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YEAR 12 – NO. 25

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 10, 2014

Principal Anne Ross To Retire From Leverett Elementary

By JEFF SINGLETON

"I've been in education for forty years," said Leverett Elementary School Principal Anne Ross. "It seemed like a nice round number."

Thus did Ross officially announce her retirement at the Leverett School Committee meeting of April 7.

"What size shoes do you wear?" asked Kip Fonsch. The feeling around the table seemed to be that hers would not be easy to fill.

Ross has been principal at Leverett since the turn of the twenty-first century, fourteen years to be exact. She had previously served as the principal of an international school in the Czech Republic and as an elementary school teacher.

Bob Mahler, Superintendent of Union 28 of which Leverett Elementary School is a member, announced that he would put together a committee to choose a successor to Ross. School Committee Chair Catherine Brooks indicated she might be interested in serving as a parent representative.

The announcement coincided with other important changes in local school governance. Kip Fonsch announced that he will be resigning as Leverett Representative on the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee, the oversight board for the middle and high schools.

He said that he wanted to let the

see ROSS page A4

Recycling Company Joins Unity Skate Park Campaign

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Republic Services area manager, Bruce Stanas, along with the company's general manager, Eric Curtis, presented a check for \$1,500 to members and friends of the Unity Skate Park Committee on Tuesday, April 8.

The donation brings the total amount of funds for the skate park challenge grants of \$10,000 to nearly \$6,000.

Republic Services, which provides solid waste and recycling service to Montague, made the award as part of its general community

partnership program. "We make a point to give back to the communities we serve," said Stanas.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto said she was thrilled with the donation. "It really helps move things along," she said. LoManto had originally asked Republic Services for a grant to RiverCulture, but after further discussion with Stanas, they decided to direct the funds to the skate park project.

Stanas and Curtis selected the new Kali B's Wings and Things on Avenue A as the venue to hand over the over-sized check. A crew of young skateboarders, as well as the

see UNITY page A5



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

From left to right: Dillon Rogers, Frank Hurricane, Bruce Stanas (Republic Services), Bryan Dolan, Danny Cruz, Dominic Smith, Joey Ayers, Kendall Ayers, Ethan Thresher, Suzanne LoManto, Eric Curtis (Republic Services), Nancy Holmes, Jeremiah Russell, Victor Rodriguez, and Korey Bousquet.

Hope for Jobs, But More Calls for Opposition, As Gas Pipeline Reps Visit Montague

By MIKE JACKSON

"Keeping in mind that we have other items on the agenda, you're here tonight for permission to do your survey work on town lands, and you should concentrate on that," said Montague selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother at Monday's meeting.

"That's a tough one," responded Allen Fore, director of public affairs at Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, "because I want to be transparent, too, with folks, and let them know what we're doing – the big picture of the project."

So began what was essentially the first public hearing on a proposed, 250-mile natural gas transmission pipeline, which would cut through the largely rural northern tier of the state to connect with a hub at Dracut.

In February, Montague's selectboard refused Kinder Morgan's land agents permission to survey on a small, wooded parcel of town-owned land, on Country Hill near Millers Falls.

That refusal has since been echoed by the towns of Warwick and Ashburnham, which have both rescinded surveying permission to the company.



JACKSON PHOTO

The meeting was full to overflowing.

"There's been a crisis in the Northeast. There's no question about that.... This is what the elected officials – the leaders in New England – are saying: that additional infrastructure is needed," said Fore, leading a packed town hall meeting room through a PowerPoint presentation on the company's plans, mission statements, and philanthropic activities.

"This is very early in a multi-year process.... This will be one of many meetings we will have to talk about the process."

According to the slides, the company hopes to pre-file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this October, officially file the project application in August 2015, and begin construction in April 2017.

Fore's presentation was followed by a lengthy and animated question-and-answer session.

see GAS REPS page A6

Contested Selectboard Races in Erving and Gill This Spring

By MIKE JACKSON

ERVING – Two candidates, Bill Pease and William Andrew Bembury, have returned papers to run for the seat selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin will be vacating this year. The election will be held Monday, May 5.

Bembury, who previously served as selectman from 1998 to 2001, has worn many other hats through the years: a retired state environmental police officer, acting Chief of Police, and rec commission chair, he resigned last month as election board warden to run for the office.

Pease, who stressed to this paper that he is "not a politician," served until last year on the Erving Fire Department. He was one of six members of that department to resign in protest of the ouster of former chief Bud Meattay.

The controversy over that event is echoed in the race.

In a statement made available to the press, Bembury called it "a very turbulent time" and "a battle in which the angry tone spilled over into the community," praising department members for their ongoing service and pledging to "work to rebuild what has been lost."

Pease's statement did not directly address that issue, but described a rift between town hall and residents, say-

ing that in his view, the town has not had "a selectboard that governs for its residents... in some time."

Pease said he hopes to bring oversight to town departments in order to make them more functional, "so that Erving tax payers will feel supported by [them]," adding that "this is not currently how many of them feel."

In terms of specific issues or proposals raised in the candidates' advance literature, Bembury drew focus to the need for resolution – whether in redevelopment or demolition – of the Usher Mill building.

He added that the International Paper Mill "sits abandoned and waiting to become the same disaster... the Selectboard needs to be more proactive in addressing the issues" around these

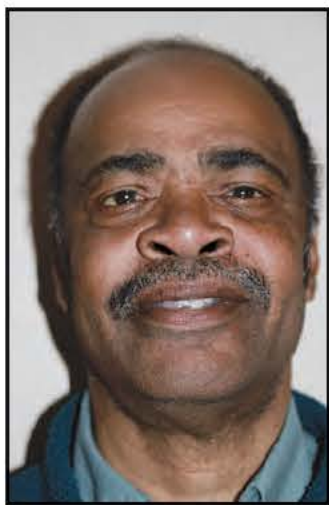
empty facilities.

For his part, Pease called for reform to town meeting, calling for agendas to be set in order of "importance for the residents". "The difficulty in attending a town meeting after having worked a full-time job... makes it practically impossible for working families to have their voices heard," he said.

"I know there are residents who believe this is done so that certain agendas can be pushed through with very little resistance."

In addition to the selectboard race, there will be competition on the ballot for three other town positions: seats on the planning board, board of health, and tree warden.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard noted that there had not been so many contested races in recent memory.



William Bembury



Bill Pease



Fred Chase II



Gregory Snedeker

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – When seven-term selectboard chair Ann Banash announced her retirement last fall, she warned any contenders to replace her to start studying for the job.

Two candidates, Fred Chase II and Gregory Snedeker, have thrown their hats in the ring. Both are longtime residents of the town with some experience in its governance.

Chase, owner of Fred's 4-Wheel Drive Service and president of the Antique Truck Club of America, has served over the years on the highway, fire and police departments, as well as the finance committee.

"I feel that I can be a viable link between the departments and the townspeople in regard to daily operations, and budget concerns," said

Chase in a statement provided to the press.

Snedeker is a music teacher at Stoneleigh-Burnham School and owns a small audio engineering business. He served as assessor, and ultimately head assessor, from 2005 to 2008.

"Leadership comes from learning – I'd take their lead," Snedeker said of board members Randy Crochier and John Ward.

"On the selectboard you're dealing with decisions that need to be made on a regular basis, so when the bigger things come up, you can offer a context for the town to make decisions."

The town, in Snedeker's perspective, is "in good shape," with only a couple major ongoing issues to address, including the fate of the Mariamante property, and improving energy efficiency

of town buildings, which he says he supports.

"You're stepping into something where there's not that much need for a personal agenda," he said.

Chase expressed the need for "changes... to be weighed against any increase in financial burden on the taxpayers, especially those on fixed income already burdened by the stagnant economy."

Chase argues that the town "should be reaching out for ways to increase the tax base by encouraging more small business enterprises to move into town."

"Fred's a good guy," said Snedeker. "It's always nice to have a choice. They're not going to go wrong with either of us."

The election will be held on Monday, May 19.

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Immigration Reform Now!

Last Saturday a small number of protesters marched to the White House to put pressure on President Obama to use his power as chief executive to halt deportations of non-criminal immigrants.

Others marched in other cities across the country but the numbers were far less than in 2006 when a million protested a harsh Republican-sponsored House immigration bill.

But this time the rally was all about the president. Some carried signs reading "Deporter In Chief." Many in the crowd had previously been among his most ardent supporters.

Their disappointment in the man they hoped would end massive deportations was manifest. The reality is that since the president took office nearly two million people have been deported.

To be sure, these policies were in place before Mr. Obama became president, but his Homeland Security Office has been more than zealous in enforcing them. The Obama administration has defended its illegal immigrant deportation policies by claiming that those being deported, in the president's words, are "criminals, gang bangers, people who are hurting the community."

We would like to think that the president maybe just hasn't gotten his facts straight, but we fear he actually believes what he is saying.

Perhaps now that *The New York Times* has released an analysis of who is really being sent packing, he may have a somewhat different view. According to the analysis of internal government records since Mr. Obama took office, two-thirds of the nearly two million deportation cases were of people who had been picked up for minor infractions, such as traffic violations, or had no criminal record at all.

Only 20 percent – or about 394,000 – of the cases involved people convicted of serious crimes, including drug-related offenses.

Not only were individuals removed from the U.S. for simply being illegal, the Obama administration also has taken a harsher line on illegal aliens than before.

In the past, non-criminal immigration violators would have been removed without formal charges. In the final year of the Bush administration, for instance, more than 25 percent of these were returned to their native countries without charges.

In 2013, charges were filed in more than 90 percent of those

types of cases. Once charges are filed, immigrants are prohibited from returning for at least five years. Those caught returning illegally face prison time.

The United States already faces a serious problem with the incarceration of immigrants. Across the country, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has privatized detention centers, handing them over to a for-profit corporation, the GEO Group.

The conditions in these holding facilities are so miserable that immigrants, many of them non-criminals, have gone on hunger strikes in Washington state and in Texas.

The hunger strikes have brought public attention to major flaws in federal immigration policy, including "bed mandates," which set a quota of 34,000 beds that the Department of Homeland Security must fill to receive appropriations.

Another major issue is the denial of *habeas corpus* to those suspected of being illegal. This policy of mandatory detention requires ICE to hold immigrants suspected of being illegal indefinitely, without bail, pending deportation review.

Setting quotas for receiving funds and mandatory detention are policies that need to go. So, too, does privatization of immigration holding facilities.

We take some heart that the president is, at last, beginning to take notice. Citing concern about family separation, Mr. Obama did order a review of his administration's immigration-enforcement policies.

He said he hoped enforcement could be accomplished "more humanely within the confines of the law," but stressed that deportations would not be suspended during the review. We hope this review will be a real one. In a country that professes humane treatment for all, suspected illegals should not be the exceptions.

A coherent immigration policy is needed. Mass deportation of mostly brown-skinned young men is not the answer.

To his credit, the president has been pushing a comprehensive immigration bill that could lead to an enfranchisement of many here illegally – the so-called Dreamers, the undocumented children of illegal parents. But he has to push harder.

If the president has believed that a harsh deportation policy might prove to Congress that he is serious about immigration, the strategy has been ineffective.

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A New Budget, Two New Hires, and New Plans

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The Gill-Montague School Committee had several exciting developments to approve at its April 8 meeting.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan spoke favorably of the District's meeting with the combined finance and select boards of Gill and Montague on April 2.

Both towns approved the change in the school's budget warrant to be presented at Gill and Montague town meetings in May. He asked the school committee to approve the increase in the 2015 budget as well.

The all-funds budget that will go to town meetings was approved unanimously by the school committee at \$19,428,823. This represents

an increase in the local funds budget of 202,211 of which \$52,211 comes from the town assessments and \$150,000 from the E&D account.

As for new hires, Sullivan introduced to the committee Ms. Sandy Donah of South Hadley as the District's new Director of Pupil Services. Donah expressed her excitement to begin her duties on April 15.

Sullivan outlined her experience in the Hartford school system where she managed pupil services for eight schools, as well as her previous service as Assistant Director in Northampton schools.

In addition, Sullivan later announced the selection of Ms. Joanne Blier of Turners Falls as his choice for Director of Business and Operations.

Blier leaves her position of school business administrator in the Mohawk Trail School System after eight years of service. She will take up her duties at GMRSD at the end of June or beginning of July.

Sullivan then wished to discuss a new proposal: that of adding a new principal position to the Hillcrest building of the elementary school.

For some time, he explained, the melding of the two elementary buildings into one PTO, with combined Parents' Night, combined school councils, as well as a single shared faculty meeting each month, has left many staff at Hillcrest feeling there was not enough focus on the particular culture of the early childhood and first-grade

see GMRSD next page



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

DANSE CAFÉ, featuring French & Breton Dance, will be held on Sunday, April 13, from 3 to 5:30 p.m., at Leverett Crafts and Arts, 13 Montague Road in Leverett. Enjoy dancing, instruction, and live music with a French café ambience. There is a \$7 admission charge. For more information, email cynthia@crocker.com.

Just a reminder for this weekend. The Spring Parade is Saturday, April 12, starting at 1 p.m. from the Sheffield School and the debut reading of *As You Write It Volume IV* at the Gill/Montague Senior Center, Fifth St., in Turners Falls is on Sunday, April 13, starting at 1 p.m.

A can and bottle drive to support the Unity Skatepark will be held in conjunction with the Spring Parade on the Hill in Turners Falls, Saturday morning, April 12.

Those who live on the parade route – Crocker Avenue, Montague Street, Turnpike Road from the police station to the High School, and Montague City Road north from Turnpike to High Steet – are asked

to leave their returnable cans and bottles "ready for pickup" at the end of their driveways. Volunteers for the skatepark will collect them at the end of the parade.

Folks in other parts of town who would like to donate returnable cans and bottles to the drive are asked to drop them off on Saturday morning, with prior permission, at a friend's house who lives directly on the parade route, or else at 101 Fourth Street, next to the community garden, across the street from the 2nd Street Bakery in downtown Turners Falls.

Friday, April 18, three **local rock n roll and punk bands** – Holy Vex, OFC and Rebel Base – will play a benefit, also for the Unity Skatepark, at Saint Kaz. It's an all ages show, and a positive ID gets a bar bracelet.

Sliding scale admission is \$5 to whatever you can contribute to a very good cause. St. Kazimierz is at 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The show starts at 8:30 p.m.

The 3rd grade classes of Montague Elementary School will be hosting the movie **Rio 2** at The Greenfield Garden Cinema on Sat-

urday April 19, at 9:30 a.m. All seats are just \$5 and will benefit their field trip to Old Sturbridge Village.

Have you seen video of the **running of the bulls** in Spain or seen **crazed fans** storm ball fields after their favorite team has won a championship? Well, Turners Falls has something like that when children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in the great community tradition of the **EGGstravaganza Egg Hunt**.

Children will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy and toy filled eggs strewn throughout Sheffield School's back field on Saturday, April 19, with the starting horn going off promptly at 1 p.m.

Participants must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs. Please take notice that for this year the event has moved from the traditional location of Unity Park.

The TFHS Alumni Association is sponsoring a community tag sale and craft fair, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Turners Falls High School parking lot.

Spaces may be rented in advance by contacting the TFHS Alumni at tfhsalumni@gmrtd.org or calling Doug Brown at 863-2626. Proceeds from this event supports the Alumni Scholarship Fund at TFHS.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

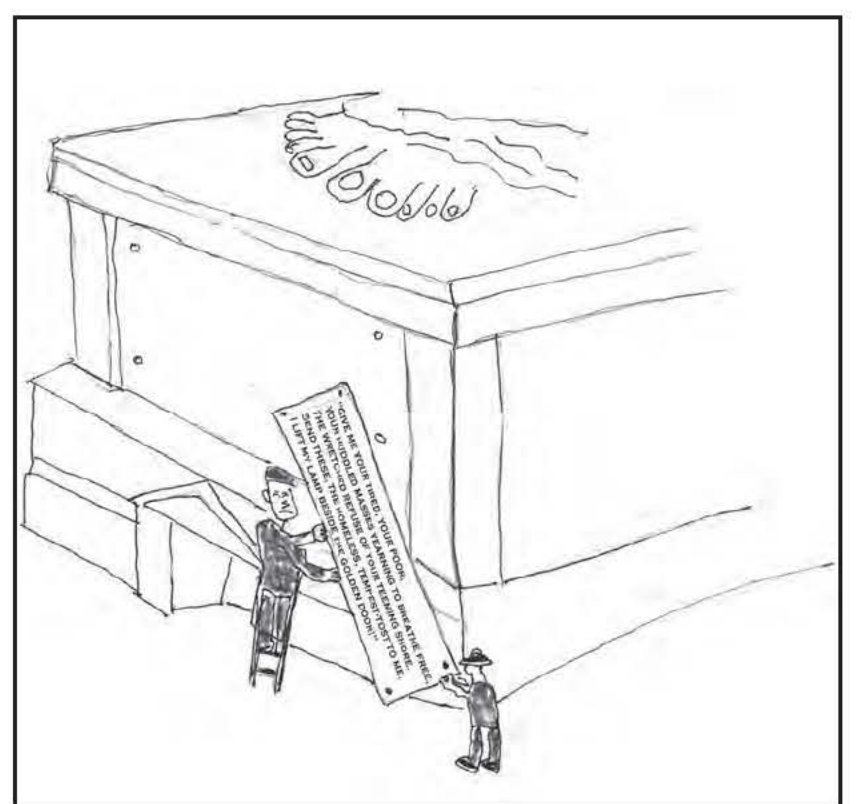
The House Republicans have stalled every attempt to pass immigration reform despite the Senate passing, with the support of several Republicans, a reasonable immigration bill.

All the House has managed to do – and this was last year – was pass a bill, called the Enforce Act, that would have even deported dreamers.

The stubbornness of House Republicans on immigration is shameful. The time for comprehensive immigration reform is now.

The president needs to rally Congress and the American people to push forward a solution to our broken immigration system.

Perhaps, if a coherent policy is in place, an incoherent, draconian and anti-American deportation policy can be stopped cold in its tracks.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

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GMRS from previous page needs of the Hillcrest portion of the elementary program.

"Having school leaders with experience and expertise in meeting these separate needs may be beneficial," said the superintendent in a memo on the matter.

Sullivan went on to ask for feedback on the idea from school committee members. Three members with children in or having gone through Hillcrest onto Sheffield seemed to agree that a principal for Hillcrest could improve oversight, guide teaching and allow for prompt response to students, as well as staff and parents.

In contrast to those responses,

member Mike Langknecht thought a better option might be to create Hillcrest as a second K-5 school.

He said he thought the move to simply hire a principal with an early childhood focus might turn out to be temporary in the long run. This suggestion appeared to surprise the rest of the committee and there was little response at that moment to it.

Sullivan suggested that it could be discussed if the committee wished. Sullivan was encouraged to hold a forum with parents and community members as he has done with Montague Elementary staff on the benefits of Hillcrest as separate school with its own leadership.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

New Wastewater Revenue Contract

By KATIE NOLAN

The board signed a three-year contract negotiated by the finance committee and ERSECO Inc. for third party wastewater revenue at POTW#2.

The town-owned treatment plant, which treats a portion of the town's residential and commercial wastes, while it treats Erving Paper Mill wastewater is operated by Erving Industries subsidiary ERSECO.

The town pays \$1 per year for the wastewater treatment, and previously received \$50,000 per year as a share of the tipping fees paid by outside waste producers.

The new contract sets the payment at \$50,000 or 10% of ERSECO's annual tipping fees if profits exceed \$500,000. In 2013, the tipping fees totalled \$583,735.

Former Usher Plant

The Usher Plant reuse committee wrote to the selectboard recommending restoration of the smokestack

of the former Boiler Building at the Usher site.

The committee recommended first having Tighe & Bond perform apre-restoration asbestos inspection (\$2,250) and prepare asbestos abatement bidding document (\$2,500).

In November, bricks started falling from the upper part of the smokestack. NCM Contracting Group of Westford inspected the stack for stability in January and recommended removal of the stack to the roofline of the building.

NCM estimated \$66,000 as the cost for removing the stack to the roofline of the building.

At that time, Usher Plant re-use committee members said they were dissatisfied with NCM's report, and wanted to explore costs for retaining some or all of the stack. The selectboard then told the committee to return with cost estimates for repairing the stack.

The selectboard approved using \$4,750 from the money allocated for the former Usher Plant site work for

the Tighe & Bond work.

However, board members noted that costs for restoring the stack were likely to be high and should be voted at a town meeting.

The selectboard signed a request for determination of applicability (RDA) and notice of intent (NOI) to the conservation commission for future work at the former Usher Plant.

Annual Performance Reviews

The board conducted annual performance reviews for police chief Chris Blair, highway/water/wastewater director Paul Prest, and fire chief Philip Wonkka.

Blair discussed his efforts at promoting greater communication with townspeople and within the department, his review and revisions of the procedures and policy manual, and organizing department files and office space.

Prest said he had been working to foster teamwork between the highway, water, and wastewater departments, which were combined under a single director a year ago.

Wonkka talked about the bi-weekly fire department training meetings

and cleaning, reorganizing and painting at the fire stations.

Other Business

The board accepted Carol Lyman's resignation from the Council on Aging with regret.

The board agreed to allow a school employee, a one-to-one special needs aide who rides the bus with an elementary school child, to park in the town hall parking lot. Board members agreed that the aide is conducting town business while riding the bus.

The board previously established a parking policy and posted signs saying that parking in the town hall lot is allowed only when conducting town business. The board asked town coordinator Tom Sharp not to allow exceptions if he receives calls from people wanting to park there for other reasons.

The board noted that WMECO will hold a public meeting Thursday, April 10 at Erving Elementary School to discuss its \$75 million substation and transmission line project in Northfield and Erving.

Volunteers to Video

Janet Masucci, who has been videotaping the every other week selectboard meetings for rebroadcast on MCTV, so that Gill residents can watch the proceedings of town government at home, is seeking volunteers to help with that task.

If you are interested in receiving free training to help bring town government closer to the citizens through the medium of local cable access television, call her at 863-8694.

Flat Assessments Lead to Increase

The selectboard met with the finance committee on Monday to discuss aspects of the annual town budget, and discussion focused at length on the 10% hike in the town's assessment for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Joining the meeting via speaker phone from Florida, selectboard member Ann Banash said FRCOG assessments have been flat for the last five years, and now it was time for a modest (2½ percent) increase for administrative costs.

She said the COG is paying more as a result of moving out of the courthouse, which had provided space to the agency rent-free. That arrangement stems from when the COG's predecessor, the county government, owned the courthouse. It is now headquartered in the new transit center in Greenfield.

Gill Elementary Receives Grant For "Nature-Based" Learning

Gill Elementary School received a \$150 grant from the Greenfield Garden Club to create an edible garden on the campus. The garden is just one part of an extensive nature-based learning Program. The Greenfield Garden Club funds will help purchase much needed gardening supplies and vegetable seeds.

In the coming weeks the kindergarten and first grades will be creating an edible garden with the help of parent volunteer Colleen Sculley and Gill alumnus Sorrel Hatch.

The grant application was written by Sculley who is also facilitating a vernal pool exploration for the

first and third grades.

Other events included a spring-time maple sugaring walking field trip for fourth and sixth grades to Corey Matthews' sugar house.

At the sugar house, the students were able to learn first-hand about how sap is turned into maple syrup.

Later this spring, the second grade will be investigating birds, and plans are in the works for an outdoor experience for grades K-2 on May 9th to celebrate International Bird Migration Day.

Assisting with this project will be parent volunteers Sculley and Susannah Lerman.

NPR to Air Story on Lance Rice and Nina Rossi

On Sunday, April 13, between 5 and 6 p.m., National Public Radio's *All Things Considered Weekend Edition* will be airing a segment on the friendship between Nina Rossi and Lance Rice, both of Turners Falls.

Rice has written movingly in this paper about his hard road to recovery from drug addiction.

Rossi, owner of Nina's Nook and one of Rice's burglary victims, befriended the young man after he was arrested and decided to get clean.

Karen Brown, a producer at New England Public Radio, took note of Rice's articles in the *Reporter*. She first covered The Boston Globe, then produced an audio report for NEPR. The Sunday segment is part of what was originally aired on NEPR.

We hope you will tune in.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

April Fools: Decrease in Chapter 90 Funding

By DAVID DETMOLD

The Town of Gill received a too-good-to-be-true windfall in state aid last week, in the form of a letter from the Office of the Governor certifying that Gill's Chapter 90 funds for highway and bridge repairs had been increased from \$151,816 to \$705,653 for the coming fiscal year.

The letter was signed by Governor Deval Patrick. Unfortunately, someone from the Governor's office reached selectboard chair John Ward by cellphone on April 1, soon after the letter had been received, to report an error had been made.

A faulty computer printout had joggled the appropriations listed for the town of Gill with the appropriation for the next town down the list alphabetically, which turned out to be the City of Gloucester.

The \$705,653 was intended for that city, and instead of a half-million-dollar increase for paving the streets of Riverside, or regrading Ben Hale or even Barney Hale Road, Gill will have to be content with a modest \$150,928 in Chapter 90 funds in the coming year - \$888 less than this year's total.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington had been surprised at the original figure when he first opened the Governor's letter, but had decided not to call the Governor to thank him right away.

Speaking of Computers

Speaking of computers, the selectboard agreed to spend up to \$950 to replace the seven year old, balky computer Purington has been using to generate departmental spreadsheets, which is showing signs of giving up the ghost with annual town meeting just around the corner.

Ward said he could not imagine how Purington would be able to manage if the computer were to break down entirely.

Apparently, local governments

were once able to prepare for town meetings and the like without desktops, iPads and data spreadsheets, but nowadays nobody can quite remember how.

Gathering Roof Estimates

The selectboard is gathering estimates and opinions on how best to replace the leaky roof at the public safety building. The first estimate received for just the materials needed to put up trusses and a metal roof on that building is \$42,463.

The board also received initial estimates for the total cost of replacing the current roof with another flat, rubber membrane roof - \$76,629 - or switching to a tapered rubber membrane roof - \$83,185.

But board members expressed doubts that the one-story cinder-block building could withstand the added weight of trusses, and were also stumped by the problem of which direction a pitched roof would safely be able to shed water, given the specifics of the site.

Purington said he would meet with a structural engineer to examine the building this week. Whichever method is chosen to replace the roof at the safety complex, town meeting will likely be faced with a large bill for the repair.

DOR Returns \$34,623

Balanced against that, the selectboard did receive good news from the state Department of Revenue that a total of \$34,623 in excess funds from the Gill-Montague Regional School District would be returned to the town of Gill.

The board expressed a preference for allocating the funds, which represent Gill's share of the schools' free cash, in excess of a mandated cap of 5% of total regional school spending, from FY'13, toward one time capital projects at the Gill Elementary School, if any arise, or toward the town's education stabilization fund, to help meet future school expenses.


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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

(week ending 3/21/14)

Grade 6
Nicholas LaCoy

Grade 7
Ethan Shilo-Draper

Grade 8
Skylar Thompson

ROSS from page A1
committee know as soon as possible so a new representative can be chosen for the regional committee's May meeting.

The elementary school committee elects the representative to the regional committee. Sarah Dolven indicated that she would be interested in the position.

The Leverett school committee itself currently has two openings, an existing vacancy and a second resulting from the decision of Chair Catherine Brooks to resign. Brooks stressed family time constraints as influencing her decision.

There was a brief discussion of the need to recruit citizens to run for the two vacancies. One such citizen named Jen Chylack, who attended the meeting, said she was considering running.

Chylack asked why it was so difficult to find people to serve on the committee. Several members stressed the time commitment, noting that in addition to monthly committee meetings, members served on subcommittees and regional committees (Union 28 and the Amherst-Pelham district).

The feeling seemed to be members attended two to three meetings a month. Also "you need to give yourself three years to learn what it is all about," added Kip Fonsch.

There was also discussion at the meeting of the search process for a new Superintendent for Union 28. Bob Mahler is scheduled to vacate that position at the end of the next school year.

Fonsch wondered if it was necessary for candidates to have previous Superintendent experience. Mahler, noting that he did not have such experience when he took the job, said that other experience directing a large organization would suffice.

The biggest challenge, he said, was learning the "state stuff" while the district itself was "in pretty good shape."

In other "new business," Ross handed out a list of potential school choice openings for the committee to discuss. These included two openings each in grades 1 and 2, none in grade 3, three in grade 4, and four each in grades 5 and 6.

Ross noted that these numbers were based on maintaining sizes of fifteen or less in kindergarten through third grade, and eighteen or less in grades 4 through 6.

Bob Mahler stated that he was "not a big fan" of admitting students in the upper grades, because "they are coming in without understanding the expectations of the school." "When you have them in earlier grades," he said, "they know."

Ross said that students coming in the upper grades are usually "looking for a niche" and manage to find it. She suggested that there "has not been a problem."

Committee member Sarah Dolven said she would like to hear from teachers about the issue.

The issue will be discussed again in May after new school committee members are elected.

In other business the committee discussed the search process for a new special education teacher, which has been reopened, as well as the budgets for both the Elementary and High School Districts.

The latter have been approved by various committees and are waiting to be discussed at local town meetings in May. A significant concern is that Shutesbury town meeting could reject the regional budget due to local opposition to the assessment method.

Some town meeting members feel the town has experienced consistently higher payments under the so-called "alternative assessment method" adopted by the towns. This method is based on a five-year "rolling average" of enrollment.

Bob Mahler reported on a meeting with sixth grade parents concerned with "behavior issues" at recess and in the classroom. Mahler said that the meeting was very productive, and that he had attended a recent recess where the kids seemed to be getting along very well.

Sarah Dolven, a parent, stated that she thought the school had acted in a very "proactive" way to parents' concerns. The goal, she said, is for the sixth graders to experience a "happy ending" to their time at Leverett Elementary School.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Budget Hearing Boils Over In Frustration

By DAVID DETMOLD

What began as a routine exercise in reviewing the budget turned into a heated back and forth between about a dozen residents and the selectboard and finance committee about the growing burden of property taxes in a graying community where opportunities for young families to get a foothold are few, and where declining school enrollments have so far failed to result in decreased school spending.

The proposed FY'15 budget to fund all town departments, along with the elementary and regional schools, amounts to \$5,574,561, a 2.3% increase over last year. Originally scheduled for an hour, the discussion stretched for two and half.

"Leverett is getting to the point where a person who retires cannot afford to live here," said lifelong Hemenway Road resident Richie Roberts, who owns an excavating and landscaping business, one of just a handful of commercial enterprises in town. "My relatives, one after another, they're packing up and leaving town. They can't afford to live here. We can't just keep giving raises. We can't just keep spending money. We've got to do something about it."

Joanne Mully, who had arrived to discuss the future of the Leverett historical society's Field Family Museum but got caught up in the lengthy budget discussion, echoed Roberts' remark, saying, "I live on Social Security. I got a cost of living raise this year - 1%! How can I afford these increases? How can I afford to go on living here?"

After finance chair Tom Powers pointed out that about 75% of the town's \$5.5 million annual budget is devoted to school spending, and members of the selectboard repeated the shopworn characterization of school spending as an inviolable "sacred cow" in Leverett,

finance member Ann Delano said, "There are other sacred cows in town: growth, building, cell towers, lack of businesses. We have a huge amount of conserved land, making it difficult to build. New growth in town this year equaled just one house." Delano was referring to a house on the town border which the assessors recently discovered had been located in Leverett - not Shutesbury - all along.

"Did you charge them for back taxes? With interest?" called out voices from the crowd.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said a recent survey had showed a total of 198 building lots remaining in the entire town. He said zoning regulations and board of health regulations combined to make even those lots unaffordable for young families to build in town.

Delano said, "When you don't have affordable housing, when you don't have public transportation, you get no new growth. We're going to have to decide, how much conservation land is too much."

Richie Roberts called for dropping the voluntary tax surcharge, enacted by town meeting when it approved the local option Community Preservation Act, from 2% to 1%. That fund, which has consistently enjoyed 100% matching funds from the state of Massachusetts, has built up a balance currently of around \$800,000.

Although by statute at least 10% of CPA funds must be directed toward affordable housing, Leverett has tried repeatedly but failed to identify and fund any affordable housing projects in town, to date.

Roberts also joined the selectboard in criticizing the town's planning board as anti-growth in its regulatory approach, saying, "We don't have a planning board. We have a board that doesn't want new buildings."

The budget discussion started innocuously, with Powers saying the town had held all departments to a roughly 2% increase this year, and the budget would balance within \$1500 of the levy limit without resort to an override of Proposition 2½.

"Overall, this budget is about as good as we can do," he said.

But as Powers tried to move directly to a discussion of possible spending on special articles, Depot Road resident William Sieruta raised his hand to question an apparent 12.2% hike in the highway superintendent's salary.

The town had been paying overtime to highway superintendent Will Stratford, and a 45.7% decrease in the snow and ice salary line reflected the personnel committee's recommendation to convert his overtime pay to straight salary, with the same level of hours and performance required in weather-related emergencies.

see LEVERETT next page

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Society Abhors a Vacuum Thief

Monday, 3/3

3:30 p.m. Assisted with a tire change at Leverett Library.

Sunday, 3/9

12:50 p.m. Report of a farm truck losing hay southbound on Route 63. Unable to locate truck, but moved broken bale out of roadway.

8:06 p.m. Report of dog lost on Montague Road. Dog later returned home.

Monday, 3/10

6:30 p.m. Resident reported hearing gunshots in the woods off North Leverett Road. Of-

ficer checked area, unable to locate.

Tuesday, 3/11

2:15 p.m. Responded to Dakin for a subject involved in a dispute at a Montague Road apartment. Subject transported away from area; dispute resolved.

Wednesday, 3/12

10:42 a.m. Report of smoke from a building on Long Plain Road. Turned out to be a sugarhouse in operation.

Thursday, 3/13

9:15 a.m. 48-year-old Wendell driver lost control of her

vehicle, skidded into a tree, suffered minor injuries and refused medical service. Prius towed by Sirum's.

Sunday, 3/16

8:55 a.m. Medical emergency on Long Plain Road. Subject transported to Coolsey Dickinson Hospital by Amherst Fire Department.

Tuesday, 3/18

9:45 a.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on Cave Hill Road. Civil issue, all OK.

Wednesday, 3/19

5:30 p.m. Medical emergency on

Shutesbury Road. Subject transported to CDH by Amherst FD.

Saturday, 3/22

8:15 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with out-of-control subject, who was transported to CDH by Amherst FD.

Monday, 3/24

4:30 p.m. Report of missing female from a Shutesbury Road residence. Officer checked area; subject located at a friend's home in North Amherst.

Tuesday, 3/25

8:45 a.m. Medical emergency on Bull Hill Road. Subject transported to CDH by Amherst FD.

1:30 p.m. Located bag of trash in road on Long Plain Road. Identified as belonging to a Leverett resident. Returned to them for disposal.

Wednesday, 3/26

1:30 p.m. Chestnut Hill Road resident reported someone stole her vacuum cleaner from her home. Report taken.

Friday, 3/28

4:10 p.m. Report of man slumped over his steering wheel on the side of Shutesbury Road. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 3/29

2:15 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with two-car crash on Route 116.

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LEVERETT from prev page

Although the selectboard tried gamely to defend the \$7,386 increase, resulting in a new salary figure for the highway super of \$67,845, as simply an average of overtime hours paid to that department head for the last seven years for snow and ice removal, Sieruta and others in the room challenged that thinking.

"It's a guaranteed salary increase," said Sieruta, "whether he does the [overtime] work or not. No one is monitoring his time." He also said, "It looks to me like the books are being stacked on behalf of the supervisor."

And, Sieruta demanded, "Why is the most highly paid employee on the highway department getting most of the overtime?"

Roberts said the highway super's overtime hours would be better spent hiring less expensive contractors to plow in emergencies, resulting in two trucks on the road instead of the one truck driven by the highway super.

The selectboard and town administrator Margie McGinnis defended the budget proposal, saying every highway employee would be out plowing during severe storms, and the higher dollar amount paid for Stratford's overtime hours reflected not a decision by the super to pad his own overtime account at the expense of other department employees but rather his dedication and longevity in service and the responsibility of managing the department.

Brazeau said the highway super, along with other employees of the department, might work 12 hour shifts or longer during winter storms, removing blown down trees and skirting fallen wires – dangerous work the entire town depends on.

But Long Plain Road resident Christine Nelson said, "We finally realized we were illegally compensating a manager with overtime. We could have taken it back," instead of transferring an average of his past overtime pay to his salary. She added, "Nothing against the highway super – he's doing a great job."

With historical society members waiting patiently for their 8:00 o'clock agenda item and the clock ticking steadily toward 9:00 p.m., the selectboard followed Powers' lead in turning the discussion from requiring town employees to punch time clocks to a more familiar punching bag – the school budget.

"If you really want to save money, look at the schools. That's where 75% of the town's money is spent. At a time of enrollment declines," Powers said, the amount of money the town is devoting to educating a dwindling number of students continues to rise due to fixed costs and contractual obligations.

Brazeau said the elementary school, sized to hold 250 students, now educates just 91 Leverett pupils, with an additional 35 or so choosing in from other towns. "We have a great school system," said Brazeau.... "but eventually, we can't afford it."

The selectboard urged residents

who were protesting high property taxes to join the school committee, or "twist some arms" to find other residents to do so in their stead.

Board member Peter D'Errico said, "It almost seems to me a conflict of interest," for parents with children in the school system to serve on the school committee, and urged residents who take a broad view of town issues to get on that board.

D'Errico criticized contractual step increases for teachers as based on longevity rather than merit. The board recalled how money the town had expected to save when a double sixth grade class graduated from LES two years ago – resulting in one less sixth grade teacher – had been reallocated to meet other school expenses by the school committee, and approved by town meeting.

Reached by phone after the hearing, Union 28 business manager Michael Kociela reviewed the recent history of school spending at Leverett Elementary. He said the LES budget had remained essentially flat, rising just \$1000, from \$1,695,648, to \$1,696,648, from FY '09 to FY '11. After those three years, LES received a .91% increase in FY '12, to \$1,712,167. In FY '13, the elementary school received a 1.16% increase, to \$1,731,999. The present fiscal year saw a 5.18% decrease in the LES budget, to \$1,642,362, as \$77,000 was moved from the school to the town side of the budget to pay for various utilities: fuel and telephone and electricity.

This year, the school is asking for a 1.04% increase, to \$1,659,509, largely to pay for negotiated wage increases in the recently signed teachers' contract.

Barbara Tiner raised a lone voice in defense of school spending, saying, "In terms of sustainability for our town, the school is really important. If we become a gray haired community, who is going to move here?"

Later in the meeting, the selectboard rejected a suggestion to dedicate the annual report to retiring LES principal Anne Ross, opting instead to dedicate it to the Council on Aging.

Finally, turning to the subject of whether the town should sell the former Field Library building, which now holds the private historical society's Leverett Family Museum, the board reached an agreement with the society members present to continue to hold the building within the list of insured town properties, as long as the society would vouch for annual fundraising efforts sufficient to pay all expenses related to that building's upkeep and maintenance.

Susan Mareneck said, "There might be a lot of people out there who think," the historical collection in the museum, "is a treasure. They don't think the town is going to throw it away. There is an opportunity for public dialogue now, to look at the artifacts and resources we have there."

As the graying future comes more clearly into focus, Leverett's past is dim, but golden.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

After Hubbub, Board Tends to Odds and Ends

By **MIKE JACKSON**

Most of Monday's Selectboard meeting was taken up by a presentation by representatives of the Kinder Morgan company about a gas pipeline they propose to build through the town (see story, page A1).

It did not lead to a vote.

When the crowd of opponents, proponents, suits and curiosity-seekers all cleared out, the few that remained sat for a while, soaking up the resonant silence in the second-floor Town Hall meeting room, before turning to the rest of the night's agenda.

Goats and Trolls

Suzanne LoManto, director of the town's RiverCulture program, came before the board seeking permission to unleash a horde of goats and trolls on the public during next week's downtown "Third Thursday" event, a celebration of the reopened Turners Falls-Gill Bridge dubbed TrollFest.

The goats, she said, had their shots and their papers, and belonged to an Amherst-based company called The Goat Girls. They are usually rented out for mowing vegetation.

The goats would be kept in an enclosure in front of the empty former Cumberland Farms building across from town hall, available for petting and questioning during the event.

The selectboard told LoManto that the location in question actually belongs to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC), and that they had no authority over it.

LoManto expressed surprise which quickly developed into acceptance. (On Tuesday she told the Reporter she had spoken with town planner Walter Ramsey, who gave the goats a green light on the MEDIC's behalf.)

The second part of LoManto's request pertained to trolls. The trolls will be large and terrifying, but not in any way that seemed likely to present a liability to the town.

"Have a good time," advised board chair Mark Fairbrother.

Grass Got to Grow

Bruce Hunter, infrastructure coordinator for the county's Housing and Redevelopment Authority, received approval for a further \$1,600

disbursement for the Unity Park Improvement project.

The fields will not be open this year. They need to establish themselves.

Police Department Personnel

Chief Chip Dodge came to the board with two items of business related to department personnel.

On March 26, Reserve Officer Trevor Allenby submitted a letter of resignation, citing life changes and lack of time availability.

The board accepted this resignation.

Dodge was joined by his Office Administrator, Marsha Odle, to recommend the hire of a new full-time dispatcher.

Of the applicants for the position, Odle said, only one, Aimee Wallace, had public safety experience. In fact, she serves as the Sergeant in Williamsburg's police department.

Wallace's hire, at Grade 2, Step 1 (\$13.50 an hour), was approved by the board.

Library Assistant

Libraries director Linda Hickman approached the board first with a procedural question. In the past, as she understood it, the Trustees of the Libraries had made hiring and firing decisions in the department. She wondered why she needed the selectboard's approval to hire a library assistant.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he had consulted with town counsel, who said that the trustees do have appointing authority, but not over union employees. If the selectboard had been skipped over in the past, he said, it had been in error.

This situation, he noted, could be changed by a compact, effectively granting an exemption from the exemption and putting hires back in the trustees' hands.

With this clarification made, Hickman appealed to the board to approve the hire of Scott Schmith as Library Assistant, at Grade 1, Step 2.

Schmith, she said, has a masters in English, excellent computer and customer service skills, and grant-writing experience.

He had also been volunteering for a year, and temping for five months, and had the further qualification of

having been given the job itself a week ago.

The board approved his hire, at \$12.51 an hour, retroactively effective to March 31.

Name Change

Selectboard member Mike Nelson recused himself from the next item on the agenda, sitting instead in the hot seat for a minute while he asked for the name on the Spring Parade / 5K Race application to be changed to "Franklin County Pumpkinfest and Parades Incorporated."

It was previously named "Mike Nelson". He said the insurance company had advised the change.

The events are this Saturday, April 12, with the race starting at 11:30 a.m. at the high school, and the parade at 1 p.m. at the Sheffield school.

The two active board members, Fairbrother and Christopher Boutwell, approved the update, and Nelson regained his seat.

Other Towns' Clogs

Tom Bergeron of the DPW sought the board's signatures on an agreement with the town of Northfield, modeled after the one Montague keeps with Erving, over reimbursement for emergency vacuum-truck service.

Since January, he said, Erving had called for about 2 hours' worth of help, and Northfield for about 3 hours.

The rate of reimbursement would be \$125 an hour during regular working hours, \$175 an hour on evenings and weekends.

The board agreed to the arrangement.

Other Business

Twisters was approved to set five tables out on the sidewalk in front of their building at Second Street and Avenue A for the sun-shining, ice cream-eating season.

Old Home Days gets to use the Montague Center common from August 7, when early set-up starts, through August 20.

The meeting then went into executive session to discuss "strategy with respect to deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto."

UNITY from page A1

older members in attendance, were all smiles. The smiles got even broader as Republic Services picked up dinner and drinks for all.

Stanas said that he was very pleased to advance the cause of the skate park, and was thrilled that the new generation of skateboarders had already involved themselves in the park's future.

In mid February, The Tony Hawk Foundation awarded a \$5,000 challenge grant to the skate park committee. The funds could only be collected, however, if the committee could raise \$5,000 or more over three months.

Then, at the end of February, a

number of local businesses, including Australis Aquaculture, Green Fields Market, The Northeast Foundation for Children, Joe Landry Studio, Real Pickles, and Montague Webworks doubled the size of the Tony Hawk grant, challenging the committee to raise an additional \$5,000.

Montague town planner, Walter Ramsey, is also working with the skate park proponents to apply for a Massachusetts Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to build a permanent concrete skate park at Unity Park. While this state grant is the most likely source of major financing, the town and skate park committee must still come up with

30% in matching funds.

Although the cost to build the proposed 7,300 square foot skate park is still not firm, the committee, the town and Berkshire Design Group are attempting to reduce significantly the construction costs from a previous estimate of \$460,000.

To help the Skatepark Committee meet their \$10,000 challenge with a tax-deductible contribution, one can donate at unityskatepark.com using the secure Paypal button, or send a check to the Brick House, P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376, with the words "Unity Skatepark" in the memo line.



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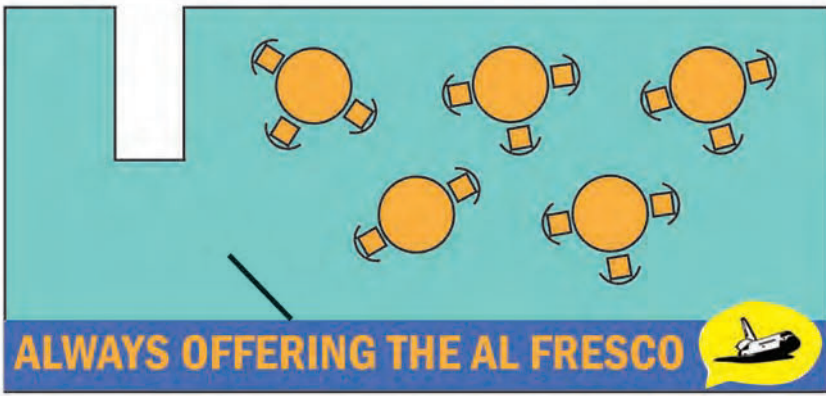
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GAS REPS from page A1

The majority in attendance, including landowners and environmental activists, expressed opposition to the project, but several area members of Local 596 of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) said they hoped the project would come about.

"If you've got something going from one end of our zone to the other, that could be a home run for a guy like me," said Dan Holloway of Gill, speaking before the meeting.

LIUNA is under a temporary project labor agreement with Kinder Morgan to guarantee union work.

"Losing the [Turners Falls-Gill] bridge to a non-union contractor was a kick in the seat for all of us," Holloway added. "I could have walked to that job."

The company has claimed that 3,000 jobs would be created during pipeline construction, a figure that has garnered criticism from opponents who point out nearly all those jobs would be temporary. "At the end of two years, how many more people are you adding?" asked Diane McAvoy of Turners Falls.

Bill Darnley, also of Turners Falls, objected to this line of thinking. "Those of us in the trades, we go from temporary job to temporary job. We work for one, two, three years, six months... We have good jobs, we have good benefits, and we live pretty good lives. But we rely upon the next job down the line. This job - a three-year job, lot of people, lot of space - for us, that's what we're looking for."

"I'm a member of one of the unions I saw mentioned in the pro-

jection," said Peter Hudyma of Montague. "I am pro-union, and I'm pro-jobs, but I'm against this pipeline coming through our town, because I don't think it's sustainable, I don't think it creates sustainable energy for this state - contrary to what our governor says.... I think we should be working for jobs, but sustainable jobs."

According to Jim Hartman, a land specialist with the company, 10 out of 18 Montague landowners approached have granted the company survey permission. Montague resident Greg Pellerin asked how the project would move forward if the town did not grant that permission. "To keep the process moving, as a last resort, we would petition the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, and ask them if we could gain access to the property," explained Hartman.

The exchange around surveying rights snowballed into talk of eminent domain come construction time. "You know the bottom line is you can do it, whether they say yes or no," said Gill resident Steve Fendel.

"They have a way of reverse engineering these things, where they come and tell us it'll be okay, and then pay these petty, minuscule fines, because it allows the work to go forward, and it allows massive profits," said Kenton Cobb of Montague. Cobb described environmental violations on the company's 300 Line Project in Pennsylvania's Pike County.

"If your pipeline does go through," he asked, "are you willing



Fore, at left, and Hartman, second from right.

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to make an agreement with the town for us to set a financial amount, for when there's erosion and when there's violations, that doesn't max out at \$2 million... maybe something more along the line of \$50 million, for when the Connecticut River erodes, and the riparian areas are covered in mud and silt and we can't fish in them anymore?"

"I think that's a complete distortion of the company's record," countered Fore. "I don't want to get into every particular item.... There is an extensive process of review by the state and federal agencies for restoration."

Selectboard member Mike Nelson asked how landowners would be affected by the pipeline on their property.

After construction, Hartman said, "all the property gets restored... There aren't trees on it, though. We do have a prohibition on trees."

"We were one of the landowners approached several months ago. We weren't shown a map or anything," said Lisa Adams, of Our Father's Farm on Hatchery Road. "I don't think that I should have to lose any kind of growing time, or work, on our farm, while you scrape topsoil off our land for your purpose."

"With all due respect for people who want jobs in this town, we work just as hard on our farm... And I'm not going down without a fight."

"If the project goes forward," said Hartman, "we would make you whole. You wouldn't lose a dime through the whole process."

"You can't tell me that," she replied. "And you can't tell me that your trucks leaking gas, leaking oil, all over my property -"

"They can't do that," Hartman interrupted.

"You can say that all you want," Adams continued, "but you can't

guarantee it. You can't guarantee that the pipes aren't going to break."

Fairbrother extended discussion past the hour allotted, but eventually brought the session to a close. "We need to get going on other topics," he said. "If you're leaving now, please leave."

The selectboard waited patiently as the crowd, and Kinder Morgan's representatives, gradually filed out to continue the debate on the sidewalks outside town hall.

When the last of them had left, all three board members sat grinning. No one had moved to change the February decision, and for now the town's official non-cooperation will continue.

If the company gains access to Montague's land on Country Hill - survey Map 35, Lot #27 - it may have to do so under the authority of the state's Department of Public Utilities.



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MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO. 25

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

APRIL 10, 2014

REVIEW

Stars As Far As We Can See

By DANNY CRUZ

TURNERS FALLS – Hello Readers! This is Danny Monster Cruz of Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth telling you about an amazing show that happened Saturday night at the Rendezvous.

The first band that played was Holy Vex. They are a great experimental psychedelic rock band. They have a punk aesthetic, but I wouldn't call them punk.

The band is made up of Dylan Kingsolver on guitar and vocals and Al on drums. I loved Dylan's vocals – they reminded me of Captain Beefheart, or Sun Ra if he was in a rock band. Al's drumming also reminded me of Sun Ra. It was organized chaos.

Their fashion was like Lemmy from Motorhead smashing a teacup. Al's Mustache reminded me of John Paul Jones' mustache. The audience really liked it.

I give Holy Vex five out of five stars for originality. They are one of the best bands in the Valley.

Brian Gillig, a guy I've known since the early days of FDOM, fronts the next band Loudville. Brian is a folk rocker well on his way to becoming the next Prince. Loudville's sound is kind of like Warren Zevon, the Fugs, Roky Erickson, and Crazy Horse.

The fashion highlight of the night was Brian's Swiss camo jumper. It was clearly a commentary on the problems related to war.

Loudville came on like a hurricane for the rejected. Vanessa Brewster's drumming was like Pete

see STARS page B2

THIRD THURSDAY: TROLLS TO TAKE OVER TURNERS



By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, a troll is "a dwarf or giant in Scandinavian folklore inhabiting caves or hills."

Old Norse sources described trolls as dwelling in isolated mountains, or caves, where they lived together in small family units. Unlike Irish leprechauns, however, they were rarely helpful to human beings.

Trolls are described in folklore as varying greatly in appearance. Some are said to have tails, and others several heads.

Their size is also a matter of contention: some trolls are described as being only a few inches in height while others are depicted as being several miles high.

The larger creatures often have trees, moss or other plants protruding from their bodies.

Races of trolls apparently also live in different places such as in the mountains, forests, streams, rivers or even oceans.

Often they are associated with

particular landmarks, particularly bridges, under which they often seem to lurk, bursting on the scene only to challenge unwary humans attempting to cross the bridge.

Those gearing up to take part in Troll Fest, the latest event in the ongoing Turners Falls RiverCulture Third Thursday series on April 17, have nothing to worry about. The trolls that will be inhabiting this downtown party are all said to be quite human-friendly.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto said the idea for the Troll Fest was to celebrate not only freedom from ice and snow, but also to officially celebrate the renovation and two-way reopening of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

"Every time I drive into Turners Falls," she said, "I'm struck by the beauty of the bridge, the view of the town, and how everything is situated in nature. The completion of renovations to the bridge is really something to celebrate."

"The troll theme was a natural step in the creative process and offered many imaginative

see TROLLS page B4

The Millers Falls Scrapbooks The Enterprising Mr. Moore

By DAVID BRULE

When you've lived on your own piece of land for so long, more than 40 years, walked it and worked it day in and day out, you figure you must know just about everything about it. Five generations of family, close to 150 years here in the same spot, same house and same land, you're pretty sure of where you're from and where you are.

But once in a while, there are revelations about your home place and the land under your feet that can throw new light onto some forgotten corner of that premise of place.

That happened to me, just the past week, when I took a stroll up off the Flat, past the defunct Millers Falls Tool Company and up to Moore Street, to the Erving Public Library.

Since this is about local history, I have to tell you that before being a library, this building was the Erving-side Elementary School where my mother and generations of family attended grammar school in the old days. So it's always a pleasure to enter those cozy rooms dedicated to the reading of books.

The occasion was a presentation about a prominent Millers Falls/Erving-side family, the Moores, by two local historian/genealogists, Sara Campbell and Shari Strahan.

Now I don't have to tell some of you about this village of Millers Falls, that straddles the Millers River. Although the two parts of the village were and are in the separate towns of Montague and Erving, the cultural community is one unit.

The Moores, almost lost to memory by contemporary residents, were among the first settlers who made this community on both banks of the river what it is today.

Our two above-mentioned historians took us back to 1630, when the first Moore, Deacon John Moore, set foot upon North American soil. He arrived in Dorchester, and was drawn to Windsor, Connecticut, an established settlement and trading post on the Connecticut River.

This, by the way, was the time of the Pequot War, when English forces were experimenting with total war and the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous peoples on our continent.

This first Moore moved into a region that was troubled by conflict between the newcomers and the original inhabitants. According to Ms. Campbell and Ms. Strahan, he moved rapidly upwards through the social and political hierarchy, being ordained in 1651, and becoming Deputy Governor to John Winthrop.

Thus began an almost Biblical

see MOORE page B6



Engraving of Millers Falls, 1891, detail.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Wine, Fats, and Women



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Does wine have real health benefits?

There is evidence that wine has health benefits, but here's an important statement from the American Heart Association:

"Over the past several decades, many studies have been published in science journals about how drinking alcohol may be associated with reduced mortality due to heart disease in some populations.

"Some researchers have suggested that the benefit may be due to wine, especially red wine. Others are examining the potential benefits of components in red wine such as flavonoids and other antioxidants in reducing heart disease risk. Some of these components may be found in other foods such as grapes or red grape juice.

"The linkage reported in many of these studies may be due to other lifestyle factors rather than alcohol. Such factors may include increased

physical activity, and a diet high in fruits and vegetables and lower in saturated fats

"No direct comparison trials have been done to determine the specific effect of wine or other alcohol on the risk of developing heart disease or stroke."

The reduction in heart-disease deaths may be caused by resveratrol, a substance found in the skin of grapes, especially purple and dark red grapes.

Resveratrol is also found in grape juice made from dark grapes. Both red wine and dark grape juice may reduce the risk of blood clots and LDL, the harmful cholesterol. Wine and juice may also prevent damage to coronary blood vessels, and maintain healthy blood pressure.

Both red wine and grape juice also contain antioxidants that have been shown to lower your risk of clogged arteries. The antioxidants may help lower blood pressure, too.

Q. What lifestyle changes can raise your HDL number?

High-density lipoproteins (HDL), remove cholesterol from the bloodstream. HDL should be at 60 mg/dL (milligrams per deciliter) or higher to cut the risk of heart disease.

Here are some tips to raise your HDLs:

- Quit smoking
- Reduce your intake of meat, eggs and dairy products
- Increase your intake of monounsaturated fats such as canola oil, avocado oil or olive oil
- Consume soluble fibers that are in oats, fruits, vegetables and legumes
- Drink cranberry juice
- Eat fish and other foods containing omega-3 fatty acids.
- Avoid cakes, cookies and highly processed cereals and breads.
- Exercise
- Lose weight

Q. Are women happier than men?

There was a study of men and women in the United States that showed women are happier than men in their youth, and are unhappier when they are old.

Among the influences upon happiness found in the study are these:

- Women marry earlier than men leading to higher satisfaction with family life at that time in their lives.
- Men are the saddest in their twenties, when they are the most likely to be single.
- In later years, men tend to

see GEEZER page B2

Ancient Remedies and Ancient Cures

By JOE PARZYCH

GILL – My mother had a great many folk remedies. Those were often her only recourse, since our farmhouse was isolated at the end of a dirt road, far from neighbors or telephone lines.

One day when my sister Bess gashed her arm on a piece of glass, the wound would not stop bleeding. My father was at work. There was no one to drive Bess to a doctor or hospital. My mother, a resourceful woman, quickly ran down to the cellar and into the crawl space under the kitchen.

She gathered up spider webs and little blobs called "heal-alls," which are little clusters of spider web which spiders weave into a nest. She put the spider's nests on the wound. The blood coagulated, and the bleeding stopped almost immediately.

My mother then placed "Babka" leaves on the wound. The leaves are that of a small plant, resembling miniature rhubarb leaves. Whatever their name, the leaves hasten healing with the speed of penicillin.

Willow bark worked well for a headache if there was no aspirin available. A shot of brandy in hot tea with lemon and honey was a sure cure for a cold; less brandy for the young, and more for the elder. My father often warded off colds, or other ailments, with a shot or two.

Chamomile tea calms folks down and promotes restful sleep. My mother planted a sprig of chamomile that spread over the entire yard. Just strolling through the plant's fragrance had a restful effect. She often reached down to break off a bit to inhale the fragrance of the tiny pale yellow blossom.

When someone stepped on a rusty nail in the barn yard, a piece of salt pork applied to the wound seemed to work as well as a tetanus shot.

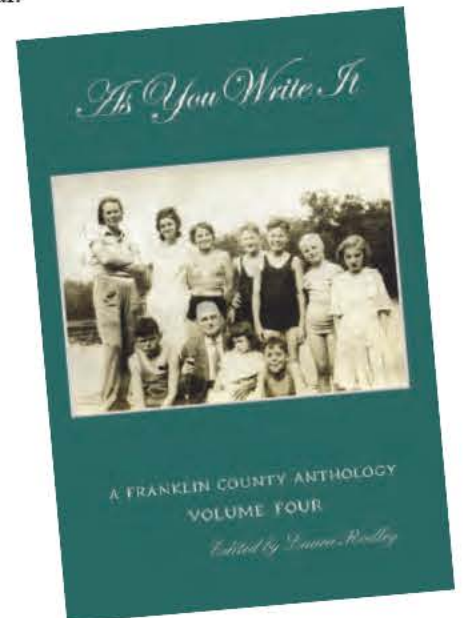
My father called my mother a "Tsigan", or Gypsy, when she concocted lotions or balms from various herbs or other things, because

in the old country, Gypsies peddled herbs and spices and acted as effective healers when no doctors were around.

My mother often sent me to gather big bunches of Queen Anne's Lace for a lady who worked in the mill with her. The lady used the plants to brew some sort of remedy. What, we never knew. I only needed to know that she paid me a whole quarter for every bunch.

My mother had found no use for the lacey plants, but used grape tendrils, or sour grass, to give table food and preserves a tart taste. Though deep fat fried squash blossoms dipped in batter were of no specific remedy, the taste of the delicacy was sure to lift your spirits.

Best of all, the cost of these remedies was minimal, at a time when dollars were very dear.



Joe's stories will be included in *As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology, Volume IV*, edited by Laura Rodley.

Come to a debut reading of Volume IV this Sunday, April 13 at 1 p.m. at the Gill Montague Senior Center at Fifth Street in Turners Falls. All are welcome.

Pet of the Week

I'm a very excited and energetic little fellow. My favorite place in the whole world is snuggling on a couch with someone who adores me. I also love exercise and fun activities.

I get along well with everyone -- dogs, cats, humans.

I am eager to learn from someone who calms my nerves. My goal is to study with a pro and I already qualify for financial aid for training! Come and meet me!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



"FLAPJACK"

Senior Center Activities April 7 through 11

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 not open.

Monday 4/14

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/15

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting with David Sund

Wednesday 4/16

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/17

9 a.m. Tai Chi
11 a.m. - Sing Along with Morningstar and Moonlight
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 4/18

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/14

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday 4/15

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Steve Damon
10:45 a.m. Senior Business
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 4/16

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

Thursday 4/17

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12:30 p.m. Computer Class

Friday 4/18

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays 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.

STARS from page B1

Townsend and Nina Simone talking long distance. Her smile is very Cliff Huxtable; I wish Bill Cosby were there to see this.

Loudville is for a mature audience, not for tweens. Their album should definitely be parental advisory. Five out of five stars for originality and great song writing. David Geffen, get a hold of these jokers before Def Jam does.

The fans were loaded up like Samuel L. Jackson shaking hands with Jesse Jackson on a loading dock for the next band, the Grudges.

I describe their sound as Captain Beefheart meets the Buzzcocks. The pop community loves them.

I could see Lady Ga Ga listening to this; I could see the RZA listening to this. I definitely see Trauma Trigger from Philadelphia listening to this. The Goth community believes in the Grudges.

Lead singer and guitarist Jeremy Latch wore a leather jacket that made him look buff like Joey Ramone. Lead singer Julianna Stevens' voice sounded like Shirley Temple

and Barbara Streisand [censored by the editors, sorry Danny]. Their lyrics are definitely about sex, and their new album should be parental advisory.

They have only been a band for four months but they are under-appreciated. They should get signed to the label AC/DC was on, or Sub Pop. They are major label material.

Adam Langelotti of Sore Eros fame played like Wayne Gretzky in a hockey fight with Charlton Heston. The Drummer, Orion Russell, wore a soul-warrior necklace that had a crystal in a bullet shell. It was very controversial to the new age community.

I give the Grudges five out of five stars for originality and song writing. They are one of the finest bands ever.

Shannon from the Bunwinkies might have thought this was one of the greatest rock and roll shows in Turners Falls. Look for his and Beverly's new band, Grass Path, at Madison on the Avenue on Thursday, April 17. Luke Csehak, formerly of Happy Jawbone Family Band, will be playing a solo set that night, as will Turners Falls' newest jam band, Hair Peace.

Pop Stars of the world, do not sleep on Turners Falls.



ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY CRUZ

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What is she saying? Try your hand at this new game, designed by a local resident. Check page B6 for this week's answer!

Leverett Elementary: Books on Display

Books created by students at Leverett Elementary School are on display in the school library.

Author Richard Sobol spent four days at LES this Winter inspiring the students to write and illustrate their own books. He then came back in February. The results exemplify creativity, expression and an understanding of life.

The books can be viewed in the school library and also on the school website.

GEEZER from pg B1

be married and many women are widowed or divorced.

- Early in life, women are more likely to fulfill their financial aspirations because they tend to marry slightly older men at a young age.
- Young men are more dissatisfied with their finances, because they want more than young women do.
- Men become more satisfied with their finances as they age, because they have increased spending power.

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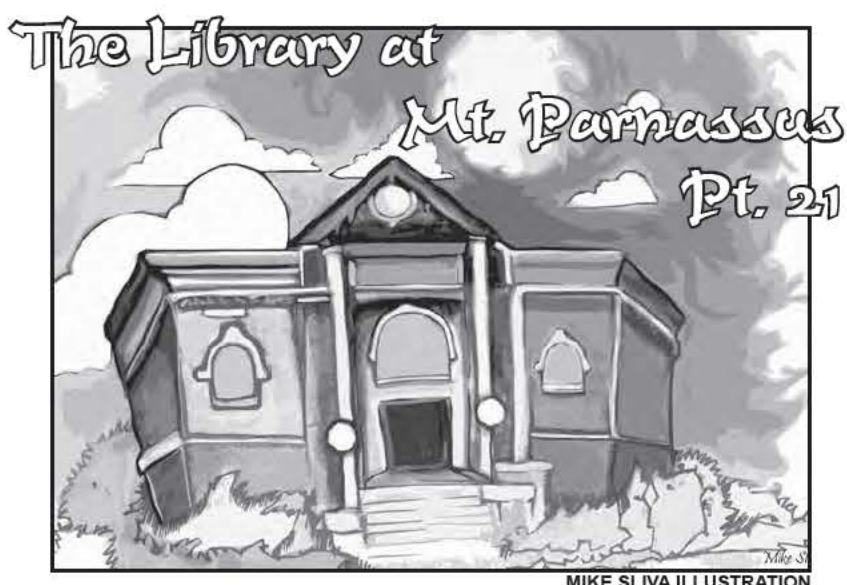
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In the lobby, Tony has lost consciousness gazing up in rapture at Lucius, polishing the chandelier. Economists are known to be stiff, so Otis hauled him into the reading room to join the other patrons.



By DAVID DETMOLD

In the reading room, no one seemed disturbed. Herr Klee, the snowplow driver, a barrel chested man with bulging muscles, did not even look up from his glossy film guide as I stumbled in, dragging Tony by his armpits.

The road crew did not work on Fridays, by contract, unless there was a bad storm, and Klee took his days off very seriously.

Before he came to Mt. Parnassus, Klee had worked as a strong man in a traveling circus; he once invited me up to his apartment to see his souvenirs.

He had gained fame for his act, taming the Nemean lion while brandishing a whip and tripod and wearing nothing but a loin cloth, among the many other wonders he had worked.

But his mind was not quite right, and we tiptoed around him whenever he appeared in the reading room.

Klee was known for having an excitable temper.

Eddie was here, too. The son of a well-known sheep farmer in the neighboring town of Boeotia, he and Cadmus and several of the others were seated at various tables in positions of repose, some with their heads tilted back and books open on their chests, others face down at their reading tables, snoring in their beards.

I looked over at Orville by the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in the corner by the window. Even Or had dropped off to sleep, exhausted by his ceaseless vigil with the Furies.

The demons that haunted Orville were quite real. Sometimes when he sat there in his familiar nook, nodding and twitching and jerking his head from side to side with a look of terror on his face, I felt I could see them too, like winged phantoms from a living dream.

They appeared as monstrous, dark-winged women hovering in the night just outside the blank panes of the library windows, plumed with bronze, steel-taloned, fierce-eyed and remorseless.

One time, Or told me in one of his more lucid moments, the fiends had caught him in the park at night.

"Th-they sunk their claws into

my mind," he cried. "'S-s-s-stop!', I screamed. Th-they flew away, but they left s-s-spaces where their claws had been. Long, c-c-curving spaces in my brain. J-j-just behind my eyeballs. Th-that's when I started smoking."

"I see," I said. Orville's nails were malformed and yellow. Ragged ribbons of flesh hung peeling from the cuticles, stained brown by nicotine.

Now he sat splayed out in the corner chair, mumbling in his dreams, something about, "C-c-cassandra! The wine is red, Cassandra..."

I dropped Tony at his usual place by the periodicals. He slumped down and banged his head on the table, and that upset Ulysses, who had been standing stiffly on Cadmus's shoulder.

The black bird roused and rattled his feathers and made a feint to fly. He gave a hoarse call, emitted a white stream of liquid excrement onto the mottled carpet and settled down again.

Eddie and Cadmus woke up at the same time and stared blankly across the table at each other. Eddie was clutching a hank of carded wool, which he'd been using as a pillow.

"What's that?" I asked, pointing to it.

"What?" he said, defensively. He tried to hide the wool under his sleeve.

"That wool," I said.

"Oh, that." He seemed embarrassed.

Eddie's father, the sheep farmer, owned a huge spread in Boeotia, the neighboring hilltown.

The library up there, founded by his grandfather and built with un-insulated cinderblocks, had a prominent front door featuring twin lions carved in bas relief standing on their hind legs, supporting a single pillar stretching toward the peaked roof above the massive lintel.

The place was only open on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. So, in winter, after lambing was done, Eddie hitchhiked down and spent his evenings here with us.

Now, he glanced at the hank of wool in his hand as if it were some sort of alien growth, a product of lycanthropy. A few wisps were stuck in the curls of his red beard.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Military Starts Brush Fire; Fatal Crash on Town Common; Car, Jewels, Pills, Cash Stolen; People Are Pretty Drunk

Monday, 3/31

12:22 p.m. Caller reporting used syringe on Lake Pleasant Road. Referred to an officer.

12:35 p.m. Complaint regarding speeding cars and defecating dogs on Montague Street. Advised of options.

2:39 p.m. Woman trying to bum cigarettes yelling at passersby on Avenue A. Gone on arrival.

4:28 p.m. Report that two males had broken the red construction fence around the Unity Park ballfield and were playing ball. Ballplayers spoken to.

4:43 p.m. Brown jeep reported speeding through the parking lots at Sheffield and Hillcrest schools. Driver advised to slow down.

Tuesday, 4/1

6:30 a.m. Fire alarm triggered by burnt toast on J Street. No emergency. TFFD advised.

12:24 p.m. Two reports of a black Hyundai flying sideways up Newton Street and almost striking children in a yard before heading into Erving. State police advised.

10:00 p.m. Highly intoxicated male lying on ground at F.L. Roberts taken into protective custody.

11:13 p.m. Unwanted person in apartment on Fourth Street. Peace restored.

Wednesday, 4/2

1:30 a.m. Unwanted person on Coolidge Avenue. Subject sent on way.

10:10 a.m. Workplace dispute at Montague Machine. Advised of options.

2:13 p.m. Recklessly operated dirtbike pursued on Old Sunderland Road toward Route 47. Sunderland police advised. Dirtbike later located at Montague residence; suspected operator, who had just left, was found to have a revoked license due to vehicular manslaughter. Suspect located and issued criminal summons on charges of marked line violation; failure to stop for police; operating to endanger; operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license; operating an unregistered

motor vehicle/trailer; and disorderly conduct.

2:17 p.m. Report of loose pit bull on Bulkley Street. Dog transported to kennel. Owner notified and required to speak with animal control officer before retrieving dog.

6:34 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

6:40 p.m. Report of off-leash dog approaching young child and mother at Unity Park. No physical contact made; caller wanted incident on record.

9:09 p.m. Caller reported almost striking apparently intoxicated male walking in the middle of Main Street near the Mini Mart.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with resisting arrest; assault and battery on a police officer; disorderly conduct; and disturbing the peace.

9:10 p.m. Minor damage to parked vehicle after hit-and-run accident on Third Street outside Rendezvous. Report taken.

Thursday, 4/3

12:45 a.m. Alarm set off by balloons inside Millers Pub. Services rendered.

8:12 a.m. Neighbor dispute over parking on Eleventh Street. Peace restored.

8:16 a.m. Alarm assumed to have been set off by cats on Pleasant Street. Residence secure.

11:16 a.m. Jewelry allegedly stolen from Second Street residence. Report taken.

11:35 a.m. Report of a man playing chicken with traffic on the General Pierce bridge. Area search negative.

2:22 p.m. Car into tree on Main Street. Passenger Catherine Woodard, 90, of Leverett, was transported to hospital and later died of her injuries.

5:06 p.m. Two parties came into station; male reported that he had been having truck trouble on Route 63, was looking under the hood, and thinks he was hit on the head and knocked out. Male awoke to find that some of his clothing had been removed and was missing. Caller's

girlfriend did not believe his story. Parties were arguing in the lobby. Parties separated and spoken to; advised of options.

5:20 p.m. Threatening/harassment on G Street. Advised of options.

5:22 p.m. Report of a black Honda Civic traveling very fast on Third Street and nearly hitting a child. Extra patrols of area requested.

Friday, 4/4

6:21 a.m. Alarm sounding at Colle Opera House; keyholder stated that janitor has a tendency to come in and forget to shut the alarm off. Clear.

1:55 p.m. Caller stated that dog allowed to run off leash is defecating in his yard on Griswold Street. Unable to locate. Caller contacted PD again to complain that a different dog was defecating on his property. Unable to locate. Animal control officer notified.

2:17 p.m. Used hypodermic needle found on Second Street. Item disposed of properly.

2:41 p.m. Report of Oxycontin and cash stolen from Powertown Apartments.

8:17 p.m. Complaint regarding train that had been parked in Millers Falls since yesterday and idling for some time. Pan Am contacted; stated they were "trying" to get a crew out there.

9:07 p.m. [REDACTED]

was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, 4/5

3:02 a.m. Caller very upset about train still idling in Millers Falls. Caller assured that complaint would be documented and forwarded to railroad; referred to selectboard office for further options. Pan Am contacted again; stated they had no choice but to leave the train where it was for now but were working on getting it moved.

3:19 a.m. Aware alarm triggered by faulty phone in Millers Falls.

3:19 p.m. Spoke to skateboarders in the roadway

on L Street. Skaters were very polite and receptive. Moved along.

8:46 p.m. Four calls reporting what sounded like automatic gunfire in area of Federal Street and Hanna Brook Lane. Advised caller that sound was most likely due to military exercises in the area. Referred to an officer.

9:37 p.m. Brush fire in area of military exercises behind Sirum's. Officer reporting the fire is approximately 30 yards across and being spread by the wind. Fire extinguished by military personnel and Montague Center Fire Department.

Sunday, 4/6

4:31 a.m. Request for K-9 unit to assist in investigation of robbery at Cumberland Farms in Greenfield.

6:39 a.m. Car stolen from driveway on Franklin Street overnight. Vehicle entered into NCIC as stolen. Car recovered in Holyoke with significant damage shortly thereafter.

7:58 a.m. Single car accident on Turners Falls Road. Caller reported that operator had passed out; has since regained consciousness. Patient evaluated; no injuries; medical transport refused. Minor damage to vehicle.

10:53 a.m. Hit and run accident on South Prospect Street; minor damage to one vehicle (mirror). Unable to locate.

1:57 p.m. Brush fire on Turners Falls Road.

3:24 p.m. Out-of-control brush fire behind properties on Federal Street and Dewolf Road. MCFD notified; fire extinguished by MCFD and property owner.

5:30 p.m. Caller concerned about ex's dog who allegedly bit her son in the elbow in Montague last week. Referred to animal control officer.

7:56 p.m. Party removed to hospital following call in Turners Falls.

8:37 p.m. Chimney fire on Federal Street. MCFD on scene.

"Penelope asked me to bring this in for her," he admitted in a small, barely audible voice. But as he spoke her name, a change came over his drowsy features. He smiled and stroked the wool absently. "It's for her weaving."

Penelope gave handweaving lessons for the children after school.

The same half completed pattern was always on her loom. It never seemed to suit her; the kids were not attentive; they stole the warp threads when she wasn't looking and ran off to play with them down in the willows by the river.

"That's nice of you, Eddie."

I propped Tony's head on a beau-

tifully bound copy of *The Book of Baby Beasts*, the 1915 Hodder & Stoughton edition, lying close at hand.

A sigh escaped his lips, or perhaps it was a shudder, but otherwise he did not move.

Continued next week.

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LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 8, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Goodbye Voudren

Last night, the town caucus system showed its power as independent voters joined Dems to toss incumbent Edward Voudren out of the race for Montague selectboard, backing Patricia Pruitt 121 to 32, with Chris Boutwell in third place with 27 votes.

Turnout at the caucus was heavy, more than tripling last year's showing of 49 voters, when Dr. Allen Ross was the sole selectboard candidate to seek the party nomination.

Voudren said of the vote: "I will back away, with a smile on my face, and retire from this business."

Trash = Money

The Montague selectboard meeting took on a game show air this week as competing landfill contestants bid each other up and told the audience what they had waiting behind their respective

doors. This was in part due to GCTV opening their Crocker Studios to allow Power Point presentations to be broadcast to home viewers, but it was the contestants who really made it a show.

There was Meg Morris of the Energy Answers Corp., promising \$2.75 per ton of garbage, which would mostly come from EAC's two trash-to-energy plants.

Next came Turners Falls' own Ted Skrypek, co-chairing South Boston Port Transfer, offering \$800,000 per years for 6 to 7 years, a million more for local businesses, and a whole bunch of ideas about what to construct after capping the landfill – a golf course and recreation center, for starters.

And finally, Pat Hannon, president of Mass Environmental and CEO of Global Environmental Strategies, who offered to pay \$1.3 million per year for 12 to 14 years, outbidding the other two by a large margin.

Whoever is finally chosen, their offerings will have to cover roughly \$375,000 in designing and permitting the new landfill site.

Fiesta Spring Parade and 5k Race this Saturday

What's better than a parade? A foot race and a parade. Both come together this Saturday, April 12, in Turners Falls. The 5K starts at Turners Falls High School at 11:30. The fourth annual Franklin County Spring Parade takes off from Sheffield School at 1 p.m. Both events follow the same route.



The first-ever Franklin County Spring 5k is a fundraiser for the Unity Skate Park Campaign with all proceeds benefitting the project. Both walkers and runners are encouraged to participate.

None other than the Western Mass football champions - the Turners Falls High School Indians - will be the grand marshals at this year's event.

The Parade theme this year is "Fiesta," and the mood, after this year's cold, dark and snowy winter is indeed festive. We're not sure whether the crowd will be breaking out their sombreros and maracas but

rumor has it that some homeowners along the route are apparently decorating their homes in celebration of these events.

"The Parade has surely become a symbol of the coming of spring in Franklin County," said organizer Michael Nelson. "It's a great opportunity to see friends again after hiding by the wood stove all winter. This year we have added the 5K component ahead of the parade to encourage exercise in the fresh air. Even better, the 5K is a fundraiser for the proposed Skatepark in Turners so you can be healthy and support the community all at once."

TROLLS from page B1

programming possibilities."

The evening will feature a variety of performances, demonstrations and art exhibitions centered around the theme of trolls, mythology and folklore. As always, events will take place throughout downtown Turners Falls.

Goats and kids (the baby goat sort) will be on hand for petting and photographing. In addition, Bert and William, giant troll puppets created by Skeleton Crew Theater, will be holding court on the Avenue.

The mics at The Brick House will be open for all and everyone with sign-up at 6 and performances beginning at 6:30.

The Great Falls Discovery Center (2 Avenue A) will host an art opening and talk by local historian Ed Gregory at 7 p.m. Gregory will illustrate his talk, "The Evolution of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge" with historic photographs from his own collection.

Third Street Studios (36 Third Street) will host the work of painter Patrick MacNab. MacNab examines the subconscious realm through the theme of trolls and other creatures.

At The Shea Theater a special delight awaits visitors in the form of TROMP!, an international collection of 20 short, funny, thoughtful, exciting and imaginative troll videos.

Funk*Shun and Nina's Nook will be featuring kids crafts, red caps and troll house cookies.

"Basement Suite", an installation created by RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto will be projected to an outdoors audience and feature a song performed by The Ambiguities.

LoManto commented: "Creating the video and the installation itself was a group effort between local artists, musicians, actors, puppeteers, lighting designers, film makers and business owners. The process allowed me to meet and col-

laborate with lots of creative people in Turners Falls. I am thankful for their support and generosity."

The final project will be projected on a storefront at 112 Avenue A. According to LoManto, "Basement Suite" loosely interprets a song by local musician/composer Daniel Hales, telling the story through the use of shadows and colored light. Actors, including a seven-foot troll, were shot from behind a 20 foot scrim. The effect is whimsical and fascinating.

The location and theatrical lighting were donated by Fast Lights. Tim de Christopher, Jack Nelson and Jonathan Chappell also assisted.

Entertainment continues with live music at the Rendezvous at 78 Third Street.

The Ambiguities and Bourquensweeno start up their instruments at 8:30 followed by a screening of the classic film, *Troll 2*.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Tourist Dissuaded; Skateboarder Escapes; Nine Medical Emergencies

- Monday, 3/24**
4 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at elementary school.
9 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street.
- Tuesday, 3/25**
9:05 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on High Street.
4:55 p.m. Report of fire on porch at French King Highway.
9:20 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Old State Road.
- Wednesday, 3/26**
9:57 a.m. Report of animal cruelty on Pratt Street. Animal seized, brought to shelter.
3:45 p.m. Removed debris from French King Highway.
4 p.m. Report of two dogs missing from High Street. Owner found same.
6:05 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on French King Highway.
11:30 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on River Road. Checked area.
- Thursday, 3/27**
9:20 a.m. Assisted Gill PD with disabled motor vehicle at Barton's Cove.
11:15 a.m. Report of larceny from Lester Street.
2:40 p.m. Report of disturbance at High Street residence.
6 p.m. Officer to keep the peace at Lester Street while subject removed property from building.
- Friday, 3/28**
11 a.m. Unable to remove tree branch from North Street roadway. Highway Department removed same.
4:45 p.m. Abandoned 911 call, North Shore Road.
10:30 p.m. Arrested 19-year-old woman on Forest Street for domestic assault and battery and threat to commit a crime.
- Saturday, 3/29**
8 a.m. Report of motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Farley Flats. No injuries.
11:05 a.m. Report of loose dog at Weatherheads Convenience. Gone on arrival.
12 p.m. Officer at West Main Street to keep the peace.
2 p.m. Report of large amount of smoke coming from pump station on Arch Street. Sewer department notified.
9:15 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD on report of several people fighting at a Chestnut Street apartment.
- Sunday, 3/30**
5:41 p.m. Assisted FD with fire at Pratt Street.
6:03 p.m. 911 call with static from North Street address. Nothing found.
- Monday, 3/31**
10:40 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Old State Road.
3:40 p.m. Dog found on Swamp Road. Owners picked up same.
4:50 p.m. Loose dog near River Road. Found and returned home.
5:15 p.m. Officer at Pratt Street residence for larceny investigation.
8:30 p.m. 911 call from North Street. Found to be ongoing phone issue.
- Tuesday, 4/1**
1:30 p.m. Suspicious male at French King Bridge was sight-seeing. Moved same along.
4:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on West Main Street.
- Wednesday, 4/2**
1:45 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Northfield Road.
9 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD for combative female subject on South Street.
10:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Route 2.
- Friday, 4/4**
5:14 a.m. Domestic disturbance at West High Street residence. Found to be verbal only. Separated subjects.
1 p.m. Report of male subject skateboarding down the middle of Moore Street. Gone on arrival.
- Saturday, 4/5**
1:05 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency in French King Bowling Alley parking lot.
3:15 p.m. Report of small white dog in road in area of River Road and Pratt Street. Unable to locate.
9 a.m. Resident reports seeing young children playing under bridge in the River Road area. Checked same. No one playing in the area at this time.
10:49 p.m. Report of property found on Route 2. Same collected, owner advised.

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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 TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Free *Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: Thursday Night Jazz, *Ted Wirt and John Harrison*, 5 to 7 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Bobby Davis: Traces of a Memory*, on display through April 18.

Leverett Crafts and Arts Center, Leverett: *Karen Chapman Signs of Life*. Recent oil paintings. On display through April 20.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Look At Me!* Playful wooden sculptures by William Accorsi. On display through April 26.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ed Gregory's* photo exhibit in the Great Hall, a selection of high-resolution images of typically mundane subjects that are presented in "Graph Scenic" format. On display through May 31st.

CALL FOR DESIGNS:

Paint the Town Green Mural Project RFP. Proposals for a mural project to be installed on the outside wall of Green Fields Market, Greenfield in the theme of "Our Community Involvement in Sustainable Food Systems". Submit proposals by 4/22. greenfieldlocalculturalcouncil.org/paint-the-town-green-mural-project-rfp/.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*, 7:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Notorious*, classic Hitch-

cock espionage tale. B & W, 101 min. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Lorre Wyatt & Michael Nix*. Lorre, lifelong friend and musical collaborator of Pete Seeger's, best known for his socially and environmentally-conscious material. Part of this performance will feature songs that Lorre and Pete co-wrote for the 2012 CD "A More Perfect Union", as well as some of Pete's classics. \$, 7 p.m.

GCC Sloan Theater, Greenfield Main Campus: *A Cave Story*, an original play by Roddy Barnes, directed by Tom Geha with a cast and crew of GCC students, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners falls:



Cary Grant & Ingrid Bergman in Alfred Hitchcock's classic film: "Notorious" A 1946 intriguing and passionate romantic espionage tale, b & w. 7:30 p.m. at Pothole Pictures, Friday & Saturday April 11 & 12.

WOLF! Trial of the big bad wolf, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Fiesta Spring Parade, Turners Falls. Begins at Sheffield School, 1 p.m. Details: fcevents.org

Shea Theater, Turners falls: **WOLF!** Trial of the big bad wolf, \$, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Notorious*, classic Hitchcock espionage tale. B & W, 101 min. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*, \$, 7 p.m.

GCC Sloan Theater, Greenfield Main Campus: *A Cave Story*, an original play by Roddy Barnes, directed by Tom Geha, cast and crew of GCC students, 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Happier*

Valley Comedy Show All-new improvised comedy show featuring "The Ha-Ha's" and ImprovBoston veterans "The Stable" \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Girl Cat Adams, Dynamite Whip*, folk/blues/rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Shea Theater, Turners falls: **WOLF!** Trial of the big bad wolf, \$, 2 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Danse Café, French and Breton Dance*. Dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience, \$, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow, Peter Kim, & Joe Fitzpatrick, warped Americana, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nick's Sweet '80's Movie: Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Genetic Roulette*, documentary film, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Daniel Bachman*, 6-string & lap guitar player, \$, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Happy, Healthy, and Whole: Your Personalized Roadmap To Radical Self-Care* facilitated by Katherine Golub. Free workshop exploring how to access greater self-compassion, nourishment, simplicity, connection, and purpose. www.radicalselfcarenow.com, noon to 1 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic Night*, hosted by Pamela Means, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Koehler, 8 p.m.

Madison on the Avenue, Turners Falls: *Grass Path*, Luke Csehak, Hair Peace. 8 p.m.?, free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Trollfest with The Ambiguities and Bourquensweeno*, 8:30 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

St. Kazimierz, Turners Falls: *Holy Vex, OFC and Rebel Base*, rock/punk rock/metal/etc, ben-

efit for Unity Skatepark. Show is all ages, positive ID gets a bar bracelet. Sliding scale admission, 8:30 p.m.

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MOORE from page B1

series of generations down to the present.

Deacon Moore's son, John Junior, had seven sons and a daughter. The stage was set. With each succeeding generation through the 1700s and 1800s, carefully documented by Campbell and Strahan, the Moores prospered and spread throughout New England.

One of them was bound to make it to Erving, and the one-horse town of Grout's Corner across the river.

By 1838, Oliver Moore bought a huge portion of the Erving Grant, becoming the owner of 187 acres on the Erving side. This land extended from what is now the site of the Erving Elementary School down to our house on the Flat, and bordered on two sides by the Connecticut and Millers rivers.

The Erving Grant lands of 1751 comprised 11,016 acres, and were purchased by John Erving from a committee of the Great and General Court. (The *History of Erving*, printed in 1983, does not explain how this Great and General Court was able to sell this tract of land, nor where they obtained it. No mention is made of the Indigenous Peoples who had lived on it for 10,000 years.)

Oliver Moore, now proprietor of Erving'side (and the land upon which our house sits) conveyed his land holdings to his son James Moore, who actually settled in Erving.

James married Experience Root Holton of Northfield. He built his sawmill on the Millers River, at the foot of what is now Bridge Street. He had envisioned a village springing up near his mill, a factory on part of his land on the Erving Grant, and a sprawling family farm on the heights above. James was a visionary, and a very persistent man.

The *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* of June 30, 1906, unearthed by Shari Strahan, recounts an anecdote that demonstrates the character of this singular man:

"Moore was very persistent. He courted Priscilla Chapin but was rejected. He married another, but when she died, he tried Priscilla again, but again was rejected! His second wife died, leaving him with an accumulated seven offspring. *Faint heart nev-*

er won a fair lady' quoted the scribe of the *Courier*. James tried again, and this time Priscilla accepted him."

While all this courting, procreating and dying was going on, the persistent James was also courting investors for his ambitions of developing the land on the Flat. In 1856, he was marketing these lower lands along the river, even proposing a power canal running down the length of what is now River Street, out to the river through our woods and pasture lands!

By 1868, Moore had interested three industrialists: Henry Pratt, Levi Gunn, and Charles Amidon. By 1869, plans were made for a factory – the future Millers Falls Company – and a dam across the falls, to power the machines.

The Tool Company eventually bought the land, and built houses for the workers along River Street. My great grandfather, Judah Smith, a teamster for the Company, bought our house and pasture land from the Company in 1882.

James died in 1869, not living to see the prospering Millers Falls Company, nor the rapidly growing village of Millers Falls.

Lucinda Experience Moore, daughter of James and Eliza Jane Austin Moore, married Leroy Weatherhead. Their descendants owned the Weatherhead Farm and associated businesses: a farmstand, an ice cream parlor, vacation cabins, a tea room. They sold the property to the Sembs in 1947, but the Weatherhead name remains associated with the establishments on the French King Highway and Route 63.

The Moore name faded from collective memory, save for Moore Street, now integrated into Route 63, and save for the inquisitiveness and persistence of our two historians.

As for me, my land on the Flat has remained preserved as it was on the early map of April 1788. It has the same contours and boundaries, though no longer a meadowland, but woods and riverbank.

Now under the permanent protection of a conservation restriction, our land will remain as it always was, when Erving heirs sold this part of the Grant to the enterprising James Moore.



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