamp taken from the corpse of a dead National Liberation Front fighter.

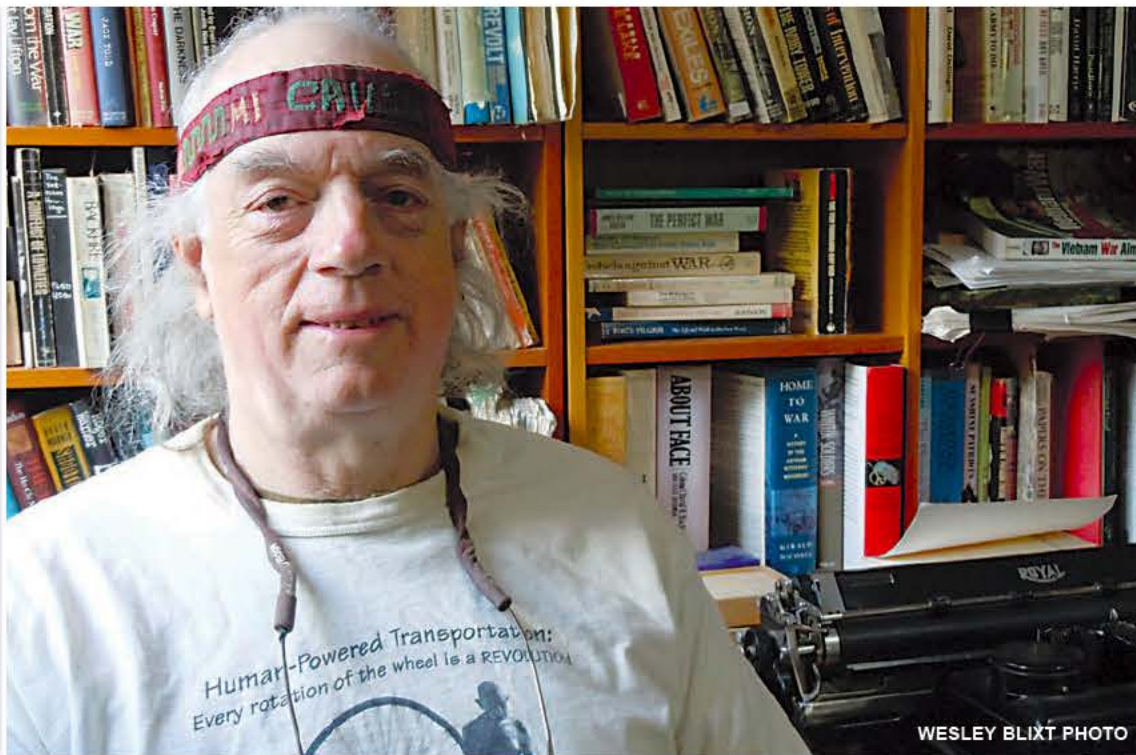
When I think of Brian Willson, I think of the straw bale house in Wendell, and of Brian on his prostheses on a hot summer day, lurching around what might have been mistaken for one of the Three Little Pigs' more ill-conceived structures, but which was built specifically with the Big Bad Wolf in mind and could not be blown down no matter how much huffing and puffing that wolf was prepared to do.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of a photo of Brian and dreadlocked Jim Casino sitting on warm rock on the edge of Wendell State Forest, where Jim was living, just whiling away the afternoon talking about whatever trip-wire vets talk about and looking like a couple of wise and holy sages who have just crawled out of the underbrush for a breather and who will disappear back to underbrush in a instant if you blink.

When I think of Brian Willson, I think of a feature story that I never finished, one that Brian had all-but commissioned, and one that was supposed to analyze the economic value of a human life in the U.S. and in the far-flung and desperate lands that the U.S. has occupied. By the time I quit, I was in tears – over what I had learned and over what I could not fully discover, describe or sell to my editors. In the end, of course, Brian illustrated the idea most effectively with his own body, demonstrating that “They are not worth less; we are not worth more.”

You won't find anything like these stories in Brian Willson's massive new memoir, *Blood on the Tracks*, nor should you. That is not what it's about. This is not a stroll down memory lane. There are no airy anecdotes and soft-focus recollections that meander around the hard center of some personal pathology or massive misfortune. That is the way of the contemporary memoir. This is different.

Instead, *Blood on the Tracks* screams ahead in fast forward from July 4th, 1941, when Willson was born in Geneva, N.Y. to September 1st, 1987 out-



Brian Willson

WESLEY BLIXT PHOTO

side the Concord Naval Weapons Station in California. It has all the linear momentum, intentionality and seeming inevitability of the weapons-laden train that accelerated as it approached the veterans sitting on the track that day, and swept Brian Willson beneath the cow catcher. And that's just the beginning.

The second half of the book is arguably the most important as Willson, on “third-world legs,” returns to Nicaragua, which had been the locus of his 1986 ‘rebirth’ and of his determination to block the war machine with his own body. The journey that began after the assault on the tracks at Concord takes Willson to every hot spot of violence and injustice in the world, and it continues to this day.

It is not, let it be said, a pretty journey, for Willson or for the reader. Wherever Willson sees the need for wealth and power to become more lateral, and for peace and non-violence to reign, things just seem to get more vertical and more violent. At times, it seems as though we have been sucked into a wormhole through hell.

That's why I'm not sure how we wind up where we do in the almost-cheery final paragraphs: “We don't have to wait for the capital R Revolution. Small acts, millions of them, are essential. Each turn of the bicycle wheel is a revolution.”

I don't know. What choice do we have now, anyway? Occupy Wall Street? And it's hard to quibble, even if one were inclined to, with a text introduced by Daniel Ellsberg, and endorsed so generously by Ed Asner, Kris Kristofferson, Noam Chomsky, Martin Sheen, Staughton Lynd, Cindy Sheehan, and Country-freakin'-Joe McDonald! Just to name a few. When all is done, despite its blood and sacrifice and immolation and dismemberment, and despite the tides of greed and the legacy of imperialism it records, and despite its relentlessly stiff and Calvinist tone, this is an optimistic book.

Even more important, however, is the other side of Brian Willson that shines through in this book – one I can't pin down to a particular page, but one that was often very clear to me during his years in Greenfield. It has nothing to do with the moral crusader, the martyr or political hero. It is more profound than that. It is the side of Brian Willson that has always simply acted, and acted against all reasonable odds, and survived. It is Willson as existential hero.

One-time SDS leader Carl Oglesby, who died last month, did not have Brian in mind when he described this kind of hero. But he might as well have:

“There will always be men who can catch an eternally difficult reality, and those who can-

not. Those who cannot will conceal their desertion beneath an historical sadness, and we shall continue to hear the sighs of an expiring culture whose self-confidence is being permanently broken.

“And those, on the other hand who will have the courage to see what is there in the world and to see moreover what that world needs to become – these people, putting their own comfort last and laboring to acquire skill which comes far from naturally to the modern Westerner, will concentrate all their power where the good man in hell, acting in acute foreknowledge of probable defeat, nevertheless acts – the true existentialist who chooses his history, who chooses his situation, who chooses to change it; who declines exile and desertion, and who declines to be defeated by a despair which he nevertheless refuses to reject. Such people will decide and again decide to live as fully as they can in that eternal hour before the eternal revolution which is eternally the moment of a person's communion with his brothers and sisters.”

*Wesley Blixt covered Brian Willson's career both locally and on the West Coast and, in the name of disclosure, serves as a trustee of the S. Brian Willson Trust.*

[bloodonthetracks.info](http://bloodonthetracks.info)



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**GREENS** from page 1

quences," Flasbarth said.

After Fukushima, he reported, "All political parties in parliament except the Communists voted in favor of the proposal to abandon nuclear by 2022." Now, the environmental agency chief said, "There is no way back. That is crystal clear." As a result, "We will put all our focus and the creativity of our energy engineers on the way forward."

Before the March meltdowns which forced the evacuation of more than 100,000 people in Japan, Germany relied on nuclear power to supply 23% of its electricity. But a strong push for renewables — aided by the government's enactment of a strong, Green Party-sponsored

"feed-in tariff" in 2003 to guarantee favorable prices and priority access to the grid for businesses and individuals that install solar, wind, or other forms of renewable energy — has left Germany well-positioned to make the shift from nuclear, without increasing reliance on fossil fuels.

"We were very far back ten years ago," said Flasbarth. But now, "Germany gets 20% of its electricity from renewables."

By 2020, that percentage will increase to 40%, Flasbarth said, and the nation (half the size of Texas, with 80 million people) should be receiving 80% or more of its energy supply from renewable sources by 2050.

Going further, Flasbarth said that moving to Green power for "one hundred percent" of

Germany's electricity supply "is possible and needed," in order to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control's target for industrial nations to cut greenhouse gasses by 80 - 90%, by 2050.

In Germany, Flasbarth said to laughter and applause, "There is no questioning about the fact of climate change."

He explained, "You will never reach 95% greenhouse gas reduction without 100% electricity from renewables," because industrial gasses and agricultural emissions will be difficult to eliminate entirely.

Already, Germany's push for renewable energy has paid dividends in jobs. Flasbarth said that in his nation the nuclear power industry employs 20,000 workers, and coal provides jobs for 22,000. But in just the recent push toward solar power, wind, geothermal, and other alternative forms of energy like anaerobic methane digesters (of which there are 6000 in Germany, compared to 200 in the United States), Flasbarth said 370,000 jobs have been created. Many of those new jobs have come in the form of a renaissance in traditional industries like glass manufacturing, which has benefitted from the move toward solar pan-

els, and steel, which now finds production of blades for wind turbines its second biggest end product after cars.

The environmental chief said, "Farmers are big drivers," of the greening of German power. "A lot of farmers are becoming energy farmers, with windmills in their fields and photovoltaics on their barns," and of course those manure digesters creating methane.

Between the years 2005 - 2008, German farmers put up 200-250 megawatts of photovoltaics, as much as all of America put up during those same three years, he noted.

"The competitiveness of economies will depend on decentralizing their societies," said Flasbarth, echoing Chancellor Merkel's statement from May, when she said phasing out nuclear power in favor of renewables would give Germany an edge in the European Union: "As the first big industrialized nation, we can achieve such a transformation toward efficient and renewable energies, with all the opportunities that brings for exports, developing new technologies, and jobs."

Flasbarth said, "We are not missionaries. We aren't trying to

convince anyone to learn a lesson from us. Every country in the world will find its own way."

So will states like Vermont, which is struggling to close the lone nuclear reactor within its borders, and has just issued a comprehensive 20-year energy plan to move away from fossil fuels.

Flasbarth added, "If Germany is successful in creating an entirely renewable energy supply in a highly industrialized society it might be an example." No argument there.



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**EROSION** from page 1

veys. On this point, Joanne Flagg, a member of the Gill conservation commission, came to the selectboard meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, with a draft letter to Secretary Kimberly Bose of the FERC from the Gill commission calling for a uniform method of measuring results for riverbank erosion control.

Though still in draft form, the conservation commission's letter will ask for "standardized data collection methods which allow reconnaissance surveys to be compared sequentially," and states, "Due to the disparate conclusions regarding the success of erosion control methods to date, we request that monitoring protocols be peer reviewed by a qualified geomorphologist that is acceptable to all parties."

Dissatisfied with what they felt were inconsistent and contradictory results in First Light's most recent Reconnaissance Report, the landowners association hired a geomorphologist from Maine, John Fields, who was familiar with the area of the Connecticut River under scrutiny from his participation in previous surveys of the banks for Northfield Mountain, to take another look at the success of the utility's erosion control methods.

In recent years, with the approval of the Gill conservation commission, First Light has moved from former practices of bank stabilization, including the use of riprap that creates conditions adverse for certain aquatic species to thrive along the banks, to more natural erosion control regimens using the root balls and stumps of trees anchored near the toe of the riverbank, to allow sedimentation to build up naturally along the shelter created near the shore. That bioengineering method, new to this part of New England, was first introduced along the shore of the Split River Farm, off River Road, in the fall of 2009.

While it is too soon to judge the eventual success or failure of that multi-year restoration project, Field's October 2010 analysis of the Split River Farm stabilization project undertaken for the landowners association was disquieting. Field found, "While the individual root wads, log jams, and stacked log structures on the bank toe remain largely

intact after one year, the project has not successfully induced sediment deposition. In fact, almost ten feet of the added beach sediment behind the line of root wads has been eroded along the length of the entire project with the erosion control fabric and planted vegetation largely removed in these areas. Since the erosion has not yet reached the bank toe, no signs of active erosion are present along the bank toe. The lack of bank erosion, however, should not be construed as an indication of long-term project success, because erosion of the added beach sediment is likely to accelerate once the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project returns to normal operations after a long hiatus that began in May 2010. If the erosion continues to the bank toe, undercutting of the bank will ensue..."

Reached for comment, First Light senior engineer Charles Momnie said the remediation work at Split River Farm was three years along on a four year project, and "So far, it appears to be successful."

Momnie withheld comment on the conservation commission's draft letter to FERC in support of uniform and comparable data for successive Full River Reconnaissance reports.

Flagg told the selectboard on Tuesday that the conservation commission has asked First Light to increase monitoring at the area of bank stabilization at Donald Patterson's Split River Farm, almost directly across the river from the intake tunnel at Northfield Mountain.

The selectboard told Flagg they liked the wording of the conservation commission's draft letter to the FERC, but the board decided to send it to town counsel Donna MacNichol for review before approving the final wording.

**Boiler Replacement**

The ongoing saga of the boiler replacement project at the town's safety complex is coming to a head as the temperature outdoors begins to dip. For two years in a row, town meeting has set aside \$10,000 toward repairing or replacing the aging, leaking boiler in the cinderblock building that houses both the town's police and highway departments. Now, that \$20,000 set aside may be less than half

of what is needed for the job, if the town takes the advice of one private contractor who has looked at the building's heating needs.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said the plan would be to replace the old boiler with two new, efficient and smaller boilers, to allow only one boiler to be in use during milder weather, saving fuel over time. The contractor also recommended switching over the part of the building that relies on steam heat to forced hot water, and adding extra heating zones, all in an effort to create fuel and cost savings. The smaller boilers and forced hot water conversion should "save up to half of our fuel use," in the building, said Purington.

"We can't always take the least cost approach. Sometimes we have to spend more to save more," Purington said.

Still, time is pressing to get something done before winter closes in. The selectboard directed Purington to develop bid specifications for the job, while the board plans to confer with the finance committee about the best method of financing the remaining \$30,000 for the job.

Purington mentioned the \$28,000 set aside at last town meeting for a capital stabilization account, after voters failed to give two thirds majority approval needed to buy a new police cruiser.

Selectboard member Ann Banash said, "As much as I think we should be replacing police vehicles, the boiler is more important."

But the board also held the opinion that depleting reserve accounts makes little sense in an era when short term borrowing can be secured for less than 2% interest, especially when fuel savings can cover the cost of the project within the course of a ten year loan. Seated under the collapsed ceiling tiles from a leak in the town hall roof, and considering the simultaneous need to replace the frequently patched roof at the safety complex, the board felt there would soon be any number of competing priorities to fund from stabilization.

John Ward said the naysayers who opposed the town's energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies, which conducted energy audits of

all town buildings before focusing the bulk of its energy upgrades (paid for with guaranteed savings from the improvements) on the elementary school boiler replacement project, will now have an opportunity to compare that approach with the town's do-it-yourself (or bid your own job) approach at the safety complex.

**Steam Leak**

Meanwhile, over at the Siemen's job, energy efficient lighting is due to be installed during the 3:30 - 11:00 p.m. shift at the elementary school, starting next week, and a new hot water heater is installed and wired and "working great," Purington said. But when the new boiler was tested last week, two steam piping leaks were discovered in the school's general purpose room (auditorium and cafeteria), where the radiators are connected to the 56-year-old piping buried in the cement slab floor. Uh-oh.

Purington said the fix for this would not be an easy one, and Siemens would spend several thousand dollars just to isolate the problem line so the rest of the building could be heated. After that, the possible course of repairs include either trying to insert a flex liner inside the small steam pipes, or running a replacement line to the compromised radiators, either one of which will prove to be costly add-ons to the performance contract.

**Fourteen Applicants**

Fourteen people, from as far away as Orange, applied for a 3 - 5 hour a week custodial position, cleaning town buildings after hours, for a salary of \$10.54 an hour.

The board approved hiring Purington's recommended pick for the position, Paul Fahey, of Riverside, a former employee of Greenfield Glass.

Board chair Randy Crochier said, "When you get that many applications it tells you something about the economy."

It stinks.

**Good News, Bad News**

At a recent legislative breakfast attended by Purington and Ward, along with area legislators and other county officials, Purington said he learned the state will restore an earlier \$65 million cut to local aid to cities

and towns, due to ending the last fiscal year in the black. In the black after cutting more than \$175 million in aid to the elderly, the poor, the disabled, education, environmental protection, anti-smoking programs, etc., part of a total \$3 billion cut in the state budget since the recession began in 2008. But Purington said any cheer the news of the restored state aid might bring to local officials was tempered by the prediction that more federal budget cuts will soon trickle down to the states, making an already stressful FY'13 budget cycle appear more ominous in the coming months.

The highway department has installed a 120-foot wrought iron fence, donated by arrangement of West Gill Road resident Ted Graveline, at the West Gill Cemetery. Highway workers manufactured new posts, welded brackets, and landscaped around the fence. Graveline will apply the touch up paint.

The West Gill Cemetery lies in close proximity to the Oak Ridge Golf Club, and errant drives have been known to leave golfers playing in the rough among the tombstones.

Marcus Aucoin has turned 18, and the selectboard approved his appointment as a call firefighter, pending results of his physical exam.

**KYBG Program**

The board approved receipt of a \$7,500 Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency grant to assist the town with preparations for a radiological emergency at the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

Crochier called this the "Kiss your butt good-bye program."

Banash said, "No one is going to stay here," and assist with orderly evacuations "when the plant blows."

Crochier added, "I told them when I first went for training, 'I'm not going to stay here and die with these guys. I've got family I can die with.'"

Banash wondered whether any balance left over in the program funds could be used for something practical, like fixing the boiler at the safety complex, which will serve as the town's Emergency Operations Center in the event of a radiological emergency at Vermont Yankee.



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### NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE Innovation School Designation Discussed

**BY TANYA CUSHMAN** - Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir distributed information to the school committee on Monday, October 3rd, about Innovation Schools. Hajir called the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved model, created by legislative reform in January 2010, a new and improved Horace Mann charter school. Designation from the DESE as an Innovation School would allow teachers to pursue a cross curricular educational theme, or try other methods of creative learning.

Hajir has suggested the Leverett Elementary School could pursue an Innovation School designation as part of a move to regionalize LES in a new district with the neighboring towns of Shutesbury, Pelham, and Amherst, thus retaining more local control within a larger

school district. Hajir described the Innovation School concept as a way to give the elementary school more cachet, and perhaps attract back students, like the four who have recently left the public school system to attend a Chinese immersion charter school in Amherst.

Leverett voters will have a chance to discuss the plan at a special town meeting on October 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at the elementary school, when a warrant article will seek to create a regional school district planning committee, to associate with similar committees in those three towns to explore the costs and benefits of forming a new school district.

In other news, there is still one school choice space left in the LES 2nd grade - all other grades are full.

On November 17th, the Leverett school committee will hold a joint meeting at LES with the Shutesbury school committee. The joint meeting, tried for the first time last year, will allow Union-28 superintendent Joan Wattman to combine her presentations to both committees at the midpoint of the meeting, rather than attend two separate evening meetings, and will also allow the two school committees the opportunity to share information more directly. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the Shutesbury school committee's agenda, followed by the U-28 report, then by the Leverett committee's agenda.

The slate roof repair project at the elementary school will have to be rebid, because the company that first won the bid - Sunderland Roofing - was unable to get bonding for the \$78,000 contract. The window replacement project at LES has also been postponed, to next summer.

### More Permaculture Workshops in Gill

On Sunday, October 16th, Laughing Dog farmer Daniel Botkin will continue his fall series of permaculture workshops in Gill with a hands-on demonstration, "Using Black Locust to Build Garden Infrastructure," from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Botkins says, "Intensive food gardening in small spaces inspires us to harness the 'third dimension' (as in raised beds, vertical trellises, teepees, fences, arbors, and the like) to grow and support our annual and perennial crops for maximum production. By building our gardens 'up' with rot-resistant black locust, considered by many a noxious weed, we can also make them more ergonomic and attractive, and the sturdy, multi-use structures may last a lifetime, or more. We will examine various pieces of locust lumber, slabs, slats, logs and posts, and demonstrate and practice simple techniques for builders and non-carpenters alike to construct elegant beds, hoops, and other vertical gardening structures. We will discuss basic garden hardware and joinery as well as possible sources for the locust wood, an under-exploited and precious New England resource.

from **FLOODING** pg 7

pending results of his physical examination. More young people are encouraged to join the fire department; call McGinnis at 548-9699 for more info.

Linda Hillenbrand of Dudleyville Road came to discuss an issue with multiple unregistered cars, people living in a trailer year round with possible board of health violations, and using a noisy generator, in a neighboring yard. The board advised her to put her complaints in writing and to contact the building inspector and board

of health. "I'm not trying to start a war," Hillenbrand insisted.

The board signed an application for the town of Leverett to become a Green Community under state legislation that encourages energy conservation and renewable energy production. By passing a solar overlay zoning bylaw, the stretch energy code, and implementing other stipulated requirements such as an anti-idling policy for town vehicles, Leverett may now qualify for state grants as a Green Community.

On Sunday, October 23rd, Botkin's series continues with "Building and Managing High and Low-Tunnel Hoophouses," from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"For those who can build and manage one, a full-sized hoop-house is a boon to year-round growing. However, you don't need a full-sized greenhouse to experience the 'greenhouse effect' in your gardens and micro-farms. Low tunnel cold frames make a smaller, cheaper and simpler alternative for versatile season extension and crop protection in the field.

"In this class we will review basic hoophouse management concepts, critique design options and learn to bend and assemble a basic low tunnel hoophouse frame from start to finish, using ten foot galvanized steel pipes and cedar purlins.

The workshops are designed for the beginning or expanding micro-farmer, homesteader, or anyone else interested in innovative, organic food production on small plots. For directions, more info and to register, contact: dbotkin@valinet.com. Workshops include hot soup offering, optional greenhouse tour, heirloom sampling and further discussion.

### Legal Notes from the Frankin County Home Care Corporation

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Provided by the Massachusetts Chapter of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys


You may benefit from the services of an elder law attorney if you: are creating or updating your estate plan, have questions about long term care planning and asset protection, are being encouraged to transfer title to your home or other asset to a child or other person, to add another person's name to the title of your home or other asset, need help with an application for MassHealth, need advice about other public benefits, need to obtain the appointment of a guardian or conservator of a person who lacks capacity to care for him or herself, have questions about your liability for nursing home expenses of a family member, or have concerns about an elder or disabled person who is at risk.

Estate planning involves planning for both incapacity during your lifetime and planning for the disposition of your assets in the event of your death. If you became incapacitated, who would make medical decisions for you? Who would pay your bills? If you were to die, who should receive your assets? These are just some of the many questions that may be answered in the context of an estate plan.

Many elder law professionals will tell you that the most important part of an estate plan is planning for incapacity (signing a Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy), as the person you appoint to handle your financial affairs and make your medical decisions in the event of incapacity can have a very significant impact on the quality of your life.

Read more at [www.massnaela.com/faqs](http://www.massnaela.com/faqs).

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**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:**

**Could Cinnamon be Good for You?**



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** My Aunt Lillian is a total health freak. The other day she said cinnamon is good for you. Come on! Cinnamon?

Recent research indicates that cinnamon may be helpful for

people with Type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition that affects the way your body processes sugar. Type 2 diabetes can be life-threatening if you don't treat it.

One study found that cinnamon taken twice a day for 90 days improved the condition of people with poorly controlled Type 2 diabetes. One theory is that cinnamon may act like insulin, a hormone that controls the concentration of sugar in the blood. Insulin deficiency causes diabetes. Researchers at the University of Maryland used a roundworm that has some genetic and biochemical similarities to humans to examine complex herbal preparations believed to combat aging. They found that

cinnamon bark increased the worms' life span.

According to some studies, cinnamon may improve cholesterol levels in people with Type 2 diabetes. The results of a study from Pakistan showed lower levels of cholesterol in people consuming cinnamon after 40 days. Cholesterol continued to drop for another 20 days.

In other studies, cinnamon did not decrease blood sugar or cholesterol levels. It is important to stress that more research is needed to determine what health benefits — if any — can be attributed to consuming cinnamon.

Do not increase your consumption of cinnamon without discussing it with your physician.

Seniors are at risk when making dietary changes because they usually are taking one or more medications that might react to ingesting a lot of cinnamon.

Cinnamon dates back in Chinese writings to 2800 B.C., and is still known in China as kwai.

Ancient Egyptians used cinnamon for embalming. Medieval physicians included cinnamon in medicines to treat coughing, hoarseness and sore throats. The spice was also valued for its ability to preserve meat.

Cinnamon comes in two varieties — Ceylon cinnamon and cassia cinnamon. Cassia cinnamon is the kind most Americans use for baking. It's also the vari-

ety most researchers have used when they've studied cinnamon and diabetes. Cassia cinnamon is a plant. People use the bark and flower.

Cassia cinnamon has been used for gas, muscle and stomach spasms, preventing nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, infections, the common cold, and loss of appetite. Some people use it for erectile dysfunction (ED), hernia, bed-wetting, joint conditions, menopausal symptoms, menstrual problems, and to cause abortions. Cassia cinnamon is also used for chest pain, kidney disorders, high blood pressure, cramps and cancer. More evidence is needed to rate the effectiveness of cassia cinnamon for these uses.

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

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Break In, Harassment, Drunk Driving Arrest**

**Tuesday, 10/4**

6:29 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Second Street. Report taken.

7:36 p.m. Arrest of [redacted], on a straight warrant on Avenue A.

**Wednesday, 10/5**

1:43 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

3:40 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Seventh Street. Investigated.

11:28 p.m. Arrest of [redacted], for domestic assault and battery, intimidating a witness, violation of a probate court order to vacate home.

**Thursday, 10/6**

7:39 a.m. Harassment order violation on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

3:49 p.m. Burglary, break-

ing and entering on Bridge Street. Services rendered.

**Friday, 10/7**  
12:47 p.m. Past burglary on Fourth Street. Report taken.

**Saturday, 10/8**  
5:22 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant on Third Street.

7:50 a.m. Arrest of [redacted], on a default warrant.

2:17 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

5:17 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Ripley Road. Advised of options.

5:27 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Peace restored.

6:38 p.m. Smoke conditions on Swamp Road. Referred to other agency.

**Sunday, 10/9**  
7:52 a.m. Missing person

on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

12:18 p.m. Illegal dumping on High Street. Referred to other agency.

4:26 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for second offense of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, operating to endanger, marked lanes violations, speeding, wanton destruction of property over \$250 on L Street.

6:13 p.m. Outside fire on Swamp Road. Verbal warning.

**Monday, 10/10**  
1:30 p.m. Neighbor disturbance at West Chestnut Hill Road. Services rendered.

4:48 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

7:47 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Investigated.

**ACTION from pg 4**

about to make history and join in.

Occupy Wall Street is a movement by the people and for the people, working very hard to finally stand up and say, "Enough is enough. We're not going to stay silent while the Earth, sky and waters are polluted and destroyed past the point of no return, just so corporations can make huge profits for a very small number of already enormously wealthy individuals — the 1%. This is a

very powerful notion, that we are the 99%. Together, we feel empowered, finally, to take control of our lives and stop the insatiable lust for power and money that has spiraled out of control. We're not going to be complacent while our children's education, health and Constitutional rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness get destroyed completely.

Please join us this Saturday, October 15th, and tell us why and how you want to help make a better future. Some of

us want to work with the system and try to modify and improve it. Some of us want to get rid of this corrupt and faulty system and start with something new and better. Some of us don't know how or why, we just know that things have gotten really bad all over and we want to stop corporations from bringing us past the point of no return. So join us in building community and solidarity in Greenfield and with people all over the country and the world, to build a better future for everyone.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Phone Scam, Drunk Driving Arrest, Vandalism**

**Wednesday, 10/5**

11:45 p.m. Removed debris and tire from Roadway Route 2 and Dorsey Road.

**Thursday, 10/6**  
10:00 a.m. Phone scam on Old State Road, report taken and resident advised of options.

**Friday, 10/7**

5:15 p.m. Dog complaint on Central Street.

5:20 p.m. Report of kids in the roadway holding signs on Millers Falls bridge. Located same, advised to stay out of roadway.

**Saturday, 10/8**

10:10 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for car vs. deer. Animal gone on arrival.

9:50 a.m. Motor vehicle fire on Route 2 Eastbound of Erving Paper Mill, found to be radiator.

7:47 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for second offense of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, operating to endanger, marked lanes violations, and an open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, on Route 2 at

Dorsey Road. **Sunday, 10/9**  
4:00 p.m. Vandalism at Laurel Lake. Rock through window, property stolen from same. Report taken.  
8:15 p.m. Dog complaint - dog bit caller's son on Central Street. Unable to locate canine.

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## Ferry Meadow Farm - part X

Turners Falls, MA 2017

**BY ELOISE MICHAEL** - Back in Turners Falls, Diana and Neil help me get the doppelganger into bed, and Neil gets back into their car. He has to work in Philadelphia in the morning. Luckily, his body gets to sleep all day. I am beginning to see the advantages of having two bodies.

Diana will stay until it's time for me to switch bodies, maybe even longer, but I know she will eventually need to sleep. Then I will be alone with two minds.

When the sky begins to turn gray Diana thinks it's time for me to go to bed. "This body has been up for 24 hours," she reminds me.

As soon as she says it, I realize how tired I am. "Just for today, just to make it easier, why don't you lie down? When this body is asleep, I'll wake up the other one."

I am grateful for the suggestion. I have been dreading the feeling of having both bodies awake again. I brush my teeth, change into a t-shirt and pajama pants, and then get into my queen-sized bed next to my sleeping self.

"I'm not sure this is going to work," I whisper, not wanting to wake myself up.

"Which part?"

"I'm not going to fall asleep like this."

"I think you will. Just try,"

she says.

"OK, I'll try," I say. "Do you need anything else?"

"No, I'll be fine," Diana assures me. She will sleep in the other bedroom, and back in Philadelphia her other body will be awake.

I close my eyes and listen to the sound of the doppelganger breathing. I guess I do fall asleep, because it feels like a minute later that Diana is shaking me awake. I must have been sleeping deeply, I realize, because I can tell that she's been shaking me for a while.

"Come on, Reese, wake up," she's saying.

"OK," I say, "I'm awake." "That's what you said last time."

"I'm awake. I'm awake," I say, hoping she will leave me alone.

"Come on and get up then,"

she says, pulling me gently.

I open my eyes enough to realize I have switched sides with the doppelganger. Then it hits me that I am the doppelganger, and I'm awake.

I get out of bed slowly, so I won't wake myself up. Diana smiles at me, and we walk quietly out of the room.

"I still feel like me," I say.

"Told ya," she laughs.

"I guess you really need to go to sleep," I say.

"I'm pretty tired," she says, "and my Body at Rest is getting restless."

I laugh.

"Do you think you'll be OK?" she asks.

"Yeah," I say, "I do," and I mean it. Even though it's an hour later, I suddenly have twelve hours of sleep behind me and feel like I can handle things. Over the course of the

night I have gotten better at controlling my mind while the doppelganger is dreaming. In the light of morning things don't seem so bad.

"If you have any kind of problem, call my Body in Motion in Philadelphia," Diana says. "If it comes to it, we can always wake up my Body at Rest."

"What would happen to the other body?" I ask.

"She would have to take a break from work. Tell people she threw up or something like that."

"Speaking of work," I say.

"Yeah, you've got..." she looks at her watch, "...almost an hour."

"I guess I should get moving," I say. "I'll let you sleep."

"Thanks," she says.

*Continued next issue*

### CLARK from pg 8

Mary's Farm, and States of Grace. She read a bit from each of the five books she'd authored. They were a pleasure to hear, including *Monadnock Falls*, a slim tome of poetry.

Clark smiled when relating her interest in poetry in college

and her hope of earning a living writing poetry. She laughed, "I never made any money writing poetry."

I was lucky to scoop up the last copy of *Saturday Beans and Sunday Suppers, Kitchen Stories from Mary's Farm*. It is not a cookbook in the usual sense, but a book of stories about cooking with recipes interspersed.

The first article I'd ever submitted to *Yankee Magazine* was "The Blizzard of '78" which didn't get published until 20 years after they'd sent me a check. After the acceptance of the blizzard story, I immediately sent "The Mechanical Marvel," the story of my mother's gasoline washer. The editorial panel rejected it, but a young woman on the editorial staff, Christine Schultz, informed me it was rejected because the story didn't have a good ending. She urged me to

write a better ending, and resubmit it.

In the story, my teenage sister left home to get a job that paid three dollars a week and purchased the washer for our mother on time payments. The new ending read, "When my sister Emy came home, they sat in the kitchen, side by side, listening to that mechanical marvel humming its 'chunk-a-chunk song'."

*Yankee* editors accepted the story and asked for more. I operated construction equipment by day and wrote by night for a number of publications. I sent *Yankee Magazine* other stories, which they published, but the one that got the most mileage was the washing machine story. *Reader's Digest* reprinted it in English and French. It appeared in the writing textbook, *Process Your Thoughts*, along with writings by Isaac Asimov, Russell

Baker, Martyn J. Fogg, Edie Clark, and others. A weekly in Decatur, GA, recently reprinted it for Mother's Day, decades after it was first published. And, of course, "The Mechanical Marvel" was reprinted in the *Montague Reporter* when *Jep's Place* was serialized.

In a query letter, editors like to know where else you have been published. For me, mentioning *Yankee Magazine* and *Yankee Books* as credits always seemed to do the trick.

Until Clark told us at the reading, I never knew she had lived in our area. During her reading, she mentioned the Bolton family and her husband, Paul Bolton, Mount Hermon and Northfield Schools, homes in Northfield and her connection with people and places familiar to those who had come to meet her and hear her read.

Librarian Karen Stinchfield

said she was surprised when Clark agreed to read at a small town library like Cushman. But Edie Clark, apparently, is a small town person at heart, content to sit down and have a conversation with friends like us.

### Dog Whisperer

Shhhh! This Saturday, October 15th, from 10:30 a.m. - noon in the Community Room of the Greenfield Savings Bank Community Room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls dog whisperer Ray DuCharme will make an appearance. Do not bring your dogs to this event, but come to learn the tricks of the trade in obedience training and behavior modification, problem solving, gun dog work and all aspects in-between. DuCharme's philosophy is "A dog worth keeping is a dog worth training!" Call 413-863-4316 to reserve a seat at this free lecture.

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# A Fortune Built on Sand and Gravel



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

A rusting shovel sits in Walter Wunch's old sand bank

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GREENFIELD** – The photo above shows a gasoline cable shovel I might once have owned. It sits in Walter Wunch's sand bank on Gill Road in Greenfield, frozen in time.

Wunch Brothers once owned 23 acres of land on the Montague Plains, and supplied sand from there for construction projects.

Walter Wunch began doing business with his brother as Wunch Brothers. They didn't have much money, but were able to make payments on land and equipment by the proceeds from evening prize fighting in Holyoke.

They bought ten more acres of land in Deerfield behind Deerfield Academy, where the Wunch Brothers set up a crushing and screening plant. They stretched a cable across the Deerfield River to operate a drag line, scooping gravel from the river bed.

Walter explained the current would wash away silt and some sand as they hauled in the gravel, so there was no excess sand, a problem other gravel suppliers had to contend with.

They dug a deep hole in the Deerfield River before anyone

even knew what an environmentalist was. The fish loved the dark, deep waters. So did fishermen. It became a favorite fishing hole.

High water in the spring would wash more gravel into the hole, keeping a steady supply. River silt, four feet thick, covered the land at the Deerfield site. The Wunch Brothers sold that as loam.

They struggled financially, at first, but Walter and his brother kept their heads above water by boxing. Walter said his brother died of injuries from boxing. Walter never changed the name, Wunch Brothers, but after his brother's untimely death, Walter quit boxing.

At first, Walter sold sand, out of his bank next to Mackin's on Gill Road. He was literally scraping by, especially after the Crash of 1929.

Then, when Roosevelt took office and Congress legislated make-work projects, Wunch was swamped with demands for stone, sand and gravel. He contracted to supply sand and washed stone to Walker Hosmer, who was building the French King Bridge.

Wunch used sand from the Montague Plains pit to supply the French King Bridge project

Wunch was not delivering enough material to his job, and accusing him of supplying material to other contractors instead. Wunch worked long hours. Once he worked around the clock for three days, to process enough gravel in an attempt to satisfy his customers. He said he lost his voice and began hallucinating before heading for bed, totally exhausted after that ordeal.

Wunch made a pile of money but never expanded his business or his crushing plant. He always used a small single axle dump truck. He garaged it at his home, and never bought a bigger truck because it would not have fit in his garage. He hired other truckers with bigger trucks when needed, but never bought bigger crushing equipment.

Instead, he invested in the stock market, when stocks were as low as they ever got. He said he bought stock in a sugar company for pennies a share that later sold for hundreds of dollars. He also built a big house next to his sand pit on Gill Road, and hired a crane to clam out a pond to stockpile sand he sold in semi-retirement.

With a lot of sand left at his pit, the shovel broke down.

and supplied stone from the Deerfield crushing and screening plant. He got orders from other contractors for other construction jobs in Franklin County, delivering material to each of them with hired trucks, to hold them as customers.

He told me about Walker Hosmer coming to his house, one evening, furious that

Buying sand from Mackin for a dollar a yard, loaded, he resold it at a profit. He bought a new Packard and traveled the U.S. and Mexico, enjoying the money he'd worked hard to accumulate in the days before income tax took much of a bite.

In semi-retirement, Walter wore a nice sport shirt with a string tie when making deliveries. Some said his truck was a little bit expandable. It was reported to hold three cubic yards when he was buying sand, but often held five yards upon delivery.

The reason I know so much about Walter Wunch is that two friends wanted me to join them in buying the sand bank in Montague and the gravel plant in Deerfield. I spent a lot of time with Wunch as he showed me the plant and land.

To gauge potential profitability, I secured a standing order for 75 cubic yards of stone a day from a concrete

plant in Northampton. That would have carried the operation, and additional orders would have led to a reasonable profit. But the environmental laws were beginning to come into vogue, outlawing digging in the river. Wunch had no permit to mine the Deerfield River. No permit was needed when he began operating.

As I sized it up, the idle plant needed work, one potential partner was lazy and had no money, the other had money but hated to spend it, and both wanted to keep their jobs while I ran the plant. Though they were willing to share the profits, I bid them farewell. I thanked Walter and concentrated on my growing excavating business.

The rusting shovel in Walter's sand pit sports the words Wunch Bros., barely visible on the back. Once his pride and joy, it sits forlorn with the bucket half full of sand and trees growing all around, waiting for someone to haul this icon of another era away for scrap.

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