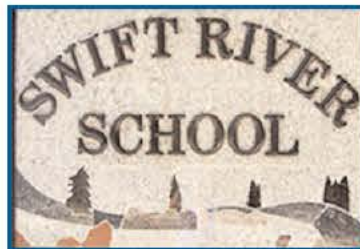




PICKING UP

Others' Trash: Report from the Front Lines - Source to Sea

Page 9



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Page 10

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 2

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 7, 2010

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BY TODD DETMOLD
CHICAGO - As *The Social Network* braves the unpredictable terrain of American theaters, I find myself in the position of having managed not to write anything in nearly two months. Since I started up writing my regular column again, this has been my longest hiatus, and it's been one that crept up on me like a wary predator. A number of factors have contributed to this drought (the late-summer multiplex doldrums, a re-watching of *The Wire*, the AL East pennant race, the day-job...), and even as I type this out I hear a voice in the back of my

head whispering: "This isn't real yet."
 When will I really be a writer? Will it be when I have a reader? In that case, what are my thoughts worth?
 The online film critic suffering existential malaise is an hilarious irony, but the dilemma isn't unique to this occupation. The question of whether or not I will be noticed when I start knocking trees down in a forest is one that can apply to much of how we interact with each other these days. At work, I exchange instant messages with co-workers sitting a yard away. This past Saturday night I was at

see **FACE** pg 16

The Last Paper Mill in Town



Ed Prondecki prepares a roll of paper for wrapping to ship to Southworth's finishing plant in Agawam

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - The only operating mill on Canal Street, purchased from the former Esleek Manufacturing Company in 2006 by the Southworth Company, has been turning out paper at that location for over 110 years.

Turners Falls was once a hotbed of manufacturing. Mills and factories lined the Connecticut River and the canal. Before World War II, throngs of

people clogged Avenue A in the morning on their way to work, slowing automobile traffic to a standstill. The Strathmore Paper Mill, the John Russell Cutlery, Keith Paper Company, Montague Paper Mill (across from Southworth,) and Griswold Cotton Mill (Rockdale,) were among the large concerns vying for access to the hydro power provided by the canal, along with the McLane Silk Company (later the site of Ornamental

Stone and the present Montague DPW) and Sprague Manufacturing (makers of children's rompers), the remains of which can still be seen in the foundation of the Miskinis TV building.

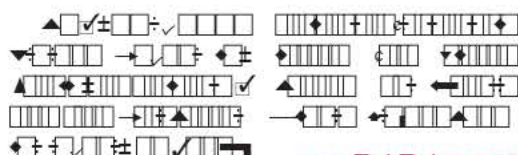
Michael Blassberg collected junk and operated four iron and brass foundries in the building now housing Shanahan Supply. That same location also housed a planing mill and lumber yard. The Indeck cogeneration coal plant operated for a time next to the Strathmore Paper Mill, supplying it with heat. Wells Foundry at Ave A & 11th Street, later became Greenfield Tap and Die's drop-forge site, and later still Village Furniture. An axe shop and sawmill once operated in the Patch. The Montague Rod Shop in Montague City is also among the ghosts of factories past.

Lone Survivors

In downtown Turners Falls, the Southworth Company and the Montague Machine Company are the two lone industrial survivors from the town's manufacturing heyday.

see **MILL** page 5

The Dadaist Invasion of Turners Falls Presents a Salon of the Avante Garde



see **DADA** pg 12



Christine Tarantino of Wendell will appear

Many Hands Make Apple Pies in Gill Easy as 1-2-3



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Claire Chang packs pies for their trip to the Farren freezer to await baking on Friday, October 15th for the 18th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Fair.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - The Friends of Gill and friendly volunteers gathered in the basement of the Gill Congregational Church on Tuesday to make pies for the Arts and Crafts Festival coming up at the old Riverside schoolhouse on the weekend of October 16th and 17th.

Earlier, Betsy and Bill Burnham and Mary Bourbeau picked four bushels of apples at

Dole Farm in Shelburne. "We always pick Cortland apples," Betsy Burnham said. "They hold up well and don't get mushy, and they have a nice flavor."

On Tuesday, 20 people turned out to make pies. Kathy Augustine used eight pounds of flour to make the dough. Ronnie LaChance helped handle the dough, something she's had lots of experience with as tax collector.

The Friends of Gill pitched in over two nights to make the pies, working together to peel, core, and slice the four bushels of apples, and mix, roll, fill and trim 77 pies on Monday, September 27th and 46 pies on Tuesday, October 5th. They made 123 pies as easy as 1-2-3. They would have made more, but they ran out of apples long before they ran out of enthusiasm.

John Ward, Claire Chang and Randy Crochier transported the pies to the Farren Care Center in Montague City, where Crochier put them into the industrial freezer. He will bake them on Friday, October 15th, so they'll be fresh baked for the Festival that weekend.

"The pies go on sale for \$10 each," Augustine said. "And we always sell out."

So, you'd better get your pies early, folks, if you don't want to be left empty handed.

MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY BECOME HISTORY

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
"Life has more meaning when the past ties into the present."

- Robb Sagendorph, founder, Yankee magazine

Last Friday, the Montague Historical Society met at their new quarters, upstairs at the Grange Hall in Montague Center, to discuss the danger of the Montague Historical Society disbanding.

The society will hold an open house at the Grange Hall in Montague Center on Sunday, October 24th, from 2 - 4 p.m. to show visitors the collection of Montague historical items they have catalogued and archived in protective envelopes. They also hope to spark interest in others to pick up the torch and carry on the work of preserving the Society and the history of Montague.

"There's a lot of interesting history; pictures of people's houses, opera and

play bills, post cards and old photos," said Lillian Fiske, 87, retiring president of the Society. "We need some enthusiastic new members to help us catalog and archive this. Otherwise, a lot more history of the villages of Montague will be lost."

Fiske, who has been involved with the Society in one capacity or another for more than 25 years, said, "We'd love to have some more people come in to help us. It's interesting to see what has gone on in Montague and all the other villages - Turners Falls, Millers, Montague City, and Lake Pleasant. A well-meaning Montague Center librarian once sold some



PARZYCH PHOTO

Mary Melonis (l) and Lillian Fiske in the Montague Historical Society's archives

irreplaceable play bills and paintings during a time when we didn't have a place to display or archive things. We want to avoid that. Volunteers can help preserve this history before it's all gone."

The Carnegie's children's librarian Linda Hickman will be attending the open house.

"Linda has a lot of original history," Fiske said. "She will make a series of presentations of see **HISTORY** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Shy but Loving



Jaguar

My name is Jaguar and I'm a three-year-old domestic long hair cat in need of a good home. I love people, but I need to get to know you first. I might seem reserved, but that's because I need a little time before I can give my heart away completely. My dream is a quiet home with cozy places to sleep and loving people to play with. I prefer adults, children can be a bit too rambunctious for me. I am an FIV kitty so I should be an only cat, unless you already have another FIV cat, just ask the adoption staff about it. If you are looking for a beautiful, loving girl to share your life with then I am the one. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS
Fire Truck To Visit at Story Hour

On Wednesday, October 13th at 10:15a.m. there will be a special program during story hour where children can meet local firefighters and see a real fire truck to learn more about fire safety.

Story hour is held each Wednesday at 10:15am at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music,

activities and snacks with Ruth O'Mara. The weekly free series is designed for children under age 5. This is a great time to meet new people, listen to stories, chat and spend a Wednesday morning. Great for homeschoolers!

For more information, please contact the Carnegie Library at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, 863-3214.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS
New Fall Book Discussion Group

The New Salem Public Library is announcing this Fall's Book Group selection: *Javatrekker* by Dean Cycon. Books will be available for pick-up Thursday, October 14th. The discussion will be on Sunday,

November 14th at 3:00 p.m. Magic Wings pass is back along with passes for The Discovery Museum, Ecotarium, MassMOCA and the Fitchburg Museum. Reserve a day of culture now.

22nd Annual Youth Field Day
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

The Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club would like to invite you and your children to attend our annual Youth Field Day on Sunday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Club in Turners Falls. Admission is free and it will be a great time for everyone. Free hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided. Activities will include K-9

demonstration, Northfield Dive Team demonstration, fish viewing, archery, canoeing, casting, shooting and more. Door prize registration for children 12 and under will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. so come early. Sponsored by The Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, 15 Deep Hole Drive, Turners Falls.

Leverett Council on Aging News

The Leverett Council on Aging is offering a number of ongoing activities and special events at this time, including:

Flu Clinic: Thursday, October 14th, from 8 - 10 a.m. at the town hall. Please bring your Medicare card with you and expect to stay at least ten minutes after your shot. The clinic is sponsored by the Community Health Center of Franklin County. The vaccine will be administered by town residents Mary Jo Korfhage, BSN and clinical director of CHCFC, and Sandy Rodgers, RN.

Friday Lunch at noon at town hall (costs \$2). Call 367-2694 by Wednesday for the menu, or to

make a reservation. Come to socialize and get the best deal for lunch in town.

Take It Easy/Chair Yoga (starting October 20th), on Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the fireplace room at town hall. This drop-in class, taught by experienced and certified yoga teacher Nancy Paglia, is for men and women. The first class is free; a small fee will be charged after that. Come try it!

Fuel Assistance Applications: By appointment. First time applications must be conducted face to face. Tanya Cushman, chair of the COA, has been trained to do the initial interview. Call the COA at 548-1022x5

FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jack Nelson will appear at the Dadaist Invasion at the Gallery at Hallmark on Friday night, (see page 12 for more info). (Hank may not be able to attend; he's been busy violating the leash law.)

"Reaching Out" To Build Community

A retreat sponsored by Second Church in Greenfield, 16 Court Square
• Led by Robert Jonas, director of Empty Bell contemplative sanctuary in Northampton, MA and inspired by Henri Nouwen's Reaching Out
• Saturday, Oct 16th, from: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch includes soup, bread and cheese. Free will offering. Please reserve a place by calling Second Church at 774-4355 no later than Oct 13th. Bring a friend along!

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This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:
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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 11th - 15th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

- Monday, October 11th**
Center closed for Columbus Day, no programs.
- Tuesday, October 12th**
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
9:00 a.m. Foot clinic, by appointment
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting Class

- Wednesday, October 13th**
9:00 a.m. Foot clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends of the Meal Site meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, October 14th**
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, October 15th**
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping,

or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center at (413) 423-3308 to find out when the next flu clinic will be held.

- Monday, October 11th**
Center closed for Columbus Day, no programs.
- Tuesday, October 12th**
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, October 13th**
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
11:00 a.m. S.H.I.N.E. counselor talk with four 15 minute sessions
12:30 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, October 14th**
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
- Friday, October 15th**
11:30 a.m. Out-to-lunch at the Tech School.

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Family Center playgroups and parent to parent meetings of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries will temporarily move to Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall, 90 7th Street, in Turners Falls. A flood on September 27th, caused by a sprinkler head break upstairs in the Moltenbrey Apartments, has forced the MCSM Center to close temporarily. For questions about program locations please call Susan at 413-863-4804.

The Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club would like to invite families to their 22nd **Annual Youth Field Day**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10th. Admission is free. Activities include a K-9 demonstration, Northfield Dive Team demonstration, fish viewing, archery, canoeing, casting, shooting plus free hot dogs, hamburger and soda.

Door prize registration for children 12 and under will take place from 10:00 a.m. until noon, so come early and enjoy a great time.

The **Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting**, open

house and exhibit will take place on Sunday, October 24th, at the Grange in Montague Center. The annual meeting will take from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., followed by the open house and exhibit from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The hall will have photos of the old homes of Montague as well as articles, photos and posters from "Entertainments of the Past" in all the five villages. Refreshments will be served; all are welcome. For more information call 367-2280 or 367-2184.

The **Deerfield River Watershed Association** sponsors a free to the public hike scheduled for Sunday, October 17th from Bardwell's Ferry, Conway to Hoosac Road in Deerfield. The round trip is about five miles. Preregister at (413) 625-6628. Bring a lunch and meet at 10:00 a.m. on the Conway side of the Deerfield River at Bardwell's Ferry Bridge. Rain will postpone the hike.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

October 16th Marks Thirty Years of Harvest Festivals for Leverett's Edith Field

BY DAVID DETMOLD - For 30 years, Edith Field has been coordinating the Harvest Festival at the Leverett Elementary School. One month ago, Edith's husband of 54 years, Carlyle F. Field, passed away. Now, she plans to make this her last year at the Festival's helm.

"The pancake breakfast sponsored by the fire department is a big draw," Field said. "The fire department has vehicles on display. The police department is planning to do a child safety program."

Field said when the Harvest Festival first got going 30 years ago, they held a vegetable judging contest, but there is no particular harvest theme any more. Instead, the festival is largely devoted to children's booths from the students at the elementary school, who use the occasion as a fundraiser for school field trips.

"The classes at the school will each have a fundraising effort. They're each doing something with food this year. One is doing cookie decorating, another is doing Creative Potatoes" - stuffing baked potatoes with various goodies."

The date of the festival is Saturday, October 16th. The pancake breakfast runs from 8 - 10 a.m., and the rest of the booths get going around 9 o'clock.

The sixth grade will be putting on a spaghetti supper in the evening, from 4:30 - 6:30.

"For several years during the '70s the town had what they called Old Home Days," Field recalled. "If I remember right, the big issue that began to creep in was liability. Some groups in town grew hesitant to have things that might cause an injury, like a dunking booth or fireworks."

As Old Home Days waned, Field said the Harvest Festival got organized to take its place. She noted the town carries a blanket policy insurance policy just for the one day festival, "But there's never been an incident that I remember in the whole 30 years I've been here."

"Sometimes we've had informational booths, or political booths supporting a certain candidate; we may get that again with the election coming up. Some of the older kids sell old toys, or jewelry. Parents are encouraged to help too, of course. Adults sell their artwork; sometimes there are tag sales. The library holds a used book sale, or they offer 'I Love Leverett' t-shirts and mugs.

"Pat and Tex LaMountain came and played one year," Field remembered. "The Morris Dancers came one year." But the budget limits those flourishes

now. Still, local residents say the Harvest Festival is the one big event folks in town look forward to each year, for a chance to get together as a town, renew old friendships and make new ones, reward the children for their efforts and help the students on their extracurricular excursions.

Anyone who wants to take a booth can still call and make arrangements. "We'll take reservations right up until the day before, if we need to," Field said. Call her at 367-9573.

Field said she doesn't have a committee to turn the work over to, and she is unsure whether the event will continue in years to come. "Gordon Fretwell, from North Leverett, he helps with the publicity. We've been doing the same thing for 30 years, it sort of runs itself," Field added. "This is the last year for me to do it. Thirty years is long enough. I hope it continues, of course, because it is a good fundraiser for the school. That's the main thing."

Field said anyone who might want to keep the Harvest Festival going next year is welcome to call her for advice.

Many thanks to the *Thin Ice* troupe for providing an hilarious and uplifting evening of comedy, proving forever that the personal is political, and the political is pure farce, and therefore the joke is on us.
Thank You!
Montague Reporter Board of Directors, and Staff

Playground Redesign Committee Members Needed

BY ROSIE HEIDKAMP WENDELL - The Town Center Playground recently underwent an inspection by the town's insurance company at which time some of the equipment was deemed dangerous or needing relocation or repair. As a result, the much loved firetruck climbing structure has been permanently removed for safety reasons and, at a Select board meeting, it was decided that a comprehensive redesign of the playground was necessary.

Under the auspices of the Library Trustees, the town is seeking citizens to serve on a committee to plan a complete renovation of the playground.

The committee will create a comprehensive proposal that will include play structures - new and old - landscaping, trees, signage, fence, and construction methods. The committee will also develop a cost estimate for the proposal, pursue grants and participate in fund raising for the playground project. If interested in joining the committee, please leave your name and phone number at the Wendell Library by October 23rd. The convening meeting for the Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday Oct 26th, 7 pm. For more information please call the library at 978 544-3559.

Come Ring Bells With Us

BY BARBARA TURNER DELISLE
MONTAGUE CENTER - For the third year in a row, First Congregational Church of Montague invites you to join in the ringing of bells 350 times to raise awareness that we as a people and as a nation need to be actively working to bring atmospheric carbon levels down to 350 parts per million. This year we join over 6000 groups around the world in taking action to do just that. Our action on 10-10-10 will be to help install storm windows at the Montague Grange. We invite everyone to bring a bell to ring with them, bring their muscles, and their desire to create a cleaner planet for all.

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of Montague is located at 4 North Street on the town common. Call 413-949-3391.

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Help Preserve our Town's History

BY LILLIAN FISKE

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Montague Historical Society is in danger of following the Masons, the Girl Scouts, the Gleaners (the ladies' association of the Grange) and the Eastern Star into past history. Oddly, this crisis is coming about at the same time there has been a great surge of interest in local history, especially genealogy. The Society is hoping to interest new and old residents of the whole town of Montague in our community's rich and varied history.

For many years, Louise Shattuck served as the self-appointed historian of the village of Lake Pleasant. Adrian Savage was a photographer who photographed our school children and saved historical articles from Millers Falls. Tom Burnham of Montague City wrote two books about that village, and Lionel Girard, who started the historical society, grew up in Turners Falls and was a fund of information on that part of town. An elderly friend, Marian Lombard, spent hundreds of hours researching old families and homes of Montague

Center.

These local luminaries who gathered and documented the lore and history of Montague have all passed on, leaving us to preserve the history they collected and add to it, and find new ways of making it available to the public for years to come.

We would like to invite interested residents to the Montague Historical Society's open house at the Grange Hall on Sunday, October 24th, from 2 – 4 p.m., to view our archival collections and enjoy browsing two collections of Montague houses and the fascinating review of the entertainment of yesterday.

The annual meeting will take place from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m., and all are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

We need to plead for all Montague residents to save and donate articles of historical interest for Montague. We would welcome them as we would welcome new members.

– Lillian Fiske &
Mary Melonis
Montague Historical Society

Father DiMascola to be Honored at Krakus Festival

HOLYOKE – The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College invites you to attend the 5th Annual Krakus Festival, to be held at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, 500 Easthampton Road in Holyoke on Friday, October 29th, starting at 6 p.m. Music will be provided by the Eddie Forman Orchestra, with a musical performance by Madeline Lukomski.

The event will feature a special tribute to Reverend Charles Jan DiMascola, teacher, artist, author and Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Turners Falls since 1986. Father DiMascola prefers to be known as "the man with an Italian name, but a Polish heart." A native of Wilbraham, Fr. DiMascola developed a strong interest in Polish history, and taught art and Polish studies at Palmer High School. Fr. Charles designed the brochure and named Camp Stanica, a children's summer camp in Bondsville. He also designed a ring for Pope John Paul II.

October is Polish American Heritage month and a good time to celebrate the many contributions made in this country by Polish Americans.

A silent auction, raffle and a display of historical artifacts from the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning will be featured, along with dining and dancing.

We invite everyone to experience this important fundraiser to benefit the Polish Center, a site where Polish-American art, culture and contributions are displayed in a magnificent museum located at 33 South Street, Chicopee, next to the Holy Name of Jesus Parish. The Polish Center is open to the public Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. *Embrace Your Heritage!*

For more information, commemorative book contributions, or ticket purchases contact:

Henry Dziok at 413-231-4574
or Joanne Gruszkos at 413-733-7341

Visit us at:
www.polishcenter.net or email
Stas Radosz at
polishcenter@elms.edu.



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE GREENFIELD PLANNING BOARD

Consider Big Box Impact on Food City

To:
Roxann Wedegartner, chair
Greenfield planning board

Regarding: the proposed
135,000 square foot retail store
off French King Highway

Dear Ms. Wedegartner,

Given the regional significance of the proposed retail development on the French King Highway, The Montague Planning Board urges you to carefully consider the economic and social impact on neighboring Montague. Our specific interest is in regard to grocery retail space.

Depending on the tenant of the proposed retail space, a retailer with grocery space would potentially be in direct competition with Food City, the primary food retailer in Turners Falls.

Indeed, the Turners Falls business district is geographically closer than downtown Greenfield to the proposed retail store.

Food City on 250 Avenue A does not generate the sales volume of its larger competitors such as Stop & Shop and Big Y in Greenfield, but this establishment is critical as the only walkable food store in Turners Falls, a community where many residents do not own automobiles.

Food City spends staff time every week collecting dozens of carts left outside the homes of Turners Falls residents. This is an indicator of the importance of having a grocery store in an urban neighborhood classified as an environmental justice population by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The Montague planning board is interested in preserving the integrity of downtown-oriented amenities, particularly for our low-income and carless households.

If Food City were to be squeezed out of the arguably sat-

urated regional grocery store market by the addition of another grocer, the result would be an injustice to the most vulnerable households. The loss of the downtown food store would mandate improved transit and pedestrian connections to Greenfield – as Turners Falls residents would have little choice but to shop for food in Greenfield.

Also the Montague planning board would be interested to review traffic impacts on Canal Road and the 5th Street bridge. This is primary connection between Montague and the proposed retail store, which we expect would be impacted by the proposed development

Thank you for your consideration.

– Ted Armen, chair
– Walter Ramsey,
Montague town planner
Montague planning board
October 4th, 2010

Genealogy Gathering at the Rendezvous

BY SARA CAMPBELL

TURNERS FALLS – It's October, time for more genealogy! (When is it not time for more genealogy?)

Our local genealogy group will meet at a new location on Tuesday, October 12th at 6 p.m. The Rendezvous on 3rd Street will give us wireless

access and the opportunity to view the records of the Jean Baptiste Society that once occupied the same building. Pages from the 1900 census records for Turners Falls will be available for discussion as well.

One question that must be answered soon: are we going to

pull a cemetery photography project together before the weather turns?

Out there on the internet, things are changing at the speed of light.

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MILL from page 1

Last month, *the Reporter* ran an article featuring the Montague Machine Company's revival. This article focuses on Southworth and its ability to weather the recent recessionary storm, while other companies have fallen by the wayside.

Costs High

"Industry in Massachusetts is the highest taxed in the country and has the highest energy rates," company President David Southworth said. "Prices of raw material have gone up, not always followed by the price of finished paper. The use of paper has declined, except for facial and toilet tissue, and kitchen towels."

Used paper is traded worldwide as a commodity. According to Edward Champagne, Southworth's engineering manager, that includes pre-consumer waste, or "broke," which has never been processed, as well as post-consumer waste such as newspapers, magazines, and other printed matter.

Global demand for scrap, he added, has stoked price increases.

"Recently, floods in China and India have wiped out cotton crops," Champagne said. "Those countries had already been importing cotton from the U.S. and keeping prices up. Failed cotton crops sent prices higher, driving up the price of cotton trimmings we use in high end paper."

"China," he added, "is the world's greatest consumer of scrap steel and scrap paper."

Survival

So how has Southworth Company survived? "By updating machinery, using computerized quality controls and color management, and by developing niche markets," Champagne said. "We make high end paper for town hall use, resumes, artist use, archives, parchment paper for stationary and law offices, paper for poster boards, and paper with custom colors to serve customers who typically use it for mounting photos. We make paper in small lots, accept small orders for specialty papers, stationery and

envelopes. We use only pre-consumer rags. Denim Blue is a blue tinted rag content paper made with denim trimmings that was very successful."

Southworth has two sales forces, one to promote specialty papers and one to sell products like envelopes and sheet paper, cut 8-1/2 x 11 inches, to the likes of Staples, Office Max, Wal-

the chunks, on to a Double D refiner, then to a series of breaker beaters and other beaters that further smooth out the pulp. Centrifuges repeatedly spin pulp to separate out dirt and heavy particles. Along the way, soda ash, clay, starch, sizing and dyes, either liquid or powdered, are added, either by hand or by computerized dye equipment. If the dyed paper does not precisely match a desired color, more dye is judiciously added to achieve the desired shade. Clay, starch, and size are added to fill in minute voids or to give paper brightness, sheen, desired surface, smudge resistance or other required characteristics.

Additives may be withheld on artist paper for a rougher or more absorbent surface.

"Finished products at the Turners Falls mill are large rolls of paper," Southworth said. "Southworth has a converting plant in Agawam where rolls of paper from Turners Falls may be embossed, cut into 8-1/2 inch paper, or made into envelopes."

Commitment to Turners Falls

"We have a commitment to remain in Turners Falls," Southworth said. "In 2006, we bought the Esleek mill and closed our West Springfield plant. Our plant in Agawam is not the same. It is a finishing plant. In order to operate, we need water. To duplicate paper making machinery located at the Turners Falls plant would cost \$25 million.

"On sewer rates and taxation, the town is understanding," Southworth said. "All we want is a fair shake. We realize the town is up against it. The town has been reasonable and wants our mill to continue."

Montague will hold a rate hearing on October 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the selectboard meeting room as a first step in determining the sewer rates for next year, and the Southworth Company is expected to send a representative. The paper mill usually argues for the town to spend more of its retained sewer earnings to reduce next year's rates. This year, the

see **MILL** pg 12

Voters to Consider Repealing Alcohol Tax November 2nd

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MASSACHUSETTS - First among the statewide ballot questions voters will face in November, Question #1 seeks to overturn the 6.25% sales tax on alcoholic beverages. This tax was enacted on August 1st, 2009, and was projected to raise about \$80 million in revenue in the first year. In actuality, the state took in about \$90 million from the tax on alcohol in the first year.

That money has been dedicated to addiction prevention and treatment programs in the state, according to Janet Grant, of the Western Mass Center for Healthy Communities.

Prior to passage last year, Massachusetts Package Store Association director Frank Anzalloti of Longmeadow said, "I'm fearful for my members. I see a lot of them losing a lot of business."

But opponents of the ballot measure organized under the Committee Against Repeal of the Alcohol Tax point to the robust receipts from the alcohol tax in the 14 months it has been in place as evidence the tax has not hurt business in the state, even though nearby New Hampshire is one of five states that have no sales tax. Opponents like Grant say everything but basic necessities like food, clothing under \$175, and prescriptions carries a sales tax in Massachusetts, and there is no reason, with the state facing another multibillion dollar budget gap, that alcohol sales should be exempt.

"Personally, I do disagree with

the tax," said Pam Kostanski, owner of Jay K's Liquor on Avenue A in Turners Falls. "We are prepaying taxes beforehand with the excise tax on alcohol. So for the customer, this is a double tax."

Massachusetts places an 11 cent excise tax on every gallon of beer wholesaled in the state, (lower than 39 other states), 55 cents on every gallon of wine (lower than 26 other states), and ranks twelfth in excise tax on alcohol at \$4.05 a gallon. (By comparison, New Hampshire levies a 30 cent a gallon excise tax on beer, but imposes a state mandated mark-up on the sale of wine and alcohol that is not directly comparable to the Massachusetts excise tax.)

P.J. Foster, spokeswoman for the Yes on 1 Campaign, headquartered in Boston, said, "There definitely have been small package stores hurting as a result of this new tax. It's also hurting the consumer."

Foster is a senior account executive for Rasky Baerlein, a Boston based public relations firm that boasts "an undefeated record for the 12 ballot campaigns we have managed," including the defeat of Question One in 2006. That initiative sought to expand the sale of wine at supermarkets in Massachusetts. On that referendum, opponents overcame a steep deficit in initial polling numbers by employing "a multi-faceted, integrated communications campaign that consisted of a large

see **ALCOHOL** pg 10



PARZYCH PHOTO
Ed Champagne inspects a bale of wood pulp on the mill floor.

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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Cashes in on Green Community Funding



Mark Fairbrother holds a fairly large check from the state of Massachusetts, awarded to the town of Montague for qualifying as a Green Community.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Montague received an oversized check from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on Tuesday, September 28th, denoting the \$154,944 grant the town was awarded by the Department of Energy Resources when it qualified as a Green Community this spring.

"It's always great to get large checks," said selectboard member Mark Fairbrother, as he propped the five foot long cardboard check on the conference table in the town hall meeting room during Monday's selectboard meeting.

Selectboard chair Pat Allen received the check on the town's behalf at a ceremony in Greenfield, where environmental secretary Ian Bowles honored Montague, Greenfield, Orange and Palmer among the 31 Massachusetts communities that have already put plans in place to reduce energy use within their borders, qualifying them as Green Communities.

While Montague had initially hoped to put the grant money to use reducing energy use at the town's wastewater treatment plant by installing a fine bubble aeration system, the cost of that sys-

tem turned out to be too much, even if the grant funds were applied.

Now, the town plans to spend the money to buy down the cost of installing a high efficiency gas boiler in the basement of town hall, along with other energy saving items in other town buildings that will be financed through an energy services contract with Siemens Building Technologies.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said progress on installing the new boiler is being held up by contract negotiations with Siemens, specifically over estimated energy savings in town hall that will allow the town to pay back the remaining costs of the boiler installation over the course of the next twenty years.

The town hopes to get the boiler installed by mid-way through the heating season, since Montague only has enough oil available for the old boiler to last until then.

The town also received an earlier DOER grant for \$150,000 towards the cost of the boiler replacement project, from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (federal stimulus funds).

In other news, the selectboard granted a one-day entertainment license

and liquor license for Suzee's Third Street Laundry for the laundromat's sixth annual recycled fashion show. Owner Chris Janke said the fashion show would feature fashions created by local designers using leftover laundry from Suzee's endlessly replenished supply. Seventy five percent of the designs must come from repurposed laundry, the finished products can be accessorized as the designers see fit. "They come up with amazing designs," said Janke, "unrecognizable from the original" torn dungarees, nylon track suits, cast off pyjamas, stained bibs and camouflaged t-shirts.

If past years are any indication, the tickets to the standing room only fashion shows will be the hottest item in town on the night of Saturday, December 4th. Simulcast viewing of the models, who strut their stuff on a catwalk suspended above the washing machines, will be available at the nearby Rendezvous, for those who can't obtain tickets for love or money to the live show.

The selectboard called for volunteers from each village to fill vacant seats on the town's cable advisory committee, as con-

see MONTAGUE pg 10

NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Energy Committee Presents Food Production Coordinator Position

BY JOSH HEINEMAN - At the September 29th Wendell selectboard meeting, the energy committee brought forward their proposal for a new position of town food production and gardening coordinator. The position, with a \$5,000 stipend for approximately ten hours of work a week, would support and encourage local food growing and preservation with consultations, trainings and workshops.

The coordinator would connect local growers with buyers, develop opportunities for sharing seeds, equipment, and facilities, and identify vulnerabilities in the local food system. The position is intended to increase the reliability of the town's food supply as conditions trend toward making food from faraway sources more expensive and less secure, as "the country moves along a declining energy curve," as

committee member Gloria Kegeles said.

To calculate the per household cost of the stipend, selectboard member Dan Keller said for each \$1,000 raised and appropriated, eight cents per thousand dollars is added to the tax rate.

Kegeles said growing local food keeps taxes down by keeping open land free from development. New households tend to see WENDELL pg 13

WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wanted: Food Coordinator

JOSH HEINEMANN - At a special town meeting Wednesday night, October 6th, by a margin of 22 to 19, Wendell voters approved an article that would give the energy committee \$5,000 for the purpose of funding the first year of a two-year pilot program focused on local food and agriculture. Both finance committee and selectboard members voted on both sides of the issue.

The expense was questioned in a town where both the police chief and the fire chief receive a salary of \$5,000, but it was argued that food security is as important an issue as

protection from crime or fire.

The need for the program was questioned, as there are already regional farmers cooperatives, CISA (Community Involved in Supporting Agriculture), and Wendell is not far from the UMass extension service.

Richard Mackey said it is relatively easy to buy a book and learn how to grow a garden.

Nina Keller said, "We are not talking about gardens, but food." She said she was willing to take a chance on a two-year pilot program, and sometimes the most difficult thing to fund is change. Finance

committee member Doug Tanner agreed that a Yes vote was a gamble on something that may be important, and may be useless. He said that collaboration tends to be on a basis of who knows whom, and a more systematic approach might be worth the expense.

Energy committee member Paul Costello pointed out that in 27 of the last 29 years the world has used more oil than was discovered, and in the last year 30 billion barrels of oil were used, and 8 billion barrels were found. The oil that is being found now is five miles below the ocean floor, he said. Modern agriculture takes ten calories of fossil energy to pro-

see FOOD pg 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Gas Leak, Assaults, Assistance Rendered

Tuesday, 9/28

1:40 a.m. Assisted Erving Board of Health at Forest Street residence for inspection.

Wednesday, 9/29

5:00 p.m. Report of assault. Under investigation.

Thursday, 9/30

1:30 p.m. Report of tree across North Street. DPW removed it.

5:40 p.m. Report of possible suspicious

person at French King Bridge. Checked area. No one found.

Friday 10/1

6:30 p.m. Report of erratic operation on westbound Route 2.

Located by Montague Police.

Saturday, 10/2

7:37 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after a license suspension and

speeding on Moore Street.

8:09 p.m. Suspicious person in the middle of the French King Bridge. Checked area. Subject gone.

Sunday, 10/3

1:55 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with disturbance on Main Street.

10:15 a.m. Report of lost dog from Millers Falls area. May be in Erving.

4:45 p.m. Gas leak at

Renovator's Supply. Erving fire department called and on scene.

5:55 p.m. Request for officer assistance at Box Car Restaurant to keep the peace for a parent/child pick-up.

8:30 p.m. Dog from earlier report found and returned to owner in Millers Falls.

Monday, 10/4
9:00 a.m. Report of past assault and battery. Currently under investigation.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Grants Received for Usher Mill Cleanup; Senior Exercise Classes

BY DAVID DETMOLD & KATIE NOLAN - On September 23rd, the selectboard approved an application for a grant and low interest loan through the Brownfields Program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to assist with the cleanup of the derelict Usher Mill complex. The town received a \$50,000 grant and a \$150,000 loan at 2% interest from the FRCOG.

Erving's administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said even though the town of Erving does not, at this point, own the site, "Whatever money is spent to clean it up will be attached to the deed in the form of a lien." Sharp said Patriots Environmental, the Worcester based salvage company that purchased the approximately six acre site in 2007 has not paid taxes on the property, and owes a total of \$6,600 in back taxes on it through 2009.

In 2007, an arson fire destroyed two of the buildings at the site, on Arch Street in Erving Center. Patriots Environmental assisted with the initial demolition of those structures, removed salvageable materials and beams, and has since failed to respond to repeated orders from the county building inspector to clean up and secure the site, which is considered to be a public health hazard.

In May, Erving town meeting appropriated \$500,000 toward the cleanup of the Usher Mill.

This summer, the town contracted with the engineering firm Tighe and Bond to survey the site and estimate cleanup costs. Sharp said, "The initial report on cleanup was in the vicinity of \$650,000, assuming the demolition of all remaining buildings. That cost would increase if the town attempts to save the boiler room building or

other structures on site, such as the water tower.

Former selectboard member Jeff Dubay has advocated for saving the boiler room building, which he believes to be in sound structural condition, and of significant historic value. Dubay spoke out at town meeting and in subsequent selectboard meetings in favor of saving that building, at least, to form the core of future redevelopment of the riverfront property.

Also on the 23rd, the selectboard held a tax classification hearing, and agreed to maintain a split tax rate, with a 63% shift between commercial-industrial property and residential property in town. No residents or business owners were present for the hearing.

"Our new rate is \$7.01 per thousand for residential property," said Sharp, "an increase of 23 cents per thousand over last year's rate. The new commercial-industrial rate is \$12.14 per thousand, a 39 cent per thousand increase. Both rates show an approximately 3.2% increase over last year," Sharp said.

The board also heard from retired firefighter Gary Burnett and emergency management director Luke Hartnett about deferred maintenance at the five manmade fire ponds in town, particularly the pond on High Street. The board took the matter under advisement.

The town is putting the \$81,000 grant from the Department of Energy Resources to good use buttoning up town hall with new replacement windows. Sharp said the work got underway on Tuesday, and "should be done by end of next week, keeping people warm and saving taxpayer dollars. The new windows can be opened more easily in the warm weather, and

in the cold weather the double paned glass will keep the heat in."

The board received a grant for \$3,500 from the Department of Elder Affairs to pay for two exercise classes and volunteer recognition event at the Erving senior center, and also approved a business license for Art Johnson, at 93 Mountain Road, for his new Elite Limo Service.

At the recommendation of fire chief Bud Meatty, Luke Hartnett was appointed as 1st Captain, Ryan Betters as 2nd Captain, Eugene Klepadlo is 1st Lieutenant, and Mark Koslowski as 2nd Lieutenant of the Erving fire department.

On Thursday, September 30th, the board held a preliminary discussion of the budget process for fiscal year 2012, before going into executive session to discuss the discipline or dismissal of an employee, according to Sharp. The board also discussed, in executive session, a revenue sharing agreement with Erving Paper Mill, and an update on negotiations with the Erving Elementary School teachers union.

In the public portion of the meeting, chair Andrew Goodwin proposed using a standardized spreadsheet for budget requests from all departments reporting to the board of selectmen. He also proposed developing a capital spending plan to forecast large expenditures such as fire department equipment or major building repairs five to ten years in the future.

The other selectboard members agreed to Goodwin's proposal to adopt a departmental budgetary spreadsheet and a capital spending plan. Goodwin asked Sharp to take the next steps in developing these budgetary tools.

NOTES FROM THE MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mahar Region Accepts Alternate Town Assessment System - Victory for Wendell

BY KATIE NOLAN
ORANGE - On Tuesday, October 5th, the Mahar Regional school committee voted unanimously to use the alternate averaging method proposed by a subcommittee for determining each town's share of the district's operating costs. Superintendent Michael Baldassarre presented an email from Christine Lynch of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in which she agreed that Mahar could use the alternate averaging method. This method was devised by the subcommittee after several years of lobbying by the Wendell finance committee to make each town's contribution more accurately reflect the wealth of each community, thereby lowering Wendell's per pupil costs.

Baldassarre also presented the 2010 MCAS test results for Mahar, which showed a higher percentage of 7th and 10th grade students ranked as advanced or proficient in mathematics and English language arts than in 2009. Results were "relatively stagnant" for 8th graders. In English language arts, Mahar received an adequate yearly progress (AYP) status of "No

Status," which Baldassarre explained was the best result. In mathematics, the status was "Restructuring - subgroups," because targets were not met for special education and low income subgroups.

"We improved, and we're proud," Baldassarre said. "Now we need to sustain this, which is the hardest thing." The superintendent and school committee members commended students, families, and staff for working to improve education at Mahar.

The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) has offered an annual Presidential scholarship to academically eligible Mahar seniors, Baldassarre announced. Orange is a partner town in IIT's sustainable economic entrepreneurial development (SEED) program, and the scholarship offer is an outgrowth. Scholarship students will be required to serve as SEED community liaisons and work on projects related to their academic major in their hometowns. Baldassarre asked the committee to allow him to travel to IIT in Chicago at the end of the month and to pay

travel expenses for him and Richard Kwiatkowski, Orange town administrator, to confer with IIT and accept the scholarship program on behalf of Mahar. The committee voted unanimously to fund Baldassarre's travel, and voted by a majority to fund Kwiatkowski's travel.

Mahar currently maintains a "self insurance" employee and retiree health insurance trust account. Costs up to \$70,000 are paid from the trust account and greater costs are paid through a re-insurance policy. A subcommittee will negotiate with the teacher's union about switching to a group insurance policy.

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Town Boards Invite Public to Education Forum

LEVERETT - The Leverett selectboard, finance committee and school committee cordially invite Leverett residents to a joint meeting on October 26th, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school for a town forum on a number of important education issues, including: forming an education study committee, discussion about new developments with Union 26, moving

Amherst 6th grades to the Amherst Regional Middle School and how that might affect Leverett, an update on the latest news from the regional school committee, and an update on the Municipal Relief Act Commission on district regionalization and collaboration

For more information, look under school committee at leverett.ma.us, or pick up a flyer at town hall.

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ART AT THE CROSSROADS



in passing by Nayana Glazier

BY ANN FEITELSON

TURNERS FALLS - Friday evening, the Gallery at Hallmark was flooded with people, shoulder to shoulder, standing room only, at the opening of the "Confluence" exhibit.

Here, across from the confluence of the Fall River and the Connecticut River, at the confluence of seasons, is the work of 23 Franklin County artists who submitted work and were accepted into a juried show on the theme of 'confluence'.

They had been invited to "consider what intersections occur due to historical and sociological phenomena of relevance to Franklin County, and to explore and present the idea of confluence as it pertains to the materials and methodologies of art creation, and as it contributes to a sense of place for artists, a sense of place for viewers of the exhibition, and to life, work, and play in Franklin County and the larger universe that people recognize as home."

This could mean almost anything, couldn't it?

Any artist worth his or her salt could come up with something that fits this vision of a blending of elements. In fact, it's almost harder to imagine a work of art that doesn't meet this definition, than to find a few that do. Isn't everything a confluence?

But, whatever! Submitting art to this show is a good opportunity to have one's work reviewed by the two jurors, knowledgeable and discerning cornerstones of contemporary art in the Valley:

Loretta Yarlow, director of the University Gallery at UMass; and Lisa Thompson of A.P.E. (Available Potential Enterprises, a Northampton arts support organization). Artists need exposure and feedback; they need to join forces with other artists, both literally and symbolically. The artists and their friends, spouses, colleagues, and neighbors were upbeat at the opening. Everyone seemed to know everyone, and to celebrate their connections at this crossroads in time.

In contrast with the vivacious extroversion of the gathering, roughly a third of the works on view are introspective studies of water.

Christin Couture, the first place winner, exhibits two limpid paintings of the Deerfield River at Salmon Falls seen from a wooded hillside. Her work is nationally known for its sense of magic, enchantment, otherworldliness. The paintings are made with mixed media, including encaustic, which is hot wax, a flowing medium. The light, and the scene, are honeyed, melting, transcendent, burnished with detail and imbued with emotion. The parting in the network of tree trunks, through which we see the glowing river, becomes like the drawing apart of a heavy theatrical curtain: we glimpse something spectacular, a revelatory moment.

Anita Hunt achieves a misty, effervescent effect in her intaglio prints titled "Submerged" and "Dissolution." A convergence of water, light and space, where you

can't tell one from another, they are nebulous and sparkling with auras. "I'm interested in looking at ordinary things and amplifying their mystery," she explained at the opening.

Tom Wyatt shows photographs of gently swirling and rippling water the camera captures as serpentine patterns. Abstraction and realism flow together. "Water intensifies color," Wyatt asserts.

John Williamson's pastel depicts a summer sunrise on the Sudbury River, a perfect, eternal moment: a vast, clear sky reflected in a wide river, both humming with a divine presence. "My hope, my desire is to catch a glimmer of the beauty, stillness and sublimity of the creation," he says. His work has a superb delicacy and luminosity.

Ellen Blanchette also uses water images: a Japanese garden with leafy reflections, and the dam in Turners, where a powerful arc of water is answered by a rainbow.

Instead of a harmony of components, in some works there is a radical clash of disparate elements. Linda Mahoney pits a threatened species against the horrors of ocean pollution in her painting "Arctic Fox." The fox confronts a deluge of destructive forces: garbage, plastic, smoke, tennis balls, snarls of rope. Mahoney says, "At the beach, where the land meets the sea, is where life is most dynamic... the meeting place of two environments where the human impact is evident and irreversible."

Similarly, in Barbara Milot's landscapes, nails and wire protrude through the smooth surface of landscape photos. The pieces are a response to proposed power plants that are not as benign as their promoters would have us believe. Hammered and pierced, they have been attacked by the artist. Milot says she is interested in "taking something you don't understand and making it upsetting or disturbing; doing something physically violent, destroying it, to make the point that we tend to destroy things. We often don't care about the consequences and don't consider the long term."

Other artists use unusual combos to make a variety of points. William Hosie's wildly improbable assemblage of humble objects - a bamboo hoop, a green wood semicircle, some lattice, red and green pipes, tape and triangles - indicates forces: left, right, stop, go, around, over, up, down.

The piece has "locomotive intention," Hosie says; it sways with a restrained formal humor, like a miniature metaphorical roller coaster. He calls it "a travelogue of circumstantial change."

Mary Averill shows three photos, each a double exposure across lifetimes, her daughter merging with herself, herself overlapping with her mother, her grandmother coalescing with her great grandmother. The photos, she says, are "a convergence of images across generations."

Varis Mohler "combines

pieces of landscapes and blends them digitally." His image superimposes the façade of the Railroad Salvage building over several other landscape fragments. The multilayered photo collage blends natural and man-made elements into something surprisingly elegant.

Nayana Glazier shows "in passing," a black and white painting of a subway, in which people come and go, speaking of isolation. She says it is about a time when she lived in Boston and was "walking through rivers of people, feeling naked and exposed, unseen." In art, she says, "nothing is ever planned; it takes on a life of its own." Now she is happily settled in Turners with an infant daughter, and manages the Round Here Cafe.

So, a confluence of wildly divergent things - the watery mysteries, the confrontations with environmental destruction, the clashes of forces, the blending of generations, the photos of fleeting poignant moments (by Sara Acton and Daniel Brown), and much other compelling work by Barbara Hadden (a beautiful painting of the woods), Sandra Streeter, Darlene Thorpe-Johansmeyer, Robert Hallock, Bob Green, Jo-Ann Denehy, Nat Cohen, Bob Cantius, Jessica Fafnir Adamites, Paul Gatker - too numerous, unfortunately, to detail here - continue to meet at the Gallery until October 31st, when they will drift away like the autumn leaves.

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Source to Sea Hauls in a Trove of Trash



Dotty Janke at the Cleanup

BY SARAH DOYLE

GREAT FALLS - Despite initial confusion over whether or not it had been cancelled, around 150 volunteers turned up as scheduled for Saturday's Source-to-Sea Cleanup along the Gill-Montague sections of the Connecticut River.

Work in other areas was postponed until October 16th because the river water, running high and fast due to recent heavy rains, made the cleanup too dangerous (to find out where you can help clean up on the 16th, call: 413-772-2020). Still, there was plenty to do a safe distance from the river's edge, and a great deal was accomplished.

About 75 volunteers met at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls to pick up their site assignments and snag a doughnut and a cup of Clarkdale's cider before heading off to their sites, carrying plastic buckets for broken glass, trash bags in various sizes, and heavy work gloves. Around the same time, a group of about 65 people from the Mohawk Ramblers and their friends, plus employees from Smith & Wesson, met up on the Montague Plains for their own cleanup efforts.

The trash that accumulated by

the end of the day fell into two major types: the trash of sloppiness (bottles, cans, Styrofoam, candy wrappers, and other junk carelessly tossed or dropped by accident) and the deliberate dumping of large items (furniture, appliances, and miscellaneous, often hazardous, items such as gas tanks, propane cylinders, building materials, and the ever-popular tires). There were two large trash bags of returnable bottles and cans that could have been redeemed for cash. Some items clearly could have gone to the Salvation Army or a local Survival Center before they were destroyed by outdoor exposure; the rest could have been disposed of legally and cheaply at one of Franklin County's 19 transfer stations. It seems very likely that tires and some appliances are being systematically dragged to these sites by businesses or haulers who may have collected a fee for proper disposal, but did not follow through.

On Newton Street in Millers Falls, a group of women and girls from Greenfield's Second Congregational Church pulled out the most trash per person, according to one of the event's organizers, Ray Purington of Gill. The group was stunned by the quantity and type of items they found: two heaping truckloads held a recliner, a double mattress, a TV, a computer, bags of (used) diapers, four tires, shingles and other building materials, broken bottles, and the minibottles for hard liquor called "nips." They pulled all this from along a fairly steep section of riverbank. Jeanne Douillard, of Greenfield, explained the girls pulled the larger items out fire-brigade style, handing each piece from one person to the next until they got it up to the road at the top of the hill.

Linden Hill students took care of the Turners Falls bike path, a group from Bernardston's Brownie Troop 40235 went over to clean the Cabot Camp by the Millers River, the ever-faithful family group called the Marvin-Ward Mountain Goats cleaned out an area near the French King Bridge, and at Hoe Shop Road in Gill, volunteers who had come on their own lugged out two

stuffed chairs, a TV, eight tires, a futon mattress, and a dozen or so buckets of bottles and broken glass.

In addition to three 30-yard dumpsters full of trash the usual oddball items cropped up. A computer, seven TVs, 48 tires, two refrigerators, ten mattresses, one car battery, and one gas grill cylinder were hauled to the Montague transfer station from the Gill-Montague sections alone. Adding to the haul, volunteers from the Montague Plain filled two more dumpsters, and brought in five gas tanks, four propane cylinders, a meat hook,

about 80 tires, seemingly endless strands of coated wire, a five-gallon canister of brake fluid, a lovely old vanity mirror, and an office chair.

Most disgusting find: Styrofoam trays of rotting meat apparently cleared out of a home freezer (perhaps from this summer's power outage?) and, on the Montague Plains, 30 - 40 plastic bags of unidentifiable rotted food. Special gratitude goes to the brave individuals who gagged their way through tossing those beauties into the dumpsters.

This catalogue of items that mar and misuse our land may be disheartening, but there is an upside to the annual tradition of

the Source-to-Sea Cleanup: it gives us a chance to see the generosity and good nature of the groups, individuals, and businesses who turn out each year to pick up after the people who continue to heedlessly break the law and pollute our common watershed.

Along with the groups already mentioned, thanks are due to volunteers from FirstLight Power, Franklin County Trial Court Community Service Program, Gill Elementary School 6th Grade (led by their teacher, Joanne Flagg), Montague-MA.net, the Rendezvous staff and families, and the numerous unnamed families and individuals who gave of their time.



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MONTAGUE from pg 6
tract renewal negotiations get underway with ComCast. The town typically pushes for more live cable drops for the cable access station, managed by MCTV, and for extending cable coverage to unserved areas, during these negotiations. Contact: 863-3200 x 108 if interested.

Mark Canon, owner of La Bodega on 4th Street, came in to update the board on the Mexican Independence Day party he held on Sunday, September 26th. The board had turned down a prior request from Canon for a one day permit to have an outdoor DJ playing Latino music at the event,

due to previous noise complaints. Canon said the party went on as planned, without the DJ, but with music broadcast from speakers in the windows, kept at levels he believed were within limits set by the town's noise ordinance.

The tenor of the discussion indicated Canon was no longer interested in seeking permission for future events from the board, although he invited them to attend a similar gathering at La Bodega on an upcoming weekend.

"The negative publicity we get from the Montague selectboard gives us more positive publicity in the local press," Canon said.



ALCOHOL from pg 5

scale grassroots effort and an extensive statewide earned and paid media strategy that leveraged print, online and broadcast coverage," according to Rasky Baerlein's website.

A State House News Service poll of 400 adults taken at the end of August shows Question 1 in 2010 opposed by 60% of respondents, with 38% favoring repeal of the alcohol tax.

P.J. Foster said, "There are over 1600 package stores in the state, where no individual owner can have more than three licenses. The stores tend to be part of the community, and since the tax went from 0 to 6.25% these family run businesses are struggling. They are cutting hours; they are laying people off. Store owners I've talked to say their business is down 6 - 9 %."

Foster said she had spoken primarily with package store owners near the New Hampshire and Rhode Island borders. She said R.I. residents used to come to Massachusetts to buy alcohol because it was cheaper, "Now it's the reverse." Rhode Island has a 7% sales tax, alcohol included.

Foster cited New Hampshire liquor commissioner Joseph Mollica. "He's reported New Hampshire sales are up 10% since the tax was imposed last year; and one quarter of New Hampshire sales were made by Massachusetts residents.

Reached by phone, Mollica clarified, "Alcohol sales in New Hampshire were up 10% overall, for the entire year. The Massachusetts tax came into effect in August. I'm certainly sure that the whole 10% [rise]

wasn't due to that tax."

Mollica said the rate of alcohol sales in New Hampshire by Massachusetts residents, some of which is due to second homes, has remained constant at about 23% for the last ten years.

Has Kostanski's Turners Falls package store been hurt by the new sales tax? No. "I have not seen any difference in sales since they instituted the tax increase," Kostanski said.

Grant, who spoke to a gathering of the Communities that Care biannual coalition meeting at the Arts Block Café in downtown Greenfield on Friday, October 1st, gave two reasons to support continuing the tax on alcohol.

First, Grant said, Massachusetts ranks among the states with the highest percentage of alcohol use by underage drinkers, and teens are particularly sensitive to the price of alcohol, unlike adult drinkers. Second, the dedicated revenue stream from the tax on alcohol gives agencies like hers the wherewithal to continue trying to reduce the risk of underage drinking, while combating the general problems of addiction and alcohol abuse in the state.

"In the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey," said Grant, "46% of respondents said they had at least one drink of alcohol within the last 30 days, indicating current use. Twenty-eight percent said they had five or more drinks in a row in the past 30 days, indicating binge drinking. Of the four top causes of death for teens, car accidents, falling, homicide and suicide, alcohol was a factor in 72% of these incidents in the last year," Grant said.



Shop Locally and Support Swift River School

BY JENNY POTE

WENDELL – The Swift River School is proud to introduce the first annual Shop Locally Catalog. This is the school's main fundraiser to support the student activities fund. Proceeds are used to help fund field trips and other student activities, and there is just one more week to take advantage of the opportunity.

The catalog includes items primarily from New Salem and Wendell businesses. Shopping through the catalog is a great way to support Swift River School while also giving a boost to the local economy, as a percentage of each sale goes to the student activities fund.

Some of the many participating businesses include: New Salem General Store, New Salem Preserves, Wendell Country Store, Deja Brew, Diemand Farm, Lynn Crough Housecleaning Service, and the Montague Reporter.

Why not stock up on some gift certificates to your favorite local store or restaurant, buy some local apples and cider, treat yourself to a certificate for

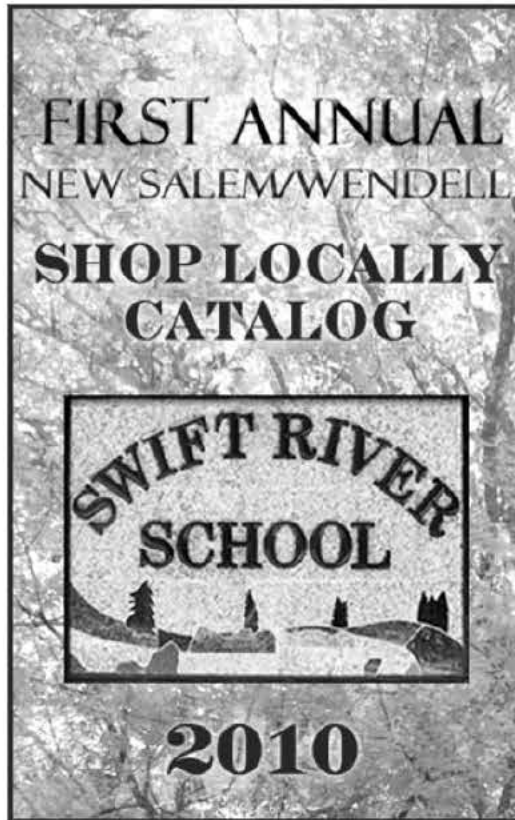
a thorough house cleaning before the holidays, or renew your newspaper subscription while benefiting the school children's activities at the same

dine out, or clean the house is a total win/win!

Check out Carla Halpern's hand-crafted peace crane earrings (wouldn't they make a lovely gift for a daughter or friend with pierced ears?) Order some treats for your child's next birthday party from Sweet Tooth Cupcakes. Kuumba Made offers herbal body care products that would make wonderful stocking stuffers or holiday gifts. How about some music by the Alchemystics, Brian Bender, Gary Blanchard, the Reprobate Blues Band, or Poor Richard's Penny, to liven up your day. The Wooden Wagon has an amazing selection of handcrafted toys and arts and crafts projects.

Catalogs are available at the New Salem Public Library, New Salem General Store, Wendell Free Library, Wendell Country Store, and Diemand Farm, as well as online at

www.swiftriverschool.org. Orders are due at Swift River School by October 13th. Call: 978 544-7333 for more information.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Juveniles Arrested for Breaking and Entering

Tuesday, 9/28
5:33 p.m. Unwanted person on Poplar Street. Services rendered.
11:21 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Woodland Drive in Montague. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 9/29
1:07 a.m. Probation warrant arrest of [redacted]
10:10 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Canal Street. Peace restored.
Thursday, 9/30
5:11 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a subsequent offense of disturbing the peace and obstruction of justice. Arrest of [redacted] on five default warrants and a straight warrant.

11:14 a.m. Missing person at Powertown Apartments on Avenue A. Services rendered.
7:11 p.m. Suspicious auto at Millers Falls railroad yard. Services rendered.
Friday, 10/1
8:23 a.m. Suspicious auto on Fosters Road. Unable to locate.
12:34 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at railroad tracks on Lake Pleasant Road in Lake Pleasant.
12:35 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Report taken.
Saturday, 10/2
7:29 a.m. Suspicious person on Turners Falls Road. Arrest of three juveniles, ages 16, 13, and 13, for larceny over \$250 (3 motorcycles), night time breaking and entering with the intent

to commit a felony on Avenue C, larceny over \$250 (several bicycles), felony night time breaking and entering of a vehicle/boat (Laurel Lane), larceny over \$250 (cars in Laurel Lane), and misdemeanor breaking and entering (from Laurel Lane sheds).
8:34 a.m. Larceny on Davis Street. Services rendered.
9:25 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Hatchery Road in Montague. Services rendered.
10:21 a.m. Illegal dumping opposite Ramblers Road on Lake Pleasant Road. Referred to other agency.
12:28 p.m. Larceny on Laurel Lane. Referred to an officer.
12:56 p.m. Larceny on Laurel Lane. Referred to an officer.

1:53 p.m. Larceny on Davis Street. Services rendered.
7:05 p.m. Larceny on Avenue A. Report taken.
9:38 p.m. Liquor law violations at Unity Park. Investigated.
Sunday, 10/3
9:09 p.m. Two individuals each issued summons for three counts of vandalism, damage, or defacement of property and disorderly conduct on East Chestnut Hill Road in Montague.
Monday, 10/4
8:16 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and domestic assault and battery on G Street.
Tuesday, 10/5
2:34 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation on Vladish Avenue on pathway to Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.

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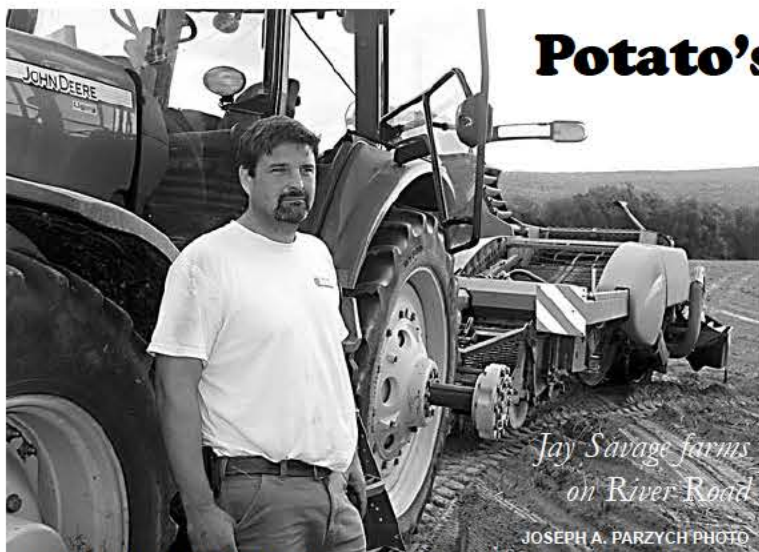
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Potato's Progress - from Gill to Pennsylvania

Jay Savage farms on River Road
JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GILL - A few years ago, my son asked me to bring him home a bag of Utz potato chips from Pennsylvania. When I returned, I spotted an Utz potato chip delivery van at the Stop & Shop in Greenfield.

Even better, two weeks ago I saw Savage Farms machinery digging potatoes on River Road in Gill. Jay Savage, operating a John Deere tractor, is a fourth generation Savage carrying on the 100-year-old tradition of making a living in agriculture on the family farm. He was driving a 200-horsepower John Deere tractor, hauling a 1700 DIS Grimme potato digger made in Germany.

The potatoes are Snowden, the preferred variety of potato grown expressly for making potato chips, more specifically for Utz

potato chips made in Hanover, PA!

"Snowden potatoes are high specific gravity potatoes. They're solid. You could bake them, but if you boil them, they fall apart at a certain point."

Savage knows what he is talking about, having studied agriculture at Vermont Technical College.

"Mechanized farming is the only way to go," Savage said. "Even in Maine, where they traditionally suspend school for potato harvest, no one picks potatoes in the fields anymore. Growing and digging are all mechanized. The kids still get time off, but they work sorting potatoes before they're packed, picking out damaged or green ones, debris and stones."

Savage told me I was wel-

come to try some potatoes left behind in the field. He was right. They held together during baking, but the taste left something to be desired. Sliced thin and fried in oil, however, they tasted great.

Potato chips are said to have been invented by a Native American, George Crum who worked as a chef at an elegant resort in Saratoga Springs, NY. In 1853, Crum decided to rile a guest who had rejected French fries that he found too thick. Crum sliced the potatoes too thin to be skewered with a fork, and fried them. When served, the guest was ecstatic, and other diners began requesting Crum's potato chips. Crum opened his own restaurant, featuring a basket of potato chips at every table. Don't let anyone tell you potato chips are unhealthy. Crum ate more than his fair share and lived to be 92.

Last month's harvest in Gill was a two-step process. Jerry Rose operated a four-row Grimme RL 3600 windrower, also drawn by a 200 HP John Deere tractor. He dug four rows of potatoes, windrowing them over onto a row of potatoes still in the ground. The John Deere, operated by Savage, pulled a Gimme 1700, a German digger that dug two rows at a time, taking up the windrow of dug potatoes as well. The Grimme's wide chain elevator drew potatoes and vines up into the machine, separating out larger potatoes while small potatoes and vines fell to the ground. Operators of both John Deere tractors controlled the Grimme machines hydraulically from inside the tractor cabs.

Potatoes traveled up a curved chute where they dropped into a ten-wheel truck. It took less than 15 minutes to fill a truck with 30,000 pounds of potatoes. Even with four ten wheel trucks hauling to the packing plant in Deerfield, they couldn't keep up with the digging duo. It would take an entire family all day to gather up as many potatoes as the Savage machines processed in a few minutes.

"Potatoes are dug, sorted, packed in 100 pound bags and shipped to Utz storage in Hanover, PA within 24 hours," Savage said. "Potatoes we ship to

Cape Cod Chips are handled the same way, except that Cape Cod chips and fries theirs the same day." All potatoes have to be at least 1-7/8th inches in diameter.

In 1921, Bill and Sallie Utz started making and selling potato chips in Hanover, PA, where Savage Farms delivers see **POTATOES** page 12

The Customers Declare....

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GREAT FALLS - In a blind taste test of Cape Cod vs. Utz potato chips purchased at Food City, Cape Cod chips ran about 2 to 1 over Utz in consumer satisfaction at the Great Falls Farmers Market, on Avenue A in Turners. A common reason given was that Cape Cod Potato Chips were crunchier and less salty. The Cape Cod Chips were kettle cooked in canola oil, whereas Utz chips were cooked in cottonseed oil, according to the information on the bag. In all fairness to Utz, company spokesman George Neiderer said his company produces a full line of potato chips, including a kettle cooked chip for a crunchier bite. They also offer a no-salt-added potato chip.

So, Dear Readers, as flawed human beings, we probably ran a flawed test by not comparing identical varieties. So let your taste buds do the buying when it comes to chipped spuds.



Oscar McDonough was undecided; he preferred chocolate chip cookies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Utility Pole Ignites Twice, Rock Climber Rescue

Monday, 9/27
8:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Long Plain Road. Driver swerved to avoid hitting a raccoon and then struck a steel guardrail. Passenger side damage over \$1,000. No citation issued. Operator able to drive vehicle away. Minor damage to guardrail.

Tuesday, 9/28
7:15 a.m. Report of utility pole on fire on Long Plain Road near Juggler Meadow Road intersection. Officer directed traffic for Leverett Fire Department and Northeast Utilities. Fire extinguished.

7:30 a.m. Received a call from a Dudleyville Road resident of a possible

intruder in her home. Officer responded. No intruder. Wind slammed upstairs door. Cleared scene.

8:24 a.m. Officer located injured female on the side of Depot Road. Female injured knee while walking. Officer transported injured female to Putney Road address.

11:10 a.m. Report of utility pole on fire again on Long Plain Road near Juggler Meadow Road. Officer directed traffic for Leverett Fire Department and Northeast Utilities. Fire extinguished and pole repaired.

Thursday, 9/30
Officer responded to

complaint of loud ATVs in the North Leverett Road area. Officer located three juveniles on dirt bikes. Advised them of complaint. No violations.

Friday, 10/1
10:50 p.m. Officer sent to Long Plain Road for a report of an erratic driver. Unable to locate the driver.

Sunday, 10/3
4:35 p.m. Officer sent to the area behind 438 Long Plain Road for a report of a female stuck on a rock ledge while climbing. Officer located female and requested Leverett Fire Department to extricate her from the ledges. No injuries.

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DADA from pg 1

Co-directors Beverly Richie and John Landino, of the Dadaist Invasion of Turners Falls, MA, in partnership with RiverCulture, are excited to bring you a lineup of experimental artists from Franklin County, the Pioneer Valley, New York City and beyond. The Salon of the Avant Garde, to take place on Friday, October 8th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., will be an evening of performances inside and outside the Gallery at Hallmark, 85 Avenue A, in Turners. Additionally, there will be an exhibit of Landino's sculptures and of edgy photography by NYC's Timothy Feresten.

The walls will be bathed in undulating video projections while the gallery will be filled with intense live audio soundings.

The lineup includes, in this approximate order (starting around 6:30 p.m.):

NYC Performance Artist, "GLOVE."

Nayana Glazier and Jason Czernich will perform, "Gallery."

Poet Steven Lindow will recite, "Poetry from the Cave of Absinthe."

Rebecca Migdal will perform, "Pain Relief."

Wendell artists Christine Tarantino and Adrian Montagano will create a piece called, "Circle in Dreams." Tarantino has performed in NYC with the internationally acclaimed Fluxus artist Alison Knowles.

The night will conclude with the wild Dada-Orchestra backing up Andy Laties, Rebecca Migdal, and Steven Lindow reciting the famous Dada artist Kurt Schwitters' nonsense poem, "Ursanate." The poem was designed to free verbs.

Special musical guest Jack Nelson will appear.

And there will be an all-night performance by Bryon James called "Techno-Trash."

Nina Rossi, Turners Falls artist will also be performing.

For more info, call: 413-588-8308, or contact: Experimental-human@gmail.com or dadaistinvasion.org

MILL from pg 5

town has a total of \$250,045 in its retained sewer earnings account, and wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley has recommended spending just \$36,500 of that to reduce next year's rates, which are now forecast to remain "essentially the same as this year's rates, for all the ratepayers." Trombley anticipates using the balance of the retained earnings fund to stabilize "rate shock" in future years, as debt from recent capital improvements at the treatment plant comes due.

The Montague tax collector's office reports Southworth paid \$74,062 in sewer bills from May through July of this year, which translates to an annual bill in the range of nearly \$300,000. Southworth is the town of Montague's largest sewer user.

Southworth is a non-union shop, employing about 75 people.

On a recent tour of the plant,

workers said they were happy to have a job, despite the swing shift requirement.

Bridge Closing Effect

The weight limit reduction at the 5th Street bridge over the power canal to the paper mill, "has created a problem for truckers to get there and to negotiate backing into the plant, but with the poor economy, trucking companies want the work," Southworth said. "The drivers may complain, but they can still maneuver even though traffic backups may make them nervous."

The Southworth Mill has had a large block of concrete by the main entrance cut back at an angle. The block had caught the wheels on trucks making a right turn onto the White Bridge from the canalside driveway. Drivers now can exit without getting hung up on what had been dubbed "the Rabbit Trap."

FOOD from pg 6

duce one calorie of food energy, and the average piece of food in a supermarket has traveled 1500 miles.

After the meeting as people

were walking out into the dark night Costello said, "The world is in a unique position now, with a population of 7 billion that is dependent on food grown with fossil fuel."

POTATOES from pg 11

Snowdens, ideal for chipping because of their high density and low water content.

Lance Inc., the parent company of Hyannis' Cape Cod Potato Chips, announced in July it has entered into a merger agreement with Snyder's, the Pennsylvania-based snack food company most well known for its line of pretzels. Snyder's is also based in

Hanover, just like Utz. Savage Farms may be shipping a lot more Gill potatoes to Hanover, PA in years to come.

Savage Farms owns 150 acres of land, in all, on both Northfield and Gill sides of the Connecticut River. The alluvial soil in the flood plain of the Connecticut River is ideal farmland. The absence of stones and the close proximity of water from the

Community Outreach

"We have made an effort to reach out to the community," Southworth said. "We support the United Way and other worthy causes like the Shea Theatre, the high school year book and others. We offer a free idea book on the uses of paper. We donate paper to the schools and other community institutions. We can't respond to every request; a thousand requests can add up to a lot of paper, but we do our best to be a good neighbor."

In Southworth's waiting room a framed citation the company received from Americas 9-11 Memorial Quilt Organization, thanks the company for a generous donation of parchment paper.


There is a maxim, "What you give, comes back to you."

In addition to sound management, this truism appears to be working for Southworth.



Voters also approved the entire warrant, 17 articles.

More on the particulars of the remaining warrant articles in next week's paper.



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HISTORICAL from page 1

oral history, folklore, town crier material, written history, printed history, newspapers, radio and finally television."

At the meeting on October 1st, the Society discussed the progress of archiving materials. "Ed Gregory of Greenfield has been a tremendous help in identifying pictures and other historical artifacts," Fiske said. "He once lived in Turners Falls, and has put together a history of the village and the canals. He's put a lot of our material on CDs for us."

Like Gregory, members do not need to be residents of Montague. Martha Daniels is from Northampton, and secretary Dorothy Hmielski is from South Deerfield, but they both have roots in Montague.

Leslie Bridges of Montague is treasurer. He said at present money is not a pressing problem for the group. However, interesting new members is.

"Though our active members have an impressive amount of enthusiasm," Fiske said, "they're not getting any younger." The Society has about 30 members, of whom about ten are active. Mary Melonis is the group's unofficial cheerleader, Fiske declared.

"What we really need is a

computer," said Melonis. "We'd love to have someone donate a desktop with XP. But a laptop would be ideal, so members could take it home to continue working. Ultimately, we'd like to make a lot of our information available online."

The members hope to interest some of the genealogy enthusiasts in town, high school students, Brick House members and Native Americans. "We had a generous donation of an arrowhead collection," Fiske added. "We'd love to have a Native American identify and catalog these items."

Greenfield historian Peter

Miller, who has helped the Society in the past, has an interest in Montague's rich history. "I have over 200 pictures of historical significance taken in the town of Montague," Miller said. "I'd be willing to donate them." But he is reluctant to donate this irreplaceable material if the Society is danger of disbanding.

"Besides the members who generously support the Historical Society, we also need some volunteers just to help us catalog and archive things," Fiske said. "We also need a new president and vice president."

"Almost everyone has material of historical significance,"

Connecticut River for irrigation create a perfect medium for growing potatoes.

"Without irrigation," Savage said, "We wouldn't have had much of a crop this year."

So, folks, remember, the next time you buy high class Utz or Cape Cod chips, they could very well have come from potatoes raised in Gill.



Fiske noted. "Often it is sold or discarded when collectors move to smaller quarters, or when they die. We can make a note of who the donor is, in honor of them."

Historical societies are invaluable in collecting, cataloging, and archiving historical material to preserve for future generations. Anyone can volunteer, even for a short time, to help in this fascinating and worthwhile endeavor. Come to the open house Sunday, October 24th, to see Montague history on display. Enrich your life and consider helping to preserve the rich history of this area.

For more information, call Fiske at 367-2280.



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THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Doom and Gloom

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ – Q. *I find myself thinking one sad thought after another, and it makes me depressed. Is there anything I can do to stop this?*

Everyone gets depressed occasionally, but gloom should not be persistent in your life. Go to your doctor for a checkup. You might need medication or therapy.

The cause of your depression could be a physical illness, life events, personality problems, side effects from drugs or combinations of these elements. Your

doctor's choice of treatment - or no treatment — will be based upon symptom frequency and test results.

A flow of sad thoughts through your mind can be frustrating because you can't be sure if depression is making you think negatively, or thinking negatively is making you depressed. A common cold, exhaustion, stress, hunger, sleep deprivation, even allergies can make you depressed, which leads to negative thoughts.

In many cases, depression can be caused by negative thinking itself. Our feelings follow what we are thinking, and dwelling upon negative thoughts can send us spiraling down into depression. This concept is the guiding principle behind Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) developed in the 1960s by Dr. Aaron T.

Beck at the University of Pennsylvania.

To combat negative thinking, it is important to understand it. The following are some cognitive distortions — ways that our mind convinces us of untruths. These distortions are usually used to reinforce negative thinking or emotions. By repeatedly refuting distortions, negative thinking will diminish.

Credit goes to David D. Burns, author of "Feeling Good: The New Mood Therapy," for coining common names for these distortions.

Filtering. You dwell completely upon a dust speck you notice on a Van Gogh painting.

Polarized Thinking. If you're not perfect, you're a failure. People are either wonderful or awful.

Overgeneralization. You fell

off the horse on your first try, therefore you will fall every time you get on a saddle.

Jumping to Conclusions. Your friend hasn't called for a while, therefore she hates you.

Catastrophizing. Disaster is inevitable. You're obsessed with "What if? What if? What if?"

Personalization. Everything that happens is about you. Your best friend started playing tennis because he knows you don't like the game.

Control Fallacies. You feel like a helpless victim of external forces. Or, you feel personally responsible for everyone's happiness.

Fallacy of Fairness. You are the only one who knows what is fair, and you're sure that you are being treated unfairly.

Blaming. You blame others for your pain. Or, you blame yourself for everything.

Shoulds. There are rules that must be obeyed by everyone. If you violate the rules, you feel guilty. If others break the rules,

you feel angry. Emotional Reasoning. My emotions define the truth. I feel ugly, therefore I am ugly.

Fallacy of Change. You think you can change people to make yourself happy.

Global Labeling. An extreme form of generalizing with exaggerated and emotionally loaded labels for yourself and others. You fail a quiz and call yourself a "lifetime loser."

Always Being Right. Being wrong is not an option. You will do whatever it takes to win an argument.

Heaven's Reward Fallacy. If you work hard and sacrifice, you will always be rewarded. If that reward doesn't come when you want it, you become angry and bitter.

In our next column, we'll provide some techniques for accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative.

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

WENDELL from page 6

cost the town more in services than they pay in taxes, farms less.

After leaving the selectboard meeting and consulting with the finance committee, the energy committee returned to the selectboard to say the finance committee had recommended funding the position for one year of a two-year pilot project, and perhaps sharing the position with other towns.

Community garden chair Katie Nolan opened the meeting saying some people in town have been bringing water home from the community garden well, with its hand pump, because their home wells had gone dry. One garden committee member suggested having the water tested.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she would rather leave the situation as it is, with the understanding that water in that well is untested, and suitable for

washing, not drinking. The well does not meet any of the criteria for a public drinking water source. Before the town bought the property and built the office building, the well was used by the former homeowner, but a public water supply has far more stringent standards than a private well

Nolan asked if the capped well above the garden could be reactivated for easier watering, but Keller said it would be a task to remove the concrete from that well to even determine whether the well still had water in it. Continuing the discussion of the state forestry zoning plan from prior meetings selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he thought that logging in the state forest within Wendell should benefit Wendell residents as much as possible. Lumber and cordwood taken from the state forest should be available for Wendell citizens. He said he was

more concerned with having logging done sustainably, than with the amount of state land in which logging is allowed. For reserves, he said that large contiguous areas are more valuable than the same amount of land preserved in small separate pieces.

Heard said the purpose of the survey the state is circulating to towns with state land is to get a feeling of the towns, and that the state agencies will make their own decisions about land use. Money that comes to the town for lumber taken out of the state forest land, 8% of the stump fees, is shown on the cherry sheet, and so is easy to miss.

Keller said his neighbor, Matt Edwards, a tree expert who runs Edwards Tree service, looked at the large maple that dominates the playground behind the library and deemed it essentially healthy. There is a large section of rot in the center, but that can be sealed

over, and it needs some trimming among the high branches, but the living part of a tree is a thin layer just inside the bark, and that is sound. Other trees in the playground are sound, but may need some trimming, but there is a large triple ash leaning over the north roof of the library that should come down. The neighbor to the north did not want it cut during construction, and he does not want it cut now, but it should come down. He burns firewood, and Aldrich suggested the town could soften the blow of losing that tree by offering him the wood for fuel.

Assessors Stephen Broll and Ted Lewis came in with Helen Williams and a contract for her to sign as assessor's assistant, which the selectboard approved. Keller informed the assessors they would be required to sign and abide by the new state Code of Conduct and Ethics, and Broll

said, "Us?" Keller answered, "Especially you."

October 15th at 10:30 a.m., veterans agent Leo Parent will dedicate the Franklin County Purple Heart Memorial Bridge at the new Veterans Memorial park in Orange. Ted Lewis agreed to attend the ceremony.

The planning board sent the selectboard a letter complaining the state Attorney General has not yet received changes to town bylaws voted at the annual town meeting in June, an issue that has cropped up in past years. Keller recommended that the selectboard make sure the town meeting results are sent in quickly, a responsibility of the town clerk.


Town treasurer Carolyn Manley asked the board to reconvene the personnel policy committee to review the personnel policy, which the selectboard agreed to do.



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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 27: Menacing Mice

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER - Jane's right hand groped in the tunnel until it wrapped around another wriggling shape, a slippery snake. She gripped it tightly, pulled the snake up out of the tunnel, and triumphantly dropped it into the trash can. The can was overflowing with a mass of writhing snakes, rising out, spilling onto the floor, twisting

and waving in the air... and then they stiffened, responding to the piercing beeps that jammed the room, exploding in her ears. Jane opened her eyes. She recognized the sound she'd heard in her dream as the smoke alarm, then smelled the smoke. She shoved Nell in the ribs.

"Get up, Nell! The house is on fire!"

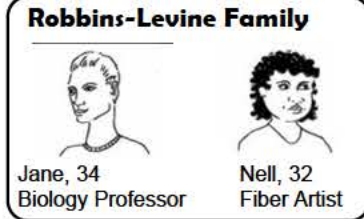
Jane yanked the blanket off the bed and dragged it with her as she raced down the stairs, while Nell ran to the next room to get

the baby. On the way out the door, Nell called 911 on her cell phone. Then they both waited on the sidewalk in the dark, with Baby Betty crying softly on Jane's shoulder.

Twelve minutes later the fire truck pulled up and three suited figures jumped out.

As the firefighters assembled their hoses, Jane told Nell about her snake-filled dream.

"Must have something to do with all the knob and tube wiring you've been pulling out of the



Jane, 34
Biology Professor



Nell, 32
Fiber Artist

floors," Nell observed groggily. "I can't wait until it's all out. Do you hear something whining from inside the house?"

"Nell — we forgot about Bingo!! We've got to get Bingo out!"

Jane moved toward the house, but a firefighter gripped her arm to restrain her.

"Sorry, ma'am — I'm afraid you can't go back in. I'll tell them about the dog."

Twenty minutes later, Jane and Nell were reunited with a tail-wagging Bingo, who appeared to be uninjured.

"You're lucky — the fire was contained to the second floor bedroom at the far end, and you've got some damage to the floor, but that's about it. We think the fire started with some knob and tube wiring under there. Looks like mice chewed the insulation off the wires. Bare wires are an invitation to trouble. I noticed some gaps in the floorboards — has anyone been creating a disturbance under those floorboards recently?"

"Yes, that would be me," Jane answered. "Just call me Calamity Jane." *Continued next issue...*

Brick House Green Training Underway



Instructor Scott Reed explains the principals of heat convection and insulation to students Molly Mast (Erving), Diego Vanegas (Lee), Jean Morin (Greenfield), Mary Thomas (Wendell), Antonio Becchetti (Wendell) and Michael Russell (Turners Falls) Tuesday, at the first class of the Brick House's Green Jobs program.

BY LYNN BENANDER

TURNERS FALLS - People interested in finding work in energy efficiency, solar hot water system installation, solar air heat system installation, and biodiesel production began a free hands-on training program at the Brick House this week. The course will continue for nine weeks, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Preference was given to people from Montague and to young people between 18 and 25, and

stipends were available. The program, co-sponsored with Co-op Power, was funded with a community development block grant and a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and quickly filled up with about 18 students attending the first class.

Last fall the Brick House ran the same program and it proved to be life changing for the people who attended. Shakoor Aljuwani, Co-op Power's green job coordinator, described what

this program did for one young single mother last year.

"She was hired to serve on an energy efficiency crew where she has learned to air seal and insulate homes, making \$12 an hour. She did so well, Co-op Power sent her for additional training, and she has since been promoted to a crew leader position, making \$16 an hour. She's making a difference, helping people save money on their utility bills and making their homes more comfortable, and support-

ing her family."

There are many job openings emerging in energy efficiency in the area. Co-op Power and related organizations are taking applications now for new positions.

According to Co-op Power trainer Scott Reed, "People in the training program will learn about energy efficiency and get some hands-on experience in a couple of different homes. They'll also learn about solar hot water installations and have an opportunity to help with at least one system installation. This fall's program also has two new components — biodiesel production and solar air heat system installation."

Co-op Power broke ground last month on a new biodiesel production facility called Northeast Biodiesel in the Greenfield industrial park. There will be 12 new manufacturing jobs, with benefits, opening there by January.

The plant will be taking in recycled vegetable oil from restaurants and food processing plants and putting it through a chemical process that removes the glycerin molecule and produces biodiesel at the end. Recycled oil biodiesel is a clean burning fuel that can be used in any oil heat system or diesel engine, that's good for the environment and helps reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

Job openings will include plant production staff who will monitor the chemical process around the clock, a receiving clerk and an office assistant.

Some positions will require knowledge of organic chemistry in order to interpret the test results and determine next steps in the production process. There will also be openings for six entry level staff to keep watch over the production process and maintain the equipment and facility. Northeast Biodiesel will be taking applications early this winter for all of these positions. The Brick House training program will give people an opportunity to learn more about what these jobs will entail. Students will get a chance to turn some fryer grease into biodiesel as part of the training program.

Though the class is full, a green job, green business development workshop meeting at the Brick House on the second Tuesday of October, November and December, from 6 - 9 p.m. still has openings. Call 413-863-9576 for more details.

Arena Civic Theatre presents

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For more info and to reserve tickets call the Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281, ext. 3. Tickets prices are \$13 adults, \$11 seniors/students and \$8 for children 12 years and under. Tickets also available at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield and Jones Library, Amherst.

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Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. *Turn It Loose* classic rock and roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10th
Clam Bake at Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, Turners Falls. 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$40/person. Public welcome. Call 863-8003.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls. *Slope Poetry Reading Series* featuring James Haug and Emily Toder, 5 p.m. Free.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls, *TNT Karaoke* at 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: 5th Anniversary Celebration with *John Sheldon & Friends*, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Hitchcock's *The Birds*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th
The Bookmill, Montague. *The Black Swans*, with *Niko* & special guests. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Bluebird Presentation. *Gwen Newton-Denton* from the *Mass Bluebird Association* presents a talk about these lovely creatures! 7 to 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Shag*, rock, pop. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Talon of the Blackwater*, folk, 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls. *Jeff Potter*, rockabilly musician, boogie woogie piano player, roots rock & roll man.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Warblers / Doomsday Ladies*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15th - 17th
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*, presented by Arena Civic Theater. Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. Continues 10/22-10/24. (413)-863-2281.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th
Leverett Harvest Festival, pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Leverett Fire House 8 - 10 a.m. as a fundraiser for Leverett Elementary School. 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. concessions, and tag sale. Spaghetti supper 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Questions: Edith Field 548-9452.

Echo Lake Coffeehouse, Leverett: *Colleen Kattau & Some Guys*, 7:30 p.m. Colleen combines music and activism, recognizing the guitarra armada or 'armed guitar' concept of Latin American troubadours where the guitar and voice are mightier than the gun and where poetry and melody intermingle to creative multiple layers of sound and meaning.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th
A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: Leverett-based artist Matthias Leutrum, artist reception, 5 - 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blackjack Crossing*, *Peter Nabut and the Wild Valley Hampsters*, \$5 cover.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Ronald Meck*, Traditional and Contemporary Celtic and Folk, .8 p.m.

Shingle the Roof performs at 7 p.m. at Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Shingle the Roof* plays American fiddle tunes and traditional songs with haunting vocal harmonies, Tim Woodbridge, Jerry Devokatis, and Kate Spencer. In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Sliding scale donation \$6 - \$12, free for children.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, Jazz Trio, 9 p.m.

The Bookmill, Montague. *Spouse* with *Salvation Alley String Band*. 8 p.m. \$6.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. *The Short Bus* rock and roll covers reminiscent of *Love Bomb*. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th & 9th
The Uncommon Players Present: *The Farmdale Avenue Housing Estate*



Colleen Kattau performs with *Some Guys* at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the Leverett Town Hall.

Townswoman Guild Dramatic Society *Murder Mystery*. Written by David McGilivray and Walter Zerlin Jr. Directed by Kimberley Morin. Continues 10/15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m., 10/10 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$10. South Deerfield Congregational Church. Reservations (413) 665-2481.

Ambush On T Street, 8 p.m. Zen Peacemakers, Montague. Advance tickets: www.zenpeacemakers.org. Created and performed by Court Dorsey, Al Miller and John Sheldon.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th
Medieval Faire at The Grammar School campus, Putney, VT, 10 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the village as King Arthur and his royal court preside over games, feasts, and peasant frivolity. Join players gaming on the glen, merchants minding the village market, cooks tending a feast fit for a king, and musicians leading the festivities. Admission to the Medieval Faire is FREE for adults and children alike. www.thegrammarschool.org.

Old 78 Farm Fall Festival, 823 Orange Road, Warwick. The festival will feature music, farm fresh food, clothing and farm product vending, an escape artist, face painting, balloon creations and more.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Smiley Bob, Inc*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Fancy Trash*. Psychedelic/Minimalist/Folk Rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, 80's music, 9 to 11 p.m.

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Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Hey Mama* brings their rich, powerful bluesy rock at 8pm. Hey Mama create a washboard rock & roll experience, drawing comparisons to Odetta, The White Stripes, and the Band.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer Third Anniversary Party* with DJ Bex and special guest *Studebaker Hawk*. 9:30 p.m. \$3.

Montague Grange: *Montague's Got Talent Variety Show*, a fundraiser for the Friends of the Montague Grange, 6 p.m. Music, puppetry, skits and singing. \$10-\$15 at the door. Sign up to perform at the Grange. Questions: *Miette via the MontagueMA.net*.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Master falconer, Chris Davis* will present a live bird program and demonstration. 1-2:30 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th
The Bookmill, Montague. Heather Maloney and Sarazin Blake. 8 p.m. \$8.

ONGOING WEDNESDAYS UNTIL OCTOBER 27th
Great Falls Farmers Market. On the lawn near the Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAYS
Montague Farm Cafe each week, 12-3 p.m., Montague. Great food and a family friendly atmosphere. Health and wellness offerings and fresh veggie care packages. Free. Transportation available. 3 6 7 - 5 2 7 5 / karen@zenpeacemakers.com.

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DAILY 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:45 8:45
3. **WALL STREET: THE MONKEY NEVER SLEEPS** PG3 DAILY 12:00 3:00 7:00 9:30
4. **CASE 39 R**
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:10
5. **EASY A** PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:10
6. **SECRETARIAT** PG in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:50 9:20
7. **LIFE AS WE KNOW IT** PG13 DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:50 9:20

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TALKING PICTURES

The Social Network



1 eagle = The Pits 4 eagles = The Heights

FACEBOOK from pg 1

a party where a close friend said she hadn't heard about the event because she missed the Facebook invitation. When I post these words to my blog, are they still mine, or will they belong to the blogosphere? To what extent can I judge my own value by the number of click-throughs I get from Twitter?

I would like to say this is all a lot of juvenile pabulum, but it's not, sadly. There are a lot of people out there who suggest that *The Social Network*, a fictionalized retelling of the creation of Facebook, can only be of middling importance. There are people for whom Facebook is merely a toy, a phase, a fad, something for the younger generation they cannot understand, a computer game. Rather, Facebook is quickly destroying the foundations of human interaction — and even if we cannot blame Facebook for IMs, text messages or

Twitter, we can blame Facebook for making this tripe look 'cool' and getting everyone wrapped up in living their lives online. We may mock or pity those addicted to Second Life, but how are their consciously contrived extensions of id or superego any different than the person who updates their Facebook page several times a day?

In his book, *You Are Not a Gadget*, computer scientist Jaron Lanier writes of how we are moving en masse as a society toward giving more and more value to a hive mentality, with no consideration to the attendant loss of the self. What's true and meaningful is verified by wikipedia, which is created by an us, not an I.

In a *New Yorker* profile, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's ultimate goal for the site is described as an eventuality in which "users will read articles, visit restaurants, and watch

movies based on what their Facebook friends have recommended," and describes the possibility of turning on your television and receiving a message that 14 friends are watching Entourage.

What Zuckerberg has thus far failed to communicate is the virtue of any of this. And by the way, how will the initial recommender know to read his article or visit his restaurant in the first place?

In advertisements for cell phones, humans are now depicted breaking up with girlfriends via text message (which they get to do thanks to cheap rates), ignoring their families, reclining to watch a movie on a public train because they think it's their living room, and finally turning into robots, all without a hint of irony. These scenarios, all of them, are filmed as evidence for why you should buy cell phones. In *The Social Network*, Napster co-founder and eventual president of Facebook Sean Parker claims, "We lived in fields, we lived in cities, and now we'll live on the internet," right before getting busted for snorting a bunch of coke off the half naked torso of an underage intern. He worries about the scandal "getting out."

The Social Network is a fantastic

movie, nearly perfect. It's funny and slick, brutal when it needs to be and light-hearted when it gets the chance. It's an expertly told story, thanks to the unlikely teamwork of writer Aaron Sorkin and director David Fincher. It's beautiful and moving, and should work as entertainment for anybody inclined to sit down for it. But what makes it great is Sorkin's ability to write hateful and pitiful people with sympathy, which, coupled with Fincher's pervading sense of doom, allows the story to unfold as though it were a movie about the Manhattan Project, atomizing our individuality as the latest baby dot.com goes Boom.

These children, these college kids about to change the world, have no idea of the havoc they are about to wreak. Or, if you aren't interested in that, it's just a great story.

It's all about money, power and sex, of course. Sorkin posits Facebook's inception as the result of a break-up. Zuckerberg unleashes a vengeful blog post he will never live down; when he tries to apologize, he is told, "The internet isn't written in pencil, Mark. It's written in ink." This sounds like a theme line (and it is), but Sorkin is too expert a dramatist to let anything like this hang in the air. He keeps the story pumping, and he'll let us make our own judgments. It's not about changing or not changing the world: it's about getting the girl to notice you, getting the coolest guys to want to be your friend, becoming cool and staying cool. The peak of the relationship between Zuckerberg and his former best friend Eduardo Saverin is shown as the night they get recognized as the creators of Facebook and end up getting blown in adjacent bathroom stalls. It's a high that Zuckerberg chases while Saverin stays down on Earth. Zuck traffics in Cool and ends up addicted. Whether you end up feeling sympathy for Mark Zuckerberg will be left up to you. Sorkin and Fincher are merely going to show you how to get there.

They frame the story of Facebook's creation with two overlapping stories of Facebook's custody battle. Zuckerberg faces two lawsuits from four other Harvard students who all claim to have had a hand in the site's conception and to deserve a share in the profits. The jealousies and infighting as well as the crushes and juvenile admirations of college kids are shown to motivate every facet of the site's growth from Harvard College face book to world-wide dating service and self-marketing platform. When a friend asks Zuckerberg if he knows if a girl in his class might be single and looking to go out on a date, Zuckerberg comes

up with the idea to put a 'relationship status' field on his site. Rather than have boys approach girls and ask questions, or vice versa, Zuck thinks it would be easier if we all had universally accepted personal ads.

As a drama, it cooks, but it's simultaneously a tremendous, micro-cosmic examination of what Facebook has become to so many people. And if I experienced some fleeting disappointment that it wasn't a more vicious, unilateral attack, this quickly subsided, because what I was hoping for was propaganda and what I got was fable.

Mark Zuckerberg is a nerd at best and an asshole at worst; the other characters discuss him like you would a book in English class, arguing about his true nature. What's explicitly clear from the opening scene on is that this kid is socially inept and wants to change his status, even as he feels he shouldn't have to work so hard for it. In the process of trying to get cool, he ends up inadvertently reducing everybody in the world to his level. (That they're actually reducing themselves is a whole other matter; we can't really even blame the guy.) Cool is a number, image is a webpage, fashion is a 140-character status and Zuckerberg is our all-knowing, all-seeing God.

The judgements are left to us, as will be the case in any movie with the guts to put its story first and let the audience do some thinking for itself. But the evidence is right in front of us. What are we to make of the fact that Facebook was born from a premium on exclusivity and now everybody and their mother gets to make a page? What of the comparison to Napster, as Sean Parker gets on board behind the site? He brags of how he changed the world, and Saverin corrects him: Napster lost and went broke. But, Parker counters, he changed the music industry forever. This man wants to do to social interaction what he did to the music industry. He wants to live life digitally so that it can be quantified rather than qualified. If five of my friends are watching one thing on TV and six are watching the other, I already have all the information I need to make a decision.

Barring an unlikely revolution, we're gonna be stuck like this for a while, and it makes me wonder what my own or anybody else's individual thoughts are really worth any more. When I put these words on the internet, I'll just be a raindrop in the thought cloud. The blogosphere loves *The Social Network*. But don't take my (our) word for it. Get out there and make your own thoughts.



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