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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 38

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 17, 2014

Gas Pipeline Reps Present Plan In Erving

By KATIE NOLAN

On Northfield Road, at the entrance to Erving Elementary School parking lot, about a dozen people, most wearing orange shirts, held signs saying, “We live here and we support the pipeline.”

The pipeline is the \$3 billion New England Direct natural gas pipeline proposed by Kinder Morgan, Inc., extending from Wright, New York to Dracut, Massachusetts, traversing numerous towns in Franklin County, including Erving.

The Erving selectboard organized the July 7 meeting in order to get first-hand information about Kinder Morgan’s proposal.

The proposed route in Erving is through private and state land, not town-owned land.

When asked if he was from Erving, one of the sign-holding supporters said he was from Orange, but directed a reporter to “that guy,” who he thought was from Erving.

“That guy” didn’t want to tell a reporter where he was from or explain why he supports the pipeline, referring us to Tom Andrews, business manager for the Western Mass Laborers Union.

Andrews said that the New England Direct pipeline project would create jobs in the area, and that Kinder Morgan has a memorandum see **ERVING** page A4

Ruserious Offers Residents Assistance, and More Time

By MIKE JACKSON and CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – “When the whole thing first happened, I went into fight mode,” said Bill Franklin. “But things really fell into place.”

Like all the residents of 42 Third Street, Franklin had been looking for a new place to live. The three-story building on the southwest corner of Avenue A changed hands last month for the first time in thirty years, and the new owners, Ruserious LLC, need everyone out to do long-overdue renovation work.

The project got off to a rocky start when the three families and single man living in its upstairs

apartments as tenants-at-will, who all say they had been told by their previous landlord that they would be able to stay after the sale, received notices to quit their tenancies by August 1.

Since then, Ruserious has rescinded their initial notice to terminate tenancy, and has offered to let the residents stay through September 1, rent-free, while they hunt for new homes – with an additional cash sum on top of their security deposits for the delivery of the apartments vacant and broom-clean.

The new owners are also putting effort into directly supporting the building’s residents in their search for their next homes.

see **MORE TIME** page A7



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By all accounts, the building is long overdue for renovation work.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Shea Theater Youth Learn About State Procurement Law

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard, sticking to its summer schedule of bi-weekly meetings, once again confronted a very full plate that spilled well over the allotted agenda times.

The highlight was an impassioned plea by the directors of the Shea Theater not to put the use of the building out to bid, as potentially required by the state law Chapter 30B. This request was endorsed by an impassioned group of youthful supporters of the theater, who as an added bonus no doubt received their first civics lesson in state procurement law.

The meeting started with another lengthy discussion of rights of way on Hatchery Road, where Lisa Adams would like to rebuild two barns destroyed by fire. Some town officials have argued that the proposed construction would be within the town’s right of way, which would violate the state building code.

The Adams have argued that town bylaws give them the right to rebuild the barns, and that the current rights of way are inaccurate when compared with old maps they are supposed to be based on.

Once again, Ms. Adams ap-



Supporters of the Shea Theater packed the meeting. Image courtesy of MCTV.

proached the board with numerous maps. One was a reconstruction of Hatchery Road in 1759 and another in 1820. (The road was not called Hatchery Road at the time because the hatchery it is now named after was not constructed until the early 20th century.)

Adams was accompanied by several consultants. One of them, whom Adams identified as Mr Toth, had assisted in the historical reconstructions.

Although the audience in attendance, including the press, could not see the actual maps Adams spread out on the front table, her argument appeared to be that the current right of way, which the state Department of Transportation is using in its Greenfield Road reconstruction, is not based on the historical reality.

see **MONTAGUE** page B5

Wendell Citizens Swell Town Hall For Post Office Hearing

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has been running a deficit for a long time, a situation made more difficult by increased use of the internet, and by a 2006 law that requires the USPS to fund retirement far into the future.

The Postal Plan is an attempt by the USPS to cut costs and reduce that deficit in a way that will be least painful to patrons of the Post Office.

One part of that plan was to reduce window hours at the Wendell Center Post Office, and before that they sent a survey to every household that gets mail through the Wendell Center Post Office, 01379, and they scheduled a hearing for July 8 at 1 p.m.

The Wendell selectboard asked the USPS to move the time of their hearing from 1 to 5 p.m., to allow more working citizens to attend. The USPS did that.

Wendell citizens scheduled a vigil for 3 p.m. at the Post Office, and at 4 p.m. that vigil moved to the town hall, where the hearing was held at 5.

By 3:15, almost 20 people had gathered outside the Post Office. Some brought signs, and others picked up signs



HEINEMANN PHOTO

At 4 p.m., the vigil moved to town hall.

that had been prepared. They stood in a line, and this being Wendell, the vigil was not silent, but conversational and welcoming to each arriving person.

Karen Anderson, who is campaigning for state representative in the November election, was not told of the time change and came for the 1 p.m. hearing. She and an aide waited at least an hour before they found out the time had been changed.

Her aide stayed for the vigils and the hearing, but Anderson had another commitment and had to leave.

State representative Denise Andrews came for the hearing, as did Everett Handford from US Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office, and

Keith Barnicle from US Representative Jim McGovern’s office.

A quick sun shower came at 3:40 and people retreated to cars and moved to the town hall. There, the vigil grew to fifty.

People cheered as four USPS officials, Brice Roy, Joe Conti, Tatiana Roy and Christine Dugas, walked past the gauntlet of Wendell citizens. They must have been somewhat heartened knowing that the message they were bearing was unwelcome, but their reception was friendly.

Still more people arrived. By the time the hearing began the group had swelled so that every seat in the town see **WENDELL** page A6

Gas Pipeline Opponents Take To The Streets ... and Plains, and Bridges

MONTAGUE AND ERVING – This weekend, a rolling march from Richmond to Dracut, along the route of a proposed natural gas pipeline, passed through Montague and Erving.

Just as marchers passed a symbolic baton from town to town, we asked some of the participants along the route to send us their first-hand observations. Our managing editor Mike Jackson also stopped by to check out the proceedings.

Kayakers At The Bridge

By LEE WICKS

On Sunday, July 13, Montague pipeline opponents took up their piece of a March Against the Pipeline by taking the baton – a piece of symbolic pipe – from the Deerfield marchers and delivering it to Erving.

In this way, groups of concerned citizens are making their way across the state to deliver signed petitions to the governor at the

State House on July 30.

Deerfield marchers met the Montague contingency in the middle of the bike path bridge at 10 a.m., while a small flotilla of canoes and kayaks cheered from the river below.

Despite stiff competition from the Green River Festival, about twenty people marched, and another dozen paddled below the bridge.

That bridge and the serene span of the river viewed from its center held strong symbolic meaning for the people involved in this protest against the pipeline, said Peter Hudyma, one of the organizers.

Many volunteers and hours of effort went into coordinating this day. A small group has been meeting every two weeks on Monday nights at the public safety complex. All are welcome.

Anyone who wants to come should check the *Montaguema.net* website for meeting times, or go to the “Montague March to Stop the Pipeline” Facebook page.

see **MARCH** page A8



WICKS PHOTO

Montague’s leg began at the bike path bridge, just north of the Deerfield train yard.

The Montague Reporter

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Whose Stories Do We Choose To Cover?

We would like to discuss the criticism we have received for running two recent pieces.

In the first of these, "How I Survived... A Trip To Baystate" (June 12), longtime *Reporter* contributor Joe Parzych shared an anecdotal telling about a recent harrowing illness and hospital stay.

Reader Mary Kay Mattiace, a retired E.R. nurse, wrote to tell us that running this piece did a disservice, not simply to the staff who came off in Joe's telling as absent or inept, but to our readership.

Her objection has merit, and we did not run the story with the aim of stoking the public's distrust of the medical profession or of besmirching the hospital that fostered Joe's.

We trust our readers will take full stock of the context of the piece: one person, telling us about his own experience. We found value in it, and we felt they might too.

As a community newspaper we seek to provide a platform for our friends and neighbors to share their stories. If more folks bring them to us, we may stand the risk of a bias in our selection, but that has usually not been the case.

We have a small print run and, as of this year, none of our content is online. We are aware of the perceived power of the press to elevate one perspective above others, but in the case of our limited platform, we are trying to share that power as widely as possible. You don't have to wait until someone else writes something you think is wrong to see your words in the *Reporter*.

In the case of Joe's article, we have no idea which of the setbacks he encountered were the negative side effects of correct medical decisions, and which were the outcomes of understaffing and a larger crisis of medical care.

In the aftermath of the closure of the North Adams Regional Hospital in March, we feel we should be thankful for the care we have, and worried for its future.

The interests of patients and professionals will be linked in advocating that enough of our society's resources are given to care. But where the resources come up short, as in any short-changed service sector, the two will often encounter each other as adversaries: consumers who demand too much,

and staff who cannot meet the demands.

When these conflicts are experienced, we don't think an appropriate role of the press will be to brush them aside in the hopes of shepherding readers' attentions to the points where the interests converge. And when contributors want to express them, it is not our place to silence them.

We would rather let these conversations play out. We do hope that our pages can be a venue where common ground can be reached. It will be good to remember that those who represent systems of power in our lives may not themselves carry the power to change them, and that the deeper problem lies in the slowly worsening state of what we all accept as normal.

Since this paper began we have always attempted to give voice to the often voiceless. We have never felt that we should only report what is positive in our towns, and ignore the negative. We have never allowed our own associations or friendships with those in the communities we know and love so well to color the news we report.

In this regard, we want to mention a second piece, "Faced With Loss of Homes, Third Street Tenants Assess Options" (July 3). As this is a story still playing out, we will say less about it now, but we will say this:

The Montague Reporter chose to cover this human interest story because its subjects asked us to. We think it gives an important opportunity to explore one of the defining features of Turners Falls: a crowded rental market with many low-income families, where housing precariousness itself becomes a contributing factor in perpetuating poverty.

We have already received both more negative, and more positive, feedback for this story than we have for any since we came aboard as editors last year.

Yes, this happens all the time. Yes, it is normal. Tenants at will, perched on the lowest rung of the housing ladder in a run-down building, have to leave because folks want to fix up the building. It's a complicated situation.

Turners Falls is a unique town, and we believe that among other things, it has the potential to be a haven, a place where folks facing setbacks can land and get back on

Letters to the Editors



The Patient Replies

In response to Mary Kay Mattiace's Letter to the Editor, suggesting the article on my surviving Springfield BayState was "a disservice as well as misleading."

She's absolutely right. I grossly misled readers by not listing all of my "perceived" problems.

For example, I was reduced to using a walker, and was weak from all I mentioned in the article plus the flu, and pneumonia from aspirating barium into my lungs while being examined at Springfield Baystate; I needed someone to move the IV pole as I shuffled to the bathroom with the walker.

I had strict orders to call for a nurse whenever I needed to go to the bathroom, and not attempt to move the IV pole, because there were alarms on it plugged in at baseboard level. Most of the nurses responded promptly. Some did not.

When I suggested the call button was malfunctioning, a night nurse told me that they were shutting off the call light at the nurses' station because they were short-handed. He suggested I unhook my oxygen line, get out of bed, crawl to the alarm

plugs on the baseboard, unplug them, wrap the wires around the pole and use the IV pole in place of a walker.

A supervising nurse later said that was preposterous, dangerous, and not anything I should ever try doing. Again, some of the nurses did a great job – some did not.

I have no complaints about my treatment at *Franklin* Baystate Medical, especially by the emergency room personnel. The treatment at the ER, X-ray, MRI and other departments has also been stellar.

Recently, I've had several occasions to use the ER with excellent treatment every time. Once, when I showed up on a weekend with a tick burrowing deep into my arm, the emergency waiting room had standing room only. A nurse at the desk took me to a wash room, rubbed the tick with liquid soap, it backed out, and she sent me on my way, all in just a few minutes.

I can assure you, that sort of treatment does not happen at Springfield Baystate.

I was once rushed to Springfield Baystate by ambulance, siren blar-

ing, with "Bleeding in the brain."

The ER was full. They wheeled me into a walk-in EMT linen supply closet. I wasn't visited by a doctor for over four hours – plenty of EMT's, but no doctor.

When the doctor finally showed up, he said they'd try to find me a room and he'd examine me the next day.

When my wife arrived without my clothes, I walked out of the hospital in my johnny – bare legged, no pants, no shoes – right by the armed security personnel, who didn't bat an eyelash.

I headed to Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Dartmouth, NH, where I got prompt medical attention and a successful operation.

Recently, a doctor at *Franklin* Baystate advised me whenever *Franklin* Baystate proposed transport by ambulance, to request *Mercy* Hospital, where he said I'd get much better treatment.

Joe Parzych
Gill

Reporter Should Have Handled Building Story Differently

I'd like to comment on how the paper covered the sale of the corner building downtown and the building's current tenants (July 3, 2014).

The coverage reminded me of the radical papers of my youth which had class agendas that were ironically often written by people who came from economic privilege.

My reaction is not because I am a business owner or cannot relate to the enormous concerns of the tenants. In fact, I grew up in a neighborhood very similar to Turners (but with more homicides and a highway in our back yard).

My heart goes out not only to the tenants, but to the new owners. The tenants had been on a month-to-month agreement (which the paper failed to mention) and the previous landlord had assured them they could stay, which was not true.

Of course they would be reeling, and direct their anger at the unknown new owners.

But why give so much detailed coverage to these initial raw reactions, which vilified the new owners before anyone had any time to sit down and explore alternatives?

Why provide scant information on the old landlord in terms of how he handled the situation, how

the apartments had or had not been maintained, or why only one of the tenants has lived there for over a year?

Why present it as two separate articles, which unavoidably set up a divisive "us versus them" dynamic?

Why not do one article that covers the basics, makes it clear that this is an unfolding story with the promise of a follow-up in the next issue, instead of letting initial, emotional and incomplete information fester for two whole weeks before the next paper comes out?

The paper could have still given the pertinent information, including the link to the one tenant's fundraising site, could have mentioned that social services were already involved, and who to contact with ideas or assistance.

Even with no obligation to do so, the new owners made it clear that they were going to work hard to assist the tenants, and from what I have heard, they are doing so in a way that is above and beyond what most landlords would do, and certainly more than some of the absentee landlords that we have downtown would ever consider.

Part of the reason I live in Turners is because of the mix of people here.

No one I know wants Turners to become the next Northampton, and my understanding is that maintaining economic diversity is a part of the town's strategic long-term planning.

I appreciate how more than some places, Turners works to take care of all of its residents, with support from the town, individuals, nonprofits, churches and businesses.

Business owners in Turners have my highest regard for being willing to take risks and invest in this community.

None of the business owners I know are getting rich running a business. They all work their butts off and live with the constant stress of financial challenges.

I appreciate that they have chosen to be here and support the community in countless ways (how many of you have hit up a business for raffle donations, how many businesses advertise in the *Reporter*?).

Hopefully the *Reporter* will follow up on these stories in a more balanced way, and as a community we can continue to grow in ways that are creative, inclusive and respectful.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

their feet.

We think that a step toward this is including the voices and opinions of people living through personal economic crisis, and not brushing them away in favor of the big picture, the statistics, the policy, or the plan.

From the residents' perspective – in the heat and stress of the moment, facing a notice to quit and

feeling like an afterthought to the transaction – the new owners were the immediate agents of their crisis.

Did giving voice to that experience do our readers a disservice? Should we have waited for the new owners to make the story a happier one before reporting on it? Should we have intervened and altered the story by asking them to?

What if we were assured they would, but only off the record?

These are open questions. We are learning on the job, and everyone who sees ways we can do a better job should let us know, or even better, join us.

In the meantime, we will follow this story as it unfolds, and we are glad to see it is already changing for the better.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

In baseball news, the **Turners Falls 10U Tournament Team** defeated Longmeadow 9 - 0 Saturday night, July 12, during the Belcher-town Green Monster Tournament.

David Carey and Jake Dodge combined pitching for Turners Falls to strike out 16 batters. Carey struck out 7 and Dodge struck out 9. Dalton Henderson hit a double and a single, and Jake Dodge hit 2 singles with 2 RBI's.

David Carey and Cayden Lehtomaki each had a double, Joey Mosca had a single with 1 RBI, and Ryan Grace, Dylan McLaughlin and Brady Booska each had a single.

Longmeadow had only 2 hits during the game. Turners Falls' tourna-

ment hopes were lost due to a 7 - 6 loss to the Enfield Dirt Dogs.

To make composting as easy as possible, the Solid Waste District Office is now selling green "Sure-Close" **kitchen compost pails** for \$5. This 1.9-gallon pail is meant to sit on the countertop or under the sink to collect compostables before taking them out to the backyard or municipal compost bin.

Also available for \$45 is The Earth Machine composter, made of a tough recycled polyethylene plastic with a twist-on locking lid.

The **senior summer picnic** is Tuesday, July 22, at the Schuetzen Verein, just off Rt. 2 near Barton Cove in Gill. Tickets are available at the Gill/Montague Senior Center.

There will be plenty of food and

beverages. Gates open at 11 a.m., lunch will be served at noon and bingo starts at 1 p.m.

Explore the art of painting with Rebecca Silva-Rosen at Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls on Saturday, July 19, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Also at GSB on Saturday, July 26, from 9:30 a.m. to noon learn how to **fight personal computer fraud** with Roger Pratt who has 50 years of computer skills and knowledge.

The annual boat parade and fireworks of **Christmas in July** is scheduled for Saturday, July 26. Festivities start at dusk and can be viewed from Unity Park in Turners Falls. Get there early because front row viewing is a premium.

Christmas in July is sponsored by the Franklin County Boat Club located near Barton Cove in Gill.

The Nolumbeka Project, organizers of the **Pocumtuck Homelands Festival**, and RiverCulture, sponsors of the **Turners Falls Block Party**, are teaming up this year to offer a day of fun, music, activities and excitement in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 2, from noon to 8 p.m.

The town-wide event celebrates

the parks, people, history and culture, past and present, in Turners Falls. Activities are scheduled throughout town and along the river.

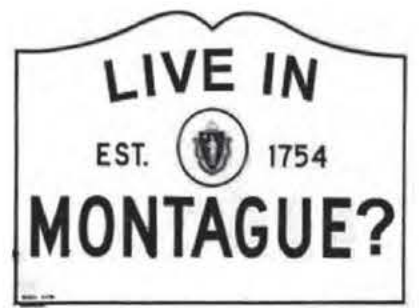
The Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, featuring Native American activities and arts and crafts, will be held at Unity Park; the block party will happen on Avenue A between 3rd and 4th streets.

Also on Saturday, August 2 from 10 a.m. to noon, Conversations for Racial Justice presents **Youth Injustice: Race, Class, & the School-To-Prison Pipeline**, a workshop with Mel Motel at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. For more information about this workshop: www.massslaveryapology.org.

Many **Montague Center and Leverett subscribers to the Montague Reporter** will be temporarily receiving their newspaper in the mail. Anyone interested in driving around these beautiful towns on Thursdays and/or Fridays can contact the *Reporter* at 863-8666.

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More Letters to the Editors



Leverett: The Reporter Got It Wrong (Again)

I am a longtime reader and supporter of the *Reporter*, and was appalled at the report of the Leverett selectboard meeting of June 24.

There are so many errors and distortions in the report that I can't respond to them all, but I will try to address the issues to which I, in my capacity as chair of the board of health, was asked to respond.

I was on the agenda to discuss the tick surveillance program which we were asked to consider joining. The program costs \$3,000, not \$300. The selectboard agreed with the board of health that it was not practical for us to join at this time for a variety of reasons.

I was asked about the board of health's order for a Title V inspection at 1 Dudleyville Road. The order has to date not been complied

with, and we were about to contact the owners to do so, when the Town announced a tax taking of the property, so our letter has not been sent.

I also stated that I had been told there were some items being moved out of the home on the previous weekend. The order to remove the collapsed barn was issued by the Town, not by the board of health, and I did not say some cleaning up had gone on outside the home.

The reporter conflated my comments concerning the conditions at 1 Dudleyville Road with my comments on the Montague Road property.

The buildings at 142-44 and 146-148 Montague Road were placed into receivership by Housing Court. I reported at the selectboard meeting that the receiver is Tony Wit-

man, and he had two trucks at the property the day after the court session and cleaned up the outside of the properties.

David Biddle's name did not come up, since he is no longer the owner of the properties. I further stated that Mr. Witman had attended the last Board of Health meeting to meet us and the health agent and that he has until August 1 to submit his plan for renovating the properties.

We regret the errors in our reporting. A typo, unfortunately, crept into the reporting of the tick surveillance program. The number should have definitely read \$3,000, not \$300. We also greatly appreciate the corrections regarding the clean-up of properties. Our substitute reporter, who

There are numerous outstanding orders to correct from the board of health, including the septic systems, and the receiver must address them all.

The work of the board of health is sometimes difficult and stressful, and we are not helped by misrepresentations of statements at selectboard meetings.

Fay Zipkowitz
Leverett

also happens to be the editor of this newspaper, was unfamiliar with the various issues, got his notes crossed, and ended up reporting inaccurately the rapid-fire, back and forth discussion of these properties. This is not an excuse, only an explanation. We thank Fay Zipkowitz for helping us correct the record.

Two-Article Approach To Building Story Was Fair

I am writing to voice my appreciation for the *Reporter's* coverage of the sale of 102 Ave A.

The two articles, presented side by side on the front page, laid bare the very complicated interplay of issues that I believe should be more publicly discussed if we want to develop an economically sustainable and compassionate community.

I understand that this is not an easy thing to do in such a small town, especially when passions can run high on all sides of such issues.

It is common for small local media outlets to focus solely on the positive aspects of development, typically outlining the struggles of business owners and developers.

These successes and failures can have great impact on our fragile economy, and I think the *Reporter* has long done a great job covering this.

What makes the *Reporter* extraordinary is that for this instance of a successful transaction they went a step further and asked: Who else is affected in the sale of this building? Who are they? What is happening to them? What are their situations?

Obviously, these two brief and probably hastily-assembled articles

are not going to be the last word on any of the parties involved in these stories, but they open a sorely needed place for us as readers and community members to participate.

The dissonance between the good news of one article and the bad news of the other makes us ask questions. These questions fuel discussion, and hopefully, those discussions lead to action.

In fact, among many conflicted feelings, I found myself wondering, "Why should we only know of the struggles and burdens of business owners?"

I have heard many complaints that the *Reporter* has somehow treated the building's new owners unfairly, and to this I recommend slowing down and re-reading the articles.

Any negative comments or connotations are derived from sources' voices, not that of the editorial voice - there is a difference here, and I strongly believe that we are blessed to have editors who know this difference.

Thank you *Montague Reporter* for inviting us to think and participate!

Neil Young Cloaca
Turners Falls

House Bill Would Threaten Growth of Solar in State

I'm concerned about the future of solar electricity (aka photovoltaics/PV). The Massachusetts House bill H4185 threatens to seriously restrict solar incentives and options for homeowners, small businesses, and community solar, endangering local jobs and limiting the potential to offset fossil fuel.

As the 2012 Solarize Montague coordinator and an energy consultant, I see this "compromise" bill as a barrier to our continued adoption of smaller scale solar.

While the bill has positive language removing the net metering cap to allow all solar installations to receive credit at a retail rate from utilities for their PV production, the utilities would receive significant benefits for this concession.

For example, H4185 would replace the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) program, which has propelled the Massachusetts PV market, with an incentive administered by the utilities. SRECs drive investment in solar because they result in a short payback period.

The bill could prevent owners

from sizing PV to exceed their use, in order to share solar electricity with others or cover future demands, like electric vehicles and expanded business operations.

All electricity customers would be charged a *new* monthly fee with no limits in the legislation, supposedly to cover the costs of PV to the utilities. The fee does not recognize the benefits of solar, including avoided system expansion.

I call on the Massachusetts House to address the current bill's obstacles to smaller scale solar investment. If that is not an option, then they should pass the bill *only* to remove the net metering cap and create an inclusive process for revising the rest of the legislation, including local solar businesses, solar owners, and community shared solar developers at the table.

Anything less will put the growth of PV at risk of severe decline and would be counter to our state's commitment to clean energy.

Sally Pick
Montague

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ERVING from page A1

of understanding with the union committing them to hiring local union laborers if the project is approved.

Nearer the entrance to the building, there were a few people holding "Stop the Pipeline" signs.

Inside the school gym, about a hundred people, including the laborers and anti-pipeline vigilers, listened to moderator Tom Graves as he outlined the format: 15 minutes for a presentation by Kinder Morgan employees and 15 minutes for an anti-pipeline spokesperson, then questions and answers.

Alan Fore, director of public affairs for Kinder Morgan, introduced Kinder Morgan through a PowerPoint presentation as a natural gas pipeline company operating nationwide. He said, "We are a long-time corporate citizen in Massachusetts with up to 60 years experience in pipeline construction."

He noted that current Kinder Morgan pipelines supply natural gas distributors, including local companies such as Berkshire Gas and Columbia Gas.

According to Fore, the proposed route is preliminary and has not been filed with any regulatory agency. The route will be refined and changed as the company "gets on the land and gets a closer look."

Fore said that the proposal is customer-based, and that, at Kinder Morgan, "we do not build" if there is not an established demand from gas distributors. He said that long-term contracts with twelve distributors will be announced in the next few weeks.

He emphasized that the project proposal is in its early stages, a "precursor to the pre-filing process" and would have to pass rigorous state and federal standards before being approved. Kinder Morgan expects to file for "pre-filing" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this fall, work on FERC scoping in the beginning of 2015, and complete a filing to FERC in fall 2015. If FERC approves the project, construction could start early in 2017.

Fore listed the project's benefits: \$25 million in projected local tax

payments, 3,000 construction jobs, and a long-term additional supply of natural gas.

State representative Denise Andrews, speaking for people opposed to the pipeline, apologized for speaking extemporaneously, because she had just been asked to be the spokesperson just ten minutes earlier.

She said the pipeline provided no local benefit at a very high cost.

Andrews asked, "Is there a need for additional natural gas?" and answered, "We don't know." She said that she and other state legislators from towns along the proposed pipeline route had started meeting and considering how to require "due diligence on the need for natural gas."

Andrews said the state could grow with a sustainable model, and that other ways to meet the demand for energy include conservation and renewable energy. She said the project is too costly – and that ratepayers will end up paying for it.

Andrews said that there is a problem with "where the pipeline goes": the proposed route goes through environmentally protected land, endangered species habitat, and source areas for high quality drinking water.

Regarding jobs, Andrews said that the 3,000 construction jobs were not sustainable, and that currently Kinder Morgan has only 46 long-term employees for its existing Massachusetts pipelines.

Andrews said that safety is an issue with a gas pipeline – "mechanical failures will happen." She said that small town fire and police departments will see additional training, equipment, and operations costs for dealing with potential pipeline accidents.

Andrews asked for an open process for reviewing the proposed pipeline, "vetted at the state and

local level, engaging local leadership." She said the "fully engaged activists" should also be part of the process.

Asked about Kinder Morgan's safety record, Fore said that they publish their record online and that they are one of the safest companies in the industry. "We are not a perfect company," he said, "but if an incident occurs, we address it." He noted that the company works with local emergency response agencies.

Asked about potential terrorist attacks on a pipeline, Fore asked people to look at the record of the existing pipelines in the state. He said that pipelines, with automatic shutdown controls and segregation

policy debate than Kinder Morgan proposing a pipeline project."

He also told the audience, "Fracked gas is already coming to the region," with about 60% of the New England natural gas supply coming from hydraulic fracturing in New York and Pennsylvania shale deposits. According to Fore, even if the pipeline is not built, that percentage will increase in the future.

Asked about an increase in electricity rates to pay for the proposed pipeline, Andrews replied that the legislature has not voted on that yet, although a tariff on transmission lines and pipelines is the "lead" idea. She said that the tariff proposal is separate from the New England Direct pipeline proposal.

Fore said that Kinder Morgan will still build the pipeline if the tariff is not passed.

Asked about the effect of the pipeline on taxes, Fore cited the significant amount of new real estate taxes coming to the towns.

Andrews noted that property values will decrease for properties the pipeline passes through and that selling homes will be more difficult.

Asked about monitoring of groundwater quality, Kinder Morgan project manager Mike Lennon replied that pre- and post-construction water samples would be collected and data shared with landowners.

Answering a question about land use for properties over the pipeline, Fore said the company wants a 50-foot easement, that land could remain agricultural, but no permanent structures could be built.

The selectboard will discuss the pipeline project at its August 4 meeting, and expects there will be a vote on a non-binding resolution about the project at a future town meeting.

Fore said that Kinder Morgan will still build the pipeline if the tariff is not passed.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Board Seeks To Auction Off International Paper Mill Building

By **KATIE NOLAN**

At the July 7 Erving selectboard meeting, town administrator Tom Sharp reported that counsel Donna MacNicol is researching whether a town meeting vote is needed before auctioning the former International Paper mill property on Paper Mill Road, now owned by the town.

At the June 30 meeting, water department foreman Pete Sanders had reported that, during a walk-through, there was evidence of a water leak in the IP building, and therefore, a 10-inch main was shut off.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said that there is no sprinkler system at the plant. However, in case of a fire, Sanders said that a charged hydrant is available at the property.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan recommended that the town sell the property as soon as

possible.

In the meantime, the board asked highway foreman Glenn McCrory to order no trespassing signs for the property.

McCrory reported that he surveyed highway and POTW employees about using town-purchased cell phones. He said that the majority of employees prefer to purchase their own phones and be added to the town cell phone plan.

McCrory provided the board with job descriptions for a part-time seasonal mowing position and a part-time building custodian position. The board approved running ads for the two positions.

Sharp reported that the audit by Odyssey Advisors indicated that the retiree health benefits fund would be fully funded by 2019 as long as the town continues to contribute \$300,000 per year to the fund.

Sharp reported that the bid for sludge hauling was 5% higher than

last year, but the town is producing less sludge, so the overall cost is lower.

Sanders said the lower amount of sludge was due to "the way we're running the plant."

At the June 30 meeting, police officer Robert Holst was appointed sergeant.

The recommendation from Chief Chris Blair noted that Holst started the canine officer program in town, and is the DARE officer. He has been a police officer for 12 years, the last three in Erving.

Son Hui May of Mountain Road, Elizabeth Sicard of Forest Street, and Laura Bezio of Pleasant Street were appointed to the cultural council.

The Erving Town Hall will not be open on the evening of Monday, July 28.

The offices will be open for business during their normal daytime hours.

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Montague Awarded a \$84,935 Green Community Grant

By REPORTER STAFF

On July 14 the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division approved a Competitive Grant award of \$84,935 to fund a new energy-efficient HVAC system and roof insulation upgrades at the municipally-owned Shea Theater.

The current system is at the end of its useful life, according to a recent study. The grant will leverage a \$21,931 utility incentive and is projected to save the community theater up to \$6,417 in annual energy costs. This will allow the facility to become a viable multi-use rehearsal space during the week and ultimately be more usable in the winter.

The building's roof is also approaching the end of its useful life. If the town decides to re-roof in conjunction with the HVAC, the grant allows for the purchase of ef-

ficient insulation.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said he was very pleased that Montague was awarded the grant. "It was highly competitive," he noted. "The return on investment was very high and the project was well-conceived. And, of course, it is a great benefit to our community theater."

Ramsey said the Shea's board also has a "green mission" consistent with the Town's energy reduction goals. In 2012 the board partnered with the town and Northeast Utilities to replace all incandescent house and theater lights with LED fixtures, greatly reducing electricity use.

This is the third Green Community Grant awarded to Montague since 2010. Funding has totaled over \$242,633 and has financed efficiency improvements to Town Hall, Carnegie Library, Public Safety, and Water Treatment Facility.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Jan's Package Store Gets New Owner; Energy Commission Gets Go-Ahead

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

At the Gill selectboard meeting on July 14 Steve Schechterle, Jr. introduced himself to the board as the new owner of Jan's Package Store. Schechterle said he had been the lucky bidder at the auction on July 9 for the long-defunct package store behind the Mobil Station on Main Road, just off Route 2.

He told the board that he was currently "in the process of getting everything wrapped up." Once that happens, he said, he would be applying for a full package store liquor license transfer.

The board welcomed Schechterle to Gill. Chair Randy Crochier thanked him "for investing in the town."

Schechterle said he has been in the liquor business for 25 years and currently operates two other stores, both called the Spirit Shoppe in Deerfield and Sunderland. "I'm very excited about taking the store and turning it around so it is an asset to the community," said Schechterle.

He said he wants to open as soon as possible, noting that he has just 30 days to complete his financing of the store.

Personnel Issues

Administrator Ray Purington announced he had a "couple of leads and a couple of feelers" on the custodian position but that so far no hire was imminent.

A more lengthy discussion centered on the best way to hire someone to catch up on compiling the annual reports that have not been produced since 2009. Town Meeting approved \$5,000 to hire clerical help to create the reports. The issue was how best to proceed.

The board voiced their concern that even with dedicated clerical help, too much burden would still fall on Purington. Additionally, there was a question of what format should be used. Previous reports have been authored in Microsoft Publisher.

Greg Snedeker suggested that

maintaining in the town's building repairs and maintenance account, \$4,000, on the project to replace the roof at the public safety complex. This slightly reduced the money the town expects to have to borrow for that project.

At 6:44 p.m., moderator Zywna suggested ten minutes be taken for general questions and answers, since he, the clerk, the administrative assistant, and all members of the town's selectboard and finance committee were present.

Patricia Crosby asked about the committee to explore the town's

Microsoft Word would probably be easier to use and would also increase the number of candidates since most everyone was familiar with Word.

In the end, Snedeker volunteered to be the "point person" and was officially appointed by the board as liaison. He said he would start by seeing if he could import a previous report from Publisher to Word. If so, the ad for the clerical worker would not have to specify knowledge of Publisher. The other board members also offered additional help to Purington.

The board also voted to adopt the COLA increases to Social Security as the baseline for personnel COLA increases for town employees.

Energy Commission Report

The energy commission presented their latest proposals for spending their Green Communities Designation grant, as well as their plans to apply for another green energy grant early next year.

Claire Chang, energy commission chair, said that the commission's top priorities were to proceed with insulation at town hall and at the Riverside municipal building, as well as install new air source heat pumps at the Riverside building.

To oversee the bidding process for these improvements, the board voted to spend \$4000 of the Green Community money to utilize the services of Andrea Wood at FRCOG.

The commission also said that they were very keen on moving ahead with applying for a Green Communities Competitive Grant to install a groundsource heating and cooling system in town hall. At present, the hall is being heated by a 1999 oil furnace, with only 82 percent efficiency.

Ground source heat pumps rely on the heat reservoir of the earth below the frost line to exchange heat from the earth to a building in winter, or heat from a building to the earth in summer, relying on an electrically powered heat pump, similar to a refrigerator or air conditioner's, to boost the heat exchange.

options for uses of the Riverside Municipal Building. That building is currently rented to Four Winds School, with some office space also used by the historical commission and granted to the Riverside Water District in exchange for water to the building.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington said that the committee was ad hoc, is not reappointed annually, and has not met in "at least a year or two."

Zywna then told a joke about Heaven, and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Chang said that in order to be eligible for the competitive grant, they would need to spend all of their present designation grant. Commission member Tupper Brown urged the board to act quickly on the present projects at Riverside and town hall so that the commission would be in the right place next spring to qualify for the competitive grant.

Chang said that the installation of the ground source heat pumps would require the drilling of several wells in what is now the parking lot adjacent to town hall. Brown added that when the wells are completed and the loop installed into the building where the heat pumps will be located, the lot would be repaved and completely usable again.

Crochier suggested that due to water penetration into town hall, the town should take advantage of the well excavation to erect a water-prevention barrier at the foundation level. The board and the commission members agreed this was not only a good idea but quite feasible.

Crochier also suggested that the energy commission investigate the installation of a wood-fired boiler for the safety complex. "Three days a week those buildings sit empty, said Crochier. "We can burn all this wood we're collecting from the roadsides," he said.

Ward seconded the idea, noting that while he had formerly been skeptical of wood furnaces, the new wood-fired boilers are far less polluting than former models.

Other Business

The board approved a request from fire chief Gene Beaubien to purchase a number of items, totaling \$11,609.95, necessary annually for the operation of the fire department.

Among the items included were fire and emergency pump testing and servicing, ladder testing, air pack testing, jaws testing, and the county radio maintenance agreement with the FRCOG.

Gill's Oldest Resident Dies

Crochier also informed his fellow selectboard members that he had learned that Gill's oldest resident, Mrs. Ellen Hastings, had recently passed away.

Hastings was 99, and the mother of former highway boss Ernie Hastings and the grandmother of current police chief David Hastings.

The next meeting of the board will be on July 28.

Gill Special Town Meeting Sets Land Speed Record

By MIKE JACKSON

On Tuesday, July 8, the highest deliberative body of the Town of Gill, its open town meeting, convened to approve three small expenditures that had been recommended by the town's finance committee. About twenty residents unanimously approved small sums of money for Riverside's sewer system, locks for the doors at the Elementary School, and the roof at the Public Safety Complex.

The meeting began shortly after 6:30 p.m., with a pledge to the flag, and moderator John Zywna acknowledged the town's newest selectboard member, Gregory Snedeker. "I hope your efforts are rewarding, and without stress," Zywna told him.

If the next three years look anything like last week's meeting, Snedeker's term may indeed be smooth sailing. No one spoke, or voted against, any of the articles, though a few pointed questions were raised along the way.

Article 1 transferred \$3,500 from the wastewater treatment plant fund to the Riverside sewer system account, in order to avoid a deficit in that account's budget. The district pumped more sewage than expected across the river to Montague, which also raised the rate for treating it this year.

After the votes, Bev Demars, pointing to the copy attributing the higher-than-expected flow to "a very wet year," asked, "Why is that going in there?"

Every sewer system, selectboard member Randy Crochier answered,

suffers from some degree of infiltration, but it seems that Riverside's is taking in an exceptional amount of extra water somewhere.

Efforts to pinpoint the breakage have been frustrated. A smoke test only found one small area, and the town will send cameras in. "We have to find that spot," Crochier said, adding that once that has been accomplished, the town will have to weigh the costs of repairs against expected saving.

Article 2 transferred \$6,800 from the town's stabilization fund to the school district, to pay for someone to install new locksets and handles on the classroom doors at Gill Elementary School.

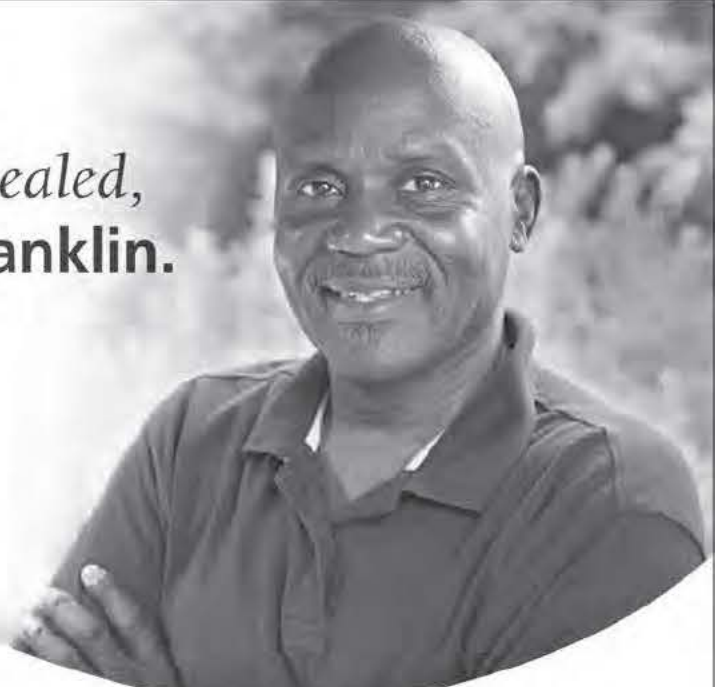
This project would allow classrooms to be locked from the inside in the case of a security emergency. Montague's town meeting members approved an expenditure for work at the district's schools within its borders at its May town meeting.

Ray Steele noticed that on a printed handout about the proposal, it was mentioned that labor would cost \$350 less if done in-house by the district. He asked why that cost-saving decision was not being made in advance.

"We have had reductions," explained GMRSD superintendent Michael Sullivan, on hand to field questions about the request. "Things are kind of tight." He said management preferred not to allocate the time of one of the district's own maintenance staff to the large task of changing the locks throughout the district.

Article 3 spent the money re-

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WENDELL from page A1

hall was filled, the aisles on both sides of the room were filled with standees; more people stood in the entryway and out into the street.

There were infants, toddlers, children and adults numbering 150 or more, and all were well-behaved and quiet well into the second hour of the hearing. The tone was respectful and cooperative.

Inside the hall, Brice Roy said that the Postal Plan had monitored transactions remotely to determine when and where they can reduce hours and services, and then sent a survey to all recognized patrons of the 01379 zip code.

Out of 407 surveys sent, 170 were returned, and 161 of those preferred the option, "reduce the window hours from 7-1/2 to 6."

Roy said that under the plan, the Wendell Post Office would open one hour later and close one half-hour earlier but that post office boxes would be available 24 hours a day with the lobby open, and the area behind the counter locked in off hours.

He did not say that the other three options of the survey were variations on "close the Wendell Post Office".

Selectboard member Dan Keller stood and said that the survey was skewed, and did not include the option that all in the town hall preferred, "Keep the Wendell Post Office operating as it has been operating."

He said many people in town have no home delivery and rely on a central Post Office. Otherwise they are forced to drive 10 miles or more to another town simply to mail a letter. People come from surrounding towns to use the Wendell Post Office which is still full service.

He cited Ben Franklin's vision of mail service for all the people, a service and not always a profit-making enterprise.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard spoke next. She is the secretary of Swift River School and she uses the Wendell Post office at both ends of the day, before and after school, to mail and pick up school documents, often large envelopes and bulky mailings and packages that require the special handling that a full service post office delivers.

The two ends of the day are what the Postal Plan would eliminate. She said the school spends \$500 a month on stamps, and reducing the hours would reduce the income, not the deficit.

Others spoke of home businesses that rely on the post office for larger mailings and deliveries, of using a box at the post office because winter delivery at home is problematic or impossible.

State Representative Denise Andrews spoke of a process for working together for adjusting the plan with everyone affected having input for a creative solution. She said that even the best minds can overlook possibilities that a wider perspective can bring in, and she asked about a process for changing what some perceive as a foregone conclusion.

Postal Plan representative Tatiana Roy said that if revenue increased, hours could be increased, and Andrews said there are different ways to assess revenue, and we are looking at everything.

Wendell resident, Deb Tyler stood and presented a petition with 458 signatures requesting no change in the Wendell Post Office. Residents Robbie Leppzer and Sharon Wachsler alternated in giving a prepared statement. Leppzer said

the survey was flawed and only offered two real options, reduce hours or close altogether. He said we are creative, and there are other solutions. To start, the USPS survey was remote and only recorded the transactions that were done on the computer.

to half the state average – Wendell citizens would be hurt much more by having to spend the extra time traveling to a full-service post office, and because there is no public transportation in town, maintaining a car and burning gas.

The Wendell Country Store is



A banner at the vigil bore this representation of Postmaster O'Dowd.

Wachsler continued: Most of the transactions in Wendell do not involve the computer, and on the day before this hearing Wendell citizens conducted their own honest and unannounced survey, with seven observers each taking an hour-long shift watching Post Office use for a day.

Even on a July day with people on vacation, every hour had activity. There was a peak from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., but there was no slow time and patrons came from Wendell and surrounding towns. Leppzer said the Wendell Post Office serves people from parts of New Salem, Warwick, Montague, Shutesbury, Leverett, and Orange, places where the trip to Wendell is shorter than the trip to another full service Post Office.

Wachsler said the Wendell Post Office handles live shipments of chicks, turkeys, bees, pigeons, and plants, all of which can die if they are not picked up promptly. Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd calls when the shipments come in and people come to pick them up.

Prior to the meeting, Joe Conti had told Leppzer that such calls are Post Office policy, but Wachsler said that policy and fact are not always the same and people who depend on receiving their shipments live have had them sent to Wendell.

Leppzer said that when Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd was out on sick leave, people missed deliveries and deadlines, had insurance cancellations and other problems that followed from mail they did not receive on time.

He said that UPS and Fed Ex will not travel some of Wendell's roads and have arranged to leave deliveries at the Post Office. Small businesses rely on the full service Post Office.

Reducing Wendell to a part-time post office would give Wendell citizens a 45-minute round trip drive at least to the nearest full-service post office, and the fact that other surrounding post offices have reduced their hours makes it more important that Wendell's stay full time where it can be a hub with full service.

With more dirt roads per capita than any other town in the state, and a median income of \$35,000 – close

Wendell's largest employer with 22 employees, significant in a town of 850; people who stop at the Post Office often walk next door to the Country Store and buy a coffee, a lunch, a few items. Reducing the Post Office hours would have a ripple effect on the store, its employees and the number of purchases made in a town with a per capita income and median income well below the state's. The Country Store's margins are slim already.

Charles Thompson Smith stood slowly and he spoke slowly. He said

he represented the Council on Aging. "There are a lot of old people in Wendell. There are people like me who know less than anything about the internet and social media." Reducing the service available at the Post Office defeats "the principle of equality."

It is a slippery slope with reduced service reducing revenue, which will result in further reductions in service, resulting in lower revenue still.

Beth Jacobs stood and gave a long list of awards that O'Dowd got, not including his prior career in professional hockey.

He was first in the nation to offer recycling of mixed paper so that 100% of undeliverable bulk mail is recycled, and got a Waste-Wise Federal Government Partner of the Year award from the US EPA in 2004.

O'Dowd was Postmaster of the Year in Massachusetts in 1998, and the Wendell Post Office was awarded the prize for best Post Office of the year (nationally) in the 1990s. The list filled a page-long handout that was given to congressional representatives.

Kate, a postal worker who retired after 35 years in the postal service, spoke of the service part of the postal service, and gave each of the Postal Plan officials a present of what looked like home made jam. Citizens applauded.

In the days before the hearing, talk was that the hearing was about the post office, and not about Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd. But comments from the people again and again returned to the outstanding service O'Dowd has given.

During the 2006 tornado, when trees and wires prevented the large truck from navigating Wendell's roads, he drove his car to meet the truck and brought the mail through. He takes the 18th-century motto seriously: "Neither rain, nor snow, nor

sleet, nor dark of night stays these brave couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

When someone comes to buy stamps he cheerfully says, "You have come to the right place," and he offers a selection of beautiful stamps, historic stamps, commemorative stamps, so the purchase is as much a choice as buying a new shirt.

A ten-year-old boy said, "You should reward, not punish, good service."

Morgan Mead said, "How many stamps do we have to buy" to make the post office solvent? Christine Dugas, the official of Corporate Communication said the answer is more complicated than that.

Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin said to the four representatives, "You have the figures to bring up the ladder, but we want you also to carry up our hearts and our passion."

Ben Schwartz said, "If you go to bat for us, we will have your backs," and people cheered.

Near the end of the hearing, Andrews looked out at the people in the town hall, still packed and said, "I love this view. This is what needs to happen everywhere, but it does not. You give me hope."

The compelling arguments heard at the hearing are testimony to what makes Wendell and the Wendell Post Office special, and when something is right, it should be kept. We have a sharing of information this day and now there should be time to pause and process that information. Then people can come back together and work together for a solution.

Andrews asked people who spoke to send her a summary of what they said, and she would compile them for further thought by other officials.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board Discusses Trash, Broadband and Gold Pins

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On July 2, the second evening of Wendell's new fiscal year, the Wendell selectboard met for a short meeting with a short agenda. Highway commission chair Harry Williston met the board early and listened to a plan that might help reduce roadside trash. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich described the plan as it is practiced in New Salem.

In New Salem any citizen who brings a bag of roadside trash to the transfer station has his or her name put on a list.

At the end of every month one name is drawn from that list and that person wins a bag of official trash bags. Williston asked for any more details that could come, but he approved of the idea. He also said the road crew could install the bike racks that the energy committee is getting with the hope that Wendell people will use bicycles more and cars less.

The Aldrich Report

Aldrich reported that Hampshire Power is still working on details of the homeowner plan to aggregate buying electricity, but that a fixed rate of 9.1 cents /kwh looks unattainable.

Good Neighbors agreed to check the town hall men's room after their Sunday food distribution, and town custodian Larry Ramsdell will keep the selectboard aware of the men's

room condition. Whittier Plumbing will install a new low flush toilet.

The office of US Congressman Jim McGovern wrote to the Connecticut Valley Postal Office, and the response gave the impression that the decision to cut hours at the Wendell Post Office has already been made.

Aldrich found a jeweler in Leominster who will make a pin that will replace the Boston Post gold-handled cane that goes to the town's oldest citizen.

People who die do not return that cane, and so it is mounted in the town office building, and will be replaced with a pin that will be given, not loaned, to the oldest citizen. Each pin costs \$20, and the town will buy five to start.

Other Business

Finance committee members Doug Tanner and Christine Fontaine met the selectboard to continue their discussion of the date and time for the next annual town meeting. Tanner said the fin com needs all the time it can get to prepare a budget.

For the June 7, 2014 meeting they started early and all the departments were quick with getting their budget requests in, but information keeps coming in later.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that a mistake made while rushing to get the budget ready for the 2013 town meeting made it nec-

essary to have a large tax increase in the tax rate set by the 2014 meeting.

WiredWest asked the selectboard to send a letter to the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), and promote Wired West as the entity that would oversee extending a fiber optic internet connection the last mile, to every house in town. Leverett town meeting authorized borrowing \$3 million to have that done in Leverett, and Shutesbury residents are beginning to look at that possibility.

WiredWest wants the selectboards from 42 towns to send similar letters, because there is a new person heading MBI and he is unaware of the work that Wired West has done so far.

A fiber optic cable has connected the police station to the town hall where there is a wifi router. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said people now can watch videos during town meetings.

Aldrich has a list of 12 households that asked to have the green number signs installed in front. Keller said he would contact fire captain Asa de Roode to put them in.

An executive session was scheduled for 8:30 for reason #1, to discuss a personnel matter, but the rest of the agenda was covered shortly after 8 p.m. Board members had to wait for the scheduled time in order to hold a legal executive session.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Broadband Bunkers Bid Awarded

By DAVID DETMOLD

At a quiet meeting of the selectboard on Tuesday, July 8, Bob Dean, director of regional services for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, was quizzed about the escalating cost of the FRCOG's town accounting program, which Leverett joined in 2012 upon the retirement of former town accountant Terry Allen.

Last year, FRCOG charged Leverett \$19,436 for eight hours a week of accounting services from the regional program. This year, the fee has risen to \$22,394 for the same eight hours a week of service.

"We just wanted to express our concern," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau, with Julie Shively adding, "and make sure it's not going to be some sort of annual increase."

Dean said the 14-town program was doing everything it could to "shave" costs to member towns, but noted that the COG had recently moved to improve the long term sustainability of the program, by more fairly apportioning the costs of its administration.

"One of the big challenges is travel ... coming to all these town halls," said Dean, as Terry Allen listened from the audience, in one of the folding chairs behind him.

Brazeau urged Dean to instruct his team of accountants, as they comb through the invoices and payroll warrants of the member towns, to "let us know if you find something that can save us money."

Broadband Buildings

The board approved Renaissance Builders' low bid of \$218,000 to construct two poured in place insulated concrete buildings, one behind the old highway garage on Montague Road, and one at the North Leverett fire station, to house the electronics for the town's high-speed broadband internet system, now under construction.

In 2012, convinced that the fastest way to connect every household in town to high-speed broadband was for the town to build its own 'last mile' fiber to the home network, funded by an increase in property taxes, a lopsided majority of town meeting voters approved spending up to \$3.6 million for that purpose.

In 2013, the town signed a \$2.275 million contract with Millenium Communications Group to construct the network.

On Tuesday, selectboard member Peter d'Errico said the project was on time and on budget to be completed by December of this year, when the entire network is expected to go live, providing high speed internet access to every Leverett household that opts to be included on it.

D'Errico said the construction of the operations hubs in North Leverett and at the highway garage is another step in that process, anticipated within the overall broadband network budget.

The cement structures, which will include heating and ventilation systems, and conduit receptacles for all necessary connections as part of the bid price, will be impervious to the weather and should require little maintenance for the life of the system, he said.

Brazeau spoke enthusiastically

about his past experience working with Renaissance Builders at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. "They are excellent," he said. "They do a wonderful job. They're the best carpenters I've ever worked with."

Emergency Resiliency

In other news, the board authorized town administrator Margie McGinnis to apply for technical assistance grants from the state Department of Energy Resources to assist the town in developing a plan for "emergency resiliency" in the event of power outages, relying on solar powered generators, to work in concert with the town's own diesel powered generators, and also to advise the town about the feasibility of utilizing solar photovoltaics on the former landfill.

While on the subject, Brazeau praised the recently installed photovoltaic panels installed by the Solar Store of Greenfield on town land between the elementary school and highway garage.

Those panels, which will help provide power to town buildings, "look beautiful," Brazeau said. "You can see them, but they blend in well," with the landscape.

School Heat

Returning to the issue of heating and ventilation problems at the elementary school, a topic that has taken up a good deal of the board's attention since a recent report by consultant by Lon Isaacson, of Universal Electric in Springfield, pointed to problems in managing the school's heating controls leading to a cost overrun in last year's heating budget estimated at \$23,000, Brazeau said he would meet soon with the new elementary school principal, Margot Lacey.

Brazeau said he would advocate for more money to be placed in the building maintenance line item of the school budget. He also called for a work sheet to be drawn up outlining heating and ventilation system components, with a schedule for their ongoing maintenance and repair.

The school may soon upgrade the heating controls to allow for remote monitoring of the system's performance, Brazeau said.

Refuse Stickers

It is time for Leverett residents to purchase their annual transfer station stickers, at the town hall or the transfer station.

Starting September 1, residents without the new stickers mounted plainly on their vehicle will not be allowed through the gates at the transfer station, according to Neil Brazeau, transfer station manager.

A new dumpster at the station allows residents to compost organic materials like pizza boxes, cat litter, wet newspaper, egg cartons and the like.

The transfer station is located just off Still Corner Road on Cemetery Road.

Off the Map

According to a Google Map linked on the town website, the best way to get there from the west would be by traveling down Teawaddle Hill Road, but Peter Davis disputes that.

MORE TIME from page A1

As of press time, two of the four sets of tenants have already found housing, and credit their success to that help.

Taking the Pressure Off

One of the new owners, John McNamara, commented that he and his partners Erin MacLean and Steve Vogel, had been working hard to come up with a good arrangement for the tenants since they bought the building.

"It took some time," he said, "but we're very pleased that the tenants are already finding places in this tight housing market."

McNamara added that he and his partners definitely felt for the tenants: "We wanted to take the pressure off with this arrangement, and also help them to find new places to live."

Apartment 1: A New House

"We're moving out by August 1," said Robert Shook. "To be honest, I'm kind of glad we're moving." Shook, who lives with his fiancée Nicole, their three daughters and his mother, was hoping to stay in the Gill-Montague school district, "for the children," but says they have found a house in Greenfield that better suits their needs as a growing family.

He says MacLean "has been a really, really good help."

"She's been stopping by, and checking in... She dropped off three or four pieces of paper with housing on them that's opening up."

One of those listings, he said, led to the house they plan to move into.

"I have no quarrels with her."

Apartment 2 Stays On The Ave

"I know I'm going to have the easiest task of anyone in this building finding a place," Bill Franklin said after hearing the offer of an extension of time. Franklin, who at eighteen months is the building's longest-standing resident, is also the only one not raising children.

"Sixty days, plus the money, is really not bad."

Despite the extension, he said, his neighbors seem discouraged at the prospect of relocating: "I'm hoping it could be a workable offer. But people here seem to be pretty depressed."

But by this Wednesday he, too, had found a home – a larger apartment a little further down Avenue A – and he, too, credited the building's new owners with helping him out.

"Erin got printouts from Craigslist, and this was one of the ones on there."

MacLean and McNamara, he said, even provided the deposit to hold the new apartment for him.

"The new landlord wanted a de-

posit right away. They really helped me out. It's signed, sealed and delivered... I'm going to set one of the bedrooms up as a studio."

He plans to be able to move by September 1. "I might need to rent a U-Haul van," he said, but he was already lining up help for moving day.

Apartment 3: The Search Is On

Ron Fisher, Sr. is focused on finding another home in Turners Falls rather than Greenfield, so that his son, AJ, can stay within the Gill-Montague school district.

Fisher says a major factor is AJ's individualized education program – "They've worked with him long and hard, and I'd hate to start over."

On Tuesday morning, Fisher met with the local housing authority to get recertified for Section 8 assistance.

"Everything went fine there – the recertification went through," he said, though an inspection of the unit he has been living in failed "because of the sink and the tile hanging in the bathroom," factors dating to previous landlord David Kurkut's ownership.

"All I need to do now is find somewhere to be."

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority publishes lists of available housing, which Fisher has been checking. "The new one will be out Friday, or first thing Monday," he said.

The federally established Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Franklin County is \$952 this year, up from \$917 last year. This provides a guideline for the total maximum rent a landlord stands to collect from a tenant with a Section 8 voucher, whose rate is a function of his income, and the local housing authority, which provides the remainder.

Two-bedroom apartments in Turners Falls currently advertised on Craigslist are \$675, \$725, \$765, \$900 and, in the case of a rental condo with a carport, \$1,000.

Fisher also said he was happy with the offer from Ruserious, and that the additional time would help him in his search.

"They didn't have to do what they did. It's very human."

Apartment 4: Still Worried

Since receiving word of the extension, Brianna Gabry's initial anger at the building's new owners seems largely to have been replaced by simple worry that she will still be unable to find a suitable home for her family.

"Erin's been trying to be supportive, and she's been nice," she said.

"They want to rehab this building, and I give them kudos for that. This building definitely does need it."

For Gabry, now newly laid off from a teaching assistant position and down to a 10-hour-a-week personal care assistant job, it comes down to not knowing where the money can come from: "I don't want to jump into an apartment just to be evicted because I couldn't pay the rent."

Gabry does not receive Section 8 assistance. She described spending years on a Section 8 waitlist through Greenfield's housing authority, only to discover that she had lapsed before clearing it – "they sent these confirmation letters out every April, and I thought I was keeping them up with my address changes, but I'm no longer on the waitlist."

This month she has registered again with area housing authorities, but anticipates a 4- to 5-year wait.

"I worked hard to get off of food stamps. I just re-applied for WIC.... I worked really hard to get me and my kids out of the system, and now we're falling back into it."

Gabry described the Montague Housing Authority staff as "excellent, very empathetic," and Greenfield's as hostile: "They looked at me as if I was doing something wrong." She reserved her highest praise for Pat Holloway, receptionist at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

"She was amazing. She's so helpful.... [She] told me to come in the morning of September 1, if I haven't found an apartment by then. They'll help get us into a motel."

The prospect of moving into transitional housing with her three daughters is daunting to Gabry.

"My daughter starts kindergarten on September 2. She's supposed to be getting settled and ready for the beginning of her education..."

A 9 p.m. curfew and a policy forbidding visitors, she said, makes the motel sound like a difficult place to rebuild from. "It's just, 'let's hide the homeless people away in motel rooms' -- how are we supposed to have support, if no one can visit?"

In the meantime, she is checking listings that Holloway and the HRA email to her on her phone, with skepticism that she will find one that she can afford. The previous landlord, she said, rented to her when no one else would – possibly because they worried overcrowding would be in violation.

But, she says, "I would rather be in a one-bedroom with my kids than have to put them to sleep every night on different couches. It was home."

"I appreciate [MacLean] trying to be there, and be supportive...."

"The sense of not knowing where you're going to go next is so unsettling."



In an email to the selectboard, Davis insists Teawaddle should be spelled Teewaddle, and he upbraids the board for acceding to the corruption of the official orthography:

"It has come to my attention as a resident of Teewaddle Hill Road for 50 years since 1965, that the town has begun misspelling Teewaddle as TEAwaddle for the last decade. Although I realize this quantification of the road name might sound more interesting to an outsider, as it rhymes with TEA, Teewaddle Hill Road has nothing historically to do with TEA."

Davis insists, "Tees are part of the railroad wood products which were

harvested on Teewaddle Hill Road when the railroad went through in the 1800s..."

"Waddles were bundles of TEEs, or railroad ties, harvested from Teewaddle's oak forest."

As the board reviewed Davis's email in some perplexity, town clerk Lisa Stratford told a different tale of the road's etymology. She suggested the name might have come into use back in the days when patrons of the still on Still Corner Road waddled back up the western hill for a cup of hot, reviving tea.

A review of the hardbound Third Edition of the American Heritage Dictionary found no citations for the

words "tee" or "waddle" having to do with wood products or bundles of railroad ties.

The selectboard promised to consult the Leverett Historical Society and the Leverett Historical Commission for their take on the road name controversy before replying to Davis's email.

But d'Errico did say, "We could do what is really common in Massachusetts and take the road sign down..."

"And put it in the dorm room," added Stratford.

"If you don't know where you are, you don't belong here," d'Errico concluded.

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MARCH from page A1

Our Valley's Assets
By **DUNCAN SHIPPEE**

There was me, that is Duncan, and my two companions, Maure and Ben – both of whom I had only just met.

We're waiting at the bus stop across the street from the Farren, where Maure had thought we were supposed to meet up with our comrades to march against the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline.

The pipeline, being only a proposition at this time, threatened to mar our valley and put its assets at risk. After a good 20 to 30 minutes, several phone call exchanges, chit-chatting and ice breaking, we rendezvoused with our comrades, just a short car ride from where we thought we were supposed to meet.

When we met them, morale was high, and the drumbeat – being but a large plastic water container hit with an attractively carved wood – heavy and incessant.

Most of our group was a little older, save Mark, whom I had known from karate years ago, Ben, who had just recently fled Israel to find peace, and I, your true and humble narrator.

In total there were about 30 of us, all cheery and chatty as we walked along where the pipeline was supposed to be.

Maure pointed out where she likes to pick blueberries in the summer, and I admired a resource threatened by Kinder Morgan – a resource being mostly aesthetic. I would call it: beauty.

Millers Falls
By **MIKE JACKSON**

By 1 p.m., the march had already reached Millers Falls, ahead of schedule.

The People's Bakery had set out a water station for the marchers, and many took turns using the restroom. Cars shuttled off those who had finished, and eventually the pipeline opponents fanned out with banners along the Route 63 bridge over the Millers River, gathering reinforcements.

Linda and Marty Luippold, of Prospect Street in Erving, paused from a walk of their own to chat with pipeline opponents on the bridge.

"I don't want a pipeline coming through here," said Linda. "I was shocked when I saw the notice of a meeting – it was the first I'd heard about this."

The Luippolds had heard that the July 8 visit by Kinder Morgan representatives to Erving (see story, page A1) had been postponed, but not that it had been confirmed again on July 3.

Linda expressed concern for the

protection of conservation lands designated for the pipeline route: "I want my grandchildren to be able to play in these parks."

Based on where it has requested survey permission, the company's route would pass through a west corner of Erving into Northfield, and then turn east through Erving and Warwick State Forests.

"We heard the drums," said Jere, of Pratt Street, who requested that we only use his first name, after the march had passed through his neighborhood.

Sitting on his front porch, Jere pointed down the street, where the cluster of people bearing banners, wearing homemade Stop the Pipeline t-shirts and keeping steady time on a water-cooler bottle could still be seen and heard, and deadpanned, "They went that way."

"My biggest concern with the pipeline going through here," he said, "is they're going to get it out Boston way and put it on ships for overseas. If it was really for us, why don't they run it down the Mass Pike? There's already a road there so they can access it for maintenance."

"A lot of people want the work," Jere continued, but he said he expected much of the work would go to out-of-state workers. "Where are all the people who worked on that Alaska pipeline?"

The Erving Section
By **MARK HUDYMA**

With a picnic, a walk along the Connecticut River, and two ceremonial baton hand-offs, the only thing missing from the Erving Rolling Pipeline March was Erving residents.

Residents from nearby towns were more than willing to fill in for the absent marchers, and maintained a group of around twenty for the duration of the march, which started on the Erving-Millers bridge, and followed the Millers River to the Riverview Picnic Area.

Moonlight and Morning Star, local activist-musicians, served as the Erving representatives in the march.

"When I saw [the fracking documentary Gasland], I was so overwhelmed by those people's suffering, by the damage that is done, I knew I had to fight it," said Morning Star. "I'm not just for no pipeline in Erving, I'm for no pipeline anywhere... I should have been fighting this a long time ago."

The first concern raised by every individual interviewed was the environment.

"They're planning to send poison through the countryside. I wouldn't want them to frack here, and I don't think they should move the gas through here either," said Peter Gal-

lant of Wendell.

Second to environmental catastrophe is the concern that gas moving through the pipeline would bypass Massachusetts completely, and be sold to foreign markets.

Kinder Morgan has not explicitly denied that some gas could be sold to foreign markets, but points to significant shortfalls of gas delivery during peak electricity production as evidence of need for the pipeline within New England.



Between July 16 and 20, a group of student interns from a program called Climate Summer are staying at the Montague First Congregational Church.

The group, traveling by bicycle and wearing orange t-shirts, is opposed to new fossil fuel infrastructure, and plans to volunteer, attend local events, and do community outreach about the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline.

To get in touch with them, contact Rachel at reckles303@yahoo.com, or (214) 537-5921.

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JULY 17, 2014

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Full Summertime



By **LESLIE BROWN**

MONTAGUE CITY – The huge full moon, almost pink in the remains of the sunset sky, hangs over the garden. The bats and swifts circle. It is still sultry at nine.

The birds and our cat are chattering even before the light comes up full. I hear these happy sounds, still on the edge of sleep. I wake fully at six and feeling well rested, decide to get up and start the day. It is cool now in the early morning although clearly the humidity is rising already. This is a great time to get into the garden before the sun is high.

The grass is damp and cool, a breeze deters the mosquitoes and the garden waits. As I have confessed before, I am a lazy gardener.

Yesterday I pulled recalcitrant crab grass that found its way around the plastic mulch and then dropped it on the bare soil. Messy maybe but it can be mulch too and will snuff out the next eager weed shoots.

Nor am I entranced by house cleaning. Both indoors and out I have learned that a little cosmetic

work goes a long way towards creating an atmosphere of improving tidiness.

Pick up the clutter in the living room and then decorate with a small vase of roses, and voila, the room looks great. Vacuum the grass off the rug. All is well and I have avoided the picky task of dusting a little longer.

The fuzz of new weeds is showing in the row of recently sprouted beans. In my tidy garden days I'd have been after them with the claw before they ever got off the ground.

Instead I'll wait until they are tall enough to pull and remove entirely. The beans don't mind right now and there are more urgent things to do.

The tomatoes look hardy and the fruit while green is growing rapidly. The squashes are in bloom and the sweet peppers getting bigger.

The early morning cool is conducive to some cosmetic gardening. I grab the pruning clippers and go after the bittersweet which is doing its best to enwrap the flowering quince. Much neater now and we can see the fruit which is smooth and becoming good sized.

Next I enjoy the pleasure of the first harvest from our blueberries. These have turned out to be an incredibly easy shrub. True, it was several years before the year old plants grew big enough to bear, but they have asked for nothing.

They love our acidic soil, need no spraying, seem to have no insect predators. We need only cover them with mosquito netting when the fruit starts to ripen so we don't see **SUMMERTIME** page B8

Thomas Memorial Hosts Golf Tournament to Benefit Veterans



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By **JOE KWIECINSKI**

MONTAGUE – There's still time to register for Saturday's veterans tournament at the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club.

That's the word from Chet Czernich of Millers Falls, who's arranging last-minute details with Clubhouse Manager Burt White and Jim Koldis, both of Turners Falls, along with the Town of Montague's Veterans Agent, Mark Fitzpatrick. In case of inclement weather, the tourney will be staged Sunday.

The event's format will be a four-person scramble, where the best shot of the foursome is used, with a "shotgun start" at 9 a.m. The \$65 entry fee per golfer covers the greens fee, a cart, and hot dogs---distributed to the golfers right out on the course.

All of the money raised by the tournament will be employed to buy flags for each of the town's 1,500 veterans' gravesites and a wreath for all of Montague's 14 cemeteries. Volunteers will place wreaths on Veterans Day in November and flags on Memorial Day next spring. It's estimated that the cost of 1,500 flags and 14 wreaths is a thousand dollars.

The Department of Veterans Services, a state program, will pay 75 percent of the cost of a flag. The

DVS is administered by veterans agents throughout Massachusetts to provide cash benefits and medical reimbursements to veterans and their families based on family income and asset levels, according to Fitzpatrick.

"We'll get the other 25 percent," said Czernich, who served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in DaNang and Chulai in 1966-67 during the Vietnam War. The proceeds of the tournament will generate the organizers' source of funding for the flag and wreath project.

"The guys from the club are excited about this tournament," said Czernich. "We want to continue this effort next year. We have the ability to honor the memory of our veterans, so it's a labor of love."

The tournament will award cash prizes to the first and second place teams. Merchants in the area have donated gift certificates, and there will be a raffle at the close of the festivities.

In addition, a closest shot to the pin contest will be held on the seventh and ninth holes.

"If folks would like to take an individual sign dedicated to a past or present veteran," said Czernich, "they can make a donation of \$25. We'll make up a sign and place it in the clubhouse for their veteran. A sign will also be erected on a

tee-box or on a green to honor the veteran."

Chet is sponsoring a sign for his late father, John Czernich, Sr., United States Marine Corps.

Meanwhile, veterans agent Fitzpatrick is pleased to relay words from the district office.

"Our district office is extremely pleased with the support of the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club in assisting to raise funds that will continue to honor our fallen brothers and sisters who served in the military, on behalf of the town where club members will assist annually in flagging graves of the deceased vets from Montague in our 14 cemeteries."

Designed by Walter B. Hatch, the attractive Thomas course opened to the public in 1905.

Two sets of tees mark the course for varying skill levels. The layout measures 2,539 yards from the longer tees with a par 35, while the forward tee distance is gauged at 2,309 yards with par also at 35.

Tournament fees or donations may be dropped off at the clubhouse or should be mailed to Thomas Memorial Golf Course, Box 16, Turners Falls, MA 01376. For further info or to register for the tournament, please call 413-863-8003 or 413-659-3061.

BOOK REVIEW

West Along the River 2: More Stories from the Connecticut River Valley

Review By **LYN CLARK**

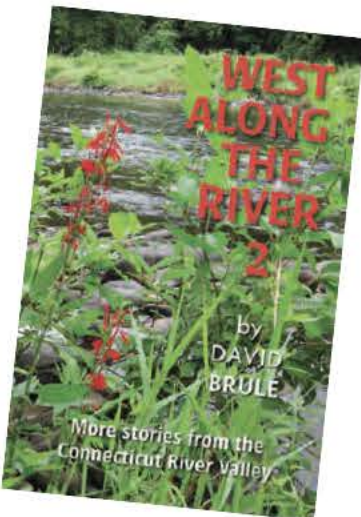
MILLERS FALLS – David Brule is a raconteur *par excellence* whose sketches and journal entries have appeared over the years in *The Montague Reporter* and in his first book, *West Along the River, Stories from the Connecticut River Valley & Elsewhere*, published in 2011.

His latest compilation *West Along the River 2, More Stories from the Connecticut River Valley* 2014 includes more recent gems to delight his fans.

Brule revels in the minutiae of life at the end of the road where he lives in the house of his great grandfather, and the woods and river just beyond where the wild creatures, fondly observed, are welcomed neighbors.

He relates what is happening on his back deck, in his woodland on the "Flat" and in his valley. He reminisces about those who have gone before, and relates events from his own life as he weaves the present with the past.

Brule notices and cherishes what most of us overlook. He slows us down, persuades us to join him in observing the garter snake in the woodpile, the way the "sun slants



silver bells as they flit from the porch, gleaning their favorite seeds from the mix tossed to them.

"Up here in the cold room, neighbors' rooftops etched in frost are visible through the icy swirls on the windows.

"The welcome sun warms the east-facing treetops first, and begins its journey down Mineral Mountain, first starting with the evergreens high up on the ridge where the redtail suns, to reach the valley floor, the silver turning to golden light."

Not all the sketches are confined to life among the creatures of Brule's demesne, for there is a great deal that has transpired in his valley and elsewhere about which he writes with humor and understanding, accepting people with all their foibles the way he accepts his four-legged and feathered friends.

His writing is filled with snippets of history and philosophy as gentle as a summer breeze. He reminisces about folks of a different generation – some he has known, some whose stories were passed down – and each he reveres.

And he also draws us away across the ocean to Ireland in pursuit of an ancestral see **BOOK** page B4



Weather, Weeds, and Worse yet, Groundhogs

By **PETE WACKERNAGEL**

FRANKLIN COUNTY – In farming there are numerous forces whose actions and ways-of-being run in direct opposition to your own.

There's the weather, which is still, after all these years, mostly unpredictable even to scientists. There are weeds, which, in organic farming, need to be killed using the ancient and slow methods.

There are plant diseases like Late Blight, that affect the foliage of your tomato plants and result in the fruit juicing itself into a pulpy mess on the vine, kind of like a plastic bag filled with rotting tomato puree.

And the actors in this push-and-pull drama change really fast, too quickly to allow one to become comfortable with the odds. Like the Spotted Wing Drosophila for example, a nearly invisible fruit fly that turns raspberries to mush. It blew into the region for the first time with Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

But there are still the old stand-bys, the wily mammals you imagine farm-y clad, pitchfork-wielding farmers shaking their dusty fists at as they escape into the brush. We've sure got one of these big furry problems at my farm – yes, we have a groundhog crisis.

We planted melons, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, and summer squash in the field under Mt. Sugarloaf. It's a beautiful field, bordered on two sides by thick trees, the river behind with Sugarloaf's weird geometrically

improbable tower leaning over it all.

The plants were growing along just great, the peppers putting on new growth, leaves and flowers, the cucurbits expanding their tendrils into the wheel tracks.

All was well, that is, until the groundhogs showed up. They started in with post-hibernation appetite on the beds closest to the woods, on opposite sides of the field, then moved inwards.

Mostly they ate the melon plants. There was no fruit but maybe they didn't realize that that was the point anyway. They ate the stems and the leaves, leaving the plants looking like fruit trees pruned by an amnesiac French orchardist.

Our first response was to cover two beds on either end of the field with row cover, in hopes that the rodents would not venture too far from the sheltering trees. This gambit mostly failed.

Groundhogs are rodents of the marmot family. Regional dialects sometimes refer to them as woodchucks, whistle-pigs, or land-beavers. They are definitely not gophers or moles.

They usually live for about six years but can apparently live three times as long when domesticated. According to "The Life of Mammals," by D. Attenborough, "A [groundhog's] strategy for dealing with seasonal plenty is to eat as much as possible and store the surplus nutrients as fat."

see **MARMOTS** page B4

Pet of the Week



BLACK DIAMOND

I am a sweet, young girl who loves to have her neck and head petted.

I have lived with people of a variety of ages and have loved them all; however, I do prefer children with mellow personalities.

I have experience living in a home where I got to enjoy the warmth of the home when I wanted it, and went outside to play when I wanted to stretch my legs.

I have lived with other cats but have never lived with dogs, but I should be OK with either, if given

a slow introduction.

If you think I might be the girl for you please ask a staff member for more information.

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

FACES



& PLACES

SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Turners Falls-based sculptor Tim de Christopher explains his sculpture, "Fruit Of Our Labors," at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln on June 28.

Many of the items included in the sculpture came from finds in Turners Falls.

Senior Center Activities July 21 through 25

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 7/21

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo
1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/22

9:30 a.m. NO Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 7/23

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

Thursday 7/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi
11 a.m. Sing-Along w/ Morningstar
Noon Lunch

Friday 7/25

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Aerobics

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours

and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

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

Monday 7/21

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

Tuesday 7/22

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

Wednesday 7/23

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

Thursday 7/24

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Posture Perfect
Noon Cards

Friday 7/25

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

Buz on the Constitution

On Tuesday, July 29, Attorney Buz Eisenberg will draw on his experience representing Guantanamo detainees to examine the implications of a judicial system which operates outside American constitutional guarantees.

Eisenberg, an Ashfield resident and town moderator, teaches law and government at Greenfield Community College and practices law in Northampton. He will explore the question of whether the US has entered a "post-constitutional era."

The program, part of the annual Charlemont Forum, will be held at the Charlemont Federated Church and will begin at 7 p.m. The theme of this year's Forum is "Threats to American Democracy."

For further information, contact: Peter J. Purdy at (413) 339-4301.

Brecht on the Connecticut

A new addition to summer entertainment this year, competing with the Berkshires, is the Silverthorne Theater Company, with David Rowland and Lucinda Kidder introducing professional summer theater in the Connecticut Valley. Kidder recently directed Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy".

The next production of the Silverthorne Theater Company will be "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht, directed by David Rowland. Performances will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 24-26, at 8 p.m. at the Chiles Theater, on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus in Gill.

Tickets for general admission are \$12 pre-show, \$15 at the door, students/seniors \$10. For information and reservations, call (413) 576-7514, or go to www.silverthornetheater.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Learning About Blood



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is it possible to donate your own blood to yourself?

Yes you can. This is called "autologous" blood donation. It's done in the weeks before non-emergency surgery. The blood is stored until the operation.

Autologous donation is most often employed in surgery on bones, blood vessels, the urinary tract, and the heart, when the likelihood of transfusion is high.

This form of blood donation is good for the patient, but it's beneficial to society, too.

People over the age of 69 require half of all whole blood and red blood cells transfused, according to the National Blood Data Resource Center (NBDRC). Giving blood to

yourself cuts down on the demand for blood.

Typically, each donated unit of blood, referred to as whole blood, is separated into multiple components, such as red blood cells, plasma, platelets, and antihemophilic factor, for transfusion to individuals with different needs.

With an aging population and advances in medical treatments requiring blood transfusions, the demand for blood is increasing. On any given day, more than 40,000 units of red blood cells are needed.

Volunteers donate almost all the blood transfused in the United States. Using current screening and donation procedures, a growing number of blood banks have found blood donation by seniors to be safe and practical; if you're a geezer, you probably can help the cause.

To be eligible to donate blood, a person must be in good health. In general, donors must weigh at least 110 pounds. Most blood banks have no upper age limit. Donors are screened for AIDS, hepatitis, other diseases, and other possible problems.

Adult males have about 12 pints of blood in their circulation and adult females have about nine pints.

The donor's body replenishes the

fluid lost from donation in about 24 hours. The red blood cells that are lost are generally replaced in a few weeks. Whole blood can be donated once every eight weeks.

Q. What is the most common blood type?

The approximate distribution of blood types in the US population is shown below. Distribution may be different for specific racial and ethnic groups.

- O Rh-positive – 39 percent
- O Rh-negative – 9 percent
- A Rh-positive – 31 percent
- A Rh-negative – 6 percent
- B Rh-positive – 9 percent
- B Rh-negative – 2 percent
- AB Rh-positive – 3 percent
- AB Rh-negative – 1 percent

In an emergency, anyone can receive type O red blood cells, and type AB individuals can receive red blood cells of any ABO type. Therefore, people with type O blood are known as "universal donors," and those with type AB blood are known as "universal recipients."

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org

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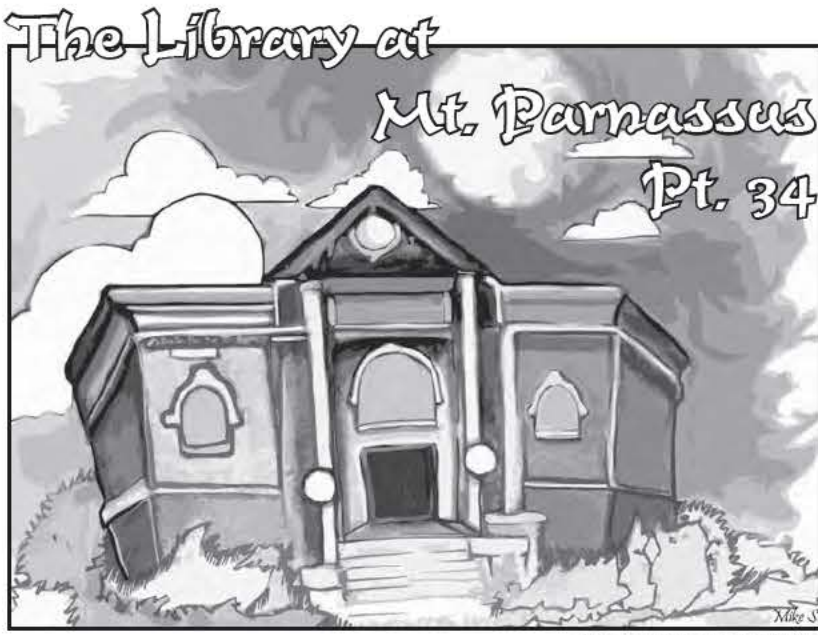
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Read 'Em and Weep.



By DAVID DETMOLD

"I had a dream last night," said Creon darkly. He paused to toss another log on the fire. A cold wind was blowing through the bike shop. Everyone had fallen silent.

We could hear the dull, clinquing noise of the bicycle rims knocking up against each other in the air above our heads, filling the room with a faint and constant din. In the stove, the fire blazed.

"Tell us your dream."
"I was alone by the river."
"Not that dream again," muttered Jack, under his breath.

Creon turned toward him, scowling, and began to reach across the table, scattering buttons and bottle caps, sand dollars and the rawhide laces the twins had tossed on the top of the pile.

Jack tilted back on two legs, bringing his chair too close to the glowing stove pipe, and quickly set it down again.

This caused a stir in the restless bike wheels hanging from the ceiling, setting them in motion, ringing up against each other in dense, confused formations.

Creon reached for the bottle of whiskey. He hooked it with one forefinger, and dragged it back across the worn green tabletop to his side.

"Yes, that one," said Creon. He was glaring across the table now at me, as if I were somehow to blame. He took a long pull from the bottle, without taking his eyes off mine.

Creon said, "In my dream, I was standing in the middle of the river, with water rushing by me on both sides. I had my legs again. But I could not move."

I looked away.
We never spoke about the accident that had claimed his son, any more than we talked about the war that had deprive him of his limbs.

But we knew the sound of running water made Creon mad. We avoided his bike store on rainy days, and we were careful to jiggle the handle when we used the toilet in the washroom in back.

"And in the water, ropes of water serpents, all coiled up and twisted together, braided up so tight they turned bright green and swelled

up above the surface of the water," said Creon. "They watched me with their black and greedy eyes. I reached out my hands..."

Jack backed up again as Creon demonstrated. I was afraid he would singe his coat.

"I took hold of the rope snakes. One in each hand. I took them by the throat." He grabbed the nearest thing at hand, a warped steel wheel leaning against the woodbox, "and squeezed... and squeezed..."

The little bullet-shaped threaded caps at the spoke ends began turning loose, slowly at first, as Creon squeezed.

Then they went shooting off in all directions, ricocheting off the walls and causing the twins to duck and throw their hands above their heads.

"...Until their eyes popped out," said Creon grimly.

"But in the wind I heard a lonely voice cry, far away but right beside me, 'Father. Father. You have done this to me. You let me learn from my mistakes. You let me lie in bed with snakes. You let me sink. You let me swim. Oh father, is it time now to come in?'"

His speech ended. Creon took another drink from the bottle, put his head down in his hand and began to sob.

Castro and Paul X raised their heads and looked at one another sheepishly.

Jack set his chair back down and ruffled the undealt cards.

I got up and walked over to the beer cooler and took a bottle out of the ice and popped its top off in the brass monkey's jaws, causing the room to fill with wild laughter.

As I sat back down and drank from the bottle, I could not help staring at the steel bike wheel Creon had discarded by the stove. He had squeezed it into a figure eight.

"More whiskey?" asked Jack after a while, extending the bottle to me.

"Sure," I said. "Why not? The day is young."

Jack dealt the cards. I watched the steel rim glow orange where it touched the stove, then red.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Caller Reports That Turners Falls Is In Danger of Becoming "Another Holyoke"

Monday, 6/30

12:55 a.m. Caller witnessed male subject attempting to sell Italian shoes, fake flowers, and other items from a baby carriage outside the Rendezvous earlier in the evening. Caller claims that a friend reported these items stolen from her porch and posted a photo of the subject, who the caller recognized, on Facebook. Suspect located and spoken to.
10:03 a.m. Report of inebriated female seeking help jump-starting vehicle then driving away from Jarvis Pools; last seen headed down Unity Hill. Area search negative.

1:00 p.m. Subject reported being solicited for donations to Franklin County Home Care Corporation by a suspicious subject on Avenue A. Dispatch contacted FCHCC, who confirmed that they do not have any employees soliciting donations. Referred to an officer.
1:18 p.m. Caller who is pregnant and has 8 year old child reports that they encounter a subject smoking marijuana daily at the Third Street/Avenue A bus stop. Officer checked on subject and found that he was smoking tobacco out of a pipe. Investigated.

4:38 p.m. Caller reports that his apartment on Third Street was broken into today and that a party known to him admitted to stealing items. Officer was able to identify photo of suspect based upon past professional dealings. Investigated.

9:36 p.m. Caller was painting a fence on Avenue A and her spray paint can is now missing. Report taken.
10:19 p.m. Report of fight in progress at Avenue A and Fifth Street: approximately 20 people involved; no weapons seen. Officers pursued group to Third Street, where several individuals entered a building and would not answer door. Statements taken. A summons for arrest on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct was issued.

Tuesday, 7/1
3:19 p.m. Suspicious vehicle pumping water from a hydrant on West Mineral Road. Party spoken to; town has meter on hydrant as he is filling his swimming pool.
11:21 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle driving through woods and under the bridge on Newton Street into Erving. Caller can hear trees and brush breaking as ve-

hicle drives. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 7/2

6:25 a.m. Two reports of vehicles damaged by a large downed tree limb in Montague City Road just before General Pierce Bridge. Limb removed by DPW.

7:26 a.m. Employee caught stealing money from Scotty's Convenience Store. Employee returned money and resigned position. No charges filed.

12:30 p.m. Altercation between male and female at Avenue A and Third Street. Female reportedly accused the male of owing her money and tried to take a tent he was carrying. Male states he grabbed tent back from female, scratching her in the process, following which the female burned him in the shoulder with a cigarette. Parties spoken to and advised of options.
4:10 p.m. Caller from Greenfield asking that MPD be on lookout for his lost dog, a male Shiba Inu who looks like a baby fox and may have headed into Montague.

4:34 p.m. Report of manhole cover being lifted up by water on Avenue A just past Food City.
6:30 p.m. Caller from West Street found a deceased Greyhound in her mother's back yard. Dispatch was able to contact dog's owner, who retrieved him.

Thursday, 7/3
8:12 a.m. Multiple reports of a tree on wires hanging low over Route 47 just north of the cross-over. Road closed while WMCO and DPW summoned. Issue resolved; road reopened.
10:25 a.m. Caller concerned for occupants of motor boat that are in the water on the wrong side of the buoys approaching the Turners Falls Dam. Officer confirmed that there were several First Light boats in the water; no problems.

10:27 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding a dispute she had with her housemate's boyfriend yesterday about shoes and toilet paper. Advised of options.
10:42 a.m. Report of a "strange animal" in yard on Turners Falls Road. Animal control officer located animal (mangy fox), who ran off and hid upon ACO's arrival. ACO advised that animal does not pose a risk to the public at this time.

[missing page with 14 calls]

7:16 p.m. Complaint regarding Avenue A resident who is outside yelling at passersby, including children, asking for cigarettes and screaming and yelling obscenities at them. Party advised of complaint; will move inside due to impending thunderstorm.
7:42 p.m. Caller reports seeing several youths on Hillcrest Elementary School property, including two on roof. Officers spoke to four parties, one of whom admitted to being on roof.
8:10 p.m. After hitting and damaging a fire hydrant and a porch on West Main Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (3rd offense); operating under the influence of drugs; operating under the influence of alcohol; failure to stop for a stop sign; speeding; and two counts of wanton destruction of property over \$250.

Friday, 7/4
Many calls regarding fireworks.
2:58 p.m. Multiple reports of a fight in progress on Third Street. Callers advised that fight was physical and that the involved parties mentioned weapons, specifically brass knuckles. Officers on scene; gathering dispersed.

Saturday, 7/5
10:52 a.m. Complaint regarding subject yelling and screaming at passersby on Avenue A. Officer advised subject not to yell at people passing by. Subject then yelled at officer.
7:09 p.m. Fire alarm on Fourth Street; heavy smoke in apartment. TFFD on scene.
9:23 p.m. Officers en route to Railroad Salvage for possible fireworks. Unable to locate.
9:26 p.m. Male taken into protective custody near Railroad Salvage and transported to hospital.

Sunday, 7/6
5:09 a.m. Report that flags and flowers had been pulled up at Greenfield Savings Bank. Flags put back in place; a few mums damaged.
2:00 p.m. Report of repeated vandalism to real estate "For Sale" signs on Ripley Road. Referred to an officer.
2:26 p.m. Driver of erratically operated vehicle near fish ladder removed to hospital for evaluation.
10:12 p.m. Brush fire on Old Northfield Road.

MCFD on scene. Fire extinguished.

Monday, 7/7
8:18 p.m. Landlord on M Street requested officer to be present while she accessed apartment to investigate a leak. Tenant had plugged drain and left water running for 4-5 hours. Extensive damage to 2nd and 3rd floor apartments. Landlord advised of options.

10:51 p.m. After stealing a bike and causing a disturbance, a 26 year old Turners Falls woman was taken into protective custody, then released. Bike returned to owner.
11:27 p.m. Strong odor of gas in Fourth Street apartment. Berkshire Gas on scene.

Tuesday, 7/8
3:34 a.m. Female 911 caller reported finding a four year old boy walking by himself, barefoot, on Avenue A. Parents located on Third Street and reunited with child.
6:12 a.m. Report of breaking and entering at gate house off of First Street under bridge. Referred to an officer.
1:32 p.m. Caller reported seeing someone "snorting cocaine" while sitting near the statue in Skinner Park. Officer spoke to party; nothing suspicious noted. Party moved along.
3:33 p.m. Mountain bike reported stolen from porch on Griswold Street. Referred to an officer.
4:42 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon and illegal possession of a Class C substance, subsequent offense.
5:20 p.m. Caller complaining that there are several broken-down vehicles in the Fourth Street parking lot, that this is causing a blight on the downtown area, and that Turners Falls is in danger of becoming "another Holyoke." Officer checked parking lot and found only one vehicle that appeared to be undergoing repairs; otherwise, the area was tidy.

Wednesday, 7/9
7:22 a.m. Reports of harassment on Fourth Street. Investigated.
7:41 a.m. Complaint regarding neighbor on Fourth Street yelling since 4-4:30 a.m. Officers advised neighbor to keep it down. Neighbor stated she had

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

been talking on the phone and has to speak loudly as she is hard of hearing.

Friday, 7/11

12:29 a.m. Subject on White Bridge removed to hospital.

2:20 p.m. Tractor trailer carrying 17,000 pounds of freight hit a utility pole at Millers Falls Road and Lyman Street. TFFD and WMECO advised. Road closed briefly. Vehicle moved. All clear.

10:46 p.m. Domestic disturbance in Millers Falls. Investigated.

Saturday, 7/12

12:21 a.m. A highly intoxicated Erving woman was taken into protective custody.

1:46 p.m. Complaint that neighbor's dog approached caller in yard on Central Street and behaved aggressively. Advised of options.

1:46 p.m. Truck stuck in ditch near Railroad Salvage. Operator has friend en route to help.

10:09 p.m. Report of men "howling like wolves" and disturbing the peace in alley behind Fourth Street residence. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 7/13 7:17

a.m. Complaint that worker on Greenfield Road has been using a weedwacker for the past half hour and is disturbing the peace. Area search negative.

2:38 p.m. Caller concerned that person who responded to his for sale ad for a camper on Craigslist might be part of a hoax or scam. Advised of options.

11:30 p.m. Loose sheep on Federal Street near Ripley Road. Officers were able to get all sheep in sight into the pen and re-secure them.



NORTHERN ROUTES NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL COMES TO FRANKLIN COUNTY

Thursday, July 31

At the Brick House, Turners Falls – 7 to 9 p.m.
MV & EE, Head Of Wantastiquet, Village of Spaces
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls – 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Zzones, Doug Tuttle, Kohoutek

Friday, August 1

At the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem – Doors at 4 p.m.
Glenn Jones, Marissa Nadler, Glitter Pen, Matt Weston, Trevor Healy, Bunwinkies, Twilight Tipi, Passerine, Matt Krefting

Saturday August 2

At the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem – Doors at 2 p.m.
Peter Stampfel, Juan Wauters, Metal Mountains, Crystalline Roses Band, Samara Lubelski, Tarp, Willie Lane, Tongue Oven, Hallock Hill, Holy Vex

The line-up features a diverse roster of musicians, performing ambient, free improvisatory, folk, rock and even early music.

Advance tickets are now available at 1794meetinghouse.org. One-day tickets are \$20, and a two-day pass is priced at \$35. Two-day ticket holders will include admission to Thursday's opening-night event at the Brick House Community Resource Center and the Rendezvous in Turners Falls; tickets to these shows will be \$5 at the door.

More information on the artists and the festival is available at www.facebook.com/northernroutes

Northern Routes New Music Festival is made possible with the generous support of the North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival, The Rendezvous, John Doe, Jr. Records (Greenfield), and Artisan Beverage Cooperative.

BOOK from page B1

thatched cottage, and to Paris in springtime for some further ancestral neighborhood rambling (the gentleman's DNA is a melting pot fed by many nationalities and ethnicities), and on to Brittany, where "we danced our circular rhythmic, ancient steps of the *an dro* on the dirt floor of a massive barn out into the farming country, while the clock ticked as always, breaking the silence in the old house on the Flat four thousand miles away."

And then – just as a traveler would be – we are whisked back to the safety and embrace of Brule's home "on the Flat," where history confers a sense of belonging, a benediction from ancestors still present in spirit, on loan to us by the author.

There is a pervasive sense throughout the sketches of *time-*

lessness: sunrise, sunset, the cyclical nature of the seasons, of holidays, of bird migrations, even the replacing – again – of boards on the back deck, an overlapping of the present by the past, the pull of the ancestors and friends long gone, the ceaseless flow of the river and the inevitable return of the author to the home of his forebears.

The book is filled with vignettes that this reviewer likes to read at bedtime. There is in them a quiet nostalgia, a sly sense of humor, and a gentle, lyrical quality that manages to redirect the mind and emotions away from the annoyances of the day.

These sketches will not put you to sleep, and you may not be able to stop with just one, but the images with which you finally drift off will be very beautiful indeed.



LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on July 22, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Grants Awarded to Turners Falls Organizations

The Brick House Community Resource Center and Montague Catholic Social Ministries received funds from community development block grants totaling \$101,500. The grants were awarded through the state's Small Cities Program, which awards towns like Montague federal funds for community improvement and enhancement.

The grants will fund ongoing arts programs, and foster collaborations between artists and community residents, as well as aid in the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls.

With the goals of increasing economic and leadership development opportunities for teenagers, the grant of \$50,500 to fund the Brick House's program will include multimedia technology including video cameras, audio tapes, and digital photography, inspired by the very successful Avenue A Music Project that took place in the fall of 2003.

The Montague Catholic Social Ministries aims to use the award of \$51,000 to bring local residents, women, children, and families together to create community through art.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said that culture and the arts are important components of the town's revitalization efforts.

"With the grants, we hope to see a continuation of programs that have proven their effectiveness over many years. Both of these agencies have provided a valuable resource to the community."

Debt Exclusion Vote Scheduled in Gill

A vote was scheduled in Gill for September 14, to determine whether or not to borrow \$245,000 in order to purchase the 12 acres of Mariamante land. The selectboard views the land as one of the prime locations for commercial or industrial development.

The nearly unanimous vote at the town meeting in June in favor of purchasing the property, in addition to the debt exclusion vote are both needed to transact the purchase.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Man Climbing Under Bridge Arrested

Tuesday, 6/17

8:25 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and no insurance.

Wednesday, 6/18

1:19 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD: trailer hauling hay caught fire on Route 63.

6:38 p.m. Arrested 39-year-old Lillians Way man for domestic assault and intimidation of a witness.

Thursday, 6/19

2:40 p.m. Report of youths jumping off Dorsey Road foot bridge. Spoke with same.

5 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and no insurance.

6:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and no insurance.

Saturday, 6/21

6:25 p.m. Report of vandalism to windshield on Old State Road.

Sunday, 6/22

1:45 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with domestic disturbance on Bridge Street in Millers Falls.

Friday, 6/27

8:45 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a licensed revoked for OUI.

Saturday, 6/28

9:11 p.m. Report of fireworks on North Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 6/29

2:20 p.m. Report of man under the girders on the French King Bridge. Arrested [redacted] for trespassing and disturbing the peace.

4:20 p.m. Loose pit bull in Central Street residents' yard. Advised animal control.

Monday, 6/30

7:48 p.m. Disturbance at Lillian's Way residence. Found to be verbal, subjects calm.

Wednesday, 7/2

3 p.m. Report of tractor trailer unit hitting building on Main Street.

4:45 p.m. Multiple lines and wires reported down on North Street.

Thursday, 7/3

8:55 a.m. Report of tractor trailer unit spilling diesel fuel on roadway. Trucking company advised and will clean up spill.

10 a.m. Arrested [redacted] Road for a court warrant, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, no inspection, and no insurance.

6:50 p.m. Disturbance on East Prospect Street. Woman yelling at the sky transported to Franklin Medical Center. Assisted on scene.

8:45 p.m. Tree down on power lines, Moore Street.

Assisted Erving FD and Highway on scene.

9:30 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague: car crashed into a fire hydrant and porch on West Main Street.

Friday, 7/4

11:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for two court warrants.

Saturday, 7/5

11 p.m. Fireworks in Erving Center. Advised subjects to discontinue and clean up mess.

Monday, 7/7

6:35 a.m. Report of tires slashed at Northfield Road residence. Looked flat but unable to confirm vandalism.

7 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and no insurance.

9:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Central Street residence. Found to be resident with bat in the house.

MARMOTS from page B1

This is the crux of our issue with them as an agricultural pest. The groundhog is just trying to eat like it's a kid at a Pizza Hut lunch buffet to survive the winter.

A different season several years ago resulted in two confirmed groundhog fatalities.

It's a complicated thing to catch a groundhog. And it's especially so when the landowner doesn't allow one to set traps, based on an extremely uncivil encounter between the farmer and the landowner's beloved dog.

But the groundhogs in this case, probably through poor decision-making due to hunger (do all mammals get hangry?), became stuck, trapped in row cover.

And when they were discovered the following morning, a stirrup hoe propelled by lots of pent-up rage was used to end their lives.

So far our multi-year game of Battleship with the groundhogs is undecided. We've managed to off a few of them in cold blood, and they've managed to come back year after year to gorge themselves on the new years' planting.

And the neighbors continue to play both sides of the conflict, en-

suring that no quick conclusion to this oldest-of-conflicts results.

For a while I thought that it might go on this way, an ongoing Cold War between two differently successful mammals.

I believed this until just this past week when, looking for a pair of pliers in the tool shop, I accidentally came across a bright yellow cone, maybe 18" high, which stated simply but with law-enforcement-like assurance, "KILL MOLES AND GOPHERS."

The cone's instructions urged one to locate an "active" tunnel, raise the cone high overhead like a dagger, and plunge it into the ground, discharging a "poison peanut" directly into the gopher or mole's home tunnel.

I felt a little sad at first, feeling like some kind of unwritten rule had been broken, like we'd decided to throw out the Geneva Convention of vegetable growing.

But then I looked a second time at the Sweeney's brand poison-peanut dispenser and realized that they'd have their shot – no groundhog worth its teeth would ever confuse itself with *Scalopus aquaticus*.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

Thus, she suggested, the current measurements amount to a “public taking” without going through the appropriate legal process.

Adams also noted that a proposed request to the Franklin Regional Council on Governments to change the current right of way had not yet been implemented and that town officials, including Building Inspector David Jensen, had shown “ill will” toward the Adamses.”

After a bit more discussion Building Inspector Jensen stated that the actual position of Hatchery Road is “undetermined”: “We’re here today as a result of an inability to know what Hatchery Road is.”

Selectboard member Michael Nelson noted that he believed the board had already voted to petition the Franklin Regional Council on Governments to begin the process of updating the right of way, which he suggested should be fifty feet.

After consulting the minutes of the meeting, his recollection proved to be correct. Nelson asked that town Administrator Frank Abbonanzio implement the previous motion.

Turners Falls Eateries

Next in line was Lauri Ellis of Kali Bs Wings and Things. Ellis requested that the managers name on the liquor license be changed to her name, a request approved by the board.

Next on the agenda were Arthur Binaco, Meredith Merchant and Ashley Arthur who were requesting a liquor license for a new “European-style cafe” at 37 Third Street in Turners. The business will be located at the old “Thrive Project” across

from the Brick House.

Concern was expressed by neighborhood residents, who generally were supportive of the proposal, about the impact of the new business on parking.

John MacNamara, who recently purchased a building on Third and Avenue A, stated he “personally had no problem” finding a space in the area. He also noted that the youth sculpture park on Third and Canal streets was “eventually” destined to be a parking lot.

The Selectboard endorsed the license request.

Pipeline Duly Opposed

Roy Rosenblatt and Lee Wicks next requested that the board endorse a statement they had brought to the meeting opposing the construction of a natural gas pipeline through Montague.

The board, which has already voted not to allow the pipeline company Kinder Morgan to survey on town property, endorsed the statement.

Newer Older People Ineligible

Next was John Reynolds who is attempting to put the final touches on the implementation of the so-called “Golden Cane” award, which is given to the oldest citizen in a town.

The question Reynolds wanted the board to resolve was whether the oldest citizens needed to be a long-term resident or, perhaps, might have just moved here prior to receiving the cane.

He noted that recipients in other towns had been new residents who then passed away immediately after

being given the award.

“You are making this golden cane sound like the kiss of death,” declared board member Mark Fairbrother.

The board voted that the cane should be given to someone who had resided in town for at least ten years.

Shea Lease Extended

By this time the meeting was literally packed not with potential golden cane recipients but residents who seemed to be in their teens.

The reason, it became clear, was that the current lease of the popular Shea Theater was at risk. It seems that the lease had required a one year prior notice to renew, which the Theater had failed to give.

Michael Glazier, the Shea president, noted that the theater was booked into Summer 2015, and uncertainty of an RFP might undermine the viability of the summer schedule.

Town Administrator Frank Abbonanzio stated that he had received a legal opinion from town counsel stating that the lease would have to be put out to bid, requiring a “Request For Proposals” (RFP).

He recommended that the board sign an interim agreement with the

Theater until May 1 of 2015.

This idea elicited a variety of concerns from Selectboard members, the staff of the Shea, and its supporters in the audience.

Michael Glazier, the Shea president, noted that theater was in fact booked into the Summer of 2015 and that the uncertainty of an RFP might undermine the viability of the summer schedule.

Nick Waynelovich, founder and president of Ja'Duke Center For the Performing Arts, questioned whether an RFP was necessary under Chapter 30B, the state procurement law. He asked for a written legal opinion.

Michael Nelson moved that the current lease be extended until the end of 2015, and that the town request a written legal opinion from town counsel on the RFP issue.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Library Staff

Library Director Linda Hickman requested that the board increase the hours of employee Scott Schmith from 17 to 26.

Schmith is actually being transferred to a new position. The library is in the process of filling his old position, according to Hickman.

The request was approved by the board, acting as the Personnel Board.

Other Business

Town Planner Walter Ramsey came before the board with a number of requests, including the awarding of the Senior Center Planning Study contract (\$60,000) to the architects Caitlin and Petrovich and the creation of a senior center plan-

ning committee.

The contract was approved, but the planning committee was put on hold pending the appointment of citizens representing all the villages.

Ramsey also requested that the board provisionally approve a by-law change making 11th Street a “Neighborhood Business District”. The change was approved so the issue could be sent on to the Planning Board for more discussion.

Michael Nelson requested that the permit for the Pumpkinfest event be moved along Avenue A to First Street now that the bridge to Gill is open.

The board agreed. Town Administrator

Frank Abbonanzio requested a cell phone stipend for Jacob Lapean who will be the new Resource Officer at the Franklin County Technical School.

He also requested that the board execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste District for the removal of sludge from the water pollution control facility.

Abbonanzio stressed that the amount of sludge has been significantly reduced by innovations at the plant.

Finally, the board approved a request to refinance \$1,653,000 in general obligation bonds, most of which are being used to finance the sewer repairs at the industrial park.

The board then adjourned the meeting and went into the fourth executive session of the evening, having already held three executive sessions before its public session.



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| Foster's Market | Turners Falls Fireman's Association |
| Franklin Orthopedic Group | Turners Falls Knights of Columbus |
| Freedom Federal Credit Union | Turners Falls Rod & Gun |
| French King Entertainment Center | TFHS All-Sport Boosters |
| Good Dirt Pottery | Twisters |
| Greenfield Community College | Village Pizza |
| Greenfield Co-operative Bank | Wagon Wheel Country Drive-In |
| Greenfield Garden Cinema | Wilson's Department Store |
| Greenfield Savings Bank | Wilson Orthodontics |
| Hallmark Institute of Photography | Windy Hollow Veterinary |
| Harmony Mason Lodge | Yankee Candle Company |

Meet Sarah Burstein, New Principal at Hillcrest

By PATRICIA PRUITT

MONTAGUE – As Sarah Burstein and I take our seats and settle in for this interview on July 8, she points out that today is only the fifth day of her position as principal of the Hillcrest early childhood, prekindergarten and kindergarten, thru first grade program. She is excited and in the throes of learning everything seemingly at once.

In June, Burstein, a fulltime classroom teacher for more than a decade, was looking to expand her responsibilities into being an instructional leader, setting the tone of a school for both teachers and other personnel as well as students.

With a student population of approximately 150, she finds Hillcrest a great setting as a community school dedicated to the youngest students in our communities.

A longtime resident of Gill, Burstein is delighted to be so close to home to do her work.

She explains that as an undergraduate at Connecticut College she majored in Government and Human Development. Her college ran a lab school where she did hands-on work with families and kids. That was the beginning of her life in the classroom.

As principal she looks forward to building community relationships in house among the twenty plus paraprofessionals, professional educational support staff, coaches, and ELL staff.

She hopes to get parents not only involved in Hillcrest but also engaged in furthering the programs for their children and working in concert with the teachers. She believes parents have high expectations for their young children; she wants to realize those expectations and work with par-



Burstein will begin as the principal of the newly independent Hillcrest Elementary this fall.

ents in an atmosphere of trust.

In the early years of a child's education, the child can develop a self-perception as a learner who works hard and knows how to interact socially and collaborate with others.

To these ends, the Pre-K and kindergarten classes work with the Tools of the Mind program, while in first grade the Responsive Classroom model is the mode of instruction.

Burstein expects there will be some challenges this year for her as a new administrator, but she looks forward to collaborating with others and problem solving.

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REVIEW

Fiddler On The Roof: Well Worth Seeing

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Ja'Duke opened their production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls this past weekend. With a full cast singing the music of this well known musical, and Ja'Duke dancers performing the choreographed dance numbers, the show is an excellent opportunity to see this famous musical that was such a hit on Broadway.

Set in Russia in the time of the Czars, at the dawn of the new century, this is a story of Jews in a small town living according to ancient tradition as the modern world and ideas begin to bring change, not completely welcome to the elders.

At the same time, forces outside of their control are beginning to intrude into their world in ways that will tear apart the lives they thought would never change.

The show opens with Tevye, played powerfully by David Neil, singing about "Tradition."

From Tevye's point of view, it is Jewish tradition that has held the family and community together. It tells the family how to live their lives and how to treat each other, the roles each must play.

This is a look back that will remind us all of the things many of us grew up believing and where those ideas came from. Perhaps we still believe them, perhaps we have come to think they are old fashioned and in the past.

Either way, the song is all about social rules of behavior and especially, the roles of parents and children.

The show itself becomes a look at the role of women, the freedom of men and women to love each other and those who to marry.

In Tevye's day, a matchmaker chose an appropriate husband for a daughter, the Papa decides to give his "permission" and daughters do as they are told.

Tevye has five daughters, no sons. The youngest daughters, Shprintze

(Niamh Gray-Mullen) and Bielke (Eliza Voorheis) are delightful, sing and dance, do their chores and cause no one any trouble.

The three oldest are of an age to interest the matchmaker, Yente, played by Emily Samuels. She picks the butcher, Lazar Wolf, (Scott Gudell) for Tzeitel, Tevye's oldest daughter.

Tzeitel, played by Anna Ember-



David Neil plays Tevye in the Ja'Duke production of Fiddler on the Roof at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

ley, has been secretly seeing Motel (Codey Kolasinski) a poor tailor, a quiet man who is very afraid of Tevye.

When Motel asks Tevye for Tzeitel's hand in marriage, Tevye booms his anger as they are not following tradition of giving deference to "the Papa" in choosing a husband.

In questioning this tradition, Tzeitel has caused a break in tradition, and her younger sisters soon follow her example.

So daughter Hodel (Juniper Holmes) falls for the revolutionary Perchick, played with passion and conviction by Justin Begin; daughter Chava (Megan Forrest) who enjoys reading, which her mother Golde says a girl doesn't need, falls in love with Fyedka (Connor Gibbs) a young Christian man who loves books, and goes against her father to

marry him.

Love, it seems, matters too. Which leads to the memorable song, charmingly done between Tevye and wife Golde (Jessica Thompson) "Do You Love Me?" with a man and woman married in the old tradition of arranged marriage, finally saying they love each other.

There are many great moments like this in the show, a lot of terrific music that the cast performs in rich harmonies.

With such a strong cast, the music is central to the success of this performance.

Using a sound track rather than live music seems to work well for these shows, singers for the most part are well supported by the music, dance numbers are well done, coordinated with perfection. Ja'Duke brings an impressive level of professionalism to their shows.

Nick Waynevovich as director/producer deserves a lot of credit for this wonderful production. Kimberly Williams, choreographer/director, does a great job in creating lively, entertaining dance numbers.

Production staff, without whom none of this happens: Judith Kulp, vocal director, Jana & Ellen Purington, Lighting, Oressa Gray-Mullen, microphones, Amy Herzig & Val Voorheis, costumes, Duane Waters, set design and construction, Chris Rooks, artistic design.

All of the actors play their parts very well, all sing extremely well, dancers are uniformly excellent, and so as a whole the show is well worth seeing.

Fiddler on the Roof will continue this weekend at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

Performances are Friday & Saturday, July 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. Sunday July 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$12, and \$10 for those 65 and over or 12 and under.

For more information, visit www.jaduke.com/shows.

Fabric Art: A First at Wendell Free Library

By RICHARD BALDWIN

suggestive than descriptive.

In "Over Yonder," rust stains dominate the composition, and a burned-out hole in the linen is visually linked to its positive 'sister', a piece of crockery sewn lower on the work.

Ruel Flynn also uses thread to alter the physical shape of the surface in these works. Beginning with the

The Wendell Free Library is pleased to present its first all fabric art exhibition, **The Breathing Landscape**, by Linda Ruel Flynn of Orange. In her artist statement, Ruel Flynn writes: "The series began as an exploration of the changing landscape as it succumbs to the waves of the climate. As the work progresses, illness and loss entered my family. Suddenly the two were being intertwined. Each element and stitch illustrates a connection to the people and landscape around me, illustrating and interpreting the fragile state of both."

The seven pieces are made of thread, stains, paint and a tiny piece of broken pottery on linen. Each work hangs on clothes pins secured to a narrow wood bar. The works are personal and intimate, playful and contemplative, redolent with associations.

The stitching suggests map marks and hieroglyphics as well as embroidery samplers. The painted patterns suggest Native American bead work while the rust and burn marks suggest domestic use perhaps as protective wrapping. The latter also suggests items used roughly and perhaps thrown away, while in the two pieces on white linen suggest dresses, perhaps bridal gowns. All of them seem like curtains, hiding and revealing the artist's imagination.

Ruel Flynn's process in these works is improvisational, the compositions and details evolving while working with the materials.

At times, stitches seem to be wandering as in the blue and white ones in "The Breathing Landscape 2". Then in others they make shapes, e.g. blue stitches forming a bowl in "Vessel". In "Obstacles In the Landscape", straight stitches create an inverted bowl shape over a vertical pattern of blue dashes in paint, an image more



BALDWIN PHOTO

Ruel Flynn's "The Breathing Landscape," detail

natural folds in the fabric she makes liberal use of French knots and gatherings of material.

In "The Landscape and I Used To Be Here," the largest piece in the show, the knots create much of the activity in an otherwise monochromatic and peaceful composition.

Ruel Flynn studied painting at Syracuse University and has held a variety of positions related to arts and crafts. She maintains a studio in Orange. More of her work can be seen at northquabbinwoods.org.

Please stop by and see this unique exhibition, and come to the artist's reception on Saturday, July 19, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The show runs from July 1 through August 31 in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library. Hours: Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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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, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Tuesday*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children. Story, interactive game and craft with rotating topics. Ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Great Falls Farmer's Market, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

MUSEUMS

Local libraries have passes for area museums. *Wendell Free Library* has: Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Historic Deerfield, Mass MoCa, and more. *Leverett Library* has: Clark Art Institute, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Historic Deerfield, Springfield Museums and more. Check with each library for museums available and restrictions.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Wizard of Oz*. Held at Memorial Hall with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fiddler On The Roof* by Ja'Duke, \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country, 9 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mixed Doubles, Orca Age, Vespuola*, \$, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Wizard of Oz*. Held at Memorial Hall with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fiddler On The Roof* by Ja'Duke, \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Gurus of Blues*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Fall: *Rock-it Queer w/DJ Just Joan*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fid-*

dlar On The Roof by Ja'Duke, \$, 2 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Elan Sicroff*, piano, \$, 4 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 22

Common People's Concerts, Gill Common: *Jason Koerber and Friends*, jazz standards, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Jewelry-Making in July*. Join artist Ami Podlenski for the second program in the series: Summer Bracelets & Anklets. Designed for ages 10 to adult.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Outdoor Film Night*, motion picture *Milk*. Bring Blankets, and lawn chairs. 8:30 p.m.

various locations, music by local and regional artists including: *Carrie Ferguson, Celtic Heels Irish Dancers, David Fersh, The Equalites, Eugene Friesen, Gaslight Tinkers, Una Jensen, The Snaz, Women's Songwriters Collective* and more! Complete listing www.uppervalleymusicfest.com, \$, noon to midnight.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Moonstruck*. Memorial Hall with music before the movie: *Helter Celtic*, Irish tunes, funny songs & something else, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *42nd St.* by JaDuke, \$, 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mitch Chakour & Friends*, roots rock, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Battle Beyond The Stars*, film showing, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mystics Anonymous & Beach Honey*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *42nd Street* by JaDuke, \$, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Burrie's Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*. Open mic at 7:30 p.m., featured readers to follow. Pub menu available until 9 pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Common People's Concerts, Gill Common: *American Harmony Octet* - Music from 19th Century America, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Jewelry-Making in July*. Join artist Ami Podlenski for Found Object Jewelry-Making. Designed for ages 10 to adult.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Leverett Library, Leverett: A visit from *Teaching Creatures*. Learn how animal adaptations can inspire technology. Featuring sugar gliders, day gecko and a python. Please register, space is limited, 3:30 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts, *Russ Thomas*, tunes that amuse and surprise and *Falltown String Band*, American roots and beyond, 6 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Music on the Patio, *Jazz with Masala*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues, jazz, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:



The Snaz, one of the many bands performing in The Upper Valley Music Festival on Saturday, July 26. Catch them at 9:20 p.m. in the alley at the corner of Main & 4 Federal Street, Greenfield.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts, *Rich Briere and Friends*, creative musical melodies and harmonies; *Roland LaPierre*, country, rock and roll, and traditional roots music; *Orlen & Gabriel*, influences of 20th century folk, blues, ragtime music, 6 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Music on the Patio, *The Same Old Blues*, 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Tall Heights*, cello & guitar, \$, 7:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Joel Zoss Trio, Joel Zoss, Guy DeVito and Billy Klock*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *42nd St.* by JaDuke, \$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Moonstruck*. Held at Memorial Hall with music before the movie with *Co-op Jazz* at 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, Techno Jazz Trio, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Edge Sisters & Friends*, ukes & lady voices and stuff, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

The 4th annual Upper Valley Music Festival, downtown Greenfield

Opening Night Show for Northern Routes Experimental Music Series: *MV&EE, Zzones, Village of Spaces, Asa Irons*, \$, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Northern Routes Experimental Music Series* a two-day festival celebrating adventurous music. *Glenn Jones, Marissa Nadler, Glitter Pen, Matt Weston, Trevor Healy, Bunwinkies, Twilight Tipi, Passerine, and Matt Krefting*, \$, 4 p.m.

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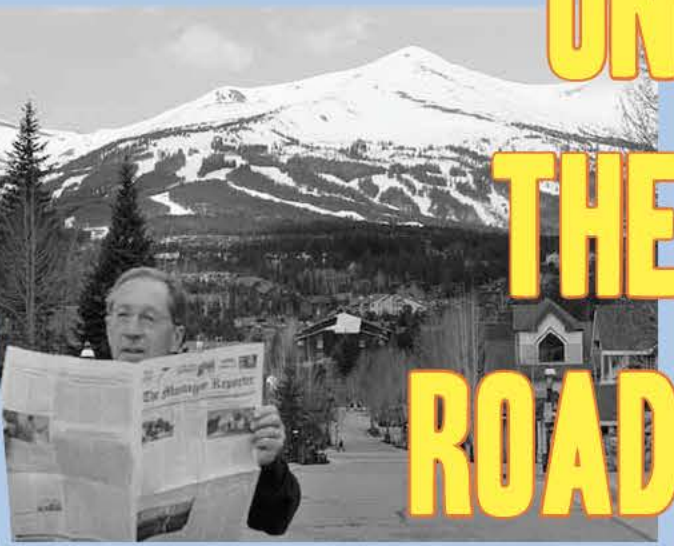
Barbara Alfange catches up on the news in front of the South Dakota State Capitol building in Pierre, her old stomping grounds!



Cheryl Carley (Greenfield), Anne Baker (Gill) and Debbie Edson (Gill) kayaking Harriman Reservoir, Wilmington, VT



Lisa Enzer and Bob Mabler on top of Pike's Peak (14,110 feet) with their copy of the Montague Reporter.



Over the Memorial Day weekend Jack Davey of West Deerfield visited Breckenridge CO, and had a few minutes to catch up on The Montague Reporter, Davey wrote: "Thanks for producing an excellent newspaper. I look forward to it every week!"

ON THE ROAD

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SUMMERTIME from page B1 have to share with the blue jays or the rapacious squirrels.

The Japanese beetles have arrived. There is nothing they enjoy more than the tender petals of the roses. It requires a daily round of the bushes with a jar of soapy water to collect and drown the miserable things.

I have yet to see a bird take them on with relish. Who would? They are all hard shell and prickly legs.

Happily, our roses are repeaters so we have already enjoyed a lovely blooming which will repeat later after the beetles have moved on to the next phase of their lives.

Because Ken is quite handy with tools and enjoys woodworking, we have the pleasure of embellishing our garden space. He recently made a wooden trellis which naturally required me to buy a climbing rose. What a pleasure to find a gorgeous peach colored climber on sale at our local garden store!

And now, the best thing. I no longer have to climb a stepstool to get into the space fenced to keep the woodchuck out. We have a beautiful wooden gate with a latch no less. I have decorated the posts with copper tops and hung a flowering plant nearby. Overkill perhaps, but so much fun.

And, lest we forget, gardening should be fun. It's work for sure, but there is the pleasure of the harvest of fresh peas, garden candy; the sight of the developing tomatoes, the scent of the roses and the arrival of the hummingbirds in the bee balm.

Each work session ends in a survey of what's been done, not a list of what is still left to do. Being outside whatever the weather with your hands in the dirt beats being inside any day. Besides if you're inside too much you might decide things really needed a good cleaning. Who needs that?

Happy gardening!



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