



SOURCE TO SEA CLEAN-UP
see page 10



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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 5, 2006

Indeck Dismantled

Equipment Reportedly Heading to Guatemala

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - The Montague Energy Group, owners of the former Indeck co-generation facility on the eastern end of the peninsula formed by the power canal in Turners Falls, have been busy dismantling the coal burning plant's equipment in preparation for removal and the rumored sale of the equipment to a foreign company. Multiple sources in town hall said the power plant's equipment would soon be leaving town, destined for a company in Guatemala. Virginia Huling, an attorney based in Saugus, MA who acts as the Montague Energy Group's spokesperson, declined comment on the sale of generating equipment in an email exchange on Wednesday, October 4th.

Patricia Dion said the town of Montague had placed a lien on the

power plant property for \$1,109,250.24 in back taxes owed from Fiscal Year '05 and the first half of Fiscal Year '06, the years in which Montague Energy Group (MEG) owned the coal burning plant. That sum included interest and \$188,000 owed to the Turners Falls Fire and Water District.

Dion said the town's attorney negotiated with MEG's attorney, and secured payment of the back taxes in full, and released the lien on the property on September 14th of 2006.

At that point, said town building inspector David Jensen, a company named Craig Contracting, the firm handling the dismantling and shipping of the plant's generating systems to Guatemala, immediately went to work taking the plant apart.

"I'd heard they started
see INDECK pg 5

Gubernatorial Candidates to Western Mass: We Hear You!

BY KENDRA & BOYSEN HODGSON
SPRINGFIELD

Outside the Arts Center at American International College in Springfield on Tuesday evening, October 3rd, hundreds of Deval Patrick and Kerry Healey supporters faced each other, waving signs and chanting their candidates' names. Healey's supporters were fewer in number than Patrick's, but seemed to be a bit louder (and a lot whiter). Patrick's fans were a widely varied bunch; there were several union shops represented, bearded baby-boomers along with well-dressed black men and women, all standing together, waving their signs. Fans of Green-Rainbow candidate Grace Ross flaunted bright green signs, while Christy Mihos supporters



Kerry Healey and Deval Patrick greet supporters during the gubernatorial debate in Springfield on Tuesday, October 3rd.

made up with the size of their placards what they lacked in numbers.

The debate was moderated by Jim Madignan of WGBY-TV. Kerry Healey-R, Christy Mihos-I, Deval Patrick-D, and Grace Ross-G/R answered questions about

the economy, the environment, education, and taxes. Part of the program featured an actual debate among the candidates themselves, who posed each other questions in turn.

Healey led off, prefacing her question by stat-

ing that in the 2000 election, the people of Massachusetts voted to roll back the individual income tax to 5 percent. She asked her fellow candidates whether or not they would "support the will of the people"

see DEBATE pg 11

Biodiesel Plant on Track for '06 Groundbreaking

\$2,000,000 IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT RAISED

BY BETSY CALVERT
GREENFIELD - Plans for a biodiesel production plant in Greenfield's industrial park jumped into sharp focus this week after project leaders announced they had finally gathered enough private investors to reach the required \$2 million mark.

Northeast Biodiesel, LLC, now moves to the final phase of development, which is arranging bank loans to cover the cost of construction and other startup costs. Local bank financing has long been contingent on reaching a critical mass of private investors, Northeast

Biodiesel president Lawrence Union has stated.

Project organizers would not comment on the amount of financing still required, but the cost of constructing the alternative fuel production plant is estimated to be \$6.5 million.

About 20 people living within a 60-mile radius invested in increments of \$25,000 to \$500,000, said Lynn Benander, manager of Co-op Power, which owns Northeast Biodiesel. Co-op Power itself has 230 members who pay between \$500 and
see BIODIESEL pg 5

The Legendary Gary Higgins Coming to the Book Mill

BY AMY LAPRADE
MONTAGUE CENTER

A chorus of acoustic sounds blurring and meshing together like psychedelic rain fall on ears that dare to listen. Gary Higgins' mellifluous, haunting vocals deliver poetry that compliments, rather than overrides the music on 'Thicker Than a Smokey,' one of eleven tracks off of Higgins' legendary acid-folk *Red Hash* LP. This enigmatic album, the only release by Higgins, is not only exceptional for its musical prowess, but for how it came into existence. Higgins had been on the cusp of success when he was busted for marijuana possession in 1972. He served thirteen



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DRAGCITY.COM

months in maximum security while his album was released.

Hailing from Sharon, CT, Higgins got his start in 1963 when he formed his first rock group, Random Concept, a psychedelic jam band, with vocalist Simeon Coxe, pianist Terry Fenton, guitarist Jake Bell, and bassist Dave Beaujon.

Soon Random Concept tried their hand living and playing in New York City, with moderate success, but it was not long before the quartet began experiencing burn-out from city life. Minus Coxe, who went on to form his own band, Silver Apples, the rest of the group returned

see HIGGINS pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK Devoted Friend



Mario

Mario is one fabulous five-year-old male greyhound in need of a good home! For starters he is very large – and snuggly. He has lived in a home for a few years and is already house-trained. He has lived with kids as well as with cats. We think Mario will do best in home with kids over eight and he should do well with both cats and dogs. For more info on adopting Mario, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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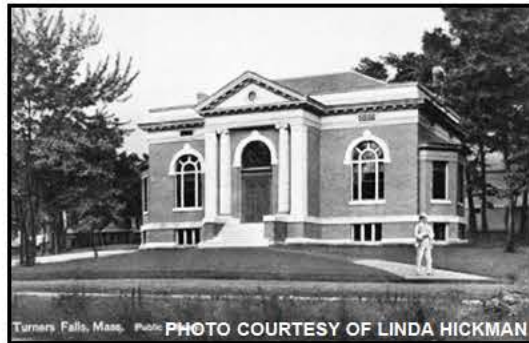
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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

100th Birthday Party

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- A 100th Birthday Party for the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will be held at the library on Thursday, October 19th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries have organized a party to celebrate the 100 years of service the Carnegie Library has provided



Turners Falls, Mass. PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA HICKMAN

An historic photo of the Carnegie Library.

struction projects in the United States. The Turners Falls' Carnegie Library is the only library in New England that is named in honor of Andrew Carnegie.
Michael Nix will perform on the classical guitar, mandolin, and banjar, an instrument he designed, during the party. Nix combines lyrical expression with an insatiable musical curiosity to forge an intriguing performance style incorporating various strains and textures drawn from classical guitar and banjo, jazz, blues, and folk. He has performed throughout the United States and Asia.

The party is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Limited edition commemorative candles will be sold by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

For more information, call 863-3214.

FACES & PLACES



Open house at Hillcrest Elementary September 28th featured students and their parents working on the *Wishbone Project*. O'najae Harrison (above right) asks his mother to write his wish for him: "I wish I could draw all day." Below, Toby Foster writes his wish as his mother Jane looks on. "I want to ride the school bus."



PHOTOS DAVID DETMOLD

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

Show Me the Monkey Friday Night at the Movies Returns

BY DOUG BROWN
TURNERS FALLS - The Montague police and parks and recreation departments, with funding from the Montague Elks Lodge #2521 once again present "Friday Night at the Movies," at the Sheffield School auditorium. The movies are free to the public, and will be shown the first Friday of the month from October thru April, 2007. This program is designed to allow families to participate in a no-cost evening, as parents are encouraged to attend with

their children. Movies start at 6:30 p.m. and usually run about 90 minutes in length. This month's presentation, on Friday, October 6th is *The Adventures of Curious George*, about the inquisitive little monkey with an insatiable taste for adventure. George's spunky and fun-loving nature endears him to new friends but also lands him in a series of (mis)adventures. E-Online says: "Animated films have become models of technical wizardry and precociously clever dialogue,

but *Curious George* couldn't care less. The first feature film based on the enormously popular kids' books just wants to tell a simple, sweet story - and to producer Ron Howard's credit, it does just that. Sometimes less is more.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES October 9th - October 13th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 9th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 10th

9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 11th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 12th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 13th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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 shopping, or

medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 9th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 10th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 11th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 12th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

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Gill Fall Festival the Place to Be

BY BARBARA ELLIOT - The 14th annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival will be held at the Old Riverside School on Route 2 on Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th. The festival opens to the public each day at 10 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m.

The Gill Arts and Crafts Festival features a variety of fine crafts, technical demonstrations, food concessions, and children's activities. Artists exhibit a wide range of work including fine and folk art, pottery, quilts, wood and metal work, soaps, dried flower arrangements, fiber art, photography, fused glass, and fleece wear.

In addition to the familiar artists who have exhibited in the past, the festival welcomes many new artists to this ever-growing event. Look for lovely hand-painted silks, exquisite jewelry, and unique prints.

The year's festival embraces Gill agriculture through an expanded farmers market. Honey, maple syrup,



Bill and Betsy Burnham peel apples for a previous Friends of Gill bake sale in this file photograph.

jams and jellies, spice mixes, dried flower arrangements, and herbal products are also available for purchase. A specialty at the festival has been homemade apple pies, which always sell out early. This year, the Friends of Gill will bake 100 apple pies to help meet the demand!

Children may participate in hands-on craft activities and face painting sponsored by the Friends of Gill and Hills of

Gill 4-H Club. Children will be able to participate in face painting and wreath-making as well as play activities during both days.

Visitors are welcome to visit the Gill Historic Commission Museum located in the school building. Artifacts from Gill's past, along with photographs of people and places, are on display in a classroom of the three-room schoolhouse. Local author Joe Parzych will be at the museum at 1:30 p.m. each day to sign his book, "Jep's Place", a warm memoir of his youth in Gill. The Gill Firemen's Association food concession will feature traditional picnic items and their famous homemade French fries.

Mysteries of 7th Street Revealed

BY JOE PARZYCH - TURNERS FALLS - During the course of sewer construction on 7th Street, Ludlow Construction uncovered the impressive brick sewers that have served the town as storm drains for decades beyond count. Brick sewers and drains were common in earlier days before large sizes of vitrified clay tile were produced. Bricks made in Montague City were cheap. Greenfield also has a number of large diameter brick sewers. Smaller sizes of vitrified clay tile was much more common, going back to the Romans. But it was usually under 12 inches in size, (though my father did purchased some 36-inch diameter tiles for a well at Jep's Place. He bought them from Starbuck Plumbing).

Once, when I had subcontracted a job in Longmeadow, I laid some 8- and 10-inch clay tile pipe, but they had plastic rings formed on the bells and spigots. A solvent applied with a rag cemented them together. Gil Lamore worked for me that winter. He kept the solvent-saturated rag in his back pocket and nearly asphyxiated us on our ride home after work before we realized what was happening.

The older method of joining clay tile was to pack the joint with jute and mortar the joint with Portland cement. It was hard to align the pipe and get a smooth flow line. The joints had

a tendency to allow water to leak - both to infiltrate and exfiltrate. That's the reason the Montague wastewater plant picks up so much ground water in sewers in



PHOTO: SARA CAMPBELL

Ye Olde Brick Sewer on 7th St.

areas of high water table, like Montague City Road.

In drier areas, leaky sewers attract tree roots that clog the lines.

Asbestos cement pipe with rubber o-ring seals was an improvement, if you discounted the problems of asbestos exposure to workers. It wasn't very strong. Concrete pipe made with wire reinforcement and rubber gaskets worked fine. That's what Mackin Construction laid on 7th Street, now being replaced by Ludlow Construction. PVC pipe is the standard, now, though high density polyethylene pipe is now available in large diameters. Plastic pipe is considerably lighter in weight, comes in long lengths and is easier to handle

CORRECTION

In last week's guest editorial by Joyce Phillips, ("Learn from the Past, Watch the Present, and Create the Future," MR IV #46) several paragraphs were omitted due to a last minute layout error. The omitted text is reprinted below. (The editorial can be read in its entirety by going to: www.montaguema.net/corkboard.cfm?g=196&ID=12716.)

"Contrary to Mr. Langknecht's belief that the 'thorough feasibility study performed by the Mt. Vernon Associates in 1998-1999 had nothing to do with the elementary configuration,' the facts are: Mt. Vernon Associates conducted a three-year preliminary study process with input from administration, principals, staff, parents and community members. Information was taken from the District and School Goals, Core Values, the Mission Statement and Education Reform guidelines. The data from the 'Futures Conference' was utilized to help answer the question: 'What should our schools be as we enter the 21st Century?' The final result was an extensive and thorough professional feasibility study including 12 different options and configurations. One of the realities throughout the study was there are an endless

number of configurations, each with various strengths and weaknesses that could be supported, along with the realism that budget is always a key factor.

"Mr. Langknecht asks, in effect, 'If the Mt. Vernon study was the be-all and end-all for the GMRSD; why did the school committee initiate the Elementary Study Group in 2003?' Part of the answer can be found in the Recorder (11/01/99). 'After much heated discussion, the board voted to continue the debate in another meeting on Monday, Nov. 15th, two days before the TFHS/GFMS plans go to town meeting members in Montague'. Bottom line - we ran out time and no decision was reached for the elementary schools. The committee that had been formed for the Gill-Montague Schools dissolved. The Middle School/High School moved forward to completion. Why then the Elementary Study Group? Continued pressure from town officials, the capital improvements committee, and budgetary challenges brought the elementary school configuration issue back to the front burner.

"Mr. Langknecht states: 'The evidence that the Montague Center School building and plot size would not meet DOE or SBAB requirements' was

flawed, based on a report 'received from a certain building feasibility committee member after her meeting with the School Building Assistance Bureau' and that Dave Backlund of the SBAB 'saw no problem' with renovating Montague Center School as long as the project was approved by town meeting. I did attend an initial meeting in Lancaster, MA with the SBAB. However Mr. Backlund's remarks were made to the building committee, chaired by Mr. Langknecht. At that time, Mr. Backlund also stated that a careful study of the footage, wetland, and facility would need to be done before a determination could be made by SBAB for approval. He also stated the community could renovate any school, but the cost might be the community's to bear. Much like the pool for the MS/HS, it could be part of the project, but require a vote of the community to pay the bill.

"Mr. Langknecht believes: 'It is utter fiction to suggest that the towns would approve two building projects' at the same time. The primary concern of town officials and community members at every forum and meeting was the condition and future of all our schools. We will never know the answer, because we never asked the question."

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Editor

David Detmold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander

Hugh Corr

Circulation

Jean Hebdon
Julia Bowden Smith
Philippe Deguise

Layout & Design

Lisa Davol
Boysen Hodgson
Kaitren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

Photography

Lisa Davol
Joe Parzych
Anel Jones
et al.

"The Voice of the Villages"

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The Lesson of the Amish

The heartrending story of the slaughter of innocents in a one-room schoolhouse in Key Mines, PA on Monday reminds us of the daily tragedy that is civilian life in Baghdad, as the US occupation of Iraq grinds on. An armed gunman enters an unprotected building, separates victims, binds their legs with wire and plastic ties, and sets about to systematically execute them. The main difference between this incident and the routine kidnapping, torture and killing of civilians each day in Iraq is that the death squads there operate with impunity, if not with the blessing of various government ministries, and they are rarely confronted by the police.

The other thing that sets the tragedy in Nickel Mines apart from the daily carnage in American occupied Iraq, and that sets it apart from the other incidents of fatal gun violence in American schools last week, is the fact that the killer chose to perpetrate his act of violence in the heart of one of the world's most devoutly pacifist communities, the Old

Order Amish of Pennsylvania. These are people who have endured persecution for their belief in nonviolence for generations, in Europe and America, where since the Revolution they have refused to fight in any war.

As we watch the long agony unfold in Iraq, where the three ethnic and sectarian enclaves of Kurdistan, the Sunni Triangle, and the Shiite south seem bent on dividing up the nation state first imposed on them by the British and the French at the end of World War I, and later held together by the ruthless oppression of the dictator Saddam Hussein, we ask ourselves, "Will more slaughter ensue if we pull US troops out now, or less?" Despite the investment of more than 330 billion US dollars, and the death of more than 2700 US troops, Iraq is slowly but surely coming apart at the seams.

The last time the world witnessed a similar devolution of a superpower-imposed nation state into its constituent ethnic enclaves, despite the best efforts of a dictator to hold it together, was in Yugoslavia. Although Slovenia's departure from this fratricidal poli-

BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



ty, (another post-World War I creation of the Western powers) was effected by a ten day war with limited casualties, the secession of Croatia was marked by the unleashing of brutal, full scale war, scorched earth tactics and the 100-day siege of Vukovar, followed by atrocities on the city's fall to the Serbs. The world stood by as Bosnia, with its harmonious, multiethnic capital of Sarajevo, was torn apart by the belligerence emanating from Belgrade, which was finally checked (after the worst mass slaughter of civilians since World War II - in Srebrenica - while UN peacekeepers stood idly by) by the Dayton Peace Accords, forcing a *de facto* political partitioning of the Bosnian state.

The next time a province of Yugoslavia threatened to secede, Kosovo, America led a NATO air war against Serbia to counter Slobodan Milosevic's suppression of the Kosovar Albanian majority's aspirations for independence. The bombing campaign led to thousands of attendant civilian casualties. The political impasse in Kosovo has still not been sorted out, with NATO peacekeepers maintaining guard between hostile enclaves. Macedonia, and finally Montenegro have managed to escape Serbian domination relatively peacefully, in the aftermath of the Kosovo war.

What are the lessons to be learned from the world's varying response to the wars of ethnic cleansing launched by

Serbia against its former satellites? Is armed intervention from abroad the most humanitarian response when a multi-ethnic state collapses into internecine war? Or do the diplomats, the pacifists, the Gandhis of the world have anything to say to the present Bush administration and its stay-the-course occupation of Iraq? Is a concerted effort like the Dayton Peace Accords, a multilateral response to the civil war erupting in slow motion in Iraq now the best answer?

Looking back to Monday's massacre in Pennsylvania, there are those who say the Amish invited tragedy by leaving their children unprotected in a rural schoolhouse. These pundits would have us arm each teacher, every principal, every homeowner throughout the land. But finally, what good have guns really done in preventing the loss of life, whether they were handguns, automatic weapons, or nuclear bombs? America, like Iraq, and like much of the rest of the world is awash in guns: civilians, militias of every stripe and troops of every uniform are armed to the teeth. Has this state of affairs produced anything we could call peace in recent centuries? Or has it produced one orgy of bloodletting after another? We are all like those schoolgirls in Pennsylvania, standing at the front of the room, waiting for the next madman to pick up the tools so readily at hand.

The majority of the people of Iraq have repeatedly

expressed their desires: they tell pollsters they want US forces to leave their country. They say they support armed attacks against our troops. Until we abandon our ill-considered venture in nation building, (if our invasion of an oil rich tribal patchwork like Iraq can truthfully be called nation building, rather than plundering), withdraw our troops, and allow a regional peacekeeping force including Iraq's Muslim neighbors (who cannot be seen as allies of America while we remain the occupying force) to broker a lasting accord between the separate ethnic enclaves in Iraq, the terrible daily toll on US troops and Iraqi civilians will inevitably escalate.

Of what redeeming value is the loss of so much innocent life: the slaughter of civilians and the destruction of communal ties between ethnicities and religions? What we witnessed in Yugoslavia fifteen years ago we now appear to be witnessing again, in the broken cradle of civilization of Mesopotamia and Baghdad. Redeeming value? There is none, if the human race does not learn from these repeated, costly, devastating mistakes.

Perhaps the only lasting lesson to be learned, ultimately, is the lesson of the Amish: to forgive, and to forsake the modern ways when it comes, at least, to violence and the weapons man has uniquely constructed to impose violence on his fellow man. Forsake these in favor of the redemptive human qualities of brotherly and sisterly love - and nonviolence - that is our only real hope.

The truth of that realization will surely dawn on the consciousness of man in time, whether slowly or in one fell swoop. How many more innocent lives will be squandered before it does?

American Dead in Iraq as of 10/4/06



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BIODIESEL

continued from pg 1

\$975 up front to be in the cooperative. The price range for membership reflects the inclusion of low income people and farmers. Co-op Power invested \$125,000 in member equity in Northeast Biodiesel, Benander said. It invested another \$625,000 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Of the private equity investors, Benander said, "We have a fantastic group of people."

The project has been delayed by more than a year from its originally proposed ground breaking goal of summer 2005. The delay has been caused largely by the slow process of gathering so-called 'angel investors.'

This type of investor looks for social as well as financial returns, according to Alan Singer, lending program director for the Franklin County Community Development Corporation. The development corporation did not assist Northeast Biodiesel in its investor search, Singer said, but may assist now in the arrangements for final financing.

Singer said he is completely impressed by how the organizers of Northeast Biodiesel and Co-op Power were able to raise so much private investment.

Typically, Singer said, angel investors as a whole have not contributed more than \$500,000 to any one project. Singer said he learned of Northeast's progress in attracting a larger share of private investment in March, while attending a conference of the New York City-based Community Development Venture Capital Association.

"It's an extraordinary effort," Singer said of Northeast and its investors. "That speaks volumes of the support from the community. That's what community development is all about."

The tricky part about getting investors for Northeast Biodiesel was that Northeast was not willing to give over control of key decisions to investors, Union has said. Key among those decisions is the location of the plant in New England. A typical venture capitalist, who invests in high risk projects, would insist on building such a plant in an area of the country or the world with the cheapest production costs.

Northeast Biodiesel is committed to staying in Franklin County. The plant will also use recycled vegetable oil, that is, used oil from restaurants, rather than virgin soy bean oil to produce its bio-fuel. Most, if not all, biodiesel projects across the country are using virgin soy bean crops for their source, because the production process is well established. Co-op Power

and Northeast Biodiesel, however, have an environmental agenda, which includes using recycled oil. Ultimately, the use of recycled oil is expected to save money, Union said.

Production at the plant would begin at 5 million gallons in the first year, and increase to 12 million after that, Benander said. After the first year, employment would be at 25 people, mostly plant workers earning a living wage, she said.

Benander said she could not comment on the construction start date. However, an email sent October 1st to members of Co-Op Power said organizers were hoping for a construction start in November of this year.

The market for biodiesel in general continues to soar, Benander said, in the wake of an uncertain and dwindling petroleum supply worldwide. Biodiesel is a fuel similar to regular diesel, except that it burns cleaner and generally reduces dependence on fossil fuel. It can be used as the primary fuel in diesel car engines, in home heating systems and also it is an excellent solvent. Using biodiesel is different than using straight vegetable oil in a car. Diesel cars can be converted to run on straight vegetable oil, but these vegetable oil cars require a dual petroleum diesel/vegetable oil system to heat up the engine so the vegetable oil will flow.

INDECK

continued from pg 1

work over there. There were no permits taken out on the job. I gave them a verbal warning that permits were needed. Four days later they still hadn't taken out permits," so Jensen issued a stop work order on or about the 26th of September. At which point, the attorneys got back on the phone. Shortly thereafter, seven of the eight necessary permits were taken out. The company is still seeking an electrician to handle the permitting for the electrical work needed for removal of the equipment.

Jensen said, "They are selling off big chunks of the power plant, the boiler, the turbines, all those things..." He said he has some concerns about the structural integrity of the shell of the main building, and the outlying coal silo, once the power generating equipment is removed. "To some extent the building and the power plant depend on each other for support. Will the building (that remains) still be a structurally adequate building?" Jensen said he would rely on a structural engineer's report to determine that, within the course of the three months during which the work is expected to proceed.

Montague director of assessing JoAnne Greenleaf said the Indeck plant had been valued at \$18,667,400, until recently. "It was right up there in the top

three," of the most valuable properties in town, said Greenleaf. This year, the Montague assessors contracted with Chuck Havens of Patriot Properties in Lynn, MA to conduct an independent assessment of the plant, according to assessor Betty Waidlich. The report came back with a revised recommended valuation for the plant of \$100,000, Greenleaf said.

"We were appalled when we got that evaluation," said Waidlich. "But the parts were old. They might have value in a foreign country, but here they are pretty valueless."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said that in the current regulatory climate, relicensing the small co-generating coal facility would have probably been a long shot. Pollution devices (to prevent mercury emissions, for example) would have been cost prohibitive for the plant.

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt said, "For the town to have collected taxes on it is about as good a closure as we could get on the property. It is a loss of tax revenue, certainly, but I don't think it will have a noticeable effect," on individual tax bills.

Finance committee chair Jeff Singleton concurred, saying Montague's overall valuation was so large in comparison that the redistribution of property taxes due to the stiff decrease in the plant's valuation would have a negligible impact.

"But in a general sense, it's bad if you lose one of your biggest taxpayers," said Singleton. "It's not a good trend."

Distinctive Property Acquisition of Port Arthur, WA purchased the 3.1-acre property and power plant for \$15,000 from International Paper Co. of New York in December of 2003, for \$15,000. On November 1st, 2004, the plant was sold for \$20 to Sunburst of Sarasota, FL, and on the same day, transferred again to Montague Energy Group, LLC, of Saugus, MA, for the same sum - \$20.

GUEST EDITORIAL

My Vision for Registry of Deeds

BY ISAAC MASS GREENFIELD - My name is Isaac Mass. I am running for Register of Deeds because I want to make sure the registry continues to integrate new technology, does more to educate and protect average citizens, and doesn't waste your hard-earned tax dollars.

I am opposed to moving the registry of deeds out of the courthouse. The millions of dollars it will cost to move the registry is better spent on schools, roads, and public safety. We need fully restored local aid first. Having the registry in the courthouse allows attorneys to search and file between trials. Moving the registry is the opposite of one stop shop-

ping, and will slow real estate transactions, hurting the local economy.

My opponent says moving the registry will make it more 'accessible,' but after spending millions, the rest of the courthouse will have the same problems with accessibility. The best way to make the registry more accessible is to speed up how we put documents online for the public to access at home, in libraries or at school.

My plan would double the speed at which we make documents available online. I would have a free independent assessment done by national experts like the non-profit Historic Preservation. We would use the assessment

to partner with UMass to apply for our share of the \$10,000,000 annually awarded for document preservation through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. This would allow us to leverage graduate students to preserve and place online our oldest and most at risk documents. Placing documents online with this dual track will double the speed, and provide real life experience to students entering a competitive market place. All at no additional cost to the taxpayers of Franklin County. This money is already being spent, just not on us!

If elected I also want to launch an initiative I call the Registry Class-room.

With volunteers from the Franklin County Bar and the Realtor Association, we will bring students from high schools to learn the basic fundamentals about property. Early education about how credit, debt to income ratios, interest rates, zoning, and taxes work will help students make better choices as young adults. Our children's American dream should not be delayed or denied because we failed to explain how the financial world works.

As your Register I will also regularly reach out to community groups and the public about changes at the registry, like the 2004 changes in the Homestead Act. I will conduct periodic work-

shops for historic societies and the general public to share with average citizens how to better use the registry in studying local history and family genealogy. The registry is a public resource I believe people should be encouraged to use.

What I am offering Franklin County is more value at the registry. Through innovation, creativity, and efficiency we can expand services at the registry without additional costs to the taxpayer. If you want a candidate who has a real vision of what can be done please give me, Isaac Mass, your vote for Franklin County Register of Deeds on Tuesday, November 7th.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Sets Tax Rate

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Following a tax classification hearing on Monday, October 2nd with the board of assessors, the selectboard agreed to maintain the town of Erving's split tax rate at last year's level and set the Fiscal '07 tax rate for the town at \$6.77 per \$1000 for residential property owners, up one cent from '06; and \$11.31 for commercial property, up 10 cents from '06. According to town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, property owners should expect to see tax bills in the mail by the end of November.

At the September 25th meeting, the selectboard set the price for water shut-off fees and re-activation fees at \$30 apiece.

Also at the meeting of the 25th, Alan Singer, loan fund coordinator for the Franklin County

Community Development Corporation, reported on the status of the 10-town loan fund, for which Erving is the lead town. According to Singer, the fund has \$111,000 of low-interest loans providing working capital for businesses located in Ashfield, Bernardston, Charlemont, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Northfield, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Singer said the fund has reduced past due accounts to around 1% of the working capital, and said he has \$185,000 available in the fund to lend to residents interested in starting or expanding small businesses in these communities.

The board praised Singer for the loan fund's performance, and promised to help spread the word. The FCCDC loan funds typically provide bridge financing in tan-

dem with local lending institutions, and assist the business owner in developing a business plan.

The board met with wastewater treatment plant operator Mike Pierce about recent electrical upgrades to the Arch Street pump station in Erving Center. Pierce said the contractor hired had completed needed wiring upgrades, and Pierce is now waiting on National Grid to upgrade the service. When the work is complete, the Arch Street station will be able to operate with both pumps running simultaneously, rather than with one acting as a back-up if the primary pump fails. Last October, heavy rains resulted in excessive flows through the pump station, with some untreated septage overflowing into the Millers River, a problem that could have been prevented if two pumps were operating.

The Environmental Protection

Agency is conducting tests at the Farley treatment plant, to make sure it is operating in compliance with regulations. The board discussed some possible upgrades to that facility.

The special town meeting on September 25th saw 23 voters turn out for a 45 minute meeting at town hall, to take care of a ten article warrant of mainly small book-keeping items. The only large items were a \$20,000 transfer to the town's legal fund, \$12,500 to pay for bat proofing at the elementary school, and the authorization of a \$2,000 annual salary for the town tree warden, who had previously been paid by the job. Bill Lemieux, the tree warden, recently broke his left arm in the course of his work, and will find it hard to handle a chain saw in the next few months. All articles passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Mick LaClaire will revive an old town tradition with

an open house at the Erving Center fire station on October 10th, Tuesday, from 6 to 8 p.m. LaClaire invites all residents to inspect the equipment and meet the men and women who keep the community safe in the event of emergencies.

Erving received \$23,000 in additional state road maintenance (Chapter 90) funds.

The board issued a business license for a martial arts studio at the Briggs Street residence of instructor James Loynd.

The parks and recreation commission will hold a fall festival at Veterans Park in Erving on Saturday, October 14th, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pumpkin painting, a bouncing house, and apple cider will be featured along with other family fun. Across the street, on the same date, the Erving Senior Center will hold a harvest bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a handmade quilt raffle.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: Friday, October 6th through Thursday, October 12th

Friday, October 6th

7:00 am Barton Cove Eagles
9:00 pm Montague Update-David Detmold
10:00 pm The Discovery Center Presents Michael Nix
12:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 9/26
2:00 pm GMRSD Work Group
6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #10
6:30 pm The Discovery Center Presents: Open Mic. Night
8:00 pm Montague Update-Ted Graveline
9:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up

10:00 am Farmers Market Music: Pat & Tex LaMountain
12:00 am Boosters Day Parade
12:30 pm People's Harvest
6:00 pm Classic Arts Showcase
7:00 pm The Well Being: Parents Helping Parents
9:00 pm The Discovery Center: Open Mic Night
11:00 pm People's Harvest

Tuesday, October 10th

Saturday, October 7th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #10
9:30 am The Discovery Center Presents-Open Mic. Night
11:00 am Montague Update-Ted Graveline
12:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up
6:00 pm Montague Selectboard 10/2
8:00 pm NASA Connect: Ahead Above the Clouds
8:30 pm The Well Being: Parents Helping Parents
9:30 pm Ovarian Cancer: The Facts That Could Save Your Life

7:00 am Barton Cove Eagles
9:00 am Classic Arts Showcase
10:00 am The Well Being: Parents Helping Parents
11:00 am The Discovery Center: Open Mic Night
5:00 pm Montague Update
6:00 pm NASA Connect: Ahead Above the Clouds
7:00 pm Montague Selectboard LIVE
10:00 pm People's Harvest

Wednesday, October 11th

Sunday, October 8th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Selectboard 10/2
11:00 am NASA Connect: Ahead Above the Clouds
11:30 pm The Well Being: Parents Helping Parents
12:30 Ovarian Cancer: The Facts That Could Save Your Life
6:00 pm Montague Update-David Detmold
7:00 pm Farmers Market Music: Pat & Tex LaMountain
9:00 pm Boosters Day Parade
9:30 pm People's Harvest

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Update-10:00 am NASA Connect: Ahead Above the Clouds
10:30 am People's Harvest
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #10
7:00 pm GED Connection #9
7:30 pm GMRSD Meeting 10/10
10:30 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up

Thursday, October 12th

Monday, October 9th

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am Montague Update-David Detmold

7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles
9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #10
9:30 am GED Connection #9
10:00 am Montague Selectboard 10/9
12:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up
6:00 pm Montague Update
7:00 pm Montague Selectboard 10/9
10:00 pm Boosters Day Parade
10:30 pm Ovarian Cancer: The facts that could save your life

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Help and Prayers Appreciated

On October 6th, 2004 our then four year-old grandson, Ricky, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. You may remember reading about him in this newspaper.

Today, October 6th, 2006 marks the second year in Ricky's three-year medical protocol and his battle with cancer. When Ricky was first diagnosed we, his family, were stunned and heart-broken by the news. Naturally, when something like this happens to a family member you want to know everything there is to know about surviving the dreaded illness. We learned that this type of leukemia is very responsive to treatment with an 80% rate of recovery for children battling this disease. This is a very encouraging statistic not only for us but also for others

whose families are struggling and cling to any hope offered. With continued medical care, we're optimistic that this time next year Ricky will be free of leukemia.

Ricky is now six-years old and in the first grade. Due to his illness he continues to miss school for weekly appointments at Yale-New Haven Hospital. We can't believe that he's only six with all that he's gone through. Ricky does not ask, "Why me?" He does ask, "How do people get cancer?" or "Are people born with cancer?" He's always known that he's different from his friends in that they don't have to spend days at a time in the hospital, or have a bump under their skin where the port was placed, or have weekly doctor's appointments and invasive tests...or

take more pills than any person should ever have to. He has wastes no time feeling sorry for himself. That little boy's courage never ceases to amaze us.

We thank all of you who have kept Ricky and his family in your prayers and who have made contributions to help defray the on-going costs of his medical bills not covered by health insurance. It's times like these that make us stop to count our blessings - however small. If you would like to help Ricky, please send contributions to: The Richard Koscinski Leukemia Fund - the Savings Bank of Walpole, c/o Wally Reney, 84 Marlboro Street, Keene, NH 03431. Your help is deeply appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks,

- David and Nancy Stone
Keene, NH

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TFHS 1946 Class President Returns for Booster Day

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - The president of the Turners Falls High School class of 1946 rode up Avenue A in a convertible in the annual Booster Day parade September 30th, smiling and waving to people who watched from the sidewalks. Royer Collins was in town for his 60th class reunion, and he was honored with a special place in the parade.

"It was really a fun and beautiful day," said Collins. "It was nice to see the enthusiasm of the town and the students."

Collins, 78, has lived in Glendale, AZ, a suburb of Phoenix, for 20 years. He graduated from Williams College and the University of Rochester and practiced medicine as an orthopedic surgeon. He has never forgotten the education he received at Turners Falls High School.

An active member of the student body, Collins played football, basketball and baseball and was involved in student leadership. He said he and his fellow football players also started the school's first Glee Club.

"We used to sing victory songs on the bus on the way home from the football games," he said. "Someone suggested we ask the music teacher to start the club." He added that his job was to be the announcer because, "I wasn't supposed to sing."

He also recalled Saturday afternoons in the fall when downtown stores would close so that everyone could attend the high school football games. "It was really a big thing, how glorious all those days were," he

said. The strong educational program and supportive teachers and coaches helped set Collins up for success. He said his teachers were interested and disciplined, and he felt they effectively taught him not only to read and write well, but also how to think.

"I always felt I got an outstanding education," he said, remarking about the support of his teachers and coaches who encouraged him to pursue a college education. "Most of us really owe a great deal to them. Without them, we never would have thought about going to college."

After graduating from the University of Rochester, Collins worked as an orthopedic surgeon in Cleveland, where he worked to establish the country's first sports medicine clinic. He was a professor at the University of Southern California and served as orthopedic surgeon to the Rams, Dodgers and Lakers professional sports teams.

Collins served in the Army in the Korean War from 1950 -



Royer Collins, president of the Turners Falls High School class of 1946, rides up Seventh Street in the annual Booster Day parade.

PHOTO BY CORI URBAN

1952. He suffered a knee injury, and finding it was not effectively treated, decided he wanted to learn more about sports injuries. He later became a founding member of the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine, which he later served as president. He moved to the Phoenix area where he continued to practice orthopedic medicine until his retirement.

"Taking care of athletes has been a labor of love for me," he said.

As Collins rode through Turners Falls in the parade, sporting his Williams College jacket, he noted the positive changes in the town.

jumped off the cable bridge into the river. He and his friends also enjoyed hitchhiking to Green Pond to swim.

Collins also had a job, working at the Keith Paper Mill.

"I wouldn't change a thing," about growing up in Turners Falls, he said. "It was a great place to grow up."

Returning for his reunion at Thomas Memorial Country Club, Collins was happy to participate in Booster Day festivities for the first time. He cheered on the football team and was excited to see them trounce Ware 33-0.

The reunion took place on Saturday, September 30th; 50 of

"The town really seems like it's started to come back," he said. He was pleased to see renovation to the Shea Theater, the construction of a bike path along the canal and the renovations to the high school. He was especially pleased to see the renovated Cutlery Block on Third Street, where he grew up.

He recalled his childhood, when he often played at Unity Park, swam and fished and

the 116 members of the Class of 1946 attended.

Collins, father of five, grandfather of 24 and great-grandfather of 6, said it was fun to see high school students putting such effort into the day's events. "The camaraderie and joining together was great; that's what it's all about."

"I really owe something to the school," he said. "There is a soft spot in my heart for the town I grew up in." He hopes that students at Turners Falls High School will appreciate what they have and will stay in school. "Education is the key to everything," he said.

High School Highlights is a bi-weekly column written by Turners Falls High School junior Ali Urban.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Main Road Oversight Time Consuming

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Speaking of his oversight of the Main Road construction project, highway boss Mick LaClaire told the board on Monday, October 2nd, "We knew it would be time consuming. I'm up there every day. This morning, they were shooting the grade, and I was right there with 'em. They're pretty close to where they need to be. It's a long process, but other work is continuing around town. Nothing is being neglected."

LaClaire said Tony Mathews from the conservation commission had inspected hay bales and silt fences along the area of construction and had found them satisfactory. F&J Construction, the contractors for the \$3.7 million, three mile road reconstruction project, will be taking the work in stages, anticipating shutting down for winter by Thanksgiving, and leaving Main Road in drivable and plowable condition until

spring. For now, work is centered between "Cliff Hatch's place and Munn's Ferry Road," said LaClaire. The road is open to local traffic, but crosstown motorists are advised to detour on North Cross and Boyle Road for the next six weeks. "While they excavate one lane, the dump trucks are parked in the other, loading up," explained LaClaire.

Bascom Road Bridge

LaClaire said it was possible the Bascom Road bridge could be reopened as a one lane bridge, while Mass Highway seeks funds to replace the bridge. The bridge abutments were damaged during last October's heavy rains, and the bridge has been closed since then. (LaClaire said the 'Bridge Closed' signs have repeatedly gone missing, due to theft, but the barricades are still up.) He said he had spoken with Mass Highway about the bridge, and the state

engineers were waiting for "the dive report" from divers inspecting the abutments before making a decision about opening the bridge to one lane traffic.

Selectboard member Phil Maddern looked quizzical at this news. "What are the divers going to do? Roll up their pant legs and wade through there?"

A surprise Department of Environmental Protection inspection at the town highway garage turned up a number of minor issues, "Three of which were resolved immediately," said LaClaire. They included routine procedures like an open container and some signage. But LaClaire said the DEP was unaware of the installation of the tight tank for septage at the garage 15 years ago, and indicated the town may have to install a high level warning gauge on that system.

"When it starts bubbling up out of the ground, that should be warning enough," opined Maddern, jocularly.

LaClaire said the chip sealing of Barney Hale Road had gone smoothly. The road is now paved to the top of the hill, past Ed

Ambo's house. (The town has no plans to proceed further down the dirt road on the far side of the hill.) "We put in 200 feet of drainage, repaired a culvert, blasted the ledge out, and straightened the road out a little bit. All the homeowners up there are very happy," LaClaire said.

Recalling Northfield Mount Hermon's request from the last selectboard meeting for the town to support the school in using its historical postal return address of Mount Hermon, 01354 (now the zip code used by the town of Gill) Maddern said he had received a jury duty notice at his Center Road address recently. "Guess how it was addressed? Phil Maddern, Center Road, Mt. Hermon, MA 01354. The school has nothing to worry about; they should just start using it."

Main Road Traffic Survey

The results are in from the recent traffic survey on Main Road. Here are the main points:

Approximately 1900 vehicles travel Main Road during weekdays, and not surprisingly the main volume of traffic occurs between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., head-

ing southbound, and then between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., heading north. However, the study found a slightly higher rate of traffic travels northbound on Main Road, overall, than travels south. (Two percent more traffic travels north, and if this keeps up the entire town may end up in Northfield before the year is out.)

The average speed of traffic is 36 miles per hour, in the posted 35 m.p.h. zone. (But then again, the traffic survey counter was installed directly in front of the Gill police station.)

Although 85% of traffic traveled 42 m.p.h. or slower, 72 vehicles traveled between 51 and 55 m.p.h., 17 vehicles traveled between 56 and 60 m.p.h., and 4 vehicles traveled between 61 and 65 m.p.h. (highest speeds recorded). These drivers may wish to note the Gill police department has issued over \$99,715 in speeding tickets on Main Road alone in the last ten years, and over \$418,225 for the entire town in that same period of time.

So when those speed demons hit the Northfield line, they might want to just keep going.

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JOE GRAVELINE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**Breaking and Entering in the Nighttime****Wednesday 9-27**

4:03 p.m. Report of a five-year-old child possibly missing from a Mountain Road residence. Upon parent making the report, the child returned home.

Thursday 9-28

4:15 p.m. Oak Street resident advised that there was damage done to her vehicle. Matter is still under investigation.

8:30 p.m. Report of a possible run-away at a Pine Street residence. Upon the officer searching the area for the missing teen, parent called back and advised that the teen had returned home. Officer spoke to the youth.

Friday 9-29

7:39 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle

reported in the area of the French King Bridge. Officer sent to the area, and a tow was contacted.

11:19 p.m. West Gill Road resident called and advised that someone had broken into her home. Upon arrival officer found that the subject fled into the woods. Montague K-9 was called to assist with a track. Matter is still under investigation.

Saturday 9-30

4:19 a.m. Report of an unwanted subject at a West Gill Road residence. Upon arrival subject had left the area.

5:00 p.m. A warrant was issued for the above individual: [REDACTED] Warrant was issued for the charges of breaking and entering in the nighttime, destruction of

property, and intimidation of a witness.

11:45 p.m. Mutual aid assist - Northfield police with an arrest and protective custody.

Sunday 10-1

9:30 p.m. Complaint of an erratic operator on Route 2 heading west from Erving. Officer sent to the area. Vehicle was gone on arrival.

Monday 10-2

4:14 p.m. Report of cows loose on a West Gill Road. Cows returned to proper owner.

4:24 p.m. Report of a two vehicle accident on Main Road, truck vs. motorcycle. Operator of the motorcycle was transported to FMC for evaluation.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Road and Sidewalk Survey Complete

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Keith Wilson, of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, presented the results of his pavement and sidewalk survey of the town of Montague at the Monday, 10/2 meeting of the selectboard. The surveys will be used to guide the town department of public works in prioritizing which roads and sidewalks to repair. Additionally, the town may use the pavement survey as a stepping off point to seek more town, state, or federal funds for road repair in the years ahead, to stave off the steadily escalating disrepair of town roads the survey forecasts if present funding levels continue.

The survey showed 17% of the town's roads are in 'poor' shape, as opposed to 20% in 'excellent' condition, 28% in 'good' condition, and 34% in 'fair' condition. The town maintains 93 miles of paved roads, and 3 miles of gravel roads, one of the most extensive road networks of any town in the county. Additionally, Mass Highway maintains 5.5 miles of roads in the town - primarily Route 63 - and is responsible for maintaining "a few bridges," such as the Gill-Montague bridge. (The survey makes no claims that Mass Highway actually maintains the bridges it is responsible for.)

"The town's roads are in pretty good shape for the number of years we've been struggling with the funding available from the state," said Wilson, in a charming Scotch brogue. "I've seen a number of towns with 50% of roads in poor condition." Wilson has been the transportation planning engineer for the FRCOG for eleven years. He noted an approximate drop in statewide funding for repair and maintenance of local roads (Chapter 90 funding) from \$150 million to \$100 million in the last few years, which he said has resulted in a progressively worsening situation for town roads. "You'll see the average pavement condition deteriorate quickly if we can't keep pace with basic maintenance," Wilson said.

While the state did pass supplemental Chapter 90 funding this year, bringing the total back to nearly the \$150 million which had been the norm prior to the 2003 budget crisis,

Wilson noted this really represents a "stagnation" of state funding at time when the cost of materials - notably asphalt - has doubled. If state funding remains at this level, Wilson predicted Montague's backlog of road maintenance needs would grow from a current level of around \$4.7 million (including nearly a million for Greenfield Road, which has made it onto the list for federally funded county road projects) to nearly \$7.1 million by 2015, with a continuously increasing number of town roads falling into the 'poor' category.

Wilson said the Montague DPW under Tom Bergeron's supervision was practicing excellent road management with the limited funds available, and suggested the most effective maintenance per dollar spent involves repairs to roads in 'good' or 'fair' condition: 1½-inch asphalt overlays (as was recently done to Main Street in Montague Center or parts of 3rd and Canal Streets in Turners Falls), chip sealing less traveled residential roads, and crack sealing recently resurfaced roads, rather than the total reclamation of roadbeds that is likely to be needed for roads that fall into 'poor' condition. Upfront investment on the part of the town may be required if federal funds are not found to supplement inadequate state Chapter 90 funds, said Wilson. Otherwise, more of Montague's roads will certainly fall into poor condition in the next ten years.

Among the 17% of town roads the FRCOG survey listed as presently in 'poor' condition (from a windshield survey of every road in town) are Old North Leverett Road, Billings Road, Gunn Road, Fosters Road, South Street, parts of School Street, East Taylor Hill Road, Smiarowski Road, and Meadow Road in Montague Center, Hatchery and Greenfield Road (on the list for Mass Highway to reconstruct), Henry Avenue, Sandy Lane, Letourneau Street, Crocker Avenue, Central Street, Stevens Street, Avenue A, Fifth Street, and Second Street in Turners Falls, Rod Shop Road in Montague City and Mineral Road, Grout Circle, Veterans Street, and the south block of

Bridge Street in Millers Falls. Additionally, the town maintains 25 miles of sidewalks, Wilson said, primarily in the three village centers of Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Montague Center, of which 70% are deemed in good or excellent condition, and 21% are in fair condition. Among the approximately 2.5 miles of sidewalk in town listed in 'poor' condition on the survey were sidewalks along Grand Avenue and Veterans Street in Millers Falls, along Turners Falls Road near the railroad overpass, Central Street near Union Street, and the southern end of Union Street near the post office in Montague Center, as well as the walkways along Worcester Avenue, O Street, Rastallis Street, Stevens Street, the top of 7th Street, T Street between 7th and 5th, the south end of 2nd Street, and the east end of L Street between 2nd and 1st in Turners Falls.

Highway superintendent Bergeron said it cost his department at least \$89 per 15 feet in materials to replace concrete sidewalks, and likely double that figure for labor. If that back of the envelope estimate holds up, it is likely that the \$250,000 appropriated at annual town meeting this year for sidewalk repair will be adequate to repair most or all of the concrete sidewalks that are currently in poor condition in town. Wilson said 22% of the sidewalks in town were made of asphalt, 1% (along Avenue A) of brick, and the remainder were made of concrete. In the past, the town maintained a policy of replacing sidewalks with the same material they were originally constructed from.

Happy with MCTV

At the start of Monday's meeting, Allen Ross, noting the small audience in attendance, said, "The video is too good now; everyone stays home."

Ken Kuninsky, of Edgewater Way, the one resident in attendance, replied, "I struggle with this and Jeopardy every Monday. It's a tough choice."

Edgewater Way

As MCTV's technical director Robin Mide adjusted the microphone on her lapel, selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt

opened a public hearing on whether the town should accept Edgewater Way as a town road. The private way off of Norman Circle was developed by Maurice and MaryLou Emond in accordance with the town's Definitive Subdivision Bylaw. Seven homes are in the planning or construction phase, or have already been completed there.

"I live in one of the seven homes," said Kuninsky. "The town's request is very reasonable to get the road up to their standards." In unanimously recommending the layout of Edgewater Way, the planning board had stipulated that the developer improve the grade near one catch basin, where a low point in the roadbed had allowed water to accumulate.

"I'll be glad to see the puddle resolved," said Kuninsky. "It's right in front of my driveway."

The board approved the layout for Edgewater Way and forwarded the matter to the special town meeting of October 17th for final disposition.

Special Town Meeting

Other warrant articles on that special town meeting include: a motion to amend the salary of the town clerk for the present fiscal year; a motion to rescind an article from the May 5th town meeting to spend \$20,500 to repair the steps to the Montague Center School; a motion to approve a three-year valuation agreement with Northeast Generation for electrical generating facilities in town; and a motion to accept a provision of Mass General laws to allow a 180-day grace period for paying property taxes for National Guardsmen and reservists returning from out of state deployment.

The motion on the town clerk's salary results from the retirement of long-time clerk John Zywna, replaced on October 1st by former assistant town clerk Deb Bourbeau. The selectboard is negotiating with Bourbeau to scale the town clerk's salary downward. Zywna's salary reflected a lengthier track record of on the job experience than Bourbeau's.

The motion to rescind money allocated for repair of the front steps at Montague Center School results from building inspector David Jensen's find-

ing that \$20,500 worth of repair to the cement steps would trigger Americans with Disability Act requirements for handicapped accessibility to the elementary school's front entrance. Wheelchair access to Montague Center School is via the cafeteria or the basement, Jensen said. He said the chipped concrete steps and loose railings he had cited when the repairs to the front entrance were first ordered have been fixed to his satisfaction, without the costlier upgrades contemplated when the \$20,500 was approved.

Sign Approved

In other news, the selectboard granted permission for the Masonic Lodge in Montague City to post a sign between the stop sign and steet sign at the end of Masonic Avenue, letting passersby know about an open house at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday, October 7th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.




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Volunteers Make Clean Sweep of Connecticut River Watershed

BY SHAWN WOOLSEY
GREAT FALLS - On Saturday, September 30th the Connecticut River Watershed Council sponsored the tenth annual "Source to Sea Clean-up" of the Connecticut River watershed. In Turners Falls, 178 volunteers gathered at the Great Falls Discovery Center to participate in the trash cleanup, which focused locally on riverside sites in the communities of Northfield, Gill and Montague. For the fifth year in a row, volunteers also concentrated on cleaning up the Montague Plains, still a favored spot for illegal dumpers despite its status as a Wildlife Management area. The morning of the cleanup was sunny, cool and breezy; a beautiful day to beautify the great outdoors.

The cleanup took place in all four states along the river's watershed. Among the 65 registered cleanup teams were scout groups in Connecticut and university crew teams in Massachusetts, along with a conservation commission team in New Hampshire and a group of 7th graders in Vermont. Over all, 1,600 volunteers set out to clear trash, appliances and

debris dumped annually along riversides in the 410-mile-long Connecticut River watershed.

Locally, Susan Russo of the Great Falls Discovery Center said, "The results included filling two 30-yard dumpsters, in addition to collecting 200 tires and 2,000 pounds of scrap metal. Executive director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council Chelsea Gwyther put the effectiveness of the volunteer effort into perspective when she said, "Since we started the cleanup in 1997, volunteers have pulled out over 1,800 tires. If you stacked those up they would be taller than the Empire State Building. They have also pulled more than 350 total tons out of our local waterways. To



Rene Forcier of Northfield Mount Hermon School helps clean up the Montague Plains during the annual "Source to Sea Clean-up" on Saturday, Sept. 30th.

PHOTO BY SHAWN WOOLSEY

put that into perspective, that would be a total weight equivalent to more than 40 African elephants. It's been impressive to see what volunteers can do."

As the volunteers assembled at the Discovery Center, state representative Christopher Donelan (D-Orange) was presented with a proclamation from Governor Mitt Romney declaring September 30th, 2006 as Connecticut River Watershed Source to Sea Cleanup Day. In his presentation, Donelan said,

Russo said the Plains appeared to be much cleaner this year than in past years, due to the ongoing trash mapping efforts spearheaded by Walker Korby. A diverse crew of volunteers from birdwatchers to horseback and motorcycle riders returned to help remove trash from Korby's pre-mapped sites, and to locate other sites that need ongoing effort.

After the cleanup, the Northfield Mount Hermon School and the Great Falls

"I am here to take part in something very important. We must recognize the Connecticut River as a vital environmental resource in our community, and not just for our community but for all four states in the watershed. All of us have a responsibility to our environment. This is a special day for you all."

Discovery Center sponsored a whoopee pie celebration to thank all the volunteers for their hard work, and to exchange stories about their adventures. One local family discovered a painted plywood panel that was, in their opinion, "Truly a work of art. What a shame that somebody trashed this art and we had to pull it out of the river."

One mother spoke of her son's amazement and excitement about how many bags of trash he had dragged out of the river.

Event co-organizer, Sue Cloutier of the Great Falls Discovery Center is interested in working with groups to facilitate more frequent cleanups. She can be contacted at (413) 863-3221. Event co-organizer Athena Lee Bradley from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District wanted residents to know the district is organizing a bulky waste collection day on Saturday, October 14th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at three locations around the county. People who have couches, mattresses, tires, electronics, waste oil, and other bulky items to dispose of may contact Bradley at (413) 772-2438.

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DEBATE

continued from pg 1

and roll back taxes. Mihos answered, "Yes," he would work to roll back taxes, and he believed this could be accomplished by "going after state government."

Patrick said he too supported the will of the people of Massachusetts, but that "leadership is about being candid. I believe the tax to cut, and to do it immediately, is the property tax." Patrick stated his goal is to grow the economy to the point where the state can sustain needed services with a 5% income tax, but it was clear he doesn't believe state revenues allow for that now.

Ross talked about the negative impact that Massachusetts' rapidly rising property taxes have on "the 60% at the bottom." She said the state has moved from a progressive tax to a regressive tax, and, as her time ran out, stated her strong support for a more progressive income tax structure in the state.

Healey charged that none of the

candidates had answered her question, and said she could not understand why any candidate for governor would ignore the will of the people. She explained her plan to roll back the income tax by consolidating statewide pensions and reforming the way Massachusetts pays for health insurance.

Patrick asked the candidates to name three specific ways they would rebuild the economy. Ross said she would increase the minimum wage; put money into supporting local infrastructure; and work to reform healthcare as a single payer system.

Healey said she would lower taxes on working families and small businesses; reform permitting for building new businesses; and deregulate the auto insurance industry.

Christy Mihos presented what he called "Christy's Proposition 1," which he described as a plan to cap property tax increases and increase local aid from 40% to 60%.

Patrick said he would make capital more broadly available to small

and mid-sized businesses; encourage the growth of new economies like biotech, alternative and renewable energy; and promote Massachusetts to new businesses and workers rather than using the state as the "butt of jokes, as Romney has."

The candidates then fielded questions from a panel of local newspaper and television reporters. When asked what they would do to level the playing field between suburban and urban schools, Ross said she would bring money back to education by fixing the formula for state aid, so that education funding is not based as heavily on local property taxes.

Patrick believes in "educating the whole child" by increasing funding for early childhood education, implementing all-day preschool, smaller classes, longer school days, and creating innovative programs such as supervised homework. He is also in favor of a merit pay system, but he advocates that merit pay be team-based rather than

individually-based, in order to encourage collaboration.


Healey stood out as a strong proponent of the MCAS test, stating that the MCAS program is working to close the gap between high-performing and low-performing schools. She also supports merit pay for teachers and a system of giving bonuses to effective teachers who volunteer to teach in inner city schools.

Mihos lamented the fact that Springfield has lost over 1,000 teachers in recent years and said, "The money is on Beacon Hill, and it's not going to Springfield." He said he wants to fix funding inequalities at the state level. He finished by saying, "I am against the MCAS."

Though their strategies varied, all the candidates backed investment in renewable energy, such as wind power and solar energy, for the future of Massachusetts. Notably, it was Ross, the Green/Rainbow candidate, who raised the issue in her question to the other candidates. In addition to mentioning wind power,

Healey also expressed support for increasing Massachusetts' utility tie-in to power plants in Canada. Mihos proposed a program that would allow anyone in Massachusetts to install a wind turbine at a reasonable cost. Patrick came out in favor of making the state a leader not only in the use of renewables, but also in alternative energy production. Ross spoke of creating and using technology to grow local economies and increase local self-reliance and energy independence.

The loudest applause of the evening came when the reporter from News 22 recalled the Shays Rebellion and said not a lot had changed in the last 200 years in regards to Boston's responsiveness to the needs of Western Massachusetts. Each of the candidates agreed and assured the audience they would hear and respond to the needs of communities west of Route 495.

Will they remember which way Western Mass lies after November 4th? Stay tuned. 

HIGGINS

continued from pg 1

to Connecticut. Soon they were hired as a house band by close friend and owner of The Hukah in Torrington, CT, Gary Cardillo.

By the early seventies, Higgins grew bored with Random Concept's psychedelic sound and began expanding by writing new material with a folk flair. He then formed another band, naming it the Wooden Wheel with a Bell, collaborating with multi-talented musician Paul Tierney and cellist Maureen Wells.

Higgins' aspirations were dashed, however, when he and Cardillo were brought up on charges for selling hashish, after a drug bust operation failed to target the actual perpetrators.

Out on bail and fearing he would never have his chance to make a mark on the world, Higgins immediately went into the studio to lay down some tracks, with fellow musicians from Random Concept and Wooden Wheel with a Bell in tow. Higgins added the guitar and drums to the tracks himself. Eleven of the songs taken from those recording sessions comprise *Red Hash*, which

got its title from the nickname inmates gave Higgins, because of his red hair, while he awaited bail.

Higgins was sentenced to five to ten years before he had the chance to mix and master the recordings, so Cardillo, who received the same sentence but was still awaiting arraignment, finished the album. With monetary support from Higgins' family and friends, Cardillo also pioneered a record label called Nufusmoon. Soon after, 2,500 copies of *Red Hash* were pressed and circulated. The album seemed to vanish soon after its release, however, despite positive press and airplay as far away as California.

Higgins served over a year in prison before he was released to begin leading a quiet life in relative obscurity. In the 80s he went on to college to become a registered nurse, married, and had a son. Only dabbling in music at this point, Higgins did not release any other albums, and only played the occasional bar gig.

While Higgins continued on his domesticated path, *Red Hash* gained a following among the underground music scene, through friends lending their copy of the album to friends. Fans of folk and

psychedelia caught wind and became enamored of the LP. Soon *Red Hash* became highly coveted by record collectors because of its limited release, and they were willing to pay \$250 or more on eBay for the original vinyl pressing. Not only were collectors vying for this LP, but WFMU, a New Jersey radio station, began regularly airing songs from the album.

Higgins himself continued to be an enigma, even in 2003. Virtually nothing was known

about the man, until Zach Cowie, publicist for Drag City Records obtained a copy of *Red Hash*. Smitten, Cowie was determined to track the artist down.


After a three-year search, Cowie connected with Higgins via Rob Sevier, researcher for a local reissue label called The Numero Group, and the two stayed in contact by email.

Not long after, Drag City collaborated with Higgins on the reissuing of *Red Hash*.

Thirty-three years later,

Higgins is finally enjoying his acclaim, and the rest of the world can finally obtain and enjoy his mystical album.

Now, folks in our area can thank their lucky stars they can enjoy the *Red Hash* experience when Higgins performs at the Montague Book Mill on Friday the 13th of October.

For more information, contact the Montague Book Mill @www.montaguebookmill.com under calendar of events. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Take My Shotgun

Friday 9-29

11:21 p.m. Walk-in to station reported her 12-year-old son was assaulted at a 4th Street address. Subject to be summonsed.

6:33 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Rod Shop Road address. Caller states that a board had been removed from an abandoned building next door. Officer determined the hole was not big enough for a person to crawl through.

Saturday 9-30

4:06 p.m. Report of disorderly conduct in the 3rd Street alleyway. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and vandalizing property.

derly conduct and vandalizing property.

Sunday 10-1

1:37 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A by Food City, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a license revoked as a habitual traffic offender, operating with a revoked registration, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

5:18 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Turnpike Road address. Caller reports two laptop computers and a digital camera were stolen. Under investigation.

Monday 10-2

2:31 p.m. Walk in to station reports that he is in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun and does not feel comfortable with it. He brought it to the station for safe keeping.

Tuesday 10-3

2:17 p.m. Report of an assault at the Farren Dental Clinic. Caller states that her head was pushed into a chair. Advised of options.

Wednesday 10-4

9:15 a.m. [redacted] was arrested at the Exxon on a straight warrant.

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Turners Gets a Boost, Trouncing Ware 33-0

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - The Turners Falls Indians football team got their first win of the season with an impressive 33-0 decision over Ware High School on Booster Day, Saturday, September 30th. The victory improved Turners' record to 1-3 on the season. Ware falls to 0-3 with the loss.

The Indians were dominant all day and set a new school record when kicker Sunny Lucas booted a 40-yard field goal to break Lou Collins' 30-year-old record of 38 yards.

The Indians got off to a fast start, recovering a fumble on the Ware 27-yard line. It took just four plays before Turners quarterback Adam Bastarache found wide receiver Tom Field open in the corner of the end zone for a 24-yard touchdown. Lucas missed the extra point to keep the score 6-0.

On the ensuing kickoff



Turners caught Ware sleeping and surprised everyone with a successful onside kick. Turners drove the ball down to the Ware 23-yard line before stalling. Faced with a fourth and 18, Turners once again astonished the hometown fans when they sent their field goal unit onto the field to attempt a 40-yard field goal. Lucas's kick had the locals in a frenzy, as he established himself in the Turners' record books.

In the second quarter, Turners scored another touchdown to go up 17-0. Running back Evan Brusco scored from one yard out

for his first of three touchdowns on the day. Late in the second quarter, Brusco found a hole and exploded down the field for a 21-yard touchdown to put the Indians up 24-0 at halftime.

On the first play of the third quarter, Bastarache found Brusco for a 26-yard touchdown, putting Turners up 31-0. Turners emptied their bench for most of the second half, giving their younger players some valuable experience. Junior Mike Radzuik picked up 69 yards in the second half on 12 carries. The young defense also picked up a safety at the end of the game to finish off the score 33-0.

Adam Bastarache finished the day with 5 completions on 12 attempts for 99 yards, and 2 touchdowns. He also rushed for 86 yards. Evan Brusco led Turners with 134 yards on 13 carries. He also had 1 reception for 26 yards and 3 touchdowns. Tom Field had 2 receptions for 46 yards. Greg Dorman also contributed with 2 receptions for 27 yards.

It was a big win for the hard luck Turners squad, who lost their first two games by a combined five points. It should give them more confidence as their schedule gets more difficult in the coming weeks.

Next week, Turners hits the road with a tough Intercounty League matchup against the Mahar Senators. The game will be played in Orange on Friday night at 7 p.m. The Senators are 3-1 on the season. They are tied for first place with Athol.

Raspberries Extend the Season of Small Fruits

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - Berries! They culminate in the aristocratic raspberry, just before the frost. We start with strawberries in June, find delight in July with blueberries, brave wicked thorns and challenging seeds of blackberries in August, spend a bit of time with little black elderberries, whose flavor makes the effort worthwhile, in September, and finish up the late raspberry crop as fall advances. It is busy work, picking little fruits all summer long. It is



Raspberries - Aristocrats of Fall

happy work, eating little fruits and strawberry shortcake, blueberry muffins and blackberry pie and elderberry jelly on toast.

Blueberries and blackberries like the fairly acid soil here, and I am a great believer in choosing the good plants that find the soil to their liking without amendment. The harvest

time of the blues is extended by planting varieties that ripen early, mid-season, and late. The size of the berries differs considerably, and little berries fill the harvest baskets slowly. Perhaps they offer the pie a little extra zing, but the big berries

offer the picker a speedier job.

Some fifty years ago, Japanese beetles were a gardener's plague. We grew boysenberries, a thornless blackberry that seemed to have lost its flavor with its thorns. But boysenberries did attract hundreds of Japanese beetles. In an effort to control the insects, my two small youngsters were armed with jars of soapy water and sticks and set to work collecting bugs, redeemable at a penny apiece. The regular infestations were beyond belief, and the fruits were ruined each year. Control may have finally been effected when flocks of English starlings rooted out the beetle grubs in the lawns of New England. Boysenberries had lost their charm, and the drab black birds had gained a measure of acceptance.

In today's world, household freezers have extended the season of homegrown berries, June to June, without effort. The time saved can be used to add gooseberries and currants to the mix.

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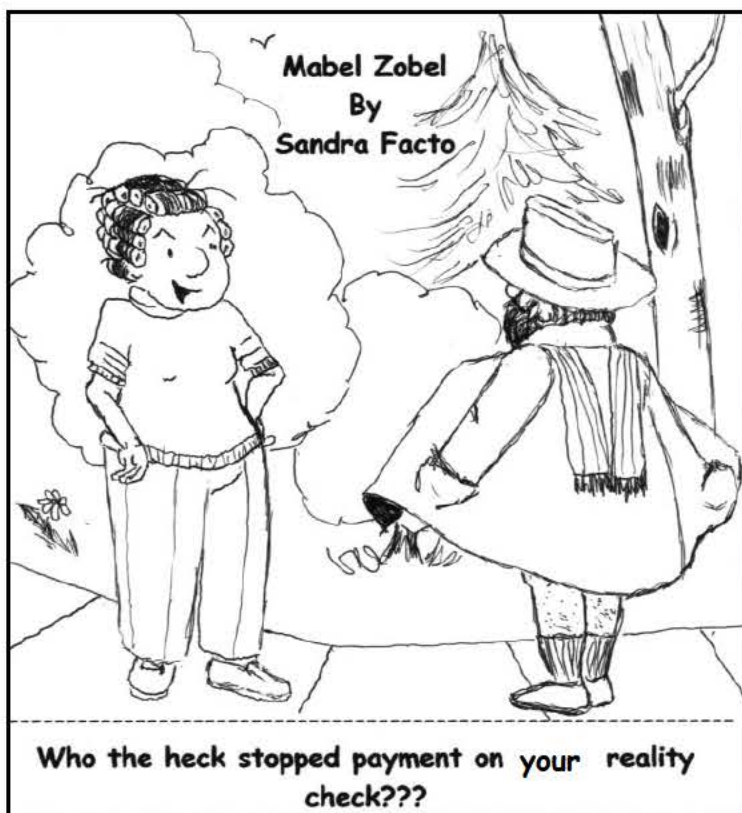
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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Breast Cancer - Part III

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - [This is the last installment of a three-part series on breast cancer.]

Breast cancer strikes most often when men are in their sixties.

Male breast cancer? Men do have breast cells that can become cancerous. The disease is uncommon in men. It represents only 1% of all breast cancers. Because of its rarity, many men aren't aware it exists. And that's a problem.

For unknown reasons, the incidence of male breast cancer has been increasing. About 2,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with breast cancer annually.

Young boys and girls have a small amount of breast tissue made up of a few ducts. At puberty, female hormones in girls make breast ducts grow,

milk glands form and fat increase. The male hormones in boys prevent further growth of breast tissue. Men's breast tissue contains ducts, but only a few if any lobules.

The most common symptom of male breast cancer is the same as it is for women - a lump. Other signs include: skin dimpling, a new indentation of the nipple, redness or scaling of breast skin, a clear or bloody discharge from the nipple.

Some risk factors for male breast cancer are:

Age. The average age for a man diagnosed with breast cancer is 67.

Family. About 20 percent of men with breast cancer are related to someone with the disease.

Genes. About 7 percent of breast cancers in men are inherited.

Radiation. There's a higher risk to men who underwent chest radiation treatments when they were younger.

Klinefelter Syndrome. Men with this syndrome make lower levels of male hormones - androgens - and more female hormones. This can cause gynecomastia, benign breast enlargement. Men with this condition may be at greater risk of breast cancer. Many medicines



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

used to treat ulcers, high blood pressure, and heart failure can cause gynecomastia, too.

Estrogen. The risk is small for men who take estrogen - the main female hormone. Estrogen drugs may be used to treat prostate cancer.

Liver disease. This can increase your risk of gynecomastia and breast cancer.

Obesity. Fat cells convert androgens into estrogen.

Alcohol. Drinking alcohol raises the odds that a man will develop breast cancer. The risk increases with the amount of alcohol consumed.

If a man has a family history of the disease, he should consult a doctor about regular testing. Diagnostic tests for men include a clinical breast exam, mammograms, ultrasound, biopsy and, if indicated, a nipple discharge exam.

Breast cancer treatment for men is similar to that given to women. Some men may need only surgery. Others will need surgery and radiation, chemotherapy or hormone therapy.

There isn't much tissue to a man's breast, so removing the cancer usually means excising most of the tissue. The procedures that are used on women to save breast tissue aren't practicable for men.

Most men with breast cancer require a modified radical mastectomy. In this procedure, a surgeon removes the entire breast and some underarm lymph nodes, but leaves chest muscles intact.

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

FINDING BALANCE

Oh My Achin' Joints



BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - Arthritis, or joint inflammation, is a condition many people assume is part of getting older. To reduce arthritis pain, Western medicine offers surgery (including arthroscopies, which scrape away damaged tissue, and joint replacements), cortisone shots, and a multitude of pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory drugs. These solutions can be short-term, have multiple side effects, may not help at all, and often hinder or even prevent the healing process. They also don't take into account why the pain is there in the first place, and what else we can do to alleviate if not eliminate the problem.

Injuries to the ligaments and stabilizing structures of the joints often start the development of degenerative joint conditions. When ligaments are stretched and weakened, excessive pressure is put on the other joint structures.

Eventually these structures become fatigued and the cartilage begins to deteriorate. Ligament laxity is the underlying problem; by strengthening the weakened structures, the impetus for forming the arthritis stops and so does the pain.

Because ligaments and tendons have a poor blood supply, incomplete healing is common after injury. As normally taut, strong bands of connective tissue become relaxed, weak, and inefficient, they become the source of chronic pain and weakness. Continuing to stress an injured joint or ligament leads to further joint injury and deterioration.

Corticosteroid shots are commonly used to help relieve arthritis symptoms temporarily. Some patients are able to use them to get enough pain relief to hold off joint replacement surgery for months, even years. But cortisone shots do not alter the course of arthritis, and they do not cure the

condition - because they don't deal with the root cause of the inflammation.

Pete Egoscue, anatomical physiologist, sports injury consultant with a clinic in San Diego, and author of *Pain Free* and *Pain Free for Women*, believes that musculoskeletal dysfunction - mainly from lack of motion - is the main culprit. He writes, "By deliberately and systematically stimulating musculoskeletal system functions in accordance with our design and motion requirements, we can eliminate friction and stress that cause joint inflammation and damage." I recommend both books for a better understanding of how our bodies work, and how to keep them healthy.

Other factors affecting rheumatic and arthritic conditions can be diet, obesity, and infection. Rheumatism and arthritis are marked by mineral imbalances in the affected tissues, with calcium

status being a good indicator of mineralization in general. Avoid calcium inhibitors: excess meat or protein from any source; intoxicants; refined sugar and too many sweets; and excess salt. Restrict foods high in oxalic acid, such as rhubarb, cranberry, plum, chard, beet greens, and spinach. Nightshade family vegetables - tomato, eggplant, bell pepper, potato - frequently cause problems; if none of these is specifically an issue, they should all still be eaten sparingly, as they contain solanine, a calcium inhibitor. Dairy foods may need to be cut out altogether.

When arthritis is caused by infection, rather than dosing on antibiotics, discourage microbes naturally through antimicrobial foods such as raw garlic, oregano, fruits and vegetables rich in Vitamin C, and citrus seed extract.

Ginger sesame oil massaged into skin activates blood circula-

tion, as do angelica, myrrh, and calendula. Use a liniment with anti-inflammatory herbs such as goldenseal, myrrh, cayenne, echinacea, red clover, and dandelion. Licorice (herb, not candy!) contains an anti-inflammatory compound that also acts as an anti-arthritic.

Oriental medicine views arthritis as blockages in the channels. Studies have shown that acupuncture is often successful at reducing the pain and inflammation caused by this blockage.

I hope this information encourages you to re-view arthritis as a natural byproduct of aging, or as a condition you have to live with.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Heros, rock & roll, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH TO 8TH

Ja'Duke's *The Music Man* at The Shea Theatre 8 p.m. on Friday & Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 12/under and 65/over. Reservations by calling the Shea Theatre, 863-2281. Also available at The World Eye Bookstore and Books & More.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Music troupe MAWWAL, will present an evening of original arrangements of traditional Middle Eastern dance music at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, 7:30 p.m. \$6-\$12 (978) 544-5557 www.wendellfullmoon.org .



The music troupe MAWWAL presents an evening of exciting World Fusion Middle Eastern dance music at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Saturday, October 7th to benefit the Millers River Watershed Council

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, John Sullivan Band, originals, covers, rock, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Woodworking with Ted Ingraham, Blacksmithing with Rick Martin, Hatmaking with Bill Wigham Presented by Historic Deerfield. Locations at Historic Deerfield in Deerfield. 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 413-774-5581 for info.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

Annual Youth Field Day at Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club. Open to everyone, free. Activities include: archery, canoeing, rowboats, casting, BB gun and black powder gun shooting, outdoor sport movies, police dog demonstration, Northfield dive team, Silvo Conte Fish Laboratory Display, birds of prey demonstration. For additional information call 863-4382.

Scandinavian Dancing at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Hambo, Schottis, Polska, Waltz, and more! Live music by Andrea Larson, Lydia Ievins & friends. Plus dances of Uppland, Sweden taught. Dancers of all levels welcome, no partner necessary. For more info call: 774-7771 or allarson56@aol.com 3 to 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

Tom Carroll, performs at Great Falls Farmers market 3 to 6 p.m. Free! Turners Falls RiverCulture and Coop Concerts collaborate to bring musical performances to the Wednesday Farmers Markets.

Documentary Film Series on "Active Nonviolence" at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls. on Wednesdays in October & November. Oct. 11th: *The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle* a dramatic depiction of an inspiring leader and the historic nonviolent movement he led on behalf of exploited farmworkers. 116 min.. 7 p.m. free, discussion to follow.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH Program on the history of contra dance at the Guiding Star Grange, 7 p.m., Greenfield. Sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute, \$5 for non-PVI members and free for members and children under 12. Demonstrations of contras, squares and round dances by fiddlers David Kaynor and Steve Howland. Steven Alves will be showing his film *Together in Time*, produced in 2001. Narrated by Peter Coyote, a prize-winning documentary about the history of New England contra music.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH At the Bookmill, Montague Center psychedelic folk master Gary Higgins. 8 - 11:30 p.m. \$10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 3rd Annual Family Fall Fun Day Come out and celebrate the true New England season! Enjoy scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin carving and decorating. Refreshments will be provided.

Adopt your scarecrow now, they go fast! Unity Park, Turners Falls, scarecrows \$5 each, pumpkin decorating \$1 each. Rain or Shine! 1 - 3:30 p.m. sreaddir@montague.net

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH TO 15TH Arena Civic Theater presents Finian's Rainbow Performances at The Shea Theater located at 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 413-863-2281 x 3

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST Pat Humphries and Sandy O., perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett. Tickets are \$12/\$10 seniors. Opening by singer-songwriters, Bess Hepner and Masie Sylvan.

ONGOING Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography,

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 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376.

Turners Falls. Photographer/digital print artist John Paul Caponigro displays his work through December 17th. More information about the artist at www.john-paulcaponigro.com

Exhibit: Slavery and Antislavery in Deerfield An installation of a new African American Memorial along with paintings of Lucy Terry and African American Dancers and a visitor's African American resource book. At Memorial Hall located at 10 Memorial Street in Deerfield. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 774-3768

ON DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 29TH

At Green Trees Gallery: "Works on Paper" featuring nine regional artists: Margot Fleck, Laura Garrison, Holly Murray, Julie Pepper, Cheryl Rezendes, Janice Stamer, Jean Tandy, Anne Y, and Stephen Zeigfinger. The new works include watercolor, lithography ink, oil, acrylic, raw pigments, gold leaf, and graphite. Call (413)-498-0283 for more information or go to www.greentreesgallery.com. Gallery Hours: Thursday - Sunday 11 a.m - 5 p.m.

UNTIL OCTOBER 31ST Mike's Amazing Maze, Warner Farm, Sunderland, weekends 11-5 p.m. Call 665-8331 or visit www.mikesmaze.com

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SUNDAYS, THRU OCTOBER
 Family Nature Program geared towards the family group. Programs at 12:30 p.m.: Nature Craft, 2 p.m.: Meet an Animal, 3:30 p.m.: Nature Activity

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5
 Waterfowl Identification presentation with Mitch Hartley of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For bird-watchers, hunters & nature enthusiasts - a picturesque journey. Free and open to all ages.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
 Migratory Journey - A program that explores the migratory journey 1000's of birds must make in order to escape New England and find their winter homes in Central & South America. Program geared towards adults. Free and universally accessible. 1-2 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 30TH TO NOVEMBER 4TH
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Caponigro Images at Hallmark Photography Museum: The Possibility of a Ripple in Still Water

BY ANN FEITELSON

TURNERS FALLS - On the corner of Third Street and Avenue A, inside the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, where the walls are brilliant white and brightly lit, shine photographs of vast skies and rippling water by John Paul Caponigro.

Glowing, mysterious apparitions hover in the skies: an ocular, a lung x-ray, a radioactive rod. The water, patterned with wavelets and refractions, reflects vivid, improbably hot colors: magenta, citron, cantaloupe. The waves' molten crests mesh with inky blue troughs to create central, bilaterally symmetrical, totemic shapes.

Maybe we shouldn't call these photographs at all. They are digitally altered images, which makes them closer to painting or printmaking - or to dreams - than to the reportage and reality we once thought photography was about.

Caponigro, an artist at the forefront of the digital revolution in photography, and the author of definitive manuals on the computer program Adobe Photoshop, was present at the opening of the exhibit of his work on Saturday, September 30th, and lectured to a large audience later that day at the

Hallmark Institute of Photography.

He doesn't like to offer easy explanations of the mysteries that a viewer of his work confronts. The ruffled waters which converge into vibrant foci suggest many things: a Buddah, a mandala, a bug, a butterfly, a monster, or a keyhole; a geyser, flower, gem, or orifice. A squid or skull. In their ambiguity, they are mutable, as open to interpretation as Rohrschach blots.

Asked about the enigmatic shapes formed by the conflux of waves, he declines to interpret or define them. "Questions are more important than answers," he says, meaning that the images are as much a mirror held up to the viewer as a mirror of the world. The series of wave images is titled "Wake." The patterns are clearly derived from the repercussions of motion in water - the wake of a boat, say - but they are also an imperative to pay attention: Wake (Up)! And a reminder of the dreams we wake from. They could, too, be about mourning. That kind of wake. Though the images are stunningly beautiful,



John Paul Caponigro creates digitally altered images like the one above. His work is exhibited at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography in Turners Falls through Dec. 17th.

the color searing, they start with photographs of wastelands - but you wouldn't guess it. Then again, no sunset ever reflected quite this brightly on fresh water. But maybe on an oil slick.

Though surreal, and manipulated with up-to-the-minute technology on a computer screen, Caponigro's work also carries on traditions that reach back into the history of photography. Traditions established by the giants of American photography: his father, Paul Caponigro, Eliot Porter, and Ansel Adams, whose reverential, dramatic landscapes were breathtakingly, heartbreakingly

magnificent. John Paul knew these photographers growing up.

Like them, he shoots vast, luminous, poignant spaces.

Precedents aside, "photography is, and always was, an experiment," he reminds the audience. He speaks of his work as being, "not pictures of things, but of processes in a dynamic state," with multiple meanings.

Caponigro also knew Georgia O'Keefe, whose influence shows in similar themes of skull-like shapes suspended over empty, echoing voids.

He speaks about Al Gore's movie (also available as a book), *An Inconvenient Truth*. Caponigro voyaged to Antarctica, one of the sites of ineluctable damage Gore documents, with several other photographers to shoot icebergs and oceans. His photographs of the other side of the world were fascinating. You, too, can check out the amazing adventure at: <http://www.photoshopnews.com/feature-stories/antarctica-expedition/>. He will be traveling to Antarctic again in February 2007: <http://www.luminous-landscape.com/workshops/antarctic-workshop-07.shtml>.

He also mentions the "butterfly effect," the idea that a tiny flap of a butterfly wing in one hemisphere could have ramifications significant enough to cause - or prevent - a tornado or some other ecological mega-event across the globe. By the same token, a small contribution on our part to care for the environment could have a positive effect. "In so many ways," he said, "we shape our environment; we can do this positively or negatively." His work, he said, "is a call to incite conscientious creative interaction with our total environment."

"If we feel that we are not insignificant, we will act to make our own positive contributions in our own unique and creative ways... I urge you to reconnect. I urge you to be a part of the solution."

His images will remind you of the possibilities a ripple in still water (the Grateful Dead song comes readily to mind) still holds.

The exhibit continues through December 17th. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

First Annual Arts Tour in Leverett and Montague Center

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

BY DONNA GATES - The leaves are turning and the artists and craftspeople in Leverett and Montague Center are working overtime to create beautiful one-of-a-kind artworks for the first annual LCA Artists Tour! On Saturday, October 14th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., close to 30 artists and craftspeople whose studios are in Leverett and Montague Center will open their doors to you. This is a chance to meet the artists, watch some of them at work, and get a jump on your holiday gift shopping while supporting local artists, businesses and organizations.

Events and workshops will be happening throughout the day, both in artists' studios and at Leverett's annual Harvest Festival at the

Leverett Elementary School. Watch potters Raku firing at Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center or glass lampworking demonstrations at Atticus Glass. Children's book author Jeanne Birdsall will be signing books at the Harvest Festival at noon. Relax at the Village Coop and sample some fine wines in the afternoon.

A great way to start your day is at the Barnes Gallery



Robert Hepner performance sculptor



Mark Lattanzi, silver & gold pendant,



Nancy Emond, "Jazz Tuba"

at Leverett Crafts & Arts, to view an exhibit of the participating artists' work in a silent auction to benefit LCA, the community arts organization sponsoring the tour. While there, pick up a tour map and events schedule

to plan your day. The silent auction will end at 5 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception, accompanied by harpist Sarah McKee from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

The tour is planned as a

way to introduce the public to the creative community in Leverett and Montague Center, to help the community thrive, and to encourage participating artists and craftspeople to network with each other.

Please join the artists, craftspeople and local businesses of Leverett and Montague Center Saturday, October 14th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., for the first annual LCA Artists Tour. Tour maps and a schedule of events will be available before the event at the Montague Book Mill, Village Coop, or at Leverett Crafts & Arts. Call (413) 548-9070 for more information. This event is sponsored by Leverett Crafts & Arts with the support of the Mass Cultural

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