



The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 13 – NO. 26

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 16, 2015

ERVING SELECTBOARD

New Tragedy Calls Focus To French King

By KATIE NOLAN

On April 14, selectboard chair William Bembury told visiting state representative Susannah Whipps Lee that one of the town's most pressing issues was public safety on the French King Bridge. He said the urgency of the issue was highlighted by a confirmed suicide at the bridge earlier in the day.

Bembury said that officials from Erving, Gill, Northfield, the state police and Massachusetts Department of Transportation had started meeting in September 2014 to consider safety measures for the bridge.

Former state representative Denise Andrews facilitated formation of the committee. Installation of video cameras and safety netting were two of the safety options the committee considered. "DOT said they would get video cameras feeding into the Erving police and fire stations," Bembury said.

MassDOT was also tasked with researching netting costs and possible funding sources. However, Bembury said the town had not heard back from them.

Bembury said he and other officials sympathized with the loss of life and with families of potential

see ERVING page A6

Watch the Skies: Peregrine Falcons Are Back



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

One or more falcons may be nesting under the newly renovated bridge.

By TIA FATTARUSO

TURNERS FALLS – "I have not seen them here before, but wouldn't be surprised. Barton's Cove is full of ducks," said Barry Parrish at the Turners Falls Discovery Center.

He was referring to sightings of peregrine falcons in the area, possibly nesting on the old Indeck coal silo or Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, easily spotted between the center and the Connecticut River.

Parrish is refuge manager of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which administers about 37,000 acres of Connecticut River watershed property, with headquarters in Sunderland and for which the Discovery Center is the primary visitors' center.

"I know of three nests active in the past," Parrish said. "The old rock quarry at Mt. Tom, a building

at UMass [Amherst], and Mt. Sugarloaf."

Julie Collier, who has been rehabilitating and educating people about North American birds of prey for over 30 years, confirmed these locations, and added to them Monument Mountain in Great Barrington.

"In Massachusetts, the population of nesting pairs is in the twenties, as many as 25," Collier said, adding that that number is much higher than it was before DDT was wiping them out. By the 1970s, she said, peregrine falcons were gone east of the Mississippi River.

The birds made a comeback hugely due to human intervention, especially through the Peregrine Fund, founded by Tom Cade in 1970. Then a Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, Cade pioneered methods of

see FALCONS page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Hires Interim Assessor, Sends Planter Controversy to Committee

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has appointed a retired town employee, Douglas McIntosh, to be the interim town assessor while the town searches for a permanent director of assessing. Last week the board rejected the candidate proposed by the board of assessors, leaving the department without a director. McIntosh will thus replace Barbara Miller, who resigned several weeks ago to take a job closer to home.

McIntosh worked for the Montague assessors department for twelve years before retiring in November of 2012. Prior to that he had worked as an assistant to building inspector David Jensen. McIntosh currently lives in the town of Orange.

McIntosh stated that he would remain at the temporary position for "maybe a couple of months" while the town initiates a new search process.

When the selectboard rejected the

see MONTAGUE page A3

Company: Loud Blast Was All Air

DEERFIELD – A boom at the East Deerfield quarry that rattled windows as far north as Bernardston last Friday afternoon was the result of low cloud cover, and was not an unusually large explosion, according to Harlan Bean, owner of Triple B Blasting of Whately, which contracts with All States Materials Group to blast traprock at the site.

"We do 25 to 30 blasts a year at the quarry," Bean said. "We set up seismographs on every blast, for the ground and air. Our seismograph readings Friday were typical, and

see BOOM page A4



The quarry is west of the trainyard.

More Time to Help People: Chief Billings Gets Back to Work



Gary Billings

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – Gary Billings is getting ready to return to work as police chief of the Leverett Police Department after a sick leave since late November.

Billings said the favorite part of his job are the people, and in a close community like Leverett the people are the heart of the town. "I see these people every day, and they have become my friends," said Billings.

Billings lives in Montague, and spent 25 years as a police officer there. In 2005, he came to work in Leverett. For Billings, the difference between Montague and Leverett is simple. In a small town, there is more opportunity to help people and less strict enforcement of the law.

"I'm part of the community, rather than

someone to be wary of," said Billings.

Billings spends his Sunday mornings at the Leverett Coop, drinking coffee and talking with his friends. This is something Billings doesn't think would happen in a larger town.

"They feel comfortable enough with me that we can talk for 30 minutes and talk about anything. In large towns I don't think that would happen," said Billings.

Leverett has two full time police officers and six part time officers. There is one officer on duty at all times, and the part time officers are on call for holidays, weekends, and to fill in for the full time officers. While the call load is lighter than larger towns, the officers are still busy.

"I don't think I'll ever get tired of the call load here," said Billings. "It's not call after call after call, but we stay busy."

Billings said he sees the same types of calls as larger towns, like domestic calls, robberies, and disorderlies, but it isn't in the same volume as larger communities.

"That gives us more time to help people," said Billings.

Billings is impressed with how well the residents get along and co-exist.

"One of the things that is so attractive is Leverett is one of the most diverse towns in Franklin County," said Billings. "There are seven or eight religious entities in town and they are all different."

With so many different faiths living together, Billings said he is impressed with how everyone gets along.

"Everyone seems to be able to co-exist without a problem."

Summer and winter both bring their own challenges for Billings. The winter snow and

see BILLINGS page A5

Fairbrother, Kuklewicz, and Roque Meet the Public

By MARK HUDYMA

MONTAGUE – Last Sunday, the three candidates for Montague selectboard, incumbent Mark Fairbrother and challengers Richard Kuklewicz and Jacobo Roque, participated in a two-hour forum at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road.

The candidates answered a series of questions. While they showed a great deal of agreement on many key issues, moderator John Reynolds introduced questions

with enough contention to begin to highlight their differences. The candidates received the first round of questions ahead of the debate, and were given the opportunity to prepare responses. Later, audience members were given the opportunity to submit questions to be answered on the spot by the candidates.

The structure of Montague's government occupied the first two questions of the debate, asking how well candidates felt the town is following its charter, and how

well town meeting is operating.

Fairbrother clarified that the town does not function with a charter, but rather "a legislative act that dates to the 60's, and our town meeting bylaws".

Fairbrother said he supported the current governmental structure. "Despite the lack of involvement by the public," he said, "it works pretty good. Democracy is a participation sport. People need to get more involved. I

see FORUM page A4



SAWYER-HAUGANNO PHOTO

Left to right: Moderator John Reynolds and candidates Mark Fairbrother, Richard Kuklewicz and Jacobo Roque.

The Montague Reporter

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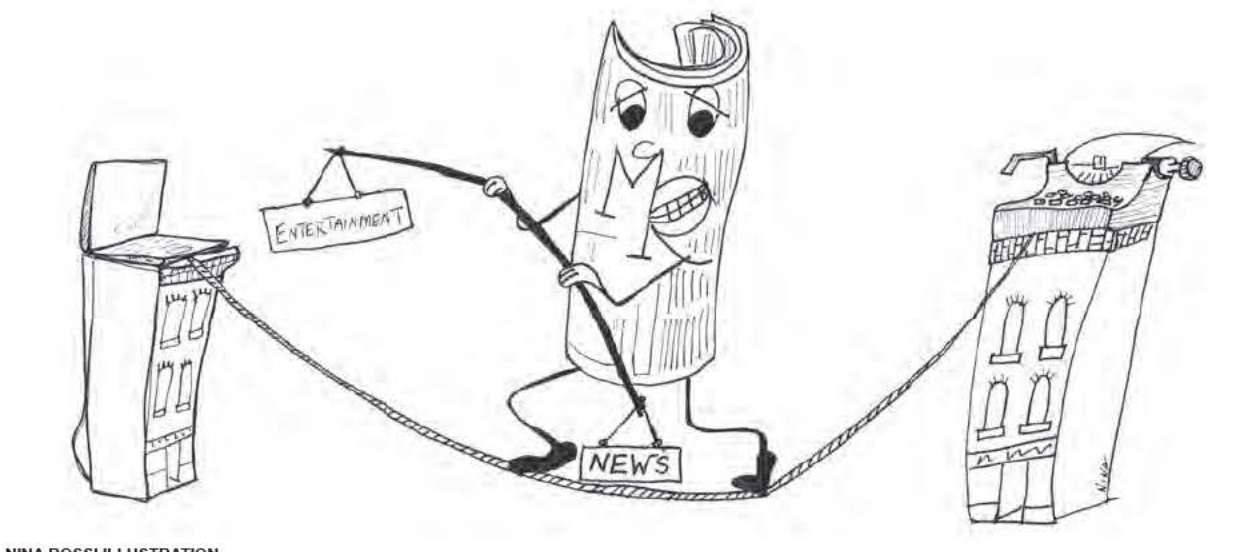
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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Three Minute Warning

April is tax time in America, and as good a time as any to check in on what our taxes are used for.

The National Priorities Project, based in Northampton, provides an excellent set of tools to look at federal government spending. Check out their 2012 book, *A People's Guide to the Federal Budget*, or their website at nationalpriorities.org.

For the current fiscal year, which runs through September, the Internal Revenue Service collected about \$2.2 trillion in taxes. Combined with \$1.1 trillion in revenue from other sources and \$561 billion in borrowing, this money funds a \$3.9 trillion budget.

Two-thirds of this is spent on "mandatory" items the government has committed to in the past – mostly social security, Medicare and unemployment. After paying some interest on debt, the "discretionary" portion of the budget, the part politicians and parties wrangle over each year, comes to about \$1.2 trillion.

In our country, the majority of this discretionary funding goes to the military.

This is more than all other discretionary spending (food and agriculture, transportation, science, international affairs, energy and the environment, social security, unemployment and labor, Medicare and health, housing and community development, government operations, veteran's benefits, and education), *combined*.

It's also more than the next nine countries (China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, India, Germany, and South Korea) spend on national defense, *combined*.

And though the Obama administration oversaw several years of military spending reduction from 2010 to 2013, the number is rising again. This year we expect base spending of \$534 billion, with an additional \$51 billion requested for fighting in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.

It's a difficult time to call for cuts to military spending, and there is no antiwar movement to speak of in the streets. This is because most people are absolutely terrified of the geopolitical destabilization currently underway.

Principled isolationists, a coalition of the left and right who envision each country tending to "its own" problems, don't have much to say about the over 20,000 religious fighters who have traveled to Syria and Iraq to grab power.

An entire web of regional alliances and rivalries – Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia – is being slowly dragged into that whirlpool of sectarian and religious violence.

Another bleak tale is still unfolding in Ukraine, where a protest movement over jobs, energy prices and austerity set in motion a civil war on the Russian border.

Even China is gradually making moves to improve its naval positions and access to oil in the disputed South China and East China seas.

Is this what the beginning of an era of global wars over globally limited resources looks like? It's hard to picture, much less communicate, a shared path to peace and plenty, especially after 1990s-style McDonaldization and globalization from above cynically used the same rhetoric to deliver exploitation and austerity.

It's time to put nuclear non-proliferation back on the table. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists this year moved their Doomsday Clock to "three minutes to midnight," a position it last held in the mid-1980s.

The brinksmanship of nuclear deterrence made little sense in the first place, but it makes none in a world destabilized by armed, non-state actors.

The antinuclear movement, which spent the last thirty years distracted by power plants, should come in from the cold and focus on the real threat to a shared human future.

The question of whether the proposed deal with Iran provides a "path to" its nuclear weapons or is the best way to prevent them should be answered by global civil society with an insistence that only a global arms reduction to zero will promote the preferred outcome.

Our governments will never lead on this. Only the Vatican seems to be openly demanding global disarmament. We think they have it right.

We have tools for communication between cultures and peoples that were the stuff of science fiction a generation ago. Let's actually use them, and build a global movement to abolish nuclear weapons before some lunatic somewhere decides to start firing them.

Letters to the Editors

Concerned about Historical Bias

I am eagerly anticipating the excerpts from Jim Gildea's new book *The Journey Home*.

The title of the excerpted chapter, "Another Look at the Falls Fight," already seems to mischaracterize the massacre of men, women, and children as they slept. Was it a battle, a fight, or a massacre that set a pattern of genocide for the next 300 years?

Gildea's book is dedicated to "the men and women of long ago who demonstrated so much courage and determination in creating a town o' the wilderness". There was no wilderness. This land was already populated by villages and villagers.

I'm concerned that Gildea's dedication to the perpetrators of the massacre and his characterization of the massacre as a "fight" precludes a historically accurate depiction of events. I'm hoping that the *Reporter* will not be publishing a history written by the victors which glorifies, justifies, or suggests that Turner's men were anything but culpable for their genocidal actions.

Alex Peterkin
Turners Falls

Gildea's views are his own, and we encourage discussion. - Eds.

Cable Station On Track

Just for the record:

MCTV is a solid, local Public Access station with strong (if not always unanimous) community support, an active and productive volunteer base and a record of achievement that goes well beyond recording local meetings, including leadership in regional collaborations and support of local public access start-ups in neighboring communities.

You can get a fuller look at our recent performance by following this link to our review documentation at our website: montaguetv.org.

MCTV has strong, experienced, corporate leadership: the MCCI board of directors has over 100 years of cumulative leadership experience spanning non-profit, government and community boards, committees and organizations – and nearly 50 years of successful local business activity.

As the governing body of MCTV, we experience the same sorts of challenges that are common to any small non-profit or government committee: trying to increase community participation – from the board level on down – improving services and keeping to a budget!

MCTV has strong staff leadership. Our station manager, Dean Garvin has been with the station since management returned to Montague ten years ago. He has been unsinkable through multiple strategic reorganizations and staff reconfigurations and has recently been running the station nearly single handed, all the while increasing meeting coverage and increasing local productions – and, yes, working diligently with the board on another staff reconfiguration.

MCCI is proud of the support that we have enjoyed – and continue to enjoy – from other local organizations and are proud of the support that we've been able to provide, in return, and that we continue to provide as a core organizational value in the course of our daily operations.

It is in this spirit that we have stuck with the Montague Cable Advisory Committee through a nearly yearlong "annual review" process (the CAC has experienced challenges that aren't necessarily common to any small government committee or local non-profit...), and we are committed to a long and productive collaboration with them throughout our term as the local Public Access provider for the Town of Montague.

Thank you,

The MCCI Board of Directors
Mike Langknecht
Veronica Phaneuf
Dana Faldasz
Mik Muller

Lynch Guards the Chicken Coop

After months of dogging the Montague selectboard and Cable Advisory Committee over their scrutiny of operations at Montague Community Television, including throwing up a virulent smokescreen of charges that the volunteers at the CAC had subverted open meeting law by their failure to produce minutes of their meetings in a timely fashion, this week, Kathy Lynch was rewarded for her efforts when the selectboard essentially threw in the towel and appointed her to the CAC.

The fact that she is married to Montague Community Television's administrative director, Dean Garvin, did not seem relevant to the selectboard. The public at large may be forgiven for seeing a conflict of interest in Lynch's appointment to the oversight body charged with evaluating our community access station.

One thing is clear to me amid the ongoing controversy about Montague Community Television's anemic output of local programming and technically challenged broadcasts of local government.

If the station was directed with even half the energy with which Lynch has been defending its performance, we would not be having this discussion. Now that Lynch has been placed in the fox's preferred position regarding the henhouse, we can, unfortunately, look forward to more of the same.

Some years ago, the Montague selectboard took control of our local cable access station away from Montague Television and put Greenfield Community TV in charge. This created an uproar, and I was among the more vocal advocates of a return to local control for our local media.

But now, looking back on the track record of the station over the past few years, I wonder if former selectboard member Sam Lovejoy wasn't on to something when he predicted "the past is prologue" with MCTV.

MCTV has done some good work. But lately the staff has seemed all too willing to sit back, cash their dedicated paychecks, and say, "We are here during posted hours, mostly, to train volunteers to produce local programming. It is not our fault if there are very few volunteers."

It is going to take leadership to change this mindset, but that leadership appears to be sorely lacking. With the selectboard's absurd capitulation to Kathy Lynch and her hardball defense of her husband's job we are unlikely to get it any time soon.

David Detmold
Precinct 5
Montague

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Franklin County Spring Parade and 5K Race will take place this Saturday, April 18. The theme this year is “70s Style”.

Race registration begins at 10 a.m. at the Turners Falls High School, and the race starts at 11:30 a.m. Profits benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

The parade starts at 1 p.m. at the Sheffield School. To register a parade entry email [michael-](mailto:michael-nelsonmba@gmail.com)

nelsonmba@gmail.com. See you there!

Guess what event is back!? **Bingo** at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, April 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tracey Bellville will be the guest caller. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments; all you need to bring is yourself.

Seating will definitely be on a first call, first reserve basis. Place your call to Christina or Kerri at

863-4316. No one will be admitted without a reservation. GSB hopes to continue this as a monthly event with different callers.

QuarterMania Fundraiser returns to St. Kaz, 197 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Wednesday, April 22. Vendors & crafters set up at 5 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. and event starts promptly at 7 p.m.

Come and place quarter bids on items provided by artists and vendors. If you place a bid and your paddle is in the air, your number is chosen, you win.

All proceeds go to local non-profits and causes near and dear to the hearts of locals. Please come and show your support. If you have an item that you'd like to donate for in house collection, please stop into the event.

Are you caring for a family member with dementia? Are you worried about a friend, a family member or yourself? Do you want to know how dementia is diagnosed? How about dementia and medication?

Robin Martin will be at the Gill/Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls on Thursday, April 23, at 10:15 a.m. to give a short presentation followed by a

question and answer session.

Martin is the Director of Nursing at New England Health Center in Sunderland and has over 30 years experience working with dementia patients. She is certified by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America as a Qualified Dementia Specialist.

The program is free and open to the public; you need not be a senior. Please call the Senior Center at 863-9357 to sign up and reserve a seat.

Join Prof. Richard Little on Saturday, April 25, 1 to 4 p.m. for a **tour through the Mesozoic time** (Triassic and Jurassic Periods) and see evidence of continental “drift”, dinosaurs, lava flows, and where rare armored mud balls formed.

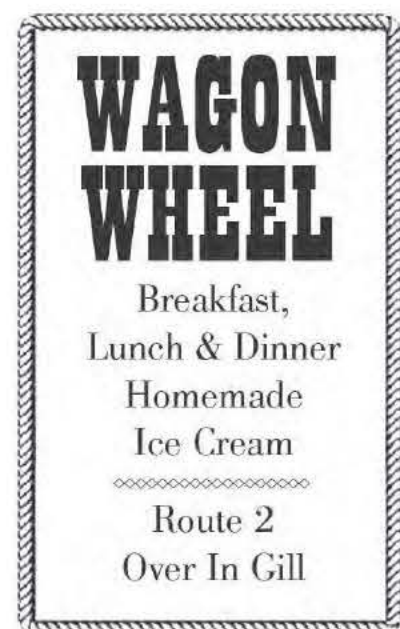
The tour meets at the bus stop, south end of GCC, and goes on to the GCC Rock Park, then travel to Highland Park, Poet's Seat, Stop & Shop and eastward along Route 2 to the base of the French King Bridge (Dorsey Rd).

The tour is free and heavy rain cancels the event. For more info email RDlittle2000@aol.com or call (413)- 527-8536.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



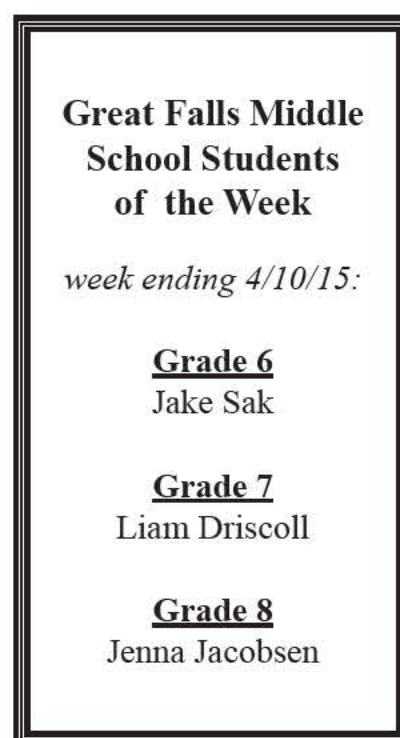
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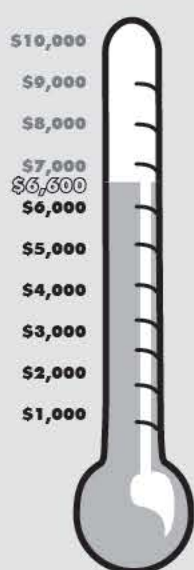
Capital Campaign Update

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

So far we've received **\$6,501** from a total of **91** donors. Scratch that: **\$6,601**, from a total of **92** donors – thanks to the Erving reader who donated via PayPal (montaguereporter@gmail.com) today.

This is a fantastic response so far, and has been a huge source of encouragement around the office. We're excited to get working on the site, and hope we reach our goal. Just a third of the way to go!

For more information about donating, or if you didn't get an envelope, get in touch: call 863-8666 or email info@montaguereporter.org. Thanks!



MONTAGUE from page A1

previous candidate for the job, former assessor Barbara Miller suggested that there were very few qualified candidates willing to move to the region. Noting that several of the finalists in the previous search did not even meet the minimum qualifications for the job, she painted a dismal picture of the potential candidate pool.

McIntosh said the new search will target “a larger audience” than the previous effort. A new hiring committee will be composed of the interim assessor, the town administrator, treasurer, accountant, the chairman of the board of assessors, a selectboard member, and “someone from a neighboring town,” presumably associated with assessing.

The “couple of months” could be busy ones, particularly if they extend into the summer. In the early fall the assessor and other town officials must set the tax rate to fund the FY'16 budget. This requires the board to reset valuations for different types of property, which then have to be approved by the state.

Lynch Appointed

In other news, the selectboard appointed Kathy Lynch to the Town's Cable Advisory Committee. Lynch's request to be appointed to the committee had been placed on hold while she checked with the state ethics commission to see if she could serve as an *ex officio* member. The inquiry was deemed necessary because Lynch's spouse is the local access station manager Dean Garvin and the CAC is currently negotiating a contract with the station.

Lynch's inquiry, along with an opinion from Montague town counsel, led to the conclusion that there was no such *ex officio* status. So

Lynch returned to request a regular appointment.

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother stated that he still believed that Lynch should not serve on the CAC because her relationship with Garvin produced a conflict of interest.

Audience member John Reynolds recounted the previous year's conflicts over the CAC, on which Reynolds served, to argue that Lynch was “hard to work with.”

Lynch stated that her ability to work with people “depended on who you are.”

Audience member Jeanne Gorruck cited what she believed were other conflicts of interest in town government.

In the end, the selectboard voted to place Lynch on the committee for the remainder of the fiscal year (June 30) by a 2-1 vote, with Nelson and Boutwell voting yes, and Fairbrother voting no.

Olsen Out as IT Admin

The board voted to accept the resignation of town accountant Carolyn Olsen as IT administrator. Olsen had only served in the position for a week.

When asked by John Reynolds what was being done to fill the position, the response was that “someone else has applied.”

Committee Formed

At this point the rear of the room had filled with artists and supporters of the arts in expectation of another discussion of policies for the planters which line Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. The current discussion was the product of a decision by the board of selectmen several weeks ago to revoke a permit that allowed store owner Rodney Madi-

son to put various artistic objects in his planters. At that time, the requirement that Madison remove the objects was put on hold to allow an *ad hoc* planter committee to develop guidelines for the planters.

The discussion of “non-plant objects” in planters has been going on for over a year now.

Town planner Walter Ramsey appeared a bit weary as he approached the front table. He distributed copies of a two page list of “Adopt a Planter Regulations,” plus another page of special “license guidelines” for those wishing to exceed the “threshold” in the basic regulations. This document, it turned out, was not really the product of the planter committee, but of a negotiation involving Madison and town officials the previous Thursday.

The regulations outlined the process by which a citizen could adopt a planter and guidelines for how the planters should be maintained. On the key issue, the role of so-called non-plant objects, the regulations stated that these should be limited “to no more than five small items,” and that plants “must remain the primary focus.”

As soon as Ramsey's summary was completed, the guidelines were sharply criticized by Madison and his supporters in attendance; a particular focus of displeasure was the requirement that “the gardener agrees that they are responsible for any accident, injury, death or property damage that may result from their participation in the program.”

Although Ramsey claimed that this was standard “hold harmless” language, audience members felt it might require gardeners to purchase insurance. Why, it was asked, were gardeners required to purchase insurance when other “volunteers” were covered by town insurance?

This argument reflected a general feeling that the weighty list of regulations would undermine volunteerism. Building inspector David Jensen, noting that he had been attempting to get rid of his planter for seven years, summarized the moral of the discussion in his view: “Do not turn policy over to the lawyers.”

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FORUM from page A1

don't know what the answer to getting more participation is."

Kuklewicz, a longtime town meeting member, said he is "a strong proponent of our current system. Problems arise with an open town meeting ... it can lead to divisiveness." He said the schools could have a bigger role in encouraging participation in town meeting: "We need to show the value of our voice."

Asked about concerns for the coming term, Fairbrother cited the "immense white elephant sitting there on the other side of the canal." "We own the Strathmore, and St. Anne's [rectory]. The situation can't go on forever."

"The situation can't go on forever... we are trying our best to redevelop [the Strathmore], because otherwise the town is going to spend an awful lot of money taking it down."

Mark Fairbrother

"Nobody wants to spend another dime down there, including myself," he continued, "but we are trying our best to redevelop it, because otherwise the town is going to spend an awful lot of money taking it down."

"Many see the Strathmore as valuable as an incubator for the arts," said Kuklewicz. "The challenge I see with that is there are many other towns which have mills that they value for the arts, or an incubator. You have to be the best of the worst."

"If you have a buyer, don't fight them," said Roque, a town meeting member from Millers Falls. "If it can't be fixed... take it down, and make a park for the kids."

Courage Under Fire

Next the candidates got an opportunity for self promotion, with a question about what qualities they would bring to the job.

Roque offered these remarks: "A member should have, basically, courage. For example, if a committee comes and says, 'Hey, we need this money,' I won't just brush it aside: 'No, where are you going to use the money? Will the public see it?'"

"In high school, I was an officer in ROTC. Later, I signed on to civil air patrol, where I made captain. They sent me to the fire academy to take leadership there.... As for leadership skills, I absolutely possess them, but first and foremost you have to keep the community in mind."

Kuklewicz began with his education. "I went to Smith Vocational School, and I was very involved in student government. I also became involved in the student organization Future Farmers of America; I participated both on the local level and the state level. From 1975 to 1976 I was state president.... My parents were always involved in things around town. I guess the biggest thing I can say for innovation is, I now have a Facebook page. Being a selectman takes a multifaceted person."

"You have to be an active listener, and also be firm and fair. Most importantly these discussions need to be done in a transparent, respectful manner, in a way our children will be proud." Kuklewicz said that, if elected, he would serve out a term on the Turners Falls Fire District prudential committee, but not seek reelection to that seat.

To the same question, Fairbrother said he had the "courage, which I think I've shown, to tell people what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear. An awareness that things don't move as quickly, or in the manner that the public thinks they should."

"Economic innovation isn't my strongest suit. What I have done is to enable people like the planner and the town administrator, and given them the tools they need. They're much better at that sort of thing than me."

"I served on many boards before I was elected, I think it was a large help. It showed me how town hall works, how procedure works. It helped ease my learning curve when I first got into office."

Biggest Criticisms

A question about the relationship between the selectboard and town administrator, and what traits candidates would look for in a future town administrator, garnered agreement.

Fairbrother said the board and administrator should work "hand in glove," and that the administrator must know the laws, and "all aspects of the job," including person-

nel management.

Kuklewicz echoed the sentiment, and suggested that the next time the opportunity arises, Montague should investigate the possibility of introducing a town manager position instead.

Roque stressed the need for teamwork, pointing out that the assessor and selectboard should be friends.

The following question asked about each candidate's "biggest criticism" of the current selectboard.

"I've got a sneaking suspicion that my name is written on this question," said Fairbrother, who has served in the role for six years. "I have let high levels of frustration color my language more than I probably should have.... I think we do pretty good, all things considered, with the situations that we're sometimes dealt."

Kuklewicz described concerns about "divisiveness" in the board's functioning, saying members were "maybe honest, but not in a positive manner," even in delivering "decisions I might agree with."

All three candidates spoke highly of Turners Falls RiverCulture.

Kuklewicz described the town as a "destination for small manufacturers" and suggested the town look into streamlining the permitting process for businesses.

The Future Depends

A question about development in Montague elicited very different answers from the candidates, with Kuklewicz describing the town becoming a "destination for small manufacturers," and suggesting the town should look into streamlining the permitting process for businesses seeking to move to town. "I'm concerned that we continue to try to grow our commercial and industrial base in town," he said.

"I would like to see the historical commission blossom," said Fairbrother, saying he felt more education about the town's history could serve to unite its five villages.

For his part, Roque, who had emphasized that "the future depends on what we do today," made a brief

closing statement as follows: "As we approach May 18, I assure you I am out for no gain, but to make sure our community moves forward in a positive way."

In his closing statement, Kuklewicz promised he would not "promise grandiose things: We will still have taxes. We will still have the challenges of most small towns. I will try to raise the level of our discussions, and I can promise I will try to make Montague a bit better."

Fairbrother used the opportunity to read a statement regarding an open meeting complaint he said had been submitted to the town clerk's office, in response to a controversial communication he had sent to then-chairs of the town's cable advisory committee encouraging their resignation.

"I wish to clear up some points. I did not violate the open meeting law. I have apologized for the one thing which I believed I should apologize for. If Garry [Earles] and Eileen [Dowd] wish to participate in a public meeting where the facts are discussed, I stand ready to present my position in detail. Otherwise, I suggest we put the whole thing behind us and move on."

The forum was organized by John and Lynn Reynolds, with Jeanne Golrick assisting as timekeeper.

A second public event with the candidates will take place, again in the public safety complex, this Sunday, April 19, at 4 p.m.

The Reporter and MCTV will host an debate on Tuesday, May 5.

The town election will be held Monday, May 18.



Candidates Forum: MCTV Broadcast Schedule

Online at vimeo.com/124825481

Thursday, 4/16: 11 a.m., 9 p.m.

Friday, 4/17: 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Saturday, 4/18: 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4/19: 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 4 p.m.

Monday, 4/20: 2 p.m.

Tuesday, 4/21: 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/22: 2 p.m.

Thursday, 4/23: 9 p.m.

BOOM from page A1

even a little low."

Bean said the company tries not to schedule blasts on overcast days, but Friday ended up being more cloudy and foggy than had been forecast. According to Bean, the event in question, which brought residents and business owners into the street on Avenue A in Turners Falls, registered at 99 decibels (dB) at its source, well under the 133 dB limit set by the state of Massachusetts.

The concussion, he emphasized, was in the air rather than the earth.

"We've blasted there since 1987, and I can only remember that happening one other time, around the early '90s," he said. "It's very rare, but on occasion, the atmosphere does some weird things."

According to Montague police sergeant Richard Suchanek, the boom led to a number of 911 calls, and there was initial confusion as to its source. "I was on a call on Randall Road when it happened. It was a pretty good blast," he said.

By coincidence, contractors working on the Greenfield Road

project in Montague, more or less across the river from the quarry, had notified local departments that they would be blasting on Friday, but they were not the source of the 1:41 p.m. explosion.

Further confusion ensued when a local newspaper reported that an All States Materials Group spokesperson had denied the blast originated at the East Deerfield quarry, which is operated by their Trew Stone, LLC unit.



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GOOD USED USABLES

BILLINGS from page A1

ice can cause accidents, but thankfully, Billings said, the Highway Department is exceptional at keeping the roads clear.

The other challenge comes in the summer, with the Lake Wyola vacation season and the influx of vacationers and day trippers coming in to enjoy the lake.

“In summertime there is a transient population due to Lake Wyola,” Billings explained.

A small town can feel like one

big family, and Billings has to be mindful. News can spread rapidly by word of mouth, so Billings said he is careful to remember discretion.

This doesn’t stop Billings from enjoying his job as police chief and his life as a member of the Leverett community. Billings knows policing a town like Leverett is about the bond he forms with the residents, and about the closeness of the community.



FALCONS from page A1

breeding the birds in captivity and releasing them to the wild. Consequently, the peregrine falcon was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999. It remained on the state list.

“It looked very bleak. But they’re back,” Collier said. “It’s not all doom and gloom.”

“A change is they’re nesting mostly in cities,” she said, whereas before they nested more often on cliff sides. The mountain nests listed above are the only cliff-side nests in the state Collier is aware of.

“The pair at Mt. Sugarloaf demonstrates how well they blend in,” she said, noting that they are birds of height, nesting high and always with water below, for hunting.

“A flashy flight pattern gets their attention – as small as a blue jay, to as large as a duck,” Collier said of the birds’ diet.

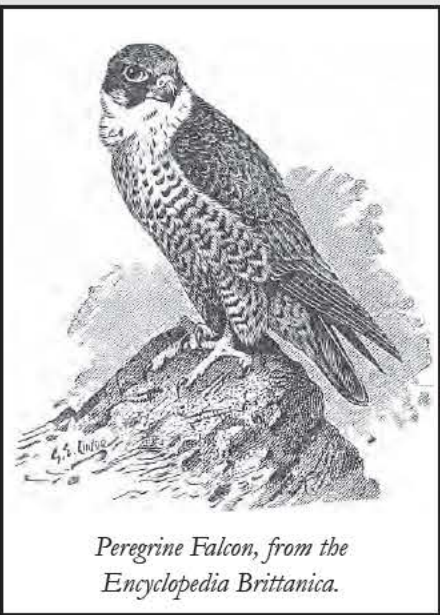
And their dive speed when hunting, once hotly contested, is now known to be up to 200 mph, she explained.

When nesting, Collier said, Peregrine Falcons choose their sites, called scrapes, according to their own ideas of perfection, usually on a ledge or manmade, gravel-filled nesting tray, and, hopefully, not on a bridge.

Collier noted a nesting pair on a bridge in Boston, where “the young have gotten themselves in trouble by falling.”

Nesting safety, away from great horned owls which are a threat to their young, and proximity to food, are priorities. When one nesting pair leaves, for whatever reasons, another quickly fills the spot, demonstrating to Collier that they know what they like, and also that “there are a lot of single birds out there we don’t know about.”

According to Collier, the pair on the UMass library are brand new, as the male died a few months back and the female dis-



Peregrine Falcon, from the Encyclopedia Britannica.

appeared shortly thereafter.

Though commonly believed to mate for life, she said, the birds actually mate for the life of the pair. If one bird dies, the other moves on, with no mourning period.

Females of the species, larger by far than males, “will fight one another for a male and a nesting territory,” said Collier.

She added that there are new theories that this type of fighting may even be one reason for the size difference.

Peregrine falcons typically have three or four young, Collier said. As the young cannot keep themselves warm, the female stays with the nest while the male does the hunting. As he returns with food, she flies up to meet him and hovers upside down to catch what he drops, which she then breaks down for her chicks. This is strict protocol, Collier said.

Another theory on the larger size of the female is that as the wee birds grow, she perhaps can then hunt larger prey.

“In the wild, it doesn’t necessarily work that way, but now there are two of them hunting,” she said.

“There’s a lot we don’t know and we’re learning now,” Collier said of the falcons, but she is pleased that through web cams and a growing interest in the birds, along with her and business partner Jim Parks’ rehabilitation and educational non profit Wingmasters (based in Leverett), more people know more about them.

“In the old days, they were shot on site by duck hunters, and it was legal,” she said of the birds, once known as “duck hawks.”

For more information on North American birds of prey, or to book an educational program with Wingmasters, visit their website at wingmasters.net.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Petitioners Seek Override Option; Selectboard Opposed

By DAVID DETMOLD

Hoping to blunt the impact of budget cuts being readied for the coming fiscal year, as the town prepares for the possibility of an adverse ruling at the state level in two pending property tax abatement appeals, including one seeking a reported \$10 million reduction in total valuation, petitioners have placed an article on the May 2 annual town meeting warrant seeking an option to level-fund town departments via an override of Proposition 2½.

But the selectboard, citing state law which vests the power to place an override vote before the voters solely in the selectboard’s hands, said the initiative would not fly, at least not for this year.

The board then backed that up with a unanimous vote opposing a Proposition 2½ override to solve the town’s budget woes for Fiscal Year 2016.

The petitioned article remains on the warrant as Article 32, the last article. Retiring selectboard chair Rich Brazeau encouraged the petitioners, some of whom were present at the board’s meeting on Tuesday night, to take the opportunity to gauge voters’ sentiment on the possibility of overriding the property tax levy limit in a future year.

Like communities throughout the Commonwealth, Leverett has endured years of tight town and school budgets. This includes five years in succession from FY’09 when Leverett Elementary School held the line at level funding.

The selectboard has struggled to provide departments with required funding within the levy limit, repeatedly warning the day may come when they find no alternative but to seek an override.

This year, facing uncertainties in state funding, the regional school assessment formula, and the pending tax abatement appeals, the board worked with the finance committee to secure 3.5% budget cuts from all town departments and the elementary school.

It has also warned that deeper cuts might be in order if the town of Shutesbury votes to reject the long-standing regional school assessment formula by which the four towns in the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District have agreed to equal per-pupil funding for their middle and high school students.

In anticipation of these reductions, petitioners gathered signatures to place the warrant article before town meeting, which states in part:

We citizens of Leverett are deeply concerned about the proposed budget cuts of 3.5% to 8% for every town department due to a possible loss in

tax revenue because of tax abatements and decreased revenues from the Commonwealth.

We recognize such deep cuts will result in a loss of services and personnel and we are concerned about the impact of those cuts, especially on Leverett’s most vulnerable citizens.

We have recently learned that, even at 3.5%, the cuts will result in loss of monies to train and pay first responders; delayed repairs and replacement of highway department equipment and garage facilities; and personnel and material cuts from the elementary school.

Petitioners sought the option of a Proposition 2½ override to level-fund town departments this year, “aware that, with inflation, level funding is itself a form of budget cut.”

For the selectboard, Julie Shively said, “This isn’t a permanent 3.5% cut in the budget. This is a one year thing to stash the money we need to cover this” possible \$200,000 outlay that could be necessary in a worst-case scenario if the abatement appeals are decided in favor of the property tax owners.

“That’s the question that makes me really uneasy,” said Powicki, who added, “We see these cuts as fundamentally impacting the community.”

But when asked if the selectboard’s plan is to at least restore FY’15 levels of funding for departments in FY’17, board members said it was premature to make such a commitment, considering the uncertainties in play.

The selectboard did say they had received notification from town officials in Shutesbury that they do not support a change in the regional school assessment formula for the coming budget year. This somewhat reduces the likelihood that the town of Leverett may have to suddenly find an additional \$116,000 or so to fund the regional school under the fallback statutory regional school assessment formula.

Town meetings in Shutesbury, Pelham and Leverett all take place on the same day – May 2 – and the selectboard could not rule out an insurgent movement on town meeting floor in Shutesbury to vote down the current regional school funding agreement despite the views of town officials there.

David Powicki, who along with Stacey Lennard, Isaiah Robison, and Robison’s toddler-in-arms Xavier represented the petitioners at Tues-

day’s board meeting, said it was the uncertainty of restoring funding that worried him, in particular.

“That’s the question that makes me really uneasy,” said Powicki, who added, “We see these cuts as fundamentally impacting the community.”

Along with the other petitioners present, he said a one-year cutback could probably be managed, but in the long term, the voters deserved the chance to weigh in on the level of services they were willing to fund, even if that meant an override of Proposition 2½.

In response to a question from Lennard, town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said, hypothetically, if the town voted to override the levy limit this year to level fund departments at present levels, an additional \$100,000 would need to be raised, which would raise the tax rate by 40 cents per \$1,000 of valuation, costing \$40 more for the tax bill on a \$100,000 property, or \$80 on a property valued at \$200,000.

Selectboard members stressed they were also looking out for the needs of the town’s most vulnerable residents in opposing an override this year, especially residents on fixed incomes.

“We hear all the time from people who can’t afford to pay their taxes” at current levels, said Shively.

Fire Department

In other news, John Ingram reported to the board on his first 73 days as Leverett’s new fire chief.

Ingram noted 46 emergency calls had come in to his department since January 1, including the accidental activation of the elementary school’s sprinkler system, which led to extensive flooding and water damage; the barn fire at Roberta Bryant’s horse farm on Route 63 on March 20, which caused the death of two goats; a mutual aid response to a house fire in Montague Center; medical emergencies; and a car fire by the Leverett post office.

Peter d’Errico read a letter of thanks from the family of the late Ronald Pierce, thanking members of the fire department for “going out of their way to extend help to our family” during his transport to Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Ingram said, “I’ve been very proud and satisfied with the response of the members of the department. Their time commitment and time away from their families has been noted. I am very proud of the commitment they have shown.”

Ingram said he now has 15 active duty members in his department, while his training budget only provides funding for training for eight members.

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ERVING from page A1

suicides, but were also concerned with the safety of emergency personnel.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka said three boats had been searching the river below and beyond the bridge on Monday. “The river is not a safe place now. The water is high, and the current strong,” Bembury said.

He said that, with video cameras at the bridge, “We could at least identify that something has happened,” and that river searches would not be conducted for mistaken or false reports of people jumping from the bridge.

Bembury informed Lee that there are three other major projects the town is working on: development of the former Usher Mill Riverfront Park, redevelopment of the former IP Mill, and renovating or rebuilding the library.

For the future, Bembury said, “The community is concerned with senior housing.” He asked Lee to keep an eye out for state funding sources.

“I’m here to work for you, your plans for your community,” Lee said.

She said, “I will definitely follow up” with MassDOT to check on their findings on netting and funding for safety improvements. She said that she had done some research on mill building redevelopment and that one obstacle was “onerous regulations” in the state building code.

She said she had been appointed to several relevant committees: Elder Affairs, Municipalities and Regional Governments, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

Lee congratulated Wonkka on his management of Sunday’s fire at Erving Paper Mill. Wonkka thanked her, and said it wasn’t only an in-

dividual effort – “the whole county pulled together.”

Resident Use of Town Property

Erving resident Brian Sears asked the selectboard in March if he could store his tractor trailer container at the former IP Mill. The container had been stored there intermittently before the town took the property for unpaid real estate taxes.

Bembury reported that town counsel Donna MacNicol was “adamantly against anyone using town property in any way.” She recommended that, if the selectboard grants permission, it needs to develop policies and procedures and set limits.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said, “I want to remind everybody that this is a small close-knit town. If we can help someone out, we should do it.”

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said, based on MacNicol’s advice, “We probably shouldn’t do it.”

Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden reminded the board that a precedent had been set “two or three years ago” when a former selectboard allowed William Lemieux to store logs for a year at the former Usher Plant. Boyden said that the logs are still stored there.

Boyden said she would check selectboard minutes to see what the agreement with Lemieux was. The board will reconsider the issue at their April 27 meeting.

Former Usher Plant

BCS Group, awarded the bid for the \$24,920 riverfront park design study at the former Usher Plant on March 30, returned the town’s contract last week with suggested mi-

nor and major revisions. Bembury said that MacNicol would not be able to review the changes for several weeks.

According to Bembury, MacNicol said that the minor changes, which Franklin Regional Council of Governments planner Andrea Woods considered acceptable, could be made, but the major changes should not be made until MacNicol could review them. The board decided to contact BCS and tell them that if they cannot sign the contract without the changes, the work will be awarded to the other bidder.

Hampshire Power

Bernie Kubiak of Hampshire Power asked for and got approval to review Erving’s electricity costs and to develop a 1, 2, or 3 year quote for purchase of electricity from Hampshire Power. “I think we can get you a good price below the rates charged now,” he said.

The board agreed to provide Hampshire Power with information this week. Kubiak said that, if the town accepts the quoted rate, service could start in June or July.

Other Items

The senior/community center water main and sewer discharge are thawed and the building is open again. However, Bembury said the grinder pumps that process the discharge are no longer working. The board approved spending \$7,400 for two new pumps from the sewer inspection and repair fund.

Governor Charlie Baker’s office wrote to inform the town that \$84,515 in Chapter 90 (local highway aid) funding is available for Erving.

Fire at Erving Paper: Our Reporter on the Scene

Josh Heinemann had a good excuse for handing in his Wendell selectboard notes (see A7) past deadline this week. After spending Saturday at the Athol River Rat Race (“we came in 127th, started 235 out of 247 or so”), he ended up spending a good deal of Sunday responding to a call for burning paper bales out in the yard at the Erving Paper Mills.

Here’s Josh’s recap of the day’s events. Thank you to every volunteer firefighter helping keep our towns and workplaces safe and not on fire.

By JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL – Making maple syrup at home does not make monetary sense, but it is something to do outside when you really want to be outside but the ground is covered in snow and then mud, skiing is terrible, and ice skating is dangerous, but the outside sun calls.

This season was irregular, and late, but Sunday was a perfect day to boil sap, and we had sap to boil down. Saturday’s wind had eased, and the morning was cold but sunny.

The day warmed early. I started the fire in the evaporator, and spent a good while going back and forth between adding sap, which cooled the boil, and wood, which warmed it up again.

As I got ahead a bit I brought two chairs down to the evaporator. I was thinking of bringing down some wine and cheese, too, when a call came for the fire departments – Wendell with an engine, and many other towns with tankers – to go to the Erving paper mill.

I went inside, asked Katie if she could take over the boiling in addition to the bottling she was already doing, and I left and was first at the station. Before I had the truck started Jeff Willard arrived, but no one else did. We left with two on board.

As we approached, our assignment changed to cover the Erving center station. That meant waiting until the Erving fire department came back, and then responding to any second call for the Erving fire department.

So for a while we watched as tank trucks drove past on their way to the Usher Mill fill site, and then return in the other direction to the fire scene, where they dumped their water for use by the firefighting crews. We only saw the actual

fire as we drove past it ourselves on our way to the Erving station.

Then we heard the news that the Bernardston engine at the fill site had lost its prime, and Wendell was told to take its place. We put two lengths of 6-foot suction hose down from a small bridge into Keyup Brook, with a strainer at the end in the water, primed the pump, and began to fill tank trucks as they came to us.

With some glitches that I will not mention here, we did that job through the afternoon, with two 4-foot supply lines from our engine, one tank truck after another, and on occasion two at once.

Jeff stood at the end of the hoses and connected them to the incoming tank trucks. I operated the pump panel. When our pump capacity was more than was needed to fill the tanker, I sent the excess water into the air with the deck gun and downstream to avoid shutting the pump down and losing our prime.

Two other engines were filling tank trucks nearby, and I could see the streams from their deck guns, too. Someone in the middle directed incoming tankers to whatever engine was ready to give them water.

We all kept doing that until late afternoon, when the pace of incoming tankers slowed, and we heard on the radio that responding mutual aid departments were being released. Gill’s fire department had to leave early for a brush fire in Gill.

We filled the last tanker, put our suction hose and supply lines back where they belong, and went back to the Wendell station with no lights flashing. Members of the Warwick fire department, who had come to relieve Wendell as cover for Erving, were still sitting in their lawn chairs in front of Erving Station One.

A Connecticut River Tale



Erving Elementary School students perform the original play A Connecticut River Tale on Wednesday morning. The play tells the story of four adventurous late-19th-century children who sneak away from a family reunion campsite to discover a secret of the Connecticut River. The public was invited to morning and evening performances.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Six Fox Flee French King

Monday, 4/6 2:03 p.m. Report of missing child, same found. 3:36 p.m. Medical emergency walked in to police station, assistance rendered.	Friday, 4/10 2:30 p.m. Report of six fox on French King Highway, area clear on arrival. Saturday, 4/11 9:35 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Gunn Street. 1:15 p.m. [redacted] was arrested for operating a motor vehicle with a	suspended license. 3:20 p.m. Complaint of barking dog investigated by animal control officer. Sunday, 4/12 11:50 a.m. Assisted Erving fire with brush fire at Ridge Road. 12:15 p.m. Assisted Erving Fire with Erving Paper Mill on Route 2.
Wednesday, 4/8 11:00 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Old State Road, under investigation.		

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MORE NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Unanswered Questions Abound Over WiredWest Buildout, Costs

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard member Dan Keller opened the Wendell selectboard’s April 8 meeting with the announcement that new grinder pumps that serve both the senior center and the library had been installed and were working, thanks, in part at least, to two control panels that Jim Slavas built for a cost of \$300 in parts.

Without Slavas’ expertise, each of the two control panels would have cost the town \$350. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser commented, “Where can we clone that man?”

Selectboard chair Christine Heard was away for the meeting.

The bulk of the evening was taken up by a meeting between the selectboard, Wired West representatives Robbie Leppzer and Robbie Heller, the finance committee, and later, Jim Slavas and town treasurer Carolyn Manley.

For the selectboard it was an effort to get accurate and precise answers to questions for which accurate and precise answers do not exist yet.

Some answers may come from a series of meetings WiredWest and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) are holding.

The first of those meetings took place on April 10 at the courthouse, and another will take place at Swift River School on Thursday, April 23. Pooser and Keller said they would attend as many as they could.

Leppzer began the discussion by saying that only a month after the notice went out, Wendell had passed its goal of getting 40% of households in town to pledge to connect

with the WiredWest fiber optic cable, and to make \$49 deposits.

Shutesbury passed that goal just before Wendell, and New Salem has reached about 30%.

With a 40% sign up rate, WiredWest has figured each town’s internet service will be at least self sustaining. Leppzer said that the Wendell WiredWest supporters are really working to get a 60% sign-up rate.

He said the project will cost close to \$1 million, and will be the largest public construction project the town has faced since it built the new town office, the library, and the corresponding water system and septic system.

To finance it, the town will have to authorize the borrowing with a town meeting article, and then allow the repayment later with a ballot debt exclusion vote.

Leppzer’s hope is that Wendell would be ready in the summer and be early in the buildout process. If Wendell, Shutesbury, New Salem and Warwick can form a cluster of adjacent towns, they may get built out early as a group.

Leppzer asked for the full endorsement of the selectboard before the annual town meeting, and for a debt exclusion vote in July.

Dampening that hope of getting early in the line-up for connection is an efficiency model that WiredWest has created. This takes into consideration road mileage, the number of houses, and the terrain to predict the amount of work required to connect every household.

With that method, Wendell is #17 of the 32 towns that have joined WiredWest.

Heller said the whole buildout process will take four to five years.

Pooser asked how much of the project is contingent on all the towns signing up, and whether Wendell’s commitment would be independent of actions taken by other towns.

He asked what exactly were the town’s obligations if it passed the article and the debt exclusion: would these votes be a token gesture, or a legal commitment?

Slavas suggested that a cheaper alternative might appear in the time that Wendell would still be paying back the WiredWest loan.

Leppzer said that the MBI considers each town independently in the process, and fin com member Ray DiDonato said the votes were not token votes, but also would not obligate Wendell to the spending until construction begins.

The first spending would be done with state money, and MBI will consider the towns’ votes a commitment. Borrowing would start as short-term notes for construction as it happens, and when the process is complete, the town would take out the loan for its share of the whole project, which would be repaid through taxes and through an internet service fee on households.

Wendell would not see a large jump in taxes until the fifth year, when that loan payment would start.

DiDonato said that the increase in taxes would be more than offset by a drop in fees for satellite television, internet, and telephone.

He said his Verizon bill for long-distance and regular telephone is \$80 a month, and compared that to the proposed WiredWest bills for telephone, \$25, and basic internet, \$50.

Slavas asked why the cost to townspeople was structured to create a tax increase, with relatively small monthly fees for subscribers. He also asked if they had considered the possibility that another technology might replace fiber-optic cable while the town is still repaying the loan.

He suggested that a cheaper alternative might appear in that time that would offer, for example, for less cost, just telephone service for a low-income family interested in nothing else.

Leppzer said the Shutesbury broadband committee looked at following Leverett’s example, and independently borrowing the money for connecting every household, but the numbers did not work out.

Shutesbury has too many miles of road, and too few houses. Wendell is similar to Shutesbury, but with a smaller tax base. And Leverett’s system is over budget and behind schedule.

Pooser said that he was the first to sign up with his \$49 deposit, but as devil’s advocate, he wanted sound answers. Keller said, “We don’t know what we are committing to. Where is the budget?” An accurate estimate of the buildout cost in Wendell will not be known until someone on the ground counts

the poles and houses, and measures the distances.

That estimate is part of the buildout process and will not happen until the project is authorized.

Leppzer said people should write down questions for him, and come to the meetings that WiredWest has scheduled for the coming months.

DiDonato said, good internet connection has a lot of importance for a lot of people in town, and recommended that all parties work together to get answers.

The WiredWest discussion lasted from 7:15 to 8:55 p.m. “I thought this would be a short meeting,” town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said, as people walked out of the room.

Other Business

Out of courtesy, the principal of Swift River School asked for and received permission from the Wendell selectboard (as well as that of New Salem) to put a sign up in front of the school.

The Franklin County Technical School is asking for money to replace doors and windows, and make other upgrades to its building, which has not seen an overhaul since the school opened in 1976.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments asked the town to name the roads where they should put traffic counters.

The two board members present passed that decision on to police chief Ed Chase and highway commission chair Harry Williston.

A dead raccoon found in town tested positive for rabies, the first case in the area.

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SPORTS CORNER

Turners Falls High School's Jalen Sanders
sprints and slides into third base during last
Friday's home season opener against Lenox.

Turners won the game, 10-3. After a loss to
Easthampton and a victory over Pioneer, they
were 2 and 1 as of press time this week.

Stay tuned for our baseball and softball
coverage this season!



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

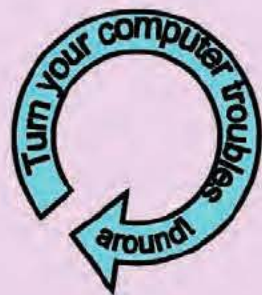


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APRIL 16, 2015

B1



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Spring Starts

MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

FRANKLIN COUNTY — Saying goodbye to friends, we step out into the night darkness and are embraced by the shrill eager calls of the peepers. It has stopped raining at last, but the ground fog is building into wisps of the wraiths which will travel with us on our way home. The curving road seems especially dark with no light from the sky. I drive slowly, switching from high to low beams, often unable to see much more than a foot or two ahead.

We ease around a curve and see red flare lights ahead on both sides of the road. We resort to a crawl, afraid we are nearing the site of an accident. Then tall, shadowy figures appear; two women in long skirts and wide-brimmed hats are high-lighting the road with flashlights.

They approach as we stop, peering into the headlights. We lower the windows and ask what is happening.

A gruff, instructional voice is monotonic: “It’s the migration of the salamanders. If you see one, stop the car and someone will come and pick it up.” They are carrying buckets, we see.

Some chance, I think. We can barely see the road. But we ease on slowly until the flares have passed. No salamanders to be seen.

Each day there are new signs of spring. The crocus and miniature iris are blooming. Daffodils reach out of the ground; the ones sheltered

by the wind are tall enough to show buds. Sunday I saw the tips of skunk cabbage and heard the Phoebe call.

The tomato starts sent their roots out the holes at the bottom of their pots, necessitating a move to four inch pots. The plants look hardy now with sturdy, true leaves. The temperatures are more seasonal in the sixties.

In a couple of days I’ll check the raised beds, looking for soil that has dried out to the crumbly stage. As soon as it is workable, it will be fine to spread seed for all of the salad greens and even the peas.

All of these crops love cool weather and will thrive even if we continue to have light frosts. All of the green, leafy crops lend themselves to container gardening, and will do well in any makeshift container with well-aerated soil and a decent amount of sun. Plant a window box or such and prepare to enjoy fresh salad in a few weeks.

If you harvest with scissors, leaving the bottom of the leaves and roots in the soil, you’ll get a second harvest from the same seeds.

Things change quickly in this short season of early growth. We missed the salamanders, but did have the joy of watching the male cardinal feeding his mate as they prepared for nesting. Each day the buds of the soft maples grow larger and soon will burst into leaf. There is something new to see each day in the yard.

see **GARDENER** page B4

Ice Off the Lake Contest Concludes

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – The pygmy walrus holes arrived March 31.

A week later, their six-inch diameter eyes had morphed into Chernobyl-ized starfish, some with missing arms, some with the sea creature’s full five-armed complement, but suffering from acute non-symmetry: pathetic, ever-expanding pinwheels with twisted limbs of various lengths and out-bound ice-melt orientations.

As the crocus, then the daffodil, are harbingers to the western Massachusetts world of the season of spring, so are walrus holes and mutant starfish – located above many undersurface springs, the lake’s feeders of fresh waters – advance messengers of the approach of the end of the annual Ice Off the Lake Contest in Montague’s Village of Lake Pleasant.

Since 1977, that long-standing cyclical curiosity has become ritualized in an Ice Off the Lake rite of seasonal passage. Interested residents fork over a dollar, take their chances with a blind-luck draw of a date for departure, then begin rooting themselves on to victory for a small pot of gold at the end of the winter rainbow, on the day when a designated panel of judges declares that not an ice cube remains visible on the open waters of the lake.

This year that day of judgment arrived April 13. Twin winners are Rilee Bordeaux, daughter of Mark and Mary Bordeaux of Montague Avenue, contest one with a prize of \$57, and Joy Kaubin of Denton Street, contest two, \$56 (one date had passed with that ticket unsold).

The date range for the thirty-ninth annual contest was February

22 through April 19, the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the yearly contest began.

Almost a decade ago the event had become so popular that a second parallel contest was established in order to slake the unquenched thirst of participants more than willing to be parted from their money if only more tickets were able to be had.

The Ice Off the Lake contest began during the reign of long-term and long-retired Postmaster Alfreda Casey. The late Joyce Cote inherited contest management when she became Postmaster in 1987 and coordinated the event until 2008, the year after her retirement. The ice-off torch then passed to David James, a Postmaster relief/replace-

ment contract worker and sole employee of the Lake Pleasant Post Office.

Traditionally, contest judges gather at 5 p.m. daily. They meet in front of the Raisin Rosen picket on the Bridge of Names, a wooden walkway which joins the two halves of the village. With naked eye, as well as aid from a pair of powerful bird-watcher. or Peeping Tom-type binoculars, judges survey as much of the surface of the lake as can be viewed from that vantage point.

According to contest rules, if no ice is visible, ergo, no ice exists, and the contest is declared done ... despite the usual and customary fact that judges pass ice pockets near the shore as they wend their

see **ICE** page B4



DEBRA GOODMAN PHOTO

The Honorable Judge Patrick Otto, Sr., surveys the surface of Lake Pleasant prior to issuing a ruling in the 39th Annual Ice Off the Lake contest, which concluded as of 5 p.m. on Monday, April 13.

1676, Part One: When the Shadblow Bloomed

By JAMES GILDEA

BERNARDSTON — As this is being written signs of spring have begun to appear. A few brave crocuses are peeking above a patch of snow, while the returning song birds offer a chorus of cheerful voices; life has begun to re-emerge from the Earth in this corner of the world.

Before the advent of TV’s, cellphones, radios, or boom boxes, this rite of spring never failed to excite the imagination. A sense of anticipation was in the air; the apple and shad-blow trees were in blossom, offering the promise of a sweet harvest in the months to come.

In 1676, the same rite of spring that began with the blooming of the native shadblow (*Amelanchier*), played an important part in the history of Montague.

The world knows the shadblow by many names: serviceberry, juneberry, shadbush, pigeon berry, and a few more. Some years ago shadblow trees with unusually large, sweet berries were discovered along the Saskatchewan River in Canada; these are “saskatoons,” a name given them by the native population of the Canadian Plains long ago. Northern orchard growers are working with that variety to create a “pick-ur-own” business.

Though shadblow easily survive Canadian winters of 40 to 50 degrees below zero, these are temperatures that will kill apple trees. Saskatoons are often described as “superfood” because their fruit contains vitamins, minerals and antioxidants on a par with blueberries and cranberries.

Though the shadblow is hardly noticed today, it was a lifeline for the native people of New England. Regardless of how cold or nasty the previous winter may have been, shadblow reliably produced sweet berries. The earliest people of North America were ahead of their time in using this nutritional

resource. Moreover, their fruit is available in early summer (thus one of its names, “Juneberries”), providing food for birds during the nesting season.

This tree was given the name “shadblow” because it blossomed when shad and salmon were migrating upstream to spawn in local rivers. The American shad was an important food for the native people. During a spring that followed a poor crop the year before, food might have been in short supply, and a harvest of shad would be vitally needed.

Native people gathered in great numbers at Barton Cove, formerly a large field above the “Great Falls” on the Connecticut River.



GILDEA PHOTO

Shadblow Serviceberry – Amelanchier canadensis, of the rose family.

Their catch was dried over small, stone-lined hearths. After drying, the fish were packed and carried back to their villages.

Recent archaeological digs at Barton Cove uncovered many of these ancient hearths, and though more were evident in deeper water, they couldn’t be examined. Barton Cove, the site of the Falls Fight of 1676, was flooded in the 19th century when the Turners Falls dam was built just below it. That field today, with all of its native history and artifacts, is under many feet of water.

The shad migration and blooming of the shadblow both occur in mid-to-late May, and the Falls Fight happened on May 19, 1676,

when the trees would have been in riotous bloom.

However, in Lucy Kellogg’s history of Bernardston, she wrote that some sort of “intelligence” told of the gathering of native people at the Falls.

That might be a misreading of history; the militia that took part in the Falls Fight didn’t need any other signal, verbal or otherwise, to know that a large number of native people would be gathered at the Great Falls; the gathering at Barton Cove above the falls (after the shadblow blossomed across the state) had been a rite of spring for centuries.

The Falls Fight and King Phillip’s War (1675-76) both raise a variety of unanswered questions. The history of that early period is seldom taught in schools, and if you ask someone on the street about it, you’re likely to get a blank stare.

Though many historians blame the war on the colonists, King Phillip’s War may have been prodded by events that had transpired over a long period of time; a series of natural disasters appear to have been the touchstone for this tragedy.

King Phillip’s War

King Phillip’s War was sparked after a Wampanoag native, John Sassamon, had been killed by members of the Wampanoag tribe. Sassamon had been a member of that tribe, but had converted to the colonists’ religion, and saw himself as a British subject.

Sassamon also spied on King Phillip (Metacomet). The colonists didn’t trust Metacomet, and asked Sassamon to learn of Metacomet’s plans. When Sassamon’s spying was discovered he was brutally killed by members of his former tribe.

His assassins were quickly caught, tried, and hanged at Plymouth. Sassamon’s standing see **1676** page B4

Pets of the Week

Greetings, from our two young, friendly fellows.

We're prepared to train the right people how amazing life is with dogs. We are excellent dogs in search of simple pleasures! We're cool living with cats.

We like to play but also know how to relax and take a break. Come visit, and let's talk!

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Senior Center Activities April 20 to 24

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

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

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Monday 4/20
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 4/21
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Sing Along
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Support appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 4/22
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/23
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor
10:15 Dementia for Dummies
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 4/24
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, temporarily at 18 Pleasant Street, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula Betters, interim Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/20
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

Tuesday 4/21
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Cardio Toning
11 a.m. Friends Business
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 4/22
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 4/23
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
Noon Pitch Card Game

Friday 4/24
9 a.m. Bowling

Community Discussion: Faith and Dying

MONTAGUE – How will we respond when our family members are faced with a serious life-threatening illness and the medical system offers a baffling array of choices involving medications, life-sustaining treatment and interventions that might prolong life but possibly bring about greater suffering?

How do we understand and balance the quality of life, the sanctity of life and our freedom to choose according to our deeply held values and beliefs? What are our questions and concerns about caregiving for our loved ones nearing end of life?

These are some of the questions to be discussed at a community forum on Tuesday, April 21 at the First Congregational Church of Montague that will feature staff of the Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice and Palliative Care team.

Speakers will include Dr. Jeffrey Zesiger, Medical Director of the Cooley Dickinson Palliative Care

program, Maureen Groden, RN, CHPN, Director of Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice and Palliative Care and Ben Tousley, M.Div., Spiritual Counselor and Faith Community Outreach Coordinator for Cooley Dickinson. Ample time for questions and answers from the audience will be provided.

Participants will clarify the difference between hospice and palliative care, the advantages of seeking hospice care earlier rather than later, the importance of advanced directives and how faith and spiritual care play an important role in caregiving at end of life.

Dr. Zesiger will speak to how palliative care offers a more focused approach to serious illness such as cancer, liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiac disease.

In addition, he will discuss the new Massachusetts MOLST form, which gives people the ability to

state the goals of their medical care as well as their wishes for advance care planning.

MOLST is an acronym that stands for Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.

Maureen Groden will discuss hospice and palliative care services available at the VNA & Hospice and in the wider community and the advantages of exploring these services in a timely fashion.

“Like many other important decisions, it’s wise and helpful to get the advice and information we need early on so we’re not forced into a quick decision when a crisis presents itself,” she commented.

The First Congregational Church of Montague is located at 4 North Street. While the program begins at 7 pm, doors will open at 6:45 pm. Admission is free and handouts will be available.

For more information, please call Trista Perrea at (413) 582-5309.



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I've heard the worst pain you can experience is from passing a kidney stone. True?

I had a friend who served in the Royal Air Force in World War II. On a bombing run over Germany, his co-pilot started to pass a kidney stone. The pain was so bad that the poor guy wanted to jump out of the plane. He had to be knocked unconscious.

Kidney stones have been inflicting extreme pain for at least 7,000 years; evidence of them was found in an Egyptian mummy.

In the USA, there are about 1 million cases of kidney stones each year. The number of people in the United States with kidney stones has been increasing inexplicably over the last three decades. Stones occur more frequently in men. And the frequency increases with age.

Kidney stones are composed of crystals of substances in urine. Many small stones pass unnoticed from the two kidneys down the tubes (ureters) leading to the bladder. But, if they are too large to pass, you may feel pain.

The crystals that make up stones are likely to form when your urine contains a high level of certain substances. Crystals also may

form if your urine becomes too concentrated.

Kidney stones can be caused by heredity, diet, drugs, climate, infection and other conditions that create an increased concentration of calcium, oxalate and uric acid in the urine.

There are four primary types of stones. Calcium stones are the most common; about 80 percent of kidney stones are composed of calcium. Struvite stones usually occur in women and are almost always caused by urinary tract infections. Uric acid stones can develop from a high-protein diet. Cystine stones are caused by a hereditary disorder.

Kidneys are located below the ribs toward the middle of the back. They're shaped like beans and they're about the size of your fist. The kidneys remove excess water and waste from the blood and convert it to urine. They have other functions, too, that affect blood.

The most common symptom of a kidney stone is severe pain that usually starts in the back or side just below the ribs. The pain may spread to the lower abdomen, groin and genitals if the stone moves down a ureter toward your bladder. Other symptoms include blood in the urine, nausea and vomiting, constant need to urinate, and fever.

There are various treatments for kidney stones.

Taking a painkiller and drinking a lot of water with increased physical activity can work. Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) uses shock waves to break up the stone. If the stone is very large, sur-

gery may be needed. Medication or dietary changes may be prescribed to prevent more stones.

Medications known as alpha blockers are used to help you pass a kidney stone. These drugs relax muscles in your ureter.

Percutaneous nephrolithotomy is a procedure to remove a kidney stone. The surgeon uses instruments inserted through a small incision in your back.

To remove small stones, a doctor may run a thin lighted tube with a camera through your urethra and bladder to get to the ureter. Then surgical tools are used to remove the stone.

If you don't drink enough fluids, your urine can become more concentrated and that can lead to stone formation. People exposed to heat are more likely to get kidney stones. That's why kidney stones are more common in summer.

Here are a few tips for reducing the chances of getting a stone:

- Drink about six glasses of water daily. When it gets hot, try to drink twice as much.
- Cut down on meat in your diet.
- Reduce your salt intake. Remember, most of the salt you eat is in prepared foods, not the shaker on your table.
- Drink decaffeinated beverages because caffeine can dehydrate you.
- Lemons inhibit kidney stones, so try to incorporate them in your food and beverages.

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

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Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions and we thank you for your support of the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League Sponsorship Banner Program!

Thank you!

Eric Meals, League President
(413) 824-0901
ericmeals1017@comcast.net

[http://NewtGuilbaultLeague.org/files/Newt Guilbault Banner Sponsorship Form.pdf](http://NewtGuilbaultLeague.org/files/Newt%20Guilbault%20Banner%20Sponsorship%20Form.pdf)
Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League: Tax ID #042857223

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 14, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bike Path Construction Begins

Warner Brothers, of Sunderland, have begun the long-awaited construction of the bike path, stretching from the former Red Bridge by Unity Park to Depot Street in Montague City.

The path will measure 12 feet wide for most of the way, according to Warner Brothers' engineer, Paul Gibavic.

The course of the path will follow the Connecticut River from the park, then follow the canal along an abandoned railroad bed by Montague Machine Company to Depot Street.

Eventually, the bike path will continue across Montague City Road and follow the abandoned railroad past the wastewater treatment plant, and cross the Connecticut River over an abandoned railroad bridge. That will be the next segment and a separate contract, still in gestation.

The bike path will most likely attract visitors to Turners Falls and the Discovery Center. And if gasoline prices continue their upward spiral, we may all be using bikes for more than recreation. Bike path, here we come!

The Eagle Has Hatched!

Good news! Last Saturday, April 9, at 8 a.m., we got our first peek at this year's eaglet. Only one egg this year, and despite some worries about the eagles' brooding during a late winter storm, on this fine spring weekend we are treated to the sight of a chick sitting in a half shell. Too wonderful!

We watch a possible first feeding at 3:10 p.m. The baby is wobbly. Close attention all afternoon reveals how attentive the eagle parents are. Another fish dinner arrives, and at 6:50 p.m. we watch

a much stronger eaglet eagerly take small offerings of fresh fish.

We hope all the local eagle watchers are enjoying the amazing program of live eagle activity from the nest in Barton Cove, available on local access television in several surrounding towns.

Sparks Fly on Box Car Sale

Box Car restaurant property owners Barbara Bumpus and Norma Charbonneau spoke sharply to the Erving selectboard.

"We can't go anywhere in town without folks talking about us, and giving us looks," Charbonneau began. "I've lived in this town for 20 years," she said, getting angrier by the second, "and this is how I get treated? That's not right."

"It's all because of what was in the papers!" Bumpus exclaimed after the two made to leave the room, and then stepped back in. "You know people are going to believe what they read, no matter whether someone's been lying."

The women were referring to last week's unscheduled visit before the board by Toni Wilson, who currently leases the restaurant and is trying to secure funds to purchase the building from Bumpus and Charbonneau.

At that meeting, Jeff Dubay spoke at length to attempt to find a way for the town to help Wilson secure extra funds to make up the purchase price.

Wilson had told the board she needed to guarantee she could come up with the purchase price "within days," or else the historic 150-year old former train depot would likely be sold to Dunkin Donuts. Reached after the meeting last week, Bumpus had said they were in "no big rush" to sell and were "trying to work things out with Toni."

Before leaving the meeting in a huff, the owners commented, "Whatever happens now, it's her fault."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Subject Able to Get Out Of Ditch; Nasty Text Messages; Friendship Overture Rebuffed

Monday, 4/6
12:25 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance in reaching a party in Montague to take custody of his brother, who is unable to drive. Officer made contact with party, who would not take custody of his brother. GPD advised.
12:09 p.m. Caller reports that a male subject driving a green Saturn just pulled up to their job site and began throwing his medication, his mail, and his mother's mail into the cab of one of the Asplundh work trucks. Subject appeared to be intoxicated. Subject began giving orders to the crew about which tree(s) to remove. Subject then put his vehicle in reverse and got stuck in a ditch. Subject was able to get out of ditch and has since left the scene. Officer located subject and took him into protective custody; he was later released to the care of two friends.
2:37 p.m. Caller into station to report unauthorized use of her vehicle. Stolen motor vehicle paperwork filled out; vehicle entered as stolen in national database; info given to Greenfield PD and state police. Vehicle later located in Greenfield with the keys in it. Report taken.
8:25 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle in area of South Ferry Road. Officer located subject, who stated that he occasionally walks his dog in this area. He used to be associated with Red Fire Farm and walks their fields.
9:24 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports hearing three gunshots in area. Referred to an officer.
9:30 p.m. Caller reports that the lights seem to be cycling slowly at Seventh Street and Avenue A; waiting on the Seventh Street side, the lights stayed red for ten minutes. Message left for DPW. [Police log compiler can verify that this is a problem.]
Tuesday, 4/7
10:14 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Unity Street. Peace restored. Both parties blaming each other; advised of options.
10:26 a.m. Caller reported to Chief Dodge that last night several youths were skateboarding down the hill on Fairway Avenue, creating a hazard. Chief requests that officers be on lookout.
5:19 p.m. Two car collision on Seventh Street. Report taken.
9:19 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.
Wednesday, 4/8
1:29 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reports a

female on her porch who stated that she had been in a fight with her grandparents and needed to call her brother. Responding officers unable to locate female.
10:50 a.m. Request for an officer to pick up 5 hypodermic needles from the sidewalk/tree belt area in front of a house on Fifth Street. Responding officer reports that needles were unused, still capped. Items picked up and disposed of.
11:29 a.m. Minivan into dumpster at Fifth Street and Avenue A. No injuries. Report taken.
12:42 p.m. Caller reports seeing a child playing in the window on Third Street; child appears to be trying to push the window open. Caller is not sure how secure the window is. Officer spoke with child's mother.
3:35 p.m. Complaint that heavy duty work trucks are speeding on Randall Road en route to work on Greenfield Road. Referred to an officer.
5:10 p.m. Caller advises that neighbors told her that earlier today and late last night there was a male party in the parking lot area of a Montague City Road residence looking in car windows and checking door handles. Referred to an officer.
7:51 p.m. Car into guardrail on Avenue A. No injuries.
Thursday, 4/9
5:56 a.m. Vehicle into tree at Turners Falls Road and Hatchery Road. No injuries.
1:37 p.m. Caller requesting advice on how to deal with a family member that he allowed to use a building that he owns. The party is now moving mover items into the building, and the caller wants him out. Advised of options.
Friday, 4/10
9:04 a.m. Caller requests to speak with an officer regarding a suspicious phone call placed to her former employer from someone claiming to be a private investigator. Officer spoke with P.I., who will be coming in later today with his credentials. P.I. was trying to ascertain information about a fight that took place near the Pizza House.

10:38 a.m. Caller reports that her neighbors took plastic totes off her porch and moved them to their porch. Caller has a harassment order on the neighbors, so she can't go get them herself. Services rendered.
1:01 p.m. An adult male was arrested following a report of burglary/breaking and entering on Randall Road.
1:32 p.m. Party into station requesting to speak to police chief, who was not available. Party wants to be shown a copy of the trespass order that was served to her earlier this week. Delayed response due to call volume. Referred to an officer.
1:42 p.m. Received numerous calls on 911 and the regular business line from citizens reporting a loud explosion. Same was heard/felt at the police station. Source determined to be blasting taking place on River Road in Deerfield by a company called Trew Stone. Company representative came in confirming that the blast came from them in the quarry; advised they believe the effects were felt so far out because of the low cloud cover.
1:45 p.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive reports a loud explosion that shook everything in his house. Caller advised re: blasting going on in Deerfield.
2:51 p.m. Call from middle school requesting that an officer provide a courtesy transport home for a student who is refusing to get on the school bus and whose father is refusing to pick him up. Services rendered.
3:03 p.m. Party into station to report harassing text messages from a male. Officer advises that text was not threatening in any way, but was nasty. Advised party to contact police if texts continue.
Saturday, 4/11
10:05 a.m. Third party requests assistance for a male in a motorized wheelchair at Fifth Street and Avenue A; wheelchair is stuck. Officer advises that wheelchair is having mechanical issues. Officer offered the man a ride; he declined and opted to put the wheelchair in neutral

and walk behind it. Officers will keep an eye on him in case he needs assistance along the way.
11:20 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that someone broke into his basement overnight and stole a large amount of volleyball equipment. Referred to an officer.
4:02 p.m. Caller advising of a fire inside the cellar hole of an old burned down house on Wendell Road. Spoke with firefighter, who confirms that this is a permitted burn.
4:31 p.m. Caller advising of a syringe found on Avenue A. Officer advised.
4:35 p.m. Caller states that her neighbor had come over on to her property and was behind her garage where her dog was; dog was barking at neighbor and scratched her. Caller saw the scratch; not sure if it was from a tooth or a nail. Dog is up to date on vaccines. Neighbor was not invited there; she just frequents the caller's property for no known reason. Incident documented.
Sunday, 4/12
1:27 p.m. Report of a fire on a lawn on Millers Falls Road. Caller estimates that it could be up to 20 feet across and that the flames are a few feet from the house. There were still people in the house at the time of the call. Caller advised to have parties evacuate if able to do so. TFFD advised; fire brought under control before any major damage was done.
3:18 p.m. Caller requests to speak to an officer about his neighbor, who just approached him about "wanting to be friends." Caller states that there was a previous incident that resulted in an officer advising both parties to stay away from each other. Officer spoke to caller; issue resolved.
7:02 p.m. Caller reports that two males jumped in front of his vehicle on Main Street, causing him to slam on the brakes. Caller's dog, who was in the car, hit the windshield but was not injured. Officer spoke to three parties in area; none thought to be involved. No other parties seen in area.

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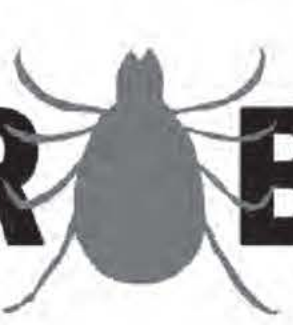
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1676 from page B1

as a Christian and a British subject demanded his assassins be caught and tried.

The hanging of Sassamon’s killers triggered what can only be described as spontaneous combustion: native people across Massachusetts burned the colonists’ homes and barns, and killed men, women, children, and family pets with abandon. Entire towns were torched, and by war’s end the colonists had lost more than ten percent of their population, the greatest per capita loss of life by war in America’s history.

Given the ferocity of the Wampanoag, it’s not surprising that the carnage would have been returned in kind by the colonial militia at the Great Falls.

King Phillip’s War began in 1675, and by the time of the Falls Fight in May of 1676, many militia members had lost someone close to them. Whole families, friends, neighbors or loved ones had been killed.

The militia wasn’t going to be stopped by the threat of retaliation, and 40 to 50 of these young men did lose their lives while trying to escape from that native encampment at Barton Cove.

However, in retrospect, going into “enemy territory” simply to exact revenge is never a sensible military tactic. But for that militia, it was “payback time”: caution was thrown to the winds.

Later, when the survivors of this debacle had to justify why they had carried out this raid, what might they have said to the parents, wives, or children of those 40 to 50 men who died that day at the Great Falls? “Well... We killed hundreds of savages.”

There’s ample reason to doubt these casualty figures. In Lucy Kellogg’s description of the Falls Fight, for example, she stated that, when the battle was over, less than 200 native people had been killed by the militia. Kellogg was relying on the number told to others at the time.

But another survivor stated that they had killed “6 score” or so. That’s around 120. However, in the 1734 petition to the legisla-

ture that would create “Falls Fight Township,” the first incarnation of Bernardston, the number killed had soared to “above 300.”

Some writers believe that the native people were simply victims of aggression. But there’s another side to this story that almost never sees the light of day. The Wampanoag and the colonists were both victimized by events that had pulled both camps into a bloody war.

From *The Journey Home : Diary of a Small American Town, Bernardston Mass., Fact, Fantasy and Folklore* by James Gildea, Copyright 2015.



A cedar waxwing – Bombycilla cedroria, perches on a fruiting shadblow branch.

GARDENER from page B1

The only snow and ice left is a paltry patch on the north side of the garage. New blades of fresh, green grass are showing in sheltered spots. The morning birdsong is a joy to awaken the eager soul. A couple of days ago a large group of turkeys marched through the edge of the yard, a first.

The long, cold winter is winding down. We’ve brought in the last of the stove wood for cool morning and evening fires, leaving stacking space for the cordwood ordered for next year. The rakes are at the ready. We do a patch at a time, removing dead leaves and grass and scratching the soil to prepare for the new seed we are spreading.

There are plenty of chores, but this is also a wonderful season to set aside a little time each day to walk

and look, to marvel at each sight of new growth, to set out a chair and take in the warm air and the sun, to open the windows to the sweet air, to close your eyes and really hear the variety of birds we are fortunate to have and to fill the soul with the generous bounties of spring.

April may indeed be the cruelest month, as the poet says, but it is also full of the most transient and heart-rending beauty. Make sure to allow time to take it in. Hang up the hammock and drowse.

You can get back to your raking in a few days when this warm spell is broken and the brisk wind and cold breezes return. The good news is it’s only temporary, and a reminder that these special days will soon give way to summer heat, bringing its own troubles and joys.

Happy spring gardening! 

ICE from page B1

way from one end or the other of the bridge to arrive at the judgment picket. Rules are rules and “no-see” means “no-ice.”

Ice-offers this year fell under the spell of a tantalizing new wrinkle. Many villagers speculated that because of the long, cold, snowy winter of 2014-2015, departure of ice from the lake would likely set a new record for contest end date.

Prevailing sentiment, expressed loudly and not infrequently in community conversations, was that ice this year might last into May. One half-waggish commentator seemed inclined to bet the proverbial farm on an end date in June.

Historically contest participants have been living, breathing human beings, residents, or relatives of residents of Lake Pleasant. For the past half-dozen years or so, however, a small group of ticket-holders have emerged in several different forms.

One of those forms, in keeping with the village’s founding by Spiritualists and Spiritualism’s continuing presence in a remnant of The National Spiritual Alliance, is the routine purchase of “tribute tickets” for a pair of long-time village residents now-departed from

the flesh: the Spirit of Varion Hicks and the Spirit of Louise Shattuck. Neither spirit has yet won a contest, but Hicks yet reigns as all-time contest champion, having thrice been holder of a winning ticket, 1987, 1994, and 1998.

Another newish contest trend has materialized with pet participation, principally living dogs, but this year also for a dead cat.

The 2010 winner was the late-Goose Levenson, then a 13-year-old Dandie Dinmont terrier owned by Marge Levenson of Turner Street. Goose’s successor in the Levenson household, Sparkie, had two opportunities to win this year, but alas, at least for him, did not.

Two other canine entries for 2015 included Tomato, whose owner Rafael Vega lives on Denton Street, and Sophie, co-owned by Deborah Frenkel and George Shapiro, both of Montague Avenue.

Last year Shapiro had better luck with a human. His son Fedya Michael won with a ticket date of April 11.

The next seasonal highlight for Lake Pleasanters will be waiting to watch the grass grow in the Minnie Rutter Memorial Park.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assistance Along the Connecticut River

Thursday, 4/2 1:30 p.m. Report of hit and run on Northfield Mount Hermon campus. 2:15 p.m. Assisted Navy recruitment center with background check of resident. 8 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police Department with disturbance at business on Route 10. 10:35 p.m. Observed lights Barton Cove area found subjects fishing.	Monday, 4/6 8:15 a.m. Assisted Executive Office of Public Safety with investigation of lock up facility. 4:30 p.m. Report of subject on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge planning to hurt themselves, gone on arrival.
Friday, 4/3 10 a.m. Dog complaint on Walnut Street.	Tuesday, 4/7 1:45 p.m. Breaking and entering reported at business on French King Highway, under investigation. 8 p.m. Assisted Erving Police with domestic disturbance.
Saturday, 4/4 2:15 p.m. Dog complaint on Walnut Street. Owner located and warned. 3:35 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Walnut Street. 4:40 p.m. Assisted Greenfield Police Department with hit and run.	Wednesday, 4/8 11:30 a.m. Illegal dumping reported near French King Bridge, under investigation. 4:15 p.m. Violation of Harassment Prevention Order at Oak Street residence.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Next week, April 19 through 25, is the National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Each April, the US Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (www.ovc.gov) helps lead communities throughout the United States in observances that promote victims’ rights.

The promotion of victims’ rights, or any work that helps out crime victims, often comes from those who are personally affected by crime, or by knowing someone who has been.

One example of such a case is Brooks Douglass. On October 15, 1979, two men murdered his parents, sexually assaulted his sister, and tried to kill him and his sister. This event, which happened in Okarche, Oklahoma, played a big part in Douglass running at age 27 for state senator. He won, and served as the youngest senator in Oklahoma.

His work concerning crime victims includes a 1992 bill championing their rights. His true story was made known through a movie called *Heaven’s Rain*, which he himself produced.

The National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is a response to the crimes that

happen in the United States. It’s an honorary observance, like Martin Luther King Day, that has been brought into being by people who want to make sure that criminal acts, and their victims, are not forgotten.

I interviewed several people about supporting crime victims.

The desire not to have such things happen is certainly the case with a woman named Robin, age 52. When asked if she, or anyone she knew, had ever been the victim of a crime, she said, “It has never happened to me, and I hope it never does.”

Those who haven’t been victims of crime, or don’t know someone who has, can still take action to support crime victims.

A couple of people I interviewed said they would get involved with volunteer work to do with crime if someone they know was affected by crime. Wanda is one of the people who said “yes” to doing that.

Others have their thoughts directed to someone they know to be affected by crime as a reason to get involved. Kate, age 27, said, “Yeah, I would help somebody out.”

Mary Clare, age 73, states, “I might get involved if someone I knew was affected.”

A fifty-five-year-old man named Steve said, “If someone broke into my house, I

would be scared, and feel like I was put down. I appreciate the law system for protecting us.” That is the reaction he believes he would have if a crime happened to him.

Crimes can happen to anyone. You don’t need to be a certain race or gender, let alone a certain age, to be the victim of a crime. If that was why people were victims of crime, then there should be no responses from those mentioned when asked about crime happening to them and doing volunteer work that deals with crime victims. They said they would, if someone they knew was affected by crime.

This means people know that crime isn’t limited to skin color, age, or being female or male. It could very well contribute to why National Crime Victims’ Rights week exists. Ronald Reagan must have known that when he established the week in 1981, as part of work that was being done to provide for crime victims.

The week has an award ceremony in Washington D.C in recognition of organizations and individuals who show outstanding service in supporting victims and victims’ services. This highlights the week’s importance.

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, #106-#112 Avenue A: Installations of work by Paul Root and Julianne Jones, video by artists from Millers Falls Arts Bridge. Through 5/13.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls, *Promenade of Shoes - Belinda Lyons Zucker*. Paper shoes and diorama box shrines by Belinda Lyons Zucker and paintings by Nina Rossi. Work on display 4/2 to 5/2/15.

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

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

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center. Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information and membership requirements: www.sawmillriverarts.com and Kerry Stone: (978) 544-5463/ famstone5@hotmail.com or Susan Essig at 357-9709.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls, *Rotation Book Project*, handmade books by local art-

ists, 4:30 p.m. Tonight Only.

Third Street Studios, Turners Falls: *Work by Cathe Janke, Luke Buckham, Wes Talbot, Rodney Madison, John Landino*. Tonight only.

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Make Your Mark* community art project creating plantable seed paper. Tonight only.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Promenade of Shoes* Reception with Belinda Lyons Zucker and *The Shoes of Turners Falls Photo Project* (tonight only) 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *ArtSalon* presentations by Cathy Janke, Sarah Bliss, Amy Borenzo and Overture. 7 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:



"Lexi Weege is a Jazz / Blues musician and vocalist of unparalleled ability and power. She entrances all who come within earshot." - Collin Chmielowiec, *We Are One Photographic Blog*. Lexie Weege and special guest Shanta Paloma perform at Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls Saturday April 18 at 8 p.m.

Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band, 6 p.m.

Pothole Pictures at Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Waltz With Bashir*. Through real world interviews with military veterans, an Israeli soldier struggles to regain his blank memory of the 1982 Lebanon Invasion. With a mix of animation & real footage this film re-creates the surrealism & dis-connect of war. Live music before the show with *Daniel hale, and the frost heaves*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Laney Jones and The Spirits*, tales of love and adventure sung with passion, 8 p.m.

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

John Doe Jr. Records, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Gold Dime, Curse Purse, Taxidermists*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and The Pistoleros*,

Outlaw Country, 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Pothole Pictures at Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Waltz With Bashir*, see Friday's event description. Live music before the show with *Daniel hale, and the frost heaves*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Screening of the Sci-Fi classic film *The Invisible Man*, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Lexi Weege & special guest *Shanta Paloma*, Jazz/blues, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Damon Reeves Band, Roots/Rock/Blues*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockett Queer* with Just Joan, \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls:

Douce performed by Arena Civic Theatre, opening performance, \$ 8 p.m.

Montague Book Mill, Montague: *Ray Mason*, \$ 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Holly May* and special guest *The Gypsy Lights*. Holly May is pop singer/songwriter from Charlemont who tried out on "The Voice." 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Automatic Slim*, Chicago-style blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BackItUp* presents *No Requests*, 9:30 p.m.

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Snow Off 'The Parking Lot

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls residents take bets on when the annual snow pile will melt from their own asphalt lake, the shopping plaza at the southern end of Avenue A. This event was pioneered years ago by the Carnegie Library's former director Sue SanSoucie and is continued by current head honcho Linda Hickman.

Hickman believes the end is near, and a winner or winners may be announced within a week.

A total of 98 entries were re-

ceived this year; 38 have gone by, 24 are for dates between 4/15 and 4/30, and a whoppingly pessimistic 32 folks bet on dates later in May and June.

Hickman believes that the relatively lower shape of the snow mound has something to do with its faster melt rate compared to last year's more vertical pile.

The lucky winner or winners (one year had three) will receive a gift certificate to the Second Street (on Fourth) Bakery.

April 23: Montague Pipeline Forum

TURNERS FALLS – Area residents are invited to a public event on Thursday, April 23 to hear about "What is happening with the proposed Kinder Morgan/TGP gas pipeline now?"

People will have a chance to hear from members of North Quabbin Pipeline Action (NQPA), who have researched energy issues and worked to stop the proposed 36" gas pipeline for over a year.

The event will take place at the Montague Public Safety Complex at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls beginning at 7 p.m. People who are new to the issue may come at 6:30 to get up to speed on the basics.

People will have a chance to discuss what is happening in Montague

and other towns such as Northfield, where Kinder Morgan/TGP is proposing to build an 80,000 HP compressor station.

To help educate people about the proposed route, spring hikes are being planned as public events where people can walk along the proposed routes for the Kinder Morgan/TGP Northeast Energy Direct pipeline.

The hike in Montague will be on Sunday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to noon on the Montague Plains where the pipeline path is proposed.

This event is sponsored by NQPA and MAP (Montague Against the Pipeline). For more information see www.nofrackedgasinmass.org and www.northquabbinenergy.org/wordpress.

April 25: Refugee All Stars Benefit

TURNERS FALLS – Next Saturday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Shea Theater, Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, Kabisko Kaba and the Wofa African Drum and Dance Company will play a benefit for the Katanya Women's Development Association (KaWDA), a Sierra Leone-based NGO.

The internationally acclaimed Refugee All Stars were formed in Guinea by musicians displaced by

Sierra Leone's civil war.

KaWDA provides educational and vocational programming for women and children, and has recently taken on the responsibility to care for and educate more than 50 children who were orphaned by Ebola.

Tickets to the event, and an exclusive afterparty with Tony Vacca's World Rhythms, are available at www.brownpapertickets.com.

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



2015 RIVERCULTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 16	THIRD THURSDAY EVENT! A NIGHT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ARTS 4:30PM TO 10PM Art Salon: Engaging presentations by established and emerging artists in the Pioneer Valley. Exhibits, musical performances, interactive art collaborations, business and restaurant specials throughout town!
SATURDAY APRIL 18	Jurassic Roadshow 11am to 3pm Great Falls Discovery Center. Free. See real dinosaur tracks, raindrop impressions, ripple marks, and other local fossils and learn about the dinosaurs that lived right here millions of years ago. Talk with Geologist Dan Vellone at 1:30pm.
SATURDAY MAY 16	River's Song Celebration 11am to 10pm Activities that celebrate the Connecticut River including art exhibitions, art making, a parade, Native American ceremony, drumming, a walking tour, musical performances, and a water dance sound & light show.
JUNE 18	THIRD THURSDAY EVENT! 5 to 9pm Themed exhibitions, talks, demonstrations and performances throughout downtown Turners Falls from 5-9pm.
SATURDAY AUGUST 1	THE POCUMTUCK HOMELANDS FESTIVAL A COLLABORATION WITH THE NOLUMBKA PROJECT Unity Park waterfront, 10am-7pm Outstanding Native American crafts, music, drumming, storytelling and demonstrations. Sample Native American food!
SEPTEMBER 17	THIRD THURSDAY EVENT! 5 to 9pm Art exhibitions, talks, demonstrations and performances about the history of Turners Falls are scheduled throughout downtown. This event is in conjunction with Turners Falls History Month.
OCTOBER 15	THIRD THURSDAY EVENT! 5 to 9pm Themed exhibitions, talks, demonstrations and performances scheduled throughout downtown Turners Falls from 5-9pm.
FRIDAY DEC. 11	It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls! 5-10pm Holiday activities, art exhibitions, live music, restaurant specials, performances and unique gift buying opportunities throughout town. Children and adults alike are encouraged to put a wish in the Magic Mailbox. And Santa!

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
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