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The Montague Reporter

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\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 27, 2014

GMRSD School District To Return Money To Gill and Montague

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The towns of Gill and Montague continue to get good news from the Gill Montague Regional School District. On Friday, March 14, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) certified the GMRSD's Excess and Deficiency (E&D) account.

The Management Solution (TMS), the private accounting company currently working with the superintendent on the Gill-Montague budget, said the certification showed the GMRSD had a total of \$1,094,457 in their E&D account.

The maximum amount the district is allowed to keep is \$846,795 (5% of the FY'13 local budget).

This means that \$247,662 will be returned to the towns, in proportion to each town's enrollment percentages.

Even Michael Naughton of the Montague Finance Committee seemed pleased, where formerly he was "concerned" that the District was still looking for \$41,258 above the Town's affordable assessment.

In his letter this week to the school committee and superintendent Sullivan, he indicated that Montague for its part could now offer an affordable assessment of \$8,151,978 (without debt) or an increase of \$47,597. Naughton characterized this figure as "good news for everyone."

see EXCESS page A3

FRTA Starts Comprehensive Study, Must First Deal With Old Garage

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – As the Franklin Regional Transit Authority looks to the future, with two firms embarking on studies of its services and possible improvements, a piece of unresolved business from the past has come back to haunt it.

In the wake of a bus fire at the FRTA garage on Deerfield Street in Greenfield, it has emerged that the building's owner, the all-but-defunct Greenfield-Montague Transportation Area (GMTA), had lapsed on its insurance payments.

According to FRTA counsel Donna MacNicol, the terms of FRTA's lease with the GMTA specify that the GMTA would provide insurance for the building.

The GMTA is a descendent of the Greenfield and Turners Falls Street Company, the late-19th-century trolley system that ran between the two towns, carrying workers from Cheapside to the mills in Turners and Millers Falls.

In 1909, a car barn for the Connecticut Valley Street Railway Company stood on the Deerfield Street site. In 1923, that company was succeeded by the GMTA, which operated for a period of over 80 years marked by a decline in public transportation ridership.

Under a 2006 agreement brokered by the state's Executive Office of Transportation, the GMTA, which was by then operating at a deficit, was merged into the FRTA. The idea at the time was that the sale of the garage, its final asset – which was assessed at \$550,000 in 2006 – would more than cover its remaining debts.

Any extra money from the sale, after extinguishing those debts, would be split, 2/3 to Greenfield and 1/3 to Montague, and the GMTA's business would finally be done.

But nearly eight years later, the GMTA still exists as the owner of the garage. Its board of trustees

see TRANSIT page A6



After the January 28 fire, FRTA's insurance covered damages to the bus itself, but not to the old GMTA garage.

Alleged Arson Fire Engulfs Two Hatchery Road Barns; Farmers' Son Arrested



By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MONTAGUE CENTER – An early morning fire on March 26 completely destroyed two historic barns at Our Father's Farm on Hatchery Road, and melted the siding on the family's mobile home. There were no injuries.

According to Montague Police Chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, the fire was deliberately set. A suspect was already in custody.

Property owner Lisa Adams said she was awakened in the early morning "by a bang, and the sound of screeching tires."

On Wednesday morning Adams

told the Reporter that she knew the fire had been set and who did it and that he was already in custody. She declined, however, to name the suspect.

On Wednesday evening, Dodge confirmed that Cody Lee Adams, 22, son of the owners, Robert and Lisa Adams, had been arrested on suspicion of setting the fire. He is being held on \$25,000 cash bail. He was arraigned Thursday morning, March 27, in Greenfield District Court.

Dodge also noted that the investigation was ongoing. His department, the Montague Center Fire Department, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal are all continuing

see BARN FIRE page A7

Gill's Energy Commission Proposes Innovative Heating, Cooling for Town Buildings

By DAVID DETMOLD

The Gill energy commission would like the Green Community of Gill to lead the way to a future less reliant on carbon emitting fossil fuels, by switching out the aging heating systems at three town buildings for ground source heating and cooling systems at the town hall and the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2 – and even an air source heat pump for the Slate Library.

On Monday night, the selectboard approved spending \$6,900 from the roughly \$136,000 remaining in the Green Community grant the town received last year to fund a feasibility study by Bales Energy Associates.

That study will examine the practicality of using heat pump technology to heat and cool the three town buildings under consideration.

The town recently installed new, fuel-efficient oil-fired furnaces at the public safety complex, but the heating systems at the other three major town buildings are approaching or – in the case of the Riverside Building – long past the date for recommended replacement.

Late last year, Bales Energy Associates, the consulting firm of River Road resident Bart Bales, was paid \$9,340

from a Department of Energy grant to complete an energy audit of the three town buildings which are again being studied; the results of those audits did not include a call for ground source or air heat pumps.

A new source of funding from the state Department of Energy has become available to towns considering ground-source heat pumps.

But energy commission member Claire Chang told the board this week that a new source of state grant funding has since become available from the DOER and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center for towns considering a switch to ground source heat pump technology.

The commission envisions applying for matching funds from this new grant source to pair with the town's Green Community funds to install heat pumps for all three buildings, if the new feasibility study indicates that such projects can be sized appropriately to meet those buildings' heating and cooling needs.

The selectboard had considered the possibility of tapping into a ground source heat pump system for town hall at a meeting earlier this year.

That would depend on water inflow problems in the basement of that building being solved, either independently or in conjunction with the installation of the geothermal wells.

These wells would draw warmth from beneath the frost level to help heat the building during winter, and would provide cooling for the building in summer.

But the proposal to expand the use of ground source heating and cooling to Riverside is new to the selectboard, and the idea of switching to an air source heat pump at the library is even newer.

The Slate Library, nearly surrounded by a town cemetery, may not have enough land on its lot to allow for ground source heating and cooling, although the idea of a shared system of wells on the nearby town common for both the town hall and the library was raised tentatively at an earlier meeting of the board.

On Monday, selectboard member John Ward explained, "An air source heat pump takes latent heat from

see GILL page A6

Meet Joe Cuneo, Wendell's New Fire Chief

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Joe Cuneo was not thinking of the fire service when he and his wife Jennifer moved to New Salem.

Looking for an affordable house and some land for growing plants, he and his wife Jennifer moved there from Allston in 1999.

New Salem was outside the circle they had drawn around their jobs as an acceptable commute, but nothing they had seen within the circle was affordable and suitable.

One property had beautiful land for growing, he said, but an awful house. Everything was expensive.

He had been a recording engineer for 22 years, and he played bass. He still plays bass with friends in the area. But he left the recording business and began to work in a garden center.

In New Salem he grew vegetables and started plants, selling at the Orange farmers market and from a stand in front of their house.

Cuneo no longer sells vegetables, but still sells started plants in front of the house, and on the cold mid March day he spoke with us, he returned home to his greenhouse he has started.

Not long after their move Joe met Tom Reidy, New Salem's chief, and was con-



Joe Cuneo shares fire chief duties between Wendell and New Salem.

vinced to join their fire department.

Reidy eventually retired, and none of the firefighters he considered logical replacements wanted to become chief, so on July 1, 2008, Cuneo became the fire chief of New Salem.

This month he was hired for the same position in Wendell.

As fire chief he is responsible for the safety of firefighters from both towns, and the safety of all residents.

That responsibility is the same in a large town as in a

small one. He is continuing to fill the gaps of his knowledge with courses and trainings offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

Being chief also means navigating the requirements given by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) within the budget of a small town, now two small towns.

NFPA calls for 16 firefighters at a scene before an interior attack, and together Wendell and New Salem have 15 active firefighters.

see CHIEF page A3

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Erdoğan: Hear this Tweet

During the Turkish War of Independence (1919–1922), Mustafa Kemal Paşa, later known simply as Atatürk, used the telegraph so effectively to communicate messages to his scattered troops, that all of the forces aligned against his independence movement began targeting telegraph lines.

But every time a line was cut, within hours, it seemed, Republican forces managed to repair it or find another line open to send urgent messages.

In some ways, not much has changed. Communication is still a powerful force for independent expression in Turkey, so much so, that last week Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ordered access to Twitter blocked.

"We'll eradicate Twitter. I don't care what the international community says. Everyone will witness the power of the Turkish Republic," the prime minister said.

Social media has indeed been seen as a menace to autocratic regimes in recent years: witness the attempt to ban or block these outlets in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Ukraine.

Witness, also, how these bans have been easily thwarted. Banning internet communication, in fact, is almost a sure way to outrage and subsequently empower those who are social media users.

In short, not a single regime has succeeded in keeping social media out of the hands of those who believe that freedom of communication is a right.

We were not surprised that Erdoğan did not learn any lessons from Atatürk regarding the impossibility of suppressing communication. He's not much of an admirer of the founder of the secular Republic.

But we do find it a little hard to understand why he didn't learn from the in-his-face recent examples of Mubarak, Gaddafi, Yanukovich, etc.

The more we thought about it, though, the more we understood: Like his other regional counterparts, Erdoğan is increasingly fearful of losing his power. He sees threats all around him and seeks to combat his real or perceived enemies by active aggression against them.

Since he rose to power in 2003 he has been intent on disarming would-be opponents. Over the last few years, fearing a military coup, he has jailed over 400 current and former officers, among

them many generals and admirals including the former chief-of-staff of the armed services.

Over 100 journalists are also behind bars. And more recently he began rounding up high-ranking police officers and prosecutors. More than 300 now sit in jail.

But his dilemma now is what to do about 12 million Twitter users in Turkey, some of whom seem to have it in for the prime minister. They have been tweeting apparent leaks of wiretapped telephone conversations between him and his family members, cabinet members, media figures, and businessmen, which appear to show the prime minister as a key player in corruption, bribe taking and intimidation.

Although this has been an ongoing issue since last December, only now, with municipal and legislative elections set to take place on March 30, has Erdoğan acted.

His timing does not appear coincidental: his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) will likely not achieve a majority in the polls. And this could spell the end to his iron-clad rule.

And then there were last year's Gezi Park protests which remain a major issue for many in Turkey, particularly young people who, unlike many Americans, are quite politically active.

Because social media were used so effectively to coordinate these protests, Erdoğan decided, after brutally crushing the protesters, to establish a powerful social media team in order to suppress government opponents.

There were reports that the party recruited thousands of people for a massive attack against government critics through Twitter, Facebook and YouTube messages, which often contained threats and intimidation.

Despite his best efforts, the attempt to suppress social media failed.

Even his staunch ally, President Abdullah Gül, broke the law, saying via his own Twitter account that he was against the ban, as did millions of Turkish Twitter users who within minutes were broadcasting ways to beat the ban.

It is clearly getting more difficult for Erdoğan to rule Turkey as he has done up to now. These desperate measures show this. Even if the AKP comes in first on March 30, he's losing the battle.

All we can hope is that he abides by the electorate, but many in Turkey wonder if he will.

Letters to



the Editors

"Donkey Ball" Is Donkey Abuse

Those of us who raise and breed donkeys in the Western MA villages, and in the greater region of New England, are not overly fond of donkey basketball.

Your article by Joe Parzych on March 20, 2014 (Vol.12 #22, pg. A1, "Police, Firefighters, Donkeys Help Raise Money For Senior Class Trip") was interesting and called attention to donkeys.

Initially, that seemed to be a positive and educational effort.

However, it was a negative introduction to the community.

I propose that we who are involved in farming donkeys would not like to leave the impression on the public that bullying donkeys into doing things they would never agree to do in their natural world is a kind, or humane, action.

I am referring to donkeys being forced to put on shoes, go indoors to a HS gymnasium and be mounted by adult or even child riders to play basketball.

It is true that, since the earliest documented record, donkeys have served the human world as the "beast of burden," and they continue to do so in many less wealthy countries.

In the US we have no excuse to

treat donkeys badly.

Donkeys are very intelligent, kind, docile and inquisitive. They are also stoic beyond measure, and willing, when treated well and with dignity.

Unfortunately, donkeys have been made (by humans) to do many things they would never agree to do. We who love and respect donkeys do not encourage this treatment.

Donkeys are not stubborn, as they are so often mischaracterized, but smart, and are unwilling to be mistreated if it can be avoided.

No donkey will willingly return to a place, or a human, if they have had a negative experience.

This letter is a voice from the people in the hills and the valley who love, respect and raise donkeys.

In the future it might be better to focus on the wonderful community of donkey farmers, their donkey shows, and the Save your Ass Rescue organization www.saveyourass-rescue.org.

Thank you for listening to my voice on this subject as a donkey farmer and local resident.

Anne Adriance
Leverett

Bill Wilson
Leverett



Prime Minister Erdoğan attempts – in vain – to stop tweets.

Two of our editors recently spent two years living in Istanbul, and are in regular touch with their Turkish friends.

Ahmet Ergenc sent them this picture he took, at right, showing graffiti in Istanbul providing an alternative DNS route for Twitter users to work around the government's ban.



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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Franklin County Register of Deeds, **Scott Cote**, brings helpful information to the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, March 29, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. No registration is required.

Moonlight Davis and Morning Star Chenven will be returning with their band and special guests for an "Expect A Miracle Gospel Show" on Sunday, March 30, at 3:00 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, in Greenfield.

A Moonlight and Morning Star concert takes audiences into a world of diverse music, with unique interpretations of jazz standards, beloved

R&B classics, Gospel, Jewish soul and originals. They have a unique ability to reach people through the mediums of music and spoken word.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to a charitable foundation in the area. For more information, contact Leigh at lab3@verizon.net or by calling the church office at (413) 774-4355.

A group from Salasin Greenfield Women's Center is putting together an event in celebration of **Support Women Artists Now (SWAN) Day**. Their second annual SWAN Festival will be held Friday, April 4 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the RLC, at 74 Federal Street in Greenfield.

The event will raise funds for more art supplies and free programs offered by the Salasin Center to women in the community.

Any women interested in performing, including visual artists and writers, can contact Laura Stone at (413) 774-4307, ext. 4. More information about the center is available at www.salasinwomenscenter.org.

COOP Concerts celebrates its tenth anniversary with **All COOPed Up!**, its annual springtime musical celebration, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, on Saturday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

The COOP is the Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative, well known regionally for the COOP Concert Series, a popular tradition at the Greenfield Energy Park since 2004.

Sponsored by Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, All COOPed Up! is a benefit concert to support the continuation of live music at the Greenfield Energy Park.

After a long New England winter, it promises a welcome expression of pent-up energy and song as spring arrives.

Design a colorful, eye-catching poster to advertise the Great Falls Farmers Market 2014 season. Winner will receive \$50 and see their art displayed all summer.

Your art will be reproduced 8.5" by 11", and must include: "Great Falls Farmers Market: Wednesdays, 2:00-6:00 p.m.: May - October, Rain or Shine, at The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls."

Entries must be received by April 15. Send hard copies to: Donna Francis, 130 Meadow Road, Montague, MA 01351. Send digital copies to: greatfallsfarmersmarketurners@gmail.com. Call Donna at (413) 687-1288 for questions and info.

The winner will be selected by Montague Agriculture Commission.

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TFHS Looks To Community "Externships"

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – "Our students deserve the best education we can give them," said enthusiastic Turners Falls High School principal Thomas Osborn as he explained why he wanted to create a community service "externship" for TFHS students.

Osborn stressed that, at present, the idea is in its infancy, but that he had high hopes he could begin rolling out the program in the fall.

What he eventually hopes to do is place every high school student as unpaid interns in local businesses, non-profits and service agencies.

"I believe," he said, "that in today's world it is vital that students gain real world experience. Who knows? They may even find a career through an externship."

He emphasized that community service is often helpful for students when they apply to colleges.

Osborn noted that involving students in local businesses aids not just the companies but also creates a greater sense of community for the students. "Having pride in the community where they live is paramount. Students need to realize that they are a major part of the community now, and will be in the future."

The principal said he expects to get a small number of students involved in externships in the fall of 2014, then to increase that number for the spring of 2015.

He expected, eventually, that all students would be participating in the program.

Osborn acknowledged that the program faced a number of challenges.

"First," he said, "we have to get interest from community businesses. Without that, we won't have the opportunities we need."

To this end, he is asking local businesses, non-profits and social service agencies to contact him directly at 863-7200, or by email at thomas.osborn@gmrtd.org.

He said the community, in his mind, includes not just Montague and Gill but also surrounding towns.

Other issues that still need to be worked out involve deciding how to award credits toward graduation, what reporting requirements will be necessary, and how to recruit students for the externships.

But he said he was confident it could all be worked out. He emphasized that he was blessed with a strong guidance department who were working with him to implement the program.

Once Osborn gets a better sense of community response, he will be bringing the externship program to the GMRSD School Committee for approval. He said that so far the committee's response was very positive.

As for how many hours students should be working, he said he hoped soon to set both a maximum and minimum requirement: "We'll then sort out how that can transfer into credits."

At this time, he is not advocating that an externship become a graduation requirement.

"We'll put it together, I'm sure of that," said Osborn. "Once we find out how much interest there is in the community, we'll be working out the specifics to make the program concrete. The students seemed quite enthusiastic."

He then added, "So am I."

Montague Hires New Children's Librarian

MONTAGUE – Angela Rovatti-Leonard, the new Children's Librarian, started Monday at the Montague Public Libraries.

Rovatti-Leonard was chosen from fourteen applicants. She worked for four years as a library assistant/programmer at the Northfield Library and as a desk assistant at the Forbes Library in Northampton.

In 2013, Rovatti-Leonard received her Masters degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College. She lives in South Deerfield.

Rovatti-Leonard volunteered at the Carnegie Library for three months before she was hired. Of all of the applicants, she seemed to be the best fit for the Montague Public Libraries.

The Children's Librarian position had been vacant since early November. Linda Hickman had served as the Children's Librarian for almost seventeen years before she was hired as Library Director, first on an interim basis and then permanently.

Rovatti-Leonard is already planning for the summer reading program, and is selecting new children's books.

There will be a children's party to welcome her on Saturday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

CHIEF from page A1

Equipment changes are mandated and equipment ages out, codes change, and budgets do not increase proportionately.

Cuneo does not see himself changing things drastically in Wendell. He thinks both departments function well and cooperatively.

Fire departments are often organized top down, by authority and rank, but the New Salem and Wendell departments are small and the members know and respect each

other beyond simply rank. On the scene, the two departments work cooperatively.

Both towns have call departments, and it is never certain who will be available or who might arrive late, because the call came when he was on a ladder or out in the woods.

He says he hopes to encourage all firefighters to get as much training as they can, but understands that people also have families, jobs, and houses that require their attention.

EXCESS from page A1

However, at Tuesday's school committee meeting this "good news" from Montague seemed to be lost in a firestorm of questioning of TMS' Mark Chapulis about the how, and the when, and the why of the school committee "not knowing long before" the E&D was certified that the fund was nearing the edge of its allowable revenue ceiling.

Jen Waldron was vehement that TMS ought to have sounded a warning that E&D was nearing or about to exceed its limit.

Why, she asked, couldn't the district have set up a revolving fund to capture for the schools some of the overage of the \$213,039 returned to Montague, and \$34,000 to Gill?

After all, she pointed out, it could have been used to prevent or restore some of the positions now being cut.

Chair Joyce Phillips emphasized that the committee was angry about giving money back to the towns and the cuts being taken.

The Turners Falls Water Departments Board of Water Commissioners voted to revise the water rates of Turners Falls Fire District at an increase of 10 cents per thousand gallons.

The new billing period starts after the readings in April and will be reflected on the **November 1, 2014** billing.

The new rate for the semi-annual billing is as follows:

Rates for Within the Turners Falls Fire District

Usage:	Fee:
0 - 13,000 gallons:	minimum charge of \$30.00
14,000 to 200,000 gallons :	\$2.30 per 1,000 gallons
201,000 to 400,000 gallons:	\$2.50 per 1,000 gallons
401,000 to 600,000 gallons:	\$2.70 per 1,000 gallons
601,000 to 800,000 gallons:	\$2.90 per 1,000 gallons
801,000 to 1,000,000 gallons:	\$3.10 per 1,000 gallons
1,001,000 gallons and above:	\$3.30 per 1,000 gallons

Water usage is based on a six month period, approximately April 1 through September 30 for summer reads and approximately October 1 through March 31 for winter reads. Sewer bills are based on winter water usage, and then doubled.

Board of Water Commissioners

Kenneth Morin
Stephen Call
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(week ending 3/21/14)

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Grade 7
Ethan Shilo-Draper

Grade 8
Skylar Thompson

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

WMECO To Hold Public Hearing
On Connecting To National Grid

By KATIE NOLAN

At their March 24 meeting, the Erving selectboard re-opened the annual town meeting warrant, which was closed at their March 17 meeting. On March 18, the school committee approved a fiscal year 2015 Erving Elementary School budget \$2,500 higher than the figure the selectboard had considered.

The warrant for the May 7 meeting is expected to remain open for changes for the next two weeks.

A draft warrant, revised with the new EES budget amount (\$2,598,566) and with minor corrections, will be published in the Around Town newsletter.

WMECO will hold a public comment hearing on April 10 at 7 PM at EES on its \$75 million substation and transmission line project in Northfield and Erving.

Currently, two 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines run from Northfield Mountain station through Erving and other towns to Ludlow.

The proposed project will connect these high capacity power lines to National Grid's 115 kV system in Erving in order to improve reliability during overloads.

A transformer at Northfield Mountain will step down the power

from the high capacity lines to 115 kV.

Lengthy Email Addresses

Commenting on the town's new email system, treasurer and selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said that some of the town's new email addresses are so long that they don't fit into electronic forms.

The new addresses are formatted as "official title, first name, last name.erving-ma.org."

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said that he had received some ribbing from his email correspondents about the length of his new email address.

As the selectboard met upstairs in town hall, the Usher Plant Re-Use committee was in the basement meeting room, attending a training session on the email system.

Contracts for Fuel Oil

The selectboard signed contracts with fuel oil vendors as part of the cooperative bidding and purchasing program through Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

LPVEC energy management coordinator Paul Schroeder will be authorized to select the best time to lock in Erving's fuel oil purchase price for fiscal year 2015.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Funds Earmarked for Strathmore
Compliance, Library Study

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, March 24 the Montague Selectboard addressed two key development issues through appropriations from a fund called the "Community Development Discretionary Account."

This account, which contains balances from federal block grants, can be earmarked by the board without the approval of Montague town meeting.

\$20,000 was targeted to "Strathmore Mill Code Compliance," while \$9,975 was directed to fund a library feasibility study for St. Anne's Church.

The Strathmore mill appropriation was designed to begin to address issues raised nearly a month ago by the Turners Falls Fire Department.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio gave an extensive update on the problems identified by the Fire Chief.

Rolls of paper left by a previous owner have been evaluated by the firm Republic Services, which will soon present a proposal involving recycling and disposal. The Sheriff's Department has agreed to assist in the clean-up.

Openings and holes in the Strathmore floor will be fixed by the Montague Department of Public Works, although an outside contractor may also be required.

Two of three "roof problems" are currently being evaluated by Renaissance Builders. The status of the third problem was not clear.

According to Abbondanzio, the former factory's sprinkler system is now "up and running." The Turners Falls Water Department is considering water to the building through a connection on the pedestrian bridge.

The sewer system that services the building is thawed, but the pump, which was described as "in rough shape," will need \$1,600 in immediate repairs.

Audience member John Reynolds asked if more funds would need to be appropriated by town meeting.

When Abbondanzio responded in the affirmative, Reynolds asked if there were "any plans for capping the amount we put into this?"

He was reminded by Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother that these expenditures were needed to bring the building up to code: "We don't have a choice."

The other appropriation approved by the board funded a feasibility study to see if St. Anne's Church could be transformed into a library, and perhaps a senior center. The senior center part of the study, which will also look at other possible locations, is being funded by other block grant funds.

Abbondanzio announced that there will be a hearing on the aggregation of local electrical purchasing at the Northampton municipal building on April 15 at 6:00 p.m. The potential agreement covers thirty-six towns in the region.

In other news, John Reynolds updated the board on his efforts to find a local artisan to make a substitute medallion for the Golden Cane Award.

At a previous meeting, the Selectboard had voted to revive the award of a golden cane to the oldest resident in Montague, but in the form of a substitute "symbol," not the cane itself.

Reynolds stated that he could not find a local medallion maker who could undersell a quote he had received from a firm in Gardner.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson noted that, while the board always wished to support local business, it also needed to find value when spending taxpayers' money.

"We'll continue to mull [the issue]," said Fairbrother.

Bruce Hunter, the Franklin Regional Housing Authority's "Infrastructure Coordinator," requested that the board sign a contract and give "notice to proceed" for the construction of a play structure and a sand volleyball court at Unity Park.

That work will be done by Taylor Davis Landscaping Co., Inc.

Charles Walker Korby and Amber Baker came before the board with an application to use the Montague Center Common for a wedding in May.

The board voted to approve the request, pending the couple's ability to sort out the complexities of a one-day liquor license.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Woman Probably Actually Fox

Monday, 3/17

4:20 p.m. Assisted with disabled vehicle on Route 2 at bypass. Towed.

9:45 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street.

Tuesday, 3/18

11:05 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at French King Bridge. Advised to move along.

Wednesday, 3/19

4:01 a.m. Report of woman screaming near Veterans Field. Found to be an animal, possibly a fox.

4:20 p.m. Report of two male juveniles skateboarding down the center of West High Street and Route 63. Advised them they cannot do

that.

Thursday, 3/20

4 p.m. Suspicious green bag reported on side of French King Highway at Dorsey Road. Found to be trash. Removed.

5:15 p.m. Retrieved stolen property from Pratt Street and returned to owner. No charges filed.

6:50 p.m. Assisted Gill PD on scene of breaking & entering in progress on Main Road in Gill. Subject under arrest.

Friday, 3/21

4 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Ridge Road.

Saturday, 3/22

11:30 a.m. Arrested

██████████ for operating a vehicle on a revoked license (habitual offender) and on a suspended license (subsequent offense).

1:45 p.m. Concerned report of dogs howling at Pratt Street resident. Checked out OK.

Sunday, 3/23

8 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2A near State Forest headquarters. No injuries.

7:30 p.m. Welfare check on Lillians Way resident. Found to be fine.

9:05 p.m. Verbal dispute at Forest Street residence. Spoke with both subjects. Situation calmed.

Leverett ABC Animal Jamboree

Join us on March 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon for a gentle family hike and story walk led by Dawn Ward. Dawn will guide as we listen for birds and look for signs of creatures while experiencing the story of ABC Animal Jamboree by Giles Andreae. We will meet in the Leverett library parking lot.

Bring your own picnic lunch if you would like to stay after the hike. Contact the Community Network for Children office if you have questions at 978 544 5157 or Budine@erving.com. This program is funded through CFCE Grant and the Leverett Cultural Council.

Taize Service at Leverett Congregational

The Leverett Congregational Church on Sunday, March 30, from 10 to 11 a.m. will host a Taize service of short readings and simple repetitive songs, for a reflective, meditative service.

All are welcome to this free, child-friendly event. The Taize community was founded in 1940 in France and embraces a tradition of peace and justice while seeking to include people, traditions, and languages worldwide.

The LCC is located across from the Leverett Post Office.


For more information, call Claudia Gere 413-359-0003, or email claudia@claudiagere.com.

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Montague Again Makes Strathmore Mill A Priority

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

Montague is once more working to make the Strathmore mill a viable property for redevelopment.

The new measures include a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for its redevelopment, a "slum and blight" study to attract public funds for infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, and an appropriation to remedy fire hazards.

RFP Issued

The property consists of a complex of 10 brick buildings totaling 227,000 square feet on 1.9 acres located on the Connecticut River in Turners Falls.

On March 13, the town issued a new RFP seeking proposals from qualified developers or builders for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the complex. Responses are due by July 30.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that this time he was hopeful that the right developers would respond.

Town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, said that he continues to see the Strathmore as a "diamond in the rough." He added that he was optimistic that "this time round, we'll find a match."

"The mill is certainly a potential asset, and since the investment climate is better now than in the past, we felt this was the right time to issue the RFP."

Unlike previous RFPs, which required developers to acquire the buildings, this one is somewhat more flexible in that it allows for a developer to secure a long-term lease arrangement with the town.

The mill is being offered as three separate development segments. The town will entertain proposals for one, two, or all three.

Segment I consists of Building 11, a seven-floor 4,600 square foot stand-alone building. The building was damaged by the 2007 fire and collapse of abutting Building 10, but remains one of the more development-ready structures in the complex. The building totals approximately 20,000 square feet of land area. Its assessed value is \$73,200.

Segment II, comprising approximately 37,000 square feet of land area, includes Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. This segment is the traditional main entrance to the mill complex via the canal footbridge. The town assessor estimates the value of the segment at \$139,600.

Segment III comprises Buildings 3, 7, and 8. This segment, near the end of the island, has a loading dock and an easement for truck turnaround at the end of the complex. The segment consists of approximately 25,000 square feet of land area and has an assessed value of \$73,500.

Last year, the town received two proposals for redevelopment. The first was from the Turners Falls-based Threshold Cooperative, which planned to organize a coalition of local groups to develop Building

11 into a mixed-use residential, work and performance area.

The second proposal, for the entire complex, came from a Brooklyn/New Jersey group, Flight Patterns. Their plan was to create residences and artist live/work spaces.

The town rejected Threshold's proposal but conditionally accepted the Flight Patterns submission. In the end, Flight Patterns pulled out, citing prohibitive redevelopment costs.

The mill is being offered under the Commercial Homesteading Program. The program's intent is to encourage private investment in the rehabilitation of key properties, to preserve historic buildings. If these efforts are successful, the likely result will be bringing the properties back onto the tax roll and creating jobs.

The town proposes to "offer the property for a nominal charge to the builder(s) or developer(s) who: (1) offer(s) the most creative approach to the rehabilitation and reuse of the



The town seeks a "blight" designation for both sides of the Power Canal, from the Gill-Montague Bridge to a point south of Seventh Street.

structures, (2) commits to the most attractive investment plan, and (3) submits the proposal that promises to contribute most significantly to the economic development of the town."

Leasing property is also a possibility.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked according to criteria that weigh the ability of the applicant to accomplish stated program objectives such as developing a high-quality compatible with the historic industrial zoning.

Each applicant will also be required to demonstrate the ability to obtain financing for the project.

The Strathmore Mill buildings are in relatively good condition. Most date from 1905 when the mill was rebuilt following a devastating fire. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was on the 2007 list of the ten most endangered historic resources by Preservation Massachusetts.

Slum and Blight Hearing

About ten property owners attended a public "Slum and Blight" hearing on March 19 at Town Hall. The hearing, designed to inform and gain feedback from the public, was a prelude to a study designed to document the condition of 28 parcels and six bridges along the power canal.

These include the Strathmore, Railroad Salvage, Paperlogic (formerly Southworth Paper) and a number of mostly multi-family residences on the downtown side of the canal.

The study will be conducted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, M.J. Adams from the Franklin Regional Housing Authority and Megan Rhodes, a planner from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments addressed the local residents and property owners.

The short hearing was mainly informative with the government officials explaining the rationale for the project, what will be done and how the study could have a positive impact on this sector of Turners. The FRCOG will be taking the lead.

According to Rhodes, who termed the "slum and blight" designation unfortunate, the study has a decided upside in that it can lead to significant increases in public investment for the area over a period of ten years. Federal funds can be used for demolition of particularly blighted buildings, such as Railroad Salvage,

Outdoor work

A fiber optic cable will be run from the road to an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) on the outside of the home. There are two methods of cable installation: aerial and underground in conduit.

In Leverett, approximately half of all residences have an existing aerial service cable, so the fiber will also be aerial. Another quarter of all residences have an existing underground conduit that will be used for the fiber cable.

The remaining quarter of all residences have utility cables directly buried in the ground with no conduit. In this last case, the network contractor, Millennium Communications, will be excavating a small trench about 4" wide and 8-10" deep to install a new conduit for the fiber from the closest utility pole to the ONT location on the home.

Here's what homeowners can do to prepare:

The path the fiber will take from the road to the home is on the home survey document homeowners have reviewed and signed.

If the fiber route is to be aerial, please trim, if possible, low-hanging trees or branches that may interfere with the cable installation.

If the fiber route is to be underground in a new conduit, it is important, for safety, to know the path of the existing electrical service cable.

If a homeowner is not sure of the route, "Dig Safe" will check the location for Millennium.

Once the location is identified, if possible a homeowner should attempt to temporarily relocate or adjust any flowerbeds, decorative walls or patio walks in the path of the service cable to your home. Other obstructions that will prevent the fiber service cable from being installed, should be removed if possible.

Fire Hazard Remediation

On March 24 the selectboard appropriated \$20,000 to remediate

problems noted last month by Turners Falls Fire Chief Robert Escott. [See *Notes from the Montague Selectboard*, p. A4.]

Among the work that will be performed is closing holes in the floors

of various buildings, addressing roof problems, and removing paper and other hazardous debris.

Leverett Prepares for Home Broadband

The Leverett Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project is in high gear, and soon homeowners will be able to have the network installed in their houses.

The Leverett Broadband Committee believes the network is on schedule to be completed by end of this year, 2014, for broadband Internet access and landline telephone service. They expect network construction to begin in April or May.

In order to assist homeowners, the committee has prepared a guide which is available on the town's website. The guide addresses how homeowners can prepare their premise(s) and dwelling(s) for the new broadband fiber installation.

Indoor Work

In order for the fiber optic Internet service to work at your home, a Category 5 (or better) Ethernet cable will need to be installed from the ONT on the outside of the house to the computer or interior broadband wired/wireless router.

Homeowners can either do the interior Ethernet wiring themselves or hire a contractor to do it.

Reasonably handy owners can purchase the necessary cable to connect their computer or wired/wireless Internet router to the ONT at most hardware and electronics stores.

The broadband router must support a 10, 100 or 1000base-t RJ45 Ethernet network port to connect to the ONT.

For those who do not want to attempt the installation themselves there are a number of other ways to get connected.

A properly experienced and licensed electrical contractor can do this work for a fee.

A homeowner can also contract with a local network wiring installation contractor. In the Yellow Pages look up or search on-line for "Computer Cable Installation," "Electric Contractors," "Telecommunications Services," and "Telephone-Equip & Systems."

Millennium Communications will also do the inside work when the ONT power supply and power wiring is installed.

The town has requested a \$150 flat fee with the installation contractor on behalf of all residents for a single Cat5 Ethernet inside cable installation per home. Each interested homeowner may "sign up" for inside wiring directly with the installation contractor.

Another option is to contract, for a fee, with the Internet Service Provider (to be selected by the town within the next few months) for inside wiring installation services. This request can be made to the Internet Service Provider when a homeowner signs up for internet and telephone service.

By preparing ahead of time for the fiber connection, a homeowner will be online quicker and easier.

No matter which option is chosen to accomplish the Ethernet connection, or if assistance is needed in setting up the broadband router, the selected Internet Service Provider will be able to assist homeowners when the service is activated.

Questions may be addressed to Leverett town administrator, Margie McGinnis, at 548-9699 or by email at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us.

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TRANSIT from page A1

last met in July. In the fall, one of Montague's two appointees to that board resigned, and has not yet been replaced.

Robert Pyres, chair of the GMTA board of trustees, had not responded to phone or email messages as of press time.

Last Thursday, FRTA's Advisory Board heard the news of the lapsed insurance, along with an independent estimate that the damage to the building from the bus fire could cost \$23,000 to fix.

FRTA administrator Tina Cote said that the GMTA had been "pretty unresponsive" in the wake of the fire.

Flooding had damaged files stored in the basement, she said, creating a risk of mold, and between that and the black smoke debris, workers face potentially hazardous conditions.

Cote declined permission to this reporter to view the damage to the building, "until we get everything straightened out with GMTA on that."

"There's nowhere to go if the building's condemned," said MacNicol. At her suggestion, the advisory board voted to tell the GMTA that if there was no plan in two weeks' time, FRTA would contract for the cleanup themselves, and deduct the expense from rent.

Net Cost Study

Most of last Thursday's meeting at the Olver Transit Center, however, was spent looking toward the future.

The board heard a presentation from David Irwin, CPA, of Adelson & Company, who will be conducting a study of the net cost of services to the towns.

The hope is that this study will shed light on exactly how to divide the costs of fixed routes among the nine towns — Greenfield, Montague, Erving, Orange, Deerfield, Whately, Shelburne Falls, Buckland, and Charlemont — they pass through.

Many more towns contract with FRTA for on-demand transportation, but those costs tend to be easier to assess.

Nothing in FRTA's bylaws dictates how to divide the costs of shared fixed routes, but the idea is that the calculation is based on "revenue hours" spent by the buses in each town — a fairer basis than "revenue miles," as it puts weighted value on stops made in a town.

Up until now, the way the fixed-route costs have been allocated to the towns has been determined by a computer program, according to FRTA assistant administrator Michael Perreault. This has made independent review difficult.

Mr. Irwin agreed to make his more transparent methodology available to the public soon, and the study is scheduled for completion by the end of June.

Comprehensive Analysis

Next, the board heard of a second and much more ambitious study: the state-mandated comprehensive service assessment (CSA).

In its 2013 Transportation Bill, the state mandated that every re-

gional transit authority conduct a nine-part plan, including "analysis of existing services," "development and evaluation of alternative service scenarios," and "a recommendation to better align service with local and regional demand."

This plan must be completed by the end of June 2015.

To fulfill this requirement, ten of the RTAs, including FRTA, contracted with the planning firm URS Corporation. Stephen Gazillo of URS gave a presentation on the process for Franklin County, along with its intended timeline.

The first stages of this CSA, determining goals and examining existing ridership trends, are beginning this March and April.

From May to July, the firm will consult with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and other stakeholders to learn about the region's employment needs and economic goals, and determine how transit fits into that element of planning.

The part of the study that deals with imagining alternatives will begin in September, and stretch into February.

Dianne Cornwell, Bernardston's representative to the advisory board, noted that many communities that have been engaged in long-range planning anticipate increased roles for public transportation over the next 15 to 20 years.

"This is where we need to reach out and get input from each of the communities," said Gazillo.

Wendell's representative, Jonathan von Ranson, noted that al-

though his town had no fixed routes, he imagined many there "would be inclined to take public transportation, if it were available."

Von Ranson said he wondered whether more people would use the direct route to Orange if it passed through Wendell rather than Erving.

"I know the area you're talking about," replied Gazillo. "I will make a note of that."

"You're not alone," added Tina Cote, noting that there might also be a pocket of high demand in Ashfield, should the current fixed route to Buckland be extended in that direction.

Von Ranson said he wondered whether more people would use the direct route to Orange if it passed through Wendell rather than Erving.

Megan Rhodes, transportation and land use planner for the FRCOG, said that her organization had done a survey of west county residents in the past, which ended up being a factor in establishing service to Charlemont, and a similar one in the county's northern towns.

FRCOG is presently conducting surveys of low-income residents

and Greenfield Community College students to assess potential increased ridership in those populations.

"We would be happy to look into" a similar study of towns in the east of the county, she said.

Montague resident David Detmold said he was "encouraged to hear" URS would be consulting stakeholders, "but how you define that affects it."

He referred to a letter sent to the authority by several area towns asking for more involvement of town planners and selectboard members.

"If you invite more people in, you may get very different answers," he said. "I would encourage very active outreach."

Jeff Singleton, another Montague resident who has been active in opposing the recent proposal to eliminate Route 23 through his town, echoed Detmold.

"You're coming into a situation where there's been a lot of debate and discussion," he said. "I would encourage stakeholder meetings up front."

Other Business

The meeting ended with a brief discussion of a proposal to consolidate all MassHealth demand response service brokerage in the state under a single contract with a single RTA. FRTA has joined with seven other RTAs to challenge this legally.

FRTA currently brokers that service for Franklin County. "If we lose it, half our budget is gone," said Cote.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG****Dumping Trash, Running Scams****Tuesday, 3/4**

8:50 a.m. Medical assistance on Franklin Road. Resident transported to Franklin Medical Center.

9:30 a.m. Assisted with family dispute on South Cross Road.

1:35 p.m. Resident of Dole Road reported issues with rental property.

Wednesday, 3/5

8:10 a.m. Assisted Main Road resident with firearms issue.

9:30 a.m. Complaint about speeding motor vehicle in Riverside.

6:25 p.m. Assisted Shelburne PD with subject on Mountain Road.

Thursday, 3/6

6:20 a.m. Debris reported in roadway near Barton Cove. Removed same.

9:20 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with larceny suspect on Franklin Road.

4:50 p.m. Issued restraining order to French King Highway resident.

5:30 p.m. Missing juvenile reported in Erving. Possible location at bus business.

Friday, 3/7

8:30 a.m. Assisted operator of disabled motor vehicle on Main Road.

12:30 p.m. Responded to report of woman on French King Bridge trying to jump.

Saturday, 3/8

4:20 p.m. Trash reported dumped on Route 2 near Barton Cove.

8:55 p.m. Medical assistance on Munn's Ferry Road.

Monday, 3/10

7:15 a.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer accident reported on French King Highway.

Tuesday, 3/11

7:55 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on

South Cross Road. Party was lost.

8:20 a.m. Assisted resident with animal complaint on South Cross Road.

3:40 p.m. Assisted Office of Alcohol Testing.

Wednesday, 3/12

9:30 a.m. Dole Road resident reported tow truck scam via computer.

12 noon. Party made complaint against business on Route 2 for possible larceny.

1:35 p.m. Resident of Center Road reported computer scam via CitiBank.

Thursday, 3/13

6:05 a.m. Two-car accident on French King Highway. No injuries reported.

4:40 p.m. Restraining order issued for subject located on French King Highway.

6 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with missing juvenile.

GILL from page A1

outdoor air," even in the dead of winter, "and functions the same way as a ground source heat pump or refrigeration system to concentrate the heat."

He said that, while an air source heat pump essentially runs on electricity to extract heat from cold air in the winter, or remove hot air from a building in summer, it still functions more efficiently than a baseboard electric heating system or a central air conditioner.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier supported the motion to fund the feasibility study this week, albeit skeptically, saying, "I have faith in the entire [energy] committee. They do great work."

But Crochier also said, "I feel like we keep changing horses in midstream here. We paid for an original audit that made no mention of a ground source heat pump."

"I think we need to make a decision and move on. There's a boiler in Riverside that needs to be replaced. I think we are making it way too convoluted."

"There's a big part of me that says we are still going to be heating all three buildings with oil next year, and that would be really sad."

Selectboard member Ann Banash had signed off on a conference call from Florida by the time this discussion took place, after indicating general support for the idea of looking into the possibility of using heat pump heating and cooling.

In a previous discussion of the idea, Banash had urged her colleagues to consult with Brett Grout, facilities manager at the Olver Transit Center in Greenfield, a new joint use municipal building shared by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA).

That building relies on ground source heat pump technology in combination with solar photovoltaics, a passive solar wall and a wood pellet boiler to help heat and cool the building.

Brett Grout, facilities manager for the FRTA, said the new system has been working well for heating, but added, "The biggest problem has been more one of adjusting the cooling system," to meet the needs of each individual office over the course of the past two summers."

Grout said the fact that the ground source heat pump relies on "a 100% glycol system" instead of water to deliver heat into or out of the building may provide an advantage over a water based system.

He emphasized the Olver Transit Center uses the geothermal system only as a backup, not the sole heat source for the office building.

Meanwhile, over in Leverett, town administrator Margie McGinnis said the geothermal heating system at the town library was "definitely working satisfactorily at this point. But we have done a lot to it to get it there, and it doesn't work without complications."

McGinnis said the town's building maintenance supervisor had

to inspect the system daily in the winter, flushing out the closed-loop system regularly to remove buildup of material that would otherwise clog the system.

Three of the five small heating units which she called furnaces, located in the library attic, were out of commission briefly this February, McGinnis said.

But she added, "We are happy with them. They do require maintenance and a lot of local expertise, or else they become expensive."

In Montague, Captain John Zellman at the Turners Falls fire department said the ground source heating and cooling system for the living quarters at the fire station was working "very well," and kept the crew warm this winter.

But Chief Bob Escott said he could not verify any supposed cost savings from the system, because spiking winter electricity bills he attributed to the heat pump may offset any fuel savings from a conventional heating system.

On the other side of the Montague safety complex, where a separate ground-source heating and cooling system was installed five years ago at the police station, Chief Chip Dodge said that system has been "plagued by problems."

"We've had to have a heating company in here several times this winter to help make repairs to the heating system, and in the summer to the cooling system," Dodge said.

He added that a number of offices in the building rely on portable electric heaters for backup, including his own.

Some years back, the Leverett finance committee was discussing allocating more money for electricity at the Leverett library, to pay for similar back up heat, when the open loop geothermal system there was being converted to a closed loop system.

At that time, former finance chair Don Gibavic said if the town had just gone ahead and purchased a new fuel-efficient oil furnace, it would probably save the town money in the long run, and the town would own a system proven to provide reliable heat.

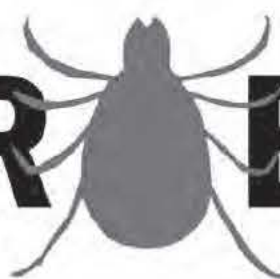
But in an era of carbon-driven climate change, the town of Gill is trying hard to find a way to shift town buildings off fossil fuels, and lead the way to sustainable heating and cooling as a Green Community.



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BARN FIRE from page A1

to try to piece together exactly what happened and why.

Montague Center Fire Chief John Greene said between the time his department received the alarm from the 911 dispatcher at 1:53 a.m., and arrived shortly afterward, one barn was already "fully involved." "By the time we got there the first barn had begun to collapse and the fire had ignited a second barn about 20 feet away."

Greene said the fire was burning so intensely that the Montague Center Fire Department called for back up units from Turners Falls, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, Sunderland, South Deerfield and Erving.

Greene said the first priority was to save the mobile home across the road from the barns. "The fire was so hot that it had begun to melt the siding on the trailer. We ran a line between the fire and the trailer, and used what limited water we had to protect the residence."

Once the first barn had fully collapsed, the heat from the blaze began to diminish and the firefighters could turn their attention more fully to the burning barns that were still far from being contained.

Adams said they had only moved to the property in October of last year. Her husband, Robert, a contractor, had equipment from his business stored in the barns.

"All of that is gone," said Adams. But she quickly added: "We are safe. The animals are all safe. Not everything is lost."

The fire department faced a number of obstacles in fighting the blaze, among them live power lines, lack of nearby water and then icing on the road.

Greene said that when his department arrived, the electrical service was already in the road, creating a "substantial hindrance" to fighting the fire. It also posed potential danger for fire fighters.

WMECO was called in to assist with the power lines, arriving at about 2:30 a.m. "Once they got there and shut off power," said Greene, "we were able to move in more easily."

Lack of on-the-scene water also posed a major problem. "The nearest hydrants were about two miles away," said Greene. "We had to run constant tanker shuttles between the hydrants and the fire."

Additionally, the road began to ice up, necessitating help from the Montague Highway Department to sand the road.

The blaze was fully under control by about 6:30 on Wednesday morning, though the fire department was

called back at 8:10 a.m. as a small section had rekindled itself and began to burn again.

By 10 a.m. only charred remains of the two barns and their contents were left on the site.

Barn an Obstacle to Road Project

One of the destroyed barns had recently been in the public eye for its close proximity to the road, which is due to be widened in coming years as part of a major road project.

Hatchery Road is designated as a county road, or "rural collector," by transportation planners, who have proposed it serve as a permanent detour to Greenfield Road, which used to serve that purpose.

At a public hearing on February 20 for the Greenfield and Hatchery Road project, Robert and Lisa Adams both spoke about the barn.

The structure was in the right of way of the road, was on the Massachusetts Cultural Resources list, and had a conservation protection on it.

Under the proposed plans, the road would be widened to 26 feet for most of its length, dropping to 20 feet at the barn.

"It's assumed I'd rather leave the barn," Robert Adams said at that hearing, "and have the road go into my front lawn. But I have land that I can move my barn back onto."

The Adamses have been planning to build a house across the street from the barns, and expressed concern that a wider road, and a much wider right-of-way, would impinge on their plans. An earlier proposal by the family to have the town reimburse them for the cost of moving the barn themselves was declined by the town, and they have made subsequent overtures.

"There's a great public benefit to moving it," said building inspector David Jensen at that hearing.

Tom Wansleben of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which has been working with the family to develop the property in a manner consistent with its agricultural preservation and conservation restrictions, also said then that Mount Grace was "amenable to have the Adams move the barn."

In the wake of Wednesday's fire, it appears that entire conversation has been rendered moot.

The Adamses, who have been working to develop an organic farm on the property, have refused permission to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company agents to survey their land for a possible natural gas pipeline right-of-way.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.

**LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on March 25, 2004: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Monster Trucks

2nd Street Sports Bar manager Lew Collins is teaming up with professional monster truck driver and Leyden resident Don Galvis for a breast cancer fundraiser this week.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to raise money combining a sports theme with community involvement, for such a worthy cause," said Collins whose sister is a survivor.

Galvis' The American Guardian Monster Truck, ranked #2 in the country, will be parked in front of the bar for the event which will include opportunities to sit in the truck, a raffle, an opportunity to drive the truck, and even an all-expense paid trip to accompany Galvis as a "crew member" to a U.S. competition.

Landfill

The debate about a potential privately run landfill in Montague continues.

Wednesday's selectboard meeting was overflowing with residents who had received notification about the meeting from a letter distributed by Ted Skrypek, one of the three developers that have expressed interest in the project.

"The selectmen and town administrator have been working for over two years to help a company get the permits it needs to begin the landfill operation... Attend the meeting or you will not be heard before the contract is awarded and operations begin," it stated.

Some expressed frustration at the reemergence of the topic of a landfill, citing a 1992 override question regarding a town-run landfill that residents had turned down at the time.

Others, like potential landfill

neighbor Gregory Garrison, spoke about the problem being about the "quality of life."

"Montague is too beautiful a town to be sold to the highest bidder, and to become a regional landfill site," Garrison said.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio responded by pointing out that the current proposal was different in that it wasn't the town interested in running the landfill, but a private contractor.

He expressed regret that Skrypek's letter had incorrectly asserted that the town was going to move ahead with the landfill without due process, adding, "We've been trying to get our ducks lined up before we go to the neighborhood".

Regarding concerns raised about the town's relationship to potential developers, Abbondanzio said "The town has not been soliciting any interest in the landfill. The individuals came into the picture less than a month ago."

VERMONT'S UTILITY REGULATORS TO ISSUE DECISION ON FUTURE OF VERMONT YANKEE'S CLOSURE BY MARCH 31

The Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), the state's utility regulator, is scheduled to issue its final ruling by the end of the month on the pending operating license for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, owned by Entergy, a Louisiana-based energy conglomerate which operates facilities around the country. The operating license would guide the last 9 months of the facility's operation and the terms of plant closure and decommissioning. The PSB has been deliberating on this pending license for the last 14 months where non-profits, regional governments, state agencies, and Entergy have filed thousands of pages of briefs and motions to inform the Board's deliberations.

Under Vermont law, the PSB has authority to approve, deny, or condition the facility's operating license while considering a range of statutory criteria including the environmental impact of the facility. Information on the case is located at the PSB website.

Entergy and the State of Vermont have asked the PSB to issue a new operating license (or as it is also called, a certificate of public good) that is consistent with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding that was negotiated by the State of Vermont and Entergy. The MOU outlines terms for the closure and decommissioning of the plant as well as a monetary fund to offset the economic impact of the plant's closure.

HELP WANTED

Part-time Administrative Assistant at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in Athol, MA. 20 hrs/wk with potential for full-time in 6-12 months. Previous experience required.

Cover letters & references to: cormier@mountgrace.org

2014 Haas Entrepreneur Award Nominations Due by March 31

The Franklin County CDC is seeking nominations for the 2014 Haas Entrepreneur Award before March 31.

The 2014 Haas Entrepreneur Award will be presented to a business owner whose business has at least 3 full time jobs (including their own), has been in business for 5 or more years, has made a commitment to improve our community through social responsibility, environmental sustainability, financial contributions and volunteer time.

To nominate or for more information, visit www.fccdc.org or contact Amy Shapiro at (413) 774-7204, ext 107, or by email at amys@fccdc.org.

I'm Lisa LaGue, cancer-free for six years, and a big believer in Baystate Franklin.



When Lisa turned forty, she went to Baystate Franklin Medical Center for her first mammogram. After several more tests, surgeon Dr. Stephen Fox personally gave her the results. She had breast cancer.

"Today, I'm happy to say, I'm cancer free," Lisa says. "Having the expert care I needed, so close to home, was a great comfort. Breast cancer survival is a long and winding road. Baystate Franklin was there for me all along the way."

To schedule your mammogram at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, call 413-773-2233.

For more information about the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Franklin, visit baystatehealth.org/brcp.



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**Unity Park
"Design of Facility"
Award**

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department was the recipient of the "Design of Facility" Award for Unity Park, at the Annual Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association State Conference in Sturbridge on March 13.

The award is in recognition of the park's recent multi-phased project, which included improvements to the playground area, ball fields, and basketball court to name a few.

The project was designed by Berkshire Design Group of Northampton, and was funded by the Community Development Block Grant through the Franklin County Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

**Massachusetts Slavery Apology Series
Presents *First Peoples***

The First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield presents "Franklin County's First Peoples: History, Heritage, & Current Events" on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Presenter Joe Graveline has been working on Native American/Indian issues for over twenty years. Graveline, of Cherokee and Abenaki decent, is president and co-founder of the Nolumbeka Project. He specializes in bringing to light the unrepresented Indian side of New England history.

Graveline will discuss the 12,000-year legacy of the first peoples of our area and examine how inequities in cultural preservation have created social and economic injustice here in the valley and beyond.

The free event is part of the ongoing Mass Slavery Apology series. Childcare is available by RSVP: email@massslaveryapology.org.

FACES



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

At left:

Kevin Hastings, Chairman of the Board of the Montague Elks, hands Chief Charles (Chip) Dodge a check for \$1,000 to help defray expenses for Artie, Montague's new police dog.

Kneeling next to Artie is K-9 Officer Jim Ruddock, Artie's trainer and handler.

Below:

There is no sweeter sign of spring in New England than the steam from a sugar shack boiling down some sap. Peter D'Errico sent us this picture he took of the Field Family Sugarhouse last week in Leverett.



D'ERRICO PHOTO

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YEAR 12 – NO. 23

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 27, 2014

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: GROWING UP ON THE RIVER

By DAVID BRULE

RED ROCKS, THE NARROWS – Just waiting for the springtime, caught between ice and mud, has put me in a reflective mood. So bear with me.

I'm wondering how many of you have thought deeply about where you were born and raised, about the impact of that place on your life's trajectory, on your values and outlook, on your sense of who you are?

More and more, I've been wondering about the reason, the forces at work, the quirks of fate, that put me here in this spot.

Who were the people, generations ago, who set me down on the banks of the Connecticut River Valley?

I know this is true for some of you: the landscape, and in particular this river in its many moods,

has shaped us, made us who we are.

This Valley drew in our ancestors, whether they were farmers, factory workers, shopkeepers, or more ancient peoples, the Pocumtuck, the Nipmuk, the Sokoki or Narragansett, all drawn to this spiritual place by the falls.

So a number of years ago, I set about trying to write down what I felt about this place on the banks of the river. I've shared dozens of stories with you in the past about this, and below, I'll start at the beginning, as I remember it:

1957. This long river has always been here.

We came to live on its banks in the house above the Narrows when I was not yet one year old, after the War.

The river is calm in the early morning. Mist rises up in wreaths, the first of September on the Connecticut is always like that. Boat with boy and dog moves slowly through the Narrows.

A dip of the oars from time to time encourages the old wooden rowboat to glide through the fog. We drift between high red rock sides of the cleft in silence.

It's 8 a.m., the oarlocks creak a bit, the dog in the bow shifts. Circles left behind on the surface by the dripping oars mark our path over the water.

Its deep here, maybe see RIVER page B4



Snowy Owl – *Bubo scandiacus*.
Illustration by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

TARZAN THE STAGE MUSICAL

A Ja'Duke production at Turners Falls High School



Jeff Koch as Terk, center, sings and dances with Ja'Duke tap dancers in act two of Tarzan at TFHS on Sunday. Photo by Ellen Blanchette

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Ja'Duke dancers filled the stage at Turners Falls High School last weekend, as the production of *Tarzan* arrived for three days of performances.

With a strong foundation of music and pageantry, dancers of all ages, dressed in beautiful multicolored costumes, performed in an endless display of motion and excellence.

The actors were superb. The singing was outstanding. The dancers who moved on and off the stage in waves were all impressive.

The staging was complex and dancers from the very young to teens worked together to create energy and excitement in every scene.

Each group of dancers did their best to contribute to the continuity of the quick-moving show. The stage was never empty and the audience never bored.

The stage musical of *Tarzan* is

based on the Disney film adapted from the story "Tarzan of the Apes," written by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

It was originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions, opening in 2006 at the Richard Rodgers Theater.

The music and lyrics are by Phil Collins, with a book by David Henry Hwang.

This Turners Falls production sticks closely to the original script, using the resources of Ja'Duke dance school to complete the cast.

According to the show's choreographer/director Kimberly Williams, the cast had approximately 250 members, which includes most of Ja'Duke's dance students.

She said she appreciated TFHS's high-tech theater, and being able to use the school cafeteria as their staging room.

The story of "Tarzan" begins with a young English couple and

see TARZAN page B4

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Recognizing Elder Abuse

By FRED CICETTI

Q. How common is elder abuse?



JESSICA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

The U.S. Administration on Aging found that more than a half-million people over the age of 60 are abused or neglected each year.

About 90 percent of abusers are related to the victims. People older than 80 years suffer abuse and neglect two to three times their proportion of the senior population.

Almost four times as many new incidents of abuse, neglect, and/or self-neglect were not reported as those that were reported and substantiated by public authorities.

All 50 states have elder-abuse prevention laws and have set up reporting systems. Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies investigate reports of suspected elder abuse. To report elder abuse, contact your APS office. You can find the telephone numbers at the website operated by The National Adult Protective Services Association. Go to: www.ap-network.org.

The APS agency keeps calls confidential. If the agency decides there may be a law violation, it assigns a caseworker to investigate. If the victim needs crisis intervention, services are available. If elder abuse is not substantiated, most APS agencies will work with other community agencies to get necessary social and

see ABUSE page B3

Ida Chaffee Receives Gold Cane Award

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – Leverett's oldest citizen – Ida Chaffee – said it was the achievement of a long held dream when she received the Gold Cane Award this month for becoming Leverett's oldest citizen.

clan, with two sons – Bill, who lives in South Amherst, and Charlie, who lives with her in Leverett – and a daughter, Barbara, who lives in Newport, North Carolina.

All told, she has five grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, and one

raising her family. When her son Charlie developed asthma, her pediatrician advised a move away from the salt water of Long Island Sound, and so she came first to Hatfield and then Leverett.

Besides being a homemaker, she spent the majority of her working years as a sales clerk and cashier at the respected women and children's clothing store Ann August in Amherst, a branch of the Northampton store.

Her husband Bill was exempt from military service during World War II because he worked in a munitions factory in Hartford. He also worked



From left to right, sitting: Charles H. Allen, Sr. and William A. Allen, Jr., with their mother, Ida Chaffee, and William's wife, Linn Allen. Chaffee's daughter, Barbara Sampson, is in North Carolina and could not attend. Leverett selectboard member Rich Brazeau, who delivered the award on behalf of the town, stands behind the family.

"I'm 97, I can tell you that," said Chaffee, when she welcomed a reporter into her neatly appointed ranch style house on the hill heading up to Shutesbury.

Her house is filled with ceramic curios outnumbered by dozens upon dozens of family photos. Chaffee is the matriarch of a large and growing

of the chief pleasures of her life these days is hearing from them by telephone or mail.

Ida looks back on a career that began as a child care provider and seamstress in a bathrobe factory, while she was living in her home town of Norwalk, CT, where she met and married her first husband, Bill Allen, and began

in factories that made picture frames in Norwalk, tires in Springfield, and furniture in Easthampton. She remarried later in life, to Arthur Chaffee; both her husbands have passed away.

Her son Bill was a postman in Amherst. Her son Charlie learned to cook at

see AWARD page B4

MAKING MUSIC FOR OURSELVES

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Last Saturday, a well-balanced bill of bands played to a small but friendly crowd at an unmarked venue on Third Street.

Turners-based Bangtail Cat opened the night. Playing fun, if conventional, rock, this band is still trying to find its footing, led in different directions by three singer-songwriters in the manner of 1975-era Fleetwood Mac.

For this show they seemed to have expanded to a sextet,

having added a percussionist for no easily discernible reason. But with a talented lead guitarist lost in the mix and a drummer struggling to stay near the pocket, it was not their finest outing.

Their keyboard player and bassist both took star turns, showing that either could aptly helm a better-focused band. Bangtail Cat is worth keeping an eye on, provided their new lineup congeals and new songs are written with the band's full sound in mind.

Next up were Northampton-based Rabbit Rabbit. Though they garnered some heckling from one tipsy local involving something about "hipsters" and "too much reverb," most present fell under the sway of their oddball astral glamour.

Vocalist and sometime guitarist Louise Chicoine was a captivating presence, equal parts Kate Bush and Ari Up.

She crooned and stuttered over a space-rock soundscape of guitar and rubbery, fretless bass, while drummer Jeremy Dubs, who also plays in Bunnies and counts R. Stevie Moore and the Pixies as past collaborators, kept everything locked into a sensible structure.

There was in fact a suspicious amount of reverb involved, and it seems unlikely anyone went home humming Rabbit Rabbit's songs, but the band was a refreshing, engrossing kind of weird in a live setting.

They play this Saturday at Feeding Tube Records in Northampton, alongside

see MUSIC page B4



Home Body's Haley Morgan expresses difficult emotional truths on Saturday.

ANJA SCHUTZ / FRUIT-SUGAR PHOTOGRAPHY

Pets of the Week

Hi! I'm Donna, my friend Rose Mary is probably hiding.

Look no further! We are a great pair and love to play and groom each other.

I would like a window seat and Rose Mary would like some chicken. We are the perfect combo of active, calm and sweet. Rose Mary will warm up to you with the right approach.

She is my best buddy.

...Greetings, I am Rose Mary.



"ROSE MARY & DONNA"

I concur with all Donna has stated.

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

United Arc Sponsors "Transition to Adulthood" Workshops

The United Arc's Family Centers sponsors transition workshops for families of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities on Monday, April 14 in Turners Falls, and Wednesday, April 23 in Athol.

Representatives from the MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will review the Transition Timeline for students in special education as they prepare for the end of their school years and entry into adult services.

Stephanie Baldwin and Doreen Boyer of DDS will meet with families on Monday, April 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The United Arc, 294 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Stephanie Baldwin will offer a second presentation on Wednesday, April 23rd from 6 to 8 p.m. at The United Arc/GAAAFSN office, 361 Main Street, Athol.

Both presentations will offer an overview of the transition timeline, discuss ways that the school prepares students for adult opportunities, the roles parents and advocates can play in transition planning and the role of adult services providers, particularly the DDS Coordinators.

There will be time for one-to-one consult with advance registration

This event is free and open to the public. Beverages and light refreshments will be available. Advance registration is requested.

registration is requested.

For questions or to register contact Katherine Dunne by email at katherinedunne@unitedarc.org or (413) 774-5558 x 1007, or register on the web at www.unitedarc.org.

The United Arc is a partner agency of The United Way of Franklin County and provides support services and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families living in Western Massachusetts.

The United Arc's Family Centers are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

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 3/31

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/1

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:45 COA Meeting
1 p.m. Painting with David Sund

Wednesday 4/2

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/3

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. - Noon Brown Bag
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 4/4

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 3/31

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

Tuesday 4/1

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 4/2

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 4/3

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
11 a.m. Brown Bag

Friday 4/4

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.

Montague Parks and Rec Spring Sign-ups Have Begun!

Signups for Tee Ball (ages 4 to 6), Rookie League Baseball & Softball (ages 6 to 8), Senior League Softball (girls ages 8 to 12) start now. Seasons run from April to June.

Tee Ball and Rookie Leagues take place Saturday mornings on the ballfields at Hillcrest School in Turners Falls. In the Rookie Leagues, boys play baseball and girls play softball, separately from each other.

The home field for Girls' Senior League Softball is Highland Park in Millers Falls.

Players must bring their own glove, but Parks & Rec registration fees include uniforms for Rookie and Senior Leagues.

Registrations are first come, first serve, so register now.

On Wednesday, April 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Parks & Rec Office will be open for final registration and uniform fitting. Don't wait until April 2!

Registration is also open now for spring tennis lessons in May and June, an American Red Cross baby-sitting course for ages 11 to 15 on June 4 and 5, and an umpired, adult co-ed softball league for ages 18 and up.

Registration forms are available online, at the Fieldhouse at Unity Park, or by calling 863-3216.

Also, save the date: the 9th Annual Peter Cottontail EGGstravaganza will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, on the back fields at Sheffield Elementary.

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take place in this community tradition. There will be a bake sale. Bring a basket for eggs!



A Grimm finale: The cast of twenty-eight students from Franklin County Technical School take a bow following their afternoon performance of The Brothers Grimm at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Saturday, March 15.

TEXT TEASERS by MATT LIEFF

b 4 d dr cc u n d off
s u 1/2 2 finish d 4 m !



Why are they always so long?!

What is she saying? Try your hand at this new game, designed by a local resident. Check page B6 for this week's answer!

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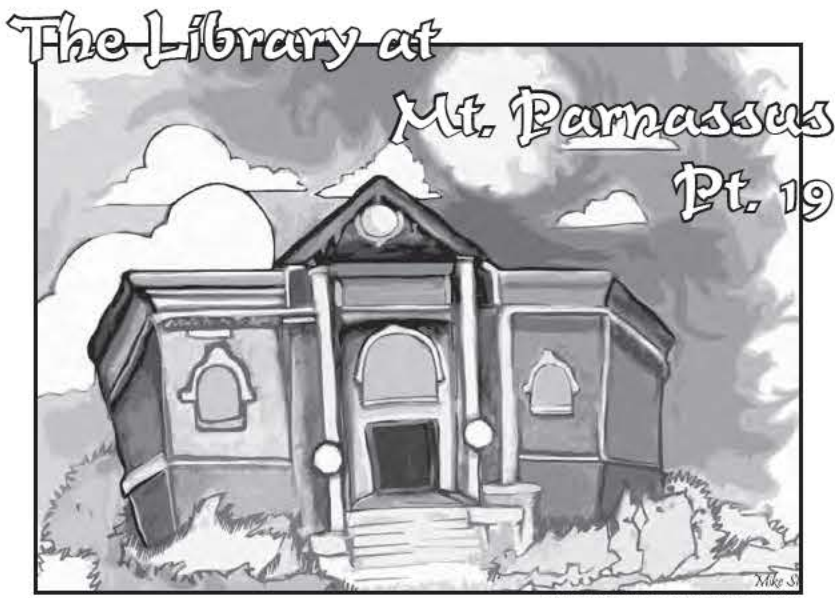
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The Labrys in the Stone Fountain.



By DAVID DETMOLD

Walking back through town with the crimson stain of stoplights spread out on the oil-stained pavement, I felt my soul lifted and carried before me on the wind. I crossed the street and walked into the park, thinking of the women from our town who had been murdered in that terrible year, not so long ago.

I recalled the shock of waking up and hearing the latina woman's screams across the alley from my door.

Back then, I felt I had to do something to expiate the horror.

In the spring of the year after the women died, I came here to the park with friends and planted trees.

We planted ornamental cherries and flowering dogwoods on both sides of the colonnade in memory, one for each of the four women who had been killed.

I watered them through the heat of summer and mulched them in the fall against the cold of winter.

It was an act of restless sadness for me, but there was beauty in it too.

In spring, when the trees came back in bloom again, tender pink and radiant, it seemed as if the spirit of the women whose lives had been cut short returned to give back something of their beauty to us, who may have failed to appreciate it in the days they walked among us.

Once rent, a tapestry can never be wholly mended. So it was in our town when the time of killing passed.

Still, with the threads remaining, we reweave as best we can a pattern which allows us to make sense even of great sorrow. We see the whole of it again, as it was and as it is, the joy, the suffering and the loss, and the pain of hope renewing.

But tonight, with the hoarfrost of midwinter upon them, the stick figures of the naked trees looked as if they would never wake again.

I stopped to relieve myself at the veterans memorial, a crude stone fountain beneath a spindly hawthorn.

In warmer weather, when the fountain was on, a cheerful cascade of water tumbled down these rough stone walls, sighing as it fell into the wishing well.

On long summer evenings, mothers who had lost their sons in war gathered here, and cast small coins

into its shallow waters, and in the morning street urchins would come and fish them out again.

Tonight, the fountain was frozen.

Still, faintly, I could hear the trickling of water leaking under pressure from a cracked pipe somewhere behind the stone.

Someone from the public works department had forgotten to turn the water off at the base of the memorial, perhaps, and the nights were so cold now, the pipe must have shattered down behind the mortared stones.

Still tipsy from the Golden Mean, I leaned my head against the wall and listened to the water whisper as it ran down inside the rocks – an indistinct sound, like footsteps on frozen needles under pines.

I felt as if someone were calling to me from inside the fountain, someone I could almost hear.

A mist curled and slid along the frozen surface of the well. I leaned over and looked down.

My stomach felt uncertain. In the black ice, my own dim features were reflected back to me: lank hair on forehead, a glass jawline, a slice of moon above my shoulder.

Beneath the surface, a little stream of water was still moving from the leaking pipe, forcing a passage through the ice.

Beneath the thinnest frozen skin, a queer doubling of my image could be seen in the dark water.

A chill breath went down my spine. I thought perhaps instead of mine, I saw another's image there, female, fluid in form, pale as the moon beneath the ice, a silver pulse of water moving in her liquid eyes, her hair like weeds.

I leaned closer. The mist rose off the ice and mingled with the vapor from my breath. I heard her voice again, like freezing stone, a welling sorrow without words.

I reached out my hand, a hand reached up to mine, touched my fingers as they broke the crinkling film of ice.

My skin burned and something silver caught my eye, glinting at the bottom of the well, a coin perhaps, left there since the fall.

My fingers closed around the ornament, and I stood up again with an earring in my hand, an earring in the shape of a double-headed axe.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Adults Steal Goldschlager and Vehicle From Parents

Monday, 3/17
 10:42 a.m. Officer wanted at Sheffield Elementary. Services rendered.
 11:20 a.m. Verbal domestic disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Investigated.
 11:34 a.m. Officer wanted at Great Falls Middle School. Student refusing to follow directions. Officers provided assistance.
 1:30 p.m. Caller reported that her elderly mother received a scam phone call from an unknown number and requested the call be documented. Caller looking into getting caller ID for her mother.
 4:14 p.m. Caller reported that kids running back and forth in the Fifth Street alley were obstructing traffic, and that she was concerned for their wellbeing. Officer spoke to a small group of kids.
 4:18 p.m. Report of a missing 2-year-old child. Child located, taken into police custody, and then into Department of Children and Families custody. DCF sent to Erving to pick up a second child.
 4:40 p.m. Caller reported a male driving what he believes is an unregistered scooter with small children aboard in the vicinity of T Street. Unable to locate.
 7:03 p.m. Caller reported she kicked her 18-year-old son out of her apartment after discovering he had stolen a six-pack of Busch beer and a bottle of Goldschlager from her, and alleged that he was doing inappropriate things involving a 15-year-old female. Items recovered at a different address from the son. Son given a verbal warning, and advised that if officers were called back he would be subject to arrest.
 7:33 p.m. Caller in Wentworth Housing reported a disturbance between

upstairs neighbors. Officer investigated, the two parties were "horsing around", and were advised of the complaint.
Tuesday, 3/18
 4:44 a.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant, straight warrant, violation of abuse prevention order, and resisting arrest. [redacted] had a hand injury, laceration and possibly broken fingers. Transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.
 10:05 a.m. Montague Center caller reported that she and several neighbors observed a man in a Black Honda CRV taking pictures of the houses on Union Street. One person spoke to the man who said he was an adjuster taking photos for a bank. Area search negative.
 6:03 p.m. Caller reported a pipe sticking out of the ground at the intersection of Montague City Road and Solar Avenue, and expressed concern that the pipe may have been struck by a vehicle. Unknown what pipe goes to, but determined to not be a hazard. Left message for DPW to check on it.
Wednesday, 3/19
 11:09 a.m. Reporting party stated that he believed the Montague Police Department delivered an electric wheelchair to him, and now it is not working. Referred to other agency.
 1:51 p.m. Party reported that her son is posting negative things about her online. Advised of options.
 7:41 p.m. Caller would like it on record that a train had been idling for over two hours, and that the railroad had advised her there was no estimated time for the train to be moved.
Thursday, 3/20
 10:10 a.m. 4-way lights at

Gill intersections not cycling properly, causing a safety hazard. Referred to other agency.
 1:42 p.m. One-car accident in Montague City, vehicle collided with a utility pole, no one injured.
 4:30 p.m. Caller reported an attempted phone scam. Advised to watch her bank accounts.
 6:37 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a straight warrant.
 6:51 p.m. Reporting party stated that as she was walking on Millers Falls Road she believed a truck intentionally swerved toward her. Operator of vehicle contacted, stated he was attempting to miss a pothole.
Friday, 3/21
 8:01 a.m. [redacted] arrested for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.
 8:54 a.m. Report of a larger than usual amount of water in the area across from 201 Turnpike Road. Officer called the DPW and Water Department, which confirmed there was a water main break. Departments working to resolve the issue.
 5:17 p.m. Burglary on Millers Falls Road reported, entry appears to have been made through unsecured window. Officers pulled prints from the window, report taken.
 9:32 p.m. George Avenue resident reported his home had just been egged. Perpetrators gone on arrival. No damage to house.
Saturday, 3/22
 8:57 a.m. Safety hazard at the Gill 4-way intersection, lights not cycling properly. Referred to other agency.
 11:11 a.m. Multi-vehicle accident, and car vs bobcat at 244 Montague City Road. Caller stated that the bobcat was badly injured.

Police and Environmental Police Officers responded, EPO had the bobcat.
 2:13 pm. Lake Pleasant Road resident called to say she heard a sound like a bomb going off. Officer unable to determine source.
 4:41 p.m. Caller reported that 4 teens on bikes were going in and out of traffic at White Bridge. They also appeared to be throwing things over the side of the bridge. Area search negative.
 6:30 p.m. Vehicle reported as stolen from a Greenfield workplace by the owner's daughter. She did not have permission to take it, and the vehicle was entered as stolen.
 8:54 p.m. Stolen vehicle spotted. Failed to stop. Passed into Greenfield. Greenfield PD notified, joined pursuit. Driver bailed and was pursued on foot. [redacted] arrested and charged by Greenfield PD. Also issued summons by Montague PD for failure to stop for police, failure to obey traffic signs, and operating to endanger.
Sunday, 3/23
 2:31 p.m. Caller reported that [redacted] is in front of 118 Avenue A yelling as people pass by, and trying to bum cigarettes. Upon arrival of officer, [redacted] was smoking. She was advised.
 8:12 p.m. Assist requested for removing a bat from an apartment. Dispatcher gave suggestions to get the bat out, but caller requested an officer to respond and assist. Officers able to assist in removing the bat. No animals were harmed in this extrication.
 10:57 p.m. Neighbor complained of loud music from upstairs apartment at Fourth Street location. Given verbal warning to keep the level down.

ABUSE from page B1

health services.
 The senior has the right to refuse services offered by APS. The APS agency provides services only if the senior agrees or has been declared incapacitated by the court and a guardian has been appointed.
 What is elder abuse? It can take a variety of forms: physical, sexual, emotional and financial. Neglect of an older person also is within the umbrella of elder abuse.
 One of the most common types of elder abuse is self-neglect. Self-neglect often occurs in older adults who have declining health, are isolated or depressed, or who abuse drugs or alcohol.
 If you're concerned an older

adult might need help, these are symptoms to look for:

- * Physical injury, such as a bruise, cut, burn, rope mark, sprain or broken bone.
- * Refusal of the caregiver to allow you to visit the older person alone.
- * Indications of dehydration, malnourishment, weight loss and poor hygiene.
- * Negative behavior such as agitation, withdrawal, expressions of fear or apathy.
- * Unexplained changes in finances.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthyezeer.org

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TARZAN from page B1

their newborn baby shipwrecked off the coast of West Africa.

The parents are killed by a leopard, leaving their baby orphaned and abandoned in the jungle.

As tiny dancers in bright costumes open the first act, a female gorilla named Kala (played by Juniper Holmes) finds the human baby and decides to adopt the infant into her family and raise him as her own.

Her mate, Kerchak (played by Jayson Eaton) has his doubts, but agrees, and they bring the infant home to become part of the gorilla tribe.

All of this happens as dancers surround the actors, filling the stage with color and movement.

Holmes and Eaton are strong actors and singers whose presence creates a powerful emotional center to the story, helping the young actors grow into their part.

The music by Phil Collins fills the room, maintaining the rhythm and melodies of the jungle, supporting the dancers and singers throughout.

While Kala holds the baby and she and Kerchak interact in dialogue and song, ballet dancers move onto stage, their dresses creating a delicate cloud of pink.

Another group of dancers sweep onto the stage in the next scene, where we meet young Tarzan, played by Eric Albanese, who runs across the stage and is entangled by the dancers.

He is dressed in animal skins and is being picked on by young apes and other animals in the jungle.

They race around him, tease and torment him, until his friend young Terk, played by Jason Albanese, comes in with friends to defend Tarzan and help him navigate the social structure of the jungle.

At some point young Tarzan gets an idea and finds a way to attach a stone to a stick.

He doesn't see it as the weapon it is, only a tool, but his gorilla father, Kerchak has seen human weapons and what they do, and he bans Tarzan from the gorilla tribe.

In an emotional scene, Kerchak sings "No Other Way" and leaves young Tarzan alone in the jungle, forbidding him to return to the tribe.

This scene is played very well by Albanese and Eaton, the difficulty of a parent pushing a child away and the son's confusion and sadness is strongly presented here.

Heartbroken and alone, Tarzan is in danger without the protection of the tribe.

His mother Kala argues with Kerchak, finds Tarzan, bringing him to another place in the jungle. They live for a time together while Tarzan grows older.

His friend Terk stands by him, and while one is human and one is ape, they both believe they are the same.

In the easy flow of dancers and time, the young Tarzan goes from child being tormented by jungle animals to the tall, strong youth (now played by Kyle Woodcock)

whose mind has expanded to new ideas jungle gorillas and his friend Terk (now played by Jeff Koch) cannot imagine.

It is with this new knowledge that he builds a trap to kill the leopard who is endangering the tribe. This same leopard is the one who killed Tarzan's parents and attacked the gorilla tribe.

The center of this production are the actors playing Tarzan and Terk, Eric and Jason Albanese, Kyle Woodcock and Jeff Koch, along with the other strong actors, Anna Emberly as Jane Porter, who discovers Tarzan in the jungle and befriends him, David Neil who plays her father Professor Porter and Justin Begin who plays their guide, Clayton.

The scenes between Emberly and Woodcock are touching, and capture the thrill they both feel at discovering each other.

There are several large production pieces with a substantial number of dancers participating with the grown Tarzan and Terk that are outstanding.

Koch has become a fine dancer and singer, his scenes with the dance chorus are spectacular and the child dancers who join him on stage can be seen clearly enjoying these numbers. He adds energy and fun to all of these performances.

Anna Emberly brings a sweetness to the atmosphere when she is on stage. She demonstrates the innocence at the heart of Jane, who faces the unknown without fear and with an open heart.

This is the part of the story that grabs the heartstrings, a brave young woman who reaches out to a strange young man with love and trust, and sees him for who he is.

I can't say enough about the success that producer/director Nick Waynelovich and choreographer/director Kimberly Williams, have together achieved in creating this music- and dance-drenched production.

It is so good it can only make us wish we had the ability to continue musical performances beyond the few days they last in this community, so everyone could have the opportunity to see it.

Credit must also go to Amy Herzig for the gorgeous costumes, To Duane Waters for set design and construction, artistic design by Chris Rooks, to lighting director Jana Purinton, Chris Neil for microphones and sound.

The excellent sound system at Turners Falls High School allowed the professional-quality sound to enrich the musical experience of this show.

This is not meant to question the value of live music provided by musicians and orchestras, but, given the limitations of cost and availability of professional orchestras in our small town, having the ability to provide this level of quality sound in a high school theater certainly contributes to the experience.

**MUSIC** from page B1

Cult & Leper and Brattleboro fake-pop slayers Great Valley.)

After Rabbit Rabbit, Secret Lover, visiting from Worcester, took the stage.

For the first time in the night, the fact that the stage was simply one side of a fairly crowded room became a real downer, for lead singer Sally Horowitz is a bona fide firebrand, showboat rock star, all swagger and sass, and was also the shortest one in the room.

Horowitz will go far, given sufficient elevation, and a microphone that can be turned up over her bandmate's bass without causing feedback.

Without her front and center, the rest of the band, which plays theatrically straight rock and roll somewhere on the Rezillos-to-Rocky-Horror spectrum, came across needlessly flat. We hope they will return to Franklin County soon, to make their point after a real soundcheck.

The Little Richards, originally listed, ended up staying in Salem as their drummer couldn't make it. Check them out on Bandcamp – they're fun, yammering, surf-tongued punk, prettier than the Ramones and a little slower than Wavves – and encourage them to come visit.

There was an egalitarian feel to the night's proceedings, but it turned out that Home Body didn't go last: they headlined. Transplanted last year from Northamp-

ton to Montague City, the duo is building a devoted local following, and it's not hard to see why.

As an electronic musician and singer, Eric Hnato and Haley Morgan have put serious effort into building an engaging live show.


Morgan dances, crawls around, and manipulates a light show while she sings, creating a seamlessly integrated expression of each song's moods.

For his part, Hnato plays the music live, triggering samples, improvising solos, anxiously toggling between settings and playing his keyboards in the regular piano-ish way.

He also dances, on purpose, and rattles out the backbeat on a tambourine or stomps off to sing amidst the audience at key moments.

"Forklift," an unreleased song, was a highlight of the set, featuring a funny machine pantomime by Morgan as she wove a slinky, descending vocal line over a skittering banger of a beat.

Of the four bands, Home Body made best use of the cramped venue's limitations – surprisingly, rather than provoke a dance party, the intimacy made their performance's emotionality seem closer, rawer, and darker.

All in all, the night went well, and Turners Falls continued to establish itself as a regional crossroads with a supportive and curious music scene. 

RIVER from page B1

over 100 feet, but we're headed for the shallows of the marsh on the other side at the Cove, a little bit downriver.

Tribal people had known this place as Peskeompskut, the place where the river has split the rock. In the depths below us are sunken massive chains from 1910, used and abandoned by the log drivers to hold back the logs come down from the upper reaches.

Farther below the ghost of chains is the deep hole of an ancient plunge pool formed more than 20,000 years before.

But as a twelve-year-old sitting in a boat that morning, I wouldn't know that part of the story for another fifty years. Nor was anyone there to tell me that this river was going to be home for me.

Drawn down to the shore from our snug house on the hill above, I followed the path to the edge as soon as I could prove I could swim.

There had been too many drowned in the river's history for parents to allow children to play on the banks. A treacherous drop-off a few feet out could lead you down through dark water to the abyss. It was scary and black in the waters, but irresistible.

The river has a smell that is unmistakable, and it imprinted itself in me early. The smell of sand, mud, water against rock, fertile tropical valley where dinosaurs roamed, river flavored of pine, moss, fish, grasses and cattails.

That in fact this river flowed through my veins and in the memory of my DNA, I would find out much, much later.

That foggy morning in the September silence was just one of the river's moods.

Winter often froze its surface two feet thick; the sound of ice booming in the dark night reached right into the bedrooms of the little house above. I waited there with visions of the fabled snow owl to come down the river of ice one of those frozen nights: Yellow fierce eyes, wisdom of the far north, hooting with the booming of the snowy-covered river.

In the early spring, the chaos of the break-up moved inexorably down, a wall of ice ramming straight into our shore, scraping the cattail marsh, grinding against the red rock, piling high in the *débâcle*, then side-slipping away in reluctance and anger from the immovable shore and rolling through the choking narrows.

Summer brought people to the river. I didn't like that. My solitude and reveries were violated by speeding boats, water skiers, the vulgarity of picnic trash, the penetrating splitting sound of the outboard motor.

The river fluctuated then, drawn down by the mills to power their generators. That's when the mudflats were exposed.

Sandpipers, plovers, and herons came to feed, and the shallow marshes became the Cape Cod of

AWARD from page B1

Amherst College, and went on to pursue a career in the kitchen at the Maple Grove School in Wendell. Her "baby," Barbara, now 60, works in a local restaurant near the Croatan National Forest on Onslow Bay in North Carolina, as a cashier, like her mother.

All the while, Ida kept house and cooked for a growing family, managed her own career, tended a garden in back of her house, near the corner of Number 6 Road, with radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, and a favorite strawberry patch.


She was an active member of the Leverett Congregational Church, until advancing years made the trip to the town center difficult.

She misses her close friends at the weekly lunches at the Leverett Senior Center – she stays in touch now by telephone.

Her big picture window looks out on an active bird feeder, with chickadees and finches and pair of cardinals among her regular callers.

The photo of Ida receiving the Gold Cane Award has taken its place now in her living room, among those of her many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"I like Leverett," said Ida. "I like the quiet. I like the people. I like the land."

May you live many more contented years, Ida, surrounded by your friends and family, in the town that has honored you now as Leverett's oldest citizen. 

my mind, never having seen the real thing, never having been that far from home.

Autumn brought the ducks and geese from the north. In my imagination they carried with them the empty reaches of faraway places, the tundra, the *taiga*, the pine-scented wind wafting downstream.

Unlike other children, I took only a little of my time for baseball and bicycles; the river had me locked in its spell. I felt safe there. I was at home with river mud on my feet, legs, and arms.

The river was in my nostrils and lungs, sun reflected from its surface burned my face, into my mind, my heart swelled with the rank scent, its presence quieted my young spirit, gave me assurance and steadiness.


Integrated with the river, I was later to carry this spirit within me to places far away from my homeland banks.

I was beginning a long and unconscious apprenticeship; I didn't know it at the time.

Something ancient was awakening in me. Some benign presence was speaking to me through the murmurs in the stone and in the flowing water.

Because of this time, I would be at ease in multiple worlds.

Because of this time, I would come to learn that being here in this place was no accident.

For more of David's writings, visit his website: ancestryplaceandrace.com 

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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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 Kegels - Un Voyage Au Dollarama*. Photos on display through March 29. Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m.

CALL FOR DESIGNS:

Paint the Town Green Mural Project RFP. Proposals for a mural project that will be installed on the outside wall of Green Fields Market, Greenfield in the theme of "Our Community Involvement in Sustainable Food Systems". Participation is open to anyone who lives or works in Franklin County and is 19 or older. Submit first draft proposals by

April 22. See: greenfieldlocalculturalcouncil.org/paint-the-town-green-mural-project-rfp/.

Great Falls Farmer's Market Poster design to advertise the 2014 season. \$50 prize. Winner selected by Montague Agriculture Commission. Entry deadline: April 15. See www.turnersfallsriverculture.org for details or call Donna: (413) 687-1288.

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.



Charlie King and Karen Brandow concert celebrating Charlie King's 50 years of performing. Temple Israel, Greenfield. "One of the finest singers and songwriters of our time." - Pete Seeger

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Lawson Pomery* (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 before 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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Bruce's Browser, Athol: Women's History Month event presented by "the back corner", an exploration of Rosa Parks, 7 p.m.

tion of Rosa Parks, 7 p.m.

Luthier's Co-op, Easthampton: *Zydeco Connection*, a mix of zydeco, two-steps, waltzes, boogie woogie and a little bit of swing, 7 p.m.

Temple Israel, Greenfield: *So Far So Good, A Concert Celebrating Charlie King's 50 Years of Performing/40 Years of Songwriting* With Charlie King and Karen Brandow, \$ 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *A Serious Man*. An odd but thoroughly engrossing, beautifully crafted film. R, 2009, 106 min. Co-sponsored by Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival, \$, 8 p.m. start time (later than usual) with music before the movie at 7:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Quebecois Superjam*, musicians from all over New England for a day of Quebecois tunes. 8 to 6 p.m. Concert by Finest Kind, \$, 7:30 p.m.

UMass, Amherst: *Asif Ali Khan and Party, Sufi Vocals - Qawwals from Pakistan*, Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, \$, 8 p.m.

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

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Ketch-Fyre*, classic & modern rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Santina King, Aaron Cappucci*, indie/folkie/rockie, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*. This is the Met's adaptation in English specifically designed for children. Free, doors open at 1:30 p.m. 2 p.m. show.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Katie Sachs & Dave Dersham*, jazz influenced, indie rock, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, main campus: *Gallery Talk* by Cathy Osman & Tim Segar, noon. Works on display through April 4.

UMass, Amherst: *Christopher O'Riley & Matt Haimovitz, Shuffle, Play, Listen*. Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*, 8 p.m., sign-ups at 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, a Night of Spoken Word*.

Open Mic at 7:30 p.m. featured readers to follow.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 29, 8 p.m.
A SERIOUS MAN
Friday Music at 7 p.m.
Abe Lewis—Singer/Songwriter
Saturday Music at 7:30 p.m.
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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Nine Motor Vehicle Accidents, A Dogbite, A Bunch of Peaceniks, And One Knucklehead With A Plow

Monday, 2/3
3:15 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road. Subaru driver from Amherst lost control on snow and crashed into embankment. No injuries; vehicle towed.
4:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road. Tractor trailer with New Jersey driver struck and damaged the guardrails at the intersection with Cushman Road. No injuries; vehicle drove away.
5 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on North Leverett Road. Subaru driver from Shutesbury lost control on snow, skidded into a ditch and flipped onto its roof. No injuries; vehicle towed.
Saturday, 2/8
12:46 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with 3-car accident, with injuries, on Route 116.
Sunday, 2/9
1:20 p.m. Medical emergency on Old Long Plain Road. Subject transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by Amherst Fire Department ambulance.
Monday, 2/10
7 p.m. Resident reported a past dog bite; referred to dog officer.
Friday, 2/14
3:02 p.m. North

Leverett Road resident reported a pickup intentionally dropped its plow while driving past his house, splattering his home and dog with slush.
Sunday, 2/16
10:47 a.m. 2-car accident on Shutesbury Road. [redacted] lost control in the slush, crossed the median and collided with [redacted]. [redacted] complained of minor injuries but refused medical care. Both vehicles towed.
Wednesday, 2/19
Noon. Disabled motor vehicle on Montague Road. Towed.
1:58 p.m. Motorist reported a jack-knifed tractor trailer unit on Shutesbury Road. Truck gone on arrival.
2:45 p.m. Highway Department reported road sign knocked down on Shutesbury Road. Evidence showed vehicle had skidded off the road and struck the sign, then left the scene.
Thursday, 2/20
3:10 p.m. Caller, upset, reported being followed by police. Officer unable to understand caller, advised them to contact the Chief

during business hours.
8:11 p.m. Long Plain Road resident reported someone trying to enter home. Officer responded, with assist from Shutesbury PD. Unable to locate any evidence of an attempted break-in. Area checked and secured. Resident advised to contact 911 if they hear anything else.
Friday, 2/21
11 a.m. Officer assisted Peace Pagoda marchers with traffic along the route from the Pagoda to Town Hall.
Saturday, 2/22
12:35 p.m. Officer assisted motorist with disabled vehicle on Teawaddle Hill Road. Vehicle damaged by pothole in Amherst. Vehicle repaired; motorist drove away.
Monday, 2/24
4:02 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road. Chevy truck driver from Ware lost control and struck a snowbank with a log in it. Passenger suffered facial injuries but refused treatment from Leverett EMTs. Vehicle towed from scene. Operator and passenger transported to a Sunderland location for pickup.

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