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The Montague Reporter

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also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 20, 2014

Police, Firefighters, Donkeys Help Raise Money For Senior Class Trip

By JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – Donkeyball at Turners Falls High School was a resounding success. It initially began as a fundraiser for the senior class of 2014 trip to Wildwood Beach, New Jersey, but it became much more than that.

"The event became a positive community builder," class co-advi-

"It was a positive connection, and I appreciate Police Chief Chip Dodge for doing such a great job of helping bring the community together. The firemen were great sports, too, and gave us enthusiastic support."

John and Letitia Sisters, owners of Green Mountain Donkeyball located in Danby, Vermont have been putting on these shows for 23



PARZYCH PHOTO

Senior Erin Simmons leads a donkey across the gym floor.

sor, Faith Kaemmerlen said. "Kids saw police and firemen in a new light, as their friends, especially the police."

"It was nice that kids could see cops as people who were willing to help them raise funds for their trip, rather than someone to fear, someone who could bust them for a traffic violation, or some other thing."

years. They were successfully used as a fund raiser at TFHS, four years ago.

At the most recent show, Turners Falls High School students manned the concession stand, sold and took tickets, and helped in any way they could.

see DONKEYS page A3

Scam Targeting Immigrants Thwarted in Wendell

By CHRISTOPHER
SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

Ilina Singh received a telephone call at her home in Wendell last week from a person purportedly representing the IRS. Singh said the so-called IRS official spoke with an Indian accent and was very officious. He informed her that she was delinquent in her taxes and that the IRS was prepared to take immediate action.

When she protested, the man said he was going to have to put her through to his supervisor. After a moment or two, a "supervisor" picked up. She described him as speaking with an American accent.

"He was incredibly abrasive, bullying and rude," said Singh. "He basically told me that I owed \$3,000 to the IRS, and that they were certain this was not accidental but deliberate fraud."

"He then told me that if I did not cooperate, he could have the sheriff at my door in 45 minutes and have me deported."

Singh continued: "He also informed me that they would make my case public. This, of course, was just another tactic particularly aimed at immigrants. Personal dignity matters a great deal to Indians."

"But I told them that I intended to

see SCAM page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Greenfield Road Project May Begin This Year

By JEFF SINGLETON

The long-awaited project to reconstruct and widen Greenfield Road may be about to commence.

The project has been debated, approved, disapproved, applauded, derided and revised for nearly twenty years. Selectboard members who originally proposed it have long since retired from public service, some moving to warmer climates.

The drama of the moment was perhaps not lost on the Montague Selectboard on the night of March 17 as it voted, in the words of the agenda, to "authorize orders of takings and award damages for temporary and permanent easements associated with the Greenfield Road Reconstruction Project." The capital letters on the project name highlighted the significance of the event.

Drama aside, this means that the board discussed a plan to take private land from property owners bordering Greenfield Road and compensate them. They also listened to questions and complaints about the process. Then the board voted on the plan itself.

The discussion began with Town

Planner Walter Ramsey describing the plan. The project itself will reconstruct and widen Greenfield Road from the Canalside Bike Path south to Hatchery Road, the latter being at a significantly higher elevation.

The plan will require 59 "tak-



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

The strongest objection was raised by the Dowd family, owners of this property on the corner of Greenfield and Randall Roads.

ings" involving a total of 23 property owners. Surveys had been reviewed by the Planning Department. The appraisals and levels of compensation, which varied a good deal from property to property, had been approved by town counsel.

In May of 2013, the Annual Montague Town Meeting approved a total of \$30,000 to reimburse property owners, only a portion of which was allocated in the plan presented by Ramsey.

see ROAD page A5

Pipeline Opponents Gain Steam; Company Rep To Visit Montague Town Hall



Bruce Winn of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team addresses the crowd earlier this month at the Cummington Community House.

By MIKE JACKSON

A representative from energy giant Kinder Morgan is scheduled to attend Montague's selectboard meeting on Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m. to address any questions the town might have about a natural gas transmission pipeline proposed by its subsidiary, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

The company's agent has been approaching landowners, private and public, to gain the rights to map a route that would enter the state in Richmond, head northeast, and connect to a hub at Dracut.

The route they seem to be scouting passes through Deerfield, Montague, Erving, Northfield and into Warwick.

Montague's selectboard declined to grant surveying rights last month for a town-

owned parcel on Country Hill near Millers Falls.

The next day, the Turners Falls Water Department granted permission to survey on seven lots in its water supply protection district near Green Pond.

The company has declared an official "open season" on the project, seeking binding bids from gas shippers and customers.

If the demand is established to exist, and if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approves the project, it would secure a permanent right-of-way, and bury a 30" diameter pipeline underground along that route.

The pipeline would affect 990 landowners along its route, passing under rivers by use of horizontal drilling, and a compressor station would be built every 40 to 50 miles, though the proposed

locations for those stations are as yet undisclosed.

Most of the gas transported will be produced by hydraulically fracturing, or "fracking," shale gas deposits.

The open season continues through March 31. As information about the proposal trickles out, opponents have led the public discussion of the project.

On Saturday, March 8, a crowd of over 120 area residents packed into Cummington's Community House to hear a presentation on natural gas, and to organize to prevent the pipeline's construction.

The focus of the event was a talk by Bruce Winn of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team – "not the authorities on natural gas pipelines," he acknowledged, but learning quickly.

The pipeline, he said, is part of a "very rapid deployment of natural gas infrastructure around the country," driven by the boom in shale gas production. BEAT opposes it.

"Natural gas has served a really good purpose," said Winn: "coal is a thing of the past in Massachusetts."

But, he said, the boom in gas comes with massive environmental costs, and

see PIPELINE page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Board Aims to Loosen Setback for Cell Towers

By DAVID DETMOLD

The Leverett selectboard has written a letter to the planning board, asking that board to work "towards presenting a change to the prohibitive setback" requirements governing the placement of cell towers in town, in time for the May 3 town meeting, now that AT&T has approached the town about siting a cell tower on land owned by Roberta Bryant off Route 63.

Although no one at the selectboard meeting on Tuesday could say precisely how far back from the road the proposed cell tower would be, it would be less than the 2,000-foot setback required by the consensus-built cell tower bylaw that emerged from the planning board after a rocky, two-year process.

This included a failed vote at annual town meeting in 2012, a six-month committee revision to broaden setback requirements, crafted by opponents and proponents of a looser bylaw, and an overwhelmingly positive vote at a special town meeting on October 9, 2012.

The town's original cell tower bylaw, written restrictively to more or less ensure that no communications

company would be interested in putting up a cell tower in Leverett, had confined placement of cell towers to the town's three small, low-lying commercial zones.

In its letter to the planning board, the selectboard argues cell phones have become "no longer just a luxury or convenience item, but an operational need and an important safety tool."

Critics of the first bylaw revision, in 2012, argued the safety issue cuts both ways.

"Even if a tower at this location would primarily serve Route 63, at least those residents would have reliable coverage and we'd be making a step in the direction of providing service."
– Leverett Selectboard

The selectboard acknowledges that even if the planning board offers and town meeting approves a bylaw revision loosening the 2000 foot cell tower setback requirement, to allow AT&T

to place a cell tower near the power lines that traverse the part of Bryant's land, cell phone coverage will only be improved for the Route 63 corridor.

Such a tower will have little impact on improving coverage in the rest of town.

But the selectboard, with the strong endorsement of the town's safety officials at the fire, police and highway departments, would consider this a move in the right direction.

"Even if a tower at this location would primarily serve Route 63," the selectboard wrote, "at least those residents would have reliable coverage and we'd be making a step in the direction of providing service."

Preliminary Operating Budget

In other news, the selectboard approved adding a line item in the FY'15 budget to provide the assessors with an additional \$1,000 to develop and refine computerized lot maps of the entire town, with overlays showing the presence of wetlands, roads, conservation land, and other features.

Administrative assessor Steve Schmidt said the computerized maps could eventually be accessed by citizens, and could be of great use to other boards such as the conservation commission, the zoning

see TOWERS page A3

The Montague Reporter

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Riding to New Hampshire On a Wave of Dark Money

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “carpetbagger” as “1) a person from the northern United States who went to the South after the American Civil War to make money; 2) a political candidate who runs for office in a place where he or she has lived only for a short time.”

When we learned last week that our former Massachusetts senator, Scott Brown, was hitting the campaign trail in New Hampshire, definition two immediately leaped into our minds.

It would be easy to dismiss Brown as a rank opportunist, but there’s more to it than that. After losing badly to Elizabeth Warren in 2012, it was pretty clear that there was little future left for Brown in true-blue Massachusetts.

And while he did not remain unemployed – he almost immediately went to work for Fox News as an “analyst” – it’s also evident that he and his handlers (and donors) have been flirting for some time with a campaign against first-term Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

And so in December, 2013, Brown officially became a New Hampshire resident.

It’s unclear how well he’ll actually do. The first reaction from rank-and-file New Hampshire Republicans was fairly lukewarm.

According to news reports, GOP activists overwhelmingly felt Brown was more driven by convenience and ambition than Granite State interests.

Although it’s clear that Brown is in the race to upend Shaheen, he’s got to win the state primary first against two challengers: former U.S. Senator Bob Smith, and former state senator Jim Rubens.

But winning against Shaheen is very much a part of the Republican strategy to retake the Senate and retain their majority in the House.

This objective is certainly within their reach. Democrats have more seats at risk this year than do Republicans. Of the 36 contested Sen-

ate seats, Democrats hold 21. But seven of those Democratic seats are in “red states” which creates a true uphill battle for the Democrats.

The prize for the Republicans is enormous. If they take control of the Senate and keep the House, they’ll be able to push through a fair amount of their right-wing agenda that has been blocked by the Democratic majority in the Senate.

President Obama, of course, will still be able to use his veto power, but this will force him to spend his last years in office even more on the defense than he is at present.

Money is flowing into these races as it never has before. Indeed, both sides seem to be in an absolute frenzy about raising and spending money.

Since *Citizens United* there is no such thing as a level playing field. Elections and politicians are bought and sold.

Indeed, the *Citizens United* decision allowed outside groups to spend unprecedented amounts of money in both the 2010 and 2012 election cycles. Outside groups,



Another Koch Brothers Enterprise?

naturally, existed before *Citizens United*, but were legally limited in the ways they could use that money to influence elections.

The facts speak for themselves: During the 2012 cycle non-party outside spending tripled 2008’s total, topping \$1 billion for the first time ever. Super PACs accounted for more than \$600 million of that spending.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come to **Bingo** at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, March 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This month’s caller is Gladys Lyman.

Learn about the **mammals of the Connecticut River Watershed** at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, March 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. Investigate interesting things about bobcats, moose and bears. Watershed Investigators is a kid-oriented program that focuses on hands-on discovery.

Join refuge staff as you explore different ways to look at the natural world around us. Methods of discovery may include crafts, games, stories, and exploration. This program is geared towards grades 2-5, but everyone is welcome.

The Montague Congregational Church, located on North Street, will hold a **Roast Pork Supper** on Saturday, March 22, at 5:30 p.m.

The menu includes roast pork with gravy and roasted red potatoes, honeyed carrots and apples, breads, and dessert with coffee, tea, and milk. The price is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. For a reservation, please call (413) 863-2398.

Bill and Laurel Facey will be hosting **an open house at their sugarhouse** on Sunday, March 23,

from 1 to 4 p.m. The family friendly event is sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission.

Their beautiful Sugarbush Farm is located at the end of Davis Road. The open views to the north, large well maintained fields and stone walls, and striking cattle are worth a trip in themselves. Davis Road is off of Mormon Hollow Road., west of Diemand Farm. For more information, call 978-544-7178.

The **Great Falls Farmers Market in Turners Falls is seeking vendors** for the 2014 season. The market is held every Wednesday, May through October, 2 to 6 p.m., on the lawn near the Great Falls Discovery Center (2nd St. and Ave A).

The market welcomes locally grown or produced fruit and vegetables, meat, cheese, eggs, syrup, honey, flowers, baked goods, wool, crafts, etc.

A vendor meeting is being held on Wednesday, March 26, starting at 7 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex (Turners Falls Police Station) community room, 80 Turnpike Rd, Turners Falls.

The 2014 market is sponsored and managed by the Montague Agricultural Commission. For more info please contact: Donna Francis at greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners@gmail.com or (413) 687-1288.

The Gill and Montague Elemen-

tary Schools are holding **Kindergarten registration** on Thursday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for all children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2014.

Please bring birth certificate, record of immunization, proof of residence, and a photo ID.

There will be a reading, book signing, & yarn trunk show for **“Adventures in Yarn Farming,”** by local author Barb Parry, on Thursday, March 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The book is full of heart, skill, art, hard work, and joy. Parry started with two sheep in South Deerfield, and now has 60 sheep, 3 llamas, 3 miniature donkeys, and 1 goat in Shelburne, plus a yarn and fiber CSA.

The event will be held at Sheep & Shawl, a local yarn shop on Routes 5 and 10 in the Tibetan Plaza in South Deerfield. Refreshments provided. Call (413) 397-3680 to register as there is limited space. For more info visit www.sheepandshawl.com.

Greening Greenfield’s final film event of the season will be “Water Weekend,” a film event with three different films on the challenges faced by our community regarding clean, safe water supplies.

The three films, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28, then continuing on Saturday, March 29, at 3 p.m., will have discussions, led by FRCOG’s Glen Ayers and Greenfield’s Sara Campbell.

All films will be shown at St. James Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall, located on Church Street in Greenfield.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Good News At TFHS

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – While the school budget understandably was big news at the March 11 school committee meeting, there’s a lot more happening at TFHS.

Principal Tom Osborne presented a hefty list of the exciting developments he and his faculty are initiating.

His updates began with some academic statistics: 129 students out of 269 achieved honors standing, amounting to 48% of the student body to do so.

The National Honor Society inducted 12 more TFHS students into its membership in December, for a total of 22 students.

Seniors and juniors will attend a College Fair at The Big E in Springfield on March 31 as well as a Reality Fair at GCC on March 20.

Discipline issues have received considerable attention from Osborne and he has worked to develop a student restorative justice program whereby student volunteers receive training in assisting fellow students having anger or other issues before the problems get out of hand.

He noted that the numbers of incidents have decreased: In October there was a total of 57, whereas in February there were just 8 incidents.

He stressed it is important for students to take ownership of the culture of the school in a positive

fashion. He credits the restorative justice program as an important part of that positive ownership.

Athletics came in for some congratulations as well. TFHS Girls Field Hockey team are the league champs and the TF Football team won the Western Mass. Division for the first time.

A new sport, ping pong, will hold its first ever annual tournament this spring.

Osborne also cited several new courses to be offered: American Law and Mock Trial; Special Effects for Theatre; Plant and Seed Science; and Restorative Justice Practices.

The principal along with four core teachers are establishing the 9th grade academy to assist students coming into the high school from middle school, whether TF Middle school or some other middle school.

He plans to offer a summer bridge program for the 9th graders in addition to guided tours of the high school so academy students know what to expect on entering high school.

Osborne also outlined his plans to build an internship program, or as he terms it, an “externship” program in the various communities for all high school students to take before graduation. His aim is to help students gain a greater sense of being participants in the towns in which they live.



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DONKEYS from page A1

Most fundraisers have kids selling something. This fundraiser was different.

“Kids aren’t crazy about selling stuff to people who don’t really want to buy it,” class of 2014 co-adviser Faith Kaemmerlen said. “This way, people came willingly, knowing it would be fun, especially the young kids under 12, who got a free ride on a donkey during half time.”

The donkeys are intelligent and individualist. Though often stubborn, most were docile, friendly and willing to have someone ride on their backs.

Only April, the light colored, most rambunctious one, was opposed to the idea of adults riding her. April kicked and bucked off adult riders, but was calm and gentle when giving young children a ride on her back.

With adults she would take a few fast steps forward and stop suddenly, sliding the rider off onto the floor.

Student Jim Nolan was determined to stay aboard the donkey, but April was just as determined to get him off.

After going off over April’s neck a few times, Nolan sat far back on her rump, but was soon bucked off. The donkeys are trained to sit or lean forward to shed riders. “Falling off is all part of the game,” John Sisters said.

April needed no training to shed riders, who wore protective headgear, knee and elbow pads. Trainers from Green Mountain Donkey Basketball warned that April would kick anyone who got behind her. But other donkeys did not react when someone got behind and attempted to push them.

Pushing didn’t always move the more stubborn ones, they only moved when enticed by a few baby carrots. However, donkeys did walk to stand under the basketball hoop as they were trained to do.

But when a donkey caught the smell of a bag of fresh popcorn held by a spectator, “goodbye training.” They headed for the bag of popcorn and stubbornly stood to be fed, nose

close to the popcorn bag.

Trainers warned people to refrain from pulling donkeys’ ears, tail, or mane, or getting behind April, who was apt to kick.

There was some tension for spectators who waited for a donkey to have an “accident” on the gym floor. “There was just a little dropping outside by one of the donkeys when they first arrived,” Faith said.

“Before we bring them in, we let the donkeys get a sniff of urine and donkey buns, and that triggers them to do their business,” John Sisters said.

The donkeys wore “gym shoes,” made with leather uppers and crepe rubber soles strapped to their hooves, to protect the gym floor.

Policeman Lee Laster had a way with the donkeys. They seemed to trust him, and followed him without balking into the elevator from the second floor gym.

The senior students look forward with great anticipation to going on their Senior Class trip to Wildwood Beach, New Jersey, on a Kuzmeskus travel bus, enjoying the experience of a Coney Island-style boardwalk, staying at a hotel on the beach, going on safari, gliding down a zipline, riding on the Silver Bullet Speed Boat, and going to Six Flags Amusement Park.

The trip will all be courtesy of the concerted fundraising efforts of the Green Mountain Basketball Donkeys, police, firemen, parents and students who had a great experience, proud and happy of their success with the planning, taking tickets, manning the concession stand and seeing everyone thoroughly enjoying the show.

Best of all, the seniors raised nearly \$1,400 from ticket and concession sales for their memorable senior class trip.

Who won? Technically, the parents won the basketball game 6-4, with Mike Marcol voted Most Valuable Player for his ability to sink basketballs astride a donkey, but police, fire, parents and students all participated in a fun show.

In reality, everyone came out a winner.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Pay Changes Again

By KATIE NOLAN

The selectboard approved the annual town meeting warrant and the finance committee's recommended fiscal year 2015 \$9.08 million budget at the March 17 meeting. This is lower than the approximately \$9.5 million budget approved for the current fiscal year.

Under recurring expenses, the FY'2015 budget includes \$3.1 million for general government expenses (town administration, fire and police departments, highway, library, and parks and recreation), \$2.6 million to fund Erving Elementary School, \$990,0476 for secondary education, and \$835,759 placed in the stabilization fund.

One-time expenses included in the warrant include \$100,000 for road work, \$30,000 for a generator for fire hall #2, \$25,300 for a highway leaf collector, and \$25,000 for a library building study.

The entire town meeting warrant will be printed in the Around Town newsletter and sent to town residents.

New Fire Truck

The board gave fire chief Philip Wonkka approval to purchase a new \$314,029 attack pumper.

The 2013 annual town meeting approved \$490,000 for purchase of a new pumper-tanker. However, after consulting with town fire officers and the Fire Chief’s Association of Massachusetts, Wonkka developed revised specifications for the new truck.

Wonkka said that the smaller vehicle, with four wheel drive and a “30 degree approach and departure angle”, will handle better on roads and driveways where access is difficult.

He said the new truck will be housed at fire hall #1, and that fire hall #1’s current rescue truck will be repurposed for use at fire hall #2. 1978-vintage engine 9, now housed at fire hall #2, will be taken out of service.

Communication Breakdown

Recreation commission chair Mark Burnett and rec commission member Matt Kolodziej, highway/water/wastewater director Paul Prest, and highway foreman Glen

McCory discussed communication about recreation field maintenance.

In FY’2013, under a selectboard reorganization plan, the \$6,500 rec commission maintenance budget was consolidated into the highway department budget and the highway department became responsible for maintenance of town recreational fields.

Burnett said that since then, “smaller things, not major stuff,” such as liming athletic fields and snowblowing the ice skating rink, were not done in a timely manner.

He felt that rec commission requests were not given priority.

Prest observed that last year was the first year of the reorganization.

McCory commented, “I think we can work things through.” The rec commission and highway employees shook hands, and agreed to meet and work at communicating better.

Raises

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan moved that selectboard salaries, recently raised as advocated by outgoing selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin, be reduced back to the previous level (\$2,000 per year).

The board voted to approve Sullivan’s motion.

The selectboard approved step increases for assistant chief water operator Darby Chagnon, highway worker James Paulin, and town property maintenance worker Bryant Stewart.

The step raises were endorsed by the finance committee, saying the resulting raises could be funded within the existing budget.

Elections

When the deadline to turn in papers had passed, it turned out that only two candidates will run for selectboard this spring.

William Bembury and William Pease will contend for the seat board chair Andrew Goodwin is vacating.

A third candidate was mentioned in last week’s *Reporter* as having taken out papers, but did not turn them in.

The challenger for Margaret Sullivan’s position as treasurer did not end up turning in his papers either.

The election will be held Monday, May 5.

Millers River Watershed Council Releases 2013 Bacteria Monitoring Report

The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) has released its Third Annual Report on Bacterial Monitoring of the Millers And Otter Rivers, conducted in the summer of 2013. The ongoing sampling program and reports provide the public and local officials with a solid indication of the safety of recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

The report notes that all locations always scored fine for boating and fishing, classified as “secondary contact.”

Reflecting results from previous years, swimming and other forms of “primary contact” are generally not advisable for up to 48 hours after it rains—particularly near more developed areas, where stormwater runoff is likely to carry bacteria and other pollutants into waterways.

“We are seeing something of a trend, which is not surprising,” said Ivan Ussach, MRWC’s watershed coordinator. “It’s a different story from the days when just stepping in the river could be hazardous to

your health.”

The sampling was conducted at 10 sites – three in Worcester County and seven in Franklin County – in areas where recreational opportunities exist or where the Council is encouraging river exploration via its “Blue Trails” project.

Trained volunteers collected samples, which were analyzed for the 2nd consecutive year at the Connecticut River Watershed Council lab in Greenfield as part of a regional collaboration.

Results were posted regularly on an interactive website, found at www.connecticutriver.us.

Digital versions of both the full report and a summary report are available on the MRWC website at www.millerswatershed.org.

MRWC plans further bacteria sampling in 2014, and welcomes anyone wishing to volunteer or support lab costs through its “Adopt a Sample” program.

For more information contact Keith Davies at watershed@millersriver.net or (978) 248-9491.

TOWERS from page A1

board, and the board of health.

That line item will become part of a preliminary \$5,596,665 omnibus budget to cover the expense of operating all town departments and pay for school assessments for the coming fiscal year.

That figure, a 2.7% (\$148,312) increase over last year’s budget, is still about \$14,000 out of balance with expected revenues, with a number of unknowns still to be determined.

These include any increase in the cost of health insurance for town employees, and an as-yet-uncertified total for the town’s free cash account.

The latter category of funds will be considered important by town meeting, as free cash will go to revenue source to fund any and all special articles, including requests to repair and repoint bricks at the elementary school (\$7,250) and repair slate at the school (\$4,850).

Additionally, this would include repairs for the old highway garage (up to \$75,000), although the selectboard discussed slashing that figure by involving town residents in volunteer labor, in conjunction with highway department employees, to repair that storage building.

The budget will include an appropriation of an additional \$15,000 to the highway department’s snow and ice budget, which too often runs in deficit, \$30,000 to be put aside to help meet future obligations for town retirees, and \$30,000 to be added to the \$335,000 currently in the town’s stabilization fund.

Call Firefighter Appointed

The selectboard appointed Shutesbury resident Eric Donnelly as a call firefighter, on the recommendation of Chief John Moruzzi.

In compliance with personnel policy, the board would not reveal the new appointee’s age, but board members did say Donnelly was “not facing imminent retirement.”

Members of the fire department study committee will hold a meeting with their counterparts in the town of Sunderland on April 14.

Window Mediation

On April 10, the selectboard will enter into mediation with the Boston architectural firm of DiMarinisi and Wolfe over a two-year-long dispute about the allocation of cost overruns in the school window replacement project.

After the town qualified for partial grant funding under the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s Green Repair Program to install insulation and replace windows at the elementary school, the selectboard complained from the outset that the grant requirements dictated the hiring of an architect from the eastern side of the state, who would be unfamiliar with the building.

When the windows on the old side of the school building were removed prior to replacement, the roof began to sag, since the old windows provided structural support.

The selectboard believes the resulting cost overruns, which were substantial, should have been avoided had the architect proceeded with due diligence.

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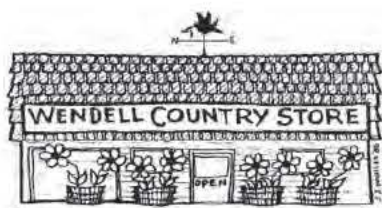


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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Drafting a Level-Service Budget

By DAVID DETMOLD

Expressing "cautious optimism" as he puts together the broad stroke outline of a \$3,115,696 level service budget for town meeting's consideration on Monday, May 5, town administrative assistant Ray Purington said this week, "This year should not be a painful budget year."

Indeed, the town's bottom line for operating all departments may even reflect a slight (-1.1%) decrease from last year's budget, if Purington's projections hold true by May.

That's the optimistic part of the budget forecast.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

The cautious part includes a large unknown about the amount the state will wind up giving Gill for payments in lieu of taxes on hundreds of acres of state owned land near the French King Bridge. (Last year, state PILOT funds amounted to \$18,000 for Gill.) Purington said a recent revaluation of state land may increase that sum for FY'15.

Two Big Decisions

Adding to the note of caution, Purington said the town was also facing at least two major financial decisions this year: whether to put a new roof on the public safety complex, and whether to begin paying into a fund created to deal with future retiree benefits and health insurance, known by its bureaucratic shorthand as an OPEB fund (Other Post-Employment Benefits).

A study the town received last year from AFS Associates looked at what Gill's future OPEB exposure might be, and came up with a startling number: \$760,169, along with a recommendation to set aside \$68,227 in annual installments to meet those future obligations to employees.

But Purington also cautioned that he did not know what those numbers meant, as yet, and besides, Gill, like nearly every other town and city in the state, is in the earliest stage of grappling with a problem endemic to municipalities.

In a nutshell, local and state governments have made promises to public employees for future benefits, without putting aside sufficient funds to meet these obligations.

The push is now on to begin setting those funds aside on the local level. Purington said the town of Gill will seek guidance on this issue from Pat Auchard, director of finance for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, before including any sum to meet future OPEB obligations in its FY'15 budget.

Auchard will speak to the selectboard and finance committee at town hall on Wednesday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. at town hall.

As for the potential cost of replacing the roof at the public safety complex, Purington said he could not give even a ballpark estimate as yet.

The selectboard is hoping the capital improvements committee will come up with a plan for dealing with the public safety complex roof.

But Purington said a warrant article to replace the roof will be on the town meeting warrant by May.

Breathing Room Exists

The budget he has prepared does leave some breathing room to meet anticipated expenses such as these. Even projecting a 1.1% decrease from FY'14, Purington has left more than \$29,000 in levy capacity untouched beneath the limit set by Proposition 2½.

The town's capital stabilization fund has a present balance of \$48,157, while the general stabilization fund has \$207,611 set aside.

In his preliminary budget, Purington recommends adding \$77,766 to either of these stabilization accounts, along with \$56,563 to an education stabilization fund, which currently shows a balance of nearly \$69,000.

COLAs & Student Enrollments

A cost of living increase for town employees, recommended by the personnel board at 1.5%, is in synch with the increase forecast for Social Security this year, Purington said.

That 1.5% COLA for town employees will amount to \$7,836 for FY'15, a sum that will be offered as a warrant article separate from individual town department budgets.

Much of that breathing room comes this year from a decrease in Gill's public school enrollments.

Last year, Gill students made up 13.98% of the total population at the Gill-Montague Regional Schools. This year, that percentage has dropped to 12.6%.

In addition, the number of Gill students attending Franklin County Tech School dropped from 12 to 4, a 25.6% decrease in Gill's Tech School assessment, resulting in a savings of \$33,306 for the town.

Police

Among the big three town departments, the police department is forecasting the largest increase, at 2.9%, from \$184,470 to \$189,776, with the highway running close behind, at 2.8%, from \$238,701 to \$245,475.

At a budget hearing before the finance committee and selectboard on March 17, police chief David Hastings said an increase of \$5,023 to pay for part time officers to cover police sergeant Chris Redmond's anticipated sick and vacation days off in FY'15 is the reason for most of the increase, along with a slight bump (\$250) in Hastings' own longevity pay, due to the fact that the police chief will have reached the 20-year milestone of his employment by the town in this fiscal year.

Hastings said he had been called out 30 times already, in the present fiscal year, as compared to 23 call outs last year.

Call outs for the chief come at

the discretion of the state police dispatch unit in Shelburne Falls when a crime or incident of a certain level of seriousness occurs in town when no other Gill officer is on duty.

Since July of last year, Hastings said the police department had received 588 calls, including calls for 23 reported felonies.

Selectboard chair John Ward, joined by finance committee member Claire Chang, called for a reduction in the chief's on call budget, to reflect the proposed higher amount of hours worked by part time officers.

Ward said, "I'm still going to stand my ground and say the salaries being paid [for policing] are too high for what a town of 1500 can afford."

But finance committee members Nancy Griswold and Valeria Smith supported Hastings, and said the town of Gill was lucky to have a dedicated officer who had worked so hard for 20 years for the town.

Purington said the \$6,773 increase requested for the highway department this year was driven mainly by step increases, as well as \$1100 for a state mandated training for heavy equipment operators, continuing education the state requires but does not pay for.

Fire Department

The fire department will hold the line with a \$74,785 budget request, a mere \$3.98 increase over last year.

Health Care Costs

Meanwhile, the cooperative public health service, a project of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, will raise its assessment for Gill this year from \$10,206 to \$11,788, a 15.5% jump.

In FY'13, during its first year of

operation, the coop health service defrayed its start-up costs with state grant funding, and charged the town of Gill just \$6,804. Last year saw a jump in the town's assessment of \$3,402; this year the trend of double digit percentage assessment hikes continues.

Gill board of health chair and selectboard member Randy Crochier said the formula by which the ten county towns share the cost of the cooperative public health service is "extremely unfair," and said the budget committee of the program is working to revise that formula.

But, he said, Gill has historically underpaid for health services, which have been performed by volunteers.

Another factor in the 10.9% overall increase in Gill's projected FRCOG assessment for FY'15 is the 15.2% hike in what the town is being charged to use the FRCOG's shared accounting service.

Purington said the FRCOG defended the large hike in accounting fees by citing extra work hours for the shared accountant.

But he could not say that the extra hours leading to the increase were due to any increase in Gill's use of the accounting service.

Electricity

Smaller items driving this year's budget include a 9.6% (\$550) hike in what the town will pay WMeco to keep the streetlights on this year, even though the town no longer pays the bill for streetlights on the Gill-Montague bridge.

Purington said the rising cost of electricity was to blame for the increased cost of streetlights in Gill, and he pointed to the same culprit for the 10.6% (\$1,976) rise in the operating cost of the public safety building.

Chase Steps Forward For Selectboard Seat

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – Lifetime resident Fred O. Chase II will run this spring for the selectboard seat vacated by seven-term member Ann Banash.

"To date, there are no other candidates," said town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, adding that others had taken out papers but have not yet returned them.

Chase, who runs a business restoring antique trucks, has served the town in a variety of positions over the years, including for the highway, police and fire departments, and finance committee.

He is a master mechanic and president of the Antique Truck Club of America. He has a longstanding interest in town and Native American history.

"I believe that changes need to be weighed against any increase in financial burden on the taxpayers, especially those on fixed income already burdened by the stagnant economy," Chase said, in a position paper provided to the press.

"I also think that the Town should

be reaching out for ways to increase the tax base by encouraging more small business enterprises to move into town."

When Banash announced in October that she would not seek an eighth term, she advised anyone seeking to replace her to start attending selectboard and finance committee meetings.

Nobody has yet filed to run for a vacant two-year position on the town cemetery commission.

Incumbents are running, unopposed, for all other elected positions as of press time.

Gill is also experiencing difficulty filling its appointed committees. There are openings on the conservation commission, agricultural commission, cable PEG access committee, finance committee, zoning board of appeals.

The recreation committee is effectively defunct.

The final day to pick up election papers is March 27, by 5 p.m., at the town clerk's office. The deadline to turn in papers is March 31, also by 5 p.m.

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SCAM from page A1

make it very public, and began pushing back. I demanded their phone number and mailing address.

“When I did this, they suddenly hung up.” Singh immediately called the police, who reassured her it was a scam.

“It was very intense. And even though I realized that the IRS does not operate like this – calling a person at home with threats – I was still shaken up. But I was also very angry.”

Singh noted that these scammers were quite good. “They hit on all the vulnerabilities of immigrants. Many immigrants come from countries where they are bullied by the police and authorities, and don’t realize that official agencies in the U.S. don’t operate like that.”

Singh, who has lived in Wendell for 11 years, said that while she was not taken in by their scam, some would be. “Immigrants often feel very vulnerable, and don’t understand what their rights are. These people really hit tender spots.”

Officer Anne Diemand Bucci of the Wendell Police said that when she got the call from Singh she was “quite surprised.” Although she was

aware of the scam from the news, it didn’t occur to her that someone in Wendell would be targeted.

“I thought, oh my goodness, it’s come to Wendell!” She said she was not aware of any similar scam being perpetrated on Wendell residents.

Singh is far from being the only one targeted. According to the Internal Revenue Service, this particular scam is widespread. This attempt to defraud immigrants has become so pervasive that the IRS has posted a warning on its website.

According to the bulletin, “If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and threatens police arrest, deportation or license revocation if you don’t pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn’t the IRS calling.”

It also adds that the IRS does not ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone, or ask to set up wire transfers.

The IRS asks that anyone who gets this sort of call hang up immediately and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484, and the Federal Trade Commission at FTC.gov.



ROAD from page A1

The room was packed with abutters, most of whom presumably had received notice of the taking, discussed proposals with town officials, and approved or disapproved of the results. This was a hearing but, in theory, most of the owners had already been heard.

This generally seemed to be the case but there were exceptions, most notably Sandy Dowd. The Dowd family lives on a steep hill overlooking the corner of Greenfield and Randall roads, where the project will navigate a very sharp turn. The hill is apparently sandy and not very stable.

The Dowds felt they did not have enough information to gauge the impact of the reconstruction on their property, including the foundation of their house.

They pointed out that a very small map they had been sent was virtually unreadable and that despite repeated requests, no one had come to show where digging and/or blasting would take place. “Can someone come out please?” requested Ms. Dowd. “We are signing this paper blind.”

Ramsey apologized, stating he thought an engineer had already talked to the Dowds. He pledged to send someone to talk to them.

One member of the audience asked what would happen if a foundation cracked as a result of construction. Town manager Frank Abbondanzio stated that this would be covered by “performance bonds and insurance” that the construction company would be required to carry.

Ms. Dowd also asked about artifacts and fossils: “What happens if they find stuff involving Indians?”

Ramsey noted that if artifacts were discovered, then “the project would have to stop,” and the situation be addressed according to state

and federal laws.

Other questions arose, particularly about the Greenfield Road Bridge and Hatchery Road, both at the southern end of the project. After a brief discussion, Chairman Mark Fairbrother ended this line of inquiry, noting that this was a hearing about easements.

The board then voted easements and awards to property owners which varied from under \$100 to just under \$5,000. The awards are being funded with state highway (Chapter 90) aid to the town.

HVAC at the Shea

In other action, the board heard a proposal from Bart Bales to apply for a Green Community Competitive Grant to upgrade the HVAC system at the Shea Theatre.

Bales presented the board with four options, ranging from just over \$57,000 to approximately \$108,000. Bales said the long term payback on the last option, which would allow for the finer adjustment of air intake, would be “way better.”

Tom Bergeron of the Department of Public Works asked about the impact of the project on the roof, which is deemed to be leaking and in need of repair. Bales stated there would not be much, if any, impact on the roof, but did note a problem of “pigeon droppings” in the area of the proposed HVAC system.

Multi-Hazard Mitigation

The Board adopted the 2014 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. According to Walter Ramsey this was originally the 2011 plan but after “going back and forth” between governmental agencies it was now the 2014 plan. The plan helps the town to apply for funds to mitigate the impact of events such as earthquakes, wildfires, severe wind storms and micro-bursts.

Audience member John Reyn-

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell Selectboard began its short March 12 meeting reviewing the memo of understanding that town counsel had prepared regarding compensation and sharing of expenses and responsibilities for Wendell’s new part time fire chief, Joe Cuneo.

Cuneo has been part-time chief in New Salem since 2008 and now will be part-time chief in Wendell.

For a document prepared by a lawyer, the memo was short and clear. Cuneo will be paid and employed separately by each town, expenses will be divided equally, and if his employment ends in either town, that town will notify the other. He will be salaried, based on a 19 hour work week, but Cuneo said he wants the freedom to work more when it is necessary.

He reminded board members that they, along with the board of health, firefighters and police, need to take two online courses on incident command. When each person completes a course he will be sent a certificate by email, and when Cuneo has all the relevant certificates, the Wendell fire department will be eligible for federal grants.

Cuneo has started to reorganize the fire station, and asked about what can be done with surplus material.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said there is a town auction, usually a fun event, held in November and held outside the highway garage and fire station. Keller said it could be scheduled for May this year.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser said that the town office

building antenna that will receive a broadband signal from the library is plugged into a ground fault receptacle outside the building.

He recommended changing that receptacle to a junction box and running a conduit outside for permanent wires to the antenna, and he had an electrician in mind who came with a good recommendation.

The job is small, almost not worth a trip to town with tools, and so board members brainstormed other small electrical jobs that have been waiting. The town hall cellar sump pump should be hard-wired also.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to ask the highway department if they have electrical work that has been waiting.

Although he was not on the agenda, highway commission chair Harry Williston came in and said that the Stantec \$96,000 estimate for a sidewalk from the town center to the country store went way beyond the scope of what he intended.

The \$14,000 estimate for a survey is reasonable, he said, because the road is one of the town roads that has a surveyed layout, and the town right of way is more to the west of the pavement, while the reasonable place for a walk is on the east side.

Pooser said he did not doubt the cost involved in the survey, but thought that it is a large enough sum to be brought up at an annual town meeting.

Williston said that the bridge repair estimate given at the last meeting, \$67,800, was indeed for the Wendell Depot bridge over Whetstone Brook as selectboard mem-

bers thought.

The abutments are weak, and he said the bridge should have been widened 15 years ago. The downstream side of the bridge will be pushed out when construction begins: first the southbound, then the northbound lane.

Mason Phelps resigned from the open space committee. Chair Mari- anne Sundell recommended Meagan Sylvia as a replacement, but board members were not familiar with her, and took no action.

Electrical aggregation from the Hampshire Council of Governments, a billing option that should save homeowners money on their electric bills, is navigating regulations.

Good Energy, another outfit that promotes savings on electric bills, sent the selectboard a letter promoting Good Energy.

The FRCOG also sent the selectboard a letter which that said FRCOG does not endorse Good Energy.

Ray DiDonato recommended hiring a consultant for developing the last mile of fiber optic internet service.

Pooser thought that we do not need a consultant to tell us that Wendell is hilly and wooded, and will need a fiberoptic cable to get service to every house.

Still, it is possible that a consultant will know some angle. A fiber optic cable to every house will be expensive, and Wired West, still the best option, has half the money it needs for the last mile, and is looking to borrow the rest through a municipal bond.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Upcycle Workshop and Artistic Opportunities

Lou’s Upcycle Workshop Sunday, March 23, 2 to 4 p m., for adults & teens. Join Lou Leelyn of Lou’s Upcycles to learn how to create fabric out of post consumer packaging.

Learn about plastic waste, how it’s acquired, where it goes, and how to reduce your family’s amount of it.

Then, using the plastic fusing process, create your own accessory out of un-recyclable packaging. Adults, teens and tweens are welcome.

The workshop is free and all supplies are provided but you may choose to save some of your favorite plastic bags to bring in and work with.

Anyone who is able to sew is encouraged to bring their sewing machine along with their saved bags.

The workshop is limited to 12 participants. Save your spot by emailing lousupcycles@gmail.com.

After school “Expressive Arts Wednesdays” for

ages 4-7, are held each Wednesday in April and on May 7. Taught by artist Amanda Shipee, “Expressive Arts” explores all five areas of the arts: visual, dance/movement, music, drama/theater, and writing through fun, expressive individual work and group activities!

The main focus will be on painting and drawing. Limited to 12 participants. Please sign up at the library. The fee is \$15 for the series.

“Mostly Drawing and Painting” for adults and teens are held Wednesdays in April, from 6-8 p m. Session I, on April 2nd & 9th is led by artist Joanne McDonough; Session II, on April 23 & 30 is led by artist Heather Wiley.

The artists leading the classes will set up drawing and painting challenges and teach techniques to achieve particular results. Materials are provided.

Please sign up at the Library. Free .

olds asked if the money could be used to mitigate a nuclear disaster caused by the Vermont Yankee power plant. DPW head Tom Bergeron stated that the Turners Falls Fire Department was handling that issue.

The Alvah Stone

Howard Wein of Bread and Water LLC, which is opening up a restaurant called the Alvah Stone in the Montague Center Bookmill Complex, returned for a discussion

of his application for an entertainment license.

Board approval was delayed to give local residents, some of whom have expressed concerns about noise, to participate in the discussion.

However, none appeared at the hearing, and the license was approved.

Other Business

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio discussed a communica-

tion with U.S. Representative Jim McGovern about the natural gas pipeline issue.

After some discussion it was agreed that contact information provided by McGovern will be posted on the town website.

Abbondanzio also announced that a petition for the aggregation of electrical purchasing, involving 35 towns and the Hampshire Council on Governments, is “moving forward” as planned.



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PIPELINE from page A1

the reliability of the supply is in question, as declining average production in wells causes more to be drilled over time.

Winn described the way fracking works, creating a massive volume of unusable, polluted water, “permanently removed from the hydro-logic cycle.”

Given its impacts, he cautioned against making present investments in a “thirty-to fifty-year infrastructure” for the fuel.

Making such decisions now based on immediate conditions, he argued, would undermine the state’s commitments to reductions in emissions and gains in efficiency over that period.

Citing figures provided by the ISO-NE, the region’s electrical grid operator, Winn noted that New England’s gas-fired power plants put more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, per megawatt produced, than the region’s power production on average.

“It’s competing with nuclear, solar, wind, and hydro,” he said. “The

swer session. Wessel described the shift to natural gas as a “giant step backwards into the fossil fuel age.”

Many in attendance identified themselves as potentially affected landowners, conservation commission members, or activists concerned about fracking. None present spoke in favor of the pipeline’s construction.

Private landowners were urged to get any promises from the company “in writing.” Residents from elsewhere in the state – Richmond and Sandisfield – who are living with gas transmission pipelines emphasized this point.

Sam Lovejoy of Montague suggested that Article 97 of the state’s constitution could provide grounds for a refusal to grant public land for the pipeline.

That provision, passed by a ballot initiative in 1972, requires a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate before land acquired for the public as conservation land is used for other purposes.

Lovejoy described Article 97 as presently “under-litigated,” saying



State representative Steve Kulik spoke from the floor at the Cumington meeting, promising to use his office to provide the public with more information about the gas pipeline proposal.

fact that our average carbon footprint is lower than that of natural gas tells us that these technologies are working.”

Winn said that if \$1.2 billion – one publicly circulating estimate of the pipeline’s construction – were instead put into efforts to increase energy efficiency, it would create “eight times” the number of jobs: permanent ones, he said, not just temporary.

A promotional letter Kinder Morgan sent to the towns along its route says that 3,000 jobs would be created in pipeline construction. These would be temporary, mostly “out of state” jobs, said Winn, and the permanent jobs would number in, at best, the dozens.

After Winn’s presentation, event organizer Rosemary Wessel led a long and engaged question-and-answer

session. Wessel described the shift to natural gas as a “giant step backwards into the fossil fuel age.”

Lovejoy became regionally famous in 1974 when he knocked down a weather-monitoring tower on the site of a proposed nuclear power plant on the Montague Plains. He was subsequently acquitted on charges of malicious property destruction.

He is now a member of the Franklin Regional Planning Board, and works as a land agent for the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, though he noted that he was attending the meeting in a personal capacity.

State representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) was also present, and spoke from the audience.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Tough Talk On Dandruff

By FRED CICETTI



Q. Do older people get dandruff more often?

No. Dandruff affects people of all ages across all ethnic groups. Dandruff often occurs after puberty and is most common in people in their early 20s. It continues into middle age. However, it does also affect many seniors.

Dandruff is a common, non-contagious skin condition that causes flakes of dead skin to appear in the hair. It is estimated that half of all people will be affected by dandruff at some point in their lives.

The body continually sheds dead skin cells as new cells are formed. In most cases this is a gradual process that goes unnoticed. In cases of dandruff, this process speeds up and excessive amounts of dead skin cells are released by the scalp.

Dandruff is more common in men than women. Men's scalps have larger oil-producing glands; these can contribute to dandruff.

What you eat can influence whether you get dandruff. If your diet is lacking B vitamins, zinc, and some kinds of fats, you might be inclined to get dandruff.

People with some neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's, are more likely to get dandruff. Stress

see **HEALTHY** page B4

I, For One, Welcome Our New Robot Overlords.

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

It is regularly repeated in the media that our current economy is the result of robots taking over the jobs that people used to do.

Witness NPR's continuing

might change the way we bought things, but not the way they were made. But the argument presented was: everyone has fast, cheap computers, the stock market is booming, ergo...

You could say that by allowing



KOREA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"Marketplace" segment "Robots Ate My Job," or the recent *New York Times* article "Skilled Work, Without the Worker," featuring a photo of ominous red robotic assembly-arms.

Despite the headlines, these articles rarely state directly which robots have led to joblessness, leaving that conclusion to the reader: there are new robots which are capable of doing sophisticated tasks, unemployment seems to be stuck at a permanently high level, ergo...

But this is a sleight of hand trick, and one which we have seen now twice.

Doubtless you will remember that the internet was supposed to create a new economy – except that it was never clear just how. It

information to be shared quickly across the world, the internet allowed companies to create truly global factory lines.

But therein lies the problem with "Robots Ate My Job."

When factory jobs were shipped overseas from the US, the owners literally shipped the old machines over. Rather than invest in robots to replace workers, they kept the old machines and just replaced the previous workers with cheaper workers (and then took the profits to Wall Street).

In fact, the smart-phones that have become the ubiquitous symbol of our new economy are largely assembled by hand: the old-old economy.

see **ROBOTS** page B4

Ardelia Ripley Hall: Montague Monument Woman

By CAROL GIRARD-BARTON

By now, many people may have seen the 2013 movie *The Monuments Men*, or read the book of the same title by Robert Edsel (2009).

The story portrays a 1943 group of 30 men, art historians, curators, architects, museum officials and conservators, who were commissioned by President Roosevelt to find, preserve, protect, and recover works of art being destroyed by acts of war or stolen by the Nazis.

This commission was known as Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA).

According to a recent report at The Monuments Men Official web site (www.monuments-men.com), approximately 345 men and women from thirteen nations comprised the MFAA during WWII.

They ultimately tracked, located and in the years following the war, returned more than five million items.

What few may know is that one person who significantly contributed to that cause was a woman living in Montague Center as a summer resident for nearly sixty years: Ardelia Ripley Hall.

Born in South Weymouth, MA in 1899, Ardelia came from an old New England family.

She graduated from Smith College in 1922, Columbia University in 1927 with a Master's of Arts,

New York University in 1927, and then Radcliffe College (Harvard-Yenching Institute) in 1934.

In 1945 she was appointed as Consultant in the Division of Cultural Cooperation for Japan and Korea.

Her extensive studies and experience thus qualified her for an appointment as the Fine Arts and Monument Adviser to the State Department.

Later, as Chief of the Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs, she continued to work with counterparts in Europe to help



SAWYER/LAUCANNO PHOTO

Hall's longtime residence on Sunderland Road is Montague's oldest remaining house.

recover stolen artistic and historic property.

Her records can be found at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The document is titled "Art looting and Nazi Germany: Records of the Fine Arts and Monuments Adviser, Ardelia Hall, 1945 – 1961."

Though she became a world traveler, an international art expert, and a subject matter expert in fine art and Asian culture and language, Ardelia spent her summers in

see **ARDELIA** page B6

Paula Tessier Paintings At Wendell Free Library

BY RICHARD BALDWIN

Paula Tessier of Shutesbury shows five powerful large oil on canvas paintings based on natural events or situations.



"Point of Departure" by Paula Tessier

Except for "Grandmother Tree", a painting of a close up view of a tree (conifer) against woods, the other four are quite abstract. However, in all the works the artist primarily focuses on movement, energy, and the raw power of nature rather than on representations of a landscape. Even in the former painting the choice of the tree (conifer) results in branches that stab out horizontally and diagonally against a soft background. This results in a very dramatic, almost violent im-

age.

The overall effect of these paintings is that the viewer is confronted with the bigness of nature, its power, its unending movement, its growth and change. Since the images



are large and the compositions bold and simple, they strike the viewer as clusters of energy.

The loose brushwork, often moving diagonally across the surface, combined with the high contrast of dark and light, results in a kinesthetic experience for the viewer. These works result in a "stand eight feet back and wow" experience.

The overall effect of Paula's use of the blues and blacks contrasting often with white is one of coolness.

However, the inclusion of warmer subtle colors, pinks, yellows and yellow greens, serves to soften the initial impact and make the work more inviting. There is a kind of push-pull dynamic created by her color choices.

The swirling movement, especially in "Turbulence" and "Point of Departure", reminds one of JMW Turner's later seascapes where powerful forces take over sea and sky, to say nothing of ships.

Unlike Turner's paintings, and as in much abstract work, here there are no signs of people. The implication is that the viewer becomes part of the painting. All art results in relationships between the audience and the work, so the time a gallery visitor spends in front of each work determines the effects. Paula's paintings have the feel of emblems which Wikipedia defines as images that "crystallize in concrete, visual terms some abstraction".

Ms. Tessier has been painting since she was eight years old. She received a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California and took course at the New York Studio School as well. She has shown her work in numerous venues: MA, ME, VT, NY, CA and AZ. Locally she has shown

see **TESSIER** page B4

THE TRAVELER'S COMPANION

Homeward Bound!



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

The plane lifts off and we wave goodbye to the casita and its rose garden, the lake and the sunsets, the square at the plaza where the parades start, the mountains, the endless sunny days, the smiles and laughter of the people.

When we land on American soil, we cannot wrap our heads around how long it takes us to be allowed reentry into our own country. Much later, we land at Bradley and step out into air so frigid my lungs don't want to allow it in. Another hour or two and we are sleeping the "rest of the just" in our own bed.

We have returned to yet another cold snap and struggle to acclimate to the near eighty degree drop in temperature. We hurry to crank the woodstove into action and huddle nearby with hot coffee. Still, it's March and spring must be just around the corner. It's

time to start the tomatoes!

I pull out the little British greenhouses we use for seed starting. These are simple: a Styrofoam planter divided into 48 one inch "pots" which stands on feet which double as dibbles, a green plastic water holder and a clear plastic lid as well a piece of water absorbent blotting cloth. I find a small bag of light seed starter which is finely ground peat and vermiculite at our local garden store.

This medium is ideal for seeding because it allows the tender new shoots and roots easy access to space and water. I try to buy this starter mix in small amounts; if saved over for next season, it will become musty and perhaps moldy. A sterile medium is critical for development of healthy seedlings so if there are leftovers, it is best baked at 350 degrees for an hour to kill off spores. As it is, new seedlings are always at risk for damping off without starting with problems from the get-go.

We tuck two small tomato seeds in each of the "pots" and press them into the dirt which has been lightly moistened. We have planted seven varieties. There are three beefsteaks: Caspian Pink, Boxcar Willie (named for the king of the hoboes), and the old favorite, Brandywine. Boxcar Willie is a hardy heirloom which despite its large size is resistant to cracking. Celebrity and Jet Star are mid-size, early varieties and there are two cherry tomatoes: Sugar Lump and Sungold. We plant two rows of Brandywine as this large heirloom fruit is always popular.

Now, ten days later, we have two-inch plants ready for transplanting to individual little pots. I am using starter soil again for these first real pots to allow for strong root development. I will also start watering with a very weak solution of liquid seaweed. We don't recommend potting mixes with such foods as Miracle Grow. These seedlings are already a bit "leggy". We want sturdy stems and hardy plants, and since it's at least eight

see **HOMEWARD** page B6

Pets of the Week

Meet Jasmine and her best buddy, Layla, two cats with pretty names and even more beautiful dispositions.

They might have been called Oscar and Felix or Mutt and Jeff because while Jasmine and Layla are a closely bonded pair, they're very different.

Jasmine (center) is gregarious and inquisitive while Layla is more reserved.

They were described as cuddly lap cats who enjoy people and cats of all ages. Double the love and adopt Jasmine and Layla together for the price of one! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“JASMINE & LAYLA”

Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities March 24 through 28

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

Monday 3/24

10:10 a.m. NO Aerobics
10:55 a.m. NO Chair Exercise
AARP Tax Aid by Appointment
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 3/25

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting with David Sund

Wednesday 3/26

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

Thursday 3/27

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

Friday 3/28

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 3/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. *Beginners Quilting*

Tuesday 3/25

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. GSB Craft Project

Wednesday 3/26

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

Thursday 3/27

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
Friday 3/28
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

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

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Long Walk to Freedom and Peace Panel

In conjunction with “Read it Leverett!,” *Long Walk to Freedom*, by Nelson Mandela, the library will present on March 20 at 7 p.m. the 2013 movie *Long Walk to Freedom* starring Idris Elba. The fabulous Leverett Chorus will open the event with a selection of South African songs.

On March 27 at 7 p.m. the library will host a panel discussion sponsored by the Leverett Peace Commission. Ingrid Askew, a gifted dramatist,

actress and cultural activist, will reflect on her journey with the Peace Pagoda’s Interfaith Pilgrimage and her years in Mandela’s post-apartheid South Africa.

UMass Professor Mzamo Mangaliso will talk about Mandela’s legacy and South Africa’s new challenges.

Events are free and open to the public, and have been funded by the Friends of the Leverett Library and the Leverett Cultural Council.

Gill: Rabies Clinic

There will be a rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats on Sunday, March 23rd from 9 AM to Noon at the Riverside Municipal Building (aka “the Green School”), located at 54 French King Highway in Gill.

Dogs must be on a leash, and cats must be in a carrier.

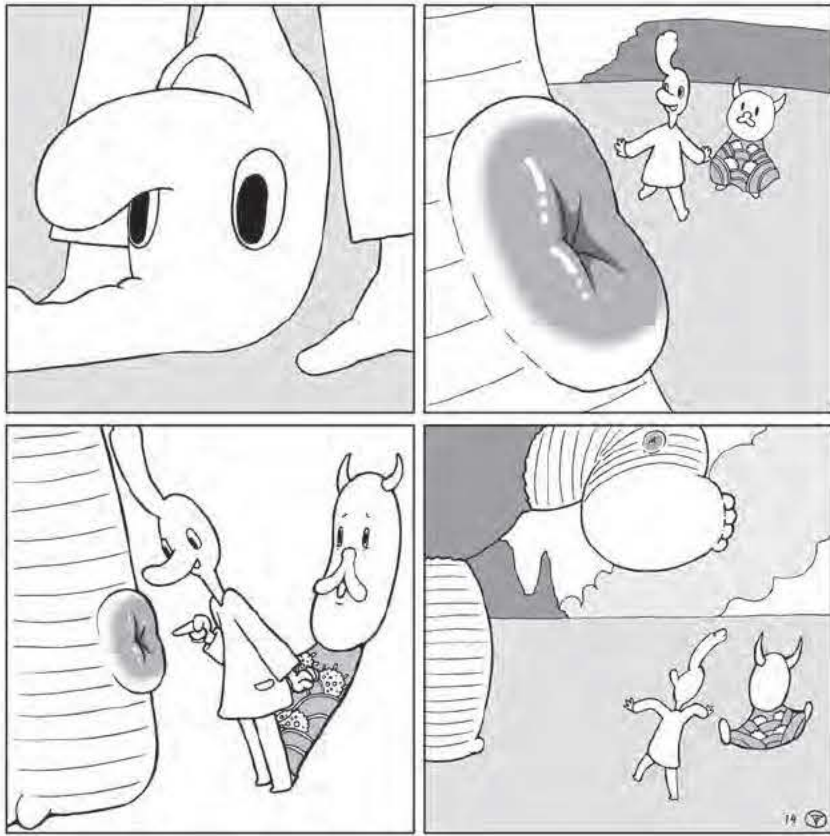
The cost is \$18 per animal. Payment may be in cash or by check payable to “North County Veterinary Clinic”.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Gill’s Town Clerk, will be there to process dog licenses for any Gill residents who want to use the clinic.

The license fee is \$5 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$10 for an unaltered dog (cash or check payable to “Town of Gill”).

The Town Clerks of Bernardston and Northfield will also be at the clinic to process licenses for dogs from their towns.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on March 18, 2004: News from The Montague Reporter’s archive.

Erving Housing

Rental vacancies “are almost non-existent” in Erving, according to James Palma, a research manager with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. At the Monday selectboard meeting Palma and fellow researcher, Rebecca Loveland, presented the results of an inch-thick, one-year study of Erving’s affordable and elderly housing situation.

Palma told the board that elderly residents have few options for affordable housing in Erving. Single-family housing prices are increasing at the same time as family sizes are shrinking and the population is aging, Palma said.

The Grand Trunk land parcel was cited by Palma as having the best potential for developing affordable housing, with the Usher Mill area as a secondary option.

Palma said the goal might be to develop “ten to fifteen elderly housing units, and perhaps ten units for younger families.”

Mt. Laurel Trailers

The town of Wendell has been taxing homes at the Mt. Laurel trailer park as real estate, despite a 1993 change in state law requiring a residential license fee to be collected instead. Michael Gifford, president of the park’s tenants association, showed the board a copy of the law and explained the board is responsible for setting the fee.

The group is hoping to purchase the land from the park’s owner, Richard Boudreau, who has abandoned the property, and are trying to straighten out legal questions related to the property.

Da Bears

On Sunday evening around 6 p.m. Mike Naughton of Millers Falls spotted a bear in his South Lyman Street backyard, munching on sunflower seeds beneath their bird feeder.

Naughton said he turned on the outside spotlight to keep the bear away from the house and after dining, the bear headed off towards the houses on Winthrop Street, “just a short jaunt across the dingle behind our house.”

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- Gary and Nancy Malen



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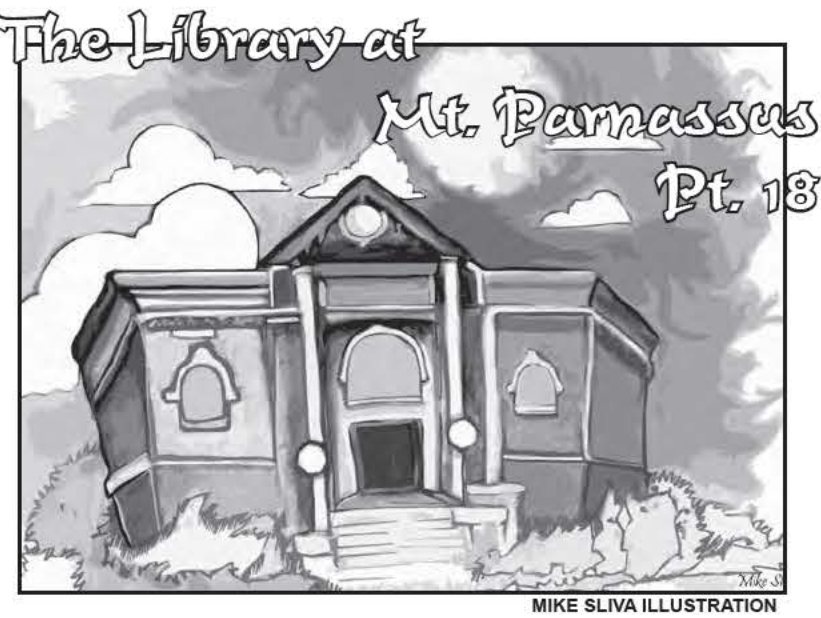
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Meditations and lamentations at the Golden Mean.



By DAVID DETMOLD

“That’s good,” said Cadmus, sampling the steaming souvlaki Zero had slid in front of him. The skewered lamb smelled redolent of marjoram and garlic.

“You should have red wine with that,” said Zero.

“No. Retsina’s better.”

Zero poured him another glass.

“And for my friend here.” Cadmus nodded in my direction.

“Thanks, Bo. Good health.”

I tipped my glass to Cadmus and drank the dry sap-scented wine.

“They’re going on about the death penalty now,” said Cadmus, in a desultory tone. He had one eye on the television screen.

“Really?” The subject interested me, as a moral paradox.

The screen showed a silhouette of an executioner in a black hood, standing with his arms at his chest, gripping the haft of a double axe.

A picture of the governor flashed across the screen, giving the thumbs up sign to a mob of cheering citizens in front of the gilded statehouse dome.

“This has gotta be some sort of sick joke.”

“Izzat really the governor?” asked the guy on my left.

“He’s the acting governor,” I noted.

“He’s a lousy actor,” said Zero.

“He’s Italian,” said the guy in the corner, still chomping the stub of his cigar.

“Then the part should come natural to him,” Zero sneered.

“Hey,” said the man to my left. “It’s the only way to teach the monkeys a lesson.”

We all turned to look at him. He slumped his head down on the bar.

“I heard they’re gonna televise it.”

There was a moment of silence.

“Good,” said Zero.

“What method did the legislature finally opt for?” I asked.

“A bullet to the brain,” said Cadmus, matter of fact.

“Christ.”

“They put a bag over the guy’s head first,” observed the man with the cigar.

“Where I come from,” said Zero, “they used to stake down two pine trees, tie the accused between ‘em and let ‘er rip.”

“That’d look good in slo-mo.”

“More retsina.”

More men were entering the dim-

ly lit bar, and I felt the cold gust of winter enter with them.

Where a few tables at the front were pushed up against the frigid plate glass, looking out onto the blue street, a large intergenerational party of men had gathered, relaxing in the after dinner glow of drink and companionship.

As their number grew, the other patrons of the bar quieted and became thoughtful, listening.

More tables were dragged over. Iona, the night waitress, had arrived, and I watched her with covert longing. I had been trying without success to flirt with her for most of the last two years. The more hopeless the cause, the more brightly burned the flame.

Iona was tall, with short cropped auburn hair, and she maintained a calm composure amid the maelstrom of the bar. She was a horse trainer, I’d heard; her family had moved to town only a few years back.

She worked part time at the Golden Mean; on weekend nights she tended bar down at the Spotted Pig southaway in Athens.

More men came in, and pulled up chairs. They passed around a bottle wrapped in wicker, and called to Iona for another. Stories were told, threats and insults traded back and forth. Some patrons fell to quarreling and fingerpointing, with loud expressions of contempt.

Finally, one member of the party rose sturdily to his feet, raised his glass, and called for quiet. The others hushed, the bar fell silent, and in a voice rough with longing he began to sing.

*Here in this distant land
The unkind soil resists the plow
And I alone without you now
Turn my thoughts homeward
Here in this distant land
My heart hangs heavy like the vine
You cannot hear me when I cry
Down all the lonely years I sigh
You cannot hear me
The endless waves will not be still
my love
The restless wind will not repent my love
The rain will not relent my love
Without you near me
Wed to another now and lost to me
And at his side, forever far from me
My brother took you as his bride, my love
What choice have I... but to be happy
for you?*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Four Legs Better Than Two

Monday, 3/10

2:07 p.m. Caller concerned about people on possibly unsafe river ice near Canal Street bridge. Responding officer did not find people on ice, but did find a hole in the sidewalk of the bridge over the river through which a person could fall into the water below. MassDOT notified; unsure whether they are responsible; looking into it. DPW notified; advised that this is MassDOT’s responsibility and that the town can’t put anything over the area due to liability issues. Spoke with MassDOT again; they will be sending someone out.

3:29 p.m. Complaint that people are letting their dogs run loose on North Taylor Hill Road and defecate on caller’s lawn. Caller informed about pooper scooper law and leash law, and asked to call back when an incident was in progress.

5:25 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 3/11

3:48 p.m. Caller reports her eight-year-old son was approached by a man while walking near F.L. Roberts; man asked child if he wanted some candy, then grabbed his arm. Child got away. Suspect described as white male, 30s, around 5’ 8”, with short scruffy blond hair and a patch of hair on his chin. Officers will be on lookout.

4:10 p.m. Caller reports a possible sick opossum in his yard; has it trapped under a trash barrel. Services rendered.

4:43 p.m. A Turners Falls man was taken into protective custody following a domestic disturbance on Avenue A.

4:55 p.m. Caller reports that he found a syringe on the sidewalk near Aubuchon Hardware while walking his dog.

8:25 p.m. First of two calls complaining of two dogs barking for several hours at a Montague City Road residence. Animal control officer unable to contact owner; will follow up.

Wednesday, 3/12

9:05 a.m. Call regarding threatening/harassment by a recently terminated employee at Franklin County Technical School. Services rendered.

9:52 a.m. Request for downtown salon to assist with a vehicle lock-out; vehicle belongs to a client who is currently in the midst of having her hair done. Advised to call back when client is done with appointment and can meet officer at vehicle. Services rendered.

10:25 a.m. Request for removal of unruly student who has been suspended from TFHS and is trying to gain entry to the building. Student left before officer arrived.

1:06 p.m. Several suspicious unsolicited packages received by downtown business. Investigated.

2:40 p.m. Officer responding to sidewalk covered with dog feces on Avenue A near Crocker Building. Property management and dog owner spoken to.

Thursday, 3/13

8:43 a.m. A male was removed to the hospital following a general disturbance.

11:05 a.m. Flag reported stolen from Gary’s Coins and Antiques.

6:15 p.m. Report that house guest stole a

blanket of sentimental value to the caller about 3 weeks ago and had yet to return it. Suspect contacted and advised to return blanket. Suspect claimed that a third party now had the blanket and was refusing to return it. When suspect advised blanket owner of situation, blanket owner allegedly responded that she was going to fight suspect wherever she sees her. Suspect advised to call 911 if that happens.

9:14 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

9:20 p.m. Suspicious male observed putting something in a trailer at Avenue A and Eleventh Street. Subject turned out to be pastor putting a tarp over his trailer. No problems.

Friday, 3/14

8:35 a.m. Mother in to station to request that an officer speak to her ten year old daughter who is out in the car kicking and screaming because she does not want to go to school. Advised of options.

10:06 a.m. A female was arrested after a report of shoplifting at Aubuchon Hardware.

3:34 p.m. Threatening/harassment at TFHS. Report taken.

4:10 p.m. Eyewitness report of a woman allowing her dog to defecate on the sidewalk in Montague Center without cleaning it up. Caller upset about this rampant problem in town. Case referred to animal control officer.

4:48 p.m. Complaint regarding group of kids yelling and swearing behind building on Fourth Street. Verbal warning issued.

5:07 p.m. General disturbance on Federal Street. Investigated.

7:16 p.m. Party assaulted on L Street, allegedly by three other parties. Ambulance responded; medical attention refused. Investigated.

11:48 p.m. A Northampton man was taken into protective custody following a disturbance on Avenue A.

Saturday, 3/15

12:52 p.m. Inquiry regarding brush burning on Green Pond Road. TFFD confirmed that permit had been issued.

12:58 p.m. Report of shoplifting at F.L. Roberts. Services rendered.

2:08 p.m. Party in to station to report school bus with doors open and nobody around it parked in front of Montague Elementary School on Crocker Avenue. Detective responded and closed door.

8:55 p.m. A Millers Falls man was taken into protective custody following a disturbance on Third Street.

9:28 p.m. Report of male screaming and yelling outside on Davis Street. Male spoken to and quieted down.

Sunday, 3/16

10:25 a.m. Landlord alleging squatters engaged in illegal activity in property on Second Street. Tenant contacted and agreed to submit a statement and contact landlord.

4:34 p.m. Caller from Powertown Apartments report that someone keeps knocking at her door, but when she answers, no one is there. Kids in area suspected of being responsible. Advised of options.

5:44 p.m. Report of large broken mirror posing hazard in Unity Park parking lot. Message left for DPW.

turbance on Avenue A.

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TESSIER from page B1

work at the Discovery Center, Great Hall, Turners Falls, the Leverett Coop, Sirius Community and now at the Wendell Library.

Visit her website, paulatessier.com, where you can view many more works of various categories in watercolor and oil. Smaller prints are available for sale there.

Please stop in to see this powerful show and come meet the artist at her reception, Saturday, April 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the gallery.

The exhibition runs from March 2 through May 3, 2014 in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library.

Library hours are Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 2 p.m.



Tessier's works will show in the Herrick Room through May 3.

Wendell Library Seeks Artists

The Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two dimensional work to exhibit in our Herrick Meeting Room Gallery.

In addition to our 140 square foot gallery space, we have the use of a two shelf glass display case.

This means we welcome artists and crafters to submit applications for showing small work either separately or in combination with flat work in the gallery.

Our exhibitions run for two months. Applications are accepted anytime.

Please stop by to see both the present show, the gallery space and pick up a copy of the two page Gallery Policy/Application at the library.

Applications also can be downloaded from www.wendellmass.us/index.php/policies.html. Click on the top right, on "Art Exhibit Policy and Application.pdf."

ROBOTS from page B1

So, the hustle works by showing you something startling and concrete: a computer that fits in your pocket and allows you to talk to anyone in the world, and then tells you about something ineffable, in this case a 'new economy', which seems important, if you could just figure out what was new about it.

When they say that robots have taken our jobs, is it any different from the Luddites' mechanical looms, or assembly lines — or any other variation on the dark "satanic mills," which defined us and then were converted into condos?

It seems as if the word 'robot' dresses up an old story in circuits and polished aluminum.

The clanking metallic costume comes off and reveals a factory worker in a foreign land, with whom you can only interact by clicking 'buy' on some web page.

The assembly line has a sort of sympathetic magic by which the machine infects the machine operator so that machine-smashing becomes a ritual of purification.

After word leaked of unrest at Foxconn's factory in China, the workers who make iPhones there reported to the media about dehumanizing conditions they face, but not about low wages. However, after 200 years of economic thought, we think of the Luddite complaint as being about wages not spiritual impoverishment.

Is the factory worker paid less than the artisan because the machines make them less human, or are they less human because they can be paid less?

Why is it clear that the owner of a knitting machine owns the product generated by that machine, when no one would claim that a sweater knit by hand belongs to whoever owned the needle?

Why is the machine operator mastered by the machine, and not the other way around?

One of the problems with our "post-industrial" society is that the industry upon which it depends is hidden. It is what you will find behind your computer screen, or if you followed the power cord out of your house to the electricity's end. If our society is prone to magical thinking, perhaps it is because so much happens by magic, with the magician's mechanisms invisible to the audi-

HEALTHY from page B1

and weakened immune systems are other risk factors for dandruff.

Additional causes of dandruff are: dry skin, not shampooing enough, sensitivity to hair-care products, skin disorders such as psoriasis, and a fungus (malassezia) that grows out of control.

The main treatment for dandruff is anti-dandruff shampoo. There are a number of different types available over the counter. These shampoos work in different ways. So, if one type isn't effective, you may want to try another one.

If you still have dandruff after several weeks of experimenting with over-the-counter (OTC)

ence.

If you don't believe that we need those machines, you can conduct a thought experiment by making a list of all of the objects in your life. Ignore those things which are obviously superficial and concentrate on those associated with food, clothing, shelter, heat, light and transportation.

Consider the manner in which each of those things was made. Suppose you wear a shirt made of all natural cloth: was that cloth woven in a factory, was it sewn together on a mass-produced sewing machine, were the fibers on the threads grown on a mechanized farm?

For each item, you can ask: could this be produced without a factory? Could it be produced without an electric grid?

If it was produced with solar energy, how were the machines which convert light into usable energy built? If it was made by hand, how much labor would be required for it to be available to everyone?

Many people translate this thought experiment into action and say: "I will only use products that are produced in exactly this way, and not that way."

Primitivists, such as John Zerzan, see the farm as a factory, mass-producing crops and human-domesticated plants akin to polyester thread.

The Amish make a different set of

choices, and most other people draw less confining boundaries around themselves. But once you have drawn that line, you have admitted that everything outside of that is, in fact, necessary: the machines and labor necessary to support your life within. To refuse this awareness is to place yourself in an inviolable bubble which is held aloft by people you have put outside your imagination.

Behind the mechanization of the making of fabric, or paper, or metal cutlery is the making of factories. In a miracle of almost infinite recursion, a factory begins with the first machinist who, by hand and eye, uses tools and machines to make the tools and machine parts, which makes new tools and machines, and thus a factory is born.

The "robot economy" will not be built upon robot assembly-arms, but when the process of tooling factories recurses down, not to a hand or an eye but to a machine, when the first machinist becomes the operator of a computer-controlled router or lathe.

This mechanization of the making of machines, machines making machines, will give them a true semblance of life: it will make them robots.

But, rather than revolutionizing manufacturing, business is using computerized machining to make sure that no supplier in a global sup-

ply chain can control the price of a crucial component: the old-new economy of "globalization."

It is then no surprise that, national security concerns aside, the most sophisticated CNC routers have built-in GPS units that prevent them being moved, even within a factory, without authorization.

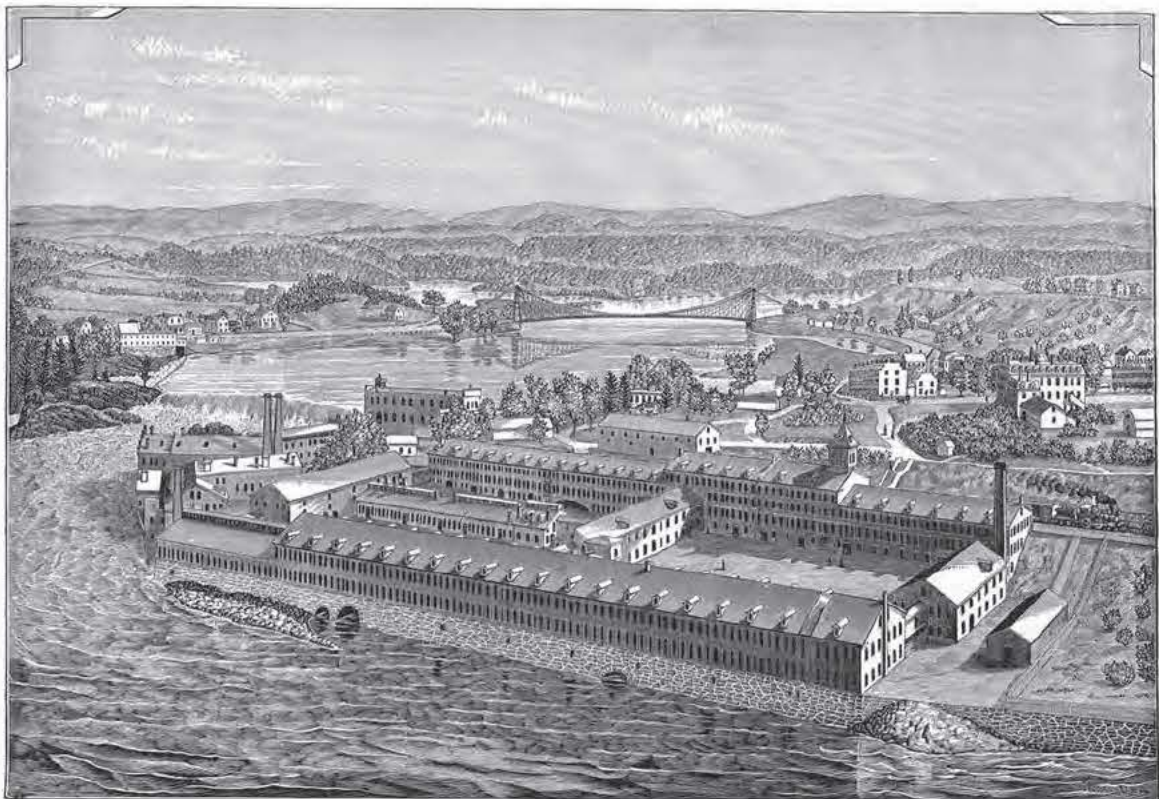
If, therefore, we are in the middle of a boom in robotic manufacturing, which has changed how people are employed, then why did Franklin Technical High School have to beg for money to fund a CNC machinists classroom? Why do local "high tech" machine shops have work to do, but not the money to hire and train people to do it?

Why is Silicon Valley start-up 'SnapChat', which enables teenagers to swap ephemeral pictures of themselves, worth a billion dollars, while Google can buy robot technology company Boston Dynamics for spare change?

We aren't actually investing the resources to create a "robot economy." We can look around us and see advances in technology, but we can't see the entirely different world that could have been possible with different investments.

We could have built robots that would change the way our world works.

Instead, we have built the internet, and seem content to live in it.



This aerial engraving of the John Russell Cutlery Company's works in Turners Falls was taken in 1870.

dandruff shampoos, or if your scalp becomes red or swollen, see a doctor. You may have seborrheic dermatitis or another condition that resembles dandruff.

Seborrheic dermatitis is a common, inflammatory skin condition that causes flaky, white to yellowish scales to form on oily areas such as the scalp, face or inside the ear.

It can occur with or without red- dened skin. Cradle cap is the term used when seborrheic dermatitis affects the scalp of infants.

Switching gears a bit, here are some tips from the American Academy of Dermatology for maintaining healthy hair:

1. Wash oily hair more frequently. If your scalp is oily, you may need to wash it as often as once a day. If you have chemically treated hair, your hair may be drier, so you may want to wash it less frequently. As you get older, your scalp makes less oil, so you may not need to shampoo as often. But if you see flakes in your hair, you may not be shampooing enough. This can lead to dandruff and other scalp diseases.

2. Concentrate shampoo on the scalp. When washing your hair, concentrate on cleaning primarily the scalp, rather than washing the entire length of hair. Washing only your hair can create flyaway hair

that is dull and coarse.

3. Use conditioner after every shampoo unless you use a "2-in-1" shampoo, which cleans and conditions hair. Using a conditioner can significantly improve the look of damaged or weathered hair.

4. Concentrate conditioner on the tips of the hair. Because conditioners can make fine hair look limp, they only should be used on the tips of the hair and not on the scalp or length of the hair.

5. Choose a shampoo and conditioner formulated specifically for your hair type.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezee.org.

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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners

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

ART SHOWS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Look At Me!* Playful wooden sculptures by William Accorsi. Created over the last 7 years, some of the 65 sculptures presented serve as children's banks, mirrors, puzzles and some include original scenes from the pages of Accorsi's many children's books, created in felt, fabric and thread and decorated with wire, buttons, and wood. On display through April 26.

Gallery A3, Cinema Complex, Amherst: *Gloria Kegeles - Un Voyage Au Dollarama*. Photos on display through March 29. Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m.

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 20

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Bridge*, a community open mic. Share your music, poetry or art. All ages are welcome. Light refreshments. Signups start at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike

Koehler, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Ja'duke Presents Tarzan*, a musical based on Edgar Rice Burrough's Tarzan of the Apes and the smash-hit 1999 Disney animated film, \$, 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Wooden Dinosaur & Zak Trojano*, \$, 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:



Diane Cluck at the Montague Bookmill on Friday, March 28 at 8 p.m. Virginia-based singer-songwriter. Her ecstatic vocal style has been noted for its uniquely clipped, glottal beauty.

Adam Buynicki, *Human, All Too Human, One October*, tuba-driven rock, etc. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Investigators: Mammals of the Watershed!* Learn about the mammals of the Connecticut River Watershed, 1 to 2 p.m.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Ja'duke Presents Tarzan*, a musical based on Edgar Rice Burrough's Tarzan of the Apes and the smash-hit 1999 Disney animated film, \$, 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents: *Thumbscrew*, a trio featuring guitarist Mary Halvorson, bassist Michael Formanek and drummer Tomas Fujiwara. \$, 7:30 p.m.

36 Third Street, TFMA: *Home Body, Rabbit Rabbit, Bangtail Cat, Secret Lover, The Little Richards*. \$, 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Charles Neville*. Charles is the second oldest brother and saxophonist of New Orleans' first fam-

ily of funk. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Soul Prophet & The Faithless Few*, reggae, 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *St. Paddy's Caribbean Adventure!*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Ja'duke Presents Tarzan*, a musical based on Edgar Rice Burrough's Tarzan of the Apes and the smash-hit 1999 Disney animated film, \$, 2 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Max Wareham & The Morning Bugle*. The first half of the night is a short, down-home concert. Then break for hot soup and bread, followed by a jam session. Everyone who wants to can join or listen, as suits. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon, Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Bobby Davis: Traces of a Memory*, opening reception, 5 p.m. Work on display through April 18.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, Amherst: *Katy Schimert: Artist in Residence*. Opening reception, 5 to 7 p.m. Work on display through May 4.

UMass, Amherst: *Pat Metheny Unity Group*, Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, \$, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *A Serious Man*. An odd but thoroughly engrossing, beautifully crafted film. R, 2009, 106 min. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music be-

fore the movie at 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Diane Cluck*. She accompanies herself on instruments ranging from guitar to piano, harmonium, zither, percussion, and toy accordion, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Girl Cat Adams*, acoustic rock, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Stone Cold Fox, The Ephemeral String Band*, alt/soul/americana, \$, 9:30.



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HOMEWARD from page B1

weeks until outdoor planting time, there's no rush. I'll try to save both seedlings from each starter pot, but if they are too close together, we'll repot the sturdier one.

Out on the front lawn by the hedge of dirty snow and sand, the first daffodils are pushing from the ground. I'll need to bundle up and rake carefully if I want get the sand and gravel off the bed without damaging bulbs.

The buds on the red maples are visibly larger and the willow tips bright yellow. So even if we continue the thaw and freeze, spring is just around the corner.

The sap is running and the morning birdsong is loud and cheery. Native Americans called the recent full moon the Full Worm Moon (watch for earthworm casting on the thawing ground) or the Full

Crow Moon as the increased cawing of these large birds signifies the end of winter.

We have settled back into our routine as New Englanders and sport our long johns and Yak Trax for long, chilly walks on ice, snow and mud. We bring in the last half cord or so of wood and make an appointment to have the chimney cleaned.

We cook the hearty foods of winter, stew, boiled dinner and long baked beans, but also eye the imported asparagus and clementines as lighter, tasty fare to come. I bake a strawberry pie and hunger for the smaller fresh grown varieties which will be available in June.

Occasionally we think of our neighbors to the south: did the coffee man enjoy his family vacation at the seaside? How was the Carnival celebration this year?

Has El Blanco increased in girth?

The high temperature for today in Ajijic will be 82 degrees; Wednesday is market day and Thursday the Margaritas are two for the price of one.

Ah well, it is also delicious to hang just on the edge of spring when the nights are still very cold, but the daytime often warms exponentially. We take special delight in each new sign of spring, making note of each in the garden log.

Sometimes it is one step forward and two back, but we are moving steadily in the right direction.

Be sure to get out each day however cold it is and look for the tips of spring bulbs, a new bird returning to your yard, the lengthening of the light and the increasing warmth of the sun.

Happy gardening to all!

**ARDELIA** from page B1

Montague Center.

She had purchased the oldest house in the town of Montague a year before her 1922 graduation from Smith College. She respectfully maintained that building as a summer residence until her death in 1979. She appreciated the history of the building (built in 1730) and the primary role it played in the formation and foundation of the

tours.

Carole and I felt very honored to participate with Ardelia in the bicentennial activities at her home.

Only in February 2014 did I learn of Ardelia's role in the MFAA from one of my Montague Center friends Betsey Whitcomb, who recognized Ardelia's name on a TV news program from Boston.

I always experienced Ardelia Ripley Hall as gracious, kind,



Ardelia Ripley Hall returns a portrait by Rubens of St. Catherine to Germany in 1952.

town of Montague.

In 1954 when the town of Montague celebrated its bicentennial, Ardelia prepared and opened her home for public tours. Those tours included a visit to the attic to see the enormous central chimney.

I first met Ardelia when I was a teenager living in Montague Center. My friend Carole Scanlan and I helped Ardelia to prepare her home for the public and to guide the

friendly, and enthusiastic about life. During the early summer of 1979, I briefly visited Ardelia at her home.

She died that same year on September 4 at a nursing home in Greenfield, MA and is buried in the Mayflower Cemetery, Duxbury, MA. Photographs of Ardelia Ripley Hall and a biography that details her relationship and contributions to the MFAA recovery efforts can be found at www.monumentsmen.com.

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG****Traffic Stops Lead To Arrests On Greater Charges**

Monday, 3/3

6:10 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle removed from Route 2 bypass.

7 p.m. Suspicious vehicle resting at French King Bridge moved along.

7:15 p.m. Report taken of larceny at Pratt Street residence.

8 p.m. Report taken of verbal domestic disturbance on Central Street. Subjects separated for the evening.

10:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at bowling alley parking area. Found to be resting.

Thursday, 3/6

1 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on West High Street.

11 a.m. Took report of falling tree striking a motor vehicle on Route 2.

12:34 p.m. Suspicious female at French King

Bridge found to be a hitchhiker.

3:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for driving without an inspection sticker, driving on a suspended license, carrying a dangerous weapon, refusal to submit, and resisting arrest.

3:15 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] of the same address for allowing the unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

5:30 p.m. Report taken of breaking & entering at Pratt Street residence.

7:15 p.m. Report taken of harassment. Under investigation.

Saturday, 3/8

6:35 p.m. Report taken of verbal altercation among Forest Street

family.

8:01 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for driving on a suspended license, subsequent offense, and equipment violations.

Monday, 3/10

10:45 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on North Street.

11:05 a.m. Report filed at station of motor vehicle hitting deer on Route 2.

Tuesday, 3/11

7:38 a.m. Towed disabled motor vehicle from Route 2 bypass.

7 p.m. Report of scam phone calls to Old State Road residence.

9:30 a.m. Report that Dorsey Road resident was letting dogs run loose, and one had bitten a passerby. Notified animal control. Under

investigation.

4:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for a court warrant.

6:45 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield PD for domestic disturbance.

Thursday, 3/13

1:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street.

Friday, 3/14

5 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD for domestic disturbance in Millers Falls.

5:30 p.m. Report of one-vehicle crash on Route 2 in Farley area. Gone on arrival.

5:45 p.m. Report of sick opossum at Northfield Road residence. Gone on arrival.

6:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for driving on a suspended license, giving a false

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