



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 13 – NO. 25

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 9, 2015

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Rejects Recommended Assessor

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has rejected the recommendation of the town's Board of Assessors that David Zagorski be appointed Director of Assessing. After an interview with Zagorski and a brief discussion, the board voted 2-1 against the appointment at its April 6 meeting. Barbara Miller, who resigned the position last week, protested the board's decision, arguing that the rejection leaves her former department in limbo. But the board would not reconsider.

The potential Zagorski appointment had initially been presented to the selectboard at its March 30 meeting. Board members, particularly Mark Fairbrother, expressed concerns about Zagorski's qualifications and the process which led to his appointment.

This resulted in a week's delay, presumably to discuss the issue in a non-public executive session. However, it was determined that such a session would violate the state Open Meeting Law, so the interview of Zagorski was held in public.

At the April 6 meeting, the applicant sat with Paul Emery, chair of the board of assessors, at the front

see MONTAGUE page A4

Fairbrother Snags Dem Nomination, 12 Votes to 5

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Twenty voters turned out to Montague's Democratic Party caucus Wednesday night to determine which candidates would appear on the town's May 18 ballot with the party designation. All races were uncontested, except for the selectboard seat, for which incumbent Mark Fairbrother defeated Jacobo Roque by a 12 – 5 margin.

Fairbrother was unavailable for comment, not having stayed for the caucus meeting.

Any Montague voter who is registered as a Democrat or as unenrolled may vote in the caucus.

"The caucus is an essential part of our democratic tradition," said Roque. "I'm looking forward to the debate. I've been told that, for years, the caucus leadership hasn't changed. The same people come out, and the same voices are heard."

"Yes, I've been chair since 2002. The other four offices have changed since then," said committee chair Jay DiPucchio.

"The town committee will change as much as people want. There are those that are committed, and they attend every meeting.... We're not keeping people out, that's

see CAUCUS page A8

A LITTLE BRASS BEFORE CLASS



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Students and parents at Sheffield Elementary get a sneak preview Wednesday morning of Thursday's Education Concert at the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra. Jean Jeffries (French horn), Ben Smar (trombone), and Melissa Willis (trumpet) spoke about their instruments and treated the audience to pieces by Ewazen, Shaw, Poulenc and Handel.

Get Your Bike Back on the Road!

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – When the cold, sand-laden winds of April finally go away, there will finally come along the perfect spring day to go for a bike ride. There's lots of places right in Montague to go for a family friendly outing as well as more challenging solo or group ventures, and spring is also the perfect time to start a fitness routine that includes biking.

Whatever the motivation, when you get the urge to shake off the doldrums of extended winter by pumping the pedals around, you don't want to pull the bike out of the cellar or garage and not be able to hop right on it and take off.

Let's talk about tuning up your bike for spring. You can avoid those last-minute trips to the bike shop, and the desperate pleading that ensues when you find yourself among a dozen others of your ilk standing in line and bleating about

tire and tube repairs...

David Carr, owner of Basically Bicycles in Turners Falls, says the number one reason people come in or call in the spring is their tires. Tires will normally leak air, and after several months sitting around in the winter, it is normal for them to go flat.

Fresh Air

Instead of picking up the phone to call the bike shop, people should first pick up their hand pump or bring the bike to the gas station and add some air to the tires.

Not sure how?

"First, you need to know your valve type," advises Carr, "so you know how to set up your pump, and how to attach the pump to the valve and inflate the tire."

There are two types of valves: Presta (also called "French" or "needle" valves) and Schrader. To add or release air from Presta valves, you must first unscrew the tip by turn-



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

ing it counterclockwise. To let air out, press down on the tip to open it. Also, before inflation, press down to make sure the valve is open.

For Schrader valves, which are like the ones on your car, simply attach the pump and get to work. To release air, stick something in to the valve to depress the little pin

see BICYCLES page A5

After the Fire, Taking an Inventory

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – "I love wood, so pretty much everything was made of wood and was natural," said Linda Ackerman, "from the cedar shakes right down to the Adirondack chairs out on the deck."

In the early hours of last Friday morning, an ember from Ackerman's woodstove apparently ignited the roof of her Taylor Hill Road home of forty years. She woke up when an alarm sounded to see the living room curtains on fire, and left the house barefoot with her cat Smudge in her arms.

Ackerman, well known in town as the branch manager at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls,



JOHANNA BATES PHOTO

Little of Ackerman's house was left standing.

was back in the office this week, upbeat but overwhelmed both at the challenges ahead of her – and at an outpouring of support and concern she has received from the community.

"I had never even had an accident," she says. Now, she is dealing with the loss of both her home and her trademark red convertible. It looks like most of the property was covered by insurance policies, but some items are irreplaceable, including items belonging to her parents, who passed away in November and February.

Since the fire, Ackerman and Smudge have been staying at her daughter's home in Leverett. Smudge spent the first two days there covering behind a shelf.

"He was obviously traumatized," Ackerman said. She had held onto the indoor cat throughout the fire, as the two watched fire companies from nine towns extinguish the flames. "We were sitting right on the wall, with all of the fire trucks lined up in front of us, for four and a half hours," she said.

The fire was at least the fourth in two months, following blazes at an empty Wendell residence, a Leverett horse farm and a multi-family Montague City house.

"Friday afternoon, a couple of the neighbors started to come down – I had people who drove by who were my customers, who said, 'we just want to see you and know that you're okay, because that wasn't much

see FIRE page A4

Wendell Clears Fiber-Optic Hurdle

By MIKE JACKSON

Last week, Wendell and Shutesbury became the first two towns in the region to qualify for fiber optic high-speed internet under the WiredWest cooperative. Forty percent of households in those towns, considered the minimum to make the project work financially, have put down a deposit and signed up for the service.

"I think it's a stunning collective community achievement," said Wendell broadband committee chair Robbie Leppzer, adding that his town crossed the threshold "in just over four weeks," second in the region and only one day after neighboring Shutesbury.

The two towns, along with Warwick and New Salem, are working to present themselves to the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) as a contiguous "model region" in hopes they will be first in line for the buildout, according to Leppzer. The other 28 towns are all west of the Connecticut River.

WiredWest's plan combines matching funds pledged by the state for last-mile internet with money pooled from its member towns. The

see WENDELL page A4

RiverCulture Kicks Off T³F Season with Salon

By TIA FATTARUSO

TURNERS FALLS – "The town is going to be packed with art," said RiverCulture's Suzanne LoManto of the upcoming Third Thursday in Turners Falls (T³F) downtown art walk on Thursday, April 16, beginning at 4:30.

"Everyone's excited to participate because it's the first one of the year," she said, adding that folks have been inside and isolated this arduous, cold winter, and many of them have been making art.

All the usual suspects will have a fantastic offering of a wide range of music and art forms. An unplanned but emerging theme is that there will be plenty of interactive art.

Belinda Lyons is one of 19 community participants in the *Rotation Book Project*, the closing reception for which will be held at Great Falls Harvest, 50 Third Street, from 4:30 to 6:30.

"It's a very interactive exhibit," Lyons said, explaining that viewers are able to touch and look through the books.

Each artist started with a blank book, she said, assigned their book a theme, then passed them around.

"Everyone got to put an entry in

see THURSDAY page A6

The Montague Reporter

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Spaces for Disagreement

This spring we are seeing considerable momentum toward the delivery of high-speed internet service to rural households in the area.

Leverett's town-owned system is going live this month, and Wendell just cleared the threshold of commitment to make a WiredWest plan affordable. Montague's town meeting members will be asked next month to sponsor a pole survey necessary to get its southern hills properly hooked into the teeming global hive mind.

At the *Montague Reporter*, we've been thinking and talking more about online interaction because we're in the midst of a capital campaign aimed primarily at developing our own website. In conversations about the roles we do, and don't, hope our site would serve, we often encounter the metaphor of a public "space" for discussion.

But we don't need online forums to connect us with our own neighbors. In our towns we are blessed with a great number of actual places where people can, and do, meet up and talk with each other – from bars to churches, from schools to shops, from town hall meeting rooms to street corners to dumps.

The internet provides an inferior version of this by affording us endless options to partition, ignore, "de-friend" those we don't see eye to eye with – and by making our worst reactions to disagreement permanently visible, reducing the chances we'll patch things up after an open spat.

In terms of how people spend our time, going online is generally much more social than watching television. But a television that yells back at the viewer and has an infinite number of stations is, after a while, just an echo chamber, connecting each user with like-minded souls scattered around the globe.

That's not entirely a bad thing, but it is when your children go to school together and you discover your neighbor believes vaccination is a tool of a global environmentalist cabal seeking to urbanize and emasculate the American population so as to better control it – and that, more irritatingly, they have endless citations, thanks to the internet, to back it up.

It's a bit of a taboo to acknowledge this, but New England's vaunted democratic traditions grew out of religious stricture and

thrived on homogeneity. When serious arguments arose, meetings, and therefore towns, would often split – a failure to live with their own disagreement was one of the mechanisms that spread the English settlers so widely across the land.

And when the industrial revolutions brought great masses of people from a variety of other countries into the region, what we think of as traditional New England society was often unable to integrate them, and instead retreated to become a more and more rural scene.

Paradoxically, this cultural insulation, quiet and thrifty and introspective, has proven attractive to generations of tourists, city folk and outsiders of a certain temperament.

And so, since perhaps as early as the 1830s, our deteriorating agricultural (and later industrial) bases have been periodically refreshed with a gentle shower of disaffected, downwardly mobile elites, who tend to view the area as a sandbox in which to test and redeem their competing pet theories on what a more moral, wholesome, voluntary and cooperative society might look like.

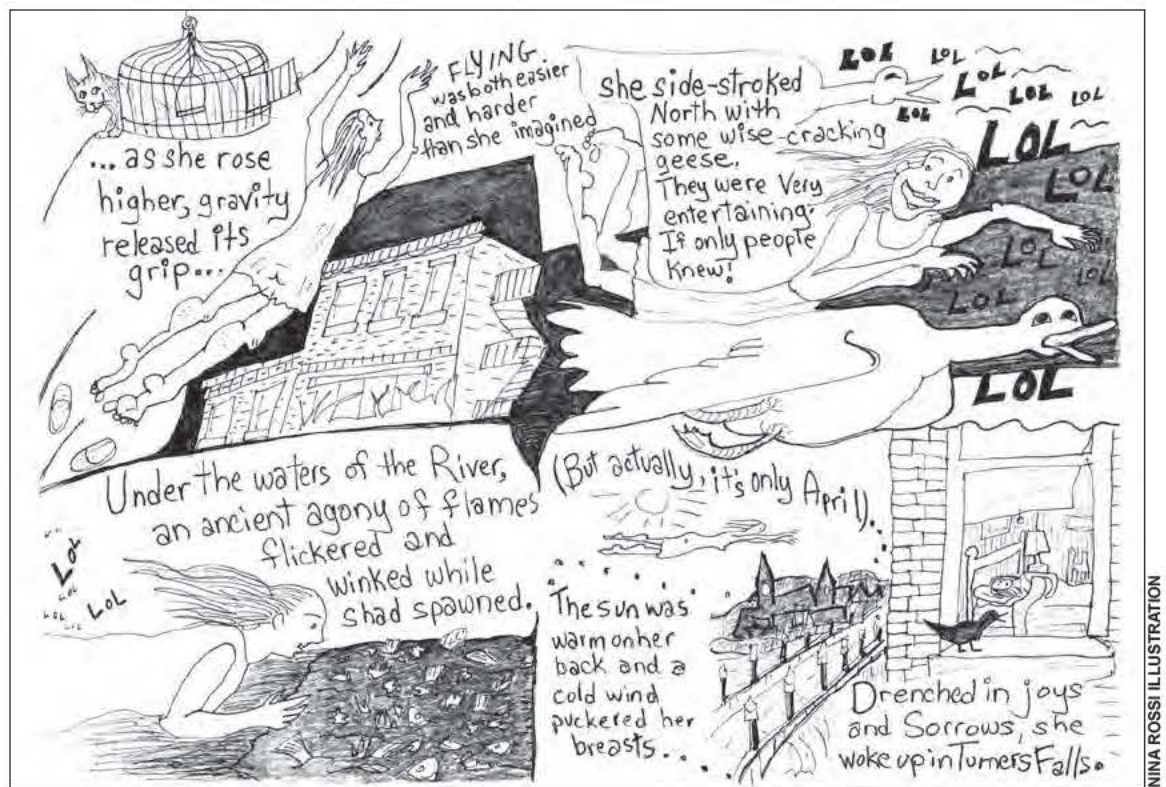
This is one of the reasons we live in a beautiful place full of caring and interesting people. But it has also lent itself to a peculiar drive to fortify and insulate the region, culturally speaking, and for newcomers who can't as easily reinvent themselves as natives, some of the talk of democracy and inclusion can come across as a little mealy-mouthed.

We have a lot invested in this place, and much of it is very real: conservation and restoration of the land, a strong value placed on local commerce, and a general tolerance for artistic, spiritual, and personal exploration.

Those whose grandparents immigrated to work in the mills live side-by-side with those whose great-grandparents were farmers, craftsmen, ministers and merchants.

Most of the time, our pragmatism outweighs our utopianism. Confronted with the balance sheet, most homeowners don't want to be paying mortgages in a land that time forgot – they want those cables connected to their houses.

But the internet threatens to puncture our regional identities, and disrupt our carefully patched-together economies. Wikipedia



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Don't Lose the Dump!

The Leverett selectboard recently suggested the idea of closing the Leverett Transfer Station and replacing it with curbside pickup.

This is a very bad idea, and one that will take away one more place where residents of Leverett can feel like we belong to this community.

I understand the economics and conveniences that lead to this suggestion. However, it is an idea that sadly moves Leverett one step closer to being a community with almost no places where you can meet your neighbors or have any sense that you live in a community.

The "dump" (yes, many of us still affectionately call it the dump, in spite of Richard's attempts to change our language) serves many functions beyond garbage deposit:

- You can recycle ANYTHING at the

landfill.

- Rattlesnake Gutter recycle can collection.

- Take It or Leave It – I still remember bringing my mother's clothes to the Take It or Leave It shed, where they were quickly and happily scooped up by two elderly neighbors.

- It is where we leave and gather books and toys for our grandchildren.

- Whenever we were looking for signatures of political petitions, it is one of the only places to find Leverett residents in any numbers.

Closing the landfill will make Leverett one more anonymous suburb of Amherst.

That is an unhappy prospect.

Tom Wolff
Leverett

The Patch Stop

The report on school bus service, well, winters are over. The things said are not true. There are kindergarten kids on the bus. Get your facts right and how much can it cost to drive over the bridge. You people don't know what you're talking about. They should be picked up, summer or winter. Come on, they're only 6 years old. Let's not let them freeze – or don't you care? Hey Sullivan, have you gone out and looked at it?

George Carner
Turners Falls

Editor's note: Mr. Carner is responding to a statement made by GMRSD business director Joanne Blier at a March 24 school committee meeting that a bus driver could not remember kindergarten children getting on at the 11th Street bus stop this year.

Against the Pipeline? Write Your Own Story

Here's a great opportunity to do something that's fairly easy to help the movement against the pipeline: Write a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which has a say in permitting pipelines, then send copies to Gov. Baker and all our legislators.

Because we are still in the early part of the pre-filing stage of the process, letters to FERC do not have to be technical or detailed. (A technical comment period is expected in May.) So for those of us who are worried we may not know enough about the issue, here's a terrific chance to make some impact with minimal effort.

We will hold three letter-writing events: Thursday, April 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Arts Bank, 3 Sug-

arleaf Street, South Deerfield; and Tuesday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the South County Senior Center, 67 North Main Street, South Deerfield.

If you have a laptop, please bring it. Pens, paper, envelopes, stamps, and refreshments will be provided.

If you can't attend, you can write a letter on your own! It should be a narrative, in your own words, about why you oppose the pipeline. It can be as long or as short as you wish, but please write your own thoughts and comments, as letters with identical wording are likely to be disregarded. For inspiration, some talking points are provided at nofrackedgasinmass.org.

You can contact FERC by following the instructions for comments on their website, or by sending a

surface mail letter to the address they provided on their website. In either case, remember to include the correct docket number for the project, #PF14-22.

After you've written to them, remember to send copies to Gov. Baker and our legislators.

We are the movement! If you believe that eminent domain should not be for private gain, if you believe that global warming might decide the fate of the earth, and if you love our rural landscape, tell FERC and our government leaders to stop this pipeline.

Cathy Bertinuson,
Reenie Clancy,
Corinne Dugas,
and Ava Gips
Deerfield

lists thirty-seven American places referred to by their residents as "The Valley." This place we all love might just turn out to be a thinly settled suburb of the megalopolis on the eastern seaboard of North America.

It is up to us what more connection to the outside world will mean

to this valley in particular.

Entering the "space" of the internet doesn't mean turning away from the spaces and places we have built. It can remind us of their value, and help give us tools and knowledge to preserve them.

We can benefit from keeping up with a changing global culture

and also gather at the clubhouse, or the pub, or the park, or the community center – where we will face the people, so much like ourselves, with whom we must still, painfully, learn the most crucial social value of our era: peaceful disagreement.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Enjoy the exploding colors of a slide presentation on the **birds of Hawai'i** at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The presentation will be led by area bird naturalist, Joshua Rose, who has spent time in Hawai'i, especially the largest island, and is eager to share his passion of these truly gorgeous creatures while adding his knowledge and insight.

There will be an Artist Reception for the exhibit of oil paintings by renowned artist Steven Stroud at **Leverett Crafts and Arts**, 13 Montague Road in Leverett, on Sunday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Stroud spent 25 years as an illustrator with his work appearing on the covers of many best selling authors including Stephen King, Clive Cussler, John Sanford and Isaac Asimov. His work is featured in the book *The Illustrator in America* by

Walt Reed.

Shroud is a past president of the Society of Illustrators in New York City. The show features landscapes and figurative work from the New England area.

Learn all about **shortnose sturgeon** with Dr. Boyd Kynard on Wednesday, April 15, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Sturgeon coexisted with dinosaurs, making the endangered Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon very special.

Dr. Kynard has spent more than 35 years studying this fish with UMass (ECO Dept), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Geologic Survey (Conte Lab).

Dr. Kynard will discuss how Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon went from being a "landlocked" population located only upstream of Holyoke Dam in the 1970s to a non-landlocked population that ranges throughout the river. You will hear about his research on

spawning locations, effect of hydro-power operations on spawning, and population status.

This research is providing guidance for regulatory and fisheries management agencies during the current re-licensing of hydro-power operations at Holyoke and Turners Falls dams.

Enjoy a presentation on **Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows** by Mara Silver at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Thursday, April 16, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Cliff and Barn Swallows, both once numerous on farmsteads in New England, are declining in Massachusetts. Using relatively simple techniques, Silver has successfully attracted both species and encouraged their nesting success at several sites in the state.

Silver's presentation will cover how she developed these techniques, her more recent efforts to attract Cliff Swallows to a previously-unused site in Shelburne, and to enhance the Barn Swallow population there.

You will also learn how you can help these species on your property. Spring is around the corner, the swallows will be back before you know it.

Also at the GFDC is the return of the **Jurassic Roadshow** on Sat-

urday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring Andy Brodeur, Ed Gregory, and Dan Vellone.

See **real dinosaur tracks**, rain-drop impressions, ripple marks, and other local fossils and learn about the dinosaurs that lived right here millions of years ago. Vellone will give an informal talk about dinosaur anatomy, how these traces of life were created and preserved, and why paleontologists see dinosaurs as birds. The event is appropriate for all ages. Exhibit is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Talk by professional geologist Vellone at 1:30 p.m. For more information visit jurassicroadshow.wordpress.com

All three events are free and held in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

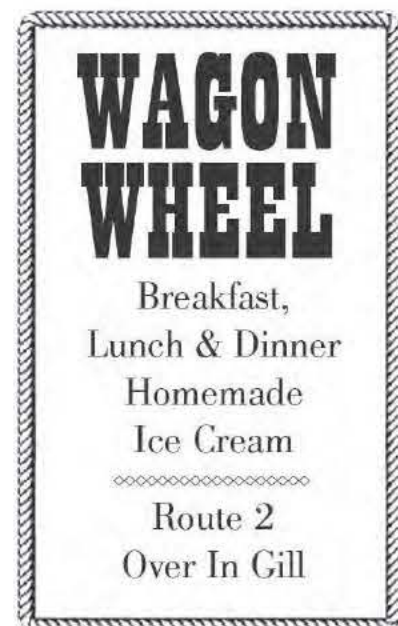
Just for a heads up, Saturday, April 18, in Turners Falls is shaping up to be a **day full of fun family events**.

In addition to the Jurassic Roadshow, there is **Peter Cottontail's Eggstravaganza** at Unity Park starting sharply at 11 a.m., and the **Franklin County Spring Parade** starting at 1 p.m. All are free, so plan accordingly and enjoy your day in town.

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Capital Campaign Challenge

Over the last two weeks we have received generous contributions from many of our readers toward our current capital campaign, which has set a goal of \$10,000 earmarked primarily toward the development of a website at montaguereporter.org, and associated hardware and software upgrades.

We are on our way to meeting that goal, but the campaign is still wide open. This is an opportunity for us to grow as an organization, and connect with a new generation of readers and writers in our communities.

Let us know if you did not re-

ceive an envelope, which went out with our March 26 edition, or if you have any questions.

One reader, who wishes to remain anonymous, has issued a **challenge**: if, and only if, two other donors pledge \$100 a year for 5 years toward this fund, this reader will do the same.

This is a great way to effectively triple your donation. To accept the challenge, please indicate "Challenge Pledge" on your envelope.

Thank you to all who have contributed so far! We will continue with these updates as the campaign progresses.

Building Young Children's Brains

April 12 through 18 is the "Week of the Young Child". The purpose of this annual celebration is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Here in Massachusetts, there is a focus on the Brain Building in Progress (BBIP) campaign. Based upon the latest science on early childhood development, the campaign's mission is to raise awareness of the importance of fostering the cognitive, social and emotional development of young children.

According to the BBIP campaign, just like a game of tennis or volleyball, there is a back and forth between young children and their parents, caregivers and community that "wires" their brains. According to leading researchers, in the first few years of life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second!

Parents are the first and most important teachers of young children. They can help build their child's brain by reading with them, asking lots of open-ended questions and engaging them in play.

For fun ideas about how to turn any moment into a brain building moment, go to the BBIP Week website and view or download their activity guides at brainbuildinginprogress.org/bbipweek.

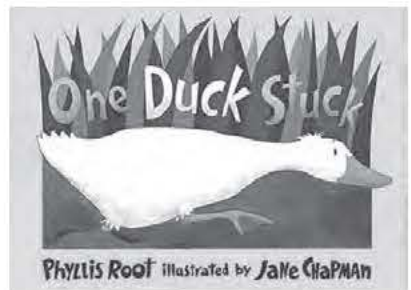
Here in Turners Falls, families with young children can take advantage of the following local, free brain building activities.

From Monday, April 13 to Saturday, April 25, the Gill-Montague School district's Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Council (CFCE), in collaboration with local businesses and the Carnegie Library, is sponsoring a Story Walk in downtown Turners Falls.

The pages of the story *One Stuck Duck* will be displayed, alongside art created by 1st graders at Hillcrest Elementary, in the windows of busi-

nesses on Avenue A, including the *Montague Reporter*.

StoryWalk helps build children's interest in reading while encouraging healthy outdoor activity for both children and their grown-ups. The StoryWalk begins at Montague Catholic Social Ministries and continues down Avenue A to the Carnegie Library. Go all the way to the end and find out how his pond friends take turns trying to help free the stuck duck from the muck!



Once at the library you can get a library card if you don't already have one. There are also wonderful brain building activities happening at local libraries during this week and ongoing throughout the spring and summer. All programs are fun and free!

Carnegie Library: Animal A,B,C's: Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to join naturalist, Dawn Marvin Ward, to learn all about antlered animals, beaver, and coyote on Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Carnegie Library: Story Time: Young children of all ages and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks with artist Ruth O'Mara on Wednesdays 10:15 a.m.

Montague Center Library: Monday night Story Hour, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Millers Falls Library: Library Club, a free after-school and summer program that meets on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Slate Library, Gill: Story Hour every Friday at 10 a.m. with stories, popcorn, and a hands on craft project!

Literacy Night at Sheffield Elementary

By PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS – On the last day of March, Sheffield Elementary School held its annual literacy event, formerly known as Dr. Seuss Night. The evening is made possible by a Title One grant, and judging from the turnout, is also well-supported by families in the school.

The evening begins with a pizza dinner and ends with colorfully frosted Seuss cupcakes for dessert. When I arrived the cupcakes were becoming an item of great interest to students and the lunchroom was packed with moms and dads, their students and other big and little sisters and brothers.

Activities for the evening, all focused on reading, were quite varied and all were encouraged to make their way from one reader to another as they liked.

Second grade teacher Susan Pelis had prepared a bookmaking workshop with all the components necessary to construct a blank book and decorate it. Students could select from a variety of colorful covers,

and decorative elements like sparkling pipe cleaners, folded blank pages. Each table held a wide selection of colors and markers for students to design, decorate or fill with words. One child said his book was going to be his diary.

Down the hall was the Read-Aloud stories read by different staff members. David Weidenfeld, a counselor, read a story in Spanish to a happy group of Spanish speakers and their parents.

The upstairs school library hosted a cozy reading area for kids who wanted their parents to read to them, or wished to read to their parents.

Then, in the auditorium students could read aloud and be videoed doing so. I observed a delightful trio take turns reading various news items. The youngest one, I think, was ad-libbing.

Toward the end of the evening everyone returned to the lunchroom to choose a free book of their choice. Books were provided by the staff of the school. Children went away very proud to have a new book of their own.

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WENDELL from page A1

municipally owned and operated model it espouses grew out of decade-long coordination among town broadband committees throughout the region.

Wendell residents will face a vote on a bond measure at their annual town meeting on Monday, June 8, and if it passes, a debt exclusion ballot question after that.

The town's application is due to the MBI in early July, and assuming it is approved, the two-year installation will begin, starting with a period of "make ready" negotiations with electricity and phone utilities over poles and wiring.

"People really want to have broadband – yes-

terday," said Leppzer.

Right now, Wendell residents who wish to access the internet do so in a patchwork of ways: old-fashioned dialup over telephone lines; private satellite hookups; going to town hall or the library, which received high-speed internet under the MBI's middle mile project; or via Country Roads, which uses a wireless signal and is available only in a small section of town.

"For the topography of Western Massachusetts, wireless really doesn't work, because of the hills and valleys, and the leaves of the trees," Leppzer said, adding that a typical satellite feed allows for downloads of up to 12 megabytes per second (MBps) of data, while the fiber-optic broadband

should provide between 25 and 1,000 MBps.

Wendell and Shutesbury were originally part of a three-town committee with Leverett, but that town saw an opportunity to fund its own municipal fiber optic buildout directly through tax increases, which voters approved in 2012. That project is now in its final stages.

"It speaks well to the nature of how we do things in Wendell, and in Western Mass," said Leppzer. "This is an extraordinary achievement of a community-based effort: citizens organizing for a cooperative solution."

As of press time, 32% of New Salem households and 17% of Warwick ones had signed on.



MONTAGUE from page A1

table while selectboard chair Chris Boutwell asked a series of questions. Zagorski began by recounting his qualifications. He had worked, he said, "thirteen or fourteen years in the field," and had climbed "up the ladder" in the towns of Granby, Hatfield and Becket.

Zagorski admitted that he had inadvertently allowed his professional certificate to expire but stated, as he had the previous week, the problem would be resolved by mid-April. Zagorski was then asked about a "gap" in his resume since leaving Becket. He stated that he had worked for three months in Northampton but had not put it on his resume because he did not deem it "relevant" to the Montague position.

When asked why he had left Northampton, he stated that it was due to the fact that his resume failed to indicate his certification had lapsed.

Zagorski was also asked about a controversy in Hatfield, purportedly over the setting of the local tax rate. He replied that he had hired an outside vendor but that one member of the board of assessors of that town was "not thrilled with the process."

Zagorski was then asked a series of questions focusing on the role of the assessor in classifying property, setting the tax rate, and responding to challenges to the department's decisions in appellate court. Montague is currently in the midst of a major case that, should the town lose, could have a significant impact on local taxes.

Mark Fairbrother asked who Zagorski had replaced in Hatfield. He replied that it was Barbara Miller.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson stated that he was concerned about the gap in Zagorski's resume. Zagorski replied that there were not many jobs in the field, particularly in the western part of the state. "It is tough to be out of work in this field," he said.

At this point, a motion to appoint Zagorski director was voted down by a margin of two to one.

Miller, who had not participated in the discussion to this point, then rose to protest the board's action. She stated that the Assessors had spent \$500 on a search process, but had only received four applications, several of whom did not meet minimal qualifications. "There's not a lot out there," she told the board.

Miller also asked what the selectboard planned to do while a new search process was implemented, since there is currently no director.

"I don't know what to tell you," she said, "but I'm worried about what's going to happen with the department." She also stated that she had, at one time, allowed her certification to expire.

Zagorski, she argued, had more direct experience in appellate court than she. Finally, Miller asked why the selectboard was deciding the issue since by state law, she claimed, the board of assessors "appoints its assistant."

After pleas from Emery and Zagorski to reconsider, the selectboard moved on.

"Soap Opera" Continues

The next topic was a proposal to grant an extension to a permit for use of "public property at 104 Avenue A" for "items in front of store on the sidewalk" and "use of the planter."

The store in question is owned by art and antique dealer Rodney Madison, who appeared before the selectboard with a contingent of his supporters.

Several weeks earlier the board had rescinded Madison's permit to use both the sidewalk and the planter to display his "items" because the required insurance had expired. The proposed motion would have delayed this action until April 14, pending a decision by the local planter committee on policies with

regard to planters on Avenue A.

Madison, who sat at the front table addressing the board but also periodically swiveling to address the audience, questioned why he alone, among the business owners on Avenue A, was required to buy insurance for his planter. He also stated that he had been told by one selectboard member that "there is no planter committee."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio replied that there was a planter committee, but that it was an "ad hoc" committee formed a number of years ago by Turners Falls resident Ann Jemas, among others. He briefly described the history of the committee.

"This is a soap opera," declared Madison. "How long are we going to do this?" The topic of items in his planter, sometimes referred to as "non-plant objects," had been the subject of frequent selectboard discussions over the past two years.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson stated that the board was not interested in continuing to argue about the planter, which was why it wanted to give the planter committee the opportunity to prepare guidelines.

Several members of the audience spoke in support of Madison, questioning why the insurance requirement, intended for items on the sidewalk, had been extended to the planter.

Rick Widmer, director of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge organization, praised both the selectboard and Madison. He said he "supported" the town, and that Madison's openness and energy helped convince him to come to Montague.

The board voted to extend permission to use the sidewalk and planter to display items until April 14.

Information Disputed

The board then moved on to the next topic on the agenda, which was

a request by Charles Kelly to join the town broadband committee. This seemingly innocent agenda item also proved to be contentious.

Kelly, sitting down at the front table, stated that he strongly supported the current broadband proposal (which will appear on the agenda of the upcoming spring town meeting) for expanded service to Chestnut Hill, Taylor Hill and Meadow Road. He complained about "misinformation" regarding his stance on the issue. Kelly also stated that he had recently been on the broadband committee, so his request was for a "reappointment."

Abbondanzio noted that there were only two open slots left on the committee: one representing the cable advisory committee, and one representing the airport industrial park.

Kelly indicated he would be interested in representing the industrial park, but would need to talk to businesses there.

Rob Steinberg, a current member of the broadband committee, stated that Kelly had attended a recent broadband forum and had been "disruptive." Kelly, according to Steinberg, had made a number of "misstatements of fact" and kept arguing that the company WiredWest should administer the project.

Kelly replied that this was "misinformation," and that he had only advocated that WiredWest be brought in as a consultant to the Montague project. He denied he had been disruptive at the meeting: "When I felt like they were getting a little agitated, I split."

The board did not appoint Kelly, but directed him to contact selectboard assistant Wendy Bogusz to obtain information about the industrial park.

The selectboard adjourned at 8:10 p.m., after a short but tough day at the office.



FIRE from page A1

coverage," Ackerman said. "People were so sweet."

By her return to the office on Monday, news had spread far and wide, and she was greeted by "a steady stream of well-wishers. It made me very humble, and made me say, who am I?"

"And everybody just says, 'well, you are you.' But I don't think I really 'do' anything... You do something for somebody because that's what you should do. And you can do your job a little bit kinder and gentler, or you can do your job with an iron fist."

Ackerman has been going through "over 400 emails," she said, some of which were as simple as "OMG," and is in the process of replacing keys and cards, and working with her adult children to reconstruct the lost contents of her house for the insurance inventory.

The totaled Miata, she says, was covered through Partridge & Zschau. "An adjuster called

me Friday afternoon, saying, 'don't move the car.' It's like, well, the front end is melted in the driveway, and the keys were in my pocketbook, which was in the kitchen, which no longer exists. So, even if I wanted to move it, I couldn't."

She does, though, still have her four-wheel drive Trailblazer. "I was very lucky that it was at Rau's Sunoco being serviced, and that Ralph needed a spare key... Once I got my car back, I felt like a more independent person."

Homeowners aren't required by law to have insurance. "Normally, coverage is minimal, for whatever your mortgage is," she said, and sometimes homeowners will let their insurance lapse after their mortgage has been paid off.

Ackerman was covered, though she doubts she'll be able to remember everything in the house, and wonders whether her insurance company will even believe some of the contents – including a ten-speed bike, a gift from the bank in recognition of her years of service, which had

still been sitting, not yet assembled, in a box in her dining room.

"And how do I know how many shoes I have?"

For now she is starting over from scratch. "I stopped up at Cruise & Travel because I know Deb makes earrings. She said, 'Linda, just pick out a pair – they're yours.'"

Looking around her office at the bank, she points out other items people have dropped off, including a frying pan, blender, litter box, clothes, and even a small bottle of holy water.

"I never thought of myself as a homeless woman," Ackerman said. "I guess it's the truth... But I don't have a home to go to, I guess."

What happens next with the property? "I don't know... you can't just push everything into the cellar."

"I don't want to see the demolition. That would be too heartbreaking."



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The New Unity Park

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Unity Park, located in Turners Falls since 1920, is currently in the final stages of a facility-wide rehabilitation project. According to the Turners Falls Riverculture website, the award-winning park is one of the most popular outdoor recreation areas in Franklin County.

The park now includes a new playground with a whale water spray feature, a sand volleyball court, a community garden, two rain gardens and a butterfly garden, ball fields, and a paved walking path with fitness stations.

Near the parking lot at the far end of the park, there is a dog run. Dog walkers also use the bike trail that ends there. There are plans to install a sway fun glider this spring, to accommodate individuals with mobility issues, and a skate park is slated to be built this summer.

When asked what award the park had won, Montague Parks and Recreation director Jon Dobosz said “it won the Facility Design Award from the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association.”

“The playground had really old structures, and no access for people with mobility issues,” Dobosz said, when asked why the park was rehabilitated. “The park just needed a facelift.” A number of public hearings were held. “People had different suggestions to

what they wanted to see in Unity Park,” he said.

Dobosz has been director of Parks and Recreation since October 2001. His responsibilities include programs, such as the swim team and day camp, as well as the park and general operations of the department.

Besides the dog walkers, who use the dog run, there is an adult softball league, and the department is also trying to get an adult sand volleyball league going.

Montague received a matching grant from the state PARC program last year to help fund a state-of-the-art skatepark. The Parks and Rec Department’s newsletter, *Spring Fun Times*, points out that the project is still accepting donations to the fund to build it.

The 10th Annual Peter Cottontail Eggstravaganza will occur on Saturday, April 18 in the park. It will involve many raffles, pictures with Peter Cottontail, and a search for 5,000 candy- and toy-filled eggs.

Activities like the Eggstravaganza, where people socialize with each other, are part of Unity Park’s long history in Turners Falls. With the facility-wide rehabilitation project, and new activities like a sand volleyball league, I believe that this should go on for quite some time.

The park is a historical landmark, coming up for a 100-year anniversary, and I believe it will endure for another hundred years.

BICYCLES from page A1

inside of it.

In both cases, be sure to push the head of the pump onto the valve far enough. It should cover one- to two-thirds of the valve stem. Some lock on with a lever that you need to flip before pumping.

Most hand pumps now have heads that will fit either Presta or Schrader valves. The smaller hole is for the Presta valve. You will need an adapter to use a gas station or other compressor pump on the Presta. The adapters are cheap, and can be left on the valve stem. In a pinch, some people have cut off the end of the rubber cap and left it on the valve stem to get the larger pump fitting at a gas station to go on securely, but the right adapters are cheap insurance for never having to face this dilemma or use this hack.

There appears to be a bit of snobbery involved in the Presta versus Schrader tire valve issue, with some folks claiming that “only crappy bikes have Schrader valves.” Presta valves allow higher tire pressures to be held and, since the valve is smaller, skinnier tires to be used. They are less common. And French. A set-up for snootiness.

While you are fooling with your valves, no doubt wishing you had those little Presta valves instead of the big, gross, leaky Schrader ones, get a good eyeball on your tires to check for cracking, dry rot and excessive wear.

If the tires are worn, you’ll want to replace them; if the wheels are flat after filling and waiting a day, you will need new tubes. These are both things that are relatively easy to do with some simple tools available at

any bike shop.

You will need to release the brakes and remove the wheels to change the tubes and/or tires. The Basically Bicycles website has instructions in their maintenance section on www.basicallybicycles.com.

Keep a spare tube, tool kit, and portable pump with you when you ride to avoid being stranded. Your local bike shop is happy to change tubes and tires for you as well, but you may have to wait.



Other Items to Check

Lift the bike and spin the front and rear wheels one at a time. “If the wheel looks wobbly, it may not be installed properly or it may need to be trued,” says Carr.

He recommends having a friend on hand to help with spinning and checking the brakes: “squeeze the brake lever to make sure the brakes can stop the wheel – release the lever and spin the wheel again to make sure the brake is not rubbing on the rim.”

While your friend spins the rear wheel, operate the front and rear shifter levers on multi speed models

to see if there are any issues there.

Brake and shifter adjustments are things you may want to bring to the professional bike shop. During this time of year especially, try not to wait until the weekend to drop it off. Coming by mid-week avoids the crush.

Other things to inspect in the spring are the frame, brake pads, chain, and cables. Wipe down your frame with soap and water if it’s dirty and check for cracks. You may wax it.

Look at the chain and cogs and wipe them down with a rag and degreaser and re-lube with appropriate bicycle oil from a bike shop by dripping or spraying it on and working the parts. Be very sure not to get oil on brake pads or wheel rims.

Check that the brake pads are not worn out; if you can’t squeeze the levers hard enough to stop the wheel, or the pad has worn its grooves away, it’s time to replace them. Carr advises to clean the pads and rim with rubbing alcohol to remove grime that builds up and could affect braking.

Inspect the cables for the shifters and brakes for wear and operate them to be sure they are not binding.

One last thing: check that your helmet is not cracked or bashed up, and that the buckles and straps are in good shape. Keep a water bottle with you when you ride.

Plan your ride in advance; web sites and apps like www.mapmyride.com make this very easy. Local bike shops also carry maps with routes marked on them and can offer advice for local rides. Some of them even coordinate group rides you can join.

Have fun!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Meeting Warrant Closed

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday April 6, the Erving selectboard closed the warrant for the May 6 annual town meeting. In addition to the \$9.3 million fiscal year 2016 budget, approved last week, the warrant includes a zoning bylaw that would allow above-ground liquid petroleum products/tanks in the town’s groundwater protection district by special permit, a “straw vote” to see if the town supports further research on serving daily hot meals at the senior/community center, approval for purchase of property next to the senior/community center, and authorization to temporarily move items from the library’s Traversari Room to the historical building.

At an earlier selectboard meeting, planning board member Jacquelyn Boyden said the petroleum storage zoning change, which would clear the way for a gas station at the Dunkin Donuts/convenience store on the corner of French King Highway and Semb Drive, was prepared at the request of the 2014 annual town meeting. However, the planning board did not recommend the change. She said that the board wanted to bring the bylaw before an annual town meeting because they “wanted a large section of the population to vote on the issue.”

At the March 16 selectboard meeting, interim

senior center director Paula Betters had suggested consideration of preparing daily hot lunches at the senior/community center. Currently, senior lunches are provided by Franklin County Home Care Corporation three days a week, free to seniors, with a suggested donation of \$2.50 per meal. The meals are prepared off-site and warmed up at the center by a FCHCC employee.

Betters said, “With the money already invested in the kitchen, not to utilize it is sad.” She thought that, in order to serve meals, the center would need to hire a line cook, buy a commercial freezer and purchase additional preparation and serving equipment.

Although the board felt favorable toward further research on the daily hot lunches, the members felt that voters should be allowed to weigh in at the annual town meeting.

The board negotiated a purchase price of \$160,000 for the 2.81-acre property at 34 Northfield Road, located between Erving Elementary School and the senior/community center. Purchase of the property must be approved by town meeting.

Selectboard chair William Bembury said that the property could provide access to future senior housing or location for a new library. He said it is “the only piece not owned by the town in that area.”

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said, “It does complement the land we own around it.”

While proposing the article at an earlier selectboard meeting, library director Barbara Friedman asked town approval for moving the donated collection of artifacts in the library’s Traversari Room temporarily to the Pearl B. Care historical building. She said she had talked to Traversari family members and they agreed to the move. Friedman said that the collection could be better displayed in the historical building.

Senior Center

According to municipal clerk Betsy Sicard, the board was informed that the water main into the senior/community center, frozen since March 5, has thawed out. However, the discharge to the sewer is still frozen, so the building will remain closed to the public.

While the center has been closed, meals have been served three times a week at the former senior center at the Pleasant Street School. Since the senior/community center is closed to the public, the town is taking the opportunity to strip and wax floors in the dining area and conference room.

Regional Pipeline Committee

William Morris was appointed the Erving representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments regional pipeline advisory committee.

The committee will provide legal and technical assistance to towns along the proposed Northeast Energy Direct Kinder Morgan pipeline route.

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Do You Pay Attention to Town Government?

Interviews and photos by MARK HUDYMA

Montague, a town of 8,500, struggles each year to field 126 town meeting representatives.

As town meeting and town elections approach, we were wondering what motivates some to participate in town government, and what keeps others away.

We sent our reporter out onto the Avenue this week to get some perspectives. —Eds.



"I do. It's important to see what's going on. It's common for people to just ignore small town government. Only firefighters come to fire district meetings, and those are public."

John Greene
Montague Center



"No, I don't stay informed unless it's on TV. I have a learning disability and I don't understand a lot of it."

Beverly Tillman
Turners Falls



"No, kids take up every moment of my day. We don't even watch TV."
Emily and Amanda Hardy
Turners Falls



"[Laughs] I live in the town, it's important to the people that live here, so it's important to me. I'm not a participant or a town meeting member; I don't have time for that b-----, Will M--- let you print that? It's the first step: bad ordinances get passed, and that's what leads to the kind of mess we have in Washington."

Brian Faldasz
Montague Center



"We're too busy to pay attention, and there isn't much use paying attention when town hall won't listen to what you have to say."

Tica and Carl
Turners Falls



"I do. I was raised in a family that thought it was important to be involved, it's in my blood. My family is from the area — my father was Joe Bonnette, who was a selectman in the '70s. I was [on the selectboard] in Gill."

Geri Johnson
Gill



"I definitely try to. My husband is a town meeting member. I'm the precinct warden for precinct 1. I'm retired, so I have more time. I am disappointed that more people don't [participate]. It's a process everybody needs to do. If you don't vote, you can't complain."

Peg Burns
(photo declined)
Montague Center



"There's been a lot of health issues in my family that just takes up all your time."

Beth Erickson
Turners Falls



"Who's running for what, I don't much care. I just want them to clean the town up."

Casey Aiken
Turners Falls



"I don't have cable, so I can't follow it."

Vicki Figueroa
Turners Falls

THURSDAY from page A1

everyone else's book... I've been a Montague resident for 30 years, but through the book project I've met other artists. When you read their journaling, you get to know a piece of them," she said.

The reception at Harvest will be followed by music from **The Dislocated Hipsters**, **Kevin Smith** and **Tim** at 8 p.m.

Lyons will also be at Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, for the opening reception of her *Promenade of Shoes*, an exhibit of tiny, delicate paper shoes.

"I'm a sculptor and doll maker, and I've wanted for such a long time to make these paper shoes," Lyons said of this "whimsical digression" in her art.

Lyons' work highlights "famous women, who are famous, at least in part, for their shoes."

Originally inspired by shoe diva Imelda Marcos, widow of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who was reputed to have over 2,000 pairs of shoes (though the former First Lady claimed it was as few as 1,600 pairs), Lyons also included the mythical likes of Dorothy and Belzeba in her exhibit.

"I've always loved shoes. One steady thing is shoes," said Lyons, explaining that while she may find herself in different sizes of clothes over the years, she can still wear the same size shoe.

Exhibit-goers can expect a few extra touches at the opening, such as an installation of tiny, dangling shoes and shoe makeovers, "spectacular shoes that I've made into new types of shoes," she said.

As a spinoff, gallery owner **Nina Rossi**, whose paintings of shoes will accompany the exhibit, will offer a homemade shoe photo booth, in a five-by-five-foot pop-up tent in the garden space behind the shop.

"Crazy socks, hairy legs, weird shoes, or just the ordinary," were some of Rossi's suggestions. "It's a community art project sort of thing," she said, envisioning a gridlike compilation poster of the photos.

LOOT, at 62 Avenue A, will also play host to a community art project, though an impermanent one. *Make Your Mark* asks participants to, "take one minute to set an intention by creating with ink and plantable seed paper." The results will be planted in the Turners Falls community gardens.

The storefront galleries at 106 to 112 Avenue A will feature the work of **Paul Root** and **Julianne Jones**, as well as a video installation by an artist from the **Millers Falls Arts Bridge**.

Third Street Studios at 36 Third Street will host a one-night-only show of work from **Cathe Janke**, **Luke Buckham**, **Wes Talbot**, **Rodney Madison** and **John Landino**.

Cross the street for an 8 o'clock DJ set by **Shannon** at the Five Eyed Fox, 37 Third Street, or hop, skip and jump on down to the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, for **Half Shaved Jazz**, also at 8 p.m.

As part of Third Thursday this month, the ArtSalon will come to Turners Falls. Established in 2013, ArtSalon has been bringing established and emerging artists from the Pioneer Valley together for evenings of "engaging presentations" hosted by different towns and venues.

RiverCulture's LoManto offered ArtSalon an extensive list of Franklin County artists, from which they chose **Cathe Janke**, **Sarah Bliss**, **Amy Borez** and **Overture**. Each artist will present based on the "PechaKucha" (pronounced peh-chak-cha) model: 20 slides, for 20 seconds each.

The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, will host the event, with refreshments and jazz music from the **Forfia and David Duo** at 6:30, and presentations to begin at 7. A five-dollar donation is suggested, but not mandatory.

Turners Falls' **Cathe Janke** works with painting, printmaking, drawing, everyday materials, found objects, local seasonal plants, salt, and food coloring. She has used milkweed with seed pods that float on air currents, and sparkles that attach to peoples' feet to travel with them.

Janke is a member at Zea Mays Printmaking in Florence, and works with Wingate Studios in New Hampshire. In the past year she had work in NY Art Book Fair, Sister Sister at MOMA PS1, New York. She is freshly returned from her endeavors in the art residency RIA/CE, and teaching and creating at the BK Bhubaneswar College of Arts and Crafts, Odisha, India.

Janke reports that she is "still finishing the writing and what images I will show from the work I made in India. I was expecting to make only a little work, one silkscreen, but I ended up having more time in a friend's big studio. So I started 2 paintings on saris also, 12-foot-long pieces of fabric."

Artist and filmmaker **Sarah Bliss** is currently working on *Waterbody*, an immersive room-sized video installation developed in collaboration with sculptor **Rosalyn Driscoll**.

"I'm interested in the way our bodies, moods, and perceptions are affected by a place, and the way we, in turn, affect it. I use my work to create conditions and situations that reveal this dynamic interplay between place, history, body, psyche and spirit," Bliss said in a transcript she provided of her talk at Marlboro College this week.

Bliss' work ranges from research on and intimate time spent with an abandoned charcoal kiln to a video projection of life-sized bodies inside a claustrophobic stainless steel freight elevator. In her *The Walking-Marking Project*, she walked back and forth between two walls, making a graphite mark on each wall when she arrived at it.

"The marks made, both with graphite on the wall, and through continual footsteps on the floor, emerge over time as a perceptible

see THURSDAY next page

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THURSDAY from prev. page

record of the physical action and energetic history stored and held in the place," she said in her talk.

Amy Borezo has "successfully married" her interest in both the art and craft of bookbinding at Shelter Bookworks, her business studio in the Orange Innovation Center, where she works with fine press publishers to design and execute limited edition books.

At ArtSalon, she plans to show pieces that most capture the reappearing themes in her work, namely where idealism confronts reality, and tension between a group and the individual.

"As an artist, I really feel like you're trying to be a student of yourself," she said. "I watch myself work, and only analyze it after."

Borezo said she has always been drawn to narrative, so that her transition from a painter and print maker to book maker was a natural one.

"I like [books] because they're intimate. Instead of looking at the wall, you're holding it in your

hands," she said, adding that meaning is enhanced through additional viewings of a book and that its materials, binding, paper, etc., also convey something.

"Books as art are only activated by the viewer," Borezo said.

Overture, the improvisational and collaborative efforts of Jason and Aya Brown, offer a different kind of book, a mini-zine of their collected *Weird Healing* comic, published every three weeks in *The Montague Reporter*. The zine will also be available this coming weekend at Easthampton's Flywheel Zine Fest.

Overture plans to share some of their animation, self-described, "stories of animism and cosmic nature with funny creatures," and the creation process of their new projects, but the rest remains a mystery... until Third Thursday.

For more information on Third Thursday events, including individual artists' websites, visit www.TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IRVING POLICE LOG

Collisions and Unlicensed Driving

Monday, 3/30

3:50 p.m. Officer dispatched to French King Highway for dog complaint.

Tuesday, 3/31

4:30 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Northfield Road.

Wednesday, 4/1

12:14 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 East Bypass. Assisted until removed.

1:35 p.m. Report of damaged roadway on Gary Street, report taken.

6:40 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Lillian's Way.

Thursday, 4/2

12 p.m. Breaking and entering reported at French King Highway, report taken and under investigation.

1:15 p.m. Report of dispute and damage to fencing on Highland Avenue, report taken.

4:00 p.m. Motor vehicle collided with deer on Route 2A near State Forest Headquarters. Deer escaped into woods.

Friday, 4/3

7:05 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on East Main Street. Report taken.

10:30 a.m. Assisted with medical emergen-

cy on Mountain Road.

6:05 p.m. Criminal Complaint issued to

[redacted], for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Saturday, 4/4

Report of disabled vehicle on the French King Highway, found to be using phone, sent on their way.

Sunday, 4/5

6:10 a.m. Suspicious individual seen on Gary Street, spoken with.

12 p.m. [redacted]

arrested for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Historical Commission Named Town Employees for Work on Riverside Book

By TIA FATTARUSO

The historical commission joined the selectboard Monday night to offer updates on "several fairly substantial projects that have been underway for a while," said commission chair Ivan Ussach.

The commission will hold a presentation on the nominations of Gill Center and Riverside to the National Historic Register on Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the fire station.

The Massachusetts historical commission has not yet begun the formal review process, according to Ussach. He also pointed out that while local historical designations often come with restrictions on property owners, this is a national designation and should not carry such restrictions.

Meanwhile, the commission is also working on a book on the history of Riverside, which is quite time-consuming and has led to a request by the commission for "special municipal employee" status for all seven members, for some minimal compensation for their efforts.

The selectboard approved the request unanimously.

In conjunction with the Riverside book, the commission is upgrading the museum collection at Riverside and digitizing the paper collection. They expressed gratitude for the work of Allan Adie, who paved the way for the continued work at Riverside, and Angela Adie, who was presented with Gill's version of the *Boston Post* cane last October, for sharing her wealth of oral history.

The commission also reviewed the battlefield grant project which will research and protect sites of the battle of Great Falls during King Phillip's War, 1675 to 1676.

Though many books have been written on the subject, Ussach said, "The real details of the battle have never really been fully investigated."

According to Ussach, a final report on the first phase of the project is due in March 2016, prepared by Kevin McBride and his research team. It is meant to uncover "what happened, where, when, and by whom."

The commission plans to submit a follow up grant proposal to support a second phase of archaeological field work, with permission from property owners. A phase three funding target includes a resource center.

Making Up for 165 Years

After the historical commission left, town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo carried the historical mood over by notifying the selectboard that the last perambulation of town

boundaries she could find a record for was in 1850, though statutes dictate this should be done annually. Selectboard members, or designated replacements, are meant to physically verify the existence of the twelve granite markers that mark the town's boundaries each year.

Gill's boundaries are easier to demarcate and smaller in number due to rivers composing two sides, though this led to jokes about how long members could tread water.

"Are you telling me the last time this was done was 1850?" asked chair Randy Crochier.

"Yeah, it's been awhile," Hodsdon Mayo said.

It is on the agenda to set a date for perambulation, which everyone agreed should be easier with today's GPS (global positioning system) devices. Hodsdon Mayo said that she would like to accompany the board and get a nice picture of each marker.

Hodsdon Mayo also notified the board that registrar Richard Peller is retiring. It is the clerk's responsibility to ensure there are three registrars, one from each party.

Hodsdon Mayo recommended Jim Shea, a faculty member at Northfield Mount Hermon. The selectboard approved the recommendation.

School Costs

Franklin County Technical School is looking to make capital improvements, including replacing doors and windows, upgrading the roof and repaving the parking lot. The \$2.1 million window and door replacement project should be about 73% reimbursed by the state, through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program.

According to town administrator Ray Purington, the school's district agreement calls for town ballot elections in all 19 member towns on the same day. The school is looking at dates between June 15 and 26.

While majority vote passes, any town can have a debt exclusion election on their own after the vote.

Gill's share would be approximately \$6,000 per year over 15 years, just under 2.3% of the total budget, doing all projects and factoring in the reimbursement.

The selectboard and Purington have a few more questions for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue on the issue.

Hillcrest and Sheffield schools also have MSBA project funding to be voted on. Gill does not carry any financial obligation, but as part of the Gill Montague Regional School District, there will be one or two articles on Gill's town meet-

ing warrant, which can either be passed over or approved for \$0.

Improvements

Purington is still working his way through the onerous purchase and sale and license agreements with Eversource for street lamps. The board was not convinced that it is worth the \$1,690 difference to move a light at Main and North Cross roads for \$2,000, rather than buy it for \$310.

"I'm not sure there's a negative problem where it is now," said Purington.

Donna MacNicol, town counsel, has reviewed the contract for the safety complex roof and it is back in the hands of the architect, who also has the asbestos abatement regulations.

In the template contract used between the town and engineers for the Gill elementary well project, Purington found that protections to the town are not as good as they need to be, and it should go through town counsel.

Insulation projects over the winter appear to have saved the town about 500 gallons of oil this year over last.

Other Business

The selectboard has been invited to the Franklin Regional Council of Government's (FRCOG) meeting on fire department shared services on April 14, which Crochier plans to attend.

"I've thought it should be done for years," Crochier said.

Purington notified the selectboard that the Spirit Shoppe in Gill plans to offer "KENO To Go." No action was required.

A Gill resident informed Purington that a Conway attorney has sent a letter to Massachusetts attorney general Maura Healey regarding electricity price hikes being caused by fear of conditions that never materialized. The resident asked if Gill plans to weigh in on the matter.

The selectboard unanimously approved a letter in support, and asked Purington to notify and thank the resident.

John Ward, attending remotely by phone, indicated that the attorney general may find something yet deeper in ISO New England's forward capacity markets.

FRCOG has again asked member towns if they want traffic counts on any roads. As it is "first come first served," Purington believes Main Road, coming down from town hall, is near the top of the list from last year.

The board approved a sewer abatement for Jeff Suprenant of \$27.95 for filling a hot tub.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Superior Court
Department of the Trial Court
Franklin County

Publication Notice FRCV201500028

To all person(s) interested in the below described land(s) with claims against one or more tracts of land mentioned herein

Affected property 4 Grand Avenue, Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349, with buildings upon being more particularly bound and described as follows

First tract: (lot 1) Beginning at the northeast corner thereof on the west side of Grand Avenue; thence running N 51° 45' W, a distance of ninety-six and thirty-six one hundredths (96.36) feet to an iron pin; thence running S 38° 15' W, a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet, more or less, to an iron pin; thence running along Main Street, S 72° 30' E, a distance of three (3) rods and twenty-three (23) links, more or less, to an iron pin; thence in a northeasterly direction along said Grand Avenue to the place of beginning

Second tract: (Lot 14) Beginning at a stone bound at the southwesterly corner of the granted premises on said Main Street, so-called; thence running N 38-1/4° E, a distance of one hundred seventy-one (171) feet, more or less, to an iron pin; thence running S 51-3/4° E, a distance of seventy-four and five tenths (74.50) feet to an iron pin; thence running S 38-1/4° W, a distance of one hundred fifty-one (151) feet and eight (8) inches to an iron pin at said Main Street; thence running westerly along said Main Street to the stone bound at the place of beginning

Third tract: (driveway) Beginning at the southeast corner to the tract hereby conveyed, being the southwest corner of the First Tract above described; thence running N 38-1/4° E, a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet, more or less, to the northwest corner of the First Tract herein above described; thence running N 51-3/4° W, a distance of eight (8) feet to the northeast corner of the Second Tract above described; thence running S 38-1/4° W, a distance of one hundred fifty-one (151) feet and eight (8) inches, said course being parallel and eight (8) feet distance from the first course herein described to an iron pin at the highway leading from Millers Falls to Turners Falls, said highway being known as Main Street, the same being the southeast corner of the Second Tract herein above described; thence running easterly along Main Street to the place of beginning

If you have an interest in the above mentioned property, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at 101 Munson St., Greenfield, MA 01301 or you will be forever barred from claiming an interest

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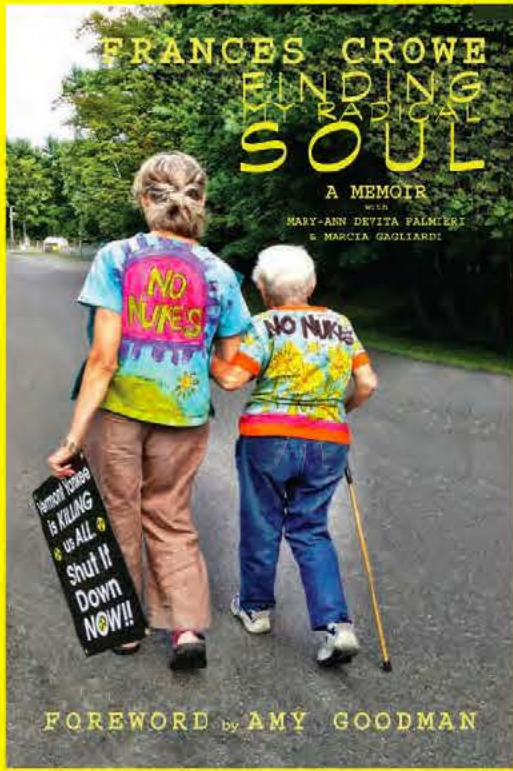


Janet Porcelli and George Combs of Montague Center brought the Montague Reporter along on their March trip to the Azores, an autonomous region of Portugal composed of 9 volcanic islands in the North Atlantic Ocean situated 850 miles off the coast of Portugal. Here they are on the island of Sao Miguel.

Going away? Don't forget to bring us along!
Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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CAUCUS from page A1 simply not the case."

A third candidate for selectboard, Richard Kuklewicz, was not registered as a Democrat but has turned in nomination papers through the town clerk's office. Roque has done the same, so all three names will appear on the May ballot.

The three will meet at 2 p.m. this Sunday, April 12 at the meeting room at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road, and again the following Sunday at 4 p.m.

A debate hosted by the Montague Reporter and MCTV will follow Tuesday, May 5. All events will be broadcast on MCTV. 

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APRIL 9, 2015



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Dateline 1676: Battlefield Study

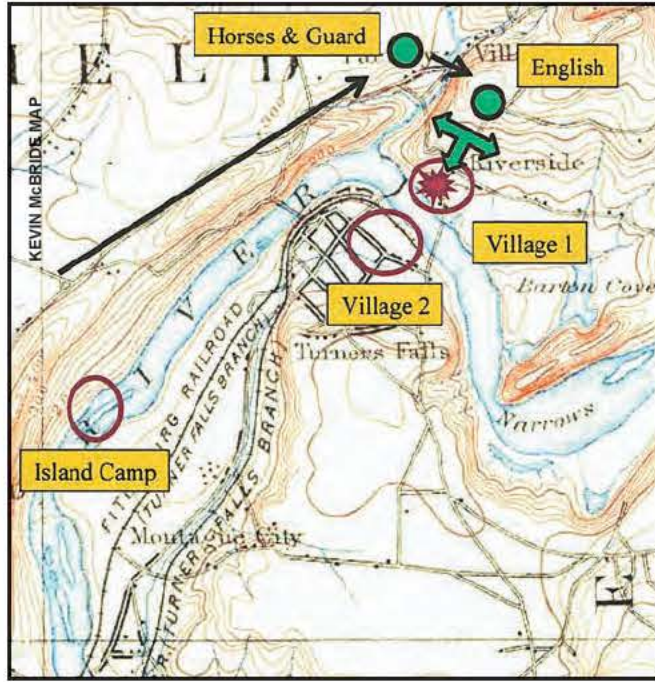
By DAVID BRULE

TURNERS FALLS – The Town of Montague was awarded a National Park Service grant under the American Battlefield Protection Program to develop the definitive study of the battle/massacre at the falls at Peskeompskut on May 19, 1676.

It is estimated that more than four hundred indigenous tribal people lost their lives in the surprise attack by colonial forces. The colonial militia, led by Capt William Turner and Capt. Holyoke, lost close to forty-one men.

The town of Montague hired the research team of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum to conduct the Battlefield study, and the team is now well into its third month of examining records, primary and secondary source documents, and accounts of the battle on that fateful day in May that gave the village of Turners Falls its name.

The research team is headed by Kevin McBride as principal investigator, Ashley Bissonnette is see WEST ALONG page B4



The team is applying military terrain analysis to the Falls area in an effort to reconstruct the details of the attack.

Bernardston Author Casts Fresh Light on “Falls Fight”



Jim Gildea has an eye on the fight's broader context.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

BERNARDSTON – Starting next week, the *Montague Reporter* will be running a series of excerpts from Jim Gildea’s new book, *The Journey Home: Diary of a Small American Town, Bernardston Mass., Fact, Fantasy and Folklore*. Gildea says the volume is unique. “It’s a very different approach,” he said, “to the subject matter. It goes where no history has gone before. I spent

three years of intensive research and writing and began accumulating notes some 30 years ago for a different project before switching to a history of Bernardston.

“Working on a project like this almost has to become an obsession, but a benign one. I began the writing process back in October, 2011. I probably wouldn’t have started this project if I had known how much work would be involved. My main goal was to present history as I saw it.”

The chapter we are excerpting from is called “Another Look at the Falls Fight.” It will be of particular interest to local folks, as the author presents his research on events leading up to the “Fight at the Falls” that gave Turners Falls its name.

On May 19, 1676, Captain William Turner was the leader of a raid on the Wampanoag Indians, bringing his troops up from Hadley. The men were particularly bitter; many of them had lost loved ones of all ages at the hands of the native people. Turner himself had suffered the loss of a brother at Bloody Brook. “King Phillip’s War,” said Gildea, “which had begun the previous year, was a brutal conflict. Indians raided British settlements and razed whole towns.”

see GILDEA page B6

Checking In with the Spiritual Alliance

By JOE PARZYCH

LAKE PLEASANT – On my way home from Sirum’s Annual Open House, I cut through Lake Pleasant and stopped in at the Thompson Temple where The National Spiritual Alliance was having a Psychic Fair. The Vice President of The National Alliance (TNSA), Joann Matthews, greeted me and explained that there were a number of tarot card readers present who were giving 25 minute readings for \$25.

I asked if they would give tips on the stock market. Matthews said “no,” but offered a free tip: “Buy low and sell high,” she said with a smile. Excellent advice!

Another person approached us and offered me a fortune cookie. Inside the cookie was a slip of paper with a lucky number. I seldom play the lottery, heeding Benjamin Franklin’s observation, “A fool and his money are soon parted.”

But the long series of numbers looked very much like the series of numbers needed to win fabulous amounts of Jack Pot lottery money. I thanked the nice lady, and looked forward to the chance of becoming



Joann Matthews, vice president of TNSA, with tarot card readers in background.

wealthy beyond belief, and promptly misplaced the slip with the number. I ate the cookie, or I’d probably have lost that, too.

Both my wife and I had a number of relatives brag about their gambling winnings, usually a short time before they approached us for money.

One such relative was on his way

to becoming wealthy by raising wolf hybrids. He arrived in an old pickup truck, his new one having been repossessed. He had a fierce looking wolf inside the cab and an even less friendly one chained in back. He wanted me to finance a new home, since the bank had foreclosed on his house, and no one wanted to rent to a couple with nine wolves.

He explained that with the high cost of feeding his wolves, he hadn’t been able to pay his mortgage. He became indignant when I declined to fork over any more money. He promptly severed all contact with me, for which I am most grateful.

Ms. Matthews introduced me to Reverend John Midura, President of TNSA. Midura of Swanzey, NH, is a reformed Roman Catholic priest. He assured me that he still deals with the same deity, but does so directly, eliminating the middle men of bishops, cardinals and the pope.

His present position is that of promoting religion, science and the principles of spiritualism. He emphasized that TNSA does not advocate blind faith, but spiritual healing through meditation, the religion of

see SPIRITUAL page B3

ADDICTION IN THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

TURNERS FALLS – As a somewhat sheltered teenager, I got my first consistent job as a Saturday morning dishwasher and janitor in one of the only restaurants in town. In that restaurant, and the dozen restaurants and over twenty-five kitchens I’ve worked in since, I’ve seen and been a part of some things which I am not proud of.

Drinking, smoking and drugging while on the job was something which I started in that first restaurant, and continued until I checked into Father Martin’s Ashley in January of 2013 [Father Martin’s Ashley is an inpatient addiction treatment center located in Maryland – note from Ed.].

It was there that I learned just how much of an impact the environment of these restaurants, and the people within them, had on my addiction. It was the staff at Father Martin’s Ashley who first told me to quit my job, and find another way of supporting my family of five. Against their advice, I have remained and thrived as a sober restaurateur – one day at a time – for over two years.

Over the past sixteen years, I have worked with some incredible people. Some of whom have addiction problems, and some of whom do not. I have worked closely with hundreds of cooks, and probably a thousand servers, and can’t imagine ever having worked in another field. The work I do is one which requires toughness and mental fortitude; without having survived in it so long, I might lack those necessary ingredients of sobriety.

This is not my story. It is a story which generalizes the exponentially varied culture of restaurants, and was written in an effort to begin a conversation about a problem that often goes unnoticed.

As someone who worked his way up from the bottom to some relative success and someone who nearly lost it all, only to return as a better and more qualified chef and leader, understand that I love my job and all of the people with whom I have ever worked, and can’t for one moment imagine my life without it or them. – E.D.

The Enticement

The restaurant industry is a 500-billion dollar enterprise in the United States. Restaurant jobs are available in every state, every community – always.

The restaurant offers a fun and exciting environment, where a diverse group of teenagers, college students, and seasoned professionals work side by side, day in and day out. To the teenager, any job will suffice, and to the college student, restaurants offer part-time, flexible schedules to accommodate their busy lives.

The Problem

To the professional, restaurant work is more than a job, it is a way of life. Because, in part, of the long and unusual hours, restaurateurs’ social lives revolve around their jobs and involve heavy consumption of alcohol and the use of illicit drugs.

There have been numerous books and stories written about the behind-the-scenes life of the industry. Most notably, Anthony Bourdain’s book, *Kitchen Confidential*, describes the life of the restaurant worker as someone who works all day and parties all night.

This is the same Anthony Bourdain who brought big-time cameras to small-time Greenfield and Turners Falls. The show, *Parts Unknown*, which aired last fall on CNN, exposed the rural heroin epidemic now being addressed by the Opioid Task Force in Massachusetts. Bourdain used Greenfield to exemplify the kid-next-door drug problem which reaches across the country.

Most who read this will have two things in common: they will know someone who is a restaurateur, and they will know someone who has a problem with alcohol or drugs.

For the addict, the draw of the restaurant is the regular cash, and the fact that so many of the employees are engaged in a drug- and alcohol-fueled social life.

Steve Kelly, former owner and chef of The Big Kitchen Cafe in Northfield, and recovering alcoholic and volunteer worker at a local half-way house, said, “The reason I chose the restaurant was I realized that most of the people I met that worked in restaurants were into drugs and alcohol, so I figured that would be a good place to work.”

Restaurants are a haven for such derelicts, for sordid and otherwise unemployable folks.

The local owner of a popular restaurant, Mr. X, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of this article, explained, “I just think it’s because of easy employment. Usually there’s always a job in the restaurant business, and an addict and person like that is not reliable. They tend to lose their jobs faster than most.”

Mr. X considers the problem of restaurants having a high turnover, and restaurateurs being more likely than those in most other professions to abuse drugs and alcohol, as a sort of chicken or the egg paradox. “That’s why there’s turnover in the restaurant. Does the restaurant turn them that way? No, a lot of them come that way because of the easy ability to get a job in the restaurant business.”

Not always condoning the lifestyle, but seldom forbidding it. An old cliché in the industry is, “What they do on their own time is none of my business.” But it is. It’s everyone’s business.

see ADDICTION page B4

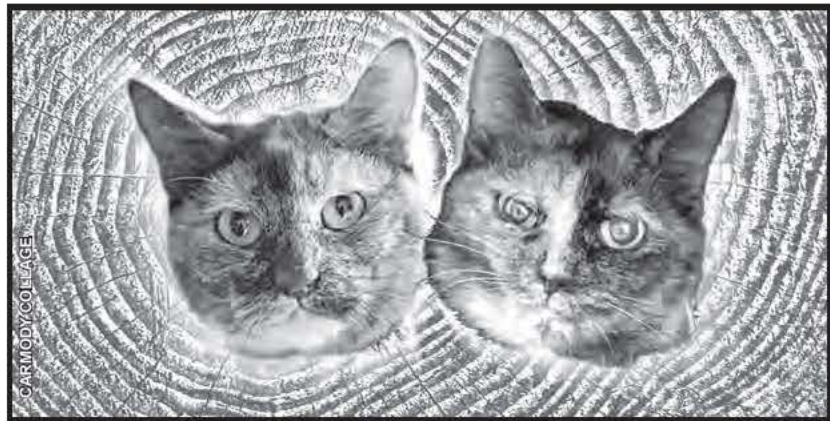


MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Pets of the Week

I'm Rachel! I'm a quiet indoor girl looking for a home to match. I love other cats. I recommend also adopting my dear friend Brianna! We lived together! We love to cuddle up and make a very cute pair. We haven't lived with dogs, but maybe we could. Brianna is a cuddle bug, who

looks out the window. She's shy and sensitive. We're both lap cats with the right person. Please come visit us! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



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Senior Center Activities April 13 to 17

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

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. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. 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 closed.

Sunday 4/12

1 p.m. Writing Group Event

Monday 4/13

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
1 p.m. Scrapbooking

Tuesday 4/14

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Sing Along
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Support apptmnts

Wednesday 4/15

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 4/17

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednes-

days at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, temporarily at 18 Pleasant Street, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Beters, interim Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 4/14

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
10 a.m. Cardio Toning
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 4/15

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 4/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
Noon Pitch Card Game

Friday 4/17

9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Home Cooking
12:30 p.m. Beginner Quilting

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

"The Invisible Man" at the Wendell Free Library, Saturday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Invisible Man (1933). Claude Rains is scary as mad scientist Griffin in HG Wells' classic horror novel about the power of being invisible thanks to a serum with some dangerous effects.

Atmospherically directed by James Whale (*Frankenstein*).

Great visual effects for its time that stand up well to today's standards. Chilling.

Episode 725 of "Dark Shadows" will be screened

as a short film before the movie.

This is the next in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell.

Free Admission.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library, visit its web page at www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

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Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out overture.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Hemorrhoids: Not Suffering Alone



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I suffer from hemorrhoids and I suspect a lot of other people do, too, because I see a lot of remedies in drug stores. But this is not a topic you bring up at parties. How many people have hemorrhoids, anyway?

By the age of 50, about half of the population - both men and women - have hemorrhoids. However, not everyone suffers from the nasty symptoms hemorrhoids can inflict.

Hemorrhoids are inflamed and swollen veins around the anus (external) or in the lower rectum (internal).

Sometimes referred to as "piles," hemorrhoids are caused by straining when defecating, aging, pregnancy, sitting or standing for a long time, obesity and heavy lifting. Hemorrhoids can run in families.

Blood may pool in an external hemorrhoid and form a clot that causes pain. Internal hemorrhoids don't usually hurt because sur-

rounding membranes don't contain pain-sensitive nerve fibers. However, internal hemorrhoids tend to bleed. Sometimes, an internal hemorrhoid will protrude out of the anal opening, causing discomfort.

Hemorrhoids usually are not a serious problem. Hemorrhoid symptoms, which can also include burning and itching, will go away within a few days. However, if you are bleeding from the anus, you must go to a doctor to have it checked. This can be a symptom of cancer.

You can treat the symptoms of hemorrhoids yourself with over-the-counter medications that come in ointments and suppositories.

Pads soaked with witch hazel help. And there are topical anti-inflammatory agents containing hydrocortisone. Warm water from a bath, bidet or removable shower head works, too.

In addition, avoid dry toilet paper. Instead, use moist towelettes after a bowel movement.

A doctor can remove or shrink hemorrhoids. These techniques include: rubber-banding that cuts off circulation and makes the hemorrhoid atrophy, an injection of a chemical that shrinks the hemorrhoid, burning hemorrhoidal tissue with an infrared device, and hemor-

rhoidectomy - surgical removal.

Avoiding constipation is critical to preventing hemorrhoids. Doctors recommend increasing fiber and fluids in your diet to develop softer stools that don't lead to straining. So, it's important to eat whole grains, vegetables and fruit. Taking a fiber supplement each day helps, too. Drink liquids. Exercise.

A few other pointers:

- If you have to sit or stand for a long time, take breaks often.

- Don't sit on doughnut cushions because they can increase the pressure on the veins in the anus.

- Don't hold your breath when trying to defecate; this creates greater pressure in the veins in the lower rectum.

- Go to the bathroom as soon as you feel the need. Waiting can make your stool dry and harder to void.

- Avoid laxatives that can lead to diarrhea.

- Keep the anal area clean.

- Apply ice packs or cold compresses on the anus to relieve swelling.

- Over-the-counter pain-relievers such as acetaminophen, aspirin or ibuprofen can relieve discomfort.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeez.com

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SPIRITUAL from page B1
 continuing life (reincarnation), and communing with the other side.
 Like the Sikh's, TNSA members believe spirit life is circular. Your soul comes back another life form. According to a brochure Reverend Midura gave me, reincarnation is a learning vehicle which assists the soul's progression toward perfection. The brochure lists seven TNSA Principles which are very noteworthy, but too long to list here in their entirety.

To get brochures and other information, TNSA holds Sunday services at the Thompson Temple in Lake Pleasant at 10:30.

The three part service format includes hands-on healing, an inspirational talk, and messages from the spirit world through the medium of the day. Mediums from throughout New England serve on a rotating basis.

In the meeting room where the Alliance holds Sunday services, Rev. Midura showed me a statue of Mother Teresa and one of a Native American medicine man on an altar.

He informed me that TNSA recognizes the Bible, and all noble people, in an all-encompassing belief.

"TNSA does not personify God

as a guy with a long beard, but recognizes God as Creation. We also use a Christian hymn book rewritten with verses by Rev. Tabor Thompson."

Stopping to see what The National Spiritual Alliance was all about gave me a much better understanding and admiration of the participants and their organization. I urge others to do so.



Reverend John Midura, President of The National Spiritual Alliance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stolen Lock Concealed in Pants

Monday, 3/30
 1:30 a.m. Male and female caller reporting that they just witnessed a male banging on the side of an abandoned building on Avenue A with a hammer or the like. Investigated; nothing found.

2:12 a.m. Officers attempted to serve warrant to female party, who had paperwork showing that she was released on personal recognizance over the weekend. State police verified that party had been bailed and advised they would take care of this oversight.

2:44 p.m. Report of a shoplifting incident at Aubuchon Hardware. Subject stole a door lock, reportedly concealing it down his pants before leaving the store on foot. Suspect gone upon officer's arrival, but caught on surveillance video. Investigated.

2:52 p.m. Caller reports that she brought her vehicle to a local repair shop to be worked on but found that there was still an issue with it afterward. Caller had words with employees and reports that one of them yelled, swore, and threatened her. Officer on scene; peace restored.

9:44 p.m. Caller arrived home to find her screen door locked from the inside; requests an officer to make sure no one is inside. Officer checked residence, which was clear; door may have locked itself when it slammed shut.

Tuesday, 3/31
 7:54 a.m. Chief reports that someone has put bumper stickers over the 50 MPH speed limit signs on Millers Falls Road between the airport and Lake Pleasant Road. DPW advised.

10:09 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road inquiring about the town's noise ordinance. His neighbor has been complaining about the volume of his music, but caller is under the impression that he can play his music as loud as he wants until 10 p.m. because he pays rent. Caller advised that officers would use discretion when determining whether noise was reasonable for a given hour and location. Caller further advised to use consideration when playing his music in an effort to avoid police involvement.

4:36 p.m. Caller reports that her son was walking on High Street and found that a manhole cover is missing near Scotty's. DPW advised. Officer covered hole with boards and put cones around it. DPW advises that this issue will be taken care of tomorrow; it is covered and out of the way enough that it should not be an

issue for tonight.
 5:20 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding damage to her vehicle that she claims was done by the staff of the auto repair shop where she brought it to be fixed. Officer advised caller that this would be a civil matter between her and the repair shop.

6:38 p.m. Officer checking on a suspicious vehicle parked near the Railroad Salvage building. Two parties who exited the building were advised that they were trespassing and warned of the dangers of being inside this building.

Wednesday, 4/1
 11:09 a.m. Caller requests to have on record that her neighbor's horses got loose again today in Lake Pleasant. Animal control officer spoke with owners, who have been trying to better secure their horses; however, the ground is still too frozen to dig far enough to put posts in. Animal control officer will follow up as the ground thaws.

11:30 a.m. Report of an erratically driven vehicle heading from Lake Pleasant towards Turners Falls. Chief Dodge, who was downtown on an unrelated matter, observed the reported vehicle on Fifth Street. Officer initiated a traffic stop on Canal Street. Operator had dropped her purse on Millers Falls Road and was trying to pick it up. No sign of impairment. Officer clear.

12:33 p.m. Caller reports that someone has set up a tent on her property. The tent has wires coming from it going into the ground, and there are bottles containing an unknown substance inside the tent. Responding officer found that tent was frozen to the ground and appears to have been there all winter. The tent does not appear to be in use now. Caller will wait until it thaws out more and will dispose of the items.

12:56 p.m. Party into station with a syringe found in a rental apartment that party is cleaning out. Item disposed of.

1:13 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Rite Aid: a male party stole a pair of sunglasses by wearing them out of the store on his head. Subject caught on

surveillance and identified. Officer was able to retrieve sunglasses. Summons issued.

7 p.m. Caller from Gill requests to have on record that he is being threatened/harassed by his ex-girlfriend, who is also from Gill. Attempted Gill PD; no officer on. Referred to State Police.

10:08 p.m. Caller reports that there was an object in the middle of the travel lane on Turners Falls Road; she swerved to miss it but is unsure what it was. Officer checked area and found a couch cushion that was moved to the side of the road.

Thursday, 4/2
 3:58 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; driving as to endanger; failure to drive in the right lane; and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

8:54 a.m. Caller reports finding a hypodermic needle at Montague City Road and Walnut Street last night. Syringe located and disposed of.

9:49 a.m. Caller reports that he is being harassed by a neighbor with whom he has ongoing issues. Yesterday, while he was outside working on his vehicle, she came outside and gave him a dirty look; today, when he went back out, he observed a bag of sugar on top of one of the parts of the vehicle. Officer did observe a sugar bag next to the car; but there was no way to know if any was poured into the gas tank. Caller asked to have this on record only.

10:03 a.m. Caller reports that she believes her purse was stolen when she was in Aubuchon Hardware yesterday afternoon. Referred to an officer.

10:15 a.m. Caller reports that her daughter observed what she thinks is a bobcat in the area of Jarvis Pools. Referred to an officer.

11:39 a.m. Warrant arrest on Millers Falls Road.

1:11 p.m. School resource officer requesting an officer to pick up drug paraphernalia found at Franklin County Technical School. Officer retrieved 5 straws and remnants of a crushed-up pill.

3:19 p.m. Complaint regarding navy colored Jeep that consistently "blows through" the intersection of G and Eleventh Streets. Officer attempted to contact registered owner; listed phone number not valid. Will remain in area and be on lookout.

5:10 p.m. Caller advises that she was walking her dog in the Unity Park dog walk area and there were two needles by the tree. Officer advised.

5:48 p.m. Bike reported stolen on Park Street. Report taken.

Friday, 4/3
 2:41 a.m. Report of chimney fire on Taylor Hill Road. MCFD and TFFD advised. Officer advised fully involved structure fire on arrival. Eversource notified re: live wires arcing in driveway. Officers clear; several fire departments still on scene.
 12:45 p.m. Report of illegal dumping off of the bike path behind Food City. Message left for DPW; Food City also advised.

Saturday, 4/4
 12:38 a.m. [redacted] was

arrested and charged with not having a license in his possession; marked lanes violation; operating under the influence of liquor; speeding; operating to endanger; and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

12 p.m. Caller requests that an officer dispose of several hypodermic needles on Avenue A. Services rendered.

12:11 p.m. Car fire on Montague City Road. TFFD on scene; fire extinguished.

5:02 p.m. Caller advises that some "crazy people" are attempting to cut down his landlord's apple tree. Responding officer reports that people were attempting to prune/trim the tree and did not appear to have caused any damage to the tree.

5:34 p.m. Caller reports finding a needle while walking on Montague City Road. Services rendered.

Sunday, 4/5
 7:31 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct (subsequent offense) and consuming alcohol on a public way.

**LOOKING BACK:
 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on April 7, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Gill Weighs in on Nuclear Waste

Once again, on Monday April 4, River Road resident Bart Bales asked the select board to call for increased safety measures at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Entergy is engaged in a formal permitting process seeking approval to boost power production at the plant to 120% of its original design capacity. Entergy also plans to ask for a 20-year extension of Vermont Yankee's operating license, now set to expire in 2012.

The 25,000,000 Curies of radioactive Cesium stored at the plant are "not storable," said selectboard member Phil Maddern.

The board agreed to send a letter to the Vermont legislators considering Entergy's plan for new above-ground storage of spent fuel rods, and to the governor of Vermont, as well as local Massachusetts legislators. The board will urge the legislators to "exercise all the caution they can" in their ruling on Entergy's request.

Save the Box Car

The highlight of this week's Erving selectboard meeting (April 4th) was a visit and urgent appeal for help by a small group of townspeople supporting Toni Wilson's effort to purchase the Boxcar Restaurant on Main Street. The Boxcar might be sold to Dunkin Donuts, with the likelihood that the historic building would be demolished and replaced by the standard franchise design.

According to planning board member Jeff Dubay, the former

train depot station is 150 years old and has not been altered much.

"I have days" to put this deal together, said Wilson. "I'm working seven days a week, sometimes 18 hours a day. This is serious. This building is very important to the town. It's been my dream to own this building. I can't imagine losing it to a fast-food chain."

Dubay said the town currently has no zoning bylaw to protect against the destruction of properties, even historic ones. "The Depot was the internet of the 1850s," he said. "It put us on the map and brought people together." Attracting tourists is important to the town's future, he said: "Erving is a destination!"

Schools Building Paths of Learning and Art

Hillcrest and Sheffield Elementary Schools face each other from across sports fields and playgrounds, and they are separated by fences. Soon, thanks to a \$14,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the two schools will be connected by an inter-school pathway, to be constructed approximately in June of this year.

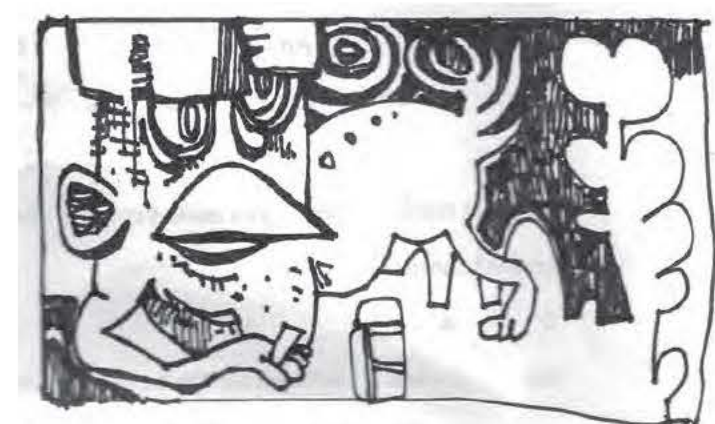
The project is titled "Celebrating the Circle of Life Through Art." Artist-in-Residence David Fichter is working with student-led design teams to create a series of murals that will line the path connecting the two schools.

Hillcrest students will paint murals focusing on the family, while Sheffield murals will detail the history of Montague, up to the present time.

"It's going to look really good with the murals," said Shelli Humphrey, a fifth grader in Mrs. Guy-Greene's class. "It seems like it's going to take longer to finish than we thought, but it's fun."

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WEST ALONG from page B1 senior researcher, and David Numan is the military history specialist. In addition to scouring primary sources, they have been broadening the scope of their research to encompass relative cultural practices and background from both the colonial side as well as the tribal side to develop an understanding of the context which existed in the Connecticut River Valley prior to and during King Philip's War, also known as Metacom's War.

The team's research design is divided into three phases:

Phase I: documentary and artifact research, identification of prospective battlefield site locations, GIS mapping and military terrain analysis models.

Phase II: Survey of potential sites, updating GIS maps and terrain models, determine battlefield boundaries.

Phase III: Preservation initiatives, interpretive programs, educational programs.

One particular aspect of the military terrain analysis that will be applied for the first time to this massacre site, as well as its approach and retreat routes, will be a technique called KOCOA.

This protocol refers to: **Key terrain**; **Observation** and fields of fire;

Cover and concealment; **Obstacles**; and **Avenues of approach** (and retreat).

In addition to the exhaustive work being done by the researchers, an unprecedented level of collaboration between the Tribes involved in the battle, and the Towns whose modern territory encompasses the battle sites, is adding an historic dimension to the study.

The Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts, the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe of Mohicans, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe have been meeting regularly with the Historic Commissioners of the towns of Gill, Montague, Greenfield, Deerfield, and Northfield to bring forth all the multiple perspectives in a collaborative effort during this most definitive study of the events of May 1676.

This first phase of the grant-funded study will culminate in a final report in 2016 which will include the data gathered by the Museum team, in addition to the four separate written accounts from each of the Tribes.

The above-mentioned Tribes are developing narratives from both their written histories as well as from their oral traditions and accounts that will for the first time

ever, describe the context and events from a tribal point of view.

It is anticipated that over the next number of years, funding will be further granted to begin archaeology on the battlefield terrain, as well as along the approach and retreat routes through the participating towns.

Ongoing monthly meetings of the grant Advisory Board, appointed by the Montague Selectmen, have become a key feature of this grant process. The representatives of the participating Tribes, plus Historical Commissioners from the five towns, meet in sessions open to the public, and in which the public participates.

These meetings have brought together local historians with a passion for the history and archaeology of the Valley, a number of persons of Native descent, and numerous writers.

The discussions are lively, and as of late have involved debates around how the Pocumtucks, the local tribe who occupied Montague and Deerfield until the 1676 massacre, would be represented in this study. That question has not been resolved, but is typical of the ongoing debates over an event that occurred three hundred and thirty-nine years ago.

Another aspect of the forum created by this study, and facilitated by the Advisory Board, is the convergence of multiple perspectives on our histories: that is, how our histories are transmitted, and how events can be seen differently through tribal eyes or through the eyes of non-indigenous students of the events.

An example of this occurred at the last meeting of the Advisory Board, when the legend of the malevolent giant beaver of Wequamps (Mt. Sugarloaf) was evoked.

Only recently have the academic and scientific communities given actual consideration and acceptance to the context of that tribal legend. Tribal people have always told of the great lake that existed here in our Valley, but most academics refused to believe that people could actually have *seen* the lake, since supposedly there were no humans in the Valley at the time.

Yet through this oral history, clearly someone was present to observe Lake Hitchcock and develop an explanation for the massive land formation (Sugarloaf) that surely protruded above the lake's surface.

One skeptical archaeologist announced that it is well-known fact that there were no fish in the lake. To which Bettina Washington,

Tribal Historian of the Wampanoag answered, "There were no fish in the lake, because the giant beaver ate them!"

This explanation and exchange prompted Joe Graveline, Advisory Board member from the Northfield Historical Commission and Nolumbeka Project president, to say: "This Battlefield study process is teaching us once again to look and listen with new ears and eyes to a tribal way of remembering history. We need to look beyond what the scientific and academic communities have been telling us to include the tribal telling of the same story."

At some point there is a convergence in these histories, and the whole story can begin to emerge.

This Battlefield study process is giving us all the opportunity to hear and learn in a new way about the history that is right under our feet, about the histories found right where we have lived for generations. We are learning to see these histories with new eyes.

The Advisory Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall. The public is welcome.



ADDICTION from page B1

The Addiction

Are addicts drawn to the restaurant, or is the restaurant the malevolent force behind the addiction?

Alcoholics and addicts come from all walks of life. Lawyers, pilots, engineers and construction workers are all equally vulnerable to this disease. Mr. X asserts: "Do some dishwashers come in and become drug addicts? Yeah, but would they have become a drug addict if they were in the landscaping business?"

Addiction is hereditary and does not discriminate. But the prevalence of drugs and the unlimited opportunities to drink make the restaurant a dangerous place for those who have "addictive personalities."

In a 2007 study of workplace drug and alcohol abuse, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, found that 17.4% of food service workers were illicit drug users, which was the most of any profession studied.

The Most Vulnerable

Parents who bring their adolescent teens to fill out their first application for work would be wise to steer clear of the local eatery.

The combination of the availability of drugs, the stress of the job itself, the peer pressure from much older and already deranged cooks with a splash of an undeveloped teenage brain can quickly become the perfect cocktail for drug and alcohol abuse later in life.

Mr. X said, "Most of the kids are seventeen when they get here, so they've already been exposed to it." But the prevalence of users already established in the restaurant will make access to drugs and alcohol much easier for the teenager.

The camaraderie of a restaurant lends itself to this exposure, where a seventeen-year-old who works hard and shows an ability to follow simple instructions will quickly earn the respect and friendship of the older workers.

Dr. Frances Jensen, of the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, said in a January interview with National Public Radio, "The effects of substances are more permanent on the teen brain. They have more deleterious effects and can be more toxic to the teen than the adult."

This is largely in part to the brain being yet undeveloped, and the brain's reward center being trained to receive pleasure from narcotic and alcoholic stimuli.

It can be difficult for one to establish the difference between a teenager or young adult who is simply using drugs and alcohol as part of an experimental phase, and one who will grow into a full blown alcoholic or addict. Not until the early twenties is the brain fully developed.

Kelly, who has been sober for many years, said, "A 22-year-old kid, they should be drinking. It's totally normal. Nine out of ten people can do that."

The Shift Drink

An expectation of the restaurant worker is often a "shift drink." In fact, for some, it's one of the only reasons to stay on board.

"Our guys are supposed to have one," said Mr. X.

One shift drink often turns into more. As the managers leave for the evening, and the overnight crews come in to clean, cooks and servers are often left behind, drinking. "You know they're having two or three. People ask me, Why don't you enforce that more? Well, you know what, they're ten- or eleven-dollar-an-hour employees - it's kinda figured into their pay. It's an incentive."

That incentive is one of the few allowed to part-time, and sometimes under-the-table, employees. However, not all restaurants offer a shift drink.

The shift drink is slowly going by the wayside. It's a tax liability, in the same way a "drink on the house" is. Restaurants in Massachusetts are supposed to pay tax on all alcohol consumed, not just sold. As a cost-

control measure, and a means of complying with the tax laws, many restaurants have eliminated the shift drink altogether.

Some even forbid employees to remain on the premises and purchase alcohol as guests.

Corporate chain restaurants and high-end places are most likely to have policies forbidding employees from drinking while at work.

Undoubtedly, though, the employees of these places often move their party to other restaurants and bars. Local chain restaurants are full of late night guests from competing restaurants, and thus the lifestyle persists.

"If you go to a barber shop every day for a month, you're going to get a haircut." - Steve Kelly

One certain way to avoid employees having a shift drink is to run a "sober" restaurant. In the case of The Big Kitchen Cafe, this was a fundamental policy from the get-go.

The restaurant would allow guests to bring their own alcohol, but the lack of a liquor license absolutely had a negative impact on the success of The Big Kitchen Cafe.

Kelly said, though the license was available at the time, "We didn't want to - in good conscience - serve alcohol, and the other, more important reason: if it's March, and it's snowing outside, I didn't want to be staring at a bottle of Johnny Walker while no people were in the restaurant. It was a combination of the two things. We couldn't feel comfortable selling alcohol, and being in recovery, we just wanted to protect our sobriety."

The Complicated Solution

Dangerous lines of work, where a person could injure himself if working under the influence of drugs and alcohol, test employees regularly.

Many jobs require a clean drug test as a condition of employment.

Restaurants, however dangerous they are, seldom drug test employees. Would that be a possible solution to the heavy drug and alcohol problems faced in restaurants?

Mr. X said, "You'd have to drug test, because you can't just accuse someone of something. You'd have to have some concrete proof. Believe me, I know some of the guys, and I know what they're doing. To see them doing it or catch them doing it, that's a different story."

When the two interview subjects of this article were asked why restaurants don't drug test, they both had a good chuckle. Mr. X said, "Because they probably wouldn't have any help."

And Kelly: "If I did a drug and alcohol test on my employees, they would have all failed."

While the restaurant industry might not be ready for conditional drug tests to help create and foster a healthier social scene among their workers, some restaurants have found ways of at least limiting what happens on their premises, by removing the "shift drink," and writ-

ing internal policies helping addicts get treatment rather than terminating them.

Insurance companies and the state legislature could make incentives for implementing conditional drug testing.

There are also management training programs that restaurants could take part in to help curb their employees' habits, or at least help them recognize the signs before they head down the dangerous path to addiction.

For the restaurateur who is battling a drug addiction, Kelly advises avoiding the social part of the restaurant. He said that hanging out and drinking soda will only last so long: "If you go to a barber shop every day for a month, you're going to get a haircut."

Finally, for the restaurateur new to recovery, Kelly urges, "You have to be working closely with someone - call it a sponsor or guide - and you have to be willing to walk away. If you're there, and you find yourself being tempted, then you on-the-spot quit."



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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls-Story Time: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The Pioneer Tavern (Formerly The Rt.63 Roadhouse), Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m to midnight. Free.

EXHIBITS:

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, #106-#112 Avenue A: *In Like a Lion, Out like a Lamb: An Exhibition That Anticipates Spring!* Art that addresses the change of seasons, transformation, rebirth and hope. Artists include Gary Smith, Ann C. McDonald, Louise Minks, Patricia Hayes, Kerry Stone. On display through April 12th.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls, *Promenade of Shoes - Belinda Lyons Zucker*. Paper shoes and diorama box shrines by Belinda Lyons Zucker and paintings by Nina Rossi. Opening reception during the April 16 Third Thursday event "A Night of Conversation about the Arts". Work on display 4/2 to 5/2/15.

Deerfield Arts Bank, Deerfield: *Black and White and Read All Over*, group exhibit 4/16-5/17. Reception 4/16, 6 p.m.

Deerfield Academy, von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield: *The Art is the Cloth: A Series of Reflections*. Weavers from Canada, Mexico and the US explore tapestries that call attention to themselves as cloth. Through 4/30.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Work by Marie Welch*, 4/1-4/30

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendell-mass.us

Seeking Cool Cats for a special feline feature at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls June-July 2015! Fantastical, floppy, funny, frumpy, foolish, just let the fur fly for this show of fine art and craft. Also seeking practical cat items such as treats, toys, collars, etc. Interested consignors please contact Nina Rossi, naban@verizon.net (413) 834-8800. www.ninasnook.com

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center hosts an informational

meeting on Monday, April 13 at 5 p.m. for artists interested in joining their collectively-run gallery. Please respond by April 6 if you are interested in attending. For more information and membership requirements: www.sawmillriverarts.com and Kerry Stone: (978) 544-5463/ famstone5@hotmail.com or Susan Essig at 357-9709.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Scott Lawson Pomeroy, *Fear No 80s*. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Care, Carinae, Death Savings Flag, Old Pam*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Surly Temple and Friends*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 10

Great Falls Coffeehouse Series at the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *August Watters and*

derson, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wishbone Zoe--The Mary Jones* 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Leverett Library, Leverett: Reception for *Poetry Boxes Exhibit*, 1 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *The Gaslight Tinkers*, benefit for Seeds of Solidarity. \$ 7 p.m.

Greenfield Community College Sloan Theater, *Bach and Handel* chorus performance, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range Cats*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Eavesdrop*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Silent Mind*, 2:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church,



Indie folk band Laney Jones and the Spirits will be playing at Mocha Maya's on Friday, April 17th Laney is a banjo picking singer songwriter with a voice like honey whiskey. She has recently performed on national television for PBS's Great Performances.

Ted Mann Duo, \$ 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *When Things Go Wrong: Robin Lane's Story*, along with a musical performance by Lane and friends and a discussion with the film's director Tim Jackson. Lane's remarkable life includes romances with famous rock stars like Neil Young and Andy Summers (The Animals and The Police), hit recordings with her own band The Chartbusters, immersion in counterculture trappings of drugs, politics, family and religion, and finally emerging as a Shelburne Falls resident and leader of songwriting workshops for women trauma survivors. \$, 7:30 p.m. repeats 4/11

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Derek Rogers, Rob Forman, Jenifer Gelineau, 23 Ensemble*. 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Mount Peru*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett An-*

Amherst: *Alice Parker Hymn Sing*, 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mike*, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Dava Sobel, From Galileo's Daughter to the Glass Universe: The Journey of a Woman Science Writer*, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Third Thursday Turners Falls Events, Various Venues in Turners Falls, see turnersfallsriverculture.org for details. 4:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College, Downtown Center, Greenfield: *To Survive and to Re-Member Americans in Occupied Belgium*,

1914-1918. \$ 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 6 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Dave Houghton and Fancy Trash*, \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoleros*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sweetback Sisters*, \$ 9:30 p.m.

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GILDEA from page B1

In the early morning hours that fateful day in May, it was still dark when the militia arrived. The soldiers had made their way into Bernardston and went down the Falls River almost into Gill.

A small contingent of men held the reins of horses while the attackers headed into the Gill riverbed. At that time, Barton Cove was dry and served as a gathering place for the natives. It was here that the colonists massacred them – men, women, and children – as they slept.

A resident of Bernardston for more than 30 years, Gildea also wrote *The Franklin County Fair: As American as Apple Pie*, which was published in 2008. This work traces the history of the local festival from its start in 1848. The Greenfield event is the oldest continuous fair in the nation.


The author was born in Jamaica Plain and graduated from high school in Sacramento, California. He studied business management

at Northeastern University. An Air Force veteran, Gildea fulfilled his duties during the Korean War, from 1954 to 1958, earning the rank of airman first class.

Gildea worked as a semiconductor engineering technician for Digital Equipment Company in Hudson.

There he helped design computer chips and, as he notes, "everything that went into computers such as memory devices and the central processing unit." In addition, Jim managed the company's engineering laboratory at the then state-of-the-art facility.

Gildea was also the editor of the *Greenfield Town Crier* from 1992 to 1997. He not so fondly recalls sleeping on one of the tables at the office during winter storms when he knew he'd never be able to get back to the office the next day.

Gildea's book is dedicated to "the men and women of long ago who demonstrated so much courage and determination in creating a town out o' the wilderness." 

The Montague Reporter is seeking to expand our sports coverage. If you are interested in writing, photography, or underwriting this effort, please contact (413) 863-8666 or editor@montaguereporter.org

5th Annual North Quabbin Arts in Bloom Spring Festival

The festival, which is held on Saturday, May 2 in Butterfield Park (E. River St.), in Orange, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., is a celebration of Spring with a traditional May Pole braiding, entertainers, food vendors, artisans, children's crafts, games and prizes, silent auction, raffle and much more.

Performers from last year who are returning include Who's in Tune?, the New Salem Central Congregational Church Hootenzannies, Richard Chase, Marc Erwin, Tom Deane and Linda Piragus, and Work in Progress.

New, this year, is Laura Torraco (Amherst), who dances with hula hoops, and the Forte Music Program, whose chorus and "boomwhacker" group will also perform.

Deb Habib (Seeds of Solidarity) will give us a Q&A on great garden-

ing ideas and how to grow food anywhere.

The festival is free to the public due to the support of our generous local business sponsors and private citizens.

If you are interested in donating your talent, selling your product, becoming a committee member or a sponsor, contact Candi Fetzter at (513) 226-0043 or at performingart-collaborative@gmail.com.

We have a great need for food vendors this year. If you are a food vendor, please register and pay your vendor fee by Friday, April 24 in order to have a space reserved.

Visit our website www.artsinbloom-nq.org for more information and applications for the festival.

Hope to see you, rain or shine, at this year's Spring Festival!

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