

Dr. Seuss
 & the Little Yellow
 Trolley **Page 14**



Pierogi by the 1000s
 at Our Lady of
 Czestochowa
Page 8

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YEAR 10 - NO. 25

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 22, 2012

NRC Asked to Consider Pattern of Human Error at Vermont Yankee



GARRET SCHENCK PHOTO

The Downstreamers Affinity Group remembers Fukushima on the Sunderland Bridge, Saturday, March 10th.

BY LUCAS HIXON
Reporting in Enformable, 3/16/12 (enformable.com)

VERNON - The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is operating at reduced power this week due to problems with condenser tubes, which are reported to be leaking.

Most nuclear power plants replace the steam condenser, a major component, at between 20 and 30 years of continued operation, while Vermont Yankee's condenser has been in operation for 40 years.

Condenser leaks adversely affect reliability and the quality of the water

used inside the core as the primary reactor coolant. Cooling for Vermont Yankee's steam condenser is provided from the adjacent Connecticut River, where the discharge of water at temperatures as high as 105 degrees is routine.

At the beginning of February, 2012, nuclear engineers at the reactor discovered the condenser was not operating efficiently. There have been a string of outages in recent months when Vermont Yankee has had to reduce power because of problems with the condenser.

Condensers have been

known to fail catastrophically, as occurred at Entergy's Grand Gulf Plant, in Port Gibson, MI, shutting down that reactor for several months. Thus, failure of the condenser would have a tremendous impact upon Vermont Yankee's ability to operate within cost-effective margins.

The condenser has thousands of small tubes, made out of admiralty metal, copper, stainless steel, or titanium. The condenser has two major functions:

- To condense and recover the steam that passes through the turbine. (Condensers are used in all

power plants that use steam as the driving force.)

- To maintain a vacuum to optimize the efficiency of the turbine.

A regional spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the plastic coating Entergy used on the condenser tubes has caused the system to run less efficiently. If epoxy is the source of the issue, the reactor will have to run at 50 percent power levels while workers strip epoxy off the tubing in each section of the condenser.

A Vermont Yankee spokesman said the condenser has been upgraded see NRC page 10

Montague to Consider Restructuring Gill Montague School Committee

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

Montague school committee members Jeff Singleton and Marge Levenson have gathered the necessary signatures to place an article on the warrant for the May 5th, 2012 annual town meeting regarding the structure of the Gill-Montague regional school committee.

Article 26 will read as follows:

"That the Montague town meeting moderator appoint a committee to investigate revising the regional agreement between member towns creating the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) in order to change the composition and method of selecting the school committee of GMRSD.

The appointed committee will report to the next town meeting, whether special or annual."

Singleton explained his reasons for taking this step.

"It is widely held that the current school committee doesn't work. 'Dysfunctional' is the word often used to describe the school committee. In my opinion, a

nine member elected committee in a two town district may be part of the problem. Very few people want to serve on the committee, so it attracts those who have close connections to staff and support the traditional internal culture of the district. It also attracts those, like myself, to be honest, who want to reform the situation. Of course, not everyone is in a 'faction'. However the dynamic tends to produce conflict on key issues, and personal animosity as well."

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in charge of overseeing the GMRSD during its efforts to rise from being a Level 4 (needs improvement) district, is certainly aware of the school committee's problems interacting with each other and with decision making and has instituted professional development sessions aimed at improving the committee members' interaction.

The DESE has also tried to get the committee to focus more exclusively on the DESE's guidelines for improved student

see SCHOOL page 12

Volunteers Save Money and Energy at Montague Center Library



WICKS PHOTO

(Left) Librarian Anna Greene at the Montague Center Library

BY LEE WICKS

What was once a drafty corner has been transformed into a cozy sitting area in the children's book section of the Montague Center Library. There's even a bright yellow rocking chair, with a stuffed animal tucked into the seat, making this spot an invitation for young readers. That homey touch along with a number of energy saving and aesthetic improvements have trans-

formed the library this winter.

Volunteers from the Montague energy committee helped seal cracks and crevices in doors and windows and install a new programmable thermostat. Friends of the Montague Public Libraries raised money over several years to help pay for a professional painter and other costs associated with the renovation.

Branch librarian, Anna

Greene, said, "The efforts of many volunteers and professionals made all of this possible, and it has made a big difference." She added that this mild winter has made it hard to compare heating costs to previous years, but when another harsh winter hits the area, the library will be a much more comfortable place to work and to browse in.

Shirley Crites, Marcia Power and Diane Sirum all volunteer with day-to-day operations at the library, and they put in extra hours during the renovations, especially during the painting. Greene said, "We never missed a day of operation. Shirley, Marcia and Diane removed all the books during the painting and re-shelved them afterwards, in addition to moving furniture around, and bringing their creative ideas forward."

The clean white walls see SAVE page 9

Turners Falls High School Musical



BY SUDI NIMMS - American teen heart throb Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the army. All the nation's young females are devastated. Any similarity to the career of a well known rock star on the Sun Record label is purely intentional.

That's the gist of the rollicking 1950s-based musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, that played to adoring crowds at the Turners Falls High School this past weekend.

It's up to Birdie's manager, Albert Peterson, to make the occasion of the rock star's induction into the armed services a public relations event. Peterson and his assistant, Rosie Alvarez, hatch a

plan to give their client a proper send off, earning Albert and Rosie enough money to get married and settle down.

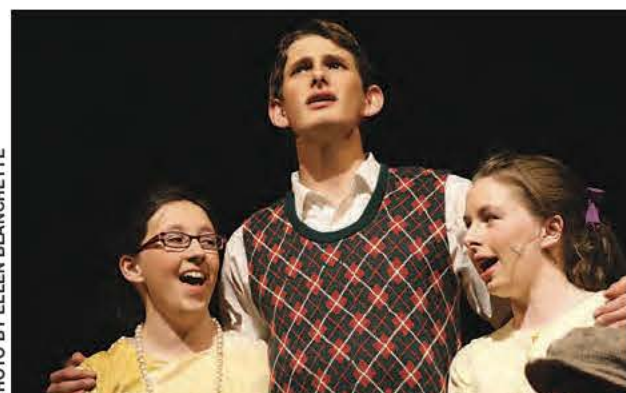
Rosie's plan is to pick a girl at random for Birdie to sing to and to give "One Last Kiss" on TV before he goes off to war.

There are several memorable songs as well as dance numbers in the production. Topher Gordon's Albert Peterson is at ease

on the stage and very engaging and entertaining as a song and dance man (Dick van Dyke played the role both on Broadway and in the film).

Gordon delivered the most famous song from the musical, "Put on a Happy Face." He sang and danced with two teen Birdie fans (choreographers Troy Langknecht and Caroline Sena) who were depressed they would be too old for their

see MUSICAL pg 11



The MacAfee family, left to right, Angel Renaud as Mrs. MacAfee, Sam Letcher as the father of the school girl who will get Conrad Birdie's "last kiss", Kayla Drumgool, playing Kim.

PET OF THE WEEK

Looking for a Home Near You



Boots Magoots

Hi, I'm Boots Magoots. I'm a four year old phat cat, pretty kitty and a pearl of a girl. See how I came out of the gate rhyming? With a name like Boots Magoots what else can I do? I'm a super talkative purr monster with a head butt to beat all head butts. I adore catnip and mostly I'm just looking to be in a loving home as soon as felinely possible!

I might not be good with canine friends in my new home as I had some boxers in my last home who wanted too desperately to be my playmate, and it kind of scared me. So, if you have kitty cats, people, love and catnip in your home, then I'm the one for you! To learn more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

**MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS
Millers Falls Library Club**



MILLERS FALLS - Micheal of Orange and Ryan of Bernardston shared a Thomas the Tank Engine book while their older siblings and cousins worked on a craft at a recent Millers Falls Library Club after school program. The Library Club is held on Tuesdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library.

For more information, call 413-863-3214.

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS
The "Arab Spring" in Syria**

Middle Eastern expert and Wendell resident Robert Haddad, professor emeritus of History and Religion at Smith College and former President of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, will share his perspectives on the situation in Syria.

Bob Haddad will speak about the uprising of mainly Sunni Muslims against a

regime controlled largely by members of the minority Alawi sect, to which Bashar al-Asad belongs. He will discuss the climb to power of the al-Asad family and of a military controlled by the Alawis. Factors preventing an easy solution will also be explored. The talk will be held on Wednesday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

**Celebration of Song
Free Concert at Senior Center**



their son, acclaimed pianist Miro Sprague, in a concert for the Gill Montague Council on Aging and the surrounding community. The trio will play a range of music including jazz standards, world folk music, blues, gospel, original songs and familiar songs for the audience to join. Moonlight & Morning Star will be joined by

On Tuesday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m., at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls, the well known local duo Moonlight & Morning Star will be joined by

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – March 26th to 30th

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. 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 26th**
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Hospice Program
NO Knitting Circle
- Tuesday, March 27th**
10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
1:00 p.m. Concert: A Celebration of Song
NO RAD Class
- Wednesday, March 28th**
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
12:45 p.m. Bingo

- Thursday, March 29th**
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, March 30th**
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, 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.

The Erving Council on Aging will host a conflict-resolution workshop. The classes will be led by Mediator and Trainer, Mari Rovang and will occur for four consecutive Tuesday afternoons in April from 3:30 until 5 p.m. Call Polly for more information



Our Lady of Peas and Tranquil Tea, by Edite Cunba, will be among the works in the upcoming show at Nina's Nook, opening April 5th on Ave. A.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Film Screening: Dirt! the Movie

Dirt! the Movie looks at the glorious and unappreciated ground beneath our feet. Narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis, *Dirt!* travels from the vineyards of California to the plains of Kenya. *Dirt!* reveals how repairing our relationship with

soil, the living skin of the earth, can create new possibilities for all life on Earth.

Sponsored by the Wendell agricultural commission, the film will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Friday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Talk at the Senior Center

"Palliative Care, Hospice Care: What's the difference?"

Join Terry Gaberson, executive director, Leslie Kelly, family nurse practitioner certified in Palliative Care, and Winnie Ganshaw, spiritual counselor, all from Hospice of Franklin County for a conversation about what these programs have to offer and how they fit into the

health care continuum. Listen to case examples, ask questions, and learn about the needs of our aging society right here in Franklin County. The program will take place at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Monday, March 26th at 1:00 p.m.

RECYCLE PAPER!
Week of March 26th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

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- Grade 7**
Terell Goodyear
- Grade 8**
Dominic McLellan
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JESSICA LARVIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Millers River Watershed Council will host an evening of readings about the **Millers River** by David Brule, Erving resident and chairman of the Watershed Council. There will also be a presentation concerning the New Currents initiatives launched by the Council which includes 'The Blue Trails' paddling map, bacteria monitoring, and river community-based projects. Held on Wednesday, March 28th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Erving senior center.

Sign-ups are now open at the Montague park and rec office for the **2012 softball season**. The Montague Purple Panthers and Diamond Dusters have openings for the upcoming season for girls ages 8-12. Come join the fun!

The Pioneer Valley Symphony will be performing a family concert titled **"A Carnival of Animals"** on Saturday, March 24th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greenfield High School. It will be followed by an instrument petting zoo. No animals just a variety of instruments for children to try.

Greenfield brews. It roasts

coffee. It crafts beer. It concocts kombucha. It makes mead. It imports wines. And it cooks.

The Greenfield Business Association's membership showcase, Greenfield Brew., is happening on Thursday, March 29th, at the Arts Block, 289 Main Street, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There'll be live swing music from Nouveau Swing, door prizes, and a special raffle of advertising packages from WHAI, Bear County, *the Recorder*, and *the Town Crier* worth over \$3,000. It's free for GBA members, and \$5 for everyone else.

Participants will have a chance to sample local beverages and foods, and to learn about the various businesses that make Greenfield work.

Have you ever wanted to keep a few **chickens in your backyard?** Would you like to have your own super-fresh eggs to crack open the next time you feel like making an omelette? A workshop can teach you the basics of how to raise your own chickens.

Chickens are both easy and fun to keep. With a small initial

investment in a henhouse, you can reap the benefits of fresh eggs. Farmer David Tepfer of Simple Gifts Farm and Amherst resident Katie McDermott will be leading a workshop on all aspects of raising chickens, including getting started, housing, feed and health care, chicken biology and anatomy, harvesting eggs, protection from predators, and more.

Interest in local food and home gardening has been rising over the past several years as Americans seek to find both healthier and more environmentally sound ways of eating. The weak economy has also caused a rise in interest in self-sufficiency. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. until noon on March 31st, at Simple Gifts Farm, 1089 North Pleasant Street in Amherst.

The Fifth Annual **Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival** will be at Pothole Pictures on Friday and Saturday, March 30th and 31st. The festival offers 90 minutes of the best of the classic cartoons featuring Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Road Runner, Wile E. Coyote, and the rest of the gang.

New this year will be a special matinee on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in addition to the regular evening shows at 7:30 p.m. There will be live music on stage before the two evening shows. On Friday, Coop Jazz will perform, and on Saturday, Leo T. Baldwin will play folk-rock. Admission is \$6

for adults, \$4 for kids under 12. Pothole Pictures is located in Memorial Hall Theater at 51 Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls.

The **Gill/Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls will host two events this coming week. On Monday, March 26th, at 1:00 p.m. Hospice of Franklin County will hold an informative conversation about the differences in Palliative Care and Hospice Care.

On Tuesday, March 27, at 1:00 p.m. the well known local duo, 'Moonlight and Morning Star' along with their son, Miro Sprague will give a concert. Both events are free and open to the

public.

The Montague Center common will have a "Boot Toll" sponsored by the Montague Center Fire Dept on Saturday, March 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The toll is to help the volunteer charity, **St. Baldrick's**, with their mission of "shaving the way to conquer kids cancer." On Sunday, March 25th, at 1:00 pm. at Rafter's Sports Bar, 422 Amity Street, in Amherst, ten local fire fighters and EMTs will be shaving their heads and beards, all in a good fun effort to raise money to fight children's cancer

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

Corrections

In last week's issue, errors were printed in a number of articles. So for the record:

Dan and Nina Keller will reprise their talk on local communes at the Wendell Free Library on April 20th, a Friday, at 7:00 p.m. not on March 20th, as printed.

The number of American troops in Viet Nam during the late 60s was in excess of 500,000, not 50,000.

The speaker concerned about declining enrollment at the Gill-Montague regional schools on Tuesday, March 13th was Montague town meeting member John Reynolds, not Montague finance committee chair John Hanold.

And this sentence, in a curtailed article on the Wendell Energy Committee's concerns

about a proposed solar hosting contract with Seaboard Solar, was inaccurate as edited: (Energy committee chair Nan) "Reibschlaeger said that Seaboard has shown it has leases in place that could be used for a wind installation in Wendell or a town contract with another energy company."

The sentence should have read: "Regarding capping the municipal credits at 6.769 megawatts, Reibschlaeger said this was the amount that Seaboard has shown it has leases in place for, and that the remaining 3.231 megawatts [of the total 10 MW of power under consideration] could be used for a wind installation in Wendell, or a town contract with another solar energy company."

We regret these errors.

This Week on MCTV:

Winter Antique Market on Channel 17

BY CINDY TARAIL MONTAGUE - Mik Muller, Montague Community Cable board member and Friend of the Montague Grange, produced a video to promote the new Montague Winter Antique Market. Muller said "I love rummaging around in piles of antique tools, the Montague Grange, and video taping things to put on MCTV, so making this little ditty was a triple win for me! I look forward to the final Antiques Market this Sunday. Everyone should come out for it."

Market master Mark Lattanzi, also a Friend of the Grange, aims to raise funds to help save the building, which is in need of major repairs, by charging an affordable booth fee and selling homemade refreshments. Lattanzi selected dealers who

offer quality antiques and vintage goods.

Lattanzi, who is grateful for public access TV to help build interest in the event, said, "The antiques look great in our historic hall, and that came through in the video."

Musing about why people love antiques, Lattanzi enthused, "For all kinds of reasons: some are drawn to an object for its purely decorative qualities. They don't necessarily know what it is, they just like the way it looks - its paint color, rust patterns or patina. Others are looking for a well-made item they can still use, either for its original purpose or a new purpose. In our first show a potter bought a beautiful old wooden bowl because she loved its interesting shape. She's going to use it as a slump mold to make

new ceramic bowls. And some people are on a quest to find that one thing to add to their collection, like a silver spoon in a certain pattern. No matter your reason for going, you will always find something you have never seen before and you'll meet interesting people who can tell you the history and use of that odd little whatsit you spied on their table."

The Antique Market will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25th at the Grange, 36 Main Street, in Montague Center. Contact Mark Lattanzi for more info at 413-367-0042 or mark@thealchemystudio.com.

Contact MCTV at 413-863-9200 and view locally produced videos on demand at vimeo.com/mctvchannel17.

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"The Voice of the Villages"



Troubled Times for Gill - Montague Schools

The Gill-Montague school committee had its share of both bothersome and bad news this week. The bothersome news was a letter of no confidence sent to the school committee by the teachers' union, the Gill-Montague Education Association (GMEA). The letter included a list of specific interests and areas of action by the school committee that led GMEA to its vote. The second equally foreboding bad news was the immediate resignation of Emily Monosson, former chair of the school committee.

These two events followed the delaying tactics by the committee in dealing with a proposed change in the district's policy on wearing hats, brought by student petition after a great deal of effort on the part of the young people who organized a democratic approach to changing a policy that clearly matters to them. The committee responded by not dealing with the policy change, despite all the effort put in by the student representative to provide what the committee had asked.

Those watching thought this was not an example of the school committee working at its best.

A letter of no confidence from staff is not a document any committee wants to receive. Nor is a letter of resignation which has been sent out of prolonged frustration with conditions in which a member feels nothing substantive can be accomplished, especially when the letter comes from a member whose contribution over time can be characterized as careful, moderate, thoughtful, cooperative and courteous. In other words, Monosson was an asset to a group inclined to draw lines and hunker down where they stand, precisely because she did not take that sort of reflexive stand.

It is fair to say there has been a general dismay with the school committee for a number of years, a dismay which is, as often as not, expressed in public forums by members of the school committee themselves.

That dismay is in part due to the complexity of the issues before its members. These range from minor policy matters - like whether students should be allowed at their own request to wear hats in certain areas of school buildings - to long term budget planning, personnel matters, and working in accordance with ever changing state guidelines and with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as the district tries to pull itself out of the morass of Level 4 status.

It has been suggested that the GMRSD being in Level 4 bears some relationship to the difficult dynamics among the committee members themselves.

But the vote of no confidence dispels an illusion of the school committee as perhaps just a cantankerous group. The union objections are not based on touchy feely points. They are objections to a working relationship from the teachers who make the district an educational and meaningful experience for students, and express frustration with the rewards, financial and otherwise, their efforts earn.

Both the committee and the union must expand the boundaries of their respective territories of concern for the GMRSD as a whole. The need for long range planning is key for a district beset by ballooning costs and declining state aid, disappearing federal support and declining enrollment. These are the cold cash reasons for addressing personnel costs.

School committee members need to accept the tremendous challenge of working innovatively to meet the financial challenge our towns and taxpayers face, which if not addressed head on will prevent the district from growing into a first rate school system.

The ideal of 'providing a good education' has fallen on hard times of late. Rededicating ourselves as committee members, as front line educators, and as a school community must be our top priority as we navigate through troubled waters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Murtha: Wrong Again

The ring that Entergy's lawyer put in U.S. District Judge J. Garvan Murtha's nose is still firmly in place. After pre-empting the original contract conditions for the sale of Vermont Yankee to Entergy, along with two state laws requiring legislative approval to store more spent nuclear fuel at Vermont Yankee, and for continued operation of the reactor after March 21st of this year, Murtha has now issued an injunction preventing the state of Vermont or its Public Service Board from interrupting VY's

energy generating operations at the mismanaged nuclear plant when the current state permit expires on that date.

Murtha's decision directly contradicts the Certificate of Public Good for Vermont Yankee currently in place, which specifically limits Entergy plant operations after March 21st to activities necessary to closing and decommissioning the reactor.

Murtha's decisions have been based, not upon the letter of the law, but on his perfect knowledge of the purported intentions of the

Vermont legislature, and now, the state of Vermont.

At this point, in Murtha's court, any attempt to hold Vermont Yankee to its original agreement to close the plant on schedule this month will be considered an attempt to address radiological safety issues, pre-empted by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Vermont attorney general William Sorrell is wisely appealing Murtha's hearsay-based decision in the earlier case and should

see MURTHA page 5

Addressing Mr. Hajir's Confusion on U-28

I am writing in response to comments from Farshid Hajir of the Leverett school committee which have appeared a couple times now in the Reporter. Mr. Hajir seems to have some confusion about Swift River School and the Wendell-New Salem school district. He seems to believe that there is some sort of union and district operating in Wendell-New Salem and that somehow this adds nuance to Union 28 in terms of representa-

tion and the health benefits discussion.

Let me see whether I can help clear this up. Wendell and New Salem formed a school district which contains Swift River School. Wendell-New Salem is not a union, nor does it operate like one. The two towns entered into a regional agreement many years ago. If Mr. Hajir has doubts, he can read a copy of the regional agreement.

In some places, there is refer-

ence to the "Wendell New Salem Union School District". This apparently is the source of his confusion. However, he may rest assured, this is a name for the district, and does not reflect an actual superintency union in its operation. We have a regional agreement in our towns, and we operate as one.

In addition, Mr. Hajir believes that because we are a district (or part district if you follow his

see U-28 page 5

Dedicated to Toni Wilson

I dedicate this letter to my dear friend, Antoinette Wilson, of Northfield, who passed away at the tender age of 49. When I lived

with her on a cow and donkey farm, we would meet at the kitchen table in the middle of the night, and chat about life, and the backpack we carried.

Life can be cruel, or it can be

what we make of it. When we are born, we are given a backpack. We carry this backpack with us throughout our lives, and use it to store the tools of life given to us mainly by our parents and family members.

But what if your family doesn't give you the right tools? When I was a child, my parents had many conflicts, as they feuded with each other.

When we become adults, our backpacks are filled. We find employment, housing, meet that special someone, and begin a relationship. Then the children arrive. And the struggle begins.

I made a promise to myself

see DEDICATED page 5

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 3/21/12

Wounded: 15,332
Deaths: 1,913



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MORE LETTERS

Why I Resigned from the Gill - Montague School Committee

The year I gathered the necessary signatures to put my name on the ballot for school committee, I was an idealistic, hopeful parent, who wanted to support and invest time in her children's school district. I found a district not without problems, but one in which kids can flourish under the guidance of a dedicated staff and faculty, a district where kids are encouraged to excel academically, are welcomed onto sports teams (and the number of teams sustained by a relatively small high school is impressive), into theater, music and student government. Many students are involved in other ways as well.

Yet the Gill-Montague school district has been labeled a Level 4 district for the last two years, and will remain in that category for at least another year. We are a district where a number of parents still choose out (and yes, some do choose in as well). And we are a district where we've had a few superintendents in the course of several years.

When I joined the school committee, one of my goals was to build on our strengths, to recognize and correct our weaknesses. This requires some willing-

ness to acknowledge both, and to address reasons why families choose to leave. To the extent we are able, we should seriously consider addressing the factors that are causing families to leave the district (I realize some reasons are well beyond our control). This requires, I think, listening to the whole community - not just to those who say what we want to hear.

As the staff and faculty laboriously address the state's requirements for improving and exiting the Level 4 status - I feel the school committee along with staff and faculty ought to also consider life beyond Level 4. Enrollment declined well before we were given this status. Some decline may reflect demographics, but certainly not all. No doubt as a result of the state's plan, and the staff and faculty's efforts, we will become a stronger district than before. Perhaps this is good enough.

When I joined the school committee, I was hoping to help the district become better than good enough. I was hoping the GMRSD would become the district that attracts families to our vibrant community. It is with

these goals in mind that I have supported looking forward and planning beyond the AIP, to consider where we'd like to go as a district, and how we might get there.

It saddens me that this kind of planning, whenever it is brought up for discussion, seems to be viewed as a threat rather than a thoughtful investment in our district and our community.

It has become clear to me that addressing enrollment, and addressing how we might envision the district beyond the state's accelerated improvement plan, are not priorities of (or even supported by) members of the faculty, administration or some members of the school committee.

I have given the decision to resign from the school committee a good deal of thought. At this point, I see no point in waiting until May - because these ideas will only continue to be met with derision and resistance by some members of the committee, as well as by the larger GMRSD community.

-Emily Monosson
Montague

Regarding U-28 Benefits and Enrollment

In the Notes from the Leverett Selectboard section of the March 15th issue, we find the selectboard continuing to question Union 28. I should disclose that I was an 11 year member of the Leverett school committee and was the business assistant to the superintendent of Union 28 for ten years. More importantly, I am one of two retirees from Union 28. My comments here have three parts.

The current issue is insurance benefits, what they are and who pays. The governing statute, 32B, is clear that insurance benefits are determined by the governmental unit paying the largest contribution. Erving is, at present, the largest contributor to Union 28 and its benefits, especially for retirees, are better than those of other Union 28 member towns. The insurance cost for current employees is only slightly different and that situation never rose to serious discussion prior to actual retirements. The benefits are not exorbitant, just different from the benefits provided to retired employees in Leverett, Shutesbury and the Swift River School. I hasten to point out, that those benefits are approximately the same as those of Amherst Regional, Mahar Regional and

Gill-Montague Regional. These districts provide the secondary education for the towns of Union 28, and the towns pay those assessments.

Additionally, my retirement benefits will only be of interest for two more years until I am 65 and coverage will then be for the lower cost Medicare supplement.

In regards to the secondary students of Erving, the Erving school committee does have a longstanding contract with the Gill-Montague Regional School District to educate Erving's students. The exceptions are special education students that G-M does not have programs for, school choice students and students attending private schools. The Erving School Committee and the Union 28 office are responsible for all of the Erving students, including the secondary students. I analyzed the cost of services provided to Erving secondary students at least two times during my tenure and concluded that the 1/10th enrollment figure was fair.

The enrollment calculation is more than "past practice," it is codified by a vote of the Union 28 committee and in fact represents an honest and fair assessment of the cost of providing services. It see **BENEFITS** page 6

MURTHA from page 4

appeal his latest ruling, as well.

When it purchased Vermont Yankee, Entergy knowingly entered into a contract with the state of Vermont that enjoined Entergy from appealing to a different authority than the state of Vermont for the reactor's continued operation past March 21st, 2012.

When it was caught lying to Vermont regulators, polluting the ground water of Vernon with radioactive tritium, and leaving a long trail of sometimes spectacular deferred maintenance accidents for Vermonters to follow (the most recent preventable incident occurred last week in the steam condenser, forcing the reactor to power down) - in short, when Vermonters' good faith in Entergy had been irreparably damaged - the corporation ran to federal court to skirt any and all responsibility to our representative government. In district court judge J.

Garvan Murtha, Entergy has found a willing partner who is helping them escape contracts and legal agreements that they have signed, but now do not like.

Murtha is wrong. And, with this second decision, he is so wrong that the independence of his judgment on nuclear matters should be questioned.

The state of Vermont has rights that in its original Vermont Yankee purchase agreement, Entergy agreed it had. We will assert these rights and we will close this plant. All the mind-reading judges in the world won't stop that.

We applaud the independence and efforts of attorney general Sorrell, the Vermont Public Service Board, and Governor Shumlin's administration to hold Entergy accountable to the people of Vermont.

-Scott Ainslie
Bristol

DEDICATED from page 4

that my children would never live the kind of life I lived in my childhood. I tried to educate myself, went to trade school, but disagreements with my spouse affected my schooling and work. Finally, I dropped out of school.

My children became teenagers, and the disputes between me and my wife endured. Because we could not work through the conflicts, I decided to leave. At that time, I was very one-sided, but today, I am willing to take my share of the blame for my mistakes and actions. I am at peace with myself. But each day I struggle with a fatal disease, and other chronic illnesses.

I want to thank Toni for all the wonderful memories, and the moments that I treasured.

-James Wright
Turners Falls

U-28 from page 4

rationale), that Wendell and New Salem as a district should send only three members to the Union 28 committee, rather than six (three from Wendell, and three from New Salem, respectively). This would certainly benefit Leverett, as it would increase their proportional representation and would be a convenient way for that town to have disproportionate influence on Union 28.

In fact, as Mr. Hajir should know by now, superintendency unions are formed by towns, not school districts, and within Union 28 each town within a union has equal representation, according to statute.

The one exception to this would have to do with the apportionment of benefits, due only to a legislative change that Hajir's own town has pushed.

That legislation specifically designates a school district (rather than towns in that district) deal with shared employee benefits when a district is part of a union. Since Leverett is not in a district, its selectboard deals with the benefits issue. Since Wendell and New Salem are in a district, it is that district school committee that deals with the benefits issue. There is nothing mysterious or confusing about this - it is clearly stated in language devised by Leverett and Shutesbury in the proposed legislation, and this is the only case by statute where a district rather than town is a representative body at the superintendency union level.

I hope this helps address some of Mr. Hajir's confusion.

-Ray DiDonato
Wendell


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Most Poll Respondents Favor Representative Town Meetings in Montague

Most Who Responded to Survey Have Served as Members of Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Fifty seven percent of Montague residents who expressed their opinion on town government in a survey circulated last fall said they were satisfied with the town's current representative town meeting structure.

Forty three percent said they would favor returning to an open town meeting form of government.

The town of Montague did away with open town meeting on March 10th, 1962, and the first representative town meeting was elected one year later.

The survey was conducted by a study committee set up by annual town meeting last spring; John Reynolds, of Precinct 1, collated the results and provided them to the Montague Reporter

this week.

In total, 121 residents responded to the survey, which was circulated through this newspaper, and at town libraries and town hall. All the respondents were registered voters, and the majority of them (66 yes, 55 no) said they had either served, or were currently serving as an elected town meeting member.

Among the other questions, respondents favored the current number of town voting precincts, six, by a large majority (46, to 23 with no preference, 11 who favored 5, 15 who favored 4, and 23 who favored reducing the number of precincts to 3).

Asked whether they knew their elected town meeting members, 8 said

they knew all of them, 94 said they knew some of them, and 17 said they knew none of their elected representatives on town meeting.

Slightly more than two thirds of the respondents (68 - Yes; 33 - No) favor unifying the independent fire and water districts into the general town government of Montague.

Also, slightly more than two thirds of the respondents (76) said they never watched televised town meetings, as opposed to just under a third who said they did.

But maybe that was because the majority of those who responded to the unscientific poll are already serving on the boards or sitting in the town meetings being televised.

tract placements.

If the boards are successful in changing the law as it applies to Union 28 insurance funding, so be it. In the meantime, I join with others in encouraging the Leverett selectboard to timely pay its legal obligations for U-28 health insurance until the law is changed. It is

unseemly for Leverett to assert that if it disagrees with the law, it does not have to follow the law and pay its bill, while at the same time enforcing other laws.

- Charles Paulin
Leverett



Leverett Considers Loosening Restrictions on Cell Towers

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The planning board of the town of Leverett held an informal public hearing on Wednesday, March 14th, to gather input on a proposed change to the town's zoning bylaws, to loosen restrictions on where telecommunication cell towers could be located within the borders of the town.

The current ten year old zoning bylaw governing the placement of cell towers in Leverett limits their placement to one of three low lying commercial

zones - either on an area on west side of Route 63 near the intersection of Jackson Hill Road where a gravel pit is located, an area on Depot Road west of the railroad tracks, and another small area off Coke Kihn Road in North Leverett.

The proposed change would allow cell towers to be placed on any zone in Leverett by special permit, and subject to the following conditions. Cell towers would have to be placed at least 1000 feet from schools, playgrounds and athletic fields; 600 feet

from residences; 500 feet from any historic district; 100 feet from any wetland; 200 feet from any river or stream; and 150% of tower height away from any property line.

The maximum tower height allowed would be 199 feet. The town would reserve the right to deny a location or modify a location to minimize visual impact. Any applicant would have to pay for the hiring of an independent consultant to advise the town in evaluating a pro-

see CELL pg 12

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Looks at Consolidation

BY KATIE NOLAN - At the March 19th selectboard meeting, Town administrator Tom Sharp told the selectboard that the assessors are projecting a revenue increase of \$431,000 from the new growth line item in FY'13, from increased assessment at the Northfield Mountain project. The estimated new growth figure at the start of the budget process was \$43,000.

School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault told the selectboard that the committee was looking for feedback from the board on its FY'13 budget request, a 13% increase over FY'12. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin told the committee members, "I trust you guys have done due diligence" in preparing the budget meeting - "that's what you were elected to do." Committee member Scott Bastarache said that they have been dealing with systemic issues and that needs have been growing. Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said that the school's request "was not that far off from what other school districts are doing."

At the January 30 finance committee meeting, the school committee had explained that the increased school costs are primarily for three new special education staff members, added hours for one special education staff member and for contractual increases for current employees. According to the school committee members, many students with special needs are expected at Erving Elementary next year.

Bastarache suggested that the new growth increase could offset the school budget increase. Goodwin answered that they should be cautious about the estimated revenue increase, because the

selectboard had not met with the assessors yet to discuss specifics. He also noted that the delayed school building reimbursement from the state will end in FY'12.

Boissonneault said that the finance committee had recommended that the school reduce the budget request to a 2.5% increase, and added that, at that level the school would come up short of its current obligations. Goodwin said, "We should put forth what you guys are asking for. The town will ultimately decide."

Goodwin noted that the selectboard is considering a reorganization of town departments, with the new position of public works director placed in charge of highway, wastewater, and water departments in order to consolidate and reduce labor costs. In addition, the selectboard is considering consolidation of individual department line items for building and grounds maintenance at town-owned properties into a single maintenance position. Currently, a number of part-time employees and contractors do the maintenance work at town properties. Goodwin estimated that the town could save approximately 1,000 labor hours with this plan. The selectboard will continue discussion of consolidation at their March 26 meeting.

After being advised by town counsel Donna MacNichol that the selectboard had authority to pay off the elementary school building loan, the board voted to pay the loan off early, with a net advantage to the town of approximately \$151,000. Goodwin noted, "If we pay early, we get early reimbursement" from the state.

Goodwin asked that \$5,000 be set aside in the

FY'13 budget to set up a cloud-based official town email system. He said that the email could be used by all town officials and employees.

Senior center architect John Catlin informed the selectboard that the building warranty would be extended for an additional 12 months, because of water damage to the building in February after a water pipe froze and water flooded the large meeting room at the center.

The selectboard agreed that money from the general fund could be loaned to the water department to pay a high-interest 20-year old USDA loan. With the agreement of town meeting, the water enterprise fund will be used to repay the money to the general fund at a lower rate of interest. Sharp estimated the savings to the town at approximately \$6,000 per year.

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to schedule a joint meeting with the Montague selectboard in April to discuss sharing capital costs for the Erving/POTW.

Sharp reported that treasurer Deb Mero had asked for approximately \$60,000 to buy new municipal finance software used by the town treasurer and town accountant. According to Sharp, Town and City, developer of the software currently used by the town, has stopped providing necessary technical support, making the current software difficult to use.

The selectboard approved updated sewer use regulations. During the application review for Erving Paper Mill's wastewater discharge permit, Tighe & Bond noticed that some of the town's sewer use regulations needed revisions.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Work to Begin at Unity Park

BY JANELNOCKLEBY - Town planner Walter Ramsey and energy committee chairperson Chris Mason presented information about their application to the Solarize Mass initiative on Monday. The selectboard approved the application.

The Solarize Mass initiative (www.masscec.com) aims to provide "a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort targeted at home and business owners that is deployed by a team consisting of municipal leaders, solar PV installers, and grassroots volunteers." And also, "a tiered pricing structure for the installation of solar PV that provides increased savings as more people in the community participate."

Already, 221 Montague citizens have responded to a survey posted on the town website (montague.net) about opportunities to go solar, Martin said. "Eighty-eight would definitely like to install solar within the year, while another 74 may also be interested," explained Martin. The survey had only been available for one week!

"There's good buzz about this," said Martin; "people are very very interested."

In the application, energy committee member Sally Pick has been designated "solar coach," and selectboard member Pat Allen will also be helping Mason, Pick, and Ramsey with the process. Business and residential owners will need to meet one requirement though, before obtaining pricing breaks on solar, should the initiative be granted to the town of Montague, Mason explained. They must have taken a Mass Save Energy audit within the last two years (www.mass-save.com).

In other news, both the Turners Falls and Montague Center fire districts will continue to use Bay State Health Ambulance for medical emergency calls. Members of the selectboard signed a three year agreement with the ambulance company.

Water pollution control facility superintendent Bob

Trombley came before the selectboard again, concerned about staff turnover and the workload of his department. He is currently interviewing candidates for a WPCF laborer position to fill the spot of a staff member who left to work at a different facility. An additional member of Trombley's team is investigating other opportunities.

"I don't want overtired workers," elaborated Trombley. "It takes a full year for new staff to integrate into the facility," to get the training and experience they need to run the plant. "Loss of another worker would mean a fifty percent loss in operations staff," Trombley added.

However, the selectboard will be waiting until the completion of a town-wide wage and classification study before considering staffing levels and wages at the treatment plant because a number of other town departments have also expressed similar concerns. "We want to take a good, educated look," at the needs of all departments, selectboard chairperson Mark Fairbrother said. "These needs do need to be addressed," he said, "but we must be fair and equitable."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio expected to get bids in this week for the wage and classification study that will be on the April 4th special town meeting ballot. If approved by town meeting, the study could be completed by September or October at a cost of \$30,000, Abbondanzio said.

The Shea Theater will be having more concerts this coming year, and with many of them, you can expect to have your favorite Berkshire Brewing Company beers on hand. Signature Sounds will be hosting NRBQ on April 12th at 7:30 p.m., Eilen Jewell with special guests Los Straitjackets on June 2nd at 8 p.m., and more. The selectboard approved special one-day liquor licenses for the occasions while everyone hoped that the paperwork could be processed in time in Boston for the April concert. The select-

board recently adopted the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission's guidelines for special one-day licenses, which require applications to be submitted sixty days in advance.

The selectboard approved granting a contract to Tighe and Bond for technical services to clean up the debris pile from the remnants of Strathmore Mill Building Number Ten which was destroyed by arson fire in 2007. The selectboard was happy to learn that the timeline for completion of the work would be the end of August (at a maximum cost to the town of \$35,000).

Unity Park improvements for this spring will be implemented by Mass West Construction, now that the selectboard has approved the \$592,000 contract from the Community Development Block Grant that was awarded for the improvements. Bruce Hunter, from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, who is helping to administer the grant, reported that the work will be done by the end of June, and will include a new, more accessible playground and improved parking.

The selectboard approved twelve articles for the special town meeting warrant on Wednesday, April 4th at 7 p.m. Town meeting members can expect to vote on issues regarding paying for collective bargaining costs (\$3,331), wage increases for non-union town employees (\$1,908), the aforementioned wage and classification study (\$30,000), supplementing the reserve fund (\$20,000) and legal budget appropriation (\$15,000), the preservation of historic records dating from 1754 to 1925 (\$9,000), police dispatch department budget appropriations (\$9,000), supplements for the WPCF budget (\$40,000), repairs to the Montague Center School to remove a fuel tank and extend a water line (\$25,000), new LED lights for the Shea Theater (\$14,000), perimeter fencing for the see MONTAGUE page 12

MEDIC in a Tough Spot: Lots of Mold but No Money

BY PATRICIA PRUITT MONTAGUE - On Tuesday, the Montague Economic Development Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) received two sets of emergency orders, one from David Jensen, Montague building inspector, the other from Gina McNeeley Montague health agent, requiring the EDIC to take steps within 30 days to remove the mold and wet, moldy drywall from the former Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A and 2nd Street.

McNeeley emphasized to the members of MEDIC that the mold needed to be removed in accordance with established best practices by experienced contractors protectively outfitted to handle such bacteria. Furthermore, McNeeley required the removal of mold and drywall as a hazard or danger that must be remediated first, even if MEDIC proceeds to ultimately demolish the building, which it owns.

Jensen encouraged MEDIC to become proactive with respect to seeking funding to carry out its responsibilities.

He pointed out that nothing has been done to or for the building for several years, with the current result in deterioration from a leaking roof.

The committee voted to seek two bids on removal of the mold and dry wall. McNeeley promised a list of acceptable contractors from which the committee could seek those bids.

Both Jensen and town planner Walter Ramsey believe the state's 30B procurement laws will not apply for MEDIC's, a quasi-public corporation that works with the town on economic development issues. Ramsey plans to verify that and get back to MEDIC members.

A second problem is the continually leaking roof at 'the Cumb'y'. Jensen said even a temporary fix would help that problem.

Thirdly, Jensen stipulated that all moldy,

wet rugs needed to be removed from the building by Monday, March 26th.

Fourthly, Jensen observed that water from the roof leak was falling on top of the electrical panel. He wonders if the main breaker is turned off or if the meter should be pulled? He thinks the committee needs to get the electrical inspector to confirm what needs to be done.

The committee is without funds for any of this work. It has reserves set aside for an audit, but that amount is only enough for the bookkeeping and organizing of records.

As to the final disposition of the cinderblock building, Ramsey said the Department of Conservation and Recreation's attorney was back from two weeks of vacation, so negotiations with DCR would resume and hopefully lead to some clarity about the control of the building.

The best news of the meeting was that the bookkeeper is approximately half way through the work of making MEDIC's records accessible. She will put the later years' records online and will install Quickbooks 2012.

Ramsey reported that the bookkeeper, at least, was on budget at this point.

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Pierogi by the Thousands



Catherine Baronowski, Joan Richotte and Louis Parzych working in the kitchen.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - In the undercroft of Our Lady of Czestochowa on K Street on Monday, a core group of four or five faithful volunteers showed up to make pierogi by the thousands. This is a major effort, and as the days go by, occasionally a few more volunteers come to help. But, as the good book says, "Many are called, but few show up."

In the defense of the other 1600 parishioners, Father Charles DiMascola said, "We have other groups working on about 30 other projects such as Lenten speakers, projects with children,

and church bazaars. Our parishioners are very involved in the church. There is a family attitude with a sense of loyalty and devotion to each other."

Re-enforcing the pastor's words, the enthusiastic volunteers had turned out over 2,000 pierogi, by last count. Walter Hozkiewicz, who lives in New Hampshire, drives an hour and a half to get to Our Lady of Czestochowa for mass, and to volunteer making pierogi.

"Pierogi making is an important fundraiser for our church," added DiMascola. "We sell them mainly at church bazaars. We are filling two freezers full of them,

now that your brother, (Louis) donated a second freezer. We need to prepare that many pierogi ahead of time because they go so well at the bazaars."

The next bazaar will take place at the church on Saturday, March 31st, when assorted pierogi, bigos (hunter's stew) kapusta (a combination of cabbage and sauerkraut), golumpki (cabbage rolls), kielbasa, and chruszcziki, will be on sale. There's no definition of chruszcziki, other than they are a crisp pastry that can only be enjoyed to be defined.

A limited number of babka made by nuns in Enfield, CT and cheese babka from a bakery in New York, plus a variety of assorted cakes and pastries, and lambs carved out of butter will also be on sale.

After Easter, the church holds the ever popular pierogi dinner and pie socials.

Pierogi are also known as pierogy, pierozki, and pyrogy. Those terms are all plural. The singular term is pierozek. Then there is the diminutive form, "pierozki," which is a tongue twister. Knowledge of these various Polish terms is invaluable in a game of scrabble.

Whatever term you use, piero-

gi are delicious boiled dumplings, usually filled with mashed potatoes, cheese and cabbage, which can all be made even more delectable when fried in butter with onions. There are also fruit pierogi filled with prunes, blueberries or other berries, but the Czestochowa church volunteers have their hands full just making the standard potato, cheese and cabbage varieties.

Still, they've added a new variety this year: a combination of meat and sauerkraut. That is actually an old variety from the old country, according to DiMascola, whose family originated in the village of Olesna, near Tarnow in Poland.

In recent travels in Poland, I had occasion to visit a Pierogarnia, (pierogi restaurant) featuring a wide selection of pierogi, which sometimes also offer other popular Polish food, including potato pancakes. Many Polish dishes are vegetarian, not by choice but necessity, since meat, particularly in the past, was expensive in Poland. Pierogi are especially popular during Lent when Catholics refrain from eating meat.

Here in Turners Falls, pierogi dough is made from a secret

recipe, more closely guarded than the recipe for Bush Beans. The dough maker's lips are sealed as tightly as the pinched edges of the pierogi themselves.

This year, the pierogi makers at Czestochowa made the dough circles larger to accommodate a more generous amount of filling. Volunteers cut circles of dough, place filling, fold over the dough and crimp the edge closed with thumb and forefinger. At the end of the day, the workers fingers and thumbs are said to continue to convulse as they leave for home.

The aroma of onions and other mouthwatering ingredients fills the air, but sampling pierogi on the job is strictly forbidden. That is the sole responsibility of Father DiMascola, who is in charge of quality control.

"It's a tough job," DiMascola acknowledged, "but somebody's got to do it."

DiMascola emphasized that it's important to visit the bazaar early, since most of the food offerings sell out quickly. The March 31st bazaar will be no exception, especially with the bigger pierogi and other popular items available locally only at Our Lady of Czestochowa.

On Books: FDR Goes to War

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GILL - Franklin Roosevelt was a popular president, winning over people with his feel-good Fireside Chats, broadcast over all major radio stations. For most U.S. citizens, he ranked right up there with God. Only Roosevelt was more personable.

Historians have almost unanimously considered FDR a great wartime leader. But, Burton W. and Anita Folsom, nationally recognized experts on the economics and domestic policies of President Franklin Roosevelt, take a second look at his presidency in this well-researched and eye-opening book. The question the Folsoms pose at the end of their book is whether WWII ended the Great Depression.

During his administration, Roosevelt's "New Deal" had 41 separate boards in his "alphabet soup of agencies," which the writers accuse him of manipulating to win more votes.

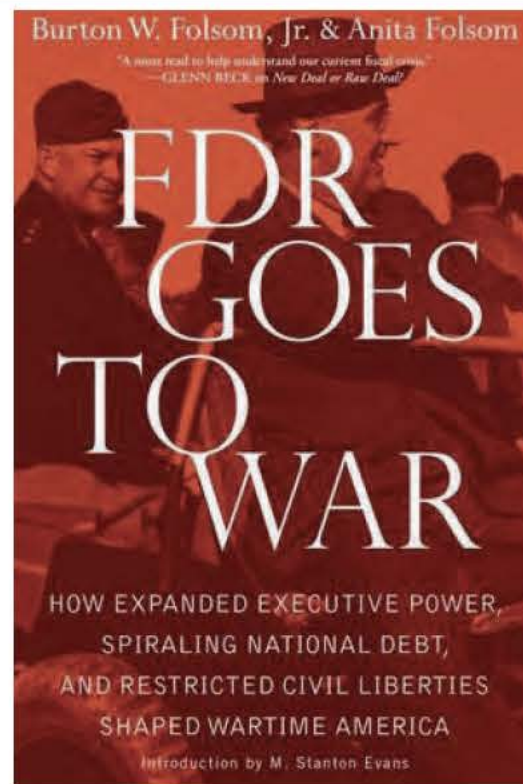
For instance, FDR often

padding the payroll at the WPA, and at other agencies, hiring more people to influence voting. The authors say in the run-up to WWII, Roosevelt was more interested in getting re-elected than even if the U.S. was ready for war. FDR had cut the military budget to the bone, running up large deficits while diverting funds to his alphabet of domestic agencies.

And when the U.S. finally geared up for war, manufacturing arms and ammunition, Roosevelt flooded Great Britain, China and Russia with Lend-Lease military supplies, while U.S. soldiers sometimes trained with wooden sticks.

When they first went into combat, our soldiers had outmoded bolt action rifles. The Army had only one Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) in the entire force. Later, the semi-automatic M-1 rifle replaced the WWI bolt action rifles and the supply of BAR's increased.

Having been elected on a



"Keep America Out of the War," platform, Roosevelt devised the "Lend-Lease" program. Under the plan, the U.S. would lend guns and ammunition to our allies in return for leases on

British bases. Presumably, exploded bombs and bullets fired during the war would be returned, slightly used, after the fighting ceased.

Roosevelt, like many other rulers, from Hitler (who was also elected to office) to George W. Bush, greatly expand their executive powers and erode citizen's rights under the guise of National Security. Like Hitler and Bush, Roosevelt illegally wiretapped telephones. He also used J. Edgar

Hoover to investigate his enemies, and IRS audits to punish them.

Roosevelt had 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent, most of whom were U.S. citi-

zens, rounded up and sent to internment camps without due process of law, imprisoning them without charges or trial. Japanese in California were mostly farmers, efficient farmers, who gave other farmers fierce competition. Their competitors were glad to see the Japanese eliminated from the fields. California Japanese posed no danger, and in fact, many had enlisted in the U.S. services where they served admirably, even after being imprisoned in the camps.

Our government gave Americans of Japanese descent 24 hours to dispose of their belongings and real estate, which was bought up by speculators, or competing farmers for a fraction of their value.

While we shipped armaments to Britain, our naval fleet was stationed at Pearl Harbor without adequate anti-aircraft guns and ammunition. Roosevelt liked to play hunches rather than listen to admirals who wanted to return the naval fleet to the safe-

see FDR page 11

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“Downstreamers”

Bridge Action

The Sunderland affinity group of the SAGE Alliance will spread awareness of the dangers of the Vermont Yankee nuclear facility at the French King Bridge on Route. 2 on Saturday afternoon, March 31st.

The group, calling themselves “Downstreamers” to draw attention to the precarious nature of living downstream from a volatile nuclear facility, are demanding the permanent closure of Vermont Yankee.

Anyone concerned about the future of the river and the risks nuclear energy poses may join in the demonstration.

The action will begin on the Gill side of the river at 1:00 p.m. For more information email: rosemerita@gmail.com / emilykremis@hotmail.com or call: 413-367-9403 / 413-422-1169.

Leverett Broadband Committee Information Sessions

The Broadband Committee has scheduled a series of three public sessions to provide information and answer questions in the weeks prior to the Annual Town Meeting (April 28th):

March 29th (Thursday), 7 p.m., town hall

April 3rd (Tuesday), 7 p.m., town hall

April 15th (Sunday), 7p.m., at town hall

The same general information will be presented at each session.

SAVE from page 1

are now ideal for display. A collection of animal prints by Jack Coughlin, and a number of hand-built pottery pieces by Sunya Webber add a decorative touch.

As the afternoon sun moves from one side of the space to another, light glances off the pottery highlighting the earth tones, curves and angles.

Anna Greene hopes that people who haven't been to the library in a while will stop by to enjoy the improvements.



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Thirty-one Things You Didn't Know About Louisa May Alcott

Harriet Reisen, author of Louisa May Alcott: The Woman behind Little Women, and screenwriter for the acclaimed PBS documentary of the same name, will speak at the Leverett Library on Sunday, March 25th, at 3:00 p.m. Clips from the film will also be shown.

Secrets & Surprises

Did you know that Louisa May Alcott...

1. Wrote pulp fiction anonymously and under pseudonyms - a secret kept for a half-century after her death? (Some 30 have been found... So far... others are still missing.)
2. Invented characters who were transvestites, spies, murderers, revolutionaries, drug

- addicts, and/or incestuous?
3. Smoked hashish and took opium?
4. Ran every day?
5. Was raised a vegetarian and grew up on a commune?
6. Had a schoolteacher father who invented recess and had an integrated classroom a quarter-century before the abolition of slavery?
7. Grew up on a stop of the Underground Railroad, harboring fugitive slaves?
8. Was home-schooled in literature by Ralph Waldo Emerson?
9. Accompanied Henry David Thoreau on his famous nature walks?
10. Lived next door to Nathaniel Hawthorne? Knew Henry, William, Alice and the rest of the famed James family from childhood?
11. Knew Frederick Douglass,

- Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, and every leader of the antislavery movement? Her family hosted John Brown's widow and boarded his daughter after his execution.
12. Had teenage crushes on Emerson and Thoreau, and in her favorite book (*Moods*), her heroine is married to a character based on one and in love with the other?
13. Was a nurse in the Civil War assisting in assembly-line amputations with no medical training? (She wanted to be a soldier but couldn't.)
14. Was a descendant of Samuel Sewall, the only judge of the Salem Witch Trials who repented, and then wrote the earliest known anti-slavery tract?
15. That her great-aunt was married to John Hancock?
16. Wrote and published groundbreaking stories about interracial marriage, slave

- revolt, and race relations?
17. Grew up in grueling poverty and worked as a seamstress, a laundress, a governess, a teacher and a domestic servant?
18. As a child of eleven saw her parents' marriage nearly break up over her father's tie to another man - and wrote about it at the time?
19. Was a professional-level actress-comedienne and may have worked as one under a different name?
20. Wrote more than 200 works - stories, poems, fiction, non-fiction, plays, articles, not to mention journals and letters. None of her books sold fewer than 10,000 copies.
21. Didn't like writing for children - called it "moral pap for the young" and did it for the money?
22. Wrote *Little Women* in ten weeks? Wrote the sequel a few months later just as quickly?
23. Supported equal rights for

- women, and organized women to vote forty years before the 19th amendment was passed - and was the first to cast her ballot in an official election?
24. Wrote her way from rags to riches and died a multi-millionaire? (the 19th century equivalent)
25. Was probably manic-depressive and seriously considered suicide?
26. Lived in thirty different places before she was 25 years old?
27. Never married and is believed by many to have been gay?
28. Preferred younger or much older men?
29. Her writing has been translated into over 50 languages?
30. None of her 8 books for young adults has ever been out of print?
31. Is the only woman in the card game "authors"?

- Provided by Linda Wentworth, Leverett Librarian

NRC from page 1

over time, and the tubes were "re-sleeved" several years ago.

The cause of the "reduced performance" of the condenser is unclear. Last week, the back pressure level went up to 4.5 pounds per square inch. The maximum level for the plant is 5 psi, according to Sarah Hofmann, deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Service. At 7 psi, the plant is designed to shut down automatically.

The state of Vermont said Yankee technicians made a mistake and left a metal plate inside the component as they were trying to troubleshoot the issue last week. The plate was a piece of metal large enough for workers to stand on.

Neil Sheehan, a spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said the agency is aware of the incident, adding, "It's an issue that's affected not only Vermont Yankee but numerous other plants over the years where there's foreign material that's left behind when a job is completed. We don't think that's acceptable, and we certainly had that discussion with them. Our inspectors will certainly be addressing that in an upcoming inspection report."

Entergy is unlikely to replace the condenser until a decision is

made in its favor to extend the reactor's current license to operate in Vermont, which expired on March 21st, 2012. But the NRC issued a new operating license for VY last year, allowing the reactor to continue operating until 2032.

The legal and regulatory battle between Entergy and the state of Vermont continues.

In testimony, Fairewinds Associates, a Burlington, VT based expert witness firm specializing in nuclear issues, noted that rather than invest \$200,000,000 (in 2016 dollars) in a new steam condenser, Entergy may choose instead to shut down the reactor, as it would be difficult to recoup such a large investment during the final years of Vermont Yankee's life.

Entergy has admitted Vermont Yankee is a minimal profit producer; additional costs may prove too expensive, especially with the added costs of post-Fukushima upgrades, and conditions imposed after the NRC issued its 20-year extended license.

The NRC recently released an annual report on Yankee that cited a number of what it called non-safety issues at the plant. Since Louisiana-based Entergy Corporation purchased Vermont Yankee from state utility companies in 2002, the plant has had a

string of physical plant problems including a transformer fire in 2004 and the collapse of a cooling tower in 2007. In January 2010, the company revealed that underground pipes at the reactor were leaking radioactive tritium into the soil and groundwater, on the banks of the Connecticut River.

The most recent incident prompted administration of Vermont governor Peter Shumlin to ask federal regulators about a recent series of human errors at the reactor. Public Service commissioner Elizabeth Miller wrote on March 15th to the head of the NRC's Northeast Region to say

she is concerned about what she called a pattern of human errors at the Vernon reactor during the past 15 months.

Commissioner Miller said the most recent incident of the metal plate left inside the condenser raised questions about whether Yankee was experiencing a pattern of human errors.

"In looking at the reports, I had a concern that there had been a number of incidents and felt it was appropriate to ask the NRC to explain why that pattern of incidents didn't deserve further attention..."

Miller listed five errors, ranging from failure to remove a plas-

tic cover from a pump before it was installed to inaccurately measuring the dose rate from a shipment of radioactive waste. Miller's letter to the NRC cites other mistakes, including a case last fall when Yankee technicians misread a work order and shut down a breaker, resulting in a brief loss of the shutdown cooling system, and another case in December when workers mistakenly tripped the wrong diesel back-up generator.

The NRC labeled all five incidents as minor, but Miller is questioning why they aren't being considered as part of a pattern.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG		4:49 p.m.
Warrant Arrests; Burglary, Breaking and Entering		
Wednesday, 3/14	12:45 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked license for operating under the influence, having no light on license plate, and on a default warrant.	Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant and a default warrant at Rod Shop Road and Solar Avenue.
10:22 a.m. Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on Eighth Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Advised of options.	10:40 a.m. Warrant arrest on Chestnut Street. Referred to an officer.	Saturday, 3/17
1:40 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant on Avenue A.	1:52 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Farren Care Center parking lot on Montague City Road. Investigated.	4:30 p.m. Threatening harassment on J Street. Advised of options.
Thursday, 3/15		6:04 p.m. Threatening harassment on Greenfield Road. Advised of options.
		Monday, 3/19
		7:54 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Stone's Garage on Federal Street. Services rendered.
		10:51 a.m. Hit and run acci-
		dent on Turnpike Road at Judd Wire. No police service necessary.
		Tuesday, 3/20
		5:17 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for felony breaking and entering a building at night on Fourth Street.
		5:45 a.m. Attempted breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Report taken.
		12:12 p.m. Threatening harassment at Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard. Services rendered.
		3:47 p.m. Brush fire on Bridge Street. Referred to other agency.

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FDR from page 8
 ty of San Diego. When he did listen to the admirals, who were mostly senior citizens, they were confident the Japanese posed no threat to the fleet. Roosevelt was working on his stamp collection when word of the attack on Pearl Harbor reached him.

We had been warned of the attack, but that military intelligence had been lost in the shuffling of paperwork. Japanese intelligence was far more effective than ours.

Roosevelt liked and trusted Joseph Stalin, affectionately referring to him as "Uncle Joe." When the Russian Army was outside Warsaw, they sent a message to the Polish resistance fighters telling them the time was right to stage an uprising because the Russian Army was ready to invade the Nazi ranks as soon as the uprising began. The Polish resistance attacked the Germans; the Russians did not, calculating that the German Army would wipe out the resistance fighters who would have been a future problem for

Russia when they later took over Poland.

When Churchill urged Roosevelt to send planes to bomb the Germans who were slaughtering the Polish resistance fighters, Roosevelt declined for fear of offending his friend "Uncle Joe," who objected to the plan. As a result, the betrayed Polish resistance fighters were decimated, as the Russians hoped.

Roosevelt also believed Stalin when he told him that it was the Germans who had slaughtered over 8,000 Polish officers at Katyn, not the Russian army, who had in fact executed them at Stalin's order.

Later other Polish resistance fighters, and escaped soldiers, fled to England. So many volunteers showed up, ready to fight, that the Polish contingent in the British Army had Polish officers leading them into battle. The allies used Polish troops in Italy to spear-head the drive, at great cost of lives. But, at the end of WWII, Britain did not allow Polish troops to march in the victory parades.

Poland was betrayed again at Yalta when Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin gave Russia control over Poland and other Baltic countries.

The authors show that Roosevelt was devious in public affairs as well as in his private life. When Eleanor Roosevelt discovered Franklin's affair with his secretary, Lucy Rutherford, in 1918, he promised he'd never see Rutherford again, but later renewed his ties. Eleanor had to live with the fact that Franklin's mistress was the person who was with him on the day he died.

The Folsoms continue their book with the presidency of Harry Truman who had wanted to continue Roosevelt's "New Deal," with Truman's "Fair Deal." Truman was a different man than Roosevelt. He didn't have an Ivy League education like Roosevelt, who graduated from Harvard, and Truman was often blunt and outspoken in his dealings in office and with the American public.

Truman wanted to copy

Roosevelt's centrally planned economy in the conversion from war to peace, but Congress wouldn't go along. Congress lifted most economic controls, cut taxes, slashed government spending and trusted entrepreneurs to revive the economy, which they did. The Folsoms say it was the free enterprise system, not WWII, that ended the Depression.

However, though the authors of *FDR Goes to War* mention the 41 agencies FDR organized, they fail to note that the Great Depression was a worldwide calamity, compounded here in the U.S. by the Dust Bowl. Had FDR not created jobs with these 41 agencies there could have been outright famine and widespread riots. He also set up the Social Security system to aid working Americans in their retirement years.

In his first 35 days in office, FDR had the Civilian Conservation Corps up and running. Many of the young men who joined the CCC showed up barefooted and starving, though the Depression was just begin-

ning. The CCC eventually employed over three million men, building court houses and post offices as well as many conservation projects across the land, and planting trees to help hold down the soil and prevent future dust storms. Locally, there were CCC camps in Wendell and Greenfield.

The WPA provided work for a wide range of unemployed people, including photographers, artists, and construction workers. The WPA even built some of the war plants that were eventually used to arm the Allies for WWII, plants that were needed in a hurry. Other agencies like the Agricultural Adjustment Act helped farmers.

FDR may not have totally ended the Depression through government intervention, but he certainly improved the lot of unemployed Americans with his alphabet soup of agencies. Maybe America could have used a little more of FDR's alphabet soup to help us through our most recent recession.



MUSICAL from page 1
 idol when he got out of the army.

Gordon pulled at our heart strings when he begged Rosie to come back to him in, "Baby, Talk to Me," and triumphantly praised her in "Rosie" when they got back together.

Lauren Grimard did a lovely job portraying Rosie Alvarez, despite her laryngitis. Her spunky style and lithe grace lit up the stage. Her spicy dancing in "Shriner's Ballet" and "Spanish Rosie" were the highlights of the evening.

Kim MacAfee is the teenage girl from Sweet Apple, OH, chosen to receive the "One Last Kiss" from Birdie. MacAfee is played with grinning exuberance, confident stage presence, and terrific comic nuance by Kayla Drumgoole.

The gaggle of teen girls was rounded out by Conrad Birdie Fan Club members Ursula (Maggie Sroka), Margie (Meredith Brown), Penelope (Emilee Felton), Helen (Heather McKenna) and others who did a great job of playing the part of overwrought teens in the throes of Birdie mania: singing, danc-

ing, swooning over, and running after Conrad Birdie.

Maggie Sroka's Ursula, the most dedicated of Birdie fans, had a particularly handsome scream and was positively effusive in her characterization. Sroka put her all into the role, and was a delight to watch — always smiling and never breaking character on stage.

There are several famous songs from the musical. "The Telephone Hour" (Goin' steady! Goin' steady! Goin' steady! Steady for good!) finds all the girls in Sweet Apple are tying up every phone line in town gossiping about Kim getting "pinned" to campus hunk Hugo Peabody (Ken Leng). "One Boy" was sung sweetly in three-part harmony by Kim and a trio of girls. Another memorable song, "Kids", as in, "What's the matter with kids today?" was sung by Kim's parents Mr. MacAfee (Sam Letcher) and Mrs. MacAfee (Angel Renaud). Mr. MacAfee is a choice role (played by Paul Lynde in the 1963 film), and Letcher's portrayal, with his loose, lanky physicality and deadpan nerdiness, gave the audience maxi-

mum opportunity for guffawing on the evening I attended. His exalted reverence for "the host from coast to coast" was hilarious as Letcher crooned "Hymn for a Sunday Evening — Ed Sullivan" with a most convincing awe. Letcher's mugging for the camera on the Sullivan show itself was pure goofiness personified, and his overall performance made for many laugh-out-loud moments.

Kim's new "steady", boyfriend Hugo Peabody (Ken Leng), did a great job as the hyper-jealous boyfriend who's new girlfriend was going on national television to kiss Birdie goodbye. Leng did an outstanding job. Although still a freshman, it wouldn't be surprising if he is offered many more leading roles in his next three years of high school.

Sixth grader Kyleigh Williams played Kim's younger brother, Randolph. The youngest MacAfee is tortured and ignored by his father's disdain, yet Randolph remains a steadfast fan of dad's. Williams' version of Randolph was very nicely understated, yet her performance stood out. This young

lady has something special and will probably be cast in leading roles in the future as well, as she blossoms and comes into her own in the years ahead.

Another standout performance was turned in by Brooke Martineau, alternately playing Albert's long-suffering mother, Mae, in one scene, and a radiant, giggling teen in the next, without any hint she'd just run backstage, changed her costume, and appeared moments later from the other side of the stage. Her portrayal was spot-on as the mom who doesn't want her "Sonny Boy" to leave the nest, and who lays the guilt on thickly — much to her son's chagrin.

After feigning a deadly illness (again), she sobbingly laments, "I only want one word on my headstone, 'Albert's Mother!'"

Oh, and let's not forget the King of Heartthrobs himself, Conrad Birdie, portrayed by Jesse Langknecht. He had all the right twitches, pelvic rolls, and hip thrusts in all the right places to make the girls come unhinged. The teenyboppers appropriately keeled over with his every finger-point, swivel,

or, "Oh, Baby!" in their direction.

Choreographers Troy Langknecht and Caroline Sena did a marvelous job with the dance numbers. All the dances were well executed, interesting to watch and clearly well rehearsed. The four-piece orchestra, lead by orchestra manager and pianist Amy Crawford, kept feet tapping and the mood cheerful to the dance-in-your-seat score. The cute and bright costumes fit the times perfectly — poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and all!

The well-designed, multi-functional sets (kudos to Mark Mailloux) made for quick set changes. The props, also period 1950s kitsch, were colorful, and clever.

For 1950s fans, and anyone with a love of fun music, song, and dance, this transport back in time to the effervescent, postwar period of innocence and national affluence was a wonderful romp.

Thanks to all the talented cast and crew, and director Scott Halligan for giving us a performance to remember.



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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

from CELL page 6

posal to site a tower.

In the absence of planning board chair Don Putnam, Ken Kahn chaired the hearing, which was attended by about a dozen people, most of whom spoke in favor of loosening restrictions on where cell towers could be placed in town.

An informational handout the planning board prepared for the informal hearing read in part, "Ten years ago, the planning board responded to citizen concerns about cell towers with a bylaw that regulated them. This bylaw turned out to be restrictive and may be a reason that Leverett has no cell towers. For the past two and a half years, the board has had considerable feedback from citizens, town officials, and fire and police personnel requesting a bylaw change to bring cell service to all resi-

dents. We have also heard from a smaller number of people who have reservations about cell towers."

As the hearing concluded, planning board member Tom Ewing said, "Daytime usage pays for these cell towers, because everyone gets nights and weekends free. I don't know if there is a big enough population who would use cell phones in Leverett during the day to make this happen," even with loosened regulations.

Kahn said if cell tower operators do come calling, the public's right to a hearing on the matter will still be afforded during the required special permit process. "Citizens can have input. If it's a really bad location, with lots of opposition, it will either be changed or denied."

The planning board passed around a map prepared by the town's broadband consultant,

from MONTAGUE page 7

Turners Falls Airport (\$12,5000), and increasing the Henry Waidlich Conservation Fund (\$10,000).

Do you have opinions on how your tax dollars should or should not be spent? All precincts in town have available town meeting member seats.

The deadline for obtaining

papers to be a town meeting member is Thursday, March 29th at 5 p.m.

The deadline for obtaining just ten signatures is April 2nd at 5 p.m. Get your nomination papers now!

See the town clerk's office for paperwork and more information. The town clerk can be reached at 863-3200 x 203 for more information.



G4S, showing three sites on private land that in combination would allow for complete cell coverage to all parts of town. Those sites were in the extreme northwest and northeast corners of town, along with a third site on a plot of private land excluded from the conservation area on the east side Brushy Mountain.

That site raised some question from the floor, but Richard Natthorst, speaking as a member of the broadband committee who has been consulting with the planning board on the proposed bylaw change, said the tower height on Brushy Mountain, if a cell tower were to be located there, would be high enough to just peek over

the ridge, but otherwise not visible from most areas of town.

Call firefighter Nancy Grossman said, "I have done a certain amount of research on cell towers, and there is a fair amount of controversy within the scientific community on this topic. Some studies say cell towers are completely safe. A number of other studies say there is some evidence of increased cancer clusters, headaches, memory issues, and concentration issues," for people living in close proximity to cell towers. Natthorst said he, too, had been conducting research into possible health impacts of living near a cell tower, and he

pointed to a recent American Cancer Society study that concluded "cell phone towers are safe."

Nathorst also noted, "The back haul fiber optic cable which connects cell phone towers to the telecommunications grid is a potential source of revenue for the town to lower the cost of a fiber optic network."

A tentative date of April 11th was mentioned for the formal hearing on the proposed bylaw.

Kahn said a bylaw change must be approved by a two thirds majority of town meeting.



SCHOOL from page 1 achievement, says Singleton. He believes that means "improved test scores exclusively." Singleton feels the DESE tends to ignore other areas of school committee work such as personnel, policy making, or facility questions. He doubts that the professional development sessions have changed the interaction of members of the school committee. He feels the DESE in attempting to set improved test scores as the sole job of the school committee is being anti-democratic.

Of course any change to the

regional agreement must have the concurrence of the town of Gill. Thus far, Gill has had no request to place a parallel petitioned article on its upcoming town meeting warrant, according to Gill administrator, Ray Purington. The deadline to do so is April 9th.

Tupper Brown of the Gill finance committee acknowledged that his wife, Sandy Brown, school committee vice-chair, was considering filing such a petitioned article. Tupper Brown, a member of the technical advisory team of school, town and state officials that has been working to develop and adhere to a five year compact for fiscal sustainability for the school district, said he thought the warrant article being advanced in Montague is, "Perhaps the last good idea available in this situation." He pointed out, however, that it was not clear whether DESE would allow such a change to the regional agreement.

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said discussion of the motion would take place in two weeks when the

selectboard reviews the warrant articles. The advocates of Article 26 would be able at that time to explain their position to the selectboard.

Jeff Singleton believes "the culture of the school committee prevents it from tackling effectively other serious problems such as declining school enrollment or even non-monetary policy changes such as the recent student hat policy petition.

A phone call to Montague school committee member Joyce Phillips seeking comment on the town meeting warrant article was not returned by press time.

Gill school committee member Jane Oakes said, "Ultimately, how well the school committee functions does not depend on the number of members or how they are selected, but rather on how well the members are able to focus on the work that needs to be done, and to do that work efficiently. However, if both town meetings approve the article, this is something that should happen; the school committee serves at the will of the voters."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG
Downed Tree; Restraining Order

Thursday, 3/1
10:35 p.m. Officer located a downed tree on Shutesbury Road blocking part of the road. Notified Highway Department to clear.

Friday, 3/2
7:20 p.m. Officer spoke with teens in the pavilion in North Leverett Center regarding noise and language. Issue settled. No problem.

Friday, 3/9
10:20 p.m. Officer arrested [redacted] on an outstanding warrant. Bailed for court.

Saturday, 3/10
1:12 p.m. Reported past domestic disturbance at a North Leverett Road residence. [redacted] summonsed for

domestic assault and battery. 4:45 p.m. Report of someone on the railroad tracks on Depot Road. Subject not on tracks. Taking video of passing trains. No problem.

Sunday, 3/11
2:40 p.m. Served 209A restraining order to subject at the police station.

Monday, 3/12
10:35 a.m. Arrested [redacted] while at the Orange District Court for

two counts of violating a 209A Restraining Order. Bailed for a later court date. 5:51 p.m. Officers sent to 76 Cushman Road for a reported domestic disturbance.

Arrested [redacted] in Leverett for domestic assault and battery.

Saturday, 3/17
8:17 p.m. Caller reported hearing gunshots in the Teawaddle Hill Road area. Officers unable to locate.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Essential Tremor, Snoring and Other Concerns

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *Is essential tremor the same thing as Parkinson's disease?*

Essential tremor (ET) is often confused with Parkinson's disease. Unlike Parkinson's disease, however, ET doesn't lead to serious complications. Parkinson's is associated with a stooped posture, slow movement, a shuffling gait and other difficulties.

Not all tremors are ET. There are more than 20 kinds of tremors. For instance, excessive caffeine, alcohol withdrawal,

problems with thyroid or copper metabolism or the use of certain medications may cause tremor.

A genetic mutation is responsible for about half of all cases of ET. The only other known risk factor is older age. Although ET can affect people of all ages, it usually appears in middle age or later. Men and women are affected equally.

Abnormal communication within the brain causes ET. There is no cure yet for this disorder.

Tremor is an involuntary movement of one or more parts of the body. Most tremors occur in the hands. Tremors can also show up in the arms, head, face, vocal cords, trunk, and legs.

Q. What causes snoring?

As you fall asleep, your tongue, throat and the roof of your mouth relax. If they relax too much, they may partially block the flow of air to your

lungs. Then the tissue at the back of your mouth vibrates, creating the sound of logs being sawed. As the airway narrows, the vibration intensifies and the snoring gets louder.

Here are some other causes of snoring:

Alcohol relaxes throat muscles, so it promotes snoring.

A soft palate that is long and low restricts the opening from the nose into the throat. That triangular thingy hanging in the back of the palate is called a "uvula." If your uvula is long, that creates wood-sawing, too.

Overweight people have bulky neck tissue. Extra bulk in the throat narrows your airway.

A stuffy nose or one that is blocked by a crooked partition (deviated septum) between the nostrils requires extra effort to pull air through it. This creates an exaggerated vacuum in the throat, and pulls throat tissues

together.

Very loud snoring may also be associated with obstructive sleep apnea, a serious condition. When you have sleep apnea, your throat tissues obstruct your airway, preventing you from breathing. Heavy snorers should seek medical advice to ensure that they don't have sleep apnea.

About one quarter of adults snore regularly. Almost half of normal adults snore occasionally. Men snore more than women. And snoring usually gets worse as we get older.

Q. What is C-Reactive Protein?

C-reactive protein (CRP) is made by the liver. Elevated CRP in your blood indicates that you have inflammation or a bacterial infection. CRP levels do not always change with a viral infection.

The CRP in a healthy person is usually less than 10 milligrams

per liter (mg/L). Most infections and inflammations produce CRP levels more than 100 mg/L.

CRP is a general test that may indicate a variety of ailments including rheumatoid arthritis, pneumonia, cancer, tuberculosis, appendicitis, bacterial meningitis, inflammatory bowel disease and urinary tract infection.

The test is used to monitor patients. CRP tests don't diagnose a specific disease; they warn that more testing may be required.

There is a high-sensitivity version of the CRP test (hs-CRP) that is used to assess the risk for heart problems. It measures CRP between 0.5 and 10 mg/L.

Most studies show that heart-attack risk rises with hs-CRP levels. If the level is lower than 1.0 mg/L, the risk is low. There's an average risk for between 1.0 and 3.0 mg/L. A level higher than 3.0 mg/L, indicates a high risk.

If you have a question, write to fred@healthygeezzer.com.

Top 10 Scams Against Seniors

BY ROSEANN MARTOCCIA
MONTAGUE CITY - Each year millions of older Americans fall victim to financial scams. Here are the top ten scams according to the National Council on Aging.

1. Medicare/Health Care Fraud: people posing as a Medicare representative get older people to give them their personal information, or provide bogus services for elders at makeshift mobile clinics, then use the information to bill Medicare.

2. Counterfeit Prescription Drugs: elders looking for lower price medications may purchase unsafe substances.

3. Funeral & Cemetery Scams: Scammers attend the funeral service of a stranger, claiming the deceased had an outstanding debt with them, and

extorting money from relatives to settle the fake debts. Or funeral directors will insist that an expensive casket is necessary for cremation, when a cardboard casket is all that is required..

4. Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products: Whether it's fake Botox or bogus homeopathic remedies, anti-aging products are big business. A bad batch of botox can be very toxic.

5. Telemarketing: scammers use fake telemarketing calls to prey on older people. A con artist claims he/she has found a large sum of money and is willing to split it if the person will withdraw funds from his/her bank account.

Or, the scammer gets the elder to wire money on the pretext that the person's child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money. In charity scams,

callers ask for money for fake charities, especially after a natural disaster has occurred.

6. Internet Fraud: Automated internet scams simulate virus-scanning software to get seniors to download a fake anti-virus program; or a real virus will open up whatever information is on the user's computer to scammers. In one "phishing" scam, a senior gets an email asking them to "update" or "verify" their personal information to get a tax refund.

7. Investment Schemes: pyramid schemes like Bernie Madoff's, or "investors" who are looking for a partner to claim inheritance money or invest in complex financial products.

8. Homeowner/Reverse Mortgage Scams: the elder is sent a personalized letter from a supposed assessor's office, offering the homeowner - for a fee - to arrange for a reassessment of

their property's value with the promise of a lower tax bill. In the reverse mortgage scam, an elder is given an unsecured reverse mortgage, which can cause them to lose their home when the perpetrators offer money or a free house somewhere else in exchange for the title to the elder's property.

9. Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams: the elder is told they have won a sweepstake, but need to make a payment to unlock the prize. They are sent a check which is deposited in their account immediately, but it takes several days for the fake check to bounce, while the criminals collect money that the senior paid to cover "taxes" on the prize money that eventually bounces.

10. The Grandparent Scam: an older person gets a call from someone who asks, "Do you know who this is?" The elder

names a relative the caller sounds most like, and the caller assumes that name, and as a fake relative, asks for money to be wired to pay for overdue rent, car repair, etc.

People can call their local police department to report a scam. Montague police: 413-863-8911.

They can contact the Northwestern District Attorney's office at 413-586-9225 or 413-584-9831 or visit at www.northwesternda.org.

They can report scams to the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org.

Elder Protective Service at Franklin County Home Care may also be able to help. Call 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 during normal business hours. The Elder Abuse Hotline is open after hours, and all day weekends and holidays at 1-800-922-2275.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXXII

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

I will need to explain to Dave why I am up at night and sleep during the day. When I think of that, I realize that I will not be able to do farm work at night, and I worry that they will not let me stay at Ferry Meadow.

Someone at the house starts ringing a bell, which spares me having to explain myself right now. As they leave the fields and start walking to the house, I realize that there are more people here than I had thought. We join them. The big room where I first met Dave feels smaller now that it is filled with people. The counter in the kitchen is piled with plates and dishes of food. People help themselves and sit at the tables in the big room. A group of children weaves around the adults. Even the littlest ones fill their own

plates and carry them outside where they all sit in a strip of shade along the edge of the house.

Everyone seems accustomed to the arrival of new people who will live and work at the farm. They introduce themselves and make me feel welcome without asking a lot of questions. Soon everyone knows that I grew up in Philadelphia and that I came here with a boyfriend who was at the university. I don't mention my job at the bank, and no one asks. I think people assume that I am here because I don't have a job. I guess that's how they all got to Ferry Meadow.

I try to figure out who is in charge, but I can't. Maybe the owner is not here.

After lunch I weed part of the wheat field. I stand up to stretch my back and see Dave coming.

"Why don't you take a break and work on that tent?" he says.

"Sure," I say. "Thanks."

Dave leads me to a barn. There is a collection of worn-looking tents there. Dave digs through them and picks out an orange tent. "I think this one is your best bet," he says. We go outside again, and he leads me to a field that already has tents set up in it. "Pick your tent site," he says with a sweep of his arm. "The meadow's flat, and soft, too."

I look around, unsure, and then after a moment, he takes the lead. "How about here?" he says, pulling the tent from its bag and spreading it out.

"Um, yeah, sure, this looks great," I say. He lets me help him set up the tent but pretends that he is helping me.

"You don't have a sleeping bag, do you?" he asks.

"Well, no."

He looks at my park ranger uniform. "Do you have clothes

with you?"

"I left in a hurry," I say.

He looks at me, waiting for me to say more.

I hesitate.

"Maybe one day you'll tell me the whole story," he says.

"I'd like to," I answer, realizing that no one knows the whole story except Jason, and I am not sure when I will ever see him again.

"I guess you're not with that guy anymore?"

"Guy?"

"The boyfriend you moved here with."

"Oh! Uh—oh no, I haven't been for a while."

"Then that's not what you're running from," he says.

"No, not that," is all I say.

Dave goes to find me a blanket. While I am taping the seams of my new tent, Leah pops her head in. "Knock knock," she says.

It's almost like seeing a friend, though we only just met this morning. I crawl out of the tent to speak to her and find that Marissa is standing outside, too. She has

changed out of her ranger uniform and looks more comfortable that I feel in a t-shirt and shorts.

— Continued Next Issue

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local gossip, news & business listings

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **Psychic Fair** on **Saturday, March 31st**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Thompson Temple** across from the **Lake Pleasant** post office. For more information, visit the **TNSA** website, www.thenationalspiritualalliance.org

Celebrating Dr. Seuss and The Little Yellow Trolley at the Sheffield branch of MES



Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss!

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS - A hardy band of roughly 60 (some in pajamas) youngsters, with moms or dads in tow, turned out on Tuesday evening at the Montague Elementary School to hear one of five different choices of Dr. Seuss stories read by

members of the administrative team of the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD). Martin Espinola read *The Cat in the Hat*; principal Donelan read *If I Ran the Circus*; superintendent Nadine Ekstrom read *O The Places You'll Go*; vice principal Travis

Yagodzinski read *The Sneetches* and Kathleen Adams, Gill Elementary principal, read *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Every reader enjoyed a good listening audience, while the audiences certainly enjoyed the stories read to them. One young lady at the reading of Seuss's book *The Sneetches* commented on the importance of rhyme for Dr. Seuss, while another commented on the lesson the story taught about acceptance of those different from oneself. Every child received a packet of activities and poetry to do after the stories were over. Each child was to put his or her name on the activity sheet and turn it back in as a raffle ticket in order to participate in winning a raffle prize at the end of the evening.

Next the children and parents moved to the auditorium to hear an original story written by local author Marie Bartlett entitled *The Little Yellow Trolley*. Bartlett told her audience it took her five years to complete the writing of the story, and another year and a half to draw all the illustrations for it. Bartlett works at the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum where in fact the original little yellow trolley — now restored — makes its home.

Her story traces the trolley's life first as a useful and important part of Franklin County public transportation. By emphasizing the different sounds made by different parts or people running the trolley, Bartlett keeps the story interesting to the very young listener as well as those older children able to grasp the history of the trolley the story traces. Eventually the trolley falls into disuse in a field. Its sounds change accordingly. Finally a project to restore the trolley brings it back to life in the Museum.

As if reading her wonderful story to the assembled children were not wonderful enough, Bartlett made a gift of a copy of her book to each family in attendance. But that was not the end of the evening!

Next was the raffle drawing and the two winners were Nirvaya Stone and Austin Dietz. Each won three passes to the Greenfield Garden Cinema.

But even that was not the end of the evening! There was still a birthday cake and cold drinks for everyone to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday!

After that, it was the end of a wonderful evening at the Montague Elementary School, and so, time to go home to bed.

TOWN OF ERVING
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for bituminous concrete pavement resurfacing will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving's Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, 01344 until April 19th at 4:00 PM. Bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:45 PM on April 23rd at Town Hall. Bid documents are available by calling 413-423-3500.

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Wage rates are subject to the minimum wage rate per MGL Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27F, inclusive. Price adjustment on asphalt per Mass DoT Document #00811 applies. The Selectmen reserve the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids if deemed to be in their best interest.

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EVERY TUESDAY
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip and Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPree* hosting. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW until March 31st
Gallery A3, Amherst Cinema Bldg.: *Seeing Into Metal*, photography by Wendell's *Gloria Kegeles*. Shooting with a vintage Nikon camera, she combines skill, instinct and humor with her in-camera compositions.

MARCH
Elmer's Store, Ashfield: *The Eye, The Lens, The Hand*: B&W views from Wendell photographer Morgan Hoyle-Combs.

NOW through APRIL
Leverett Library: *Photographs from the East Leverett Trails*. The Leverett Trails Committee sponsored an East

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Leverett Trails Photo Contest, and the photographs are on display in the Community Room.

Wendell Free Library: fabric arts exhibition, *Painting with Thread*, by Helen V. Purple of Petersham.

NOW through MARCH 28th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *East to West-Stories, Games, and Festival*, an exhibit in the Great Hall. Art, history, and literature con-



The movie *Donna and Alia Go Scrapping*, features an all Wendell cast. Showtimes are 7 and 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 25th at the Wendell Free Library.

verge in this exhibit of Chinese-inspired student art. As part of our valley-wide BIG READ of the *Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan.

APRIL 1st - APRIL 29th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by David Flood* in the Great Hall. Open Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

APRIL 5th through MAY 12th
Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Fervor from the Truth: Spiritually Obsessive Works* by Edite Cunha, Gina Vernava and Others.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kelianna*, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 24th 8:30 p.m.
Shelburne Falls: Pothole pictures presents, *Fiddler on the Roof Sing-a-long*, 1971, G. Friday's music at 7 p.m. by *Whistlestop*. Saturday's music at 8 p.m. by *The Wholesale Klezmer Band*.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Birds of Prey*, Come listen to stories about birds of prey. Ages 3-6. 10:30 a.m.

Episcopal Church, Greenfield: St. James Coffeehouse featuring *The Annual All Coop-ed Up Concert, A Sneak Preview of This Summer's Line-Up*. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Heather Maloney*, 8 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jen Kearney*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *TJ & The Peepers*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Atom Planet & Medicine Warriors*, folk, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Investigation Station: native species underneath a microscope!* Between 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Montague Congregational Church: *71st Annual Sugar on Snow Supper*, family-style, all you can eat, cornbeef hash, harvest beets, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade donuts, dill pickles, bread, Ripley Farms Sugar on Snow, 5:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Tiny Radars Bookmill Residency Series #04, featuring Trials & Tribulations and 23 Quartet*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Now & Then*, Acoustic Rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zombie Nurse 1st Zombiversary Party & Show*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25th
Montague Grange: *Vintage & Antiques Market*, quality vintage and antiques vendors bring their wares to the Grange, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Filmed on location in Wendell, Montague, Greenfield, & South Deerfield, and with an all Wendell cast, *Donna and Alia Go Scrapping* (36 minutes) features original music and eye-popping choreography! Shows at 7 & 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mad Men Season Premier Party*, and pre- and post-show Karaoke & DJ'ing from TNT Karaoke Productions, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, an Irish Session, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*, 7-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's open mic*, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27th
Senior Center, Turners Falls: *A Celebration of Song*, singers *Moonlight & Morning Star* will be joined by their son, pianist *Miro Sprague*, 1 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28th
Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Occupy Cinema!* An hour of stimulating short films about the Occupy Movement - all made by activist-participants and curated by the collective Occupy Cinema. This free screening will be followed by a chance for discussion with members of Occupy Franklin County. 7 - 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larry Klein Trio*, jazz, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30th and SATURDAY, MARCH 31st
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *The Fifth Annual Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival*. Showtimes at 7:30 p.m.. Saturday matinee at 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30th
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Lonesome Brothers*, with special guest *Jeremy Schriber*, 7:30 p.m.

The Pushkin, Greenfield: *Cuddle Magic with The Milkman's Union*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hobson's Razor*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31st
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Chenda Cope*, 12 p.m.

Leverett Library: *What's So Cool about a Vernal Pool?* A hand's on program for families and beginning naturalists with Dawn Marvin Ward. 1-3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Heather Maloney*, with special guest *Jessica Smucker*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White & Friends*, 9 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater
POT HOLE PICTURES

Friday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 24th at 8:30 p.m.

Fiddler on the Roof Sing-a-long, Directed by Norman Jewison, 1971, Color, PG. 181 min.

Music 1/2 hour before movie:
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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Shoes*, funk, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 p.m.

Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College: *GCC Chorus*, Music by Women Composers, 7:30 p.m.

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Gardner Returns

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE - Home from Mexico, in bed by 4 a.m., and up again by 9; my first thought? It is almost time to plant the tomatoes!

March 12th

Three weeks later the tomatoes measure an inch and a half

in their cells. I have planted these small seeds in a miniature green house of one inch cells elevated over water and capped with a clear plastic lid to hold in moisture and warmth. These two green houses, one with tomatoes, one with sweet peppers sit on a warming mat on the sun-room table. The warming mat helps to keep the soil temperature comfy and to encourage germination. This has done its job and the seedlings are now, two to a cell, about an inch and a half tall, almost brushing their plastic lid.

These seeds were started in a light medium designed to

decrease damping off and to encourage root development. Already it is time to transplant these tiny seedlings into small three inch pots and to give them a heartier soil for root support, as well as some additional nutrition. This transition will be accomplished slowly as it is time consuming, yet very satisfying: I lift each small plant into its own growing space, tucking it into the soil around it. Once the true leaves appear, they will be watered lightly with a very mild solution of seaweed and water. In a few more weeks, I will once more transplant the plants into four and five inch pots. These

will remain inside until a few weeks before late May planting time when they will be gradually hardened up through visits to the outside world.

This summer we look forward first to the Sungold cherries, next to Early Girl, to the midseason Celebrity and Golden Girl and lastly to the large heirlooms, Rose, Pineapple and Brandywine.

A few days after our return, I have an appointment for a much needed trim of my hair. My hairdresser asks me what I will remember most about Mexico. I tell her that there were so many days, people and places that stay in my mind. But she has also prompted me to deeper thought.

At last I say that I heartily miss being around people who, whatever their lot, greet each day positively and with joy. I

realize that I am finding my New England comrades to be a dour and somber lot. I miss the music and the joy of the daily celebration of life. I suppose that our Puritan upbringing hangs latent and heavily in our souls, and, neither nature nor the weather are to be trusted. But I long for the company of people who, even though they have little, greet and end each day with a song. So, despite the comments which heralded our trip of choice as a poor and dangerous one, I recommend a little south of the border travel as therapy for all of us. For the two of us, it was a dose of medicine which brought a new perspective to living and a reminder, that since life is indeed shorter than we might wish, to live each day of it with open hearts and a song of gratitude.

The Road Less Traveled

Negro League Baseball comes to Western Massachusetts

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN ANDERSEN

Montague - A deep and wide-ranging core runs through the center of American history. It's called 'race.' Even the name 'America,' when the letters are re-arranged, underscores this relentlessly unfortunate, forever inescapable theme: 'I am race.'

Kadir Nelson, an award-winning illustrator of children's books honoring the human rights struggle of people of color, celebrates the story of the Negro National Baseball League in 33 oil paintings and 13 sketches currently on exhibit at the Eric Carle Museum in Amherst. The story begins in 1920, when Rube Foster founded the league, reaches its apex with heroes such as Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige leading their teams in the 1942 Negro World Series, and ends with Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier to major league baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Almost all the paintings are based on historical photographs, but like Norman Rockwell, whom Nelson cites as an important influence, Nelson uses reali-

ty to create myth. He does this by taking viewers right down onto the field and sometimes even inside the action itself. When you step away from watching Jackie Robinson sliding into home as a Kansas City Monarch, you feel like checking your clothes for any dust he might have kicked up from the field.

"Rube and the Giants" leaves you with a different feeling: awe at the courage, dignity, pride, and overwhelming sense of humanity quietly expressed by a team of well-dressed players as they exit a segregated railroad car in the land of Jim Crow. Who knows how much farther they will have to travel for a restaurant that will serve them and a hotel that will put them up for the night.

Athleticism is combined with dignity in the team paintings and portraits of individual players. Because the paintings are so large, you can see what the photographs often conceal: not all the players were African American. There were Native-American as well as Latino players, and the Negro League also

fielded women such as Toni Stone and Peanut Johnson.

Here are some other facts that may not be readily familiar even to baseball aficionados: batting helmets, shin guards, and night-time baseball all got their starts in the Negro Baseball League. So did the hit-and-run style of game that didn't appear in the major leagues until it was brought there by the players who had been poached by teams such as the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants.

How, you might wonder, did the black teams stack up against the white teams of the time? They beat them seven out of every ten times they played in off-season exhibitions. The major-league front offices were so embarrassed they wouldn't allow their players to wear the uniforms of the teams for which they played.

"We are the Ship" is the title of the museum's exhibit, but that's only half the sentence from which the quotation appears. The second half reads, "all Else the Sea," and that sea, as we know, was treacherous. It took sailor-heroes with names like "Buck," "Bullet," and "Cool Papa" to navigate the waters of hatred, segregation, and death by hanging, in pursuit of their career.

Kadir Nelson tells us, "Overall, I hope that I have done



We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Original Paintings by Kadir Nelson

Negro League's most famous player: Jackie Robinson. "Testing the Ice," written by Sharon Robinson, tells the story of a childhood event that took place one day on the family estate in Connecticut and reveals the kind of hero the dad was to the daughter.

justice to these somewhat forgotten men and given them the tribute they deserve. I don't wish to deify them but rather honor them, portray them as the heroes they were and further solidify their place in history." His success is resounding.

Extra innings. In an adjoining room Nelson's art brings us inside the private life of the

These two stories — the league and the child — combine to make the universal personal and the personal universal.

Kadir Nelson and Sharon Robinson, along with Jackie Robinson biographer and NPR broadcaster Scott Simon, will be on deck at the Eric Carle Museum this April 1st at 1 p.m. Go. Be a part of the action.

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