



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 40

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 6, 2015

A Global Wind is Felt in Millers Falls



HOLMES PHOTO

Millers Falls Arts Bridge intern Khine Su (left), with summer resident artist Geng Xue of Beijing (right).

By JEN HOLMES

Millers Falls may seem an unlikely place to find Chinese contemporary art, but the Millers Falls Arts Bridge (MFAB) is changing that perception. This past month, the arts and culture organization, headed by Rick Widmer, launched its artists-in-residence program, which will provide workspace, equipment, and personal assistance to artists for 30-day durations.

The aforementioned space is currently in Widmer's home, but he and his assistants are working to renovate the recently purchased St. John's Parish church into an ideal studio environment. Widmer's mission is to redefine the church, as well as the community, and he hopes to develop a "creative economy" in the small Montague village.

Geng Xue, an artist from Beijing who specializes in ceramics and video, has been using the space on Church Street since mid-July to complete works for her upcoming exhibition, scheduled to open August 13 at the Klein Sun gallery in New York City.

Xue earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in

see RESIDENCY page A4

Large-Scale Solar Farms In Our Backyards?

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Town planner Walter Ramsey came to last week's selectboard meeting with some interesting news. The town recently issued a request for proposals (RFP) to place a solar facility on top of its former landfill off Turnpike Road. According to Ramsey, two responses were received, one of which proposed a significantly larger project, encompassing adjacent land on which the town currently intends to build its second industrial park. Such a solar farm could generate up to 7 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

At the July 27 meeting, Ramsey

suggested that the town should put out a new RFP to include the larger area. He suggested that a solar array would generate significant revenue for the town, perhaps as much as an industrial park "at full build-out," which could take up to fifteen years. Furthermore a solar array would not require the infrastructure investment by the town, as would an industrial park.

"We feel like the timing is right for solar right now," he told the board, "because there is still additional space in the Eversource queue, and companies are hungry to get projects on the ground right now

see SOLAR page A5



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

This publicly owned land south of Montague's Turnpike Road has long been intended for an industrial park, but it could end up harvesting the sun's rays.

Local Restaurateur Pistol-Whipped During After-Hours Robbery

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Ce Ce's owner Zhang Lin Hua was working after hours Sunday night at his restaurant when a woman called in a late order. He agreed to fill it, telling the customer her food would be ready for pickup in twenty minutes.

Speaking with the help of an interpreter Wednesday, in short breaks between filling orders at his busy establishment on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street, Mr. Zhang described the events that followed.

He let her in the restaurant around 11:20 p.m., but she turned and ran away. Seconds later, two men entered. One was wearing a stocking over his head and was brandishing what looked like a handgun. This man ordered him not to move, and demanded money.

Mr. Zhang says he tried to run out the door, but the men grabbed him, and the three scuffled for several minutes. He was struck two or three times in the side of the head with the butt of the gun, and the men took all the money he had in his pockets.

At that point, he said, they began arguing over whether to take the cash register, decided they didn't



JACKSON PHOTO

Zhang Lin Hua was attacked Sunday at his popular eatery.

have time, and fled.

All four bulbs on the town-owned street lamps flanking the Avenue A plaza are currently burned out. They are due for replacement soon as part of a streetscape enhancement project.

Patrons smoking outside the bar across Second Street, Between the Uprights, called the police. Mr. Zhang was bleeding profusely, and when police arrived they took him to the hospital. His injuries were all

see ROBBERY page A8

Separated by 140 Years, Two Writers Complete First Book on Wendell's History

By JOE KWIECINSKI

WENDELL – When Pam Richardson arrived here 18 years ago, she learned that the town did not have a written history completely devoted to it. This summer, that fact is no longer true: Levellers Press of Amherst has published Richardson's precisely organized and elegantly written work, *Wendell, Massachusetts, Its Settlers and Citizenry, 1752-1900*.

Wendell was mentioned in a few comprehensive histories. In the 1850's, Josiah Holland devoted a few pages to Wendell, incorporated in 1781, in his *History of Western Massachusetts*, and later, in 1879, Louis Everts wrote his *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, also setting aside a few pages featuring Wendell.

Brimming with curiosity, the highly personable Pam Richardson started looking for any material that would help her unveil the origins of her new hometown. That part of the journey would take her through the

town's vital records and the woods of the Wendell State Forest (scouting for old cellar holes), and also initiating a subscription to *ancestry.com*.

"I never originally set out to write a history of Wendell," said Richard-



PETER GALLANT PHOTO

Pam Richardson, at her Wendell home.

son. "I only wanted to know how Wendell began." The turning point occurred when she learned of notes – five volumes written mostly in 1843 and the rest between 1843 and 1863 – recorded by Thomas Sawin. That gentleman had wanted to publish the history of his town. He died in 1873, unable to find adequate funding for the project.

"Thomas' notes," said Richardson, "are a treasure trove of information about details of Wendell's past that were thought to have been lost forever; especially valuable are his maps showing locations of residents' homes, schools, and industries. When I found those notes, my notion of Wendell's history expanded exponentially. I began to think about getting it all into a book."

Richardson would later add Thomas Sawin as her co-author, giving their volume a bit of a spooky touch. Sawin's birth and death dates are listed on the cover (1810 to 1873).

see WENDELL page A7

GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gill Elementary Principal Hired; More Changes Under Way

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The search for a new principal for Gill Elementary has been swiftly concluded. In a letter to the Gill school community, superintendent Michael Sullivan announced he has hired Conor Driscoll, who has been working at Great Falls Middle School (GFMS) for the last three years as a sixth-grade English and social studies teacher, for the position.

According to the superintendent, Driscoll recently completed a master's degree program in school administration at American International College, completed his internship at GFMS, and often served as the school's sole administrator.

"Besides demonstrating his leadership capabilities in this way," Sullivan's letter said, "Conor has distinguished himself as an outstanding teacher who has a gift for connecting with students and developing engaging lessons focused on meaningful learning experiences."

Driscoll was the clear favorite of the search committee, which included two parents, two school committee members, one Gill citizen and former teacher, and three current faculty members. Sullivan said he felt the same way and so saw no reason to move ahead with multiple finalists.

see GMRSD page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Criticized Over Recent Staffing Decisions

By MARK HUDYMA

On July 27, the Erving selectboard held the third in a trilogy of gruelling meetings in Erving in which it addressed the retirement of administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. Selectboard chair Bill Bembury maintained his earlier position that "Tom retired; it didn't have anything to do with that camera."

In 2014, several cameras were installed in town hall, one of which was in the room used as an office by Sharp, as well as a meeting room, and computer server storage. Those cameras cover the entrances of every office in the building, as well as the interior of several.

Initially Sharp moved an office plant in front of his desk to block the view of the camera, but selectboard member Jacob Smith asserted it was unprofessional, and asked him to move it back. Sharp later asked the board to go into executive session to discuss his retirement.

Karen Canedy approached the selectboard first with several questions, focusing on the street crossings in town, and asking about the possibility of traffic cones to indicate intersection. The board agreed with the need, and DPW director Glenn McCrory will look into acquiring enough for all town crossings.

Next, her sister, Sharon King, inquired as to the need of cameras

see ERVING page A4

The Montague Reporter

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Spilling Over Borders

If there has been a glimmer of hope in any of the grim news coming from the Syrian civil war, which is now entering its fifth year, it is in Rojava -- a strip of territory along the country's northern border with Turkey that is hosting, under extremely difficult conditions, an experiment in direct democracy, social welfare, and gender equality.

Most of Rojava's residents are ethnic Kurds, and Rojava itself means the "west" -- the western province of an imagined Kurdistan, with counterparts in contiguous Kurdish-majority mountain regions of Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

But where their parents may have fought for a shared ethnic state, many younger Kurdish leftists, particularly in Turkey and Syria, have been talking about "democratic confederalism" as a model for liberation and peace in a part of the world long torn by ethnic, sectarian, religious and tribal conflict.

This may sound idealistic, but when the protests of the Arab Spring met with this new Kurdish left, the result was the emergence of an autonomous region -- three "cantons" in northern Syria -- united under a charter dedicated to "building a society free from authoritarianism, militarism, centralism and the intervention of religious authority in public affairs."

The world has largely ignored this, for two main reasons. The first is suspicion over its ideological roots. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which waged an armed struggle against the Turkish state for decades, is considered a terrorist group by the US and EU. Its imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan, claims to have renounced his Stalinist politics, and to regret the group's war crimes, after being exposed to the writings of the late, crotchety Vermont intellectual Murray Bookchin.

Many wrote this off as a bluff intended to soften the PKK's image, but as a result of Ocalan's declared conversion, many of the ideas long debated by Bookchin's disciples in obscure green-left journals are apparently being tried out for the first time in war-ravaged Rojava. The most powerful political party in the cantons, the Democratic Union Party (PYD), is directly affiliated with the PKK.

The American writer David Graeber, among others, visited the region and came back convinced that a social revolution is under way in Rojava. Graeber described

multi-ethnic popular assemblies, women's and youth councils, and a serious attempt to build a "co-operative economy".

Resources abandoned by the Syrian oligarchy were being administered communally, he said, and an intensive popular education system had been introduced, with the goal of "deprofessionalization of knowledge to prevent the emergence of new technocratic classes."

(Readers struggling to run small co-ops in our sleepy, verdant neck of the woods should think long and hard about what it must be like to do all that among refugee camps, and in the shadow of fighter jets.)

The second reason all this has been largely ignored is that the world is transfixed by fear. The movement that calls itself the Islamic State (IS) gained control over a much broader swath of Syria in the same time frame, and its vision for the cities of the Middle East is nearly the opposite of that held by the partisans of Rojava.

The revolutionary Kurds may have widespread sympathy, but not for their ideas -- merely for the fact that they're the brave kids on the front lines against the brutal, fundamentalist carpetbaggers. And they've been stuck between a rock and a hard place, because by all signs, the Turkish government wants to see them fail in their fight.

Turkey is a NATO member, and its ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) is both pro-business and Islamist. It has allowed in a great number of refugees from Syria (over a million, including hundreds of thousands of Kurds), and at the same time turned a blind eye to flows of IS recruits migrating from Europe to Syria.

And it has certainly soft-pedaled the war on IS -- to the point where many Kurdish groups in Turkey accuse their government of colluding with the self-declared caliphate in order to weaken their domestic rebellion. The spillover from the Syrian conflict has destabilized what had been a promising peace process with the PKK.

Because, against all expectation, Rojava's Kurds, and the international brigades that have joined with them, have been winning in battle. This winter they withstood a six-month IS siege of the border city of Kobani, and since then they have been gaining territory more or less steadily.

In June, Turkish president Er-



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

"Town hall made me buy apple-picking insurance, but it's worth it."

Letters to the Editors

Itty-Bitty Finance Committee

In recent months two members of Montague's Finance Committee have resigned, reducing our number below the minimum of five for conducting business.

Our bylaws allow the Committee to have as many as seven members, and the town benefits from a broad representation of voters.

Appointments are made by the town Moderator, Ray Godin (863-8585 or ray.godin@comcast.net).

Interested town voters can also contact Mike Naughton, Greg Garrison or me about the Committee's meeting schedule and operations.

If you've been interested in becoming part of town government, this is an opportunity to contribute in an important way.

John Hanold, Chair
Montague Finance Committee

dogan was rebuffed in general elections, when a pro-Kurdish party won enough votes to deny the AKP a strong majority. Erdogan had promised that if his party controlled the parliament, he would rewrite the constitution to consolidate executive power.

Perhaps noticing the contrast between his \$615 million palace and the ragtag utopians fending off the Islamic State without his support, voters balked at the idea.

Which brings us up to two weeks ago, when everything turned a corner into the unknown.

A delegation of about 300 solidarity activists, organized by the youth wing of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed, had gathered on July 20 at a cultural center in the town of Suruc, on the Turkish side of the border, in anticipation of a trip to help reconstruction efforts in Kobani. They would be building playgrounds, planting food, and bringing international moral support to war-weary Rojava.

"The values of Kobani are the values of the Gezi resistance," read the call to participate in this trip, connecting the Kurdish experiments in war-zone democracy with 2013's Occupy-style protest movement in Istanbul. The delegation was a diverse assortment of students, leftists, LGBT, pro-Kurdish, and environmental activists.

Tragically, an IS supporter infiltrated the gathering and detonated a cluster bomb, killing 33 and injuring over 100. The most recent to pass away, a young anarchist named Vatan Budak, died from his injuries on Tuesday.

The Turkish government briefly shut down Twitter in the aftermath of the attack, then let it go back up -- it could not repress the fact that the spark had lit the powder keg.

In the past two weeks:

- The PKK, convinced the Turkish state facilitated the suicide bombing at Suruc, retaliated with a wave of killings of police and soldiers in Turkey's east.

- Turkey began allowing the US to use its territory to launch airstrikes on Syrian sites, and has itself launched strikes for the first time.

- The US and Turkey announced a plan to create a ground "buffer zone" along the Turkish-Syrian border.

- The British newspaper *The Observer* published an expose of Turkish collusion with the IS.

- Turkey, announcing the peace process was over, bombed Kurdish positions in Iraq and Syria, and arrested over 800 PKK members.

- Someone bombed a major pipeline carrying natural gas from Iran into Turkey.

- Someone bombed a major pipeline carrying crude oil from

CORRECTION

A headline to the Erving Police dispatch log in our July 23 issue incorrectly indicated that three people had been "arrested" on June 30 for allegedly trespassing.

The three were issued criminal complaints -- an important distinction.

Our apologies for the error, which was ours alone.

Iraq into Turkey.

- Someone bombed a pipeline carrying gas from Azerbaijan through Georgia into Turkey.

- Erdogan speculated publicly Monday that Russian support for Syria's Assad regime may not last, but officially, US-Russia talks on building an anti-IS coalition are held upon the question of support for the regime.

- Turkish tanks are assembling along the Syrian border.

- The nonprofit group Airwars published a report that US airstrikes in Syria have killed between 459 and 591 civilians in the past year, in contradiction to the Pentagon's somewhat lower estimate of 2.

- The EU and US publicly called on Turkey to exercise restraint in its attacks on Kurdish rebels.

None of this bodes well for the fighters in Rojava.

An all-out three-way conflict in the region is likely to set the Kurdish freedom movement back a decade, strengthening old-guard nationalist guerillas within the PKK at the expense of experiments in radical democracy and feminism.

At the same time, the credibility and appeal of the Islamic State will only be strengthened in Syria, when their main enemy is represented by Western bombing sorties, which represent no alternative world at all.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Newt Guilbault Fall Baseball signups are on Thursday, August 6, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesday, August 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the concession stand at the Newt Guilbault fields, located off Montague Street (at Crocker Ave.) in Turners Falls.

Registration is \$50 per player and this includes a team shirt and hat. The league is open to all children, ages 7 to 12, from any city or town.

The season starts the first weekend in September, and all games are played on Saturdays and Sundays. If you have any questions please contact the league president, Eric, at (413) 824-0901.

Come learn more about what we can do to make Massachusetts nuclear free: Citizens Awareness Network is organizing a forum, **East Meets West**, on Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at GCTV studio at 393 Main Street in Greenfield.

East Meets West will develop strategies to shutter the Pilgrim nuclear reactor in Plymouth, MA, and replace it with safe, green, sustainable energy solutions. Pilgrim, owned by Entergy, is a 43-year-old reactor on the NRC's watch list. With the success in shutting Vermont Yankee, it's time for the tri-state community to

kick Entergy out of New England.

Representatives from Cape Downwinders, Pilgrim Watch, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Citizens Awareness Network will participate in the forum.

Join artist Linda Ruel Flynn of Flora-Ly at Mount Grace's Skyfields Arboretum office at 1461 Old Keene Road in Athol on Saturday, August 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. for a **Wildflower Pressing Workshop**.

Flynn will teach how to select and press wildflowers to make memorable botanical collages. After picking and pressing flowers on Saturday, attendees will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, to arrange their dried flowers, creating a small collage.

The workshop is free to Mount Grace members, with a \$10 fee for non-members. The workshop is limited to 15 people ages 14 and up. You must RSVP in advance to save a spot, whether you are a member or not, by contacting Mount Grace development manager David Kotker at (978) 248-2055 x19 or kotker@mountgrace.org.

This week, August 6 and 9, mark the **70th anniversary of the atomic bombings** in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

In commemoration of this date, the New England Peace Pagoda in

Leverett is hosting the world premiere of a documentary entitled *The New Hibakusha*. Produced and directed by Montague-based filmmaker Jesse Barrett-Mills, the film looks at the impact of the Fukushima nuclear disaster in a country still coping with the legacy of the atomic bombing.

The project will be shown for the first time in public at the temple in Leverett. The screening will be free to the public, with the opportunity to meet the filmmaker afterwards. The date of the screening is Saturday, August 8 and will start at 7 p.m. For more information about the project, please visit www.thenewhibakusha.com.

The **Coalition for Racial Justice (CoRaJus)** is sponsoring a film and discussion series at the Brick House, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. The events are free and open to the public.

This Sunday, August 9, they will screen *Ferguson: A Report from Occupied Territory*; on August 16, *Red Cry*, a 2013 feature-length documentary on the genocide of the Lakota people; and on August 23, *The Mike Brown Rebellion*, about the Black Lives Matter movement.

Screenings are at 4 p.m. and are followed by a talking stick discussion. If you need a ride to The Brick House or can offer one, call Scott at (413) 665-2041.

Come learn about Greenfield Community College on Saturday, August 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Greenfield Savings Bank, 258 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Prospective students and their families are invited to learn GCC's admission process, explore the variety of degree and certificate programs GCC has to offer, and realize the many transfer opportunities available, and how you can earn a bachelor's degree on the Greenfield Campus.

Informational packets and brochures will be available during this recruitment event. For further details about the event contact the Admissions Office at (413) 775-1801 or admissions@gcc.mass.edu.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting an **open artist reception** for *Great Gods and Little Fishes*, by Charles Shaw on Saturday, August 15, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The newest paintings by the Northfield artist are created through a direct process, exclusively from plaster and recycled materials.

The **7th Annual Gathering of Franklin County Technical School**

Alumni Association is Saturday, August 15. The event begins at 4 p.m. and will feature a chicken BBQ dinner, live music and cash bar. It will be held at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, at 210 Turners Falls Road, Montague.

Advance tickets are \$12 and \$14 at the door. Call the club at 863-3748 for ticket info, or visit www.fctsalumni.org.

Is a loved one struggling with addiction? You're not alone, and there are resources to support you.

Come to the seminar, **Tools for Families**, at the GCC Dining Commons on Tuesday, August 18 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to all in the community. For more info, call (413) 834-3161.

Save the date: Saturday, August 22 is **Wendell Old Home Day**. There will also be a large tag sale on the Wendell Common sponsored by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

Items available will include antiques, collectibles, furniture, framed art, household items (including dishes, small appliances and kitchen utensils), camping gear, baby gear, as well as many other items for all members of the family. The Library Director will also offer a selection of vintage hardcovers and audio CDs. The sale will run from 10 to 2, and absolutely no one will be allowed to purchase items before 10 – no early birds!

The **Greater Greenfield Jaycees** are planning a reunion for October at the Montague Elks. They are asking for help finding all Jaycees and Jaycettes who were members. They need addresses, emails, and phone numbers.

This will be a great chance to get old friends together. Please contact T.J. Strahan at tstra35675@aol.com or (413) 772-0635. You can also contact Maurice and Terry at (413) 773-3917.

Just a reminder. **Free Breakfasts and Lunches** are still available for children age 18 and under, as part of the Gill-Montague Regional Schools Summer Meals Program, from now through **August 14** at the three following locations: the Turners Falls High School & Great Falls Middle School cafeteria; Unity Park; and Sheffield Elementary School.

Breakfast is served from 8 to 9 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meals are served Monday through Friday.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

OLD PICKLE ART RAFFLE!

Peter Reich, a Leverett subscriber and writer, has donated to us this framed *Crashing Tower Pickles* label, which we will be putting to raffle this month. The collective cannery, which operated for one season in 1976, grew and pickled under the slogan "May our Cukes Always be Nukeless," and their product was distributed by Llama, Toucan & Crow. Some of our readers may have been implicated.

We haven't quite worked out the details, but we plan to have the prize for your admiration at our August 15 fundraiser at *Deja Brew* (see ad at left), and we'll pull a lucky winner in September.



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ERVING from page A1

in town hall. Bembury explained that there are both important records and occasionally large amounts of cash in the office. Additionally, he said it is "considered a public meeting space," and should thus be recorded.

"What was being captured was minutes from executive sessions in that filing cabinet," added Jacob Smith.

"An important book was stolen from another room? It just doesn't make sense," responded Canedy.

"The townspeople are upset because cameras – pressure – forced Tom to retire prematurely," said King.

"We gave him options which he did not take. The reason Tom isn't here is because he retired," replied Bembury.

"It is my personal belief," said selectboard member Art Johnson, "that it was a combination of five or six people: Margaret Sullivan, Jacquelyn Boyden, the treasurer's office, the assessor's office..."

"Art," Boyden interrupted, "I had an employee resolution with Tom because he acted inappropriately... He was not a saint. You who have not worked with him for twelve years ought to think about that. There were similar incidents in the office. He retired, got a good severance package to retire, and he's happy. You gave him options. You three knew nothing about it. 'I want an exit strategy?' You asked him if he wanted it.... Bill asked him, at least three times at that meeting. He retired, and got paid well for it.

"Do not throw my name in the mud," she continued. "You can't do that when you're a public official."

Sharp's retirement package includes six months of paid administrative leave, and a liquidation of sick and vacation time.

"The only reason I voted for that package is that I asked Tom," said Johnson, "and he said he wanted to leave."

"We made a decision in the office to have surveillance cameras in this building," said Bembury. "We are the employer, Tom is the employee."

"I think that's the frustration folks are feeling," said resident Eric Duffy. "There's a lot of mistrust. You guys are sticking to your guns. More and more people are getting upset, they don't trust where the board is going.... Tom told me that the camera was the reason he stepped down."

Senior Center Director

The contentious discussion spilled over into the recent hire of a director at the town's senior and community center.

"You put it out there that you wanted an interim, but never put it out there that you wanted a full-time position," offered Canedy.

"The board made a decision to

hire Paula [Bettors]," said Bembury.

"People want to know, if they have the qualification, why they never got a chance to apply for that job," Canedy replied.

"The option was to appoint that person," said Smith. "We're not obligated to repost that legally. Our meetings are open; we encourage you to participate. If people are here while we make decisions, we include them in the discussion."

Nevertheless, the board indicated that the controversy over the hiring of Bettors led them to seek a more transparent process to fill the administrative coordinator position. Bembury outlined the process for filling that position, which will include a seven-member hiring committee and will be conducted by UMass-Boston's Collins Center for Public Management.

"I felt like the qualifications weren't met," Johnson said of the senior center position, "but that's why you have a three-man board."

Of Sharp's replacement, Johnson said, "Bill has made a real effort to make sure it's an open process. We're hiring an outside firm from Boston, so it's not 'who you know,' and we can be sure to get the most qualified person for the job."

"I'm questioning the process by which she got that job," said Canedy. "I think that process is broken – the process can't just be someone who is 'in'."

"There's a feeling that if you're someone's cousin, you've got the job."

Usher Mill

Before addressing the issue of Tom's retirement, the board heard a report from the Usher Mill Reuse Committee. The group compiled several suggestions for possible rehabilitation on the property that could be done by the town before the major redevelopment of the property over the next two years.

The plans called for sandblasting, removing a large tree, and commissioning murals by GCC students to be placed in the boarded up windows.

Renovator's Supply

Selectboard members suggested the Renovator's Supply building may be harboring dangerous storage or illegal businesses. The board requested a list of every tenant currently using the former factory building, in order to conform with emergency safety requirements, and updates whenever that changes.

It was noted any business operating in the town for longer than thirty days must get a business license at town hall.

It was recently revealed there was a charter school operating in the building, unknown to town officials.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Officers Unable to Locate Driveway Repair Man

Monday, 7/13

3:30 p.m. Report of loose dog near Erving Elementary School. Animal control officer located and secured.

Wednesday, 7/15

7:15 a.m. Assisted Erving highway on North Street for tree on wires, Verizon contacted.

10:39 p.m. Complaint of gun shot or fireworks on Ridge Road, area clear.

Friday, 7/17

7:35 a.m. Property damage at Lillians Way, report taken.

Saturday, 7/18

3:54 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Laurel Lake campground.

Wednesday, 7/22

9:30 a.m. 911 call from Laurel Lake bath house. Found to be a child playing with the phone. Spoke with child about

the use of 911.

Thursday, 7/23

11:40 a.m. Assisted Erving Fire Department with small brush fire on Paper Mill Road.

10:37 p.m. Illegally parked camper towed from Laurel Lake.

Saturday, 7/25

7:20 p.m. Report of identity fraud taken.

Sunday 7/26

3:45 p.m. Assisted with rollover motor vehicle crash on Route 2 in Farley Flats area.

7:45 p.m. Report of several subjects drinking and skinny dipping under Dorsey Road walking bridge, subjects were advised to leave area.

Monday, 7/27

8:25 p.m. Assisted with crash on Route 2 and Dorsey Road.

Tuesday, 7/28

1:30 p.m. Report of

door-to-door driveway repair salesman. Unable to locate.

3:50 p.m. Call of remains found near Paper Mill Road. Found to be animal remains.

Friday, 7/31

9:17 a.m. Crash at Route 2 Dunkin Donuts, same under investigation.

1:28 p.m. Crash on Prospect Street. Motor vehicle hit hydrant, report taken.

11:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with report of teenagers at Alexander Hill Road.

Saturday, 8/1

8: p.m. Report of deer lying in travel lane on Route 2. Same removed.

Sunday, 8/2

2:50 a.m. Noise complaint near Weatherheads Apartments, quiet on arrival.

RESIDENCY from page A1

fine arts from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, and has exhibited work in the US and internationally. She has also participated in residency programs in Asia and Europe, but was drawn to the MFAB residency as she enjoyed the thought of being a "pioneer" of the program, and also wished to support her friend Widmer, whom she met in Beijing a few years ago.

Her latest exhibition, titled "Borrowing the East Wind," incorporates ceramic sculpture, video, and photography to explore her culture's concept of wind and how it is closely tied to sound.

Xue explains that in Chinese culture, there are three types of sounds – human, earthly, and heavenly – and that these various sounds exist as the result of wind traveling through empty spaces, whether that space be a musical instrument or some part of the earth's shape, such as a cave or valley.

Tian lai, or heavenly sound, however, is a more abstract concept, as it represents "the force that creates wind and causes every hole to produce sound". It is primarily this type of wind that Xue explores in her work.

The sculptural portion of her exhibition references the spaces between objects, or "invisible shapes," which "exist everywhere, but are seldom noticed". Her ceramic sculptures, painted with a layered sky-like blue, show what Xue imagines the space between trees and buildings, and various other landscapes, would look like with mass. These sculptures make visible an aspect of the natural world that is essentially invisible and, thus, often ignored.

Her film and photographs include images of spaces, or holes, in various locations that evoke the concept of wind. She filmed much of this in Beijing, which she felt was "borrowing the wind," for her US exhibition, but also filmed in New York and Montague.

Xue will incorporate images of all three locations, painting the photographs with an ethereal blue simi-

lar to that found on her sculptures.

Xue is still in the process of editing her video footage, but it will likely illuminate, through sound and images, the beauty and mystery of heavenly sounds.

By filming in both the US and China, Xue aims to explore the idea of a "global wind". Despite the differences she has noted between the value systems in Chinese and American cultures, Xue says she feels that wind is universal and the "same to all cultures," as it is uninfluenced by media or cultural differences.

By focusing on natural occurrences that are much greater than man-made concepts, Xue aims to reveal connections between cultures, rather than instill or perpetuate differences. Overall, she says, she hopes to inspire questions in the viewer about the connections, not differences, between contemporary cultures and does not seek to provide answers or conclusion, but rather begin a conversation.

Xue's work is an excellent introduction to the Millers Falls Arts Bridge artist-in-residence program. Through her work, she highlights connections between seemingly disparate locales by seeking out unnoticed, yet constant and universal, aspects of the natural world. She seems concerned with exploring similarities and transcending the confines of culture, particularly in the modern world.

Xue cites classical Chinese literature and Renaissance artists – particularly Michelangelo – as major influences on her work.

When discussing her fascination with the Renaissance, Xue explained that she is inspired by the attitude of that time to appreciate and celebrate a society's past, while also using that knowledge to work towards a more advanced future.

Perhaps that spirit is what drew Geng Xue to the Millers Falls Arts Bridge program. The program appears to be focused on appreciating and reviving the area's past, while also finding new ways to enrich and improve the community through art.



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GOOD USED USABLES

SOLAR from page A1

because the federal tax credit is due to expire at the end of 2016.”

Ramsey also pointed out a key advantage of the new idea: a solar array would not require natural gas. The town is currently facing a moratorium on new gas customers imposed by the Berkshire Gas Company, pending the construction of a controversial transmission pipeline through the county.

Selectboard member Rich Kukiewicz raised a note of caution, noting that increased tax revenue is not the only benefit of an industrial park. “There is the benefit of the businesses in town,” he said, “the additional employees. I’m concerned because we don’t have a large amount of industrial land.

“If we had another 163-acre parcel... I would say sure. But I am concerned that we only have a limited amount.”

Finance committee chair John Hanold noted that while a solar array would require less investment from the town, a solar project leased at a fixed annual rate would mean that the town would not receive benefits from any positive change in the economic climate:

“Any benefit would go to the developer. The town does not have the opportunity to work with and manage our own industrial development.”

Ramsey said that issuing a new RFP would at least allow the town to obtain “concrete numbers” to evaluate solar versus industrial development.

The selectboard, without taking any formal vote, gave its “blessing” for town hall to seek proposals.

Opposition from Residents

While opposition to a proposed natural gas pipeline through Franklin County grows, large-scale solar projects are now on the table in many towns in the region. Solar energy is often cited as a viable, and more benign, alternative to natural gas as a means of generating electricity. But it is not clear whether the numbers would add up.

Ann Berwick, former chair of the state’s Department of Public Utilities, has estimated that the regional electrical grid will lose at least 3,200 MW in retiring coal and nuclear generating capacity over the next few years. New England ISO, which administers the grid (and has consistently advocated for increased natural gas pipeline capacity) has estimated that over 5,000 MW of new production will be needed by 2020.

The current statewide goal for total solar production by that date is 1,600 MW.

Still, recent history suggests that the growth of solar power has vastly exceeded expectations. In 2010, when state solar incentives were liberalized, Massachusetts set a target of 400 MW of solar-generated electricity by 2020.

That seemed like an ambitious goal at the time but, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, in 2014 alone Massachusetts added 308 MW of solar power, to reach a total of 751 MW. Current estimates suggest that the 1,600-MW goal could be reached well before the 2020 target date, particularly if a cap that restricts solar development were lifted.

Large-scale solar projects show the promise of solar development,

but also the reality that ambitious projects can encounter strong local opposition. Many homeowners do not want large-scale arrays in their backyard, and such projects raise some of the same environmental impacts very much like those associated with a natural gas pipeline.

In Shutesbury, a proposed 6-MW project slated for 30 acres of forested land has encountered strong opposition from neighbors. The project, proposed by Lake Street Development Partners LLC of Chicago, would be located on land owned by the Cowsls lumber company on Pratt Corner Road.

Lake Street has also proposed another 6-MW project on 18 acres in Deerfield, which recently received a variance from that town’s Zoning Board of Appeals.

A group called the Alliance for Appropriate Development, claiming the Shutesbury proposal would “mostly clear cut thirty acres of land,” has urged the town to impose a moratorium on large-scale solar projects pending the creation of a solar bylaw.

A press release from the group, which hosted a forum last month to discuss the proposal, raises questions “about the process that went into choosing this tract, about the storm water plans and lack of detail, about the plans to stabilize the soil to prevent erosion...” The release also cited the potential impact of the project on potential vernal pools, and called for “site-specific surveys of endangered fauna.”

Lake Street managing director Marnin Lebovitz initially suggested that the proposed moratorium “would basically kill the project.”

However, in a recent telephone interview he stated that he felt “compromise” solutions to address these concerns and allow the project to move forward could be reached. “We’re working with the town and with the neighbors,” he said.

There has been some confusion about the local process for considering the project. The opposition alliance has proposed both a moratorium on solar development pending a bylaw, and a draft bylaw itself. Both are slated to be considered at Shutesbury’s annual town meeting next spring. Both proposals are also being heard by the town planning board, which is deliberating on a special permit request by the developers under present zoning regulations.

As of this writing, the planning board will hold a “combined hearing” on the moratorium and bylaw on September 9, and a hearing on the special permit on September 21. According to town administrator Rebecca Torres, legal counsel has stated that the special permit could be approved, pending town meeting consideration of the moratorium and bylaw.

Opposition from Utilities

It is also possible that none of these local solar projects will come to fruition if the state does not lift “net metering caps” on solar projects. Net metering is the core policy that determines how solar electric generation is reimbursed by electric utilities. Both large-scale and smaller rooftop solar users receive credits for electricity they send to the regional grid.

State law caps net metering at a percentage of a given utility’s “high-

est historical peak load.” The cap is 5% for public, and 4% for private projects. The Shutesbury project is being proposed to serve National Grid, which has already reached its cap. Montague’s project would fall under Eversource’s cap, which could be reached by the end of this year.

There is a vocal statewide movement, led by the growing solar industry, to lift these net metering caps. Utilities, and some manufacturing interests, have opposed lifting the caps in their current form, arguing that the infrastructure that supports solar power is subsidized by customers without solar.

A special task force on net metering, which issued a report in May, was divided on the issue. While the majority of task force members supported lifting the caps, representatives of Eversource, National Grid and the Associated Industries of Massachusetts opposed it. The Baker administration has also opposed lifting the cap, pending a plan “to reform the state’s solar incentive system in a balanced manner.”

On July 23, the Massachusetts state senate unanimously passed a clean energy bill that would, among other provisions, lift the caps until the state reaches a target of 1,600 MW of solar production. The bill is now being considered by the House, which will not act until September. Last week, Baker announced that he would file separate legislation to address the net metering issue.

Extremely complex energy issues will be at the forefront of local, state and federal policy in the coming months. Stay informed – they could well have an impact on your backyard.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Less Than a Half Day of Mowing

By JENNY T. ABELES

The July 27 meeting of the Gill selectboard began at 5:30 with Amy Gordon, chair of the forest task committee, issuing a well-reasoned request for the town’s highway department to assume responsibility for mowing the fields of the town forest, specifically 2-1/2 acres on the east side of Hoe Shop Road and 7 acres on the west side. Without mowing, the fields will themselves become forest, and to date they have been mowed on a volunteer basis.

Randy Crochier raised the point that a volunteer mower working on town property could be a liability for the town, and highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire assured selectboard members that it would take less than half a day of work.

Selectboard members agreed that the forest provides a benefit to the town at minimum cost, and voted unanimously to grant the department license to mow as frequently as they deem necessary.

Kyle Kendell, from the Gill Fire Department, requested a purchase order for a “Rescue Randy” mannequin to be used for fire-fighter training purposes. The department reckons that a 165 lb. mannequin costing \$1,134 would best suit their needs. The life of “Rescue Randy” is likely to be from 15 to 20 years.

To date, fire-fighters have been using a live person in their training sessions, which is both inadequate and potentially dangerous for many reasons. It is neither feasible nor practical to borrow one from a neigh-

boring department.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of loaning the mannequin to other departments, resolved by the suggestion that more regionalized training sessions could be a better idea.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington indicated that MIA Insurance might cover the cost, and failing that, selectboard members mentioned that the mannequin could be purchased with funds already allocated to the fire department training budget.

Crochier motioned to authorize Purington to follow up with the MIA grant if possible, and the purchase order was granted unanimously.

LaClaire requested funds to repair both town dump trucks.

The first requires a piston replacement costing \$1,945 plus \$300 labor. John Ward inquired into the general state of the truck, and after being assured of its soundness, suggested that it be appraised when it goes in for the repair. Selectboard members voted to repair the truck.

The second dump truck requires a more expensive repair, a welding job on its plow. The selectboard discussed with LaClaire the comparative merits of fixing this plow or buying a new one with an understated tone of urgency, everyone agreeing on the importance of resolving the issue before winter. Snedeker mentioned that there is a fund set aside for the maintenance of this truck.

LaClaire assured the board that he would provide them with the figures for repairs to this truck and the cost of a new one well in advance of the

next meeting, so they could vote on a resolution then.

The meeting then focused on old business.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo and Ronnie LaChance brought bids from three local builders (Renaissance, Augustine, and Waldron) to repair walls – including baseboards, heating fixtures, and windows – in the town hall. Gauging the best bid was difficult given varying interpretations by the individual contractors of the work required. The selectboard agreed to postpone a vote until receiving clarification from two of the builders regarding windows, insulation, and other details.

The minutes of July 13’s meeting were read and approved, and project updates were given by Ray Purington:

- The price of LED streetlights has increased since the town’s initial inquiry.
- The sump pump and dehumidifier in the town’s wet wall has been replaced.
- Work is moving forward on the roof of the safety complex, with a start date of August 31.
- The elementary school well engineering contract is under review at USDA.

Finally, in an effort to complete necessary repairs on the town police cruiser, Purington has received word from the City of Greenfield that they will sell their 2005 cruiser for parts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The board’s next meeting is August 10.

RUMORS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Sharp Turns

Owing to a sudden but mercifully short illness the *Reporter* was unable to stock the Leverett selectboard meeting of July 28 with a reporter, but town administrator Marjorie McGinnis was kind enough to debrief us afterward.

Here are the main ideas, according to Margie:

- Kip Fonsh brought the school regionalization issue to the meeting. The selectboard approved putting the issue to a town vote at annual town meeting next spring.
- A bridge on North Leverett Road, just over the border in Montague, has been closed to heavy trucks. The trucks have been redirected to Cave Hill Road, but

are having difficulty making the sharp turns there. Highway superintendent Will Stratford felt that the MassDOT should commit to repairing the bridge.

• The well committee met with the board to discuss their ongoing debate on how to handle the homes on Teawaddle Hill Road which are monitored for water quality.

One option is to pursue an agreement with Amherst to work out the cost of connecting those homes to the Amherst water supply. The other option was finding a suitable location to construct new individual wells to connect to the homes.

• The municipal broadband project is very nearly complete.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Center School Sale: Delayed Again!

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has delayed the closing of the sale of the Montague Center School building until August 31. This action was taken at the request of developer Mark Zaccheo who informed town planner Walter Ramsey that bank approval of the financing of the proposed apartment project had not yet been completed.

The project will transform the former school into a 22-unit apartment complex. Zaccheo's projects are widely praised for their high levels of energy efficiency, but this project has encountered numerous delays and significant community opposition since it was proposed more than two years ago. Critics have argued that an apartment complex of this size will change the character of the Montague Center neighborhood.

Originally the sale was to be completed by the end of last winter, but was delayed until July. The initial extension date on the most recent selectboard agenda was August 13, but an email from Zaccheo stated that the closing "was not likely to occur" before August 15, and might have to be extended to the end of the month.

According to Ramsey, the bank has some "comments" on the required Land Development Agreement which the town needed to review. The issues are not major, he said, but it has not been possible to "expedite the time frame."

Tom Bergeron, head of Montague's Department of Public Works, raised concerns about the building's underground oil tank, which has been the subject of much discussion and negotiation. The town is required to remove the tank three days before the closing. Bergeron noted that the contractor hired to remove the tank "has been put off twice," and that he was hesitant to reschedule the work yet again. He also noted that if the sale falls through, the tank would be needed for the coming winter.

The board discussed oil tank options, including the "worst case scenario," but in the end voted to extend the closing date until August 31. A stipulation was added to the motion, suggested by town counsel, that "this is the last and final extension."

Training Recommended

During the meeting's initial public comment period, Turners Falls resident Aiyana Masla stated that due to recent "racial tensions," both national and local, she felt it was "imperative that an adequate anti-racism, racial sensitivity training be provided" to the police force and all town employees. Masla

gave the board a list of "local resources" that could provide such training.

Rodney Madison, a downtown businessman, complained that he had tried to get on the selectboard agenda to raise the issue without success. He stated that a specific complaint against the police department had been rejected and that a request to discuss racial sensitivity training at a selectboard meeting had been ignored.

Selectboard chair Michael Nelson said that he had been confused about what Madison had been requesting, but that "we're on it... you will have at least written documentation before the next meeting."

Panels and Banks

In other news, Ramsey informed the board that there had been two responses to a request for proposals (RFP) for a solar project on the former landfill off of Sandy Lane. One proposal had offered to expand the project to include much of the area currently designated for an industrial park.

Ramsey suggested that the town issue a new RFP for a more ambitious solar project. The RFP would be issued on Wednesday, July 29 and would be due on August 28. The board gave Ramsey its "blessing," but did not vote on the matter.

Ramsey also requested that the board issue a "notice to proceed" on the Millers Falls Road bank stabilization project to GEG Construction of Springfield. There was a brief discussion of whether the board could legally reject the bid in favor of a more local company, but it was decided to stay with GEG.

Build or Get Off the Lot

Ramsey requested that the board enforce the deed restrictions and covenants on a parcel of land in the airport industrial park that prohibit speculation. Companies purchasing property in the park must complete construction within 18 months of purchase.

Ramsey stated that River Bluff Realtors, LLC, had purchased a parcel in 2012 and received permits, but so far had made "no progress" on development. Permits issued by the planning board have expired. The company did not respond to a request to attend a Selectboard meeting in June to discuss the issue. The board voted to authorize the chair to notify River Bluff that the town was prepared to enforce the covenants.

Zoning for the Living

Ramsey requested that the board support a zoning change for lot 22 in Millers Falls. The proposal would change the designation of the property from its current "Pub-



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Many traditional handcrafted items were on sale and display at the Pocumtuck Homeland Festival at Unity Park in Turners Falls last weekend. The event was well attended, and everyone seemed interested in getting to know more about the history of Native Americans in our towns.

lic, Semi-Public Status" to "Neighborhood Business."

The property is the location of a church building that new owner Richard Widmer proposes to turn into a residency for artists from Beijing, China. Ramsey stated that the only new use allowed under the current designation would be a cemetery.

The board voted to support the change, which will need to go through a hearing process and be approved by town meeting.

Bad News for School Boiler

Chris Mason and Sally Pick of the Montague Energy Committee (MEC) came to update the board on the status of boiler repairs and an energy audit at Sheffield Elementary School. A new backup boiler proposed by the school district was rejected by the May town meeting in favor of a temporary backup and a comprehensive energy audit.

According to Pick and Mason, the grant for the audit has not been approved. More importantly, a plan to apply for a Green Communities Grant to fund the heating upgrade may not be possible, because the current project funded by the state grant – a Shea Theater HVAC replacement – may not be completed before the next funding cycle.

"We were wondering if you guys have any ideas on how to move the Shea Theater faster," said Mason. "...if you can suggest anyone we could talk to, to move the Shea Theater faster. Otherwise the board might need to go to town meeting to pay the full cost of the project."

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz asked if the company that currently services the boilers had been contacted for ideas. Mason said the MEC and the school district could pursue that option.

Joanne Blier, the business manager of the school district, stated that "we've had a lot of discussions with our vendor, but I can check to see if

that particular question was asked."

As far as the Shea HVAC system is concerned, Ramsey stated the project would not go out to bid until the beginning of August. The heating upgrade is connected to a roof repair which would be problematic during the winter months. Kuklewicz suggested investigating tenting the roof for cold weather work. "That's the type of job I rarely say can never be done," said Kuklewicz. "But there is a cost."

Responsibility Corroding

Robert Trombley, superintendent of the town's Water Pollution Control Facility, came before the board to discuss a problem with a conduit which contains the power cable for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) system. The CSO, which regulates and treats sewer overflow that might otherwise pollute the Connecticut River, was installed in 2009.

Trombley showed photographs of badly corroded and collapsed piping. Trombley stated that the problem was caused by the "flowable fill" that contains the conduit, which has been "settling."

"Looks like you have holes everywhere," said selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Trombley stated that town administrator Frank Abbondanzio believed that the contractor's responsibility for the conduit, which was installed in October of 2009, was six years: "So we're right on the doorstep of that six-year period expiring." He said he had sent two emails to town counsel, but "no one has gotten back to me yet." Trombley did not request any immediate action by the board.

Other Business

Two local businesses – Food City and the Black Cow Burger restaurant – came before the board as a result of selling alcohol to un-

derage customers during a police department "sting" operation. In both cases the board voted to assess a one-day liquor license suspension, to be put on hold for twelve months.

Parks and Recreation director John Dobosz requested, and the board approved, the establishment of a gift account for the community garden at Unity Park.

The board held three "pole location" hearings. Bill Leblanc, representative of the electric company Eversource, proposed the construction and placement of a total of 11 poles. Nine of these were in the Chestnut Hill area, so they could well add to the cost of the broadband project currently being considered in that area.

Department of Public Works superintendent Tom Bergeron requested that the board endorse two task orders for services from the engineering consulting firm CDM Smith. The first, for \$50,000, was for "cleaning, repairing and relining projects" and for "the flume area that we are trying to get cleaned out and repaired." The second (\$31,500) was so "we can put all our sewer systems on a GIS plan." The board approved both requests.

The board voted to disburse \$5,400, the last payment, for the senior center planning study.

Michael Nelson was voted to represent Montague on the council of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

The board announced that \$374,909 from the 2015 Community Development Block Grant would be used to finance low-income housing rehab work in Lake Pleasant, a recreation master plan in the same village, and two social service programs: Meals on Wheels, and childcare for English learners at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

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WENDELL from page A1

"After a decade of looking into the history of Wendell," said Pam, "I had amassed a file cabinet of notes. And I was aware of the fact that Thomas Sawin had died before he could publish his notes. And I didn't want to pass away before getting his and mine out into the world."

"I read through all of Thomas' notes, and some of them were barely legible. It was painstaking but exciting work, like searching for buried treasure on each page. But, above all, I really wanted Thomas to be recognized for his labors. Together he and I paint a fuller picture than either one of us could have done individually."

Richardson tells the story of Wendell through the biographies of some of its citizens from 1752 to 1900, touching on key elements in the life of the town and its people. Many of the settlers came from Lancaster, Massachusetts, establishing themselves where no white people had colonized in this forest. Wendell was a town that developed as settlers were moving from east to west. "They took everything they could from the land, mostly timber," she said, "and kept on going west."

Wendell's peak population occurred in 1815 when the town had close to 1,000 inhabitants. The tally decreased until 1960, when the count was down to 292. Today Wendell is a town of about 800 residents, and its population is once again increasing.

"I also tried to highlight important events," said Richardson, "in the time period I was writing about. I wanted to include material about Revolutionary War soldiers, Shay's Rebellion, the different

churches and religions in our town, and, of course, the Civil War." The book also includes many unusual climatic events that occurred in 18th and 19th century Wendell.

Richardson feels that Joshua Green was Wendell's "man for all seasons." She said, "He did so much for the people of this town." Indeed, Green served Wendell as a selectman for three decades, a senator, a judge, justice of the peace, and a deacon. He was usually elected to the select board unanimously except when there was one differing vote: his own.

Green's grandson, Joshua, married "Hetty" Robinson, the legendary "Witch of Wall Street." Robinson was the initial woman to make a significant amount on the stock market, turning a huge inheritance into a tidy sum that is estimated in today's dollars to be between two and four billion dollars.

Pam lives off the grid on beautiful Bear Mountain in Wendell State Forest with her husband, Peter Gallant. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1950, Richardson earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies at Wheaton College in Norton in 1972, and went on to do graduate work at UMass-Amherst and the University of New Hampshire. She owned her own gardening business in Newbury, taught French in West Newbury and was a psychotherapist in Newburyport.

To order her book, please contact Pam Richardson at her email address: stoneoak2003@yahoo.com. The price is \$20. Richardson will be at the historical society's booth at Wendell's Old Home Day on Saturday, August 22, selling the town's first history book.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

Town Shares Responsibility for Risky Fence, and Possibly for Risky Dam

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard meeting of July 29 was relatively short, and ended while there was still some light in the evening sky. Several decisions were delayed to allow board members to get more information. Board Chair Christine Heard was not there.

While waiting for the time scheduled for the first person to meet the board, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich noted that Wendell has been authorized \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, enough for three complete projects. The money is used for loans that can pay for homeowners to bring their buildings up to code, and do not have to be paid back until the building transfers ownership.

Aldrich also reported that Department of Environmental Protection's sanitary survey had found some problems with the town's water system, which they require to be fixed by December.

Board members decided to forward that report to Larry Ramsdell, the town's water system manager, and Jim Slavas, the facilities engineer.

Among the problems are a lack of a coliform monitoring plan, and no back up for paperwork for the regular maintenance Ramsdell performs.

Fence Hole

Recreation commissioner John Fitzgerald met the board and brought in a letter from a concerned parent about a gap in the fence that separates the Swift River School from Wendell Road.

That parent thought that a child chasing a ball might run into the road through the opening, and asked for a goat fence to stop that potential child. One end of the fence would be attached to the split rail fence that is already

there, and the other end to a tree. Both the Wendell and New Salem selectboards would have to give their approval to the project before the fence may be built.

Selectboard member Dan Keller moved that the board grant that approval, but member Geoffrey Pooser suggested waiting until Heard, who worked at the school for 18 years, is present, and possibly having a site visit. Fitzgerald said that the next scheduled full board meeting is soon enough to get approval.

Dam Mandates

The next guests at the meeting were Ellen Trousdale and Luke Goodridge, co-trustees of a land trust that owns a 33-acre pond inside a larger property.

That pond is contained by a dam, which is called "high risk" by the state because it has a 12-foot head. An inspection by engineering and environmental firm Tighe & Bond showed that the dam needs \$150,000 in repairs. (Trousdale said that cost would eliminate Peter's, her son's college.)

Goodridge said the state considers part of Lockes Village Road as part of the dam, because the pond is contained by both the road elevation and by the dam. Wendell, he said, is therefore part owner of the dam along with the land trust.

The road is a county road, which means its center line is surveyed, but the actual road may not follow that line precisely. The town owns a right of way on either side of the surveyed line.

Keller said he would ask longtime selectboard member Ted Lewis and road commission chair Harry Williston what they know about ownership of the dam, the path of the surveyed road center line, and the property lines.

He also mentioned the possi-

bility of breaching the dam, which may be more expensive at first, but would eliminate the necessity for regular maintenance. He said, "We already own one pond and one dam," referring to the town-owned Fiske Pond.

The dam has collected so much silt that the water is only a foot deep at the dam, and the gate near the dam's bottom is rusted closed. The whole pond is shallow, having accumulated years of runoff.

Mount Grace Land Trust may also have some interest in the situation for keeping a wildlife corridor in that area.

Pooser added this to his list of "unfunded mandates," this one falling onto a private citizen as well as onto the town.

Other Business

While checking out possible contamination, workers from Orange Oil examined the contents of an oil tank in a house that has been empty and in the works for tax taking. They pumped it out and found that it contained heating oil that is still sound and useable, but could also be considered hazardous waste. Instead they called it home heating oil, and transferred it to the oil tanks in the town hall.

Because of retirement by the person in charge, the state is stopping support of CAMA, the software program that Wendell uses for assessment, setting the tax rate, and getting the tax bills out. Wendell is one of 60 towns statewide that use CAMA, and Wendell will have to find replacement software.

Town accountant, Brian Morton said the state is cutting the entire division of local services. Pooser said there might be an open source program, and that he would look around for other options as well.

The next full selectboard meeting will be August 27.

GMRSD from page A1

Gill Elementary parents and interested adults are invited to meet Driscoll at the school on Monday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. for an informal meeting.

At its July 28 meeting, Sullivan asked the school committee to review and approve thirteen job descriptions which have been updated by the administration. These were each reviewed by the committee, which made some adjustments — mainly to style and grammar, but a few things needed to be updated to match contract language. All the descriptions were approved by unanimous school committee vote.

As part of this process, the members were informed of several new hires, as well as instances of teachers and administrative staff moving to new positions within the district.

At Gill Elementary alone, four newly-hired teachers will begin in the fall. Sullivan assured the board there will be significant training and mentoring programs to help new teachers, and the fact that the new principal has been working at Gill should help with the transition there.

On the administrative side, in addition to the recent hiring of Annie Leonard as secondary school principal and Earl McGraw as secondary assistant principal, Donna Fitzpatrick will be taking over the position of Director of Teacher and Learning, left vacant by the retirement of Marty Espinola.

After-School Grant

The school district has secured a federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grant through the Collaborative for Educational Services. This grant will provide \$175,000 a year for three years to fund after-school and summer programs at Sheffield Elementary.

The district is currently interviewing candidates for the position of site coordinator for the program. The after-school program will run from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, for 35 weeks starting in September.

Music Scholarship

Joanne Blier, director of business operations, announced the establishment of the Arthur E. Neipp Scholarship Fund, with a contribution of \$10,000 from the estate of Arthur Neipp (TFHS '48). The scholarship is to be awarded annually in the amount of \$500 to a graduating senior who plans to major in music at the college level.

Arthur's son, Jeffrey Neipp of Leyden, asked that he be notified regarding the student selection and date of the awards ceremony, so that a family member could attend.

School committee members expressed their thanks and appreciation for this generous bequest.

Capital Improvements

Blier noted that the town of Montague has voted to approve the debt exclusion for the Sheffield window and door project through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The district recently received the final executed Project Funding Agreement from the MSBA, and is finalizing revised contracts with the Owners Project Manager (OPM) and designer for the project. Once contracts are signed, the OPM will begin working on the design of the windows and doors, with final construction documents expected by early October.

The question of the Sheffield boiler is a separate matter. Blier reported she met with the Montague Energy Committee on July 15. The town of Montague has applied for a META grant which would pay for an energy audit. She said the town is waiting to hear if they have been awarded the grant.

Blier explained the scope of the au-

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dit, would include having a contractor recommend a temporary backup solution to address the immediate concerns of having a dysfunctional boiler. Blier will attend Montague selectboard meetings, and is hopeful that the question will be brought to a special town meeting to provide funds for a temporary solution.

School committee members and the superintendent expressed concerns over this idea of a "temporary solution" to the problem.

Still No Treasurer

The person selected to serve as district treasurer could not be bonded and so, Blier said, "we are nowhere." The school district will need to continue to search for an appropriate individual to serve as treasurer. In the meantime, steps will be taken to make sure the necessary tasks will be addressed by the school committee.

The budget for FY'16 is still in flux. Sullivan reported the governor recently vetoed funding designated for full-day kindergarten. Baker reduced the state's \$18.6 million full-day kindergarten expansion grant to \$17.7 million in the FY16 budget, which will significantly reduce Gill-Montague's share. There is still hope that the legislature will restore this funding but if not the district will need to make up for the loss in other ways. Sullivan said the FY16 budget included \$43,500 from this grant.

Statement Made

At the end of the meeting, Marjorie Levenson, member from Montague, read a statement that said, in part: "This committee has a problem as a body. It has failed to recognize its role as an oversight committee. This means sometimes hard questions need to be addressed and not swept under the rug with the claim they will bring unfavorable publicity to the district. 'No news is good news.' ...

"We are public servants first and foremost charged with the public trust. Ducking and hiding is not the answer when tough questions need to be addressed. We cannot solve problems or run from issues by ignoring them. Our watchwords must include civility, candor, courtesy and transparency. Only the children are supposed to win, it's not about us!"

Next Meeting

The school committee is still on a summer meeting schedule. Its next meeting will be a goal-setting session to be held on August 18, at 5 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School conference room.

If the members decide they need another meeting before September, there will be a regular meeting held on August 25.



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ROBBERY from pg A1

external, though the gash beside his eye required five stitches. He still sported a black eye on Wednesday, and declined to be photographed for this story.

Mr. Zhang first learned to cook in mainland China, and honed his skills in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood before purchasing the restaurant, formerly Beijing Station, in spring 2013. He named it after his daughter.

He expressed thanks to the bar patrons who called the police, and to all the customers

and local business owners who have come by to offer him help this week.

According to Sgt. Christopher Bonnett of the Montague police department, an active investigation is underway, and no further information can be released to the public at this time.

He and Mr. Zhang both encouraged anyone with information about the assailants to contact the department. Det. Bill Doyle is the investigating officer.



Explore the Solar System!

The Boston Museum of Science team will visit Leverett on Tuesday, August 18 with their portable planetarium to take us on a tour of the night sky.

The event will be held in the

Leverett Elementary School.

They will offer two sessions, 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Space is limited, so please sign up early by stopping by the Leverett Library or calling (413) 548-9220.

Yoga at the Senior Center

Chair Yoga classes will be held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., from September 22 through October 27.

These classes offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, oiling for joints and fun! People from all towns and all skill levels are invited, including folks in wheelchairs.

There is a suggested donation of \$1 for each class.

Mat Yoga classes will also

be held at the Senior Center, on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., over the same period.

These classes offer gentle stretches for seniors, focusing on release of the joints, balance and stress reduction. People over 55 from all towns and all skill levels are invited. There is a suggested donation of \$8 for each class.

For more information, please contact Roberta Potter at the Senior Center at 863-4500 or 863-9357.

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B1

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AUGUST 6, 2015

BOOK REVIEW

“Looking For Judah”: Local Author Unlocks Secrets of His Family Tree

By PAM RICHARDSON

MILLERS FALLS – On a sultry mid-July morning, David Brule and I sit across from each other in the cool air of a book-filled room on the north side of his house, the last one on a dead-end street in the sleepy town of Millers Falls. Tall windows open out onto a garden backed by woods and, behind them, the Millers River.

Soft-spoken and self-contained, Brule describes himself as “a lucky man.” “Good fortune has often come my way,” he says.

He grew up in Turners Falls on the banks of the Connecticut River at the Narrows, and he often visited his mother’s parents in Millers Falls in this house where we now sit, a house once occupied by his great-grandparents, Judah and Lizzie Smith. Throughout his childhood and adolescence, Brule spent long hours here wandering in the woods and along the river bank, aware of his deep roots in this place and excited by the many varieties of birds he saw.

So strong was his sense of his family’s history on this land that he can still recall feeling as if he were, somehow, in a time-warped. His father worked six days a week, 52 weeks a year, and the family confined itself to a localized life.

The Millers and Connecticut rivers, however, provided Brule with a sense of “elsewhere,” and after earning a degree in foreign languages (because he was thinking about a career as a diplomat), he joined the Peace Corps which sent him to Morocco for two years. After that, he went to France where he found both a job and a wife.

Eventually, though, he was pulled back to Millers Falls to help care for his grandfather, Judah’s son, Abe Smith. At Abe’s death, Brule and his wife, Monique, purchased Abe’s house and Brule landed himself a job in the Amherst school system, where he was head of the Foreign Language Department for the next thirty years.

Behind all of these facts are many interesting back stories, but the relevant one here had its inception in 1973 when an aunt divulged to Brule that his great-grandfather Judah was not what he seemed, that he was – in her word – “different.” By “different,” she meant that Judah was not the Caucasian he appeared to be, but a man whose heritage was African-American.

Seeking documentation of this surprising revelation, Brule searched where he could in those pre-internet days, but met with one dead-end after another until he finally gave up. With no proof of the truth of his aunt’s story and because he had promised her never to reveal the family’s secret, he effectively brushed the whole thing aside for the next three decades.

Then, in 2006, in a conversation with a relative who was in hot pursuit of their family’s genealogy, Brule spilled the beans. This disclosure set in motion a

see BRULE page B4

Collective Living in Leverett: A Look Back



PHOTOS COURTESY ROSE HEIDKAMP



By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT– Before there was Laurel Hill Drive and Ryan’s Hill Road, there were modest houses surrounded by woods and pastures where groups of adults lived and managed households together. They developed after the better-known communes like the Montague Farm. In the 1970s and early ‘80s, these Leverett homes and properties had distinctive names: Mittenwald, Ant Rocky’s, Tree Toad Farm, the Moose House.

These homes had character, and were full of characters. Two of these locations, Mittenwald on Juggler Meadow Road and Ant Rocky’s on Amherst Road, were sold to the Kittredge Land Trust, knocked down and enclosed.

People who have moved to Leverett in the past decade only know the land that leads to the intersection of the two roads as a walled-in mystery. This is the home of “The Candle Man,” not a reference to a Stephen

King novel but a real person, Yankee Candle Company founder Michael Kittredge.

Robbie Leppzer of Wendell lived at Mittenwald (German for “middle wood”) in the mid-1980s. The duplex, built in the ‘70s, used the same driveway as the gated Kittredge estate on Juggler Meadow Road. After the changes in the neighborhood, Leppzer couldn’t go back for 25 years. He considers the meadow where he lived to be a sacred space.

When he did finally go back four years ago, he said, “I stood up on a wall and peered over, and I was in complete shock. It was so radically changed. Everything I knew about the beauty of that wild meadow now looked like an antiseptic golf course.”

Leppzer remembers hearing about Morris dancers who celebrated May Day in the meadow, and wondered if this is the origin of the distinctive Juggler Meadow name.

Jan Bodendorf, an early resident of Ant Rocky’s (named for its ants and rocks, not after a redoubtable aunt) remembers her time there as a wonderful experience, and says that when she drives by the big gate marked #6 on Amherst Road, she feels sad that she can no longer travel down the old driveway. She remembers walking old paths through the meadows and stands of trees to Route 63. Leppzer also remembers these paths, including one that connected Ant Rocky’s and Mittenwald.

see LEVERETT page B6



Top left: A side view of Ant Rocky’s. Top right: Directions. At bottom: Housemates Patty and Joanne in the kitchen, September 1980.

Mayberry, Part Two: Growing Up in Turners Falls

By JEFFREY WEBSTER

Catadromous. There’s a word most of us have probably never used in everyday conversation.

It refers to fish that live in fresh water rivers and streams, but spawn in salt water. It is 180 degrees opposite of what salmon do. There is just one catadromous fish in the Connecticut River, the American eel.

So what does this have to do with the price of sushi in Shutesbury? Well, nothing actually, but the thought takes me back to one night sometime in the 1950s.

Russell Webster, my father, was a foreman at Cabot Station. He had

worked there some umpteen zillion years – a very long time. One night he drove my mother and me to the station to watch young eels migrate upriver. Hundreds of small silver wiggling eels that had been born in the Sargasso Sea (pretty much the middle of the Atlantic Ocean) were scaling (scales... fish... get it?) the vertical wooden sluice gates to get from the river into the canal. It was a sight I have never forgotten.

I spent quite a bit of time at Cabot with my dad. He worked primarily in the control room overlooking the turbines on the main floor below. To leave, we usually took a shortcut

see MAYBERRY page B4



COURTESY JEFF WEBSTER

The author’s father, Russell Webster, working at Cabot Station, probably around the early 1950s.

25 Bucks: A Big Deal at the Franklin Area Survival Center

By ELIZABETH NASH

TURNERS FALLS – Wow, am I ever lucky! In return for baking a few pans of raspberry squares for our monthly music coffeehouses, my pals in the Friends Group at the Great Falls Discovery Center recently gave me a \$25 gift certificate to – guess where? The Franklin Area Survival Center Thrift Shop!

Since I buy most of my clothes at thrifts and rarely spend more than \$5 for anything, this gift represented profound sensitivity, astonishing largesse, untold possibilities, and lotsa fun at one of my favorite places on the planet.

Thus, one happy Saturday I took



NASH PHOTOS

Green-and-cream mesh tee.

myself off to the little Fourth Street shop where Mary, Veronica, and Randi know my name – and even save stuff for me when I walk off without it.

In about half an hour, I’d rounded up a neat little collection of duds. They play so nicely with one another that I could throw them all in my suitcase and spend a week in, say, Sicily, if someone invited me and the airfare suddenly dropped to \$1.50.

Here’s the rundown:

Elegant long black button-front stretchy skirt, because I collect black skirts and also, you never know when you’ll be called upon to ride sidesaddle: \$3.25.

see THRIFT page B5

SCENE REPORT

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

By ANDREA GLAMPYRE

TURNERS FALLS – If it wasn’t July, the clouds above Unity Park might have given us a white Christmas after all.

Jolly spectators gathered around the edge of Barton Cove, and many small boats with their bright and shining red noses could be seen within. Country music carried over the water. A private fireworks show popped behind trees in Gill, on the other side of the river.

“Let’s get this show started,” said a lady in a lawn chair. There was still a good deal of daylight at eight thirty, probably the main of many merry differences between Christmas in July and Christmas in December.

The tradition of decorative lights began, in part, to brighten moods caused by long winter nights. Christmas in July was invented at a girl’s camp in the 1930s, and although there were likely many Mary’s at the camp, no angels heralded the secular conception of the celebration.

The standard running lights on most boats are red and green, the contrasting colors of elf pajamas. Sequencing string lights and creating mastheads out of glowing plastic Santa Clauses is a logical next step.

It is a celebration that encompasses all of the fun and unholy gaud of America’s favorite holy day. Throw in some Independence Day fireworks and you have the combination of the two most wonderful times of the year. It’s a good fit for a boat parade.

The distant music quieted and the boats began lining up. “It’s starting!” trumpeted a little girl who is most likely on the “nice” column of that infamous x-mas checklist.

About eight water-worthy crafts motored towards the orange traffic barrel buoys that stretch from across the river and where most of the crowd gathered.

Speedboats, bullet-like cruisers, and two party boats made up the parade. When the sweet silver bells of the persuasive Trans Siberian Orchestra started to command throwing-away of cares, the “merry”time festival lights lit with simultaneous precision. Good job! It was time to yell ho ho ho and illuminate the darkness of winter, um, summer.

As a person who has recently begun collecting creepy Santa Clauses and decorating with tinsel garlands, I must say that the decorations on the boats were really fantastic.

Some were better than others, but I believe in participation prizes. I can only ask for more! Next year, I hope for more lights, more carols, and Santa in a Speedo!

The holiday spirit even got into Bryan, who like everybody else I know, really didn’t want to be there. To those who don’t know, booming sound systems on boats are a real and powerful thing.

The show was followed by fireworks and late night revelers throughout the town. Next year, we want to be in the parade... someone loan us a boat!

Pet of the Week



“NORM”
Hi I'm Norm and, as my name suggests, I'm searching for some "norm"alcy in my life. In the past, I've been a barn cat but that gig didn't suit me. When I came to Dakin, shy and

withdrawn, they called me a spirit cat. But once I settled in with my buds in the colony room, I wasn't so shy anymore. In fact, I really like people and enjoy introducing myself when they visit the colony room. Maybe "normal" for me is going to be "house cat," with outdoor privileges after the birds have learned to fly. If nothing else, I hope my new normal includes someone to love... maybe you?

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

MCTV and the UVMF

By PAM KINSMITH

July 25 was a big day in music as the Upper Valley Music Festival rolled into Turners Falls.

In its 5th year, the festival is a celebration of independent music from every genre that grows in popularity with each passing year. The event is an all-volunteer production, which is quite remarkable given the demands of both electric and acoustic set-ups in multiple venues throughout the area. MCTV was there with multiple crews to capture all the action.

A key part of the festival's mis-

sion is to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Cancer has touched many involved with the festival fostering an ongoing commitment to raise money in the fight against this insidious disease.

With over thirty acts taking the stage, artists came from as far away as Austin, Texas, New York City and Montreal, Canada to play for the excited crowd.

Many local favorites, like Shokazoba and Brook Batteau, received rousing applause from the attendees. The festival brought an Irish flair to the festivities with the Celtic Heels Irish Dancers, Steve Brown

and harpist Rosemary Caine as well as funk, rock, soul and country throughout the day.

Catch all the excitement on MCTV, where we will be showcasing all the bands in various segments for streaming and viewing in our regular schedule.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Pipeline Camp Fundraiser

This Saturday, August 8, there will be a film event at the Montague Common Hall (formerly the Grange) to raise funds and build solidarity with the Unist'ot'en Action Camp.

Films shown will include *Kahsatstehserra: Indigenous Resistance to Tar Sands Pipelines*; *Resist: The Unist'ot'en's Call to the Land*, and several other short documentary pieces, primarily highlighting indigenous resistance to toxic gas fracking, tar sands oil extraction, and the pipelines that prop up these deadly industries.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the event will run until about 8:30. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$20. We regret that the hall is not wheelchair-accessible.

River Cleanup Dates

The Connecticut River Watershed Council's (CRWC) 19th annual Source to Sea Cleanup will be held Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26, 2015.

The annual Cleanup is a two-day event coordinated by CRWC in all four states of the 410+ mile Connecticut River basin: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Each fall, thousands of volunteers of all ages and abilities head out to clean the Connecticut River and its tributaries on foot or by boat.

There are three ways to get involved: report a trash site in need of cleaning, find a cleanup group near you to join, or organize and register your own local cleanup group.

For more information or to register for the event, visit www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

Senior Center Activities

August 10 to 14

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Monday 8/10

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

Tuesday 8/11

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Tutor appts.
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 8/12

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

Thursday 8/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 8/14

Reflexology by Appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pizza Party (sign up)

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at

the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 8/10

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 Knitting & Crochet Class

Tuesday 8/11

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting Class

Wednesday 8/12

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

Thursday 8/13

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
12:30 Jewelry Class
6:30 p.m. Garden Meeting
Friday 8/14
9 a.m. Quilting, 9:30 Bowling
11:30 Pizza & Movie

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.

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I was wondering if older people get bad breath more than younger folks.

I could find no direct correlation between aging and halitosis, which is the fancy term for bad breath. However, I'm going to take a couple of educated stabs at the issue raised in this question.

Many older people have dentures. If they don't fit correctly or are not cleaned often, they can collect food and bacteria; both can lead to bad breath.

Dry mouth (xerostomia) is a condition that allows dead cells to accumulate in your mouth creating bad breath. Most xerostomia is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands.

The following are causes of bad breath:

- Any food stuck in your teeth. It will decay and give off an odor.
- Some foods such as onions, garlic,

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Foul Exhalations

spices and herbs. They contain substances that create bad breath when digested.

- Alcoholic beverages. Alcohol, itself, is odorless, but many alcoholic beverages contain ingredients that leave a telltale odor.
- Periodontal (gum) diseases and canker sores.
- Diseases of the lung, kidney, liver, stomach and pancreas.
- Sinus infections, strep throat, tonsillitis and mononucleosis.
- Smoking. This dries the mouth and causes an odor of its own.
- Severe dieting.

Here are some ways to prevent bad breath:

- Brush your teeth after you eat.
- If you wear a denture, clean it at least once a day.
- Floss daily or use another interdental cleaner such as a high-power electric toothbrush.
- Brush your tongue, which can collect bacteria and food particles.
- Drink water to moisten your mouth.
- Chew sugarless gum. It stimulates saliva production and collects debris.
- Buy a new toothbrush several times annually.
- Get a dental examination.

Mouthwashes and breath-fresh-

eners of all kinds mask odors for a while; they are not preventives. Many antiseptic mouth rinses, however, have been accepted by the American Dental Association for their therapeutic benefits and also have breath-freshening properties. These rinses kill the germs that cause bad breath instead of simply hiding halitosis.

At times, most of us worry about having bad breath. It's no surprise that there are so many products out there to combat the problem. But, those of us who worry about it usually are doing something to prevent it. Bad breath is found more often in people who neither know nor care that they have it.

This brings me to a condition worth mentioning. There is a psychiatric condition called "delusional halitosis." This is linked to depression. One patient with this delusion used up to a tube of toothpaste every four days.

I read another study which demonstrated that the people who try to smell their own breath tend to think their breath smells worse than it does. Best advice I found was to ask a family member or good friend to give you an accurate assessment.

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

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Eerie Rowboat; Coyotes Mimic Human; Drunk Stunt Mowing; Shirtless Intoxicated Male Absconds With Assorted Goodies

Masala Jazz: Diversity Makes Beautiful Music

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – The roots of the Masala Jazz group run deep in family and friends, and band founder SiriNam Khalsa said he created the band with the intention of blending music with family and friends.

“Not unlike the India spices used in masala, I wanted a band to reflect a mixture of several types of music as well as incorporate the feeling of family and friends,” said SiriNam.

Recently, the band played at the Leverett Crafts and Arts to raise funds for the studio as part of the Unity in Diversity concert. The band plays all over the Pioneer Valley, however, with venues ranging from The Black Sheep in Amherst, the Lumber Yard in Amherst, and Sam’s Pizza Café in Northampton.

Each show has its own great memories, but a few stand out in SiriNam’s mind.

“A few great memories come to mind, one at the Luthier’s Coop when a few couples spontaneously got up and started dancing to “Latin Alive” which sparked others to join in. Another time was an earlier gig when Dr. Sam’s Jazz trumpet playing father sat in with us at the Black Sheep,” said SiriNam.

SiriNam explains the positive effect the music has on people as expressing an inexpressible emotion.

“Next to silence, music expresses the inexpressible. It is a universal language that can transcend age, gender, race, and religion and touch the part of all of us that wants to connect,” said SiriNam.

Part of the charm of the Masala Band in particular is the diversity of the group. SiriNam started the band when his son, Dharam Bir, began to learn an instrument. Dharam Bir started slowly, playing a few notes and chords on the keyboard for the Indian kirtan during the Sunday Sikh services.

“He caught on very quickly and his creative talent was apparent from the beginning,” said SiriNam.

Dharam Bir was heavily influenced by his early years of learning, and one musician in particular stood out in his mind. When Dharam Bir was 11 years old, SiriNam took him to see the Dr. Lonnie Smith Trio.

“That made a big impression on him because this older African American Jazz organist was also wearing a turban, had a beard, and

was a Sikh,” said SiriNam.

When asked about his influences, Dharam Bir cites Dr. Lonnie Smith as a musician that inspires his music.

“Dr. Lonnie Smith made a big impression on my style of playing. I also enjoy the Swiss New Age harpist, Andreas Vollenweider,” said Dharam Bir.

Dharam Bir said what he enjoys most about playing music is affecting people in a positive way and seeing their reactions.

SiriNam Khalsa has been playing guitar since the 1960s. He started out with rock and roll and blues in high school, playing in a band with his brothers. He later switched to jazz, starting a popular jazz fusion band in college called Offering. SiriNam enjoyed success with Offering, opening for jazz greats like Sonny Rollins and Art Blakely.

“I started playing rock and roll and blues in high school, and because of its freedom and creativity of expression was inspired to play jazz after hearing other jazz bands and musicians,” said SiriNam.

Band members consist of SiriNam on guitar, Dharam Bir on keyboard and tabla, childhood friend Jesse Ball on the keyboard, bass, and accordion, and SiriNam’s nephew Jahian Cooper Monize on drums. SiriNam’s brother Peter Vita joins the band when he visits from New York City, and another childhood friend Nevin Murray sits in on drums from time to time.

SiriNam’s friend Sam Gladstone plays clarinet with the band when he is in town and SiriNam’s uncle Jeff Rodgers plays sax when he is in town from New York City.

Monize said he was struck by a tune called “Heart Strings” on a Ray Brown album, and thinks the band also has some Miles Davis influences. As for crowd favorites, he thinks “Heart Strings,” “Moanin,” and “Wichita Lineman.” For Monize, expressing himself and being creative are the best parts of playing music.

To follow Masala Jazz and to learn about upcoming shows, find the band on the Facebook page under Masala Jazz. Masala Jazz plays the first Saturday of the month during lunch at the Black Sheep Café in Amherst, every third Saturday of the month during lunch at SAM’s Pizza Café in Northampton, and at Cushman Café on Sundays during brunch.

Monday, 7/20

11:11 a.m. Party from Gary’s Coins and Antiques into station to speak to Chief Dodge re: ongoing harassment from the owner of Madison’s on the Avenue. Advised of options.

2:07 p.m. Caller reports that a man just approached her, yelled at her, and hit her car with his hands, accusing her of following him for “58 days.” Subject came from the area of Fifth and J Streets and followed caller to the area of the ATM by the Greenfield Co-op Bank. Unable to locate.

8:04 p.m. Caller reports a small hole, approximately 3” in diameter, in the road near the library. Caller stated it looked down a “sewer pipe.” DPW advised; responded that they placed cones in the area and will work on it in the morning.

10:36 p.m. Report of male trying to cause trouble with caller’s brother on L Street. Advised of options.

10:51 p.m. Suspicious vehicle outside a Winthrop Street residence. Responding officer found party known to caller and advised him to go home.

Tuesday, 7/21

1:32 a.m. Caller reports loud disturbance behind a house on G Street. Responding officers report that incident was verbal; parties separating for night.

11:21 a.m. Report of squatters in a vacant apartment on Woodland Drive. Area search negative. Apartment secured.

12:08 p.m. Caller contacted Chief Dodge with three concerns: (1) a female who appears to be camped out in the Pesky Park bandshell with a lot of belongings; (2) a male who is camped out behind Greenfield Savings Bank next to Food City; (3) parties with tents who have been congregating at the old Railroad Salvage site (see next entry).

Officer spoke with woman in bandshell, who advised she was resting in the shade while waiting for a ride. Officer checked behind GSB: male was not there, but there was trash on site. Info will be relayed to board of health.

12:15 p.m. Caller reports several subjects camped out at the old Railroad Salvage property; advises that subjects are hiding behind fence at this time. Officer placed call to property owner, advised her of the complaint and inquired if she wanted any police assistance. Owner will be in to pick up copies of relevant calls.

2:25 p.m. Report of a rowboat with attached oars floating by the closed

portion of the dam. Caller cannot see anyone in the boat or in the water. Northfield Control Room called and reported that their staging workers were using the boat but did not tie it up, so it floated out. If the boat does not wash to shore tonight, they will lower a smaller boat tomorrow morning and retrieve it.

6:32 p.m. Environmental police officer advises that he is off in the area of Green Pond with a few people swimming in the area. MPD officer en route. Three parties escorted from area and issued citations/fines by environmental police.

Wednesday, 7/22

6:54 a.m. Caller reports subject seated in chair covered by blanket outside side door of Our Lady of Peace Church off L Street. Staff have walked by multiple times but subject has not moved; staff uncomfortable with subject remaining. Responding officer reports that subject is OK, just sleeping. Courtesy transport to Shady Glen provided.

7:45 a.m. Report of syringes in road on Walnut Street. Officer retrieved 2 syringes.

9:29 a.m. Bike reported stolen on Randall Wood Drive.

1:21 p.m. Party into station to report that a vehicle has been parked in the pull-off area just past Montague Center School for the past week. The vehicle has a large box in the back that is filled with DVDs. Officer contacted registered owner, who advised that he has been living nearby and parking there. Owner will make other parking arrangements.

1:28 p.m. Report of shoplifting (beer and food) from Food City. Report taken.

2:05 p.m. Multiple calls reporting 2 car accident with personal injury and airbag deployment at Turners Falls Road and Hatchery Road. Officers, MedCare, TFFD, and MSP (MCFD/EMTs) advised.

4:11 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

6:36 p.m. Threatening/harassment at Subway. Report taken.

8:55 p.m. Officer out with 2 skateboarders on Unity Street; parties advised that this behavior needs to stop or they could be ticketed.

10:46 p.m. Several 911 calls reporting accident at Route 63 and Green Pond Road. Male party thrown into back of hatchback car. MedCare transported patient to Greenfield, where he was Life Flighted

to UMass Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. Citations issued.

Thursday, 7/23

8:19 a.m. Officer assisted with moving along subjects on Migratory Way who were obstructing the area and refusing to move.

8:37 p.m. Caller reports observing two parties arguing on Second Street; the argument began to get “heated,” and a black vehicle approached at a high rate of speed and seemed to try to hit one of the involved parties, who was on a bike. Vehicle last seen headed towards First Street/Avenue A. Other parties left going towards Fourth Street. Investigated.

10:48 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with single car accident; vehicle into a cornfield approximately 150 feet.

Friday, 7/24

12:46 a.m. Caller from 15 Fifth Street reports a male party beating on her door to get into her apartment; party had a baseball bat and was coming at her with it. Caller advised she had minor scrapes to one arm; refused EMS when offered. Officers checked area, observed damage to apartment, and advise that there is probable cause for arrest. Greenfield PD advised to be on lookout. Summons issued.

8:02 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Randall Road. Investigated.

8:16 p.m. Caller reports that one of his neighbors is on his riding lawn mower; caller believes neighbor is intoxicated and mowing circles in another neighbor’s yard. Officer spoke to involved parties. No impairment observed. Property owner had no complaint.

Saturday, 7/25

2:22 a.m. Report of approximately 10-15 people yelling/partying in alley between Third and Fourth Streets. Caller states that subjects sound intoxicated. Disturbance determined to be coming from inside a Fourth Street apartment. As officer pulled up, 3 subjects ran inside residence. Renter arrived moments later, and the three subjects left. Renter advised of complaint.

2:35 a.m. Caller reports that he and his friend can hear what sounds like a baby crying in the woods off Lake Pleasant Road/Old Northfield Road. Caller states that they are about to go back into the woods with flashlights to search around. Officers checked area and heard coyotes, which they believe to be the sound that the caller was hearing. Officers

spoke with neighbors, who did not hear anything. Officers checked area again; negative findings.

8:08 p.m. Party into lobby reporting “big bonfire” on Turnpike Road between PD and Rabbit Hill. TFFD advised.

8:40 p.m. Request for officer to speak to a couple of fishermen sitting on the old bridge abutment at Unity Park; they are swearing at boats involved in the Christmas in July party that are making noise and disturbing their fishing. Caller states that there are a lot of kids around and hopes an officer can settle the fishermen down. Officer clear; parties have moved on.

Sunday, 7/26

1:22 a.m. Caller reports that his girlfriend’s purse was stolen from his pickup truck while parked on Marshall Street within the last hour or so. Referred to an officer.

9:40 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reports that someone broke into his apartment through a window this morning. Caller returned home to find his window open; he now cannot find his cat and believes it was stolen. Report taken. Caller later called back advising that he found the cat hiding inside his leather couch.

10:30 a.m. Report of a male subject wandering around near a ballgame in progress at Sheffield Elementary School making parents uneasy. Subject was there yesterday as well, and officers responded. Officer provided a courtesy transport for subject to his residence.

10:41 a.m. Report of shopping cart on bike path. A purse and other items are visible in the cart. Officer spoke with owner of items and advised her that she cannot leave her property there; she is en route to remove the items.

11:56 p.m. Report of single motorcycle accident on Montague City Road. Female passenger ejected; unknown injuries. Operator left scene on red motorcycle heading westbound on Turnpike Road; caller believes operator to have been intoxicated. Passenger refused medical treatment and was transported to MPD for interview. Officers out looking for male, who later called to advise that he was in an accident last night but left the scene because he got scared. Operator will come in to station.

Monday, 7/27

4:37 a.m. Vehicle vs. deer at Montague City Road and N Street. No injuries; deer

see MPD page B4



The Masala Jazz band playing at the Leverett Crafts and Arts as part of the Unity in Diversity concert. The band plays all over the Pioneer Valley at venues like The Black Sheep and The Lumber Yard in Amherst.

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MPD from page B3

left scene on own four legs.
9:45 a.m. Caller from Worcester Avenue reports that the neighbor's chickens have been getting loose and coming onto his mother's property, defecating on the driveway and pushing around/damaging the mulch. Caller advised that animal control officer is off this week, but that an officer will attempt to speak with the neighbor.

1:53 p.m. Multiple reports of a loose pit bull from Central Street. Dog located in public parking lot on Third Street and appears to be returning home. Officer followed dog back to Central Street; dog would not let officer get close to him.

2:45 p.m. Pocket watch reported stolen on Sixth Street. Report taken.

10:24 p.m. Caller advises of train stopped at Lake Pleasant railroad crossing; the gates are down and some sort of alarm is going off. Joe from Pan Am stated this train is waiting for another eastbound train to pass by; will be there for another hour or so.

10:31 p.m. Report of suspicious party walking around apartments on Griswold Street and looking in windows. Officer made contact with party, who was walking around having a few cigarettes to blow off some steam but is now in for the night.

Tuesday, 7/28

7:34 a.m. Dishwasher reported stolen from a house on Highland Avenue. Report taken.

9:02 a.m. Purse reported stolen from vehicle on Avenue A overnight. Report taken.

10:10 a.m. Request for an officer to speak with the Baltazar Crew working on Greenfield Road; caller owns properties near the job site and advises that the Baltazar trucks often speed by. Referred to an officer.

11:38 a.m. 36 MS-Contin pills reported stolen on Randall Road. Report taken.

1:49 p.m. Caller concerned for welfare of two dogs on Fifth Street. Officer spoke with a tenant of the building. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

2:34 p.m. Caller reports that pop-up tent belonging to Greenfield Savings Bank that was stolen from Pumpkifest has been spotted behind the old GSB location with a Jeep parked underneath it. Officer spoke with registered owner of vehicle parked under tent, who advised that he found the tent in 2 pieces in a dumpster after a windstorm and was able to patch it together. Officer advises that vehicle owner's account seems credible. Branch manager and vehicle owner will work this out among themselves.

7:05 p.m. Report of about 10 large trash bags in the alley behind Second Street. Message left for Board of Health.

9:55 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street reports that someone attempted to kick in his front door while the occupants of the house were asleep. Area checked; track terminated at Griswold Street. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 7/29

12:51 a.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reports that an intoxicated male with no shirt and tan shorts just ran out of the store and took a left with a bag of cashews, dog treats, and possibly a cheese stick. Units on scene; party will be summoned.

7:28 a.m. DPW reports that one of their workers was almost struck by a vehicle that pulled into the Patch at a high rate of speed and was driving erratically. Operator located and issued verbal warning.

9:35 p.m. Caller from Dell Street advises he just heard a loud bang and that someone appears to have tried to kick in his door. Officer observed door; shoe size is slightly larger than last night's call, but definitely same pattern. Officers located a group of people responsible for the damage last night and tonight. All parents have been contacted and are on scene. Homeowner advised to obtain an appraisal for the damage and contact MPD.

Thursday, 7/30

1:02 a.m. Report of male observed inside caller's truck on James Avenue. Report taken.

2:45 a.m. Caller reports being assaulted by two males in the parking lot near the old bridge abutment on First Street. Investigated.

3:01 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports what he believes is a baby crying for the past six hours. Officers located a house where a young child is unable to sleep and not happy. Otherwise, all is well.

11:19 a.m. Wallet and checkbook reported stolen from vehicle on Alice Street overnight. Report taken.

12:43 p.m. Caller from Main Street reports receiving suspicious letters at her residence. The first was a love letter from an anonymous male claiming not to have seen her for 10 years and asking her to text him. The second was from someone claiming to be the anonymous male's wife asking the caller to send her a copy of the letter from her husband. Report taken.

Saturday, 8/1

9:12 a.m. Cash reported stolen from a Fourth Street apartment. Report taken.

9:49 p.m. Caller complains of noise from band playing at Hubie's Bar; cannot hear TV over music. Officer advises that highest decibel reading he saw was 83 and that band will be shutting down shortly.

Sunday, 8/2

9:20 a.m. Request for removal of a homeless female who is camped out on the property of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Caller reports that trash is strewn around, party has been defecating on the lawn, and there are signs that she had a small fire on the property last night. Services rendered.

1:29 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

11:49 p.m. Caller reports that she was almost hit by a car on Avenue A; car had just struck 2 cars parked on the Avenue and has heavy front end damage. Investigated.

BRULE from page B1

long journey leading to a series of discoveries that, as he says, "revealed and legitimized something I've always felt."

Brule uses an unusual format to tell his tale: Looking for Judah alternates between fact and fiction, present and past, process and personalities. Brule's ancestors come alive through the device of a family council, a gathering of ten generations of the clan during which certain key members take turns holding a talking stick and telling their individual stories.

The reader is taken back in time and place not only to Judah's marriage to a white woman but also – even further back – to Charlestown, Rhode Island, and the Narragansett Indian tribe's reservation where, in the early 1700s, Brule's 7th-great-grandfather, Joseph Jeffrey, a Nehantic/Narragansett, adopted the ways of the white man in order to survive. The house he built there has survived the centuries and been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as an example of transitional building methods, from Native American to Colonial. Hoping to leave inner tribal strife behind, Jeffrey's descendants migrated to the Nehantic traditional lands at Black Point in Lyme, CT, near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

A century or so later, Jeffrey's great-

granddaughter, married to a man with probably both Native and black blood, went up the Connecticut River to settle in Hartford and, later, their daughter followed the river north to the Deerfield/Greenfield area. That daughter's daughter, Betsy, married three different men, one white and the other two "dark," with mixtures of black and Native American blood. Judah Smith (Jeffrey's 4th-great-grandson and Brule's great-grandfather) was Betsy's son by her white husband.

Judah farmed and tended fields until he was about twenty-five (1878) when he got a job as a carriage driver, first for Levi Gunn and then for Gunn's Millers Falls (tool) Company. In 1881, he married a newly-arrived Scottish woman, and the following year he bought the house "with seven acres of meadow and pasture" on the Millers River.

Judah – like his friends and neighbors – seems to have been aware of both his Native-American and African-American heritage, but no one in his small riverside town appears to have given it much thought. By living in a white town, attending a white church, and marrying a white woman, he was effectively assimilated. He "passed" for white.

The Boston Red Sox, however, were another story. Judah's son, Doug Smith, was such an exceptional baseball player that in 1912, at age eight-

teen, the Red Sox hired him as a relief pitcher and he played that year in the new Fenway Park. But his career path came to an abrupt halt the following year after a letter from a Greenfield resident advised the team's managers of Smith's mixed blood; they sent him packing, telling the media that a heart ailment had forced him to quit.

Crushed and worried for her children's futures in a prejudiced society, Judah's wife, Lizzie, conspired to erase any and all ties to non-white kin and culture. She was so successful in her efforts that the truth would not surface in the family for another century!

Looking for Judah is a compelling story of one man's search for his ancestral identity. The book also underscores our country's long-standing obsession with skin color as it reveals how many generations of the author's family dealt with the stigma attached to not being one hundred percent white.

Remarkably, Brule's search for his heritage connects him with an African-American cousin, one town over, whom he had never met. Discovering that they shared a desire to uncover their mutual roots, the two men undertake the quest together.

Brule's prose becomes lyrical when he talks about his deep sense of place, the river, and its prominent role through ten generations of his family's history.

The book conveys a sense of destiny, too, although – when I ask him about this – he says that, as a young man, he never dreamed he would come back here. It is only in hindsight that he can see that returning to his roots was inevitable.

His plan, before life intervened, had been to go into the diplomatic corps; instead, he used the skills needed for that job to act as a Go-Between, mediating between generations, and now, races and tribes. As Brule writes on the back cover of his book, his is truly an American tale, told in "red, white, and black."

A lucky man, indeed.



David Brule, speaking about the history of Native Americans who once lived in the region at the Pocumtuck Homeland Festival in Turners Falls on Saturday afternoon.

MAYBERRY from page B1

through what he called the buss room. As he opened the door, we were greeted with a fairly loud buzzing and I could feel the electric atmosphere in the room.

He always said that unless I wanted a "shocking" experience, to keep my arms at my side and walk on the rubber mats. He didn't have to tell me twice.

Driving into Cabot from Montague City Road near the Farren, there was a concrete box set into the side of a hill. That was where dynamite was stored, for blowing up large chunks of ice in the canal before they could clog the turbines. I saw them do it a couple of times. I don't remember seeing anyone actually set the charge, but I do recall watching my dad touch two wires together, followed by a muffled boom. There was no huge movie-type explosion, just the ice coming apart into smaller pieces.

When I was younger and my older sisters and brother were at home, we spent time at the Turners Rod and Gun Club. Sometimes we stayed overnight and other times we would spend the day and join others for dinner. My dad would often make huge tubs of coleslaw for gatherings at the club, as well as at our friends' camps just across Deep Hole. On lazy days, we would row out into the river and fish, or just sit. There was a smell to the mud along the riverbank that I can still conjure up when I think about those carefree days.

My childhood was fairly mundane, except on the rare occasions when I got into a skirmish with another kid over absolutely nothing. One scuffle, when I was in the sixth grade, was completely humiliating, because I was beaten by a girl in the alley between Third and Fourth Streets.

A tough girl, who I believe had stayed back a grade, decided that I was her enemy. I was not much of a fighter and I knew it was wrong to hit a girl, so I wouldn't hit back and she declared herself the victor. The next day at school in the Patch, she told everyone, and I was disgraced in the eyes of my classmates.

Fortunately, kids' attention spans are short and it was soon forgotten – except by me. While writing this, I just realized that I married a woman with the same name as my tormentor. Hmmmm!

It was common in those days for kids my age and older to spend summers working on tent tobacco in Deerfield, Whately and Hatfield. I was fortunate to escape that fate, but I remember my brother coming home on the company bus covered with dirt. Before he even came into the apartment, my mom and dad would drive us over to the pumping station in Greenfield, so he could wash off the worst of it.

Speaking of water, I often rode with my dad to get water from a spring on the Route 2 side of Canada Hill. My wife, who grew up in Greenfield, remembers her dad doing the same thing. I suppose it's possible that we had encountered each other long before we met at GCC in 1966.

I was only five and a half years old on June 9, 1953, when an EF-4 tornado tore through Worcester and other surrounding towns. More than 90 people died, with hundreds injured. The incredible destruction was something that New Englanders thought only happened in Oklahoma or Kansas.

My brother was a member of the Sea Scouts in Turners, and several of them volunteered to help clean up the devastation. He was gone a few days. Up until then, the most exciting thing his unit had done was learn to sail boats on the river.

Turners was a pretty quiet town back in the day. My dad used to park his 1956 Studebaker President on Third Street and leave the keys in it. I sometimes left my new bike on the street in front of Baker's used furniture store overnight. It was always there the next day.

My first bike was an old clunker that my father received in trade for electrical work at The Old Stone Lodge up in Gill. The beautiful old building had been turned into a very nice restaurant by my dad's friend, Hap Dunican, and his wife. It later became the home of Michael Metelica's Renaissance commune.

In the Leave It to Beaver world of the 1950s, it was a summer tradition for kids to set up lemonade stands.

I didn't see a future in lemonade, so instead I sold my tattered old comic books at a table in front of our Third Street apartment building. They were a nickel apiece, so I didn't exactly get rich.

Lemonade might have been a better choice. Maybe it's not too late!

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was August 11, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

People's Harvest Coming to Riverside

At their Monday night meeting, August 8, the Gill selectboard gave the go-ahead for what organizer Joe Graveline of the Friends of the Wissatinnewag called "a Native American version of the Deerfield Craft Fair."

Graveline, who lives in Northfield, said the festival, called "the People's Harvest," would be a one-day event on Sunday, September 18, to take place at the Schuetzen Verein on Barton Cove, off Route 2 in Riverside, Gill.

"This will be the first time in 328 years that tribal people will be gathering on this land in celebration," Graveline said.

He pointed out that before the massacre at Peskeomskut, under the leadership of settler captain William Turner on May 19th, 1676, the area now known as Barton Cove was one of the northern parts of the village of Peskeomskut, also

known as Wissatinnewag, a joint use area for numerous tribes who fished the Great Falls. The area has been continuously occupied for more than 10,000 years, one of the oldest sites in what is now known as New England.

Lamonakis Takes Light Heavy Weight Title

There's a new world champion in town. Montague's Sonja Lamonakis won the Women's Boxing World Championships in the Light Heavy Weight class on August 6. Held in Kansas City, MO, the tournament featured 1500 fighters representing six different countries.

Sonja defeated national champion Tyler Lord-Wilder by decision in four rounds. Only the top 5 fighters in the US at each weight class were invited to the tournament.

Sonja, who is trained by world-famous Lee Shabaka in Brooklyn, NY, is currently ranked third in the United States for her weight class.

"It was an adrenaline rush," said Sonja. "I trained very hard for six months to win, and now that I've done it, it's great. All my hard work

has paid off."

Lamonakis is well known to locals from her point position behind the counter at her parents' busy lunch counter at Scotty's on the Hill in Turners, and is also an elementary school teacher.

Montague Approves \$2.2 Million Sewer Debt

On a day of low voter turnout, the \$2.2 million debt exclusion vote passed last week by a slim margin. Work on the combined sewer overflow project is now underway.

The debt exclusion will shift 40% of the cost of the planned \$5.7 million sewer repairs and wastewater treatment plant upgrades onto the taxpayers, leaving the remaining 60% of the project to be paid for through sewer user fees, which will rise significantly in the coming years.

Taxpayers can expect an average increase of \$76 on their property tax bill, while sewer fees are expected to rise for residential users from \$5.31 a gallon to \$7.38 a gallon by 2008. Industrial users are facing a likely 42% increase.

THRIFT from page B1

Equally elegant black rayon tee from Liz Claiborne, with whom I am very *simpatico*: \$2.25 (jewels from a previous thrifting adventure)

Flowered skirt for days when I am, or need to be, in a sweet and pleasant mood: \$3.25

Green-and-cream striped mesh tee with asymmetrical hem and tendency to fall rakishly off one shoulder: \$2.25

Blue flowered sweater, because I love blue and black together (it's my Italian half): \$4.25

Ivory cotton slacks for those 101-degree summer days when you're going to be in Sicily, or trotting in and out of freezing air-conditioned stores in the Pioneer Valley: \$4.25.

Relaxed ivory cotton tee because, well, relaxing is good, and I like the way these shirts keep flowery or formal things from looking too Miss Priss: \$2.25

Geometric earrings, also good for teaching prissy clothes a thing or two: \$0.50



Geometric earrings.

For the spousal unit, currently expanding his repertoire with a bit of pattern here and there: a cotton shirt that drapes beautifully, because it's by Italian menswear designer Ermengildo Zegna (what is it with this Italian thing?!), a fine shirt but not so fancy-dancey as to prevent a geologist from feeling perfectly field-worthy and rock-happy: \$3.25

So there you have it: Without even counting as I went along (oh yes, I should have been), I totaled out at \$25.50, and reaffirmed my faith in one of Montague's most wonderful resources.

If you've got a few bucks to spare, I highly recommend that you stop by and happy up your wardrobe. Then come on by the Discovery Center Coffeehouse on the second Friday evening of every month (except December - Santa needs us). You can preen in your "new" outfit while you scarf home-baked treats and listen to some great music. Ciao, baby.

Elizabeth Nash lives and thrifts - or lives to thrift - in Turners Falls. Also living in Turners are the Franklin Area Survival Center at 96 Fourth Street (next to the bakery!), and the Great Falls Discovery Center, across from the Shady Glen Diner on Avenue A.



SCENE REPORT

Upper Valley Music Fest 2015

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS - On July 25, I went to the Upper Valley Music Festival in Turners Falls, and heard several performances at several different places in the area. The festival, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, returned to Turners Falls for a fifth year after a year in Greenfield.

The venues included the Shea Theater, the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, the bar called the Rendezvous, the Harvest Market Stage, and Hubie's Tavern.

I went from venue to venue to see the different performances and get my take on them. Festival t-shirts were for sale in front of the Shea Theater, and I got in for free as a reporter, which was very cool - I enjoy having a press pass to wear.

At the Shea, there was a group called Blackstone Cuil, with a drummer, two fiddlers, and two guitars - one electric, and one acoustic. They

sounded more like rock 'n' roll than folk music. The theater had a somewhat darkly lit atmosphere, but I enjoyed hearing them play.

Mike Ladd's singing of a song called "Wild Rover" was great, as was his guitar playing. I would consider Blackstone Cuil to be my favorite of the performers who were at the festival.

There was what was called a Traditional Irish Music Session at the Rendezvous, which didn't sound bad for what seemed like a group of amateurs. The performers sat in a circle together while performing. A fiddle player named Kenny Butler among them was really good. The other men in the group joined in when Tim Donohue sang. The second fiddle player named David Brule sound good too. Two flute players, Brad Hurley and Ted Soulos, were also part of the group.

Kalliope, who performed on the stage outside of Hubie's Tavern, looked to me to consist of a group of teenagers. There were two female electric guitar players, who played well and sang fine, as did the young female drummer and a male keyboard player. One of the female gui-

tar players sang a ballad quite well.

The music they played sounded a little too pop for me. But the group is making an album at the moment, a fact they mentioned while performing, so other people must find their music to be enjoyable.

A group called Luddy Mussy presented me with a similar reaction when I heard them. Luddy Mussy sounded like I was hearing folk music playing, although the male singer sounded like he was singing a country song.

Another group of performers called Sheez Late, who were at Shea, sounded like country music - even through one man playing a cello and another I believe was playing a conga drum. I guess Sheez Late would be my second favorite, since they sounded like country music and I really love country music. I was able to enjoy them, too, despite the atmosphere of the theater.

One of the performances at the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center had four women called the Women Song Writers. That group consists of one playing fiddle, two playing guitars, and one playing a keyboard. Their singing was all right.



Ivory cotton slacks.

When one of women was done singing, the other two women sang, which I preferred - maybe the duet of the two just hit the right notes for me better than that first person's singing.

After hearing all of these performances, I understood why the fes-

tival draws the amount of people it does each year, beside the fact that it's for a worthy cause.

The performances are of good quality, and at least to my ears, very diverse-sounding.

At the Wendell Free Library: Pastel Paintings by Laurie Neely

By RICHARD BALDWIN

WENDELL - Laurie Neely of Orange presents seventeen pastel paintings for the July - August exhibition at the Wendell Free Library.

This show is made up of a collection of work: some landscapes, four pieces based on a trip to Egypt, and nine animal portraits. Since two of the Egypt paintings also are of animals, the show provides a unique opportunity to see how the artist deals with this subject.

The works in this exhibition are small pieces and the compositions are simple, straightforward and skillfully done; the surface is lively, and the overall feeling is one of intimacy and closeness.

In some of the animal paintings, Neely focuses on the face, which takes up most of the space. In "The Boys," two dogs face to the left and look expectantly at something or someone. In "Yala" a German Shepherd's face fills the

picture and looks out at the viewer. In "Rapunzel" a kitten or young cat looks directly at the viewer as well. Both feel so close they invite petting. In other paintings, the animal is placed further back from the viewer.

In "Hellbore," "Rainbow Chard," "Mt. Grace Stream," and "Autumn Leaves" the images spill across the surface creating a flat, energetic plane. In all the works the space created is primarily two-dimensional, with both background and foreground receiving similar treatment. In "No Diving" the seagull and lettering on the railing in the foreground are both painted in the same loose style as the background landscape, flattening the space.

What especially stands out in all these works is how skillfully Neely emphasizes texture. She does not present imagery photographically. From the whiskers on the cat to the feathers on the chicken, Laurie suggests rather than delineates details.

Her painterly treatment of each subject extends into the background. In "Egyptian Cow" every surface is filled with small marks. In "Orlando" her loose treatment of the feathers is repeated in the background clapboards. In both pieces colors are relatively muted and the subject is placed against a simple geometric background.

In "Mt. Grace Stream" the all-over soft treatment results in an almost abstract painting where each element is handled in a similar manner.

The results of Neely's skill in working with soft pastel, her favorite medium, are works which are intimate, tactile, soft and ultimately friendly. Her compositions are peaceful, and her treatment of detail and surface results in a liveliness that vibrates with energy.

Ms. Neely has been involved with art for most of her life. After commercial art training at the Pittsburgh Institute of Art she had a career in academic communications where she did a great deal of two-dimensional design work. Since retiring six years ago she has devoted much of her time making pastel paintings. In addition Laurie's experience as a horsewoman and potter certainly inform her emphasis on tactile paintings.

Laurie Neely is a member of a pastel group at Art Space in Greenfield, and has shown her work there repeatedly. Most works in this exhibit are for sale. Neely specializes in animal portrait commissions, and can be reached at (413) 374-3755, or via email at whitemulecom@yahoo.com.

There will be an artist's reception at the library on Tuesday, August 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. Library hours are Tuesdays 12 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8p.m., and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

"The Boys," pastel painting by Laurie Neely.

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LEVERETT from page B1

An Unintentional Community

A *New York Times* article in January 2009, "Still Alternative After All These Years," describes Leverett as a harmonious convergence of natural beauty and progressive community. The writer details the living arrangements of the former ashram at the foot of Mount Toby, divided up into apartments with people from a variety of backgrounds sharing space.

Twenty to thirty years ago, this type of co-housing in Leverett was once more common, but is truly alternative now. A real estate agent from Athol explained that many second-home owners in Leverett are from New York City and were "looking for a safe house after 9/11." Laurel Hill Drive resident Victoria Cliche was interviewed as one such safe house seeker; her family lived one mile from ground zero, where her husband worked as an engineer at Merrill Lynch.

About 30 years ago, the household at Ant Rocky's paid only \$700 a year for rent and lived in a rather unsafe house, in terms of construction styles and physics. All of the former residents interviewed described the experience as formative and positive. With no electricity, water from a hand-pumped well, and candles for light, the residents learned homesteading basics fast.

The house, which flourished in the late '70s and early '80s, had three bedrooms upstairs, with two flush toilets upstairs and downstairs – for show, to make the place legal.

If something broke, there was no landlord or supervisor to call. This meant taking immediate actions, such as the time the deck appeared to be unattached to the house one fine afternoon. The rungs of the hand-built wooden ladder were holding the support beams for the house in place, and the rungs were spreading apart. The household stepped to, with tools and sweat.

In the winter, the wind would blow through the walls and extinguish the candles, and it was best to sleep wearing your boots if it was particularly cold. They knew it was spring when one of the residents walked around in nothing but a tool belt and socks.

This type of living situation could no longer exist in Leverett, with today's inspections and codes and high rents. The owner of the property, Ken Johns, built the home out of salvaged wood and hardware. There were piles of the



PHOTOS COURTESY ROSIE HEIDKAMP

Group shot, circa summer 1982.

scrap on the land that eventually went to the Peace Pagoda in its initial construction.

Hands-On Learning

Three former residents of Ant Rocky's gathered over dinner to share their experiences. Lisa Lyn Winter, Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin (legal name), and Rosie Heidkamp, all now living in Wendell, reflected on their seven years spent living at the house. The fact that they all live in cooperative households today reflects their positive experiences at the Ant Rocky's "unintentional" community.

Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin lived in the chicken coop. After she decorated it with wall-to-wall orange carpet, that is. Winter lived in a teepee, all year long, for two and a half years. There was also a bus and a trailer, and something called "the hobbit's house," built partially submerged in the earth by a couple living there.

While today some in Leverett eagerly greet the new broadband service, Ant Rocky's had one phone... in a cherry tree, with the line running through the woods. Callers were instructed to use a ring code to identify their intended: three rings for Lisa, and so on.

Women were the core of the home. Rosie Heidkamp says, "that experience taught me everything I needed to know about managing a property and a home. I really knew I could do it."

Lisa Winter remarks that this hands-on learning is an opportunity too few people in their 20s have today. Jan Bodendorf remembers it was the first time she was encouraged to try her hand at carpentry. Bodendorf wanted counter space

in the kitchen, and acquired materials to build it. She remembers, "Ken watched me all day long, but didn't interrupt. He did tell me, 'I saw what you were doing and never thought it would work, but it did.' I still have that hammer."

She also built the chicken coop that Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin lived in during her time at Ant Rocky's, although she says it was "really more like a cabin, with a beautiful glass-paned door and big, long windows facing the south. I wanted to raise the roof to add more space, and the whole house pitched in to help."

Jan recently discovered a friend had lived for a time in the chicken-coop cabin she built. She also remembers a woman attempting to build an African-style hut with grass thatching, but doesn't know if it lasted.

Sometimes renovation supplies came from the Leverett town dump, but housemates kept an eye on the want ads. Muffin Stuffin remembers, "We had great flooring that came from some old basketball court. We saw an ad for the flooring, and it was at the Renaissance Community." The Renaissance Community was an intentional community that morphed into a cult under the narcissist persona of Michael Metelica, aka "Rapunzel," in Turners Falls.

"All the gals went to get it, and were greeted by a group of guys. We asked the guys, 'Where are your women?' and they replied, 'Taking care of the gardens and the babies.' Then they asked us, 'Where are your men?' so of course, without missing

a beat, we said, 'Taking care of the gardens and the babies!'"

The three reflect on the other communities, and how there always seemed to be an alpha male, "peace and love"-type guru who was just a ladies-man on the make. Ant Rocky's was lucky to have decent men who were confident enough in themselves to work well with the house's "strong-minded women who took action."

Values in Common

The right people found the place and they never had to "give anyone the heave-ho," but it was difficult at times living with all those personalities. Jan Bodendorf remembers struggling with a few people who arrived, and reflected on how things changed when one person was let in. Heidkamp, Winter, and Muffin Stuffin remember how an unspoken code of working together and providing for the general upkeep sprang from basic logic.

Muffin Stuffin remembers that there were always people visiting the place, sometimes coming for a weekend for the experience. The firewood supply would dwindle for impromptu outdoor fires. Sally says one of the first consensus decisions made as a household was to manage the wood needed to survive the winter.

Bodendorf remembers her time in the household, when all would pitch in and work a wood lot. "It was a very cooperative house," she says. "We ate together at a long table. We had big gardens in the back. We also had weekly meetings that everyone enjoyed, and decisions were made only by group consensus."

There were bumpy interactions with the town, and the board of health threatened to condemn the property after a neighbor shared their efforts to build a composting toilet. Heidkamp remembers that one of the board of health members quit the board over the decision, because she didn't want to throw them out. The house dropped the plans and the board dropped condemnation, and the structure was repurposed for garden compost. The town was generally accommodating and hands-off, although some about town would weight their tones in reference to "those people at #6."

"I remember hearing about our place one time, at the Yellow Sun Food Co-op (formerly in downtown Amherst). I was listening to

someone ask a member of the Sirius Community (in Shutesbury) if there were any other communities around the area to live and the Sirius person said, "Well, there's Ant Rocky's. We like to think of ourselves as the Christ and Ant Rocky's as the Anti-Christ," said Sally.

Activism was a part of the culture at Ant Rocky's, due to shared beliefs and values. Many took part in the anti-nuclear movement, protesting the Yankee Rowe nuclear plant on the Deerfield River, which shut down in 1992. Lisa Winter remembers it was easy to rally support in the household. She specifically remembers the late-night phone call from the activist network alerting them that the first reactor containment vessel was bound for the site, and rallying them to help block its delivery. Winter said, "If the pipeline was an issue back then, we'd all be protesting that, too."

There were also smaller bursts of local action, such as the liberation of the chickens from a nearby farm by Sally. "They had all the chickens wedged in, barely able to move, so I got them out and brought them back. I had big bagfuls of chickens. They had been so cooped up all their life, they didn't really know how to fly. I had to teach them. When a dog showed up in the driveway ready to attack, those chickens attacked back."


Paradise Lost

Ken Johns had married and moved to Maine when Muffin Stuffin, Winter, and Heidkamp lived at Ant Rocky's. He continued to rent the place at a low rate, but returned seven years later. Winter recollected the event. "One night, I was living in a trailer at the back of the property, and I heard a truck drive down and someone dumped a big pile of scrap lumber. That's when I knew Ken Johns was back. It went from being our place to his place again. It had taken seven years to clean up all the other piles of scrap lumber."

Some were surprised Kittredge was able to get the land from Johns, as they felt he wanted to put it into a trust for his daughter. Johns acquired the land in 1978 for \$12,000, and the home, outbuildings, and land changed hands twice before Kittredge acquired the property for \$400,000 in 1999.

Robbie Leppzer said that the reality of what happened to the meadow led him to take action to preserve Fiske Pond in Wendell. He explained that for many years, an absentee landlord allowed local swimming and use of the pond. Leppzer said, "Suddenly, it was up for sale, and all of us in town panicked, realizing it could be scooped up by a private developer."

Leppzer helped lead an effort to save it, and now the pond and 125 acres of surrounding woodlands are protected from development forever.

Driving from Leverett into Amherst today, the wall finally ends, but the last parcels of meadow are now up for sale – as are the ants, rocks, and middle woods. 



"Hol's Bus, Sept 1980."



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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*, live acoustic

guitar, 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *The Works of Elice Mimi Davis Pieropan (1931-2013)*. Retrospective of her work from oils, etchings and woodblocks, to watercolors. Through 8/20.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Hall Art Display, *Great Gods and Little Fishes*. Latest paintings by Northfield artist, Charles Shaw. Through 8/31 Artisit reception Sat., 8/15 1-3 p.m.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines*. New pencil and ink drawings as well as Da'Muse wire figures and layered sculptures of Glenn Ridler. Through 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Elizabeth Denny*. Found objects transformed with humor and an acetylene torch. Artist reception Sat., 8/15 at 5 p.m. Show through 9/12.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Two exhibits in two galleries. Ceramics and multi-media by Molly Cantor, and large drawings and site specific installations by Karen Dolmanisth. Through 8/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Hot Stuff*. Members summer show. Through 8/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *East Meets West by Southwest*. Paintings by Sara Deponte and Fabio Deponte. Through 8/24.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmill-riverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us

CALL FOR IMAGES

The Millers Falls Arts Bridge

is calling for images relating to the Millers River. To be used as inspirational source material for a scroll to be painted by Chinese artist Tang Yuhan. The Arts Center will scan original photographs at their center at 5 Church St. in Millers. Call 413-423-3234 to arrange scan, or send digital file to intern@mfabridge.org Deadline is 8/15.

EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*. 6 p.m.



On Friday August 14, at 7 pm, Mark & Beverly Davis will perform in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center. They play in a classical-romantic-folk style, using guitars and mandolin.

Larz Young's CD Release Show. *Blues/folk/jazz*. 8:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: "Bridge of Names". Filmed all over the Valley including Turners Falls and Lake Pleasant. Punk rocker meets visionary preacher - winner at Long Island Film Fest. Directors Liz Foley and Peter Hobbs will be at the showings to lead discussion. Music starts at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Lonesome Brothers*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: "Bridge of Names". See Saturday above for details.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Birdsong at Morning featuring Alan Williams*. Contemporary. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Women's Songwriter Collective*. Christ Joy, Lexi Weege, Carolyn Walker, Lisa Marie Ellingsen. 2:30 p.m.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Springfield Mandolin Orchestra*. Special performance. 2:30 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Tuesdays!* This week it's rabbits. See under Every Tuesdays.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Watermelon Wednesdays, West Whately: *St. Petersburg Quartet*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern string band. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Niall Connolly*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin Allstars*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Mark & Beverly Davis*. Classical guitar and mandolin. 7 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Samara Lubelski, Barry Weisblat, Bill Nace*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad Band*. Blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Movie Psycho*. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Holly May*. Country Pop. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Fundraiser for Montague Reporter. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer: Farewell Show for DJ Just Joan*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lexi Weege*, Jazzy blues. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dave's Birthday Party. Willie and the Poor Boys*. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Tuesdays!* This week it's snakes. See under Every Tuesdays for details.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

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

Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

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Crow's Rebellion

Thursday, 8/13 8 p.m.

The Doug Plavin Allstars

Friday, 8/14- 9 p.m.

Barrett Anderson

Saturday 8/15, 8:30 p.m.

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Wildcat O'Halloran

Sunday, 8/16, 8 p.m.

Lexi Weege

Thursday, 8/20 8 p.m.

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The Rendezvous

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SAT 8/8 9:30 \$15
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Norma Johnson shared this photo of a large creature at her backyard feeder on Taylor Hill.

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