



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 – NO. 26

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 17, 2014

Springtime On The Hill!



Saturday's Spring Parade ushered in the season in fine form. "This is one of my favorite events to plan," said Michael Nelson, parade chairman. "After the long winter people really just want to get out and enjoy the sunshine. This event brings together the excitement of warm weather, backyard barbecues, and adds the contagious fun that comes with a parade."



The Leb residence on Montague Road, which won the best "Luau" theme house award last year, did not make it two in a row this year – the Dion Family on Millers Falls Road won Best Fiesta Theme – but did win for Happiest Crowd, with a little help from margaritas and donkeys.



Forty-two official entries made the three-mile loop this year. This float, for Relay for Life Team Keep Smiling, was awarded Best Use of Theme by parade judges. Driver Mark Langenback said the float represented "kind of a north-of-the-border fiesta."



Best in the West: Turners Falls Football captains Malcolm Smith (left) and Brady Markol (right), both seniors this year, hold the team's trophies aloft. The team, which won the Western MA Division VI championship this fall, were honored as the parade's grand marshals.

MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Sergeant Corey Greene Resigns from Police Force

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard accepted the resignation of police sergeant Corey M. Greene, while not accepting some of the statements in Greene's resignation letter.

According to Montague Police Chief Chip Dodge, at 9:36 p.m. on February 18, his department received a call from a subject alleging he had been assaulted at the St. Stanislaus Society in downtown Turners Falls. The subject's complaint alleged this his assailant was Sgt. Greene.

As Sgt. Greene is also a Montague Police reserve officer, that department opened an investigation into possible "improper conduct" on the part of Greene. Dodge said that the investigation is now in the hands of the Worcester County District Attorney's office.

Greene was suspended on March 10 by the Erving Police, a decision

ratified at a March 17 hearing before the Erving selectboard.

Greene wrote that his resignation was involuntary, and "in my opinion I have been in fact constructively discharged."

In a written response, the selectboard said, "it is the opinion of the Select board that it is a voluntary resignation."

According to the police department page on the Erving website, Greene was second in chain of command before his resignation. He began his law enforcement career with the Erving department in 2002 and was promoted to sergeant in February 2008. He was a full-time employee.

Greene wrote that "[t]he reasons for the suspension are allegations of improper conduct by me on February 18, 2014 in dealing with an unruly and intoxicated bar patron at St. Stans in Turners Falls.

"As you know, I stand by the propriety of my conduct at St. Stans



TOWN OF ERVING PHOTO

The former Sgt. Greene also served as a reserve officer in Montague.

and I deny allegations of improper conduct by me."

Greene underlined the word "allegations" in his letter.

The selectboard responded, "It is the opinion of the select board that the events were different from what is detailed in the letter and as presented in the hearing."

Greene wrote that at the March 17 hearing, "I was denied a meaningful

see ERVING page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Backs Ramblers' Bid to Stay on Plains

By JEFF SINGLETON

"We're as much a part of the plains as the Turtles and the Whippoorwills," said John Burek, a member of the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle club. Burek and four of his colleagues came before the Montague Selectboard on Monday, April 14 to request support in an effort to halt their imminent eviction by the state.

Last November, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, in a terse letter, ordered the Ramblers to vacate their current clubhouse on the plains, a huge sandy pine barren of over 2,000 acres that covers a large portion of central Montague.

Burek stressed that the club, in addition to raising money for local charity, has played an active role in removing trash and preventing people from using the plains as a dumping ground.

Recently the club organized a clean-up along Lake Pleasant Road

which connects Millers Falls Road and the village of Lake Pleasant.

Burek also noted that the Ramblers, which he said was one of the oldest motorcycle clubs in the country, have been on the Plains for nearly half a century.

The board agreed to sign a letter of support of the Ramblers if they would come forward with a draft. They also agreed to request an explanation from the agency as to why, after all these years, the motorcycle group was being asked to leave.

Chairman Mark Fairbrother noted that the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife had played an important and positive role in maintaining the plains, but that "they are not our friend."

In February, the Ramblers an-



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The group's clubhouse has been on the Montague Plains since the 1960s.

nounced that they had bought 20 acres in Gill at the base of Pisgah Mountain Road where they hoped to build a new headquarters.

Their plans, however, suffered a setback when eight to 10 abutters showed up at two separate Gill ZBA special permit hearings in March and April, to object to potential noise from the motorcycles.

At the second meeting, on April 10, due to the objections of the abutters, the Ramblers decided to

see MONTAGUE page A5

Old "Cumby's" To Be Guttled, New RFP Due

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – At a meeting on April 10, the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) decided to move ahead on demolition and repairs to the old Cumberland Farms building at 38 Avenue A next to the Great Falls Discovery Center.

At the same meeting, MEDIC also voted to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) by early summer for a private investor to propose either repair and reuse of the structure or demolition and construction of a new building.

MEDIC has been under orders by both the Board of Health and the building inspector to remediate mold and asbestos in the building which also has a leaking roof.

According to town planner Walter Ramsey, the estimated cost for the removal is \$14,390. Ramsey, noted, however, that this amount

may change once the actual bid is finalized.

MEDIC took control of the building in 1996. In May of 2012, town meeting set aside \$32,000 to repair the building. The remediation cost will be taken from this appropriation.

The roofleak, which has largely caused the problem, however, will not be fixed. "There's no patching option left," said Ramsey, "and it would be too costly to replace the roof."

For years, the building has been progressively deteriorating, with ongoing leaks in the roof, mold in the wallboard and a state of interior decay so pronounced that the health board and building inspector felt compelled to issue mandatory remediation orders to the quasi-public EDIC in March of 2012.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The new request for proposals will allow for the possible demolition of the building.

No remediation of the building's mold or leaking roof has taken place since, primarily because three non-profit and civic organizations proposed to take the building off the town's hands for a nominal (\$1) fee.

Montague Community Television (MCCI), Turners Falls River-Culture, and the Montague Business Association said in 2012 that in return, they would invest between

see CUMBY'S page A5

The Montague Reporter

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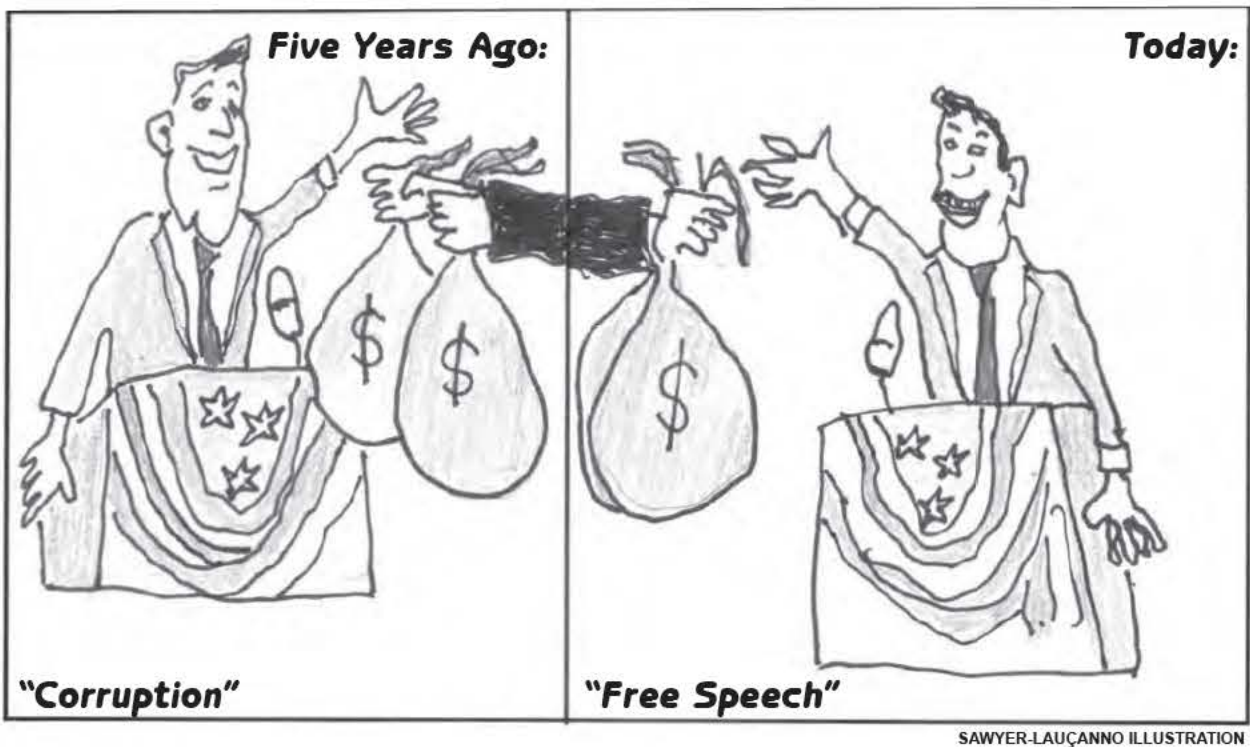
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Spring Parade Theme Perpetuated Stereotypes

We are thrilled that Turners Falls has a spring parade each year. And this year, we were even more delighted that a 5K race was added to this now-annual event.

But we couldn't help feeling that the choice of the theme, "Fiesta," brought out ethnic stereotyping.

To be sure, most people were just having fun, and, being ignorant of real Mexican culture, opted for what was easy: sombreros, serapes, maracas, and mustaches.

We don't feel that the majority of those who live in Turners Falls hold racist attitudes toward Mexicans. The outpouring of support for the Martinez family after the tragic accidental death of Alberto on New Year's Eve certainly demonstrated that this community comes together to help each other, regardless of race or ethnicity, in their time of need.

So it was surprising to some, including many of the immigrants from Mexico who live and work here, to see so many of their neighbors indulging in either innocent, or deliberate, ethnic stereotyping.

The problem with these kinds of ethnic stereotypes – for those being stereotyped – is that they convey an insensitivity to who they are as human beings belonging to a particular culture. While some can simply laugh it off as "white folks being silly," others see it as a comment on their race and culture.

In Turners, there is already something of a divide between recent Latino immigrants and long-time residents, many of whom are the sons and daughters of immigrants from other countries. Messages such as those sent by "fiesta," only serve to deepen that division.

Montague selectman Michael Nelson, a major organizing force behind the parade, expressed disappointment that the parade caused discomfort to some in our town.

"We choose our themes," he said, "to get people excited about participating in the event. With Cinco de Mayo coming up, we thought this appropriate."

Nelson went on to explain that since the fiesta theme was a common one, he and the committee thought it would be easy for people to come up with decorations and costumes. "We were certainly not focusing on the Mexican portion of it. We were thinking more of 'fiesta' as being a party."

And a party it definitely was, with excitement, great effort, great

turnout and great weather. Unfortunately, for some, the negative aspects of the event outweighed the festive atmosphere.

It wasn't so much the sombreros and fake mustaches that bothered us or them, though these hardly embody Mexico or Mexicans. These are the stock images – available in any party store or online catalog – that say "fiesta." It is sad that these old-fashioned stereotypes are still with us, but with every passing year, they grow weaker.

But we were surprised that Mark Langenback of South Deerfield, who chose to dress up as "US Border Patrol" to haul a float full of these "Mexicans," was allowed to participate.

In our opinion, this display crossed the line from simple cultural ignorance to a very dark place in American society.

And we were even more surprised that this float was then awarded the "Best Use of Theme" prize by the parade judges.

The float was from the Relay For Life Team Keep Smiling, and while we support their efforts to raise money for cancer research, given the connotations "Border Patrol" has for some of our neighbors, we are not smiling.

In a community in which many immigrants struggle daily, at minimum wage jobs or worse, just to get by, who have had friends and relatives detained and deported by ICE, to evoke the image of the border patrol as having anything to do with "fiesta" is, at best, bad taste, and at worst, racist.

Perhaps the judges were simply blind to what this truck and float were saying about our community. But it has no place in a spring parade, and it certainly should not have been celebrated with a prize.

A Mexican-American friend of ours, who along with his son participated in the parade, said he was stunned that the organizers would have allowed such a symbol to be a part of what should have been a festive celebration.

"Don't they understand," he remarked, "that the border patrol, for the immigrant community, is the equivalent of what the Gestapo is for Jews?"

This statement may seem overly strong, or even skewed, but given that ICE has swooped down on at least one family in Turners Falls in recent years, hauling away a Guatemalan immigrant father in the middle of the night, the com-

Letter to the Editors

The Reporter Got It Wrong

Your reporter's story of the extended budget hearing in Leverett last week ["Budget Hearing Boils Over In Frustration," April 10] caught the flavor of rising concern among residents about affordability and sustainability; but the writer made several mistakes and failed to explain the ongoing dilemma of a school budget that rises as enrollment declines.

The reporter's characterization of the school budget as a "familiar punching bag" suggests that the school is being treated as a scapegoat for other problems. That is a falsehood and a disservice to your readers and the town of Leverett.

parison from the vantage point of the Latino community here is not so farfetched.

A permanent part of the US workforce is kept in legal limbo, waiting for a perpetually postponed overhaul of a broken immigration system.

Those Latino Americans who don't live in fear of these raids instead have to face the stereotyping like Saturday's, which makes them feel criminal simply on account of their ethnicity.

If Langenback was making a political statement, the spring parade was a completely inappropriate place and time to do it. We wish the organizers had used better judgment in allowing this float to participate with this divisive message.

We also feel that they missed a major opportunity by not actively inviting the many Latino residents, whether from Mexico, Guatemala, or Ecuador, who live here – most of them, we should add, in full accordance with the law.

Most folks love an outdoor party, love parades, floats, great food and just fooling around on a warm spring day.

Had the organizers reached out to our Latino neighbors, we suspect that the event could have been more representative and inclusive of the community we really are.

That would have been something worth celebrating!

The story refers to the selectboard and finance committee's expectation to find savings in the school budget two years ago, after a double sixth grade left the elementary school for the regional middle school. Instead, the school presented basically the same budget as before.

The reporter says he followed up the hearing with a call to the school business manager, who said the school budget had "remained essentially flat."

The fact that the school budget "remained essentially flat," even though an entire class was gone, is precisely the problem.

Furthermore, the transfer of the double sixth grade into the regional middle school resulted in a higher regional assessment for the town, of about the same amount that should have been saved from the elementary budget. The town had to cope with this problem by squeezing everything else.

The reporter further quotes the business manager as saying the school budget "decreased" last year, as money "was moved from the school to the Town side of the budget to pay for various utilities: fuel and telephone and electricity."

This statement is entirely misleading: the "various utilities" in question are all school-related. The transfer was not a decrease in school expenses, but rather a shift in the way they are carried in the overall town budget. It was part of an effort to find efficiencies in maintenance of town buildings.

The school budget is not a "punching bag"; it is a part – a large part – of the overall town budget. Over the past six years, despite

declining enrollment, total elementary school costs (school committee budget and school-related costs carried in the town budget) increased 9.7%.

The school committee budget is only a part of the total cost of the school; significant additional monies that support the school are carried elsewhere in the town budget.

The selectboard and finance committee view the town budget as a whole, as we must. Our scrutiny of the town budget must include scrutiny of the school. We will provide a tally of total school expenses, as requested by residents at the hearing.

In addition to these problems in the news story, the reporter also incorrectly stated the tax surcharge levied for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The correct number is 3%, not 2%.

Proposals to reduce the surcharge are fueled by the fact that CPA funds currently total nearly a million dollars and much CPA funding has removed property from the tax rolls by placing it in conservation status.

Finally, despite being asked not to reveal the dedicatee of the town's annual report, the reporter included that information in the article. The dedication is always kept as a surprise at Town Meeting.

The Leverett selectboard and finance committee appreciate this opportunity to clarify our ongoing effort to assure Leverett is an economically sustainable community.

Regards,
Richard Brazeau
Julie Shively
Peter d'Errico
Leverett Selectboard

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the percentage of the voluntary surcharge Leverett town meeting adopted in 2002 on local property taxes under the Community Preservation Act was incorrectly stated in last week's issue.

The actual amount is 3%, not 2%, as reported.

We regret the error.

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More Letters To The Editors

Nothing To Gain From Siting Gas Pipeline Here

It is just simply amazing that Tennessee Gas Pipeline, the old-boy division of Kinder Morgan, finds Montague as the geographical nexus of their proposed gas transportation pipeline project.

Someone should take a look at a state or national gas pipeline atlas, and see just how far from the current main routing Montague is. Repairing rural gas pipelines is very expensive, and that is why most gas pipelines are easy to get to.

Weren't we in this same situation a few years ago, when Montague suddenly became the focal point for a major US Air Force communications tower system?

One has to wonder why the proposed pipeline cannot follow those routes that are already laid out in

place, rather than seeking to build a new one, through what is essentially a rural wilderness area which has absolutely nothing to gain from the venture.

KM/TGP could change the entire dynamic of their proposed project by using much safer, triple-hulled pipe, but hey, that costs money.

The good people of Montague could save KM/TGP millions by voting down this project, which will not provide anything to the town of Montague, while other towns will get pumping stations, supply depots and jobs, jobs, and yes, more jobs.

Lewis B. Skolnick
The Ledge House, Leverett

To Straighten A Tree, It Took A Village Center

On Thursday, April 3, the Montague police and fire departments were summoned to a single-car crash on the Montague Center Common.

Upon arrival the car had come to rest squarely against a Catalpa tree. Standard operations were instituted, the injured attended to, the car towed, and the scene cleared of debris.

But there is far more to this accident. Later in the day a passenger in the car lost her life due to her injuries.

And the tree was now leaning at a 65-degree angle. Several of us were concerned with the condition of the tree, it now became our focus.

Our community is so fortunate to have Ralph Rau as "resident tow truck operator" and lieutenant on the fire department. Ralph, without hesitation, announced that if someone was willing to dig around the tree, he would bring the wrecker to upright it. Time was of the essence due to the stress now placed on the tree, anchor roots exposed to the elements, tree about to awaken from its winter rest, and impending rain.

No committee formation was needed, no lengthy discussion as to how or why. Action was warranted.

To the tree's rescue came Suzanne Kretzenger. She had planted

the tree many years ago, and has quietly been a volunteer groundskeeper for our Common.

Suzanne grew up on Hunting Hills, which was established by her father, Mel. He was a longtime supporter of our forests, belonging to the conservation committee and urging the planting of trees long before the phrase "Global Warming". Suzanne painstakingly worked over the weekend to try and upright the tree.

By Sunday afternoon, the tree was now properly prepared for the big move. As a "sidewalk" supporter I was so impressed with Suzanne's attention to every detail in this move. Padded splints placed around the tree to prevent the straps of the tow from damaging the bark, rope and stakes ready to support the tree, and fencing to give the tree "space" to settle.

The tree is now back upright. Will it survive? Time will tell, but I do feel we all need to thank Ralph and Suzanne for giving the tree its second chance.

Our hearts and prayers are with the Woodard family, who lost a cherished family member.

Ann Fisk
Montague Center

Perry is Missing

This is our wonderful cat, Perry. She has been missing from her home in Turners Falls since Sunday, April 13.

Perry is a beautiful gray tabby with gray-green eyes, does not have a collar (we can't get her to wear one), and we call her our "love-cat" because she can be very affectionate. If you have any information about



her whereabouts, please contact Beverly at (413) 320-9106.

We appreciate your help.
We miss her terribly.



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Artist Terry R. Marashlian will conduct a three-day workshop for aspiring young artists interested in creating works of art on or with skateboard decks. This will be a fun workshop, and skateboard decks and art supplies will be provided free of charge.

Workshop sessions will meet at the artist studio on 36 Third Street, Turners Falls, on Friday, April 18, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and on Tuesday and Thursday, April 22 and 24, at 1 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street.

Workshop space is limited. Call David at 863-9296 for more info.

The works created in the workshop will be entered into the skateboard art auction to be held at River Station, 151 3rd Street, in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 26, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Proceeds from the auction will help build the Unity Skatepark in Turners Falls.

One of the two original Great Falls Farmers' Market vendors, Peter Kretzenger, will be sharing his lifelong experience in what works and does not work in your garden at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 19, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Romeo and Juliet, meet Burns and Allen. That is what will be happening at Gill/ Montague Senior Center, at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, when the hysterically comical actors, Mabel and Jerry, perform on Tuesday, April 22, starting at 1 pm.

This terrific performance is free, open to the public, and sponsored by the Gill/ Montague Council on Aging.

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center, 41 Third Street, is sponsoring an introductory **mosaic workshop** on Friday, April 25.

Participants will have hands-on experience making their own 12" x 12" tile. The finished tiles will be shown at a public opening and will be on display at a local venue in May.

Contact Christine for times, reservations, and supply needs or supply donations at christine@msc-mcommunity.org, or call 863-4804, ext.1003.

There will be a 24-hour, no questions asked, **drop box for unused prescriptions**, over the counter and other drugs at the Safety Complex in Montague, on Saturday, April 26.

You are invited to participate in the **Hands Together for Haiti race** for charity Sponsored by Our Lady of Peace Church, Turners Falls. It is scheduled for April 26.

The 5K and 10K races will take place in Turners Falls. The 5K course is family friendly. A complementary t-shirt will be provided to the first 100 registrants and prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female runners in each category. This event is the idea and work of a 10-year-old wanting to make a difference in the world.

Hands Together helps the poor in Haiti by establishing schools, or-

phanages, nutrition and feeding programs, medical clinics, sustainable-development projects, partnerships with local leaders and communities. They are working to build a better world for thousands of suffering people in Haiti.

For registration details, race times and route info visit www.runreg.com/hands-together-for-haiti. You can also find race info on Facebook.

The Friends of the Erving Library, 17 Moore Street, are holding their yearly book/plant sale and raffle on Saturday, April 26. Monies from this fund raiser are used to support library programs and activities.

Community members and local businesses have donated items for the "pick a prize" raffle. Raffle items include gift certificates to local restaurants or businesses, maple syrup from Poplar Mountain Products, and a basket of handmade chocolates.

The sale begins on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and continues during open library hours through May 3.

The Friends of the Library are also coordinating a **Town Wide Tag Sale** in the town of Erving, also on April 26, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

A town map and street list identifying the location of the tag sales is available at the following locations: Erving Public Library, Erving Town Hall, Erving Senior-Community Center, Erving Elementary School, Box Car Restaurant, Crooked Tap Cafe, Freight House Antiques, Pocket Saver Market, Weatherheads Convenience Store, and Pron-decki's/Franklin Grocery.

Join students of the Deer Paths Nature Education Center in taking a **closer look at bats** on Saturday, April 26 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

The program features activities for families with children, songs, skits, displays and a showing of a film regarding the natural history of bats and conservation efforts. Light refreshments provided.

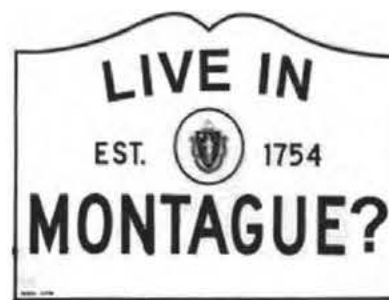
There will a raffle for a bat house and other prizes and all proceeds will be donated to BatCon, specifically to help with White Nose Syndrome. This event is created by students at Deer Paths Nature Education Center in Wendell as a culmination of their bat studies.

For more details, go to www.deer-paths.org, or call (978) 544-1990. Free admission, but donations will be accepted, and all money given to Bat Conservation International.

A **benefit dinner for the Montague Reporter** will be held at the Great Falls Harvest at 50 Third Street in Turners Falls on Tuesday, April 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will have an opportunity to meet with writers, editors and staff.

See our ad on page 4 for more information, and please be sure to RSVP if you are planning on coming. We are looking forward to meeting readers there!

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The Brick House seeks a part time **Parent & Family Services Coordinator** to assist in identifying needs of local parents and families, determining ways to increase access to existing services, and building relationships with organizations and individuals to strengthen the network of community-based services. The job is 10 hours/week and starts at \$15/hr, with prorated benefits.

For description and qualifications please see the job posting at www.brickhousecommunity.org. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:

The Brick House Community Resource Center, P.O. Box 135,
Turners Falls, MA 01376, or email director@brickhousecommunity.org.

LIMITED LICENSE DENTIST TURNERS FALLS AND ORANGE

The Community Health Center of Franklin County is seeking a **Limited License Dentist** to work on a rotating basis in our Turners Falls and Orange sites. Eligible candidates must have a Masters Level degree in Dentistry, have passed the TOEFL exam, and have practiced General Dentistry for at least 2 years (either in the U.S. or abroad). Candidates must be able to verify their credentials and secure a Limited License to practice dentistry from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please forward cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:
CHCFC, Attn: Human Resources, 489 Bernardston Road, Suite 108,
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PAPER

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in Montague



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Emily Williams

Grade 7
Tyler Lavin

Grade 8
Zachary Lastowski

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Expenses and Repairs

By JOSH HEINEMANN

As the March 26 selectboard meeting was ending, board member Dan Keller told of his meeting with a representative of Guardian, the firm that did a level II ASRAE audit for Wendell.

That audit was paid for with Green Community grant money, and is a required step for releasing the rest of the grant money. The original report recommended changing light bulbs and other basics, and the energy committee complained.

Guardian sent a person for a second visit, and Keller accompanied the auditor on a tour of the town buildings. Taking advantage of the late cold weather they took images of walls and windows in buildings.

The images showed where insulation had clumped and settled, where windows were leaking, and where improvements will be most effective.

Energy Audit to be Redone

It was no surprise that the library and town offices need little work, and that the highway garage and fire station, with the largest heating bill of all town buildings, has the most room for improvement.

At this April 9 meeting Keller said that Guardian will redo the audit, and look at all the town buildings as a whole. He said that highway commissioner Harry Williston corrected his March 26 statement that town hall lights dated from the 1950s. They only go back to the 1970s, but they still could be replaced with more efficient lights.

Repairs

Fire chief Joe Cuneo and Captain Asa de Roode said that the garage

doors at the fire station should be re-sealed every year. Keller said that Cuneo and Jim Slavas, who has maintained the town office building heating system since the building opened, should be kept up to date on the audit recommendations.

The original green energy grant money will run out in 2015, but town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that once the money has been spent and the projects approved, Wendell may be eligible for more green grant money. New Salem is already on its second round of the grant.

Wendell will be paying Access Plus \$170 a month for the fiber optic internet connection at the library that will be sent through the air to other town buildings.

That bill will replace the \$230 a month that the police station pays HughesNet for a secure connection, \$100 a month for the office building, and an amount board members did not have right at hand for the library.

If the single-fiber connection proves inadequate, the town can increase the speed, or connect a second or third building directly to the cable and still be paying less for internet access than it pays now.

Aldrich reported that the town's insurance bill from MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) will drop 7.6% for the coming fiscal year. The town also gets a 4% discount for paying the entire bill at the start of the fiscal year.

MassDOT sent Wendell a letter stating that Chapter 90 reimbursement to the town would be \$310,989.

Then the DOT sent a correction, because a computer glitch gave all towns more money than is available. A second letter stated that chapter 90 reimbursement would be \$193,397.

Orange Oil gave an estimate of \$1620 to flush the town office heating system and replace the glycol solution, \$620 for the solution alone.

Jim Slavas, who has been monitoring the heating systems since their installation, said that the pH is still inside the proper range, but he recommended the service.

Slavas repaired some seals because of an oil smell that seemed to come after deliveries, and Orange Oil took some pictures of the tanks. They have not answered yet whether there are leaks remaining, or if there is oil between the two walls of the double wall tanks, but if there is, the replacement cost is \$3,000 with fittings and labor.

The finance committee came into the selectboard office to discuss money and the annual town meeting warrant. Town meeting will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 7.

The town stabilization fund stands close to \$800,000 including state reimbursement for Swift River School green repairs and the certified free cash.

In addition the auction of surplus town property, that will be held 10:00 Saturday May 3, will bring in a whole pile of money. Aldrich is sending a request to all town departments to list their surplus material so that an accurate advertisement can be put into the newspapers.

Chairs

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp suggested buying for the town hall stackable plastic chairs like the ones the library bought for its opening. They are much more comfortable than the metal folding chairs that are in use now and the metal chairs could be saved for outside use and to be rented. Aldrich suggested buying new plastic top tables to replace the ones that the town bought recently but which are still missing.

Tables and Trucks

Fincom member Doug Tanner suggested painting the tops with polka dots to ensure they are not again borrowed indefinitely. Beyond the normal line item for building maintenance and repair, the senior center should have a new (slate) roof and the bottom of the ramp should be

replaced.

The road grader is old and needs frequent repairs which are getting more expensive and which delay spring grading. A new grader should last 20 years as the old one did. The police department is looking to replace its 1986 cruiser, but they are willing to wait a year, as the highway department can wait another year for a new dump truck.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo would like to change Wendell's lineup of fire trucks over time. Most pressing is the need for a brush truck to replace the 1972 International which runs sometimes.

Grants are available, generally to replace the oldest vehicle first, but the fact that Wendell has a low population relative to the cost of fire fighting apparatus lowers the town's position on a grant list. If a good vehicle becomes available and money has already been authorized, the town can benefit.

FRTA and Service to Wendell

As Wendell's representative to the FRTA, Jonathan von Ranson attended their March 20 meeting and asked the body to consider different possibilities that would serve Wendell residents better.

He asked how well ridership surveys were borne out after routes were changed to accommodate their findings. He asked if the Greenfield to Orange route might get more riders if it went through Wendell.

Decisions were not made at that meeting, but von Ranson noted that the reactions of the body were favorable, and he wrote a letter to the selectboard and the planning board with that information.

Block Grant Monies

A letter from the housing and redevelopment authority invited Wendell to apply for community development block grants. Since the program uses federal money the amount available has been shrinking and without whole sections of town needing redevelopment money Wendell is not likely to get any grants.

Seven households have applied for grant money to bring the homes up to code, and there may be enough money to pay for one upgrade.

Child-size Tables

Swift River School is offering the town folding tables, but they are child size, and board members agreed they would not be useful.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

April 18: Walking in Balance
April 24: From Death To Grave

Walking in Balance: Native Reflections on the Climate Crisis

On Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library, Strong Oak and David Brule, Board member of the Nolumbeka Project, will narrate stories and visions of walking in balance with Nature that are all but lost in our money-driven society.

Carol Coan will give a talk, *From Death to Grave: Caring for Your Own Dead*, on Thursday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Wendell is one of the few towns in Massachusetts in which a burial vault is not required, and natural burial practices are common.

Join Carol Coan for an informative talk, followed by a

Q&A, to learn answers to questions regarding green burials.

Carol is an anthropologist with a special interest in human anatomy and body disposal. A former president of FCAWM, she continues to field questions for the FCAWM's hotline and teaches a class on Funeral Planning for the Living.

She is co-chair of the Green Burial Committee, which has recently teamed up with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to locate suitable land on which to start Massachusetts' first conservation cemetery that will be open to all.

For more information, contact Carol Coan at (413) 774-2320 or by email at cncoan@verizon.net or Sean Pollock at (978) 248-2055 x16 pollock@mountgrace.org.

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CUMBY’S from page A1

\$80,000 and \$100,000 to renovate the building.

But these efforts have been stalled for almost two years, as MCCI has been unable to obtain funding. In the meantime, the former Cumby’s has continued to deteriorate. MCCI is free to enter a bid under the new RFP round, said Ramsey.

Due to restrictions placed on the building by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), any reuse or new building must help to advance the cultural and tourist economy of the town.

Ramsey said that the proposal criteria were not yet settled except for these provisions.

Ramsey also noted that the town has successfully negotiated with DCR to allow a private investor to also be a commercial entity, so long as they comply in some way with the cultural and touristic provision.

Until recently, commercial entities were prevented from acquiring the building or building lot.



Used Bike Drive – April 26 At Greenfield Community College

Greenfield Community College will hold a Bike Drive on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Main Campus, Parking Lot A located at One College Drive, Greenfield, MA.

The drive is organized by GCC’s Green Campus Committee and a group of students from the Four Rivers Charter School.

The mission is to collect used bicycles as a vehicle for social change. Donated bikes will go to Bikes Not Bombs, a non-profit organization. Bicycles are fixed up in US youth programs that teach bicycle mechanics.

These refurbished bikes are then shipped overseas to support economic development projects in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

People are trained to become bicycle mechanics as a viable career path, communities with limited transportation are given



BIKES NOT BOMBS PHOTO

access to bikes and the organization works to make our cities and world a better and safer place to ride.

Bikes can have damages but no rust. There is no need to inflate the tires or even dust them off! Road, hybrid, mountain, BMX, tandem, all sizes welcome; parts, tools of any kind, even some broken stuff, also biking accessories.

We ask people to consider a \$10 cash donation if possible.

For more information, click on bikesnotbombs.org or contact Montserrat Archbald, Archbald@gcc.mass.edu (413) 775-1331.

MONTAGUE from page A1

withdraw their application “without prejudice.”

Marion Larson, Chief Information and Education officer for Fisheries and Wildlife, said that the issue was not the presence of the motorcycle club on the Plains. “We’ve had a great relationship with them. They have taken very good care of the property, including making their [club]house a staging area for the Source-to-Sea cleanup.”

The problem, Larson said, is that “state agencies, including our own, are getting out of the landlord business. Leases to private entities are discouraged. We inherited the lease when we bought that part of the Montague Plains from Northeast Utilities about 15 years ago and we were happy to honor it.”

According to Larson, they were willing to work with the club, and contrary to official policy, were even willing to extend the lease for an extra five years.

“Things were going so well with them. They were so responsive and responsible that we had no concern about allowing them five years to find a new property. But the five years will soon be up.”

Tax Law Rejected

In other developments at the April 14 meeting, Montague Assessor Barbara Miller requested that

the Selectboard vote to reject local implementation of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 2D.

The law requires property owners who have added improvements that increase the value of their property by more than 50% during a fiscal year, to pay an additional tax on the improvements.

Section 2D, passed in 1999, was originally a local option. However in 2003 cities and towns were made automatically subject to its provisions unless an exemption was requested.

Montague officials thought the town had rejected the provisions of the law and thus no 2D tax bills have been sent out. However Miller could not find a copy of a request for an exemption and the state Department of Revenue has no record of receiving one. She therefore requested that the board “reject” the provisions of the law now.

Miller cited a number of reasons for rejecting Section 2D, which she characterized as “unfair.” Property owners making improvements on smaller or less valuable property would reach the 50% threshold more easily than those making the same improvements on parcels with higher valuations.

The process is set off by the issuance of an “occupancy permit,” which Miller argued was an inequi-

table way to initiate a tax.. What if costly improvements did not result in an occupancy or the permitting process was delayed?

The board agreed to sign Miller’s proposed letter of rejection.

Liquor License For Benefit

Turners Falls resident David Detmold, a member of the Unity Skate Park Committee, along with several other members of the committee, came before the board to request a one-day liquor license to hold a fundraising event at River Station, 151 Third Street in Turners Falls on April 26.

The event will feature an auction of painted and otherwise decorated skateboards, a colorful example of which Detmold showed to the selectboard.

Great Falls Harvest Restaurant owner Bridgette Chaffee emphasized the very strong, spontaneous support for the event by “three dozen” artists in the region who are donating decorated boards.

Detmold and Chaffee also took the opportunity to update the board on the progress of the committee’s fundraising campaign, which is looking to raise \$27,500 by the Montague Annual Town Meeting.

The board approved the permit.

Airport June Event

Michael Longo, Manager of the

Turners Falls Airport, approached the board to register for a “public assembly,” an open house on June 14 and 15 that will include airplane rides for children and a classic car show. Longo, who noted that this was the second year of the event, stressed that this was not an “air show.” He also requested that a sign be placed in Peskeompskut Park. Both requests were approved, with chairman Mark Fairbrother abstaining.

Between the Uprights

Lewis Collins of the Between the Uprights also requested permission for events on the patio in front of his bar on six upcoming dates.

These include a hotdog-eating contest in July, and a party to coincide with the Turners Falls block party in August.

The Selectboard approved the request.

Unity Park Improvements

Bruce Hunter, the Infrastructure Coordinator of the Regional Housing Authority, requested that the board disburse another \$16,701 for work on the Unity Park Improvement Project.

Green Energy Grant

Next, town planner Walter Ramsey, along with Energy Committee member Chris Mason, re-

Sibling Activity Week - for Siblings of Children with Developmental Disabilities

This camp is an opportunity for siblings of children with developmental and intellectual disabilities to discuss their unique situations in a supportive environment, while forming friendships and doing positive activities.

Activities include field trips, music, theater, cooking, and crafts. The camp is open to ages 7 to 12, costs \$50, includes lunch and takes place every day from 10:30 to 2:30 at United Arc in Turners Falls from April 21 to 25, with a special lunch for families on the last day.

Advance registration is required.

Contact Katherine Dunne at katherinedunne@unitedarc.org or (413) 774-5558 x1007.

quested that funds for roof insulation for the Shea Theater, as well as energy efficient windows at the Carnegie Library, be added to a Green Community Competitive Grant application. Both requests were approved by the board.

Support For CDBG Process

Frank Abbondanzio asked the board to support continued work with the Franklin Regional Housing Authority, which develops Community Development Block Grants for the Town. This was approved by the board, effectively kicking off the FY 15 CDBG process. Also approved was a request by the Montague Housing Authority to waive the inspection fee for the installation of new toilets at two of its housing complexes.

Meeting Warrants

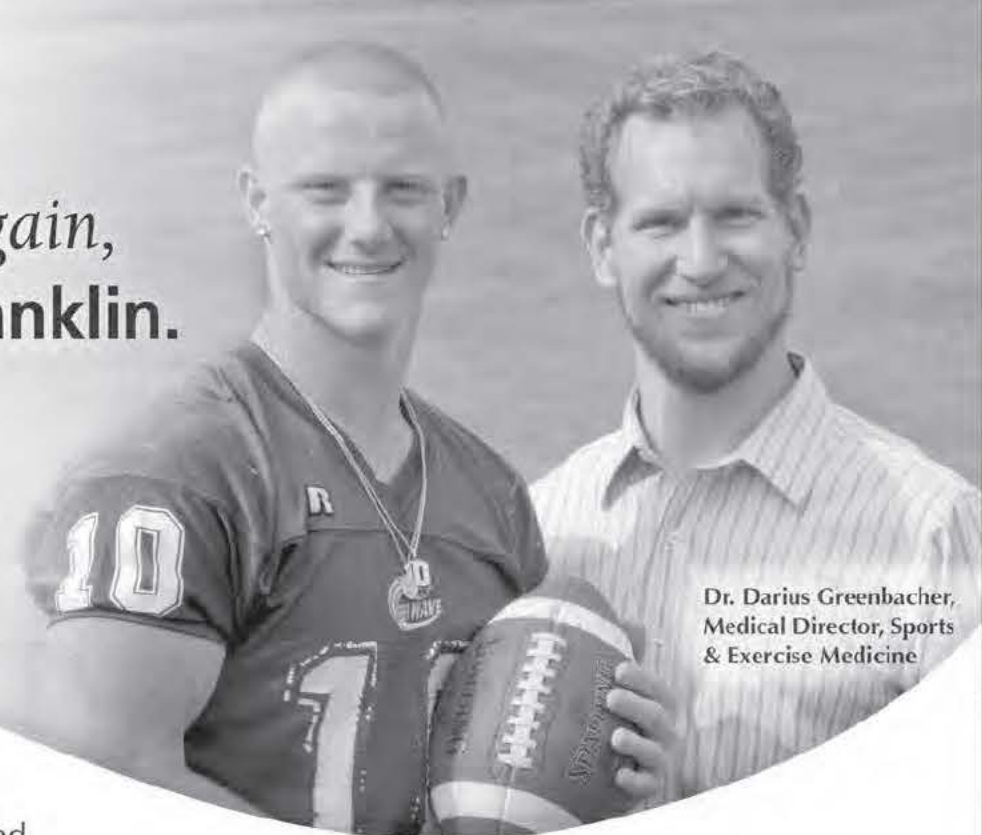
Abbondanzio then presented warrants for upcoming annual and special town meetings, which will take place on May 3. The board voted to place four articles on the special and thirty two articles on the regular meeting agendas.

This process, which did not indicate support or rejection of individual articles, involved reading both warrants in their entirety.

Selectboard members took turns completing this arduous task, with Michael Nelson cheerfully doing the bulk of the work.



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Zach earned a football scholarship to St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, where he currently attends.

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Take a Tour of Local History At the Leverett Family Museum

By DAVID DETMOLD

The white clapboard Colonial Revival building, 32 feet wide by 40 feet long, was built nearly a century ago, by the common in the center of town, to consolidate Leverett’s private lending libraries under one gambrel roof.

But soon, that roof may need to be replaced, and more repairs undertaken in order to protect the valuable collection of historic artifacts the building now holds, and the volunteers of the Leverett Historical Society who work to catalog and exhibit those documents and artifacts are planning to reach out to every household in town for support.

Built by Elizabeth Peck Field in memory of her father, Bradford M. Field, who was appointed the town’s postmaster in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln and served in that capacity for 50 years, the building has always held a small museum of Field Family artifacts on the second floor.

When the public library moved to a new building near the elementary school in 2003, the Leverett Historical Society agreed to caretake the old building and expanded the historical collection onto both floors, even into the basement, where larger items like a vintage cabinet of official weights and measures are kept.

Reflecting a shift toward preserving historical artifacts for the entire town, rather than showcasing one prominent family’s role in Leverett history, the museum changed its name from the Field Family Museum to the Leverett Family Museum.

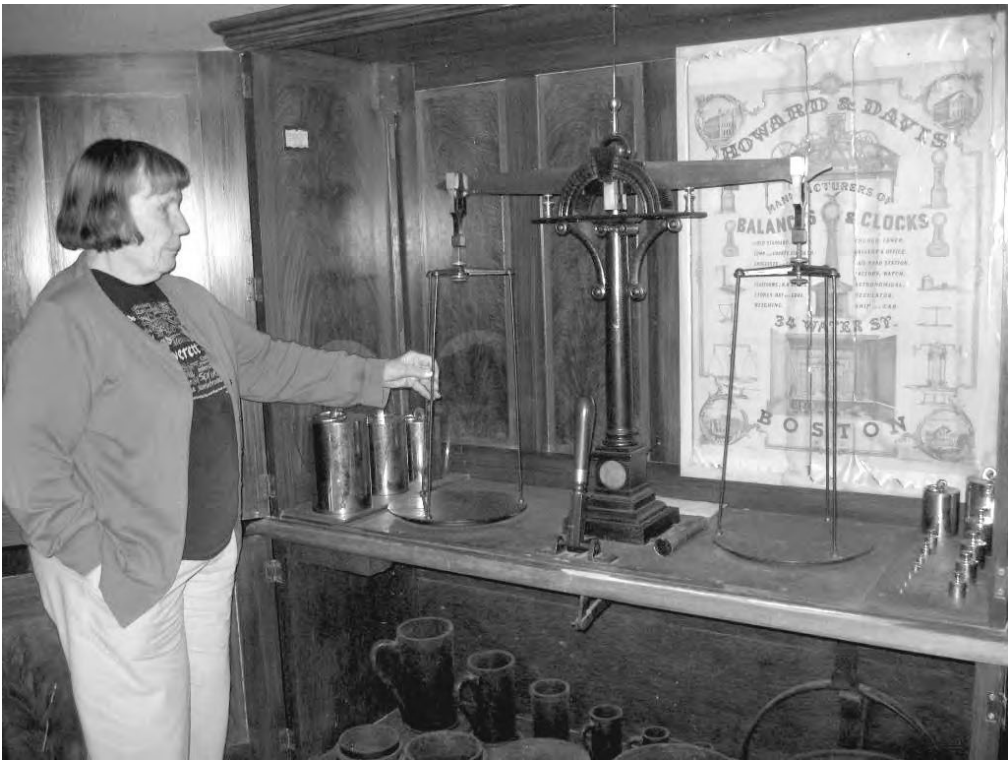
Increased responsibility for the care and upkeep of an old building has added to the chores of cataloging and preservation.

Among the many items in the museum are irreplaceable documents, photographs, manuscripts, farm and craft tools, period housewares, a stuffed osprey, and many other quaint and curious items of Leverett’s not to be forgotten lore.

The Historical Society is working against the reality of limited funds and the need to revitalize its own organization in order to preserve the museum itself.

The asphalt shingles on the gambrel roof have been recently inspected, the gutters cleaned of moss, downspouts directed away from sills to stop a basement leak, and flashing repaired around the chimney.

But water damage is clearly evident on interior walls and ceilings, and mold is a present danger to the integrity of artifacts, documents and



photographs, according to an extensive preservation survey of the museum completed last year by Lisa Lipshires, a graduate student from Simmons College.

The building never had indoor plumbing. In the past, librarians like Lorna Rivers, Florence Morin, or Ethel Woodward, would leave a sign on the door, “Be Right Back,” alerting borrowers that they were off to seek accommodations at town hall.

The building sits on a small plot abutting wetlands, and the likelihood of installing a well and septic system for the property is remote.

But the six women from the Historical Society who gathered around a table in comfortable old Windsor chairs for a meeting there last Friday were less interested in installing running water than in keeping water from running in through the ceiling, upstairs walls, or basement.

Water damage is evident on the second floor, where the preservation survey recommends moving all items out of a built in cabinet on the south wall to protect them from the

been started but not yet completed, although the leak around the chimney appears to have been stopped for now. The cabinet contains old photographs, along with a replica of the Titanic.

Last year, when Lipshires toured the building, she noticed spots of mold on the Civil War uniform that belonged to Putnam Field, and placed a high priority on taking steps to preserve that uniform by calling the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover for guidance in proper mold removal.

Pressed for time on myriad tasks, Field said she had yet to turn to experts for that advice, but in the meanwhile had taken the matter in hand and simply brushed the mold off the uniform herself.

The preservation survey also recommends running the basement humidifier year round at the highest possible setting, and installing air conditioners on the upper floors to control heat in the summer.

But a recent \$1,000 overage in utility bills at the museum, coming at a time of increasingly tight town

Seated near a sign that reads, “Celebrate the Civil War in Leverett,” Historical Society member Susan Mareneck talked up a recent tour of town cemeteries taken by sixth graders from the Leverett Elementary School.

“They found all the Civil War graves,” she noted, and suggested posting some of the photos from that expedition on a website for the Historical Society.

Edith said she had found a virtual match for a Civil War-era sword and pistol in the museum’s collection on Google, which may prove helpful as she continues her effort to catalog the museum’s entire inventory.

But as helpful as new technology may be in restoring or preserving some of the more valuable items in the museum’s collection, the six society members who met on Friday agreed a more basic need at the moment is the increased support and involvement of Leverett residents in the Historical Society’s mission.

Toward that end, they intend to send out a fund appeal and membership drive in the next town newsletter.

Field, Mareneck, and other members of the society met last week with the selectboard and discussed the fate of the building. The two groups agreed that the Historical Society would endeavor to raise sufficient funds to pay for utilities and maintenance of the building, and if that condition is met the town would continue to own and insure the building.

The society’s membership appeal will be the next step in that effort. Field said the group planned to return to the Community Preservation Committee this fall for help with large ticket items, like replacing the roof.

“One of the greatest strengths of the Leverett Family Museum is its many interesting exhibits,” wrote Lipshires in the conclusion to her preservation survey.

“It is a pity,” she continued, “that more people have not found their way to the museum’s welcoming door; the museum receives only around six to eight new visitors each month, and only around six visits per year by someone who is looking for something specific.”

The museum’s primary goal at this time, the report emphasized, “is to make more people aware of the richness of its collections.”

A large wooden sign that once hung on the Field Tavern sign down Depot Road in the early 1800s provides a fading palimpsest to its original use, when apparently it hung above the door of a different establishment at Lock’s Pond in Shutesbury.

The original lettering can still be made out beneath the superimposed words of the sign’s later use.

A glass cabinet on the main floor displays period housewares, bonnets, a tea set, medicine bottles, salt and pepper dishes, tarnished silver napkin rings, tart tins, a sock darning, a hand held fan, a well thumbed Bible.

Fifty years of diaries kept by former town clerk Israel Taylor are among the museum’s trove of collected wills, deeds, marriage certificates, and other documents.

Also kept are ledgers of old town businesses, like the 16 mills that once spread out along the banks of



ALL PHOTOS BY DAWN WARD

damaging effects of moisture.

Edith Field, whose husband was a distant cousin of Bradford’s, is president of the Historical Society. She said this week that task had

budgets, caused the selectboard to consider selling the building unless the private Historical Society could relieve the town of covering the building’s ongoing costs.

Roaring Brook in East Leverett.

A glance at their inventory of manufactured goods – wool, tanned goods, blacksmithed items, handles for hoes and scythes, sturdily dovetailed wooden boxes – reveals just how proudly self sufficient the town of Leverett once was in the necessities of every day living.

The town produced lumber, textiles, machine tools, soap, brooms, palm leaf hats, boots and shoes, just about everything its residents needed to get by, although with agricultural land in short supply, the local groceries were stocked from further afield.

There is a lot to learn for students of local history, for advocates of sustainable community, for genealogy buffs, for parents of young children on every level of this modest building.

Edith Field keeps it open to the public every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stop by and say hello, and see what the Leverett Family Museum has to offer!

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ERVING from page A1

opportunity to preserve my employment and address the Board with the assistance of legal counsel. It is my opinion that I was denied fundamental rights of fairness.”

The selectboard stated that, in their opinion, “a fair hearing was given as called for in M.G.L. c.30A section 21.”

M.G.L. c. 30A section 21 is the portion of the Massachusetts General Laws regarding executive sessions held to discuss employee actions and potential discipline or dismissal of employees.

Section 21 lists some of the rights of the person who is the subject of the hearing, including the right to be present, the right to have counsel or a representative on his behalf, the right to speak on his own behalf, and the right to make an independent audio record of the session.

Greene concluded by writing that he needed to resign in order to pursue other work to support his family. Greene’s letter was cc’d to attorney Thomas T. Merrigan.

The Worcester County D.A.’s office confirmed that they were handling the investigation, and that it had been transferred to their office from Franklin County to avoid any potential conflict of interest between the Northwestern D.A.’s of-

rice and local police.

Dodge said that he was awaiting the results of the investigation. He also commented that since the incident, he has not allowed Greene to work as a reserve officer. “As a part-time officer,” said Dodge, “he has no guarantee of shifts or hours.”

Dodge also said that this was “very sad, very unfortunate incident that we had to investigate.”

Chapter 90 Funds

In other selectboard business, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation wrote the town to revise the amount Erving will receive in Chapter 90 highway funds.

An earlier letter, indicating that Erving would receive \$1,060,051 in fiscal year 2015, was based on a programming error according to Mass DOT.

The correct amount listed in the most recent letter is the much lower amount of \$84,312.

MassDOT also approved reimbursing the town up to \$12,647 for pothole repair, if the town proposes a pothole repair plan by June 30 and completes repairs by September 30.

Security Cameras

The selectboard agreed to consider purchasing additional security cameras for town hall. According to

assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden, the current cameras are four years old, two are failing, and there are blind spots without camera surveillance. Boyden recommended purchase and installation of three or four new cameras. Funding would be provided by the town hall contingency fund. Boyden agreed to consult with police chief Chris Blair and return to the selectboard with a firm estimate of costs.

Council on Aging

The selectboard accepted the resignation of Louise Golosh from the council on aging with regret. Golosh and Carol Lyman, who also resigned recently, are members of friends of the Erving senior center and recently determined that it was a conflict of interest to be members of both the COA and the friends association.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan recommended that the board conduct an annual review for Senior Center director Polly Kiely. Sullivan said that in the past, the COA has evaluated the director, but the director actually reports to the selectboard.

The board decided to meet with Kiely in May and set 6-month evaluation goals with her, then evaluate her performance in November.

FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER ERVING

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Resume, references, and cover letter by 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2014 to: Erving Police Department, 71 French King Highway, Erving, MA 01344. Attn: Christopher M. Blair, Chief of Police. AA/EOE.

Meet Montague’s New Children’s Librarian

By PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS – Angela Rovatti-Leonard was chosen from a field of 14 hopefuls wanting to become the new children’s librarian at the Carnegie Library.

In that role, Rovatti-Leonard will design and implement programming for kids from pre-schoolers up to tweens and teens.

While many programs will take place at the Turners Falls main branch, others will happen at each of the two branch libraries in Millers Falls and Montague Center.

Rovatti-Leonard received an Ada Comstock Scholarship to Smith College, where she studied English, and did not really have being a librarian as a plan for herself.

She talks about the “evolution” that took place in several steps beginning in her senior year at Smith.

Step one was accepting a temporary position in the library at Deerfield Academy. Her job there was to help students find information they needed for projects.

She was unprepared for how enjoyable that work was. At the end of this temporary job, she had decided she liked working in a library, and wanted to continue to do so.

An opening at the Northfield Library presented Rovatti-Leonard with the great opportunity to work with children of all ages and to design the summer reading program,

read to young children, and be in charge of all programming for children.

This turned out to be second step toward discovering what she wanted to do: reading, assisting and motivating children to learn and pursue

2013 she did an internship at the Sunderland Library, where she assisted program planning for a teens and tweens thanks to a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant.

This experience she followed up with a fill-in position at Forbes Library in Northampton. She received her master’s degree of Library and Information Science in December 2013.

When we spoke, she was well into setting up the programming for the summer reading period. There will be a magic show, among many other programs.

Rovatti-Leonard says she looks forward to meeting families and getting to know them.

She is exploring a video/photography program through MCTV, and was introduced to Minecraft through her daughters. She thinks children aged 9 to 11 might enjoy it too.

There will be a program in Pesky Park in July and one for tweens and teens, as well. Stay tuned to learn what more there will be at the library this year!

On Saturday April 26, from 10:30 to 11:30, parents, caregivers, and children of all ages are invited to meet and welcome Angela Rovatti-Leonard at the Carnegie Library, at Avenue A in Turners Falls.

There will be snacks and crafts for all.



Angela Rovatti-Leonard

mass.gov/dph/tick

little tick
BIG PROBLEM

**PREVENT
Lyme Disease**

CHECK YOURSELF AND CHILDREN DAILY FOR TICKS
CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU ARE BITTEN

This message by The Cooperative Public Health Service

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Medical Assistance, Hobo Youth, Needles In The Lawn

Monday, 4/7 11:15 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street. 4:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, Route 2 west-bound. Same was found to be OK. 6:30 p.m. Officer at a Forest Street residence for a lockout assist.	Wednesday, 4/9 11:10 a.m. At North Street residence, to keep the peace during property retrieval. Thursday, 4/10 2:45 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED], for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended	Friday, 4/11 8:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street. Saturday, 4/12 11:30 a.m. Report of suspicious males in a white van at an Old State Road residence. Found to be a private company maintaining	license. 7:15 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD at the Millers Falls train yard. Juveniles in train car. Located same, advised parents of situation. 8 p.m. Report of large tree limb in roadway, Route 63/Northfield Road. Removed same.	the property. 12 noon Arrested [REDACTED], on a straight warrant. 1:25 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Central Street. 6:50 p.m. Motor vehicle crash in Christina’s parking lot. Took report. No injuries. 5:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, unknown location. Checked Route 2. Unable to locate. 7 p.m. Hypodermic needles found while raking lawn at Prospect Street residence. Retrieved for proper disposal.
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Second Suspect Arraigned In Hatchery Road Barn Fire

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MONTAGUE CENTER – [REDACTED] was arraigned in Greenfield District Court last Wednesday, April 9, in connection with the suspected arson fire of two historically-significant barns on Hatchery Road. The fire also caused damage to the family’s mobile home.

According to Montague Police detective Brian Dobosz, [REDACTED] had been actively sought since March 26, the day of the fire.

During interviews conducted by the Montague Police and the State Fire Marshall with the first suspect, [REDACTED], who had been apprehended that afternoon, [REDACTED]’s name surfaced as a person of interest.

Dobosz said that at the conclusion of the interviews, [REDACTED] had become a suspect. He also said that the police knew of [REDACTED]’s movements before and subsequent to the fire, but did not arrest the suspect due to “some extenuating circumstances.”

But last week, accompanied by his lawyer, [REDACTED] turned himself in to the Greenfield police.

At his arraignment, [REDACTED] pleaded not guilty to three counts of arson. Two of the counts pertained to the barn fire; the third to the residence, or in the language of the court, “a dwelling house.”

At a dangerousness hearing, convened after his arraignment, the court deemed [REDACTED] dangerous. He was, however, released with conditions, among them that he avoid all contact with his alleged victim and his co-defendant, [REDACTED].

Other conditions imposed by the court included prohibiting [REDACTED] from possessing firearms. He also needs to continue medical treatments, and either seek employment or attempt to obtain a General Edu-

cation Diploma.

A hearing on whether to move the case to Hampshire Superior Court because of the seriousness of the charges was set for May 1.

[REDACTED], is being held without bail at the Franklin County jail.

The fire in the early morning hours of March 26 completely destroyed two historic barns at Our Father’s Farm, owned by Robert and Lisa Adams. It also melted the siding on the family’s mobile home.

Property owner, Lisa Adams, said she was awakened in the early morning “by a bang and the sound of screeching tires.” The first suspect arrested, [REDACTED], is Robert Adams’ son and Lisa Adams’ step-son.

Lisa Adams said that it was hard for her to see [REDACTED] released on his own recognizance.

Adams said that “it’s been a very rough few weeks. I don’t think a day goes by without us discovering that something else is gone. We are trying to rebuild in every way, but it’s just so hard.”

Adams said that she hopes to acquire a building permit soon to rebuild the barns. “Before the fire, we were talking about building a house and a farmstand. Now we’ve got to build two barns, a house and a farmstand.”

It’s not only hard emotionally, it’s also difficult financially. She said that the barns were not insured, but added that since it was arson by a family member, it was unlikely they would have been able to collect anyway.

“Aside from the barns themselves, the loss of what was in those barns was great,” said Adams. Aside from her husband’s tools and farm equipment, personal mementos were also destroyed.

“I can’t replace. my daughter’s school picture, or the rocking horse my dad made for her when she was one.”

Other conditions imposed by the court included prohibiting [REDACTED] from possessing firearms. He also needs to continue medical treatments, and either seek employment or attempt to obtain a General Edu-

EXTREME

Remember your first love?? Did it ever really end?? What examples are there of love that would describe it as extreme love? Would it be Romeo and Juliet, a mother's love for her children, love of money –

Some might say extreme love is when a person is willing to give their life so that you might live.

The Bible says:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8)

This example is of the finest, finest because even though I was an enemy of God, even though I sin against Him, even though I repeatedly reject Him, He still loves me enough to die that I might live. This is extreme love, love that man rarely, if ever, reproduces.

To know this kind of love is to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

This is as written.
We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls.
God's blessings are yours.

Franklin County Spring 5K Race
Raises \$1,700 for Unity Skate Park

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – On Saturday, April 12, 104 runners ran the five kilometer course in the first annual Franklin County Spring 5K Race to raise money for the Unity Skate Park.

The race was on the same day as the Franklin County Spring Parade, and stuck to a pretty similar route on the hill.

Apryl Sabadosa of Westfield (pictured, right) took first place overall, at 18:13. She was followed closely by Jason Collins of Greenfield (pictured, left).

Sabadosa ran the course barefoot.

Sabadosa and Collins were followed by Patrick Pezzati of Montague, Linda Gavin of Turners Falls, Eric Ciocca of Northampton, Nathan McKenney of Vernon, VT, and Barry Scott of Greenfield.

Alex Baker, age 9, of Guilford, VT, finished 29th overall, with a time of 25:49. Baker said he has been running for a couple years, and that his favorite part about running in races is pacing himself.

The \$1,700 raised for the park will be donated to the campaign in memory of Greg Ellis, a longtime supporter of building a skatepark who tragically lost his life this winter. That donation will be put towards a \$10,000 Challenge Grant the Skatepark Committee received.

“We are so excited to be able to make this contribution to the Skatepark. The race went better than I could have ever imagined and we raised more money for them than I dreamed of. I cannot wait until next year’s event!” said Kelsey Cadran, race organizer.



JACKSON PHOTO

FACES



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The Montague Elks named Montague Police Chief Charles (Chip) Dodge as the recipient of their annual “Distinguished Citizenship Award.” The ceremony was held on April 5 at the Elks Lodge in Turners Falls. Dodge said he was quite surprised and only learned about the award a few days before it was presented. “I felt very honored,” he said. “It was a wonderful ceremony.” He also said that he accepted the award knowing that it really belonged to all on his force.

Joe Parzych, who took this photo, writes: “The last of the big beams was set last week on the Factory Hollow Bridge. Locke Crane Service of Tewksbury used a 240-ton MK Crane on the Gill end of the bridge and a 275-ton MK Crane on the Greenfield side. The cranes have telescoping booms with winch to spool the cable. The 275-ton crane costs \$2 million, while the smaller one costs a mere 1.5 million, give or take a few hundred thousand. The cost to rent the cranes is \$7,000 per day for the pair. The beams measure 104’ long, 3’9” high, and 1’3” wide. They are much smaller than the old beams, but are made of stronger steel.”

&



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Jalen Sanders slides into third base during Monday’s home game against Easthampton. Turners won the game, 7–3.



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Medicine: Bad Interactions



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is it true that licorice can interfere with some medications?

Some forms of licorice may increase the risk for digoxin toxicity. Digoxin is used to treat heart failure and arrhythmias. Licorice may also reduce the effects of blood pressure medications or diuretic drugs (water pills).

These are just a few of many drug-related interactions that can occur in your body. Drug interactions fall into three categories. There are drug reactions with foods and drink, dietary supplements and with other drugs.

When you start any medicine, don't be afraid to throw a lot of questions about it at your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. The first question should be: Can this medicine interact with anything else I put in my body?

The following are some interactions we should all know about:

ALCOHOL

You should avoid alcohol when taking medication. Mixing alcohol with certain medications can cause nausea and vomiting, headaches, drowsiness, fainting, or loss of coordination. It also can put you at risk for internal bleeding, heart problems and difficulty breathing.

In addition to these dangers, alcohol can make a medication less effective. **see MEDS page B2**

So Much Faith In Electrons

Part 1

By D.O. OGDEN

When the great library of Alexandria was burned, twice, we can only imagine the results of such a loss of knowledge to the world.

It seems both the pagan Julius Caesar and a horde of fanatic Christians can be blamed for these violations, but regardless of the perpetrators the acts were atrocities of unimaginable consequences.

Six hundred years of collective knowledge, going back countless generations, lost. What could be compared to that? Where else in the so-called Cradle of Civilization could such a wealth of information exist? It must have seemed as if the world had, in some way, ended.

You may be thinking something like that could never happen today given the distribution and duplication of information in the Digital Age is so pervasive. You may be correct.

This is indeed The Age of Information, but much of it is increasingly found in an insubstantial form. Something you cannot put your hands upon. You can put your hands on an E-book (in fact one-third of all new books sold these days in the western world are electronic), but you cannot touch the contents.

All those sentences, all those words and the order they are put in, are intangible, ghosts of the written word.

This is also the case with our own personal histories, our notes and family photos are often found on devices rather than in diaries, letters and family albums. Likewise, records of personal information such as birth, marriage and death certificates; licenses; permits; applications; so much of it transferred from paper (if it ever existed on paper) to electrons.

Information corporations like Google boast of uploading every book ever written into the cloud or wherever. That's a fascinating endeavor, adding all the more to the growing mystique surrounding our digital existence. Of course it's not just a sense of awe that supports and promotes the increasing use of electronics to move and store information and media in the 21st century. We have also developed an all too familiar trust, even arrogance concerning the reliability and permanence of digitally accessible information.

Just as we labor under the notion that our daily routines will pretty much continue as they have for the foreseeable future, that our communities will remain, our homes still stand, our family and friends live on, we also believe our technologies will carry on..... until they don't.

A tornado takes out our house

see ELECTRONS page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Gardening in Small Places

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Spring is here in earnest with suddenly warm temperatures, buds on the flowering bulbs and peepers in the marshes and the vernal pools. The river runs high and fast. No doubt some low lying areas will flood over. The Deerfield River has already breached its bounds near the Cheapside Bridge.

The onion seedlings can go outside any time now. First, I'll add both garden soil and composted manure to the raised bed they'll occupy. These six by thirty six inch containers are perfect for root vegetables like garlic, leek, onion or carrot. They dry out quickly in the spring and allow a good depth for root development. It is easy to keep the soil light and well aerated.

The onions should be planted with the developing bud just under the surface of the soil and then pressed in firmly. They can take the fluctuating temperatures of spring including the light frosts we can still expect.

Generally they are not of interest to deer, rabbit or woodchuck, but just the same, I'll frame the bed with some low level wire fencing and also avoid the neighboring cat's use of the bed for his private purposes.

Gardening is not just for those with yard space to spare. Any porch or deck, preferably with at least a partial southern exposure will suit just fine. If you wish to grow onion

sets, an old window box is the perfect planter.

Onions should be spaced four to six inches apart depending on the size of the bulb you intend to grow. Besides the underground network of roots they will develop, most of the bulb will grow above the soil.

Try to add a little manure or composted matter to your container and watch them grow. Onions are an easy, non-fussy crop.

A porch garden needn't be an expensive undertaking. You can enjoy planting tomatoes, leaf crops, peppers and flowers in any kind of "found" container.

Old barrels or buckets, small garbage cans and discarded bowls or pots can all be used. Plastic plant pots are often in the free pile at tag sales.

While plastic pots may not add to your porch décor, this is also a great time to find *cachepots* on sale at stores with seasonal items. These decorated plant pot holders will brighten any space.

Whatever container you choose, be sure to offer your plants a method of drainage so the roots won't sit in water. More plants are killed by over-watering than by drying out.

You can make a few holes in the bottom of your container and set it on a tray or dish to catch the overflow. If you don't want to puncture your container, start with a layer of small stones like gravel or the glass stones you can buy very inexpensively and then add the soil on

see GARDENS page B4

Green Team Makes a Difference

By SIENNA DILLENSNEIDER and MADISON CHMYZINSKI

TURNERSFALLS

When you walk into the Great Falls Middle School cafeteria, you might wonder why there are black trash bags and green trash bags.

You could ask any student in the cafeteria, and they would be able to answer that question.

Sixth grader, Kaitlyn Miner, said, "The black one is for trash, and the green one is for composting."

Here at Great Falls Middle School we have a club called the Green Team. They help make sure we're composting the right things such as milk cartons, food, napkins and other paper products.

Not only do they monitor the composting bins at the middle school, but they volunteered their time at the 2013 Franklin County Fair. They monitored composting bins there, and picked up trash around the park.

Our small middle school is making a difference, one step at a time.

On that note, the Green Team has set up a Composting Competition for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.



AMY DONOVAN PHOTO

Each grade gets its own bin. Every Tuesday for the months of March, April and May students compost all the food and paper products they can, to fill their bin.

At the end of each week, the winning grade is announced.

Then, at the end of the three-month period, whatever grade composted the most wins an ice cream social!

The previous 2013 winners were sixth graders. Who knows who will win this year!

Great Falls Middle School would like to thank Ms. Amy Donovan for all she has done for us.

If it wasn't for her, Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) would not have won the Recycler of the Year award in 2012, awarded by MassRecycle.

The whole school district has worked so hard over the years to make a difference and we are finally succeeding at that goal.

We, as a district, send two cubic yards of compost per week to Martin's Farm Recycling in Greenfield which would otherwise go to a landfill.

Over the past 2 years, all the students at GMRSD have learned a great deal. We have learned that if our generation doesn't take action soon, our planet could turn into a place unfit for humans to live.

We also learned that one person can make a change, as long as you put your mind to it.

The reporters are part of Emily Krems' "Writing For the Reporter" program at Great Falls Middle School.

An Afternoon of Strong Writing – And Strong Memories

By LAURA RODLEY

TURNERS FALLS

Spirits were high as the *As You Write It* writers read their work from the long awaited *As You Write It, A Franklin County Anthology Volume Four*.

The anthology features local writers Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Dorothy Hmieski, Robin Panagakos and Joseph A. Parzych, and is edited and published by Laura Rodley.

The Gill Montague Senior Center in Turners Falls was packed for Sunday's event.

Keeping with tradition, writers read in alphabetical order.

In the past, Rosalie Bolton read first. In her stead, Carlisle read the last story that Bolton ever wrote, penned ten days before Bolton passed away in January, about her wish that this country would elect a woman president.

Carlisle captured perfectly the effervescent style in which Bolton would have delivered her story, as if she had read it herself.

Cade captured farming days in Ashfield, with errant cows escaping onto flower beds. Fiske recalled being left-handed in a right-handed world, having an observant grandmother that discovered a medical problem and saved

Fiske's life, and having a beloved German Shepherd quickly become a vital family member.

Hemond recalled hollering her childhood Christmas list up the chimney at Santa. Hmieski's story concerned the gift given by her mother, who taught her the names of flowers and birds.

Panagakos steered a moving van through rush hour traffic in Atlanta, Georgia on a cross-country trip and whiled away an afternoon during a rainy afternoon that kept customers away while she worked at a farm stand listening to a fellow worker keep tempo with the rain beating on the roof by playing his fiddle.

While visiting her parents in Poland on a cross-

Atlantic trip as a married teenager when World War I broke out, Parzych's mother crossed front lines from Poland through Germany to Rotterdam to return home to the U.S. and her husband, accompanied by their two year old daughter Mary.

German soldiers held their fire, spellbound as she walked towards their trenches, bravely holding baby Mary's hand, and then helped her cross them. Barely five feet tall, she was ten feet tall in spirit.

The event was sponsored in part by the Local Cultural Councils of Gill and Montague.

To read the rest of these stories and others, you can obtain a copy of the book at World Eye Book Store and other local book stores.



Front row, left to right: Estelle Cade, Robin Panagakos, and Frances Hemond. Back row, left to right: Lillian Fiske and Joseph A. Parzych. Missing from the photo is Patricia Carlisle.

Pets of the Week

My name is Hippo. I do not know why.

My delightful sister and I need a home together! Our person had health problems.

Sometimes I'm shy, but don't let that concern you. I am super affectionate! We both are. "HIPPO & FRANKIE JR."

We can live with other cats too. I give them hugs and snuggle with them when I sleep! You are likely to find me snoozing with



my sister, Frankie Jr., (indoors only).

I've been described as an all-around good cat, and I'm sure you will agree! Come visit us today.

We'll make wonderful companions for the right family!

We're two fur one!

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

Senior Center Activities April 7 through 11

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 4/21

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck and Bingo
1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/22

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Special Program: "Mabel & Jerry"

Wednesday 4/23

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 4/25

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

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call

Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

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

Monday 4/21

CLOSED – HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4/22

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 4/23

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

Thursday 4/24

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

Friday 4/25

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

MEDS from page B1

effective or even useless, or it may make the medication harmful or toxic to your body.

Alcohol can also affect many over-the-counter medications and herbal remedies.

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE

You shouldn't consume grapefruit if you are on some statins, which are used to lower cholesterol.

Grapefruit juice contains a chemical that can interfere with the enzymes that break down statins in your digestive system. This can be dangerous because it's uncertain what the effect would be on your total cholesterol.

Grapefruit juice can raise the level of some medications in the blood.

For example, grapefruit can cause higher blood levels of the anti-anxiety medicine buspirone, the anti-malaria drug quinine, and triazolam, a medication used to treat insomnia.

ANTIHISTAMINES

Some over-the-counter (OTC) antihistamines taken for colds and allergies can increase the depressant effects of a sedative or tranquilizer. Antihistamines taken with blood pressure medication may elevate the blood pressure and may also increase the heart rate.

CHOCOLATE

Eating chocolate and taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors could be dangerous. MAO inhibitors treat depression. Someone who eats an excessive amount of chocolate after taking an MAO inhibitor may experience a sharp rise in blood pressure.

The caffeine in chocolate can also interact with stimulant drugs such as Ritalin (methylphenidate), increasing their effect, or by decreasing the effect of sedative-hypnotics such as Ambien (zolpidem).

ST. JOHN'S WORT

St. John's wort is an herb most commonly used for depression. This herb can reduce the concentra-

tion of medications in the blood.

St. John's Wort can reduce the blood level of medications such as digoxin, certain statins, and the erectile-dysfunction drug Viagra.

VITAMIN E

Taking vitamin E with a blood-thinning medication such as Coumadin can increase anti-clotting activity and may cause an increased risk of bleeding.

GINSENG

This herb can interfere with the action of anticoagulants such as Coumadin and heparin. Combining ginseng with MAO inhibitors may cause headache, trouble sleeping, nervousness, and hyperactivity.

GINKGO BILOBA

High doses of the herb Ginkgo biloba could decrease the effectiveness of medications to control seizures.

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



Comedy at the Gill-Montague Senior Center

A free performance of *Mabel and Jerry*, a one-act comedy by Steve Henderson will be held at the Gill Montague Senior Center on April 22 at 1 p.m.

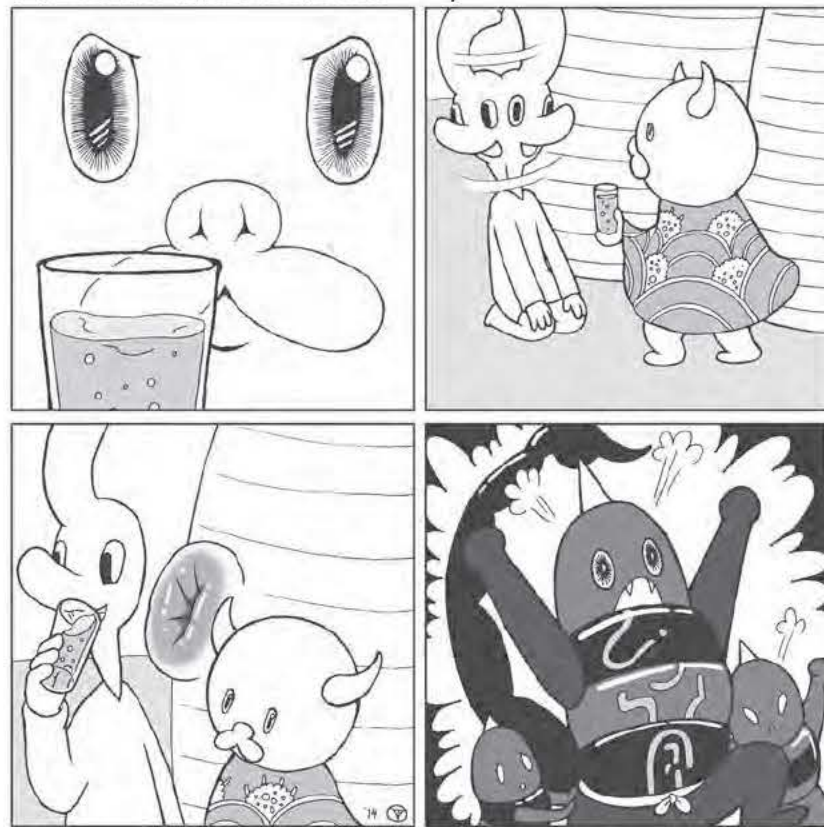
Jerry and Mabel are two hysterically comical people with a lust for life, a determination to find excitement, humor, and especially love any way they can. Think Romeo and Juliet meet Burns and Allen.

Steve is an award winning actor and playwright who has performed with The Majestic, The Pioneer Summer Theater, and The Hampshire Shakespeare Theater and with his own comedy troupe locally and

in New York City. He is a registered nurse specializing in geriatrics; he has been a speaker for the DC Health Care Association, the Washington Home in Chevy Chase, the Massachusetts COA annual conferences, the Western Massachusetts Eldercare Professional Association, Elms College, and numerous COAs in Massachusetts and Connecticut. He's been published in Geriatric Magazine and his full length play "Jerry and Ed" ran at the Majestic in West Springfield. His play *The Gravedigger's Gift* was published by the UMADD Center for Renaissance Studies.

Connie Casagrande, appearing as Mabel, has performed comedy for many years with Disturbed Theatre and The Villa Idiots. Connie now has her own local TV show, *Poppin' in the Pioneer Valley*.

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

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FOR ANSWERS TO OUR MARCH CRYPTOJAMS, SEE PAGE B8!

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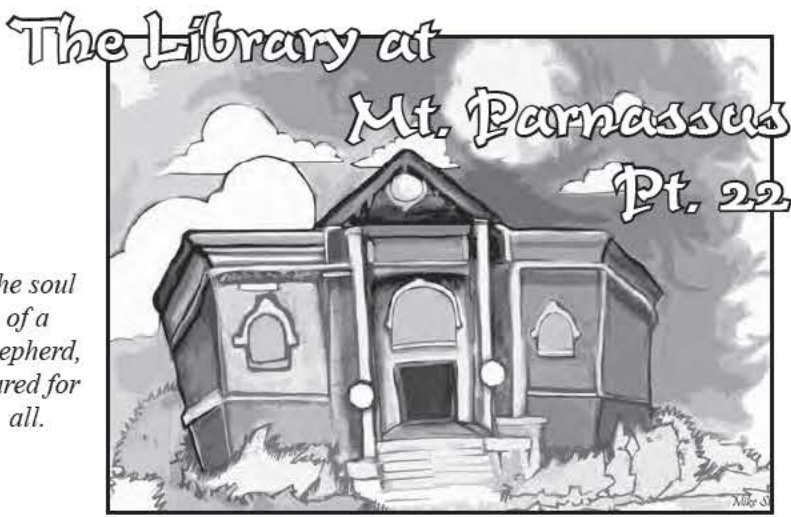
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MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

"How've you been, anyway?" I asked Eddie. "I haven't seen you lately. How've the sheep been treating you?"

"Oh. Not so good, Otis. Not so good. Those damned sheep. I'm sick of 'em." Eddie got up and limped over to the bay window to watch the moonrise.

"What's the trouble, Ed?"

"Oh. It's just the time of year, I guess. I hate this time of year."

Eddie's parents were like royalty among the farmers, craftspeople and machinists of his village, yet they were known to treat their son poorly.

"Trouble at home?"

"No."

"Still sleeping in the loft?"

"Yeah."

"Well, hell, Eddie. Why don't you just move out."

"I'm gonna, Otis. May god be damned, one day I'm gonna do just that. They just don't treat me right."

"No," I agreed.

"No, sir. They're always nagging me. They're always after me about getting married, they nag me about staying out late with the flock."

"You'd think they would be grateful."

"No. Now they've started telling me I'm not their real son. My father won't even speak to me, except to say, 'Avoid my sight!' My mother says that they adopted me."

He paused, staring out the window, and continued in a lower voice. "She says they found me hanging upside down in a thorn tree when I was a baby, and now she wishes she'd left me for the coydogs. It's unbelievable!"

The wind had gone out of his sails. "I tell you," he went on in a defeated tone, "family life is a curse.... It makes me tired."

Eddie's shoulders slumped; he stuck his hands into his trouser pockets.

"Well, dammitall, Eddie, how old are you now, anyway?"

"Who knows? They say I'm over twenty-one, but I've never seen a birth certificate."

"Well it's about time you moved out on your own."

"Yeah, I know, Otis. But I'm scared to do it." He looked over toward the lobby. "I have a bad feeling about the future."

"Now don't be such a pessimist. You've got to put your best foot forward."

"I know. But my parents..."

"They're a bad influence on you."

"I know it. They're going to give me trouble for the rest of my life."

"Doesn't sound like they appreciate you very much."

"They don't."

"Well?"

"The sheep need me."

"Eddie. There are other things in life besides sheep."

"Like what?" He was staring moodily in front of him. A copy of *Ladies Home Journal* was lying on the table.

"Like women, Ed, for one thing."

"Baah. I rub women the wrong way. They run when they see me coming." He looked down at his feet.

"Well, Ed, maybe you should try a different approach."

"Like what?"

It struck me funny to be giving anyone advice on the subject.

"I dunno, Ed... you'll come up with something." I resisted the urge to give him a pat on the head.

"Men and women are a riddle," I told him. "Just try to not act shy around them. Women don't go for sheepish men."

Eddie laughed in spite of himself. "That's me, Otis, to a tee. Strike me blind, you hit the nail that time. A sheepish man."

"Give it a chance."

"I don't know..."

"Try it — *Lupus Lupus* — let it out!"

Eddie growled a little and smacked his lips.

I was laughing. "If it helps any, Eddie, we're all in the same boat. It's hard on all of us. Especially in the winter. You get to feel like the whole wide world is down on you."

"It is."

Klee looked up from his magazine and glared at me. "What do you know about the weight of the world?" he growled.

"Not much, I'm sure," I said equably. "Just that it's a burden we all share."

"Bullshit," he snapped.

"Klee... would you like a cup of tea?"

"No."

"Eddie, how about you?"

"All right, Otis."

I shook Tony gently by the shoulder. He was breathing stertorously, nose down in a pool of saliva, which was spreading on the color print of baby llamas on the altiplano. "Tony... Tony... would you like a cup of tea?" He made no sign.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rogue Sunbathers; Loose Pig; Kids Digging A Hole

Monday, 4/7

5:44 a.m. Caller reporting a small blue pickup truck racing up and down Davis Street; ongoing problem. Referred to an officer.

12:01 p.m. Caller reported that items have gone missing from her house over the past few months and identified a possible suspect. Suspect located and spoken to.

7:34 p.m. Caller stating that her apartment was fumigated recently and that after the exterminators left, she found that she was missing a TV, a cat carrier, a modem, and a tote of antique dolls. Advised of options.

8:22 p.m. Blue Trek mountain bike stolen from Central Street residence. Report taken.

Tuesday, 4/8

12:42 p.m. Report that someone has been knocking on doors in the middle of the night on Sunrise Terrace. Officers will conduct extra patrols of area.

7:05 p.m. Syringe and other paraphernalia reported on side of road near Hallmark Institute of Photography. Items located and disposed of.

Wednesday, 4/9

4:20 p.m. Party reported receiving a fraudulent phone call stating that his electric service would be shut off in an hour. Advised of options.

8:48 p.m. Party who was reportedly recently evicted from apartment on Farren Avenue found to be sleeping in second floor landing. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided.

8:55 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reporting that a neighbor is running a generator in the basement of their building with extension cords running into caller's apartment.

Thursday, 4/10

6:36 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting well-being check on two subjects in Turners Falls. Contact made.

6:58 a.m. 14 year old reported as having run away from home in Montague Center. Re-

turned to home.

7:17 a.m. Carbon monoxide alarm at Turners Falls Post Office. TFFD advised.

7:35 a.m. Golden retriever wandered into Turners Falls High School through the front door. Staff unable to catch dog. Dog caught and transported to shelter. Owner contacted MPD to inquire whether dog had been found. Animal control officer advised.

9:05 a.m. Caller reporting that last night, a male party kicked a hole in one of the walls in the common area of an Avenue A apartment building. Services rendered.

10:46 a.m. Loose potbellied pig reported in vicinity of Lake Pleasant Road. Area search negative.

12:33 p.m. Request for officer to assist in a child custody matter in Turners Falls. Services rendered.

3:17 p.m. Caller concerned about a group of kids using the rear of the Shady Glen parking lot as a jump for bikes. Group spoken to.

5:33 p.m. Two small baggies found in common hallway of Third Street apartment building. Officer removed one baggie and found residue consistent with heroin. Report taken.

6:04 p.m. Caller reported seeing small dog fall into canal at the beginning of Migratory Way; dog being taken with current. Dog pulled safely from water. Owner identified and contacted. Services rendered.

6:39 p.m. Report that two teenagers are hanging around inside the boxcars at the Millers Falls rail yard. Officer out with four juveniles; appears someone has been living in a railcar. Juveniles picked up by parents. Railroad company advised.

Friday, 4/11

3:22 p.m. Call requesting that apartment keys be returned to a tenant from whom they had been confiscated. Keys picked up by Servicenet.

4:45 p.m. Report that subject had stolen a bot-

tle of wine from Food City. Subject located; wine taken by officer and returned to store. Store will be seeking to trespass subject.

6:43 p.m. Friendly dog who wandered into a yard on Dell Street transported to kennel. Owner contacted; stated that dog has a thyroid condition and needs medication. Advised of options.

6:55 p.m. Following a traffic stop, [redacted] was

arrested on a default warrant and additionally charged with possession of a Class A drug.

11:46 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Central Street; occupants suspected of "doing drugs." Officer spoke to both parties, who were waiting outside one party's mother's house for laundry to dry. Nothing illegal noted.

Saturday, 4/12

9:36 a.m. Contacted again regarding ongoing tenant situation on Farren Avenue. Caller advised of options.

9:58 a.m. Landlord-tenant dispute on Fifth Street. Advised of options.

11:56 a.m. Vehicle popped both passenger side tires on a broken wooden post on the parade route on Crocker Avenue. Hazard marked with cones.

12:09 p.m. Caller reporting two sunbathers refusing to come down off roof of Franklin Area Survival Center. Sunbathers had left roof upon officer's arrival; parties spoken to.

12:57 p.m. Raccoon displaying signs of rabies (walking poorly, drooling) in yard on West Street. Environmental Police contacted, but unable to respond. MPD officer will follow up.

2:36 p.m. Contacted by multiple other agencies regarding body sighted in the Connecticut River by a boater approximately 6 miles north of Sunderland. MPD and TFFD responded. Body recovered by TFFD at Sunderland Dam.

5:19 p.m. Caller report-

ing that "some kids" behind the pavilion at Pesky Park appear to be "shooting up." Area checked; unable to locate.

6:13 p.m. Caller just observed a motorcycle go off the road into the woods by the Country Creemee. TFFD and BHA advised. Operator found to be OK; left scene. Left-behind items collected and tagged for later pickup.

6:31 p.m. Caller reporting kids behind his house on Second Street digging a large hole and throwing random debris into it. Referred to an officer.

7:10 p.m. Report of unknown male trying to enter caller's van in the alley by the Pizza House. Suspect located; suspect's statement that he was leaning against the car but did not try to enter it was confirmed by video.

11:57 p.m. Complaint regarding train that had been idling in Millers Falls for well over three hours. Report taken. Both Pan Am and NE Central Rail denied having trains idling in that area.

Sunday, 4/13

10:40 a.m. Request for officer to assist regarding an issue with party's underage daughter seeing a 42 year old man. Advised of options.

11:01 a.m. Request for assistance in child visitation dispute in Lake Pleasant. Advised of options.

11:14 a.m. Request for an officer to speak to tenants on Second Street who are leaving trash and debris in the backyard. Caller referred to Board of Health.

1:28 p.m. Concerned citizen reporting a 6 year old girl pushing a baby in a carriage on the bike path with no adults present. Officers responded; parents identified. Services rendered.

4:27 p.m. Loose dog complaint on Norman Circle. Owners advised of complaint and of leash laws in Montague. Referred to animal control officer.

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GARDENS from page B1

top. Water your plants when the soil is dry to the touch.

We gardeners are an inventive lot. In Mexico where few things are discarded after their original use, many things take on a new purpose in a second life. Space is also often at a premium in and around small buildings. We noted two clever re-uses this winter while walking our neighborhoods.

One small coffee and wine bar had three walls with the fourth open to the street on the south side. On one wall the owner had attached several second-hand lengths of gutter pipe. These had been filled with soil and set out with vining plants.

Things grow quickly in this temperate climate. We could already see that it would not be many seasons before the café owner had a green, hanging wall which would attractively decorate and enhance his space.

Another inventive building owner had hung wooden pallets on an outside wall and filled them with herbs for cooking. You can often find these pallets here for the taking at feed stores and light industries.

You would need only to tack on a bottom between the slats, fill with dirt and plant with flowers or other small foliage plants.

Gardeners are not a dour, dead-serious lot. Next time you're out and about, take note of yards and

gardens. More than once you'll see a wash tub, bathtub or even a rejected toilet taking on new life as a planter. Well, why not?

If you don't have a sense of humor, you can forget about being a long-term gardener. Nature will play its unexpected tricks, some crops will grow or not any given season, and you've got to roll with the punches.

Let go of what's not working, and have a good laugh while you're at it.

Sometimes there are unexpected miracles, like the beautiful pumpkin grown from the compost one year. Expect the unexpected and you'll have more fun.

One grumbling local I spoke with recently was prognosticating that, since spring was so late we would probably jump right from it into summer heat.

In any case, fall and spring, two of the most beautiful seasons are the shortest. Get out and enjoy the burgeoning warmth and each day which brings something new in bloom.

Listen for the peepers and for newly returning birds. Watch the changing season, and don't worry about how long it will last.

Try to live in the moment it is and it will be sure to be good and satisfying.

Happy spring, and happy gardening!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Many Assisted, Many OK

Monday, 3/31
7:05 a.m. Suspicious truck reported at Main Road residence. Checked out OK – was service man.
10 a.m. Assisted Center Road resident with firearms issue.
10:20 a.m. Court service for Walnut Street resident.
10:60 a.m. Court service for Mountain Road resident.
Tuesday, 4/1
7:40 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on River Road. Checked OK.
1:30 p.m. Possible jumper reported at French King Bridge. None located.
6:20 p.m. Domestic situation on Oak Street. Officer assisted with peace keeping.
Wednesday, 4/2
3:50 p.m. Past domes-

tic situation reported on Oak Street. Follow-up requested.
10 p.m. 911 misdial reported on Boyle Road. All OK.
10:50 p.m. Subject considering jumping from French King Bridge removed from bridge.
Thursday, 4/3
8:45 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported at Main Road business. Party resting from travel.
8:55 p.m. Medical assist on South Cross Road.
Friday, 4/4
1:58 p.m. Medical assist on West Gill Road.
Monday, 4/7
11:45 a.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with firearms issue with Gill resident.
12:20 p.m. Court process issued to French King

Highway resident.
3:15 p.m. Fire reported on Walnut Street. Investigated.
Tuesday, 4/8
2:25 p.m. Erratic operation of motor vehicle reported. Spoke with operator, a Riverside resident.
5:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with motor vehicle accident.
Wednesday, 4/9
7:20 a.m. Welfare check on West Gill Road resident.
7:35 a.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle at intersection of Route 2 and Main Road.
9:45 a.m. Investigated vandalism at elementary school.
11:40 a.m. False alarm at Hoe Shop Road residence.
2:50 p.m. Investigated report of subject headed to French King Bridge to

ELECTRONS from page B1

or half the neighborhood. Dear friends drop dead without warning. Employers outsource our jobs. Nothing is forever, except perhaps the Sun rising and setting every day, though we're told even that will end

at some distant point in time.

For now, the Sun goes on shining, sometimes more than others. We know it's a really bad idea to look directly at the Sun for more than a few seconds.

It is so powerful that it can literally blind you. If you stay out in the sunshine for too long without protective clothing it can also burn your skin. The sun fades your fabrics, degrades your roof, cracks your paint or, on a more positive note, it warms you, powers your home and heats your water.

But there is something else the sun can do that brings us back to the beginning: it can burn down your digital library.

In 1859, when some of us texted each other through telegraph wires, something truly unexpected happened. The largest geomagnetic storm in history took place in the wake of solar flares and what is called a coronal mass ejection (CME) observed by British astronomer Richard Carrington.

The giant magnetic storm, that later bore his name, took out telegraph systems all over Europe and North America, in some cases burning up equipment.

A large CME, in which billions of tons of charged particles blast away from the Sun at millions of miles per hour, warps the Earth's magnetic field and injects trillions of watts of electricity into the planet's upper atmosphere, in turn overloading power lines, blowing out transformers and substations and frying electronics

that today run just about everything.

This is not science fiction. Less powerful "extreme space weather events" also took place in 1921, and more recently in 1989, creating mass blackouts.

But all those events happened before we became so totally dependent on electronics, before the digital divide, before our communication systems were dominated by satellites and cell towers, before we were so entirely plugged in, before libraries and the institutions we may rely on turned their printed records into scrap paper...

To be continued next week.

Author's note:

Given the subject matter, my intention was to write this piece without the use of any digital device except perhaps in submitting it. However it did not take long to realize how far along we, as a society, had traveled into uncharted territory.

The main point of this essay came home to me in spades when I began to attempt researching information without the aid of a computer. The Age of Information has left countless bridges burned in its wake.

Libraries no longer have card catalogs (it was a local librarian who told me the old cards were being used for scrap paper). Encyclopedias are no longer on the shelves. Phone books are getting harder to find.

The message could not have been more obvious: the Age of Information has no real back-up.



LOOKING BACK
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 15, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

High School Officer

Starting in September, a police officer will be stationed in the Turners Falls High School and Middle School. The position of school resource officer, which will last for at least four years, will be funded as a result of a Cops in Schools grant awarded to the police department.

Three years of the position will be funded by federal money, and one year by the town of Montague.

Landfill Q&A

People from all parts of Montague came out Tuesday night to question representatives of three companies proposing to develop a landfill on town-owned land off Turnpike Road.

All three companies said they would use the same basic design for containment: a double lining of

¼-inch high-density poly, with an estimated 1,000 year lifespan.

Selectboard member Allen Ross confirmed that if a landfill is approved it would have to go to town meeting for a vote.

Police Scandal Concludes

A lingering appeal filed by police officer Charles Dodge against disciplinary actions taken by the Montague selectboard was denied on April 6 by the state's Civil Service Commission, signaling the end of legal proceedings surrounding a nearly four-year-old incident.

According to the Commission's findings, the incident began after Dodge had consumed 5 to 7 beers, as well as a mixed drink, at the home of fellow off-duty police officer Joe Yukl, with Yukl and his wife. It ended with Yukl assaulting Dodge.

The incident developed into a controversy between the selectboard, which called for a State Police investigation, and then-Chief Patrick O'Bryan, who disciplined

the two officers in defiance of the board's order for him to take no action. The Commission found this "an attempt by O'Bryan to circumvent the [selectboard's] authority."

In the end Dodge was demoted, Yukl was fired, responding officer Dan Miner was suspended, and O'Bryan took an early retirement.

Dodge is now eligible to seek promotion back to sergeant. "I learned a valuable lesson," he said. "I'd like to take the opportunity to apologize... for everything that occurred."

Eagle Hatches

The first eagle baby of the year hatched on Wednesday. Some had noticed a hole in one egg late Monday, and watched closely most of the day Tuesday, when the brooding female appeared restless and aware of something happening underneath her.

Irene Kirk reported the first peek at the broken eggshell, and chick, at 1:57 p.m. A second egg should hatch in three or four days.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners

Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS:

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

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

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

UMass Museum of Contemporary Art, Amherst: *Katy Schimert: Artist in Residence*, work on display through May 4.

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

CALL FOR DESIGNS:

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

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Jim Matus*, progressive world fusion, jazz and improvisatory music, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: Janet Ryan & Straight Up, blues dance! \$, 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Carrie Ferguson with Jim & Ruby Henry*, \$, 8 p.m.

St. Kazimierz, Turners Falls: *Holy Vex, OFC and Rebel Base*, rock/punk rock/metal/etc, benefit for Unity Skatepark. Show is all ages, positive ID gets a bar bracelet. Sliding scale admission, 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw



Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards, folk duo, familiar traditional melodies and poignant, introspective lyrics, and backing them with delicate arrangements on ukulele, clarinet, guitar and banjo. Saturday, April 19th, 8 pm at the Bookmill, Montague. Opening act: Girl Cat Adams

country, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Black Twig Pickers, Trevor Healy*, old-time/acoustic, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

9th Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza, back fields of Sheffield School, Turners Falls, free, 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Investigators*, a monthly kid-oriented program that focuses on hands-on discovery of local nature. This program is geared towards grades 2-5, but everyone is welcome. 1 to 2 p.m.

Madison On The Avenue, Turners Falls: *Orten & Gabriel, Bruce King, Caleb Wetherbee* with special guests *Rick King and Dennis Avery*, 6 p.m.

GCC Sloan Theater, Greenfield Main Campus: *A Cave Story*, an original play by Roddy Barnes,

directed by Tom Geha with a cast and crew of GCC students, 7 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *The Pioneer Consort*, \$, 7:30 p.m. Partial proceeds to benefit the Shutesbury Education Foundation. Open mic at 7 p.m. Michael Nix, Chris Devine and Greg Snedeker.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards*, folk duo arrangements on ukulele, clarinet, guitar and banjo. \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adams*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jim Matus*, solo laoutar, world fusion, jazz, trance jam, 9 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, current & classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

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

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Bruce's Browser, Athol: *Lenelle Moise, Poet Laureate*, book signing for her new release *Haiti Glass*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bingo! Free, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *From Death to Grave: Caring for Your Own Dead*. Join Carol Coan for an informative talk, followed by a Q&A. Carol is co-chair of the Green Burial Committee, which has recently teamed up with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to locate suitable land on which to start Massachusetts' first conservation cemetery open to all. 7 p.m. Info: Carol Coan, (413) 774-2320, cncoan@verizon.net or Sean Pollock (978) 248-2055 x16, pollock@mount-grace.org.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pat Jones & Charlie Shew*, 20th Century Roots Music, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Lawson Pomeroy* (of Orange Crush): Fear No '80's, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Robin & Linda Williams*, bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic

country. A concert to benefit the Connecticut River Watershed Council & the 17th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mark Herschler & Becca Byram*, evening of soul, funk & blues, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, blues baby, blues! 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Young Tricksters, Michael Graffius*, indie, singer/songwriter, 9:30 p.m.



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MAR. 20: Power concedes nothing without a demand. - Frederick Douglass
MAR. 27: It is part of the cure to wish to be cured. - Seneca

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



AL SOUZA PHOTO

ON THE ROAD

Annie Souza of Wendell reads her Montague Reporter in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, where she spent last week with her husband, Al, away from the winter.

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