



Self-Defense for Senior Women

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March is a Month of Action in Vermont Help us Spread the Word

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YEAR 10 - NO. 22

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 1, 2012

The Montague Reporter 10th Anniversary Campaign

BY LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS - The *Montague Reporter* turns ten this year, and like a lot of ten-year-olds it is outgrowing everything.

The newspaper office needs new computers, and more space, new blood, and more writers. It hungrily gobbles attention from the people tending it; yet none complain of this labor of love.

At its very foundation, producing this eclectic weekly chronicle



of local news, opinion, poetry, book reviews and more is an act of faith very much like

to home. In its ten-year history, the *Montague Reporter* has tried to cultivate and celebrate the vital sense of community that flourishes here.

Editor David Detmold said, "I think the paper provides a sort of sounding board and sense of continuity for the community, and helps bring to our different villages and towns a stronger sense of common problems, mutual tasks and shared place. And when the phrase 'first draft of history' is used in reference to newspapers, it's really true, when you look back over the 436 issues we've put out since we started, there is a lot of local history archived in our pages already. So I hope that continues for many decades to come."

Forming the paper was a reac-

A Bank Building with a Rich History of Skulduggery



PARZYCH PHOTO

Garret Schenck and Maure Briggs Carrington maintain a daily vigil in front of the Bank of America in Turners

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS - Bank of America is vacating the bank building at 176 Avenue A on June 1st, according to sources inside and outside the bank itself.

This particular bank building has a long history, rich in strife, that reached across the river to Gill, and once as far as Florida.

Two stalwart protesters, Maure Briggs Carrington and Garret Schenck, have been taking up a position outside the bank each afternoon, proclaiming to be "One of the 99%," much to the annoyance of bank employees. Their placards and a sign tacked

up on a tree, only to be torn down by branch manager Patricia Friedman on one recent occasion in a heated exchange with Briggs Carrington, urge people to withdraw their money and call on the Justice Department to investigate the Bank of America's robo-signing foreclosure practices and fee hikes the protesters, and others like them across the country, find inimical to the pursuit of happiness by "the 99%."

A uniformed guard, posted out front of the bank for a few days to possibly quell an insurrection from the *hoi polloi*, is gone now.

Bank tellers interviewed

claimed the protests had nothing to do with the closing of the local branch. Nevertheless, the protesters feel empowered.

Entering the bank last week to inquire into its status, the interior was as somber as a wake for a forgotten man. Side offices stood empty. No lines formed at the teller windows. Three lonely tellers stood idle.

On February 29th, Friedman, manager of the Turners Falls branch of Bank America, confirmed the bank would close on June 1st. She said all bank employees will be employed at

see **BANK** page 12



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Editors David Detmold and Patricia Pruitt in the cluttered newspaper office

raising a child. Devote enough care and energy to that process and you might just grow a person who becomes a valuable member of society. Pour enough hard work into a local newspaper and over time you might just create a lasting piece of local history and an informed citizenry willing to participate in the issues that affect their lives.

Participation requires information, and the *Montague Reporter* delivers that information and fills a news hole left empty by other sources. Where else would a resident of Montague, Irving, Gill, Wendell or Leverett learn about recent deliberations by town committees — not in a sound bite or news brief, but in a carefully constructed news story?

To celebrate this local resource and position the paper for the future, the *Montague Reporter* board of directors is launching a tenth anniversary capital campaign this week, and every reader can play a part.

From the emerging national "Slow Food" movement to the CISA "Local Hero" campaign, people are embracing that which they can see, feel and touch close

tion to a decision made by the Montague selectboard in 2001 to transfer the franchise for MCTV, the local cable access TV station, to Greenfield. Detmold said, "When that decision was made, we decided to start a newspaper almost in protest: to tell our own stories, and to bring our community together. We began covering Gill and Irving right from the outset, because MCTV had served those two towns. After learning that the *Wendell Post* had entered a deep dormant phase, we reached out to folks in Wendell who had taken care of that community paper, and soon added Wendell to our coverage area. We expanded to cover Leverett two and a half years ago."

Detmold, working with expert designer Harry Brandt, and with help from Arthur Evans, founded the newspaper as a project of the disenfranchised MCTV board, Montague Community Cable Incorporated. The trio put a sample four-page newspaper out to coincide with Montague Old Home Days in 2002, and Montague historian Lillian Fiske immediately bought the first sub-

see **CAMPAIGN** pg 11

Skate Park Supporters Gear Up for Fund Drive

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - The Unity Skate Park committee of Turners Falls is hard at work on an ambitious campaign to raise up to \$138,000, to provide the town of Montague's 30% match for a hoped for Massachusetts Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to construct a concrete skate park at Unity Park.

But before the committee attempts to reach that goal, they hope the overall cost of the project, now ballparked at \$460,000, can be reduced substantially in a competitive bidding process.

"My gut feeling, and we've had some confirmation, is that figure is way too high," said skate park spokesperson Brian Dolan, who told the recreation commission on Tuesday, February 28th, "I'm hearing from other skate park contractors that we're looking at way too high of an estimate here."

Dolan said he had talked with

a representative

from Who Skates?

a company out of

Maine, that won a competitive bid under prevailing wage laws for a similar sized skate park in Hingham, MA recently. Dolan said the contractor told him the next highest bidder on that project came in over \$400,000, but Who Skates? got the contract for less than \$200,000.

Dolan said he subsequently skated the Hingham park, and found it to be "top quality."

The town's architect for the Unity Park improvement project, Berkshire Design of Northampton, received the \$460,000 estimate from a North Carolina firm named Artisan Skateparks. Dolan said he was not aware that Artisan Skateparks had ever built a skatepark in the Northeast before.

"A second pre-bid estimate isn't asking too much. That would be due diligence for the town at this point," added Dolan.



Whatever the final fundraising goal may be, the committee is determined to raise it. They got off to an unexpected early start when Hope and Olive Restaurant in Greenfield called to say there was an opening for a beneficiary at their January Soup and Games night. With this bit of serendipity, the skate park committee raked in an early \$1500, as seed money for their fund drive.

Until last year, the skate park committee had hoped the planned 7,300-square-foot skate park could be included as one component of a series of Community Development Block Grants to provide funding for the overall improvement of Unity Park in Turners Falls. But after the town was turned down for the first phase of Unity Park funding in 2010, the timeline for the entire project was pushed forward.

see **SKATEPARK** pg 13

PET OF THE WEEK

Calico Cheer



Baby Gaby

I'm Baby Gaby, and I'm a two-year-old female cheery-o calico cat! Somehow rhyming was on someone's mind when I was named, so now I'm stuck on it. I am a big fan of toy mice, squeaky toys and catnip. They're all great before a giant sunshiny catnap! I've been described as friendly to everyone, playful and independent. One of my favorite interactive pastimes is a petting fest and I'd love for you to be my masseuse. Please come in and interview for the position. It would be my pleasure! I'm a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. This means I've been at the adoption center longer than most of the other kitties and my adoption fee has been reduced by half!

For more info on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Dinosaurs at the Carnegie Library

On Saturday, March 3rd at 10:30 a.m., Dawn Marvin Ward will offer a program on dinosaurs at the Carnegie Library. Participants will learn about the dinosaurs who once roamed Turners Falls, examine real dinosaur fossils, make their own 'fossils,' and help craft a volcano. The Montague Cultural Council funded program is designed for children ages pre-k - 3rd grade and their families.

Music and Movement will be held at the Montague Center

Library from March - June on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. The popular free program with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is for young children of all ages.

Hands-On Science for Homeschoolers has been extended through April 11th. It is held on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. Electromagnetism is the current theme. Science teacher Jim Klaiber instructs this program for children of all ages.

More info: 413-863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Read It, Leverett!

On Sunday, March 11th, programs will be held relating to this year's chosen 'Read it, Leverett' novel. Come borrow the book *March*, and join us as we step back in time...

2:45 p.m. - Leverett's Cheryl Howland will share a Civil War letter written by an ancestor and display family memorabilia.

3:00 p.m. - "Civil War Medicine," a talk by historian and re-enactor Norbert Rieke on

how medical treatment during the war changed society forever. Reproductions of period surgical and medical gear will be displayed. Recommended for adults and older children.

12:00-5:00 p.m. - On the library grounds, Brad Hendricks will depict the camp life of a Civil War soldier. Dressed in period clothing, he'll cook his dinner over a fire pit outside his tent.

Seven Local Libraries Invite you to Read "March" in March

BY PATRICIA PRUITT
MONTAGUE - "On the Same Page" is a national community-building effort begun in Seattle, WA, and focused on the shared experience of reading a good book along with your neighbors.

Quite naturally this shared reading and discussion experience takes place in local libraries, which provide copies of the title to be read.

This year's selection is the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winning book, *March*, by Australian writer Geraldine Brooks.

The novel is set before and during the Civil War, and the month of March marks the 150th anniversary of that war this year.

In addition to reading and discussing *March*, Tilton Library in Deerfield, Erving Public Library, Leverett Library, the Montague Public Libraries, New Salem

Public Library, Northfield Public Library, and Wendell Free Library will hold various activities remembering the Civil War.

These include a program by Norbert Rieke on Civil War medicine and surgery at the Tilton and Leverett Libraries, a presentation of Civil War memorabilia and artifacts by Brad Peters and Jan Ross, at the Erving Senior Activity Center and New Salem Library. *Remembering Our Past: Franklin County Abolitionist Activities*: a dramatic presentation by Bambi Miller and Mary Boehmer took place in February at the Wendell Free Library and New Salem Library, and you can read a fine summary of that event in this week's paper.

Please note that each library has a free brochure giving dates and times of all programming for the month of March.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - March 5th to 9th

GILL-MONTAGUE - Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Appointments are now being scheduled for free AARP tax aid. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

Monday, March 5th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, March 6th
Presidential Primary
Senior Center Closed
Wednesday, March 7th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, March 8th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, March 9th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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 congregating meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily 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. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, March 5th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise



Dominic Smith gets a boost down 4th Street in Turners, from Tito!

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Wendell in Arms

On Thursday, March 8th, at 7 p.m., at the Wendell library, Civil War re-enactor Joe Coll will share his research about the service of over 40 Wendell citizens who served in the War Between the States, including their participation in the lofty Civil War Balloon Corps. Pam Richardson will share research about the homes and families they left behind.

You may remember from reading the novel *Little Women*, the father, Robert March, was away from home for an uncertain period of time. *March* tells the story of his experience during the Civil War.

It opens with his writing a tender letter to his wife, Margaret, and his daughters under the stars on a Virginia battlefield of the war. His experiences utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs.

Fortunately the novel is nowhere near as long as the actual Civil War and, judging from my short excursion into it (I'm on page 40.), it's a page turner and already a "good read." I will tell you more about the book in these pages in an upcoming issue, and hope you will join me 'On the Same Page' in March.

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JESSICA LARVIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) **Universal Access Program** will host ice skating, sled hockey and snowmobile rides for individuals with disabilities at the Wendell State Forest in Wendell on Saturday, March 3rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required, by calling All Out Adventures at 413-527-8980. For more information call 413-545-5758.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, in Turners Falls is offering a series of talks on the theme of the Sacred Heart to follow the Gorskie Zale Devotions on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. on March 4th through March 25th. All are invited to attend.

The United Arc of Franklin and Hampshire Counties will hold their **annual auction** of terrific items on Saturday, March 3rd, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

at the main campus of Greenfield Community College. There will be numerous items offered by auctioneer Bill Pratt, including trips, weekend getaways, Red Sox tickets, sports memorabilia, catering, artwork and more, an expanded silent auction, and raffles throughout the evening. Enjoy hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. Advanced registration is \$20.00 per person or \$25.00 at the door. To register online, please go to www.unitedarc.org, or call 413-774-5558 for more info.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's oncology department, in partnership with Forest Moon, will offer a free writing workshop, "**Spirit of the Written Word**," for western Massachusetts residents touched by cancer. The ten-week workshop will take place on Thursdays, March 8th through May 10th, from 6 - 8 p.m., at Artspace, 15 Mill Street, in

Greenfield. For more info call 413-625-2402.

How much forest, free from development, does New England need, and how should it be managed? How much of our food could we, or should we grow locally? What does the history of our land have to tell us about how we might best care for it in today's rapidly changing world? Join a broad-ranging lecture and discussion about the future of the New England landscape, with advanced registration required for this free lecture, co-sponsored by Franklin Land Trust and Conway School of Landscape Design, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10th. Call 413-625-9151 to register.

How much do we really know about **New England predators** such as the bobcat, coyote, and fishers. Let's demystify these local creatures. Join naturalist John Foster of the New England Naturalist Training Center for a slide show of New England's predators at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, March 17th, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING TOWN CLERK

Open Positions in Erving

RICHARD NEWTON: - The following elected positions will be on the ballot for the annual town elections on May 7, 2012.

Selectman	3 years.
Assessor	3 years.
Town Clerk	3 years.
Tax Collector	1 year.
Library Trustee	3 years.
Moderator	1 year.
School Committee	3 years.
Tree Warden	1 year.
Constable	3 years.
Planning Board	3 years.
Recreation Commission	3 years.
Recreation Commission	1 years.
Board of Health	3 years.
Board of Health	1 year.

Nomination papers can be picked up from the town clerk's office anytime, but must be returned to the town clerk's office no later than March 19, 2012. There must be 20 valid signatures of registered voters in the town of Erving to place your name on the ballot. It is recommended that you obtain extra signatures in the event that someone

signs that is not a registered voter.

The annual elections will be Monday May 7, with the polling hours from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Erving town hall, 12 East Main St. The annual town meeting will be Wednesday May 9 at the Erving Elementary School with the starting time to be set by the selectboard.

Congratulations to D'Ann Kelty, Leverett Subscriber #100!

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

LEVERETT - This week the *Montague Reporter* reached its goal of 100 subscribers in the town of Leverett. Number 100 is none other than D'Ann Kelty, former chairperson of the library building committee, former town clerk, now retired, but serving again as assistant clerk while Lisa Stratford is on medical leave.

Kelty and her family moved

to Leverett in 1988. Her husband is a professor at UMass.

She decided to subscribe to the *Reporter* when a friend at the library told her if the paper reached its goal of 100 subscribers in town, it would give a \$50 gift to the Friends of the Library in that person's name. She was delighted to see that is just what happened.

She likes the paper very much and looks forward to each issue.

Town of Montague Sewer Bills Due

The second half of the Fiscal 2012 sewer use bills were mailed on January 26th, and are due by Thursday, March 1st. Also, a reminder that the first commitment of Motor Vehicle Excise for 2012, are due by March 27th, and the 2012 actual Real Estate and District bills are due April 2nd.

For the convenience of the town of Montague residents, you are able to pay sewer use or excise

bills on line. To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand, and then go to www.montague.net, click on departments, treasurer/collector, online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's convenient, fast and secure.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the

REMEMBER FUKUSHIMA

Take the First Steps on a Walk for a New Spring

LEVERETT - At 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 2nd, the 2012 Walk for a New Spring begins with a dedication at the new temple at the New England Peace Pagoda, 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett.

At 8:30, walkers start walking to the Leverett Arts and Crafts Center in Leverett Center.

At 10:00 a.m. there will be a reception and send-off gathering

for the walkers who will then leave from Leverett to caravan to the Seabrook Nuclear Station in New Hampshire for a rally at 3 p.m.

All are invited to join the walkers on the first steps for a new spring.

For more information about the send off call: Jim Perkins at 413-367-9520 or Tim Bullock at 413-485-8469.

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Ten Years On

In 2001, responding to the lack of local media in our town, after the selectboard gave the franchise for Montague's cable access television station to Greenfield, we decided to revive the *Turners Falls Reporter*, a great local weekly kept in print for 50 years from 1872 to 1922, and published for 46 of those years by the inestimable Cecil T. Bagnell.

Ten years on, we have developed a growing respect for his accomplishment in keeping a small town paper alive and flourishing.

We chose to retain the Old English type font of Bagnell's original *Reporter* masthead, changed the name from *Turners Falls* to *Montague Reporter*, and added the towns of Gill and Erving to our coverage area from the first issue, published on October 10th, 2002.

Fourteen weeks later, we added Wendell to the masthead, after consulting with the collective of volunteers who had kept the *Wendell Post* in print for more than 21 years, until they put their much loved paper to rest for a while in the summer of 2002.

In that same issue of the *Reporter*, we noted the possibility of adding the towns of Shutesbury and Leverett to our coverage area, despite fears from our editorial advisory board that doing so would stretch our already "overextended personnel and writing staff."

It took six and a half more years for us to expand our coverage to include Leverett, which we finally did on October 1st, 2009.

Shutesbury may have to wait a bit longer.

Since our first issue, we have promised and tried to provide lively, in depth, and accu-

rate reporting of the events, issues and personalities that shape our corner of New England. Nor have we shied from taking firm stands on the major concerns facing our nation and our world today.

We are firmly on the side of peace, against all war, for gun control, and in favor of sensible and immediate steps to reduce global warming, abandon fossil fuels, and abolish the use of nuclear energy with its attendant peril of catastrophic accident, daily radiation emissions, and the long term toxic legacy of lethal waste with which we have already burdened future generations to meet our myopic short term needs.

We favor local self reliance in food, energy, and the production of durable goods; we advocate equality of educational opportunity; equal access to affordable health care; and equal rights for all human beings to enjoy lives of dignity, worth, and mutual respect.

The *Montague Reporter* is a community owned, independent newspaper, and as such, it is your paper. We invite you to share your views with your neighbors through our pages, by sending in articles, poems, photographs, cartoons, and lampoons of the goings on in our small towns. If you disagree with our position on any issue, we invite you to set us straight.

As we enter our tenth year of publication, we uphold the time honored, tattered banner of free speech for an informed public.

We will do our best to continue to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.

With your help, we will remain the *Voice of the Villages* for ten more years, and ten times ten beyond.

KELLER TALK POSTPONED

Dan Keller's talk in the Greenfield Community College Senior Symposia series has been postponed due to weather.

The talk, to be held at the G.C.C. downtown campus, 270 Main Street, has been rescheduled

for Thursday, March 8th at 2 p.m.

Keller, a local documentary filmmaker and Wendell selectboard member, will speak on 'The Utopian Vision: Remembering Local Communes of the '60s.'

Sign Me Up!

- ☐ \$20 for half year subscription
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The Montague Reporter

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LETTERS TO



THE EDITOR

Unjustly Maligned Dog Won't Lie

My name is Putney Melhorn-Lemly; Cathy and John live with me at 14 Montague Road.

I don't type, so I'm asking John to do it for me. I don't read either, but I hear in the latest *Montague Reporter* about a "wandering Great Dane-Shepherd who generally lives at 14 Montague Road."

No way. I'm the only dog here. I've seen that creature barging in uninvited. Think it comes up from Depot Road, but I've never been down there. Came to a yard party last fall, ate snacks, knocked over a kid, then chewed up my leash when they finally restrained him and dragged him off to Dakin shel-

ter. (Never did replace my leash.) Sometimes hangs out here, but certainly is not welcome! Whenever that happens, I bark, incensed.

I'm a little overweight, a lab mix, don't know who my daddy was, but I'm no tramp. I wander a bit on my edge of the King lot, bark sometimes at dogs and folks at the Emerson Garden or on Putney Road, which after all is named for me. I'll try to do better - no one wants to see the neighborhood going to the... well, you know what they say.

It's a privilege to live in downtown Leverett. But such misreporting ruins a girl's reputation. I'll work on my barking,

and you please get the facts straight. Thanks.

- Your best friend,
Putney Melhorn-Lemly
Leverett

(Editor's Sheepish Note: We based our story on a tip supplied by the Leverett dog officer, who offered the address of the wandering Dane after hastily consulting her papers in a dark parking lot after last month's desultory dog hearing.)

Turns out, the Dane does live on Depot Road, when he isn't on the loose and barging into your garden party. Let's hope he turns over a new leash - or at least returns yours - soon.)

More on Town Hall Treasures

I would like to add a few more comments to the article on historical artifacts in the Leverett Town Hall, (*MR X#15: Leverett Town Hall Holds Many Treasures*) in the *Reporter* in January.

In regard to the stage curtain upstairs:

The stage was perhaps last used for the first event of the Leverett bicentennial in 1974 when some of the poems and orations from 1924, given at the 150th anniversary, were presented by myself and Frances (Gordon) King.

It was probably not possible to roll up the curtain at that time, but it must have been possible when the room was used for the Leverett Grange. Square dancing was no longer held at the time we moved to Leverett in 1960, because of fear the floor might not hold up.

Gatherings of more than 100 people were not allowed upstairs, for the same reason.

Town meetings were held there until the elementary school was built in 1950; after that the school gym was used. The town offices were also housed in the school, along with a town vault, in the area where the kitchen is now.

When the offices were brought back to the town hall it still had no indoor plumbing. During that period, selectman

Phillip Woodard was heard to observe to town meeting that "It was embarrassing to have to show visitors and officials to the privy." This was close to 1970.

To return to the curtain and the businesses listed on it: the Leverett General Store was in the building still next to town hall, which housed a post office, a store and gas pump. When we moved to town, Phyllis Glazier, who I believe was the daughter of the Ashley listed on the curtain as the proprietor, ran both.

We used Paiges Chevrolet garage occasionally, as we had cars from my family's General Motors garage in Iowa.

The Beaman-Marvel Box Factory was the "Box Shop" made into the Leverett Arts and Crafts in early 1970s. At the time it had reverted to being a chicken coop. Dorothy King, an intrepid developer, bought it and proposed turning it into a Community Center. As she wanted to design it herself and have the town fund it, her proposal was rejected by town meeting.

see ARTIFACTS page 5

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 2/29/12

Wounded:	Deaths:
14,342	1,905



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GUEST EDITORIALS

BY NINA KELLER

WENDELL - There are those who know the Vermont Yankee Reactor (VY) should close on March 21st, 2012, the date its current license expires. Its owners, Entergy of Louisiana, legally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the state of Vermont when it was in their interest to do so. The MOU stated Entergy would comply with the relicensing decisions of the state.

The aging reactor will turn 40 on March 21st. VY was designed to last 40 years. Entergy lied about the presence

of radioactive effluent in underground pipes, and those pipes have leaked into the groundwater and river.

The Vermont state Senate voted to deny relicensing for the reactor in 2010. Entergy sued the state to continue operating for another 20 years, won in federal court and Entergy is now suing Vermont for \$4.6 million in court costs.

Now Entergy expects to carry on business as usual despite renegeing on their contract with the state of Vermont. They use corporate money to support their big business, but disrespect the

democratic will of their customers.

We need your help to safely and non-violently say "No!" as thousands of citizens protest.

Entergy applied for a Vermont Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good without which the reactor may not operate.

Public good means beneficial to the majority. In the past few years, our local community of friends and family has suffered an increase in cancers. Has this unacceptable increase of cancer likewise visited your community? It is difficult to pinpoint a

cause, but here are some hard facts: Ionizing radiation can cause cancer. The aged, unpredictable reactor produces and leaks ionizing radiation.

Twelve Franklin County communities voted against relicensing the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor at town meetings in 2008. We request that you contact your elected officials from those towns and be represented at an upcoming protest rally in Brattleboro.

(Stay in touch via www.sagealliance.org and www.nukebusters.org)

Entergy, know this: You are

responsible for keeping the valuable asset of your current workforce whom we trust to do the best they can at your aged, leaky, rusty bucket of pipes, collapsed cooling towers, fires that plague, wrong buttons being pushed... You are responsible to keep them well paid and well trained to safeguard our lives and homes, and to decommission and oversee the shutdown of the reactor as soon as...

Well! Do I say when a cease and desist is decided upon? Or immediately? Or after 20 more years of spewing and deceit?

Shut it down now.

ABOLITION IN FRANKLIN COUNTY: A Dramatic Presentation

BY PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL - One night last week, a cozy corner of the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library served as a stage for an hour long performance called "Remembering Our Past: Franklin County Abolitionist Activities," by Bambi Miller and Mary Boehmer.

Miller and Boehmer are librarians in Charlemont, and years of independent research have gone into their creative and informative theatrical presentation.

Dressed in period costume, Miller and Boehmer play the roles of Elizabeth Fields and Mary Leavitt, cousins within an extended Charlemont family, who came together in 1873 to reminisce about their family's dedication to helping fugitive slaves, notably Basil Dorsey, his wife and children.

The only prop is a small trunk filled with many authentic historic objects of the era including mittens, hats and dolls made by the women of Charlemont for black children coming north, quilt pieces sewn into an Underground Railway pattern, anti-slavery petitions and tokens, one of the first copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and chains cut from a slave's ankles.

The first artifact pulled from the trunk is a scrapbook supposedly kept by 'Granny Leavitt,' but in fact assembled by Miller and Boehmer.

The story of Basil Dorsey – and the part the Leavitt family played in his emancipation – unfolds as the two women slowly turn the pages of the book of mementos.

Basil Dorsey was one of four mixed race brothers born and enslaved in Liberty, Maryland at the beginning of the 1800s.

Upon the death of their master, reputed to also be their father, the brothers escaped to Bucks County, Pennsylvania where they were hired by the ardent abolitionist, Roger Purvis, who soon succeeded in bringing Basil's wife, Louisa, and their two children to join him.

Bounty-hunters made serious attempts to capture Basil and force him back into slavery, but Purvis was able to place the Dorsey family in the hands of New York resident Joshua Leavitt, editor of *The Emancipator*.

Leavitt sent the Dorsey family to his father's home in Charlemont in 1838. Louisa died there only a few months after the birth of their third child, and Basil remarried.

In 1844, with more opportunities available to him elsewhere, he left the Leavitt family and became a teamster in Florence, Massachusetts, where Sojourner Truth also lived for a time.

When Basil Dorsey died in March, 1872, the *Hampshire*

Gazette carried a long and detailed account of his life.

The Leavitt family and others who participated in the Underground Railway did so at great personal risk. Despite this, anti-slavery fairs, fundraisers and petitions were common, and the women of Massachusetts played a significant part in these.

In 1837, 146 women from Charlemont (among 5,000 women from Massachusetts) signed the petition drawn up by the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society. 'Granny Leavitt' (Chloe Maxwell Leavitt) signed one every year until slavery was abolished.

The Roger and Keziah Leavitt House and the Hart and Mary Leavitt House are still standing in Charlemont today and, in 2005, they were designated as documented Underground Railroad homes by the National Parks Service "Network to Freedom" program – two of only thirteen Massachusetts houses so recognized.

To amass the necessary amount of evidence for documentation, Miller and Boehmer worked tirelessly along with Steve Strimer of Florence, Barb Pellesier of Easthampton, Dean Herrin of Frederick, MD and Elaine Leavitt of Marcus, IA.

Miller and Boehmer's performance was followed by an equally interesting question and answer period. They will be per-

forming again at the New Salem Library on Saturday, March 11th at 1 p.m.

As a postscript, let me add that while Miller and Boehmer have not run across any reference to Wendell in their research, they repeatedly made the point that history has a way of revealing more and more of itself as time goes by. We do know that Montague has been cited as a link in the Underground Railway chain and 32 women from New

Salem signed the 1837 anti-slavery petition.

So far, the only historical information I've found relevant to African-Americans in Wendell is the presence of one black family – Samuel Burgess, his wife, Elizabeth and her daughter, Elizabeth Thompson – who lived on Lockes Village Road from about 1830 to about 1870, and a black child under the care of Reverend Kilburn in the early 1800s.

ARTIFACTS from page 4

There was also briefly a Box Factory in East Leverett by the bridge in the first decade of the 1900s. Boxes used to ship codfish and other manufactured goods were made there.

The W. P. Rackliffe Store in Cushman was in the old depot building, which now houses the Cushman Café. It had a post office and sold ice cream and was popular; its closing was much lamented.

Afterwards, there was a sort of second hand goods store in the back, now seating for the café.

Amherst Savings Bank and Amherst Theater, where the present Amherst Cinema is located, were in existence, and we went to movies in the latter in 1960s. There was no place in the center to get ice cream after the movie in 1960. Almost the only café was a tiny Chinese café called Kim Toy in the left hand side of the theater, the first Chinese restaurant in

town.

As to the observation that there are no trees in the house pictures taken by the Howes Brothers, hanging in town hall, is that the trees had all been cut down by early settlers in order to build houses, clear land for farming, and as agricultural products for selling, burning in the coke kilns, box shop wood, etc. When the farmers moved west in the latter 19th century, the trees all grew back.

Also the houses were dilapidated, because the economy of Leverett was very poor at the turn of the century. Our house at Still Corner was one of four derelicts renovated by Minona Seagrove, daughter of town natives who came from Long Island.

No East Leverett houses seem to be in Howes Brothers photos.

– Georgiana Foster
Northampton



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

'Open Space' Plan Remains in Effect for Town Hall

BY DAVID DETMOLD
After years of discussion, the plan to build walls to divide the first floor of town hall and provide privacy for town employees and the residents they serve is on hold after the selectboard reviewed a bid from Renaissance Builders to do the job for nearly \$60,000.

"I'm sorry, I think there are more important things we have to do," said selectboard member Ann Banash on Monday, speaking through a conference call hookup from her vacation home in Florida.

"This goes back to the back burner," she said.

The idea to divide up the first floor of town hall with floor-to-ceiling partitions, instead of the temporary half walls in place now, has been advanced at town meetings for several years, as a way of allowing for a more efficient work environment for town employees, and to allow for private conversation between the tax collector and residents negotiating payment of tax bills, for example. The divided floor plan would also allow for the board of assessors to move upstairs from the dank town hall basement, where they currently meet and store their files.

The town had hoped to interest the Franklin County Tech School to tackle the project as a hands on learning opportunity for students in their carpentry and electrical programs. But after reviewing the needs of the town and the space the students would have to work in, the Tech School recently declined the opportunity.

The board then opted to seek a bid from a local contractor to determine roughly what the job would cost if the town paid prevailing wage to accomplish the division of space. That cost estimate came back to the board this week for review.

With boilers and roofs at various town buildings in

need of replacement, the board decided not to go forward with the town hall partition project at this time.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board he had received a bid for \$2800 from architect Brian DeVriese to survey the roofs of five town buildings, to determine the costs for their repair and replacement.

"We need to get some real answers," said chair Randy Crochier, seated underneath two collapsed ceiling panels on the second floor meeting room of town hall, where rain had leaked in not long ago.

The board approved a motion to pay for the roof survey out of the building maintenance account.

Chet Kuzontkowski, of the town veterans memorial committee, has proposed that the upcoming annual town meeting be dedicated to "all the veterans of the town of Gill."

Kuzontkowski's motion continued, "to those who have paid the ultimate price, to those who bear the scars of battle, to those who for life carry the disabilities of time in service... we today recognize the sacrifices you have made, the commitment you have shown, and your unselfish devotion to duty defending the freedoms so often taken for granted."

Selectboard member John Ward said he agreed with honoring people who have made sacrifices, but worried the motion would tend toward "flag waving and glorifying war, which we've had so much of in recent years."

Ann Banash said, "The thing that worries me is we'll get requests every year to dedicate town meeting to some cause, or some people. Does this set a precedent? I don't know," she added.

Purington proposed and the board approved setting up social media networks

for the town of Gill, to allow for communications with townspeople in the event of future storms that may cause widespread power outages, and loss of cable and telephone service. So, be prepared to 'Like Gill' on Facebook!

Tognarelli Heating and Cooling won the bid for replacing the boiler and upgrading the heating system at the town safety complex, for \$54,174.

The town may pursue an inflow and infiltration study of sewer lines in the Riverside Water District, to answer questions about why the number of gallons of sewage being pumped across the cove to Montague has shown a steady uptick over the last twelve months.

Siemens Building Technologies and the manufacturers of the newly installed burner and boiler at the elementary school have agreed to extend the warrantee on the heating system for two additional years, in response to the town's concerns about early glitches in the brand new burner and boiler.

The board approved a request from the Gill historical commission to prepare a survey for the Massachusetts Historic Commission of historic town buildings around the town common, including homes on River Road and Main Road, for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Commission member Pam Shoemaker said designation would not affect homeowners' choice of paint, renovation plans, or installation of solar panels, for example. But designation would make the town eligible for certain preservation grants, and tax incentives for historic preservation.

Shoemaker stressed that public hearings would be held to inform the public on the process as the commission's work proceeds.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Usher Demolition Moves Forward

BY KATIE NOLAN - On February 27th, the Erving selectboard voted to start the process for soliciting bids for the demolition of buildings and the removal of rubble at the former Usher Plant property.

The former boiler building will not be included in the first phase of site clearing.

The Usher Plant reuse committee wants to save this building, as an example of Erving's industrial history.

Selectboard member James Hackett said, if the selectboard decides to demolish the former boiler building in the future, that work would be considered an add on to the demolition and cleanup contract.

The Usher Plant reuse committee will present their plans for the property at the March 5th select-

board meeting.

The selectboard voted to grant a liquor license to Mike Driscoll and Simone Cristofori for a restaurant they described as a "family-oriented casual eatery" serving "comfort food," beer and wine. The pair plan to open "The Crooked Tap" at 7 West Main Street in Erving Center on Memorial Day weekend. For many years, a bar and restaurant called The Cottage was operated at this address.

The selectboard reviewed the library's draft FY'13 budget. Library director Barbara Friedman told the board that an increase of \$598 over FY'12 is anticipated because of a state requirement that libraries must spend 20% of their budgets for books, CDs, DVDs, and other multimedia materials.

Town clerk Richard Newton presented a draft FY'13 budget for his department with an increase of \$5,186 over last year, based on running three elections in FY'13 (the September state primary, November presidential election, and May 2013 town elections).

The draft FY'13 parks and recreation and tax collector budgets show no increases over last year's budget.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin did not attend the meeting. Hackett reported that Goodwin was in Orlando, FL, where his wife competed in the Disneyworld Princess Half-Marathon. Sherri Goodwin finished the half-marathon in 2 hours 17 minutes. Perhaps she should run for local office, too.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Ban Proposed on the Chaining of Dogs

BY DAVID DETMOLD
Richardson Road resident Maureen Eppiloto is a dog lover with a mission.

Eppiloto believes it is cruel to chain a dog to a stationary object, like a dog house, tree, or pole, for long periods of time, and she would like the town to pass an amendment to the dog bylaw to ban that practice.

Eppiloto has researched the bylaws of other towns, like Amherst and Greenfield, that have enacted similar bans against the chaining of dogs recently, and she came before the Leverett selectboard on Tuesday with a detailed three-page proposal for new wording for a bylaw to outlaw the prolonged outside confinement of dogs.

Eppiloto, who once worked at the Dakin Animal Shelter, proposes that no dog in Leverett shall be confined outdoors between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., or in

weather that is too cold or too hot (less than 32 F, or when a heat advisory has been issued). Dogs confined outdoors, according to her proposed bylaw wording, will be provided with daily exercise and have access to food, water, and shelter. She further specifies that dogs confined outdoors shall be tethered on a run, with a tether attached to a pulley on a cable, and stipulates that such confinement shall not exceed three hours in a 24 hour period.

Her proposed bylaw has many other terms and conditions for outdoor confinement of dogs, including \$50 fines for violations of the prohibition on the stationary chaining of dogs.

The selectboard advised Eppiloto to form a committee, including Leverett dog officer Roberta Bryant, to work together on the proposed bylaw changes, before bringing an amended dog bylaw to a public

hearing, and then to town meeting for consideration.

Board member Peter d'Errico said, "There's just a sense that people are dealing with too much regulation in their lives. You are not going to walk into town meeting and say, 'Here's a three page bylaw about dogs,' and have them say, 'OK.'"

Eppiloto said, "It is isolating and lonely for dogs to be tied up all day, not being able to socialize with the people they love." She said dogs that are chained may exhibit more aggressive behavior than dogs that are allowed to exercise freely.

In other news, the selectboard appointed Kat Ford to the board of assessors to fill out the remainder of Dave Palmer's term. Palmer resigned from the assessors recently, chair Don Robinson told the selectboard, after a mere 32 years in office.

Robinson himself has see LEVERETT pg 14

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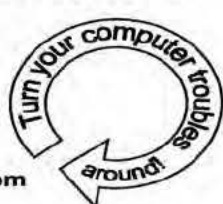
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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Will Ekstrom Stay at G-M?

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - The Gill-Montague school committee voted on February 14th to offer Nadine Ekstrom a three-year contract as superintendent for the district.

In a follow-up interview after the school committee meeting of February 28th, Ekstrom said that since the school committee had waited so long to offer her a contract, she had felt obliged to apply to other school districts and is being considered for a position at one of those districts at the present time.

Ekstrom said she felt she had to protect herself, because the school committee had taken so long to begin considering whether to offer her a position.

Ekstrom is currently working on a one year contract as interim superintendent. She said time was an issue, because other districts have a much earlier hiring process, so if she waited for the school committee to make a decision, she might be left without a job for next year.

Ekstrom said she would prefer to stay with the Gill-Montague district. She confirmed the Gill-Montague committee has not discussed salary with her as yet.

The school committee went into executive session at the end of Tuesday's meeting to prepare for negotiations with the superintendent.

In her report to the school committee Tuesday evening, Ekstrom announced that Management Solutions had offered a bid to the district that was acceptable and so the district would be hiring them for the next three months to run the business department. She said they had sent letters to several companies inviting them to offer a bid. A few responded saying they wouldn't be interested in such a short term project. Ekstrom said

Management Solutions would be working with the school business department, and that she would also arrange for them meet with town administrators.

Erving representative Beth Lux reported that the regionalization committee will be meeting on March 6 to discuss how to proceed. She said she expects they'll be arranging to meet with committees from each school district after that to explore the possibility of becoming part of another district. Lux said they have to decide if they want it to be a K-12 or 7-12 arrangement but that they do prefer to keep their elementary school. Jeff Singleton of Montague said that one of the more important issues is the minimum contribution. Lux said that Ekstrom had applied for a grant to cover the costs of exploring regionalization and that this could be used to pay for experts to look at all of the aspects of how to configure such a district.

The students at Turners Falls High School would like the hat policy changed. Right now, they are not allowed to wear hats in school. Sam Danford, student council representative to the school committee, has been raising this issue at each meeting. He was asked to speak to students and teachers to get their opinions and then bring back a recommendation of a new policy. Danford and student council members created a survey and evaluated the results in preparing the proposed policy. The suggested policy would allow students to wear hats in the hallways between classes during the school day, in the morning before classes and after the school day ends, and in the cafeteria during lunch.

It left to the discretion to the teacher whether hats were worn in the classroom. It would forbid wearing hats in the auditorium/theater during presen-

tations or the morning meetings. It also laid out the circumstances of when teachers could take away this privilege, listing safety, health or cleanliness hazard or a distraction that prevented optimal learning conditions.

In discussing this, members had very positive things to say. Emily Monosson of Montague commended Danford and the students for going through this process. She said she could see they had talked to a lot of teachers and students and that she thought they should give it a chance. Joyce Phillips of Montague commended Danford for how respectfully this was done. Jane Oakes of Gill said she was impressed with the work the students had done.

The one issue that members brought up was leaving it up to teachers to decide what the policy would be in the classroom. Their concern was that it would put pressure on teachers to be liked by students by letting them wear hats or create an environment where certain teachers would be seen as the "bad guy" if they objected to hats being worn in their classroom.

Ekstrom said it could become a problem for the teachers if some say yes and others say no and it would be better to have consistency in the policy. Members agreed that it would be better to have a consistent policy of no hats in the classroom.

Danford said they could work out the differences. He will bring this back to the next meeting when the school committee will vote on it.

In other matters discussed, Joanne Flagg presented for the committee's approval the plans for a school trip to Nature's Classroom at the Sargent Center on April 2-6.

Waldron said she still

see SCHOOL page 8

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN MEETING

Green Light for Solar Development;

Food Coordinator Approved for Second Year

BY JOSH HEINEMANN At a special town meeting Tuesday, February 28th, about 40 Wendell citizens voted to allow the selectboard to enter into a solar power purchase and sale agreement, and to tell the Mahar school committee not to pursue a hybrid regionalization plan.

Voters approved \$5,000 for the second year of the energy committee's pilot project focused on local food security, but voted down \$500 to pay for the installation of house numbers for 911 emergency responders, and also rejected an article that would have moved \$2,650.12 from free cash into stabilization for sick leave pay.

Voters approved a schedule for fees collected by the town clerk, and transferred \$265,957 that remained in free cash into stabilization.

Dave Thomas of Seaboard Solar came to the meeting to give an explanation for the solar energy purchase and sale agreement.

Thomas said that solar-generated electricity "doesn't work" under capitalism. Solar is more expensive than oil, gas or nuclear power, so the state and federal government subsidize it with incentives, incentives that will go down in value as solar electricity becomes more competitive.

Thomas said by becoming a host municipality of a ten megawatt solar installation, Wendell would benefit it two ways. First, under the terms of a state incentive program, Wendell would be able to buy a quarter megawatt of discounted electricity for town buildings from any source it chooses.

Second, Wendell will receive rent for the remaining 9¾ megawatts of power the solar installation will produce. The rent will amount to close to \$40,000 a year.

Furthermore, the solar installation Wendell would host does not even have to be inside the town borders. In fact, the solar installation is likely to be on industrial roof tops to the east of Wendell, where demand is higher.

Nan Riebschlaeger, chair of the energy committee, had doubts about the open nature of the article, and Gloria Kegeles said, "I don't think we have to rush into this tonight," and suggested the town should put its own proposal out with an RFP (request for proposals).

But Thomas said there are only discounts offered for 100 megawatts in this incentive; some ten MW blocks are already claimed. Seaboard Solar is competing with other companies to benefit from this incentive, and when the discounts are gone they're gone.

Ray Didonato was concerned about possible liabilities, but selectboard member Dan Keller said town counsel had reviewed the proposal and approved it so far. Betsy Ames of the energy committee asked if this agreement would preclude Wendell from participating in other renewable energy incentives. Thomas replied that the ten megawatts worth of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECS) included in this proposal would be all that Wendell could get under this particular incentive plan.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said the state Department of Revenue (DOR) had recommended that Wendell end its practice of appropriating money at special town meetings throughout the year, in part because this gives assessors a moving target to aim at when setting the tax rate.

Accordingly voters did not support money for installing house numbers. Although fire captain Asa

de Roode spoke of the frustration of going back and forth at night looking for a cardiac arrest 911 call, finance co-chair Jim Slavas said the selectboard discretionary funds could pay for the installation and be replenished at the annual town meeting, and selectboard member Dan Keller concurred. Work can start after the ground thaws.

But voters went against the DOR recommendation and approved \$5,000 for the second year of the pilot program on food security.

Riebschlaeger said the energy committee would be satisfied if that vote were to be delayed until annual town meeting, but Ames countered that the energy committee was not of one mind on this subject. Ames said failure to appropriate the money now would make it difficult to plan for the entire growing season. She said the energy committee had only \$600 left in their account, and because of the seasonal nature of food production, the June town meeting would be too late for a second year of local food coordination to start.

Idoine noted the "two year" project started in October 2010, and said he had no clear idea of the project's schedule or goals.

Myron Becker asked for a coherent purpose for the funding, and Ames answered: education of gardeners, water security, and formation of a cooperative association for small growers. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser cited the seasonal nature of growing in New England, and the fact that \$5,000 translated to about \$2.90 for every \$1,000 on a tax bill.

The article passed 24 to 21.

Last fall, the Mahar school committee's regionalization planning board (RPB) proposed amend-

see SOLAR page 8

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SCHOOL from page 7
remembered her trip there when she was in fifth grade, and her son also had a great experience there when he went, showing its value through the generations. Flagg said she was envious of the teachers there who get to interact with students in another way, prompting Langknecht to say it was a "strong case for differentiated teaching and learning."

The school committee approved funding for the trip unanimously.

Marty Espinola told the committee that the infrastructure for wireless technology in the high school is 80% complete.

Discussing the changes in Math Expressions, he said the changes reflect the need to bring the curriculum into alignment with the "common core." He said that because the school district was a pilot school with Math Expressions, they would be receiving the new updated version before it's officially released in 2013 and for half the price.

The school committee adjourned to go into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (superintendent).

The school committee will meet on March 6 in the Turners Falls High School conference room at 6:00 p.m. to continue work on the Accelerated Improvement Plan. The next regular school committee meeting will be held on March 13 at Turners Falls High School TV studio at 7:00 p.m.



SOLAR from page 7
ments to the current regional agreement to create a hybrid region, with Orange and Petersham as K-12 members and Wendell and New Salem as 7-12 members.

Wendell's November 2011 special town meeting voted overwhelmingly against the proposed amendments.

The RPB continued to meet after the defeat and has been discussing its future course, including the possibility of further revisions to the regional agreement to make it more acceptable to Wendell.

Finance committee co-chair Jim Slavos said the RPB "has see **SOLAR** page 11

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Self Defense For Seniors



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Lieutenant Sue Corey demonstrates self defense techniques at the Senior Center.

BY LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS - Here's a R.A.D.ical idea. No matter her age, size or physical condition, a woman does not have to become the victim of an assault. Even if she walks with the assistance of a cane or a walker, she can protect herself by using tools taught in the R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense). A ten-week class, now in week six, is currently offered at the Gill Montague Senior Center on Tuesday afternoons.

The class is taught by Lieutenant Susan Corey, from the Franklin County Sheriff's office. Corey is certified to teach R.A.D. for seniors (men and women over 60), R.A.D. for women, and R.A.D. for kids. Each session includes instruc-

tion and practice of defense moves with a large red square-headed foam dummy named H.I.M. (high impact mannequin).

Corey spent half the session talking about prevention. "Ninety percent of self defense is not being there," said Corey. "Don't put yourself in harm's way."

First comes awareness. How alert are you when you're walking down the street? Are you looking down at your feet or is your head raised with your eyes forward? Older people often look down to check for cracks in the sidewalk where they might stumble. Corey explained this mistake, one that the five women attending the session had not thought about. She said,

"When you are looking down, you aren't giving yourself much time to respond to a break in the sidewalk, and you are decreasing your level of awareness. By casting your gaze ahead of you, you can anticipate problems. By using your peripheral vision you can see if someone threatening is heading your way."

The R.A.D. program defines four levels of awareness — yellow for caution, white for oblivious, black, a state of "blackout" where it is hard to think, and red for confrontation. By staying in the yellow zone of caution, a woman might just keep herself from the terror of confrontation.

Don't dangle your purse off your shoulder, walk down dark streets late at night, or allow strangers into your personal space (three feet for most people), advised Corey. "If you hear a noise in the yard, don't go outside with your flashlight looking for skunks. Call the police," she said. "Be alert always and give yourself time to react." Trust your instincts, she advised. If something seems like it's not right, this is probably true.

But what if, despite your best efforts, it becomes clear that you have been identified as a victim?

"R.A.D.'s purpose is to teach you how to escape and save your life," said Corey. This is not a class to teach you how to fight, but there are things you can do to give yourself time.

The book each participant got when she enrolled in the class reinforces each lesson. There's a lot to absorb.

Make noise. Carry a whistle if you like, but make sure it has a breakaway chain so the chain or cord can't be used against you. Better still, yell assertively. Not, "What are you doing, or why are you doing this to me?" but a bold "Stay away," with plenty of eye contact.

"Looking a person in the eye is disconcerting. Assailants don't expect it. They expect you to cower," said Corey.

In most cases the assailant wants this to be easy and quick. You make noise and bring attention to yourself or simply suggest by your attitude that it won't be easy, and in many cases he will give up and move on.

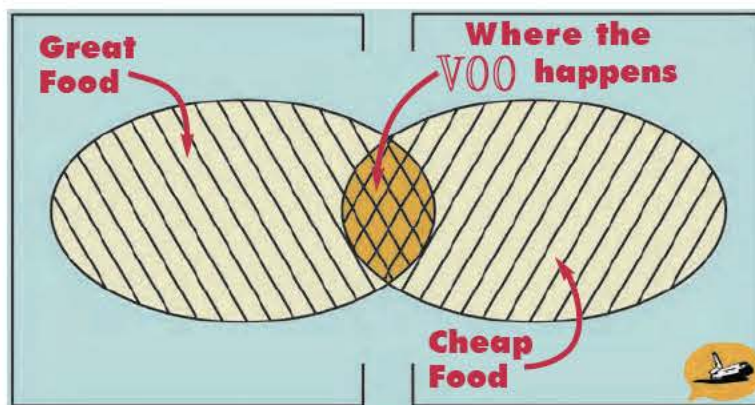
Then there are weapons. An umbrella, a key chain, anything you have in your hand can be a weapon. Corey reminded the group that you need a license to

carry pepper spray in Massachusetts, and that even though it is a powerful deterrent, it can also be dangerous for the person using it if the wind blows it back into her face. It is also illegal in this state to carry electronic devices like tasers, unless you are a police officer.

"But remember this," she said and her smiling face got serious. "Compliance is perfectly acceptable. Let him have your purse or your car. It is not worth your life. If you are raped, remember everything, every detail so that when you go to the police you can help the investigation. There are times when compliance is the only way to save yourself."

There may also be times when you are attacked and there's no bargaining. In that case R.A.D. techniques might just get you free. Once you learn the techniques, they require practice, and while a woman practices, she should visualize

see DEFENSE page 11



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GCC Students To Lead 17-Mile “Powershift” March From Greenfield to Vermont Yankee

The “Fungi Affinity Group” of Greenfield Community College, with support from the SAGE Alliance and GCC’s Peace, Justice, and Environmental Action Alliance are organizing a 17-mile “Powershift” march from Greenfield to the gates of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, VT. The event is intended to demonstrate their conviction that the nuclear reactor poses a serious danger to the surrounding communities and should be shut down as soon as possible so as to hasten the transition to safe, sustainable energy.

The march will take place on Saturday, March 3rd start-

ing at 9:30 a.m. from the Greenfield town common. The day will include a lunch stop and bonfire, and an hour-long vigil at Vermont Yankee, followed by an “Afterparty” at the Stone Church in Brattleboro (corner of Main and Grove Streets). The afterparty will include food and drink for marchers and supporters. Live music will be provided by The Diamondstones, Lux Deluxe, and Groove Shoes. The public is invited to join.

“The fact that this march is being initiated by students at Greenfield Community College is particularly significant,” said GCC student Rose Whitcomb-Detmold, “because

in the event of a radiological emergency at Vermont Yankee, GCC has been designated as the evacuation ‘Reception Center’ for all Massachusetts residents who live within 10 miles of the reactor (i.e., in the towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick). “Since the College itself is only 12 miles from Vermont Yankee,” added Whitcomb-Detmold, “this arrangement simply underlines the impossibility of adequately protecting people if there’s ever a major accident, as we’ve seen from the recent nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima, Japan.”

Uncanny Terrain:

The story of Organic Farmers in Fukushima, Japan after the March 11, 2011 Tsunami and meltdown of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

As the anniversary of the Fukushima Nuclear Power plant meltdown approaches, please join in this special afternoon presentation to watch and hear the story of organic farmers in Fukushima struggling to survive the radioactive fallout and remain on their ancestral lands, some of the most beautiful and fertile farmland in Japan. Their success with the implementation of Bioremediation and organic practices is phenomenal. Since the disaster, the farmers have observed amazing phenomena. The harvested fruits, vegetables and rice from organic, natural farming and Effective Microorganism treated farms does not test positive for radioactivity even though the soil and air

are contaminated. Scientists are eagerly studying this. Despite this result, they are unable to sell their farm products. The results of bioremediation to decontaminate the soil is their hope for a future. In this nuclear age, it is the hope for all of our futures. “This tragedy is, very regrettably, no longer an issue of one country because there are no national borders for radioactive contamination.” -Ms. Yuko Ouchi, Fukushima farmer

The movie and discussion with the filmmakers will take place on Sunday, March 4th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Hartsbrook School auditorium, 193 Bay Road, Hadley, MA. For more information about the film, visit: www.uncannyterrain.com.

A Brief History of the Mackin Sand Bank



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Gill Road, formally abandoned by the town of Greenfield, has become the property of the developer.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GREENFIELD - The Mackin sand bank, now being bulldozed in preparation for a 135,000 square foot big box store for an unknown tenant on the French King Highway, was formerly owned by Dunklee Sand and Gravel of Halifax, VT.

Peter Mackin’s brother, James, made an agreement to buy the sand bank, and to pay for it as he mined the sand. Peter wound up buying the sand bank for a lump sum from Dunklee instead, and paid his brother a finder’s fee.

Jim Mackin, who still had an interest in the sand bank, was

well liked by the employees, and was instrumental in getting a dressing room with showers installed when they were building the garage. The dressing room was seldom if ever used, but the thought was there, so everyone had a good word to say about Jim.

The sand bank originally extended from the French King Highway to Gill Road. After several years of operation, Peter had sold enough sand to carve out a place to build a garage. Later, Mackin’s employees moved the office building from the Franklin County Hospital to the sand bank, which still loomed 30 feet

The sand varied in size from fine to coarse from one end of the bank to the other, able to suit a

high in those days. There was just barely enough room to squeeze in the office building at the toe of the slope.

The sand at this bank is of high quality, clean and sharp, devoid of clay, having been deposited as beach sand during the era of Lake Hitchcock.

variety of uses. Masons bought coarse sand for mixing concrete and fine sand for mortar. Surrounding towns came to have their sanding trucks filled. The state bought sand for sanding roads, as well. Golf courses, from as far away as Springfield, sent trucks to bring them sand for sand traps and to dress their greens.

Peter Mackin bought a block machine and used the sand to make concrete blocks, for a time, mostly to keep his employees busy. The block machine frequently broke down. After being welded back together too many times, the machine made blocks that were a bit lopsided, and he gave up the venture.

On a ride home from a construction job at Westover Air Field in 1956, Peter Mackin told me that the secret of making a fortune was to buy land on the

edge of a growing city or town, and wait for it to catch up. He did that with the sand bank, and cashed in as he waited.

Buying the Adam’s farm for \$36,000 was a stroke of genius. He mined sand from across from Adams Road and grabbed the gold ring with a deal with Walmart for \$6 million, only to have it slip away by a handful of votes after a townwide referendum rejected the Walmart rezoning.

Mackin eventually sold that land for a small profit to a local friends of Native Americans group, who were concerned about reports of Native burials on the site.

“There’s many a slip twixt cup and lip,” as the old proverb has it. Keep tuned for future developments along French King Highway.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Tree Down; Suspicious Vehicle

Tuesday, 2/21

8:40 a.m. Report of car fire on Route 2 near rest area. No fire. Was disabled motor vehicle. Assisted same. 1:45 p.m. Report of youths shooting BB guns at each other at River Street area. Gone upon arrival.

Wednesday, 2/22

12 a.m. Mutual aid to Gill for medical emer-

gency at Atherton Road. Assisted Gill rescue.

Thursday, 2/23

2 p.m. Report of young child walking west bound on Route 2 near Erving Center. Checked area. Gone upon arrival.

4:15 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted], for failure

to inspect motor vehicle and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Main Street.

Friday, 2/24

12 a.m. Dispatched to Millers Falls Pub for unwanted male subject. Subject left before arrival.

Saturday, 2/25

11:40 a.m. Suspicious activity on Flagg Hill

Road. Checked same. Relatives were at residence.

2:45 p.m. Tree down on Route 2, blocking roadway. Route 2 closed and traffic detoured.

Sunday, 2/26

12:26 a.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for

allowing a motor vehicle to be operated

after revocation of registration, without insurance, and failure to inspect motor vehicle on Moore Street. 9:10 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Forest and Prospect Streets. Was a disabled motor vehicle. Not a hazard.

Monday, 2/27

5:20 p.m. Report of intoxicated male subject walking on Northfield Road. Checked with same.

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TURNERS FALLS

from **CAMPAIGN** pg 1

scription, "more or less on faith," Detmold said.

She and former Montague police chief Mike Saharceski are the paper's longest continuous subscribers.

The first real issue of the *Montague Reporter*, a 12-pager, came out on October 10th, 2002 in the middle of a controversy over firing the police chief, and the paper has come out at 16 or 20 pages (with one 8 pager on Thanksgiving week in 2002) ever since. Readership has grown from 400 readers a week to 2600 readers a week, and with the increased readership came the ability to sell more ads. But financial stability is still a challenge, especially in this recession.

It takes forty to fifty people each week to produce the paper, and most are volunteers or work for small stipends. The feature writers have the easy job. We send in pieces via email along with a photo or two, and then start thinking about what else we might like to write.

Meanwhile, late into Wednesday nights at the office in Turners Falls, a former dentist's office in a dimly lit basement with worn linoleum, old desks and a musty air, art director Claudia Wells works with the puzzle of fitting text, photos and headlines into 16 pages when she'd like to have 20.

"Twenty pages would make the paper more airy. We could run larger photos. From a design standpoint, it would be nicer looking and easier to read," she said, referring to, "the infinite value of white space."

But, that's not to be, at least

not right now, since revenues determine the size of the paper.

Detmold said, "It would cost about \$150, at least, to print four more pages each week — that is the minimum extra we'd need."

Without those four pages, fitting all the text into the available space is a constant challenge, and Detmold, wearing his trademark red Convers sneakers and a baseball cap, moved from a desk where Patricia Pruitt was editing a long piece, to another computer where Janel Nockleby was working on the design and layout of entertainment ads and the weekly arts calendar. Detmold, who doesn't give writers a word count, edits with care and respect and encourages Pruitt to do the same. He doesn't think this paper requires the traditional pyramid style journalism that places all the important information at the top of the story so the end can be cut as space is needed. In fact, Detmold likes to see a story develop and reward readers with a nice strong ending.

Detmold often talks with his eyes half closed, as if he's visualizing the entire issue, and this turns out to be more or less true. Wells asked questions about story placement. Detmold closed his eyes, thought about the number of towns involved in a particular story, and made a decision. A piece concerning three towns got placed on page one, top of the fold.

At one time this crew would have had ink stained fingers. Now, stiff necks and sore backs from peering into computer monitors made everyone weary as the hours passed. "In the early days," Detmold said, "it was not uncommon for one or two of us to stay

up all night with the paper, but now I make it a rule to get to bed by at least midnight, one a.m. at the latest. Claudia gets out of here later than I do, most nights."

Volunteer proofreaders come in on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning, and Detmold joins in this process at 6 a.m. on Thursdays and works right up until the printer's deadline at noon. Then, the whole paper gets sent to the printer via email. If there's a typo now, it's too late to fix it. For an hour or two the work is done.

Then Frank Dudek drives up to Brattleboro to pick the paper up from the *Brattleboro Reformer's* web press, and drops off copies in Gill on the way back to Turners. He arrives in Turners Falls around 3 p.m. and with the expert assistance of circulation manager Don Clegg, a team gets the paper to the delivery people and newsstand outlets in Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, Leverett and Greenfield, and also to the post office, by about 5:00 p.m. that same day.

About a dozen delivery people help at this stage — and they try to get it to all local subscribers by 5 p.m. on Friday. By now, Detmold is thinking ahead, assigning stories and anticipating next week's news. Writers are sending in ideas for the coming issues, hopefully ad sales are in the mix somewhere, (although the *Montague Reporter* is one of the only newspapers in the land without an ad sales rep) and volunteer bookkeepers eye the bottom line.

Subscribers also require tending, since too many simply forget to pay their bills or to renew their subscriptions, despite their affection for the paper, which seems to

arrive by some sort of magic each week.

Nobody is getting rich while working for the *Montague Reporter*, and the current tough economy has only added to the financial pressure. There are just two regular sources of revenue, subscriptions and advertising. Getting local businesses to advertise has become harder of late, but Detmold is optimistic the eventual completion of the four-year bridge renovation project in Turners Falls will help.

He said, "A wonderful spirit of volunteerism has carried the paper through times of little revenue. And we are keeping our fingers crossed that when the renovation of the Gill-Montague Bridge is finally complete, pressure will ease on the business community in Turners Falls, allowing us to breathe a little easier as well. If our downtown thrives, the newspaper will thrive with it."

But now, the community board of directors that oversees the newspaper would like to celebrate the past ten years and position the paper for the future by launching a tenth anniversary capital campaign, to raise \$10,000. With this money, the *Montague Reporter* will purchase new computers (the current ones resemble old television sets, the ones with huge tubes in the back.) The board has recently approved hiring Pruitt as an assistant editor to help broaden the paper's coverage in our towns.

In the next few months there will be fundraising events and appeals in the paper, all in hopes of harvesting enthusiasm and loyalty and eliciting donations. Public radio does this all the time,

as does every arts organization you can think of when you hear the words, "Ticket sales alone do not cover the cost of producing this play, concert, ballet or opera." In addition to donations, readers can support the paper by recommending it to friends and neighbors, by renewing and paying for their subscriptions.

Detmold said, "We need a few more subscribers and a few more advertisers to really make the paper stable for the long haul."

A few more writers sending in the occasional story about events or personalities in their neighborhoods wouldn't hurt, either.

The last ten years have been the proverbial long haul for the *Montague Reporter*. In the age of Facebook and Twitter, and endless streams of free but unfiltered information, starting a small local print publication seems wonderfully audacious. Or the trio who began the paper so optimistically in 2002 were too foolish to know better, perhaps that is the truth.

Instead they persevered, Detmold stayed on, and with the help of volunteers and dedicated staff grew the paper to where it is today. It's become a community resource, and when asked, most people will say that they love the paper.

In the next few months Detmold and the board hope that people who feel that way will step up and help feed this growing ten-year-old. It would be wonderful to celebrate twenty years of success, ten years from now, with a larger paper featuring the talents of more writers, bringing the news and views of our towns to a devoted readership that helps to sustain their work.

**DEFENSE** from page 9

succeeding and getting away.

It is too easy for a small, frail woman to dismiss the possibility of taking care of herself. It was at this point in the presentation that Corey got everyone on her feet.

Using H.I.M., she demonstrated techniques designed to hit a person's most vulnerable body parts, and then called each woman up one by one to try.

If you need a cane and lack balance, there are moves that use the assailant's body to help you stay upright. If you are tall, you might go for the eyes. If you are short try stomping on the instep, and of course there's always the groin strike. Just five pounds of

pressure can detach a testicle.

With each move Corey urged the women to let out a loud demanding, "No!" It was interesting to see that for some the moves themselves were easier than the yelling. Women raised to be soft-spoken ladies have difficulty asserting themselves this way. In addition to its life saving potential, R.A.D. is also a journey towards empowerment.

A trained instructor like Corey is needed to make the small adjustments in posture and position that add strength to the strikes. It would also be hard to practice without H.I.M.

Seniors and women interested in R.A.D. can search local col-

lege websites for classes and check other senior center schedules. A call to the sheriff's office indicating interest might also result in a new class, since Corey said the classes are created in response to demand. People interested in this class or other RAD classes should contact Sue Corey at 413-223-8029.

The Gill Montague Senior Center provides a welcoming space, and director Roberta Potter wants readers to know that it is open to anyone in the county, not just to residents of Gill and Montague. Residents can also join the RAD class that is currently in progress.

**SOLAR** from page 8

repeatedly refused to consider any other option besides the hybrid region."

Slavas said he came away from the recent presentation of the Mahar regionalization planning board to the Wendell selectboard on February 22nd with the understanding that the problems with a hybrid regionalization agreement could not be resolved within the committee and would instead require special legislation to resolve.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard noted that Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) consultant Ken Rocke had sug-

gested one option for the RPB would be to take a break, and she felt that was exactly what it should do.

After much discussion, a majority of voters rescinded the December 2007 special town meeting open-ended approval of studying "a range of K-12 regionalization alternatives, including a four-town K-12 district."

A second regionalization article, expressing the will of the town, advised the Mahar committee to exclude study of hybrid regionalization, passing unanimously.



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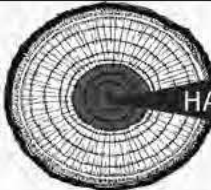
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BANK from page 1

other branches as close to their homes as possible.

Friedman supplied information and a website about the bank building's origin. It was first organized by Alvah Crocker as the First National Bank, later named Crocker National Bank. "Crocker National Bank" embossed on a silver panel, is still visible inside the bank vault.

"The bank once minted money," Friedman said.

Crocker, a mover and shaker who first made his mark organizing companies in Fitchburg, came to Turners Falls in the mid 1800s with the goal of making it a city the size of Holyoke.

Friedman could give no reason for the bank's closing, and referred me to media specialists at Bank of America headquarters.

"Banks are always being evaluated," media specialist Dian Wagner said. "With a larger bank in Greenfield just two miles away with a large parking lot, a drive through window with an ATM, bank officials felt they could better serve the public at the Greenfield bank."

Soon, another chapter in the history of this bank building will draw to a close, and another may open if a new tenant for the building is found.

"We just finished construction on our new offices on Federal Street in Greenfield," said Michael Tucker, president of the Greenfield Co-operative Bank in a recent interview. "We have several branch banks in other towns and we are discussing the possibility of a branch bank in Turners Falls, but there's nothing definitive at this time."

Built before the post office was constructed in 1935 on the Avenue, the bank building was first owned by the National Bank.

It rose to local prominence with a bank robbery during the depths of the Great Depression, when two men rented a room across the street at the Vladish

Hotel to case the joint. (The hotel was later re-named the Turners Falls Inn.)

The bank robbers studied the bank from their room, noting the time when an armored car arrived to deliver money for the weekly payrolls at the many mills in Turners Falls.

On the appointed day, the robbers burst into the bank with guns drawn, demanding the payroll money. Bank teller Clayton Fiske of Montague Center handed it over. Treasurer Earle Squires of Riverside, Gill, paralyzed with fear, said that forever after, whenever someone entered the bank moving fast, he'd have a panic attack. The bank robbers sped off for a clean get-away. They were later apprehended in Florida.

Fiske was fired for handing over the money. Treasurer Squires moved on to take a job in Conway, as bank treasurer, while still holding the position of Gill town clerk and treasurer, depositing the town's money in the same bank where he was treasurer, handling the books at both ends.

As my wife once said, long before Squires himself was apprehended, "With a set-up like that, if he's not stealing, he should be."

Upon the election of Raymond Garbiel as Gill treasurer, Squires retired.

I was one of the good folks of Gill who gave Squires a standing ovation at town meeting for his 40 years of faithful service.

Squires turned pale, then bright red. There was some concern that he was having a heart attack, but then he composed himself and gave a modest acknowledgement of the ovation.

Town clerk Harriet Tidd sat through the ovation with a sardonic look on her face.

Later, Garbiel gave the reason, "Harriet knew where all the dead bodies were buried."

The books had been audited annually both at the town treasurer's office and at the bank where

the town money was guarded by Gill's faithful servant, Earl Squires, as bank treasurer. He always stalled the auditors for a few days before presenting a set of books at either the town offices or the bank. They were always in exact accord, though the ink might have appeared a little fresh.

After Garbiel took office as town treasurer, the state of Massachusetts sent an auditor to check the books, as is customary whenever a new treasurer takes office. The auditor discovered the treasury was empty. The town was broke and in debt, big time.

A poignant moment occurred when selectmen and the state official stood by with bated breath as Garbiel dialed the five sets of numbers required to open the big safe in the town hall. Gripped with anticipation, they craned their necks to view the hoard as the huge safe door creaked open. Alas, a lone scrap of paper lay inside. There is no record of what was recorded on that slip of paper, but "Ha Ha" would have been the apt refrain.

Squires, it turned out, had been borrowing money from the Crocker Bank in Turners Falls to cover shortfalls in the town treasury until more money came in. Ordinarily, the chairman of the selectmen had to co-sign loan papers, but Squires was held in such high esteem, being a high degree Mason and a man of impeccable credentials, he had only to show the Gill stabilization fund bank book to the loan officer to secure a loan for the town.

Though the town of Gill was not only broke but in debt, the citizens of Gill drew comfort in the fact that Squires was bonded, and the insurance company would make good for any losses. They did; for what they could verify, going back seven of the 40 years of Squires' faithful service. After seven years, the statute of limitations kicked in, and the insurance company was off the hook for the

remaining 33.

Not all the receipts were recorded. Squires hadn't reconciled the check book in 40 years, nor had he recorded any receipts for hunting and fishing licenses he sold out of his home, largely in cash, where he had another safe, which officials never opened.

The town's insurance company would only reimburse the town for \$60,000 while acknowledging the full amount pilfered could well have tripled that, since the town was forced to borrow \$250,000 to remain solvent.

Squires had Persian rugs in his home and drove two cars, one a luxury model. His wife bragged of her husband buying her fancy gowns, embroidered with gold thread, to wear as they traveled around the country to functions.

With the town broke and borrowing money to pay teachers, janitors, highway workers, utilities, heating oil and other bills, Squires and his wife came to the Gill town hall to apply for a reduction in their real estate taxes. As I was paying my taxes, I heard Squires complain about the steep increase in tax rates, (caused by the cost of the town having to borrow a quarter of a million dollars to compensate for the money he had stolen).

Squires never stood trial, and no one ever learned what he had done with the money he stole. His lawyer claimed Squires had suddenly gone senile, with a convenient lapse of memory.

The bank robbers who holed up in the Vladish Hotel, on the other hand, who had stolen a paltry sum in comparison, were convicted, jailed and forced to return the stolen money, which shows they were no match for a pro who served not one day in jail and returned not one cent of the money he'd taken from the town.

Squires died April 27th, 1982, taking the secret of what he'd done with the money to his grave.

Another case of money that seemed to have evaporated into

thin air occurred at the Avenue A bank building, later occupied by Fleet Bank. According to Joseph Simanski, who had once worked at Rockdale Department Store, Albon Powell, then of Greenfield, was a manager at Rockdale in the early 1960s. Powell customarily deposited the store's receipts in a night deposit box located at the front of the bank building.

On one particular night, by an unusual coincidence, he just happened to have a friend riding with him who claimed to have witnessed him deposit the bag of money, which went missing. Since Powell was adamant that he'd deposited the money, the bank hired a man to dismantle the bank deposit box. They found no money there.

With the deposit box empty, Rockdale officials had their suspicions confirmed. Powell had stolen the money and conveniently arranged for a witness to claim to have seen him drop it in the night deposit box.

One day, the bank's custodian told Powell the same thing had happened once before; when a bag of money had gotten hung up deep inside the night deposit box mechanism. Powell offered to pay for a second, more complete dismantling of the deposit box.

The workman returned and the deposit box, unlike the safe in the Gill town hall, yielded the missing money.

Though Powell was exonerated, he was hurt that Rockdale did not trust him when he had been telling them the truth.

He resigned and went to work in Greenfield for the Channing L. Bete Company. He's retired now, and lives in Vermont.

Today, the old night deposit box sits unused, covered with a metal panel, while a new much better behaved deposit box sits in the wall around the corner by the drive-up window, still open for business. For a few more months.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I know magnets are used for different bodily problems, but can they be used to alleviate mental disorders?

There is a relatively new procedure known as Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) that is used to treat moderate depression when medication and psychotherapy aren't effective.

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as a Treatment for Depression

TMS was developed in 1985. It has been studied as a possible treatment for depression and other disorders since the mid-1990s.

In October 2008, TMS was approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a treatment for major depression for patients who have not responded to at least one antidepressant medication. It is used in other countries such as Canada and Israel as a treatment for depression.

During TMS, doctors place an electromagnet against your head. The magnet creates electric currents that work on the part of your brain that is responsible for mood

control. Scientists don't know how it works, but it appears that the stimulation changes how the brain functions.

More study about TMS is needed. Some research demonstrated that TMS relieved depression; other studies showed that it wasn't effective. Transcranial magnetic stimulation may be less likely to work if the depression has lasted for more than four years, or a patient is suffering from a break from reality.

TMS is usually an outpatient procedure. It can be done in a doctor's office. Treatments are done daily for about 40 minutes, five times a week for four to six weeks. They do not require anes-

thesia.

There are mild side effects that usually go away after a week of treatment. These include headache, tingling, feeling light-headed and some scalp discomfort. Serious side effects are uncommon.

During a procedure, you usually sit in a comfortable chair such as a recliner. A magnetic coil is placed on your forehead. When the magnet is turned on, short pulses are administered through the coil. You will feel tapping and hear clicking. The magnetic field is similar to that used by a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. When the treatment is completed, you can return to your

normal activities.

The major advantages of TMS are safety and ease of treatment. The biggest drawbacks are that it doesn't help some patients, it can take several weeks to begin to work, and it is expensive. Treatments cost between \$250 and \$500 each.

The biggest barrier to getting TMS is concern about insurance coverage. As TMS becomes more firmly established, it's likely that insurance coverage will become more universal.

In my next column, I'll cover other brain-stimulation therapies.

If you have questions, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

SKATEPARK from page 1

As federal funds for CDBG grants constricted in the recent recession, the town of Montague began to warn the skate park committee to seek another approach for grant funding for the skate park, though all other aspects of the Unity Park improvement project will be built as planned if the town receives approval for a \$451,000 Phase II CDBG funding, with confirmation expected on that application by summer of 2012.

The town finally got approved for \$652,000 in Phase I funding at Unity Park last year, with bid opening scheduled for March 7th, and ground breaking hoped for "pretty soon after that," said parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz on Tuesday. The first phase of improvements at Unity Park will include new playground equipment, an expanded parking area, and a "water feature," among the centerpiece

improvements, allowing youngsters a chance to get wet in the park in the heat of summer.

Now, the Massachusetts PARC grant program has emerged as the most likely source of grant funds for the Unity SkatePark, if the town rules out including the skate park in a Phase III CDBG application for Unity Park improvements.

However, a successful PARC grant application would require the town to come up with 30% in matching funds, so the committee is exploring a number of creative ways to raise money from business and community supporters, including benefit concerts and direct mail appeals.

Dolan, along with committee members Ellen Spring and Mike Jackson, asked the recreation commission on Tuesday to clarify their ability to raise funds towards the town's match by selling engraved features for the skatepark like walkway bricks,

marble pavers, cement benches, or even specially planted trees with donors names on plaques.

Jackson said the committee would seek to raise a significant percentage of the funds needed locally, before applying for grants to support the project from foundations that specifically help towns to build skate parks, like the Tony Hawk Foundation.

"Look for us on Facebook," said skate park committee member Sarah Pearson, who said the committee would welcome new members. "We meet every first and third Tuesday at the Brick House, 24 Third Street, in Turners." The Brick House acts as the committee's fiscal sponsor.

Spring said, "One of the teachers at Tech School has actually started a bike and skate board club, because of complaints he's heard from students that there is no place to skate. Kids say, 'We get in trouble every place we go.'"

Spring added, "The Greenfield mayor, when they closed their park, said someone else has to build one. Our kids can't get to Fitchburg and Northampton. The kids from Greenfield, Gill, Montague Center and Erving are lucky if they can get to Turners. We need to support them to get out and get

some physical exercise. Not all kids are into team sports. Kids are skating, and they're not going to stop skating. We need to make it safe for them."

To support the fundraising drive for the Unity Park Skate Park, make checks out to the Brick House, and earmark them for the skatepark.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG Possible Intruder; Rabid Raccoon

Friday, 2/3

4:40 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury police with a 209A restraining order.

Thursday, 2/9

9:15 p.m. Sent to Shutesbury to assist with a possible intruder at a January Hill residence. No intruder found.

Friday, 2/10

12:05 p.m. Officer stopped

Murray to be summonsed for operating a

motor vehicle without a license. Issued speeding ticket.

Saturday, 2/11

3:45 p.m. Officer requested for a rabid raccoon at a North Leverett Road residence. Gone on arrival.

5 p.m. Officer assisted Sunderland police with a domestic disturbance at the Lantern Court Apartments.

Monday, 2/13

6:15 p.m. Officer sent to

a Shutesbury Road residence for a past breaking and entering. Under investigation.

Thursday, 2/23

2 p.m. Domestic dispute on Cushman Road.

charged with domestic assault and battery. Criminal summons.

Friday, 2/24

10:25 a.m. Officer sent to a Sprinkle Road residence for a past breaking and entering. Jewelry and change taken. Under investigation.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXIX

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - Leah walks me to the door, and I limp away, pretending to thank her for the use of her phone. I feel like I need to keep up the act all the way home, which means it takes me a while to get back.

When I do, there is a car parked outside my house. It's the only car on the street, since no one can afford to drive in this town. No one but me, anyway. The doors open, and the FBI agents get out.

"Hello," says the taller one.

"Hello again," I answer.

"We were knocking on your door, but no one answered," he says.

"That's because I wasn't home," I say.

He looks at me like he doesn't believe me then says, "How did you hurt your ankle?"

"I was out running," I say. "It's nothing, really. Just twisted."

He raises an eyebrow. "You weren't limping last night."

"That's because I just did it," I say.

I don't really mind this line of questioning, since he is on the wrong track entirely. He probably thinks that I hurt myself in the woods in the dark. If he thinks this is the same body that was in the woods, that's a good thing.

"So there's no one home at all?" his partner asks.

"That's right," I say. "No one is home."

"Do you mind if we take one more look around?" asks the taller man.

"I guess not," I say. "Come in."

I open the door, and one of the detectives goes in ahead of me. The other one, the one with the goatee, keeps talking to me the whole time. It seems like they have gotten smarter over the last twelve hours.

I would not be able to climb out a window with one body and keep up a conversation with the other.

Luckily I don't have to. The man in front goes straight upstairs and looks in each bedroom fast. The beds are all

made. There's no one hiding in the closets either.

The FBI agents seem disappointed. After searching the house thoroughly, they take a look around the yard and leave again.

As soon as they drive away, I log into work and tell people I am sick. Then I climb into bed.

I have no idea which body is supposed to be awake or sleeping at this point.

Right away I wake up in the tunnel. My cheek is on the damp ground, and I have some sand in my mouth.

I sit up and wipe off the gravel that's stuck to my face.

I never would have thought that I could sleep in here. It's light out, and I realize that I am not very far from the entrance of the tunnel.

Anyone could see me in

here, if they knew where to look.

I stand up and press against the wall. I want to leave, but I would be walking out into broad daylight.

I know that the FBI agents are in town because they were just at my house. Probably I should go further back into the tunnel.

I look into it and shudder at the thought.

Then the sound outside changes slightly. It's hard to hear above the lapping of the river, but I am pretty sure that someone is coming along the rocks.

I quietly retreat into the darkness.

The shape of a person steps in front of the sunny entrance. I shrink to the wall and stop breathing.

— Continued Next Issue

LEVERETT from page 6 served as assessor for 35 years, and hopes to retire next year at the end of his current term.

Robinson said the Leverett assessors have enjoyed a good working relationship with each other and with the selectboard in the past three decades, and he said Ford would prove to be a good fit.

He recalled that when he first joined the board, during the tenure of Chester Woodard, the town operated with an assessing system "based on ability to pay." He added, "Chester kept all the records in his house, where there were a number of cats," wandering through piles of deeds and outdated maps, in a scene straight out of an old Peter Sellers movie.

The board authorized police chief Gary Billings to increase the rate of pay for part time officer Mike Thomas from \$16.23 to \$17.23 an hour and to increase his hours to full time during the months when Tim Batchelor is called to active duty in the Air National Guard. That change is expected to begin sometime after April 1st, and may last through June. When Batchelor returns to full time status, Thomas will return to part time work for the Leverett force, at his former rate of pay, Billings said.

Jim Perkins sought the selectboard's blessing for the annual

'Walk for a New Spring,' organized by monks from Buddhist order of Nipponzan Myohoji at the Leverett Peace Pagoda.

This year, the walk will focus on the upcoming first anniversary of the triple meltdown at Fukushima, taking a route from Seabrook, NH, to Plymouth, MA, and then to Vernon, VT, sites of three operating Mark I GE boiling water reactors of the same approximate age and design as the reactors that suffered loss of containment hydrogen explosions and core melts after offsite power was lost in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima, Japan last year.

The selectboard plans to send letters of support with the walkers, and town administrator Margie McGinnis will give them an official send-off on behalf of the selectboard on Friday, March 3rd, at about 9:30 a.m., at the town hall. The public is invited.

Following a reception at the Leverett Crafts and Artists, the walkers will shuttle to Seabrook, NH to begin their three week walk, which will end at Vermont Yankee on March 21st. For more information on the route, which will follow the Connecticut River north from Springfield for several days (people are welcome to join for any part of the walk), go to: NewEnglandPeacePagoda.com.

The board discussed the prob-

lem of supplying high speed broadband fiber for internet connections on private roads in town with Jack Prebis, of Laurel Hill Drive. Board member d'Errico told Prebis the broadband committee, operating with a \$40,000 planning grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, would "do design work for broadband on private roads. But we can't do the build out [using town funds] unless we accept them as town roads."

A lengthy discussion followed, touching on Massachusetts statutes that may govern the delivery of utilities along private roads, as opposed to snow and ice removal on same.

Pribus asked what the functional difference is from the town's point of view between running broadband fiber up a private driveway to a private residence, and running the same fiber up a shared driveway or a private road to a number of private residences.

D'errico said the committee would study the relevant law, and try to come up with a number of alternative build out designs and costs for town meeting to consider this spring.

The selectboard is moving closer to formally calling for an override of Proposition 2½ this year, with an announcement to that effect going out in the next town newsletter. But the board

has yet to meet with the finance committee to determine a dollar amount for an override, which may be needed to meet the rising personnel costs of town departments, and increases assessments from the elementary and regional schools.

The board expressed dissatisfaction with the failure of the architect, project manager, and contractor Diversified Construction of Amherst to determine the actual specifications of thermal windows needed to replace glass block panels at the elementary school, as part of the overall state funded Green Repair window replacement project at that building. The board was not inclined to support a change order for an extra \$10,000, or more, to purchase custom windows to fill the openings where glass block had been, saying the state had forced the town to hire consultants from the Boston area to oversee the project, and it was these high priced consultants' fault that the oversight had occurred.

The board is considering using a payroll service, and contracting accounting services from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to replace the 24 hours a week of service Theresa Allen has provided as town accountant for the last many years. Allen plans to retire in April.



Call for Proposals

The Town of Montague invites proposals from individuals and vendors qualified to provide consulting services in conjunction with the preparation of a Pay and Classification Study for the town.

Proposals will be due on Tuesday, March 20th, 2012 at 4:00 PM.

A detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) may be obtained directly from the Board of Selectmen, during normal business hours, at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or by calling 413-863-3200 (ext. 108). RFP's will be available on Monday, March 5th, 2012 and remain so up until and including the due date.

The Board of Selectmen acting as Personnel Board will be the awarding authority for this contract.

RFP's will also be available on line at the Town of Montague website: www.montague-ma.gov.

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Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Song Shop Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAYS and SATURDAYS

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW through MARCH 10th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sensual, Sexual, Smut: Erotic Art by Local Artists*.

NOW until March 31st

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Seeing Into Metal*, photography by Wendell's own Gloria Kegeles, reception on Thursday March 1st from 5-8 p.m. Shooting with a vintage Nikon camera and creating full-frame analog images, she combines skill, instinct

and humor with her in-camera compositions. More than pictures of vehicles, Kegeles' photographs employ the automotive surface as a canvas for her playful abstractions

NOW through APRIL 1st

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Imitating Art*, a student photographic exhibition featuring attempts to photographically reproduce an original work of art.

NOW through MARCH 16th

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMASS,



Seeing Into Metal, photopgraphy by Gloria Kegeles at Gallery A3 in Amherst through the month of March.

Amherst: *Fine Tuning: Zero Balancing & Sustainable Bodies*, featuring work by Montague's Jenny Chapin and also Terry Jenoure, and Alexia Cota. Opening Reception February 21st, 5-7 p.m.

MARCH 2nd until MARCH 28th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Big Read*, artwork by Althea Dabrowski, open on Fridays and Saturdays.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1st

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*: featuring Abbot Cutler & Diane Wald, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd and SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Pajama Game*, 7 p.m.

Greenfield High School: *The 2012 Pottery and More Seconds Sale*.

sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center. Sale hours are Friday 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 am to 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd

Greenfield Community College Library: *Greenfield Community College Chorus Concert*, Music by Women Composers, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Flabberghaster, Thaddeus Hands*, funk, rock, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artists reception for *Althea Dabrowski*, for *The Big Read*, 1-3 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square dance*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance Party/Benefit for the Shutesbury Public Library*, free, donations welcome.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Miles Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Leo T. Baldwin Thing*, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ben Cosgrove*, 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals: Robin O'Herin*, acoustic blues, 6 p.m. Free.

Montague Bookmill: Free Films for the Frozen presents, *Rockers*, 1978, written and directed by Ted Bafaloukos, the golden age of roots-rock reggae. Features Junior Murvin, Jacob Miller, Peter Tosh, Burning Spear, and Third World, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8th

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 9th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents, Duo Orfeo*. Their use of elec-

tric guitars and vintage tube amplifiers to interpret classical music creates a sound that is stunningly gorgeous. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *St Paddy's Caribbean Adventure*, island to Ireland dance party, free, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Burn Town*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Bird Songs*, 10:30 a.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse* featuring *Jessica Freeman*, 7:30 p.m.

The Harp, Amherst: *Doug Hewitt Group*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 p.m. Free.

Greenfield American Legion Post: *Trivia Night to benefit The Concerned Citizens of Franklin County*. The most fun you'll ever have fighting biomass. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band*, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Daniel Hales*, 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, 60's, 70's & 80's Cover Tunes, 9-12 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 101*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carrie Fergusson Band and the Cherry Street Band* with *Fireseed* opening. Folk, indie, rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11th

Montague Grange: *Vintage & Antiques Market*, quality vintage and antiques

Snow Family Benefit Ziti & Meatball Dinner

Saturday, March 10th
Serving 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$8 adults,
\$4 youth under 10

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vendors bring their wares to the Grange, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 7:30-10 p.m.

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



The Brick House COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

24 3rd Street Turners Falls
VOLUNTEER and INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- * Teen Center Coverage: Tues - Sat, 2:30 to 6 p.m.
- * Seeking Facilitators & Volunteers for the Summer Workshop Series

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FALLTOWN STRING BAND

FRI 3/2 7pm FREE
Drew Paton's '40s Hit Parade
9:30 \$5
Flabberghaster
Thaddeus Hands (funk, rock, etc.)

SAT 3/3 9:30 FREE
Dance Party for ShutesburyLibrary

SUN 3/4 6pm FREE
SUNDAY LOCALS NONLOCAL:
Robin O'Herin (acoustic blues)

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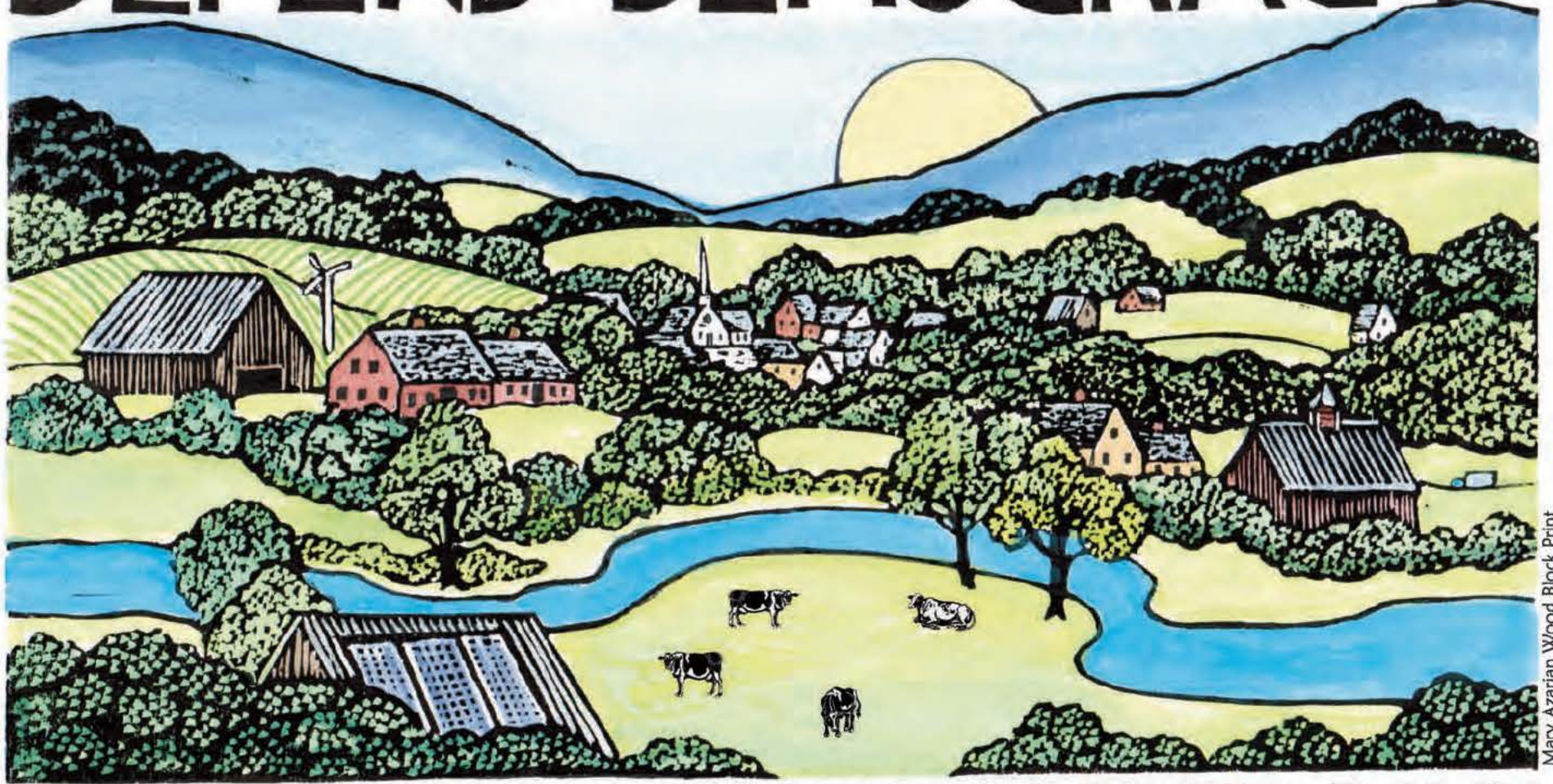
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DEFEND DEMOCRACY



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UNITE TO SHUT VERMONT YANKEE DOWN

In 2010, the Citizens and Legislature of Vermont, with support from their neighbors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, decided to close the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor permanently by **March 21st, 2012**, when VY's 40-year license expires.

In 2011, **Entergy**, the New Orleans mega-corporation that owns **Vermont Yankee**, sued the **State of Vermont** defying the **Democratic Will of the People**, to keep their accident-plagued reactor running for 20 more years.

(A loss-of-coolant accident at VY could render large areas of New England permanently uninhabitable.)

On January 19th, 2012, federal district court judge J. Garvin Murtha sided with **Entergy** against the **State of Vermont** and the **People of New England**. On February 18th, Vermont appealed Murtha's ruling to the Second Circuit Court in New York City.

WITH THE FUTURE OF VERMONT YANKEE STILL HANGING IN THE BALANCE, NONVIOLENT CITIZEN ACTION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. LET US MAKE IT CLEAR: WE WILL NOT ALLOW UNBRIDLED CORPORATE POWER TO DEPRIVE US OF OUR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LIVE IN SAFETY IN OUR HOMES, AND TO DETERMINE OUR OWN ENERGY FUTURE — A FUTURE THAT IS SAFE AND GREEN FOR OUR CHILDREN — AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

PLEASE JOIN US in a MARCH of ACTION

Sun, Mar 11th: 1st Anniversary of Fukushima commemorated. Mock-evacuation from VY to Brattleboro, 1:00 p.m.; Public Forum on Fukushima, River Garden, 5:00 p.m.

Wed, Mar 21st: VY Retirement Party and Rally at Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier, VT (on the last day of VY's 40-year license). Rally starts at 4:00 p.m.

Thu, Mar 22nd: OCCUPY ENTERGY HQ

Begins at Brattleboro Common, 11:00 a.m.

Participants risking arrest must be trained in non-violence and part of an affinity group.

Sat, Mar 24th: National Day of Solidarity with Vermont:
Freeze Our Fukushimas! Actions at Entergy nukes around the country.

[Date TBA]: Mass Rally in Brattleboro to support the State of Vermont.

Take the Pledge to Help Close Vermont Yankee at:
safeandgreencampaign.org/action-center/vy-pledge



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in the **Greenfield Recorder**, **Hampshire Gazette**, and **Brattleboro Reformer**.

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