



REMEMBERING JOHN BITZER
A Good Man
Page 5



WASTE NOT
Composting Saves Resources
Page 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 44

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

Wendell to Borrow \$1.2 Million for Town Buildings

JOSH HEINEMANN - The town of Wendell was scheduled to close on a USDA loan for the recently completed town center construction projects - the new office building, new library, and the septic system - on Wednesday, September 12th. The town intends to borrow \$1,242,474, at 4.25% interest and will make yearly payments of \$65,780 until September 12th, 2046. The loan has no prepayment penalty.

Speaking to the long-term USDA loan, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said, "That was always the plan from the beginning. The USDA makes the town get short-term loans until the project is completed. At that point, they consolidate it." Aldrich said she was still awaiting word from Washington on Wednesday that the closing had gone through.

The new town well and water supply is already paid for, with the help of a state grant. There is still money in the construction account for furniture, fixtures and equipment, for acoustical treatment in the office building hall and for landscaping. Whitney Trucking gave Wendell a \$1,100 credit to establish a lawn.

At the board's September 5th meeting, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported the state gave Wendell a Foundation Reserve Award, ('pothole money'), of \$25,000 this year. That money can be used as the town sees fit.

A special town meeting will be held on

Wednesday, September 26th, at 7:00 p.m., and the selectboard prepared warrant articles for that meeting so the warrant can be posted. Articles include two bills of prior years: \$20,000 for repair of the town hall roof and \$10,000 for repair of the police station roof, and an additional appropriation of \$89,417 for the Mahar Regional School District. Other articles would create a landscape committee and an interior design committee for the town office building, and a senior center renovation committee.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley asked the selectboard to sign warrants early in their meetings so she can take the bills home when she leaves the office and pay them early the next day.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said the highway commission wants to increase the price of Wendell trash bags to \$1.50 each, and the annual Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) tag to \$15 as of September 1st. The selectboard felt the date gave residents too little notice, but they authorized the increase to start on October 1st. Lewis said Wendell will still be cheaper on these fees than other surrounding towns, and he hoped the relatively modest increase will not start another round of dumping along the roads.

Board member Christine Heard said the rental fee for tables and chairs from the town hall is ridiculously low, see **WENDELL** pg 11

Elementary Configuration Back on G-M School Committee Agenda

BY DAVID DETMOLD - With the difficult budget making season finally behind them, the Gill Montague school committee returned to the topic of school closing, spending a good part of their meeting on September 11th deciding how to go about deciding the issue that has absorbed much of their time and energy over the last two or three years, (or two or three decades, depending on how long your memory is).

On the agenda is a proposal by interim G-M superintendent Ken Roche to seek approval from the town meetings of Gill and Montague to modify the regional district agreement to lower the threshold of approval required to make a decision on closing a school from the current 8 out of 9 school committee members to a two-thirds majority vote, coupled with majority approval from town meetings in both towns, or perhaps just majority approval



from the town meeting of the town where the school to be closed is located.

Roche added another twist on Tuesday, proposing a second amendment to the district agreement to allow the school committee to reconfigure the grade span in a district school by two-thirds approval of the school committee, rather than the simple majority of the school committee needed now to shift grades from

one district school to another.

In December of 2006, the school committee failed to find eight votes needed to close an elementary school in Montague, and then voted 5-3 with one abstention to move grades K-2 from Hillcrest to Sheffield, a vote that would have transformed the Hillcrest primary school into a pre-K center for the district had the committee not

G-M Interim Superintendent Ken Roche has proposed amendments to the school district's regional agreement to make it easier to close a school, and harder to reconfigure grade spans within a school.

rescinded that vote in February of this year, after a petition drive led by Hillcrest parents calling for the closing Montague Center School garnered 1100 signatures.

"I do feel we're at a stalemate situation," said Roche. "I'm trying to create an expedited decision making process. If people feel it gives us a greater chance of coming to a

see **SCHOOLS** pg 10

Town Hopes to Revive Montague Business Association

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Town officials and business owners have joined forces to try to kick start a revival of the Montague Business Association, which has been quiescent for a number of years. Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt, working with a committee made up of town planner Dan Laroche, commercial realtor Mark Abramson, and restaurant owner Denise DiPaolo have picked a date for an "Official Kickoff" gathering for the MBA at the

Shea Theater, on Tuesday, October 2nd, from 6 to 9 p.m., with representatives of the Greenfield and Shelburne Falls business associations as keynote speakers. The Charlie Apicella Trio will serve up music during the initial networking hour, while Ristorante DiPaolo serves hors d'oeuvres. Following the presentation, the final hour will allow time for participants to plan next steps together.

Pruitt said, "The town is sponsoring this event as a gesture of starting fresh

and support for this idea. We hope to gather some of the old established businesses, along with some of the new business owners, and see what they want to do."

Toward this end, Pruitt spent several days last week mailing out between 335 and 350 invitations to business owners in Montague, working from a list compiled by former town planner Robin Sherman, updated with many recent entries. If any were missed, Pruitt said business owners who

do not receive an invitation could call the town planner at 863-3200x207 to register to attend.

Laroche explained the thinking leading up to this event. "Because of all the success of RiverCulture in promoting arts and culture downtown, and the big two-page spread in the *Boston Globe* promoting Turners Falls this past Sunday - the *Sunday Globe* has 600,000 readers" (go to turnersfalls-riverculture.org to read

see **BUSINESS** pg 16

PET OF THE WEEK

Cuddle Bug



Margaret

I'm Margaret and a four-year-old black female chihuahua mix in need of a good home. I'm a little cuddle bug! Like many little dogs (I'm about 15 pounds), I prefer women to men, and I can get overwhelmed sometimes with new people or situations. I would adore a quieter house where people are home most of the time, because my favorite thing to do is to sit right next to you and get some love. I am OK with other dogs and with cats, and I can live with kids over 12. I do guard my precious things a little bit; the staff here can let you know how to work with me on that. The vet says that I have some allergies, but hey - who's perfect? I make up for it with all the loving I want to give you. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?
www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

Buying and selling used books
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter
Published weekly on Thursday, (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.
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
Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

TURNERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

Preschool Story Hour

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Preschool Story Hour at the Carnegie Library is held on Wednesday Mornings at 10:15 a.m. Young children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks with Children's Librarian Linda Hickman. On

Wednesday, September 19th, the theme will be 'Dogs'. On September 26th the theme will be 'Terrific Trains'. The weekly free series is designed for ages 3 to 5 and their parents, grandparents, and other caregivers. Siblings of any age are welcome. For more information, please call 413-863-3214.

Joy of Chanting Workshop

"Experience the Joy of Chanting with Rick Roberts" is the title of a workshop being held on third Saturdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15) Free of charge and

open to all at Green River Yoga, 158 Main Street, Greenfield (above World Eye books). For more info, please check our website at www.greenriveryoga.com, or call 413-772-2050.

Water Monitoring Month Activities

BY IVAN USSACH - September 18th - October 18th is World Water Monitoring Month: Volunteers of all ages in the Millers River watershed can borrow easy-to-use water sampling kits from the Millers River

Watershed Council to test local streams and ponds for pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (clarity) and temperature. Contact MRWC at 978-248-9491 or council@millersriver.net. Rain date Sept. 19th.

Tuition Free Course for Vets

Guy Lapollo, an instructor at the Franklin County Technical School, is offering a tuition-free course for veterans in computer-aided design. The course will introduce participants to the basic principals of CAD design and layout, and explore career opportunities in drafting.

Lapollo teaches CAD and blueprint reading to students at Franklin County Tech whose focus is in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, machine

technology, HVACR, and landscaping. His in-depth knowledge of CAD software will provide our local vets with a rich and meaningful course opportunity.

The course is offered in conjunction with the Franklin-Hampshire Career Center. Interested vets should contact Ron Matuszko, local veteran's employment representative, at 413-774-4361, ext. 359.

Free Hunter Safety Course

A free hunter safety course will be offered by the Franklin County League of Sportsmen Club, a part of their commitment to the community, in conjunction with the Deerfield Education and Conservation Corporation. Students need to pre-register by calling the Hunter Safety Bureau at 978-632-7648. Class hours

will be Tuesday, September 25th from 6:30 - 9 p.m., Tuesday, October 2nd from 6:30 - 9 p.m., Saturday, October 6th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, October 9th from 6:30 - 9 p.m. Location of all classes will be at 721 River Road in East Deerfield. Directions can be provided also.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Sept. 17th - 21st

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

Monday, 17th
Life Story Shadow box demonstration Rachel Lively will show how to make a life story shadow box Monday September 17 at 1:00 p.m. This project will continue as long as there is

interest.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 18th
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 19th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends of the Gill/Montague mealsite meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 20th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 21st
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

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

FACES & PLACES

PHOTO BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

The state has taken care of the disturbing sight of rotten beams underneath the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. They covered them up with planks. Concrete is falling off of another rotten beam on the outside edge of the bridge. Maybe if the state sees this photo, they will fix that too, by covering up the deterioration with more planks.

Free Yoga

Free yoga and meditation sessions are available every Thursday morning at Maezumi Institute, Ripley Road (off North Leverett Road), in Montague. Zen meditation with Eve Marko is held from 6:45 - 7:45 a.m. Gentle yoga is offered from 8 - 9 a.m. with Jean Erlbaum. Please call for further information: 367-2080x 8 or laura@zenpeacemakers.org

3rd Annual Prospect Street
Bridge Party
Saturday, Sept. 15th
5-9 p.m. Turners Falls
Bring a dish to share, a chair, yourself, your family. No alcohol please. HAVE FUN! Live music by the Usual Neighbors
If you can help clean and decorate the bridge, show up around 2 p.m.

GFMS Students of the Week
Grade 7
Tom Anderson
Grade 8
Rachel Arial
Illayna Perkins

Support our Advertisers!
Tell them you saw it in
The Montague Reporter

CRAFTERS WANTED
for the
MONTAGUE ELKS CRAFT FAIR
Nov. 3rd, 2007
9am - 2pm
Call: Jo-Ann Demers at 773-5876 or Charlene Cloutier at 648-9989

Feel Like a Brand New Person!
With a Haircut at
Ed's Barber Shop
New location:
74 Avenue A • 863-2085
Ed, Denise & KarriAnn
"52 Years on the Ave"

We've Got You Covered!
SATURDAY SPECIAL
CUSTOM-CUT WINDOW SHADES
25% OFF
COUTURE BROS
Since 1910
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346

THE SHADY GLEN

PROPRIETARY
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Weekend Dinner Specials:
Friday: Fresh Clams, Fresh Scallops, Seafood Specials
Saturday: Yankee Pot Roast and Hawaiian Ham
Closed Sundays
42 YEARS ON AVENUE A
863-9636

Bike Path Closes for a Week

BEFORE IT EVEN OPENS

BY SHAWN WOOLSEY & DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS

Although it is not yet officially open, the canalside bike path in Turners Falls was closed from the Power Street bridge (which is also closed, but that's a different story) west to Depot Street in Montague City this week, to coincide with repairs and maintenance to the canal.

According to Don Traester, spokesperson for FirstLight Power, the draw down of the canal is an annual event that is part of a planned maintenance calendar of repairs. Along the canal, the land on which the bike path is located is owned by FirstLight Power, and, according to Beth Giannini, senior transportation planner for the Franklin Regional Council



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

An orange safety fence (to the left in this photo) closed off a section of the canalside bike path this week, by the Power Street Bridge in Turners Falls. The path was closed to allow FirstLight Power to conduct annual maintenance and repair on the canal.

of Governments (FRCOG), the utility company leases the land for the bike path with the

explicit understanding that portions of the path will be closed during the week of annual canal

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) leases it from them. The agreement that

was signed a couple of years ago provides for this to happen." Giannini's said FRCOG provided planning and funding for the three mile bike path during its construction phase, which is nearing completion at the Montague City - Deerfield bridge this year.

Traester said according to the lease the bike path could also be closed at other times of year if emergency work is required on the power canal. Traester said FirstLight is working with DCR to find out how they manage other trails as far as maintenance and mowing is concerned, to see how inconvenience to bike path users can be minimized when canal maintenance occurs. "We are learning as we go," he said.

The bike path - and the canal - should be up and running again by this Sunday, September 16th.

The bike path - and the canal - should be up and running again by this Sunday, September 16th.

Community Coalition for Teens Working to Stop Smoking in Franklin County

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREENFIELD

The Community Coalition for Teens (CCT) has received a two-year, \$280,000 grant from the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program (MTCP) to conduct a four part program to reduce the incidence of smoking in Franklin County. The Coalition will work with other agencies, schools, parents and community members in the two-year project, which will include a media program to convince adults that it is not appropriate to give youth cigarettes.

"So much of this behavior is influenced by adults," said CCT co-coordinator Rachel Stoler, explaining the program's joint focus on adults and teens. Project coordinator Sarah Stayman said after five years of surveying teens in area schools, and work at area middle schools to emphasize positive goals for youth in the All Stars program, CCT has seen "a slight decrease in youth substance abuse and smoking across the county." Stoler and Stayman say they hope the number of youth choosing to avoid smoking will rise during the implementation phase of the new two-year program.

The components of the plan

include working with Franklin County and North Quabbin employers to encourage implementation of smoke-free policies; working with health care and treatment organizations to increase residents' access to and participation in low-cost tobacco cessation services; working with local school districts and agencies to decrease tobacco use among youth; and working with schools, parents, and community members to reduce youth access to tobacco.

The money for the grant, which included a previously awarded \$70,000 planning component in addition to the \$280,000 for implementation, comes from money the state legislature sets aside annually for tobacco cessation and prevention programs, not from the multi-billion dollar 1998 tobacco settlement fund, according to

Eileen Sullivan, director of policy and planning for the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program of the Department of Public Health. Sullivan said the tobacco settlement money - which amounted to \$7.6 billion for Massachusetts, to be disbursed in 25 annual payments -

goes directly to the state's general fund, and does not have to be set aside for programs like CCT's. After the state ran large deficits in the 2001 - 2002 fiscal years, money for tobacco cessation programs has gradually increased, to \$13 million this year. Sullivan said CCT's was the only rural smoking cessation project funded in the state this year.

According to the MTCP website:

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and illness in Massachusetts and in the nation.

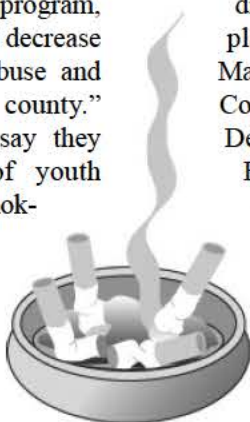
- More than 9,000 Massachusetts residents die each year from tobacco-related causes.

- Tobacco-related illnesses cost the Massachusetts health care system more than \$2.7 billion each year.

- Smokers' lost productivity accounts for an additional \$1.5 billion lost each year to the Massachusetts economy.

- Though they are not smokers themselves, an estimated 1,000 or more Massachusetts adults and children die each year from secondhand smoke.

- Tobacco kills more people each year than car accidents, AIDS, homicides, suicides and poisonings combined.



Moody Family Farmstand

Pumpkins - Winter Squash - Hay Bales - Cornstalks
Jack o'Lanterns - Baby Bear - Baby Boo - Bat Wings and Lumina 'White' Pumpkins
"Long Island Cheese" Winter Squash

Self Serve Farmstand Daily or Pick Your Own 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Weekends

670 River Road • East Deerfield 413-773-9350

GRAND OPENING GALA

The Rendezvous

DON'T MISS

THUR. COMEDY! 8pm, \$10
EUGENE MIRMAN + FRIENDS

FRI. LIVE MUSIC! 8 pm, \$8
RUSTY BELL
WOOD GREEN EMPIRE
I AM THE COLOR OF DEAD LEAVES
THE ROBERT + GLENDA HOLMES DUO

SAT. DANCE PARTY! FREE!
DANCE PARTY! FREE!

SUN. 'FOUND' MAGAZINE REVUE!
TWO SHOWS 7+9pm. SUG. DON. \$4

DOCK YOUR SHUTTLE HERE!
WWW.RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM
78 3RD ST. TURNERS FALLS, MA
TEL: 413-863-2866

SEPT. 12TH - 16TH

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

COUTURE BROS.

Since 1910

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer

CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS
PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS
COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS
ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATTING & MORE

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Celebrating our 97th Anniversary!

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Co.

SCSC

Complete Masonry Supply

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
413-863-4322

Tired of that ugly patch of yard the grass just won't grow on? Beautify your property with a patio or walkway of pavers by Ideal.

Stop by and see our complete line of concrete or brick pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and much more.

Idea

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Editor
David Detmold

Assistant Editor
Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
David Brule

Circulation
Jean Hebdon
Julia Bowden Smith
Don Clegg

Layout & Design

Kathleen Litchfield
Boysen Hodgson
Katren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow-Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Photography

Lisa Davol
Joe Parzych

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller
Michael Farick

The Surge of Grief

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The news that Ari Brown-Weeks died this weekend in a vehicle crash in Iraq hit me like hammer as I stood in the check-out line yesterday. Suddenly the war has come home, and found me where I live.

My children grew up with this boy, went to the same birthday parties and concerts and ball games. I cooked his meals at our restaurant, shared with his mother and father the joys and sorrows of childrearing and relationship. I admired his mother's baked goods, her grace and beauty in the gift of nourishing our community. I thrilled to the soaring jazz notes of his father's saxophone, in so many bands and venues. Nothing in my experience compares to the loss they feel today; my words are empty when weighed against their grief, and the bereavement of his bride.

To see the news of Ari's pointless death printed on the same page with the vain stonewalling and tinhorn trumpeting in the halls of Congress and the White House, as the general in charge of this wreck of a war and his cowardly civilian masters prop up yet another shadow play to convince us that the sacrifice of our boys and girls, husbands and lovers, fathers and mothers, is somehow worth the cost, compounded the tragedy. Could we say Ari had died defending our country, that would perhaps give some solace to those he leaves behind.

But in truth we cannot make that claim. All we can say now,

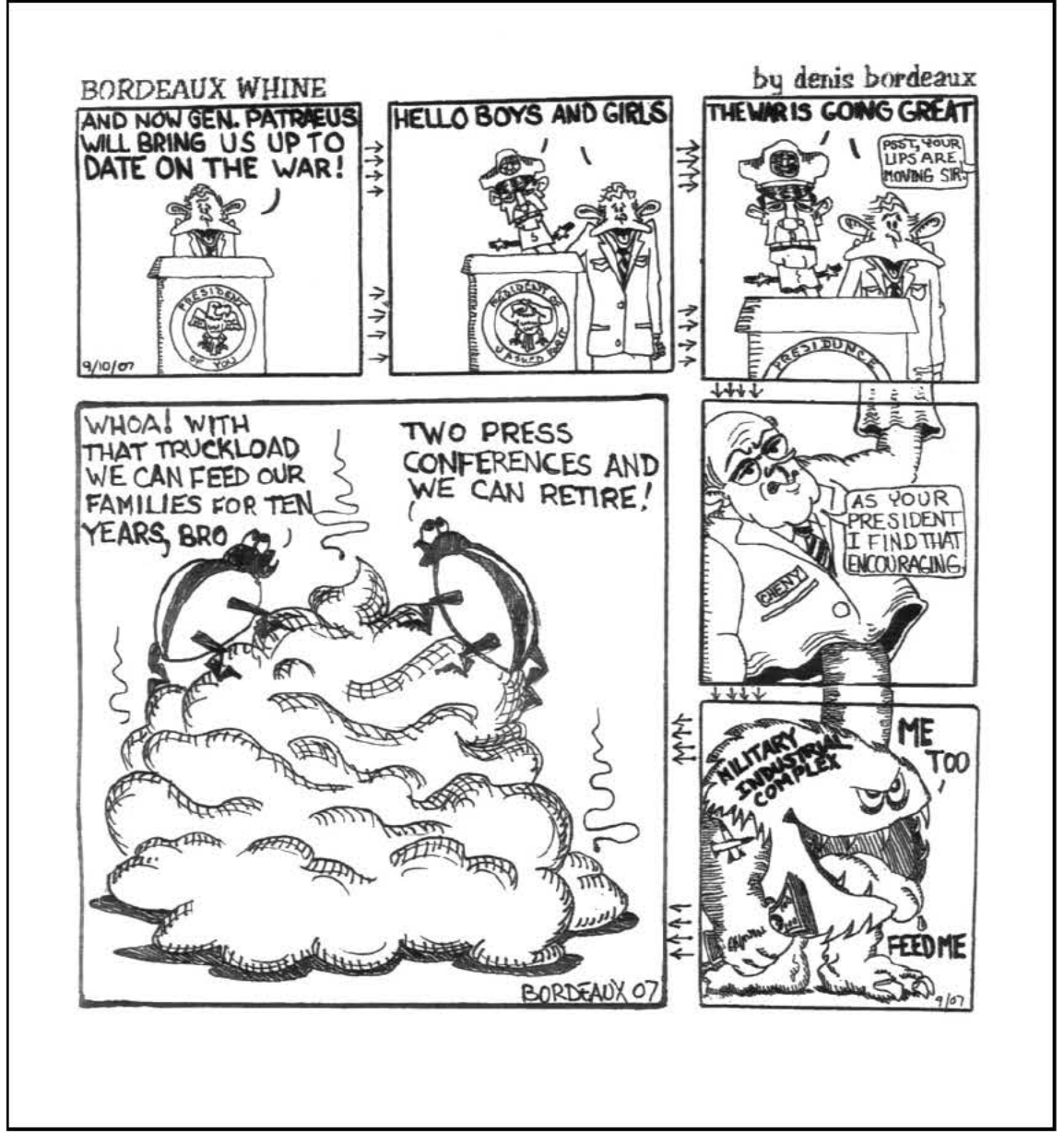
all we can say for the deaths of thousands of Americans, to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, in these last four years, is that they died for the pride and recklessness of a president who should never have been elevated to an office where he controlled the fate of brave soldiers, who serve in conflicts the commander in chief himself managed to avoid when his call to duty came. That, and America's hegemony over an oil rich corner of the globe.

We do not wish for any more to meet his end. But if the men and women who serve in Congress could experience directly the shattering loss Ari's parents, friends and family feel today, they would find the spine to stand up to the silver stars and bars and 'bring 'em on; we're kicking ass in Iraq' posturing of the president and his men.

But what chance is there of that? Other than the plainspoken senator from Virginia, Jim Webb, and less than half a dozen others, our representatives have no personal stake in this war. Webb, at least, had the decency to speak truth to power when, a few days after his election to the Senate last year Bush asked him, "How's your boy?" Webb responded, "I'd like to get them out of Iraq, Mr. President."

That kind of visceral response, in general, is sadly lacking in the scripted parts being played out in the Petraeus hearings on Capitol Hill this week. But you will hear it now in Franklin County. You will see it on the town common in Greenfield this Saturday at the peace vigil from eleven until noon, and every Saturday there until Congress summons the strength to do our bidding and haul Bush and Cheney into their marbled halls for the impeachment trial they so richly deserve, for lying to this country about the reasons they led this country into war. You will hear it all across this country until they find the strength to end this nightmare, and bring our children, husbands, and wives home from Iraq, alive.

For Ari, that day will come too late.



Helping Hands Needed for 11th Connecticut River Clean Up



A haul of tires from last year's cleanup on the Montague Plains.

GREENFIELD - More volunteers are needed for the annual Source-to-Sea Cleanup of the Connecticut River on Saturday, September 29th. This will be the watershed-wide cleanup's eleventh anniversary. "The cleanup is an opportunity to be part of a uniquely New England community event. Come out and join hundreds of others celebrating the beauty of the Connecticut River and working to clean the riverbanks," said Massachusetts River Steward Andrea Donlon, of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, organizer of the four-state effort.

What began in 1997 as a few volunteers hauling trash and tires from the river basin's

dumping hot-spots has now become a virtual rite of fall. "Last year some 1,700 people from 70 organizations and communities carted off over 40 tons of trash at places as diverse as Old Lyme, CT, Montague, MA, Hanover, NH, and Beechers Falls, VT," Donelan said.

New England Family Farms Milk and dozens of private and non-profit organizations are contributing their materials, equipment, financial support, and labor to the expanding event. Scouts, schools, church groups, small businesses, and athletic clubs are among the cleanup teams who have already signed up this year. Donlon said, "We can always

use more hands to help out our rivers."

In most areas the cleanup effort will take place on Saturday, September 29th, but interested groups can arrange to pitch-in on a fall date convenient to them.

For more information on the clean-up, go to: www.ctriver.org, or call (413) 772-2020.

American Dead in Iraq
as of 9/12/07

US CASUALTIES
in Iraq and Afghanistan
as of this date
4,194

Afghanistan **418**
Wounded in Action **34,536**

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

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local)
 \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

We welcome your letters
Montague Reporter
24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Remembering John Bitzer

BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER - John Bitzer loved flowers. He brought his glads and zinnias to his stand at the farmers market where he sold his good produce. He loved animals and farm life. In earlier days, some special Black Angus cows, and recently his Black Labrador, Ebony, and his cats, Minnie and Pearl, were his favorites. He loved his farm and its land will remain protected from development by the state's Agricultural Protection Program. He was the last of the Bitzers in Montague, but his name will live on at the Bitzer Fish Hatchery, the land for which was donated by his uncle.

When John died on September 7th, 2007, Montague had been his home for 83 years. He was born here on April 20th, 1924, the son of Robert and Florence Johnson Bitzer. He went to the old Montague Center School and

grew up in the tradition of attending church suppers around town, and the Franklin County Fair. For many years he brought home blue ribbons for his excellent vegetables and berries.

He told willing listeners stories of the hey-day of asparagus and tobacco in the Valley. When he was sixteen, he started work at Cold Brook Farm, where he particularly liked the cider making season. His initials led the list of the young cider makers who carved their approval on the wood studs of the processing room. Too, his skill as a



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRAN HEMOND

John Bitzer demonstrated the art of coopering during cider season at Cold Brook Farm, in 1962, in this photo from the Springfield Massachusetts Sunday Republican.

cooper, the man who kept the big wooden barrels in order, was utilized. Like farm workers of his day, he built sheds, cut wood, and made the asparagus boxes, planted and reaped, and helped run the farm. In later years, he worked for Clarkdale Orchards across the river, where he was injured when a tractor rolled over on him as he descended a steep hill, crushing ribs. He retired in 1988.

John belonged to the Farm Bureau and the Franklin County Agricultural Society.

Old Home Days in Montague each August could count on John and his Model B Ford, which always entered well shined up. Many of his friends have been

passenger of the year. He belonged to the Yankee Motor Club, was a Master Mason, and a member of the Montague Historical Society.

Beverly Blanchette, a friend who met John at the farmers market and looked in on him through his declining years, said his passing after a respite at Charlene Manor in Greenfield was in a way a blessing. "John grew up on the farm, he was born there, for him to be anywhere else was very hard for him. I'm sad because I've lost a good friend." Many in town share her sentiment.

John's services were held at Walker Funeral Home on Wednesday, September 12th. He was buried at Elm Grove Cemetery, a little over a mile from his farm. Donations may be made in his memory to the Montague Historical Society, care of Mary Melonis, Box 88, Montague Center, MA 01351.

John Bitzer, a Good Man

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
MONTAGUE CENTER - Almost everyone knew John Bitzer. He was a farm boy, and loved farming and orchard growing. He worked for Cold Brook Farm, at the cider mill, and later worked for Clarkdale Orchards in Deerfield.

John loved his farm and loved the huge old maple tree that shaded his house. When it came time to hook up to the new sewer, John adamantly refused, because it would mean the end of his beautiful maple tree. His house was the only one left to hook up, as required.

One of the Montague town officials had heard of my success in installing pipe without trenching and summoned me to meet with him and John, to see if they could avoid going to court over the problem. There are big elaborate machines for tunnel-

ing. They cost a king's ransom and need most of the king's men to load, transport, set up and operate.

I had put together a more low tech device. The gadget began as a two handled posthole digger. I took it apart and removed the wooden handle from one half, replacing it with a ten-foot long light-weight metal electrical conduit. The gadget was basically a long handled scoop that I used to tunnel any length, up to 75 feet, simply by adding sections.

Tunneling under John's beloved maple entailed only about 40 feet, if that.

He was so happy and relieved to be spared the prospect of going to court and losing the tree



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN JOHNSON

John Bitzer

that I think I saw tears in his eyes. It may have been the low price I quoted him. When the astronomical price he had envisioned when first approached

with the idea of tunneling did not materialize, he was so grateful that I considered charging him more money just to spare us both embarrassment. But I knew John had worked many years for modest wages, and it was worth it to see him so happy.

Years later, John sent me a letter saying he had read excerpts of my book in the *Montague Reporter*. He wrote that the stories brought back happy memories of his days at Cold Brook Farm, where my family had also once worked, sharecropping onions.

John was a good man, an honest hardworking man. He loved the land, loved farming, loved life and loved his maple tree. The world would be a far better place if more people were like John Bitzer.

Tell them you saw it in
The Montague Reporter

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Washed Stone, Assorted Sizes
- Sand - Title V & Mason
- Red Rock Stone - in 50 lb bags or bulk
- Brick Red Bark Mulch
- Gravel, 3" 1-1/2" 3/4"
- TRG - Dense Grade
- Loam, screened, unscreened



(413) 773-3622

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
 UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
774-7775
 VARIETY OF SIZES PLENTY AVAILABLE
 Easy in-town location
 Secure 24-hour access
 OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
 Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

A sumptuous array of silk, heirloom whites, velveteen, rayon, wool & Japanese printed cottons. Vintage-inspired buttons, jewelry & scarves.
Delectable Mountain Cloth
 125 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
 www.delectablemountain.com
 please visit our website or the store for even more
(802) 257-4456

TOGNARELLI HEATING & COOLING
 • Specializing in Repairing & Installation
 • Gas & Oil Systems • Radiant Heat, Gas Piping
 • The Gas Experts
 bryant Heating & Cooling Systems
413-863-2295
 SPACE PAK Central Air - Anywhere
123 Avenue A, Turners Falls

They're In!
 And they're cool.
 Get yours on the website or send \$12 and a smile to
MontagueMA T-Shirt
 24 3rd St. TF 01376
 Include return address and your choice of sm, lrg or xlr. One color.

AJ's CYCLE
 274 Rt. 2, Gill
 • parts & accessories
 • helmets
 • books
 • apparel
 MOTO GUZZI
NORGE 1200 BREVA 750
(413) 863-9543
 Allan • David
 email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
 WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
 Retail Fabric Store
 • Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
 • Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions
 CASH & CHECKS ONLY
 Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20 • Closed Mon. - June, July, August
 Power Square Greenfield
(413) 773-7516

GUEST EDITORIAL: The Music Never Stopped

UMASS EXPLORES THE LANDSCAPE OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD

BY WESLEY BLIXT

AMHERST - It was sometime during the spring of 1968 that I walked into a Woolworth's off Route 17 in Ramsey, N.J. in search of music. It was as good a bet as any, I suppose. I was on a break from my job bagging groceries at Shop Rite, where they played way too much Neil Diamond. The cutout rack at Woolworth's, of course, was full of garbage. The only record I had ever heard of was by a band called The Grateful Dead, and it was called *Anthem of the Sun*.

I wouldn't fully appreciate

that record until July, 1971, when I found myself at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, twirling as Jerry Garcia launched into an extended solo on "That's It For the Other One." I smiled at the person next to me who was standing on a chair clapping and screaming. It was Phil Lesh. . . Lesh, in the Phil Zone . . . wandering through the crowd digging the scene he had helped create.

Then, two years ago, my new boss came into my office to introduce himself, and as he left, commented on the cheesy pastel

portrait of Garcia on my wall, a gift from my poor dead mum. "Are you a Deadhead?" he asked. "Nope, but I've been to a few shows," I replied. "And you . . .?"

"Same," he said. We did that dance for months before either of us came clean.

I could go on. And would, if there was time and space. So, perhaps, could you . . .

The Grateful Dead created, explored and populated a cultural landscape that continues to thrive in the most familiar and yet unexpected ways more than a decade after the last Dead show. In part, it is a landscape that is all about music - American roots music, incantation, folklore, jeremiad, beatification - at the same time it is insistently about something else, something that is about to happen, something we have not yet named.

This fall, we may just find time and space to give it a whole rack of names, to - in the words of Robert Hunter - call it one thing or another. UMass Amherst will explore the landscape of the Grateful Dead in the classroom and through a program of public symposia, workshops, exhibits and performances. Undergraduate and graduate courses

Department of History will employ popular music as a lens through which to examine how memory and myth collide, and will explore the myriad demographic shifts, economic transformations, political upheavals, and personal challenges that faced Americans of varying backgrounds and ideologies from the 1950s to the present.

On November 16th-18th, 2007, the University will host the symposium, "Unbroken Chain: The Grateful Dead in Music, Culture, and Memory". Expanding the focus of the courses, and with the participation of UMass alumnus (Ph.D., History 1978) and Grateful Dead publicist Dennis McNally as well as numerous other scholars and luminaries, the symposium will combine academic inquiry, performance, and artistic appreciation in an innovative multi-disciplinary, multi-media program.

More than 20 workshops have been planned - from The Music



Never Stopped: The Structure of Chaos in Grateful Dead Improvisation and In the End There's Just a Song: Composition and Interpretation on a Silk Trombone, to Lady Fingers Dipped in Moonlight: Dead Iconography. Panelists will include Carolyn Adams Garcia (aka Mountain Girl); Dan Healy, the creator of the Dead's Wall of Sound; and David Gans, host of the Grateful Dead Radio Hour.

From the beginning, this project has created a very strange chemistry, in part because of the folks who are making it happen: people like graduate school dean John Mullin; course instructor Rob Weir, who incidentally is not; Larry Owens, who has been graduate studies director for the history department and could honestly not tell you the title of a single Dead song; and my boss, Michael Grabscheid, who could. . . and, if the truth be told, so much more. It would bum off both of your ears.

I think it's called The Vibe.

For more information, registration and a draft program, or to purchase concert tickets for Dark Star Orchestra or the American Beauty Project, go to www.umassconnections.com/unbrokenchain.

MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Sept. 14-20

Friday, September 14

8:00 am Common Man Concerts: Denise Gedron
9:00 am Montague Select Board (9/10/07)
11:30 am Montague Grange: Aquifer Meeting
1:30 pm Block Party Part 3
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Right Ratio of Rest
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
11:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson

Saturday, September 15

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Right Ratio of Rest
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)
11:00 am Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
1:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery with EMDR"
7:30 pm GED Connection #18: Social Studies: Themes in World History
8:00 pm Senior Center: Senior Self Defense Part One
10:30 pm Block Party Part Four

Sunday, September 16

8:00 am The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery with EMDR"
9:00 am GED Connection #18: Social Studies: Themes in World History
9:30 am Senior Center: Senior Self Defense
11:00 am Block Party Part Four
6:30 pm Gill Concert: Cowbell Prescription
7:30 pm Block Party Part One
9:30 pm Positive Profiles in Courage
10:30 pm Rain & Shine
10:45 pm Sustainable Energy with Karen Werner

Monday, September 17

8:00 am Gill Concert: Cowbell Prescription
9:00 am Block Party Part One
11:00 am Positive Profiles in Courage
12:00 pm Rain & Shine
12:15 pm Sustainable Energy with Karen Werner
6:30 pm Memorial Update with Art Gilmore

7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)

9:30 pm Art Fest 2007
11:00 pm Crabby & Helga

Tuesday, September 18

8:00 am Memorial Update with Art Gilmore
8:30 am Art Fest 2007
10:00 pm Crabby & Helga
6:30 pm The GED Connection #18: Themes in World History
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)
10:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer
11:00 pm Physician Focus: Men's Health

Wednesday, September 19

8:00 am GED Connection #18: Themes in World History
8:30 pm GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)
11:00 am Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer
12:00 pm Physician Focus: Men's Health
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Right Ratio of Rest

7:00 pm GED Connection #19: Economics
7:30 pm Discovery Center: The Fabulous Maurice

8:30 pm The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery with EMDR"
9:30 pm Montague Grange: Variety Show
11:00 pm Reconciliation Ceremony

Thursday, September 20

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Right Ratio of Rest
8:30 am GED Connection #19: Economics
9:00 am Discovery Center: The Fabulous Maurice
10:00 am The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery with EMDR"
11:00 am Montague Grange: Variety Show
12:30 pm Reconciliation Ceremony
6:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 9/17/07
9:30 pm The Changing Face of Turners Falls
11:30 pm Block Party Part Four

The Montague Center Congregational Church
is completing Old Home Days with

The Auction

September 22nd • 9:00 AM

On the church grounds • Preview Saturday 8-9 AM

Breakfast Nook • Hamburgers and Drinks
White Elephant Sale • Local Views - Historical
Society Postcards for Sale

For info on what to donate,
where and when to leave
items and/or schedule a
pick-up, please call 367-9422

Please join us for a great
day to wrap up our Old
Home Days Celebration!!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE

Call
TIM PREVOST
@ (413) 773-8984

Exclusive lender for West Ridge
Condominiums in Greenfield. The area's
newest, ultra-affordable condo development.

- Experience
- Construction/Rehab Loans
- Great Service
- 100% Financing / FHA/VA Loans

Whatever your needs, call Tim for a Free Pre-Approval

MA LENDER #0544 **413-773-8984** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



MARK OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD WINNER

RON SICARD
Sales Professional

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 MAIN ST
P O BOX 729
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746
DILLON@CROCKER.COM
Toll Free 1-800-698-3678

RISTORANTE
Di Paolo

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES

256 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds
ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for
Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425

lynnreynolds@verizon.net



POP creations
now that you've seen my work,
why not get the benefits?

low rates . professional service . boysenh@aol.com
advertising . web graphics . logos . brochures . catalogs . cards . signs

www.boysenhodgson.biz

RISTORANTE
Di Paolo

FINE ITALIAN DINING

Denise DiPaolo, Owner
Hilton Dottin, Chef

TEL 413-863-4441
FAX 413-863-4421

Open 5-9 Sun - Thurs
5 - 10 Fri and Sat
Closed Tues

Reservations Accepted

166 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Airport Runway Project Delayed

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - The selectboard opened their meeting on Monday, September 10th, hearing from Turners Falls airport manager Mike Sweeney, who announced the planned 1000-foot extension of the runway would be delayed at least until next spring...

expressed astonishment that the subject had even been raised at the selectboard meeting without anyone from the airport commission or the town notifying them.

"I haven't heard from the selectboard," said Doug Harris, deputy tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansetts.

"I was quite surprised to see this article in the newspaper," commented John Brown, tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansetts.

In June of this year, the Narragansetts and Gayhead Aquinnahs appealed to the public for help in persuading the town of Montague and the municipal airport commission to save the stone formations on the hill adjoining the planned runway extension.

The airport commission and state archeologists have already reached an agreement with the Narragansetts and Aquinnahs to protect and preserve a confirmed campsite near the runway that shows evidence of having been in use by Native peoples 12,000 years ago...



A view of the current airport runway in Turners Falls, seen from the hill where a dispute with Native Americans over the cultural significance of stone formations has caused a delay in the \$10 million runway extension project.

the runway project in advance of next year's expected start of construction. Reached after the meeting, chair of the airport commission Peter Golrick, who was in attendance with Sweeney, said that grant was in effect a downpayment on the project's \$10 million pricetag...

Sweeney said the FAA and the MAC remained committed to the project at the Turners Falls Airport, although the delay in construction may cause the project to slip on the FAA's priority list.

In other news: The police building see MONTAGUE pg 9

formations on the nearby hill have not been determined by the archeological community to have cultural significance. Harris said that is because the archeologists do not understand their purpose...

building societies of the Mississippi Valley, where the type of stone used by New England tribes for ceremonial sites was not readily available. Sweeney also said the FAA has awarded the airport a \$494,000 grant...

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Dog Complaints

Wednesday 9-5

2:00 p.m. Complaint of barking dog at Old State Road. Dogs located on Ridge Road. Nobody home at residence.

Thursday 9-6

1:20 p.m. Welfare check on West High Street. Neighbor stated resident went to doctor's appointment.

Friday 9-7

1:15 a.m. Flashing light at Pocket Saver Store in Erving Center. Key holder called, situation under control.

2:20 a.m. Alarm sounding at French King Restaurant. All doors and windows secure.

Saturday 9-8

3:05 p.m. Medical emergency on Forest Street. Assisted Ambulance and Fire Department.

3:50 p.m. Report of loose dog on North Street. Dog found and returned to owner. Owner advised of town leash-by-law.

7:05 p.m. Dog complaint on Central Street. Pit bull chased young girl up the street. Criminal application issued to [redacted].

[redacted] for town by-law violation.

9:53 p.m. Welfare check. Motor vehicle on side of road at Mountain Road and Route 2. Subject was sick on side of road.

Sunday 9-9

9:08 a.m. Injured bird at Old State Road residence. EPO advised.

9:51 a.m. Removed tree limb from roadway at Old State Road.

Monday 9-10

1:34 p.m. Door to door solicitors selling meat products from freezer in back of yellow pick up on Pratt Street. Left area heading up route 63. Unable to locate.

Tuesday 9-11

4:00 p.m. Found loose puppy on Route 2 in Farley area. Dog returned to owner.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Post & Beam Timbers • 14 Pine Lumber Patterns got wood? Cowls sawmill does! 134 Montague Road • North Amherst, MA 01059

LETOURNEAU APPLIANCE SERVICE 413-863-8291 Washers • Dryers Refrigerators • A/C Ranges • Dishwashers ALL MAKES ALL BRANDS 24 Hour Service • Paul Letourneau

NAWCC No. 0101315 (781) 438-8489 (508) 633-2552 ANTIQUE CLOCKS Bought and Sold BOB PACY WILL TRAVEL STONEHAM, MA 02180

HK Power Town Apartments 152 Avenue A PO Box 48 Turners Falls, MA 413-863-9433 professionally managed by: HallKeen Management, Inc. rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St. Sharon Cottrell Property Manager

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE Your Automotive Answer Check Engine Light on? We Can Help! TELE: (413) 772-8862 -- CELL: (413) 512-0413 409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Since 1895 On the Common Greenfield, Massachusetts Turners Falls, Massachusetts (413) 774-4808 John C. Davis Director www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com

Gill-Montague Education Fund Launches Web Site

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill-Montague Education Fund, a non-profit organization established in 1996 by the parents and citizens of the towns of Gill and Montague to support their schools, has launched a new website. You can visit the site online at www.thegmef.org.

"The purpose of the website is communication," said GMRSD school committee member Joyce Phillips of Turners Falls, who is also a member of the GMEF board of directors. Phillips created and maintains the website with GMEF friend Christopher Boyle. "There are a lot of exiting things happening with the GMEF and the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The new website allows the GMEF board to share

with the community who we are, what we do and how we are enriching the students' lives at Gill-Montague."

Included are highlights of the grants that have been awarded. There is information about the annual galas and special concerts. The site also provides guidelines on how to apply for grants and access for staff to obtain all necessary forms. A special feature of the website is "Our Newsroom," which will offer articles illustrating the grant funded enrichment opportunities for students, and student achievements, as well as activities of the GMEF and profiles of the GMEF members.

The website was proposed at the June GMEF board meeting, and the board voted unanimously to establish the site. It was completed for the August GMEF

meeting, and presented for review.

Ernest Brown of Turners Falls, president of the GMEF board, said the website will help people learn more about the work the GMEF does with the local schools. "The help that the GMEF has given our town in a time when school budgets are tight has been the greatest," he said. "We do make a difference. I'm hoping that more people in our community will get involved."

The Gill-Montague Education Fund seeks to enrich district and school educational programs through the funding of mini-grants and special project grants. These grants are competitive.

The criteria for evaluating proposals are:

- Projects enrich and support district and school goals and curricula;
- Projects specify clear goals, an implementation plan, timelines and an evaluation process and;
- Projects demonstrate a strong connection to improved student learning.

Applications are reviewed and funds awarded twice yearly. They are due October 1st and February 1st.

Since the GMEF was reactivated three years ago, it has disbursed about \$32,400 for

projects. Grants have been awarded in each of the district's six schools and have funded projects in such areas as science, world languages, art, music and athletics.

The goals of the GMEF are: to provide financial support for educational programs and activities that enrich the curriculum; to solicit monetary and in-kind support for the schools from local businesses, community organizations and individuals; to solicit grants from private charitable and corporate funding sources as well as from state and federal sources; and to encourage advocacy for public education within the community. For more information, visit www.thegmef.org.

ERVING
Correspondent
Needed
Call the Montague
Reporter at 863-8666

Gill Expedited Permitting Meeting
The Town of Gill will host a presentation on the new Chapter 43D law, Local Expedited Permitting, on Thursday, September 27th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Members of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments will present information on the new law and how the town may be able to use it in regards to development of the Mariamante parcel. Members of the selectboard, planning board, zoning board of appeals, finance committee, conservation commission, historic commission, board of health, and the fire chief are invited to attend. Please contact Tracy Rogers at town hall for more information, at 863-9347.

Great Falls Farmers Market
Wednesdays
3 - 6 p.m. Rain or Shine •
May to October - Avenue
A & 2nd St.
APPLES • Fresh Farm
Produce Baked Goods
• Perennials
New Vendors Needed!
Call (413) 863-9026
Ad sponsored by Green Fields Market

Upinngil
food you need from the land you love
Our First Crop of Grapes!

• Table grapes
• Wine grapes
• Juice grapes
• FALL RASPBERRIES
Now the Montague Reporter is available at our farmstand!
Farm Stand and Store
7 days a week • 8 a.m. - dusk
411 Main Road, Gill
413-863-2297

Diemand Farm Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell
September Specials
Dressed Turkeys • Turkey Parts
Legs • Wings • Thighs • Giblets
Fresh or Fresh Frozen
with all the fixings!
Farmstand Hours: 7am-6pm
7 Days a Week
978-544-3806

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG
Medical Emergencies


Wednesday 9-5 4:14 p.m. Two car motor vehicle crash on French King Highway at Riverview Drive. 7:10 p.m. Report of a past larceny from a French King Highway business.	Friday 9-7 8:35 a.m. Single vehicle crash on Pisgah Mountain Road. 9:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road.	medical emergency on Meadow Street.
Thursday 9-6 3:10 p.m. Assisted Gill EMS and BHA ambulance with medical emergency at Stoughton Place.	Saturday 9-8 8:04 a.m. Report of an erratic operator on French King Highway. Unable to locate same. 10:14 a.m. Assisted with	Tuesday 9-11 10:04 a.m. Report of an erratic operator on South Cross Road. 2:01 p.m. 911 abandoned call from French King Highway business. All o.k. 3:34 p.m. Alarm sounding at West Gill Road business. Checked, all secure.

BAKER
Office Supply
Buy 5 cards at 50% off, get the fifth one free!
www.bakerofficesupply.com
310 Main Street Greenfield
(413) 774-2345 Call Bonnie today!

PLOW FRAU
BOW WOW
SITA LANG
(413) 834-7569
CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!
We help you sort through or haul away unwanted stuff in your attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, or entire estate. Removal of just about anything! **FREE estimates.**
Reusable goods are donated to those in need.

THE COUNTRY JEWELER
Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry
♦ Diamonds ♦ Watches ♦ Anniversary Bands
Custom repair work done on premises Old-fashioned service!
Call Larry: 772-0859 Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30
www.countryjeweler.com
Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield

DEMERS' LANDSCAPING
Landscaping & Excavating
Estimates Given - Fully Insured
136 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376
COMPLETE TREE SERVICE • LOTS CLEARED • WOOD CHIPPING
WOOD CHIPS • MULCH • LOAM • LAWNS AND SOD INSTALLED
PLANTING • MASON AND STONEMAN
ALL TYPES OF FENCING • DOZER AND BACKHOE WORK
SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSTALLED
Edward A. Demers, Prop. Since 1970 Tel. 863-3652


Sokolosky Realty
56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376
OFFICE (413) 863-4393
HOME (413) 367-9970
FAX (413) 863-4949
Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR
BROKER

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children
CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS
You can get there from here...
863 - 2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

MONTAGUE

continued from pg 7

committee report came next, with Jay Dipucchio handling the update for the committee. He announced that a series of community meetings will be held to inform the public about the committee's plans for a new police station adjoining the Turners Falls fire station on Turnpike Road. Dipucchio encouraged the public to bring questions and concerns to the meetings, which will be held around Montague at the following times and locations: September 18th at the Montague Center Fire Station, September 25th at the Hillcrest School in Turners Falls, September 27th at the Millers Falls Library, and October 4th at the Masonic Hall in Montague City, all at 7:00 p.m. Residents will have the opportunity to review the design and site plan at these meetings.

The committee also made a request to the selectboard for \$100,000 from program income funds and \$400,000 from stabilization to reduce the amount of the debt exclusion that will eventually be needed to fund the \$5.3 million project. Board member The balance in the CDBG program income account at present is about \$158,000. Dipucchio said the committee is seeking funds from all possible venues so as to have the smallest impact on the average Montague homeowner.

The board took the committee's request under advisement. The request for a \$500,000 downpayment for the building project from the town will be a topic of discussion at a joint meeting with the finance committee on September 19th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio began his report by asking the board to authorize an application for the state scenic byway program, and to apply for national scenic byway status. The board approved the request.

The town administrator turned to the matter of enrolling town employees in the state's Group Insurance Commission health plan, for which a 70% majority vote of town employees will be needed by October 1st of this year. The board is aware that many employees still have unanswered questions about the upcoming vote on the GIC. A health fair has been organized in order to help ease

those concerns, and to help answer questions employees may have. The health fair will be held September 18th at 3:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

The selectboard and finance committee have endorsed the move to the GIC in hopes of reducing annual increases in health care costs to the town. In the last five years, the GIC has seen increases 50% less than the increase the town's current health insurance provider has seen, and the GIC still offers a wide range of health coverage and providers. A three-year commitment will be required if the employees vote to enroll in the GIC.

The board announced that a special town meeting will be held October 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School. They also authorized permits for public assembly for the Turners Falls High School Student Council for September 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for approximately 100 people, in honor of the 43rd annual sports Boosters Day. They also approved a public gathering at the Veterans Memorial on Avenue A for November 11th,

from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the request of Soldiers Memorial Trustee chair Art Gilmore. More than 300 people are expected to attend the Veterans Day dedication ceremony.

Erica Almeida from Maple Street Glass received permission to hold a glass bead demonstration at 78 Avenue A on September 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as part of the Turners Falls Open Studio Downtown Walking Tour.

The meeting was then taken into executive session to revisit Ja'Duke Productions concerns with the town's role as landlord of the Colle Building, where Ja'Duke has been a tenant. After that session, board chair Pat

Allen commented it was a learning experience for the town, as they are not used to being a landlord. She feels that both parties came out knowing that the most important thing to have in a situation like viewing a rental property is communication. It was simply a situation of miscommunication that resulted in hurt feelings, she said. When asked why she felt this was an

appropriate topic for executive session she stated that it was not just the topic of the town as landlord and how the town handled that, but she felt that last meeting's conversations were heading toward the specific mentioning of names and bringing in the character and reputation of an individual. This made it appropriate for a closed session, Allen said.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

3,000 Stolen Scratch Tickets

Wednesday 9-5

11:25 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at an Avenue A business. He stated 3000 scratch tickets stolen. Under investigation.

Thursday 9-6

3:40 p.m. Walk-in to station reported fraud at an H Street address. He stated someone used his identity to get credit cards. Report taken.

9:16 p.m. Report of teenagers throwing tomatoes in Montague Center. Gone on arrival.

Friday 9-7

1:46 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop in Chinatown parking lot, [redacted] was arrested and charged with speeding, failure to

wear a seatbelt, operating under the influence of liquor, possession of a class D drug, and operating to endanger.

4:16 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday 9-8

5:18 a.m. Report of a neighbor disturbance at a 4th Street address. Two brothers were yelling and screaming at each other. They went inside. Peace restored.

12:41 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle theft from a 4th Street address. Woman states a man she just met took her car. Car found in Greenfield.

Sunday 9-9

1:40 a.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at a Grand Avenue address in Millers Falls [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.

2:51 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Sunset Drive address. House was entered and electronic equipment was stolen. Under investigation.

10:50 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at an Avenue A address. A purse was stolen from a vehicle. Report taken.

Monday 9-10

10:02 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a breaking and entering at a 4th Street address. Reporting party believes someone entered apart-

ment. Items were moved around, nothing missing. Report taken.

Tuesday 9-11

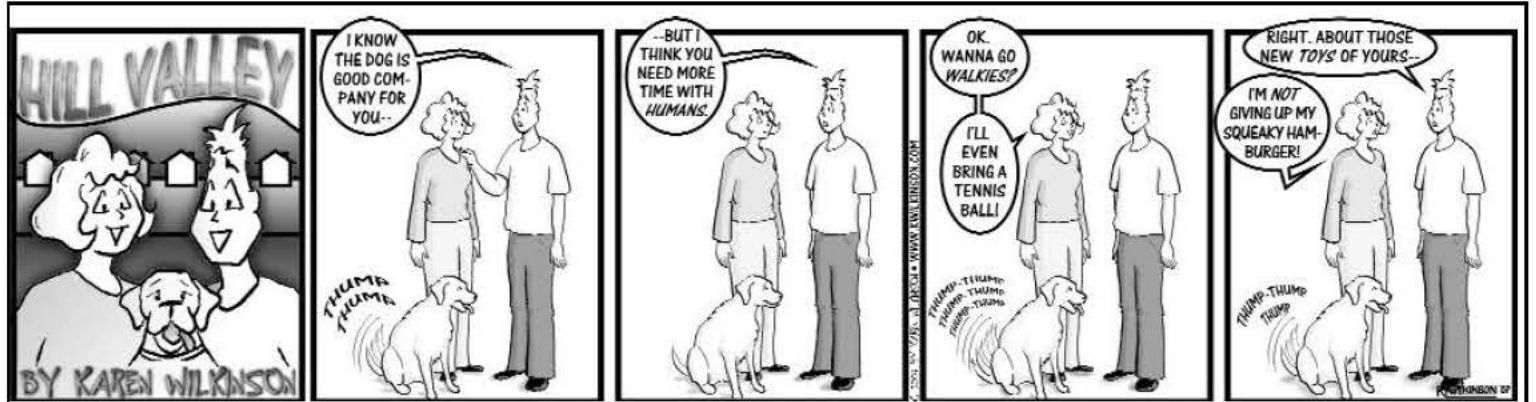
7:11 a.m. Report of a disturbance at the bus stop near Exxon on 3rd Street. Two girls were arguing.

7:37 a.m. Report of a fight at TFHS. Two girls were fighting on the bus. Det. Brown took care of it.

4:55 p.m. Report of an assault at a Vladish Avenue address. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Wednesday 9-12

7:24 a.m. Report of an assault at a 5th Street address. Caller states that her son was assaulted at the bus stop at 3rd and L Street and his glasses were broken. Report taken.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
 Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
 Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change
 194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

Y Summer Camps
 12 different camps to excite all children ages 3-15
 Camp Apex (now with a heated pool)
 Sports Camps (two per week)
 Gymnastics Camps (air-conditioned comfort)
 Camp Allen (Academics and P.E.)
 Summer PreSchool and Specialty Camps
 www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646

CASH PAID FOR YOUR CDs LPS DVDs
TURN IT UP!
 NORTHAMPTON • EASTHAMPTON • BRATTLEBORO • KEENE • TURNITUP.COM
 413.502.1805 413.527.3650 802.251.6015 603.358.8933

SCHOOLS from pg 1
decision and moving the district along, we should definitely pursue it.”

The divisions on the committee were once again on display Tuesday night. Since the votes on elementary school reconfiguration last winter, Richard Colton - one of the main proponents of keeping Montague Center School open - was defeated in the May election, and two proponents of closing Montague Center School - Joyce Phillips and Linda Kuklewicz, were swept into office. However, that election also brought Sandy Brown of Gill onto the board, replacing retiring Sue Henry, who had been in the slender block of votes that split on the issue of closing Montague Center, along with re-elected school committee chair Mary Kociela, (and perhaps Deb

Bourbeau, who also gave up her seat in May). In her campaign, and since her election, Brown has promised to keep an open mind on the topic of elementary configuration and made statements that may give comfort to the 43% of Montague voters who supported keeping Montague Center School open in a non-binding opinion question on the annual election ballot. Montague Center School proponents Ted Castro-Santos and Michael Langknecht remain on the committee, as do Terry Lapachinski, Kristin Boyle, and Valeria Smith, who all voted consistently to close Montague Center School.

As the discussion of the proposed amendments to the regional agreement got underway on Tuesday, Smith began by suggesting - after a favorable vote of two thirds of the school committee - a majority vote of town

meeting should only be required in the town where a school under consideration for closing is located in order to close a school. “It doesn’t seem right to me that another town can dictate that you need to keep a school open in a town that feels they cannot afford the capital improvements and level of taxation needed to keep that school open.”

Lapachinski concurred, saying, “The school committee is elected to represent the district. Once they have made their decision, then the decision should go on to the town it would affect.”

Langknecht replied, “It is important we act as a district, not jury rig policy so different outcomes can be achieved.” Referring to a tentative advisory opinion offered by the school district’s attorney that a change to require majority approval by ballot of the voters of a town in

order to close a school would possibly be challenged by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office, Langknecht said, “The bigger issue is, you can’t go to a popular vote. Do we want both town meetings to vote or not?”

Lapachinski rejoined, “My issue with that is, it is a popular vote in Gill because of the way town meeting is structured there” (open to all the voters of Gill). “But in Montague” (with representative town meeting) “it isn’t.”

Boyle, a resident of Turners Falls, said, “It should go to the town that is affected. I would feel funny about voting whether we should close Gill’s school. But if it’s a Montague school...”

Castro-Santos replied, “Closing a school is a district decision. Gill Elementary School maintains districtwide programs, and so do all the schools. The idea that one town doesn’t have a stake in what happens in the other is false; I don’t agree with it.”

Brown added, “It’s not as cut and dried as it would have been if we hadn’t voted to approve intra-district choice.” Now, she said, students from one town could theoretically become a sizable percentage of the population in the other town’s elementary school or schools.

Phillips said, “We need to be careful about the other articles of that regional agreement that we could impacting,” by the proposed amendments. The attorney had pointed to a number of such articles that could be affected in various ways by the proposed amendments, paramount among them the ironclad agreement that until now has insured Gill students the right to attend an elementary school in their town.

Acknowledging her point, Rocke said, “A regional agreement is not formed by a school committee. A school committee is formed by a regional agreement.”

Phillips added, “We’re chopping it up to pursue one issue: school closing. We have an awful lot on our plate; this is just one issue.” Phillips thought amend-

ing the regional agreement should ideally be approached through a committee of select-board members and school committee members, working carefully and methodically, as the school committee did when they renegotiated the leases for elementary schools with the member towns.

Kuklewicz added a populist note to the discussion: “The public is sick of (this issue). We just need to move on. It’s like an old dishrag. The more we keep at a deadlock, it’s just going to backfire on everything we do.”

Kociela, “I’m sick of it too. It’s been a long road. But I feel renewed strength. We have a new school committee, a new superintendent, and perhaps a new process. I do believe we’re going to make a decision.”

Castro-Santos said, “There’s a sense that eight out of nine votes is too high. I think six out of nine is not enough. Seven out of nine is still difficult, but if the threshold got moved to seven out of nine, I’m more comfortable. I’m concerned about the ability to stack the committee.” He spoke of appointees voted onto the committee to fill open seats, who he thought might be recruited to vote on the single issue of school closing, a comment that drew rebuttals from Smith and others.

Speaking in favor of both towns approving a motion to close a school, Langknecht made an analogy to the district budget, which has to be approved by both towns. Of the move to amend the regional agreement to make school closing easier, Langknecht said, “I don’t think this addresses our issue. Please let’s table this and get to the issue. Doing things like this on the fly is not the right way to go about this.”

Rocke rejoined, “The operating budget is voted on by both towns, but capital improvement budgets are voted on by one town.”

Langknecht came back, “If one town loses capacity by closing a school, the other town will have to pick up the slack.”

see **SCHOOLS** pg 16

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has funding available for Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Erving, Greenfield, Leverett, Leyden, Montague, Orange, Rowe & Shelburne.

Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property.

The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance, handicap accessibility, do needed repairs and weatherize their homes.

Homeowners and any tenant families must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$40,150.00
2	\$45,900.00
3	\$51,600.00
4	\$57,350.00
5	\$61,950.00
6	\$66,550.00

Please contact Charity at (413) 863-9781 ext. 132
or email at cday@fchra.org.

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated
Insurance



25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

Matthew Edwards
Owner • Climber
Insured



**EDWARDS
TREE SERVICE**

Wendell • 978-544-7452


Locally owned since 1941



Foster's SUPER MARKET
Full Service Market
Fresh Produce in Season
Beer & Wine

70 Allen Street
Greenfield, MA 01302
413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner



AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles
Locally Owned for 27 Years

413-774-5517
335 High St., Greenfield
LALautosales.com



**Northfield
Barber Shop**

Mon, Tu, Wed: Noon-5
Thurs, Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-Noon

74C Main Street • Northfield
413-498-5166

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist



COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY AMY DONOVAN
GREENFIELD - Each year, the average American family discards up to 200 pounds of kitchen waste. Composting your kitchen scraps can save money by reducing the amount of trash that goes into your "Pay-per-Throw" trash bags, or can save your town money by reducing the town's trash bill. Composting can also save money by providing you with a nutrient-rich lawn and garden

fertilizer, thereby reducing the need for store bought garden soils and fertilizers.

Residents within the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District can purchase an Earth Machine Compost Bin for \$35.00 at these locations: Wendell Transfer Station, Tues. 12-6, Sat. 7:30-3:30; Orange Transfer Station, Tues., Thurs. & Sat.: 8-2:45; Colrain Transfer Station, Sat. 8-4; and the district office, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield (hours vary; call 772-2438). Greenfield residents are not members of the Solid Waste District, but they can purchase bins from the Greenfield Transfer Station: for more information call 413-772-1528. For instructions on how to build a bin from reused wooden pallets, see www.digitalseed.com/composter/bins/palletbin.html.

Set up your bin and line the

bottom with a layer of twigs for aeration. Your compost bin should contain 75% 'brown' carbon-rich materials such as fall leaves, straw, soil, dried yard waste, sawdust, and used paper towels, and 25% 'green' nitrogen-rich materials such as food waste and fresh grass clippings. Add the above materials in layers, alternating smaller green layers with larger brown layers. Add a shovelful of yard or garden dirt to introduce helpful microorganisms.

In your kitchen, use a small bucket or large bowl to collect fruit and vegetable trimmings, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, wilted vegetables, stale bread, and table scraps. The Solid Waste District sells compost collection buckets for \$7.00 each. Add your fresh 'green' materials to your bin by making a hole in the center of the pile, dumping the fresh

kitchen scraps in the hole and covering the scraps with soil, finished compost, or leaves. Burying the fresh kitchen scraps in this manner cuts down on flies and odor and speeds up the compost process. You can, alternatively, simply dump your fresh food scraps on top of the compost pile, but this 'dump and run' practice may attract flies or animals. Do not compost these materials: pet wastes, meat, bones, fish, dairy, and oily foods such as peanut butter or salad dressing.

The composting process needs oxygen; to speed up the process, turn or stir the pile with a shovel, pitchfork, or compost

aerator before you add your kitchen waste, or every few weeks. Finished compost can be added to your garden or lawn to enhance the soil and can even reduce the watering needs of your garden.

For more information, visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/composting.html, or contact: Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield, MA 01301, or by email: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or by phone: (413) 772-2438.

Amy Donovan is program director for the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

WENDELL from pg 1

\$2 for a table, and \$.20 for a chair.

Ilena Singh was unable to come to the meeting, but she called Aldrich earlier to request a one or two hour rental of the town hall for two people to practice some large movement. The standard fee for fewer than 10 people is \$50, which Singh feels is high for the short period she wants to use the space. Board members said if she wants to negotiate, she will have to come and meet with them in person.

Aldrich gave board members a 17-page guide for *Disaster Debris Management Planning* from the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The guide lists steps for the town, including separating compostable and recyclable material, establishing monitors and a management team, and establishing an order of street clear-

ing. Keller said the town showed it could manage disaster debris after the 2006 tornado. The board forwarded the guide to emergency manager Asa DeRoode.

The Greater Franklin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee is looking for a new representative from Wendell. Nancy Riebschlaeger is the town's current representative, and Keller recommended keeping her in that position if she is willing.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is also looking for a representative from Wendell. The district is asking for diversity among the representatives, but they will not reject anyone. Heard thought the selectboard had asked Alex Lankowski from the WRATS, and he had seemed willing. She said maybe he should be asked again. Keller suggested making an announce-

ment at the special town meeting.

Heard said that she had spoken with Mark Stewart, who said he had removed unregistered vehicles from his Plain Road property. She suggested in the future the town should not wait nine years before writing a stern letter to people with a surplus of unregistered cars and trucks on their property.

Wendell has a new tax collection box mounted in cement near the walk from the parking lot to the town office building. Its front is labeled, "Not for Cash Deposits."

Laurel Brenneman took notes at the meeting as selectboard clerk on a trial basis, to see if this is a position she might want to take on a regular basis.

The board went into executive session to discuss real estate negotiations, and to review minutes from prior executive sessions.

JOHN DEERE

LAST CALL FOR FALL

OUTFIT A GATOR FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

No Interest, No Payments for 12 months on all Utility Vehicles

Trail XUV 4x4 620i with Great Outdoors Package

Special pricing for XUV with Great Outdoors Package (\$10,999)*

Gator™ TX with Outdoorsman Package

- Package includes windscreen, gauge kit, brake/tailight kit
- Towing capacity of 1,000 lb. (454 kg)

HPX Diesel

- Payload and towing capacity of 1,300 lb. (590 kg) lets you tackle any task
- 854 cc (20.8-hp) engine

SIRUM EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
310 Federal Street • Route 63 • Montague
(413) 367-2481

www.johndeere.com

*†10 for ends 7/30/2007. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installment Plan. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Up to 10% down payment may be required. †Save \$100 when you buy any two or more John Deere and/or Frontier™ implements, including loaders, with your new tractor. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, JOHN DEERE and all other trademarks referenced are trademarks of Deere & Company. BOSBULN1002L-00183639 SAFETY Live with it Equal Opportunity Lender

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

LIEBENOW AUTO BODY

"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"

- Insurance Collision Repairs
- We Accept All Insurance Companies
- Auto Glass Replacements
- Shop Rental Car
- Frame & Un body Straightening

Mass Repair Shop #1839
774-4420
163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD

Quality Work on All Makes & Models
 Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY

COUNTRY OIL
 SINCE 1986
 HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
 www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

- Annual Heating System Cleaning
- Plumbing Repairs

- LICENSED TECHNICIANS

#M10588 (MA)

SALON 107

\$7.00 cuts

to all disabled, veterans, and senior citizens!
 We are willing to travel to the houses of elderly who can no longer get out much.

(Now hiring 3 licensed and experienced stylists or barbers to start immediately either FT or PT)

114 Wells Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301
772-0284

Debra Mathey
 owner and stylist

Avenue A Cafe **New Hours, Wireless Internet**

Home of Cup O' Joe
 Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes

- Great coffee, pastries, and breakfast served all day.
- Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.
- Stand by for Great New Additions!

Mon. - Thurs. 6am-5pm
Fri. 6am-9ish
Sat. 7am-9ish
Sun. 9am-3pm

111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 / (413) 863-2800 / Evelyn Daly • Owner

Patrick Smith
 HIC #134741
 Insured

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
 Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

Toll Free 413-367-2228
 866-262-5361 FAX 413-367-2212

Montague, MA 01351

Got Gas?

Aubuchon has all the propane you need, all year round.

\$1.00 OFF fill-up with this coupon

Turners Falls Store Only
220 Avenue A
413-863-2100

AUBUCHON HARDWARE (expires September 16, 2007)

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST

Electronic Waste

Part I of II

BY EMILY MONOSSON
MONTAGUE CENTER - When I mentioned I was doing some research into e-waste, or electronic waste, meaning anything from iPods to computers, my neighbor Patrick groused, "I've got a warehouse half-full of computers. I don't know what to do with them." Patrick owns several Turn it Up! record and CD stores, providing plenty of opportunity for e-waste. Later that day I mentioned the e-waste issue to William, a self-employed computer repair and software expert. He pointed to a tall shelf stuffed with old computer parts.

Patrick and William aren't alone. We've all got some, haunting us with their lack of utility, taking up space. I've got an old monitor in my shed, a laptop no one wants (not even the kids) under the couch, and then there's the box labeled,

"Misc. electronics stuff."

In a recent report on e-waste, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that of the almost two billion electronics sold (this includes things like laptops, desktops, cell phones, keyboards) over the past 24 years, roughly 180 million units are in storage somewhere, lurking in basements, attics and sheds around the nation.

William told me a while back he'd carted a bunch of his old computer parts down to his local elementary school, "They were recycling a bunch of their own stuff - I asked their permission, of course - but I have no idea what happened after that."

What happens after that is the big question, a question all of us who use computers, digital cameras, cell phones and iPods ought to be asking. As many of us already know - for

the most part - you can't give the stuff away, particularly things like computers, even if they're still in fine working condition. Many years ago, when computers were room-sized modern miracles, my father helped to pioneer the used computer business, buying and selling the behemoths across the country and around the world. But, over the period of a couple of decades as computer chips shrank, and the million dollar equipment that used to require its own air-conditioned room evolved into desktop computers that cost a few hundred dollars, he also observed the demise of the used computer business. A decade ago, when visiting Israel, he was shown an empty classroom. "Our computer room," they hinted. He offered to fill it with completely functional used desktops for free - they declined. They wanted new.

These days new doesn't last long. In fact my four-year old IBM is at the shop around the corner - and I can only hope if my hard drive has taken its last spin, that Veronica and Kathy at About Face Computer Solutions can save the e-mails that were never backed up, the early drafts, the photos and all those iTunes my son downloaded.

"I know how many we see die, and the landfill thing just kills me," said Veronica, when I mentioned e-waste. As I imagine is the case with most computer ER's like Veronica's, the workshop was filled with computer cases, monitors and cables. I asked Veronica about rebuilding, or updating old computers. "We can take an old case," she said, "but the new motherboards just don't fit in them." We were standing over a large box filled with circuit boards bound for the recyclers, each board a different concoction of colorful wires, copper,

precious metals (gold, silver, and platinum) and plastic. These boards are the heart and soul of our computers and sought out by recyclers around the world interested in recovering metals, and this is where my own journey into the toxicology and politics of e-waste really begins.

Recently two disturbing articles on e-waste published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* caught my eye. The first article, by Huiru Li and others, is entitled "Severe PCDD/F and PBDD/F Pollution in Air around an Electronic Waste Dismantling Area in China." and the other by Xinhui Bi and others "Exposure of Electronics Dismantling Workers to Polybrominated Diphenyl

Ethers, Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Organochlorine Pesticides in South China." Together these articles describe the exceedingly high concentrations of toxic chemicals released from e-waste plastics that contaminate not only the workers who dismantle and "recycle" e-waste.

But what has this got to do with me and my useless electronics?

According to Huiru Li and others, upwards of one million tons of electronic waste is shipped to China from the United States, Europe and other countries, and as their study notes, "Unfortunately, appropriate methods and advanced techniques to deal with such a great quantity of EW [e-waste] in China are lacking. Cheap and primordial methods, like manual disassembly, roasting, and combustion, are often used to dismantle the EW to recover valuable metals, plastics, and electronic devices."

Roasting. We're talking toxic metals and plastics like polyvinyl chloride and polyethylene which often contain chlorides and flame retardants including polybrominated

diphenyl ethers or PBDEs. Although the impacts of PBDE exposure on humans are unclear, in animal studies they impair thyroid function (in fact, a recent study associates PBDEs with hyperthyroidism in house cats). Additionally these chemicals are widespread in the environment, and like their polychlorinated cousins (for example PCBs and dioxins) are persistent in the environment, accumulating in both humans and in wildlife.

But that's not all folks. When heated, the plastics and the chemicals with which they're impregnated melt and recombine to form even more toxic products including polychlorinated and polybrominated dioxins, which then contaminate not only the workers' air, but the air of local villages, delivering these hazardous chemicals to both the oldest and youngest residents. In fact, based on concentrations in local air, the authors estimate that residents may be exposed to upwards of fifty times the total daily intake of toxic equivalents established by the World Health Organization (because chemicals like dioxins really represent a large family of similarly shaped chemicals with a broad range of toxicity - toxic equivalents are used to establish a single number that can be used to refer to toxic doses of dioxin and like-chemical mixtures), and, they add, workers are likely exposed to much higher amounts.

My thoughts turned to the monitor in the shed, and the laptop under the couch. In our Massachusetts town, for five dollars apiece I cart the monitor and laptop over to the local transfer station. But surely they don't end up in one of those communities I'd read about? Or do they?

Next Week - Recycled E-Waste - Destination: Elsewhere

Your Clear Choice
for
QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
SUNRISE
(413)498-4318

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Honest Work
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg.#107141
Mass. License #059565



JOE GRAVELINE

Suzee says: Hey. Wash it!
Wash big stuff!
Get it all done at once!
Up to 37 loads at a time!
(whoa.)
Always Hot Dryers!
Suzee's Gear for sale at : www.suzeethirdstlaundry.com




PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
01376

email: tracey@ahrist.com
web: www.ahrist.com


Tracey Kuklewicz **863-4373**
Vice President

Renaissance
Excavating

COMPLETE SITE
WORK

• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
MAIN ROAD, GILL

DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462



G. VALLEY LANDSCAPING
Serving Franklin County

413-626-9068

Full Service Landscaping
Hedges • Lawn Mowing
Mulch • Projects



INTERSTATE AUTO
Bill Cowan Jr., Shop Manager

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

- All Makes & Models
- Neighborhood Shop
- Neighborhood Prices

863-0003
147 Second Street • Turners Falls



T.L.C.
TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Fall Cleanup
"Now ready to take on new clients!"

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

45 Main Street, PO Box B-6 Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563



Y Full Day PreSchool
Sign up now for Summer and '07-08!

- Quality Staff
- Beautiful Classrooms
- Exciting Curriculum
- Kindergarten Readiness

PLUS: Weekly swim and gymnastics lessons and daily P.E.

www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. *If you think you're having a heart attack, should you take aspirin?*

[Heart attack is a subject too vast for one column. We'll need three. This is the first installment.]

A blood clot in a coronary artery narrowed by cholesterol and other substances is the usual cause of a heart attack. Aspirin keeps blood moving through constricted arteries. Therefore, paramedics may give aspirin when they respond to an emergency to treat a heart-attack victim.

Aspirin reduces mortality from heart attacks. But taking aspirin is a subject you should discuss with your doctor. Aspirin could hurt you if your symptoms are caused by a different health problem.

Doctors call a heart attack a "myocardial infarction." Loosely translated, the term means heart-muscle death. The clogged artery prevents oxygenated blood from nourishing the heart. This can lead to pain, the death of heart cells, scar tissue and fatal arrhythmias.

About 1.1 million Americans have a heart attack every year. About 460,000 of those heart attacks are fatal. About half the fatalities happen within an hour after symptoms begin and before the victim gets to a hospital.

How do you know if you're

having a heart attack? Here are six common warning signs:

- Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. It may pause for a while and then restart. The discomfort can be in the form of pain or pressure. Some experience a squeezing or feeling of fullness.

- Pain in shoulders, arms, back, upper abdomen, neck and jaw.

- Shortness of breath.
- Cold sweat.
- Nausea.
- Lightheadedness.
- Anxiety.

Angina pectoris is the medical term for chest pain or discomfort usually caused by coronary artery disease. Angina (pronounced "an-JI-nuh" or "AN-juh-nuh") is not a heart

attack. However, there's a higher risk of a heart attack if you have angina.

It is often difficult to tell the difference between a heart attack and angina. If you get angina, you should get medical attention immediately. Exertion brings on angina. It's usually relieved by resting or taking angina medicine.

A heart attack can happen anytime, during exertion or at rest. Some heart attacks are like the ones you see in films and on stage; they're sudden and dramatic. However, most heart attacks build gradually over several hours. Many heart-attack victims have symptoms days or weeks in advance.

If you think you're having a heart attack, call 9-1-1 immediately. There are drugs that break up clots and open arteries; they

work best when given within the first hour after the onset of an attack.

If emergency medical services are not available, ask someone to drive you to the hospital. You shouldn't drive yourself, unless you have no other choice.

While it may seem macabre, planning for a heart attack is intelligent. Having a basic plan in place could save time and a life. Map out your steps if an attack happened at home or at work. For example, decide who would care for any dependents. And discussing aspirin with your doctor in advance will give you a clear course of action if you have a heart attack.

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

THIS WILD PLACE

The Red Eft

BY KARL MEYER
COLRAIN - If I'd have blinked, I'd have missed it. I didn't. I wheeled my bike around squinting for something tiny on the marbled pavement in late-summer sun. A few seconds later I was gingerly pinching the sides of a red eft - the juvenile, wandering life-stage of the Eastern spotted newt. This one was barely two inches long and a subtle burnt orange as opposed to the fiery neon bright of most efts you see. That duller coloration was perhaps due to the fact that this was its first foray away from the pool or slack-water stream where it hatched this spring. If it survived this road crossing - and likely many others - this gummy bear would spend the next two to five years wandering and grazing moist forest floors before ultimately home-

steading a more permanent pond. There it would spend its adult years feeding, sheltering, mating, and languidly swimming through the pond algae.

There have been late August days when I've found scores of efts making their way across rain-dampened roads. At those times I've felt a bit eccentric, stopping and ferrying each to a safe pavement transit. This year's been different. Dry. Today this creature was vulnerably testing a patch of highway after a humid night that brought only morning fog to vaguely dampen the pavement. This was less than ideal for an amphibian that even in its terrestrial life-stage needs moisture and shade for survival. I cupped my hand around the squirmy wanderer and walked to the grass on the opposite side of the road. Here it could begin a less treacherous

journey through the woods that might last half a decade before it transformed to an aquatic creature once more, spending up to ten years in a pond as an adult Eastern spotted newt, an astonishingly long life for a creature so small.

The Eastern spotted newt has one of the most diverse life cycles of all the amphibians in New England. In their youth, the tiny half-inch larvae swim with the fishes in lakes, ponds, slow streams, breathing through gills and ducking the fierce clutches of predacious diving beetles and other hungry aquatic predators. They are also born in fish-free vernal pools among the wood frogs and spotted salamanders. As juveniles they leave their aquatic homes as red efts and make a living on the land, immune to most predation due to the toxic skin secretions

they advertise via their orange warning colors. They forage through the leaf litter as terrestrial creatures for worms and a host of small invertebrates for the next few years.

At full maturity, red efts have transformed once again into aquatic creatures, developing dark olive-tan coloration and broad, flattened tail fins. At this point they are fully grown Eastern spotted newts, somewhere between two and a half and five inches long. They do not redevelop gills, but continue breathing through lungs. You may see them in this stage coming to the water surface for a fat gulp of air. They retain their toxic Teflon at this life-stage too, though Tom Tynning in his *Stokes Nature Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles* notes that leaches can and will cull off significant numbers of adults.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

Most newts will spend their final years in permanent water bodies. Others who inhabit seasonal ponds will seek subterranean winter shelter in nearby woods, awaiting the time when their pools fill again with spring run-off. Fifteen years is a ripe old age for a newt.

You would think that something so small and dry-rubbery, a creature so young with features so indistinct it might have been poured from wax, would not have much in the way of personality. This is sometimes true of hand-held efts. Not this one. As I tried to put the absolute minimum of pressure on it as I moved toward the far bank it wriggled and squirmed,

see **WILD** pg 16

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

About-Face Computer Solutions
 Veronica Phaneuf (413) 367-0025
 about-face@verizon.net

- ✓ PC Sales & Service
- ✓ MAC Software Support
- ✓ Network Support and Installation
- ✓ Quickbooks Training and Support

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street Northfield, MA 01360
 Office: 413-498-0207
 Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
 Home Phone: 413-863-9166
 Home Fax: 413-863-0218
 Email: bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
 ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
 REALTOR®

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

Renaissance Builders
 Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413/863-8316
 Fax 413/863-9712
 www.rebuild.net

Rau's Auto
 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
 (413) 367-2475
 531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
 Best service licensed Mechanics

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY
 MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
 Montague
 Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

About Town Taxi
 Serving All of Franklin County
 (413) 774-4000

Bank Row Greenfield

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

Pa Comes to America

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Seeing Pa wrecking the car brought back all the good times we had playing in it. I was heartbroken. Now I could never buy an engine for the car and drive it all over as I'd always dreamed I would.

He did not answer me. A lump came in my throat. I wiped away tears. He pried sheet metal loose from the rear of the car and lugged it to the swamp where other hunks of green tinwork lay. I wanted to beg him to stop, but it was too late. "Why are you doing this?" I asked, again.

"Should have done it long time ago," he said. "This Essex was a big thing for me when I buy it; now; time for it to go."

Pa then told me that buying the emerald Essex had ended one of the best arrangements he'd had in his entire life. It was after he had laid his wife to rest in an unmarked grave in Easthampton, and married Mama. He paused to explain it all to me.

"When I was a boy like you, the Russians came galloping into our village on horseback. Cossacks, they were, I am sure. They saw my Tata working on a roof and they took him to the railroad station and

threw him in a boxcar with prisoners going to Siberia. They didn't let him come home to say goodbye to us, or to get warm clothing. My Matka doesn't know where he is or what has become of him. All she knows is what the villagers tell her. 'Russian soldiers take your man to the depot and put him in a box car.' My Matka was scared and crying. 'What will happen to him?' she said. 'Who will take care of us?'

"For three years we suffered. Your grandfather used to get potatoes, cabbages, meat, and things like that in trade for work, so we had just a small garden, and a cow for milk, and a horse to take us places and to haul lumber for the carpentry." Pa flattened the sheet metal in the swamp and shoveled muck onto it.

"I don't know how we lived," he said, pausing to rest. "We had no money, and there was my younger sister and a brother to feed. Like beggars, we lived." His voice showed his bitterness. "Neighbors feed us from what little they had. It was a time of such misery.

"After about three years, my Tata comes home, weak, skinny like a scarecrow, and in rags - very bitter. 'Poland is no place for you, as long as the Russians rule' he says. 'Go to Germany and earn

passage to America where Russians can't take you into the army or send you to Siberia to work like a slave.'

"So, he gives me 50 cents and a new pair of shoes. I cut off the tops so they are not so heavy, gave them to a friend, and set out on foot. I do what Tata says. At day's end, I stop at a house and ask for food. There's a story in Poland that Christ will come to your door disguised as a stranger. No one refuses. They feed me and let me find a place to sleep. In Poland, only the parents slept in a bed. Children slept where they could. They would give me a little pile of straw to sleep on. I found out that I'd get fed better at a house where old people, with no children, lived. They'd be lonely and there wasn't a mob of kids grabbing the food before I could get to eat. The old people would pack me a lunch of black bread and cheese. I cannot read, so I have to ask the way. In Germany, I have trouble because I

don't speak German. But I find a job on a big German farm where they feed me and let me sleep in a building with other workers. By and by, I earn enough to buy a ticket on a boat. I come to America in steerage, down in the lowest part of the ship. I find my way to my uncle in Easthampton, and work where I can find it. I start working for a man who hauls beer with a horse and wagon. When I get enough money, I buy a horse and wagon and begin hauling beer, myself."

Pa worked long hours, saved his money and bought the first truck in town. Delivering beer with the truck meant he could deliver to more businesses. He prospered, married, and bought a Maxwell, one of the first cars in town.

"On Saturdays people hire me and my Maxwell for weddings."

For a former penniless immigrant, it was a heady time.

"I somebody," Pa said, with pride.

His demeanor changed and he sounded angry as he told how his first wife, Rosalie, had begun getting drunk despite his best efforts to keep liquor away from her. He said she got to the point where she lost her mind from drinking, and he had to put her in a "crazy house." She died in the state

insane asylum.

Years later, I called the state hospital where a clerk looked up Rosalie's records. In reality, the poor woman was suffering from renal disease. As her kidneys failed, her brain swelled. Staggering and dementia gave her the appearance of alcoholism and insanity. I do not believe Pa ever visited her before she died.

After her death, Pa said he went to church one Sunday to hear the parish priest putting his children up for adoption. Soon, Helen was in the process of adoption by one family. Stanley was placed with another. Walter stayed with family friends. With his home repossessed, truck seized by creditors, out of business and out of a job, Pa had little more than his Maxwell car and a little money. And that was dwindling fast. Pa never forgave Rosalie, believing she was responsible for his fall from prosperity and happiness.

The family that took Helen made her a makeshift bed of blankets behind the kitchen wood stove. Frightened and feeling abandoned, Helen couldn't sleep.

"The woman came so slowly and quietly into the kitchen carrying a lamp - without a word," Helen said. "I was scared, not knowing what was going to happen. The woman raised the lamp to the ceiling. It was covered with bugs. She would lift the lamp up and they'd drop into the lamp. I didn't want to live there with all those bugs; I wanted to go home to my mother.

"One day someone told me my mother was coming home. I was happy to go home to see her."

When Helen saw her mother and touched her, she was terrified. "I began crying hysterically and they took me away. I had expected my mother to hug me and hold me. No one had explained that my mother had died. This wasn't my mother - this was someone else, cold and hard as a statue."

- Continued Next Week

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Gill invites proposals for commercial development of a town-owned property known as the Mariamante Parcel located at the intersection of Main and West Gill Roads. The property is approximately ten acres in size and is located less than 1/4-mile from Route 2 and within a few miles of Interstate 91. Disposition by sale to successful bidder chosen to develop the property. Bidders are encouraged to submit conceptual development plans with the intent of entering into a "Development Agreement" as outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). A Preferred Developer will be chosen for negotiation based on the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP. Potential uses identified by the Town for the property include, but are not limited to, an office park, senior assisted living facility, or an agriculturally based business.

A complete copy of the RFP may be obtained by calling the Selectboard's office at (413) 863-9347, faxing a request to (413) 863-7775, e-mail to administrator@gillmass.org, or in writing to the Selectboard's attention at 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354. A development conference is scheduled for September 18, 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall, 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 3:00 p.m. October 15, 2007 at the Selectboard Office, Town Hall, 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA. Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope indicating the firm's name and address and must be marked "Mariamante Development Proposal." Minority and women-owned businesses are encouraged to apply. The Town of Gill is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF WENDELL Planning Board

In accordance with the provisions of Mass General Laws and Wendell Zoning Bylaws, the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices on the application of The Town of Wendell - Wendell Unified Building Committee for a Site Plan review of the change in use of the former Wendell Free Library. The new uses would be: a Senior Center on the upper floor and the Good Neighbors program site on the lower floor. The Site Plan review is conducted pursuant to Article VI of the Wendell Zoning Bylaws. The building site is at the corner of Montague Road and Lockes Village Road, on current Assessors' Map 408, Parcel 75. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Town Offices during town coordinator hours, ordinarily Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., phone (978) 544-3395 and at the Wendell Free Library.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

- Deirdre Cabral
Wendell Planning Board Chair

HELP WANTED

LABORER: The Town of Montague Pollution Control Facility is seeking applications for a full time Truck Driver/Laborer. Tasks involve the maintenance and repair of equipment, buildings and grounds. Assists the operating staff in facility operations. Involves overtime, rotating weekends and holiday coverage. For more information call 413-773-8865.

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse

Proudly Presents
**4th Annual
Rock & Roll
Horseshoe Tournament**

SATURDAY 15th & SUNDAY 16th, SEPTEMBER 2007
Start of Tournament: Sat. 2pm Sun. 12pm

Saturday 15th	Sunday 16th
Horseshoe Tourney @ 2pm (check in by 1pm for teams) Music Lineup: 7:00 - 7:30pm - Pitchfork with Rob Skelton 7:45 - 8:15pm - Bumsteers 8:30 - 10:00pm - Catamount 10:15 - 1am - Drunk Stuntmen BBQ on Saturday: 3pm - 7pm	Motorcycle Run (3 State) leaves Roadhouse at 10am. Bar opens at 12, Bloody Mary Bar, Continental Breakfast Music Lineup: 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Lonesome Brothers outdoors... Horseshoe Tournament Finals start at 3pm. Award Ceremony at 8pm - Prizes awarded.

Tickets \$15.00 includes: 2 Days of Music 5 Bands, BBQ Saturday, Brunch Sunday & entrance into the Horseshoe Tournament...
information call (413) 659-3384 -- TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ROUTE 63 ROADHOUSE
Route 63 Roadhouse 32 Federal St. Millers Falls, MA 01349 www.rt63roadhouse.com
"The Best NEW Music Venue in the Valley"

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

20 words for \$6. 15 cents each extra word. 3rd week free.

FOR SALE - High-quality legal size 5-drawer file cabinets. Finest domestic manufacture; unbeatable price: \$100. Just Things. Open Mon-Sat. Call First: (413) 498-5043.

CARPENTRY - No Job Too Small - General Carpentry and home repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, 413-863-9296.

TUTOR AVAILABLE - Emphasis on reading, writing and verbal skills. Steady

clients only. Must be motivated. (413) 863-5149.

LIVING ROOM YOGA - Individual instruction and small group classes. Find your strength and passion. Serene home studio. Chestnut Hill Road. Certified teacher. 367-2658.
www.livingroomyoga.net

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

Geri Johnson

CRB, CRS, GRI



Geri Johnson & Associates
REALTORS

Seniors
Real Estate
Support



66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376
(413) 863-9736
Fax (413) 863-9739




The Smokin' Hippo

A Family Restaurant and Barbecue

20 French King Highway
Erving, MA 01344-4444
Phone: (413) 423-3220



More Than Just Great Barbecue!
Full Regular Menu & Liquor License
Now Serving Our Award-Winning Clam Chowder!

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11:30-9 • Sunday 12-8
Try Our Own Hippo Family BBC Blend of Beer!

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

Propane Filling Station
**RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT**
Foreign and Domestic

Cooling
System
Specialist

Rte. 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Heroes** - Rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Grand Opening Gala at the **Rendezvous**, 3rd street, Turners Falls. Live music! 8 p.m. \$8.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Horseshoe Tournament Day!** Four Bands, BBQ, starts at 1 p.m.

Montague Bookmill Concert: **Paul Kaplan**: contemporary folk from the man who sang "Run, Al, Run!" 8 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Grand Opening Gala at **The Rendezvous**, 3rd Street, Turners Falls. **Dance Party!** Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Blame it on Tina** - folk rock, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH & 16TH
9th Annual North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival at Forster's Farm, Orange. Music, food, garlic! Adults \$5/day or \$8 for the weekend, kids under 12 free. Info at www.garlicandarts.org

John Putnam Fiddlers' Reunion, Energy Park, Greenfield—Fiddles, banjos, guitars are tuning up for the 6th annual event held in honor of this hometown fiddling hero (1817-1895). Noon to 6 p.m. Informal jams in all styles around the park. Free skill-building workshops including: 1 p.m.: Phil Watson, beginning fiddle, 1 p.m.: Brooks Williams, finger picking, 2:30 p.m.: Randy Miller, master fiddler presents and teaches 19th century fiddle tunes, 3 p.m.: Jeff Golay, beginning guitar, 4 p.m.: Molly Johnson, beginning Southern Clawhammer Banjo workshop.

An Exchange of Two Worlds: A Survivor's Story with Tom Melvin, Photographer. David Arfa, Storyteller and Carlyn Saltman, Filmmaker. Tom



THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD



440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

Melvin is a writer, photographer and philosopher from Vienna, Austria who as a 17-year-old escaped from Hitler. Come hear Tom's story performed. Experience his classic portraits from the 1940's and World War II photographs. 3:30-5:00 p.m. At Millhouse Apartments, 75 Wells Street, Greenfield.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
Scandinavian Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Music by Petra Kirstein, Andrea Larson & friends. Dancers with all levels of experience welcome. No partner necessary. \$8 donation. scandia2ndsunday@aol.com or (413) 253-0525, 3 to 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault** Blues based roots music, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
Shea Theater acting classes for ages 7 to 10 years old. Classes run for eight weeks, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. \$75, www.theshea.org or 863-2281.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH
Childhood vaccinations talk by Naturopath Dr. Emily Maiella of Montague. Held at Green Fields Market, Greenfield. Free. 6:45 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Fiddle Tune Swap** - Open jam, 8 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Kelly Moore & Emerald Dreams. Music For Mankind. www.musicformankind.net

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Blues Harp Blow Out** Mark Hummel, James Montgomery, James Harman, Magic Dick, Ottomatic Slim. Don't miss these guys! 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
Comedy at the Shea, with Boston professional standup comedians Juston McKinney, Dan Hirshon, Tonya Dalhaus and Dave Decker at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Partial proceeds benefit Turners Falls All Sports Booster Club. Material appropriate for 17 and older. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$15, available on-line at www.sheacomedy.com, World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield, or call 863-2281.

Pamela Means performs at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett, 7:30 p.m. Boston-based Out (spoken), Biracial indie folk artist whose "kamikaze guitar style" and punchy provocative songs have worn a hole in her guitar.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Love Bomb**, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.



Pamela Means performs at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett Town Hall on Saturday, September 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. She is a Boston-based Out (spoken), Biracial indie folk artist armed with razor wit poetry and irresistible charm.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
Night of Spoken Word at Deja Brew, Wendell. Open mic 7 to 8 p.m., guest readers, 8 to 10 p.m.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25TH
Hymn to the Earth An exhibit of luminous imagery by photographer Ron Rosenstock, featuring landscapes of beauty and spirit from Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, South America, India and the United States. Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. 863-0009.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - 30TH & OCTOBER 5TH - 7TH
Ja'Duke presents Rodgers & Hammerstein's **The Sound Of Music** at the Shea Theater, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for 12/under and 65/over. Tickets available 863-2281, and at World Eye Book Shop.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
Bouquet of Music Series features 5 o'clock Belles, a women's a cappella cho-

rus, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden, Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield. Refreshments will be served. In inclement weather, the concert will take place in the hospital's main lobby. Free.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH & 29TH
Chaplin's **CITY LIGHTS** at Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls. \$6 or \$4 for kids under 12. For info, call 625-2896. Music before the movie, Fri. Phillipe Simon & drum students. Sat The Ambiguities.

Turners Falls open studio & downtown walking tour: **Arts & Leaves** Begins 10 a.m., numerous sites throughout Turners Falls; brochures available at Avenue A Cafe, the Discovery Center, the Rendezvous and more! For general info call Eileen at 863-9499.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography artist's reception and talk: National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita's **Great Wall of China & The Silk Road**. On display September 27th to December 16th.

The National Spiritual Alliance conducts a **Psychic Fair** at Thompson Temple across from the post office, Lake Pleasant. 11 - 4 p.m. Readings and healings \$25 for 20 minutes.

Elks Club, Turners Falls Veterans Benefit Spaghetti Dinner & Dance with **The King Bees**, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. to midnight, dancing. \$25/couple, \$15/single. \$10/person after dinner. Tickets, call George 624-3383 or Angela 863-9920.

Pianist/composer **Adam Bergeron** solo show at Deja Brew, Wendell. Free admission for restaurant & bar patrons, 8 p.m. www.adambergeron.com

11th Annual Source to the Sea River Clean-up! 9 a.m. - noon. Last year 168 volunteers in Eastern Franklin County filled two 40-yard dumpsters with trash in addition to 200 tires and assorted appliances which were collected from sites along the Connecticut and Millers Rivers, the Mill Brook in Warwick, and the Montague Plains. Pre-register, call 800-859-2960.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall, Wendell. **Charles Neville Jazz Quartet** (Legendary Saxophonist of the Neville Brothers): Doors open 7 p.m. Open Mic 7:30 p.m. Main Act 8 p.m. \$6-\$12. (Partial proceeds benefit Wendell Full Moon Coffee House)

DEADLINE MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
The Montage Cultural Council seeks grant proposals for community arts, humanities, and science projects. Priorities for applicants: Concerts, festivals, plays, projects led by local

artists, environment, nature, science programs, arts & cultural organizations, school programs. Form & guidelines: Lisa Enzer at 367-2658.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881

www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for Fri. Sept. 14th - Thurs, Sept. 20th

Contact Famous Bill's for a Dinner & Movie Deal

- SUPERBAD R**
DAILY 6:50 9:20
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY G**
DAILY 6:50 9:20 in DTS sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- HAIRSPRAY PG**
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- HALLOWEEN R**
DAILY 6:50 9:20
- THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- STARDUST PG13**
DAILY 6:45 9:15
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- DRAGON WARS**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 R in DTS sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- THE BRAVE ONE**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 R in DTS sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

Deja Brew
Cafe & Pub

Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.

Thursday 9/13 Folk & Rock: **Free Range**

Friday 9/14 Blues/Pop Rock **Lost in the Groove**

Saturday 9/15
Folk Rock: **Blame it on Tina**

Sunday 9/16 Warped Americana Duo: **Steve Crow & Peter Kim**
Music 9 - 11 p.m. Weekends
NO COVER ANY NIGHT!

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

Upcoming at the Discovery Center
Summer Hours through Columbus Day: Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by special arrangement. (413) 863-3221

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
Earth Rangers: "Making Tracks" Hands-on Earth science education for children 5 years and older and their families. FREE. Designed to educate young people about conservation of Earth's resources. 11 a.m.

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 23RD & 30TH, OCTOBER 7TH & 14TH
Great Falls GeoWalk. Turners Falls lies amidst some of the most interesting geology of Western Massachusetts. Join DCR Park Interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era about 200 million years ago—including real dinosaur fossils! About 3 miles. GeoWalk meets at 1p.m. in the Discovery Center lobby.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER
Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance at 8 a.m. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes, never more than about 2 miles over level pavement.

Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - www.greatfallsma.org

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it. - Gary and Nancy Melen

"The perfect remembrance"

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1898

We engrave memories that last forever

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

Simply Computing
computer set-up training QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan 774-5451
Your Pace at Your Place

SCHOOLS from pg 10

Speaking in favor of closing a school by consensus among the entire committee, Brown closed this part of the discussion on a positive note. "We have three new members. I think we can do it."

The committee agreed to hire a consultant for \$750, plus travel expenses, to attend a school committee retreat in October, to help the members refine their goals and come to a better understanding of how to reach them. On September 25th, the committee will review data from the last year's school closing discussions for one hour, to bring the new mem-

bers up to speed, dividing the material into four parts: school choice, projected enrollment and the budget gap (presented by Kociela), the elementary study group report and supporting data (Langknecht), work sessions and public forums (Castro-Santos) and the renovation task force report (Lapachinski). The latter report was not available when the committee took their last round of votes on closing an elementary school, and the lack of that data was a key factor in some members of the committee voting to rescind the December decision on closing half of the Hillcrest School and turning the rest into a pre-K center for the district.

BUSINESS from pg 1

it) - "the timing is opportune to restart the Montague Business Association. It's a really great time for businesses to come together to promote the Montague economy, and the business offerings and opportunities we have in town." Laroche said he hoped, "the Montague Business Association will not just focus on Turners Falls; it will be townwide. The businesses and employees at the industrial park, for example, eat and shop downtown, and a downtown business - Ja'Duke Productions - is now expanding to the industrial park. So there's a lot of overlapping interest." Invitations to the meeting went out to all parts of town.

Laroche said RSVPs are coming in already. "I've had business owners say to me, I think this is a great thing."

As participants will hear, the business associations in Greenfield and Shelburne Falls have survived and thrived due to their decision early on to hire paid staff, and Laroche said he has been looking around for possible sources of start-up funds to help hire a paid staff member for the MBA, should the business owners in town decide to adopt that model. But he said the town's active role in providing a spark for the MBA will end with the October 2nd event, with the hope that the business community will then define next steps and goals for themselves.

Pruitt said she hoped a reformed business association would provide, "a sense of belonging for its members, rather than being isolated and doing things on their own. It will provide more of a community among Montague businesses."

WILD from pg 13

squirmed, ultimately sticking its head out between the thumb and index finger of my penny-rolled fist. For a red eft, it's a real personal insult that anyone would mess with your toxically wild-

orange being. When I stuck it in the grass it stood quietly for a moment. Hard to figure what might have been registering in an eft brain. Then it started its plodding, oddly hip-swinging saunter into the woods, and maybe a long and knowing life.

I picked up three more efts that morning. All tiny. I figure they may have been driven from desiccating ponds onto the unmoist pavement by our unusually dry summer. With any luck and good rain, their road crossing will be easier in the coming days. But

even if you don't see them, their adult movements are a wonder in themselves. Find a quiet lake or pond shore sometime this fall, even into the early days of November, and you can watch languidly graceful adult newts swimming through the pond

weeds, suspended in the water columns, or wriggling to the surface for a big gulp of oxygen. It's a perfectly meditative show - the moves so fluid and relaxed you'd think you were at an outdoor aquarium. This one's free.

IT'S JELLY TIME IN MONTAGUE

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER

It's jelly time. The raspberries, red and yellow, have already made a tasty condiment for good-night toast, the grapes are hanging here and there in a forbidden apple tree, where they have escaped from an ancient trellised vine, and the call for home-made jellies for Christmas gifts is loud and clear.

Think jelly, and the little jelly glasses and canning and cooking utensils make their way to the fore. When home freezers

'jelly glasses'. Parafin, melted on the stove, supposedly in a double boiler, was poured on top for a seal. Preserving food was a dangerous business.

Today, it is more a science than an art; follow the easy rules and the result is good. Little patterned glasses with flowered sealing caps have

the native Montague fruits can provide.

For me, good old Concord grape jelly is a standard, and like the apple really necessary to go with peanut butter when kids are around. Perhaps blackberry and raspberry are best made into jam as the good pulp is saved. (Jelly is made from the juice; jam from the entire fruit.) Last year I made elderberry jelly, and although it is tasty, picking berries on the slanting pond bank made the price a bit high.

My life favorite was a rhubarb-walnut preserve my mother made years ago, and I never managed to duplicate. This year's challenge is jelly from the berries from meadow-type cranberry bushes, which are relatively new.

So here we are at jelly time. And as we slide toward the holidays, we may wonder what preserve will be the favorite this year.



rescued women from the wickedly hot summer kitchens where beans and asparagus and all were put by for winter use, preserving equipment was relegated to the dark corners of the cellar. Much of it is obsolete. Canning jars have changed from jars with metal hinges and rubber gaskets to the more convenient canning lid and caps of today. Jelly containers were generally

replaced the old jelly glasses. Turn the jars upside down with boiling contents for a few minutes and the tight lid sees that it is preserved. Your use of a commercial pectin makes certain that the juice and sugar jell when properly heated, and the chance of a syrupy disaster is not a likelihood. In this preserve-friendly world, it is worthwhile to consider the taste treats that

Specializing in unique hair designs
Bella
THE SALON
312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003
Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

DON SKOLE
PRESIDENT
Skole Insurance Agency
AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL • MOTOR CLUB
LIFE AND HEALTH PLANS
91 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
(413) 773-7349
FAX 774-6938 (508) 544-5431

SUPER DEALS ON CDs
DVDs
LPs
TAPES
VIDEOS
TURN IT UP!
NORTHAMPTON • KEENE • BRATTLEBORO • EASTHAMPTON • TURNITUP.COM

Original designs in clay by Artist **Jaye Pope**
GOOD DIRT POTTERY
38 Main Street
Montague Center
Next to the Montague Grange
Clay is good dirt!
www.gooddirtpottery.com 413-367-0155

Sand Hill Ranch
We're Horse Crazy
Reasonable family-friendly fun
Lessons & Sales (carriage rides, pony parties) coming soon!!!
Manager/Instructor
Lisa Matosky
374 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351
413-834-3978

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Thomas G. Simons • Gerry G. Simons
Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury
77 Fourth Street • Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-9506

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133
PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Barlow Landscaping, Excavating & Paving, Inc.
Bryan Barlow, CEO
Demolition
Seal Coating
Treework
Construction Services
Septic Systems
Paving
Snow Plowing, Sanding
P.O. Box 386
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413-772-2155
Cell Phone:
413-775-3376

413-256-6217
fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored
Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002