



FAIR RECYCLING
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THE VIEW
from Tully Mountain
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 45

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

Montague Elementary Shows Strong Test Score Gains



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

"I'm thrilled and so very proud of both staff and students."

- Principal Elizabeth Musgrave
Montague Elementary School

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE -

The Montague Elementary School, formerly Sheffield Elementary, reached a significant milestone with all students in grades 3, 4 and 5 making sufficient progress in both English Language Arts and Math to make adequate yearly progress goals for the second year in a row, removing the school from the needs improvement category under No Child Left Behind, according to Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd.

"Sheffield Elementary was named specifically by Governor Deval Patrick as one of only 188 Commendation Schools from across the Commonwealth recog-

nized for their steady progress in raising student achievement, while at the same time demonstrating a consistent narrowing of achievement gaps among students," Ladd said.

Principal Elizabeth Musgrave said, "I'm thrilled and so very proud of both staff and students in making this outstanding progress. This is something the whole community can feel good about."

Ladd said, "This is a wonderful accomplishment made possible by the hard work of all the students, teachers and staff at Montague Elementary. I am also pleased by the number of students in all our schools who are now scoring in the Advanced or Proficient range on the MCAS. This accounts for over 50% of all our students in grades 3 - 10, and is an indicator that while we are working to ensure success for struggling students we are also challenging our more advanced students as well."

At the school committee meeting on Tuesday, Ladd said, "They have done an outstanding job, and I really think they should be applauded," at which point those present did applaud.

Musgrave pointed out, see SCORES page 13

Mayhew Steel Announces Plans to Expand at Industrial Park

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - Mayhew Steel is expanding and consolidating at the same time.

The company is expanding their Turners Falls industrial park operation with a new \$2.1 million, 33,600-square-foot building, to make room for consolidating operations in Turners Falls from as far away as Pennsylvania.

"The company began in 1856 making gimlets," company president John Lawless said. (It's common knowledge no home is complete without a gimlet.) But over the course of time, other products have crowded the gimlet off the production line.

"Mayhew Steel manufactures punches, chisels and pry bars, primarily for automotive and industrial applications," comptroller Larry Geiser said. "We buy hot and cold rolled steel, cut, forge and harden it by heat treating. Some tools are ground, polished and coated with a black oxide finish. We put handles on some of the larger tools. Some of that work takes place in one of our warehouses. Our pry bars range in size from seven or eight inch-



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Mayhew Steel president John Lawless stands in front of the main offices of his company at the Turners Falls Industrial Park. Mayhew Steel plans a \$2.1 million expansion in Turners Falls, to consolidate jobs and operations currently located in Shelburne Falls and Pennsylvania.

es up to 58 inches."

Mayhew Steel's manufacturing plant is located in Shelburne Falls on the Deerfield River, where the company got its start a century and a half ago. Over the years, the company has acquired

other businesses. Deerfield Packaging, at 199 Industrial Boulevard, in Turners, is one of them, and it now houses the company's corporate offices, along with a 25,000 square foot warehouse see MAYHEW page 8

Riding a Mean Cutting Machine



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Glen Hurd cuts, chops and blows corn into trucks on Flagg's farm in Gill. Moving at four miles per hour, he filled both the truck beds in four minutes or less.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GILL - Glen Hurd of West Swanzey, NH cut 23 acres of corn on Alan Flagg's farm in Gill this week with his Krone Big X 650 corn chopper. This machine retails for \$450,000 new; he bought his used.

Sitting high up in the glass enclosed cab of the huge

machine, Hurd beckoned me to climb up to sit in the jump seat next to him. The cab of the diesel powered machine muffled the noise of engine and chopper, making normal conversation possible.

The flashing knives of the chopper decimated eight rows of corn stalks at a time, drew them

up into the machine, chopped them into little pieces and blew them into a truck moving alongside, all at four miles per hour.

"Chopping and loading seven to eight tons takes about a minute and a half," Hurd said. "It takes about three minutes to load a ten

see RIDING pg 12

Ambushed and Astonished



WESLEY BLIXT PHOTO

(Left to right) Al Miller, Court Dorsey, and John Sheldon, in *Ambush on T Street*

I should mention that we were late...

BY WESLEY BLIXT
NORTHAMPTON - We had stopped off to see John Detmold, in Leeds, in whose company you might happily blow off any number of engagements, and while we were not late enough to lose the play's narrative thread, we were just late enough to make things awkward.

Director/co-creator/actor Court Dorsey, however, met us at the door and effectively guided us toward our seats as he made his way to the stage - a wonderfully generous act given that the Northampton Center for the Arts

is an intimate space and it was well packed.

I offer this detail for one reason: There is a generosity to this entire production that is abundant, personal and direct; generosity that is as surprising as it is altogether unavoidable. There is, in fact, an astonishing generosity to *Ambush on T Street* that outweighs any other consideration.

The script is generous in its lyricism. Even in its most disturbing and horrifying moments, the lyricism and rhythm give you what you need to taste the horror. Savor it, even. And move on.

The play runs the risk of see AMBUSH page 9

PETS OF THE WEEK

Laid Back and Happy



Gus

Gus is a five-year-old male lab retriever mix in need of a good home. I'm new here, but the staff thinks that I will be ok with kids age ten and up and dogs and I might be ok with cats. I am well-balanced between the rough and tumble attitude of a young dog and the easygoing sociability of a friendly adult dog. I'm a pretty laid back, happy sort of a fellow who really would love a comfy dog bed and someone to give me lots of pets. I could use some exercise too as I'm a little on the chubby side. Oh well, I do like my cookies. If you are interested, please ask a staff person to bring me out so you can see what a nice guy I am. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Senior Film Night Features Ballroom Dancing

This month's film, sponsored by the Wendell Council on Aging, will be *Mad Hot Ballroom* (2005). It will be shown on Sunday, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Wendellites of all ages welcome. Admission is free, seating is limited with preference to seniors. The film is rated R.

Ballroom Dancing goes from lame to cool for a group of NYC public school kids in this insightful documentary. The film follows a group of 11-year-olds as

they learn to dance the Merengue, Rumba, Tango, Foxtrot and Swing.

If this delightful spectacle isn't enough to lure you in, add the pressure of a dance competition and the triumph of troubled kids finding self-respect through discipline. It's an engrossing documentary about a wildly successful after-school program in New York City that follows a handful of kids in three different schools from the beginning of their dance classes to the night of the inter-school dance finals.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Author to Read Book About Civil Rights

On Tuesday, September 21st, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Bruce Watson will read from and discuss his new book, *Freedom Summer: The Savage Season that Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*, at the Leverett Library.

In the summer of 1964, 700 college students (including one from Leverett) poured into Jim Crow Mississippi to spend the summer and support the voter registration efforts of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. "Freedom Summer," they called it.

Bruce Watson's *Freedom Summer* is the first full account of this turning point in the Civil Rights movement. *Freedom Summer* is the story of a single season, a summer so radically different, so idealistic, so savage, so daring that it redefined freedom in America.

Bruce Watson is a resident of Leverett. He is the author of several previous books including *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, the Murders, and the Judgment of Mankind*.

The event is free; directions at www.leverettlibrary.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Millers Library Club

The Millers Falls Library Club, a free after school program, meets Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. The drop-in sessions are designed for children of all ages. Activities include arts and crafts and snacks. Homework help available.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Story Hour Every Friday

GILL - New library hours effective September 1st at the Slate: Tuesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Thursdays from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The library is closed on Mondays. Story Hour takes place every Friday at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (413) 863-7775.

Easy Crochet at GSB Community Room

TURNERS FALLS - The September Community Room Event at Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, September 18th will feature crochet lessons from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Come and learn how to make a simple scarf at the workshop "Easy Crochet" taught by Deb Fritz.

Both yarn and needles will be provided, as well as light refreshments. Fritz has been crocheting for 25 years. She is extremely patient, so this should be a fun learning experience. Seating is limited to eight participants so Fritz can help anyone who may need a bit of extra help. Please call Linda Ackerman at (413) 863-4316 to reserve your seat.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – September 20th to 24th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Fuel Assistance and Recertification appointments are available at the Senior Center on September 30. Please call 863-4500 to make an appointment.

Monday, Sept. 20th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

12:00 noon Pot Luck Lunch
1:00 p.m. Bingo
Tuesday, Sept. 21th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, Sept. 22nd
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, Sept. 23rd
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, Sept. 24th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim



Denise Andrews and Dave Sullivan emerged as the candidates of choice in their respective primary races on Tuesday

Denise Andrews Gets Dems' Nod in 2nd Franklin Race; Sullivan Bests Cahillane

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Denise Andrews, a former Procter and Gamble plant manager who has never held elected office before, emerged as the Democrats' pick to run for the state house seat being vacated by Chris Donelan (D - Orange) in the Second Franklin District primary on Tuesday.

Donelan is running unopposed in November for Franklin County sheriff.

Andrews, who moved back to Orange two years ago, defeated three rivals - Lee Chauvette, David Roulston, and Roxanne Wedegartner - to carry the Democrat's banner in the general election in November 2nd, where she will face off against Republican Steve Andrew, Orange selectboard chair, and online professor and former aide to retired state senator Robert Wetmore (D-Barre) Genevieve Fraser, an independent.

In the other major race facing voters in our area in Tuesday's Democratic primary, Hampshire Register of Probate David Sullivan of Easthampton swept former prosecutor Michael Cahillane of Northampton in the first contested race for Northwestern District Attorney since 1982. Facing no opposition in the November election, Sullivan is virtually assured of

succeeding retiring Elizabeth Scheibel (R - South Hadley) to become Franklin and Hampshire County's next D.A.

Sullivan beat Cahillane 15,441 to 7218.

Andrews topped her nearest rival, Greenfield attorney David Roulston, 1490 to 971 in the Second Franklin primary race. Greenfield planning board chair Roxanne Wedegartner came in third with 746 votes, followed by Athol environmental manager and former firefighter Lee Chauvette with 705.

Chauvette won his home town of Athol; Andrews cruised to victory in Orange; Wedegartner won only in Warwick, where she once chaired the school committee; she ran third in Greenfield behind Andrews and Roulston.

In Gill, Roulston came out on top with 76 votes, the only town in the six town district he won. Andrews came in second in Gill with 45 votes, followed by 41 for Wedegartner and 5 for Chauvette.

In Erving, Andrews was on top with 55 votes, to 39 for Roulston, 17 for Chauvette and 16 for Wedegartner.

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

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JESSICA HARRISON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, in Turners Falls will offer a variety of programs over the next three weekends. The Shea Family Theater presents *The Dragon King* performed by the Tanglewood Marionettes on Saturday, September 18th, at 10:00 a.m. Powertown Music presents Anais Mitchell performing *Hadestown*, a musical folk opera, on September 24th at 8:00 p.m.

Then, on October 1st and 2nd, the Thin Ice comedy troupe presents, *There's No Way to Tell from the First Kiss*, a benefit for the *Montague Reporter*. Both shows start at 7:30 p.m. with doors to the Shea Theater opening at 7:00 p.m. Call the Shea Box office, 413-863-2281, for reservations to any of these events.

Troop 6 Boy Scouts from Gill and Montague are selling popcorn again this year. You can either buy popcorn directly from one of the Scouts, or purchase the popcorn online at: cvjenterprises.com/Troop6BSA.aspx. The Scouts thank you for

your support.

Walk MS, a fundraiser to help fund research for a cure to Multiple Sclerosis, will take place on Sunday, September 26th in Greenfield. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Walk kicking off at 10:00 a.m. from the Greenfield High School. To join the Walk go to www.msnewengland.org or call 800-344-4867.

Meanwhile, in Montague, the **Turners Falls firefighters** will hold a Boot Drive to collect funds for a cure to Muscular Dystrophy on Saturday, September 18th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street.

The Montague parks and recreation department is looking for a donation of long pants and shirts for the **scarecrow stuffing** during the 9th Annual Family Fall Fun Day, to be held on October 16th. Please contact the MPRD office at 413-863-3218.

The Turners Falls High School **Booster Day Parade** will be held on October 23rd. The parade and floats will leave Unity Park at 11:15 a.m. and circle the

downtown before marching up to the high school. Show your school spirit! The pumpkin fest follows, later that same day, along the Avenue.

Leaves will soon be falling everywhere. Join **Great Falls Discovery Center** interpreters on Saturday, September 25th starting at 10:30 a.m. for an hour of fun leaf activities. Learn why leaves change color, go on a leaf exploration, and make your very own "stained glass" leaf window out of cellophane. Part of this program will take place outdoors, unless it is raining, so participants should dress appropriately. This program is aimed at ages 5 to 10. However, all ages are welcome to enjoy the fun. The Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

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

TFHS Class of 1960 Reunion

BY MARY LOU DAIGNAULT

TURNERS FALLS - On the weekend of August 13th and 14th, more than 50 Turners Falls High School 1960 classmates held their 50th class reunion. A buffet dinner was held at the French King Restaurant with former class-

mate Doug Walsh appearing in the role of Elvis on Friday evening. On Saturday, the class convened again at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club to continue their trips down Memory Lane, and add some new ones. A fun time was had by all, and we look forward to gathering together again in five years!



STAN GRADOWSKI PHOTO

Town of Montague Tax Bills Due

For the convenience of town of Montague residents, you will now be able to pay all real estate, district, and personal property bills online.

To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand, and then go to www.montague.net, click on Departments, Treasurer/Collector, Online bill

payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's fast, convenient and secure.

The tax office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The town hall is closed on Friday.

Kulik to Hold Office Hours September 27th

TURNERS FALLS - As part of his continuing efforts to identify community needs and respond to constituent concerns, Rep. Stephen Kulik will hold office hours in Montague on Monday, September 27th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the selectboard's conference room on the first floor of town hall, 1 Avenue A, in

Turners Falls.

No appointment is necessary. Rep. Kulik will meet with constituents or town officials on a walk-in basis.

For more information, or to provide background on an issue, constituents may contact Rep. Kulik's district office in South Deerfield at 665-7200.

Gill Grant Applications

Applications for a grant from the Gill Cultural Council are due October 15th. Organizations, individuals, and schools are encouraged to apply for grants that support community-wide cultural activities, including concerts, festivals, plays, workshops, and other performances and projects led by local artists, craftspeople, historians, naturalists, educators, writers, dancers, and creative folk who wish to bring their programs to the various venues of Gill.

Mary Rowlandson Recaptured



Frontispiece of *Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative*, 1770 Edition.

NORTH ORANGE - It happened in 1675 during King Phillip's War. Mary Rowlandson, wife of Lancaster's first Puritan minister, was captured along with her three children by Native Americans on February 10th of

that year, in a combined raid by Narragansett, Wampanoag, and Nashaway-Nipmuc warriors, and forced to travel with them for eleven weeks and five days. They moved through the wilderness and endured privations as they eluded colonial

militias through many Massachusetts towns, including present day Orange and Athol, and even into New Hampshire and Vermont before Rowlandson was eventually ransomed in Princeton.

Rowlandson outlived two husbands and published a book in 1682 about her captivity, which became an early colonial best seller.

Master storyteller Katie Green, a resident of Princeton, will present an historical reenactment, "Meet Mrs. Mary Rowlandson," on Monday, September 20th at the Moore-Leland branch library in North Orange (also known as Tully). The presentation, appropriate for adults and mature students, will begin at 7 p.m. For directions and information call 978-575-0444 or go to: www.orangelib.org.

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The Canoe as a Vehicle of Tourism

BY DOUG HARRIS

GREAT FALLS - Along with potatoes, corn, tomatoes and watermelon, the canoe is one of Native America's many gifts to the world. We propose the canoe as the vehicle to initiate a regional program of tourism development.

Using Native American cultural and historic themes, we wish to partner with regional towns and organizations in a multi-year campaign to promote regional, national and even international tourism, with Franklin County as a tourism destination.

We believe the region's river landscapes and its Native American historical landscapes are an untapped natural draw for families, history buffs and scholars alike. Along with the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office wishes to launch an annual canoe race from Northfield (Squakheag) down to Unity Park in the Village of Turners Falls.

During the weekend closest to May 19th each year, the canoe would be the center piece of three races.

On Saturday there would be an inter-tribal dugout canoe race and a race employing canoes of other traditional and modern designs. The competing tribes would be invited from the U.S. and Canada. The first three place winners in each category would receive substantial cash

prizes.

On Sunday there would be a canoe race that would be open to the public. Cash prizes would also be offered to the first three winners of this event. These events would be run rain or shine.

In the years to come, following the success of the international canoe race, we wish to add an international scale Native American dance and drumming powwow with international Native American foods and crafts vending.

Annually, at the time of the fish runs from the ocean to spawn in the waters above the falls, the indigenous Native tradition of the Pocumtuck people of the Great Falls region was to enjoy ceremonies of thanksgiving, of peace and of welcome with their neighbors from near and far. The canoe races embrace and seek to build inter-Tribally, inter-ethnically and internationally on that tradition.

Tau-botdan-tamock wut-che wame (We are giving thanks for all things).

Doug Harris is Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe. He will be among the presenters tonight at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center for a Native American Panel Discussion focusing on the history of Native Americans in the Montague area. The panel will answer questions about current events and discuss the prospects for a future Native American cultural center in the region.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

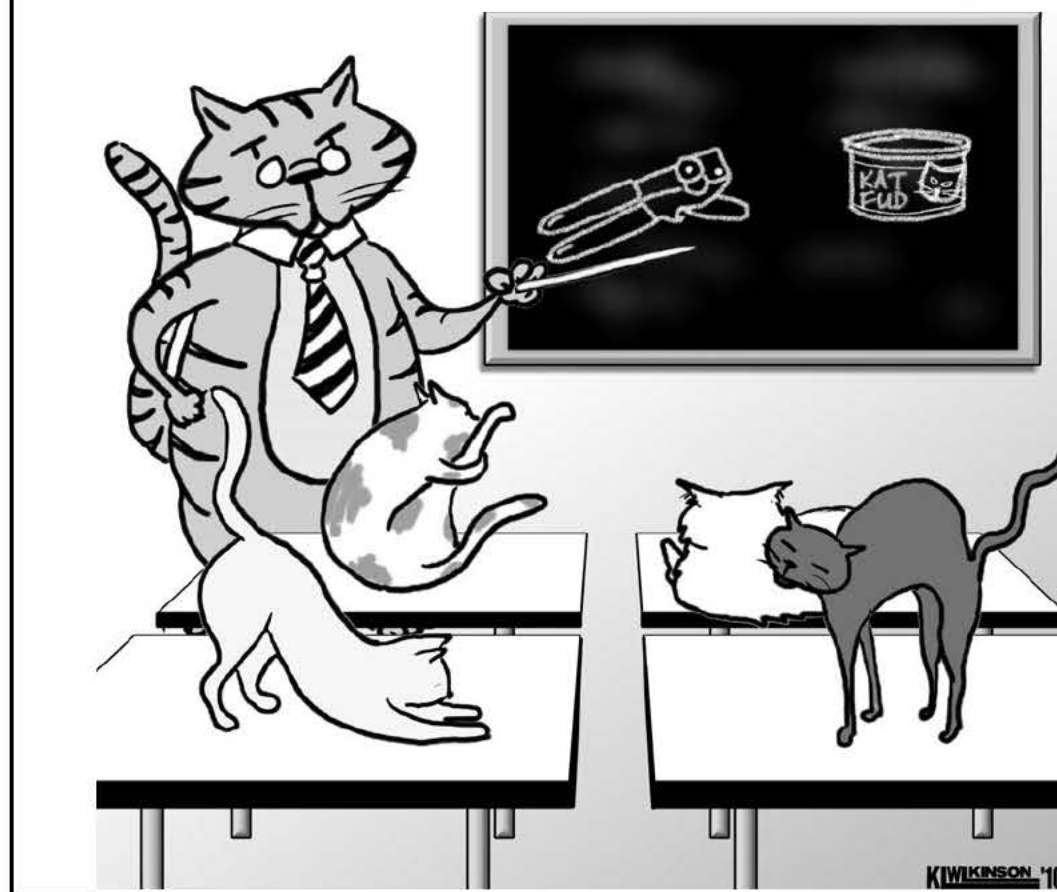
Lucky Youngsters

Regarding the article on soap box derby enthusiast Joe Landry (MR VIII #43: Preparations Gather Speed for Soapbox Derby), kudos to him for opening his workshop and his heart the way he chose to do. In this age of television and

video games, how great for kids to get a chance to build an old fashioned device, like they will for the soapbox derby. What a gift for those kids!

- Joann Olsen
Dover, PA

Advanced Placement Home Economics for Kitty-Cats



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

CHARLES KELLER

BOSTON, MA - This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Clean Air Act, a landmark law with a strong record of cutting dangerous pollution, protecting human health and the environment and spurring technological and economic innovation. Not only has the Act achieved tremendous environmental and public health benefits, but it has done so cost-effectively. Yet Congress is now likely to consider several pieces of legislation that would let polluters off the hook by weakening the Clean Air Act and blocking its ability to regulate global warming pollution.

Massachusetts senator Scott Brown (R) is a crucial swing vote on these dangerous proposals. He could have a decisive impact on our ability to solve global warming, create a 21st Century clean energy economy, and address some of today's most profound environmental, economic, public health, and national security challenges.

One such proposal (S. 3072), introduced by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating global warming pollution from power plants, oil refineries and other stationary sources for at least two years, letting the biggest polluters off the hook. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of global warming pollution in the U.S. Stop work proposals like this will more likely block standards for longer than two years,

Let the EPA Do its Job

as they would also prohibit EPA from conducting research and information collection on what emission reduction technologies are available, at what cost.

Ultimately, delaying Clean Air Act action on global warming pollution would create far reaching regulatory uncertainty for far longer than the two-year delay nominally sought. The Senate is expected to vote in the coming weeks on one of the proposals to weaken the Clean Air Act's ability to clean up global warming pollution from stationary sources, though it is unclear if the vote will be on Senator Rockefeller's bill or another similar proposal.

The only thing these efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act prove is that certain politicians in Congress are still too beholden to special interests and big polluters. Not only would they allow corporations to dump more harmful pollution into the air, but they would put public health at risk, continue to send clean energy jobs overseas and go against the majority of voters who favor regulation of global warming.

Since 1990, when President George Bush, Sr. signed the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments into law with overwhelming bipartisan support, emissions of six common air pollutants have declined by 41 percent, while gross domestic product has grown by 64 percent, according to the EPA. The law has successfully phased lead out of gasoline, improved air quality in cities across the country, protected the ozone layer, and greatly reduced acid rain, among many other accomplishments. For instance, according to the EPA, lead levels in the ambient air have dropped by 91 percent since 1980, greatly reducing health risks, especially to children.

The Clean Air Act was designed to curb air pollution and address new dangers as they are

identified by modern science. The Clean Air Act was always intended to cover a wide variety of dangerous air pollutants. In the beginning, clean air standards covered only five pollutants. But EPA has been doing its job for the last 40 years and, based on the science, now protects the public from dozens of additional dangerous pollutants.

Proposals to weaken the Clean Air Act would keep the U.S. tethered to old, polluting energy technologies and delay investment in new clean energy technology, innovation and new jobs, leaving China to be the global leader in the clean energy race. With over 14 million Americans unemployed, communities are desperate for economic growth and a return to stability. Politicians in Washington must focus on getting Americans back to work creating new, clean energy jobs across the country.

The Center for American Progress released a report showing that a concerted national energy efficiency program could create 625,000 sustained jobs over ten years, spark \$500 billion in investment, and save ratepayers \$64 billion.

A Political Economy Research Institute clean energy economy report found that public-private investments of \$150 billion a year in clean energy could be sustained over ten years and create 1.7 million net jobs in the U.S. economy. Fossil-based energy production sends money overseas and sinks money into capital-intensive projects like mining and drilling, whereas clean energy and energy efficiency requires greater local and labor investment.

We can't afford to let the big polluters off the hook. Press Congress and Senator Scott Brown to stand up for public health and the environment, cut global warming pollution by holding polluters accountable, and move America to a clean energy economy.

Charles Keller is the field associate of the citizens group Environment Massachusetts.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 9/15/10



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We Welcome Your Letters!

GUEST EDITORIAL

On Thin Ice

BY SUZY POLUCCI

GREAT PRATFALLS - Thin Ice is a theater troupe that has had many different players and put on many different shows over the last 25 years. You could say it's epic or mythological in its integration of the Life-Death-Life cycle of animation, development, decline, and death followed by reanimation.

Or you could say it's a bunch of clowns, poets, musicians, and professional liars (actors) who have come together over the years to write and perform shows about love, war, God (if you can work him in) and creating community that we then try to avoid.

So the cast of characters change, another war opens on another stage and we summon up more attempts to love with our broken hearts. Then somebody comes up with another bright idea for a show and we're off and running again.

On both fronts, love and war, we continue to learn nothing and try again to make some sense of it all. *There's No Way to Tell from the First Kiss* to be performed at the Shea Theater in Turners on October 1st and 2nd as a benefit for the *Montague Reporter*, our non-profit community owned weekly rag, is another attempt by Thin Ice to get up on stage and fall flat on our faces attempting to

show how far we've come on this completely vain and foolish circle.

Bob Dylan fans, you know it's just part of the lyric. "How much abuse are you able to take? There's no way to tell from the first kiss." Let's find out together.

The current incarnation of Thin Ice is composed of three players, Paul Richmond, Moonlight Davis, and myself. The show is a collection of tragicomic sketches about love, politics, and soul searching, a cabaret-style presentation containing music, monologues, comedy routines and poetry.

My training in theater has largely been that I haven't had any. Nobody knew much about the theater in my hometown in Pennsylvucky, so they couldn't do much to snuff out the spark.

My first introduction to the theater was from a class I took about *commedia dell'arte*. It was love at first sight. One way or another I have been playing from that tradition ever since.

Commedia dell'arte has all the theatrical buffoonery I'm looking for to understand and interpret the world. In *commedia* you wear masks which force you to project your characters' emotions through the body with leaps, tumbles, striking poses,

stock gags, and obscene gestures.

I'm no expert on 16th century Italian tradition, but I know what I like and *commedia* has it all. The stock characters represent some fixed social types, like foolish old men, mischievous servants, pompous intellectuals, military officers full of false bravado, and thwarted lovers, which just about runs the gamut of the human race when you stop to think about it. Aren't we still dealing with Il Doctore in our healthcare system, Il Capitano in all the wars we keep waging, the working class heroes Arlecchino and Brighella, struggling to make ends meet and stick it to the Man and Pantalone, the miserly master trying to control the game?

I was once in a *commedia dell'arte* troupe called The New Depression Follies. We were ahead of our time. I played Arlecchino (better known as Harlequin), a comic servant characterized as childlike, amorous and insolent. His mask was often catlike, but the one I trained on had a big wart on it which my teacher told me was a chancre caused by syphilis. It wasn't the glamorous star studded image I was going for, but my teacher thought I had the ribald genes it took to play him.

Our upcoming show doesn't

include half mask *commedia* pieces, but the commentaries and skits on love and politics are from that same tradition.

Somebody said the only things worth being are artists or revolutionaries. Couldn't we add lovers to the list of worthwhile fruitless pursuits? Wherever I've been in the world I've always found artists and revolutionaries to hang out with and wonderful rogues to fall in love with. Thank goodness (and badness) for all three.

I have to say the theater is the closest I've ever come to a spiritual experience. It comes through me but it's not from me. I have to show up and put in effort but at some point it's just blind faith and surrender, making something from nothing.

I think the *Montague Reporter* works with these same raw materials. The paper has helped revitalize Turners Falls in particular and the other towns it reports on by covering the stories - our stories - of all the town meetings, the arts, Joe Parzych's recollections, updates on the bridge, poems, the Healthy Geezer, the Go Green family, the garden tips, all the local businesses strutting their stuff. Then I think about all the trudging and typing toward deadlines, attending this meeting and that meeting, covering all these events (probably only to be criticized for not getting somebody's name right or missing

some tidbit). I think of getting the paper to the printer on time, the folding, delivering each and every week. I can't even imagine the amount of work that goes into pulling this off. I'm certain nobody is getting rich. In fact, I'm sure it's a barely breaking even proposition, and there have to be moments of existential dread for the editor, the staff and volunteers about why the hell am I doing this?

Comrades, I'm in the theater, I feel your pain! It's a tragicomedy that has everything to do with art, revolution and thwarted love.

I love the *Montague Reporter* and all it's doing for our town(s). Thank you for all your work. I hope the benefit rakes in some money so we can keep on keeping on, circling our trails and biting our nails, until the next time we feel the ice giving way beneath our feet. See you at the Shea!

Save the Date



There's No Way
To Tell From The
First Kiss

Performance by Paul Richmond,
Suzy Polucci and Moonlight Davis
at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls.
October 1st & 2nd. A benefit for
The Montague Reporter!

NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Paper Mill Site Given Clean Bill of Health

BY BILL FRANKLIN - The former Millers Falls Paper Mill in Ervingside has been given a clean bill of health from an environmental assessment conducted by Weston & Sampson, a consulting firm from Peabody.

Peggy Sloan, planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments [FRCOG] appeared before the Erving selectboard on Thursday, September 9th, along with George Naslas, associate with Weston & Sampson, to present the results of environmental testing at the former paper mill.

According to Naslas, "The condition is good."

He went on to describe the nature and scope of the testing. Weston & Sampson performed a

number of exploratory digs around the property, some as far as seven to eight feet below ground level. Although they found minor evidence of lead and arsenic and some residue of coal ash, Naslas described these as "below standard."

"After looking at hundreds of sites," said Naslas, "the levels of contamination are fairly low." He added, "There is nothing extraordinary... no evidence of illegal dumping."

Tower Investments, the California based owner of the 220,000 square foot mill, which sits on 49 acres on the Millers River, had given permission for the study, which should make the property more desirable for lease or sale.

"Any buyer," said Sloan, "would want good documentation. Once you buy you are in the liability chain. If there are risks to public health or the environment, you want to know."

Tower can accept the results or do their own study; however they must notify the Department of Environmental Protection of their intent or take remedial action within the next 120 days.

Bill Goldfarb, owner of Lefty's Brewing Co. in Bernardston, had expressed interest in relocating to the former mill site at a recent selectboard meeting, which prompted selectboard member James Hackett to comment on the good timing of the environmental

study.

Moving from one former mill site to another one at the other end of town, the selectboard turned to consideration of the former Usher Mill in Erving Center, partially destroyed by an arson fire in 2007.

Sloane said the town should move ahead with an application to the FRCOG for a Brownfields program grant of \$50,000 and a loan of \$150,000 from the program's revolving loan fund.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin asked whether Erving could do that given the fact the town doesn't own the property.

Sloane said that didn't matter, "You just have to fill out an application."

The selectboard voted to go ahead and do just that. Town administrator Tom Sharp indicated that Tighe and Bond, engineers for the mill cleanup proj-

ect, would be directed to follow a parallel course, keeping the possibility of the grant in mind.

Erving town meeting approved spending up to \$500,000 in May to clean up the derelict mill.

Dan Hammock appeared before the board to give an overview of his position as animal inspector. The position involves: chasing stray dogs, investigating bites, quarantining

see ERVING pg 11

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NOTES FROM GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Backs Off on Safety Complex Roof Repair

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill selectboard has backed off on plans to hold a debt exclusion vote timed to coincide with the November 2nd gubernatorial election in order to fund repair or replacement of the roof on the Main Road public safety complex.

After the contractor, James Hanrahan, of Northfield, who had originally installed the flat roof on the combined police and fire station about 30 years ago, returned to repair the leaking roof this summer, he told highway superintendent Mick LaClaire, "That roof will last longer than I will," according to Gill administrative assistant Ray Purington.

"We still have a lot of questions. We should get someone up there to answer them," said selectboard member Randy Crochier on September 13th.

Purington told the selectboard, "I can't justify asking people to raise their own taxes for question marks."

Purington said the contractor had mentioned that the insulation under the roof was wet, although there had been no appreciable rainfall for weeks before he came to perform repairs. The selectboard wondered what the cure for that problem could be, now that the leaks in the roof, which had posed a problem last winter, appear to have been patched.

The board had been soliciting estimates ranging up to and above \$100,000 to either put a new membrane roof on the public safety complex, or to rebuild the roof with pitched rafters.

Now the board wants to seek unbiased opinion from roofing contractors who are not interested in bidding on the job on how to proceed, and meanwhile, in Purington's words, "hopefully get through the winter."

Lane Construction in Northfield won the low bid for winter sand, at \$4.50 a ton, picked up. The contract for road salt, down 25% from last year, went to Eastern Minerals out of Lowell, at \$57.36 delivered.

The highway department reports side of the road mowing in town has been delayed by mower breakdowns, but the machines are up and running again, so the roadsides should be tidied up in next to no time.

Other projects the department hopes to accomplish in the coming weeks include drainage work on Route 142, and shimming on some paved roads.

Purington said the highway department would also like to pave about 500 feet further on the south end of Hoe Shop Road, at the crest of the hill where the road turns to dirt. LaClaire believes this is a safety issue for new homes going up in this area, since even the highway depart-

ment vehicles tend to spin out on the ice in winter where the paving changes to dirt at the top of the rise. There are four house lots either for sale or under construction in this vicinity.

Selectboard member Ann Banash reminded her colleagues that the board promised some years ago, during a controversy when a section of Barney Hale Road was paved without notice to abutters, to hold a hearing before paving any dirt roads in town.

Gloria Kutrubes, who conducted a ground penetrating radar survey of the town owned 10-acre Mariamante parcel on the corner of West Gill and Main Road last fall, has nearly completed her analysis of the results and will present her findings to interested residents and town officials on Wednesday, October 6th, at 7 p.m., on the second floor of town hall. The survey, completed with the help of many Gill volunteers, was undertaken to try to ascertain whether unmarked burials may be present on the acreage, which sits across Main Road from a private cemetery and is apparently in the vicinity of the site of an unusual Native American 'spokes burial' referred to in George Sheldon's 1895 History of Deerfield.

The board discussed methods of limiting the speed of drivers on side streets in Riverside. "I've

had four or five people talk to me about this," said selectboard chair John Ward, who lives on Grove Street. "It's been an issue for me, too. There are no sidewalks. Kids play there, people walk their dogs, walking on the streets. Thirty or thirty-five miles per hour seems faster than I'd like to see cars go there."

Diamond shaped orange warning signs with suggested speed limits beneath them might be the easiest way to convey the danger of speeding in this residential neighborhood, Purington said.

There has been no recent recurrence of the elevated bacteria count that had alarmed regulators looking over test results from the Gill Elementary School's drinking water in the last year or two. The town will have \$5,100 remaining unspent in funds that had been allocated at town meeting to install back-flow protection devices in the school's water supply. The devices could not be installed, as they were subsequently determined to be against DEP regulations.

The selectboard ruminated on a proposal to eliminate the excise tax on farm animals and farm machinery. The proposal, from Steve Damon, chair of the Gill agricultural commission, would put a question on the November 2nd election ballot asking voters in town whether they would support such a change. The excise tax brought in about \$1300 last year, from seven different farms

in town.

Banash said, "It's \$1300 we'll have to find elsewhere. In Gill, budgets are really tight."

Purington said the same could be said about farm budgets, and the measure was meant to "make things a little easier, financially, for farmers."

Banash said she had no problem with the question appearing on the ballot, but this led to a lengthy side track off to the wilds of voting machines, electronic ballots, Gore vs. Bush, Ohio in 2004, and the fact that it would cost Gill at least \$500 to simply put the question before the voters.

Sign-ups are underway for fuel assistance at the Gill-Montague senior center. The number to call to make an appointment for the September 30th visit of the agency that administers fuel assistance is 413-863-4500. You do not need to be a senior citizen to apply, and the income eligibility guidelines are surprisingly moderate, Purington said. The assistance is available to renters and homeowners.

More names are also needed to build the list of Gill homeowners interested in zero interest rehab loans from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The loans can be used to repair their properties and bring them up to code, and are only paid back when properties are sold. Call 863-9781 x132 to sign up.

NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Joint Meeting on Education Planned

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The selectboard and the school committee will hold a joint meeting in October to discuss the future of public education for Leverett students, and they hope the public will attend.

Tentatively scheduled for October 12th, with a fallback date of October 26th, the boards intend to use the townwide newsletter, the elementary school newsletter, and the town website to advertise the meeting.

Farshid Hajir, chair of the Leverett school committee, told the selectboard that among many concerns the school committee is dealing with, the issue of whether to continue allowing school

choice students to attend the elementary school will be up for discussion. Enrollment at the elementary school is at a relative peak just now with 163 students, including 28 who 'choice in' to Leverett from other towns, bringing state aid with them. Roughly \$5,000 in state aid follows each student that choices in to a school from a neighboring school district. Hajir said the school committee has been wrestling with the ethics of relying on this source of funding to make up gaps in the school budget. Some members of the committee have likened this fiscal dependence on school choice to a drug addiction. "Some in the committee feel

we're contributing to problems in other Franklin County towns by attracting students from Montague, Gill, etc." said Hajir, and siphoning funds away from those struggling school districts.

Hajir said machinations at the regional level with Amherst, where Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett all send their upper school students have also raised alarm among committee members in recent months.

Hajir said some members of the Amherst school committee have expressed an interest in dissolving their elementary school union with Pelham in order to draw the state into negotiations see LEVERETT pg 11

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Brush Fires, Breaking and Entering, Auto Theft

Wednesday, 9/8
3:54 a.m. Suspicious auto at Family Dollar parking lot. Investigated.
1:23 p.m. Fight in the alleyway between Pizza House and the old Seth and Eva's store. Investigated.
Thursday, 9/9
7:04 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for larceny over \$250 at Food City on Avenue A.
10:03 a.m. Larceny at Jay K's Liquors. Report taken.
4:10 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for probable cause arrest for an outside agency.
Friday, 9/10
11:31 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] in Millers Falls, for a warrant of apprehension.
11:05 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.
Saturday, 9/11
12:00 a.m. Medical emergency behind the Pizza House on Avenue A.
5:14 p.m. Brush fire on East Mineral Road. Referred to other agency.
6:37 p.m. Brush fire on South Prospect Street at Grout Circle. Referred to other agency.
7:01 p.m. Brush fire in the woods in Millers Falls. Referred to other agency.
Sunday, 9/12
8:18 a.m. Brush fire at the top of Dry Hill Road. Referred to other agency.
11:15 a.m. Chimney fire between Stewart's Nursery field and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Referred to other agency.
11:30 a.m. Burglary / breaking and entering at old Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Investigated.
4:00 p.m. Missing person on East Mineral Road. Investigated.
10:48 p.m. Suspicious auto in the field on East Mineral Road. Unfounded.
Monday, 9/13
8:07 a.m. Suspicious other on East Mineral Road. Referred to an officer.
9:14 a.m. Motor vehicle theft on East Mineral Road. Report taken.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DESE Asserts Control over How New Federal Funds Will Be Spent

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE

Superintendent Carl Ladd said he was frustrated this week over the lack of control the district has over how money coming into the district from the federal government can be spent.

Ladd said the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) was notified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on August 25th, about the amount money from the federal Education Jobs Fund and the Stabilization Grant (SFSF) that will be coming to the district. The original stabilization grant for FY11 was \$116,000, but the state has since reallocated some of that money into the \$364,384 Education Jobs grant, reducing the SFSF grant to \$31,867.

The district will realize a net gain of \$280,251 for the current fiscal year when the loss of Stabilization Grant funding is factored in with the Education Jobs grant.

Ladd explained to the school committee, citing Department of Education guidelines, "The primary purpose of the Education Jobs grant is to allow local school districts to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees and to hire new employees for the 2010-2011 school year."

According to the grant guidelines, the funds should not be used for program costs, only salaries and approved benefits.

One scenario Ladd had suggested for spending the money is to use the funds to offset current employee benefits, thereby "retaining employees," and reduce the operating budget by \$280,000 to \$16,128,037. He said this approach still wouldn't reduce town assessments to the level approved by the town of Montague, so there would still need to be a district meeting held to resolve the differences.

However, Ladd said this approach would have contributed to the structural budget deficit, which the school committee has worked hard to reduce, as the one time money would not be available in future years to meet ongo-

ing costs. The same problem would occur if the money were to be used to hire new teachers or pay salaries of current staff, as the grant funds were intended.

Ladd then proceeded to explain how DESE had other plans for how Gill-Montague should spend the money.

Ladd told the school committee and the selectboard and finance committee members present that he had spoken to Jeffrey Wulfson, associate commissioner of education for DESE, who told Ladd he did not want the money spent to rehire, retain or hire new teachers, or to spend the money on anything that would require additional funding in the future.

Ladd said DESE, "which is in fiscal control of the district, has indicated they are not in favor of using the money to lower the operating budget; that would create a funding cliff and a bigger gap than the one we already have. They're also not in favor of using the money to hire or rehire teachers. They don't want us to expand staffing in any way while we are undergoing a district review and endeavoring to get a clearer view on per-pupil expenditures. So what they're telling us we can do is we can use part of the money for FY'11 and some for FY'12 not to lower the operating budget but to supplement part of that operating budget with one-time purchases such as technology, textbooks, and curriculum items that we do not have to worry about sustaining past the life of the grant.

Ladd continued, "Mr. Wulfson indicated that because we had anticipated using the \$116,000 as that original stabilization grant, we could continue to put that into the operating budget. He is recommending we use \$140,000 for one-time purchases and keep the remaining \$140,000 for FY'12 as one-time purchases. That, in my opinion, does not meet the intent of the legislation. However, I'm not the one to interpret it, the associate commissioner is. I will just say that I found it to be extremely frustrating because we have constantly said we want the state at

the table, we want the state at the table and well, now they're at the table and now they're telling us we can't use the money however you folks would like to use the money. If you want to hire teachers, rehire teachers, they're saying it doesn't matter, they're telling us how we're going to spend the money."

Ladd continued with some intensity, "So, and I'm just going to put this out there because this has been a really lousy week in trying to deal with the department... It would really be nice if at some point we could all come together and pass a budget and get the state out of the district. Truly. And I'm just going to put that out there just as bluntly as I possibly can. We really need the district to stand on its own two feet. We need to be in charge of our own destiny to the extent that we can. It really sticks in my craw to have the department tell us how to spend this money when it should be up to us to either fight it out or whatever... but we should be the ones making the decision."

Marjorie Levenson of Montague asked was this a suggestion or dictate. If the district offers innovative ideas would the DESE listen, she wanted to know.

Frank Abbondanzio, town administrator for Montague, expressed concern over the FY'12 town budget and asked the school district to use the funds to reduce assessments. He said the town would prefer not to use reserves for assessments this year.

Tupper Brown, chair of the Gill finance committee, suggested any expenditures for goods or services be limited to a one year life span, not recurring in the future. Also, he said Gill would like to see the funds spent in a way that would increase the likelihood of retaining current student enrollment or, better, increasing student enrollment in the district.

Jeff Singleton, member from Montague, said he would like the school committee to consider using the money to improve the grounds for Montague

Elementary, saying they could take advantage of the unique ecology of the area. Ladd agreed he would like to see money spent to create continuity between the two school buildings to create a good flow for the campus.

Sorrel Hatch of Gill said textbooks and computers are good but they're ephemeral, and it would be better to spend the money on infrastructure that would be long lasting.

Jane Oakes, of Gill, noted the district doesn't have funds for many needed items, but said as a member of the school committee, "keeping an eye on the best education we can provide for our children, the numbers just jump out at me: 46 more children in kindergarten with the same number of teachers. That's a reality that I just can't envision working well. Similarly with sixth graders - how are we doing it to the best of our ability?"

Brown said that there is an obvious disconnect between a grant program supporting teacher employment and an administrator of that program saying "buy books." He said this needs to be

resolved. And he suggested the district should be able to find something really exciting to do with the \$280,000. He asked the school committee to take creative ideas to DESE, suggesting they not be "scared off by DESE" just yet.

Michael Langknecht, member from Montague, said the committee should review their strategic vision for the district, look at what's next on their list for retaining teachers, improving training programs, creating coaching or mentoring programs for new teachers, and find something to do with the money that would fit into their philosophy and goals. He agreed the district should not just accept what DESE says, but push back to argue for what they want to do.

The wellness subcommittee has completed their deliberation process and presented a first draft of their suggested policy for life-threatening allergens, including peanuts.

Ladd said the committee had met with parents and the community and taken their input seriously - see DESE page 12

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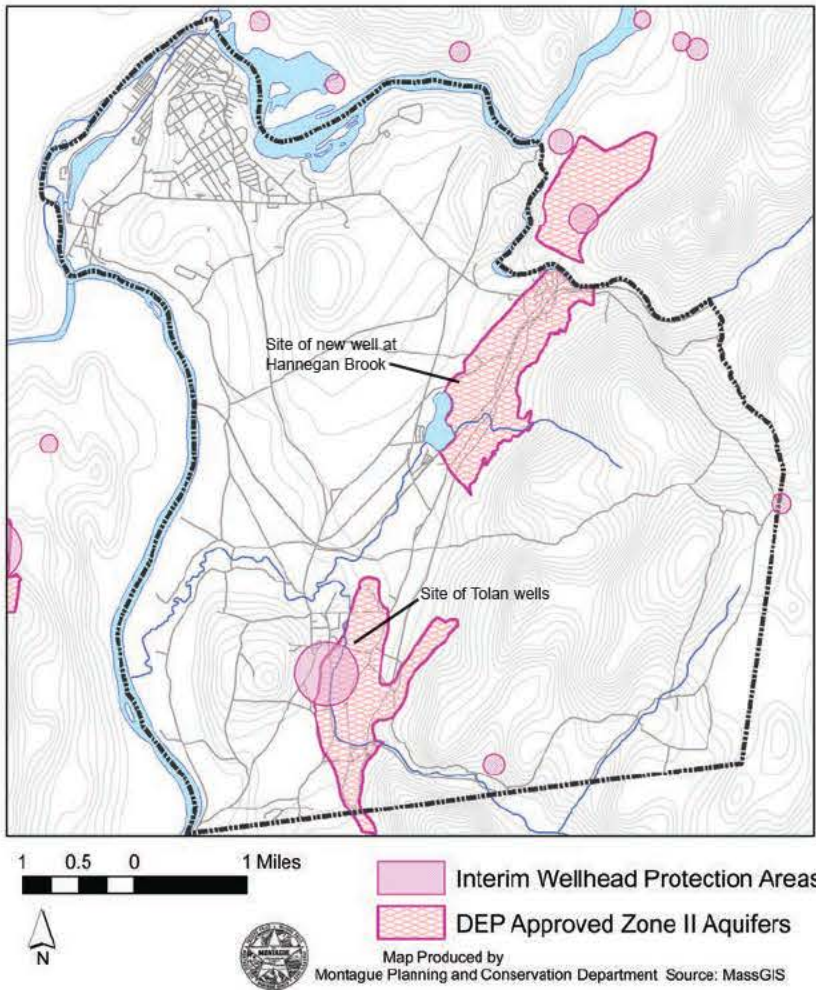
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Selectboard Initiates Aquifer Protection Process for Hannegan Brook Well

Town of Montague DEP Wellhead Protection Areas



BY DAVID DETMOLD MONTAGUE - The selectboard on Monday initiated the process of planning board review of a request by the Turners Falls Water Department to change zoning to protect the aquifer of the department's new well at Hannegan Brook. The new well will be permitted to supply nearly 1.5 million gallons of water a day, and could produce more than 2 million gallons a day in an emergency.

The four villages of Montague served by the Turners Falls Water District (Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague City and Lake Pleasant; Montague Center has its own well and water district) use about 1.8 million gallons on a hot summer day.

The Turners Falls Water Department currently relies on the artesian Tolan wells, off Center Street in Montague Center, to supply about 2 million gallons of water a day for the district, but the output of one of those wells has been

declining. That is why the department has been working for the last 16 years to develop the new Hannegan Brook well, off Green Pond Road, about 1600 feet from the department's pump house on Lake Pleasant.

The Hannegan well will provide a "true backup water supply" for the four villages, said Turners Falls Water superintendent Mike Brown last February, when a successful pump test of the new well was completed.

In order to satisfy state requirements, Brown must now seek to create a Zone II aquifer protection overlay district around the Hannegan Brook well watershed, to ensure the aquifer remains uncontaminated by pollutants.

A similar protection zone was put in place around the Tolan wells by town meeting in November of 1991, Brown said.

The new zone would stretch from Lake Pleasant to the Millers River, including the village of Millers Falls, and would prohibit the construction of gas stations or other petroleum fuel storage facilities in the zone. Metal plating and furniture stripping facilities would also be ruled out.

Residential lot sizes for homes that are not on sewer lines would

double in size, from 2,250 square feet to 5,000 square feet, said town planner Walter Ramsey, if the new protection zone is approved. Brown said this requirement would affect only new homes in two areas of the proposed overlay zone: along Green Pond Road and for a short stretch of Route 63, north of Sirum Equipment.

The planning board intends to hold a public hearing on the proposal sometime in November. At about that time, Brown said, the water department will begin laying electrical conduit to connect the new pump to the pump house.

The department plans to go to voters at the district's next annual town meeting, in April of 2011, to seek approval for the remaining sum needed to purchase the piping needed to connect the new well to the system. Brown said he would probably choose 12 inch PVC pipe, over steel, as a cost saving measure.

The remaining price tag to connect the new well will probably run about a half million dollars, Brown said, in addition to \$250,000 already spent on permitting.

Town meeting would have to approve the new overlay aquifer protection zone.

MAYHEW from page 1
house and assembly room.

"We also purchased the assets of a small company in Wilmington, PA in 2008. That company sells steel products to Home Depot, so now we are selling goods at retail in Home Depot. In addition, the Pennsylvania company buys other items like flashlights and hose clamp pliers made in France and China to sell in retail operations. We are always looking for new products," Geiser said.

Mayhew Steel has a sales force in the office and a manu-

facture's agent representing them for outside sales. "Business has picked up," Lawless said. "Aggressive sales and a pick-up in the economy have brought us back to our pre-recession levels, and we hope to continue increasing sales."

Mayhew has warehouses in Shelburne, at the Turners Falls Airport Industrial Park, and in Greenfield. "In some of those warehouses, we do some assembly work, as well," Geiser said. "The whole idea of consolidating is to bring all these operations together in one central place."

Why not expand in Shelburne?

The building in Shelburne was multi-storied, Geiser said. Modern manufacturing has raw material coming in one door of a single story building. Work flows through the building during manufacture and leaves as finished goods at the other end. "There just wasn't room to expand at the Shelburne location." So those manufacturing jobs may eventually be moving to Turners Falls as consolidation continues.

What are the prospects of adding more employees?

"We expect to hire additional employees as business continues to increase," said Geiser.

On Monday, September 13th, Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio informed the selectboard of Mayhew Steel's plans, and said the town would convene a fiscal advisory committee to review a tax increment financing proposal to assist the company's expansion at the industrial park. An agreement on TIF financing "will hopefully come before town meeting by December," of this year, Abbondanzio said.

Typically, in TIF financing, the town will forgive some percentage of property tax revenue on a declining scale over a decade, in recognition of the size of the investment a company proposes, and the number of new jobs being brought to town.

Abbondanzio said Mayhew Steel anticipates seeking \$1.8 million in state investment tax credits to help with the financing package for the expansion. The state weighs investment tax credits favorably toward "manufacturing jobs and underperforming communities," said Abbondanzio. Montague and Mayhew Steel should score well on both of those categories.

"Basically, we're talking about \$1,550,000 for investment in the property, \$100,000 to relocate machinery, and \$500,000 to purchase new machinery," for Mayhew Steel's planned expansion in the industrial park, Abbondanzio said.

Turners Falls, once known as Power Town, used to be a hotbed of manufacturing along the power canal. Now, a modest resurgence is in progress at the industrial park, with a total of 14 businesses listed on the roster at the entrance, and still a little room for more.

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Spore Art on Display

BY RICHARD BALDWIN WENDELL - The Wendell Free Library is very fortunate to present 19 of Maryellen Burns' wild mushroom prints for its two month autumn exhibition.

While organic materials can be coated with paint or ink and then printed on a surface, Burns collects wild mushrooms then proceeds to use them in a different way to make her prints. The exhibition is a wonderful example of how natural elements can be directly combined with artist's materials to produce surprising imagery.

Burns writes: "I am primarily a self-taught artist. I originally worked in oils and silk screening. In 1970, I learned the art of Mushroom Printing, or Spore Art as it is sometimes referred to. The process I use causes the spores and dust from the mushrooms to adhere to the background paper. Each individual mushroom makes a special print similar to one's own fingerprint.

No two are alike. Each species of mushrooms creates different colors and textures. Many of my prints are made directly onto the background, but many of the backgrounds have been made by spray painting over natural materials such as pine needles, arborvitae, ferns, boxwood and leaves."

"While a resident of Acton Massachusetts I entered the Art Show at the Acton Art League and won a Blue Ribbon. In 1994 I moved to Truro on Cape Cod and continued my prints with mushrooms gathered on the cape, printing and framing at my studio, The Wild Mushroom. In 1997 I had an exhibit at a meeting of The Mycological Society of Boston at Harvard College. While still in Truro I had exhibits at the Truro Library and the Wellfleet Library in Wellfleet Massachusetts. I now reside in Orange and have the studio at my home"

With experience, Burns has

learned which mushrooms interact with which papers to produce their particular patterns and colors. In addition to the spores, which leave beautiful images, gases from the mushrooms interact with the chemicals in the papers to produce subtle washes of color. The shapes produced by the spores range from fairly closed to open, with edges that vary from hard to soft. In combination with the color of different papers and additional surface treatments, the resulting prints are varied and elegant.

All prints in the exhibition are for sale and professionally framed by Burns, who maintains a business of matting and framing in her Orange studio.

Please come and see this exhibition. You won't believe what Burns has done using mushrooms and paper. The exhibition runs from September 1st to October 30th in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library. Hours are: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.

Detail of print No. 43
by Maryellen Burns



BALDWIN PHOTO

AMBUSH from page 1

telling more than it shows, but if you listen closely, you realize that the telling becomes so full and embodied that it is transformed. The telling is the showing.

There is generosity in the courage of its three creator/actors - and there are only three - who offer the audience and each other access to places most of us do not want to admit are there.

There is rare generosity in John Sheldon's Stratocaster, offered up with warm distortion that makes you want to smile, just as you suspect Ray Davies must have smiled after he kicked in the speaker on his amplifier for the first time. This is not just music. That Strat becomes a Greek chorus, narrating and ruminating. Badgering. Cajoling. Judging.

There will be those, I suspect, who will find *Ambush on T Street* too didactic, even if they largely agree with its politics which, too, are generous. Al Miller as the haunted, homeless, heartsick Hatch suffers with all the fetid wounds we

have come to associate with America's war in Southeast Asia - and others we may have overlooked. Someone in the audience may grumble, "Oh, it's the Vietnam vet thing again."

Which is exactly the point. It is the Vietnam thing again. And anything that is written, drawn, recited or said by us must acknowledge, however tacitly, that the war is *not* over, and that its contradictions endure and will ultimately kill us. Anything less in what we create will be worthless. The single simple killing that is at the moral center of *Ambush* lies before us and will not go away, and the story must be told again and again until we get the message. As I think about this aspect of *Ambush*, I try to recall the quote - referring to Artaud, I think - about the pitfalls inherent in criticizing the diction of someone who is telling you that your house is burning.

There will be those, too, who will find the play too confessional - more therapy than drama, perhaps. Which may be

true. Here too, however, it becomes hard to criticize an aspect of the production that is so very central to its generosity. We have this cloying voyeurism in so many of our artistic experiences. It leads a whole generation of NPR interviewers to ask writers, "I wonder, does that reflect something that was going on in your own life?"

Here, on T Street, you don't need to ask. You don't want to ask. You are invited to look behind the curtain, and you aren't sure you want to. Dorsey's Vilardi takes us places that make us so uncomfortable that we want to get up and go home. And then, we realize, we are home. Sheldon's character, Jack, is more restrained, less confessional than Vilardi or Miller's Hatch. He is, by his own admission, the comic relief in the play. And then along comes one of his original compositions, like the one entitled *The Unmarked*, and you realize just how personal it all is.

Ultimately, however, *Ambush* is about neither politics nor therapy. Nor is it entirely

about war. In the end, *Ambush* is simply about the struggle of men to re-integrate lives that have been horribly, cruelly and violently fractured; about how they struggle in isolation and addiction; and about how, eventually, they may come to struggle together with the legacy that they share. That we all share.

Beyond the dreamscapes, the mutations of time and memory, the rage and the bombast, there is a simple decency to this play; a simple humanism that is almost irresistible.

In the end, *Ambush on T Street* is profoundly optimistic. Hatch has a line at the very end that I found off key. I won't repeat it here, but I wanted to excise it from the script. It implies the kind of redemption that I have always explicitly rejected in life and in art. It implies that the re-integration of a fractured soul is, indeed, really possible.

As the days have passed, however, I have come to regard that line more positively. Of course the play is optimistic, I realize now. That is a part of its

native generosity. Only a redemptive work can afford to be that generous.

Perhaps, in fact, it is possible to grow old and kindly and loving and fully integrated - not in spite of, but because of, the horror that one has looked on clearly and courageously. And then rejected. Perhaps it is possible to grow old well, not unlike 90-year old John Detmold, a man in whose company you would gladly blow off any number of engagements.

So, go see *Ambush*. Just don't expect Court Dorsey to usher you to your seat. But don't be surprised, either, if he does.

Ambush on T Street, created and performed by Court Dorsey, Al Miller and John Sheldon will be performed at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls on September 24th and September 25th at 8 p.m.; and on October 8th and October 9th at Zen Peacemakers in Montague. Advance tickets are available at www.zen-peacemakers.org.



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Gill Discusses Schools, Bridge Repair with Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill selectboard came to Turners Falls on September 13th to meet with their Montague counterparts to discuss the upcoming budget setting meeting on Thursday, November 18th for the Gill-Montague district schools.

While they were at it, the two boards worked up a list of concerns to bring to a meeting with Massachusetts Department of Transportation officials about the ongoing reconstruction of the Gill-Montague Bridge, which will take place on Thursday, October 14th, at 4 p.m. at the Montague town hall.

By mutual agreement, the boards decided to ask Montague town moderator Ray Godin to facilitate the special district meeting on November 18th at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, which has been called according to state law as a result of Montague town meeting having twice rejected the Gill-Montague Regional School District's \$16.4 million budget proposal for the present fiscal year.

All voters from the towns of Gill and Montague are welcome to attend the budget setting meeting to help approve the final amount each community will be assessed and the overall budget needed to operate the district schools in FY'11.

Similar district meetings have been called in each of the past two fiscal years, and have failed to approve a final budget acceptable to the school committee. This impasse has led to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to assume fiscal oversight authority for the school district, and impose budgets unilaterally on the member towns in FY'09 and FY'10.

The selectboards agreed to use paper ballots again this year, to allow voters from their towns to choose between a range of expected options on the school budget that are likely to be presented at the district meeting.

Gill board member Ann Banash said, "The issue for us is we already passed a budget," at the level requested by the school committee, at annual town meet-

ing in June. "I don't know how many people from Gill will come, although things can change drastically at the meeting."

Turning to the bridge reconstruction, Gill town administrative coordinator Ray Purington said the first thing folks on the Gill side of the bridge would like to talk about with Mass DOT is the signage on that side of the river.

He said it was not uncommon to observe drivers approach the bridge from Route 2, and see them stop and back up, turn around and drive off, only to return again moments later and travel across the one open lane inbound to Turners Falls. He speculated that drivers unfamiliar with the bridge construction are not being adequately informed by signage that the bridge is still open in that direction. "They wait to see someone else crossing before they turn around and try it themselves," he said.

Purington added that the signs telling to drivers to obey the flashing red signal, and steer clear of the bridge during emergencies that require Montague fire or police to cross against the lane of oncoming traffic are also insufficiently clear. He pointed to an incident that occurred a few weeks ago, when Turners Falls fire dispatched a crew to assist in fighting the arson blaze that destroyed the former home of Ed Pagoda on Pisgah Mountain Road at three in the morning, and met a car coming the other way, despite the flashing red light that had been activated on the Gill side of the bridge. Fortunately, construction was at the phase where the car could pull to one side to let the fire engine pass, Purington said.

Other issues to be raised at the October 14th meeting include a concern about how the one lane bridge will get plowed in the winter, and where the snow will be plowed to, and whether Montague DPW will have to remove the snow at town expense if it is pushed forward by the state highway crew to the Montague side of the bridge. A question was raised about resurfacing the one

traveling lane before winter, so plows could actually plow the snow, since the deck surface now is anything but even.

Also, Purington noted that neither Sunderland nor South Deerfield is billed for streetlight use on the Route 116 bridge over the Connecticut. Why then, Purington wondered, if the state is responsible for plowing the Gill-Montague Bridge, do the towns of Gill and Montague get the bills for streetlights on their sides of the G-M Bridge?

Purington added that Gill would like to have pedestrian and bicycle access from the Gill Mobil station side of Route 2 to the bridge bike path and sidewalk clearly delineated as part of the reconstruction of that intersection. "That is Gill's only sidewalk, and it would be nice to have a route across Route 2 traffic."

chokepoint for truck drivers trying to leave Montague.

"We appreciate your coming," Allen told the visiting board members from Gill, "and next time we should reciprocate by going over to your meeting and trying to figure out how to get there."

Sewer Rates

In other news, the selectboard considered the use of retained sewer earnings to reduce sewer rates for the coming fiscal year. No decision was taken, and the matter will be taken up again at a subsequent selectboard meeting.

"Currently, we have a healthy balance in the retained earnings fund," said town manager Frank Abbondanzio, "in the amount of \$250,045."

If the selectboard chooses, with the approval of town meeting, to apply none of those surplus funds towards reducing next year's rates, then the rates will rise by approximately 3.3%, Abbondanzio said. For a sewer user with an average bill based on 66,000 gallons of usage per year,

ings were applied to reducing the rates, sewer users would see a 16.2% decrease on their bills in 2011.

Abbondanzio said Southworth Paper, the major sewer user (and one of the major employers) in town, intends to be present when the rates are discussed later this month, and that historically Southworth has advocated using the entire sum in retained earnings to reduce rates, arguing that sewer users are being overcharged by the amount that shows up each year in that account, and that it is difficult enough for a paper mill to stay profitable in today's economy without paying more for sewer use than absolutely necessary.

Abbondanzio warned that in FY'12, a \$950,000 USDA loan would begin to appear on local bills, and 60% of that loan will be attributable to sewer user fees. He also spoke of the "uncertainty over the Erving situation," as another argument in favor of keeping more of Montague's wastewater pollution control



(Left - right) Gill selectboard members John Ward, Ann Banash, Randy Crochier, with Ray Purington, met with their Montague counterparts Chris Boutwell, Pat Allen, Mark Fairbrother, and Frank Abbondanzio on Monday, with Montague administrative secretary Wendy Bogusz, center, keeping score.

Montague selectboard chair Pat Allen wondered where in the procurement process were the wayfinding signs ordered months ago as part of Mass DOT's effort to direct drivers into and easily out of Turners Falls during bridge construction, and when those signs would finally be installed.

Allen said she also wanted the Mass DOT to explain their plans for bringing the 5th Street bridge over the power canal back up to weight bearing capacity, to allow trucks to once again use that bridge, which has now become a

this "worst case" scenario would equal a \$13.00 annual increase.

He said the state average for an annual sewer bill is \$584; Montague's typical bill, even with the increase, would equal \$396, well below the state average, Abbondanzio said.

Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley is recommending using \$40,000 from retained earnings to reduce the sewer rates, leaving the rates for 2011 at approximately the same level as the present rates. If the entire amount of retained earn-

ings were applied to reducing the rates, sewer users would see a 16.2% decrease on their bills in 2011.

Dispute with Erving

By this, Abbondanzio was referring to a claim made by the Erving selectboard that Montague should pay its share of the recently completed \$5.6 million upgrade of the Erving side wastewater treatment plant. According to the terms of a 1973 agreement between the towns, Montague is expected to pay a share of capital improvement costs at the treatment plant, based see REPAIR pg 12

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Recycling Expands at Franklin County Fair

BY ANNE HARDING GREENFIELD - The 2010 Franklin County Fair recycling and composting programs were a huge success this year, thanks to the efforts of dozens of volunteers organized by Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and a newly formed committee made up of Montserrat Archbald, Ferdene Chin-Yee, Emily Monosson, Kathy O'Rourke, and Ray Purington. Their goal to recycle and compost at the Fair in greater tonnage than in 2009 appears to have been met; final numbers have not been tallied.

The effort to increase collection of compost started months ago, as Donovan began collecting five gallon buckets from three main sources - Snow's Ice Cream, the Peoples Pint, and Whately farmer Rick Grow. More than five dozen buckets were distributed to all food vendors at the fair for easy collection of food and paper waste. Volunteers picked up the buckets,

emptied them into the Triple T dumpster and rinsed the buckets for reuse. The composting dumpsters then made their way to Martin's Farm in Greenfield where the commercial composting operation runs year round,



TFHS student council members (l to r) Zack Boisvert (Junior), Dan Skarzynski (Senior), and Sam Letcher (Junior) on the job at the fair.

producing tons of compost. By the end of the weekend, at least 11 cubic yards of compost had been collected, approximately 37% more than in 2009.

The volunteers shouldered a dirty and seemingly thankless job. They used garden carts to haul the buckets and bags to col-

lecting stations. The volunteers' white shirts didn't stay white for long as the workers separated redeemable containers and cleaned them for return.

This year, for the first time, food vendors were awarded rib-

bons for contributions to the Fair's recycling and composting programs. The Leyden Church was awarded first prize for their use of reusable dishes and for separating large volumes of corn husks and potato peel compost. Second prize went to the Bernardston Kiwanis for the use

of fiberware bowls and compostable spoons, also for using native fruits. Third prize went to Mikey's Fries for separating large volumes of peelings and other food waste; and fourth prize to the Four Leaf Clover for food and paper composting and their use of compostable paper dishes.

The volunteers' efforts were certainly appreciated by grounds superintendent Rod Gammell, who estimated he saved the hauling cost of a 20-30 yard dumpster. The diversion of trash is becoming more critical each year as our local landfills close and trucking costs to distant locations increase. More than 100 container recycling bins were set up throughout the fairgrounds for the collection of plastic, metal and glass containers. This year, the return of redeemable containers will be used to buy supplies for the Fair's recycling and composting program.

The remainder of the containers were picked up by the Greenfield DPW and brought to the transfer station for recycling.

ERVING from pg 5

diseased animals, and keeping a record - a barn book - of livestock in the town, although Hammock noted there is no regulation requiring residents that own animals to report them.

The board voted to reappoint Hammock as animal inspector for the town.

The town will be changing the name of North Shore Road to Dusty Road, or some variation. The main concern with the current name is the potential for confusion among emergency personnel.

Should it be called East or West Dusty Road to distinguish it from the road of the same name in another town? "It's good to have something," said Sharp, "that they know is Erving rather than Warwick."

Finally, someone 'tagged' the town's newly repaired and painted water tank, off Route 2 opposite Christina's. The town will be looking for funding in next year's budget to put a fence around the tank, to discourage graffiti artists.

LEVERETT from page 6 about how the entire region might be reconfigured, with a possible end game of regionalizing all schools in the four towns in a K-12 region, with Amherst the dominant town by virtue of population. The state has expressed a preference for K-12 regions over hybrid regions and might be inclined to press for such a move, Hajir said.

Leverett Elementary is presently governed by Union 28, along with the elementary schools in Shutesbury, Erving, Wendell and New Salem. Hajir said Leverett seems satisfied with the present arrangement.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau wondered whether it might be possible "to pick up Pelham" as part of Union 28.

The Amherst region has experienced tumult and turnover among both school committee members and superintendents in the last three years. Hajir resigned his post as chair of the Amherst Regional School Committee in July, after being subjected to *ad hominem* attacks by Amherst school committee members over leadership style.

But Hajir said the work of education study committees now formed in the other towns in the Amherst region may result, "hopefully, in a different style of

interacting, a cooperative spirit. We're all in this together."

John Kuczek, facilities manager for Leverett Elementary, presented the board with a preliminary application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, to seek funding for roof and window repairs at the school. Kuczek said slates on the roof of the original ell, built in the 1950s, needed to be replaced, though the sheathing was sound, and the windows in that section, other than the gymnasium, also needed replacement. Children are kept away from playing near the eaves, Kuczek said, because the tiles are in danger of slipping, and though the leaks have been patched regularly the roof is past its useful life span. He estimated it would cost between \$600,000 - \$650,000 to complete the repairs.

If the state accepts Leverett's preliminary application, which the selectboard approved, Leverett would be eligible to apply for a percentage of the needed repair funds.

Mary Alice Wilson and Eva Gibavic of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust came to discuss the outlines of conservation restrictions the town needs to place on purchased by the town with Community Preservation Committee funds, including the most recent parcel, known as the Hank Berry land,

near Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Another wooded parcel, the Stephen Adams land on Brushy Mountain and two contiguous lots near the south end of Leverett Pond also need to have conservation restrictions placed on them, with the selectboard approval, which the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust would then oversee.

Wilson said the board needed to consider whether hunting should be allowed on any or all of the parcels, and whether logging should be permitted on the wooded parcels. Other considerations include protection of Native American stone sites, if any are found, the placement of informational signs and the creation of trails, and site surveys to establish a baseline of present conditions and boundaries. The board seemed to favor hunting rights.

Brazeau said bids were being readied, and permitting completed, to remove invasive vegetation clogging the channel of the Leverett Pond leading to a dry hydrant. "If buildings in the center of town catch fire, we're not going to have enough water," unless this work is accomplished first, Brazeau said.

The selectboard has been advised by the attorney general's office that they may not establish a selectboard blog for the purpose of holding open discussion, avail-

able to all townspeople, between board members on topics that may come up at the board's regular meetings. The board is chafing at strictures of the new open meeting law which appear to prohibit not only deliberations but also discussions between any two members of a three member board outside of posted meetings.

"You can't do it," said Marjorie McGinnis, Leverett's long time town administrative assistant, back at her first meeting on September 14th after a year's maternity leave. "This is the meeting. You've got to have discussions here."

"It's crap," said selectboard chair Richard Brazeau, who contends the new limitations hobble the members of the part-time board, who meet only twice a month, from operating effectively, or even enjoying the same

ability to discuss town affairs at the transfer station that all other residents seem to enjoy. "I'll call the A.G.'s office and get on their case about it."

Moving from one bureaucratic hurdle to another, the selectboard spent time huddling over a draft map of the planned route for fiber optic cable intended to bring high speed internet access a little closer to town residents. The map seemed to show that large areas of town, including North Leverett Road and Route 63, would still be forced to rely on dial up for internet access. "This is stupid," said Julie Shively. "They're just going to serve the already served areas in Leverett."

The map showed the cable route connecting to town hall, the library and elementary school, all of which have high speed internet access presently.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Assistance to Other Agencies

Wednesday, 9/8 9:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for probation violation warrant.	6:00 p.m. Report of a male subject in a wheel chair on Route 2 at Old State Road. Passing motorist was concerned for subject's safety. Patrolled area. Unable to locate.	French King Bridge. 5:58 p.m. Assisted Gill police with search. Male subject in woods screaming for help. Located same. Services rendered.
Friday, 9/10 7:15 p.m. Report of larceny at French King Motel. Report taken.	Sunday, 9/12 9:43 a.m. Assisted agencies with recovery at	Monday, 9/13 4:30 p.m. Spoke with resident regarding incident of road rage. Information taken.
Saturday, 9/11		

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DESE from page 7
ly. He said the district has developed a set of guidelines that is both reasonable and measured. The new policy guidelines include appropriate education of staff to roles and responsibilities, building-based emergency plans, specific plans for individual students who suffer from food allergies, availability of medical equipment

for a quick response and resources for ongoing support and implementation of the policy. They also will provide life threatening allergen-free areas within each school cafeteria. The district will not ban peanuts or nut butter from the schools. Ladd said this would raise a false sense of security that there is no chance of exposure. The district will allow

peanut and peanut products to be brought into the school, but will not serve peanut products in the elementary school cafeteria. They will allow them to be sold in the middle school and high school. This decision is based on the developmental level of the students. Ladd said these protocols are already in place. The district will also provide a pro-

gram directed through the nurse's office called PAL, that teaches students how to support and help protect students with life-threatening allergies. The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28th at the Montague Elementary School (Sheffield building) at 7:00 p.m.



REPAIR from page 10
based on the percentage of flow that comes from the Montague side of the village of Millers Falls.

Erving administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said since the Miller Falls Paper Co. closed, reducing the town of Erving's share of the flow to the treatment plant drastically, Montague and Erving each contribute about 50% of the flow to the Erving side wastewater plant. Based on that formula, Montague's share of the recent upgrade would equal \$2.8 million.

Montague has disputed the legality of that demand, saying the town was not notified in advance, or given an itemized list of improvements, as the contract stipulated.

Still, on Monday, Paul Gilbert, of Camp Dresser and McKee, the

town's sewer treatment plant consultant, told the selectboard he had begun researching the terms of the 1973 agreement, and offered prices for what it would cost for his firm to review the upgrades Erving undertook at the Erving side treatment plant, and also what it would cost to investigate redirecting the flow from Millers Falls sewers up the hill on Montague system, rather than to continue piping it beneath the Millers River to Erving side.

On Wednesday, September 15th, Sharp said, "There is a contract that fairly recently came to the Erving selectboard's attention. It reads like it is a partnership. When the treatment plant was built, both towns agreed, if you need a new roof, if you need to replace the parking lot, those would be shared costs based on the percentage of flow."

The Erving administrator added, "There is also very clear language that both sides should sit down to discuss. My board sent a letter to the Montague board, on July 29th, saying, 'Let's sit down and have a meeting.'"

Sharp said the town of Montague responded in writing seeking a breakout of the improvements the town of Erving undertook and financed at the treatment plant, without advance notice to the town of Montague.

Abbondanzio said on Wednesday that Montague, had the town been notified in advance, might have chosen a different course of action than to participate in the \$5.6 million upgrade to the treatment plant, or would have at least been able to consult on which aspects of the plant's renovations were essential to continued operations, and to

consider how to fund those improvements. "The thing that kind of hurts is we as a town are in a much better position to get grants and loan funds than Erving [considered a wealthier town because of Northfield Mountain's contribution to the tax base], if we'd known right from the start."

The board waived the 120-day notice requirement for the state of Massachusetts to purchase 70 acres of land in forestry and agriculture now owned by Andrew Carson, and 35 acres of forested land owned by David Gendron. The Department of Conservation and Recreation plans to include those parcels in the Commonwealth's Connecticut River Greenway State Park, for conservation and recreation purposes. Both parcels are accessible from West Mineral Road.



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RIDING from page 1
wheeler with ten to fourteen tons." According to the clock in his cab, Hurd loaded both trucks in four minutes, and that included time lost when a loaded truck drove away and another moved into position as the chopper paused.

This is a mean cutting machine.

In earlier times, corn chopping was back breaking work with a handheld corn knife sporting a two foot handle. Choppers leaned up to a dozen stalks against one single stalk left standing. The shocks were left to dry, then loaded onto a wagon and drawn to a barn for storage or to an ensilage cutter equipped with a small conveyor that drew the corn stalks against a whirling cutter head. A blower blew the chopped corn up into a silo, hence the term "ensilage."

The appearance of corn binders created quite a stir. Here was a tractor drawn machine that

cut and bound corn stalks into bundles, which farm hands brought by wagon to an ensilage cutter at the silo. Later, corn choppers developed to blow cut stalks into a truck came on line. These were one or two row machines. The number of rows a chopper could cut increased until the big daddy of them all appeared in the form of the eight row Krone Big X 650.

Alfred Dunklee of South Vernon, VT owned the corn planted on land he rented from Alan and Shirley Flagg. Seven trucks kept up a steady relay of corn laden trucks to the Dunklee farm. The farm keeps a six month to a year's supply of corn on hand. Three thousand tons of it. Who eats it all? Cows. A thousand of them.

"We have about 500 milkers that we milk three times a day. We have four men working three shifts, milking around the clock. Milking hardly stops between shifts."

Where do they grow all this

corn?
"We have 500 acres under cultivation, some on our own land, the rest on rented land.

Hurd also chops grass for Dunklee and other farmers. The chopped grass is termed "haylage." Sometimes stored in silos but more often stored on the ground the same way as ensilage, also covered with a plastic film that is black on one side and white on the side exposed to the sun, to keep the feed cool.

"With weather so unpredictable, it's hard to dry hay," Dunklee said. "We feed some hay, but not much."

Hurd, who also operates his Cornerstone farm, cuts corn from the end of May to the beginning of October. The rest of the year, "We do custom farming, plowing, harrowing, planting and spreading manure. We don't spray or fertilize, except what fertilizer goes in the ground with seed corn."

Hurd has five John Deere tractors and two ten wheel dump

trucks. He usually works daylight hours. "All last week we worked under lights because we were behind schedule. Saturday, we worked until midnight."

Ears of corn are not picked, but chopped along with stalks. Ear corn adds considerable nutrition for cattle. A few ears fall to the ground during chopping. Migrating geese glean parts of stalks as well as corn kernels from fallen ears to store energy for their long migration in the fall.

Farming is a business. In order for farmers like Dunklee to stay profitable, he needs to mechanize his farm. Buying a costly machine like the Krone Big X would never be feasible simply to harvest his own corn. Old labor intensive methods are too time consuming, too expensive. Hurd makes it profitable for both himself and farmers like Dunklee to contract mechanized corn chopping. The job gets done efficiently and quickly, before frost harms the corn.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

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this is a lot more common than we believe.

- Jesse

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – A while ago, I wrote a column about my wife, Gale, who told me she was hearing talk radio in her head. I researched this and I'm convinced that Gale is picking up radio signals through her teeth.

In the column, I invited readers to submit their experiences. The following are some accounts from my mailbag. I'm using only first names in case these readers would rather not have anyone else know about the radios in their heads.

I am so glad someone wrote about this, because now I know

I'm not as far over the hill as I thought! I have a metal jaw joint. I do not notice the music or talking while there is noise around me. However, when I go to bed at night, I can hear the talking and the radio. It is not clear, and not loud.

I asked my husband several times if he heard people talking or music playing, and he thinks I am talking in my sleep. I really do hear the radio and pick it up with my jaw. Now, if only we could tune in the TV, we could get rid of the cable bill!

- Susie

I had the exact experience picking up TV through my teeth. The first couple of times, I asked my husband if he had left the TV on. That's how clear I could hear it.

The voices were somewhat tinny but very distinct. It was

always The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, which we never watched. I could hear the guest celebrities being introduced, the jokes, everything. It was completely unnerving.

The next day, I would check the newspaper from the night before and, sure enough, those exact guests were listed. Tell Gale that she is totally sane!!

- Lisa

I have been picking up various local radio stations in my head. No one else around me can seem to hear them. It started about six years ago at my parents' home, which was in the middle of nowhere. I tried turning off everything in the house, even all of the circuit breakers.

Later, I could pick up several different stations at my own house, which also has no nearby neighbors. Depending on my

location in the house, I could hear a Christian station, a talk radio station, the local rock one, or, very rarely, a country one. I have no idea what is going on. Sometimes it isn't a big deal; kinda like my own private iPod. But, sometimes, like when it is something I don't like, it's frustrating.

- Kelly

I have experienced this for most of my life and never thought anything of it. I always thought that my mind was simply replaying a song I heard that week or something like that.

My brother told me he has experienced this same thing although I tend to hear hip hop and he hears classical. For both of us, the music we hear is stuff we hadn't heard before. We do both have metal fillings. I think

- Dennis

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

SCORES from pg 1

"MCAS is not the be all and end all of measuring student progress – student growth is big and broad and can be measured in many different ways." But she said the entire school community is very proud of the progress made.

Musgrave, who came to the district just two years ago after a two-year stint at the helm of the Federal Street School in Greenfield, has been the principal of the Sheffield School, which was merged with Hillcrest to form one elementary school this year – the Montague Elementary School – on two campuses divided by a playground.

Musgrave said that transition has gone "extremely well." The two buildings "feel like one

school and one family group," she added. "Many of the children in Hillcrest have siblings in Sheffield," so there is a natural flow to the process. She said she is excited to be working also with the dedicated staff at Hillcrest, where children in pre-K through second grade attend classes.

Asked if the improvement in the Montague Elementary School's status would help the district as a whole graduate from the needs improvement category in which the Gill-Montague district has been placed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since June of 2007, Ladd said, "In an ideal world it would make a difference."

He said the status was based

not only on MCAS scores, but also on the district's fiscal capacity and leadership. Ladd said there are still areas the district needs to address in the turnaround plan, notably the graduation rate. Among the 2007 cohort, 22% of students did not graduate from Turners Falls High School, for example. Ladd said he believes the improvements now being recognized at the elementary and middle school level will start to bear fruit at the high school level as well.

Ladd said MCAS scores at the high school have never been the problem, but there is a discrepancy between those scores and the drop-out rate.

In a press release announcing the MCAS improvements at

Montague Elementary, Ladd said, "As we continue to focus on our 'Whole Child' approach in Gill-Montague, we hope to see continued significant growth in academic achievement and a dramatic increase in our high school graduation rate. Raising this rate rapidly over the next several years is of the highest priority, and is a focus for all grades, pre-K through 12. We have seen a recent increase in students enrolling in AP classes and have added credit recovery and academic support programs at the high school level.

"We also feel pleased," noted Ladd, "that our student enrollment in every school increased this fall. There is strong support for our teachers and programs and a spirit of pride for the accomplishments of the children in our parent community. I am deeply encouraged by what I see," said Ladd.

Full results for each student will be sent home with students as soon as the district receives them from the state.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Main Road Break In, Assist ATV Rider

Thursday, 9/9

12:55 p.m. Report of possible breaking and entering at a Main Road residence. Minor property damage.
3:10 p.m. Assisted resident at station with restraining order issues.
8:25 p.m. Report of malfunctioning traffic camera on Gill-Montague bridge. Assisted contractor checking equipment.

Friday, 9/10

9:34 a.m. Assisted with disabled motorist on Route 10.
10:44 a.m. Intoxicated subject taken into custody on Gill-Montague bridge. Transported to Franklin Medical Center for treatment of injuries.
Saturday, 9/11
1:57 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on

Mount Hermon campus.

Sunday, 9/12

9:27 a.m. Report of traffic complaint at lights on French King Highway. Lights not cycling correctly.
9:34 a.m. Assisted with unattended death investigation near French King Bridge.
5:01 p.m. Death notification delivered to worker on

Mount Hermon campus. 5:45 p.m. Report of subject yelling for help off of Chappell Drive, found subject. Was trapped under ATV. Not requesting medical assistance.
8:02 p.m. Erratic vehicle complaint on French King Highway, all checked OK.
Monday, 9/13
8:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with suspicious vehicle on Brattleboro Road.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 24: Biomass No Thanks

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER - Looking down from his bedroom window, Billy Tinker viewed an encampment of cameras on the lawn facing their farmhouse. The sun glinted off his wife's lacquered chestnut hair as she glided across the walkway in her Cole Haan black boots to sidle up next to WGBJ host Sam Lively. Their two heads huddled together, until Sam nodded to the cameras, and Rita stepped up to the microphone.

"I am here to announce my candidacy for state representa-

tive. The citizens of Franklin County deserve someone who can truly be responsive about their needs, and bring in the businesses for revenue to pay for our schools and our police officers and to help clean up this planet. As a Go Green Family contestant, I know about your green resources and your energy audits, and I intend to represent them to the best of my ability."

"Holy mother of god — is that Rita talking?" Billy marveled to himself. Ever since she'd seen Sarah Palin at the Republican National Convention, Rita had talked about running for state rep, but he had trouble believing she was

serious until last week when Representative Kulik had suddenly stepped down. Afterwards, Rita had been glued to her cell phone, engaged in never-ending conversations with Betsy Lingrid, President of the Western Massachusetts Tea Party Patriots.

"Ms. Tinker, Could you tell us what you think about the proposed biomass plant in Greenfield?" a reporter asked.

"I'm so glad you asked that question. I have a message for you all, Franklin County! We have renewable energy right here all over this great state—in our trees. It will bring us jobs and a million dollars in tax revenue. It is clean and it is green energy." The cameras panned across to the large sign next to the driveway: Biomass Plant Equals Tax

Revenue. "With the cutbacks — this plant will pay for your schools, your libraries, and stop us from relying on foreign countries to produce oil for our homes and cars."

Another reporter called out, "We know that your family is competing in the Go Green Family Show. What are your plans for this latest challenge?"


"The home heating challenge is what we are preparing for. I'm going to ask our daughter, Ruby, our family efficiency expert, to answer this question," Rita said, as she nudged Ruby over to the microphone.


Ruby began talking to the reporters in her earnest and confident voice. "Our house needs


so much work that we found out we can qualify for a deep energy retrofit. That's what they call it when you reduce your energy use by more than fifty percent. For the deep energy retrofit, you have to take things apart and put them back together in a way that is super energy efficient. Our roof is falling apart and our clapboards are rotting because of mold, so we have to replace them anyway—we'll just be doing it with a lot of extra insulation. We'll seal all the air leaks, and use materials that are biodegradable and not toxic. Plus, we're getting rid of our oil boiler and getting a wood pellet stove instead."


Continued next issue

Tinker Family


 Billy, 50
 Bus Mechanic


 Rita, 49
 Yoga Instructor


 Alex, 17


 Ruby, 10

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 11, the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on October 5th, 2010 at the Town Offices, 9 Morse Village Road

The subject matter of the proposed amendments is/are as indicated below. The complete text and maps relative to the proposed amendments are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Wendell Town Office ordinarily Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., phone (978) 544-3395 and at the Wendell Library. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

- Nan Riebschlaeger
Wendell Planning Board Chair

Changes related to Secondary Dwellings

- Article III Add a definition of Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) such that it reads as follows: "Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA): The Special Permit Granting Authority pursuant to Chapter 40A, M.G.L. and the Wendell Zoning Bylaws is the entity that has the power to impose any conditions, safeguards, and/or limitations on time or use of the premises granted under Special Permit.

The following articles replace the term "Planning Board" with "SPGA"

- Article V, section A, number 3, so that it reads, "...Each lot of a triplex dwelling will require a minimum of four (4) acres and 200 feet frontage and must obtain a Special Permit from the SPGA."

- Article V, section A, number 5 Change so that it reads, "subject to special permit from the SPGA, one guest cabin may be located on any approved building lot."

- Article V section A, number 6, Change to read: "Subject to special permit from the SPGA, one secondary dwelling may be located on any approved building lot provided the principal building with at least one dwelling unit has existed for 10 years prior to the issuance of the Special Permit."

- Article VI, section J, Secondary Dwelling, change as follows: number 1 "...subject to a special permit from the Wendell Planning Board" change to "...subject to a special permit from the SPGA"; item 1 f, change "...the Planning Board may waive" to "...the SPGA may waive."

NESEA's Green Buildings Open House

Save the date on Saturday, October 2nd for NESEA's Green Buildings Open House coming to Montague and other Pioneer Valley towns from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Get ready to be inspired as you view first hand clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency at work. The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) invites you to visit sustainable, green

homes and buildings throughout New England, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and right here at home in Montague

The event is free in most locations. Last year more than 15,000 people participated in some 600 tours. NESEA's Green Buildings Open House operates in conjunction with the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour.

See how your neighbors are reducing their carbon footprint and cutting their energy bills through the power of the sun, wind, smart building design, and energy efficient appliances and technologies. To find the Green Buildings Open House sites nearest you, visit www.nesea.org/greenbuildings. Make a difference by going green!

Food Preservation Workshop in Gill

The Gill Agricultural Commission will host a "Low Tech Food Preservation" workshop with Danny Botkin on Sunday, September 26th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Laughing Dog Farm

Did you know that more food goes bad worldwide post-harvest than from all the blights, pests and weather events in the field, combined?

With many folks today developing a keener interest in local food and sustainable living, so grows the importance of effectively and safely putting food by. In this two hour, hands-on workshop, farmer Dan will cover various low-tech (and therefore sometimes overlooked) methods of keeping the larder full around the calendar including drying,

freezing, overwintering crops, cold storing roots, tubers, cole crops and seeds. This workshop will not cover canning techniques.

Daniel Botkin is a farmer, athlete and teacher who advocates for micro-intensive backyard food production and home storage in every neighborhood. For more information visit www.laughingdogfarm.com.

The workshop is limited to ten participants. Suggested \$20 donation; No one will be turned away for lack of funds. To register, contact Gill Agricultural Commission Chair Steve Damon at 863-2850.

The workshop is sponsored by the Gill Agricultural Commission. The mission of the Gill Agricultural Commission is

to support and promote farmers and farming; support local marketing efforts and local eating habits; preserve land for agricultural purposes; serve as an agricultural educational resource; and facilitate and encourage the pursuit of agriculture and sustainability in the Town of Gill.

Additional upcoming events include the Farmers Market during the Gill Craft Fair, October 16th and 17th, The Second Annual Cheese Tasting Night, November 19th, and more events scheduled for January and February.

For more information about the Gill Agricultural Commission, please contact Commission Chair Steve Damon at 863-2850.

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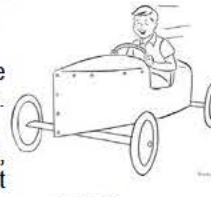


JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Hall: *Larry Kirwan*, lead singer of *Black 47*. The show starts at 4 p.m. \$10 - \$12. Info: (413) 548-9394/
www.echolakecoffeehouse.org.

The First Annual Montague Soapbox races! www.MontagueSoapboxRaces.com. Rain or shine. Unity Park, Turners Falls. Racers line up at 10 a.m.

& 9th. **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th**



Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Peter Prince and Moon Boot Lover*, rocket soul funk at 9 p.m. Turners Falls based Groove Shoes

opens!

Charles Neville opens the 26th season of The Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$15 (978) 544-5557, www.wendellfullmoon.org.

ONGOING

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

SATURDAYS
Montague Farm Cafe, Montague, 12-3 p.m. Great food and a family friendly atmosphere. Health and wellness offerings, fresh veggie care packages. On Sept 18th the cafe offers make-n-take basket making plus music of *Sweaty Buttons*. On Sept 25th a puppet and ukulele show. Everything is free. Open AA meeting 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Transportation available. Call Karen: 413-367-5275 or karen@zenpeacemakers.com

THROUGH OCTOBER 30TH
On display at the Wendell Free Library, Wendell center: exhibition of mushroom prints by Maryellen Burns of Orange. Each of the nineteen compositions were made by placing wild mushroom caps on different papers. The resulting interactions produce a wide range of images and colors, variations that need to be seen to be believed. Library Hours: Tues. 3-6; Wed. 10-8;



Tanglewood Marionettes perform at the Shea Theater, Saturday, September 18th, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO, 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd
Soul Centered Change using Transformational Kinesiology (TK), 6 to 7:30 p.m. (by dona-

tion). At Doors of Light Studio, 131 Montague Rd., Leverett. Contact: diana@tkheals.com or (413) 687-7748.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues guitar with vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Siegel & Anand Nyak*, no cover.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

Gill Friday Night Films outside behind the Riverside Green School, Rt 2, 8 p.m. *Polar Express* shown on the back wall. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, snacks. Canceled if rain.

FRIDAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th - 25th
Ambush On T Street, 8 p.m. Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls. \$20 at the door, cash or check only. Advanced tickets: www.zenpeacemakers.org. Created and performed by Court Dorsey, Al Miller and John Sheldon. Also at Zen Peacemakers, Montague, October 8th

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues based roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Kevin Jones*, jazz guitarist, 7 p.m..



Cynthia Rose on accordion, Eileen Almeida on vocals and rubboard, Mike Rose on drums, Dave Leblanc on bass, Bob Rosser on guitar. Zydeco Connection at Burrito Rojo on Friday, September 17th at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, Johnny Cash favorite tunes, 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 8 to 11 p.m. Cover \$5.

Route 63, Millers Falls: *The Green Mike Stetson Band*, rock/country, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th
Skateboarding Contest at the Turners Falls Skate Park, corner of Avenue A & 11th Street. Compete, win prizes. No fees. Registration begins 2 p.m. Parental permission needed for under

18 yr. olds. Waivers available at The Brick House, Second Street Bakery, the Tech School, or gfskatepark@gmail.com.

Shea Theater Family Series Presents: The Tanglewood Marionettes in *The Dragon King*. \$5.00 General Admission at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 10 a.m. Reserve tickets: (413) 863-2281. Dozens of lavishly costumed 30-inch tall marionettes performing this brand new fairytale! An underwater fantasy based on Chinese folklore, Tanglewood Marionettes' latest production tells the tale of an intrepid grandmother who journeys to the bottom of the sea to seek the Dragon King, and the answers to why he has forsaken the land above. The show is approximately 50 minutes long.

Northfield ARTSfest on the grounds of the Green Trees Gallery, Northfield, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Rain date September 19th). Featuring local creative artists and artisans, local musicians performing throughout the day, free fun-filled children's activities, and enticing food and drink. Green Trees Gallery: (413) 498-0283.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tequila Tasting*, 8:30 p.m. Call for details. Then *Rockit Queer!* dance party, \$3 cover. (413) 863-2866.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Brenden Hogan and Katie Sachs*, blues, modern folk, singer/songwriters, 7 to 10 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina*, folk rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Co.* rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
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DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
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THE VIEW FROM TULLY MOUNTAIN



DETMOLD PHOTO

Celt Grant looks out on the vista from Tully Mountain on Sunday in North Orange

BY DAVID DETMOLD
NORTH ORANGE - Naturalist, journalist and author Allen Young of Royalston led a group of more than 30 adventurers on a steep hike up the rocky slope of Tully Mountain in North Orange on Sunday, under overcast skies. At the 1163 foot summit, the bare ledge that offers magnificent views of the surrounding countryside to the south and east also provided a welcome resting place for the sojourners.

Warwick educator Clare Green recalled how women of an earlier generation in Orange used to climb to this spot to smoke cigars on a Sunday afternoon. Trail mix and bottled water seemed to be the picnickers' preferred provender on this outing, but the same breathtaking vista beckons now as then.

Young pointed out the highlights of the surrounding countryside.

Mount Monadnock, located to the northeast in Dublin, NH, was obscured by clouds at noon when we arrived at the summit, but gradually emerged to view over the half hour we rested there. Young explained the word Monadnock has come to mean a mountain rising from landscape where no other mountains

are present to form a chain. In that sense, Tully Mountain itself is referred to as a monadnock, since it sits alone, or nearly alone, among the meadows, rivers and lakes of the Tully Wildlife Management Area, a 1200-acre reserve with a 22-mile trail system managed by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The trail loops from Tully Lake in the south to Royalston Falls, a 45 feet cascade that tumbles to an icy pool deep in the woods near the New Hampshire border.

Endorsed in 1997 as the second project of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, the Tully Trail was designed to provide an exceptional hiking experience while showcasing different conservation methods, including state forests, wildlife management areas, commercially managed forests, and privately protected areas, according to David Kotker, of Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust.

Mt. Grace played a central role in the Tully Initiative, in which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts partnered with the Warwick-based land trust and other conservation groups to acquire development rights to more than 9,000 acres in the

towns of North Quabbin. Much of the land protected during the Tully Initiative was selected to link together existing protected lands in the area, providing a protected core for the North Quabbin BioReserve, more than 55,000 acres of protected land stretching from Northfield to Winchendon.

Looking out from Tully Mountain, you can see it is not quite alone among prominent Massachusetts elevations. To the south sits Little Tully Mountain, and beyond that the spire of the Athol Congregational Church, in the uptown section of Athol. The downtown business section can also be glimpsed through the trees.

Closer at hand lie the emerald jewels of man-made Tully Pond and spring fed Packard Pond. To the southeast stretches Tully Lake, created by the Army Corps of Engineers around 1940 as one of a number of projects to control flooding in the aftermath of the great flood of 1937. We could make out car traffic on the gatehouse dam.

A sliver of the Quabbin Reservoir can be described to the south. The First Congregational Church of Royalston sends its white steeple above the horizon to the northeast, beckoning

visitors to that historic town common, with its graceful Federal homes. Mount Watatic (1832 feet) in Ashby and Mount Wachusett (2006 feet, the highest point in Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River) in Princeton rise on the perimeter. Mount Watatic is a good place to watch hawks soar on the updrafts in coming weeks.

On the ridgeline north of Mount Wachusett, the slowly rotating blades of a large wind turbine traced a graceful arc.

This is beautiful countryside, and it will only become more gorgeous to view in the next few weeks, as fading chlorophyll drains the greenery from deciduous trees, leaving behind hillsides aflame with oranges, reds and yellows.

Young pointed out Adams slaughterhouse, near the Bearsden Conservation Area in Athol. Adams is a mecca for lovers of grass fed beef and other local meats. He showed us where a developer had hoped to build a 60-house development on Tully Ridge, on the slope to the west of Tully Lake, but the efforts of conservationists appear to have stopped that project, for now.

Mount Grace has continued to work on landscape-scale multi-landowner conservation projects in this area in the years since the Tully Initiative. The land trust is currently working with Caroline and Verne Fellows to protect their 130 acres as part of the Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy project, a conservation effort three years in the making that

will protect 1,180 acres in six towns in the North Quabbin region. The Mount Grace annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 25th from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Fellows Homestead at 100 Murdock Hill Road in Erving. The meeting is open to the public; for information contact kotker@mountgrace.org or (978) 248-2055 X19.

Elusive bobcats are known to frequent Tully Mountain. Ravens circle its ridge. Hemlock forest gives way to oak and maple woods along the loop trail. Autumn is the perfect time to walk in the North Quabbin Woods. Do yourself a favor. Take a hike; climb a mountain; enjoy the view. (Directions to Tully Mountain are found at www.northquabbinwoods.org/entries/45.)

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