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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 32

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 29, 2014

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fuel Costs At LES Reheat Board's Call For Building Maintenance

By DAVID DETMOLD

A cost overrun expected to exceed 50% of the amount budgeted for oil to heat the Leverett Elementary School this fiscal year has the selectboard renewing its call to take over responsibility for the school building's maintenance, along with the water and septic systems the elementary school shares with the neighboring public safety complex.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis told the selectboard on Tuesday she anticipates a reserve fund transfer of \$23,000 will be needed by the end of June to pay the overrun for fuel, above the \$46,350 budgeted for oil at the school. The public safety complex shares an oil tank with the school.

It was not clear at the selectboard hearing on Tuesday how much of the overrun was attributable to heating costs at the safety complex, during a heating season that featured a 14.5% increase in heating degree days over the previous winter, according to an online chart provided by National Grid.

Reached after the meeting, retiring school principal Ann Ross said, "Yes, there was an overage. There was a combination of factors."

see LEVERETT page A5

Remembering the Fallen In Irving and Montague



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The Erving Eagles, one of many groups in the Erving Memorial Day Commemoration, march from the former Renovator's Supply to Veterans' Field.



MARGE BARRETT-MILLS PHOTO

Gary Bourbeau of Gill, guest speaker at the Memorial Day Commemoration in Turners Falls, told the crowd to remember those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live in freedom and comfort. Other speakers included Brian Sansoucie of the American Legion, John T. Murphy of the VFW and Chris Boutwell, chair of the Montague selectboard. The Great Falls Middle School Band played the national anthem, the Montague Elks commemorated the fallen with prayers, and Donald Girard played taps on his trusty trumpet. Al Cumming presided.

"Cards On The Table": Land Trust Questions DPU's Authority To Order Gas Pipeline Surveys

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – A Montague couple working to build a farm on Hatchery Road may be the subject of the first legal salvo fired against Kinder Morgan's proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline expansion.

Part of Lisa and Robert Adams' land is under an agricultural protection restriction held by the Athol-based Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

Last week, Michael Pill of Green Miles Lipton LLP, an attorney retained by the Trust, issued a public memorandum outlining a legal strategy aimed at preventing the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) from granting the pipeline company permission to survey on restricted land.

"Mount Grace is asserting that conservation land shouldn't be compromised by this pipeline," explained Leigh Youngblood, the

organization's executive director.

"The memorandum provides the legal basis for that position."

Though the application for the project wouldn't go before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) until August of next year, according to the company's timeline, its opponents have sought to undermine it in its exploratory phase.

Montague is one of seven towns along the proposed route that have denied the company access to conduct surveys on town-owned lands. Mass. Audubon and many private landowners have done the same.

The Turners Falls Water Department granted the company

see SURVEYS page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

Kinder Morgan is seeking access to the Adams' fields on Hatchery Road.

Seven Firms Vie To Conduct Study For New Gill-Montague Senior Center

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS

Earlier this month the town of Montague, in conjunction with the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Feasibility Study for the Gill-Montague Senior Center. Last Thursday, seven firms indicated interest in conducting the study that would determine the most suitable place for a new senior center.

The seven respondents were Austin Design from Colrain; BHMA (Bargmann, Hendrie + Archetype) from Boston; Catlin + Petrovick from Keene, NH; Deitz & Company of Springfield;

GRLA (Gorman Richardson Lewis Architecture) of Hopkinton; Johnson Roberts from Somerville; and Reinhardt Associates of Agawam.

The architects toured three potential sites in Turners Falls on May 15. These were the present Senior Center on Fifth Street, the former St. Anne's Rectory, now owned by the town, on Sixth Street, and the basement and garage annex at the Montague town hall.

The current Senior Center, owned by PowerTown Limited Partnership and leased to the town, is in need of extensive renovation, including updating of the electrical system and major exterior work including a new roof and windows. Greater handicap

accessibility is also needed.

But even if this work were to be done, the Council on Aging feels that they have outgrown the present facility; accordingly some expansion would be necessary.

The former St. Anne's rectory, whose upper floors were damaged in a fire in December of 2008, also presents challenges for reuse.

As a former residence, the building is divided into small rooms, which led Council on Aging director Roberta Potter to remark that there was little open space in which to hold large group activities. That building is not presently handicap accessible either.

The basement of town hall, formerly the police station,

see STUDY page A5



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, at left, leads a pack of architects on a tour of potential new Senior Center sites, including the lower level of town hall.

No Trees For Oil: Local Experts Discuss Climate Change, Deforestation in Wendell

By CHRIS QUEEN

At its monthly meeting on May 16, the Wendell Climate Change Group welcomed local speakers Trevor Kearns and Sarah Kohler for a discussion of climate change science. Kearns draws on environmental studies as a professor of English at Greenfield Community College. Kohler has studied ecosystem disruptions in local forests and in the jungles of Borneo and Indonesia.

Both were invited to share their knowledge following a vigorous string of exchanges titled "Global warming 'debunked'" on the Wendell Townsfolk email list.

Refuting arguments that natural causes such as volcanoes and solar variability were to blame for global warming, Kohler and Kearns reviewed the mounting evidence that massive wildfires, melting ice, rising seas, and super storms are manifestations of AGW, "anthropogenic global warming."

The steep and inexorable rise in mean global temperature is caused by human industry and agriculture, as reported in the National Climate Assessment released by the White House this month.

Kearns focused on studies showing the corresponding rise in greenhouse gas

emissions and planetary temperatures over the past two hundred years, while Kohler focused on the role of rapid deforestation in tropical countries that clear-cut their rain forests to plant palm trees.

The palm trees are then harvested to produce non-hydrogenated oils for snack foods around the world.

"We're a couple of ethical leaps behind where we need to be in order to cope with climate change."
Trevor Kearns

Kohler titled her remarks, "Save the Rainforest, Eat More Lard," and then told the story of the marketing of Crisco by Procter & Gamble during the early decades of the last century.

Made from hydrogenated cotton seed oil, an industrial waste product that remains solid at room temperature, Crisco became the primary substitute for animal fat in cooking and processed foods.

But since the health dangers of hydrogenated oils and trans fat became known, palm oil has become the favorite substitute. From 2005

to 2012, US imports of palm oil have doubled to 2.7 billion pounds.

"And so the rainforest falls, by the millions and millions of acres, for the production of palm oil," Kohler reported.

"Meanwhile, back here in the temperate zone," Kohler wrote in the email post that attracted some audience members, "our local forests sequester well over 5,000 lbs of CO₂ per acre per year, and support what is arguably the highest level of biodiversity in some 200 years."

"Yet we have invited corporate energy interests to clear-cut our just-maturing forests in the false name of Green Energy. I am referring here to solar farms, which are neither farms, nor anything close to sustainable, renewable or green."

Jonathan von Ranson, a member of the audience, commented after the meeting, "I was practically spellbound as Sarah spun the story of the other big oil in our life: the palm oil that is linked to massive deforestation in the tropics."

Using power point graphics and quotations from scientific journals, Trevor Kearns expressed concern for the myths and misconceptions that proliferate in the popular press.

see CLIMATE page A4

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Multiple Congratulations, And One Note of Dismay

This is the season in which congratulations seem to flow quite freely: graduations, weddings, even surviving the winter all warrant outbursts of praise. We have our own list.

We first want to congratulate GMRSD Superintendent Michael Sullivan on a great first year as head of a school district that is truly emerging as a place where learning is front and center.

We applaud his efforts on all levels. We are impressed with his dedication to education and with his vision for the district as a place where all can succeed. We also want to recognize his willingness to create a budget that works for both the GMRSD and the towns.

Congratulations, too, to all the about-to-be graduates. For those completing high school, we wish you the best in your next life journeys whether it be to college, employment or further training.

To the elementary school graduates of Gill, Montague, Erving, Wendell and Leverett we wish you continued opportunities for learning and growing and developing your life skills as you enter middle school.

And we also send our best to the Middle Schoolers who will be entering high school in the fall.

All of these moves forward are milestones and should be celebrated. We encourage these students to go forward with confidence, hope and belief in themselves.

Congratulations are also due to Gregory Snedeker and William Bembury on their selectboard election victories. We also want to ex-

tol Fred Chase and Bill Pease for their campaigns, and for allowing voters in Gill and Erving to have a choice.

We also want to send good wishes to selectboard incumbents Michael Nelson in Montague, Rich Brazeau in Leverett and Dan Keller in Wendell for jobs so apparently well done that no one mounted challenges against them.

We offer good wishes and good meetings to the newly-elected and re-elected GMRSD school committee and to Montague town meeting members.

That said, we were bothered that only 6.8 percent of eligible Montague voters participated in town elections this year. Ours was the only town of the five served by this newspaper to register voter turnout percentage in the single digits.

To be sure, there were no burning issues, and with the exception of a few town meeting seats, no candidates were being challenged.

Nonetheless, candidates were running for a number of offices, including town meeting. These candidates deserve to be considered and votes need to be cast accordingly.

Thomas Jefferson, in a 1787 letter to Edward Carrington, warned us what can happen when voters do not participate in democracy: "If once [the people] become inattentive to the public affairs, you and I, and Congress and Assemblies, Judges and Governors, shall all become wolves.

"It seems to be the law of our general nature, in spite of individual exceptions."

June 3 Pipeline Forum

Since his January 23 *MR* cover story breaking the news of the proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline slated to cross Franklin County, our reporter and managing editor, Mike Jackson, has become something of a local maven regarding the proposal. Our continued reporting and editorializing on this issue have generated lively discussion and debate.

Mike will participate in what we feel is a very important forum at the GCC Dining Commons on Tuesday, June 3 from 6 to 8 p.m., sponsored by WHMP Radio and Montague Community Television.

Joining him will be 2nd Berkshire State Representative Paul

Mark; 2nd Franklin State Representative Denise Andrews; Shelburne selectman Joe Judd; Senior Attorney Shanna Cleveland of the Conservation Law Foundation; Director of External Affairs Eric Johnson of the ISO-New England; Bruce Winn of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team; and Executive Director Leigh Youngblood of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

We urge our readers to attend, or catch it on radio or cable TV. It should be a valuable public discussion of both the proposal and of how the current natural gas boom fits into our state's long-term energy and climate policy.

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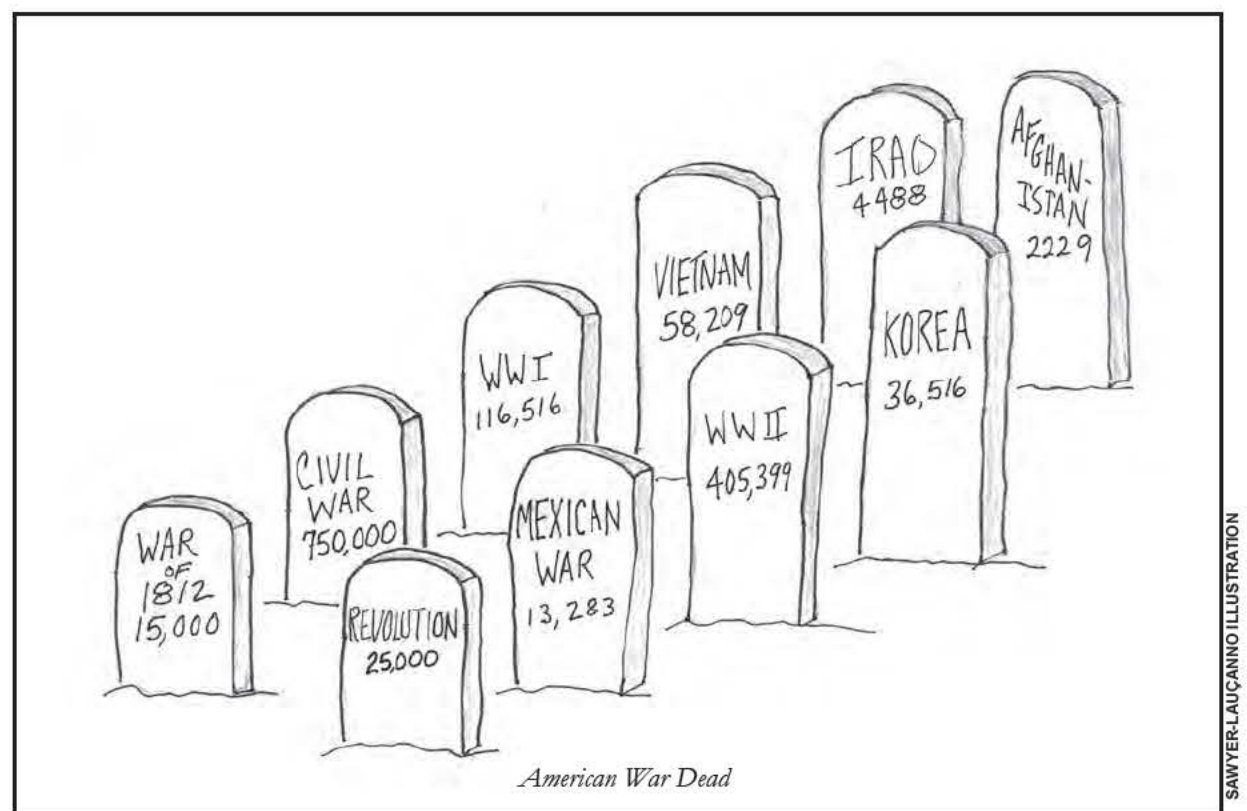
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Letter to the Editors

Accessibility Recommendations for Turners

As we know, the Americans with Disability Act is important for all of us. I have spoken to many business people and town employees.

Small "steps" are needed now:

- * Crosswalk signage by Aubuchon
- * Handicapped parking signage in many lots, and compliance
- * Clearing handicapped parking of snow and debris
- * Curb cuts as we repair, such as by Saint Kaz'
- * Avoiding any waivers to comply with ADA
- * ADA bathrooms at Unity Park that meet all ADA regulations
- * Exploring easy access to the library
- * Preventing businesses from placing items on the sidewalk that block egress
- * Handicapped parking at street fairs, and easy egress to displays or sidewalk

More needs to be done, and this is a cooperative endeavor by all of us to invest in our community, for our entire community.

Public hearings should have wheelchair space for attendees, and it should be expressed to the public that ADA accommodations will be provided at them.

Betty Tegel
Turners Falls

GUEST EDITORIAL The Underlying Causes of Drug Abuse

By REBECCA KING

FRANKLIN COUNTY – I am a retired social worker who worked largely with recovering addicts. While I appreciate the series in the *Greenfield Recorder* tracking the arrival of narcotic drugs in our area and exploring what community members, families and addicts can do to "push back," I believe that only addresses the tip of the iceberg.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health released November 2013, about 1 in 6 unemployed Americans suffers from drug or alcohol addiction – nearly twice the rate of substance abuse found in full-time workers.

The latest edition of the survey, which analyzed drug, alcohol and tobacco use data from 2012, found that 17 percent of unemployed Americans had a substance abuse disorder, compared with 9 percent of full-time workers.

The DSM-IV, the American diagnostic manual for classifying mental disorders, defines substance abuse as a pattern of mood-altering substance use that leads to adverse behavioral changes or social problems – including loss of employment.

Alcohol is by far the most prevalent substance of choice among both employed and unemployed abusers, the survey said, but more than 30 percent of the country's 22.2 mil-

lion substance abusers use illicit drugs or a combination of drugs and alcohol.

Many people do not understand why people become addicted to drugs nor how drugs change the brain causing it to "hook on" to compulsive drug abuse. They mistakenly view drug abuse and addiction as strictly a social problem and may characterize those who take drugs as morally weak.

Many believe that drug abusers should be able to just stop taking drugs if they are only willing to change their behavior.

The scientific truth is, however, that drug addiction is a chronic, often relapsing, brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences to the drug addict and those around them, because the abuse of drugs leads to changes in the structure and function of the brain.

It is true that, for most people, the initial decision to take drugs is voluntary. But over time, the changes in the brain caused by repeated drug abuse can affect a person's self-control and ability to make sound decisions, and at the same time create an intense impulse to take drugs.

What people often underestimate is the complexity of drug addiction – that it is a disease that impacts the brain, and because of that, stopping drug abuse is not simply a matter of willpower.

In the U.S., "drugs" are also

prescription drugs. Approximately one in 10 young teenagers receiving emergency medical treatment admitted to abusing prescription painkillers and sedatives like Oxycontin and Valium within the last year, according to research from the University of Michigan released last October.

In a survey of more than 2,100 teenagers between the ages of 14 and 20 years old who visited the emergency room at the University of Michigan Medical Center, 10.4 percent admitted to having abused prescription painkillers or sedatives within the last year – and most didn't have any prescriptions for the drugs on their medical records.

Among the 8.7 percent of teens who reported abusing a prescription opioid like Oxycontin, methadone or hydrocodone, only about 15 percent had a prescription for the painkillers. Among the 5.4 percent of teenagers who admitted to abusing a sedative like Ativan, Zanax or valium just 12 percent had a prescription.

"It's an increasing concern that youth are experimenting with (these drugs), which weren't available in previous generations," said Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, director of the University of Michigan Injury Center and an author of the study, which was published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

"The information isn't getting

see GUEST ED next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Erving Council on Aging is pleased to announce that they have a new foot technician to replace Nancy Edwards, who has moved. The council wishes to thank Nancy for her years of service.

Mindy Powling of Orange has 18 years of experience in foot care and will be offering the same service at the same price and on the same schedule: the first Thursday of each month at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call Polly at (413) 423-3649.

This Friday night, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. at **Shutesbury Elementary School**, come catch some great Vaudeville-style acts. Have you ever seen someone Hula Hoop while playing harmonica? Some Chaplin-esque lessons on "how to play football" in iMovie?.... Hula Hoop and jump rope at the same time by a first grader?.... Magic tricks, juggling,

singing and dancing and some feats of gymnastic flair!

Hear a pre-view of Brian Bender's Jazz Students, an original song by The Pickle Band, alums of last year's 6th grade class, and catch some tunes to dance by with DJ Brian! Buy or bid on baked goods to help raise funds for the End of Year Party for Shutesbury After School.

Matt Wolkenbreit, in partnership with Greenfield Savings Bank, brings his **CPR awareness** to this valuable learning session on Saturday, May 31, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the GSB branch in Turners Falls. While this event will not actually graduate CPR candidates, it is a basic outline on expectations and course requirements.

On Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. until noon Mass Slavery Apology, located at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield will present **Immigrant Voices: Families, Schools, & Community**.

Schools around the country have growing populations of ELL (English language learner) students.

At the Gill/Montague School District, most ELL families are from *la frontera* of Mexico and Guatemala, employed here as agricultural workers.

Jimena De Pareja and Rebecca Wright will share stories featuring the students' and parents' own voices, including the racism these families face and how the families, community, and schools are working together to build bridges for the students' success.

Rebecca Wright is the ELL Coordinator and Spanish Speaking Liaison for the Gill/Montague Regional School District, based in Turners Falls, MA. Jimena De Pareja, who was a teacher in Ecuador, is the district's Spanish Bilingual Paraprofessional.

Child care is available by reservation. Please RSVP with number and ages of children to (413) 625-2951 or email@massslaveryapology.org.

The Great Falls Discovery Center presents **Eyes on Owls: Owls of the World – Who's Watching You?** Two programs are scheduled for Saturday, June 7 (10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.).

This live owl program introduces

visitors to the owls of New England and beyond. Presenters, Mark and Marcia, share the field marks, signs and naturalist's skills that you can use to find wild owls without disturbing them. Next, you meet six live owls (from small to huge) up close. Everyone participates in a hooting lesson and learns tips on how to attract and protect owls near you.

The program is funded by the Department of Early Education & Care's CFCE STEM grant, the Gill-Montague Regional School District and the Discovery Center. For more info visit www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org or call 863-3221.

The all-new **Piccadilly Circus** is coming to the Greenfield Fairgrounds on Sunday, June 8. Herds of elephants, including "Bo," the biggest performing elephant on Earth, will be there, as well as the Human Cannonball, Miss Pretzel, Lucio the clown, Ponies, Camels, Bouncy Houses and much more. Showtimes are at 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m.

Children's tickets are free and available in area stores and schools. More information, please visit www.thefuncircus.com.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

MUTTON & MEAD FESTIVAL RETURNS TO MONTAGUE - JUNE 21 & 22

The fourth Annual Mutton & Mead Festival to benefit the Food Bank of Western Mass and the Montague Common Hall will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the fields at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club at 210 Turners Falls Road, Montague.

All ages are welcome. Mutton & Mead gathers over 65 artisans and 40 hours of entertainment ranging from knights jousting on horseback, whimsical stage shows, entertainers and music, and special entertainment for children.

The Festival brings the medieval world

to life with re-enactors demonstrating skills such as cooking, textile arts, blacksmithing, and sword play.

People also have a chance to feast on delicacies, including turkey legs, roasted lamb, meads, beers, and ales.

As the legend of Robin Hood unfolds around them, patrons have an opportunity to witness the daring spectacle of knights jousting, encounters with enchanted fairies, and the experience of old England in New England.

For more information, visit www.MuttonAndMead.org.

RiverCulture Seeks Original Photographs For Avenue A Display

Photographers are being asked to submit up to two photos 5 x 7 to 16 x 20, preferably framed, for display in Avenue A storefront galleries from June 19 to July 12. The opening Reception will be on June 19 in conjunction with the Third Thursday RiverCulture event "Knights, Camera, Action!"

Register with Belinda at beebiz126@gmail.com. Mail or deliver photographs by June 16 to Rodney at Madison On The Avenue, 104 Avenue A, Turners Falls, 01376. All work must be clearly marked with the photographer's name.

For more information contact Suzanne at (413) 835-1390 or at riverculture@gmail.com

GUEST ED from previous page through to providers that this is an issue that needs to be addressed and monitored, especially in our teen population."

The Centers for Disease Control has also called prescription drug abuse an epidemic. Emergency room visits for prescription painkiller overdoses have doubled during the past five years to reach nearly half a million, and the non-medical use of prescription painkillers costs more than \$72.5 billion each year in direct health care costs, according to the CDC.

One has to ask why this is happening in such large numbers.

I believe that people are basically good and smart. I have always seen unhealthy behaviors as a logical solution to an illogical world.

When I was a therapist, I helped people to explore their own experienced "unhealthiness" while validating their desire to do something to change the behaviors that didn't work for them. Their "solutions" were eventually brought into the light as unworkable for them.

Drug dealing and drug using

are unhealthy solutions to a deeper problem in our society that requires a collective awakening to underlying stressors that keep us from complete recovery.

The real culprit causing behaviors that induce people to turn to drugs in the first place, I propose, is our economic climate, and the impact on unemployed or underemployed people caused by outsourcing US jobs to other countries for maximizing costs of production and distribution of goods, plus the replacement of skilled labor by machines.

These factors lead to a level of frustration, helplessness and shame resulting from being excluded from the labor market, and the social discrimination that accompanies this status.

Although high levels of social support such as 12-step programs are helpful, they do not address the underlying factors that lead to a desire to escape the discomfort of un- or under-employment.

With employment comes self-esteem. With a living wage comes the pride of supporting oneself and one's family. Without that sense of

personal agency in one's life, it is tempting to want to escape one's sense of inability to do anything right.

Soon a person can succumb to identifying oneself as needing a fast fix to escape the sorrow and pain of non-accomplishment and to fill the spiritual or existential hole left by the self-abusive response of drug abuse to become numb about one's place in the external world.

The continued need to repeat that feeling at a time of low income often leads to dealing drugs to afford the drugs that one needs.

The drug dealers offer a "job" that pays well, giving a person who has few options a false sense of security that has a high price tag attached to it.

An individual in this situation finds that his/her brain chemistry makes it difficult to "Say No" to addiction while he/she is caught in a bind when told "No" to legitimate employment which often results in a loss of self-esteem.

The middle and upper classes are not immune from this desire to escape the discomfort of un- or under-



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CLIMATE from page A1

“The physical evidence for man-made global warming, which is driving dangerously rapid climate change now, is simply overwhelming. Deniers of this fact either fail to account for some significant portion of the empirical evidence in their theories, or haven’t learned enough of the science underpinning our awareness of the problem.

“The real question at this point is, how much of the biosphere are we willing to disrupt or destroy before we change our energy economy and industrial infrastructure into sustainable, ecologically protective versions of themselves? How much of the old, green world that we know are we willing to give up in ex-

change for a new, hotter, and more unpredictable world that we will struggle to survive in?

“This is to say nothing, of course, about the right to survival of any other species, but as a society, we still have problems acknowledging and protecting the basic rights of every human. We’re a couple of ethical leaps behind where we need to be in order to cope with climate change properly.”

Among the resources cited by Kearns are the NASA website *science.nasa.gov* and the “Skeptical Science” blog *www.skepticalscience.com* – not to be confused with *www.suspiciousobservers.org* and the BBC documentary now posted to YouTube, titled “The Great Global


Warming Swindle,” which are based on pseudo-science and funded by for-profit groups.

The Wendell Climate Change Group was founded in March 2013 by protesters of the Keystone XL Pipeline who had returned from the Washington D.C. rally that winter.

Topics in the past year have included the fight to save the coastline in Gloucester, led by coastal ecologist Dr. Paul Godfrey of Wendell; the fight to obtain the legal right for “simple living” off the electric grid, led by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson of Wendell; the green perspectives of traditional Native American cultures, led by Strong Oak of Greenfield and David Brule of Montague; and “Visioning a So-

lar Future in Franklin County” with Claire Chang and John Ward, anti-nuclear activists and owners of the Solar Store in Greenfield.

The June meeting of the Climate Change Group will be a Summer Solstice Potluck Supper and double-feature film showing on Friday, June 20 at the Wendell Free Library.

The award-winning documentary *Gasland* will be screened at 4:30 in the Herrick Room; potluck will be shared outdoors at 6:30; and, for diehard climate change activists, *Gasland 2* will be shown at 7:30. Spirited discussion will follow, as always. All are welcome. For further information contact Chris Queen at (978) 544-0216, or csqueen@post.harvard.edu. 

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Finalizing Warrant For June 7 Annual Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

As the Wendell selectboard met May 21 the warrant for the annual town meeting was still in draft form with the finance committee still working out details. The selectboard will meet briefly during the week of May 27 to sign the warrant so it can be posted at least one week before the Saturday, June 7, meeting.

The town meeting will begin at 10 a.m., recess for an hour around noon for a potluck lunch and then continue through the afternoon.

Kathleen Leonard is organizing the lunch, which will be on the common outside the town hall if weather permits.

Warrant Articles

Beyond the regular town operating budget of \$2,058,796, the draft warrant has articles authorizing continuing payments of loans, and funding of the stabilization, the pension reserve, the insurance reserve, and ordinary reserve funds (used for unexpected expenses during the fiscal year).

There are articles to buy a road grader (\$120,000), a fire department truck fund (\$125,000), replacement funding for turnout gear, SCBA masks, and SCBA grant matching funds, Tahoe warning lights for the fire department, a police cruiser partial payment of \$20,000, \$15,000 to replace the senior center roof, \$8,000 for kitchen equipment, and two articles totaling \$10,400 for kitchen construction.

A kitchen committee member said they submitted only one construction article, for \$2,900.

Franklin County Technical School students were set to do most of the construction this past school year, but were stopped by Boston-based unions protesting that Tech school work would take work away from union plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. The unions recently dropped their protest, and Tech school students will be allowed to begin work in the 2014-2015 school year.

Two articles on the draft warrant would create a “strong” police chief and a “strong fire chief.” Both chiefs have been working as strong chiefs,

but a check into records of past town meetings failed to find a vote authorizing either strong chief.

There is an article that would authorize taking \$14,000 from highway money to conduct a survey including wetland delineation with the idea of building a walkway between the highway garage and the country store.

Another article would ban hydraulic fracking for natural gas, and yet another would oppose pipeline construction through town, in favor of the state and country pursuing a more sustainable energy policy.

On May 7 the selectboard met for the first time after the town election. Their first order of business would be to organize the selectboard, to elect a chair. The town election did not change the board’s makeup and so those members met as they have been meeting and they forgot to re-organize.

At the May 21 meeting Dan Keller, who was voted back into office on May 7, nominated Christine Heard for the chair position, and Jeffrey Pooser seconded the nomination, securing Heard’s position as board chair for another year.

Wheelchair Ramp Repairs

Keller said that he had spoken with Tom Chaisson about repairs to the ramp that provides wheelchair access to the senior center.

Keller said he himself had an idea to replace the lowest section of the ramp with concrete and avoid having wood close to the ground, but Chaisson said the whole frame is still solid, and he will replace the rotten boards with pressure treated boards, and repair the front steps for \$1,925.

Keller said there is enough money in this year’s budget to pay that and so the work may be done and paid for before July 1.

Left Click Computer Backup

The town now has its computer records backed up on site and with support by Left Click, out of Amherst, and costing Wendell \$3,000 a year. A state-sponsored community innovation challenge grant would provide cloud based backup free for the first year, but it might cost sub-

stantially more than Left Click if that grant is not renewed.

Taking advantage of the grant now might be redundant, but it will be free, and without obligation so board members agreed to do it. Pooser said he would find out exactly what Left Click is doing, so the town can compare the two backup systems.

The fiber optic internet connection is working well at all the town buildings and three buildings at least, the library, the senior center and the town office building have wireless routers that allow someone outside the buildings to take advantage of the true high speed internet. Confidential information from the town hall is protected by a firewall.

Keller relayed a message from librarian Rosie Heidkamp that the new internet connection is so fast that now it is slowed by the routers, switches and other hardware inside the building. They could be improved with a \$2,000 or \$3,000 investment. Pooser said that issue is separate from the amount of bandwidth that Wendell is getting through the fiber optic connection.

Antenna on Town Barn

Neither fire chief Joe Cuneo nor highway commission chair Harry Williston objected to the request by Access Plus to put an antenna on the town barn. That antenna will allow Access Plus to provide high speed internet service to area houses and will not affect the town’s access.

Police Still On HughesNet

The police station still has an expensive, secure HughesNet service, and police chief Ed Chase will keep that another month to give him time to tell all his contacts the new police department email address, but Pooser said that town coordinator Nancy Aldrich can cancel the HughesNet service to the office building.

FRCOG has offered Wendell the use of a traffic counter, and the highway commission asked that it be placed on Wendell Depot Road between Kentfield and Sears Roads.

Aldrich updated board members on the status of recommendations made at the May 7 selectboard meeting by the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the town’s insurance company.

Williston remembered that the drain in the garage furnace room was connected to a tight tank when the building was built. Putting snow

guards on the garage roof should wait for the results of a building energy audit.

The town is scheduled to have a driving simulator for use of the road crew in April of 2015.

Miscellaneous Replacements

Cuneo says that a CO2 fire extinguisher for the computer network room will cost \$65, and \$30 to install. Town custodian Larry Ramsdell is replacing defective bulbs on the emergency lighting for the office building, and Chase cut off the frayed part of the police station rug and glued down the turned up edge.

Heidkamp said that there was a fire in a library book drop one year before Wendell built its new library, and so the new Wendell library book drop included fireproofing.

Buildings and Grounds Concerns

Buildings and grounds coordinator Ted Lewis came into the room with a question and several concerns.

He asked if the town has a golden cane for the oldest resident. Aldrich said it does not come back when it is given out, and suggested a plaque that stays in the town with names added. New Salem does that.

Lewis next reported that some shingles on the gazebo roof are coming off and the rails should be sealed. Volunteers built it but the town now has to maintain it. Keller suggested that a Full Moon Coffeehouse could raise the necessary money during its next season.

Lewis said that Williston told him the highway crew could grade away from the town hall cellar door except for the tight tank that was left in place when the town built its septic system and is now in the way.

Keller said that the tight tank is no longer part of the waste treatment of town hall water, because that water flows by gravity to the town septic system, and it should be ok to remove it altogether.

Finally Lewis said timbers in the town hall were last looked at 40 years ago in the 1970’s, and should be checked again because they are over a dirt crawl space.

Support for Retirement Bill

Board members follow a FRCOG request to support House bill H3872, which would provide state funding for retirees of the counties that the state eliminated as political units.

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KIDLEIDOSCOPE TUESDAYS AT THE GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER

The Great Falls Discovery Center is once again offering a series of interpretive programs for children each Tuesday during the summer and early fall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Kidleidoscope is a kid-friendly, hands-on environmental experience for young children. Each topic includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce you and your child to the natural world. Programming recommended for ages 3 to 6 with a parent or guardian. Kids and their parents will have an opportunity to learn about their neighbors who share their home in the Connecticut River Watershed. June Tuesdays feature sessions on frogs and toads, fish, turtles and river otters.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

LEVERETT from page A1

We have to look into improving our energy oversight so we have a better real time picture of what is happening with our fuel costs."

But, though Ross admitted, "We've had a lot of trouble with the heat," she resisted the notion that the selectboard should take over the responsibility for building management.

She said the current arrangement, in which the school principal, with oversight by the school committee and superintendent, is in charge of hiring and training the custodial staff, is "working fine."

Not so, according to the selectboard.

"They kept control of the custodians and shipped the cost over to us," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau on Tuesday, referring to the upshot of negotiations between the school administration and the selectboard following town meeting's refusal two years ago to endorse the selectboard's plan to reorganize maintenance of all town buildings, including the elementary school, under building supervisor John Kuczek.

Kuczek was formerly the head of maintenance and the custodial department at the elementary school, and is well acquainted with the school building and the systems it shares with the neighboring safety complex and the library.

A recent report on the elementary school's energy use by consultant Lon Isaacson, of Universal Electric in Springfield, alarmed the selectboard, and will inform an upcoming joint meeting between the board, the energy committee, the finance committee and the school committee on June 10 at 7 p.m. at the town hall to discuss the problem.

Recent History of Heating Issue

On April 22, Brazeau referred to Isaacson's report saying, "The humidity in the building is low. The heat is on all the time. They leave the windows open to relieve overheating."

He added, "That's building maintenance."

Selectman Peter d'Errico also referred to the idea of the selectboard assuming control of maintenance of the elementary school building on April 22, saying, "We said we would bring it forward when all the pieces were in. [The heat] is running 24/7. Humidity in the building is 5% when it's supposed to be 30%."

On May 13, the subject of energy use at the school came up again, with Brazeau saying, "We have a

situation where they are hiring for a new principal. There's no control regarding the heating, the windows being open. We're paying for it. It's on our side of the budget now. It isn't fair."

He added, "John [Kuczek] should at least be on the committee to hire [custodians]."

"If we don't move now, with the report that just came out... it's crazy," d'Errico responded.

Brazeau continued, "It appears from what I understand that the school is poorly zoned. Some rooms are baking, some are cold. They leave the windows open, that makes it worse."

On May 27, Brazeau clarified that he had received reports that windows had been left open to regulate the heat from "people who work inside the building."

Asked about this in a follow up phone call, Ross would not confirm that windows had been left open in the winter at the school. She said she had been in touch with the school committee and the school superintendent about problems with the heating system, and had brought in an outside consultant to work with the school about the heating system.

She denied that head custodian Wayne Cromack was untrained to operate the building's computerized heating management system.

But Rich Nathhorst, a planning board member who is a facilities manager at UMass Amherst, asked by the selectboard on May 13 to look into the heating and lighting at the elementary school, reported back on Tuesday, "We have a new Andover Controls operating system," at the school, "but it has not been operating. It's been overridden. That's ridiculous."

He continued, "This is not rocket science. You turn the heat down at night and then you need to turn it up at the right time in the morning.... Once you have it balanced, it's pretty good."

Brazeau said, "It appears the HVAC system was possibly overridden. It's been running 76 degrees year round, in the cafeteria, the gymnasium."

He said the boiler had been left to run at 180 degrees, instead of turning it down to 140 degrees at the end of the heating season.

A Western Mass Electric plan to reduce lighting costs at the school, by replacing hard-to-access lights with LEDs, along with other measures, provides "a really good shot at making the lights more economical," Nathhorst said.

The school is also expected to need a \$3,000 reserve transfer for electricity costs this fiscal year, according to McGinnis.

She also noted that almost all town buildings, with the exception of the North Leverett fire station, are experiencing steep cost overages above the previous heating season. The increase at town hall is equivalent to the overrun at the elementary school, though the reasons for this certainly include the fact that the heating system at town hall was malfunctioning through much of the previous heating season.

The elementary school has recently seen the completion of energy saving projects including new insulation in the attic and the installation of new energy efficient windows.

Other Business

In other news, the selectboard heard from about 20 residents of roads at the south end of town, near the Amherst border, who spoke of their frustration that poles were being put up along Lead Mine Road, Drummer Hill Road, Two Mile Road and Lawton Road to carry broadband cable to deliver high speed internet service to their homes, rather than having the town, or perhaps a consortium of private residents, pay to have the cable buried in trenches, as their utility lines are delivered along those roads.

Greg Woodard, Mitch Mulholland, and Jim Field, representing the Friends of Leverett Pond, came before the board to ask permission to access town counsel for legal advice in their plan to acquire ownership of the dam at the north end of the spring fed pond at the center of town.

The dam is in need of repair, and abutting landowners have shown no willingness to assume responsibility for its upkeep, they said. A search of deeds turned up no definitive proof of the dam's current ownership, Woodard said.

The group hopes to negotiate access to the dam with abutters, and to pursue grant funding for necessary repairs to the dam.

Selectboard member Julie Shively noted, "It's pretty much a rule of thumb: you don't want to own a dam if you can avoid it."

The board expressed willingness to allow the group to work with town counsel to research the dam's ownership, and seek liability protection for the nonprofit group to assume ownership of the dam, if no contrary claim of ownership emerges from the search.

STUDY from page A1

would also need extensive upgrading and a great deal of demolition. The adjacent derelict garages would have to be torn down, and a new addition built.

The RFP stipulated that the firm chosen to conduct the feasibility study should analyze all three sites, recommend one, and provide a final master plan of the preferred site with three alternatives for site layout, interior design and exterior options.

To apply, a firm must have successfully designed at least three previous senior centers or municipal community centers, and have extensive experience working with municipalities.

The RFP responses are currently being reviewed to ensure all the ap-

plying firms met those criteria. M.J. Adams of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, Montague town planner Walter Ramsey and town administrator Frank Abbonanzio are conducting the review.

The town and the housing authority will next create a committee to further review the applications and likely conduct interviews with the architects chosen to proceed to the next phase.

The town hopes to award a contract of up to \$60,000 in June to the firm that seems best qualified to carry out the project, with a start date in July. The feasibility study must be completed by late November.

The funding source for the study is from a Community Development Block Grant.



Turners Falls – Gill Bridge Access Will Be Updated

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

GREAT FALLS – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has clarified further access issues relating to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Bao Lang, DOT District Traffic Engineer, writing in response to questions posed by Claire Chang of Gill, said that the Bridge will have a 4.5 foot shoulder on both sides of the traffic lanes. The shoulders will not be specifically designated as bike lanes but these lanes could be used by cyclists.

He also noted that the opposing travel lanes will be separated by a double yellow centerline and the shoulders will be marked with a solid white edge line.

Warning signs will also be posted alerting motorists of the presence of bicyclists in the roadway and "Share the Road" signs will accompany the bicycle-in-road warnings.

While there will be no physical separation or shielding of bicycles from vehicles on the bridge or the approaches to/from the bridge, the sidewalk will be separated by a granite curb on the approaches and by a curb and a bridge rail on the bridge edge.

On the Gill side, the sidewalk will be extended from the end of the bridge, across the island, then across Route 2. On the Turners Falls side of the bridge, pedestrian access to Avenue A will also be maintained.

The existing monument in Gill commemorating the "Falls Fight" will remain.

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SURVEYS from page A1

survey permission, though that permission can be withdrawn.

Last month, Kinder Morgan land specialist James Hartman sent a letter warning those who have declined the company survey permission that if they didn't consent, it would "petition the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities... for an order to enter [their] property to perform the requested surveys."

When Mount Grace approached her and her husband with the idea of fighting the survey authorization, "we said absolutely," said Lisa Adams. "It's not just about us. Only by the fact that our land is protected do we have a leg to stand on."

"They're offering people peanuts for what they're doing to us," she continued. "Just because you have a billion dollars doesn't mean you should be able to walk all over people."

The resulting memorandum, which is linked on Mount Grace's website at www.mountgrace.org/responding-proposed-gas-pipeline, challenges the DPU's authority to grant the company permission to carry out their survey, which may include digging in the soil with shovels, cutting brush, and drilling boreholes of up to six inches in diameter and to unspecified depths.

Other sections of state law, the memo points out, grant the Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Port Authority specific power to authorize "surveys, soundings, drillings and examinations," but the part written in 1927 that authorizes the DPU to order access to private land does so only for "making a survey preliminary to eminent domain proceedings."

The idea that this should only be a surface survey, rather than one that includes digging, drilling and taking samples, hasn't been tested in Massachusetts, but similar cases in Missouri in 1987 and Nebraska in 2001 ruled against a highway commission and railroad when they sought rights for more invasive testing as a precursor to eminent domain takings.

While this may seem like an abstract distinction, many in the Adams' Montague Center neighborhood remember what happened in 1998. First, a project to lower the railroad tracks under the Greenfield Road bridge so compromised the site's hydrology that the bridge abutments weakened and the bridge had to be taken down.

Second, one or more exploratory boreholes drilled by New Hampshire Boring during the design of its replacement apparently punctured a pressurized underground aquifer,

bringing water surging to the surface and scuttling the project for a decade and a half amid disputes over who authorized that drilling.

The 33-page Mount Grace memorandum raises several other legal questions, challenging either Kinder Morgan or the DPU to answer them. Many are pertinent to all landowners along the proposed route, but one in particular concerns land under agricultural preservation or conservation restrictions, such as the Adams'.

It argues that, given the impact of Kinder Morgan's proposed survey, the DPU can't "order" landowners to violate such a restriction without an Article 97 land transfer.

Article 97, passed as a state constitutional amendment in the early 1970s, requires a two-thirds majority of both the state House and Senate to change the use of any lands designated for conservation.

Richard Hubbard, executive director of the Franklin Land Trust, wrote in a letter to supporters on Wednesday that a loss of conservation land to Kinder Morgan's project could have lasting repercussions throughout the state.

"At some point in time in the future," he wrote, "the only open, undeveloped land in Massachusetts will be public and private conservation land."

"Allowing Tennessee Gas to build a pipeline across Article 97 conservation land would represent a terrible precedent whereby every time there is a need in the future for a pipeline, power line, or other 'public improvement,' proponents will pursue the 'path of least resistance' — our conservation land."

Article 97 has previously been cited by pipeline opponents, including Montague resident Sam Lovejoy, who spoke at a public meeting in Cummington, as a possible lever with which to challenge the FERC's final authority to approve conservation land for the project.

The Mount Grace memo suggests that it might be evoked earlier in the process, as a way to hinder the company's ability to plan out a route in the first place.

"I find it hard to believe that a national company like Tennessee Gas isn't aware of the legal issues raised in that memo," said its author, attorney Michael Pill, describing it as "legal cards on the table."

"Hopefully they will respond in a prompt, complete, and forthright manner. If they don't, one would have to assume that they either agree with what I've written, or they're trying to hide something."

A call to Kinder Morgan was not returned as of press time.



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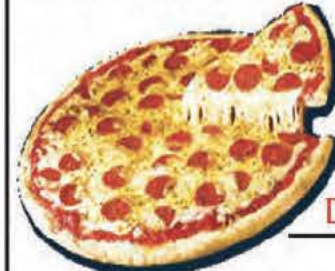


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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Osteoporosis Facts and Treatment

By FRED CICCETTI

Q. How common is osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue. This condition creates an increased risk of fractures.

Our bodies remove old bone and replace it with new bone. During our growth stage, new bone is added faster than old bone is removed. We hit peak bone mass around age 30. After that age, we lose more bone than we form.

Who is at risk of getting osteoporosis?

The chances are greater for women because they have less bone tissue and lose bone faster than men; this is caused by changes from menopause. Small, thin-boned women are at greater risk. Caucasian and Asian women are at highest risk. Age is a major risk factor because bones become thinner and weaker as you age. Heredity can also increase fracture risk.

Osteoporosis is a major public health threat for more than 40 million Americans; about 7 out of 10 of them are women. One out of every two women and one in four men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

Worldwide, osteoporosis is see GEEZER page B2



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The tomato plants in the sunroom are outgrowing their pots again, and having achieved great height as well, are clamoring to be set out in the garden.

This long weekend of Memorial Day is traditional for planting but the timing is often tricky.

Since I have lost more than one tomato crop to cold winds or incessant rains by following this dictum, I am ignoring this garden almanac tradition in favor of keeping an eye to the weather.

Since this holiday weekend was plagued by occasional downpourings of rain which have created cold, damp soil, we are waiting to plant out tomatoes hoping that next weekend will bring drier conditions and warmer soil.

There is no huge downside to this change. Of course, the plants will be a bit leggier and top heavy, but we will set them in deeply, above the first leaves so that they

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



WEST ALONG THE RIVER:

ANY GIVEN EVENING

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – Out onto the back deck, on any given evening in the late spring, it's time to put down the tools of the work day, pen or hammer, to put aside the cares of the day, it's time to kick back and put up your feet.



Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. Illustration by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

6:10. Dusk is edging in over the yard. Consider the birds. Watch one species at a time, getting in the last evening meal, before winging up into the trees for the night: the brilliant orange and black Baltimore oriole leaves his favorite slice of Sunkist orange, and heads

up to watch over his mate during the night, in her woven swinging basket of a nest, eighty feet up in the towering maple yonder.

The jays are finishing their daily jay-work, gone up to the nest in the tall pines to sleep.

The cheery chickadees have ceased their day-long trips between the sunflower seeds and nest in the hollowed-out paper birch stump down by the rushing river.

6:45. Time to light the cook fire over on the edge of the yard where it meets the woods. It'll take another forty minutes to build up embers and oak coals to grill the salmon steaks. And it'll take a bottle of beer or two to help the fire reach that point!

I need to get the cooking done before much longer, what with Awasoos the mother bear, soon to be waking up from her day-long nap in the island thickets just over there. She and her cubs will surely be sniffing the air and picking up the

yummy smell of grilling fish.

Don't want to be caught in my relaxed evening-dreaming near the campfire if she comes shambling up the path from the pond, smacking her lips in anticipation of an easy appetizer in the form of

see WEST page B6

TRANSFORMATIONS: NEW TATTOO SHOP OPENS ON THE AVENUE

By KENDRA GAULIN

TURNERS FALLS – Getting a tattoo is a huge commitment. This image will be on your body forever, so it is important to be sure about what you're getting, but more importantly, who is giving it to you.



Leah Caldieri plans to be open for business this month.

Many people get a tattoo as a cathartic healing process, sometimes to commemorate a lost loved one, or to mark an important or difficult time in their life. Others just want to honor the moment they walk into the shop and point to what they want.

Leah Caldieri, who is opening up Charon Arts Visionary Tattoo on Avenue A, kept all this in mind when naming her shop. In Greek mythology, Charon is the ferryman of the

dead, carrying the spirits across the river of Styx, guiding them through their transformation to the afterlife.

Caldieri says she and the other artists at the shop would be the guides through your personal and spiritual transformation as you get your tattoo. She added "visionary"

to emphasize the mindfulness that she wants to bring to the tattoo, which she believes enhances the customer's experience.

Caldieri plans to open the shop this month in an upstairs space at 107 Avenue A, above the village's former VFW hall.

Tattooing was not Caldieri's original plan. As an undergraduate at the University of Vermont, she started out in the environmental science program, but in her sophomore year, she took a required figure drawing class

which changed her career forever. She remembers thinking, "This is what school is supposed to be like: fun and really challenging."

So she kept the environmental science as a minor and instead earned a Fine Arts degree. Fine Arts is not a typical major, and does not have the reputation of creating the pathway to lucrative careers.

see TATTOO page B6

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

In Sync with Mother Nature

will be stronger against the breeze. These buried stems will put out new roots themselves developing a sturdier plant to hold what we hope will be weighty fruits.

In the bottom of each planting hole we will put a handful of bone meal, ditto of compost and a good scoopful of manure to feed these hungry plants over their long growing season.

Most of the tomato varieties we've chosen are indeterminate, meaning that they will continue to grow and produce until they are felled by disease or cold so they need a good food supply.

Tomatoes will also suffer in a long dry spell. Watch for drooping leaves in a drought month and apply a good soaking with your hose and sprinkler.

Over-watering, however is more likely with tomatoes, as they will continue to absorb water as long as it is there.

Of course, if we have too much summer rain, there's not much you can do about that except to ensure that your garden has the best drainage possible.

Generally in New England, we have too much damp in the spring which is then

followed by hot, dry weather so putting your tomatoes in later than the traditional garden almanac calls for is safer than planting too soon.

The garden peas are another story. They have loved the rain and the cool days. With the added treat of a couple of warm, not to say hot sunny days, they have sprouted vigorously and are growing well.

When I was still working, it was traditional to plant the peas during April vacation, but I was well behind this year, putting the pea seeds into the ground on May 6.

The variety is Knight pea, an heirloom seed which means one saved and passed down year to year. Oddly enough, it never seems to matter when I put in the seeds on the calendar as long as it is in the cool weather.

Whether late April or early May, we are always harvesting in time to enjoy our traditional family meal of salmon and fresh peas on the weekend of the fourth of July.

The weather will also drive the planting of sweet peppers and greens beans.

Since these crops abhor the cold and damp, we'll wait see GARDEN page B6

FISHING DOGS: A REVIEW

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – For an embarrassing number of pages Ray Coppinger had me as I read his new book, *Fishing Dogs: A guide to the history, talents and training of the Baildale, the Flounderhound, the Angler Dog, and sundry others breeds of aquatic dogs (Canis Piscatorius)*.

It didn't seem impossible that breeds had been developed to help people who awake at dawn to sit in boats or stand by streams, or hunker over holes in thick ice, waiting for a fish to take some interest in the bait.

I've always thought that Newfoundlands were vital to the well being of those who fished the cold waters off Newfoundland's shores, and I think I've read tales of dogs rescuing fishermen from the water.

Therefore I approached this book ready to learn about other breeds essential to the sport of fishing. And then I got the joke, and quickly became immersed in Coppinger's wry imagination.

In 197 nicely illustrated pages, he pokes fun at men who become fishing buddies and end up needing therapy to work out their "relationship issues," breeders who seek artificial and sometimes useless perfection in a particular breed, and breeds that have "evolved" over time to serve the specific needs of those who fish.

He made me fall in love with the Floating Mat Dog and the Stringer Spaniel in particular. The Mat Dog, that resembles my lumbering enormous Great Pyrenees, floats upon the water creating shade, which fish like. Func-

tioning like a giant lily pad with front and back paws outstretched, floating motionless, an angler need only cast so that the line drifts below the Mat Dog where shade-seeking fish are just waiting to be caught.

This dog, when not fishing, is an easy household companion. Coppinger writes, "Keeping your dog in all winter and letting it lie in front of the fireplace with your fly rod hanging over the mantel looks great, although both the dog and the rod will dry out."

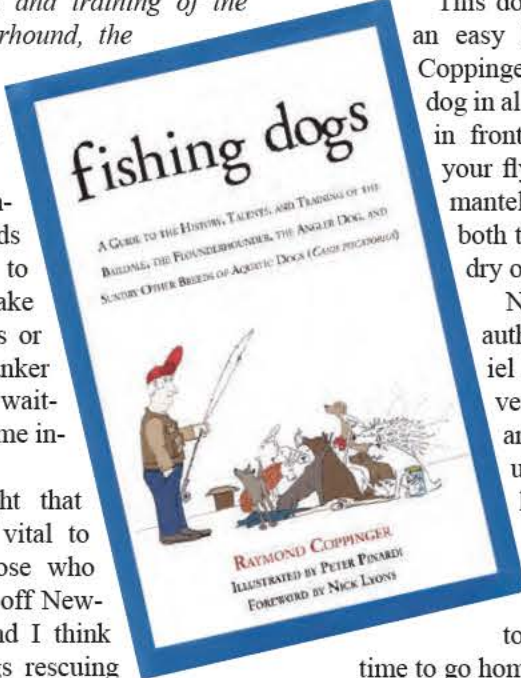
Next, according to the author, the Stringer Spaniel has evolved to replace vests with pockets, creels and stringers which are unbreakable lengths of line that are threaded between a fish's mouth and gills in order to lower it into the water to keep it fresh until its

time to go home.

The Stringer Spaniel has a curly coat about the consistency of Velcro tape, says Coppinger. "The fact that fish are scaly and have gill covers and gill arches and gill rakes makes it easy to stick a fish to the dog. Just take the fish by its tail and middle and shove the head into the dog's fur. Any place will do as long as there isn't a fish in there," he writes.

After a while I was not surprised that the flounderhound had evolved to possess two eyes on one side of its face, the Baildale gets rid of excess water in the boat by shaking its thick coat, and the Bilge pups travelled with Darwin and served as a source of food while providing ballast. Through positive reinforcement, which everyone knows is the best training method, I learned to trust this author to enlighten me on the origins, history and

see DOGS page B2



Pet of the Week

Gigi wants to tell you all about her day! This spirited and VERY loving tabby is happy to bury her furry head into your face to show you that she wants to be closer. This quirky cat will melt your heart. Gigi likes playing with cats and children, even if they don't meow back. If you're looking for a sweet girl who loves your company just as much as you love hers, then Gigi is your girl! She would make a wonderful companion for most any family!



“GIGI!”

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

Senior Center Activities June 2 through 6

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 6/2

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/3

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch

Wednesday 6/4

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/5

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. - Noon Brown Bag
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 6/6

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

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

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

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

Monday 6/2

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

Tuesday 6/3

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 6/4

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 6/5

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

11 a.m. Brown Bag
12:30 p.m. Cards

Friday 6/6

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

GEEZER from page B1

estimated to affect 200 million women and cause more than 8.9 million fractures annually.

Low calcium intake appears to be associated with bone loss. Good sources of calcium include low-fat dairy products, dark-green leafy vegetables, almonds, and foods fortified with calcium, such as orange juice. Some people may need to take a calcium supplement.

Vitamin D plays an important role in calcium absorption and in bone health. It is made in the skin through exposure to sunlight. Vitamin D production decreases in the elderly, in people who are housebound, and for people in general during the winter. Depending on your situation, you may need to take vitamin D supplements.

Bone responds to exercise by becoming stronger. Weight-bearing exercise is the best for your bones. Get off the sofa.

Women who smoke have lower levels of estrogen compared to nonsmokers, and they often go through menopause earlier. Smokers also may absorb less calcium from their diets. Quit.

Regular consumption of 2 to 3 ounces a day of alcohol may be damaging to the skeleton. Heavy drinkers are more prone to bone loss and fractures, because of poor nutrition and increased risk of falling. Quit or, at least, cut down.

People may not know they have osteoporosis until their bones become so weak that a bump or fall causes a hip to fracture or a vertebra to collapse. See your doctor for a check-up.

Following a comprehensive medical assessment, your doctor may recommend that you have your bone mass measured. A bone mineral density (BMD) test is the best way to determine your bone health. BMD tests can identify osteoporosis, determine your risk for fractures, and measure your response to osteoporosis treatment.

A comprehensive osteoporosis treatment program includes a focus on proper nutrition, exercise, and safety issues to prevent falls that may result in fractures. In addition, your physician may prescribe a medication to slow or stop bone loss, increase bone density, and reduce fracture risk.

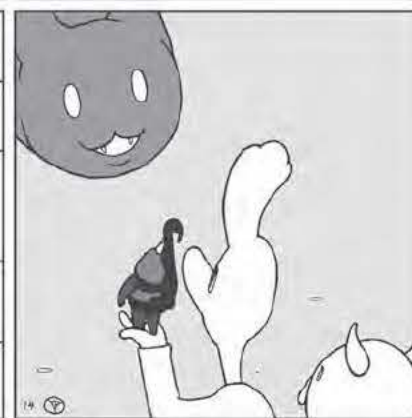
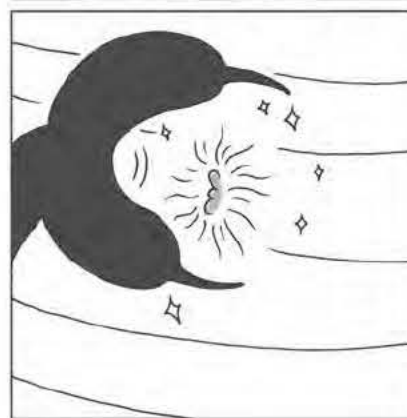
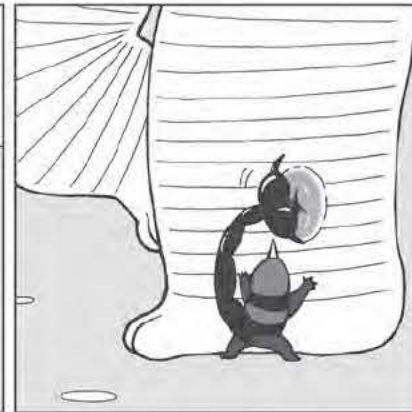
Questions?

Send them to

fred@healthygeezer.org.



WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 27, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

imaging lab and a new 75-seat auditorium.

Retro Cruz

As part of Montague's 250th anniversary celebration a theater production chronicling the history of Montague, Danny Cruz sang a stirring rendition of "Old Man River" with Jason Burbank accompanying on electric keyboard.

The piece was performed just after the slow reenactment of the 1936 flood as dramatic punctuation to the solemnity of the tale.

Sludge Leach

An old sludge dump off Prospect Street in Erving Center was the topic of discussion between neighbors and representatives of the Erving Paper Mill at Monday's selectboard meeting. The dump, used briefly in the '70s, was slated to be capped, but local residents raised concerns about the effects the dump had had on the safety of their water wells.

Several residents attested to the contamination of their wells, although a DEP test of the water found that there were no volatile chemicals in it. Selectboard chair Andy Tessier said he would prefer to see the company excavate and clean up the old sludge dump.

Bike Path Begins

Lightning and a drenching downpour provided a dramatic conclusion to Monday's groundbreaking ceremony for the Canalside Trail Bicycle Path at the Turners Falls Discovery Center. With possible tornados in the forecast, and the first heavy raindrops signaling an imminent drenching, the actual ceremony was cut short, and the line of shovelers quickly retreated indoors.

Hallmark Expands

Expansion plans for the Hallmark School of Photography's educational building were given the go-ahead Tuesday evening when the Montague planning board approved the site plan for the 4000-square foot addition. The school is expanding to serve a growing student population.

While this year's graduating class of 170 is the largest in Hallmark's history, the school has already accepted 325 students for next year, according to George J. Rosa, the president and current owner of the school.

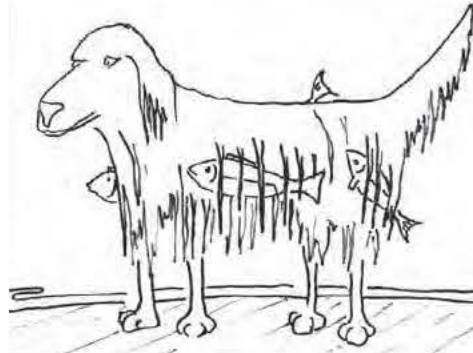
The expansion will make room for a new state-of-the-art digital

DOGS from B1

breeding practices that led to each breed. At the end of each chapter I was rewarded with a smile and sometimes with a loud and raucous laugh.

There is also much to chuckle about in Coppinger's descriptions of ice fishing, the quest for the perfect breakfast place, and the discovery of fishing dogs.

This book would make a great gift for anyone who likes to fish, anyone who likes dogs, anyone



Peter Pinardi's illustration of a "stringer spaniel."

interested in evolution, and anyone who enjoys a good laugh, which makes it a good read for practically everyone.

When an earlier version of this book was first published twenty years ago, Coppinger says far too few read it. That ought to change with this edition, published by Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. and illustrated (cleverly) by Peter Pinardi, and available at local bookstores.



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The Library at Mt. Parnassus Pt. 28

Creon's
Bike Shop.

By DAVID
DETMOLD

Next day was Saturday. It snowed all day. I sat around the house and played chess in the mirror.

Sunday was warmer, and the weather cleared. On Monday, I went out and landed a job at a data mining firm in the industrial park.

It was the easiest job I ever found, but I came away feeling I had sold my soul.

I decided to stop by at Creon's for a restorative beer or two, and perhaps a hand of cards.

Creon's Bike Shop stood off a courtyard in back of the Bank of Attica. The bank was in a graceless brick building with rows of thin mullioned windows set in masonry embrasures that lent it the air of a medieval fortress.

An imposing four-panel clock hung above the front door, glowing green, with the western panel always for some reason running about five minutes slower than the other faces. But people who approached the bank from that end of town never seemed to be in more of a hurry than folks who wandered over from the other.

Hanging off the side of the stationery, just before the bank, a sign with a white, three-fingered hand pointed up an alley too narrow for most people to walk comfortably that led up a slight grade to the courtyard where the bike shop stood at the edge of the hill.

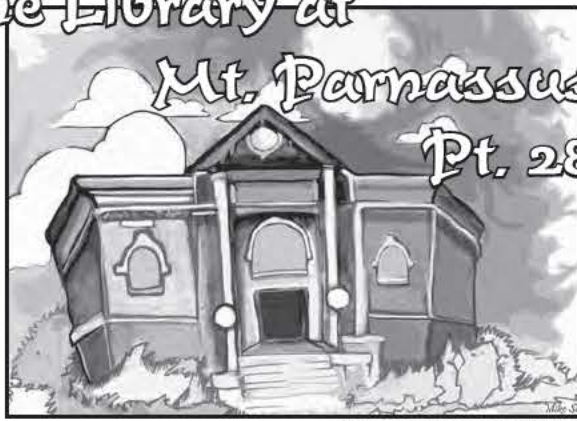
Average width bicycle handles could just fit through the alleyway, with inches to spare. Wide handle mountain bike riders had to first loosen the headset nut and turn their handlebars sideways to get their bikes up the alley for repair; an Allen wrench set hung suspended from the sign at the front of the alley for those riders to use in a pinch.

The courtyard was set around a central horse chestnut tree and paved with granite flags. It was set with random pieces of sculpted metal furniture that appeared to have been welded together from used bicycle frames from which the paint had been indifferently stripped.

All were now covered in a thick mantle of frozen snow.

In the fall, unruly urchins would play blind-man's bluff around the courtyard, and make slingshots from the horse chestnuts, drilled through with an augur loaned to them by Creon and threaded with simple kitchen string.

Twirled and released at high velocity, these tiny polished missiles would take off at eccentric angles depending on what point in the orbit of rotation the urchins let them go. They would go hurtling off toward some perilous apogee far up the mountainside, or just as often toward one of the many little windows in the backside of the bank.



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

If they happened to hit one, breaking glass, the little urchins would scatter and run screaming down the alley where the bank manager, a tall thin balding man named Mr. Mikelus, often waited for them.

Mr. Mikelus had abnormally long arms, and a forbidding stare that discouraged borrowers.

The only other way out of the courtyard was through the bike shop, which had a back door opening onto an even smaller alley that skirted the base of the mountainside eastward and emptied after an obstacle course of garbage bins and shopping carts onto L Street.

If Creon was out and the alley blocked the kids would go scampering like little mountain goats up the side of the mountain itself, whose steep slopes ascended directly from the courtyard's edge.

The tallest would lead the way, laughing and pulling with all his might on tree roots or saplings to support his flight, with successively younger and smaller urchins clinging to his belt loop or scrabbling in his wake, the last one reaching back to give a hand to the littlest of them, who would be on the unsteady verge of between shouts of laughter dissolving into anguished screams from fear of being left behind to represent them all in mediating Mikelus's wrath.

But in the winter, all such routes were hard to follow.

The wood stove in Creon's store was warm and welcoming and we gathered there for long lunch hours that stretched out into endless afternoon poker games that only ended when the beer ran out.

When you walked in the low, rough framed doorway to his shop, Creon was usually to be found at work behind the long glass display case that formed an open aisle to the store's interior.

He sat there smoking foul cheroots and tinkering with sand clogged clusters of gears pinned down to a rubber mat with serpentine box wrenches and foreshortened chain whips and odd freewheel removers the looked like the cross section of cobalt star fruits.

Creon was a gruff man with beetle brows. He was usually wreathed in a cloud of gray smoke and frowning with one eye squinted nearly shut and the other peering intently at his work or up at you.

But he had a hearty laugh, once you got him going, and as fond as he was of solitude, he was even fonder of company. Once he got to know you.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Camping Out, Roasting S'mores, Watching Trains...

Monday, 5/19

7:56 a.m. Machine that bends metal reported stolen from yard on Fifth Street. Advised of options. 2:50 p.m. Two calls regarding erratic operator tailgating and driving unsafely on Montague City Road. Driver spoken to; no signs of impairment; stated he was late for work.

4:23 p.m. Noise complaint of children and adults playing in alleyway near Fifth Street; caller claims this is a daily occurrence. 9:00 p.m. Child's bicycle stolen from outside of Food City. Report taken.

10:42 p.m. Caller from Third Street complaining of loud skateboarding outside her residence; unable to hear television. Small group of kids spoken to; gathering dispersed. 11:09 p.m. Suspicious red van parked near tracks in Lake Pleasant. Driver spoken to; vehicle was a cab waiting to pick up railroad employees.

Tuesday, 5/20 12:06 a.m. Complaint regarding train idling in Lake Pleasant. Report taken. 7:41 a.m. Lake Pleasant railroad crossing arms reported to be malfunctioning. Arms appeared to be back in working order. Attempts to contact Pan Am were unsuccessful.

8:21 a.m. Caller wishing to discuss options regarding male party who habitually litters near Gatehouse/Cabot Station. Officer spoke with suspect, who denied any involvement. 9:40 a.m. Request to check on female standing outside a Central Street building yelling for someone to let her in. Unable to locate. Neighbor reported she had been yelling to get attention of the third floor tenant to give them a ride.

12:41 p.m. Report of verbal dispute between neighbors on Avenue A over money. Involved parties advised of options. 1:16 p.m. Report of restraining order violation on Eleventh Street. Services rendered. 2:34 p.m. Caller reported seeing black smoke north of her residence on Turners Falls Road. TFFD contacted; advised that this was a controlled burn on the Montague Plains. 3:52 p.m. Report of suspected ongoing burglary/breaking and entering on G Street. Report taken. 5:11 p.m. Turners Falls man arrested and charged with possession of a Class B drug. 8:16 p.m. Caller report-

ing issues with his wife, who reportedly damaged his motorcycle and stole money from him. Advised of options. 9:42 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls reporting tenants in adjacent apartment have been banging on walls and yelling and screaming for some time this evening. Responding officer advised that this will likely be an ongoing issue and that there was more noise coming from the caller's apartment than from the other.

Wednesday, 5/21 12:18 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A; injured female party refused medical transport. 5:22 a.m. Burglar alarm at Sirum's Equipment triggered by bird in garage. 9:33 a.m. Fire alarm on Avenue A triggered by burnt banana. 4:56 p.m. Driver in the Aubuchon Hardware parking lot issued a criminal summons for a crosswalk violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. 6:47 p.m. Caller reported finding tent, camping gear, and clothing on river bank near Kingsley Avenue and Poplar Street. Responding officer located tent; no one around, but it appears someone is squatting. 9:29 p.m. Second call regarding camp near river; caller now reporting that someone is at the site and there is a campfire. Officers spoke to subject, advised it was a flood zone and private property. Subject will stay with a friend in town. 10:57 p.m. Report of fight outside building on Second Street; caller observed 7-8 males and a female with a baseball bat, who dispersed upon officers' arrival. Subsequent call advised that the subjects had come back out. Montague and Erving officers on scene.

Thursday, 5/22 9:37 a.m. Request for officer to assist with a violent student at Hillcrest Elementary School. Officer on scene; DCF contacted. 11:02 a.m. Request for officer to dispose of marijuana and paraphernalia confiscated from an eighth grader at Great Falls Middle School. Services rendered; student suspended for ten days. 11:10 a.m. K9 units assisted Greenfield Police in search for suspect in a stabbing. Subject located and taken into custody. 2:48 p.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering on Bridge Street; jewelry and money missing; known party suspected.

3:15 p.m. Officers responded to Franklin County Technical School to assist with an issue among a parent, child, and staff. DCF on scene; parties spoken to. 4:24 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at condemned property on Central Street. Referred to an officer. 4:52 p.m. Domestic and property dispute between parties on Eleventh Street. Parties advised of options. 9:17 p.m. Hit and run accident on Avenue A. Unable to locate suspect's vehicle. Male party reported neck pain but refused EMS, stating he would go to ER. 10:34 p.m. Following a disturbance outside People's Bakery on Bridge Street,

was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a police officer; disorderly conduct; resisting arrest; and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct; assault and battery on a police officer; and resisting arrest. Friday, 5/23 2:38 a.m. Loud noise complaint on G Street. 4 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Franklin Commons. Involved parties spoken to. 4:03 p.m. Report of suspected drug transaction on Fourth Street. 4:39 p.m. Report of party frequenting Cumberland Farms dumpster. Party advised to stay out of it. 6:12 p.m. Officers checking on suspicious activity inside vehicle on Fourth Street. Parties inside vehicle were "making S'mores" using a lighter to melt the marshmallows. Officer advised parties how suspicious this looked. 7:22 p.m. Domestic incident on Taylor Hill Road. 7:37 p.m. Caller reported returning to Chestnut Hill Loop residence from out of town to an apparent break-in and burglary. 9:42 p.m. Officer checking on a vehicle parked in dirt pull-off area on East Mineral Road. Party was listening to radio as TV service was out in the area.

Saturday, 5/24 12:38 a.m. Report that three male parties had been creating a disturbance at Between the Uprights. Parties located; verbal warning issued. 9:48 a.m. Request for officer to mediate situation between roommates on Faren Avenue. 12:55 p.m. Open windows

observed at condemned house on Central Street. Responding officers observed nothing out of the ordinary; first floor in usual state of disarray. 1:35 p.m. Two-vehicle accident at Turnpike Road and Oakman Street. Written warning issued to one operator for failure to use care in stopping. 3:36 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reported evidence of a possible breaking and entering. Officers responded; nothing missing or out of place other than wood shards near door. Report taken. 3:38 p.m. Report of a man with a tent and a campfire on railroad property behind a Federal Street residence. Same subject from earlier incident on Kingsley Avenue and Poplar Street. Subject moved along. 4:26 p.m. Pan Am reported four subjects on railroad tracks near the old fish hatchery. Earlier, MPD officer had spoken to two male subjects in area, photographing trains. Railroad police off with subjects. 9:11 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle, possible drug activity on Central Street.

Sunday, 5/25 1:07 a.m. Following a fight at Between the Uprights, and were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. 2:03 a.m. Complaint regarding noisy train idling for nearly an hour near Lake Pleasant Road. 3:32 p.m. Request for officer to safely dispose of syringes, heroin wrappers, and other paraphernalia that caller found while cleaning out a former housemate's room on Central Street. 2:55 p.m. Report of belligerent, elderly female with a walker refusing to leave caller's steps on Second Street. Unable to locate. 4:51 p.m. Report of male standing on island below the dam waving yellow kayak over his head; unknown if distressed. Gill PD in area. Male observed to be back in water paddling quite capably. Clear. 4:55 p.m. Riding lawn mower reported stolen from Winthrop Street. Referred to an officer. 10:57 p.m. Caller reporting ATV driving up and down Hillside Road very fast. Vehicle stopped near industrial park; operator issued citation for no helmet; unregistered recreational vehicle; and operating a recreational vehicle on a public way.

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the poetry page

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt
Readers are invited to send
poems to the Montague Reporter
at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montagureporter.org

The editors would like to thank the following for
their generous financial underwriting of this page:
Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market,
and Montague Dental Arts

Rural Affairs

At present
The prime minister
Of a small hut
On a hill,
I investigate
The tenuous relations
of old tea cups
to their broken saucers
Encourage cultural exchanges
between wild turkeys
and new lambs
Organize festivals
in honor of song birds
and the vast night sky.

Regrettably,
I must be prepared
to eradicate
several invasive species:
the bittersweet, the knotweed –
Nothing can stop them
but the most aggressive programs
of surveillance
and capture.
Even torture is permissible –
in fact, necessary –
They are a formidable foe,
But we are great And will prevail.

Emily Goodwin
Leyden

Skateboard Poem

Let's say this poem
is a Brian Dolan custom-crafted skateboard
with a laminated maple deck sanded smooth
with gleaming trucks and wheels
that spin faster than the wind at my back.

With just a nudge I'd start off with a long carve,
Then goofyfooting it maybe hit a noslide.
On the ramp I'll hit a couple fast ollies
until up top I slide into a fakie
so I can pull off
a fast Caballerial.

Ok maybe it's not quite like that.
Maybe it'll just be air for a couple seconds
then a kickflip or a McTwist
which sends me on to the half pipe
where I and this poem grind to an end.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
Turners Falls

Let Me

I'd gladly be the pelting rain,
or the damp meadow grass
(swallowing young flowers
surreptitiously)
I could be alone on the moon,
with a bucket and brush,
or happy drawing circles in the sea.
Let ME try opening the buds in Spring.
Give me a chance in the woods,
directing insects to sing,
encouraging the foliage to unfurl –
Let me!

Emily Goodwin
Leyden

Two Poems from The Book of Serenity

#28

What kind of meaning of you does the word make the boy asks
the dead pass in a confidence of bees & this too in which the girl
hesitates or a tune she heard in caves as water pours into missed
moments of culture by the movie arcade where they slept the
night before & an inner chamber of her own silence & blistered
thumbs motor bikes & tin drums & lavish adoration and what
else did we ever need as all mundane & miraculous things pass
your way

#32

In a line of movement along the road, all the abominable,
& these things wherever it pleases you. What might it ask
(in need) of you, lover or friend. Bowed heads & stronger
inattentions, animals in a field. With my mouth i remember a
house of language. The line asking tender mearcy arriving in
a new home. All the years & people, the girl says sounding of
wind & cakes on fire in our offering.

(The two jugglers at the end of an act.)

John High
Brooklyn, NY

Lived

I lived many years ago.
In a time when things were very unlike now.

I have been studied and misunderstood
Books have been written about as a subject not a person.

Wellborn, but not always well off,
I am the Belle of Amherst, so they say.

So you think you know me.
What do you know – my face? So – !

Elizabeth Freeman
Montague

Only Known Surviving Dress
The only things we leave behind are things
Of course we may leave good work or
More questions than answers behind.
But really we leave used things.
One white dress.

Elizabeth Freeman
Montague

Elizabeth Freeman writes and works in Montague and sends her work to “The Poetry Page” when she can.
Emily Goodwin is making her first appearance in the Montague Reporter.
John High has read from his extensive work in Montague twice in recent memory. This is his first appearance on The Poetry Page as well.
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno is not only Editor in Chief of this newspaper, he is also a frequent contributor of poems as well as other articles to this paper.
He'll be reading at All Small Caps in Wendell on June 30.
Thanks to all of May's poets!

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ONGOING:

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

Turners Falls Fishway Open! 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day until Sunday, June 15, First Street, off Avenue A.

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Transformagination: the Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema*. On display through June 7.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ed Gregory's* photo exhibit in the Great Hall, high-resolution images of typically mundane subjects on display through May 31st.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Photographs wanted for *Photography Exhibition* to be on display June 19 to July 12 in Avenue A, Turners Falls storefront galleries. Opening reception June 19, Third Thursday RiverCulture Event: "Knights, Camera, Action!" Subject is open. Submit work by June 1 to Rodney at Madison on the Avenue. Questions: Suzanne at (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Ashfield Community Theater presents *You Can't Take It With You*, a 1937 comedy by Moss Hart and George Kaufman, directed by Martin Shell. The play is a sweet-hearted comedy about living life now and pursuing your

dreams. Held at Ashfield Town Hall, \$, 7 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band Music & Swing Party* - Includes Dance Lesson! \$, 7 p.m.

The Academy of Music, Northampton: Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School presents *The "Bright Size Life"*. Concert performance includes classical to original music, choral, accapella, jazz, rock, soul and r & b. \$, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *5j Barrow*, earthy, folk-rock sextet. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Repro-*

Space Word a trio of avant-garde jazz and improvisations opens, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Ladies in Jazz, featuring Samirah Evans and Sheila Jordan*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple & Guests*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & more, 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *VOO, (Kung) FU, and YOU*, 9:30 p.m. (kung fu movies on the big screen, set to your records on the turntable)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ray Mason*, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

House Concert, Montague: Southern Tunes and Songs with Max Godfrey & Elias Alexander. 6 p.m. potluck, 7:30 p.m. concert. \$, Reservations required; email Nicole centerstreetconcerts@gmail.com.

Spring Concert for Gill and Montague Elementary schools band and chorus. Held at Turners Falls HS Auditorium. All welcome, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *GirlCat Adams*, "rock'n'folk" - a folk based band that adds a strong rock feel with powerful harmonies, familiar melodies, and strong chord structures, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts with *Abe Loomis*-singer-songwriter; eclectic sound rooted in folk, country, early rock & roll, *Roland LaPierre*-country, rock & roll, and traditional roots music, and *Pint-Size String Band* with *Michael Pattavina*-old-time, Appalachian fiddle, 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring *Partridge Boswell & Jessamyn Smyth*. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls, *Falltown String Band*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock, Bruce Scofield



Ladies in Jazz, featuring Samirah Evans and Sheila Jordan at the Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield. 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 31.



bate Blues Band, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Show of Cards*, folk/rock/hip-hop, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Northfield Mountain Recreation, Northfield: *New England Orienteering Club event*. Try the sport of orienteering! Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Open to all ages and experience levels, \$.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: Congressman Jim McGovern's Office Hours for Residents of Deerfield, Greenfield, Montague, Gill, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Gill Elementary School: *Annual School Carnival*, 10-1 p.m.

Ashfield Community Theater presents *You Can't Take It With You*. (see 5/30 listing) Ashfield Town Hall, \$, 7 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *The Giant Behemoth*, starring Gene Evans, Andrea Morell, a film showing as part of the Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Tinary System* and

& Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

First Friday Concerts at Coho, Amherst: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*, roots, rhythm & harmony quartet. Pioneer Valley Co-Housing Community Great Room, 120 Pulpit Hill Road, first come first served, \$, 7:30 p.m.

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



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WEST from page B1

my fish.

She's out there, not far, for sure. Just this morning I came across the biggest pile of bear scat ever, all fresh and steaming, the first flies just arriving on the scene.

That primal instinct of paleo fear of the Cave Bear caused the hairs on the back of my neck to stand on end, thinking Awasoos was watching me.

She had dumped her massive scat on my daily path, where I could find it, right out in the open.

You can be sure I tiptoed away and up the path to the house lickety-split, trying to frantically remember if in this situation, you are supposed to play dead, or try to appear bigger than you are?

You definitely don't run, and never never try to climb a tree!

7:15. The fish is over the coals, and I'm watching the woods. It's hard to imagine, down here on the Flat, where the street and the sidewalk end at the edge of the dark woods, that I'm less than five minutes from the new espresso café, the brewery, and the Millers Pub up in the village.

Yet I am sitting here and worrying about a bear fighting me for

my supper!

7:30. The simple table-setting is done. Knife, fork, butter, salt, and beer.

The work table on the deck is now the dining table, transformed by a simple tablecloth, and set under the stars. Fish just about cooked and ready, and no mother bear has appeared up out of the primal woods along the ancient river.

In the skies, chimney swifts streak by, three or four at a time, screaming and shrieking in their roller-coaster headlong flight, now gliding on stiff up-pointed wings, courting and reeling in the sheer joy of flight.

They live in the air, never stopping unless to cling and nest on the inside of a chimney or hollow tree on their tiny, almost useless legs and feet.

Their much larger cousins, the knife-winged nighthawks angle through the air catching insects, occasionally plunging into a power dive and pulling out at the last minute on stiff wings and causing a booming sound. In the classification of birds, they are listed in the order of "goatsuckers" along with the swifts and the whip-poor-

will.

The medieval observers of these birds were convinced that these birds lived by sucking milk from the goats in the pastures at night! The name has stuck although they were just busy catching insects hovering over the livestock.

8:00. All is well. Salmon has been safely consumed (by me!) and out of reach of mother bear and her cubs. She'll be sniffing the air, and maybe venture up to the house after dark.

The whole neighborhood has taken in all the bird feeders for the night. She may go around knocking over a few trash barrels, or maybe go back to the river and catch her own damn fish!

8:30. Our bats come out right on time, and course through the upper reaches of sky over the yard. They circle back and forth between the peak of the roof and the tall oaks on the edge of the now black woods.

Time to go inside to see if the Red Sox are doing anything worth watching!

Time to leave the night to those eyes watching from the woods.

**GARDEN** from page B1

until the soil is warm and we are well past the wet spell, sometime in early to mid-June. Then we will watch the calendar so as to time the bean crop while we are home to pick and not while we are in Maine.

The regular rains have washed the manure into tea, feeding the asparagus and strawberries which look hale and hearty. So also, the weeds. I have put in a heavy stint of weeding time in both beds and prefer not to do so again. I'm thinking of sharing the straw for the strawberry bed with the asparagus plants, thus keeping the weeds down in both areas as well as preventing the strawberries from sitting in the dirt.

I'm a lazy weeder, so while I've never used straw in the asparagus bed, I'm going to give it a try. I can't think why it would be contraindicated, but I'll keep you posted. The tomato and pepper bed will be

mulched with black plastic both to keep the earth warm for these heat loving plants and to spare the chore of weeding.

While ours is not a wholly organic garden, I am absolutely philosophically against using poisons in my yard. Thus, my inept attempts to eradicate such invasive vines as Bittersweet with potions made of soap, white vinegar and salt. (We are doing better cutting out the emerging vines each spring.)

Still, I'm intrigued by a new way of discouraging the woodchuck from habituating the yard. I admit to having "bombed" them in their warrens two different years, but this process grossed me out and I disliked dealing with the potential for severe burns after lighting the "bomb".

This season we're trying a dose of castor oil down the holes as the scent is supposed to be repellant.

We know certainly these varmints have a strong sense of smell as they are able to detect a row of young bean seedlings from many yards' distance.

We'll also be planting a fence of Marigolds around the vegetable plot as the distinctive odor of the flowers is a natural repellant to many harmful insects. Lately I've also read that they are a mosquito repellant as well.

There are few guarantees in gardening and many disappointments, but working in sync with Mother Nature can also supply you with the freshest, best tasting produce of your life. Coupling that with the knowledge that this wonderful produce came from your own garden just can't be beat.

Enjoy the flowers of spring and as always, happy gardening!

**TATTOO** from page B1

Unsure of what she wanted to do upon graduation, she decided to see what was out there, when she came across Washburn Tattoo in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and showed the owner, Bruce Washburn, her work.

He was impressed with her official portfolio, since most people asking about work show up with some last minute drawings on a napkin, and decided to hire her.

And so Caldieri began the long process of becoming a certified tattoo artist. The qualifications differ from state to state.

In Vermont, she had to perform 1,000 hours of supervised work as an apprentice, and take a bloodborne pathogens course. This course teaches the artist what diseases are communicable, how to handle them, and most importantly, how to contain them.

Caldieri had additional obstacles with tattooing, as someone who had prior experience with art. Going to school for painting and drawing does help in the way that it gives one a good eye for composition and color, but the style is a lot different.

There is a lot of passion and spontaneity with painting, and it can be always changing, with room for mistakes.

"Tattooing," Caldieri explains, is the opposite of that: a lot of planning, a lot of forethought, a lot of precision." She says she had to learn to contain her wild painting style to learn how to tattoo, where there is no room for mistakes.

Now that she knows the rules and has a feel for tattooing, she would like to bring in some of her Fine Arts influence, incorporating techniques such as dot work and brushstrokes.

That's not the only thing that sets her apart from other artists. She has always understood that getting a tattoo is often a more serious and spiritual experience than one might think.

"It doesn't matter what the image is," she says. "What matters is the act of [getting] the tattoo is healing."

Working with this in mind for the past few years was sometimes

difficult for Caldieri in other shops. Not all owners were supportive of this mentality, and preferred that she "just do the tattoo."

Caldieri decided to open her own shop, where customers are encouraged bring their own spirituality into the process. She lists off things such as meditating, praying, bringing rosary beads, chanting, singing, and just about anything else you can think of.

She is trained in Reiki and yoga meditation, and is excited to be able to offer those as comforts to those who would like them.

Moving to Massachusetts, she spent some time scouting a location. She did not want to open another tattoo shop in Northampton, where she currently lives and works, because there are already four, and soon to be five, tattoo shops on Main Street alone.

When she asked around about it, someone recommended Turners Falls because of its art scene. Caldieri decided to check it out, and decided that she loved the community.

In addition to the training that she had in Vermont, Leah was required to take a skin anatomy course and become first aid and CPR-certified to be allowed to work in Turners Falls. Massachusetts, which did not legalize tattoo shops until 2000, is typically much stricter than other states.

It is also a lot more complicated, because the Commonwealth allows each city to decide what is required for artist certification. So, the rules for Greenfield could be completely different from those for Turners Falls.

The additional requirements were worth it for Caldieri, who spoke in glowing terms about the area.

"Everyone has been so supportive," she said, describing all the help she has received from the other business owners in the area, including offers of work trades to help her get a jump start on things.

With everyone's help and support, she is hoping to be ready to open up shop in the next couple weeks.



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