



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 20

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 6, 2014

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

“Excellent” Meeting on Strathmore, But No Discussion of Costs

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS — “We had an excellent meeting with the fire chief,” declared Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio. There were visible signs of relief on the faces of Montague Selectboard members.

Less than two weeks previous, the Turners Falls Fire Chief had presented a formidable list of demands to remedy conditions at the decaying Strathmore mill on the power canal. These included non-functioning sprinkler systems, an employee of Swift River Hydro, a company that owns part of the building, living in the structure without an occupancy permit and a demand that the building be marked so fire fighters would not enter during a fire.

The meeting, which had been emphatically mandated by the Selectboard the previous week, included Abbondanzio, the fire chief, building inspector David Jensen, an official from the Turners Falls Water Department, Tom Bergeron of the Montague Highway Department and David Hobbs from Swift River Hydro.

Gina McNeeley, director of the Board of Health, also joined in while the meeting was in progress. Most of the issues raised by the chief were either resolved or seem to be headed in the right direction.

For example it now appears that the space occupied by the Swift River employee was, in fact, awarded a certificate of occupancy. Swift River, in conjunction with the town of Montague, will work to correct problems such as a frozen sewer line and the lack of potable water for the occupant.

As far as the Strathmore itself is concerned, the town agreed to clear all buildings of their contents, particularly paper left by a previous owner who had used the factory as massive paper storage facility.

The goal (Abbondanzio emphasized) will be to remove all contents by the end of June. Town officials are



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTOS



The town has struggled to find an owner for the historic, 243,000-square-foot mill complex.

talking to Republic waste removal services concerning what can be recycled.

The town will work to make the building “weather tight” without undermining its ability to market the structure. Concerning various roof issues, Swift River will remove some scrap metal that remains from a previous repair, and the town will close or repair a hole in building #5.

There was a good deal of discussion of problems with various sprinkler systems, including the need to resolve a disagreement between the Turners Falls Water Department and “a sprinkler contractor” over the cause of one of the problems.

The parts to fix sprinkler #1 are apparently on order and should arrive soon. The fire department is no longer insisting that the building be marked to prevent entry by fire fighters, pending the resolution of several potentially dangerous conditions within the structures.

see MONTAGUE page A6

Towns Press FRTA For Open Process

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO and DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboards of Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett have joined Montague in calling for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) management to be more responsive to the public.

The boards also asked the FRTA for a joint meeting with them and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as soon as possible to discuss these issues.

All five towns have now sent individual letters to FRTA Administrator Tina Cote supporting

expanded access to public transportation, both for those without automobiles and for the many local residents with cars who wish to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The towns asked the FRTA to involve them and their concerned residents in any planning process regarding future fixed route changes.

According to the Montague letter, “This process would include involvement by town officials and key stakeholders, including town planners and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, before a final proposal is presented to the FRTA board. The goal would be to develop a strong consensus in the region.”

Dan Keller, a member of the Wendell selectboard, said that he hoped FRTA would be responsive to the requests.

“The town of Wendell supports the town of Montague in its efforts to expand access to public transportation in the Franklin region, and in its request for an open and inclusive process to

see BUSES page A6



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Amherst-Pelham School District Absorbs Planning Board for Regional K-6 Union...

By JEFF SINGLETON

AMHERST — On March 1 the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Budget, which finances the regional middle and high schools, was presented to a large “four-town” meeting comprised of the regional school committee and officials from the member towns. Town officials included selectboard members, finance committee members, and the Amherst town manager.

This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Amherst-Leverett-Pelham-Shutesbury (ALPS) Regional Planning Board, which has spent the past few years working on a plan to integrate the various town elementary schools into a larger regional district.

Since the current strategy to achieve this goal calls for the expansion of the middle school/high school district to include elementary schools, the regional planning board is in the process of transforming itself into a subcommittee of the existing regional school committee.

This committee will be known as the Regional Working Group (RWG).

It was a long but productive Saturday.

The four-town meeting saw Amherst Regional Superintendent Maria Geryk

and her staff present a budget that funds the Amherst Middle School and High School. The proposed \$29,668,478 general fund budget for FY 15 is increasing by \$537,663, or 1.8%.

Geryk, Michael Morris and accountant Sean Mangano described the various assumptions and projections that produced this increase. The budget assumes a \$936,913 increase to maintain the previous year’s level of services. This is the sum of a \$327,517 increase in salaries (including a 1% cost of living increase for staff) and a \$609,396 increase in expenses.

To bring the total down to a 1.8% increase, a target the regional school committee and town boards have been discussing since last fall, the district proposes to cut \$399,250 through “additions and reductions.” Geryk and her staff spent a good deal of the hour and a half on these line items.

The “additions” to the current budget include \$87,200 in “professional development” for curriculum, \$59,287 for an English Language Arts Intervention teacher (described as a position “between regular and special education”) at the Middle School, and nearly \$90,000 for two staff members attached to the

BRYT program (a program that provides support to students with injury-related learning problems).

To pay for these new items and close the proposed budget increase to below 2%, Geryk and her staff proposed over \$678,000 in budget reductions. These included a variety of staff and department reductions but Geryk pledged that none of these would eliminate course offerings.

To pay for this, Geryk and her staff project an increase of \$65,016 (.7%) in state Chapter 70 aid (the district’s second largest revenue source) and an increase of \$93,154 in regional transportation reimbursement.

The proposed budget also assumes an increase of

see ALPS page A5



DETMOLD PHOTO

Leverett school committee member Kip Fonsb, Amherst-Pelham education director Michael Morris, Amherst-Pelham superintendent Maria Geryk, and Sean Mangano, assistant director of the Amherst-Pelham business office, present the FY’15 budget to the Leverett selectboard on Tuesday.

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

... Shutesbury Emerges As A Wild Card In Region’s Budget Plan

By DAVID DETMOLD

On Tuesday, representatives of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District (APRSD) presented the district’s budget to a joint session of Leverett’s finance committee and selectboard.

As the town of Leverett struggles to put together a budget for all departments for the coming fiscal year, a wild card has suddenly been introduced.

Shutesbury officials came to the APRSD’s four-town meeting last Saturday (see story at left), and raised the specter of that town refusing to go along with the status quo by which the regional school district has divided up assessments to its four member towns — Amherst, Pelham,

Leverett and Shutesbury.

For the past eleven years, assessments for the Amherst-Pelham regional schools have been apportioned on the basis of a five-year rolling average, based on the percentage of students enrolled from each town, an alternative method to the so-called ‘statutory method’ of assessment.

The statutory method is the default method for assessing regional school costs to member towns, according to state statute, based on the equalized wealth of each member town.

By the statutory method, a wealthier town like Leverett would normally expect to pay more, per pupil, in regional school assessments than a town with a lower equalized value, like Shutesbury.

One problem with this statutory method is that it tends to lead to sharp fluctuations in year-to-year school spending, which can disrupt budget planning in smaller towns.

To overcome this problem, the towns in the APRSD agreed in 2005 to achieve parity in per-pupil spending in a way that would provide some stability in budget planning, by adopting what Leverett finance committee chair Tom Power referred to this week as the “smoothing function”

of the five-year rolling average alternative assessment.

That smoothing function was in evidence in the graphs charting the recent history of each individual town’s assessment for the district provided by Sean Mangano, APRSD assistant budget director, to the joint meeting of the Leverett finance committee and selectboard on Tuesday.

But the salient fact that Shutesbury has consistently paid more, for the last seven years, than it would have under the statutory method of assessing, was also plain to see.

Shutesbury’s population of students in the region’s schools has remained steady, while the other three towns’ have been declining.

At Saturday’s four-town meeting, Shutesbury selectboard member Elaine Puleo said, “We have never received the benefit of the five-year rolling average.”

The data presented by APRSD administrators on Tuesday in Leverett appeared to contradict her — between 2006 and 2008, Shutesbury did save on the five-year rolling average — and Mangano predicted Shutesbury would again see savings in the near future, if enrollment projections hold.

see COSTS page A5

The Montague Reporter

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Transportation Without Representation

We were quite pleased when the FRTA decided to postpone their earlier decision to suspend Route 23 bus service from Greenfield to Montague to Amherst.

We also know this would not have happened had the Montague selectboard, town administrator and town planner not raised a major alarm.

We need to credit Route 23 bus rider and reporter for this newspaper, Jeff Singleton, for initially bringing this issue to the public and to the town. In essence, these folks forced FRTA's hand.

What began as a very local fight to preserve a needed bus route has become quite a bit more than that. It has reawakened interest on the part of citizens and local governments to push harder for public transportation, and active input into the FRTA's decision-making process.

As a partial result of Montague raising a fuss over the elimination of a route and the lack of transparency in that very process, the selectboards of Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett have joined with Montague in calling not just for the continuation of the route, but for an open discussion with FRTA management that would involve town governments and the public.

We feel this is an extremely important and timely request. For too long, FRTA management has made decisions about routes and fares and other transportation issues without much public input.

While we recognize that these decisions have been at least run by its advisory board, made up of representatives from towns in the region, we do not feel this really constitutes engaging the public in open discussion.

Indeed, our experience has been the opposite. We have not found FRTA administrator Tina Cote either press- or public-friendly.

Case in point: last week Cote and PVRTA administrator, Mary MacInnes, agreed to meet with Leverett selectboard chair Rich Brazeau and representative Roy Kimmel to discuss bus service to and through their town.

Brazeau and Kimmel invited our reporter, David Detmold, to the meeting. When Cote and MacInnes were informed that the press would also attend, the Leverett officials were told that if our reporter was present, there couldn't be a meeting.

After much back and forth with

both Brazeau and Kimmel, who were quite dumbfounded that our reporter was barred from attending the meeting, we made a decision not to scuttle what might be a fruitful opening discussion between the parties.

We fully agree with Rich Brazeau's comment: "What's the problem with a reporter being present? After all, we, as taxpayers pay [transportation authorities] through federal, state and town money."

According to MassDOT figures, only about 23 percent of FRTA's income comes from riders. The rest comes from various state, federal and local government coffers. That means us, who through our taxes support public transportation.

We recognize that running the FRTA is not easy. Its service area is the largest and most rural of all the RTAs in Massachusetts, with 40 communities in Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties.

But even so, this is not an excuse for avoiding public and governmental input, nor for attempting to keep the press away.

The public has a right to know what the FRTA is planning to do, and how they are planning to do it.

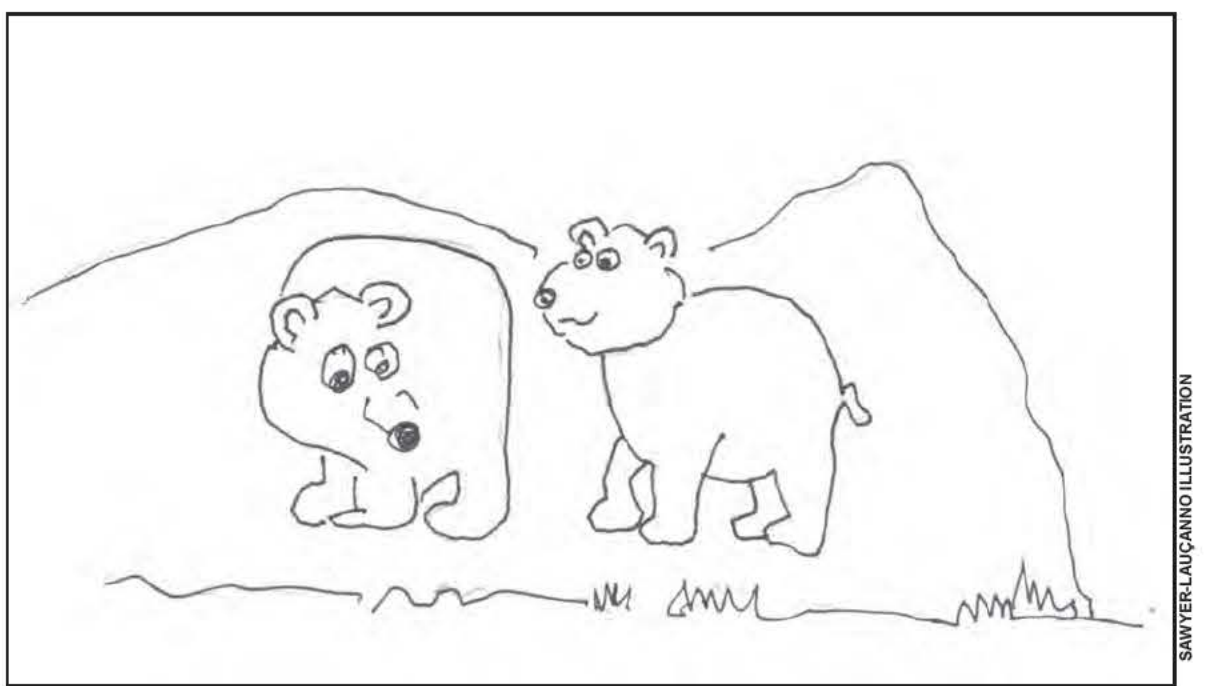
We are also aware that far more public money is needed to create a truly viable transportation network, and we encourage the town selectboards to lobby our state and federal lawmakers to increase funding for the FRTA.

We also hail the efforts of Transportation Justice Franklin County, a group led by FRTA drivers and riders, who have been meeting to discuss improving services and expanding routes.

Older citizens recall a time when many towns in the county not currently served by bus routes had service from a much more robust public transportation network, in the form of trains and trolleys that ran to many communities now solely reliant on cars for commuting.

In an era of global warming, the time has come to push for an increase in public money to improve service, increase routes, increase schedules, and connect more of our rural communities to the public bus line.

A more public planning process, in which citizens and the towns are actively involved, might help to make that happen.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

"Let's head to Western Mass. I hear it's colder down there"

As noted previously, effective March 1, subscription rates for this newspaper are rising for mailed subscriptions (to \$60 a year) and those on driving routes (to \$40 a year). If this poses a hardship that would prevent your renewal, get in touch and we'll gladly work something out. Our \$25 a year rate for walking routes remains the same.



Letter to the Editors

After reading David Brule's article in last week's *Reporter* ["Up-rising at Peskeomskut," pg. B1, Feb. 27], people (including David) may be under the impression that the article by Jeff Singleton in the previous week's paper ["Archaeology, Native American History, and the NPS Report," pg. A2, Feb. 20] was the product of some degree of collaboration between Mr. Singleton and myself.

In fact, I knew nothing about the article until I was shown a copy of the paper. Mr. Singleton and I did not discuss the article before, or since.

That said, I'm confident that I could not have written the article better myself, and it was a great relief that finally someone else had the courage to take a dispassionate look at the issue and come back and say, in effect, "the emperor doesn't have any clothes on".

Mark Fairbrother
Montague

CORRECTION AND CLARIFICATION

Due to a typo in last week's Leverett selectboard notes, comparing the preliminary budget requests of the Leverett elementary school and the Amherst regional school's Leverett assessment, the estimated dollar amount for the elementary school's budget increase was printed inaccurately.

The approximate dollar increase for the elementary school's FY'15 budget will be **\$31,888** (not **\$3,188**, as printed), compared to an approximate dollar increase of \$60,000 for the regional school budget.

Also, in response to that article, selectboard member Peter d'Errico offered the following clarification:

"Your report on the regional budget gave the impression that we are content with the 4.29% increase in Leverett's share. My favorable comments about the regional budget were directed at the overall increase under 2% (1.8%), and the fact that measures are being taken at that level to reduce staff through attrition and otherwise to align educational needs with budget realities. The 4.29% share is determined by a formula based on relative enrollments from the four towns; it is not a superintendent's budgetary decision."

GUEST EDITORIAL

By JOE
PARZYCH



The bridge debacle on Greenfield Road can be summarized as thus:

The Pan American

Railroad asked MA DOT if they could lower the RR track under the bridge on Greenfield Road to accommodate higher rail cars. The DOT gave the go-ahead.

Railroad workers then undermined the bridge as a DOT employee stood by watching. And, surprise, surprise, the bridge began to collapse.

The DOT blames Pan Am for doing something stupid. Pan Am blames the DOT for allowing them to do something stupid. Now they say, "Too bad. It can't be fixed." That is **Baloney**, thickly sliced.

Engineer John Burek suggests a cantilever footing. A cantile-

Baloney, Thickly Sliced

ver is akin to a diving board, being anchored at one end. The new sidewalk on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge is cantilevered out over the side of the bridge.

Burek proposes anchoring the cantilever with an inverted T structure. One side of the T would be wider to accommodate weighting with earth.

The inverted T on the side abutting the RR tracks would be slightly narrower. Many bridges use the technique of projecting a cantilever out from each side and joining them in the middle. As long as no one digs down to unstable soil, that presents a feasible solution.

The UMass campus in Amherst was built on wet and swampy land. There are several multi-storied buildings built on unstable soils. A school at the left of the Westerly entrance is built on unstable soil that acted like quicksand.

At the start of the job, a poured concrete wall began to immediately sink. To correct the situation, the

contractor demolished the wall, dug a couple of feet below footing grade, filled it with crushed rock (probably 4"minus), and poured a much wider footing to spread the load. The brick faced concrete building still stands half a century later.

Some other UMass buildings have "spread footings." A contractor constructed a building at UMass on unstable soil near the power house, decades ago, by putting down crushed rock and pouring a "spread footing" over it. A spread footing is essentially a slab that spreads the building load over a wider area. That building still stands.

So, there are solutions.

Another feasible solution is to construct a Bailey-type bridge, such as the one that spans the power canal leading to the former Rockdale Store (recently known as Railroad Salvage).

That bridge has only rudimentary footings as abutments, and the bridge stands as good as the day it

see **BALONEY** next page

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Leverett Elementary School** will present an Integrated Curriculum and Music show, “Animals and Habitats,” on Tuesday, March 11. The show will feature an All-School Revue of student-composed and choreographed music, dance and theater pieces which demonstrate their knowledge of various wildlife and habitats.

These habitats include Antarctica, the savannah, the rain forest, the desert, and freshwater ponds. The shows will take place at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Greenfield Community College will co-host a “**Career & Job Fair**” on Tuesday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the main campus in the GCC Dining Commons, expanding its partnership with the Franklin Hampshire Career Center (FHCC). Admission to the Career & Job Fair is free and open to the public with parking available in lots A-E on the main campus at 1 College Drive in Greenfield.

The Career & Job Fair is a general interest career exploration opportunity with employers from a variety of economic sectors. In addition to the range of businesses present, the Career Fair is also open to non-profit service groups and government agencies.

Some will be on hand with general information about their work and career paths. Others will have

current job postings. Students and job seekers should bring resumes and prepare and dress for a brief information interview.

This year, the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board will bring up to 75 juniors and seniors from participating area high schools to gain career exposure with local businesses and learn more about GCC. For employers, the Career & Job Fair has room for up to 26 display tables on a first-come sign up.

To learn more about the Career Fair or to register for an available employer booth, go to web.gcc.mass.edu/career-fair or contact Judy Raper at (413) 775-1819 or RaperJ@gcc.mass.edu.

Tuesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. Tom Sullivan is giving a talk, “**Native Bee Habitat Creation**” about native pollinator habitat creation and protective strategies. This talk includes the bees, their nesting and flower preferences, implications from a recent Vermont citizen science bumble bee survey, the threats, and what we all can do to reverse the trend of native pollinator loss.

If there ever was a time to get involved, this is the year. Held at the Leyden Town Hall, 16 West Leyden Road, admission is free and is sponsored by the Leyden Cultural Council.

When do you think the **huge pile of snow** in the Food City parking lot will be completely gone? The

Carnegie Library is holding the annual free contest to determine who makes the closest guess. One entry per person, and entries close Wednesday, March 12. The winner will receive a Second Street Bakery gift certificate.

The Carnegie Library is open Monday - Wednesday 1 to 8 p.m., Thursdays 1 to 5 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 863-3214.

The Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club has a **corned beef and cabbage luncheon** on Saturday, March 15. Cocktail hour starts at noon with lunch at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person. Reserve your seat by calling 863-8003 or 659-3061.

“**The New FCTS Players**” of Franklin County Technical School offer performances of. “the Brothers Grimm”, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Saturday, March 15, with shows at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Now that the Sochi Olympics are over and College Basketball March Madness is soon approaching the Montague Reporter would like to inform our readers of 3 upcoming “**unique sports events**”. All are sure to be lots of fun.

The Turners Falls High School Class of 2014 welcomes back Green Mountain **Donkeyball** from Danby VT. The students who previously brought you this hilarious show are gearing up for graduation, but wanted to see their old friends from freshman year. Intelligent, sweet natured and highly trained, these donkeys will be sure to bring down the house and perhaps their riders in a wildly funny family event.

Donkey Basketball will take place in the Turners Falls High School Gym on Friday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and

children under 4 get in for free. Halftime donkey rides available for children under 12.

Franklin County Technical School is hosting their **6th Annual Dodgeball Tournament** on Friday, March 21, to benefit FCTS Girls Soccer Program. Teams will be open to anyone and will consist of 5 players.

There is a registration fee of \$25 per team, and cash prizes of \$200 and \$100 for the top 2 teams. The Tournament begins at 6:00 sharp and ends when one team remains. This is a double elimination tournament. Teams must be registered by Tuesday, March 18.

Only 42 teams will be accepted. To register, please contact Daniel Prasol at (413) 863-9561 (413) 863-9561 FREE X233.

DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services is holding its **13th Annual Badminton Bash** fundraising tournament on Sunday, March 30, in the Forslund Gym at the Northfield Mt. Hermon School in Gill. Tournament times are 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m..

Teams must pre-register for the event at www.dialself.org. Each player is encouraged to collect pledges/donations of at least \$50 in order to participate.

Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams. Wild Card trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the officials in categories such as Best Uniforms, Most Enthusiastic or Youngest Player.

All players will receive free food, water and a ticket for hourly door prizes. There will also be a coffee can raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Call 774-7054 ext. 113 for more information .

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Walk For Hunger: Date Announced

The 46th Annual Walk for Hunger will be held Sunday, May 4. The walk, which takes place in metro Boston, draws 40,000 people from around the state in an effort to raise money for food pantries, meal programs, nutrition initiatives, and improved access to farm-fresh food.

Registration is now open – you can walk, volunteer, and donate at www.projectbread.org/walk, or call (617)723-5000 for more info.

If you or someone you know is struggling to put food on the table, please call Project Bread’s Food-Source Hotline at 1(800)645-8333.

and manufactured Bailey bridges, as well. The U.S. Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army erected over 3,000 Bailey bridges during WWII. In Italy, the 8th Army spanned the 1,126 foot wide Sangro River. In Burma, a Bailey bridge spanned 1,154 feet.

The bridge to the Rockdale store is most likely an Army Surplus product.

Mabey Bridge Company now builds both temporary and permanent bridges using Bailey’s concept. Though some of the designs are labeled as “temporary,” many Bailey Bridges erected during and immediately after WWII are still in use today, requiring little or no maintenance, since the segments and bolts are all galvanized so that they do not rust.

There’s a Bailey Bridge in Keene, NH, that was erected half a century ago, still in use, despite having had virtually no maintenance other than black topping the deck, decades ago.

Montague should not have to put up with the baloney of “No Solution.”

Where are our legislators, who claim to care so much about us prior to each Election Day?

Probably calibrating their baloney slicers.

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Work in Your Community as a SHINE Volunteer

If you’re interested in health-care and looking for a volunteer opportunity, consider signing up to become a SHINE Counselor with Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC). The 2014 Spring Training is coming up next month.

The SHINE program, Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone, provides free, confidential and unbiased health insurance counseling for all Medicare beneficiaries.

SHINE Counselors work one-on-one with individuals in their own communities providing information, counseling and assistance on Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, Pub-

lic Benefits, One Care Plans, and more. Those interested in becoming counselors should be comfortable working with a population consisting primarily of elders and persons with mental and physical disabilities.

Counselors benefit from ongoing monthly meetings, which allow them to stay up-to-date with new healthcare policies and programs. “There’s always things that are changing,” says Lorraine York-Edberg, Western Regional SHINE Program Director, and this year’s training will address changes that have taken place in the past year, in part by adding a segment on One Care Plans.

The 2014 Spring Training is set to take place at Franklin County Home Care from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with one hour for lunch, beginning March 11. Participants will meet weekdays for 13 sessions through May 1. A graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 5.

If you are interested, want to learn more, or wish to sign up, contact Lorraine York-Edberg, Western Regional SHINE Program Director, at 413-773-5555 x.2275 or 978-544-2259 x.2275 or lyork-edberg@fchcc.org. For more information about the SHINE Program and other programs at FCHCC, visit www.fchcc.org.

BALONEY from previous page

was built, with no maintenance needed – not even paint.

These bridges are light, sturdy, and simple to construct. During WWII, U.S. and British Armies used soldiers to assemble over 3,000 bridges on rollers, by hand, on dry land, without the use of cranes, sometimes using foot soldiers to push the completed bridge out over a span.

More often, they pushed the bridge with a bulldozer or tank at one end and pulled the other end to shore with a cable attached to a truck or other piece of equipment. They also floated bridges into place on pontoons.

It was not unusual to have a Bailey Bridge assembled and put in place in a matter of days. The enemy had difficulty destroying them. If the bridge was damaged, additional segments were simply bolted to the top to bridge the damage.

Donald Bailey, a civil service clerk in the British War Office came up with the concept of prefabricating bridges on dry land with sections light enough to be lifted by men.

Bailey was not an engineer, but an office clerk with a hobby of model bridge building. He’d bolted together bridge models out of Erector Set pieces.

When he showed a model to his superior officer, suggesting full-sized replicas, his superior officer showed it to engineers, who were captivated by the concept of assembling a bridge by hand on dry land, and then pushing the finished bridge across a span on rollers, by men if necessary.

Bailey’s experience seems to make it clear that you need not have an extensive engineering background to come up with a common sense idea. Bailey was knighted for proposing his idea.

The British Army first tested a Bailey Bridge prototype by spanning a channel cutting through unstable

soil in marshlands at the confluence of the River Avon and the River Stour in England. The foundations consisted of steel pads plopped onto the ground with adjustable support shafts to level the bridge.

The prototype bridge remains as a functioning bridge to this day. Bailey Bridges had the capacity to allow crossing by 40-ton Churchill tanks.

With no tanks traveling in town, Montague needs only a bridge of 22 tons capacity for fire trucks to cross. And the cost could be little more than the pedestrian and bicycle bridge proposed by the DOT.

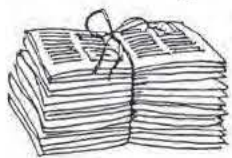
The U.S. licensed Bailey’s design



This Bailey bridge connects the Patch to downtown Turners Falls.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

New Shared Fire Chief
Arrives Late For Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

New Salem fire chief Joe Cuneo did not come to meet the Wendell selectboard at his scheduled time February 26 because he had been called away on a mutual aid call to Shutesbury.

The Wendell fire department responded to the same call with a tanker and a crew of two but the Shutesbury fire department stopped the fire quickly without the need for Wendell's or New Salem's water.

Cuneo was able to catch the tail end of the selectboard meeting, speak to board members, and accept an appointment slip as parttime fire chief in Wendell.

Although Everett Ricketts remained Wendell's fire chief until his official retirement February 28, and Cuneo did not assume the position until March 1, he went to the town clerk's office and was sworn in effective March 1, and was able to save himself an extra trip just for that. From there he went into the finance committee office to meet with them.

Wendell's town counsel, Kopelman and Paige, serves both Wendell and New Salem, and sent both selectboards a memo of understanding with that information. The New Salem selectboard already signed the memo, and at this meeting Wendell signed it as well. A problem will arise only if the two towns have a conflict over the shared chief.

Conservation Restriction

Alain Peteroy of the Franklin Land Trust and Dave Richard of Jennison Road met the selectboard because Richard wanted the board's approval of a small change in two conservation restrictions.

He owns two properties on Jennison Road, each with a CR, but one is larger than the other. Richard wants to transfer 8.9 acres from the east side of Jennison road to the property and CR on the west side. He wants no other change.

Each parcel has a house lot as an

envelope within the conservation restriction, meaning the whole property may be transferred as a unit and the house lot may not be separated from the larger piece.

The Richard house is on the east side, and the CR on the west parcel allows for one building lot.

The selectboard voted to approve his request, saying it made sense.

Seaboard Solar

Seaboard Solar still has not given any money to Wendell in spite of the agreement they made with the town when Wendell agreed with them to host 8 megawatts of solar electricity generation capacity.

Their solar installations have been late, as are the rent payments they agreed to pay the town. Both have been delayed more by changes in state regulations than by real world installation difficulties.

In addition they consulted with Wendell's town counsel, without authorization of the selectboard, and have not paid for the legal expense involved in writing the original contract as they agreed they would.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that Seaboard executive Dave Thomas told him the company is expecting a big payment in two weeks, and will pay for the legal expenses when that money comes in.

Internet Installation

Wired West met Monday, March 3 with the main objective of getting enough money to extend internet access the last mile to every home in the member towns. A state grant gives them half as much money as they need. They are asking that Wendell pay \$1,000 for the next year of their operation.

Access Plus will be the provider of high speed internet service through the fiber optic cable put in through the town center by the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI). For \$170 a month the town will get 10 megabits per second (MBPS) hard connection to the library that will be broadcast to other

town buildings on the common and to the highway garage by local antennas.

Homes with a clear line of sight to the library will also get service. Voice over internet telephone use is not included, but when that is available the town will save money paying for that and not for regular long distance telephone use.

Boards and committees that have not already done it will have to change their email addresses from Hughes Net to something else.

Walking Path

As selectboard chair Christine Heard asked, Harry Williston of the highway commission got an estimate for building a walking path from the center of town to the Wendell country store. With wetland mitigation, drainage, permits, engineering, the estimate from Stantec Engineering was \$89,500 of which \$14,000 was for actual construction.

Heard said she would speak with Williston again and try to shrink the project's scope to something more in line with the town budget. When she suggested the idea several months ago, she was thinking of a simple path to make that walk safe for pedestrians.

Bridge Repair

The engineering estimate for repair to a Wendell Depot Road bridge was \$67,800 and some of that money may come from chapter 90 payments. Board members were not sure which bridge Williston was referring to when he told them that estimate, but they thought it might be the bridge over Whetstone Brook in Wendell Depot.

Pay Rates

Assessors Stephen Broll and Chris Wings met the selectboard because the town's parttime paid assistant assessor asked to see how her pay compares with the pay of other paid assessors in Franklin county.

Broll and Wings checked and saw that there is a discrepancy, her pay is lower than the average, but they are not comfortable recommending a specific raise.

Heard mentioned that the library trustees want to raise the pay of librarian Rosie Heidkamp and raising the pay of one town employee

brings up the issue of pay for every town employee.

Different towns have different job descriptions for their paid assessors, so the issue is not as simple as comparing pay rates. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich will gather information about pay rates in the town and over the county, and the boards concurred that a decision can wait until the annual town meeting.

FRCOG Accountant

Cost of the accountant provided by FRCOG will go up to \$19,688, partly because the demand from towns has been so great that that FRCOG has had to hire another accountant. They are encouraging Greenfield Community College to train municipal accounting more compared with business accounting.

Phil Stowell House

Heard said that she had paid a visit to Phil Stowell's house after the last selectboard meeting. Treasurer Carolyn Manley told the selectboard members at that meeting that two adult children were still living in the house after he died and the town took it for unpaid taxes. Town insurance will not allow the town to own an occupied house, and the children had been told they had to move.

When Heard visited, Tim Stowell said they both had moved and were still in the process of clearing their things from the house, and that they thanked her for being understanding in easing their way out.

A decision remains to be made about how and when to close the house up and drain the pipes.

Missing Tables

Of the six new folding tables that the town bought only two remain in the town hall, and whether they were stolen or borrowed and not yet returned is uncertain.

Good Neighbors has been using the old careworn tables.

Unpleasant Smell

Town custodian Larry Ramsdell reported that an unpleasant smell was filling the town hall. Investigation showed that toilets were being left not flushed after being used.

NOTES FROM WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Becker Passes The Gavel On

By KATIE NOLAN

In less than 20 minutes, town moderator Kathy Becker guided the February 27 Wendell special town meeting through five articles -- four articles authorizing payment of town bills and an article banning fracking in Wendell.

Becker has decided not to run for another term, so this was her last meeting to preside as moderator. Two bouquets sat on the table in front of her, in recognition of her 29 years of service to the town.

For the sixth and last article Becker turned the town gavel over to deputy moderator Katie Nolan. Nolan has taken out nomination pa-

pers to run for a three-year term as moderator.

(No one else has taken out papers, but there is still time to do that before the March 13 deadline.)

The wooden gavel and gavel box were made by a Franklin County Technical School student early in Becker's term as moderator.

Leaving the officials' table and sitting with other town meeting members, Becker rose to speak in favor of article 6, breaking 29 years of moderator silence and neutrality on town meeting articles.

The first four articles -- a total of \$4,252.42 in transfers from free cash to pay bills owed from the previous fiscal year -- passed unanimously.

Article 5, banning fracking, was tabled unanimously. The article was placed on the ballot by citizen petition; however, none of the petitioners was present at the meeting.

Two voters present at the meeting commented that the article was more appropriate for annual town meeting. Because no further action was taken on the tabled article, it expired when the meeting adjourned.

The sixth article, waiving dog license fees for service dog owners and owners 70 and older, passed unanimously.

Editor's Note: Katie Nolan, filling in for Josh Heinemann, reported on this meeting. As she reported here, she has taken out papers to become the next town moderator.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Nominations for Selectboard Seat Available – Due, Signed, March 17

By KATIE NOLAN

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin restated his decision not to run for another term.

Goodwin and board member Eugene Klepadlo wondered about how the board would fare if no candidate comes forward and speculated about potential candidates.

However, so far, no one has taken out nomination papers.

Nomination papers are still available from the town clerk. They must be signed and returned to the town clerk by March 17.

The election will be held Monday, May 5.

Housing Rehab Loans

MJ Adams, director of community development at Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, told the selectboard that the housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund has \$139,146

available for Erving households that meet income criteria.

Adams also sought, and was granted, approval for an extension of the fiscal year 2012 Community Development Block Grant and for transfers between accounts in grant.

Rec Commission

Renee Tela was appointed to a vacant seat on the recreation commission.

Upcoming Meetings

The selectboard will discuss the fiscal year 2015 budget at its March 10 meeting. The finance committee will provide its budget recommendations for the fiscal year 2015 budget at the March 17 selectboard meeting.

The board plans to sign the warrant for the May 7 annual town meeting at the March 24 selectboard meeting.

COSTS from page A1

But the fact remained that Shutesbury would gain equity in per-pupil spending at the regional school this year, at the cost of a 6.86% hike in its assessment for FY'15, under the alternate method of assessing.

Looked at in dollar amounts, Shutesbury would pay \$104,002 in increased assessment for FY'15 if the district stays with the alternative method, but would instead pay \$98,238 less under the statutory method – savings of over \$200,000 for the fiscal year.

Leverett, on the other hand, was expecting to pay \$61,460 more in assessment for next year under the alternative method, but that increase would rise to \$193,604 if the assessment reverted to the statutory method.

The difference between those two numbers – \$131,144 – represents the budgetary upheaval that would hit the town of Leverett this year if Shutesbury drops the long-standing accord and decides to vote against the alternative method of assessing regional school costs.

All four member towns must agree, each year, to adhere to the alternate method of assessment.

Adding to the uncertainty, Shutesbury will hold its annual town meeting this year on the same date – May 3 – as Leverett and Pelham, raising the potential of those two towns being forced to go back to the budgetary drawing board without warning and continuing town meeting to a later date for spending articles, should Shutesbury vote the five-year rolling average down.

This prospect seemed as unsettling to APRSD superintendent Maria Geryk on Tuesday as it did to the Leverett selectboard.

“This was a little bit of a sur-

prise on Saturday,” said Geryk, who also referred to the five-year rolling average method of assessment as “a collaborative approach, so each town helps the others” iron out wrinkles in year-by-year changes in enrollment and school spending.

Geryk said that in order to keep Leverett's assessment from climbing beyond a 4.28% increase this year, if Shutesbury voted to revert to the statutory method, the region would have to cut \$2 million more out of the overall budget.

Geryk said the region had already cut \$400,000 from their preliminary budget request, to arrive at an agreed-upon target of a 1.8% increase over last year's \$29.1 million budget.

She said more than 12 full-time staffing positions will be lost to attrition to achieve the goal of a 1.8% increase.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said, “We can't wait,” to find out how Shutesbury will vote on town meeting day. “How do we reach their population?” he asked. “Who are the leaders there to help us do that?”

Although the selectboard stressed the inherent fairness of each town paying the same amount per pupil to educate their students at the regional school, Tom Powers pointed out the other way to calculate equity in the equation of school spending.

“Those towns that are wealthier shall pay more to educate their children. Those two principals of equity are almost at odds with each other,” he said.

Winter Deficit

In other news, the finance committee voted to allow the highway department to deficit spend on the snow and ice budget, as winter drags relentlessly on. The select-

board has added \$20,000 to the snow and ice budget line for next year, although the final tally from this winter is likely to dip further into deficit than that.

Energy Retrofitting?

A WMECO energy retrofit representative viewed the parking lot lights at the elementary school, and recommended motion sensors.

The company also looked at the interior of the former library building, now the Leverett Family Museum, and told town administrator Margie McGinnis, “What you have here is a construction project, not an energy retrofit.”

Although the town spends between \$40 and \$50 a month on the electric bill for that building, there is little the utility company can do to help drive that cost down, McGinnis said.

Habitat for Humanity

Perhaps partly due to the lack of transportation options in Leverett, the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has decided to withdraw from negotiations to purchase, using Community Preservation Act funds, land on Cave Hill Road that would have been made available for the construction of two single family homes for income eligible applicants.

The possibility of that deal finally coming to fruition, after years of planning, had been announced by board member Julie Shively only last week.

On Tuesday, Shively expressed frustration about the unexpected turn of events, yet another in a series of setbacks the town has encountered in its search for ways to support more affordable housing in town.



JOB POSTING: YOUTH PROGRAMS MANAGER

The Brick House is seeking a Youth Programs Manager to oversee programs for youth, primarily the Teen Drop-in Resource Center.

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Applications accepted until position is filled. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: The Brick House Community Resource Center, P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or director@brickhousecommunity.org. No phone calls, please.

ALPS from page A1

\$534,156 or 2.92% in assessments to the four member towns.

Understandably there was a good deal of discussion of town assessments. Town assessment increases for the towns varied a good deal from an increase of just over .7% for Pelham to an increase of over 6% for Shutesbury. Amherst (2.7%) and Leverett (3.5%) were in the middle range.

The district has its own assessment method based on a five-year “rolling average” of town enrollments.

This was compared with a so-called “statutory method” that first calculates town minimum contributions (a number generated by the state based on wealth) and then allocates amounts above minimum to towns by enrollment and other factors.

“We have never received the benefit of the five year rolling average,” complained Elaine Puleo of Shutesbury. She went on to argue that it might be difficult to convince Shutesbury town meeting to support continued high assessment increases based on the current system.

Data distributed at the meeting appeared to support Puleo's concern. Shutesbury's assessment under the regional agreement was consistently higher than under the statutory method than other towns'. Leverett's, on the other hand, was significantly lower.

Superintendent Geryk responded that “conversation about what method is what” is something the towns need to resolve: “I can't solve that for you.”

The meeting ended without a vote. The regional school committee is slated to take its first official vote on March 11.

After a brief break, a smaller meeting with some of same participants discussed the on-going elementary regionalization process. This meeting was led by Andrew Steinberg, a school committee member from Amherst.

Steinberg began by noting that the existing planning group was being transformed into a school committee subcommittee called the “Regional Working Group.”

The meeting decided not to officially vote to terminate the old planning group. In effect, this was

a simultaneous meeting of both the old and new committees.

There was also some discussion of the pronunciation of the new acronym, RWG, which was deemed less user-friendly than ALPS.

During a brief “public comment” moment several audience members from Amherst urged the committee to add “fresh blood” that would provide more representation for the largest town in the region.

It was noted that no one was on the committee who had children in the Amherst School system, and that the planning group should “hear from Amherst parents.”

A letter with fifty signatures was handed to the board calling for more “diversity” in the planning process.

Board members responded that since the group was now a subcommittee of the school committee, any expansions needed to be approved by the parent committee.

However, there did seem to be a consensus that expanded subcommittees of the subcommittee might be created.

Steinberg then discussed the response of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation to a preliminary proposal to expand the middle school/high school district but allow “one town” to opt out at the elementary level. The goal would presumably be to prevent one town's rejection of elementary consolidation from stopping the broader process.

Steinberg stated that he had received support for the idea from DESE's Christine Lynch. However he had not received official written approval of the concept.

Lynch also apparently said that the district should amend the regional agreement, which would involve approval of member towns, and then the towns could vote whether to opt in or out of the newly created district.

Several committee members noted that this presented a “chicken and egg” problem. What if the district agreement was altered but two towns voted not to join? The process “makes it very awkward.”

Steinberg, however, argued that it would be necessary to change the district agreement first: “otherwise, what are they opting in or out of?”

A key issue was the time line for making the final decision. Leverett

School Committee chair and regional planning board member Kip Fonsh argued forcefully that a preliminary draft proposal should be presented to the school committee by late spring, to be revised in the fall.

Such a time line would create the possibility of town meeting approval in December of 2014 and potential implementation of a new region in the fall of 2015.

Julie Shively of the Leverett Selectboard agreed, noting that “quite a bit” of the planning work had been done over the past few years.

Fonsh then stressed the “role of momentum,” noting that he was not suggesting a “formal draft but a draft in progress” by the end of May. “Otherwise,” he said, “it's going to die.”

After discussion of the need to coordinate the process with legal counsel for “better communication with the regional school district,” the meeting adjourned.



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Second Honors: Spencer Blair, Carson Carlisle, Mirela Cioclea, Alden Courtemanche, Joshua Gaulin, Mason Kucenski, Courtney Lacosse, Nicholas Lacoey, Colby Mailloux, Brian Poirier, Jaclyn Thibeault, Lydia Wright
Third Honors: Chelsea Curtis, Gram Hancock-Pezzati, Max Leh, Lyuba Sankova, Aidan Smith, Alyah Sutton, Jordan Welsh

Grade 7:

First Honors: Samantha Bocon, Ryan Campbell, Kyle Dodge, Reagan Fiske, Cailyn Gobeil, Rebecca Harrell, Jenna Jacobsen, Anna Kochan, Jacob LaBelle, Emily Minor, Tyler Noyes, John Putala, Ethan Shilo-Draper, Sarah Studlien, Holly Tetreault, Sarah Waldron, Hannah Welles, Cassidhe Wozniak
Second Honors: Madison Adams, Dominic Carme, Reilan Castine, Kayleigh Curtiss, Logan Kordana, Danielle Lively, Garrett Martel, Ryan Norwich, Mireya Ortiz, Ayden Stacy
Third Honors: Lindsey Bourbeau, Hunter Sanders, Keltyn Socquet

Grade 8:

First Honors: Hannah Bogusz, Madison Chmyzinski, Amanda Cooke, Sienna Dillensneider, Chloe Ellis, Kylie Fleming, Hannah Graves, Tabitha Hamilton, Maya Hancock-Pezzati, Samantha Kolodziej, Carlie Kretchmar, Kyle Kucenski, Snejana Lashtur, Abigail Loynd, Emma Miner, Aliyah Sanders, Kaeden Socquet, Madison St. Marie, Nicholas Taylor, David Tricolici, Samantha Wegiel, John Wheeler
Second Honors: Lynn Arsenault, Branden Chapin, Elias Collins, Kayli Messinger, Daniel Momaney, Joshua Obuchowski, Jeremy Towle
Third Honors: Samuel Adams, Izaiah Adorno, Ian Cecchi, Kaleb Clark, John Driscoll, Alex Gheorghita, Kaylee Jackson, Hadyn Patenaude, Rachel Tucker, Paul Vinton, Javoni Williams

Cyberbullying Awareness Night for
Parents at Turners Middle School

By EMILY KREMS

On Thursday, March 13, families within the Gill Montague Regional School District and from Erving Elementary School are encouraged to attend a parent night entitled “The Dangers of Cyberbullying: Keeping Your Kids Safe in the Digital World.”

Hosted by Great Falls Middle School students, this event will take place from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and includes a free dinner for all who attend, a free raffle with prizes from local businesses, and free childcare for children ages 2 and up.

The guest speaker for the evening is Massachusetts State Trooper Christopher Ware, an active member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Families are strongly encouraged to pre-register for the event by calling 863-7320 or emailing emily.krems@gmr.s.d.org.

The 18 students at Great Falls Middle School who form the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee have been studying the dangers of cyberbullying through discussion of incidents in the news, as well as their own personal use of social networking, and they have been devising ways to educate their peers and the community at large about how to stay safe.

In addition to hosting the parent

night on March 13, the students are planning a presentation and skit for the entire middle school to teach them how to make safe decisions while texting and using social networking sites, when to seek



Kate Garcia, Cassidhe Wozniak and Alyson Murphy discuss a skit in preparation for the Cyberbullying Awareness Night.

help from an adult, and how to be a responsible friend to someone in need of help.

The students also plan to survey middle school and upper elementary students within the district and at Erving Elementary School to gather data about students’ online experiences.

Recently, students from the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee spoke to the principals of Turners Falls High School, Great Falls Middle School, Montague Elementary School, Gill Elementary School and Erving Elementary School.

They also presented information to the School Committee at

the February 25 meeting, garnering praise from School Committee members for their impressive delivery of reasons why they are doing this work, national statistics and data from last year’s middle school survey, and details about the upcoming parent night.

The students in the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee have been working extremely hard all year and are very dedicated to educating others about how to stay safe.

Samantha Bocon, co-coordinator of the parent night, says she’s on the Committee because she has personally “seen this happen,” feels that “we

can all prevent it” and believes that “it’s more powerful coming from kids.”

Emily Krems is a Guidance Counselor and Advisor to the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee at the Great Falls Middle School.

Editors Note: Parents, Don’t miss this opportunity to learn how to handle Cyberbullying, should your child encounter it. By attending this evening you can also support the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee students’ efforts to raise awareness about this issue among their peers. Free dinner and raffle too!

BUSES from page A1

consider future fixed FRTA route changes,” Keller said.

Gill selectboard member Randy Crochier noted that he’d “like to see another bus stop in Gill. We had one in Riverside before the bridge lane closed. There are a number of buses running daily between Turners Falls and Orange, and none of them stop on this side of the river any longer. It’s difficult to be a Green Community when everyone is riding in their private car.”

Additionally, the selectboards requested that a variety of options proposed by stakeholders be placed on the table with cost estimates and estimates of the impact of route changes on local assessments.

The issue of how local assessments are calculated became a sticking point during the negotiations between Montague and the FRTA over the proposed elimination of Route 23 which runs from Greenfield to Amherst twice a day.

Since Montague did not feel they received a full explanation of how the FRTA arrived at the local assessment, they also asked the FRTA to explain clearly to all member towns how local assessments are calculated.

Another point, stressed by all

the five towns, was the need for the FRTA to collaborate and coordinate with other regional transit authorities, as well as cities and towns not part of the FRTA but impacted by FRTA’s decisions.

This was highlighted when the FRTA told Leverett that since they are served by the Pioneer Valley Regional Transit Authority (PVTA), riders in Leverett cannot use FRTA services that pass directly through the town. This did not sit well with the board there.

Although for now, FRTA has continued the Greenfield-Amherst service, it has also stated its intention to cancel that route for lack of ridership.

In the past, the line ran through Leverett five times a day. Leverett officials have supported a continuation, if not expansion, of that route, at a lower fare, with stops in North Leverett and in the center of town.

Leverett selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said he did not understand the FRTA’s logic of excluding Leverett. “We’d be willing to pay two assessments, if necessary,” he said. “I just don’t see why there is a road-block.”

Brazeau said he had been in touch with Senator Stan Rosenberg about the issue, and had urged him

to file a directive in the next public transportation funding bill to allow any town to be served by more than one RTA.

He noted that North Leverett would be well served by a stop there, as some in that area frequently travel to Greenfield and Amherst.

To attempt to clarify matters, the Leverett board requested a meeting with the FRTA. Cote responded by arranging a meeting with her counterpart, Mary MacInnes of the PVTA, and inviting them.

That meeting took place on Tuesday in Springfield, and was attended by Brazeau, Leverett transit representative Roy Kimmel, and both transit administrators. The meeting, however, was closed to the press.

Reached after the meeting, Brazeau said that the administrators had offered some new possibilities for seniors on Mass Health to access free curb-to-curb van service to medical appointments in Franklin County, by first calling 1(800)841-2900 to determine eligibility.

But no immediate breakthrough was announced over Route 23, which provides the only public commuter service through Leverett, a twice-a-day, \$3-each-way run down Route 63 from Greenfield to UMass Amherst.



MONTAGUE from page A1

Selectboard member Mike Nelson asked if it would be realistic to remove those buildings in the complex with the most deterioration or lacking in aesthetic appeal.

Building inspector David Jensen, after expressing sympathy for the concept, stated that based on the experience of taking out a previous building the answer would be “no.”

The elephant in the room seemed to be how much this would all cost and how enthusiastic will Montague Town Meeting be to appropriate the funds.

Town officials stressed once again that the cost of demolition was estimated at over \$4 million, and “that was nearly ten years ago.”

Raised Beds

There was an extended discussion of a request from several residents of the Keith Apartments, an elderly housing complex across from the Strathmore, to use the corner lot at Third and Canal streets for a raised-bed garden.

The lot is owned by the town, and designated eventually for a parking lot, as part of a parking plan for future potential tenants of the mill.

Volunteers have worked with local teens to build a temporary sculpture park on the lot, though it has not been frequently maintained.

There seemed to be some dissatisfaction among residents of the apartments with the arrangement. Under the new proposal, elderly residents would be able to grow vegetables and flowers there.

“We have to look at it every day,” said Margaret Bates, one of the Keith residents, expressing the opinion that her colleagues “want a way to beautify it.”

Another resident stated that there might be a way to keep some sculptures, but also include raised beds.

The Selectboard passed a motion supporting the concept generally, but calling on the project’s proponents to meet with the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, who have approached the town with a similar proposal for the area, and with sculptor Joe Landry, who played a leading role in creating the sculpture park.

Other Business

John Dobosz of the Montague Parks Department came forward with a letter to support his application to the Humana Foundation to be designated a “playful city.” This label, which emphasizes the child-friendly nature of the locality, allows the town to apply for certain grants. The Selectboard signed the letter.

Dobosz also requested an additional \$5,337.80 be allocated from the Community Development Discretionary Fund to the Unity Park Improvements Project (Phase 2.3).

The board approved the transfer which will help fund the proposed volleyball court and an additional climbing structure on the playground. The project was then awarded to Taylor Davis Landscaping Company, who had been selected through the open bidding process.

MJ Adams of the Franklin Regional Housing Authority requested that the board approve an agreement between the town and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for “slum and blight” studies of the Millers Falls and Turners Falls Industrial-Historic Districts. These studies are a prelude to applying for federal development grants.

Several audience members raised objections about the limited scope of the geographical area in Millers Falls proposal. Adams pledged to take “a closer look” at the project boundaries in Millers and the Selectboard put the issue on hold.

There was a planned public hearing in Millers Falls on Wednesday, March 5 at 4 p.m.

Bread and Water LLC, which plans to open a restaurant in the Bookmill complex called the Alvah Stone, sent an application to the board for food and entertainment licenses.

The board approved the former, but put the latter on hold, pending better notification of neighborhood residents. Several residents had raised concerns at a recent liquor license hearing about noise generated by a recent restaurant in the space.

There were no topics that had not been anticipated and the meeting adjourned.



mass.gov/dph/tick

little tick

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This message by The Cooperative Public Health Service

Canalside Bike Trail Improvements
Slated for Montague City Road

Registration for Spring
Parade and 5K Now Open

By DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CITY – Bike lanes, center islands, improved crosswalks and narrower through lanes for vehicles are coming to a thousand foot stretch of Montague City Road in 2015, all designed to slow the pace of car and truck travel and improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians along a section of the Canalside bike trail between Depot Street and Masonic Avenue near the Farren Care Center in Montague City.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation held the last of its 25% design hearings for four different road improvement projects on the west side of Montague on Wednesday, February 26 at the safety complex on Turnpike Road.

The other road improvement projects are the resurfacing of the south section of Greenfield Road, between the Book Mill and the former railroad overpass, now a dead end; the full-depth reconstruction of the Hatchery Road detour from Greenfield Road to Turners Falls Road, including a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the railroad on Greenfield Road; and the full-depth reconstruction and straightening of the north section of Greenfield Road, from Hatchery to Montague City Road.

The Canalside bike trail improvements near the Farren are expected to cost about \$600,000, and would be completed in the course of the 2015 construction season, with 80% of the funds provided by the federal government, the remainder by the state of Massachusetts, according to Shahpar Negah, project manager

for the DOT.

Since the road is so wide there, two-way traffic along this busy east-west corridor is expected to be maintained while construction is in progress, with brief intervals of alternating one-way traffic overseen by police details and flaggers.

The road in front of the Farren Care Center is currently a bleak, 65-foot wide stretch of asphalt with a largely unused employee parking lot on the southeast side, no turnoff lanes for buses, substandard crosswalks, and lacks a sidewalk on the southeast side of the road.

When complete, the roadway will feature refurbished bus kiosks on both sides of the road, seven-foot dedicated bike lanes on both sides, narrowed 11-foot travel lanes divided by several “refuge islands,” offering midway shelter for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road, wheelchair-accessible sidewalks set off with green belts on both sides of the street, and new signage and crosswalks.

Katya Williford of Masonic Avenue spoke in favor of the plan, saying, “So many children go on the bike path with their parents. They get so excited, even with their parents, they don’t always remember where the brakes are.”

Ryan Wallace, Kirsten Styles and William Mohn of South High Street echoed her praise, and residents noted that Montague City often seems to be left out when Montague plans improvements.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said the Montague master plan calls for investments in village centers, and added, “The town is trying to help recreate a village center in

Montague City.”

Jim Clifford, administrator of the Farren Care Center, also spoke positively of the improvements, and offered to speak with the Sisters of Providence, owners of the long-term care facility, to see whether something could be done to reduce the amount of unused blacktop in favor of more green space at the southeast side overflow parking lot.

That lot has 44 dedicated parking spaces, but rarely sees more than 10 or 15 cars.

It may not look like it outside now, but spring is right around the corner!

On Saturday, April 12 the first ever Franklin County Spring 5k will be held in conjunction with the 4th annual Franklin County Spring Parade.

The race begins at 11:30 at Turners Falls High School on Turnpike Road, and follows the same route as the Parade. Both walkers and runners are encouraged to participate.

The 5K is a fundraiser for the Unity Skate Park Campaign, with all proceeds benefiting the project.

Registration is now open online at fcejvents.org. You can download a printable registration form or click the link to bring you to the online registration. For any questions about the 5k e-mail FCSpring5k@gmail.com.

The Parade begins at Sheffield School at 1 p.m. The route for both events includes Millers Falls Road, High Street, Crocker Avenue, Montague Street, and Turnpike Road.

The theme this year is Fiesta – so break out your sombrero and maracas and join us for these exciting events “on the hill” in Turners Falls!

Residents along the route are encouraged to decorate their houses and watch both events.

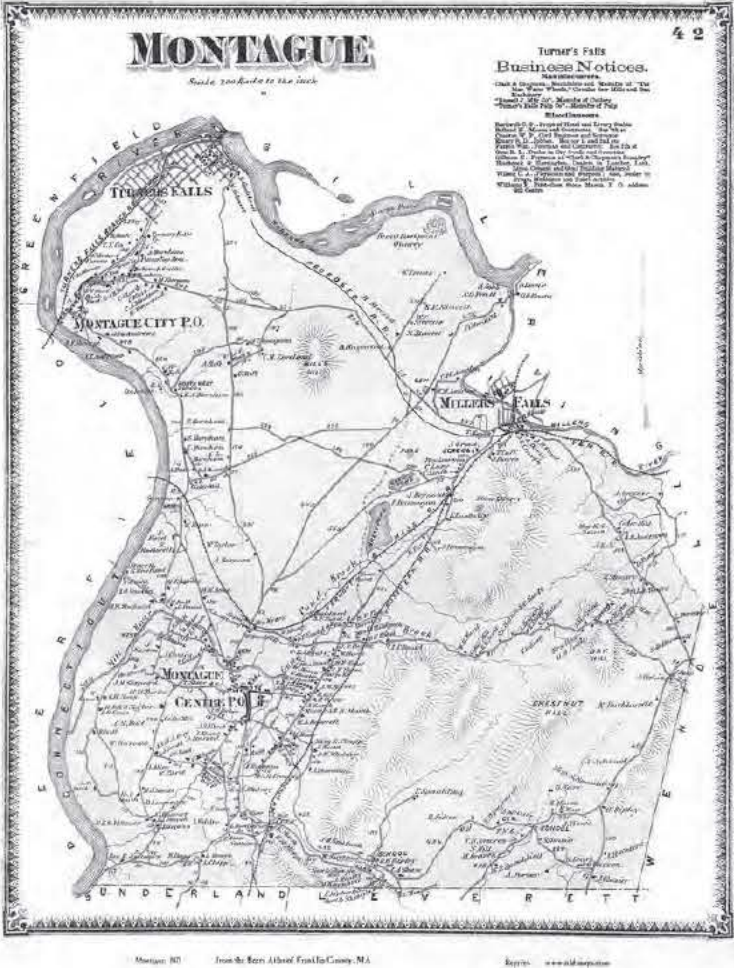
For info about participating in the parade, contact Michael Nelson at michaelnelsonmba@gmail.com or 522-0712.

Ed Gregory writes:

“Good Day Montague Reporter, I’m currently researching Turners Falls’ early development and have discovered an insertion into Vol. 1, No. 2 of the July 10, 1872 Turners Falls Reporter.”

We were amused by the excerpt and are reprinting it below in hopes that our readers will also be.

Thanks Ed! - Ed.



Turners Falls Reporter
Vol. I No.2
Wednesday, July 10, 1872

Our Paper

Last week we launched our little paper on the tumultuous seas of newspaperdom, with fear and trembling, and the reception we received at the hands of our citizens was even beyond our fondest expectations, and for this kindly sympathy we will endeavor to encourage our patrons in their encouragement.

It is enough to make any journalist’s heart beat with enthusiasm, his blood tingle with pride, to have it said in nearly every quarter that his new-born sheet is the prettiest, wittiest, and most readable local newspaper to be found anywhere, and these encomiums of the public are in every respect as flattering to the publisher as the praises bestowed on the new-born infant are to the household.

Several months ago we came to this place and established ourselves in the job-printing business. It was suggested to us that a town of as many inhabitants as this should not be without a “local paper.”

After getting better acquainted with its people, seeing the amount of manufacturing carried on, with other branches of industry projected, “we saw our duty a dead sure thing,” and a rich harvest seeming to loom up as a reward for our labor, we “went for it there and then.”

Ours will be a purely family paper, with the interests of Turners Falls especially at heart, as we believe that, with the aid of one of the finest

controlable water-powers in the world, it is destined, are many years to rank among the foremost manufacturing places in New England.

Nor do we see any cause to doubt that the town Turners Falls will make the same rapid strides that has characterized it since its foundation, some three years ago, when it was nothing more than a quiet farm on the Connecticut River.

The rapid growth of the place is truly wonderful. In less than three years a town of 3000 inhabitants has sprung up, with well laid out streets, avenues, lanes and squares. The river was spanned with a suspension bridge 632 feet long, and a turnpike road made along the brow of the hill on the opposite side of the river, on to Greenfield, reducing the distance to less than three miles.

A canal was constructed to utilize the water-power, and a paper mill, a pulp mill, a cutlery manufactory, a machine shop, a foundry, and a mill for the manufacture of fine writing papers, were erected.

When we have more leisure, we will write up these features of our town more fully, giving copious descriptions of the manufactories. The new hotel is another of the ornaments of Turners Falls, and it, too, shall not escape our notice.

Our books are now open to receive the names of subscribers, and those living in the more remote parts of the County can have a paper mailed to them every week regularly by sending their address to this office. Our terms are printed on the first page.

Persons living in town wanting to subscribe for the paper, would confer a favor on us by stepping into our office and leaving their names, as we will be unable to spare time at present to make a personal canvass.

Still No Development At Center School

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – Though the RFP (request for proposals) for the development of the Montague Center School building was accepted in the spring of 2012, Olive Street Development LLC has not yet purchased the Montague Center School building, which the town maintains.

Costs vary, said Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen, depending upon repairs and heating costs. General upkeep includes oil, electricity, security, repairs and the water bill. As of Monday, March 3, the oil bill to date totaled \$15,359.

Throughout this long cold winter there has been no activity at the Montague Center School.

Last week Mark Zaccheo, a registered agent for the Olive Street Development Group, told Walter Ramsey, Town Planner and Conservation Agent that he cannot commit to anything before June, because development of the Conway Street School in Greenfield is running behind schedule and over budget.

Background

In the spring of 2012 Olive Street Development offered \$50,000 for the Montague Center School building, contingent on the Town’s financing new water mains.

Although the old school building would be the primary beneficiary of the new water mains, building inspector David Jensen said the whole town would enjoy the benefits of improved water quality.

Mr.Zaccheo said the water mains were essential for adding sprinklers to the building.

In August of 2012, The Finance Committee supported a \$25,000 request for the new water mains, and this recommendation was approved by Town Meeting on Wednesday April 4, 2012. The water main project was complicated, but it is now complete.

In the fall of 2012 and the win-

ter of 2013, Mr. Zaccheo sought a multi-use permit for the building, and a zoning variance that would allow apartments to be constructed that were below the town’s minimum allowable square footage.

The multi-use permit was granted, and the variance was no longer necessary after Town Meeting voted to change the Town’s zoning bylaws.

Still, no construction crews appeared at 15 School Street.

In October 2013 Mr. Ramsey said there were still several “unknowns” being investigated, such as the sprinkler requirements, changes to solar renewable energy credits, and an asbestos survey. In an email message, he wrote, “Clarification on these items is needed to be solidified prior to sale of the property.”

At that time, Mr. Zaccheo said if all went well he intended to begin construction after the New Year.

Mr. Ramsey also then said the Town was drafting a purchase and sale agreement for the selectmen to sign in the next two to three weeks.

“There will be a rescission clause that the property reverts back to the town if the developer does not meet his commitments. If for any reason Mr. Zaccheo backed out, the town would continue to own the building,” Mr. Ramsey said, “and we’d be back at square one.”

The Selectboard will need to evaluate their options, said Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio this week, adding, “At the present, Mr. Zaccheo is still the developer of record.”

When spring arrives, the town will have maintained the building through two winters, waiting for Mr. Zaccheo to act upon his commitment to this project.

The project was not on the agenda for this week’s busy meeting. Those who are interested in the status of this project should check the agendas weekly and try to attend the meeting in which this will be discussed.

Free Resolution for Consumer Conflict

Having trouble collecting for merchandise you sold or dissatisfied with what you bought? Are you in dispute with your contractor/client about the work being done or not being done? It sounds as though you could benefit from free consumer resolution services offered by The Mediation & Training Collaborative.

During National Consumer Protection Week, March 2-8, The Mediation & Training Collaborative reminds consumers in conflict that TMTC can provide free mediation at a nearby neutral site. Funding for this as well as mediation in Small Claims Court is provided by the Mass. Attorney General’s Office.

In court or at a mediation site you can resolve your issues, repair a relationship, and write up a payment plan/conditions agreement. The agreement can be filed at court or kept between you and the other party, whichever you prefer.

Conflict is natural, inevitable and ever with us. Dealing with disagreement can ease stress and renew a business, client or other relationship. Find out more by calling TMTC at 413-475-1503.

The Mediation & Training Collaborative is a program of Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Regions. Community Action is a Partner Agency of the United Way of Franklin County.

MONTAGUE REPORTER

ON THE ROAD



Peg Bridges keeps up on the local news from Cancun.

FACES & PLACES



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Jalen Sanders (left) watches as Nick York goes to the hoop for two during a game against Frontier last month.

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Voices of Fukushima

On Tuesday March 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Brattleboro Food Coop Community Room, the Safe and Green Campaign will host "Voices of Fukushima 2014," an evening of short documentaries on Fukushima followed by a discussion with Chiho Kaneko about her recent visit to the Fukushima region. She stayed with Chikako Nishiyama of Kawauchi, the sister town to Greenfield.

Last year the Campaign organized the first "Voices of Fukushima." People in seven towns around Vermont Yankee, including Greenfield, Leverett and Wendell, "adopted" their counterpart towns in Japan.

In 2013, suicide, stress, or poor living con-

ditions surpassed the number of people from the Fukushima region who died from the tsunami and earthquake in 2011.

Thousands are living in small prefabricated units and will never go home again. Evacuees fear the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo will pull resources away from decontaminating Fukushima.

Japan's new Prime Minister is determined to restart Japan's 50 idle nuclear reactors, draining workers and money from Fukushima.

"Voices of Fukushima 2014" is free and open to the public. Go to www.safeandgreen-campaign.org for more information.

Open Season for Pipeline Bidders, Opponents

From February 13 to March 31, binding bids are open for natural gas shippers and buyers interested in using Kinder Morgan's proposed Northeast Expansion pipeline.

That line would transport between .6 and 2.2 billion cubic feet per day of gas from New York state to Dracut, MA. The route the company seems to be scouting would pass through Deerfield, Montague, Erving, Northfield, and Warwick.

While gas from existing pipelines fuels many homes and power plants in the region, the idea of expanding pipeline capacity has its opponents, including many who oppose the method by which much domestic natural

gas is being produced: hydraulic fracturing of shale deposits.

On Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at the Community House in Cummington, an ad hoc group will discuss the proposal.

At 6:30 p.m. the same night, North Quabbin Energy is hosting a free screening of the documentary, *Gasland Part II*, at the Warwick Town Hall.

North Quabbin Energy is also hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol to "develop a strategy and plan a response to the proposed pipeline."

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WINTER SCENES



ELLIOT LEVIN PHOTOS

Above: Morning sun breaks through mist and trees on Turners Falls' Fourth Street, and fresh snow adorns its Cutlery Block. Thanks to Elliot Levin of In-Town Storage for sharing these two shots with us.



PARZYCH PHOTO

Left: Joe Parzych writes: "This doe was crossing Main Road in Gill, just north of the South Cross Road intersection. She was the last of a herd of 14 does led by a buck. The buck led half the herd across Main Road. Traffic interrupted the crossing. The first group waited for the others to come across when traffic was clear."

HIGH SCHOOLERS TAKE TO THE STAGE

TFHS: LEGALLY BLONDE, THE MUSICAL: MARCH 7, 8, 9

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

This year's musical production at Turners Falls High School is "Legally Blonde," a recent Broadway show written by Heather Hach, with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin.

The show's directors at TFHS are Christopher and Brittney Nailos. The Nailoses both teach at the high school: Brittney is the music teacher, and Christopher teaches business and math.

Sophie Letcher will star as Elle Woods, and Owen Ortiz as Emmett Forrest. The rest of the very talented and energetic cast members will play several parts so each will participate in a large part of the production.

This week, the cast is in final rehearsals in the theater and I went to watch. There is something about a theater full of actors waiting to



perform. Everyone is relaxed yet attentive, having fun but listening to hear what to do next. Actors wait, and play a bit while the director thinks, reviews the script, decides what to do.

When I walked into the theater, they were testing the lights: I walked into a totally dark theater

and stood in the dark for some light to appear.

While the director tests the lights the actors chat, sing along with music that plays in between set changes and blocking – deciding where the actors sit, stand, in each scene. These are the nuts and

see **BLONDE** page B4

FCTS: BROTHERS GRIMM AT THE SHEA: MARCH 15

By MICHAEL REARDON



Dan Prasol, left, directs Emmett Boyd of Northfield as the Frog Prince, Catherine Landers of Erving as the Princess, and Lindsey Mailloux of Erving as Narrator I.

The New FCTS Players, the theater troupe from Franklin County Technical School, has been hard at work afternoons on the stage of the Shea Theater rehearsing for their production of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," written by Don Zolidis.

Under the direction of FCTS instructor and Drama Club advisor Daniel Prasol, the production will be performed on Saturday, March 15 at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Show times are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Prasol said the theater program, which he first started last school year, has grown from seven students to 24 students this year. Last spring the New FCTS Players staged "The Little Shop of

see **GRIMM** page B4

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Diabetes Facts

Your body converts most of the food you eat into a form of sugar called glucose, which is our main source of energy.

If your body does not make enough insulin or the insulin doesn't work the way it should, glucose can't get into your cells and remains in your blood.

High levels of glucose in the blood damage nerves and blood vessels. This can lead to complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and lower-limb amputation.

More than 18 million Americans have diabetes. About 11 million people 65 years or older suffer from the disease.

A small percentage of diabetics have type 1 diabetes, which usually occurs in people under age 30. Diabetics with this form of the disease can not produce insulin.

About 90 percent of Americans with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. It is most common in adults over age 40, and the risk of getting it increases with age.

With this form of diabetes, the body does not always produce enough insulin or does not use insulin efficiently.

Being overweight and inactive increases the chances

of developing type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes can be prevented in people who are at an increased risk or have pre-diabetes, a condition in which glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes.

People with pre-diabetes are more likely to develop diabetes within 10 years and are also more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.

A recent study showed that people with pre-diabetes can sharply lower their chances of developing the disease through modest weight loss with diet and exercise.

That same study showed that changes in diet and exercise were especially effective in curbing the development of diabetes in older people. In fact, the development of diabetes dropped by 71 percent in adults 60 and older who were enrolled in the study.

Because type 2 diabetes is more common in older people, especially in people who are overweight, doctors recommend that anyone 45 years of age or older be tested for diabetes.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I've been very hungry recently. Someone told me that this is a symptom of diabetes. Is that true?

An intense hunger is one diabetes symptom. Here are others: frequent urination, strong thirst, fatigue, unintended weight loss, slow-healing sores, dry and itchy skin, numbness or tingling in your feet, and blurred vision.

However, some people with diabetes do not have symptoms.

Diabetes mellitus is a group of diseases characterized by high levels of blood sugar. Diabetes can create serious health problems, but diabetics can control the disease.

If you have diabetes, your body can't produce insulin or use it properly.

Insulin is a hormone that helps control the sugar in your blood. Insulin is made by the pancreas, a large organ behind the stomach.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

AJIJIC, MEXICO – Mexicans are hard-working people. We see constant repair and refurbishment of buildings of brick and plaster. The workmen begin by seven or so and work until evening. It's hot repairing a tile roof in the heat of the day, but the work goes on.

The street vendors are older, usually someone's grandparent. They, too, work early to late, the men pushing their carts or bicycles, offering food and drink of all kinds; the women sit patiently working on back looms or even weaving with yarns tied to one foot.

If a woman has small children too young for school, she runs a small business out of the house: a burrito stand, cold drinks and candies, barbecued chicken or perhaps a lavanderia.

Good-sized stores and small businesses open early and are often still at work until nine at night or later, with a break of a couple of hours midday. The trucks vending bottled gas and water go up and down the streets every day, Sunday notwithstanding.

Mexicans play hard, too. Friday nights and weekends are for family, at the plaza or in the park by the lake, horseback riding, cooking or picnicking outdoors. At night the music and dancing begin and last until the

THE TRAVELER'S COMPANION

Sunday, Sunday

wee small hours. Sunday mornings for many mean going to church, and then as noontime comes near, preparations begin for the day's parade, small or large if it is a major holiday.

First the children gather in eager anticipation, then the families of the old, the middle aged, the babies find a good spot to sit in the shade. The distant sounds of the band whet the appetite.

The parades begin at the plaza, the top of the town and wind down one street at a time to the lakeside at the bottom. Many school aged children follow the parade the whole way.

But if you've missed it on your street, you know you can go down one and still catch it.

The drums, cymbals and trumpets sound closer and closer. Then the men dressed and made up as women wearing colorful masks of paper mache in the form of animals or old crones, belying the busty female bodies

see **TRAVEL** page B4



JIM COOK PHOTOS

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm LuLayLee. I've had a rocky start in life, rescued from a situation, living with LOTS of other cats. But I'm "a real sweetheart" and very loving. I enjoy being petted and like to sleep with people. I dearly miss my best friends, two shih tzus. I can be shy, but I'm going stir-crazy in this shelter, please get me out of here!

I'll be very grateful when you come rescue me.

Make it real soon because I know I will make a wonderful and loyal companion to you and your other pets!

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



"LuLayLee"

Senior Center Activities March 10 through 14

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

Due to weather, we had to base this week's Gill/Montague Senior Center schedule on a typical week, so it may be inaccurate. Please contact the above number to confirm.

Monday 3/10

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

Tuesday 3/11

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Painting with David Sund

Wednesday 3/12

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting

Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 3/14

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

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy

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

ERVING

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

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

Monday 3/10

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

Tuesday 3/11

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 Painting

Wednesday 3/12

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo

Thursday 3/13

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

Noon Cards

Friday 3/14

9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. St. Patrick's Feast

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

MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Movement

The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is being held at the Montague Center Library on Thursdays at 10 a.m. from March to June. Young children of all ages and their parents or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. For more information, please call 863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Read It Leverett

The Leverett Library plans several events for its annual Read It Leverett program, which this year invites you to read Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*.

On March 12, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., elementary school children can hear a story about Mandela's life and do a craft.

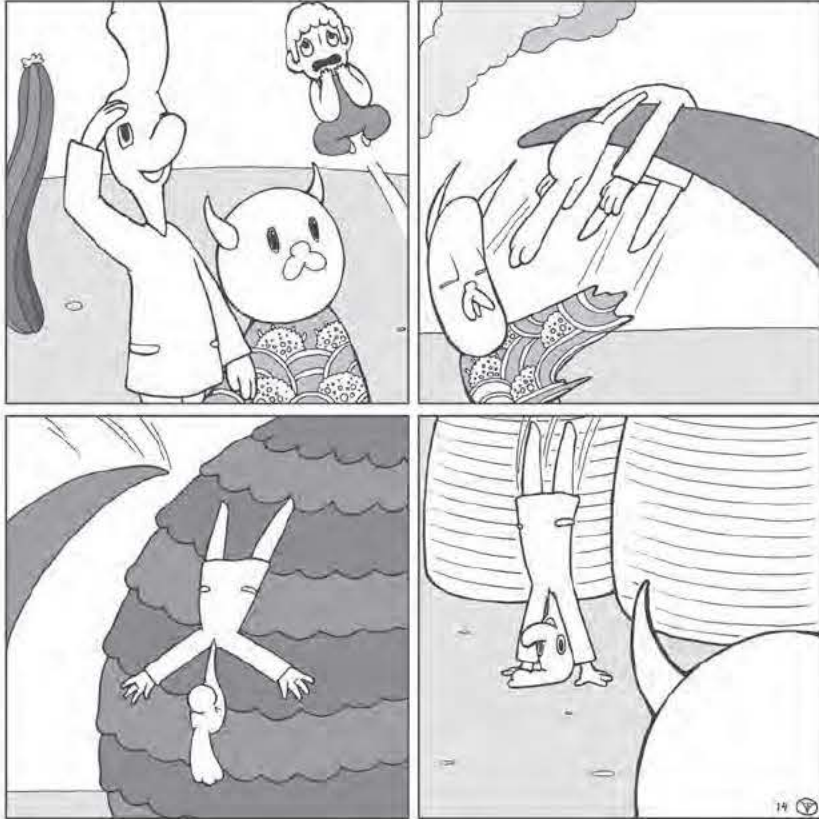
Arlyn Diamond, a retired English professor from the University of Massachusetts, will lead a discussion about *Long Walk to Freedom*, followed by a tasting of South African fare on March 13 at 7 p.m.

On March 20 at 7 p.m., Paula Green of the Leverett Peace Commission will introduce a screening of *Long Walk to Freedom*, and a special performance of the Leverett Chorus.

Ingrid Askew and Mzamo Mangaliso will participate in a panel discussion on March 27 at 7 p.m. Ms. Askew will reflect on her journey with the Peace Pagoda's Interfaith Pilgrimage and her years in Mandela's post-apartheid South Africa. UMass professor Mangaliso, South African born and educated, will talk about Mandela's legacy and the challenges confronting post-apartheid South Africa.

Read It Leverett events are sponsored by the Leverett Cultural Council, Friends of the Leverett Library, and the Leverett Peace Commission. The Leverett Library is located at 75 Montague Rd. For more information call 548-9220 or email leverett@cwmars.org.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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

Pioneer Valley Symphony

On March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield, the Pioneer Valley Symphony will present a concert titled *Innovation*, featuring Antonín Dvořák's *Symphony No. 5 in F Major*, *The Swan of Tuonela* by Jean Sibelius, and a world premiere of American Composer William Perry's song suite for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, *Silent Film Heroines*.

There will be a pre-concert lecture at 6:45 by Amherst professor David Schneider. The concert will be conducted by PVS music director, Paul Phillips.

Both the Dvořák and the Sibelius are Pioneer Valley Symphony premieres. William Perry has been a guest at the Pioneer Valley Symphony several times before.

The soloist in *Silent Film Heroines* is Canadian silver-toned mezzo-soprano Wallis Giunta in her Pioneer Valley Symphony debut.

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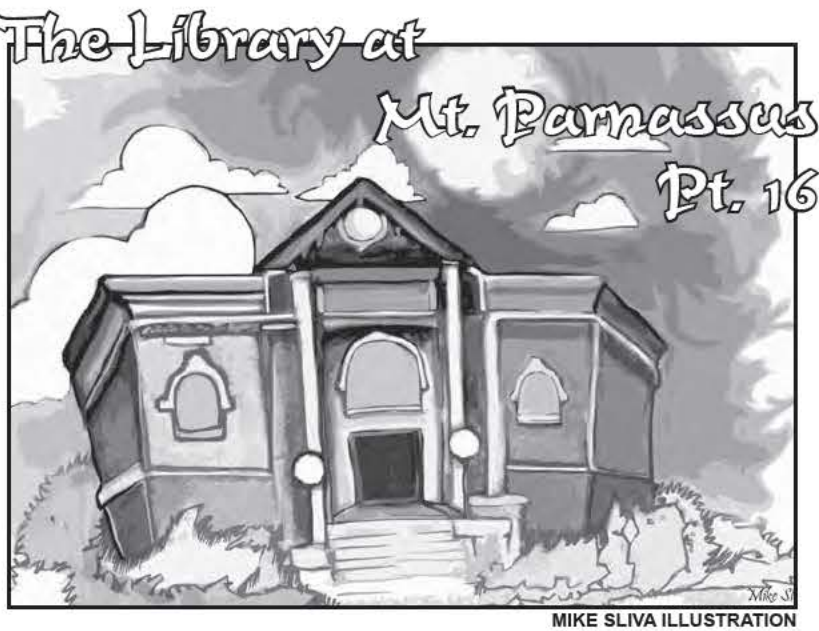
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More comment from the peanut gallery.



By DAVID DETMOLD

World financial markets were in a state of turmoil, as usual. Here at home, unemployment, hunger, and the breakdown of the health care system were at crisis levels.

We had borrowed too much from the bankers, at usurious rates, to fund our brazen dreams of glory – our swimming pools and island getaways and entertainment centers – and now the piper had come round demanding payment.

More austerity was on the menu. Stoned on antidepressants, the public at large was too obsequious, too over-sweetened and overweight, too obsessed with the latest celebrity divorces to take their troubles to the streets and demand action from the politicians, who were too nose down in the pockets of the plutocrats to notice anyway.

Up on the small screen, a sad-eyed anchor in a dark suit sat on a glowing dais before a montage of moving charts and maps and background phantoms.

He moved his lips with orotund aplomb, oblivious to the carnage on display behind him: the wrecked remains of car bombs, severed limbs, oil slicked birds, and bulldozed corpses in mass graves.

The sound was off. People in the bar provided commentary.

“There she goes!” The man to my left lifted his head from the *Atlantic Times* and gestured at the TV with his beer mug. He looked at me for seconding approval.

“Space shuttle *Argo*. Perfect lift-off. There she goes.”

“So what?” said Zero, bringing my meze plate over and dropping it loudly on the bar in front of me.

“So what? Ain’t you proud of your country?” demanded a man smoking a cigar at the far corner of the bar. “Them’s three of our own citizens up there.” He jerked his cigar toward the Slim Jims, scattering ash.

“So what?” repeated Zero.

“Shows we can still deliver a payload anywhere this side of Neptune and make it back by payday, that’s what,” said the man to my left, who had spoken first.

He returned to studying an article in the newspaper under the cryptic headline: “Y2K for the Uninitiated: a Layman’s Guide to the End of Times.”

Lately, there had been a lot of

buzz about the end of the world. I guess no one could imagine things getting any worse than they already were, though events continued to prove them wrong.

Now, even our local weekly was cashing in on the hokum.

On the small TV, a phallic probe rose grandly through the collapsing wake of derricks and debris until it left the screen entirely.

The guy to my right, who had been watching quietly until now, put down his empty beer glass with a wet click and sighed, “Goddamn it, that’s a beautiful sight.”

“Who gives a shit?” Zero retorted. He clicked the sound off. “There’s nothing out there anyway but rocks and dust.” He took the man’s empty glass and filled it up again. “On the house.”

“There could be gold out there,” said my neighbor softly, accepting the beer. “That’s the whole point. How do you know what’s out there unless you go there and find out?”

He drank deeply, then wiped his mouth and hung his head and stared moodily at the bar.

“You want another?” Zero asked me.

I held a finger up. Zero refilled my glass.

After a short pause, my neighbor said thickly, “There could be plutonium out there.”

“So what?” said Zero, angry again. “If they found a planet paved with precious gems, they wouldn’t be precious no more, would they?”

Zero fell quiet for a moment, polishing a glass.

“Christ, I remember when two thousand people walked passed by here every day on their way to work,” he said.

“Lines of ‘em hustling across the footbridge to the mills before the 6 a.m. whistle blew. They didn’t have time to fix a sandwich. They’d pile in here so thick at lunch, there’d be a double line along the sidewalk. Same with half a dozen other joints up and down the Avenue.

“Payday, the place was mobbed again; all weekend too. Back then, people made things with their hands. Things people could use: knives and clothes and shoes and paper. A kitchen mop that wouldn’t fall apart the first time you used it. Now its all cheap plastic from Malaysia.

“And TV. The goddamned space program. I don’t buy it. The space

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hallmark Students Mistaken For Snipers; Owners Fail To Control Horses, Trains

Monday, 2/24

9:41 a.m. License plates stolen last night from a vehicle in the Shady Glen parking lot by a known female driving a grey SUV. Incident captured on video. Report completed; stolen plates entered into national system.

1:39 p.m. Complaint that train has been idling at the Lake Pleasant Road crossing since 9:30 last night. Pan Am advised; responded that crew was on their way from South Deerfield.

3:45 p.m. Report of a grey SUV dropping trash out its window outside the post office. Plates run; came back as stolen. Vehicle located at F.L. Roberts.

was arrested and charged with three counts of drug possession (classes A, B, and E); disorderly conduct; attaching plates to a motor vehicle; uninsured motor vehicle; operating an unregistered motor vehicle/trailer; and larceny of license plate.

5:25 p.m. Caller reported being assaulted by a known party. Medical attention refused. Investigated.

8:04 p.m. “Route 63 South” road sign reported struck and down at Federal and West Main Streets. MassDOT notified.

Tuesday, 2/25

2:50 p.m. Request for cruiser at Turners Falls High School during dismissal time to ensure safety as students cross Turnpike Road.

10:10 p.m. Check on male party outside Food City; was picking up cigarette butts.

Wednesday, 2/26

12:18 a.m. Male 911 caller reporting a white horse in Turners Falls Road about ¼ of a mile north of the Bookmill. Officer en route. Voice mail left for putative horse owner. Second male 911 caller reporting a white horse with black spots on the low 400 block of Turners Fall Road. Unable to locate.

1:06 a.m. Another horse sighting, this time by a female 911 caller. Officer advised that horse wandered off again. Contact made with putative horse owner, who will watch area for it.

9:36 a.m. Female yelling and causing a disturbance inside the Salvation Army before leaving. Other customers had tried to speak to the female about the welfare of her small dog, who appeared to have a leg injury. Officers caught up with female and male walking the dog and determined that dog was receiving proper care. No further action needed at this time.

1:49 p.m. Ongoing problem with neighbor noise and harassment in Turners Falls. Advised of options.

1:51 p.m. Can of soda reported stolen from hallway of Fourth Street apartment building. Determined to be a food pantry mix up. Peace restored; soda returned to rightful owner.

5:02 p.m. Request for removal of an intoxicated male from F.L. Roberts. Male taken into protective custody; later released.

5:34 p.m. Report of assault on Farren Ave. Involved parties spoken to and advised of options.

7:35 p.m. Report of loose white horse on Turners Falls Road.

Message left for horse owner.

8:07 p.m. Motorist reporting white horse in Turners Falls Road. Call placed to animal control. Neighbor able to get horse back into its stable. Message left for horse owner.

Thursday, 2/27

3:33 a.m. Female caller reporting white horse in Turners Falls Road. Unable to locate. Animal control officer will follow up with horse owner.

5:30 p.m. Caller injured his back two weeks ago in a fall on ice in front of an office on Avenue A and is requesting to know who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk there. Referred to DPW; advised of options.

Friday, 2/28

12:31 p.m. Report that the arms at the Lake Pleasant railroad crossing have been down for at least ten minutes with no train in sight. Pan Am advised.

2:40 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with possible squatters in basement of property on Avenue A.

5:48 p.m. Request for officer to speak with parent of kids making prank phone calls. Prank callers advised of complaint and told to cease these calls.

6:29 p.m. Grey and white calico cat with green harness found in Rendezvous parking lot. Caller holding on to cat for a while.

7:03 p.m. Request for officers to occasionally stop by the basketball game at TFHS tonight; very large crowd in attendance. Services rendered.

Saturday, 3/1

2:22 p.m. Report of three suspicious subjects on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; parties seen rummaging through backpacks, and one appeared to have a long gun case. Responding officer found that subjects were Hallmark Institute of Photography students. No action required.

2:39 p.m. Two-car accident with airbag deployment on Route 63. No injuries. One driver cited for failure to use care.

4:23 p.m. Two hypodermic needles observed in snowbank on Second Street. Services rendered.

Sunday, 3/2

1:03 a.m. Male caller advising of grey and white cat with green harness loose in the Third Street area. Report taken.

5:04 a.m. Female caller from Greenfield who had given her boyfriend permission to take her car to work in Turners Falls last night reporting that he has not returned home. Caller advised that police would be on lookout and referred to Greenfield PD. GPD later reported that male returned home safely with vehicle.

9:10 a.m. Alarm accidentally set off by employee at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research.

5:11 p.m. Caller reported that her camera has been missing since last night. Possible suspect identified. Report taken.

5:40 p.m. Caller reporting problem with lights in house; made reference to neighbors planning “heists.” Responding officer found that circuit breaker had been tripped. Services rendered.

program. I give it the golden fleece award, and to hell with it. IMHO.”

He said this last bit grandly, to show he was up on the modern argot.

The guy to my left looked up from his paper and said, “There could be life out there, on other planets.”

“Then leave it there,” said Zero, angrily. “We got enough trouble with the life down here on this one.”

The man on my right ran a finger meditatively around the rim of his glass. His fingernail was rimmed with black.

“I think it’s great,” he said quietly. “What men can do. And I’m proud we’re the one’s that’s doin’ it.”

“You want another?” asked Zero. The man nodded.

Zero looked at me, since he was in the neighborhood.

“Give me a shot of nepenthe,” I said.

A little later, the guy in the corner spoke up again, pointing his cigar at Zero.

“Beware of Greeks,” he said, to no one in particular. “Beware of Greeks pouring drinks.”

Continued next week.

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TRAVEL from page B1
below.

The group stops at each four corners, dances to the music and throws corn flour and hollow eggs filled with confetti at the crowd while the band plays loud, toe-tapping music. When the parade resumes, the horses come along with men and small children riding these dancing creatures. At the end, the requisite police escort.

Today there are only perhaps ten horses and riders and no floats, but it doesn't matter; the whole town, and most of the turistas turn out to take part in the celebration.

Tonight, again, there will be family gatherings at the lake and then the sound of brass and drums all led by the tuba with dancing once again late into the night. On Monday, it is back to work and school again.



BLONDE from page B1
bolts of theater production.

This is what rehearsals are for in the final days before a performance. Setting the lights, scene by scene. Putting out the sets, testing the lights for that scene, giving direction for when to open and close the curtains.

While they're doing this the cast doesn't run lines or sing songs – they've already practiced that for many weeks. Now it's about putting it all together.

The fun really started when the

GRIMM from page B1
Horrors," the first theater production ever performed by the school.

"I'm trying to build a program," Prasol said. "We want to develop our students' love of theater and I believe the program will grow from there. Between the kids onstage and backstage, we'll have 28 students involved in this year's production." "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" is being billed as "not your Disney fairy tales," as it puts a humorous spin on the famous fables.

Jenna Williams, 16, a junior from Leverett, who is playing Rapunzel in the production, has been involved in Christmas pageants at the North Leverett Baptist Church and was in a drama club in elementary school. But, Rapunzel is a big role for Williams and she's working hard to nail down her part.

"This seemed like it would re-

The Burro's Tale

Some years ago, as the story goes, a Canadian from a family of noted attorneys came to Mexico to find another life. His name was Peter, and so he became Pedro.

He bought a white burro and a wooden cart for it to pull. He named the burro Margarite and the burro pulled Pedro and his cart around the town. In Ajijic, Pedro was an eccentric and became known as Pedro Loco.

We heard this story from Yves, a Frenchman who owned a fine restaurant by the lake. He befriended Pedro who he thought as we would say was only crazy like a fox.

Pedro Loco and a helper were drinking one night as usual when the two became very drunk and a huge sum of money was stolen from Pedro.

Pedro promptly fired his helper, and the helper in turn took the cart in payment of money owed to him. Yves took the burro in, fed him, and at night let him sleep in the locked courtyard of the restaurant.

When Pedro asked Yves what he should do with Margarite, Yves said, "I feed her and put her to bed each night. Why don't you sell her to me?" And so the deal was done for a mere peso. A year later Pedro Loco died.

The locals called the burro El Blanco, but the restaurant staff and indeed Yves him-

self began to call her Vino Blanco. She happily roamed a large section of the lake shore by day, watching the horses and having her picture taken when in the mood. At the end of last year's season, Yves closed the restaurant and moved to a new location on the main route in and out of town, in a spot with little other competition. Vino Blanco moved too, to her own part of heaven. When you enter the courtyard, she is there, the greeter, tied to a shady tree trunk. Once a week Yves drives her to a nearby ranch where she spends two days with her kind: horses, goats, peacocks and chickens.

One afternoon a week, a staff member takes her down to the beach at the lakeside for a few hours. And then, there's the morning constitutional each day. Yves guesses she is about sixteen years old. With this pampering she may well live for another sixteen. If you drive or walk a mile and a half or so out of town, you can stop at the restaurant, greet Vino Blanco and have a drink of white wine with Yves yourself. Or you can stop at the artist's gallery next to the old restaurant by the pier and buy one of the many caricatures of the happy burro as a well-fed diner, as a seller of wine or as the proprietor of a kissing booth.

Either way you will make her acquaintance, whether you call her Margarite, El Blanco or Vino Blanco. Whatever you call her, she must also be called Lucky.

one of their opening songs. The story may be familiar, but the songs are not. Good, upbeat, fun songs fill in the story and create an animation to the entire show. This looks to be a great show, one you will not want to miss. "Legally Blonde" will be playing this weekend in the TFHS Theater on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. Ticket price is \$10 general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens.

Michael Reardon works for FCTS in public relations.

directors began a run through of the entire play from the beginning. That was when I got to see the very seriously big sets. They are truly impressive. Built by the carpentry students at the Turners Falls High School, these are a lot like the sets you see on Broadway.

They move, quickly turning from one thing into another. A two-story house, with window shutters that open and close, begins the first act. This spins and becomes the front of the house with a staircase and door, which the girls climb while singing

ally be fun, and it has been fun," Williams said of the play. "We'll be ready to go by show time."

Casi Carlo, who plays the Enchantress, helped backstage during last year's "Little Shop of Horrors" production. The 17-year-old junior from Buckland said her friend Amelia Kendrick convinced her to become a performer for the "Brothers Grimm" production.

According to Prasol, the FCTS Drama Club is developing a working relationship with the Shea Theater.

While students learn to use the theater's equipment and perform school productions, they will in turn utilize their vocational talents to make improvements to the theater, such as plumbing, painting, and electrical upgrades.

Now that the Drama Club is off the ground, Prasol sees a wide range

of possibilities. "Next year we hope to have a musical again and maybe get the faculty involved," he said. "We hope to make the Drama program another exciting activity at the school for kids to do outside of regular activities and sports."

The program is supported in part by grants from the Cultural Councils of of Shelburne Falls, Montague, Deerfield, Orange, Gill, New Salem, Erving, Warwick, Colrain, Bernardston, and Northfield, and the state Cultural Council.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets can be reserved by calling (413) 863-9561, ext. 233.

Michael Reardon works for FCTS in public relations.

Chris Skelly, director of local government operations for the Massachusetts Historical Society, came to Montague to help local volunteers organize a survey of Montague's historical properties. After a preliminary search of assessors maps, Skelly and town planner Robin Sherman compiled a working list of pre-WW II properties in the five villages, including bridges, cemeteries and buildings, and found they totaled more than 1600 entries.

By splitting up the list into villages, and forming committees in each village to inventory their own properties, the massive undertaking can hopefully be reduced to manageable proportions.

While Erving, Gill, and Montague all overwhelmingly threw in support for John Kerry, Wendell was unique among Franklin County towns, voting solidly for Dennis Kucinich, with 96 votes to Kerry's 58.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on March 5, 2004: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Recycling Properties

At the Montague selectboard meeting, Frank Abbondanzio reviewed a list of 52 town-owned properties, most of very low value, but some with income potential.

He proposed the buildings at 62 Second Street, the former Rod Shop factory, and the former Cree-Mee on Avenue A, all of which have come into the town's ownership through tax takings, be put out to bid shortly in what he called a "commercial homesteading program."

In theory, as Abbondanzio explained, these buildings would be sold for \$1 to the bidders who come forward with proposals to create the most investment and produce the most jobs from reuse of the properties.

Mentioning a house on Chestnut Hill Road and a parcel of land also on Chestnut Hill, Abbondanzio said there were a few other town-owned properties within the list of 52 that had some income potential for the town, but for the most part, the parcels involved corner lots, or unbuildable lots that had been abandoned by their former owners.

Historical Survey

Chris Skelly, director of local government operations for the Massachusetts Historical Society,

| NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG | | |
|---|---|--|
| Injured Deer Eludes River Sharks | | |
| Monday, 2/24 | Report taken. Under investigation. | 3:45 p.m. Report of harassing phone calls to Mountain Road residence. |
| 7:35 p.m. Alarm, East Main Street. Same secure. | 7 p.m. Arrested [redacted] of [redacted] operating under the influence of liquor (second offense), suspended license for OUI and subsequent offense, marked lanes violation and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. | 5:10 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to wear a seatbelt. |
| 10:05 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported in convenience store parking lot. Found to be just carpooling. | Tuesday, 2/25 | Saturday, 3/1 |
| Tuesday, 2/25 | 10:35 a.m. Report of injured deer, Route 2, Farley Flats area. Deer swam across Millers River. | 4 p.m. Mutual aid at Chappel Street in Gill for unknown disturbance. Stood by. |
| 6:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for restraining order violation. | Friday, 2/28 | Sunday, 3/2 |
| Thursday, 2/27 | 8 a.m. Subject at station with found property. | 2:20 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Ridge Road. |
| 4 p.m. Larceny reported at French King Bowling Alley. | 2:40 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted], for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. | |



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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Montague Center Library: *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.

ART SHOWS:

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, Amherst: *Lynne Cohen: False Clues*, displayed through March 14.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Kelly Popoff: Rock & Doily*. Displayed through March 14.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *The War & Peace Project* curated by Trish Crapo and Lola Baltzell. On display through March 16th.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Third Annual Erotic Art Show, Sensual>Sexual>Smut*, exhibit of local artists ranging from mild to wild, through March 15.

CALL FOR POETRY:

2nd Annual Slate Roof Press Poetry Chapbook Contest. Contest winner's work is published by Slate Roof and author becomes a full member. Submit no more than 28 pages. \$25 fee. Deadline (upload/postmark): March 31, 2014. Guidelines: www.slateroofpress.com or slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Gallery A3, Cinema Complex, Amherst: *Gloria Kegeles - Un Voyage Au Dollarama*. Opening reception for this Wendell photographer. Amherst Art Walk night, 5 to 8 p.m. Work on display through March 29.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Karin Gottshall & Joan Larkin*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The*

Fall Town String Band, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin and Tommy Boynton, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Blind Owl Band*, \$, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Community College Chorus* preview concert: *Songs of Nature*. Directed by Margery Heins, with Marilyn Berthelette, accompanist, and with soloists drawn from the chorus, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Turners Falls High School: *Legally Blonde*. \$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *A Mighty Wind*, hilarious



Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with Celtic Heels, Irish Step Dance performance at the Shea Theater, Saturday and Sunday, March 8 & 9 (7 p.m. and 2 p.m.)

folkie mocumentary. Surprisingly touching, with original songs scathingly droll and scarily close to the actual music being parodied. PG-13, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew & Fu! -- Drew Paton's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m., *Classic Kung Fu* movies on the Big Screen and LP's on the turntable, 9 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Dan Coyle*, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Northfield: *Tracking Fairies*. Afternoon of books, woods adventuring & cocoa, 2 p.m. Pre-register 1-800-859-2960.

Frontier Regional High School, South Deerfield: Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association's Spring Gardening Symposium, *Bring Imagination To Your Garden*. Workshops include food preservation, backyard chickens, vertical vegetable gardening. Pre-registration required, seating limited. wmmga.org or Lucy Alman gardensym

posium123@gmail.com or (413) 665-7174. 8:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: Performance of *Legally Blonde*. \$, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Celtic Heels*, Celebrate St. Patrick's day with Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance, \$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *A Mighty Wind*, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Alan Williams*, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show presents Face Off*, winner of Best of Boston 2012 for Best Improv Troupe and The Ha-Ha's. \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Warblers & Beach Honey* (indie/garage), 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Fancy Trash*, acoustic indie rock, 9 p.m.

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Lake Side Drive*, classic rock \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: Performance of *Legally Blonde*. \$, 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow (electric guitar, vocal), Peter Kim (bass) and Joe Fitzpatrick (drums), Warped Americana, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Celtic Heels*, Celebrate St. Patrick's day with Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance, \$, 2 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Hillcrest Elementary School, Montague: *Dr. Seuss Night*. All are welcome, art and literacy activities, refreshments, book giveaway, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nick's Sweet '80s Movie: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Microphone*, 8 p.m. with 7:30 sign-ups.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band, 8pm

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday

March 7 & 8, 7:30 p.m.

A MIGHTY WIND

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THE CLOUDED TRUTH

From childhood to young adulthood, our minds are exposed to many different ideas. We work them through and often times embrace them, making them our own as we become adults. Those preconceived ideas are what shape our belief system.

In the religious realm often times preconceived ideas cloud the truth of any given subject. One such example is that we can interpret the Bible any way we feel it to mean.

However, the Bible says:

“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
(2 Peter 1:20-21)

Man loves to impose his own ideas on the truth of the Scripture in order to achieve his own will. To get the truth of the Scripture, man cannot and should not rely on his preconceived idea. The word of God explains itself in all subjects.

Prayerfully study it and hear what it says.

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

Wood Pellet Stove Raffle

Citizens Awareness Network is raffling off a beautiful Red enamel Thelin "Parlour" Wood Pellet Stove.



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The stove is available at the Solar Store of Greenfield for viewing and questions. We are located at 2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield just behind Antonio's Pizza and next to Mesa Verde. Stop in Tuesday-Friday 10-5pm and Saturday 10-2pm, or call 413-772-3122. Email: john@solarstoreofgreenfield.com. Delivery, installation, venting, battery backup and accessories are the responsibility of the winner. For more info on the stove: <http://thelinco.com/product/parlour-3000-pellet-stove/>

NOTES FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

That's Where He Carried You

Monday, 2/3

7:35 a.m. Assisted NH State Police with firearms issue concerning a French King Highway resident.

Tuesday, 2/4

1:15 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle located unattended at French King Bridge. Owner located in woods.

9:50 p.m. Mountain Road resident concerned about his neighbor's footprints in the snow.

Wednesday, 2/5

8:25 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway. No injuries, but vehicle totaled.

3:10 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident on French King Highway. Both parties transported to Franklin Medical Center.

Thursday, 2/6

5:25 a.m. Medical alert from Walnut Street resident. Everyone OK.

10:30 a.m. Possible jumper reported on French King Bridge. Area searched.

8:45 p.m. Reported larceny of firewood on West Gill Road.

9:35 p.m. House alarm reported at Oak Street residence.

Friday, 2/7

11:34 a.m. Medical emergency on Franklin Road. Resident transported to Franklin Medical Center.

12 noon Medical emergency, Stoughton Place. Transported to FMC.

12:50 p.m. Medical emergency, Main Road. Transported to FMC.

Saturday, 2/8

8:45 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with arrest of subject.

12:12 p.m. Medical emergency, West Gill Road. Transported to FMC.

10:40 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Dole Road.

Sunday, 2/9

3:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Northfield Mount Hermon campus. Checked OK.

4 p.m. Resident on Barney Hale Road reported strange motor vehicle parked at bottom of driveway.

Monday, 2/10

4:55 p.m. Assisted living resident reportedly walked away from West Gill Road home. Located same.

5:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with Section 12 subject.

Tuesday, 2/11

10:30 a.m. Resident reported issue with unknown parties creating loud noise on ice in Barton Cove area.

11:15 a.m. Overnight breaking & entering reported at French King Highway business. Under investigation.

12:15 p.m. Fire reported on Main Road. Permitted burn.

Wednesday, 2/12

5:25 p.m. Alleged Main Road resident reported identity theft.

Thursday, 2/13

5:25 a.m. Fire reported off River Road in area of the fields.

9:15 a.m. Restraining order issued at Main

Road business.

4:20 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle off roadway due to snow on Boyle Road. Assisted same.

Saturday, 2/15

4:40 p.m. Motor vehicle off roadway on Ben Hale Road. Assisted same with tow.

Sunday, 2/16

12:10 p.m. Complaint of intersection lights not functioning properly.

Monday, 2/17

5:20 a.m. Possible abduction of resident from Munns Ferry Road. Under investigation.

11:30 a.m. Medical emergency on River View Drive.

2:10 p.m.

Recovered motor vehicle stolen from French King Highway in Stowe, Vermont. Towed for prints.

Tuesday, 2/18

8:30 a.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Main Road with tow.

9:10 a.m. Pushed disabled motor vehicle on French King Highway into rest area.

11:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported near high-tension lines on Mountain Road. Checked out OK.

11:35 a.m. Suspicious door-to-door subjects reported on Main Road. 1 p.m. Lottery winner scam reported by Boyle Road resident.

2:05 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with accident in Factory Hollow.

Wednesday, 2/19

9:15 a.m. Court process issued to Walnut Street

resident.

6:45 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Boyle Road. No injuries.

7:20 p.m. Phone scam reported by West Gill Road resident.

Friday, 2/21

10:30 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road. Resident transported.

11:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Green Hill Road. Party hiking.

1 p.m. Assisted resident with complaint about intersection lights.

7:55 p.m. Annoying phone calls reported by Center Road resident.

Saturday, 2/22

1:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with accident on Route 10.

Monday, 2/24

8:30 a.m. Issued restraining order at Main Road business.

Tuesday, 2/25

8:10 a.m. NMH campus for student with head injury.

Thursday, 2/27

6:10 a.m. Resident attempted suicide. Party volunteered transport.

11:10 a.m. Erratic operation of truck on Route 2. Driver checked OK.

Friday, 2/28

8:15 a.m. Subject removed from French King Bridge and transported to hospital for evaluation.

1:30 p.m. Court process served at River Road residence.

10:33 p.m. Assisted motor vehicle off roadway on Ben Hale Road.

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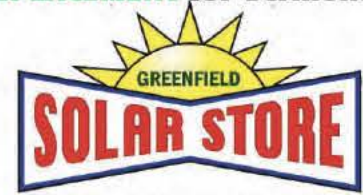
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