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STRETCHING
INGREDIENTS

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BEGINNING TO
FACE HISTORY

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 29

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 7, 2015

Out of Many, One: Candidates Talk Town's Future

By MARK HUDYMA

TURNERS FALLS – During Tuesday night's selectboard debate, hosted jointly by the *Montague Reporter* and Montague Community Television, Mark Fairbrother, Richard Kuklewicz, and Jacobo Roque focused on concrete steps and issues they would be facing, and compared their long-term visions for the town's toughest problems.

The first question posed by moderator Chris Collins asked how Montague's five villages can be brought together to work as a single town. "I don't see it as a negative," said Kuklewicz. "Each town has

its character." He said each part of town should be taken into consideration: "What's the ramification on Dry Hill, versus Canal Street?"

"*E pluribus unum*," said Roque – "out of many, one."

Fairbrother added that the disunity can also be responsible for political disagreement in the town. "But we come together at town meeting," he said.

"The old town, community differences may be falling a little bit by the wayside," he pointed out, but for example, it would be difficult to tell the Montague Center fire and water districts they had to join a townwide

see **DEBATE** page A5

Positive Dog Training at Dakin

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – Dog training classes have begun again at Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett, and trainer Caryl-Rose Pofcher is at the helm with a new way to train man's best friend.

Because many shelter dogs have been abused or are simply traumatized by their new surroundings, Pofcher uses what she calls "positive dog training" to help dogs and their owners think differently about the training process.

see **DAKIN** page B6



CUNNINGHAM PHOTO
Caryl-Rose Pofcher

Erving Fin Com Members Win Selectboard, Assessor Seats; Town Meeting Rejects Gas Station Bylaw

By KATIE NOLAN
and MIKE JACKSON

With 65% of the vote, Erving residents Monday chose finance committee member and firefighter Jacob Smith for the selectboard over former fire chief "Bud" Meattey. Margaret Sullivan, who chose not to run for re-election for that seat this year, was also ousted by a

16% margin from the board of assessors by challenger Daniel Hammock, who serves with Smith on the finance committee and is the current town constable.

Wednesday's annual town meeting approved all articles, except for one: a proposed zoning bylaw change that would have allowed aboveground gas tanks in

see **ERVING** page A7

One Loss, But Eight Wins

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Softball Indians went 3 and 1 this week and currently sit atop the

Franklin County Softball League with an overall record of 8-1 and a League record of 7-0. Not only did Blue lose their first game this week, a 1-nothing loss to Hampshire, they also let up their first run.

Turners Falls 5 – Frontier 0

As mentioned in last week's *Montague Reporter*, the Turners Falls Softball Indians shut out Frontier on April 29. It was Powertown's sixth straight shutout in as many outings.

In that game, both Nicole John and Jenna Putala returned to the Tribe. John cracked a double and Putala hit a four-bagger. Jordyn Fiske also had a productive evening, going 2 for 3 and knocking in a run.

Jordan Meattey, Mackenzie Salls and Nicole Thibeault

see **TFHS** page A8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Nicole John slams a 2-run homer as the Turners Falls Indians defeat the Athol Red Raiders, 13-3.

MAY DAY IN THE VILLAGE



LEE WICKS PHOTO

The 30th annual May Day celebration was held Sunday in Montague Center. The weather was perfect for a parade, may pole dance, picnic and swim.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS

Montague: Gas, Graffiti and Television

By MIKE JACKSON

Last Saturday, Montague's elected town meeting members gathered in the Turners Falls High School auditorium to consider thirty articles. After seven hours, the crowd had dwindled to 64, the exact quorum of the 126-seat body necessary to make decisions on budgets and bylaws. Leaving was discouraged.

Members faced a proposed \$22.3 million in expenses, down 5% from the previous year's. Of this, 38% went to the general operating budget, 38% to the Gill-Montague school district, 10% to the wastewa-

ter plant, 3% to the tech school district, and most of the rest to special articles.

Most of the proposed articles passed, but a few did not: an appropriation for preliminary work on a broadband network; an item to borrow money to replace a boiler at Sheffield Elementary School; and an amendment to the town bylaws that would ban the possession of spraypaint by minors and penalize building owners for graffiti.

The broadband article was dispensed with early, and out of sequence, after Kevin Hart of the town's broadband committee in-



JACKSON PHOTO

formed the meeting about "recent legal and financial information that just came to light" inspiring the committee to withdraw the request. It would have spent \$400,000 on a "fiber backbone" and pole survey for the town.

see **MONTAGUE** page A5

Leverett: Fiscal Prudence; Override Petition

By ANN TWEEDY

Leverett's annual town meeting on Saturday, May 2, had only one contested available position for a seat on the selectboard. Richard Nathhorst, a member of the planning board and broadband initiative and a town resident since 2008, announced his bid and declared that if elected, he would be interested in hearing the opinions of all town residents.

Leverett is the only town in Massachusetts to allow for a person to

announce candidacy on the floor of town Meeting. Votes were tallied and Tom Hankinson, formerly on the finance committee, was elected to the available seat.

The remaining officials up for reelection were reinstated to their positions without contest. The town was formally introduced to the new fire chief, John Ingram, formerly a captain in the Amherst Fire Department, who has family roots in the town – his grandmother lived at the Marvell Farm on Cave Hill Road. Standing applause was given

the Fire Department and EMT crew for their outstanding service to the town.

Betsy Douglas of the Leverett Historical Commission was acknowledged for the Lifetime Achievement Award recently awarded her by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Taxation

The larger part of the meeting dealt with the budget, and the spirit of discussion was shadowed by

see **LEVERETT** page A6

Gill: Hot Debate Over Pot Store Regs

By TIA FATTARUSO

The most hotly debated item at Gill's annual town meeting, which asked attendees to vote to revise the town's zoning bylaws to regulate registered marijuana dispensaries (RMDs), should one come to town, passed in the end with a vote of 33 to 7, safely within the two-thirds margin it required.

The article amends sections of, and adds one to, the Massachusetts Department of Health regulations for the "Implementation of an Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana."

It requires any RMD in Gill to be no more than 2,500 square feet,



FATTARUSO PHOTO

within the Village Commercial District (a delineated section of the Riverside area off Route 2), and outside a 300-foot radius of a school, day-care center, park, or playground.

It would also make an RMD subject to site plan review by the zoning board of appeals, would allow the reviewing board to retain additional

expert consultants at the applicants' expense, and insert new definitions relating to RMDs.

The added section would require an RMD to "establish the purpose, procedures and application requirements, special conditions, and administrative regulations relating to the establishment of RMDs in Gill."

Detractors to the article argued that the amendments were too limiting. Selectman John Ward said that while the building size "may be arbitrary and capricious," limiting RMDs to the commercial district definitely was, adding that it was not in the spirit of deregulation.

see **GILL** page A7



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Hunger affects about 49 million people around the country, including millions of children and senior citizens. One in four households with a member currently serving in the U.S. military turns to a food bank for food assistance.

The National Association of Letter Carriers, NALC, will conduct its 23rd **annual food drive** on Saturday, May 9.

Letter carriers will collect non-perishable food donations on that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes. It is the nation's largest single-day food drive, and is held annually on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam.

Leave a bag or small box of non-perishable food next to your mail box and your letter carrier will bring it back to the post office for

distribution to a local food pantry.

If you have not received a post card from your post office about this event then check with them to see if they are participating. Many post offices have drop boxes in their lobby.

Enjoy yet another aspect of the mystique of the **Hawai'ian Islands** at the Turners Falls Branch of GSB and watch a DVD from the award winning Hawai'ian Legacy Series about three Hawai'ian women each of whom were instrumental in reviving Hawai'ian culture in their own special way. Held in the community room on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

All are invited to the 20th birthday party of the **Dakin Humane Society** in Leverett, 163 Montague Road, on Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Tour the facility, visit with adoptable animals, dog training

demos, face painting, games and activities. Please have your four-legged friends stay home for this event.

Hike the Montague Plains on Sunday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. Join Naturalist Josh Rose in a hike exploring trails on this unique interior sand plain where the proposed Kinder Morgan/TGP fracked gas pipeline could be built.

Montague residents are encouraged to participate. Meet at the Ramblers parking lot at the end of Bartlett Road (off Lake Pleasant Rd.) near Millers Falls.

The **Turners Falls Fishway** opens Wednesday, May 13.

Spring on the Connecticut River offers an unrivaled opportunity to witness the migration of shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish. These fish migrate from the ocean and head upriver to spawn in the rivers of their birth. A visit to the Turners Falls Fishway provides an opportunity to learn about these amazing journeys.

The Fishway is open to the public and admission is free. Hours and days of operation are Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 13 through June 14. Also open Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday.

The Fishway is located on First

Street, off Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The Erving Elementary School PTO will be hosting a "Quarter Auction" Friday, May 15, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

There will be vendors such as Thirty-One, Tupperware, Partylite and Mary Kay and lots of other prizes to bid on. Entry fee and first paddle is \$5 for the auction, and additional paddles will be available for \$1. For more information, contact ervingpto.ma@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

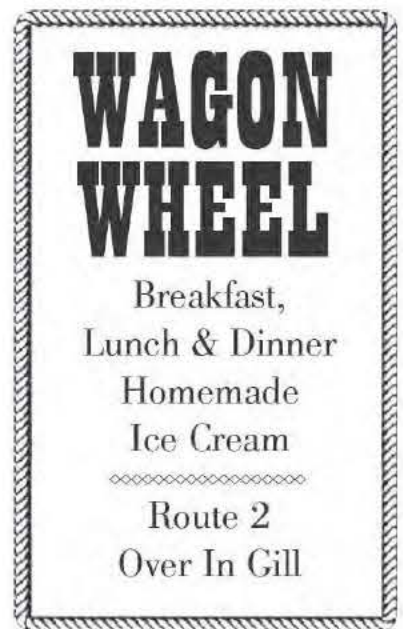
Learn about the **Evolution of the Turners Falls Dam** on Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m. in the Stinchfield lecture hall at GCC with Ed Gregory.

Mr. Gregory presents a pictorial excursion of the longest dam on the Connecticut River. You will board the "Way-Back Machine" and set the control panel for 1866 to view the crib dam. Then lever forward to take in two major reconstruction projects from 1910 to 1915 and 1969 to 1971.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org. Sunday is a milestone for Don. Happy birthday to an essential part of the Reporter team!



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Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Montague Historical Society will take place at the Common Hall (formerly the Grange in Montague Center) on Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. with a display of archives including photos of entertainment in the villages, local businesses, and the Sea Scouts.

Ed Gregory will give an audio-visual presentation on "The Turners Falls Barge Canal". Historical items not related to Montague will be for sale. A business meeting will be held at the end of the program.

Call (413) 367-2280 for more information.

Montague Dems to Elect State Delegates

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at the second floor meeting room of Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2015 to elect 5 delegates and 4 alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention to be held Saturday, September 19, at the Mass-Mutual Center in Springfield in preparation for the election cycle of 2016.

This caucus is open to all Democrats registered in Montague by January 31, 2015. Registered attendees are eligible to vote and/or run for one of the five openings available to represent Montague Democrats at the statewide convention.

Delegates must be divided equally among men and women. Candidates

must consent to nomination in writing. Candidates may make a one-minute statement to the meeting and may distribute materials.

It is a very straightforward and transparent process any registered Democrat may participate in, or just come to watch.

There will also be a brief meeting of the Democratic Town Committee prior to the caucus at 6:30 that any registered Democrat may attend. The meeting place is handicapped accessible.

For info about the Convention or caucus procedures, contact Democratic Town Committee chair Jay DiPucchio at 863-8656, or visit the party website at www.massdems.org.

MCTV's Current Operational Plan

By **MIK MULLER**

Due to the changing technological times we live in, in regards to public access TV and how it is both perceived and utilized by the residents and viewers across the globe and in the town of Montague, and in response to the recent criticism of how MCTV has reacted to and handled that change, the staff and board of MCTV have made decisions and taken steps to both increase the amount of local programming on Channel 17, as well as increase the amount of outreach to bring in new producers.

Contracted Camera People

Seeing that there has been a steady decrease in the number of local residents willing to come into the station and borrow cameras to video local events, MCTV has begun to contract with a small group of vetted camera operators to go out to video local events.

Contracted Editors and Technical Support

With the passing of our technical coordinator, Tim Lindop, MCTV has decided to eliminate that high-level position in favor of multiple support positions, focused on (a) receiving the video footage generated by the station's contracted camera people and editing and titling the footage, (b) porting it over to the broadcast server and scheduling its cablecast, and (c) uploading that content to our online channel at Vimeo.com

and manage the library contained there. They will also take over the creation of PSA slides.

These new positions will also double as in-office staff persons, covering the station presence while the station manager may be out setting up a complex shoot, such as town meeting or the weekly selectboard meetings.

We may re-introduce evening hours at the station based on interest. The assistants also provide individualized trainings in camera operation, and simple editing techniques.

Weekly News Articles

Additionally, MCTV has decided to change the job title and description of "outreach coordinator" to "communications coordinator," and hired local writer and entrepreneur Pam Kin-smith, whose main focus will be creating and maintaining a weekly series of articles about the happenings at the station, including any new productions and producers, as well as articles that discuss the video industry in general.

These articles will be posted to the MCTV website, other local websites and social media, emailed to all subscribers of the station, and published in the *Montague Reporter* as a weekly column.

To get on the mailing list, please sign up at MontagueTV.org/contact.

The task of outreach, we feel, will be better accomplished through a weekly column that will keep the station in everyone's minds and explain

how things work and how to use it.

We also feel that outreach will also be accomplished through direct, subsidized productions by the station, with the contracted camera operators appearing at places of business and local events, and talking about how people can get involved, as well as having more, quality programming on channel 17 and online.

Updating and Upgrading Our Equipment

Lastly, MCTV plans to upgrade much of its equipment in the next few years, adding more digital capabilities and larger storage for the increased content expected from the steps detailed above.

Detailed plans of a long-term budget, exact hours and duration and the timing of how it will all integrate are pending a contract being signed by the Town.

Cumberland Farms Building

MCTV is still interested in purchasing the old Cumberland Farms building, which has been on hold while we wait for a contract. Having a 30-day probation period may delay the ability to purchase the building as banks will not lend money unless we have a solid long-term contract with no liens or restrictions.

Mik Muller has served on the MCCI board of directors since 2000.



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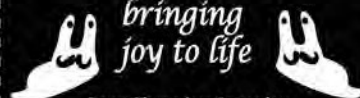


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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

WPCF Consent Order, New Planter Committee, and Sway Fun Glider

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague will seek to modify a “draft administrative consent order” proposed by the state involving a recent illegal discharge of partially treated wastewater into the Connecticut River. A key topic at the Montague selectboard’s May 4 meeting, the discussion involved the board, water pollution and control facility (WPCF) superintendent Robert Trombley, and consultant Grant Weaver. Weaver has played a key role in promoting innovations at the WPCF.

The consent order involves an incident last November 14. The state has also cited the facility for not notifying the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in a “timely manner,” that is, within the required twenty-four hours of the incident.

Trombley later explained that the discharge resulted from a “malfunction of the control system” which, he determined, needed to be shut down. Trombley and Weaver did not challenge the core complaint, but rather argued that the state had made some “factual mistakes” concerning the causes of the incident.

They also argued that the penalty for the incident should be reconsidered. The state’s proposed consent order would charge the facility \$8,464 for the incident. However, only \$1,000 would need to be paid immediately, while the remainder would be contingent on implementation of other elements of the order.

Weaver suggested that the funds be reinvested in continued innovations which are making the plant a model for other communities. He also suggested changes in the time line for reporting to the state, particularly involving revisions of so-called “standard operating procedures.”

In a similar vein, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio argued that the town needed to “send a message” to the DEP that “innovations at the plant should be rewarded.” He suggested that the state support a technical services grant to the facility to develop the operating procedures and even the capital plan to address the system’s long-term problems currently being discussed by town boards. This planning effort, he argued, could be a model for other towns in the region.

Trombley and Weaver will discuss their proposed changes in the consent order with state officials and then return to the selectboard next week. The deadline for agreement on the consent order is May 18, although there was some sentiment that the process could take longer.

Committee Stacked

The latest incarnation of the town planter committee was populated by five new members. These included Rodney Madison and Chris Mene-goni representing the Turners Falls business community; Ya Ping Douglas and Mathew Cohen representing citizens of Turners Falls; and John Furbish, as an “at large” representative.

The committee is still looking for two members to represent current planter gardeners. The board set a deadline of Thursday, May 7 for applications to fill these positions.

The planter committee has been

designated by the selectboard to resolve the ongoing controversy involving what the planters on Avenue A in Turners Falls should contain, particularly in the area of so-called “non-plant objects.”

Several weeks ago, a hefty list of planter regulations proposed by town officials was passed over by the Selectboard in favor of the revitalization of the planter committee. Avenue A store owner Rodney Madison, whose planter played a key role in sparking the controversy, will now be part of the decision-making process.

The committee may go on to serve other functions if and when the current controversy is resolved.

Other participants in the committee will be Abbondanzio, town planner Walter Ramsey, and library director Linda Hickman. Building inspector David Jensen will also participate in the process, although it was not clear last night whether he would be an official committee member.

Full Swing

Parks and recreation director John Dobosz appeared at the meeting to update the board on the new Sway Fun Glider. The Glider is a large, handicapped accessible structure that can hold approximately eight people. It is a piece of equipment designed for those who might be unable to use traditional playground structures, particularly swings.

Dobosz announced that the week before, a group of volunteers had excavated the ground and the previous day poured concrete for the base and ramp of the structure. On Saturday, May 16, the glider is scheduled to be installed.

Dobosz also announced that the playground structure next to the former Montague Center School would be disassembled on Saturday, May 8. It will be moved to a storage building next to the playground and ball field across the street. This activity will involve another group of volunteers, including members of the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club.

The structure will eventually be reassembled in its new location, but Dobosz stated, in response to a question, that this would not occur prior to the traditional Fourth of July bonfire on the edge of the same field.

Other Business

The board appointed Robert Holst as a new reserve police officer. Holst stated that he has been working as a reserve officer since 2001 and has been married for fifteen years. He has recently served in the town of Orange.

Police chief Chip Dodge said Holst “brings a lot of experience” to the job in Montague, “which we need.” He also noted that Holst is already on the civil service list so he only needs to be transferred from Orange.

In his town administrator’s report, Abbondanzio announced that three new liquor license bills, approved by the legislature, were ready for the board to sign. These would provide licenses for a new Millers Falls restaurant, the Montague Inn on Route 63, and the Village Store in Montague Center.

Abbondanzio noted that the state had attached somewhat more strin-

Town Appoints Delegation To Meet With Anti-Pipeline Group

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – On Monday night, on the heels of a town meeting resolution to oppose the construction of a natural gas pipeline through Montague, pipeline opponents Jeff Singleton and Ariel Elan approached the selectboard with an urgent opportunity for the town to move to action.

Berkshire Gas, a local distribution company which serves gas to Montague, has entered a long-term contract with Kinder Morgan for some of the gas that would pass through the pipeline if constructed.

The company has recently announced an indefinite moratorium on new commercial and residential customers, citing a capacity shortage.

The Massachusetts Pipeline Action Network (MassPLAN) is seeking to file an intervention against Berkshire’s contract application before the state Department of Public Utilities. These contracts, Singleton said, are essential to establishing the project’s necessity before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The state would need to agree that the contract is consistent with the company’s portfolio objectives, and that it compares favor-

ably to alternatives.

PLAN has hired an attorney, Richard Kanoff, to formally challenge this, and as a municipality that contracts with Berkshire, Montague can join other towns and private entities in supporting the intervention. The state attorney general is also an intervenor in the process.

The public comment period, Elan said, ends May 22, and the DPU begins considering the application on May 26. “It will be a stronger intervention, with more expertise brought to bear, the more different towns and private organizations and land trusts” pitch in, she said.

“And the longer the list of cooperating co-intervening parties, the more impact it has as an expression of what communities around the state, and what citizens want, in terms of an energy future,” she added.

The selectboard unanimously supported joining in the effort, and appointed a delegation involving town planner Walter Ramsey, administrator Frank Abbondanzio, town residents Singleton, Elan and Diane McAvoy, and a selectboard member if possible, to meet with the group.

The date of this meeting has yet to be determined.

gent conditions to the licenses. The board, which had not seen the documents, decided to delay their votes for a week.

During the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting, Phil Desbien, who had sharply criticized the electric company Eversource the

previous week, stated that he had chosen the wrong venue to make his comments.

He said his goal was to increase public awareness of the company’s policies and Montague’s response, but that “this is not the place.”



Bill Leb and Barnaby Young put the final touches on the base and ramp for Unity Park’s new Sway Fun Glider, scheduled to be installed on Saturday, May 16.

May 16: Great Falls Commemoration

The 3rd Annual Great Falls Commemoration Ceremony will take place in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 16. The Nolumbeka Project events will be held at the River Tent at Unity Park: 1 p.m., *Commemoration Ceremony*; 1:30 p.m., *Visioning B.E.A.R. Singers*; 2:30 p.m., *River Stories in Poetry and Song* with David Brule.

The gathering, co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and Turners Falls RiverCulture, will this year be part of a larger, all day event, River’s Song.

For millennia Great Falls (Peskeompskut) was a gathering place for numerous Northeastern tribes during the fish runs and served as a place where diplomacy and peace prevailed. That ended on May 19, 1676 with the infamous massacre.

Unity Park is where, on May 19, 2004, the Reconciliation Ceremony was held between the Town of Montague and the Narragansett to “begin to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest”. The ceremony will honor and recognize both events and feature music from Nolumbeka Project president Joe Graveline and Loril Moondream and guest speakers.

At 5:30 p.m. David Brule will lead a walk on the Unity Park bike path and talk about 10,000 years of Native American presence near the Great Falls, culminating in the massacre during King Phillips War in 1676. It involves leisurely walking along paved bike path for 1-1.5 miles. It is accessible to all; dogs on leashes welcome.

For a River’s Song schedule see www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

No Boiler Yet

Though a request by the Gill-Montague School District for the town to borrow \$1.1 million -- with the expectation that 76% of the cost would be reimbursed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority - - to replace the windows at Sheffield Elementary passed, one to borrow \$145,000 to replace a broken boiler was defeated.

As the school is now included in the town’s Green Communities baseline, the energy committee felt a more in-depth study of the entire building, heating system and possible grants is in order before replacing the machine, but that committee did not change the article’s language to “replace or repair” in time.

“Is there any way to reduce the heat load? The amount of heat the building needs really informs the kind of boilers you want to put in,” said energy committee chair Chris Mason.

The suggestion that the article be amended on the floor to include reference to “repair” in the meantime was deflated when town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town’s bond counsel advised against amending a borrowing article.

Resolution of the issue may come at a September special town meeting. “Whatever we spend on that boiler is going to be the bandaid,” said building inspector David Jensen. “We’ve got a whole summer to think about what the emergency really is.”

Opposition to a Graffiti Ban

Montague police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge gave a presentation in favor of a proposed set of changes to the bylaws to fine building owners for graffiti, and ban the possession of spraypaint by anyone under 17.

“Though this says this is a police department request, I look at this more as a community request,” he said. “There’s a lot of buildings downtown that have some really bad stuff on them.... We have a lot of absentee building owners in this town.”

Dodge cited broken windows theory, saying that “graffiti attracts more graffiti.” Gangs, he said, “mark their territories. They come from the cities, they set up shop to do their drug dealing. They put their symbols here and there. Those are the types of things we don’t want.”

Since the bylaw’s proposal, Dodge said the department had been “overwhelmed with phone calls, emails, things like that, thanking us for coming forward with this.”

Rich Kuklewicz asked if a mechanism could be set up to help offset the costs of graffiti removal, rather than “making two negatives, to try to make a positive.”

Jamie Berger called the article “broad, and sweeping, and problematic in a lot of ways,” pointing out that future police chiefs may have a narrower interpretation of art and target murals and decorations, such as stencils and flags, that building owners welcome.

“The victim is going to be held responsible,” said Steve Burns. He pointed out that age restrictions wouldn’t prevent “kids of 35” from vandalism.

Erin McLean said she appreciated the intent, but said that “when there’s grey area, you have to really have a dialogue.” She suggested that a permitted graffiti area might help provide an outlet. “As a property

owner,” she added, “I would clean my property.”

Mike Naughton said he didn’t see how criminalizing possession of paint by minors would keep it out of the hands of gang members.

Bernice Grzybowski suggested that surveillance cameras could be put “all over town” to catch young vandals in the act, and that they should be held responsible for cleanup.

The article failed by a majority voice vote.

Opposition to a Pipeline

A contingent of opponents to a proposed natural gas pipeline through Montague presented their case for a petitioned article to “ban fracked gas pipelines and to champion sustainable energy.”

Town meeting member Paul Voiland, who identified himself as a former licensed master gasfitter, said that there is a “huge need for improving energy efficiency and the performance of our buildings” and that resources should be directed toward that rather than buildout of energy transportation infrastructure.

“Economically, we need to invest in renewables and in using less energy.... We’ll be locked into that technology for decades,” he said, if the pipeline were built.

“We need to pay attention to what we’re putting in the atmosphere.... The American public has to wake up to the fact that we may have to take a little bite.”
John Reynolds

Jeanne Golrick suggested that the selectboard should hold an open meeting with the Turners Falls water commission, which has approved pipeline company activity on land that the fire district owns, over developing a more unified town policy toward the project.

Pat Allen proposed an amendment, which was approved, to add Native American burial sites to the article’s list of what a pipeline might destroy.

“It seems like almost a universal good idea -- ‘no pipeline in my backyard,’” said Jensen. But hey, we’ve got serious complications happening. We’re so energy-dependent in this country, and we’re stuck up here in the Northeast.”

Jensen said that at first he was suspicious of the timing of the moratorium local gas distribution company Berkshire Gas has placed on new customers, but concedes that “we’re at the end of the line” for service.

“Is there a benefit in this pipeline for us? Absolutely. It feeds local industry... it makes our whole area more viable by having more fuel sources. Look at our industrial park – one of the biggest selling points is the proximity of gas out there. All this strikes me as cutting off our nose to spite our face.”

He added that he felt the safety risks of the pipeline were overstated. “Put it in perspective. I get in my car, bigger danger.... I walk into a building, same thing.”

“It is beyond clear that this moratorium is part of a political strategy with Kinder Morgan, and oh, by coincidence, two of the other major gas companies in Massachusetts who are also asking to buy gas from Kinder Morgan, they just happened to run

into supply shortages and moratoriums at the exact same time,” pointed out pipeline opponent Ariel Elan.

Jeff Singleton positioned himself between Elan and Jensen, conceding a supply problem and also “a little manipulation by the gas companies.” But, he said, “the problem is because we’ve gone pell mell in the past ten years toward dependence on natural gas... I think if we build this pipeline, we continue on that path.”

“We need to pay attention to what we’re putting in the atmosphere,” said John Reynolds. “We ought to live up to our code.... The American public has to wake up to the fact that we may have to take a little bite, and start living up to what we say everyone else should be doing.”

Steve Burns said that he felt the hasty elimination of nuclear and coal sources were responsible for the region’s capacity shortfalls. “Everything’s been eliminated so fast there was no time to get this pipeline.... I think everybody’s just jumped on this bandwagon,” he said. “They hadn’t even told anybody where it was going, people jumped on that.”

He also questioned the sustainability, and criticized the environmental impact, of existing renewable alternatives – “green is not always green” – and he said he wished the question were going to a townwide ballot.

Kuklewicz called for a quorum count before the vote. When it was discovered that exactly 64 town meeting members remained in the auditorium, a murmur of “lock the doors!” arose.

On a voice vote, the No contingent managed to sound nearly as loud as the Yeses, but on a count, the vote went 51-11. (According to another area newspaper, it “passed narrowly”).

Short Contract for MCCI

A final petitioned article pertained to the town’s cable access provider, which has been the center of recent controversy. It sought to limit a new contract between the cable access provider of town for three years, and require a written plan to increase community involvement in the service.

MCTV had distributed a packet about its operation to members. “Over the past two quarters, their production has increased substantially,” petitioner Jeff Singleton said, referring to this packet. “I think that there’s some hope.... what they need to do is embed this in the plan.”

“Having heard testimony, and the conversation back and forth,” said John Hanold of the finance committee, “I am increasingly concerned that we are simply elevating an issue from the level where it ought to be solved to some higher level because people are not happy with the way things are going.”

David Detmold disagreed. “To me, the question is if they can prove to the body that went to bat for them so diligently ten years ago that our faith in their performance was justified.... To begin with, we were fairly pleased, and lately it seems to me – and I’m speaking for myself – that they have relaxed over the years. It’s a dedicated pay stream.... We’re not getting our money’s worth. We want it.”

Town meeting approved the article, after amending it to add that the selectboard would be able to disapprove of MCTV’s plan of action and if it did disapprove, could issue a request for proposals from new providers, if it so chose.



MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER RESULTS PRESENTATION

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 6 p.m.
Montague Center Fire Station,
28 Old Sunderland Road

Hosted by the Senior Center Planning Committee.

DEBATE from page A1

district. “I can’t imagine the response that would get... But that doesn’t mean that Montague Center can’t be a vibrant part of the community just as much as the others.”

The moratorium on new natural gas hookups imposed by Berkshire Gas drew the ire of each of the candidates, who are all on record opposing Kinder Morgan’s proposed natural gas pipeline. Kuklewicz suggested the moratorium is “certainly being used to their political advantage. It almost seems like some sort of, for lack of a better term, blackmail.”

“If it hurts us, why consider it?” asked Roque. “There are other means of energy.”

“I think it’s interesting that the moratorium got put in place in conjunction with the effort to license a new pipeline,” added Fairbrother. “These companies forecast these things long in advance.”

Asked what he felt about Berkshire Gas manager of communications and government relations Chris Farrell’s comparison of the pipeline’s opposition to “eco-terrorists,” Fairbrother said he was “proud.”

The “three-quarters of a mile of buildings” between the power canal and Connecticut River was the subject of several questions, including the fate of the town-owned Strathmore complex, the derelict condition of the former Railroad Salvage building, and the best way to address the problems they create for the town.

Fairbrother suggested that the best plan to tackle the Strathmore may be partial demolition of some buildings determined by an earlier study to be worthy of wrecking. “If we’re faced with taking it all down...a study determined the buildings a property owner would be likely to take down. We can start with those.... The town has \$5 million in that complex, and that’s not gone yet.”

Even in “the best case” of the Colle building, “the town doesn’t make a good landlord,” said Kuklewicz.

Roque urged the importance of finding buyers for the Strathmore and other town buildings: “If you have an offer, don’t fight them”.

The candidates each had ideas for addressing the ruined remains of Railroad Salvage, owned by Solutions Consulting Group, LLC. Kuklewicz suggested that past strategies of sending ignorable requests would be ineffective, and “there are places we could look that might have more teeth,” including the deteriorating building’s environmental impact.

“The problem the town faces is if they’re willing to ignore you, you’re faced with not a lot of good options,” said Fairbrother. He suggested that ultimately the town would be forced to “take it, fix it, and try to sell it”.

The candidates were asked for their individual strategies in tack-

ling the region’s opioid epidemic. Fairbrother led with the assertion that “you can’t arrest your way out of this problem.” He said he supported education to prevent future addiction, as well as help for those currently addicted. “Turners Falls has the highest [population] density, so you’re liable to see it more there, but it’s in all the villages.... There needs to be education, there needs to be support for the younger people, and trying to give them something else to do, in a more constructive way.”

Roque advocated for an enforcement-based approach to fighting addiction, with an increase in police patrols. “I’d sit down with our chief. You can see the loiterers making transactions. One thing that works is patrolling...this country has tried education for so long. It’s about enforcement.”

Kuklewicz called for an increase in education while still voicing support for the police department.

“I disagree with the concept that we can hire more police, get more active, and enforce our way out of it,” he said. “I believe that a systemic problem needs to be dealt with education and treatment... Enforcement has not worked in the past. It’s actually proved to have the opposite effect.” He suggested that curriculum focused on addiction and drug abuse in schools could combat the problem.

A final question from the moderator over which major building project the town should prioritize – a new library, senior center, or highway garage – elicited a tangible, if “slight” disagreement. “We need all three,” said Fairbrother, before saying the town garage is in “deplorable condition” and “desperately in need of a modernization.”

Kuklewicz quipped that the town should build a building for all three, and agreed about the garage’s condition, but said he would support a senior center “a little bit ahead of it, but only slightly.”

Roque said he’d also give a slight priority to a senior center. “A lot is expected from a garage,” he reasoned, “but the seniors are people. The way I see it, they took care of us – let’s take care of them.”

The full debate will broadcast on MCTV: Wednesday May 6 at 8 p.m.; Thursday May 7 at 2 p.m.; Friday May 8 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Saturday May 9 at 2 p.m.; Sunday May 10 at 6 p.m.; Monday May 11 at 9 p.m.; Tuesday May 12 at 11 a.m.; Wednesday May 13 at 8:30 p.m.; and Thursday May 14 at 11 a.m.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 18. Precinct 1 will vote at the Montague Center fire station; precinct 2 in the community room at Highland School Apartments; precincts 3 and 4 in the auditorium at the Hillcrest School; precinct 5 will vote in the senior center; and precinct 6 at the public safety complex.



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LEVERETT from page A1

concerns over the impact of a one-year (FY'16) 3.5 % budget cut across municipal departments. This cut was made as a precautionary measure for the potential funds needed to pay back property taxes to two residents who filed abatements.

These residents were unsatisfied by initial refunded amounts approved by the town, and are requesting greater abatement amounts from the state Appellate Tax Board – a decision that could take between 1 to 3 years.

One of the residents was identified by selectboard member Peter d'Errico as a town employee.

As d'Errico said at the end of the meeting during a discussion on the impact of difficult financial decisions facing the town, "if you're looking for the blue meanies, look around you."

Two selectboard members shared stories of the financial hardship the high taxes have put on residents. Julie Shively said this was the first year they received letters from land owners complaining of the taxes. Rich Brazeau noted with emotion, "we're supposed to be a rich town, right? Well, we've had people that can't come up with the tax money that are in tears in the office trying to pay their tax bill." Half of the 2015 tax bill came due May 1.

A group of 24 petitioners attempted to introduce a Proposition 2½ override a month before the meeting as Article 32, which is not proper protocol per state law, as only the selectboard can make this determination. Bill Stewart, a teacher at the Leverett Elementary School and the *de facto* spokesperson for the petitioners, acknowledged that Article 32 was not binding, but requested to bring it to the floor at the beginning of the meeting, when the audience is larger, asking if the town was going to "squelch" discussion.

D'Errico responded that he felt the word "squench" was disingenuous as the petition reached them one month before the town meeting, and that the petitioners had ample time to come to selectboard meetings and finance committee meetings since October 2014, when the groups were wrestling with strategies to prepare for the potential pay cut.

Shively reiterated that all municipal departments understood the need for the cut as a prudent fiscal decision.

The two selectboard meetings immediately prior to the town meeting but after the petition was circulated were not attended by Stewart, though three of the petitioners did show up to one of them.

Stewart addressed the floor at the end of the meeting and explained Article 32 in a prepared statement. He shared that a loose coalition of Leverett residents began to discuss the town's finances last year. The coalition of residents reacted to information present in the town newsletters of December and February and an article in the *Montague Reporter* that detailed the iteration of possibilities to prepare for the potential losses, which included a Proposition 2½ override and cuts to the municipal budget, and how services might be negatively affected by the cut.

The statement said blame has been cast on town employees for the town's budgetary problems, and suggested an override to request higher taxes so cuts would not happen. The petitioners expressed their mission was not a no-confidence vote in the town's financial decision makers, but a call to action. They added that more

revenue is needed to pay for the services that make Leverett a desirable place to live, including the school, library, and fiber optic network.

Petitioners request that the town find ways to welcome new businesses to town so the tax burden might be spread beyond property taxes. As of 2015, there are three zoned commercial districts: the end of Depot Road at the intersection with Route 63; the portion of Route 63 of R.H. Roberts Excavating; and the intersection of Rattlesnake Gutter with North Leverett Road at the Leverett Village Coop.

The request for another override was not an easy consideration, even though the introduced article could not go to vote.

Don Robinson of Jackson Hill Road responded on the floor by cautioning against an override, saying, "I've served for 30 years as an assessor, and am on the tax relief committee, dealing with ways to keep people in their homes. I've lived through two 2½ overrides, and this always represents a permanent increase in taxes. People need to live within their means."

**"I've lived through
two 2½ overrides,
and this always
represents a permanent
increase in taxes."
Don Robinson**

The challenge for the town governance seems to be acknowledging the means of all residents while providing expected services, honoring the town's character and vision, and going the distance with initiatives like the fiber optic network.

Some attendees remarked on a growing gulf between the rich and the poor in town. A high valuation on a house and the double-A bond rating issued the town does not mean much for someone intending to live in their home on modest means and still make the bi-annual tax payments and pay the bills. The average tax bill on a single-family home in Leverett is \$5,807, according to the Sustainability Report of April 2014.

Electrical Aggregation

The high taxes in Leverett have become even more burdensome for some due to the often egregiously expensive supplier rates in monthly energy bills. The town meeting addressed measures that Leverett is taking to offer solutions.

At the 2005 and 2011 town meetings, votes were cast in favor of joining the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) to purchase bulk electricity with 34 other western Massachusetts towns. The bottom-line costs per resident household for this municipal aggregation power supply have yet to be approved by the Department of Public Utilities.

The change in administration at the DPU under Governor Baker was remarked on as a possible setback. Robert Hayden has been appointed commissioner, and Ron Gerwatowski, a former senior vice president for regulation and pricing at National Grid, will serve as assistant secretary.

The town voted in favor of HCOG arranging to supply an all-green electrical product (wind, solar, low-impact hydro, etc.) for a price not to exceed 0.4 cents per kilowatt hour above the cheapest cost for residents and the town in the municipal power supply aggregation plan. This ap-

plies to all town residents that have not switched suppliers but remained with WMECO/EverSource as the supplier and distributor.

A representative from HCOG explained what will happen to those non-switching residents: they will see the supplier listed on their bill change to the HCOG entity once the rates have been locked down, sometime this summer. Residents can opt in or out of this program at any time.

The potential of fees accrued for opting into the aggregate and out of existing third-party suppliers will be addressed by the aggregate municipality by moving the opt-in date to the time when the supplier has deemed none will be charged. In other words, if you've signed up for a six-month locked-in fixed rate with a third-party supplier (Constellation, Dominion, etc.), the municipal aggregate will switch you over after the six month term is over.

As Leverett is a Green Town, the importance of seeking clean energy sources was discussed. Peter d'Errico explained that suppliers often use an amalgamation of sources, including environmentally unsustainable sources.

Cave Hill Road resident Alan Mully asked for clarity on the issue of determining if the energy sources provided by the HCOG municipal energy aggregate were indeed green, and was answered that it is impossible to tell.

Brooke Thomas of the Leverett energy commission (LEC) used a metaphor to clarify the rationale for supporting the HCOG system: that the sources tapped by electricity suppliers can be seen as a bathtub full of water, and if you buy from better sources, you increase the density of green sources in the bathtub.

The LEC's handout detailed that HCOG is currently supplying residents in 13 towns electricity at a rate of 12.2 cents per kWh or lower, while WMECO/EverSource is charging 14.1 cents for those Leverett residents who use less than 600 kWh per month. The median use of power in the town is 800 kWh per month.

Housing Affordability

After two decades of work, the town has an approved plan for affordable housing. Town meeting at-

tenees voted in favor of appropriating \$320,000 from the Community Preservation fund, the Fund Balance reserved for community housing, and the Budgeted Reserve to support the Affordable Housing Trust's Leverett Homeownership Assistance Program.

**Attendees voted in
favor of appropriating
\$320,000 to
support the Leverett
Homeownership
Assistance Program.**

Many decades ago, the Affordable Housing Committee sought to build housing units, but this did not seem to be economically feasible and was often unpopular with town voters. Fay Zipkowitz, Assistant Moderator, who served on the Affordable Housing Committee for many years, spoke to the disappointment of having this initiative repeatedly shot down by town members, and said of the current plan, "This is our best shot."

Through the "Buy Down" program administered through the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), prospective homeowners who meet income limits can get a subsidy that reduces the price of a house.

An example provided on the town website has a house with a listing price of \$225,000 can be bought for \$180,000 with a subsidy of \$45,000. Income requirements are listed on the site, as are other requirements for the buyers and the homes.

One resident was compelled to speak from the town meeting floor against the plan, saying that if the mythical \$250,000 house does not sell, the price would go down and bring other home prices down, eventually leading to the over-inflated price of all housing. Don Robinson remarked that he felt many of Leverett's house assessments were overly high.

Now that the article for funds has been approved, there will be a lottery for potential buyers in May and again in September after a strong marketing effort to spread the word over the summer.

Community Preservation

The town voted in favor of allocating funds to the 2016 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues. A portion of those funds will be used to purchase additional lands abutting the 101 acres owned by the town on Cave Hill Road across from the Peace Pagoda.

One resident questioned whether those reserved funds could be allocated for other needs, such as covering the municipal budget cuts.

Danielle Barshok of the Leverett Community Preservation Committee explained that restrictions in place by the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act only receive the 100% matching funds from the state if they use the surcharge on the town's real estate taxes specifically on open space, historic preservation, community housing, and recreation. She pointed out that the 2016 requested allocation was not going to be used for recreation.

Logistics

At the end of the town meeting, it was agreed by participants and elected officials that more timely and substantial information needs to be shared with the public on the town's website, including last-minute changes to meeting schedules.

This measure would address some of the concerns raised by signatories of the Article 32 petitioners, such as Isaiah Robison, chair of the town's Conservation Commission, who noted he was the youngest person in the room.

Robison said he signed the petition in order to address the need for more community involvement in the decision-making process, and explained his hope that younger people in town would be involved.

Rich Brazeau encouraged Robison to run for a position on selectboard, and Tom Powers invited Robison to attend the finance committee meetings.

Gary Gruber spoke as a self-described representative "white beard" of the older community who remembered getting involved in town governance thirty years ago, and lauded Robison for his willingness to be concerned and put in long hours at late-night planning sessions.

**WENDELL FREE LIBRARY****Short Circuit**

"Short Circuit" (1986) will screen at the Wendell Free Library, Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Number 5, one of a group of experimental military robots, undergoes a sudden transformation after being struck by lightning. He develops self-awareness, consciousness, and a fear of the reprogramming that awaits him back at the factory.

There will be a short (half hour) film before the movie: a Doctor Who episode: "The Ribos Operation: Part One," with Tom Baker as The Doctor, Mary Tamm as Romana, and John Leeson as the voice of K9.

This is the next in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell. Admission is free.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

Wildlife Rehabilitation & You!

Have you ever found an injured wild animal and wondered what to do about it?

Join Sarah Mildren, president of North Quabbin Wildlife, in a presentation on wildlife rehabilitation at the next meeting of the Athol Bird and Nature Club, Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center (100 Main St., Athol). The meeting is free and open to the public.

The full name of Mildren's organization is North Quabbin Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education. Its mission is to provide communities in Massachusetts with the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife species; to return healthy animals back to their native habitat; and to provide humane euthanasia when release is not possible. It also offers wildlife education to the public.

Mildren will talk about this newly formed organization, tell

stories about the animals she's worked with, and answer that question about what to do with orphaned, sick, or injured wild animals – call her at (978) 407-4289. More information about North Quabbin Wildlife can be found on Facebook.

The ABNC is an active group of people sharing an appreciation of nature's many forms.

The club manages the Millers River Environmental Center and maintains a natural history collection there, holds meetings featuring members or outside speakers, offers field trips all over southern New England, hosts intensive workshops and institutes on specific natural history topics, and organizes regional biological inventories, including biodiversity surveys, bird counts, and butterfly and dragonfly records.

More information about the ABNC is available at www.athol-birdclub.org. New members are welcome.

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GILL from page A1

“Geographically, it should be a much larger part of town,” he said.

Doug Smith of the planning board became the spokesperson for that group’s two years long effort drafting the article, which he said was intended “to keep [Gill] on the up and up,” and, “for the protection of the town.”

The zoning board of appeals chair, Suzanne Smiley, spoke up in appreciation of the planning board’s work.

“It’s helpful to have something in place,” she said, noting that her board is five volunteers, and that an application from an RMD would inevitably be arduous, but much more so without such preemptive measures.

Neither Gill, nor any other town or city in the state, can keep an RMD from coming to town, but this article puts a process in place to effectively limit an RMD in Gill to certain activities.

According to Pat Smith of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, who assisted the planning board and attended Monday night’s meeting to answer questions, RMDs are composed of three different ele-

ments: growing, processing and dispensing facilities. Applicants for the 17 RMD licenses available in the state (originally 20), all handled those elements differently, she said. Dispensaries ranged in size from 2,500 to 4,000 square feet, whereas growing facilities ranged from 25,000 to 60,000.

“[The planning board] made a decision that the best way to serve Gill is limiting it to the possibility of a dispensary,” Smith said.

In response to a question about whether passing the article would preclude an RMD from going through the special permitting process to work around the article’s amendments, town counsel Donna MacNicol said that it would.

One attendee noted that it seemed that by passing the article there could be a missed opportunity for one of Gill’s many farms to have a viable cash crop if partnered with an RMD in accordance with state regulations.

The bylaws will have to be approved by the state’s attorney general, but Dighton, MA has already passed similar amendments and seen them approved.

Other Articles

The majority of the night’s articles passed unanimously.

Each year the town must vote on whether to accept the proposed spending from the Quintus Allen Trust, established in 1884 by Quintus Allen to be used for education-related expenses in Colrain, Gill, Leyden and Shelburne, which towns split the annual interest on the trust. \$3,616.50 was approved to purchase nature education supplies and provide a stipend for a nature education intern.

Gill Elementary principal Kathleen Bailey said the choice was “a welcome initiative, with lots of community support.”

The town gave the selectboard permission to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts DEP and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. The current 10-year contract expires June 30.

“If we don’t do it, we don’t get paid, but pay,” said selectboard chair Randy Crochier, in reference to the town’s current receipt of payment by weight for recyclables, whereas they would be charged per

ton to deliver it. Market prices being lower now than ten years ago, lower payments will follow.

Alternative Recycling will continue to do the curbside pick-ups.

Attendees chose to accept and expend available state or federal Chapter 90 funds, for road maintenance, and authorized the selectboard to oversee its spending. FY’16 funds are in keeping with prior years at \$150,995.

Edward Golembeski and Clifford Hatch were presented for and unanimously elected as Field Drivers, as were the selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber, all for one year.

Two articles on spending for the Gill-Montague Regional School District would not require any financial investment from Gill, but did require Gill’s approval as district members.

The \$1,116,764 window and door replacement project at Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls passed at Montague Town Meeting Saturday and was unanimously approved by Gill voters as well. 76 percent of project cost is to be reimbursed through a Massa-

chusetts School Building Authority Grant, and the debt balance will be incurred by Montague.

Another Sheffield expense, \$145,000 for a boiler burner project, was passed over by Gill but rejected in Montague.

A motion to pass over the vote to authorize revolving funds for town departments, commissions and boards failed, and the article was then passed by majority.

Smiley, of the zoning board of appeals, said the funds have effectively helped departments from having to “beg and borrow” from each other at the end of the fiscal year.

An article to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the officers of the town was moved to postpone, which was unanimously approved.

That and articles 10 through 24 wait for the remainder of Town Meeting, to be held at Town Hall, Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

One last comment came in that perhaps town members lose interest in attending town meeting when it is split up. Crochier responded that it was done in one meeting last year and it is the selectboard’s goal to do it in one meeting next year, too.

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

Sullivan’s Last Selectboard Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

With the town election proceeding in the basement of town hall and town meeting two days away, the May 4 Erving selectboard meeting was routine. Margaret Sullivan, who chose not to run for a second term, participated in her last meeting as a selectboard member.

The board signed a contract with D & D Beckwith Hardwood Floors of Bernardston to refinish the floors at the Pearl B.Care historical building for \$1,800. They considered a draft agreement with Bryan Sears for parking his tractor-trailer box at the former IP Mill.

The board approved a mission statement for the IP Mill feasibility study committee, and brainstormed methods for finding five qualified members for the committee.

Cabot Risk Strategies, LLC was selected to provide insurance to cover police and fire personnel injured on duty. The board reviewed the hours spent for maintenance at each town building, and considered whether more hours could be allotted to the library.

Chairman William Bembury reported that the town had received very few applications for the part-time recreation commission maintenance position, and recommended additional advertising.

Bembury noted that the vote at annual town meeting on the groundwater protection district zoning bylaw change would be conducted by secret ballot.

Once the meeting adjourned, in celebration of Sullivan’s three years of service on the board, Bembury provided a delicious strawberry and peach-filled cake, frosted with real whipped cream, from La Fiorentina pastry shop in Northampton.

Those three years were eventful

years as a town assessor. The annual report was dedicated to Craig Moore, the town’s recently retired conservation commissioner.

There were no other competitive races on the town election ballot. Debra Smith won a write-in

ones for the Erving selectboard. In May 2012, when Sullivan was elected, specifications for the Usher Plant hazardous waste cleanup were being drafted. At her first meeting, there were complaints about the recent reorganization of the department of public works and elimination of a mowing contractor and part-time building maintenance positions.

In June 2012, the board voted to terminate fire chief Almon “Bud” Meattey’s appointment at the end of the next fiscal year, unless the board and Meattey came to an agreement on the chief’s contract before then.

Throughout 2012, the board worked with the architect and contractor for the newly-built senior and community center to solve problems with the building, especially the geothermal heating/cooling system.

In January 2013, Sullivan reported to the board that the senior and community center had been closed for one day due to problems with the geothermal system.

In July, Meattey’s term as chief was extended for two months, but he was not re-appointed for a full term, and a crowd of angry residents asked for explanations from the board. Several people singled out Sullivan for criticism, asking for her resignation. In September, Philip Wonkka was appointed chief.

The board authorized the library director to apply for a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant to evaluate the library’s space and needs. In November, as contractors completed the \$15,000 repair and stabilization project for the roof at the former Usher Plant boiler building, bricks started falling from the upper part of the building’s smokestack.

In January 2014, a stability report for the smokestack recommended taking it down to the roofline. Usher

seat among the library trustees.

Next year, the town election and annual town meeting will switch, with the town meeting taking place on a Monday and the election the following Wednesday.

**ERVING** from page A1

the groundwater protection district.

“The groundwater is a resource too precious to take a chance,” argued Jacqueline Boyden.

Business owner Ralph Semb, who brought a petitioned article to the last town meeting asking the planning board to propose the bylaw, said he would do everything to maintain safety at his desired gas station, which would feature “just a couple” of pumps. “I’m just as safety-minded as anyone,” he said.

“I appreciate all that Ralph has done, but Ralph is not going to be here forever,” said one resident. “The problem is not Ralph, but who will be the next owner, who won’t necessarily have the interest of the town at heart.”

“It’s not just about one gas station,” said moderator Richard Peabody.

Town counsel Donna MacNicol warned that if the bylaw passed, the town would be unable to deny any number of businesses seeking a similar permit.

“It’s not about Ralph or a gas station,” said incoming planning board member George Moonlight Davis. “It’s about water.”

After a lengthy discussion, the moderator steered the article to a paper ballot, which found 37 attendees in support of the rezoning, and 64 against it. The measure was defeated.

Before the town meeting, the Usher Plant reuse committee presented posters, and a design engineer was onsite to discuss the proposed design for a park on the site of that disused mill facility.

All articles on the warrant beside the zoning change were passed, and only two were amended. The moderator’s proposed pay was boosted from \$82 to \$100 so it would cover dinner for two and a “good” bottle of wine, and an “etc.” on the list of town departments slated for computer upgrades was changed to “libraries, etc.” by hawk-eyed library trustee Rupert Roy-Clark.

The selectboard presented Margaret Sullivan with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her 33

ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL QUARTER AUCTION

The EES PTO will be hosting a “Quarter Auction” on Friday, May 15th at the school from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Bring your friends, bring your quarters and come bid on some prizes from vendors such as Mary Kay, Partylite, Tupperware and Thirty-One.

There will be lots of other great prizes and raffles as well. This event is in conjunction with the 6th grade Spaghetti Dinner, starting at 5 p.m.

For more information check out [facebook.com/ErvingElementarySchoolPTO](https://www.facebook.com/ErvingElementarySchoolPTO).

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Applications can be picked up and returned at the Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main Street, no later than June 3. (No late applications will be accepted.)

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Beyond Control, Beyond Exchange

The Community Network for Children presents a free parent/caregiver workshop, "Beyond Bossing, Begging & Bribing," with Jeanine Fitzgerald, M.A. at the Leverett Elementary School from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, May 16.

Have you ever heard someone say, "What part of no don't you understand?" or "Because I said so, that's why!" Or maybe you have thought there has to be a better way to get our children to listen to us. This session explores three choices

about teaching and parenting styles and their effects on children. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing a personal approach to using an authoritative style.

Registration required only if childcare is needed. Free childcare available with pre-registration. Please register by Wednesday, May 13.

Call Joie or Gillian at CNC for more information at (978) 544-5157, or email at budine@erving.com or cnc@erving.com.

TFHS from page A1

each had 1 hit apiece. Meattey had an RBI and Thibeault batted in the other 2 runs. On the defensive side of the diamond, Mackenzie Phillips fanned 15 batters and only allowed 2 hits.

Turners Falls 13 – Athol 3

On Friday May 1st, Turners Falls bested the Athol Red Raiders, 13 to 3. And finally, in the fifth inning of their seventh game, Powertown was scored upon.

And that was with a comfortable 10 to nothing lead.

Turners kept the Raiders scoreless for the rest of the game and put up 3 insurance runs of their own. John hit another homer and finished with 3 RBIs. Gabby Arzuaga sliced a three-bagger and Meattey and Putala each hit doubles.

Amber Caouette contributed 4 RBIs on her two hits. Melissa Hersey, Salls and Haley Whipple also had hits. On the mound, Phillips finished with 13 Ks while allowing 7 hits and giving 2 bases on balls.

Hampshire 1 – Turners Falls 0

Some losses are more devastating than others. Some are easier to take.

Case-in-point is the Hampshire game. Even though the Tribe ended on the losing end of Saturday's game, the girls had nothing to be ashamed of, and they weren't.

They didn't hang their heads or cry in their Gatorade. The Lady

Indians kept their heads, as well as their spirits, high and simply played the best game they could.

Going into the game, Hampshire was ranked third in Western Massachusetts, having beat teams like Chicopee, Amherst, Westfield, Northampton, West Springfield, and South Hadley. Their only losses so far had been to the top two teams in the region. So for the first time this season, Turners went into a game as the underdog.

It was a pitcher's duel from the get-go. Both teams were shut down in the first. In the top of the second, Turners had their chance.

Blue managed to get their first two batters on base with no outs, but the runners were unable to advance, as the Hampshire pitcher forced three quick outs to retire the side.

Hampshire didn't squander their own opportunity in the bottom of the second. With one out, Hampshire's Katy O'Connor ripped a double. She advanced to third on a fielder's choice bunt and scored on an in-field popup. The third out came on the same play when the batter was tagged out at second, and Powertown went into the third inning, down 1 to 0.

Hampshire may be ranked third in all of Western Massachusetts, but the Turners Falls Softball Indians are ranked fourth.

For good reason: they managed to shut down the Hampshire juggernaut for the rest of the contest.

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In the Tribe's third inning, the leadoff player reached base on a passed-ball strikeout, but she was stranded at first.

Their fourth inning ended on a strikeout, and two more runners were stranded on base. Turners went 1-2-3 in the next two innings and the game ended on a called third strike.

Turners Falls 15 – Pioneer 1

Turners bounced back from Saturday's loss with a convincing, mercy-rule, 15-to-1 drubbing of the Pioneer Panthers on Monday, May 5.

Phillips allowed 1 early run in Monday's contest. After striking out the first two batters in the bottom of the second inning, she let up a left field triple and then a RBI single. But

that's all she wrote. She retired seven of the next eight batters she faced, allowing only 1 walk.

With the Powertown bats piling on the points, Coach Gary Mullins sent in his relief pitcher, ninth grader Peyton Emery. Peyton K-ed the first two batters, and the game ended with a popup out.



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Refresh Your Wardrobe for Mere Pennies: Shop Our Thrifts!



By ELIZABETH NASH

TURNERS FALLS – Spring! It will be here any month now, so what better time to refresh your wardrobe, to shove out the old and toss in some new? And you can toss in plenty without breaking the bank if you get to know our area's excellent thrift shops.

As a dedicated clothing freak, thrift shopper, and Turners resident, I find spring one of many good excuses for visiting our two excellent thrifts: Salvation Army on Avenue A and the Franklin Area Survival Center on Fourth Street. And then there's the Sal A, Goodwill, and Visiting Nurses hospice shop in Northampton; the Fischer House hospice shop and Goodwill in Amherst; New2You in Sunderland; Hens and Chicks in downtown Greenfield... you get the picture.

No matter the season or the reason, you've got lots to choose from if you want to save big bucks, ease the load on the planet (used goods = less manufacturing = less pollution), and find amazing, one-of-a-kind clothes that no one else will be wearing.

But, as with any form of shopping, you need to get organized if you want the biggest bargains for the fewest bucks. Here are seven little tips to help you along, illustrated with my very own finds from local thrift shops.

1. Clean out your closet. Toss all the stuff you're sick of, whatever doesn't fit or flatter (but see guideline #2), and things you haven't worn in a year (but see guideline #3).

Toss it to a thrift store or hospice shop and you'll keep the sustainability thing going, help them help people in need, and make yourself feel good. Win-win-win!

2. If you love it, keep it, even if it doesn't fit or flatter. I once bought a snakeskin-patterned corduroy vest at the late, lamented Women's Exchange in Williamstown.

I knew it was god-awful ugly, its buffy-brown colors failed to flatter

my complexion, and it was too long. But something about it fascinated me, and I felt good wearing it, so I kept it for years.

Clothing can be a very emotional affair. Wear what you need to wear, no matter how weird it may look to others.



3. When necessary, ignore the "toss after a year" rule. Flexibility is key in wardrobe management (as in life). You may just need time to figure out what to do with a certain piece (or person).

Such was the case with this blouse. Flowers and I have a tenuous relationship; they often skew toward cute, and I don't do cute.

Purple and I have also failed to establish a beautiful friendship. But this dark floral (above) seemed to sidestep the cuteness trap, only to languish in my closet for months until I suddenly came up with this outfit (left).

Jacket – washable! – \$5.25, Survival Center; skirt, Target, 70% off rack.

see FASHION page B8



NASH PHOTOS

Stretch it!: Bacon-Stretcher Operating Tips

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

TURNERS FALLS – Every professional cook knows a thing or two about "stretching it," the mathematical art of making enough be just enough.

Chefs take pride in their "86'd" boards being white – or green, black, or whatever the wipe-able surface color may be. They pride themselves in a lack of 86'd, or out of stock, items.

Customers don't really appreciate this unique ability possessed by the best of the professionals, but they can certainly be bothered by its absence. Have you ever been to a restaurant where half of the specials on the list are crossed out? Or, worse yet, have you exhausted precious time thumbing through pages of a menu and finally deciding on what to eat, only to be told upon ordering, "We're all out of bacon?"

All professional cooks have 86'd something. There are certain

products which can't be found, or purchased, and some trips to the grocery store in a pinch could result in an accounting and financial disaster. Chefs are occasionally forced to admit that they are not, after all, God (but still God of their domain!). The phrase, "I'm a cook, not a magician," has been useful for this problem.

Chefs, or people in charge of purchasing, are often the last to admit when something is 86'd. They are defensive when confronted with the possibility of a missing ingredient, and almost always insist the cook or server just can't find it. They always know of secret stashes of things, and always seem to find the item that no one else can.

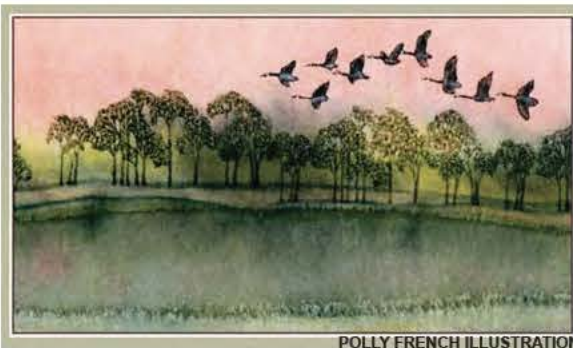
Imagine a storeroom or walk-in refrigerator, and picture several people in that room, pulling their hair out, trying to find the same thing. Now picture the purchaser, who walks right past them all, with

see STRETCH page B4



DAMKOEHLER PHOTO

Even a simple sandwich hides within it layers of clever accounting and logistics.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

12,000 Years at the Falls

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT – May 2. The eagle winged its way over the oxbow marsh of my home river, the Millers, this morning at seven.

I heard the eagle's whistle and call before I saw him and him, me. He barely gave me a glance, but our eye contact was all that we needed, the communication passed between us, before he powered his way through the morning air to try his luck fishing in the swift current.

Considered by some as the messenger from the Creator, I took his passage as a good sign. This would be a good day.

Motoring along the edge of the sand plain from Millers to

Turners, the faint hue of early shadblow was already beginning to glow among the pitch pines of the Plains.

I was conscious that I was likely driving over Indian graves beneath the roadway. It was that kind of a morning.

Edward Pressey, who wrote the *History of Montague* over one hundred years ago, noted the discovery of burials in the path of the Millers Falls Road, then being constructed.

Along this road are the hilltops of East Mineral and West Mineral Mountain, once islands in the glacial lake, and important in indigenous religious practices.

Neighbor Betty Waidlich is fond of saying, "No minerals, and not much of a mountain!"

Yet they were sacred sites to the paleo-Indians, as were many other sites throughout this topography along the Montague Plains. You see the landscape differently when you know this, when an eagle sails overhead to deliver the message, and reminds you.

Today we were gathering just above the falls to lead a river walk through history, to meet with a few interested citizens to share the story of the native peoples who gathered at the falls of Peskeompskut continuously for more than 12,000 years.

The few we anticipated grew to more than one hundred. Joe Graveline, Howard Clark, and myself, the three of

see FALLS page B4



The walk began on the canalside bike path, behind the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

The River's Rhythms: Ricardo Frota

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – It's a long way from Porto Alegre, Brazil to western Massachusetts. That's the life journey that drummer-violinist Ricardo Frota has taken, beginning at his birthplace in the South American city of two million.

On Saturday, May 16, Frota, Conway artist Phyllis Labanowski, and volunteers will stage a dramatic sound and light ceremony at 8:45 p.m. to close the day-long River's Song Celebration.

The site of the Water Dance show, which features illuminated, hula hoops, is around the Iron Bridge behind Great Falls Discovery Center.

The River's Song celebration of the Connecticut River is organized by the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts and Culture Program plus Turners Falls RiverCulture, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

All events and activities during the day and evening are free and open to the public.

"I'm very excited about the Water Dance presentation," said Suzanne LoManto, director of RiverCulture. "It's going to be an impressive show."

Ricardo Frota has developed and per-

formed programs inspired by nature for more than 30 years. "I am always inspired by a bird singing," said Frota, "the wind through the leaves, the sounds of a running brook, or the crackle of a fire. Nature is a great teacher."

Frota, who makes his home in Ware, refers

to his overall presentations as his Ecology of Sound. Ricardo utilizes both man-made, traditional instruments and sound objects he finds in nature including recycled materials.

The 61-year-old Frota has been known to play a Christmas tree as an instrument, using a violin bow to elicit sound from a branch and bamboo sticks to strike branches of the tree for rhythmic and other vibrations.

"I have many, diverse instruments in my studio," said Frota. "I'm always researching sounds by walking in forests, by rivers and

lakes. I listen carefully and watch and also imagine which things would make interesting sounds."

The Brazilian native is proud of his performances in school assemblies and libraries for children and families, as well as art galleries, hospitals, and private homes. In addition, Ricardo conducts workshops in instrument-making and rhythm.

see RHYTHMS page B4



PHOTO COURTESY RICARDO FROTA

Ricardo Frota

Pet of the Week

I'm told I'm a charming and handsome cookie, and am in search



CARMODY COLLAGE

“OREO, JR.”

of a new home!

An active and talkative guy, I am looking for that one special someone to call my own.

I'll talk and play all day with you once I've met the right person.

I can also learn to get along with any feline friends you may already have.

I'm sort of a one person cat. So if you're a one cat person, stop by today and let's play!

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

Benefit to Replace Barn Destroyed by Fire

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Craig Memorial Equestrian Center will be held on Friday, May 8 at the Elks Club on Columbus Avenue in Turners Falls from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

According to Roberta Bryant, owner of the Craig Memorial Equestrian Center on Long Plain Road in Leverett, the fire on March 20 completely destroyed an eight-stall horse barn, leaving them in need of a replacement. The horses were able to escape the fire, but two goats being boarded there died.

The barn was not insured, so a caring community has pulled together to help raise money to build

a replacement barn. Bryant said they will probably build a five-stall barn.

She said they still have not been able to discover the cause of the fire, which burned so quickly that even with a very rapid response from the Leverett fire department, there was no chance of getting it under control before it had burnt down to the ground.

Bryant said, “The Leverett fire department was just wonderful.” She said she thought Wendell’s pumper came down to help and there were efforts on the part of police and fire departments from several towns. Bryant said many people who helped, like a young man off the street who just stopped to see what he could do.

She said Dave Rice of the Green-

field police force heard the report on his wife’s scanner – she works for the fire department – and came quickly. Rice helped break the fencing down to free the animals from the fenced-off space next to the barn, moving them away from the fire.

Bryant said Brenda Rosewarne of the Bit of Luck 4H Club has put in a lot of effort organizing the benefit on May 8 in Turners Falls, getting helpers and basically arranging the whole thing. She expressed her appreciation for the support she’s received from everyone. “It’s renewed my faith in people,” she said.

To purchase tickets ahead of time, call Roberta Bryant at (413) 548-4949.

Senior Center Activities May 11 to 15

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

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

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

Monday 5/11
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 5/12
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Support appts.

Wednesday 5/13
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting
Noon Birthday Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/14
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 5/15
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays

at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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

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

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

Monday 5/11
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

Tuesday 5/12
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Cardio Toning
11:30 a.m. Sandwich Tuesday
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 5/13
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 5/14
8:15 - 10 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
Noon Pitch

Friday 5/15
9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Home Cooking
Noon Movie
12:30 p.m. Quilting
6 p.m. Cooking with Carol

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG			
Horse & Human Complaints			
Tuesday, 4/14 1:45 p.m. Complaint of homeless person in area of French King Bridge. Under investigation. 4:58 p.m. Report of erratic operation of motor vehicle on Route 2. Same found at Long Rest Area in Gill.	Friday, 4/17 10:25 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road. 7:40 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Franklin Road.	Monday, 4/20 5 p.m. Two suspicious subjects in wooded area on South Cross Road, found to be hunters in a tree stand.	Friday, 4/24 4 p.m. Restraining order issued at business.
Wednesday, 4/15 8 p.m. Restraining order issued for resident.	Saturday, 4/18 12:02 p.m. Responded to brush fire off Route 2.	Thursday, 4/23 11:30 a.m. Hit and run accident at residence on West Gill Road, under investigation.	Sunday, 4/26 10:47 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Northfield Mount Hermon. 9:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police Department with Horse complaint on Route 10.



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Isn't a fractured bone less serious than a broken bone?

This is a common misconception. A fracture and a break are the same thing.

For several reasons, seniors are in danger of breaking a bone. As we age, the power of our senses, reflexes and coordination diminishes. Maladies and the medicines we take for them can contribute to balance problems, which can lead to falls. Then there's osteoporosis—a disease that makes bones more likely to snap.

You may be in danger of having weak bones and should check with a doctor if you: smoke, are in poor health, are over 65, fractured a bone after age 50, have a close relative with osteoporosis, are underweight, started menopause before age 45, never got enough calcium, have more than two drinks of alcohol several times a week, are inactive.

The following are medical conditions that can weaken your bones: hyperthyroidism, chronic lung disease, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease,

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Help, My Bone Broke

chronic liver or kidney disease, hyperparathyroidism, vitamin D deficiency, Cushing's disease, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

The following also put your bones at risk: oral glucocorticoids (steroids), radiation, chemotherapy, thyroid medicine, antiepileptic drugs, gonadal hormone suppression, and immunosuppressive agents.

There are various types of fractures.

Simple: the bone is broken, but the skin is not.

Open or compound: the skin is broken, and may be pierced by the bone.

Transverse: the break is at a right angle to the long axis of the bone.

Greenstick: a fracture on one side of the bone with a bend on the other side. The name comes from the appearance of a broken, young tree branch.

Comminuted: a fracture with three or more bone fragments.

Undisplaced: a break that leaves the bone pieces aligned.

Displaced: a break that leaves the bone pieces out of line.

Most broken bones can heal successfully. Fractured bones usually need at least four weeks to heal, but casts may be removed before that to prevent stiffness, especially for hand or elbow fractures.

The following treatments are used for various types of fractures:

Cast immobilization is the most common treatment. A plaster or fiberglass cast is made to keep the fractured bone in place.

A functional cast or brace permits nearby joints to move.

Gentle traction is usually used to get a broken bone into position.

Open reduction and internal fixation is a type of orthopaedic surgery in which bone fragments are repositioned (reduced) and then held together with screws, by metal plates or rods.

An orthopaedic surgeon can place pins or screws into a bone above and below the fracture. After the bone pieces are positioned correctly, the pins or screws are connected to a metal bar or bars outside the skin. This type of treatment is called external fixation. Eventually, the external fixation device is removed.

Because of the way bones are made, they also get stronger with regular but not excessive exercise. If a person is active, bones will become stronger and more dense. The bones of an inactive person are often not as strong and may fracture more easily than those of an active person. For this reason, older people should try to remain physically active.

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

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Community Band Plays On

By SUSAN SHARBAUGH

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Community Band had its start in 1892. Six musicians, all beginners on their instruments, got together and formed the Germania Cornet Band.

Five years later, another group of employees from the Montague Paper Company organized a musical group and called themselves the Papermakers Band.

In 1902, the two groups merged and became the Turners Falls Military Band.

The band played overtures and marches on barges on the Connecticut River, and people moved their boats alongside to listen as the band played. After 1903, concerts were played from a wooden stand on Avenue A and Second Street in Turners Falls.

Years later, the band played at the bandshell at Unity Park. The bandshell was condemned in the 1970s, due to termite infestation and safety issues. It was torn down in 1987.

At that time, without a home, the band would travel around the town, performing concerts in the various villages. It was also during this time that the band formally changed its name to the Montague Community Band to better reflect its representation of the entire town.

The band celebrated its 100th anniversary with a concert at the Shea Theater, and a parade through all the five villages of the town, in May 1992.

In 1996 the band, under the direction of David Rousseau, started playing at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, under a temporary shelter of a wooden frame and plastic tarp.

The band now performs from a new bandshell at Peskeomskut Park, which was built in 2007. A dedication concert was performed at the new band shell in June with the New Orleans Marine Reserve Band.

One of the musicians in the Marine Band had been a member of the Montague Community Band through his high school years.

Under its present director, Hannah Smeltz, the Community Band has a membership of about 25 musicians.

During the summer months they perform at the new bandshell at Peskeomskut Park, along with other concerts at neighboring towns.

Some of our musicians are long-time members, including our sax player, Sue Corey, who has been with the band for 50 years.

The band is one of the oldest continuous town bands in the country. Any musicians are welcomed. For information, call (413) 422-2144.

All concerts start at 7 p.m. Dates are June 15, June 22, June 29, July 6, and July 13.

Movie Review: Round Two For the Avengers



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Before the *Avengers* movie originally premiered, in various other movies – for example, the Incredible Hulk, Captain America and Iron Man – threads were put together that would make up the Avengers movie. It worked out beautifully. That action was done again for *The Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

One thread that was shown in the second *Captain America: the Winter Soldier* came forth in the sequel to the Avengers.

That was an introduction of Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch. Those characters were in action during the movie.

I really like little things from other related movies coming into play here with *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. It's more or less happening in a second way when I speak of threads coming into play.

The robotic creature from the first movie is featured, as well as a scepter that Loki uses to control people. That is how the threads come into play in a second way for the movie.

Beside the characters of Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch being featured, another Avenger character comes into play: the character named Vision, a robot which is well known to

be part of assembled characters that make up the Avengers.

Vision and Scarlet Witch are indicated at the end of the movie to be new members of the Avengers team. Beside the threads of those previous movies coming into play, there are moments of humor in this movie.

There is a scene where members ranging from Iron Man, War Machine, Banner, and The Falcon try to lift Thor's hammer.

But it's still, at that moment, only Thor who can do that – perhaps, he says, because no one else is worthy. That is a line that has to do with who has the hammer in hand.

There is one more very funny moment involving Thor's hammer. Vision manages to lift Thor's hammer. This happens just after the character comes onto the screen.

There are a huge number of well-known Avengers characters in the movie. The scene in which all the Avengers from the first movie, along with Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch and Vision, are fighting all of those robots that were sent after them by Ultron is what I call a perfect scene.

It reminded me of a scene from the first movie in which the Avengers stood together, prepared to fight. Both scenes were like legends coming to life.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dog, Kids, Snake, Train, Bears, Fires, Drunks, Fireworks

Monday, 4/27

11:49 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle reports that his landlord's daughter informed him that they were aware that he had contacted the police department regarding dog/tenant issues and that she gave him a "verbal eviction." Caller is already in contact with housing court regarding this issue and remains concerned about the dogs, who reportedly remain aggressive. Animal control officer spoke to party with dogs, one of whom did display aggressive behavior upon seeing another dog during ACO's visit. ACO advised party that she should take the dog to behavioral classes. ACO also followed up with caller and advised him of his options.

1:45 p.m. Caller from Crescent Street is concerned about the "kids" across the street, who set up a board and have been throwing knives at it. She feels that this is a safety hazard to anyone in the area. Several knives seized from location. Note left for homeowner.

4:48 p.m. Caller inquiring about getting help removing a snake from under her porch. Snake is possibly a ring snake, approximately 9-10" in length. Caller advised that animal control officer does not handle snakes and that it is unknown if anyone would assist with a snake of that size.

6:07 p.m. Report of a fight in the alleyway across from the Pizza House; 5-6 parties involved. Officer spoke with parties exiting the alleyway, who advised that the incident was verbal only. Gathering dispersed.

6:23 p.m. Two 911 calls regarding a fight at the Rendezvous; 8-12 individuals yelling and screaming. Officer spoke with parties and learned that the situation started when a female from the previous call drove by and yelled something to this group.

10:16 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant and a default warrant.

Tuesday, 4/28

12:28 a.m. Party into lobby to report stop sign at Third and L Streets is turned away from traffic. Officer advises that the sign is twisted and will most likely need to be replaced. Message left for DPW.

2:27 a.m. Report of a physical and verbal altercation on Fifth Street. Unfounded.

4:19 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that as he was bringing his trash out, his downstairs neighbor started yelling at him. Referred to an officer.

7:15 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant complains of an idling train that has been there since about 3:30 p.m. Spoke with Pan Am; crew

is en route; train should be leaving around 9 p.m.

8:45 p.m. Two calls reporting car vs. bear collision at North Leverett and Ripley Roads. No injuries; no real damage to car; involved party reportedly could hear the bear in the woods still crying. Witness stated that there was a mother bear and 2 cubs. Unable to locate animals.

Wednesday, 4/29

11:25 a.m. Report of two separate brush fires getting out of control at Taylor Heights. MCFD and TFFD responding. Fire brought under control.

3:15 p.m. Caller reports that a young male consistently rides his motorbike through the fields at Unity Park. Male is currently at the basketball courts; caller would like an officer to speak to him. Officer spoke to party and advised him of rules and regulations.

4:46 p.m. Officer advised by motorist that there is a "big round ball" directly on the train tracks in Millers Falls. Erving PD copied and will be sending someone out.

5:41 p.m. Party into lobby stating that she was jumped by another female at Unity Park. Party transported to hospital. Officer spoke with witness who stated that it was a mutual fight. Officer en route to Fourth Street.

9:04 p.m. Caller advises that he was just "choked out" by a male party while walking home. Caller declined medical attention and hung up before giving any other information. Party later located and found to be highly intoxicated; advised he did not need police assistance.

Thursday, 4/30

12:11 a.m. 911 hangup call from I Street. Officer requesting MedCare for a party with a dislocated hip. Removed to hospital.

10:38 a.m. Report of vandalism to bench along the bike path. Officer will follow up.

3:36 p.m. Erratic operator on Canal Street; responding officers report a male with a diabetic reaction. Removed to hospital.

3:37 p.m. Several calls reporting a brush fire close to the Congregational Church on T Street. TFFD notified; fire extinguished.

4:52 p.m. Officer advised the owner of a vehicle in the Food City parking lot that he would need to get the number of items in the

back and inside of his truck under control and keep the items tied down. Party advised of consequences if he does not comply.

7:45 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports yelling, screaming, and banging in the apartment below and thinks it may be a fight. Responding officers advise all quiet upon arrival; spoke to caller, who was intoxicated.

9:24 p.m. Report of large outside fire on Lake Pleasant Road. MCFD extinguished fire and will be soaking area.

9:25 p.m. Report of suspicious blue van on Fourth Street; second call advises that van is continually "burning out" in the area.

9:41 p.m. Citation issued for unreasonable noise. (See previous call.)

10:33 p.m. Smoke reported in an Avenue A building. TFFD reports possible burned food; still attempting to locate the source.

Friday, 5/1

11:40 a.m. Report of company cutting trees/limbs on West Chestnut Hill Road and blocking ¾ of the road. Responding officer advised crew that they should move further off the road and contact MPD for a detail officer if more than one crew would be there for an extended amount of time.

11:51 a.m. Request for officer to remove a student from Turners Falls High School property. Services rendered.

4:55 p.m. Officer in front of Food City with a load of stone in the travel lane. Party will be attempting to remove stone with broom. TFFD advised and en route. Most stone removed. Operator warned verbally for unsecured load.

Saturday, 5/2

12:38 a.m. Complaint regarding loud party on Montague City Road; caller can hear noise from 30 block of Turnpike Road. Resident advised of complaint. Party will be moving inside. Small cooking fire will be extinguished.

1:45 a.m. Caller from 2nd floor apartment on Third Street reports loud party in 3rd floor apartment; ongoing issue. Caller advised to contact landlord regarding issue. Officers advised upstairs tenant of complaint; she and two friends were celebrating a birthday. They will quiet their music and call it a night.

10:32 a.m. Small brush fire

on Greenfield Road extinguished by MCFD.

6:42 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street concerned about neighbors tearing down barn and not cleaning up debris properly; also concerned about possible escalation of rude comments from neighbor. Referred to an officer.

7:52 p.m. Randall Road caller reports neighbors setting off fireworks; concerned that they will present a fire hazard in the dry conditions outside. Officer spoke with residents, who are done for the night.

8 p.m. Caller from Dell Street advises that he has seen his male neighbor abusing his dog. Animal control officer notified.

8:29 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with a red light violation, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

8:52 p.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue reports fireworks coming from a neighboring property every weekend; he is "sick of it." Responding officer did not hear or see any fireworks; spoke with a few other neighbors who denied hearing anything.

10:34 p.m. Following a disturbance on Fourth Street, a male was taken into protective custody.

Sunday, 5/3

12:22 a.m. Report of disturbance on Second Street. Responding officer found that parties were trying to get an intoxicated female inside for the night. No one was hurt.

1:12 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that his neighbor has been using a leaf blower and may be hitting passing cars with yard debris. Officer checked area; no one in yard; a little debris in breakdown lane.

1:58 p.m. Caller from Dewolf Road reports that her neighbor has a bunch of chickens that continually come into their yard and dig up their landscaping. Officer spoke with involved party.

4:49 p.m. Caller advises that female downstairs neighbor is outside in the back yard screaming. Caller is not sure what is going on but would like her to quiet down. Officer advised.

4:55 p.m. Report of suspected breaking and entering on J Street. Referred to an officer.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

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FALLS from page B1

us representing the Nolumbeka Project, began suspecting that the numbers would grow as we heard more and more expressions of interest and intent to be there for this historic walk, but we weren't expecting this!

I had brought along a vintage aluminum three-step ladder I found in the cellar, lent to me by my father more than forty years ago. (I forgot to return it, you know how that works!) It had been lurking in the cellar in the dark and mostly forgotten all that time, but it showed itself when the time had come.

So up on the soapbox, or rather the ladder, I went, just barely above the crowd, to introduce the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Nolumbeka, sponsors of the walk, and to explain the plan, and the reason why we were gathering.

I evoked the spiritual significance of the region around the falls and the controversy centered on the ceremonial hill at the edge of the Montague Plains, on Turners Falls airport property.

The outcome of that controversy was that not only did the Keeper of the National Registry of Historic Places affirm the tribal position that the ceremonial hill was of religious significance, but also that the hill was at the center of a sixteen-mile circle that encompassed an important spiritual landscape.

Of course, the falls, now throttled and tamed by a dam, carry the most powerful visual impact of the landscape.

Joe Graveline took my place on the ladder, and led the gathering through five hundred million years of geological history to bring us to the current state of affairs in 2015.

Using Al Dray's brochure that depicts the transformations over that time period, Graveline brought us through periods of towering Himalayan-height mountains, which had been on this spot millions of years ago, Pangaea rift valleys and

colliding continents, dinosaurs, erosion, glaciers, and upheavals, to a topography that would have greeted paleo-Indians exploring and hunting on the edge of the ice at the falls 12,500 years ago.

Howard Clark explained that the falls became a place of enormous spiritual significance. The abundance of migratory fish, the rich alluvial soils and the shining hill of the Wissatinnewag ridge at the foot of the Peskeopmskut falls brought indigenous peoples in their extended family groups and clans to dwell in this place, to come in seasonal movements, or to seek this spot in a pilgrimage at life's end.

For over 10,000 years the residents of this region, who came to be known as Pocumtucks, welcomed all others to participate in the bounty at the falls, to find spouses and to perform ceremony. Rivalries, feuds, and revenge were left behind when entering this land of truce in this part of the Connecticut River Valley.

This state of peace lands lasted for thousands of years until, as Graveline explains, much like a light switch is thrown, the truce land disappeared overnight on May 19, 1676.

This is not to say that warning signs of momentous disaster were not present. Permanent English settlements, begun in 1620, spread rapidly over the region: Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony, Windsor, Hartford, Springfield, Westfield, Hadley, Hatfield and Deerfield were founded in rapid succession starting in the 1640s.

Clark explained, talking over the roar of the rushing waters, that forces such as the European-introduced epidemics, land-obsessed colonists, the conspiracy of profiteers and speculator-merchants such as John and William Pynchon and Jonathan Hull created the conditions for the effective genocide of the indigenous peoples living in the valley.

When it was again my turn to speak, I reminded the group that we

are currently at the beginning of an in-depth study of the events that ended this 10,000-year era at the falls. The Town of Montague has been awarded a historic grant, funded by the National Park Service, to study the context of King Philip's War, and the details of the events of May 19, 1676.

Central to the research and investigation of this study will be the tribal people present at the time, both refugees seeking sanctuary and residents: Metacom, Canonchet, Pocumtuck, Nipmuc, Narragansett, Wampanoag, among many others.

Also researched will be the stories of the controversial figures of Captain William Turner and Captain Holyoke, and the 160 militia men from settlements down the river. All aspects of the clash of cultures which came to be known as King Philip's War will be studied and presented in documents and public forums.

Our intense, fact-packed river walk ended at the abutment of the old Red Bridge at Unity Park, where our dwindling group spent time hearing, once again, the story of the massacre of refugees at the site just across the river from us, now partially beneath the waters at the shore of Riverside, Gill, and Barton's Cove.

The morning had been intended as an introduction to the history of native presence at the falls, and an interpretation of the geological, topographical, cultural, and military significance of Peskeopmskut, which became known as Turners Falls.

The eagle was right: this was an important day, not quite like any other. The message went back to the Creator on the wings of a red-tailed hawk: we have told the story, we have by spoken word contributed to the growing oral history of those who were there on that day.

The walk will be repeated on Saturday, May 16. Please consult www.turnersfallsriverculture.org and nolumbekaproject.blogspot.com for details.



STRETCH from page B1

no effort or hesitation whatsoever, and picture him grabbing the 86'd item and tossing it to a dumbfounded cook. This is a learned trait.

You see, every cook, chef, purchaser or restaurant owner has worked at least one "first day." On that first day, they didn't know anything about food, labels, storage – you name it.

They have all told their boss, "We're all out of such and such." And they've all been proven, many times, that they're wrong. Frequent suffering of the humiliation of being wrong will cause even the strongest-willed cooks to amend the statement to "I can't find it."

When something is truly 86'd from the stock room or walk-in, the purchaser will undoubtedly become more defensive, and insist one of the following things happened:

1. You are over-portioning.
2. The supplier screwed up the order (which is most likely the actual reason).
3. It wasn't on the "needs list" (a fail-safe mechanism which all restaurant employees should contribute to).
4. It was there yesterday.
5. Someone stole it.
6. You've been selling it like crazy?
7. Finally, the closest thing to an admittance of guilt: Huh. You'll have it tomorrow.

Before the ingredient, and all of the menu items which require it, is written in dry-erase marker on the 86'd board, a good chef and proud purchaser will "stretch" it.

The purchaser, being the senior manager, might tell a subordinate cook to go and get the bacon stretch-er. The cook might go look, and come back with the same problem, "We don't have a bacon stretcher."

Again, many cooks have fallen for some prank of that nature. Bacon stretchers only work with thick-sliced, uncured bacon, and each town only has one, which is shared between restaurants. It works best

at setting number three.

Suppose the missing, or about-to-be-86'd item is bacon. Suppose there are thirty slices left, or enough for ten turkey club sandwiches. A clever chef or purchaser will chop half of the bacon into bits, and mix it into the sandwiches' heavy-duty mayonnaise. He'll call it "Bacon Aioli," and charge an extra dollar for the up-sell.

That leaves fifteen slices of bacon. He'll cut them all in half (across) and carefully slice the thirty half strips into thirds lengthwise.

Now ninety small slices of bacon, he will instruct his subordinate cook to put three slices directly in the middle of each sandwich, visible to the guest, where the first bite will take place. He will use twenty more slices to create eye-appealing mini-BLT skewers.

The chef will spread a teaspoon of his Bacon Aioli onto a quarter section of a grape tomato, which he will wrap with a large baby spinach leaf and the miniature bacon strip.

He will instruct the subordinate cook to impale the turkey clubs with the mini BLT skewers, which will be a big hit with the customers, who will completely ignore the fact that they are getting half of the amount of bacon they normally do, and are being charged an extra dollar for it.

Bacon stretching at its finest! The clever chef has managed to double the amount of turkey clubs he can sell without 86'ing bacon, and in doing so, has made an extra twenty dollars. And there's still ten one-sixth slices of bacon left over.

Eric Damkoehler is the Sous Chef of the Delaney House in Holyoke. He lives in Turners Falls with his wife and three sons. He has been working in commercial kitchens since 1999 and attended the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT. Check out his blog at: www.thesobersouschef.com.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was May 5, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Erving to Purchase Mitzkovitz Land

The selectboard is prepared to purchase 8.23 acres of land owned by Ken Mitzkovitz in Ervingside. The undeveloped parcel is contiguous to the Erving Elementary School, the Erving Police Station, and an additional 17 acres of town-owned property.

The parcel is located in Zone 2 of the town's water recharge area, "very close" to the town's well-head, according to papers to be submitted to the state.

Gill Declines to Call Home the Guard

A resolution calling for the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units stationed in Iraq was defeated by town meeting in Gill Monday night, May 2. Included in a list of seven non-budgetary articles up for consideration, the resolution did not pass muster, failing on a 39 to 24 vote. In a small way, the vote highlighted the divisiveness the war has created among average Americans.

"We are Monday-morning

quarterbacking. Hussein was a vicious man. He was just like Hitler and Hirohito," said navy veteran Paul Seamens. "This is not a sensible proposal," he added.

The resolution explicitly stated it as not against the men and women serving in combat. It stated that since there was no direct threat to the nation itself from Iraq, the calling up of the Guard to active duty was improper according to its mandate.

Sally Shaw, who proposed the resolution, said including it on the town meeting agenda was the right thing to do. "Part of the assignment in democracy is not to silence any voice, to speak of issues that affect our small town and larger issues that affect our nation."

She outlined the cost of the Iraq war to the residents of Gill, based on calculations by the National Priorities Project, a Northampton based nonprofit research group. According to the figures cited by Shaw, the war has cost Gill residents \$1.2 million dollars so far. "There were no weapons of mass destruction, nor nukes," she said. "It is not our job to be the world's policeman," she added.

Montague Authorizes Cable Access Proposals

Ever since the selectboard vot-

ed to name the Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) as the town's local cable access provider three years ago, questions have lingered about the process used to make that decision.

After three months of hard work by the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), and weeks spent awaiting the town counsel's opinions, the selectboard voted to issue a Request for Proposals at Monday's meeting.

Both GCTV and the town's former cable access provider, Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCTV), will be invited to submit proposals, according to board chair Pat Allen, along with "any other groups that might be out there."

"The problem we have is that the business was not done right to begin with," said Patricia Pruitt, selectboard member. "We have been trying as a board to do things better than they have been done in the recent past," she added, referring to the process of decision making three years ago.

At that time, although a majority of town meeting members had requested that MCTV, then the town's local cable access provider, be granted a two year extension of the cable access assignment, the selectboard voted by a 2-1 margin to award the assignment to GCTV instead.

RHYTHMS from page B1

"It's important to present educational and musical experiences for children and adults," said Frota. "Kids giggle at times and call me 'The Forest Man.' It's a wonderful thing to show the delicate balance of sound vibrations, the power of the forest, and the ecology of life on earth. And I enjoy bringing an interactive and fresh approach to the appreciation of music."

Frota arrived in the United States 34 years ago. He won a scholarship to the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music. In 1989, he graduated with a major in jazz, classical, and ethnic music, what the school terms a Third Stream Program.

Frota, a violinist and multi-cultural percussionist, has performed in Brazil, the United States, Belgium, France, and Switzerland.

Frota traces his creativity and love of nature to his boyhood days. A tropical country, Brazil has beautiful beaches, oceans, farms, and forests. "When I was a youngster, I loved to run barefoot in the sand and hear the sound of the waves in the background. Even today I still feel peaceful and quiet when I listen to the sounds of nature."

"It's taught me to observe the movements of my surroundings. There is so much sound in the world. People driving cars, beeping horns, talking. Two or more sounds occurring together, creating polyrhythm.

And people from different cultures have different, distinct rhythms in their speech patterns.

"When I'm performing I'm in a type of spiritual place. I become one with the sound – completely present and yet one with the sound. The sound itself guides me, opening a portal, and I surrender myself to it. Once in Brazil, I did a 40-minute solo, only playing a tree."

Applying the rich traditions of indigenous peoples – African, Brazilian, Native American, and South American – Ricardo's music pulsates with life. Sounds of nature blend with stunning rhythms. The listener can sense improvisation, but yet the effect is organic, each part reinforcing the other.

Perhaps Frota's greatest joy is teaching his audiences, particularly children, a new way to experience music. "This work makes me happy," he said. "I love to invite the kids who are listening to play the rhythms they themselves hear, to express themselves musically."

Volunteer water dancers and drummers are still needed for the May 16 event. Dancers and drummers should arrive at the Shea Theater by 2:30 pm to co-create and rehearse. Wear black, and bring a potluck dish for dinner. Interested dancers should contact Phyllis at (413) 369-9985; drummers should contact Mr. Frota at ricardofrota3@gmail.com.



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Remembering The Cone Shop



By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – This photo shows the inside of the Cone Shop, a popular ice cream parlor that once was inside the building where the store LOOT is now located, at 62 Avenue A. The store was run by Lillian Sabato and her son Robert. It closed around 1960-61.

In this photo the prices are 5 or 10 cents for an ice cream cone, and \$1.25 for a half gallon of ice cream. For 25 cents you could order an egg, cheese, hamburger, hotdog, or chopped ham sandwich.

Jeff Webster has shared the following remembrance of the Cone Shop: “Saturdays in Turners Falls were rich with possibilities: playing in the Unity Park bandstand, riding my bike (with TFPD-issued license plate), candlepin bowling above Cumberland Farms, or playing catch in the alley between Third and Fourth streets.

“But one of my favorite Saturday pastimes was spending an hour or more in the Cone Shop.

My mom gave me money and I walked up to Avenue A to see Mrs. Sabato. She was always friendly and knew what I wanted before I said it: a hot dog in a grilled roll, and a chocolate frappe. While she was blending the frappe, I selected two comic books from the long rack on the wall opposite the fountain. I sat at the counter and Mrs. Sabato poured my frappe into a glass, leaving me the remainder in the metal mixing cup.

“I remember well her pleasant company, along with the soft mid-day light pouring through the two big front windows. The Cone Shop was a safe, welcoming, happy place to spend time. I often visited the Cone Shop with family and friends over the years, but my solo Saturday excursions have always stayed with me as an important and wonderful childhood memory.”

The photo was shared by LOOT owners Erin MacLean and John McNamara, who received it from the Sabato family recently.

Busy Season Ahead for Millers River Watershed Council

The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) is gearing up for its 2015 river monitoring and Blue Trails recreational season, and invites the public’s participation and support. 2015 activities also include ongoing stormwater management education for watershed towns and opposition to the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) gas pipeline that would run through part of the watershed.

Work on the newest planned Blue Trail, the “Lower Millers,” got off to an exciting start in April as MRWC coordinator Ivan Ussach and project associate Keith Davies took a wild ride on the whitewater section of the Millers with Zoar Outdoor, from downtown Erving to the takeout eight miles downstream

near the Connecticut River. This stretch of river is only safe for experienced boaters, and only at certain times of the year when water levels are suitable.

Together with the more mellow stretch of river from downtown Orange to Erving, the Lower Millers Blue Trail promises something for everyone, locals and visitors alike. Work also continues on the Upper Miller-Otter Blue Trails system in Winchendon, Templeton and Gardner, which should see completion this year.

MRWC is now recruiting volunteers for its bacteria and temperature monitoring programs at sites throughout the watershed. This will be the fifth consecutive year for bi-weekly bacteria monitoring, cover-

ing nine sites on the Millers and Otter rivers, and the second full year for weekly temperature monitoring under the TribWatch program.

Volunteers monitored 23 tributary streams in 2014, augmented by long-term remote probes installed at 18 locations. Other TribWatch activities include additional stream level observations and completion of flow curves at Whetstone and Keyup Brooks, and further benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring in the fall.

This spring will also see MRWC co-sponsoring the first in a series of Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management workshops with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), scheduled for May 29 in Greenfield.

Finally, MRWC continues to advocate for meeting the state’s energy needs with a practical and economical mix of renewables, efficiency measures and market reforms that requires no new fossil fuel infrastructure. “The NED pipeline is ill-conceived,” said Ussach, “unless you’re in the business of building pipelines or exporting gas.”

For information on MRWC activities, and to make a tax-deductible donation or receive its e-newsletter, please visit the MRWC website at millerswatershed.org, leave a message at (978) 248-9491, or write to MRWC at 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331.



MRWC’s Keith Davies, right side of boat, front, and Ivan Ussach, behind him, tackle the Funnel on the Mighty Millers with Zoar Outdoor in early April.

Franklin County Home Care Corp. seeks MANAGERS (3) for SENIOR DINING CENTER MEALS PROGRAM

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Submit resume & cover letter with preference of Site to: HR@fchcc.org or mail to: FCHCC-DHR, 330 Montague City Rd., Turners Falls, MA 01376. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. AA/EOE.

LEND US YOUR EARS!



Toga party: Young Shakespeare Players rehearse the Bard’s 1599 tragedy.

TURNERS FALLS – Come to Rome (at the Shea Theater) this weekend, May 9 and 10. The Young Shakespeare Players East ensemble will re-create one of the most important moments in world history by performing, uncut, one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays, *Julius Caesar*.

Julius Caesar deals with pertinent themes such as conspiracy, democracy, liberty, corruption, ambition and tyranny. For the Young Shakespeare Players, ages 7 to 19, immersing in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* not only involved the study of Shakespeare and ancient Rome, but also an examination into the modern condition, politics and history.

There are two YSP casts performing *Julius Caesar*, each with 12 actors. Casts are mixed age, with performers as young as 7 and as old as 18.

Each cast will perform twice, and serve as the tech crew for the other cast twice.

Admission is free and open to the public, and there are delicious concessions available for sale. All proceeds support YSP East’s scholarship fund. So, come hungry!

We encourage people of all ages to come to the Shea and enjoy the show on May 9 and 10, at noon and 6 p.m., to experience this timeless, riveting play. Run time is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes with two intermissions. No reservations required.

The Young Shakespeare Players (YSP) East is a non-profit theater program where youth between the ages of 7-18 perform full-length,

original works of Shakespeare. Young Shakespeare Players was founded in 1980 by Richard DiPrima in Madison Wisconsin, and YSP East is proud to be the first ‘chapter’ of YSP outside of Madison and to make Turners Falls and the Shea its new home.

YSP’s methods promote involvement by the young people in every aspect of a production.

In addition to acting, the young participants provide input into casting, provide backstage technical support, they assist colleagues with memorizing, and, most important, help direct productions by giving one another constructive comments.

This process of constructive feedback is the YSP method of ‘commenting’ that occurs at every rehearsal.

While actors rehearse a scene, their colleagues who are not in the scene (and who may be in another cast) help “direct” by watching and listening with extraordinary care and then offering constructive comments to the players in the scene. This method creates an environment in which the actors teach and learn from each other.

The New England chapter is committed to the mission and values of YSP, using the same materials and methods. With the help of YSP East-New England’s Director, Suzanne Rubinstein, Assistant Director and Technical Director, Cameron Cobane, and a group of talented volunteers, YSP East is inspiring young people in the region to fall in love with the works of Shakespeare, and through their immersion into classical theater find their voice.

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DAKIN from page A1

"Think back to elementary school," Pofcher explained. "If a teacher praised you for what she liked and punished what she didn't like, think about the fear and the feeling of wanting to shut down."

Pofcher uses a technique based on learning theory, which she says is the same for all primates.

"Positive reinforcement helps a dog stay comfortable, so that he is thinking and not reacting," said Pofcher.

Pofcher is self-taught. About twenty years ago, Pofcher said she had a dog that wasn't responding to traditional training techniques of the time. Back then, trainers praised what they liked and punished what they didn't like, which Pofcher said is logical, but not as effective as positive dog training methods. After calling numerous trainers without success, Pofcher realized her dog needed a different approach. That is when she started to study dog training on her own.

A dog that is growling, Pofcher explained, just needs distance. Pofcher figures out how much distance the dog needs to feel comfortable by backing away until the dog stops growling. The farther away she is from the dog, the less spooked the dog will feel.

"Distance is good for dogs," she explained.

Shelter dogs are a special case. While Dakin does a temperament screening on the dogs that are put up for adoption, Pofcher explained that these dogs are in an unnatural environment.

"For most of the dogs at Dakin there is nothing in their history like a shelter. Either they have been a stray for awhile or they have been relinquished right from home and its people are gone," said Pofcher.

The temperament of a shelter dog can vary from shy to reactive, and sometimes it is hard to tell what the real temperament is until the dog has been adopted. That is why it is important to have good dog trainers, like Pofcher, who can recognize the subtle signs that point to a dog's real personality.

One of Pofcher's own dogs is a rescue dog, and she has a bit of a

funny story. Originally she thought he was completely green and untrained. Then she noticed he started responding to Spanish. She realized that the dog was from Texas and was probably taught in Spanish. He simply didn't know the English language. Now she is communicating with the dog properly in English, but it took some time.

"I think my Spanish accent was pretty bad," Pofcher joked.

Pofcher encourages adopters to think outside the box when adopting a dog. While puppies may have a difficult time concentrating, older dogs can pick up on new tricks well. Herding dogs can present a challenge, but Pofcher said using a large yoga ball and having the dog nudge the ball into place will use the herding instincts and give the dog a way they can do the thing they have a drive for.

"With real herding it's the person giving the instructions, but if there are no instructions the dog nips at kids' heels. It's important the dog has instruction. They can't

keep running the sheep to death," Pofcher explained.

Pofcher finds a lot of problems arise outside, when a dog is being taken on a walk. For these dogs Pofcher starts inside, then brings the dog outside to work on socialization.

"Sometimes all the owner wants is for the walk to not be so dramatic," said Pofcher.

As long as it isn't a vet issue, Pofcher has a good rate of success. Pofcher explains reactive behavior in terms of how a person might feel.

"There are people who don't want a massage. They can get a handshake, a pat on the back, but they don't want a massage," Pofcher explained.

As well as working with the shelter dogs, Pofcher has her own company called My Dog LLC. More information regarding her services can be found at www.MyDogTraining.net. Pofcher encourages anyone who may need her services to call or visit her website.



One of Pofcher's dogs, Rover.

Great Falls Middle School 3rd Quarter HONOR ROLL

Grade 6

First Honors: Timothy Agapov, Catherine Bezio, Kate Boulanger, Dylan Demers, Emily Denison, Lenora Dickson, Jacob Dodge, Isabelle Farrick, Haleigh Greene, Abigail Hoynoski, Isabella Johnson, Nicholas Lyons, Mackenzie Martel, Mercedes Morales, Taylor Murphy, Audrey O'Keefe, Catherine Reynolds, Emily Sevrens, Lana Spera, Julie Sprankle, Amber Taylor, Taryn Thayer, Jade Tyler, Olivia Whittier

Second Honors: Paige Bonarrigo, Vincent Carme, Emmalee Dobosz, G-anni Garcia, Natalie Kells, Derek Martin, Dylan McLaughlin, Juliana Rode, Jacob Sak, Kolby Watroba

Third Honors: Kaden Cash, Austin Demers, Dalver Perez, James Robison, Kelli Schneider, Nicholas White

Grade 7

First Honors: Hailey Bogusz, Karissa Fleming, Josy Hunter, Hailey Jackson, Eliza Johnson, Joseph Kochan, Kaitlyn Miner, Chantelle Monaghan, Alyson Murphy, Kayani Rodriguez,

Dabney Rollins, Brody Trott, Lucas Upham, Abigail Waite, Allison Wheeler

Second Honors: Cameron Bradley, Jakob Burnett, Alden Courtemanche, Madison McCassie, Lucy Spera, Connor Waitkus, Lindsay Whiteman

Third Honors: Carson Carlisle, Liam Driscoll, Jonathon Fritz, Mason Kucenski, Colby Mailloux, Edward Reipold, Luis Vinton, Madeline Williams, Lydia Wright

Grade 8

First Honors: Samantha Bocon, Ryan Campbell, Dominic Carme, Andy Craver, Kyle Dodge, Reagan Fiske, Cailyn Gobeil, Jenna Jacobsen, Anna Kochan, Alexis Lacey, John Putala, Keltyn ocquet, Sarah Studlien, Holly Tetreault, Sarah Waldron, Hannah Welles, Cassidhe Wozniak

Second Honors: Reilan Castine, Kayleigh Curtiss, Rodney Duteau, Jacob LaBelle, Garrett Martel, Mireya Ortiz, Hunter Sanders, Ayden Stacy, Will Turn, Victoria Veaudry

Third Honors: Jared Bergmann, Lindsey Bourbeau, Timothy Fritz, Ruben Galvez Perez, Rebecca Harrell, Danielle Lively, Dizarre Lopez, Bianca Martin, Tyler Noyes, Kallie Ryan, Ethan Shilo-Draper

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Spring "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding the spring "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility at 66 Buckland Road (Rt. 112 South), the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

District residents may bring a wide range of bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. 95% of all textiles can be recycled or reused; clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers can be recycled into insulation.

Acceptable items include CLEAN & DRY clothing, shoes, bras, purses; plus curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels and stuffed animals in any condition (except moldy or wet!). Books can be of any condition except moldy or wet, and can be hardcover or paperback. No encyclopedias.

NEW: Bulky Rigid Plastics will be collected for recycling; \$2 per load. Plastic items larger than 2.5 gallons are too bulky to be recycled in municipal recycling, but can now be collected separately and delivered to the Springfield MRF for recycling.

Acceptable items include 5-gallon pails (metal handles OK), plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash cans and recycling bins, laundry baskets,

plastic toys (no electronics), plastic dish drainers, storage totes, milk crates and plastic pet carriers.

Large yard toys, plastic shelving, play structures and kiddie pools (rigid, not inflatable) will be accepted as long as they measure less than 4 feet in any direction.

If longer than 4 feet, residents will have to dismantle or cut these items into smaller pieces before bringing them to the collection. Empty and clean rigid plastic plant pots and nursery trays will be accepted, but not the crinkly 4- and 6-packs that seedlings come in. All rigid plastic items must be empty, rinsed if needed, and free of soil, rocks, and excessive liquids.

Unacceptable items for bulky rigid plastic recycling include Styrofoam, PVC pipe/tubing, vinyl siding, fencing, toolboxes, hoses of any kind, pesticide/chemical containers, and plastic films, bags, etc.

All residents of Montague, Erving, Wendell, Leverett and Gill are within the district.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. Businesses may participate.

A complete list of prices for the most common items will soon be available at participating town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

For more information contact the District office at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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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 MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

The Pioneer Tavern (Formerly The Rt.63 Roadhouse), Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Trash to Treasure*. Artwork created with trash from the Connecticut River watershed by regional artists. Through 5/27. Details at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org



Zoe Lewis performs at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse this Saturday, May 9 at 8 p.m. She plays gypsy jazz, jump jive, latin grooves, swing, international folk originals on anything from the piano to the spoons. She's traveled around the globe to over 70 countries, picking up world-beat grooves and stories on the way; jumping box cars, riding on freight boats and has even played music with an elephant orchestra in Thailand. Sliding scale donations, refreshments sold. The performance benefits the Mount Grace Land Trust.

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, #106-#112 Avenue A: Installations of work by Paul Root and Julianne Jones, video by artists from Millers Falls Arts Bridge. Through 5/13.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls, Bruce Kahn: *Dreams, Fantasies and Fetishes* Wildly unpredictable Kahn is back for a second showing of his unreal photo compositions. May 5-June 7. Reception on 5/16.

Deerfield Arts Bank, Deerfield: *Black and White and Read All Over*, group exhibit 4/16-5/17.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Will Sieruta, Mixed Media Paintings*, through 5/31. Opening Reception: Sunday May 10, 4-6 p.m.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Seeking Water Dancers for Riversong May 16, Turners Falls. You will need stamina for a full day: co-creating and rehearsing and then performing the ceremony after the sun sets that night. Dancers arrive by 2:30 pm so we can begin at 3:00 p.m. We will be using il-

luminated hula hoops for the dance so it would be helpful if you know how to use one. Call Phyllis (413.369.9985) to RSVP by May 1.

Drummers Desired for Riversong May 16, Turners Falls. Drummers arrive by 3:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the event. Please bring a drum. Contact Ricardo (ricardofrota3@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Seeking Cool Cats for a special feline feature at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls June 2015! Seeking feline themed arts and crafts consignors. contact Nina Rossi, naban@verizon.net (413) 834-8800. www.ninasnook.com

Poetry Chapbook Contest organized by Slate Roof Press. Winners make a three-year commitment to the press. Submit no more than 28 pages of poetry. Deadline: May 15. See www.slateroofpress.com.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center. Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information www.sawmillriverarts.com

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendell-mass.us

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Poetry Reading with Peter Marcus and Diana Whitney*, 7 p.m.

Bing Arts Center, Springfield: *Art Critic Gloria Russell presents The 1913 Armory Show: Art Exhibit or "Chamber of Horrors"*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall-*

town String Band. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy Caravan*, \$ 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Ben Falkoff*, \$ 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby* Singer/songwriter/guitarist/producer. 8 p.m.

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls *Judy Handler & Mark Levesque* Enjoy passionate & lyrical music from around the world for guitars & mandolin. \$ 7 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby*. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Innocenzo by the Pitti Players*. Play for families. 11 a.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Linn Bower Art Reception*. 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Julius Caesar by Young Shakespeare Players*. noon and 6 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *John Coster, Singer-Songwriter*, New England based singer songwriter and guitarist whose work has been compared to Dylan's for its epic qualities and ability to set the most personal stories in the broader context of social change. \$ 8 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Zoe Lewis Feature Act* Gypsy Jazz, Swing, World-beat Grooves. Benefit for Mt Grace Land Trust. \$ 8 p.m. Open Mic 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Hanging Scarlet*, 8 p.m.

Artsblock, Greenfield: *Happier Valley Comedy Show with the HaHa's and special guest B.U.M.P.* \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Julius Caesar by Young Shakespeare Players*, noon and 6 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 11

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

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Josh Abrams, Jake Meginsky* \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern String Band. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple & Friends*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Jim Armenti with opener Lisa Marie Ellingsen*. \$ 8 p.m.

Artsblock, Greenfield: *Comedy Nite*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Steve Koziol & Friends--The Original Cowards*. 9: 30 p.m.

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FASHION from pg B1

So if you've got space for a few intriguing "Hmmm, I know I could do something amazing with you" pieces that have been around for more than a year, keep them. Rules be damned.

4. Know what you need. Otherwise, you'll haul home all kinds of stuff that will take up way too much space and mock you every time you open your closet. Some people bring along pictures of their wardrobes or of pieces that need dance partners; some make lists; those with a good visual memory just wing it.

Since most of us lack unlimited closet space, this is a very good rule. But see #5.

5. Keep all channels open. One of the joys of thrifting is that you never know what amazing stuff you'll find. Go in with a too-rigid idea of what you're looking for and you'll miss treasures you didn't even know you wanted.

6. Look everywhere. For one thing, people in a hurry leave things



NASH PHOTOS

in funny places. For another, staff sometimes have odd ideas about how to rack things. I found the two parts of this Ann Taylor set (above)



(shirt \$2.99, skirt \$7.99) racked separately at the Turners Sal A.

7. Know before you go what you can spend. Sure, this stuff is cheap, but 5 bucks (my usual per-garment limit) here and 5 bucks there and pretty soon you're talking big money. Well, small big money, anyway.

Set a dollar limit; leave all plastic at home; reinforce your willpower by taking only a set amount of money into the store; or stay out if you can't afford to buy. These are all good policies. I don't follow any of

them. But you should.

I could go on and on and on, but these tips will get you started. Now, suit up (take your jacket in case it snows), head out, visit our shops, grab some "new" threads, and celebrate this great season of "Almost-Spring and Then Suddenly We'll Be Whacked with the High Temperatures of Summer."

Happy thrifting.

Elizabeth Nash writes about clothes, style, and fashion at www.LookAtThoseClothes.wordpress.com.



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