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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

Four Winds School Starts New Term



Eloise Michael and Steve Hussey, teachers at the independent Four Winds School, now in its eleventh year of operation.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH RIVERSIDE - Four Winds School is open for a new term at the Riverside School building in Gill.

"We're right back in business," independent middle school director Steve Hussey said on September 8th. "The school week will be a little shorter, but we have enough students to open."

At the beginning of summer, Hussey told the Gill selectboard he might not be able to reopen in the fall and continue leasing the main floor of the town-owned Riverside School building. At the time he was

pinning his hopes on receiving an educational foundation grant to bolster the school's revenues, which have suffered like so many enterprises in the recent recession.

On Wednesday, Hussey said, "We didn't get the grant we had hoped to get, but we have other applications out there, and you never know."

Four Winds School enrolls a range of students, from those who excel in class to students who are struggling. "We work with them from where they are, on an open enrollment basis," Hussey said. "Students have

see **SCHOOL** page 10

Montague Board Approves Memo of Understanding with Native Tribes

Town Meeting will Weigh in on Airport Sites



Turners Falls Airport Commissioners (left) met with the Montague Selectboard on Tuesday to approve a memorandum of understanding regarding Native American cultural sites on the airport's property. (l-r) David Brule, Michael Longo, Michael Sokolowski, Peter Golrick, Wendy Bogusz, Chris Boutwell, Pat Allen and Mark Fairbrother

BY DAVID DETMOLD - A unanimous selectboard joined an airport commission Tuesday night in endorsing a memorandum of understanding to seek permanent protection for five culturally sensitive sites Native American tribes say are located on the property of the Turners Falls Airport. The memo is an attempt to resolve the question of Native American access to

and preservation of important cultural and ceremonial sites that have been identified on the airport property so that the town may have the tribes' cooperation in order to complete, before winter, the \$5 million runway replacement and safety improvement project that has been stalled for months at the municipally owned airport.

The memorandum commits

the airport commission to place an article on the warrant of the 2011 annual town meeting, seeking town meeting approval of a legal covenant, such as a conservation restriction, that would permanently protect the identified sites from development.

A side agreement spelled out the right of access of Native Americans (or any other public

see **TRIBES** pg 10

Theater Review

A Tempest in Turners



The CAST of the Tempest (l-r): Ellie Massie (Antonio) Anna Maguire (Ariel) Oliver Soden (Prospero) Alexander Lass (Alonso) Emma Sidi (Stephano) Adam Hollingworth (Gonzalo) Mark Fiddaman (Caliban) (not shown: Celeste Dring - Miranda; Chris Nelson - Ferdinand)

BY DAVID DETMOLD - As the hurricane that proved more metaphysical threat than real life storm brushed by Cape Cod over the long holiday weekend, leaving grandstanding politicians and beachcombers reveling in its wake, Turners Falls was visited by an apparition far more thrilling and effective in its delivery as the boisterous spirits of Cambridge University's CAST (Cambridge American Stage Tour)

blew into Power Town for the first of fourteen state-side productions of *The Tempest*.

They left a changed and charmed audience wondering in the aisles of the Shea long after the final curtain called them down the road to Brown University, and on to Oneonta, Erie and the Deep South. How could the 320-seat Shea (filled two-thirds to capacity for this free Saturday night show) in our little backwater burg have

earned such an international coup? Was it not "rather like a dream than an assurance / that ... remembrance warrants"?

Credit Suzanne Davis and the hard working Shea Theater board of directors for luring this talented crew of student actors to once again hove to for a magic hour on the Avenue, after a fortuitous cancellation in their last American tour brought their well-regarded *Two Gentlemen*

see **TEMPEST** pg 8

Alternative Assessment Method Under Consideration by Mahar Board

BY KATIE NOLAN ORANGE - Superintendent Michael Baldassarre presented the "alternate averaging method" for determining a town's share of Mahar's annual budget assessment at the September 7th Mahar school committee meeting. This method was developed by the Mahar assessment methodology subcommittee in response to the Wendell annual town meeting's request for an assessment method "considered fair by all member towns."

The Wendell finance committee has been advocating for a change from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) statutory method of assessment for several years. Under the statutory method, towns in a region are assessed for school costs based on relative wealth of the towns as determined by a DESE formula. Because enrollment is not considered in the DESE

formula, towns with low student enrollment pay a higher per pupil cost than more affluent towns with higher enrollment.

Under the alternate averaging method, when a town's student enrollment at Mahar is less than 5% of the total Mahar enrollment, each member town's assessment for the total budget under the statutory method is divided by the number of students enrolled from the town. The per pupil assessments for each of the four towns are then averaged and the average is used as the per pupil assessment for the low enrollment town.

Using the current year's budget as an example, Wendell's per pupil costs would be reduced from \$9,889 per pupil to \$8,091 per pupil, which is in the range of per pupil costs for the towns of New Salem and Petersham. The per pupil assessments for the other towns would remain unchanged. Orange, the least affluent town in the

region, would continue to pay less per pupil than the other member towns.

Pat Smith of Orange observed that use of the alternate average would result in a reduction in the school budget.

Baldassarre, using the current fiscal year as an example, said the Mahar budget would be reduced by approximately \$52,000, or 0.4%. He said a reduction of this size was preferable to rejection of the proposed budget by more than one town at annual town meeting, resulting in much larger budget reductions, as occurred with the 2009 budget.

"This allows us to make administrative decisions," Baldassarre said, "to decide exactly where the money would come from, so there are no staffing cuts."

Baldassarre said he had sent the proposed method to DESE for comment. If the method is acceptable to DESE, the committee can

see **MAHAR** pg 11

PETS OF THE WEEK

Happily Ever After



Malinda and Vanilla Bean

Malinda is a two-year-old spayed female short hair cat and Vanilla Bean, her son, is a three-month-old neutered male. Malinda, pregnant with a litter of five, took shelter on someone's front porch, perhaps hoping for a meal or two - or three or four. After all, she was eating for six. The person who discovered Malinda on her porch couldn't take the desperate mom-to-be in, but brought her to Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society where she had her babies the very next day. One can only surmise that mother and son dream the same dream: a home, a family, the two of them together... Will you write Malinda and Vanilla Bean's "happily ever after" ending? To find out more about adopting them, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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

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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Friends of the Library Welcome

Interested in forming a Friends of the Erving Library group? Friends of Library groups support library issues, help publicize events, provide refreshments, organize book sales and do anything that might

enhance the services of the library. Some groups raise money to buy museum passes, and others hold annual events. Please contact library director Barbara Friedman if you are interested at (413) 423-3348.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Museum Passes Available

The Wendell Free Library has museum passes, one new and one about to expire. The pass to Hancock Shaker Village will expire on September 30th. It admits up to two adults and two youth for free. If you love elegant non-electric community living as well as beautiful, ingenious Shaker architecture, this is the must-see museum for you. The museum is located in Hancock, MA near Pittsfield. For museum details, visit their website at www.hancockshakervillage.org.

A pass to Mass MoCA is available at the Wendell Library. It admits up to two adults and

two children for free. Mass MoCA is the world class Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art located in a large converted factory building in North Adams with changing exhibits from artists from around the globe. See www.massmoca.org for museum details.

You do not need to be a resident of Wendell to borrow these passes. The library loves to see them used. Stop by the library or call (978) 544-3559 to reserve or borrow a pass. Passes at the Wendell Library are made possible by the Wendell Friends of the Library.

Song Squad: A New All-Ages Chorus

GREENFIELD - Song Squad, an intergenerational community chorus, is hatching in Greenfield. Eveline MacDougall, founder and director of the Amandla Chorus, will lead seven sessions, starting Sunday, September 19th at Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street in Greenfield. Song Squad will meet the first and third Sundays at 3 p.m., through December. "Song Squad will feature music from around the world, sung in four-part harmonies. It's guaranteed for success, because I'm drafting teams of singers from Amandla," MacDougall explained. "That way, we can

accommodate those who've had little or no choral experience, as well as seasoned singers. Families and friends can come together and sing in a workable chorus, with no audition."

There is no set fee for Song Squad, but donations will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs. There will be performance opportunities for those interested, but no obligation "for those who feel shy!" A limited number of slots will be filled on a first-come, first-accepted basis. To register, call (413) 773-8655. To learn more about the Amandla Chorus visit www.amandlachorus.org.

YOGA SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships available for Yoga Basics at the Movement Studio, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, Tuesday evenings, 5:45-7:00 p.m., from September 14th - November 16th. (\$110 for 10 classes or \$12 per drop in.) Come enjoy the benefits of a classical yoga practice: improved muscle tone, flexibility and deep relaxation. If you are new, curious, or returning to yoga this class is for you. For more information contact instructor Lisa Enzer at (413) 367-2658 or enzer@earthlink.net.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – September 13th to 17th

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. Yoga classes with Jeanne Erlbaum resume on 9/21. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, Sept. 13th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
No afternoon programs

Tuesday, Sept. 14th
Election Day -
Senior Center Closed
Wednesday, Sept. 15th
7:20 a.m. Vermont Trip departs
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:00 p.m. T.R.I.A.D. Picnic
No afternoon programs
Thursday, Sept. 16th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. "Plan Your Recovery"
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, Sept. 17th
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 Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30

FACES & PLACES



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Squash Pickers Along Route 63

Squash pickers on a hot summer day
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Volunteers!

Volunteers needed to assist FCSWMD with recycling at the Franklin County Fair. Free admission to the fair in return for a four hour shift, helping the environment. Find out more, call (413) 772-2438.

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www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

Save the Date

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

AMAZING CHIA SEED

Free Nutrition Talk and Taste with holistic nutritionist Diana Allen, MS, CNS on Saturday, September 11th. Nutritious, versatile chia seed is higher in omega-3 fatty acids than flax, salmon or any other food, plus rich in protein, calcium and fiber. Learn how to use this ancient Aztec staple for your health. 10 AM Greenfields Market Meeting Room. For more info call (413) 205-6871 or visit www.eat2evolve.com.

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a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Monday, Sept. 13th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 noon Pitch
Tuesday, Sept. 14th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, Sept. 15th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 noon T.R.I.A.D. Picnic
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, Sept. 16th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Bowling
Friday, Sept. 17th
11:30 a.m. Out-To-Lunch at Applebee's

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.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Eleven Massachusetts dairies will be open for free tours and various activities on Saturday, September 11th and Sunday, September 12th as part of **Raw Milk Dairy Days**, organized by the NOFA/Massachusetts Raw Milk Network. Two area farms are participating in the weekend events, Bostrom Farm at 701 Colrain Road in Greenfield and Upinngil Farm at 411 Main Road in Gill.

Visitors at all participating farms will have the opportunity to meet the farmers, scratch the cows, and learn more about raw milk. Farms will offer tours, milking demonstrations, and sell a variety of products including farmstead dairy items, produce, meat, and baked goods. Details about each farm, the hours they will be open, and directions can be found at nofamass.org. For more information, contact Winton Pitcoff at 413-634-5728.

The 9th Annual **Honeybee Festival** will take place Saturday, September 11th, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and features informative talks and live

demonstrations. Area chefs will cook and offer samples of their favorite honey recipes, plus there will be entertainment and a farmers market. This event is free and open to the public. The festival is held at Warm Colors Apiary, www.warmcolorsapiary.com, 2 South Mill River Road in South Deerfield.

Jazz Music & Martinis is back at Ristorante DiPaolo, starting Thursday, September 16th, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Stop by and enjoy the smooth tunes of Peter Trias (Guitar), Dave Wertman (Bass), and Doug Raneri (drums) on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. Ristorante DiPaolo is located at 166 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The Sixth Annual **Outdoor ArtsFest** will be held Saturday, September 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, in beautiful historic Northfield. Enjoy the works of local artists, live music, food vendors, and art activities for children. The rain date is Sunday, September 19th.

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

Help for Elder Care

TURNERS FALLS - Need help caring for yourself and your elderly or handicapped loved ones during challenging times? The Community Conversation at Greenfield Savings Bank (GSB) in Turners Falls on September 23rd may provide you some answers.

Franklin County Home Care staff are experts in area resources for elders, caregivers and people with disabilities. On September 23rd from 10 a.m. - noon at GSB, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls, FCHCC staff will talk about support services, grants and pay for caregivers, "Embrace Your Future" the Commonwealth's Long Term Planning initiative for people age 45 and older, and general agency information. They'd be glad to take your specific questions, too.

Since 1974, Franklin County Home Care has been helping area elders, caregivers and people with disabilities. Come join us on September 23rd to find out how FCHCC can help you.

For more information, contact Linda Ackerman at GSB, at 413-863-4316.

Franklin Home Care News

Prescription Advantage Can Help with the Donut Hole!

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY - Prescription Advantage, the state's pharmacy assistance program, is a secondary payer to Medicare Part D Prescription drug plans and can help to reduce your out-of-pocket costs by:

- Providing benefits during the coverage gap, "donut hole"
- Lowering your co-payment amounts, and
- Providing you with an annual out-of-pocket spending limit.

If you reach that gap in your Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) that is often called the "donut hole," you will have to pay up to \$3,610 out-of-pocket for your prescription drugs before your Part D plan will start paying again. Prescription Advantage can change that by assisting with medication costs in the gap!

Prescription Advantage

If you are single and your income is less than \$32,490, or, if you are married and your combined income is less than \$43,710, Prescription Advantage is free and can help to pay for the drugs covered by your Part D plan when you reach the donut hole. You will only pay a Prescription Advantage co-payment. If your income is higher, you may be eligible for benefits that would put a cap on the amount you would have to pay.

Join Anytime

You can reach Prescription Advantage Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) or TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing at 1-877-610-0241.

Help for Seniors who reach the 'Donut Hole'

Under the Affordable Care Act, seniors whose prescription drug costs are so high that they fall in the 'donut hole', coverage gap in 2010 they will receive a one-time tax-free \$250 rebate check. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that about four million seniors will get the rebates in 2010.

Affordability Care Act

Starting in 2011, seniors who fall into the donut hole will receive a 50% discount on brand-name drugs. The discount for generic drugs will be 7%. Those figures will rise over the years, eventually reaching a total 75% discount that effectively will eliminate the gap in 2020.

More information about Prescription Advantage can be obtained from the SHINE Program. SHINE is Massachusetts insurance counseling program for Medicare beneficiaries. The Regional Office is located at Franklin County Home Care Corp., 330 Montague City Rd., Turners Falls, MA. You can reach a SHINE Counselor by calling 413-773-5555, or 1-800-498-4232. There are also SHINE Counselors located at most local Councils on Aging.

Quabbin Historian's "Farm, Field and Forest" Presentation

ORANGE - Elizabeth Peirce, museum president and curator of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, will speak at "Farm, Field and Forest: Living with the Land" event starting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25th at the White Elephant, 19 East Main Street in Orange.

Peirce has been involved in preserving the history of the Quabbin Valley for many years and is the author of two books, *Quabbin Valley: People and Places*, and *The Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley*. Both books present rare photographs of town life as well as stories of how these people lived, worked, and played from 1750 to 1938.

Following Peirce's presentation, *Athol Daily News* columnist and noted author Allen Young will lead a discussion on

life in the Quabbin Valley towns. Among other works, Young is the author of *Make Hay While the Sun Shines: Farms, Forests and People of the North Quabbin*.

"Farm, Field and Forest:



Elizabeth Peirce, museum president and curator of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, is one of the speakers at this region-wide event, Saturday, September 25th

Living with the Land" will take place in two locations - starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Orange town hall, and at noon at the White Elephant. Town hall events will involve workshops and panel discussions from sustenance hunting and fishing, to sustainable forestry and farming practices, as well as building local, sustainable economies. The White Elephant will feature an art and photography exhibit, group discussions, and speakers on local history.

If you are an artist or photographer interested in exhibiting at the White Elephant for the one-day event, contact Marie MacDonald at (978) 249-6879.

For further information, contact organizer Genevieve Fraser at (978) 544-1872, or visit www.FarmFieldForest.org.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Standing with Haiti

BY RUTH MAZURKA

PORT AU PRINCE - Imagine a country of nine million people with only three physical therapists. This country sustains a major earthquake on January 12th, 2010, causing thousands of people to have fractures, amputations and spinal cord injuries. Imagine Haiti.

land allowed the French colony of San Domingue on the western half of the island, what is now Haiti, to provide fabulous riches to its European overlord in the 18th century.

However, in 1804, Haiti became only the second independent country in the Americas following the defeat of Napoleon's army, assisted by



RUTH MAZURKA PHOTO

Eighty-five-year-old Dulsu Urese works with a prosthetist from the Dominican Republic in Port Au Prince, finally getting measured for a prosthesis, six months after the earthquake caused her injury.

I visited this country's traumatized capital, Port Au Prince, for 15 days in July as a volunteer physical therapist with Project Hope. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. It was the island where the colonization of the Americas started when Columbus came ashore in 1492. The island was colonized by Spain and then by France. The brutal enslavement of nearly half a million Africans and the severe exploitation of the

English and Spanish forces, by a slave uprising led by Toussaint L'Ouverture. Haiti became the first black republic in the world.

At the time of independence, the country was renamed Haiti, or Ayiti, the name native people gave the land, meaning "high country." A black led nation was considered a threat to the economies of countries involved in the African slave trade, including the young republic of the United States of America, so the isolation and

How to Win Big in the MidTerm Election

KAREN WILKINSON & CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

oppression of Haiti began immediately. The last two centuries of Haitian history are marked by economic embargoes, outside support of military dictatorships, orchestrated coups, outright occupation by the U.S. Marines from 1915 - 1934, and the exploitation of Haitian resources by foreign enterprises.

Today, what was the richest treasure of France's Caribbean empire has been brought low. Haiti's forests are largely gone, the mountain sides denuded, the country in the grip of persistent poverty.

Reviewing this history gave me a background to understand my experience in Haiti. I volunteered at the Adventist hospital in Port Au Prince. While the capital was not the epicenter of the January earthquake, 25% of the buildings were reduced to rubble, including the presidential palace. Due to the scarcity of medical services, hundreds if not thousands of people died on hospital grounds in the days immediately following the quake. Shocking as it may seem, during the two weeks in July that I worked in the hospital, three people came to the emergency room for the first time for treatment of leg fractures and dislocations, six months after they were injured in the earthquake.

In my time there, I was fortunate enough to work with four rehabilitation technicians. Though there are only three physical therapists in the country, Haiti does have rehab technicians with varying degrees of training. Some have only had

on the job training since the earthquake. Many hospitals do not even offer rehab services. For this reason, much of my time was involved with on the job teaching.

We worked with patients within the hospital building and in the tents set up on the hospital grounds to shelter less acute patients. Some of the tents are starting to leak and grow mold during this rainy season. There are hundreds of thousands of people now living in tent cities throughout the quake zone; I believe many will soon need new tents.

We worked with an 85-year-old woman who slept on the floor of her tent set up in the hospital's asphalt parking lot. She had sustained a below the knee amputation after the earthquake, and she was finally being measured for an artificial leg. We also worked with a young mother with a leg fracture who had surgery months after her injury. She lost her only child in the quake, and said she could not stop thinking about this. Yet the spirit of most people I met was vibrant and strong and inspiring to be around.

The clearing of rubble and new construction in Haiti is moving very slowly, suffering from a major lack of heavy equipment. I was shocked to see on more than one occasion workers up on the second or third floor rim of damaged concrete buildings trying to take the structure down with shovels and pick axes.

Unfortunately, there is also much corruption in Customs, which severely hampers the

flow of aid coming into the country. Charles Prospere, head of Project Hope Haiti, informed me that Project Hope is planning to build 50,000 homes. In Haiti, about a dozen families own most of the land and resources. Prospere went around to seven of these wealthy landowners to ask for contributions for the new housing; all turned down his request.

This got me pondering about the nature of giving and receiving. In a land where the rich will not give so that the rest can have basic necessities, I saw those with little sharing freely. Since I have been back home in Wendell, I sometimes look around my home and realize that most people I met in Haiti would be grateful to have almost any of my possessions, from a cooking pot to a flashlight to the house itself, a thing so many now lack. I think because Americans have so many things and are encouraged to buy more, it is easy to forget how giving and receiving connects us. I know I personally received as much as I gave in my volunteer work in Haiti.

You can learn more about Haiti from the bestselling book by local author Tracy Kidder called *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. For an in depth history you can read *The Uses of Haiti* by Dr. Paul Farmer. Financial contributions are needed for Farmer's organization, which is attempting to build Haiti's medical infrastructure by working with and training Haitian health care providers, at pih.org (P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02285-5578) or go to ProjectHope.org.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Spend Stimulus Money on Long Term Improvements

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The current discussion concerning what the Gill-Montague Regional School District should do with the approximately \$280,000 in federal Education Jobs Fund spending approved this summer has narrowed to assessment reduction (lowering assessments to the towns) versus hiring

back teachers. While I tend to be sympathetic to the assessment reduction scenario, the long term impacts of the two options are not that much different. In one case (hiring teachers) you increase the budget using one-time expenditures which soon disappear. In the other scenario, you reduce town assessments with one-time revenues that

soon disappear. In both cases you are left with a similar fiscal gap. I would suggest there is a third option. Use the money for innovative, one time programs and projects that do not add to the budget base but improve the quality of the school district, perhaps in the long term. These projects should be labor intensive, highly visible, and should

hire people most in need. For example, why not spend the money to improve the campus of the new Montague Elementary School (the combined school that includes Hillcrest and Sheffield)? By the way, this sort of project is precisely how the New Deal implemented its various work relief programs (WPA, CCC etc.) in the 1930s. It is the

reason why we have, among other things, the beautiful gym and auditorium between Hillcrest and Sheffield, which were built by the Works Progress Administration.

Jeff Singleton is a member of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the school committee.

NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Date Set for Special Town Meeting, October 6th

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The selectboard set October 6th as the date for a special town meeting. The warrant is not complete, but articles include money for a new polypropylene tank for the fire department tank truck. The steel tank that has been on that truck since 1988 has finally rusted beyond repair. Firefighter Bob Bowers disconnected it from the cab and chassis and had the highway department remove it with their bucket loader.

Fire chief Everett Ricketts got bids back for two tanks; a 3,300 gallon tank for \$35,000, and a 3,000 gallon tank for \$26,000. Later in the meeting, when the finance committee came in to discuss the warrant for the special town meeting, they asked for Ricketts to get more bids for different sized tanks.

Jim Slavos of the finance committee asked for articles to remove authorizations from the annual town meeting to pay off the new fire engine note, the Fiske Pond note, and the note used to buy the property the new town office building sits on. Since annual town meeting, Slavos said he has determined that paying off those bills early would be illegal, and rescinding those monetary authorizations would simplify things for the town accountant. He added he was still pursuing options for the town to make a large payment on the USDA building loan for the new town office building and library from stabilization, because the amount the town would save over the life of the loan would be sizable, and interest rates have changed so that

even a commercial loan for a smaller remaining balance would save the town a good deal of money.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said a commercial loan would also save the town the added \$11,000 a year cost of the annual audit required by the USDA.

Other town meeting articles would authorize money to pay the former town accountant as a consultant to create a job description for a town financial overseer, money to pay that overseer and money to buy a \$2700 storage box for cemetery maintenance machines.

The finance committee asked for more specific details about that storage box.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she still has no written job description for the proposed position of town food coordinator, also slated to be discussed at the October 6th meeting.

The Wendell selectboard began the meeting, as it often does, with board members passing around bills the town has received since the prior meeting, which need selectboard authorization before they are paid. One bill for beaver trapping prompted the comment that nearly \$100 per beaver seemed expensive.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked if anyone had considered using beaver deceivers to lower the level of a beaver pond, and whether in the long run it would be less expensive to install such a device in a dam that threatens to flood a road, rather than to trap resident beavers again and again.

He added maybe the trapper should pay the town instead of the town paying the trapper, because beaver fur is still worth money.

Pooser also mentioned that helicopters have again been flying low over town, both for the National Grid survey of power lines, and for the annual marijuana garden survey. He said those helicopters conducting aerial surveillance of Wendellites' gardens, unlike last year, seem to be maintaining the 500 foot buffer above homes and yards, still loud and annoying, but not as frightening for little children.

Aldrich said she would get prices from plumber Bruce Whittier for different types of water heaters to replace the one that is leaking in the town hall. Because the town hall gets such occasional use, an electric heater with a small tank and a convenient on/off switch or a programmable thermostat might be the cheapest option.

Ted Lewis and Stephen Broll, town assessors, met with the selectboard. Aldrich said the assessors had found a volunteer to serve as a third member of the board of assessors, Chris Wings, who would serve the remainder of the term and come up for a vote in the May election.

Jonathan von Ranson met the board to comment on the state forest plan. The state has decided to divide its 308,000 acres into three categories: reserves covering 60% of state land would be set aside for minimal human impact, no wood harvesting, and minimal vehicle access; parklands also would allow no timber harvesting, but would be

managed for recreation; woodlands would be actively managed allowing multiple uses including timber harvesting, hunting, and recreation.

Von Ranson said towns have input into how state land within their borders are to be classified, and he argued that state land in Wendell should be held in reserves for several reasons. Wendell is on a corridor between the Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut and Millers Rivers, which makes the state land especially valuable for wildlife. He added the carbon sequestering of undisturbed forests is greater than for managed forests, and we should be willing to let go of a short term economic benefit for a long term ecologic gain.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard argued that the parkland use seemed appropriate for a good part of Wendell; townspeople use the woods for skiing, hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. She mentioned logging that was done to harvest trees in sections of the forest that were leveled by the recent tornado.

Von Ranson said the difference was in food taken away from insects and microorganisms that are central to forest ecology. Tornado damaged areas that were not cleared are coming back to a more complex and dynamic forest mixture than are the areas that were cleared of debris, he said.

Pooser brought in letter about legislation in New Mexico from 2007 allowing that state to test sustainable development, along the lines that Jonathan and Susan von Ranson have proposed in their request for a permit to build a non-electric apartment with no running water, using a composting toilet, in their barn on the

town common. Heard said, "They (New Mexico) changed the law to allow research."

Jonathan von Ranson said he and Susan attended a meeting of the Wendell board of health on August 10th, and were handed a letter from the board rejecting their application for failing to comply with state code, but von Ranson is seeking clarification of that letter to see what specific grounds are being cited in that rejection. Selectboard member Dan Keller said direction on the von Ranson's effort to build a non-electric apartment and reduce their household's carbon footprint has to come from the state.

State representative Steve Kulik will hold office hours on September 27th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in New Salem, and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Wendell, with either an aide or Kulik himself present to answer questions and hear comments from constituents.

Marianne Sundell of the open space committee met the selectboard and said she is nearly finished with the update of the town's open space plan, including a seven year action plan. Once the plan is complete, Wendell will be eligible for grants to implement the action

see WENDELL pg 6

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NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Prest Tapped for Clerk of the Works on Senior Center

BY BILL FRANKLIN - "He's the best clerk of the works possible," said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. Sharp was talking about Paul Prest, the town's highway superintendent, who will be overseeing the construction of the new 6,000-square-foot, \$2.4 million senior center on Route 63 when construction gets underway, hopefully before winter.

tractors perform their jobs as required. "He will act as a kind of front line for the town," said Sharp, and will report to Katlin Associates, the architects overseeing the job. Prest has had fairly extensive experience in this type of position: he recently acted as Erving's clerk of the works for the renovation of the sewage treatment plant in Erving.

police station, where there was no clerk of the works, as an example of how to do it wrong. "The police station, there were some shady issues; now there are problems." Prest was referring to the police station's HVAC system, which is running poorly, and some of the tile work in that building, which already had to be repaired. The main question at the selectboard's meeting on August 26th was how to compensate Prest for his additional work. Prest is already working full time as the town's highway superintendent. After much discussion, entertaining other options such as a

bonus, the board decided to pay Prest time and a half of his current rate of pay for anything over thirty-six hours per week at his regular job. The board acknowledged the job might require more or less than the estimated four hours per week. This method of pay, according to board chair Andrew Goodwin, would "fluctuate up and down according to the needs of the job." In other matters, Bill Goldfarb, of Lefty's Brewing Company in Bernardston, has recently been looking at properties in Erving to expand his brewing company. Although he has not found anything yet, he is still interested. "I took a drive by the old Strathmore paper mill. Would they be willing to lease part of the building?"

asked Goldfarb. "You've got a lot of room to expand down there," said selectman James Hackett, putting it mildly. The board referred Goldfarb to Jacquie Boyden. "She would know what properties are available," Sharp said. Finally, the board rejected a state program for early retirement. "It doesn't fit the town of Erving - or any small town," said Sharp. "It would be difficult, in a small town, to find someone to accept those lower salaries," required to fill positions left vacant by those who choose to take part in the state program, Sharp said. "Is there anyone we can do without?" asked Goodwin. "No," said Sharp.

WENDELL from page 5

plan. Sundell let the board know the open space committee is considering including, as part of the action plan, the formation of a committee or the hiring of a consultant to survey the needs of town boards that work with open space, including the planning board, the agricultural commission, the conservation commission, the zoning board of appeals, the open space committee, the cemetery commission, and the tree warden to insure that their needs are being met, and to consider the benefits of creat-

ing a shared administrative position for these boards. Sundell said a hearing on the draft plan will be held later in the fall. The selectboard received three bids for painting the police department building, and voted to accept the lowest bid of \$1,980, without replacing or repairing windows, from Renaissance Painting. Keller said there should be an article on the town meeting warrant authorizing money to replace rotten windows at the rear of the station. Pooser said Access Plus might extend the high speed internet access the library uses to the town office building. From a building antenna, the internet signal could be routed through the wired network in

the building, and with that accomplished the town could end its contract with Hughes Net, which is slower, more expensive, and less dependable. The selectboard closed the meeting by completing a DCR Forest Visioning survey so it can be returned to the state. From their understanding of Wendell citizens, they said Wendell residents visit neighboring state forests, value forests for their role in reducing CO2 output, protecting groundwater, wildlife habitat, and for forest products. In news from the selectboard meeting of August 18th, Kathleen Leonard rented the town hall for the evening of Saturday, September 18th for a harvest supper to benefit Good

Neighbors. Town counsel reported that the recommendation made by the money management study committee to have elected officials take office with the fiscal year starting on July 1st would require an act of the state legislature. Steve Gross resigned from the zoning board of appeals, leaving an open position. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute asked the selectboard to establish a single contact person with whom they could get in touch relating to the different town committees, in an effort to help bring fiber optic cables to town. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich offered to be that contact person. Assessors Ted Lewis and

Stephen Broll completed the course work they need to become certified assessors, and they plan to take the online test soon. They scheduled a meeting, August 24th at 7:00, with the money management committee to set a timeline to get the tax rate established on schedule. Contrary to the recommendation of the money management study committee, members of the board of assessors felt they should continue going house to house doing assessments, rather than hire a paid assistant to do so, so the assessors can maintain open communication with residents and gain a better understanding of the town's housing stock. Selectboard member Dan Keller reported that a mislabeled breaker allowed the Good Neighbors' freezer to thaw during installation of the town hall generator, resulting in a loss of all the food in the freezer. Aldrich will check to see if the electrician's insurance will cover the loss, and if that fails Good Neighbors will look for help from other organizations. Two double-walled oil tanks have been installed in the basement of the town hall. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he has gotten inquiries about access to water if a household well runs dry. The board will research that question.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Burglary, Domestic Assault, Hit and Run Tuesday, 8/31 6:13 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Report taken. Wednesday, 9/1 9:23 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Eleventh Street. Investigated. 6:33 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a subsequent offense of operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license and no inspection sticker, and failure to notify the registry of motor vehicles of a name/address change. Thursday, 9/2 12:00 a.m. Suspicious auto at Rubin's Auto Repair on Millers Falls Road. Investigated. 1:10 a.m. Suspicious person at The Rendezvous on Third Street. Dispersed gathering. 1:40 p.m. Missing person in Lake Pleasant. Report taken. 3:05 p.m. Hit and run accident at Food City. Services rendered. 4:28 p.m. Hit and run accident at Food City. Services rendered. Saturday, 9/4 9:48 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant. 5:28 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Peace restored. 5:46 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant. 8:18 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Center Street in Montague. Unable to locate. 9:09 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Advised of options. 11:41 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated. Sunday, 9/5 12:15 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated. 1:40 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, intimidating a witness, three counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, threatening to commit the crime of murder, reckless endangerment to children, armed assault to murder, and vandalism, damage or defacement of property. 11:21 p.m. Fight at Between the Uprights at 2nd Street. Unable to locate. Monday, 9/6 1:12 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for driving while intoxicated, operating a motor vehicle to endanger, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. 2:55 p.m. Missing person on Church Street. Services rendered.

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Gill-Montague Bridge Update



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

An SPS excavator carries a concrete slab from the bridge deck to a waiting 'bathtub' trailer with a barn door tailgate. The concrete is falling apart, and long overdue for replacement.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH – The good news is that everything on the Gill-Montague Bridge renovation project is going as planned, according to SPS project manager Mark Pelletier. “The job is right on schedule.”

Pelletier explained, “We have started removing six and a half

foot by ten foot long concrete slabs. They are trucked to Mitchell’s gravel pit in Northfield where a breaker equipped excavator breaks them apart. We salvage the reinforcing bars and truck them to the WTE scrap yard in Greenfield.”

Mitchell’s crew will process the broken concrete in their

demo-blanket of heavy canvas, spread on a second work platform under the bridge deck catches falling concrete debris. Workmen gather up the demo-blanket and an excavator carries the bundle like a stork delivering a baby, to empty it into a ‘bathtub’ trailer equipped with a ‘barn door’ tailgate that swings to one

crusher to further reduce it in size for use as road building material.

“We cut the bridge deck concrete and re-bars with a diamond tipped saw,” Barry Elliot of Concrete Cutting Specialists said. “We cut right down through, except over the stringers (beams) where we cut halfway through until slab removal, when we finish cutting them all the way through.”

A considerable amount of deteriorated concrete falls from the slab during cutting and removal. A

side. The side swinging tailgate allows bulky material, like the slabs, to slide out without getting hung up.

According to Pelletier, Atlantic Bridge and Engineering is prefabricating and installing all the steel replacement beams for the bridge. “We use Atlantic Bridge almost exclusively for our bridge [rehabilitation] jobs.”

So far, Atlantic Bridge & Engineering has installed ten new beams on the Gill-Montague Bridge. They have been shot blasted and primed with epoxy primer, in the same manner as Mimosa has done with the understructure.

“We replaced the beams at night,” Atlantic Bridge Supervisor John Erb said. “We had to completely shut the bridge down because the crane had to set up in the travel lane and pick the beams off a truck also parked in the lane. We worked at night when there wasn’t as much traffic to detour.”

Mimosa has their dust collectors and shot blasting equipment working midway across the bridge.

“We’re ahead of schedule,”

Mimosa supervisor John Tiliakos said. “We’ll have the whole bridge shot blasted and epoxy primed in one and a half months.”

This first half of the bridge is the easiest, according to Pelletier. “The completed bridge will look identical to the side we’re working on now,” Pelletier said. “The sidewalk side will take a lot more [time and effort] to demolish. The travel lanes will be three feet wider. The cantilevered extension will make the outside of the sidewalk area four and a half feet wider. It will have a new outside fascia stringer to support the sidewalk.

“The large support beam in the understructure will not be removed,” Pelletier said. “That beam will be repaired and reinforced in place.”

When asked to compare this bridge to the similar bridge in Minnesota that collapsed three years ago during evening rush hour, Pelletier said, “That bridge had a lot of equipment and material on it, including a huge stockpile of gravel. We aren’t doing that here.”

Leverett May Form Education Study Committee

BY JOSH HEINEMANN & DAVID DETMOLD – The Leverett school committee met on Tuesday, September 7th, and held a preliminary discussion about forming a study committee on the future of education for Leverett students.

Other towns, including Pelham and Shutesbury, that are members with Leverett in the Amherst Regional School District for upper school students, have already formed such committees, and Shutesbury school committee member Michael Dechiara was on hand to brief the Leverett committee on how his town has gone about establishing an education study group comprised of selectboard, finance committee, school committee members and parents, including parents who do not have children in the schools at this time. The

composition of the Pelham study group is similar.

After the meeting, Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir said each town in the Amherst district is forming education study committees in response to the recommendation of the district’s Regionalization Study Committee, in order to examine the particular goals, finances, sustainability and governance structures of their schools.

“The Leverett School Committee is largely happy with our governance structures [superintendency Union 28 for the elementary school and Amherst Regional for the middle and high school] said Hajir, “but at the same time we don’t want to be caught off guard by changes at the state or regional level.”

On July 23rd, Hajir stepped

down as chair of the Amherst Regional School Committee and resigned from that committee. He took Kip Fonsh’s place as chair of the Leverett School Committee, and Fonsh, who remains a member of the Leverett committee, became Leverett’s representative to the Amherst Region in Hajir’s stead.

Hajir said he took this step because of a “particularly difficult year on the Region,” which saw the sudden departure in March, after a controversial eight month tenure, of superintendent Alberto Rodriguez, the fifth superintendent to lead the region in the last three years.

“It was a particularly taxing year for me and my family, and I felt I wouldn’t be able to bring to that job the same level of energy,” explained Hajir. “In the per-

see LEVERETT page 13

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FRTA Reinstates Free Transfers



DETMOLD PHOTO

A rider boards an FRTA bus to Greenfield at 3rd and Avenue A on Wednesday. Free transfers, good for up to 60 minutes on any FRTA fixed route, are once again available for riders.

BY ANNE HARDING GREENFIELD – Local bus riders are celebrating the decision of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) to reinstate free transfers, starting September 1st, allowing riders to transfer

between FRTA fixed routes at no extra charge. The transfers are valid for only 60 minutes, so patrons should request them from the bus driver as they exit the bus. Riders will not be able to use transfers from the Greenfield to

Amherst Route 23 buses to destinations covered by other transit companies. However, they can use transfers on the return trip from Amherst to Greenfield for connections to other FRTA fixed routes, as long as they meet the

60 minute limit. Tina Cote, FRTA administrator, attributes the change to the long anticipated arrival of electronic fare boxes, purchased and installed in late June using federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Electronic fare boxes allow the driver to issue the magnetic bus transfers.

In addition, riders should be aware that FRTA Punch Passes and Blue Coupons can be used through September 30th. Beginning October 1st, only magnetic passes will be accepted on the buses. After September 30th, unredeemed paper passes and coupons may be exchanged for the magnetic variety at the FRTA office at 474 Main Street in Greenfield.

Previously drivers have not been equipped to conveniently and securely handle cash or make change. The purchase of paper passes and coupons was handled at the FRTA office or through the mail, not always a convenient method for patrons. Cote said the magnetic passes are available in \$1, \$5 and \$25 'stored value' increments as well as 'change'

cards. This means a rider without the exact fare will be issued electronic change. For example, if you pay a \$3 fare with a \$10 bill you'll receive your change in the form of a \$7 magnetic swipe card, which can be used on any FRTA bus.

Cote hopes the reinstatement of transfers and more convenient purchase of tickets will lead to increased ridership.

ARRA grants were also used to purchase three new coaches for the fleet, and will provide the major source of funding for the new transit station in Greenfield. Last month, sealed proposals were due from prequalified general builders and sub-bidders for that center. The bids have been reviewed and the identified low bid is being examined and evaluated. Cote hopes to award the bid soon, with construction getting underway in the fall. Excitement is building that the longtime dream of a downtown Greenfield transit station will soon be realized.

For more information contact the FRTA at (413) 774-2262 or check their website at www.frtc.org.

TEMPEST from pg 1

of *Verona* unexpectedly to Turners in 2009. This year's *Tempest* outshone that memory, and left the bar high for CAST's hoped for 2011 return.

Towering above his talented colleagues like a captain on the quarterdeck, Oliver Soden, in a portrayal suffused with majesty and sadness, immediately revived the centuries old speculation that Prospero, the magus who commands the errant sprites and shipwrecked sojourners on his enchanted isle, is but a penned stand-in for the playwright himself.

The Tempest, Shakespeare's last play, is a shape-shifting

comedy with a tragic figure at its core, and theater goes in these latter climes may be forgiven if, peering in the obscure mirror of this late work, we see the worldly, wise, and weary sorcerer as more than just a masterful protagonist but a gallant personification of the Bard himself, performing one last act of legerdemain by setting himself down in black and white, while at the same time freeing himself to wander the boards forever as a larger than life figure of omniscience, human kindness, paternalistic pride and sympathy for our entire race.

As a god to his creatures is Prospero to the earthbound

Caliban (Mark Fiddaman, looking like a castaway from a B-list British zombie film) and the mercurial Ariel (Anna Maguire, a bit earthbound herself, with a sprained ankle limiting her flights of fancy); so to for all readers, philosophers and thespians of successive generations is Shakespeare to his followers. Yet in the end Prospero offers nothing more than freedom to his acolytes and adversaries alike, and relinquishes his kingdom in exile over all the hidden realms for a shrunk and fettered homecoming to his usurped dukedom in Milan.

A strange comedy, like life itself, *the Tempest* leaves us

uplifted and unsettled and unutterably sad.

In Soden's portrayal, Prospero, looking more than a shade like an older but wiser Eddie Munster, unmoved amid the antics of his minions as they enact the storm he sets in motion on the stage, breathes his sorrow into all their lighter than air meanders and grave plottings on the isle, and stands to one side, dominating the center of the drama by his mere presence, and his every word.

And so, in the epilogue, he bids his audience farewell.

"Now my charms are overthrown, And what strength I have's

mine own, Which is most faint...

... Now I want Spirits to enforce, art to enchant, And my ending is despair Unless I be relieved by prayer, Which pierces so, that it assaults Mercy itself and frees all faults. As you from crimes would pardon'd be, Let your indulgence set me free."

Amen to that, and encore, brave spirits, encore.



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News Analysis

The Dredge Report

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
NORTHFIELD – FirstLight is attacking silt removal at Northfield Mountain with both barrels.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued FirstLight Power Resources a cease and desist order on August 3rd, halting the discharge of “silt, sediment and other pollutants” into the Connecticut River, citing a citizen’s complaint. There’s no telling how much silt had already been dumped into the river by that time, but boaters reported striking sand bars in July in the area north of the French King Rock, in the center of the channel.

With secrecy still the watchword shrouding the ongoing cleanup at Northfield Mountain’s 1,080 megawatt pumped hydro facility, which has been idle since a planned three week outage in

the river as was still in reach, or whether Northfield Mountain’s minders realized that if they did not do so the silt would simply get sucked back up the mountain into the upper reservoir when the four turbines in the powerhouse, each capable of pulling 20,000 gallons of river water per second, finally start up again. But on September 9th, a dredge appeared at the end of Unity Park in Turners Falls, by the old discontinued boat ramp.

The dredge, equipped with ‘star wheels,’ is capable of propelling itself into the river. An auxillary boat powered by two 90 horsepower Mercury outboard motors towed it up to a secluded spot by the tailrace, visible from the river, and it went to work.

Dredge America’s equipment, from Kansas City, MO is vacuuming away silt inside barrier floats that form an artificial bay



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTOS

Dredge America’s equipment at work vacuuming silt from Connecticut River.

and pumped at 5,000 gallons per minute.”

The dredge, acting as a giant vacuum cleaner, is capable of digging 23 to 24 feet deep, according to McDougal. Three hydraulically driven spuds, or shafts, extend as far as 35 feet down to the riverbed to anchor the dredge.

After the silt and water mix-

“The dredge at Northfield Mountain is powered by a 350 horsepower Cat diesel,” Bo Douglas, chief engineer for Dredge America said. “A ladder supports the intake pipe. There’s a cutter head that works exactly like a roto-tiller to loosen up the silt. A hydraulic cylinder sweeps the whole thing from side to side, ladder, intake pipe, cutter and all, to vacuum up the silt. The dry-prime pump on the river bank [on Meadow Road] boosts the slurry up the hill to the cells.”

Asked if his firm was going to dredge the river, Douglas said, “We are only going to dredge what was put there from the tunnel.” When asked about silt from the tunnel migrating downstream, Douglas said, “We won’t touch that.”

Down at the tailrace, Wagner Concrete Pumping Company’s technician is back on the job, and dump trucks are again hauling silt from the pump house up to Northfield Mountain, as the effort continues to unblock the clogged intake tunnel, which has caused operations at the pumped storage facility to grind to a halt since May. The problems of the water-silt mixer in the tunnel, initially hooked up backwards according to owner Alexander Wagner, and the mixer speed control stuck last month on low speed appear to have been overcome, according to technician Gene Reid.

In addition to dredging the intake bay, FirstLight continues the effort to clear the blocked intake tunnel, with silt suctioned by vacuum trucks from the 18 settling tanks still in position at the tailrace receiving muddy slurry from the tailrace tunnel.

Vacuum trucks joined dump trucks traveling to and from the pump house on trips up the mountain in recent days to deposit silt in a holding area north of the upper reservoir.

With increased truck traffic crossing 63, Northfield’s police chief is back directing traffic.

Firstlight and Abington Constructors seem to be running their own stimulus program with redundant backup personnel standing by. A technician from Wagner Concrete Service often spends his day in Wagner’s service truck, in case his services are required. An electrician from an electric service company cools his heels, discussing what he knows of the operation. For a time, a Confined Space Emergency Rescue team spent their working hours admiring the view of the silted bay. Backup vacuum truck and dump truck drivers engage in idle conversation with a reporter, until a FirstLight employee comes by to glare and caution them to silence.

Cost is no object, apparently.

According to GDF Suez’s website; FirstLight owns and operates 15 power generating plants, primarily pumped storage and traditional hydro facilities. FirstLight was previously owned by Energy Capital Partners. GDF Suez acquired FirstLight from Energy Capital Partners in 2008. Zin Smati is president and CEO of GDF Suez. The corporation operates with 200,000 employees across five continents, earning 79.9 billion euros (\$101.6 billion dollars) in 2009, making GDF Suez a world leader in energy and the largest utility in the world.



Davenport Trucking’s driver prepares to return two leased John Deere loaders to Schmidt Equipment Company.

“The loaders came out of the tunnel, and I’m taking them back to the dealer,” the driver said.

May to drain and clear silt deposited over many maintenance-free years in the upper 320-acre reservoir went drastically awry. In the process of draining the upper reservoir, contractors plugged the mile long, 35-foot diameter intake tunnel with hundreds of thousands of yards of silt and damaged the giant generators in the powerhouse. It is hard to say whether FirstLight responded to the EPA order by deciding to remove as much of the silt they had already dumped

outside the utility’s tailrace tunnel. The dredge discharge pipe is connected to 12” ABS pipes running up Ferry Road to several sediment ponds, called cells, that Davenport Trucking is continuing to construct in the field on Route 63 adjacent to Ferry Road.

“That particular dredge [in Northfield] is capable of pumping 100 cubic yards of silt per hour,” Dan McDougal, president of Dredge America said. “Twenty to thirty percent silt is mixed with eighty to seventy percent water,

ture is pumped into the cells up on Route 63, water drains through filter fabric into the sandy soil. Davenport is protecting the cell dikes with riprap (crushed granite rock) placed over filter fabric lining the cell banks to prevent erosion.

Dredge America has several sizes of dredges, all of proprietary design. The firm does river dredging as well as stream bank restoration. Their website states they do not consider projects under \$100,000 to \$150,000.

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TRIBES from pg 1

group) to seek access to the airport property, with 30 days prior notice in writing, for educational, ceremonial and research purposes, with the approval of the airport manager, on the condition that those activities not interfere with normal airport operations as determined by the airport manager. Airport manager Michael Longo said if the conditions of that side agreement were met by the tribes, or by any member of the public or public group, "permission to access the airport grounds would not be unreasonably withheld."

Although the airport commission and selectboard signaled their approval of the memorandum, with the board voting unanimously to endorse, the discussion made clear that the three federally recognized tribes interested in the airport sites – the Narragansetts, the Mashpee Wampanoags, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) – have yet to sign off on the memorandum, which has gone through numerous revisions with the advice of town counsel over the summer months. Neither has the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) signed off on the current version of the memo. The FAA is the federal oversight agency that is funding the ongoing runway replacement project at the airport.

Last fall, the airport commission called a halt to all construction work at the airport when an electrical subcontractor dug a trench through an area that had not yet been "cleared" by tribal representatives, after the airport commission had instructed the subcontractor not to dig there, said airport manager Michael Longo. Since mid October of 2009, no construction work has gone forward on the airport improvement project, Longo said. The airport is in use only during the daytime; the runway still lacks a final coat of asphalt, the runway lights and beacon light have not been installed, and drainage issues and landscaping remain to be completed.

Up until October, tribal representatives and the airport commission had been working together cooperatively to allow for the examination of cultural artifacts on the land and determine the boundaries of sensitive

areas, while construction proceeded. Longo said the entire project is only about 40% to 50% complete at the present time.

Federally recognized tribes are granted consultant status on a government to government basis on any project that requires federal permits or the expenditure of federal tax dollars, according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

But according to airport commission chair Peter Golrick, that federal law is vague about just where the prerogatives of Native American consultative status begin and end, so the tribes are seeking assurances from the town that the sites they have identified as being culturally significant will be permanently preserved and protected, and the tribes' continued access to them permitted. Without those assurances, the commission doubts the tribes will cooperate with the commission to allow the completion of the project at the airport by the end of this year's construction season.

"One site is identified on the record with the Massachusetts Historical Commission," said Golrick, referring to the Hanemann site, where Paleo-Indian artifacts dating back more than 10,000 years have been uncovered by UMass archeologists, one of the oldest such finds in the Northeast. "Several others the tribes have identified, but they believe Section 106 doesn't protect them well enough," Golrick added.

Among these other sites is the so-called Turners Falls Airport Ceremonial Hill, an elevation that overlooks surrounding landscapes with a piled stone formation at the top, which has been designated as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register in December of 2008, the first Native ceremonial site so designated east of the Mississippi. "This will make the Federal Aviation Administration, which had requested a determination, treat the site as if it were listed in the National Register," according to Paul Loether, Chief of the National Register, essentially prohibiting development from altering the Ceremonial Hill during the federally funded construction.

"The site is central to the cos-

mology of the combined tribes and the traditions that have marked Native American sacred and ceremonial practices for numerous generations," according to a ruling from the Keeper of the National Register, then Jan Matthews. "Located in the middle of the Connecticut River region of New England, this site also possesses the potential to yield important information about traditional Native American practices, beliefs and sacred rituals."

"The good news is, these sites are basically in the flight path," said Golrick. "There's no chance of developing them anyway."

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother, who ultimately voted with his colleagues to support the memorandum, first said, "I don't think we should do it. We're certainly not required to do it. I believe the FAA should step up and finish this project forthwith."

"If we don't assist the FAA with their negotiations with the tribes, we'll end up with an airport that is closed," countered Golrick, who said this eventuality could occur if the FAA finds the airport commission in violation of the grant assurances the town signed when it agreed to accept federal funding for the construction, which included the requirement to keep the airport safely operational. At present the taxiway construction has yet to be completed, and the lack of runway lights leave the airport in a sort of gray area in terms of compliance with the FAA requirements, even for daytime use, said Longo after the meeting. "The situation was meant to be temporary, but it's dragged on," as the impasse over archeological preservation continues.

"I can understand your viewpoint, Mark," said selectboard chair Pat Allen to Fairbrother. "I find myself agreeing with [the airport commission's] unanimous opinion. I feel we need to move along. We've had our issues. We've had delays. But we need to get this underway, and be prepared to revisit it. We need to keep the airport project moving forward while protecting the Native sites."

Allen said the FAA seemed to be using the Turners airport as a test case to develop protocols for handling Native American claims at other federally funded con-

struction projects nationwide, and Golrick concurred.

"The FAA is trying to use this project to guide them with Cape Wind [the giant wind farm proposed for Nantucket Sound, which the Wampanoags (the People of the First Light) claim would disrupt their ceremonial view of the rising sun and disturb the burial grounds of their ancestors beneath the ocean floor, on what was once dry land] and projects throughout New England and the rest of the country," said Golrick.

He added, "If we complete this document, it's our hope the tribes will let us get back to work and complete the project. It gives all parties time to do their educational work prior to May or June and the next annual town meeting."

Longo said without the approval of the memorandum, the Native tribes would most likely continue to hold up the completion of an additional archeological survey of the sites by a UMass archeological team, which is nearly finished. The contractor, ET&L, wants all issues pertaining to the Native concerns to be completed before resuming construction.

"The contractor bid the job and expects to complete the job at a certain time and cost. Certainly, the delay has created issues with regard to the bid process, between what was anticipated and what has actually panned out for them," Longo said.

"The commission has always tried to protect the interests of the tribes from day one," added Longo. "These are issues that we never anticipated, but everybody keeps working away at it."

Fairbrother and selectboard member Chris Boutwell emphasized that their approval extended only as far as the document in front of them. But Allen, backed up by former selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt, who spoke from the audience, noted that the other parties to the memorandum – the tribes and the FAA – had not yet signed off on it, so more revisions may be forthcoming.

"If it wants to be revisited, it will have to come before us," said Allen. She also said, "We need to have a spirit of cooperation and good faith at this point. That's what people are looking for."

Book Sale at Greenfield Public Library

The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library will hold their Fall Book Sale on September 16th, 17th and 18th. On Thursday evening, September 16th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the sale will be open for Friends of the Library Members only but anyone who would like to become a member of the Friends may do so that evening. Sale hours on Friday, September 17th, are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., on Saturday, September 18th, are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The sale will be held in the stacks in the library basement and is open to everyone for those two days. Hardcover books are \$2.00 each and paperbacks are \$1.00 each. Children's books are priceless - please pay what you think they are worth and remember that the money will support the library.

We have knowledgeable volunteers to assist customers and a special bargain book area where you can fill a grocery bag full of books for only \$2.00. The Friends' Book Sale is an important fundraiser for the Greenfield Public Library. The sale raises money for library enrichment programs such as the Homebound Delivery Program, the Poets Seat Poetry Contest, adult book groups, and all children's programs.

SCHOOL from page 1

enrolled in April, and we were able to work with them. Four Winds is small enough to tailor the curriculum to the student and give each the individual attention that sometimes makes all the difference."

The Gill selectboard worried that the school would stand empty this fall, except for the town's historical museum and the Riverside water department office. Without a tenant to help pay for winter heat, the town might have faced the unwelcome prospect of heating an almost vacant building to prevent frozen pipes or structural damage. So for now, the news is good for all parties concerned, and Hussey is hopeful that as the economy improves, the prospects for increased enrollment will brighten.

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MAHAR from page 1
vote on whether to adopt the alternate averaging method or to continue to use the statutory method of assessing when it votes on the 2012 budget in January.

Mahar received \$241,943 from the DESE under the recently passed federal Education Jobs Fund legislation, intended to preserve jobs for teachers and other school staff. Cara Deane of Orange reported the finance and facilities subcommittee recommended using approximately half of that amount to create three new full time positions: a special education paraprofessional, a guidance counselor, and a library technician. In addition, some of the money will go to the coaches' salaries line item, freeing up money to fund an extra day of 3 p.m. bus service. The second half of the grant money will be used to fund the three new positions in the next fiscal year.

The committee approved use of the funds for the three staff positions and the extra afternoon bus. Baldassarre remarked he had already posted the three positions.

Baldassarre informed the committee that Mahar's law firm, Long & DePietro, is filing for a preliminary injunction in state superior court against Constellation NewEnergy/New England Energy Partners (CNE/NEEP). CNE is an energy broker that supplies electricity to Mahar through another energy broker, NEEP.

In the fall of 2009, Baldassarre was reviewing district bills and observed a steep rise in electricity costs between December 2008 and January

2009. Costs per kilowatt hour had almost doubled as a result of an "automatic renewal" clause in the five-year contract ending in December 2008. This clause stated that NEEP would send the district a notice indicating the end of the contract and if the district did not respond in 15 days, the brokers would appoint a representative for the district and negotiate a new rate. A new five-year contract was negotiated without input from Mahar, resulting a significantly increased rate.

Mahar has no record of a notice from NEEP regarding the end of the previous contract. Baldassarre contacted NEEP and reported at the November 4th, 2009 school committee meeting that NEEP had no interest in renegotiating the rate. Mahar then filed a complaint with the state inspector general.

The preliminary injunction would allow Mahar to buy electricity from another supplier at a lower price while the contract is under litigation. CNE/NEEP has filed a motion for summary judgment in federal court, contending the automatically renewed contract with Mahar is binding. According to Baldassarre, Long & DePietro anticipates there will be more information on the preliminary injunction in about two weeks.

Baldassarre told the committee the legal fees, likely totalling \$30,000 to \$50,000, could potentially result in savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the district over five years. He said he would keep the committee informed and call a special meeting if necessary for the committee to

decide whether to continue with the legal proceedings, if there is a need for a decision before the October meeting.

Michael LeBlanc of Petersham reported the regionalization committee met on September 2nd and received a proposal from the Massachusetts Association for Regional Schools (MARS) for consulting work on regionalizing the Orange elementary district, the Petersham elementary district and Mahar.

Swift River School, the elementary region for Wendell and New Salem, is part of the Union 28 superintendency union and the Swift River school committee did not express an interest to be considered in this regionalization plan.

The committee voted to accept the MARS proposal and expend \$24,000 for MARS's services, \$10,000 coming from a DESE grant.

LeBlanc said the subcommittee wants to involve Orange and Petersham selectboard and finance committee members during the process, and work out issues before presenting the regionalization plan to the 2011 Orange and Petersham annual town meetings.

The Pathways Early College

(PEC) Innovation School, one of only two innovation schools in the state, is a collaboration between Mahar and Mount Wachusett Community College. According to a press release on Governor Deval Patrick's official website, innovation schools are "in-district charter schools developed and managed at the local level to implement autonomy and flexibility in how students are educated."

PEC allows selected Mahar juniors and seniors to work toward a high school diploma and an associate's degree from Mount Wachusett at the same time.

Baldassarre reported that PEC started this fall with a full complement of 20 students, four from the Mahar region and 16 school choice students from other districts. Baldassarre said Mount Wachusett is interested in adding 20 more slots for the program.

Baldassarre reported that in 2010, for the first time, the number of students from other districts attending Mahar under the school choice program was greater than the number of Mahar region students choosing out.

Paul Gervais of Orange

noted that each year since 1999 the number of students choosing in to Mahar has increased.

Baldassarre told the committee that Mahar's consultant, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., applied to the state Office of Dam Safety (ODS) for an extension for the dam breach feasibility study and completion of the work on the dam at Mahar's pond. Because ODS granted an extension for completion of the work until November 30th, 2012, the costs can be spread over two additional fiscal years.

Heating oil costs for this year will be \$2.35 per gallon, lower than budgeted. If oil use this winter is similar to last year, the heating oil expense will be \$98,700 under budget.

The committee meeting was preceded by a reception for the 21 new faculty and staff members. These new hires don't represent new positions, but are replacements for departing staff.

In other actions, the committee heard reports on cafeteria finances (the amount of shortfall is gradually being reduced) and new accountability procedures for money raised by student activity groups.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Political Signs Stolen, Internet Harassment

Monday, 8/30 10:1p.m. Assisted with locating subject with outstanding arrest warrant on West Gill Road.	fire department. 4:15 p.m. Report of Internet harassment received from French King Highway resident.	7:31 p.m. Assisted Environmental police at state boat ramp. 9:50 p.m. Report of people camping illegally on Barton Cove Road, all checked OK.
Tuesday, 8/31 8:05 p.m. Report of possible suicidal subject enroute to French King Bridge. Stood by in area. Unable to locate.	Saturday, 9/4 9:03 a.m. Report of stolen political signs from Main Road residence. 4:33 p.m. Report of tree and wires down across Main Road.	Sunday, 9/5 4:45 p.m. Assisted Erving police with disturbance on Pratt Street. 6:33 p.m. Report of tree down blocking roadway on Pisgah Mountain Road.
Thursday, 9/2 6:33 a.m. Report of vehicle fire at intersection of Main Road and French King Highway. Assisted	7:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with intoxicated subject on Gill Road.	

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Superintendent Christopher Kociela in hardhat getting out of a T & M Equipment pickup truck at the landfill capping project on Gill campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL – There was a time when folks could take rubbish to the dump. Now there’s no place to throw things away. Even the name ‘dump’ is gone. We now have landfills, or better yet, transfer stations.

T&M Equipment of Springfield, MA, is engaged in capping three landfills on the campus of the Northfield-Mount Hermon School in Gill, near the banks of the Connecticut River. T&M also has the job of lining and capping a landfill on the Northfield-Mount Hermon Campus in Northfield. Jobs at both sites are nearing completion. T&M stands for Tools and

Machinery or Tim and Mike, depending on whom you talk to. The company offers site work, road work and pipe work.

Christopher Kociela, who is the superintendent on Mount Hermon and Northfield landfill capping job, said, “The tough part of this job was dealing with the slope toward the river [on the Gill campus]. It was rough going, very steep - a 2-1 slope. We had to use excavators [to do the grading] on a lot of it.”

There’s no shortage of equipment on this job. Two Volvo excavators, a 750 John Deer bull-

dozer, a vibratory roller and a tractor-loader backhoe equipped with fork lift tines made up the list of equipment.

The landfill T&M is capping at Mount Hermon is strictly a stump dump, according to a long time NMH employee. “There were just stumps in the new dump,” Kidder said. “The school had containers for rubbish sitting next to the stump dump. Waste Handling hauled them off to a landfill.”

T & M principals, Tim and Mike, have a long family history in construction. Tim’s grandfa-

ther, Roy M. Wright, founded a company by that name. After he died, his wife and son Charles ran Roy M. Wright & Sons. Charles went on to form his own company. His two sons, Timothy and Michael, founded T & M Equipment Inc.

T&M’s Mount Hermon job entails leveling the stump dump, grading the slope to the Connecticut River, tying into the liner of an adjoining closed landfill and placing a layer of sand fill over the stumps. A system of perforated PVC pipes bedded in 3/8 screened rock similar to a leach field is designed to collect landfill gases, largely methane. The gases vent via a ‘candy cane’ stack with a hook at the upper end.

On the slope, ‘geo-web,’ a porous plastic web of connected cells, is pinned in place with tendons. The object of the porous plastic cells is to allow screened topsoil and vegetation to infiltrate the geo-web to keep the steep slope from sliding down toward the river. T & M got a change order substituting clay in place of a plastic liner because material placed on the plastic slid down the slope, due to the steepness. Screened loam to top off the job came from a site stripped at UMass to make room for more greenhouses.

The first of this three stage job in Gill is done. The old burn dump re-grading is complete, drainage is in place and a good catch of grass has taken hold.

The burn dump was once a treasure trove of goodies, especially after the students left for the summer. Janitors cleaning out the dorms left skis, clothes and all manner of sports equipment off to one side. Faculty families, moving on to other jobs, left bags of toys and stuffed animals on a grassy spot on the dump road. Maintenance crews left piles of cordwood for people to take for firewood, instead of burying it. The dump itself had all manner of things that could be recycled before someone set the dump afire. Even after a fire, collectors raked through the ashes looking for old bottles.

While the stump dump is nearing completion, T & M is capping yet another landfill on the former Northfield Campus of Northfield Mount Hermon. The closed dump, as it used to be called, now referred to as a landfill, sits

behind an old brick building that once housed a laundry for the Northfield Seminary. That name, too, has evolved into other names. “Seminary” implied that the school was a nunnery, which appealed to parents of rebellious children but not to the girls. “Northfield School for Young Ladies” was another name. (You’re going to that school, young lady, and that’s that!) The campus, last known as Northfield Mount Hermon is now the new home of the C.S. Lewis College, a Christian college planned to open in 2012.

The Northfield dump’s name evolved from “burn dump” to “landfill” when the rubbish began to periodically get a cover of soil in place of the practice of burning the refuse. Bulldozer operator David Stolgitis is on top of the job.

“First, I had to cut the trees,” Stolgitis said. “It was a jungle. Then, I graded it all off and re-graded the slopes. I put in a swale and a retention pond at the bottom.”

A foot of 3/8” screened stone with a gas collection grid of pipes collects landfill gases vented to the atmosphere via a candy cane standpipe. Fabric covers one section of the landfill and a plastic liner caps the other. A foot of gravel and six inches of screened loam top off the entire project. A half dozen test wells dot the landfill to monitor groundwater. Seeding with a special blend of grass seed completes the project.

Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that The Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a public meeting to discuss the final design and preliminary cost estimates of the Skatepark portion of the Unity Park Improvement Project. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm in the Second Floor Meeting Room of Montague Town Hall, located at One Avenue A in Turners Falls. Public participation is welcomed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Veteran’s Field Vandalized

- Wednesday, 9/1**
8:05 p.m. Report of out of control teenager on North Street. Assisted by Northfield police. Verbal only.
- Thursday, 9/2**
6:40 a.m. Report of car fire at Route 2 and Main Road intersection. Assisted Gill police.
12:25 p.m. Report of homeless subjects living in pick-up truck on East Main Street. Requested welfare check of male and female subjects and their dogs. Gone upon arrival.
3:47 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle parked behind the library on Moore Street. All OK. Belongs to employee.
- Friday, 9/3**
3:20 a.m. Call from Ridge Road of someone screaming in the woods behind residences. Checked area. Heard same. Believed to be a wild animal.
- Saturday, 9/4**
12:40 p.m. Report of tagging property, Veteran’s Field. Report taken.
4:30 p.m. Assisted Gill police with traffic control. Trees down on wires across Main Road.
9 p.m. Report of possible domestic disturbance on the French King Bridge. Checked bridge and surrounding area. Nothing found.
- Sunday, 9/5**
4:47 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Pratt Street. Found to be verbal dispute only.
5:10 p.m. Report of two subjects sitting on the train bridge between Erving and Millers Falls. Unable to make contact with subjects.
5:50 p.m. Breaking and entering into a motor vehicle and larceny of items on Poplar Mountain Road. Under investigation.
- Sunday, 9/6**
2:33 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding on Church Street.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. Does getting older make your mouth dry?

Most dry mouth is related to the medications taken by older adults, rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands. These include drugs for urinary incontinence, allergies, high blood pressure, depression, diarrhea and Parkinson's disease. Also, some over-the-counter medications often cause dry mouth.

Dry mouth can also be caused by cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, nerve damage in the head or neck, the autoimmune disease Sjogren's syndrome, endocrine disorders, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, anxiety disorders and

Dry Mouth, Cancer Mortality, and Brittle Bones

depression.

Sjogren's syndrome can occur either by itself or with another autoimmune disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus. Salivary and tear glands are the major targets of the syndrome. The result of the syndrome is a decrease in production of saliva and tears.

The disorder can occur at any age, but the average person with the disorder at the Sjogren's Syndrome Clinic of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is in his or her late 50s. Women with the disorder outnumber men 9 to 1.

Q. What causes most cancer deaths?

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men and women in the United States. It occurs most often between the ages of 55 and 65.

There are two major types of lung cancer – non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer. Each type of lung cancer

grows and spreads in different ways, and each is treated differently.

Non-small cell lung cancer is more common than small cell lung cancer. Doctors treat patients with non-small cell lung cancer in several ways. Surgery is a common treatment. Doctors may also use radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

Small cell lung cancer grows more quickly and is more likely to spread to other organs in the body. In order to reach cancer cells throughout the body, doctors almost always use chemotherapy. Treatment for small cell lung cancer may also include radiation therapy aimed at tumors.

Q. Who is at the highest risk of getting osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue. This condition creates an increased risk of fractures.

The chances are greater if you

are a woman. Women have less bone tissue and lose bone faster than men because of changes from menopause. Small, thin-boned women are at greater risk. Caucasian and Asian women are at highest risk. Age is a major risk factor because bones become thinner and weaker as you age. Heredity can also increase fracture risk.

Osteoporosis is a major pub-

lic health threat for 44 million Americans; about 68 percent of them are women. One out of every two women and one in four men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

A bone mineral density (BMD) test is the best way to determine your bone health. BMD tests can identify osteoporosis, determine your risk for fractures, and measure your response to osteoporosis treatment.

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

Source To Sea Cleanup Effort Needs Volunteers

GREENFIELD - The t-shirts are printed; the work gloves and trash bags are lined up, ready for distribution. Now all the Connecticut River Watershed Council needs are a few thousand volunteers for the October 2nd Source to Sea Cleanup. This year, NRG Energy again leads the way as title sponsor, with many of its Connecticut employees also donating their time and energy for a cleanup on Friday, October 1st.

If last year's event was any indication, this year may be even better. Despite showery skies, 2,132 volunteers fanned out across the 410-mile river basin for last year's Cleanup. They ranged from scout troops and river neighbors, to corporations, schools, and boating clubs.

Last year, volunteers hauled 85 tons of trash, tires, and discarded appliances away from the region's riverbanks. Jacqueline Talbot, the Cleanup's Coordinator

and also Connecticut River Watershed Council's River Steward in Connecticut, says planning for the 14th Cleanup got off to a quick start this summer, assisted in part by a new reporting link on their website. "It lets volunteers and interested citizens register information on where riverside trash is being dumped in their communities." That innovation is helping prioritize the groundwork that will be tackled this fall. Visit the reporting link at www.ctriver.org/programs/outreach_education/source_to_sea_cleanup/scouting

New and returning volunteers and potential sponsors are asked to register with Connecticut River Watershed Council by Friday, September 17th. For more information on the Cleanup in your area, visit www.ctriver.org or contact Jacqueline Talbot by email at cleanup@ctriver.org, or by phone at: (860) 704-0057.

LEVERETT from page 7

son of Kip Fonsh, we have someone supremely qualified to represent Leverett to the region; he was a social studies teacher in Amherst for 30 years."

Hajir added, "I was exhausted also in putting up with inappropriate behavior," from Amherst school committee members, who engaged in high profile attacks on Hajir's leadership through the period of Gonzalez's rocky tenure and his replacement with interim superintendent Maria Geryk, who led the district for four months prior to Gonzalez's arrival from Miami-Dade, and served as his assistant superintendent while he was at Amherst.

On Tuesday Hajir said, "The biggest pressure facing Leverett is coming from the Amherst school committee." Two members of that committee have suggested withdrawing from Union 26, the elementary school district Amherst shares with Pelham.

If Amherst voted to withdraw from Union 26, that would bring on the involvement of the

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which must approve the dissolution or formation of school districts or school unions. Hajir theorized that since the state has expressed a strong preference for towns forming K-12 regions, rather than continue with established hybrid regions regardless of their merit, a move such as this would soon drag Leverett into the fray.

Hajir said Amherst school committee members are unhappy with their equal representation (three school committee members serve from each town) on Union 26 with much smaller Pelham, and have also expressed unhappiness with the level of representation of the three smaller towns in the Amherst Regional School District, where Leverett and Shutesbury each have one member and Pelham has two, compared to the five committee members that represent Amherst.

Hajir said the regional agreement cannot be altered without the approval of all four towns,

barring new legislation that would allow the DESE to form new school districts in defiance of home rule, but he also said recent years have seen trial balloons floated that would grant DESE more powers to do just that in some instances.

The Leverett school committee discussed the pros and cons of forming an education study committee, and decided to approach the selectboard to see if they would be interested in forming a joint study group to examine the future of the town's educational options.

"The Leverett public is comfortable enough with the school committee that there is not much public attendance at school committee meetings," said Hajir. "Even though we feel we have our finger on the pulse of what the public wants, we need to hear from them. A joint meeting with the selectboard, if timed well and advertised well, could bring people out."

That meeting may be set up later in October, Hajir said.



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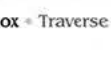


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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 23: Trashy Fashion

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER - Jayden Bartlett flung her hooded coat on and quietly slipped out the back door. Underneath, she could feel the cold row of safety pins of the punk halter top she'd designed against her bare midriff. She'd spent the last two days carefully ripping apart her favorite black T shirt and reconnecting it with safety pins to wear to the Wally's

Wonderwash Laundromat Leftovers Fashion Show and then party dancing at the Hullabaloo Pub next door, where the Dumpster Divers would be playing. She was thrilled that Alex Tinker had not only invited her, but had arranged for his friend Giles to drive her to Turners Falls. While waiting for her ride, she stood at the end of the driveway and pulled out her cell phone.

"Coast is clear — parents think I'm @ movie," she texted. Shivering in the dark, Jayden

took her mind off the chill by imagining herself slinking down the runway in a super-cool glam dress courtesy of one of the designers who reworked castoffs left behind at Wally's Wonderwash Laundromat. After all, Alex had volunteered her as a model, hadn't he?

It felt liberating to leave the house. Earlier that afternoon, Jayden overheard her father meeting with the contractor they'd hired to install a geothermal system, part of their plan to save heat for the Go Green Family heat challenge. So predictable, she wryly reflected — you could count on her parents to go for the most expensive solution possible. In two weeks, the contractor would be digging up their lawn, installing all these pipes and pumps, and sending a bill for over \$30,000. At least

this time they wouldn't be breaking the rules.

❖ ❖ ❖
The line of sparkling, bejeweled and tattooed patrons waiting to enter Wally's Wonderwash Laundromat trailed out onto the sidewalk, and Jayden overheard the bouncer explain that tickets were all sold out — good thing Alex had reserved a space for her. Peering past the heating ducts and pipes, Jayden could just make out the makeshift runway, suspended above the washing machines. Inside, Alex waved her in, and explained that his friend Martha urgently needed her to model.

"Just go right into the dressing room," Alex urged. "It's in the basement."

Jayden soon found herself huddling with the other models next to the boiler to keep warm after struggling to squeeze into a stretchy orange and pink camisole with star shaped cutout holes across the front and lattice-work fringe along the bot-

tom. Martha, the designer, handed Jayden a pair of boxer shorts modified with strips of matching orange spandex.

"I call it my creamsicle loungewear set," explained Martha, the designer, as she adjusted the straps.

By the time the emcee was finally ready to introduce her designers' line, Jayden could feel the impatience of the crowd, and she felt giddy — yet strangely calm. When the music started, she emerged from the dressing room to follow the other models and climb the short stairs to the brightly lit runway. Looking down at the enthusiastic audience, Jayden thrust her hips forward, and vamped it up for the crowd. Her ears rang with whoops and hollers of the appreciative patrons, while her eyes were momentarily blinded by simultaneous bursts of light flashing from dozens of cameras. This was one night she'd never forget.

Continued next issue

GMRSD's Nut Policy a Work in Progress

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - In his report to the August 24th school committee meeting, Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd said the wellness committee had conducted a parent forum on the district's 'nut-safe' policy on August 10th, where parents were invited to voice any comments or concerns they had about the policy.

The wellness committee then met on August 16th and agreed, in light of parents' concerns about the serious danger of life threatening allergic reaction to peanuts and other nut products, that members needed to gather more information from allergists regarding whether anaphylaxis can occur through airborne exposure to nuts.

The committee's intention is to devise policy recommendations based on a common sense approach that serves to protect at-risk students but at the same time allows for practicality in its implementation.

On the 24th, Ladd told the school committee there is overwhelming support for developing a uniform district policy on life-threatening food allergies. He said food services employees are aware of the students who have food allergies, and that there are already policies in place to protect them. He said the district is weighing the level of risk for students who are allergic and the impact on students who are not allergic.

Committee member Jeff Singleton said it was a matter of

balancing those two concerns.

The wellness committee met again on August 26th. Their report will be presented at the next school committee meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, at the high school at 7 p.m.



BY SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE - Who wants to think about the heating season while the summer heat still lingers in the air? Because many people share this aversion to planning for the heating season in advance, it's a good time to get a jump on it and contact a heating professional, before their season gets busy.

George Shapiro, winner of the Montague Energy Committee's free furnace giveaway, can't wait for the upcoming heating season to see the savings on his heating bills from the high efficiency furnace donated late last winter by Lennox Industries. Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling installed the furnace at no cost, as part of the giveaway prize.

Paul Voiland, of Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling, expects the new furnace to save

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER September's the Time to Get a New, Energy Efficient Furnace



Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling installed a free Lennox fuel efficient furnace for the Montague Energy Committee's raffle winner George Shapiro at his Lake Pleasant home last winter.

Shapiro 45 to 50% over the old furnace. According to Energy Star, heating accounts for 29% of a typical home's energy use, so Shapiro will see significant energy and money savings from the new furnace. Plus, he'll enjoy a dramatic improvement in the comfort level of his home

that he got a taste of in the few remaining heating days after the furnace was installed last winter.

If you're thinking, nice idea, but I don't have the upfront cash for a new furnace, there is a great loan program available. According to their website, "The MassSAVE HEAT Loan

program offers a no-interest (0 percent) loan of up to \$15,000 [over up to seven years] to residential customers of the MassSAVE member utility companies who want to make their homes more energy efficient." Through this program, you can get a HEAT loan for a new, high efficiency heating system. Incidentally, this loan can also be used for attic, wall, and basement insulation, high efficiency hot water systems, solar hot water systems, Energy Star windows, and Energy Star thermostats.

To find out more about the HEAT Loan program or to start the process, call (800) 632-8300. There's also more information on this program online at www.MassSave.com/residential/. Depending on your utility company and the type of heating system you plan to install, you may also be eligible for rebates; check the MassSave website to find out about specific rebates.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to classic rock and dance music, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Cinnamon Urns*, folk, etc. 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *John Clarke*, Singer/Songwriter, 7 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: Open Mic night with host Peter Kim, Jimmy Arnold and Special Guest Guitar Mark Herschler, 9 p.m. All players welcome

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
Early Morning Nature Walks, start at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls at 8 a.m. Led by a DCR Interpreter take a leisurely walk along the bike path and village sidewalks. Learn about plants, animals, and mill town history. Also 9/12. (413) 863-3221.

Singer songwriter *Michael Orlen* performs at the Great Falls Coffeehouse. Orlen draws on an extensive knowledge of twentieth century folk, blues, and rag-time music to choose songs that resonate in today's world. The coffeehouse takes place in the historic Great Hall of



Michael Orlen performs at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls on Friday, September 10th starting at 7 p.m.

the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show at 7 p.m. Coffee & homemade baked goods. Museum Store open during intermission. Suggested donation of \$6 - \$12, free for children.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *The Green The Short Bus with Tony D*, Rock/funk/dance, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic driven originals, 9 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Welcome Hallmark Students! *Jamie Kent*, jazz/pop/rock, 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Flabberghaster*, rock/funk/blues, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, SEPT. 10th to 12th
Ambush On T Street at the Northampton Center for the Arts. Advanced tickets available at the Center for the Arts office or through www.zenpeacemakers.org Created and performed by Court Dorsey, Al Miller and John Sheldon. Additional performances in Shelburne Falls Sept. 24-25 and at Zen Peacemakers, Montague, Oct. 8-9.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th
Birds of the Massachusetts Coast: Piping Plovers and More, by photographer John Van De Graaff on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center thru **September 30th**. Reception 1 to 3 p.m. meet the photographer, see these amazing images.

PowerTown Music, a Social Enterprise of the Brick House Community Resource Center, presents: *Caravan of Thieves* 8 p.m. at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls. \$10 adv \$12 at the door. [\[avanofthieves.com\]\(http://avanofthieves.com\).](http://www.car-</p>
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Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae fantastiko! 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carrie Ferguson & Kristen Ford*, \$5 cover.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Mass Mobil Entertainment DJ*. 9:30 p.m. Bring a non perishable food item and receive a raffle ticket to be entered into our giveaway.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th
Montague Center: 2 p.m., Alice and Ted Armen have invited the Montague Backyard Gardeners to visit their mini farm and garden.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: SLOPE POETRY! at 5 p.m. Followed by TNT KARAOKE at 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harp Beat*, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmaster Chad's Quiznite Quiz! 8 p.m.

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..

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, Johnny Cash favorite tunes, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Tequila Tasting, 8:30 p.m. call for details. Then *Rockit Queer!* dance party, \$3 cover.

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
Echo Lake Coffeehouse, Leverett Town Hall: *Lary Kirwan*, lead singer of *Black 47*. The show starts at 4 p.m. \$10 - \$12. Info: www.echolakecoffeehouse.org or

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

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

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

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

Hilltown Brewfest
NEW SALEM - The New Salem General Store will present Hilltown Brewfest 2010 from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 11th at Cooleyville Junction, 837 Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202) in New Salem. The third annual afternoon tasting will feature more than 20 mostly regional brands of beer, wine and mead, along with food, raffles and three great live bands. Advance tickets are available at the New Salem General Store, Wendell Country Store and Deja Brew Café and Pub or online at www.hilltownbrewfest.com. A portion of proceeds will benefit the New Salem and Wendell fire departments. Attendees who volunteer to be designated drivers will receive a \$10.00 discount at the door. Tickets, directions to the event and more information are at www.hilltownbrewfest.com.

Mt Grace Annual Meeting
ERVING - The public is welcome to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's 24th annual meeting will be held Saturday, September 25th from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Fellows Homestead at 100 Murdock Hill Road in Erving, followed by a hike on the Brush Mountain section of the nearby Metacomet-Monadnock trail. Mount Grace is currently working with the 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 to protect 1,180 acres in six towns in the North Quabbin region. For tickets and further info: kotker@mountgrace.org or

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2. THE AMERICAN R in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 3:00 7:00 9:20
3. CATS AND DAGS: KITTY GALORE (3D) PG
DAILY 12:00 3:00
3. VAMPIRES SUCK PG13
DAILY 7:00 9:20
4. THE LAST EXORCISM PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. MACHETE R
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:00
6. GOING THE DISTANCE
R in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:00
7. RESIDENT EVIL: AFTER-LIFE R DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

The Rendezvous
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THURS 9/9 8pm FREE
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FRI 9/10
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Jamie Kent and the Options (pop)
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Kristen Ford (cd release!)
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Grilling in September

charcoal and then adding more wood chips, preferably maple, just before cooking. The result was delicious meat, poultry or fish delicately maple flavored. It just took time, a good hour or so.

In her seventies, my maternal grandmother who had cooked multiple family meals for many, many years ran into *The I Hate to Cook Book* by Peg Bracken. This little book became her kitchen Bible. Its basic premise is: with a well stocked cupboard of canned products and a little fresh meat or fish, you can make easy, tasty meals in just a few minutes. (The author had a caustic wit, a desire to take women out of the kitchen and a playful way of taking on stuffy, lengthy gourmet cooking approaches). She also supplied my grandmother with a whole new line of easy family specialties.

Personally, I enjoy cooking very much. There is, however, a comment early on in Bracken's book that describes her preference at the end of the day to wrapping her hands around a cold Martini rather than a wet piece of fish. That's where the

gas grill comes in.

I'd much rather wrap my fingers around a chilled glass of white wine than spend an hour preparing the charcoal grill. Properly used, the gas grill is quick and produces food that is cooked yet moist, whether you are preparing meat, fish or fowl, vegetables or summer fruits. The necessary supplies are limited to the grill, a good scraper and brush and one of those handy spray cans or bottles of olive oil.

Scrape the grill regularly, spray lightly with oil and pre-heat to a hot temperature. Turn the flame to medium and put on your food. Keep a close eye on your cooking and turn meat or fish once to brown on both sides.

Here are a few sample grilling recipes to get you started.

Grilled Fish or Chicken

Marinades: It's easy to overdo on the plethora of marinating products available. Chicken can be served a la many different cultures and hot or sweet depending on your choice of sauce. Most people marinate and then baste with so much sauce, the diner can only say what flavor it was, not what meat at the end of the meal.

Unless you are using a subtle flavor, 20-30 minutes in a bag or dish of marinade is all your chicken needs before cooking. Just

enough time for that chilled glass of wine. Remember, the marinade must be discarded after it has been used on raw meat. If you insist on more sauce, start with a fresh amount.

Fish is delicately flavored, and unless you hate it, why cover it up with a heavy marinade or sauce? For swordfish, I often use nothing more than a little vinegar and oil dressing followed by fresh lime after cooking. For tuna, I like a little soy sauce, and for salmon a bit of sesame oil, always served with fresh lime or lemon wedges after.

One more point, if you want to grill fish fillets, shrimp or scallops, you'd best invest in a mesh tray to set onto the hot grill or you'll never peel the thin fillets away, and you may lose the small shellfish between the grids.

Vegetables and fruits of the season: Almost any vegetable of the season is tasty coming off the grill. Simply apply the cooking time proportionately to the size of the vegetable you're cooking. For half summer squash or eggplant or potato halves, you need either to pre-boil or pre-treat in the microwave until they are starting to soften. Then treat with oil

and whatever salt, herb or pepper you prefer and grill, skin side up.

Most vegetables in this form can be added to your grill at the same time you turn your meat. Slices of squash or eggplant or half tomatoes can be done for shorter periods of time, (for instance, after you have removed the meat and before you shut off the grill).

Enjoy also grilled half peaches, especially nice with mildly flavored fish or chicken.

Grilled Corn on the Cob

Regardless of what the Gill Gourmet may say, after eating fresh corn boiled or steamed, I think this is by far the best way to prepare fresh, young corn.

Husk the number of ears you wish and set up pieces of heavy foil, large enough for two ears per piece. Butter and season the corn as you wish. Add two tablespoons of water and wrap the foil tightly. Grill each packet for five minutes per side, taking care to use tongs or a similar utensil when you turn the packets and mitts when you open the corn packets. They will be steaming! Feel free to cook more than you need for a meal because this stuff is heavenly and all you need to do is scrape the ears and save the leftover kernels in the refrigerator for a side dish or salad accompaniment. Delish!

Bon appetit and happy grilling!

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – During this summer's spells of heat and humidity I relied solely on my gas grill for evening meal preparation. It has many things to recommend it: low maintenance, outdoor residence and only minor heat production compared to the stove or oven. Scraped clean and prepped with oil, it's ready to go, and so is the food.

It's September now, the height of the harvest season, and outdoor grilling has never tasted better.

There are purists out there in great numbers who insist on charcoal cooking; understood, I used to be one of them. My late husband and I always cooked over a charcoal fire in our early years. We loved the ritual of starting the fire with dry wood chips and paper (never lighter fluid), creating a hot bed for the

Monarch Mania!

ATHOL - Kids delight in butterflies, and so does educator Rachel Roberts, who will present "Monarch Mania," exploring the complete life cycle of butterflies with emphasis on the monarchs now migrating through the area.

Geared toward families with young children, the program will be held on Saturday, September 11th from 1-2 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, in Athol.

Roberts is an award winning science teacher and mother who loves to share her passion for nature and art through teaching classes in the Pioneer Valley. Those seeking more information or wishing to register for the program can contact her at robertsml@verizon.net or 413-774-7290.

More information about the ABNC is available at www.millersriver.net. New members are welcome.

Playground Party

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Elementary School was teeming with families on Tuesday, August 31st, two days before the start of the new school year. Children are sometimes anxious about their 'new teacher' once the summer student assignment letters are mailed out, and principal Elizabeth Musgrave wants the school to be a welcoming place for all.

So last Tuesday, for the third year in a row, the Sheffield campus hosted a Playground Party to bring students and their parents together with teachers for an informal evening of food, fun and

conversation. It was the first of the monthly family events held at the schools. Musgrave began the family events program back in 2008 when she first came to the district; she works closely with Laurel Rollins, reading teacher and Title I family event coordinator to plan the monthly activities.

A September open house is planned for September 22nd and will be timed so parents can attend sessions at both campuses. The event will start at 5:10 p.m. at Hillcrest and finish up at the Sheffield campus. Students will receive more information through the school newsletter and reminders will go out through the All Call system.

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