



RODNEY BEAUCHESNE
Gone, But Who Could Forget Him?
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GIVE 'EM A BREAK
Pocket Saver Market, Erving
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 4

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 25, 2007

Rocke on G-M Elementary Schools: First Close Hillcrest, then Close Montague Center, Unless...

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Interim superintendent of Gill-Montague schools Ken Rocke proposed that Hillcrest Elementary School become a pre-K center for the district next year, with Sheffield School absorbing Hillcrest's seven kindergarten through second grade classes into the available classrooms of Sheffield's new wing. During the '08 school year, Rocke proposed, a consensus should be formed and funding secured to renovate Sheffield School's old wing to ensure there is enough room for students now attending Montague Center School to also move to the Sheffield building. But he "left the door open a crack" for the possibility that community support could avert the closing of Montague Center School if funding could be found to complete renovations at that facility and perhaps a new governance structure developed for that school in the intervening year.

Rocke's proposal - and others that may emerge for closing one or more of Montague's elementary schools - will be discussed on a tight timeline, as school committee chair Mary Kociela made it clear at the school committee's Tuesday, October 23rd meeting that she would like

the committee to reach a decision on school closing by the end of November.

Kociela said the committee had reached consensus at a recent retreat on their number one goal: to "restore public trust, confidence and respect in the school committee by reaching a decision on the elementary configuration question that puts the needs of students first, and enjoys broad public support."

"The timing is correct to be moving on this," said Rocke. "Not making a decision is not good for our community; it's not good for our children." He said as superintendent, he needed to focus his attention soon "much more strongly on the educational issues we are facing," and put the configuration debate behind him with a decision that allows the district to meet its educational goals and save money.

He said he arrived at his proposal by focusing on the broad consensus the committee had arrived at last year favoring the educational benefit of broad grade span (e.g. K-5) schools. He said the Sheffield School building was big enough to provide K-5 education for all of Montague's approximately 450 ele-

see **SCHOOLS** page 12

WHERE DEMOCRACY STARTS

New Town Offices
Dedicated in Wendell



BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Instead of the predicted rain, a wonderful sunny day greeted the thirty citizens who attended the dedication of the new Wendell town office building on Saturday. Selectboard member Dan Keller opened the ceremony saying, "Is this a beautiful building?"

He said the effort to construct the new office building began 20 years ago when the town started saving money for the project. In those days, town officials were keeping their records in cramped, inadequate offices or at home. In 1991, administrative assistant Regina Curtis drew a sketch of a dream building, and since then the number of people who helped bring the project to completion has been staggering.

Keller said, "It is impossible to build a public building in Massachusetts," citing prevailing wage law, accessibility requirements, and other regulations. But the handsome structure behind him stood in eloquent testimony to the fallacy of that statement, or the perseverance of the townspeople in spite of it.

Keller thanked state representative

"This building is dedicated to the hard-working, thrifty, kind, and friendly people of Wendell's past, present, and future, and to the plants, animals, streams, and hills that make their lives possible."

- **Mackensy Wickham-Diamond,**
Swift River School, 6th Grader

Steve Kulik for helping move the project forward at the state level. He also thanked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, "the thread that sewed the pieces together." While he was at it, he thanked project manager Mark Sullivan, and architect Margo Jones, a "genius with light," and not a bad

see **WENDELL** pg 15

History Rings Out in North Leverett

BY DAWN WARD

MOORE'S CORNER - In the Moore's Corner section of Leverett, midway between Montague Center and Wendell, sits an historic building on North Leverett Road, diagonally across from the Village Cop. This sturdy structure has had many lives in its lifetime.

Carved into the two-story building's stone foundation is the date 1810. It is believed to have been built by the Universalist Society of Leverett; therefore its original use was probably as a church meetinghouse, which might explain why it is the only one of the nine schoolhouses around the town of Leverett that had a brass bell mounted on its rooftop.

When the Universalist Society disbanded around 1815, the building began to be used as

a one-room school for the children of Moore's Corner. All grades were taught in one room on the first floor. After the 8th or 9th grade was completed, if students were going to continue on with their education, they would travel to the high school in Montague Center.

At one point the Congregational Society held its church meetings upstairs above the schoolroom. This dual usage ended in 1896, when the Moore's Corner Church was completed up on the hill behind the school.

In 1859, the Moore's Corner schoolhouse became known as District #3 (out of nine districts in Leverett); at this point it had 30 students and eight grades. It was heated with a wood stove tended by the teacher or the older boys. The three "R's"

see **HISTORY** pg 15



Dan Bennett, building maintenance chairman, welcomes the crowd to the celebration of the restored bell tower at the historic Moore's Corner Schoolhouse on Saturday

SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

PET OF THE WEEK

Needs Love



Macduhi

I am a four-year-old neutered male domestic short hair cat named Macduhi, and I'm in need of a good home! I was found as a stray, and I would love a real home of my own. I can be a little shy, but I love being petted and cuddled. I am a sweet boy that needs a little extra love and attention from some gentle loving people. I will be so happy once I find a family of my own! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Prep Ahead Meals Workshop

The Erving Public Library will host chef and cookbook author Norma Chang on Monday, October 29th at 5:30 p.m. for a workshop on "Prep Ahead Meals."

Norma Chang, the 'Travelling Gourmet,' is a food lover who enjoys sharing her skills and ideas with others through her many food related activities. Chang believes that cooking should be fun, and the food we prepare should not only be good for you,



Norma Chang, the Travelling Gourmet, will demonstrate Chinese 'Prep Ahead Meals' on Monday at the Erving Library

but should look and taste good too. This philosophy is reflected in her cookbooks, demonstrations and programs. Learn the art of Chinese wok cooking. This tasty and healthy cooking class is free, but registration is required. Funded by the Erving Cultural Council. Contact the library at 423-3348 for more information.

Wendell Library Creepy Reading
When the Dead Talk Back
 A staged reading of creepy stories for adults by local author Richard Ballon.
 Lend us an hour; we'll give you a chill
 Thursday, October 25th, 8-9 p.m. Free.

Habitat Seeks Families

TURNERS FALLS - Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is looking for families interested in purchasing a simple decent affordable home.

An information session will be held to introduce people to the Habitat for Humanity program and tell them how to qualify to become a partner family. That meeting will be held on November 4 at 4:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 148 L Street, Turners Falls.

In addition to a home in Turners Falls, the Habitat group has sites coming up in both Amherst and Northampton. All interested persons must attend an information session before receiving an application form.

Habitat for Humanity selects partner families on the follow-

ing criteria:

- Need, which means that present housing is not adequate and the family is unable to obtain adequate housing through conventional means.

- Ability to pay, which means a family will be making affordable payments on a no-interest mortgage to purchase their home. Applicants must meet the guidelines of having income between 30% and 50% of the median income for the area.

- Willingness to partner with Habitat, which means putting in many hours of "sweat equity" in helping to build the house and working with the organization in other ways.

Those interested in further information can call the Habitat office at 413-586-5430.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Oct. 29th-Nov. 2nd

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

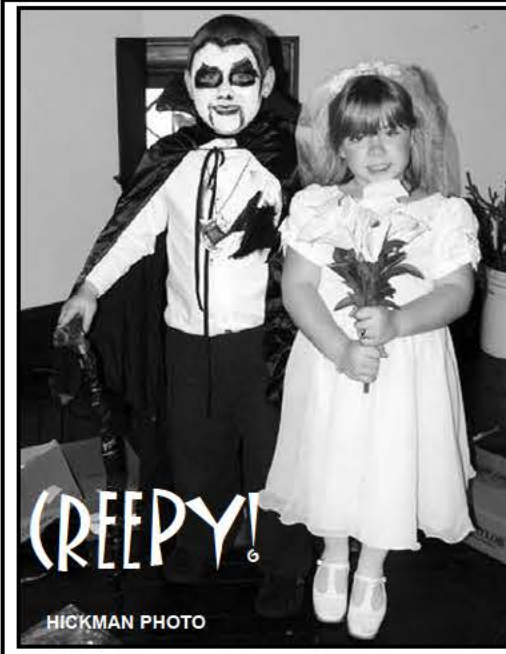
Monday, 29th
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 30th
 9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

Wednesday, 31st
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 1st
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 2nd
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per exercise is appreciated.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413-423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shop-

FACES & PLACES



Left: Kaeden and Keltyn Socquet of Greenfield were among the many costumed children at the Carnegie Library's 7th Annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 20th.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Harvest Dioramas Workshop

BY RUTH O'MARA
TURNERS FALLS - Saturday, November 3rd, at 10:30 a.m., the Carnegie Library, in Turners Falls, will be offering a children's program to kids of all ages. Ruth O'Mara, local artist and educator will be teaching a class on how to make your own

Harvest Dioramas. These fun festive diorama worlds will be made out of shoeboxes and will include natural materials, painting a November sky, pumpkins, trees and more! All materials will be provided. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library @ 863-3214.

Memory Screening

GREENFIELD - If you keep forgetting such things as what you ate for breakfast or where you parked your car, consider participating in National Memory Screening Day on November 13th. Screenings will take place in Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Behavioral Health Department at 48 Sanderson Street, from 9 a.m. - noon. An initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), National Memory Screening Day is held annually during National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month to provide free memory screenings and education about the disease, successful aging and local resources. To register for the free memory screening

or for more information, call Central Intake at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, 413-773-4444.

GFMS Students of the Week

- Grade 6:**
Nicholas Wells
- Grade 7:**
Carolyn Campbell
Ryan Wilder
- Grade 8:**
Jane Booth

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Local Gift Certificates to be Awarded During Wendell Subscription Drive

It's always a good time to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*. In truth, a growing list of subscribers is the only thing keeping the paper in print, the only thing persuading local business owners to spend advertising dollars with us, and the only justification for the hard work we do bringing the town news to print each week.

For Wendell residents, however, the next two weeks is an especially good time to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, thanks to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. These supporters have put up the funds to purchase a great list of raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added between now and November 15th will get their name entered

to win. First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg Farm; second prize, a \$40 gift certificate at the Copper Angel, and five third prize winners will



each receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

Plus, new subscribers in Wendell can take advantage of a discounted price for the next 26 weeks of the *Montague*

Reporter, delivered to their door. For \$15, you will get news from the Wendell selectboard, Wendell town meetings, local profiles and community features, news from the Wendell Free Library, entertainment at the Deja Brew and the Wendell Coffeehouse, poetry readings and even the occasional Wendell police log! All that, plus the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to keep the *Voice of the Villages* alive and growing.

Knock five dollars off the subscription price and use the blank on page 4 of the paper to enter the raffle, (to be eligible, your subscription blank must be in the mail by November 15th) and start receiving the *Montague Reporter* delivered to your door today!

Become a Volunteer Nursing Home Ombudsman

Become a Nursing Home Ombudsman volunteer in Franklin County and the No. Quabbin area.

· Do you care about the quality of life of nursing home residents?

· Enjoy problem solving? Being an advocate?

· Have a few hours to volunteer each week?

Yes! Then become a certified volunteer ombudsman and visit

residents weekly in local nursing homes to advocate for residents quality of life and care, for residents' rights and to provide a voice for those unable to speak for themselves.

The Ombudsman Program is a national program mandated by the federal government. The required training is 18 hours and takes place over 3 days. Topics covered include "Laws and Regulations", "Residents'

Rights", "The role of the Ombudsman", and "Complaint Resolution". The next training is scheduled for October 24, 25 and 26th from 9:30 to 3:30 in the Northampton area. For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Barbara Levy, Program Director at Franklin County Home Care Corp., 413-773-5555 or blevy@fchcc.org.

This Just In

In a story in last week's paper, mention was made of police raids on gambling joints in Turners, on 2nd Street and in the Patch (Town Meeting Approves Police Station, *MR VI #3*). We left out mention of another gambling joint, located in the rear of the building at 64-66 4th Street. An anonymous source who was familiar with that joint recalls, "Right next door was the Water Department, with Mr. O'Leary superintending. On the left, Raul Gilbert ran a pool hall, and in the back was a peephole to a back room where they ran poker games. The state police came to raid them occasionally, but they always got tipped off." Hmm....

"Tranquility Zone"

Sunday, October 28th
10:00 am • with Brunch
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 Adults \$9; Children \$4
 For Reservations Please Call:
413-774-7256

Montague Business Association Holds First Meeting Nov. 2

The first official meeting of the reformed Montague Business Association will take place on Friday, November 2nd at 8 a.m. at Patty Cake Patty Cake, on the corner of 4th and L Street in Turner Falls.

All Montague business owners are welcome to attend. For more information please call 863-4441.

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It's Time to Talk Turkey about the Police Station Cost

BY PAM HANOLD

MONTAGUE - On November 6th, registered voters in the town of Montague will vote on the question, "Shall the town of Montague be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund architectural, engineering, construction, land acquisition, legal, and furnishing costs associated with the development of a new public safety facility to be located on Turnpike Road in Turners Falls?" This debt exclusion would not cause a permanent tax increase, as a Proposition 2½ override would, but would allow the town to borrow the actual cost of the project, and when the bond is paid off, the tax increase would be ended.

As a member of the police station building committee who has been intensively involved in assessing spaces and costs, I expect the actual amount we will be permanently funding will be in the neighborhood of \$4.5 million.

The total figure presented at town meeting was the committee's conservative, all-inclusive total, our "worst case scenario." We have already received a \$200,000 grant and expect to secure another \$735,000 in grant funding from other sources. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, speaking on behalf of town officials at the October 11th town meeting, rated the likelihood of this project receiving \$700,000 next year from a CDBG grant as a virtual certainty, as Montague has a 99% success record with this funding source over the last decade and a half.

Our total also includes \$730,000 of contingency funds, which will only be used to the extent we run into unexpected conditions. Construction condi-

tions are favorable. Still, police facilities are one of the most expensive buildings a municipality can build, due to heavy state regulation and construction requirements related to their special uses.

Public health regulations set very strict construction requirements to meet the high security standard needed for all areas involved in the handling and detention of prisoners. Additional requirements apply to adjacent areas to ensure security procedures are followed, as in the requirement that officers secure their weapons. Special plumbing and wiring requirements must also be met. All first-responder buildings must meet seismic codes.

Additionally, the town is required to pay prevailing wage and to contract for construction oversight to protect the public's interest.

We have cut and combined to make every space in the new facility as streamlined and multi-use as possible, reducing the total square footage by one-third from the original assessment based on our town's needs. Geothermal, masonry exterior, and heavy-duty flooring, which add to the initial cost, will immediately save the town money in annual heating, cooling, and maintenance costs and will continue to be cost benefits long past the duration of the bond.

Please contact a committee member if you have questions about this important capital project: David Gendron, Walt Kostanski, Jay DiPucchio, Deb Radway, Pam Hanold, police chief Ray Zukowski and Turners Falls fire chief Ray Godin.

Pam Hanold is a town meeting member from Precinct 5 and the Montague police station building committee member.

RODNEY BEAUCHESNE BARGAINS WITH ST. PETER



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gill-Montague MCAS Progress Noted

It was with great pleasure that I learned about the improved MCAS test scores at both the high school and middle school, which had been the focus of much attention over the past few years. GMRSD administrators and faculty are to be applauded for their diligent and effective work at raising student performance levels on these essential tests.

The citizens of Montague and Gill, who are understandably worried about the rising cost of educating their children, should take heart that their schools are doing a solid job of meeting the federal and state standards set for them. Whether we agree with the efficacy of those mandates, they are the "law of the land," and public schools have no choice presently but to do their best to meet them.



Sue Gee

At the same time, we all should keep this in perspective: Standardized testing cannot fully determine the effectiveness of education. It's just the easiest way. Other means of assessing performance of teaching and learning are used routinely by educators. For instance, when the curriculum standards are aligned with instruction, on-going assess-

ment becomes the primary feedback to show teachers what is needed for each student to improve.

It is these methods that citizens need to know more about to make the final judgment about their schools. If the notice paid to test scores and comparative rankings leads the citizenry to pay closer attention to multiple assessments, it will have been a good thing in the long run.

If, on the other hand, test results based on testing different children at each grade level each year become like box scores for sporting events, it will be infinitely more difficult for school districts to assure that no child will be left behind.

- Sue Gee
former GMRSD superintendent
Rockport, MA

Gee Named to Governor's Education Panel

Former Gill-Montague schools superintendent Sue Gee has been named by Governor Deval Patrick to a newly-formed statewide council to develop a 10-year plan for implementing the governor's vision for education in the Commonwealth. Gee is currently superintendent of the Quabbin Regional School District (Barre).

Gee has been assigned to the accountability and assistance subcommittee, which consists of leaders from education, business, government, and nonprofit organizations. Public forums will be held throughout the state to discuss current educational issues and to receive citizen feedback. The subcom-

mittee's report is due to be completed by February.

Gee's almost forty years of experience in public education includes classroom teaching and administrative positions in school districts in Vermont, California and Massachusetts. Prior to leading the GMRSD district, she was associated with ATLAS Communities, a national school reform model, which assisted underperforming school districts in settings as

diverse as urban Detroit, Michigan, and rural Cherokee County, Georgia.

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**American Dead
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US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
as of this date
3,838

Afghanistan **449**
Wounded
in Action **38,234**

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

Rodney Beauchesne: Gone but not Forgotten

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER - You won't see his horse tied up to the parking meter in front of Albertis again. He won't be offering any more pony rides to the youngsters at Old Home Days. After losing the last round in a protracted bout with cancer, Rodney Beauchesne has gone to his last roundup. Montague will not be the same without him.



Rodney Beauchesne, of North Leverett Road in Montague, died Sunday, October 14th after losing his battle with prostate cancer. His family and friends gathered Friday in the community room of the Congregational Church to remember him.

Take a look to the left as you leave the Center heading south. What exactly is that structure half hidden in the trees? Part stockade, part split level glass menagerie, it seems to defy all the basic norms of architecture. Town officials used to prod the building inspector to find some reason to tear it down. "How can that house possibly meet building code?" they'd ask.

But David Jensen told a nostalgic crowd of Beau's fans and family on Friday night, October 19th in the community room of the Congregational Church, "The house was built like a battleship. Vertical poles 12 inches round. It's solid."

"And the truth is, he probably didn't spend more than \$100 on materials," for the entire three story structure, said Denis Bordeaux, of Brattleboro, who spent a summer camped out on Beau's property before it became a community salvage yard and village rubberneckers' nightmare.

And then there was Railroad Salvage.... "Don't mention Railroad Salvage!" That was the ground rule Jackie Beauchesne laid down as people drifted in from the rain to the memorial gathering Friday night. All right, we won't mention Railroad Salvage. Or all the blue plastic tarps Beau used to tack down to the roof to keep it from leaking. Or the trailer from Bob's Auto Body he filled with windows and doors and did business out of in the front parking lot until the rear tires went flat and the

thing started tilting. Things have gone downhill with that property ever since.

He was an unusual guy. He invented the sunroof, recalled Mark Wallace of Greenfield, an old high school buddy of Beau's. "He used to have a car called 'the Ragged Edge,' which it was. It was like a '66 Chevelle souped-up thing, rusted out at the edges...."

But that wasn't the vehicle he used to invent the sunroof. That, he used a van for. He cut out a section of the roof and installed a crank window, Wallace said. "We were all set to go, only he installed the thing facing the wrong way, so when we took off..." He made a flipping motion over the back of his shoulder with one hand to show how the prototype flipped off the roof as the van picked up speed.

His mother, Marion, died when he was three, and his father, Felix, had a hard time raising the kids without her. So after a few years, Felix's sisters took the six children in. Jeanette Gray raised Tom, Owen and Rodney at her Montague Road home in Turners Falls. She remembers, "Rodney was a very active young man. He had a lot

of nervous energy. He had a character all his own. Very happy go lucky."

Wallace worked at Greenfield Tap & Die with Beau, after their years at Turners Falls High. He recalled his friend bringing chickens to work with him in the van, so he could go out on break and get fresh eggs for dinner. And he remembers the day Beau drove his motorcy-

cle up to the foreman's desk to ask for a day off. He got suspended for that one.

Wallace also remembers how Beau used to go dumpster diving behind Yetter's or LaSalle's to gather up discarded flowers to pass out to the girls at the bars. Others had similar stories to tell.

"I remember one time he went to do his laundry," said Dennis Lombardi, of North Leverett. "The laundromat happened to be right next to the Hot L Warren in South Deerfield. He ended up meeting some gal; things happen. He ended up going home with her." Never did pick up his laundry.

Of his prodigious womanizing, Lombardi theorized, "You've got to play the percentages." Beau figured he'd ask 'em all; get the 'Nos' out of the way, so he could get to the 'Yesses.'

Bordeaux recalled Beau making earrings out of feathers plucked from the tail feathers of his chickens, and selling them to

unsuspecting female patrons at the Bridge Street Café. He was always one to realize the economic potential of things other people might regard as worthless. His first large-scale venture involved buying the former Grossman's hardware store in what is now the Big Y lot in Greenfield, and tearing the building apart one cement block at a time with a sledge hammer and a crowbar, and selling the blocks for 50 cents a piece. "He probably still has piles of blocks in his yard with orange paint on one side," Bordeaux said.

Jensen was the one who frequently attempted to rein in Beauchesne's anarchic commercial impulse, trying to make him conform to town ordinances. "Every spring when the snow melted and every fall when the leaves fell off, I'd start getting calls about his property. His yard was piling up with stuff, chest high, with corridors through it. I would tell him,

see **RODNEY** pg 6

A HUMANE SOCIETY IN TURNERS FALLS?

BY MIKE CRABTREE

TURNERS FALLS - It's time to bring to light an often ignored topic in Turners Falls: animal abuse. More specifically, the indiscriminate and intentional abuse of our many feline friends. I'm fully aware of the fact that many folks in town are oblivious to the importance of spaying and neutering, but to purposefully pinpoint an innocent creature as a scapegoat for one's own inner demons is disgraceful.

Two weeks ago I came upon a group of teenage youths who were shooting at cats with a pellet gun. I was shocked. The cats being shot at were owned by a friend of mine, and I know each one of these cats very well. After explaining to the teens that this behavior was extremely cruel, I asked them



on 4th Street

protect and serve' does not include protecting our many four legged friends.

I think it is time for Turners Falls to have a humane society we can call our own. Five days after taking the aforementioned pellet gun off the street, my own cat was found dead. Given the fact that my cat was in perfect health just prior to this pellet gun incident, it is reasonable for me to suspect retribution led to the death of my beloved cat, Zoey.

The bottom line is that the abuse of any animal is no more acceptable than the abuse of a human being. Animals can't tell us of the neglect and abuse they endure. Their suffering should never be ignored. If we truly care about animals, let's show our compassion by defending the defenseless.

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RODNEY

continued from pg 5

'Rodney, you're in a residential zone here, and you're running a business. Your cards are circulating: 'Ten Thousand Windows.' I called the number, and got your answering machine.'

Jensen encouraged Beauchesne to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals and get a home occupation permit, but going legit was never high on Beau's list of priorities. One year, Jensen did succeed in persuading him to reduce the height of the piles of salvaged building materials in his yard, offloading them to trailers at

Bob's Auto Body in Turners.

"He was making phenomenal progress until the cops staked him out," Jensen recalled. They found his blood alcohol level was .08, and took his driver's license away. "And the removal of materials stopped cold."

Town departments ought to learn to work together.

His family did not have to worry about Beau driving under the influence when he took his horse to one of the area bars. Where some might have been content with the mile run to the Montague Inn, Beau would not allow a little thing like geography to limit his bibulous adventures.

"Rodney was a functional

horseback rider," said Lombardi. "He'd go to the bars all over: the Rusty Nail, the Shutesbury AC Club, he'd ride to Belchertown to the bar on the road to Ludlow. He'd ride four or five hours, stay 'til closing time at 1 a.m. He'd have a bedroll tied up under his saddle. When the bar closed, he'd crawl under a tree and go to sleep. In the morning, he'd ride home, or ride on to the next party. Sometimes he'd be gone for two or three days."

He favored Louie's Rathskeller for an Amherst watering hole, another friend recalled.

Lombardi remembered Beau galloping around the Wendell town common in the mid-80s, "whooping and hollering."

Brain McCue, who lives in a phantasmagoric wooden castle on Greenfield Road, said he "owed his house to Beau," who salvaged everything he needed to construct it: "the two-bys, the windows, the insulation, everything." He remembered "one of the most magical nights of my life" riding horses with Beau through the hills of Montague by moonlight. "I was on some horse that wanted me off," McCue recalled. "We were running through the woods, and Beau was purposely leading us under trees with low branches..."

Beau's love of horses, and mischief, started young. His cousin, Andrea Slongwhite, said Beau taught her how to ride when he was 6 or 7 and she was 15 or 16. After she had barely learned to stay in the saddle, Beau told her to give the horse a little kick to make her go, and simultaneously gave the horse a slap on the rump. The horse galloped off with Slongwhite holding on for dear life, barely making it to the barn without losing her seat. "Rodney came running up crying, 'You were supposed to say, 'Whoa!''"

These riding lessons took place at the old Hale Farm, owned by Rodney's dad, Felix, "up in the woods of Leverett," as Slongwhite recalled. Felix lost



Part wooden fortress, part split level glass palace, and 100 percent recycled, the house in Montague Center that Rodney Beauchesne called home.

the farm eventually, but bought land on both sides of South Street in Montague Center. It was on the south side of that acreage that Rodney gradually built his own wooden palace, which started as a one-room cabin and gradually expanded upward and outward.

Family members spoke of Rodney bringing trash bags of salvaged 'presents' to Christmas parties, all unwrapped, to the delight of nieces and nephews.

Though not a church-going man in the usual sense, members of the Congregational Church said Beauchesne was one of their most supportive customers at the Old Home Day auctions. "He out-bid everybody. He supported this church!" exclaimed Jackie Beauschesne, and many in the room nodded agreement.

Jackie, Beau's sister in law, led the gathered in a reading of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," and sang "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me, in a high, plaintive alto.

Lombardi told a story about Beau's pet goat, who used to follow him to the Mini Mart to buy cigarettes. He didn't say what brand the goat preferred.

Hermie Vieu, who stayed with Beau in his final weeks, said, "I was with him for his last days. He was a unique person. He wasn't sad. He knew what was going on. He was eating a big piece of deer meat on

Saturday morning. 'This is good,' he said.

"He was a creative person. I had a lot of respect for him. And I still do. He wasn't sad. He accepted what was going to happen."

Vieu said Beau's interest in his ongoing house construction project continued unabated until two days before he died, when he got down behind the kitchen sink to inspect some plumbing work Vieu was doing. Vieu had to help him back up after that.


"He was a real cool guy."

Rodney Beauschesne, 51, died on Sunday, October 14th, of respiratory failure, at the Franklin Medical Center. Vieu called the ambulance for him, and has remained at the house since, to caretake. Beau's sister Sheree Lawyer, from Manheim, PA, will be working to "clean up the property to the township's wishes," and seek a buyer for the house and grounds.

"I'm hoping somebody wants the whole shebang at once," Lawyer added. Her number is 717-664-3485.

Recalling his friend, McCue said, "If anybody asked for help, he'd be there to help."

Lombardi commented, "I'd rather have ten Rodney Beauchesnes than twenty of these yuppie scum riding by in their Volvos."

Montague lost a native son last Sunday. It won't be the same without him. 

MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Oct. 26th - Nov. 1st

Friday, October 26

8:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"
9:00 am Montague Select Board (10/22/07)
10:30 am Coffee House Series: Taft Mountain Singers
12:30 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Phenomenal Weather
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (10/23/07)
9:30 pm Coffee House Series: Jeff Martel
11:30 pm Independent Voices #38

Saturday, October 27

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Phenomenal Weather
9:00 am GMRSD Meeting (10/23/07)
11:30 am Coffee House Series: Jeff Martel
1:30 pm Independent Voices #38
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Prevention of Injuries in Children"
7:30 pm GED Connection #23: Life Science
8:00 pm Source To Sea Cleanup 2007
9:00 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Paul Menchaca
9:30 pm On The Ridge: "Beavers"
10:00 pm Block Party: Part One

Sunday, October 28

8:00 am The Well Being: "Prevention of Injuries in Children"
9:00 am GED Connection #23: Life Science
9:30 am Source To Sea Cleanup 2007
10:30 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Paul Menchaca
11:00 am On The Ridge: "Beavers"
11:30 am Block Party: Part One
6:30 pm Windchanger: Halloween
7:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: The Cost of Freedom
9:30 pm Block Party: Part Two

Monday, October 29

8:00 am Windchanger: Halloween
9:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: The Cost of Freedom
11:00 am Block Party: Part Two
6:00 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (Live)
8:30 pm Road to Recovery: "Improving the Bottom Line"
9:30 pm Physician Focus: "Preventing

Medication Errors"

10:00 pm Coffee House Series: Michael Nix (2006)

Tuesday, October 30

8:00 am Montague Update: Ted Graveline
8:30 am Road to Recovery: "Preventing Medication Errors"
9:00 am Coffee House Series: Michael Nix (2006)
6:00 pm The GED Connection #23: Life Science
6:30 pm Independent Voices #38
7:00 pm GMRSD (10/23/07)
9:30 pm Coffee House Series: Jeff Martel
11:30 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks

Wednesday, October 31

8:00 am GED Connection #23: Life Science
8:30 am Independent Voices #38
9:00 am GMRSD (10/23/07)
11:30 am Coffee House Series: Jeff Martel
1:30 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Phenomenal Weather
7:00 pm GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science
7:30 pm Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)
9:00 pm The Well Being: "Preventing Injuries in Children"
10:00 pm Montague Grange: Variety Show

Thursday, November 1

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Phenomenal Weather
9:00 am GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science
9:30 am Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)
11:00 am The Well Being: "Preventing Injuries in Children"
12:00 pm Montague Grange: Variety Show
6:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Shekinah"
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (10/29/07)
8:30 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Paul Menchaca
9:00 pm On The Ridge: Beavers
9:30 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline
10:00 pm Block Party: Part Three

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Art in the Halls, Signs on the Walls

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Carolyn Manley, Mary Gilman, and Jean Forward of the interior design committee for the new town office building met the selectboard on Wednesday, October 17th, and asked if the signs next to the office doors in the front hallway of the new office building could be moved so the permanent art that will be hung on the walls between office doors could be centered in the space, and not have to compete with the signs. Selectboard member Dan Keller said he thought the signs were glued to the wall, and removing them might damage the sheetrock.

"Maybe you should think of a plan B," he suggested. An inquiry will be made as to the type of adhesive used. The office signs have to be visible from a wheelchair.

Manley reported that an enclosed case for hanging a Wendell Post quilt being donated to the permanent collection would cost \$3,500 to construct, which is more than the committee hopes to spend using town funds. Hanging the quilt in the case would seal it and protect it for 100 years; it would deteriorate quickly with any other treatment. Forward wrote a grant proposal to cover \$1,000 of the cost, and the committee hopes to raise more with other fundraising.

Tom Mangan of the board of assessors met the selectboard next, and spoke from a prepared statement about mileage reimbursement for town officials. This issue arose after the selectboard went through bills at their last meeting, and noted a mileage reimbursement request from the assessors. Keller had called the assessors to say though they are legally allowed to do so, few town officials actually take mileage reimbursement.

Mangan agreed most town officials do not get reimbursed for mileage on their own vehicles, although they are entitled to it, and in effect those people are decreasing their already small salaries, and contributing to the town's finances. Each such contribution deserves respect, but the policy should be consistent. Before elections, people should know that in addition to their time, they will be contributing their gas money and wear and tear on their vehicles. He said, "In my opinion no one should be compelled (to contribute more than their time) by any pressure of any kind."

Board member Christine Heard declined to comment.

Keller said that as a friend I would have told you that many town officials drive and do not bill, but there is no policy, and no expectation of compliance. "You billed and were paid. That's fine."

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said "it came up in reviewing the warrant, and we have no authority to take things off the warrant." He added that if everyone charged mileage it would double the budget.

Mangan asked if retaliation was ever a concern, and Lewis said, "What for? Nothing was illegal."

As Mangan left, Harry Williston entered to say the highway commission has found a candidate already licensed with a CDL and hoister's license for the road crew.

Keller reported the planning board had completed their site plan review for renovation of the old library into a senior center. Good Neighbors is dropping their plan to use part of the building for food distribution, which mitigates the sticking point of inadequate parking near the building. If

Good Neighbors moves to the town hall, they would displace the conservation commission, but the planning board offered the conservation commission a warm invitation to move into the new office building. Heard said it would be nice to have them move in with the rest of the town government.

A site plan review for Good Neighbors use of the town hall would not be necessary because it is not a change of use, and parking there is not yet an issue.

Kathy Swaim of the council on aging said the council is still trying to increase use of the senior center, maybe by holding special events, or possibly working to include a teen center. Parking has not been a problem for the senior center in the past.

Lewis asked why not put historic records in the former library, but Keller said the cellar is damp, a problem the library had with books in the cellar. He thought maybe the old scales used for weights and measures could go there.

Keller went into the assessors office while town coordinator Nancy Aldrich passed out a letter from Jonathan and Susan von Ranson of 6 Locke Village Road, describing the couple's plan to build into the barn they are renovating a small apartment without electricity, with a hand pump for water, a small gray water treatment system and a composting toilet, for which the excavation has already been done. Their intention is to live with a smaller carbon footprint, to use more metabolism and less fuel, and they asked for the selectboard's support in finding a legal way around the building codes that forbid such a lifestyle. They cited the 19 years they lived on Bear

Mountain, where facilities were unavailable, as precedence for their project.

Lewis thought they should speak with both the board of health and the building inspector. Keller thought that it is legal to build and live without electricity, and cited a whole development on Martha's Vineyard, but a challenge to state plumbing laws will be difficult.

A month ago, Pru Smith resigned from the planning board, and more recently Christine Texiera also resigned, leaving only three members. They have asked for a fourth member to be appointed, a legal requirement for a site plan review, to serve at least for a pending site plan review.

Finance committee members Jim Slavas and Michael Idoine, and school committee member Dick Baldwin, met the selectboard and reported on their ongoing effort to change the financing formula for the Mahar Regional School district to one that is more equitable for Wendell and New Salem. Operating expenses and capital

repairs for the elementary schools in the Orange - Petersham district need to be separated so that Wendell and New Salem are not billed for them, and a planning committee is still pushing for the alternative method of assessing towns so that towns pay an equal amount for each student sent to the school, as the original contract stipulated.

Aldrich forwarded copies from police chief Ed Chase of a mutual aid agreement between towns for police, similar to the agreement fire departments have. The board agreed that if Chase liked the agreement, it was all right with them.

Aldrich read an estimate and a scope of work for new roofs on the town hall and the police station, so those projects can go out to bid.

The meeting opened with two people reserving and renting the town hall. Penny and Rich Wilder reserved the hall November 25th for a family event, and Seal Lamadeleine reserved the hall Saturday, November 10th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a fragrance free dance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Local Assistance

Wednesday 10-17

4:21 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Northfield Mount Hermon.

8:35 p.m. Past report of vehicle using spotlight fields on Ben Hale Road, Environmental Police also notified.

Thursday 10-18

6:31 a.m. Motor vehicle left off of roadway on Main Road. Unable to contact owner, unsure if involved in accident. Same towed for safety and investigation.

10:32 a.m. Past breaking and entering occurred at Main Road business. Under investigation.

Friday 10-19

4:43 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with a residential lockout.

Saturday 10-20

9:30 a.m. Report of erratic operator on Rt. 10, unable to locate.

3:32 p.m. Assisted fire department with vehicle fire on Main Road.

10:40 p.m. Assisted resident on Walnut Street with annoying phone calls and domestic issues.

11:05 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic assault and battery arrest.

Sunday 10-21

1:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield police on Rt. 10 near Gill line. Narcotics, fireworks and alcohol confiscated.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Prime Farmland to be Permanently Conserved

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources announced Monday, October 22nd, that they are considering purchasing the development rights to the Mieczkowski Farm in Montague Center as part of the state Agricultural Protection Restriction (APR) program. "When they reach this stage, they are pretty close to completing the transaction," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. If the deal is completed, it would result in the permanent conservation for agricultural use of the 110-acre farm, in four parcels on Wills Ferry, South Ferry, and Meadow roads. Permanently preserving farmland in this part of Montague has been a top priority of the town's planning and conservation departments for years.

"It's still in active agriculture," said town planner Dan Laroche. "The town has concentrated a lot of APR funding over the years in this area, so this will complete a large block," of permanently preserved agriculture land. "The Sawmill River runs through three of the parcels," in the Mieczkowski Farm, Laroche said, "and two of the parcels about the Connecticut River, so a lot of priority habitat will be preserved as well."

Laroche said the Montague conservation commission is planning to contribute \$25,000 towards the town's match for the state's purchase of the farm's development rights. If that amount is spent from the conservation commission's open

space fund, it will leave only \$32,000 remaining in the account for future land preservation efforts, a number of which are now being considered, Laroche said. The

\$10,000 for the conservation fund, but diverted the funds to the GMRSD school assessment instead, Olsen said.]

"The town has worked actively with the Department of

being farmed. It contains historic tobacco barns, wetlands, and habitat along the Sawmill River, and good fishing along a very scenic part of the peninsula between the Sawmill and the Connecticut River. The Mieczkowski family has done a commendable thing by seeing this (APR) as being in their long term interests, and the town's," Ross said.

Tax Rate Set

In other news, the selectboard set the tax rate following a hearing with the board of assessors on Monday. The assessors recommended, and the board approved, a continuation of what assessor's chair Paul Emery called, "a gradual lowering of the impact on commercial property owners," of the town's split tax rate. "It's got to be so gradual the other side doesn't notice," said Emery, referring to Montague's residential taxpayers. "But you'll see a long term trend."

Over the last eight years, the percentage of the town's tax levy raised from residential taxation has increased from about 61% to about 72% of the total, while the percentage raised from commercial and industrial taxation has dropped from about 39% to about 28%.

"We may not see a single tax rate in our lifetime," said Emery. "But we're trying not to increase the split... We're trying not to discourage business from coming in," to Montague.

The board approved a

residential and open space tax rate of \$13.56, and a commercial and industrial and personal property tax rate of \$20.69, per thousand dollars of valuation, for fiscal '08. Director of assessing Joanne Greenleaf said property values have remained relatively stable in town over the past year, with the value of land increasing the most, roughly 4%.

Ross asked if the bursting of the national housing bubble was affecting prices locally. Greenleaf replied, "You're seeing a slowdown in the market for real estate. Western Mass in general, this area is staying close to assessed values. In the eastern part of the state you're seeing a drop in value, in Worcester and beyond."

Emery added, "We're experiencing a very slight decrease in value. Even though we can see and feel a discrepancy, we can't react to it until we see a drop" (in sale prices of homes.)

The town's total valuation has reached the \$700 million mark, according to a chart distributed by the assessors at the hearing. This mark was reached despite the loss of approximately \$30 million in industrial valuation from the former Indeck cogeneration plant on the power canal, only partially offset by a recent rise in value for properties owned by First Light Power Resources (formerly owned by Northeast Utilities). Due mainly to the expansion of generating capacity at Cabot Station in Montague City, the value of First Light Power's property has increased from between \$46 - \$47 million in '06 to \$51 million in '07, \$52 million in '08, and by agreement to \$53 million in '09.

Greenleaf said it might have made sense for Montague to see LAND pg 9



The Mieczkowski Farm spans 110 acres on four parcels, shown here. The parcels are located on the bottom left of this map, and to the north and south of the intersection of Lower Meadow, South Ferry and Ferry Road in Montague Center.

fund, which had been replenished regularly at town meeting in years past, has languished during recent budget making sessions.

[The last time the town made a contribution to the fund was "a very long time ago," said Carolyn Olsen, town accountant. Two years ago, the town attempted to appropriate

Agricultural Resources, the Franklin Land Trust and others in acquiring this property," said Al Ross, acting as chair of the selectboard while Pat Allen was on vacation Monday. (Former town planner) "Robin Sherman played a big role," in arranging the APR purchase, Ross said.

"This is extraordinarily high quality agricultural land, still

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Fresh Meats a Specialty at Pocket Saver Market

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

ERVING CENTER - Vicki Fellows hopes to offer something for everybody traveling along Route 2 at her newly renovated Pocket Saver Market in the Center of Erving.

With a wide array of fresh deli meats, local produce, Green Mountain Roasters Coffee, drinks, snacks, groceries, pet foods, cleaning supplies and auto products, the Erving resident of 21 years seems to have it covered.

Fellows purchased the Your Deli market from her father, Leo Realini, last winter and re-opened the business under the new name on June 28th, following extensive renovations and modernizing by her son, 18-year-old Justin Fellows.

Renovations include a wide, welcoming front porch with a roof and decorative rafter tails, a wheelchair-accessible ramp, new windows in the storefront and a renovated apartment for her parents on the side.

"We're much more than a convenience store, and always have been," said Fellows, a soft-spoken woman with jet black hair and a sincere smile. "We're a meat market and deli, we have a full liquor license, and we have a little bit of everything."

Realini, now 84, founded his business on a simple premise,

said Fellows. "He had seven kids and knew what it was like to raise a family. He wanted to give the public a break," said Fellows, "so that instead of feeding their kids peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, they could afford to buy meat. He decided it was better to make a little bit from a lot of people, rather than a lot from a little." That is still the philosophy Fellows runs her store by.

Among the fresh meats available at Pocket Saver Market are roast beef at \$4.99/lb ("It flies out of here at that price," said Fellows), four kinds of ham (domestic, imported, Virginia baked and maple), 14 different cheeses, turkey breast and buffalo chicken breast.

Fellows also sells boneless meats including rib-eye steak, chicken, pork cutlets, pot roasts and oven roasts. She will even fresh-grind hamburger for waiting customers, who hail from Erving, Orange and Athol,



Pocket Saver Market owner Vicki Fellows serves up deli meat to a customer at her newly renovated store on Route 2 in Erving Center

as well as Brattleboro and beyond.

"I like to give the public a break. And I like to see people and talk to people. I enjoy dealing with the public," Fellows said.

In addition to working on and off for her father, Fellows previously ran a family day care practice for 11 years, when her own three children were little, and then ran the Healthy Homes Project for the Franklin Regional Council of

Governments, performing free home health and safety assessments.

At the Pocket Saver, Fellows makes it a point to sell locally produced products, such as Snow's Ice Cream from Greenfield, Boyden's maple syrup from Conway, Diemand Farm turkeys and eggs and Berkshire Brewing Company beer in growlers and 22-ounce bottles. Fellows also sells crafts made by her daughter, Amy Baker, of Conway, who sews

brightly colored fabric tote bags, children's aprons, table runners and placemats.

Fellows lives two miles from the market, on North Street in Erving. Her son Frank Fellows works part-time in the store, and recently graduated from Branford Hall in Springfield with a degree in HVAC and refrigeration. Her son Justin works for local contractor Jeff Dubai, while studying engineering full time at Springfield Technical Community College.

With Justin's help, she plans to renovate the second floor apartment above the store and rent it out. The side apartment is freshly refurbished and will be her parents' wheelchair-accessible home. She said it feels good to know she will be close by, should her parents need her.

"It was important to me to continue the family business, and I enjoy it. Already my business has built up a lot, and I just opened within the last four months," said Fellows.

The Pocket Saver Market is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.

To reach Fellows or to place a custom meat order for pickup on arrival, call (413) 422-2163.

LAND from pg 8

institute a split tax rate when the utility companies had two large plants running in town, representing so much value relative to other property owners. But now that one of those plants is gone, it is very difficult to back out of a split tax rate structure, Greenleaf said. This leaves Montague in an unfavorable comparative relationship to neighboring towns, as far as industrial and commercial tax rates are concerned.

For example, a commercial or industrial property owner in Greenfield paid \$17.10 per thousand last year, while business owners in Montague paid \$25.15 per thousand, including district fire and water taxes. In Deerfield, business owners paid just \$11.03 per thousand. In Northampton, they pay even less: \$10.89 per thousand, according to a chart handed out by the assessors at

the hearing.

Greenleaf said Montague attempts to offset this regional disparity by offering tax incentives to commercial businesses that relocate or expand in town. There are seven of these so-called Tax Increment Finance agreements (TIFs) in force in Montague at the moment, with two of them - one for Heat Fab and one for Judd Wire's expansion - due to expire next year.

"I clearly see Montague is high for commercial taxes," Greenleaf said.

Before the meeting closed, the board voted to have town administrator Frank Abbondanzio work with the town planner to develop a list of ways the town could increase its revenue stream, or cut back on its expenditures, "to deal with the challenges the town is facing in a proactive way," as Ross put it. He ticked off his own list, which included landfill development, expansion of

industrial space, domestic homesteading of tax title properties, possible tax overrides, and the consolidation of school buildings and town departments.

Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt reminded the board that the town needed to make appointments to an oversight committee to guide the development of a five-year budget plan for the town and the GMRSD.



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the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

Coming of Age

whether we outgrow our mother's fears

or outlive them

each daughter rises one morning secure

her own conclusions slung over a shoulder no salt thrown behind

-- Dina Stander
Shutesbury, MA



Imperial Stout

bluegrass wasabi syllabi erasure awhile a barley adagio the dahlias blurred eulogy Galois's & geishas on the breezeway adled by adieus adored with barre chords & the bawds of daisy braids glossed lurid horses rural your watercolor idyll while the world pulls away

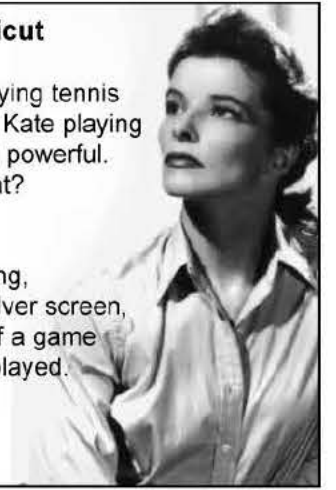
--Andrew Hughes
Brooklyn, NY

Growing Up in Connecticut

My friend Betsy stopped playing tennis when she saw her neighbor Kate playing across the way, slender and powerful. Who could compete with that? She wouldn't even try.

She saw Kate Hepburn young, long before we did on the silver screen, how ever much it cost her of a game she wishes at eighty she'd played.

-- Doris Abramson
New Salem



BORING NIGHTMARES

Oh that day! When the heavy land was frightening & I was laid out not getting it, the so called seriousness of the situation.

Whoever could ever think that the beach had a hint of a whiff of danger floating up on the sand?

I was no longer unhappy w/ my present situation just the one I was getting into where neither the woodiness of the woods nor the moodiness of the music will reach me. Where I am wearing a hubcap as a halo w/ your hands pinned a few inches below the nape w/ your hands holding out to reach me & my standard catalog of standard needs a holdover from a mean while when friends were chosen between for no better reason than making a distinction.

Some decision to regret when you've achieved a bit more of what they call wisdom then a bit more of what they call the wisdom of knowing not to know better or that you did know better the first time around when you choose exclusion just to make a distinction, a solitary collaboration with your own & other's opinions.

Oh that day! Oh yes you do walk away tho through it like Marc Bolan shortening band's name to T. Rex & turning his attention from plants to planets.

You're a sound that I recognized not having known it was for hearing us here & us w/ us here never needing less time than we're given which is not to make you believe that the end is not merely taken away from us, when it is us & we go w/ it merely breathing the air that's there & full up w/ our breathe.

I stop by I won't I won't stop stop stopping by I won't If only you lived close enough for stopping by other than that when when we all cabined 10 hours from the city that we all live in & states away from & outside of ourselves thus no one else's pure perspective of us relatively flying by in the relative distance, in a car only a bit smaller than what comfort would allow. & we're not after comfort but it routinely finds us. Modern living has found a way to make sure it's harder to escape from than accomplish.

The body becomes no more than a pad to cushion the blow of consciousnesses departure.

& maybe we are just the retribution for our sins eating the best part of the day away from it unaware that we're already in the ruins of a war song playing on blown speakers & we're blowing syntax back at them.

--Dustin Williamson
Brooklyn, NY



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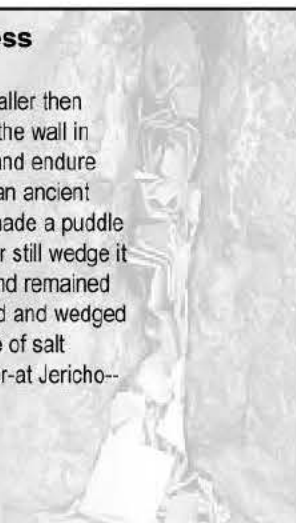
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Ancient Prayer of Forgetfulness

when I was small I made myself even smaller then folded smaller still wedged into a crack in the wall in order to make my peace with the creator and endure the pain of living when I got bigger I met an ancient wall and watched a woman whose tears made a puddle at her feet fold a small bit of prayer smaller still wedge it into a crack in the wall which received it and remained whole I remembered I was a prayer folded and wedged in the crack of my own wall when the taste of salt splashed on dry cobbles surprised me later-at Jericho--where there was no wall

-- Dina Stander
Shutesbury, MA



CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Andrew Hughes lives in Brooklyn, NY. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in Forklift, Ohio, Cannibal, Spell, Bimbo Gun, Octopus, and others.

and Cab Ass'n (Lame House). Recent work has appeared in the tiny, Forklift, OH, and Drugs Weekly. He lives in Brooklyn.

many tastes of salt in culture, cuisine and the cosmos.

Doris Abramson, a native of Amherst, MA now makes her home in the nearby village of New Salem where she and her partner Dorothy Johnson were proprietors of the

Common Reader Bookshop. She was professor of theater at the University of Massachusetts and a specialist in the theater of Black America.

Kathryn Flagg, a 60-year resident of Millers Falls, now resides with her son and family in Allendale, New Jersey.

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

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On Rhythm

Floundering while founding the listless whistle our carriage & saunter rejects.
Sort of sordid off white dust masking the saw that I cut into w/ my handsome hardly motion moving and not so soothing nor attempting the hand spring near the tree stand where we made ours.
No reasons just fashion disgusted disgusting we rust then we rusted.
She asked me for a word & I gave her this one, thrown fussy. I'm not running out of time just the space to spazz out into, while you do solid & unwavering, shimmering in the lack of heat not speaking to me in the clothes that I wore or the sham disguise I'm not wearing but thought about not wearing as well.
In time to sour whistling & clicking away toward somewhere you're waiting to shake the river from the moment.
We stood withstanding in his backyard in that country not this one, & why would we at least for the season?
This or that bit of anchored steam to lose the course to at the end of the day, river, light & the start of some other rushing the river to swim a little farther under hard rain falling on harder water.

--Dustin Williamson
Brooklyn, NY

On Motion

We invite models of model homes but bigger & better than life.
Better and bigger than my life which is good but not big, just very there.
Very south Brooklyn w/ Polish grocers & Ecuadorian groceries
Very tick, more blip of "what am I getting into?"
More trick this slit we're seeing the rain out through.
The grip, more squinted around the rounded sightline.
I kick your quip soaking in sour soda my brow very damp inviting mold & wire money on a leaden shoulder w/ a toe hold on what my life was like before I experienced it.
This week was the dullest thing ever.
You get free ringtones & sharp hormones.
Hear footsteps ahead of me for once.
I'm not interested in political intrigue & am so terrible aware how this isn't it.
The way it was or even the way it is.
No one ever went broke until they did.
I'm halfway worried everyone is worried halfway to China & a stop work order.
Everything is so fucking morbid when there's a dead man lying dead over there.
In the end I let you down just to watch something fall off my saving face.
Now one more time, w/ tongue.

--Dustin Williamson
Brooklyn, NY



Visions

The leaves lend privacy while power by push and crush make rubble of a house soon loaded up and sped away under tarpaulins.

How long until more dreams of gables ruffle trimmed with candles on the sills are loaded up and sped away under tarpaulins?

Lights celebrate Noel and landscaping takes root, yet folklore holds a spell on bygone moonlit orchard blooms in its treasure chest.

--Kathryn Flagg
Millers Falls and Allendale, NJ

For An Undisclosed Draft Pick

Northern Florida Orange Juice & the National Geographic Channel your P.S., in longhand those are boss constellations! opening, like opening night at the U.S. Open My Dear, sweet-missed you for the ice cream & dancing you're all in my head At times I was inappropriate I was always that way here @ high summer, running thru a memory yes made & to the sound of planes, descending beyond the green, unrelentingly

--Andrew Hughes
Brooklyn, NY

The Drinker's Symmetry

Enjoy the messy larkless sky over Lake Myron.
Jerky, my lame ass joked on Jameson.
My lyre, my elm, my sioe army on a loamy mesa yearning for ale and melons.
Lemony, joyplayed and leaky.
Major keys and noels.

Mary, meet me at the rye sea.

Some years reek of Makers, others of eels and sake.
Many with the lore of loss.
Lank and sleek your Keno élan ran amok.
A yokel, we'll christen you Karl and mayor you into spotting us jars of rock-n-rye.

Name this messy reel. We've been trying all night.

--Andrew Hughes
Brooklyn, NY



That Perfect Time of Day

This is that perfect time of day-- not evening yet but not afternoon. French would give us crepuscular, but that isn't right somehow. Quiet descends at our house. How about yours? Sun lingers but doesn't deign to stay. Too late. Sorry. A light settles like no other on a day that outlasts itself for just a while. And we-- we're beneficiaries of a moment extended almost to evening but not quite. Afternoon to evening: day on its way to night

--Doris Abramson
New Salem



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SCHOOLS from pg 1

mentary students, but it would take time and money for the old side of the school to be renovated. The available classroom space in the new wing would not be enough to handle all the students from Hillcrest and Montague Center, therefore he proposed moving just the Hillcrest primary grade students to Sheffield next year, allowing the maximum number of Montague elementary students the benefits of K-5 education as quickly (and for the least capital investment) as possible.

Rocke suggested the G-M school administration or the town of Montague could make use of the closed portion of Hillcrest Elementary.

The added year it would take to resolve the question of Montague Center School's fate would allow advocates of that small school time to rally their forces, Rocke said, and decide whether that school could become a charter school or a Horace Mann charter school, drawing students into the district, "or come up with some other solution" and a means of funding the capital improvements needed to make Montague Center School safe and accessible for fourth and fifth grade classrooms to be added there, and provide ade-

quate parking, kitchen and bathroom facilities for a larger student population.

A committee of parents, teachers, school committee members and town officials, including the Montague building inspector and the G-M district maintenance supervisor looked at the capital needs of the Montague elementary schools earlier this year, and issued a report, which found that Sheffield, exclusive of the need to install an elevator or lift to meet ADA requirements, would require \$849,200 in capital improvements over the next 10 years, with \$585,000 of those needed at the old side of the building, and \$264,000 needed at the new side of the building.

At Montague Center, exclusive of the need to install an elevator or lift to meet ADA requirements, the committee found that \$624,440 would be required for capital improvements over the same time period, (not counting the need to create additional parking). However, in this estimate, \$158,000 was included to fix the Montague Center School's roof. This amount was approved at Montague's town meeting on June 2nd this year; (the roof actually cost \$98,000 to replace).

With the roof repaired, the adjusted estimate for capital needs at the Montague Center

School over the next ten years, exclusive of a lift or elevator, now amounts to \$466,440, a sum \$382,760 less than the amount needed to make required capital improvements at Sheffield over the same time period, or \$118,560 less than repairs needed to the old side of the Sheffield School building, according to the committee's report.

All sides seem to agree that some form of lift or elevator will also be needed on the old side of Sheffield, if that part of the school is called into use for added classrooms, and all agree a lift or elevator will be needed at Montague Center if it is expanded to a K-5 school. But estimates for the cost of installing those devices at the two-story Montague Center School or the three-story Sheffield School have varied widely, with \$150,000 to \$300,000 being the most common estimates tossed out for an elevator or lift at Montague Center, and no figures yet suggested for installing a lift or elevator at Sheffield.

Following the October 23rd meeting, Kociela said she welcomed Rocke's proposal, saying "It will spur discussion and help us think creatively beyond last year's discussion." On school closing in general, she emphasized, "The school committee is 100% committed to making this

decision."

Prior to the superintendent's proposal, the school committee went over a report on the financial impact of school choice losses to the district presented by committee member Ted Castro-Santos, based on a poll he conducted last year of 32 families who had 'choiced' their children out or not yet enrolled them in G-M schools. He asked them whether they would have chosen to send their children to district schools if Montague Center had provided a broad grade span education, and roughly 80% said, "Yes.". Roughly twenty one percent said, "Yes" if broad grade spans were available at Hillcrest and Sheffield (the option under consideration during last year's reconfiguration discussion). Based just on the families he identified, Castro-Santos estimated the district was losing approximately \$230,000 a year by not providing broad grade span education at Montague Center, and losing \$48,000 a year by not offering broad grade span education at Hillcrest or Sheffield.

Actual school choice and charter school losses to the district now exceed \$1 million a year, according to town and school officials.

Of Montague Center School, Castro-Santos said, "Does it make sense to save money for maintenance to a building, if in turn you lose revenue through school choice out of the district?"

Linda Kuklewicz reacted to Castro-Santos' report by saying, "It's done very well. But I also take into account the person that is writing this."

At their retreat earlier this year, in addition to setting a unanimous goal to restore public trust, confidence and respect in the school committee by reaching a decision on elementary configuration, the committee set themselves five other goals. The other two top goals were to "develop a sustainable budget that restores needed educational services, provides funds for new program development, and has the full support of the school committee," and to "create a top leadership team, retain effective teachers, and support professional development."

The secondary committee goals were to "create a culture of professionalism on the school

committee," "support an educational model that serves the full spectrum of students," and to "develop a vision for excellent education and a plan for achieving that vision."

In other news, Rocke said the hiring of a new kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest is expected by November 1st. Through a combination of state pothole funds and emergency DOE grants, the district was able to find the funds needed to hire a new kindergarten teacher to relieve pressure on the two kindergarten classes at Hillcrest, that now have 26 kids each. A new special education teacher will also be hired at Gill, where the number of intra-district choice students, some with special needs, was higher than anticipated, Rocke said. Two paraprofessional positions were cut to fund that new position.

Reporting for the policy subcommittee, Mike Langknecht said a review of the upper school 'Indian' mascot was in process. "The course of action we chose was to involve student representatives and have them report back to the policy committee." Ms. Batchelor's social studies class at the high school will be working on this issue, upper school principal Jeff Kenney said. Langknecht thanked Rocke and Kociela for relaying their concern on the school mascot to the policy subcommittee.

Rocke thanked the Greenfield Savings Bank for their \$1378.27 contribution to the GMRSD from earnings on their Civic Action Accounts, and also for the school supplies collected with the help of Kuzmeskus Bus Company and donated to the elementary schools.

Rocke named senior Ali Urban as this year's recipient of the Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award. In addition to her academic achievements, which are stellar, Rocke noted her charitable endeavors. "She's done a lot for the community in every respect," Rocke said.



Ali Urban

Gill-Montague Education Fund Awards Nine Grants Totaling More Than \$4,700

TURNERS FALLS — In the first of two funding cycles for the '08 school year, the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors met on October 11th and awarded nine grants totaling more than \$4,700.

The Gill-Montague Education Fund is a non-profit organization established in 1996 by the parents and citizens of the towns of Gill and Montague to support district schools. Its goals are to provide programs and resources for the schools to enrich the educational opportunities available to students and to encourage advocacy for public education within the community.

Grants were awarded for:

- A field trip for first graders at Hillcrest Elementary School to the Eric Carle Museum of

Picture Book Art as a culminating activity for their author study of Eric Carle;

- A field trip for world language students at Turners Falls High School to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to learn about art;

- Girls' varsity soccer uniforms for students at Turners Falls High School;

- A scanner, color printer, and color copier for the social studies department at Turners Falls High School;

- New library books for the library at Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School;

- Musical instruments for students in the Alternative Learning Program at Hillcrest Elementary School;

- A water plant and animal study for students at Montague Center School;

- World languages peace panels at Sheffield School; and

- A luau integrating history and culture for Turners Falls High School students during a science and business study trip to Hawaii.

The GMEF has awarded more than \$37,000 in grants during the last three and a half years to enhance learning in various fields including science, music, art, athletics, language and reading.

To learn more about the Gill-Montague Education Fund and how to get involved, go to the GMEF website at www.thegmef.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Smashing Pumpkins and Eggs

Thursday 10-18

11:46 a.m. Request for an officer at an Avenue A address. Reporting party states that a jacket had been removed from her apartment and she spotted someone wearing it on Avenue A. Officer investigated and determined she had made a mistake. It wasn't her jacket.

1:30 p.m. Report of a fight at TFHS. Two juvenile girls were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Friday 10-19

4:14 p.m. Report of a disturbance

on Central Street. Caller reports that kids are making a mess smashing pumpkins and eggs. Spoke with officer.

10:40 p.m. Report of an assault at a 3rd Street address. Caller states he was beaten up by another male. No medical attention needed. He was told to call back when he sobered up.

Saturday 10-20

10:55 a.m. Walk in to station reported a breaking and entering at a Turnpike Road address. An unlocked vehicle was entered and

an X-box, 4 games and 4 controllers were taken.

Sunday 10-21

1:55 a.m. Report of a fight at a house on the corner of L and 4th Street. Caller reported a large party. Officer found nothing physical. Peace restored.

2:30 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Central Street address. Found to be a person having an argument over the phone.

Monday 10-22

6:00 p.m. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested on a warrant and charged with larceny over \$250 and breaking and entering a building at night for a felony.

Tuesday 10-23

8:16 a.m. Report of a larceny by Aubuchon Hardware. Construction worker who loaned a tool to the driver of a disabled motor vehicle and it was not returned. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. Report of an assault in front of the Carnegie Library. Man reports being assaulted by a woman. Officer spoke with both parties and advised them of their options.

9:18 p.m. After responding to an alarm at Jay K's Liquor Store, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with shoplifting by asportation (carrying off)(3 counts), possession of a class D drug (marijuana), and larceny under \$250 (3 counts).

Wednesday 10-24

1:15 a.m. Walk in to station reported a larceny at an Avenue A address. Reporting party believes her wallet was stolen by a family member. Under investigation.

4:44 p.m. Walk in to station reported a breaking and entering at the Shady Glen. Reporting party states that items were taken. Under investigation

Tom Hayden Speaks at UMass October 30th

AMHERST, MA - Political activist Tom Hayden will give a talk on "Fifty Years of Radical Activism: An Evening with Tom Hayden" on October 30th at 7:30 p.m. at UMass Amherst, as part of the Third Annual Colloquium on Social Change sponsored by the UMass Amherst Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives. The colloquium will include a panel discussion, "The Sixties: The Way We Really Were," from 3 to 5 p.m. Both events will take place in the Cape Cod Lounge in the Student Union Building at UMass Amherst. The events

are free and open to the public. One of the most important figures in the antiwar movement of the 1960s, Tom Hayden was a founding member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in 1961, the author of the famous Port Huron Statement expressing the idealism of the New Left in 1962, head of the Newark Community Union Project launched in 1963 as part of an effort to create a national Poor People's Campaign for jobs and empowerment, active in the civil rights movement as a Freedom Rider, and one of the Chicago Seven arrested for

protesting at the Democratic National Convention in 1968. In the 1970s, Hayden organized the grass-roots Campaign for Economic Democracy in California; he was elected to the California state assembly in 1982 and the state senate ten years later, serving 18 years in progressive politics within the Democratic Party. He has twice served on the national platform committee of the Democratic Party. Hayden is national co-director of No More Sweatshops!. His most recent book is *Ending the War in Iraq*. For more information, contact Robert Cox at (413)-545-6842.

Iraq Peace Keeper and Poet Coming to Greenfield, October 28th

Kathy Kelly, a Peace Keeper over many years in Iraq and David Smith-Ferri, a poet who has traveled among the Iraqi refugees in Jordan, are on tour. They will be in Greenfield at the United Methodist Church at the corner of Church and Franklin Streets (one block in from Federal Street on Church Street) on Sunday, October 28.

There will be a potluck supper at 5:30 with the speakers' presentations about 6:30. All are welcome.

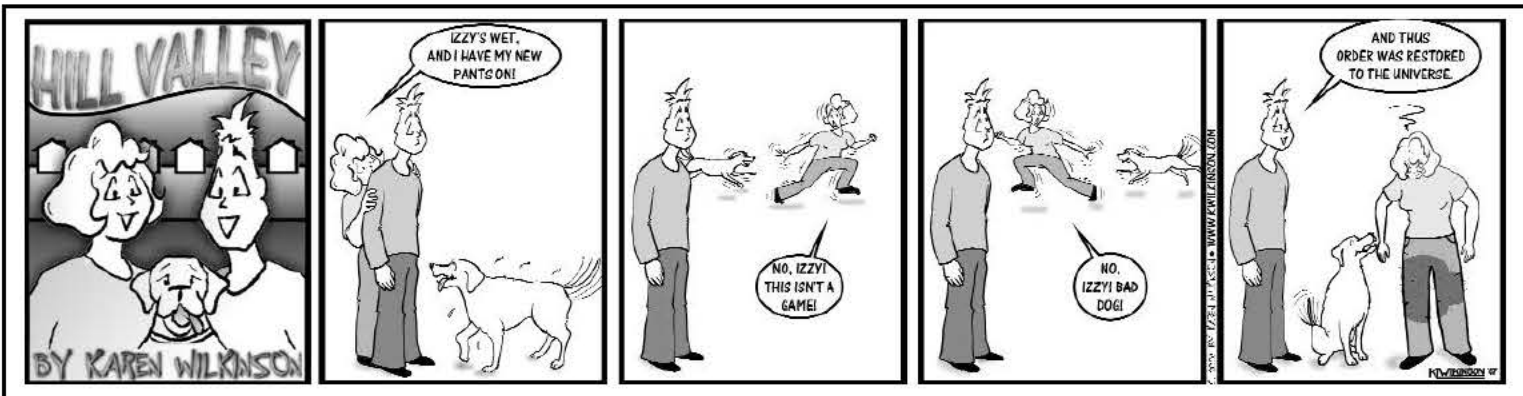
Kathy is such a determined advocate for non-violence in this violent world that she has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. David's new book of poetry is subtitled *Iraqis in Crisis*. If you are able to make a donation to the work and writing of these two peacemakers, that would be appreciated. This event is sponsored in Greenfield by Traprock Peace Center (413-773-7427). The speakers will be in the Valley also in

Northampton and in classes at Holyoke Catholic High School, and at Elms College.

Kathy's website is [Voices for Creative Non-violence at vcnv.org](http://VoicesforCreativeNon-violenceatvcnv.org).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Medical Emergencies

Wednesday 10-17 7:30 a.m. Medical emergency on Warner Street.	Sunday 10-21 8:27 a.m. Medical emergency Warner Street. Transported by BHS.
Saturday 10-20 11:00a.m. Fall Festival child ID.	8:51 a.m. Vandalism in Lester Street area.
3:04 p.m. Suspicious Motor vehicle on Paper Mill Road.	Monday 10-22 8:30 a.m. Medical emergency on Pratt Street. Assisted EMS, BHS transported.
5:00 p.m. Medical emergency Warner Street. Assisted Erving Fire Department. BHS transported.	8:29 p.m. Illegal dumping at International Paper Mill. Two objects found near Route 2 mill area.
5:30 p.m. Alarm East Main Street, Stoneville Auto. Building secure.	Tuesday 10-23 1:45 p.m. Report of animal neglect in Gunn Street area. Owner advised of animal care.
6:01 p.m. Noise complaint Union Street area, was band practice at Central Street. Band advised officer that they were wrapping things up.	3:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for revoked license and warrant.



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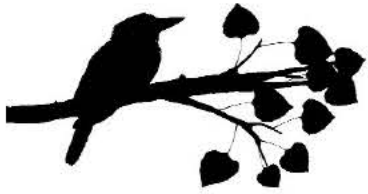


ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

BY KARL MEYER

GREENFIELD - It seemed perfectly safe. It was a brilliant October mid-morning and I needed a walk in the woods. My allergies had been haywire. I felt a walk would clear my head. I trundled through suburbia toward the woods and ridgeline above Highland Pond in Greenfield. The sun shimmered off yellowing maples and still-green oaks, a perfect fall day in New England. And then, it screamed at me. *Warning: Coyotes in Area.* The sign, in bold red-orange, must have gone up overnight.

Stunned, I halted in my tracks. Coyotes - in the *area!* My gosh... What to do?? Life had suddenly become scary.

I collected myself. My racing heart slowed. I looked around quickly. Everything seemed... normal. There were no people around, but then this was the Woods. But maybe that's just what the coyotes want you to think, then...*Wham!* Modern life is a full of danger signs, thrown up by who knows whom.

I was upset, confused. I reviewed my options. I could turn back, find safety in the bosom of civilization. I could sit down where I was and look over into the scary woods, a warped version of reality TV. I could call the police and hope for an escort through the treacherous area. Or, if I waited, someone might come along and we could brave the wild canine gauntlet together. At the very least I'd make sure they were warned.

And then, a certain hero scenario came to me. It was a simple dream: that I would someday collect enough coyote-defense skills, weaponry, and wild dog security equipment to start the Franklin Coyote Escort Service. I'd bring people for tours through the area, in humvees, with stereos and side-slits for coyote sniping. Make this place a haven for civilization, like Iraq. But no, it was a crazy notion, few people ever attain that level of wilderness courage and business savvy.

I stood before that sign, my life's journey teetering in the balance. My impulse was to sprint back to the civil-safety of traffic, cell phones and shopping. But something stopped me. I'll never know what. Suddenly I'm walking past the warning sign like some



JONATHAN WAY PHOTO

"Each step brings me further from coffee and buy-one, get-one free; further toward the gaping maw of the woods and blood-thirsty hounds."

Stepford sacrifice, into the very heart of Greenfield coyote country. Each step brings me further from coffee and buy-one, get-one free, further toward the gaping maw of the woods and blood-thirsty hounds. There is no other human in sight. I'm alone, an Incan offering, thousands of miles and centuries off the mark.

In my auto-pilot state everything seems normal. Squirrels chatter, chipmunks squeak, migrating robins scuff for worms in the leaves. I begin climbing upward, unaware of

how many wild eyes may be devouring me from close-in. I reach Sachem's Head and the old wood platform that once served as a dance floor for mountain visitors, before these howling woods became lousy with wild dogs. Oh, for those peaceful days once more!

Me, I'm a babe in the woods, a shadow propelled by forces unknown. In my madness I sit down in the middle of Coyote Country, and read the newspaper, with that ravening hoard likely so near I could've heard them breathing. Blithely, I scan the horizon south to the beautiful ancestral bottomlands of the Pocumtuck, now "old" Deerfield, tracing the arc where that river leaves the Berkshires and pushes to its meeting with the Connecticut. In my altered state it all seems beautiful.

And then this: bizarrely, I lay down in the open and close my eyes for a nap, focused only on sinuses and the aches I'm nursing from the five games of volleyball I engaged in two nights before. I play exactly three times a decade, to stay ready for those instances where a man's preparedness might be tested in some life-or-death Jack London setting as this one. Instead, insane, I doze for a full ten minutes, Pocumtuck princesses dancing in my head.

That I do not awaken to a flash of canines at my throat is a miracle.

A raven calls in the distance, another shadowy creature bent on destruction. Two crows sail by on the October wind - feathers glinting mockery at the fall sun. This is a set-up, I'm sure: the coyotes will rake my throat; crows will peck my eyes; the ravens will gorge on my liver. Dazed, I rise up, some final ounce of courage sustaining me, and finish my walk. Yet to this day I remain under the coyotes' spell. It grips me as I sit here, thinking: *Warning, you have more to fear for yourself, your pet, or the suburban deer herd from the neighbor's dog or the Rottweiler down the street than you do from coyotes!* The records bear this out. So, you see, I'm hopeless. I know that only my blood, at the full of the moon, will satisfy what the coyotes want of me. I am ready.

Cooling thought: (remedy for coyote madness...) Plant garlic. Don't bother with the cheap stuff trucked all the way from China that's showing up in local markets. Get it at the farmers market, or put your own in the ground this November. Wear it around your neck in the woods and nothing will ever eat you.

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Reporter Columnist's Children's Book Nets National Award

GREENFIELD - Western Mass writer Karl Meyer has received news from his editor at Storey Publishing that *Wild Animals of North America* has been awarded a 2008 Teachers' Choice Award for Children's Books. Meyer wrote the text for the large format, non-fiction book which features a collection of striking photos of North American wildlife. That writing included text for young readers about the biology and life cycles of some of North America's familiar animals, as well words crafted to highlight the activities and lore of each featured species. Sponsored by *Learning Magazine* and begun in 1994, Teachers' Choice has become one of the most prestigious awards programs in the education market, as the only national awards program judged by teachers in the classroom.

Wild Animals of North America, edited by Sarah Guare, was published last November by Storey LLC, of North Adams. Meyer is a long-time western Massachusetts writer and journalist. His articles and essays have appeared in regional and national magazines as well as many of the region's newspapers including the *Montague Reporter*. Current writing includes *The Courthouse Coopers* in Mass. Audubon's *Sanctuary Magazine*, and a Cape Cod travel article at *Gonomad.com*. Meyer's voice may be familiar as the radio naturalist featured daily on WRSI's *Nature Notes* from 1999 - 2003. He holds a B.A. from the UMass, Amherst; and an M.S. in Environmental Communications from Antioch New England in Keene, New Hampshire. Meyer wrote *Wild Animals* while residing in Colrain. He has since moved to Greenfield where he can be reached at: karlm@crocker.com.

Karl Meyer

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WENDELL from pg 1

hand at coaxing a consensus from the multitude of opinions generated by the building committee.

Keller especially thanked the project's clerk of the works John Fleming, and presented him with a plaque naming him an "Honorary Citizen of Wendell." Fleming was surprised, and visibly moved, and said that before leaving home in the mornings he looked forward to coming to work in Wendell. He came to work on many Saturdays.

Margo Jones called the new Wendell offices and library, "the most democratic buildings I have ever worked on."

Steve Kulik presented the town a citation from the Massachusetts House, handed the citation to Keller, and said it was amazing that this town, one of the smallest in the state, was able to come together and build these new municipal

"These are the most democratic buildings I have ever worked on."

- Architect Margo Jones, speaking of the new town office building and library

faith in the future. He said, "The building is full of windows," and the work is all in open view. "There are no back rooms." This is where democracy starts.

Margo Culley thanked Keller for all his work on the building committee and on the select-board, and the people present broke into applause.

Keller is continuing his involvement with the building committee on the renovation of the former library.

Mackensy Wickham-Diemand, a sixth grade student at Swift River School, read the dedication:

"This building is dedicated to the hard-working, thrifty, kind, and friendly people of Wendell's past, present, and future, and to the plants, animals, streams, and hills that make their lives possible."

"The ox yoke hanging here

and the chestnut boards salvaged from the old meeting house are reminders of the values of hard work and love of nature that have shaped Wendell's past and guide our work today."



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Wendell's new town building, with a multitude of windows and no back rooms.

HISTORY from pg 1

were taught, discipline was strict, and the strap was kept close at hand. The large bell was used to call an end to recess, and possibly rang again to start and finish the school day.

In 1937, the school housed just the upper grades, as the primary grades moved down the road to the North Leverett schoolhouse. Moving grades around among districts was not uncommon in the days before busing. The stories of winter travel to school are quite eventful, as it was often challenging to make the trek.

In 1950, with the opening of the "new Leverett consolidated school" in Leverett Center, the last of the nine one-room schoolhouses around the town of Leverett closed. Some became homes, while others fell into disrepair. The Moore's Corner Schoolhouse was one of those buildings that fell badly in need of repair after a decade of abandonment. Therefore, in the early 1960s the schoolhouse at

buildings. He said a project like this would never happen in Worcester or Springfield, that it epitomizes Wendell's

Moore's Corner was slated to be torn down.

However, a group of highly motivated former students and locals organized themselves into a volunteer organization for the purpose of restoring and preserving the building.

They called their organization The Moore's Corner Schoolhouse Restoration Society, and they worked diligently to organize many community fundraisers, such as a Lawn and Bazaar Party, Christmas Fairs, bake sales and the like. The society was co-chaired by Cliff Blinn, who still lives in Moore's Corner, and the late Forrest Briggs of Leverett and Montague Center.

The initial renovations included securing the building structurally, repairing the windows and roof. With the roof renovations, the large brass bell that sat up in a cupola needed to be removed. The bell was stored inside the hallway of the building.

At one time, the hefty brass bell 'disappeared' from the building. Yet after advertising

that the bell had been stolen and asking for its return - it reappeared! According to Cliff Blinn, "No one knows who took it."

By the summer of 1964, enough money had been raised by the community that the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse was well on its way to restoration. In July of that year, the first floor was renovated, and plans were in place to finish restoring the upstairs, the hallway, and "the rebuilding of the cupola which will contain the original brass school bell," according to one published report. Well, except for the cupola and the bell, most of those renovation dreams came true by the end of 1964. At this point, the first floor came to be used as a library, and the upstairs became a community room, which sometimes held dances. Historical items were donated, and eventually the building became a museum, as the Restoration Society reorganized into the Leverett Historical Society.

The Historical Society

remains active to this day. For many years the Society has continued to work to preserve the building and archive the artifacts they've acquired for the museum.

Tag sales, plant sales, art raffles, historical reprints, and garden tours have all been used by the Society over the years to fund maintenance and repair of the old building. Until a Community Preservation grant was applied for, and some real money garnered for major repairs.

With a dedicated group of volunteers, the building got newly resided and painted in the last two years. Then Dan Bennett, the building maintenance chairman and museum curator, had the dream of completing the bell tower project, with the remaining preservation grant money.

The original reconstruction goals of the Restoration Society of the '60s were now to become a reality. Bennett worked with the late Lloyd Kirley of North Leverett Center to design a new bell tower and cupola for the

bell that was still sitting in the building's hallway. Kirley's family business, Classical Colonial Homes, actually built the cupola for the bell at their workshop in North Leverett.

With a group of dedicated volunteers, the new bell tower was hoisted up by crane this summer and set in place on the reinforced rooftop. Lloyd Kirley was able to hear the bell toll from its tower again, shortly before he passed away.

The community volunteer efforts that made these renovations possible were beyond number. Thanks are due to all who donated time, advice, scaffolding, extra lumber, supplies, and emotional support. Therefore, the Leverett Historical Society held a Bell Tower Celebration on Saturday, October 20th at the museum on North Leverett Road.

Some former students of this one room school are still living and attended the event to share their memories. And to once again Ring the Bell!

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Made of Thunder, Made of Glass

NORTHEAST INDIAN BEADWORK, PAINTINGS BY GERRY BIRON AT MEMORIAL HALL IN DEERFIELD

REVIEWED BY ANNE HARDING - For months my friend Sheila Damkoehler has been urging me to visit her at the Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, to see an exhibit of beadwork by American Indians of the Northeast along with the artwork of Vermont artist Gerry Biron.

Somehow, there is no sense of urgency when you know you have six months to get there! Well, the six months are nearly up; the show closes November 4th, and you have to go!. The museum has provided a terrific activity guide and scavenger hunt to keep both young and old entertained.

I dropped by during the Old Deerfield Fall Craft Fair when Biron was on hand to talk about both the beadwork and the artwork. The show, entitled *Made of Thunder, Made of Glass*, includes historic photographs, more than a hundred beaded hats and bags, and a dozen of Biron's paintings.

The paintings were clearly inspired by the photographs of native peoples and the beaded bags. The beadwork collection also happens to belong to Biron and his wife JoAnne Russo.

Biron's artwork incorporates incredibly detailed pencil sketches of the faces from the photographs, together with live-

ly borders and backgrounds of vivid colors and symbolic motifs, not to mention the beaded bags worn by the subjects. The artist uses colored pencils, watercolors, ink and acrylics, and it is often difficult to tell where one medium leaves off and the next begins.

When I asked Biron how he happened to collect beadwork, he said he began collecting after the revelation that his great-grandmother, Clarissa Basque, was a Mi'kmaq Indian. Not long after his mother shared this news, he saw samples of Mi'kmaq beaded bags at a museum. A beadworker himself, Biron was mesmerized by the simple yet detailed bags and the connection they gave him with his ancestors. He's been collecting ever since, more than 20 years now. Along the way he started researching what he was collecting.

This collection features North American Indian beadwork that was made specifically as souvenirs for tourists - and not generally considered collector's items. Following the Revolutionary War, native people who sided with the "wrong team" were displaced to reservations north of the border. Forced to forgo their ancestral livelihoods, many families began to create beaded sou-

venirs to help eke out a living. The beadwork dates from the early 1800s to about 1915. A few pieces of dyed moose-hair embroidery are also on display. All are captivating. Most are small bags or pouches, but there were a number of Glengarry and smoking caps.

You can see the changes in the style of the bags throughout the years: the earlier works use the tiniest beads and contain more geometric and symbolic attributes, and a fair amount of the fabric shows through. On the later works, the backing material is almost entirely covered with beads, and the designs become predominately floral, though animal and human forms appear from time to time.

The shapes of the bags and their closures also change over the years. Many of the bags have different fronts and backs, and when the display cases do not allow a 360-degree view of the work an excellent color photograph is on hand to show the obverse side.

I found myself drawn to the display case holding the Glengarry caps - perhaps because I grew up in a city with a large Scottish immigrant population and many of the pipe bands wore the Glengarry while on parade. I'm sure you're familiar with the hat, if not the

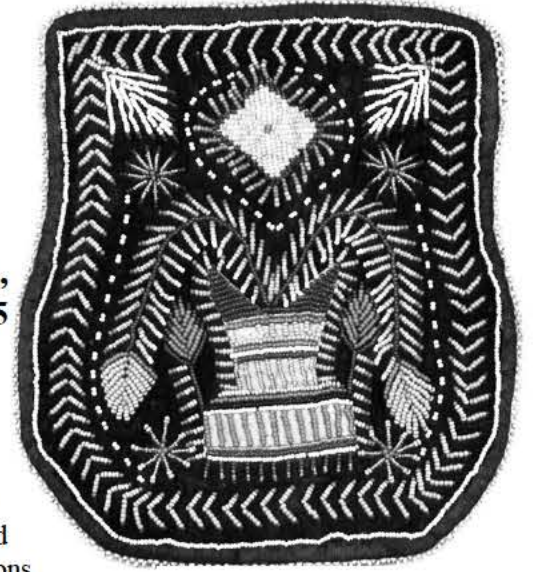
Beaded Bag, c. 1845

name - typically made of thick, black, felt-like wool, the hat is canoe-shaped and often has short ribbons hanging off the back.

Sometimes it has a red and white patterned edge. It is a simple, almost austere hat that folds flat for storage and was probably designed not to detract from the splendor of the men in kilts.

These caps on the other hand would be difficult to fold flat, and were certainly not austere. There was barely any fabric visible and the intricate beadwork was staggering. The velvet beaded smoking caps were equally resplendent. Given that smoking caps were originally intended to protect the hair from taking on the smell of tobacco smoke, it is hard to imagine you would want to use these lovely caps in such a way. Perhaps by the time the beaded smoking caps had arrived on the scene they were more a fashion statement than an odor protector.

I asked Biron how long it would take to make one of these elaborate hats or bags. He estimated, "About a thousand



hours." It is hard to imagine how a native artist could manage to supplement their family income with this kind of time commitment. I found it astonishing the bags and hats were in such pristine condition, but he let me know that not all were purchased in good shape. The exhibit is only about half the Biron-Russo collection, and contains the works in better condition. Many of the exhibited items have been restored by Biron himself, who might spend 30 or 40 hours repairing an item found at auction, truly a labor of love.

Residents of the Pioneer Valley are fortunate to have the opportunity to visit this traveling exhibit, but time is running out.

The Memorial Hall Museum is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call the museum at 413-774-3768, or visit their website at www.deerfield-ma.org.

BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER - "The goblins'll get you if you don't watch out." It must have been a warning to the night traveler at the dark of the moon. For when the full moon sends its second-hand light down to the sleeping Earth,

the black night is gone and the goblins of mind and reality dissipate. Except, of course, those elves who can hide in the tree shadows along the way.

In the black night in Ireland and Scotland, where the little folk found happy living, rumor is that the countryman carried with him a Jack-o-Lantern scooped and carved from a turnip, (pumpkins still in America), lit with a precious

candle, his ticket to safety.

Goblins can be mischievous or evil or helpful, and authors have created their own. Shakespeare's

Puck, Robin Goodfellow, in *Midsummer Night's Dream* was a merry wanderer of the night. Christina Rossetti writes *Goblin Market* darkly, about a girl who rescues her sister from the temptations of a wicked goblin. Tolkien, in *the*

Hobbit, gives them a medieval

later books, in which they are sophisticated and evil.

In the world of modern goblins, my favorites are Brownies, little Scottish goblins who give a helping hand and have earned our apprecia-

tion. Their name is given to aspiring Girl Scouts, who join the Brownies when they are younger, to delicious chocolate cake bars that mothers bake for their children, and to Brownie Points, awards for industry and careful work.

In this day of light, bad goblins seem to favor the invisible form. Before World War II, there were no gremlins. The word is not in pre-1940 dic-

tionaries. With the war and mechanization goblins found new work. They appeared in the Air Force to wickedly tinker with airplanes. They have since moved to the world of electronics, with delight. Perhaps computers are their favorite, cell phones a close second.

But their exciting time is Hallowe'en. A century ago, wicked goblins overturned outhouses in Montague on that spooky night. Their pranks turned to soaping windows and cutting clotheslines when the little buildings disappeared. Today, we recognize this New Year's Eve of the old Celtic world and offer apples and cookies and friendship on a night when the goblins are at revel.

The Truth About Goblins



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *[My columns usually start with a question from a reader, but this one was suggested by a sharp newspaper editor who thought I should warn seniors to get a flu shot. Thanks for the idea.]*

The last flu season in the U.S. and Canada was mild, but health officials are predicting that this season will be nasty. Flu season in the northern hemisphere can

The Time is Now to Get a Flu Shot

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

range from as early as November to as late as May. The peak month usually is February.

More than 200,000 flu victims are hospitalized annually in the United States; about 36,000 people die from it. As much as 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu each year.

Flu is a contagious illness of the respiratory system caused by the influenza virus. Flu can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, sinusitis, ear problems and dehydration.

Droplets from coughing and sneezing spread the flu. An adult with flu can infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. Children may spread flu for more than seven days.

The best way to combat the bug is to get the flu vaccine. You have to get inoculated annually because new vaccines are prepared every year to combat new versions of the virus. When you battle the flu, you develop antibodies to the invading virus, but those antibodies don't work on new strains. The vaccine does not prevent flu in all people; it works better in younger recipients than older ones.

[Personal note: I used to catch the flu every winter. About 10 years ago, I started getting the vaccine. I haven't had the flu since.]

Contrary to rumor, you can't catch the flu from the vaccine. The flu vaccine is not made from a live virus.

The vaccine can be adminis-

tered anytime during flu season. However, the best time to get inoculated is October-November. Adults over 50 are prime candidates for the vaccine because the flu can be fatal for older people.

You can get the flu vaccine from your doctor, at public health centers, senior centers, pharmacies and supermarkets.

There is a flu vaccine in nasal-spray form that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for healthy people between the ages of 5 and 49. The nasal spray's safety has not been established in seniors.

The recovery time for the flu is about one to two weeks. However, in seniors, weakness may persist for a longer time.

The common scenario for flu is a sudden onset of symptoms,

which include chills, fatigue, fever, cough, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, muscle aches and appetite loss.

While nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can be related to the flu, these are rarely the primary flu symptoms. The flu is not a stomach or intestinal disease. The term 'stomach flu' is inaccurate.

When symptoms strike, get to a doctor as soon as possible; the faster the better. There are prescription antiviral drugs to treat flu. Over-the-counter medicines can help relieve symptoms of the flu. You should also drink liquids to prevent dehydration, and sleep to bolster your immune system.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Last Gifts of Summer

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The soft, southern breezes have brought us unseasonable temperatures again. This may not be Indian summer meteorologically speaking, but it has the same effect. It is once again a dreamy time, not conducive to hard labor, more suitable for ambling, writing poetry or just sitting soaking up the rays of sunlight.

The gardener is derailed. Finishing the business of the season requires the nudge of a frosty morning.

Frost was expected last weekend. I cured the paint on my new woodstove, enduring a brief period of stinky vapors that set off the smoke alarm. I picked a lovely basket of sweet peppers, red, orange and chocolate. I picked the green tomatoes of any size. On the third burn the cat and I enjoyed a house-warming wood fire, which smelled great outside against the crispy air.

Then the late summer warmth came again. Tonight the katydids and cicadas hum. I am grilling by my flashlight at seven in the evening. The three-quarter moon is skimmed by bats.

I have passed the weekend savoring the slowly evolving fall palette. As one tree finishes and drops, another blooms with color.

My neighbor's ancient sugar maple had to be cut down. It threatened life and limb as it

slowly came apart, piece by piece. But its offspring continue to grow throughout the neighborhood. Tonight two new saplings glow like an after-sunset sun, long after the light of the evening sun has gone.

The honeysuckle vine has produced two sprigs of sweet-scented flowers. The Heritage rose which gave me the last blooms of fall a couple of weeks ago is producing new buds again.

I could have spent this warm summer-like day pulling the tomato plants, which have expended the last of their energy, and dug manure into the soil for next year's growing season. I could have cut back the peonies, weeded the lilies and laid down mulch.

The reality is that once winter comes, the cold is here for a long time, beginning with the dreary grays of November. I want to drink in the warm color of this special day, keep my eyes up and skyward.

Abandoning garden tasks, I climb Sugarloaf this fine Sunday afternoon. The head of the footpath swarms with ladybugs looking for a spot for hibernation. I see huge flocks of geese cheering each other on with their wild honking, heading east or south. The Carolina Wren that normally winters in the depth of my honeysuckle vine is having a serious discussion with two of its cousins

about territorial rights.

Maybe we're experiencing another facet of global warming. Nature's creatures, however, do not plan according to temperature. They seem to gather food, hole up, move on and move in based not on the temperature but rather on the length of day.

Whether we like it or not, the days have shortened visibly. It's dark now until close to seven in the morning and dark again before seven at night. While we've artificially extended daylight savings time by the clock, the daylight comes and goes by a clock we never set.

In some ways I rejoice in this natural rebellion. I like it that there are still mysteries we can't define or explain, and that the seasons take their own course in spite of us.

Ready or not, it will soon be time to put the garden to bed. There's also the pleasure of some late planting that gives a head start to the next season and makes even the New England gardener feel hopeful for the seasons to come.

This coming Friday marks the month's full moon. If it is also a clear night, we are likely to experience a frost. If the weekend that follows remains cool, it's time to pull the old garden plants, lay down manure and turn it under.

More rewarding activities perhaps include pulling the frost

sweetened carrots and doing some pre-spring planting, which will give your garden a jumpstart next season.

First, consider planting some spring bulbs. They're inexpensive, relatively easily planted and non-demanding of future care. Daffodils are especially wonderful because in addition to providing an early spring display, they are the one bulb that is mostly rodent and deer proof. Voles, moles and even chipmunks will eat and relocate other spring flowering beauties, but they're not much interested in daffodils. Some gardeners believe the bulb of the plant to be poisonous to these critters. Anyway, you can plant a bed of daffodils or spread them individually or in small groups for naturalizing, and just let them grow. If you're willing to take one more step and add a pinch of bone meal at the bottom of the planting hole, you'll improve the growth of the plants even more.

If you like it, plant some garlic for next summer reaping. Choose a type that grows locally. You can buy or order seed garlic, but most gardeners do just fine with heads of garlic purchased at a store or farmers market. Separate the cloves, plant pointed side up and just deep enough to cover with a half inch of soil. If you have bone meal or compost, add that to your planting row. Planted before the ground hardens for the winter, garlic gets a start on growing this fall and then can continue once the ground thaws next spring. The adage that you will harvest a



MARY AZARIAN WOODCUT

head of garlic only as large as the one you choose for planting is definitely true.

Take advantage of the opportunity to spread some grass seed over areas which have not done as well as you like. The freezing and thawing of the ground will assist in cracking the seed and starting it to rooting before the snow flies. Then in the spring you can apply a pre-emergent organic control for the pesky lawn weeds and have both strong grass roots and some weed removal started.

Finally, consider starting some lettuce or spinach seeds in a cold frame. Seed started now will come on in March and give you one of the earliest green crops in the neighborhood in April. Bring in some herbs to keep in a sunny window for the winter and thus extend your fresh herb cooking season.

Lastly, savor every golden day that comes your way. The garden chores won't disappear or magnify, and your soul will rejoice in stocking up the final warmth of the last gifts of summer.

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JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XLXI

Irene Looks Out for Me

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - One evening, Johnny left the truck's parking lights on. He told me to figure out how to shut them off. Pa always said, "Don't touch anything," whenever he left me alone in the car.

I was glad Johnny trusted me to flick the truck switches all I wanted. The leather truck seat was up high and the big wooden steering wheel had smooth rounded notches on the inside to fit your fingers. Two shifting levers stuck up out of the floor almost as high as the steering wheel. An emergency brake handle next to them stood as tall as the shifting levers. The long hood stretched out to a nickel plated radiator cap with a wire retaining clip over the top. There were rows and rows of little toggle switches on the varnished wood dashboard.

Some switches were in the up position and some down. None were labeled. I had fun seeing what switch turned a light on. It took quite a while to try all the switches because I had to get out, look at the lights, and then climb back up the high step to the cab again.

The next time Johnny came and left the parking lights on, I shut them off right away. I ran into the house to tell him, and watched to see the surprise on his face at how fast I'd done it. Mama and Johnny stopped talking when I came in and didn't look at all happy I was back in the house so soon.

"Go outside and find something to do," Johnny said. I felt unwanted and my spirits fell.

From then on, when I shut the parking lights off, I would not go in the house to tell them. I would just sit behind the wheel and pretend I was driving the truck. I would move the gear

shift levers and turn the steering wheel from side to side. One evening, after Johnny talked with Mama, he came out looking angry.

"Why do you make Irene do all the chores, and not help her?"

I tried to tell him that Irene and I always got along good and did chores together. And when she got a chance to work at Studer's turkey farm, picking turkeys, like this day, I did all her chores, alone. He acted as though he did not believe me.

"Ask Irene yourself, if you don't believe me," I said. "She's picking turkeys at Arnold's, right now."

The accusation made me feel depressed and frustrated because Irene and I got along great. Though she was only two years older, Irene looked out for me. And I tried to make life easier for her. I'm sure she got this across to Johnny, because the next time he came to visit,

he tried to make up for bawling me out, but it was never the same again.

I don't think Johnny ever knew how close Irene and I were, and what she did for me one day when we were haying.

We all admired a Polish family whose loads of hay always looked as neat as a loaf of bread. We didn't groom our load with that much fanaticism, but we did try to build the load well. A neighboring family never did master the art and endured the embarrassment of often losing most of their sloppily built loads in a comical avalanche of hay on the way to the barn. We'd laugh our heads off.

One day during haying season, Irene and Louis were up on the hay wagon. Irene could distribute hay and build a load, looking neat and square, while Louis tramped the hay down so it'd stay in place and not come tumbling down.

We were short of hayforks, so Irene took the forkfuls of hay with her hands as we pitched it up to her. Pa had given me a short handled manure fork to use. It worked all right when the load was small, but as the load grew higher I had trouble getting the hay up high enough for Irene to grab. Once, I shoved the fork up towards her outstretched hands and the fork left my hand. To my horror, I saw it dangling from her hand. I'd driven one of the prongs all the way through her palm!

Irene didn't cry out. Without a word, she yanked the fork loose and tossed it back to me. She wrapped her handkerchief around her hand to stop the blood, and kept on working so I'd escape Pa's wrath. I never forgot her doing that for me, especially since she was a little squeamish about blood - even blood drawn by bedbugs.

- Continued next week

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VENDORS WANTED for Wendell Holiday Fair, Dec. 1 & 2. For info contact: Marianne at 978-544-8981 or msundell65@hotmail.com.

CARTOONISTS Wanted for discussion group. Amateur or pro. Call 659-5339 or email klwilkinson@comcast.net.

WANTED: Metal ice cube trays with center divider. Call 413-863-8386.

CLERK NEEDED: Town of Gill is looking for clerk to assist Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals; 18 hrs/mo, \$11.42/hr. Basic secretarial, computer skills and ability to work independently; some night meetings. Zoning knowledge a plus! Call (413) 863-9347 for further info.

Locally Grown Harvest Dinner and Film
 ~ Screening to benefit two ongoing efforts for just access to land ~
Saturday Nov. 10th, 6 p.m. at the Montague Grange, 36 Main St., Montague Center
 All are welcome for a free supper. Contributions of any size go to support Six Nations Land Reclamation Project and the Center for Pan African Development. Hosted by residents of Gill in an attempt to link local food with national struggles for land.
 More info: 863-9197.

Our Lady of Peace
Christmas Bazaar
 Saturday, November 3rd
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Come have breakfast & lunch at the Christmas Cookie Cafe!
80 Seventh Street, Turners Falls
 Sponsored by *Our Lady of Peace Women's Group*

GILL LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Selectmen in Gill will hold public informational meetings on November 1st and 8th, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to discuss and solicit public response to the Town of Gill's Community Development Strategy. The Community Development Strategy is a requirement for the Town's FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The proposed activity to be undertaken by the Town is Housing Rehabilitation. The Town will contract with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the CDBG Program. The Town wishes to encourage boards, committees and local citizens to attend the meeting.

www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Arts, Culture, Recreation in Turners Falls. Log on and find out what you are missing.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
Healing Environment Concert Series at the Franklin Medical Center last Friday each month, in the main lobby. Tim Van Egmond, hammered dulcimer, October 26th; Jerry Noble and Bob Sparkman, jazz duo, November 30th; and the Northside Saxophone Quartet in a special holiday concert, Friday, December 21st.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Fern and et sec Amis*, Cajun music. 9 to 11 p.m.

NMH Concerts Showcase World Jazz. Northfield Mount Hermon School, two free concerts. 2:30 at Memorial Chapel, the World Music Combo Sax Quartet will perform traditional music from India and Africa, as well as American jazz. The World Music Percussion Ensemble has lined up two African chant rhythms and a Korean drum improvisation. At 7:30, Memorial Chapel. Directions 498-3000 or www.nmhschool.org.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Love Bomb* - rock. Dance! 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH & 27TH
The Country Players presents: Haunted Lives, three short plays by John Pielmeier. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Continues **November 2nd & 3rd**. Reserve tickets 863-2281.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
Silent Auction at the Pushkin, 332 Main St., Greenfield. Artwork by Kerry Anne Kazokas. Live music by Adam Bergeron, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Joy Sumberg, 6 - 7:30 p.m., John Clark, 8 - 9:30 p.m. Bidding begins at 4 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Take home the artwork at the end of the night!

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5k Trot Along, Fun Run & Walk at **Opening Gait's** Therapeutic Riding Center at Ashvana Stables, Gill. Fundraiser to benefit therapeutic horseback riding program for children and adults with disabilities. 9 a.m. Registration and pledge form available www.openinggaitstrc.org or 863-0002.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Halloween party costume contest**. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lost in the Groove*, rock and blues. 9 to 11 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall. **Rob Siegal and Ian Thomas**, 7:30 p.m. open mic, 8 p.m. featured act. \$6-\$12 (978) 544-5557. Partial proceeds to benefit M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Open mic sign-up and further information visit www.wendellfullmoon.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
Quabbin Reservation Exploration. Join Dave Small in search of migrating waterfowl and song birds inside the gates of the Quabbin's watershed. Bring lunch, water, camera, binoculars. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 8 a.m. Please register. (978) 413-1772, Dave@dsmall.net.

Family Dance at the Montague Grange. Contra dancing with live music and caller Rich Hart. All dances are taught, no experience necessary. \$7-12/family or \$4/person, includes a light snack. Dances are the last Sunday of every month, September to April. 4 to 6 p.m. Info 367-9608.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Acoustic Duo - Steve Crow & Peter Kim, 9 - 11 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 - 9 p.m.



Saturday October 27th at 8 p.m. Rob Siegal and Ian Thomas bring an evening of intelligent songwriting, soulful blues, and fine musicianship to the intimate setting of Wendell Town Hall. Rob writes about the Stuff of Life and can be heard on folk stations across the country. Ian Thomas' blues are what blues should be, he'll move you. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Open Mic: A Night of Spoken Word**, 7 - 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
Artival Reag



Saturday October 27th at 8 p.m. Rob Siegal and Ian Thomas bring an evening of intelligent songwriting, soulful blues, and fine musicianship to the intimate setting of Wendell Town Hall. Rob writes about the Stuff of Life and can be heard on folk stations across the country. Ian Thomas' blues are what blues should be, he'll move you. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m.

Shag Parade begins at Food City parking lot at 4:45 p.m., judging 5 p.m. Refreshments and prizes given for winners in various costume categories, children in 6th grade & under.

THROUGH OCTOBER
Time Mural Changes the Scene at the Village Co-op throughout October. Gardener Macayla Silver is painting the walls with a *Time Mural*, which will change as the painting continues and then disappear October 31st. Open 7-7 p.m., 7 days a week. The Village Coop, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett 367-9794.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Open Mic**, all levels welcome. Host Peter Kim. 8:30 p.m. to midnite. No cover.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2ND
Remembering Matt, an assemblage exhibit of original, collaborative work inspired by Matthew Leighton at the Artspace, Greenfield. Monday to Friday, 1 to 6 p.m. until **November 2nd** and Saturdays **October 27th** from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. info 772-6811.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
Moonlight and Morningstar at the Smokin' Hippo restaurant this Friday and every first Friday of the

month though February. The Smokin' Hippo, 20 French King Highway (Rt. 2), Erving. (413) 423-3220, www.thesmokinhippo.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
Our Lady of Peace *Christmas Bazaar*, 80 7th St., Turners Falls. Santa's workshop, raffles, crafts, knitted goods, breakfast and lunch. 9 to 2 p.m.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH
Made of Thunder, Made of Glass: American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast, Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 to 5 p.m. 774-7476.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
The Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett, CD Release Party for Peter Siegel's album, *Living in Rome*. Ethan Hazzard-Watkins accompanies on fiddle. Admission \$12/\$10 seniors, 7:30 p.m. info: 548-9394.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
Reel World Film Documentary Series presents: *Iran, Veiled Appearances*, 7 p.m. 50 years after US and British agents engineered a coup to place Shah Pahlevi in power and 28 years after an Islamic revolution took the Shah down, Iran is revealed to be a prosperous country exhibiting deep, at times fanatical religious fervor alongside expressions of frustration and acts of rebellion by youth. 90 minutes (2003) at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
The Northfield Mount Hermon School Dance Companies present their fall concert, *Begging to Differ*, at 7:30 p.m. in the Grandin Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 general

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Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

admission; \$2 for students, children, and seniors. Call 498-3017 for ticket reservations. Proceeds benefit nonprofit: Invisible Children.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Locally Grown Harvest Dinner and Film Screening on two ongoing struggles for just access to land, Montague Grange, Montague Center, 6 p.m. Contributions of any size welcome, struggle info www.takebacktheland.net. Event info gillgarden@riseup.net, 863-9197.

ONGOING
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls on display: Michael Yamashita's *Great Wall of China & The Silk Road*. On display through December 16th.

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- 2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT** DAILY 7:00 9:30 R in DTS sound MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 3. THE COMEBACKS** PG13 DAILY 7:00 9:30 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 4. THE GAME PLAN** PG DAILY 6:45 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15
- 4. ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE** DAILY 9:15 PG MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 3:15
- 5. MICHAEL CLAYTON** R DAILY 6:45 9:15 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. MR. WOODCOCK** PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30 (NO 6:30 show halloween night)
- 7. SAW 4** R DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30

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Sunday 10/28 Acoustic Duo
Steve Crow & Peter Kim
Monday 10/29 Open Mic 7-10 p.m.
A Night of Spoken Word
Wednesday 10/31
Halloween Costume Party 8-11 p.m.
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 9:30 am
Owls, Bats, and Pumpkins. Join Refuge staff as we explore these signs of October's end. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
Explore Nature along the Bike Path. Find signs of animals and plants preparing for winter. If weather is poor, we will explore the exhibits in the Center. 8:30 - 9:30 am

NOVEMBER 2ND - DECEMBER 15TH
Come and view the Junior Duck Stamp artwork from Massachusetts students grades K - 12. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program (JDS) is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum with participants completing a JDS design as their visual "term papers".

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-3221 www.greatfallsma.org

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Scarecrow Festival on the Bernardston Common!

BY FLORE - Many a time, people have asked me. "Where and how do you find these incredible places you relate in your column?"

The truth of the matter is, places invariably come to me!

Take the latest encounter, these awesome scarecrows; this is the way it happens for most of us.

Walking leisurely along the street, your eyes are attracted to a poster. It catches your attention.

Brad's Place in Greenfield had scotch-taped the announcement of a Scarecrow Festival about to take place in nearby Bernardston! How could anyone pass that up?

Off to Cushman Park to eagerly arrive in the heart of the village. What a find!

The creative powers of the "Bernardstonians" are on display there.

The people responsible for such a scene?

With the merit badge of Serving the Children of the World, the Kiwanis International Association.

"This scarecrow contest is in its fourth year," declared Michael Dougherty, who initially came up with the idea. New to village, he and his wife Kate run the tasty South Bakery. On a trip to France (*mais bien sur*) they discovered a scarecrow festival in Limousin country.

Usually scarecrows are the guardians of the fields, and festivities are



FLORE PHOTOS

Scarecrows cavort on the town common in Bernardston



prize: \$25. In a special elementary competition, there will be a \$100 award for the winning classroom, and not to be outdone, senior citizens will compete for the rotating scarecrow trophy.

Scarecrows will be judged on their originality, beauty, and ability to scare away you know who. The judges would love to see the festival become a real village tradition: at least a hundred scarecrows strolling on the commons every year.

I should mention a certain owl made out of pine cones and bark. Though they did not participate last year, Martha Walker announced to her friends Mabie Shores and Margaret Moulton, "Let's make an owl scarecrow." It's the most awesome scarecrow in the display, and frontrunner for the first prize, in my book.

Don't miss this wondrous gather-

ing. Perhaps if you tiptoe to the commons at night, you might join them cavorting around the moon. It is full this Friday! *Entrez dans la danse car elle sera tout ronde!*



planned just as the harvest is complete. In Bernardston, the

scarecrows compete by categories: individual entries, school classroom creations, and civic associations. Isn't that a brilliant way to unify the villagers in a common project?

Do not miss these ephemeral characters. They will be on display and on the lookout for your visit only until the morning after - you guessed it - Hallowe'en! Then the prizes will be awarded. First prize: \$75; second prize: \$50; third



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