



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 31

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 16, 2013

TOWN ELECTIONS, MONDAY MAY 20

MONTAGUE 7 AM TO 7 PM

GILL NOON TO 8 PM

Leverett School Committee Opening(s) Uncertain

By DAVID DETMOLD

With at least one, and possibly two, openings on the school committee remaining unfilled after annual town meeting, the selectboard moved to set up a joint meeting on May 28 to appoint an interim candidate, or two, to the school committee.

The question of whether there are one or two openings to be filled arose as a result of the election to the committee on April 27 of Sheila Hunter, a former principal of the Leverett Elementary School, who is currently principal of another Union 28 elementary school, Swift River School in New Salem.

Reached by phone this week, Hunter said she believes she is ineligible to serve on the school committee until her retirement from Swift River becomes effective in mid-July, because, as she put it, “I am an employee of Union 28. The school committee is the superintendent’s boss. The superintendent is my boss. I can’t be her boss.”

On Tuesday, town clerk Lisa Stratford told the selectboard she had had several conversations with state election officials in Boston who were unwilling to advise her that Hunter’s election to the school committee was contrary to state law; they re-

ferred her instead to the state ethics commission, which will not comment about how to resolve the potential conflict of interest, Stratford said, except to Hunter herself.

Hunter said she intended to attend school committee meetings, informally, until her retirement in July, at which time, she said, she would be willing to serve on the school committee if appointed.

She said, “It is my understanding there is a member of the school board who was leaving the school board who is willing to fill the seat until that time.”

Aaron Somoza and Dawn Sacks are the two school committee members who declined to stand for reelection in April.

Meanwhile, selectboard member Peter d’Errico said, “We’re at a crucial stage in the contract talks [with Leverett Elementary staff]. We need a functioning committee to make decisions.”

He noted that one of the current school committee members, Sarah Dolven, is married to an LES teacher, making her ineligible to vote on teacher contracts.

Without Dolven as a voting participant, the committee may now lack a quorum to finalize the contract, and

see SCHOOL page 9

TFHS Choir Wins Second Place in National Competition



Turners Falls High School Concert Choir performed at the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 9 in the school auditorium.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

When Michael Bradley, musical director for the Gill-Montague regional school district, came to the school committee last year seeking approval for a trip to the World Strides Heritage Performance program in Williamsburg, Virginia, it was easy for them to say yes. Members thanked him for his enthusiasm and were excited to have a musi-

cal director with his energy and creative ideas. He said he thought it would be good for his students to see what else was out there, to hear other choirs, and meet music students from all around the country.

Bradley said when he went to the choir competition this April in Williamsburg, he had no illusions that his choir, built of students he’d only met this year, would win. As

he told it last week, standing on the stage with the Turners Falls High School Concert Choir behind him, when they were put in a category with schools ten times the size of TFHS, he was worried.

But he is always enthusiastic about his students’ abilities and encourages them to do their best. Their best won them Second Place in their category! As he stood holding the plaque, with the choir

behind him preparing to sing, he was glowing in his praise of their hard work and accomplishment.

When Bradley started to plan the trip last fall, he had ten students signed up for choir but as the word got out students kept signing up and by the time they left in April there were 19 students on that bus. At the Spring Con-

see CHOIR page 6

Collis and Elizabeth Adams Recognized at Erving Annual Town Meeting



By KATIE NOLAN

The 2012 Erving annual town report, presented at the May 8 annual town meeting, was dedicated to Collis and Elizabeth Adams, in recognition of their 55 years of service to the town.

Collis Adams was town treasurer from 1958 to 1984, was town clerk in 1967, and has been on the Council on Aging from 1998 to 2012.

According to the town report dedication, “He is still currently active in the Er-

ving Senior Center and plays a mean game of pool.”

Elizabeth Adams was the first woman elected to a selectboard in Franklin County in 1970. She served on the selectboard until 1975 and was instrumental in helping with the planning and building of the wastewater treatment plants, the Erving Elementary School (EES), the Erving Center and Ervingside fire stations, and the renovation of the Erving Town Hall.

She served on the regional school district planning com-

mittee from 1967 to 1968, the future planning committee in 1969, the EES building committee, was precinct one part custodian from 1971 to 1974, was on the arts lottery council from 1985 to 1991, and the Erving secondary study committee from 1991 to 1993.

According to the town report dedication, she is an active member of the Senior Center, and “You can always count on Liz to be the first one to smile and say ‘hello’ when you walk through the door.”

Inside the Ancient Walls of Morocco

By ALICE URBAN

RABAT, MOROCCO – The city of Ait-Ben-Haddou rises from a riverbed oasis along the former caravan route linking Marrakech, Morocco, and ancient Sudan across the Sahara. Earthen dwellings, seemingly stacked one atop the other, climb five or six layers up the hillside. Flattening out at the top, a single structure caps the city. From there, southern Morocco’s craggy Atlas Mountains are visible in the distance.

Constructed sometime in the 17th century, Ait-Ben-Haddou exemplifies distinct pre-Saharan architecture – celebrated for its imposing *kasbahs*, fortified dwellings where Morocco’s leaders once lived. Often in-

habited by wealthy families and constructed in strategic locations, more than 1,000 of these palace-fortresses line the route from Marrakech, once one of North Africa’s busiest trade hubs, toward the desert to the east.

When traveling in North Africa, and specifically in Morocco, visitors are likely to pick up at least three new vocabulary words – *kasbah*, *medina* and *mellah* – three distinct areas found in most Moroccan cities.

While Ait-Ben-Haddou’s *kasbahs* makes up most of the small city, other *kasbahs* have been absorbed into larger cities such as Fes or Rabat. In many cities, a fortified *kasbah* abuts the rest of the ancient *medina* – a quarter of many North African cit-

ies akin to an old city. Walled and self-contained, maze-like roads wind their way through the district, often barely wide enough for a donkey laden with merchandise to pass.

Fes, a former imperial capital of Morocco, houses the world’s largest medieval *medina*. It is awash with sights and sounds, as hundreds of merchants and craftsmen sell their wares. Metal workers use thin hand saws to create stunning bronze light fixtures. In the honey souk, or market, vendors offer tastes of lavender, orange blossom and date honey to passersby from large barrels of the thick, golden liquid.

At the tannery, men wade waist-deep in large, earthen containers arranged like a

see MOROCCO page 6



Kasbah: The city of Ait-Ben-Haddou, Morocco, contains several kasbahs, palace-fortresses that line the former trade route across the Sahara.

Pet of the Week



Tabby

Hi, I'm Tabby! I'm a sweet, outgoing, social butterfly and I love to be the center of attention. I'll always be there right at the front door to greet you after a long day or to give a big, welcoming "Meow" to your friends when they come by to visit. I have a big personality and things that might scare other kitties off, like a big dog, don't scare me one bit! In fact, at my last home I lived with a big dog and we were good buddies and loved to play together.

If I sound like your type of cat, come and visit me here at Dakin. I'd love to come home with you!

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dvphs.org.

RECYCLE PAPER

Week of May 20th
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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Wendell Free Library

Seed-Saving Workshop

Tuesday May 21 at 7 p.m., at the Wendell Free Library.

Workshop topics will include :

- * the difference between open pollinated, heirloom, and hybrid seeds;
- * how to prevent cross pollination of plants belonging to the same genus;
- * the methods used for saving annual vegetable and herb seeds;

* how to safely store your seeds.

Gail Smith Mason and Nina Renshaw will be the featured speakers. Gail and Nina hope to start a seed saving library in conjunction with the library.

If you are interested in being part of this vision, please come to the workshop or contact Gail Smith Mason at rushingwaters56@yahoo.com.

Wendell Playground Fence

Mural Submissions Wanted

Attention All Wendell residents, grown-ups and kids! "What does Wendell mean to you?"

Get out your art supplies! The Friends of Wendell Library will be creating a mural for the big green playground fence this summer.

A landscape image is planned for most of the mural and it will include a series of smaller images along the bottom.

The Wendell Library Art Com-

mittee is asking anyone and everyone from Wendell to submit a painting or sketch that says "Wendell." Work can be on paper, in black and white or color, and no larger than 12" x 18". The Committee will transfer those chosen to the mural. Images may be changed to work with the mural.

Please submit work to the Wendell Free Library by June 5, 2013. If sent by mail: Wendell Free Library, PO Box 236, Wendell, MA 01379.

Free Creative Movement Series for Kids

Find new and creative ways to help your children express themselves!

Anna Hendricks of the Great Falls Creative Movement Studio will give a free, four-part creative movement series for children ages 2 to 5 at the Swift River Elementary School.

The series takes place Wednesday mornings, May 22 and 29 and June 5 and 12, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Call Gillian at (978) 544-5157 to register.

Swift River Elementary is at 201 Wendell Road in New Salem. The series is sponsored by the U28 Community Network for Children.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. If you want to control your weight, is it better to eat three meals a day, or should you eat more, smaller meals?

There is no scientifically proven answer to this question. Until there is, I'd suggest simply reducing your total food intake for each day until your weight goes down.

[Personal note: I've struggled to keep pounds off all my life. I've learned that calories count. You take in more than you burn; you gain weight. You burn more than you eat; you lose weight. Exercise helps, but the calorie burn-off usually doesn't amount to much. The best exercise is pushing yourself away from the table.]

Eating a bunch of small meals a day instead of breakfast-lunch-dinner is part of the popular media right now, which means you should

be hearing "fad alert" in your head. Here are some of the claims:

* The body burns calories to digest. Eating six to eight meals a day enables your body to use more calories to aid digestion.

* Eating lots of meals rather than three will boost metabolism and control blood sugar.

* More meals means less stored fat in the body.

* When people consume the same number of calories in a single daily meal rather than three, they show significant increases in blood pressure, total cholesterol levels and levels of *bad* LDL cholesterol.

* Eating every three-to-four hours can ward off hunger and prevent binges that lead to weight gain.

* Eating more often helps regulate proper digestion to prevent gastrointestinal problems.

* Eight meals a day will increase energy levels and accelerate muscle growth.

To repeat, there is no proof that eating more frequently does any of the above.

My own conclusion about weight control was confirmed in an editorial that appeared in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. A team of nutrition researchers con-



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Cathe Janke, now back in town, beat most everyone to the punch by being one of the first to visit Myanmar (Burma) after its reopening to the outside world. See pg. 7.

Free Parenting Workshop – Managing Transitions

The Union 28 Community Network for Children presents a free workshop for parents and caregivers of young children, "Managing the Transitions in Everyday Life with Simplicity Parenting," on Tuesday, May 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School.

Katherine Golub of Greenfield Family Wellness will discuss the large and small transitions in life, and how Simplicity Parenting can

help you and your children move gracefully through these transitions, reduce stress, and re-connect as a family.

Free childcare and dinner with registration. Call Gillian at (978) 544-5157 to register. Erving Elementary is located at 28 Northfield Road (Route 63).

For more information, visit: sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Diet and Weight Control

cluded that weight loss comes down to "how much energy (or calories) is consumed as opposed to how often or how regularly one eats."

However, there was a recent study that indicated we may be better off eating only three meals a day. The study was done on mice, so the findings have to be confirmed by tests on humans.

Satchidananda Panda, a regulatory biologist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, led the study published by the journal *Cell Metabolism*.

Panda and his team put groups of mice on different eating regimens for 100 days. Mice in two of the groups ate high-fat, high-calorie food. Half of them were allowed to snack throughout the night and day. The other mice had access to food only for eight hours at night, when they were most active.

The mice that ate only for eight hours were almost as lean as mice in a control group that ate regular food. But the mice that ate around the clock became obese, even though they consumed the same amount of fat and calories as their counterparts on the time-restricted diet.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezer.com.

BOOK SALE

May 18th & 19th
9:00 to 4:00

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Senior Center Activities - May 20th to May 24th

GILL-MONTAGUE

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

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 5/20

Senior Center Closed
Town Elections

Tuesday: 5/21

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga with Jean Erlbaum

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday: 5/22

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 5/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday: 5/24

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

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

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

Monday 5/20

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday 5/21

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Steve Damon - Name That Tune

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 5/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Posture Perfect

12 p.m. Cards

Friday 5/24

9 a.m. Bowling

9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

Food For Change, a documentary film by local filmmaker Steve Alves about food cooperatives in America will be shown on three subsequent Fridays in May at 5:30 p.m. in the second-floor community room at Green Fields Market. The dates for the 90-minute screenings of this work-in-progress are May 17, May 24, May 31.

Montague Congregational Church will hold a **plant and bake sale** on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 4 North Street in Montague Center. Proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project and the church steeple painting fund.

Free clothes giveaway on Saturday, May 18, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, in Greenfield. Over 1000 items of new and used clothing for men, women, and children. All ages/all sizes. Everything is free and open to the public.

It's time to get out and enjoy the Blue Trail. **Millers River Blue Trail** opening day is Saturday, May 18, from 1 to 5 p.m. The Millers River Watershed Council invites all trail enthusiasts and relaxed paddlers for a run from Athol to Orange. The group will check Blue Trail signage, pick up debris, check paddle stop locations and soak up the beauty of this homegrown water trail.

Paddlers will spot cars at Orange Riverfront Park at 12:30, shuttle to Athol and then head downstream. Bring your own boat and work gloves. Participants are requested to sign up by contacting Keith Davies, Project Outreach Coordinator at watershed@millersriver.net or 978-248-9491.

Starting Sunday, May 19, The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is **open seven days a week** between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Future summer hours will include extended Friday and Saturday hours until 8 p.m. For events, programming, directions or general questions visit www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org or call 413-863-3221.

Come down to the Rendezvous in Turners Falls at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 19 for a reading and book signing with Linda Waidlic Cunningham. Cunningham's new novel, *Corporate Affair*, is a steamy office

romance set in idyllic Clark's Corner, Vermont.

No one is immune to passion, not even Jordan Fitzgerald, the driven young CEO of the town's largest employer. Cunningham weaves true to life small town details into her steamy story. *Corporate Affair* is the second in Cunningham's "Small Town" series. Cunningham is a Vermont resident, and the book is printed by the woman-owned-and-operated Omnific Publishing. Come down for drinks, food, and some small town romance!

On a different note, **Safe Kids** of Western Massachusetts is now offering a monthly child car seat inspection station at the Greenfield Fire Department, located at 412 Main Street in Greenfield. The next safety check will take place on Tuesday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will perform the inspections by appointment.

Parents and caregivers will be trained in the proper installation and setup of their own specific car seats in their own vehicles. The car seat safety checks are free and open to the public by appointment. Inspections usually take 20 to 30 minutes

to complete. For an appointment, please call Baystate Health Link at 413-773-2454.

The Shea Theater is proud to present a very special 'Movies in the Park' screening of *Field of Dreams* to benefit the Boston One Fund for victims of the Boston Marathon attacks. The screening will take place in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday May 23. The film will end at 10 p.m. The park will be open for seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. The rain location for the screening will be The Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Admission is free and open to everyone, with a suggested donation of \$5 per adult. Everything collected will go directly to the Boston One Fund to benefit the victims and families of those most impacted by the recent tragedy.

Letter carriers from the Turners Falls Post Office collected more than **2,600 lbs of non-perishable food items** in this years food drive held on May 11, which were then brought to the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry.

Send local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Attention Lapsed Loyal *Montague Reporter* Subscribers: If your subscription to your paper has expired, please renew. Rates are \$25 for walking routes, \$30 for driving routes, \$50 for mail subscriptions. Send checks to us at 58 Fourth Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. If you have any questions please call us at 863-8666.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Tree Poisoning Investigated

Friday, 5/3

8:15 a.m. Suspicious person and motor vehicle in area of elementary school. Subject identified and moved.
5:25 p.m. Court process issued to resident on Pine Street.

Saturday, 5/4

9:45 p.m. Domestic issue with 2 males and 2 females on Oak Street. Quietened same.
Sunday, 5/5
8:30 a.m. Motor vehicle reported operating erratically on Route 2.

Monday, 5/6

9:10 a.m. Assisted resident with firearms issue on Center Road.

Tuesday, 5/7

7 a.m. Cow reported in roadway on Main

Road.

4:10 p.m. Road sign reported knocked down at Main Road and Lyons Hill.

5:05 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with missing child.

Wednesday, 5/8

3:20 p.m. Past motor vehicle accident reported at Mobil station.
6:30 p.m. Unstable person reported on West Gill Road. Resident located.

Thursday, 5/9

1 p.m. Resident assisted with ID issue for overseas travel.

7:05 p.m. Intoxicated subject with a gun reported on Mount Hermon Station Road. Subject not located.

Friday, 5/10

9:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with Section 12.

9:55 a.m. Complaint of resident operating under the influence at Stoughton Place.

5:15 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint on Main Road. Operator given verbal warning.

7:35 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with arrest of subject.

9:45 p.m. Barking dog complaint on River Road. Investigated.

Sunday, 5/12

9:50 a.m. Resident reported his neighbor is poisoning his Christmas trees. Under investigation.

FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria black and gray in color, 145,664 miles. Needs a gas tank and rear brakes. Minimum bid \$300.00. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as "Police cruiser bid".

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:45pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Specifications are available from Police Chief Christopher Blair at 413-423-3310 X2. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 1999 FL 80 truck. 8.3 Cummins engine, 9 speed trans, 70,830 miles, plow and stainless sander. Minimum bid \$10,000. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as "highway truck bid".

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:50pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Can be seen at highway garage. Details at 413-423-3354. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

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Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

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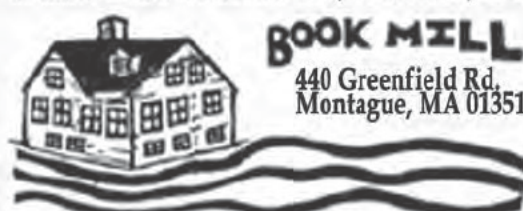
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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Rule Reform for Tax-Exempt Organizations Needed

It's easy to dislike the Internal Revenue Service which is perhaps an underlying reason for the extreme furor generated over the accusation that the IRS has been singling out "Tea Party" and "Patriot" 501(c)(4) applications for extra scrutiny. We're actually not so sure that this practice is a new one.

In 2007, *The Montague Reporter* filed a lengthy application with the IRS to become recognized as a 501(c)(3). Our application was initially turned down; we appealed, and were again rejected; we appealed again. This time we were told that we might be able to qualify as a 501(c)(4) since our main mission was to inform the public about issues in our community. We redid our application.

In November of 2008 (more than 16 months after we began the process) we were finally granted our non-profit 501(c)(4) status. Although this took up considerable time and energy, we never felt that we were victims of a political conspiracy.

To be honest, our application as a newspaper for 501(c)(3) status clearly flummoxed the IRS. They could not see how *The Reporter* could be considered a charitable organization. And though we tried mightily to stress that we were not a "pure charity," we did insist (and rightly so) that we were operating for and by the community. This is the argument that prevailed when we were granted our 501(c)(4).

According to the IRS definitions, 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are both nonprofit organizations exempt from paying federal income tax. 501(c)(3) organizations are either a public charity, private foundation or private operating foundation with open membership. 501(c)(4) organizations are civic leagues or associations operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare or education.

501(c)(3) organizations are not permitted to engage in political activity, endorse or oppose political candidates, or donate money

or time to political campaigns. On the other hand, 501(c)(4) organizations can engage in unlimited lobbying so long as it pertains to the organization's mission. Another handy advantage of being a 501(c)(4) is that you do not have to disclose your donors.

We are not arguing that the IRS should perform extra diligence on applications from Tea Party groups. Frankly, we feel that any organization that legitimately applies for this non-profit status, and jumps through the considerable hoops required by the IRS, should have their application reviewed and determined solely on the basis of the facts stated in their request.

But there is really more to the story than extra scrutiny by the IRS. What worries us is the way in which 501(c)(4)s are being used to influence public policy and elections. Indeed, since the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which gave corporations the same rights as individuals, 501(c)(4)s have played an increasingly large role in political campaigns. In the 2012 presidential race, for instance, these "non-profits" spent an estimated \$250 million. And not a single donor to these organizations needed to be identified.

This was not the original intention of the creation of 501(c)(4)s. A close look at the IRS regulations for 501(c)(4)s clearly stipulates that as a "social welfare organization" the non-profit's mission is that of education for the purpose of informing the public on issues (which is what *The Reporter* does). But the rules are vague and certainly bendable.

Perhaps the best outcome is that Congress may finally make clearer the legal tax definitions of non-profits. *Citizens United* opened the door for what seems to us clear abuse by political organizations of their coveted tax exempt status.

The answer is not for the IRS to act in a partisan fashion; the solution is for tighter controls on what 501(c)(4)s can and cannot do.

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Montague Reporter

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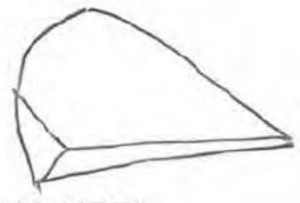
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C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editor

Levenson for School Committee

In her time on the Gill-Montague Regional School District Committee, Marge Levenson has been an independent voice for the students, for transparency, and for fiscal responsibility.

I haven't always agreed with her, but I've always known that she was speaking her mind and not pursuing

any hidden agendas.

GMRSD has made great progress during the past several years. To continue moving forward it will need school committee members who are committed to working with the teachers, the towns, and the state to make it the best district it can be, while being aware of the fiscal re-

alities within which it operates.

I believe Marge Levenson understands the issues and is ready for that challenge. Please join me in voting for her for GMRSD school committee on May 20.

— Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

This is a letter of enthusiastic support of Marge Levenson for re-election to the Gill-Montague Regional School District school committee. Having known Marge and witnessed her in action during the last year, I am excited about the prospect of her continued membership on the committee.

Marge carries with her an impressive array of talent and experience. She is the owner of a successful business, possessor of a sharp intellect, a strong critical thinker, assertive debater, and one who never shies away from difficult issues. What you see in Marge is what you

get – direct and forthright.

Her full attention as a board member is directed to the educational improvement of all students. She is on top of all issues, collaborative in nature, and aggressive in her role as a fully engaged member of the committee. In fact, her role as a major contributor in the development of the governance portion of the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) for the district has been highly lauded. Also, her unflinching drive for fiscal sustainability is absolutely necessary for the successful development and management of district school programs efforts.

Marge Levenson: Vote For Her

This letter is written in support of the Gill-Montague School Committee candidacy of Marge Levenson. I have known and frequently spoken with Marge throughout her current term on the Committee and have admired her courage and forthrightness, her striving for openness and transparency in the conduct of the

Committee's business, the diversity and thoughtfulness of her views, and her obvious first focus on the wellbeing of our students above all other considerations.

Beyond that, she is a Committee member who goes to meetings having read the materials and fully prepared, and she is one of the lead-

ing proponents of fiscal sustainability from the perspective of both the District and the Towns.

These attributes in my view are important and needed. I encourage your readers to vote for her in the Town elections on May 20.

— Tupper Brown
Gill

Leverett Library's 10th Anniversary "A-B-C" Auction

You can bid on these items silently at the library from Tuesday, May 14 through Thursday, May 30 at 5 p.m.

Final bids will be taken at a called auction for adults on Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the library.

Refreshments will be served! Proxy bid forms will be available for those who cannot attend the June 1 event.

A Airplane Ride
A Afghan (handmade)
B British Royal Magazines
C Christmas Celebration on Nantucket
C Chili Dinner for 4

D Dean's Beans Basket
E Ellie's Massage
F Framed Photos by 2 Leverett photographers
G Great Italian Meal for 4 (can be gluten-free if desired)
H Hand-woven Scarf
I Island Vacation (Peak's Island, Maine)
J Japanese Original Art Work
K Kielbasa & Pierogis
L Leverett Friends of the Library Basket
L Legos Set
M Mirror (Chippendale style)
N New Hampshire Vacation
O Outstanding Kringle Candles
P Paintings by 2 Leverett artists

Q Quilt (handmade)
R Red Sox Commemorative Ring
S Susie's Cookbooks & Cupcake Pan
T Twisted Hand-Knit Scarves (set of 3)
U Unique Time-Share Vacation
V Velvet Elvis! LOANED by Library for one year
W Wildlife Duck & Deer Prints
X Xciting chance to have your name as a character in an Archer Mayor book
Y Yarn of your choice for sweater to be handknit
Z Zen Painting

Local Bank to Help Build Vast Biometric Database

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday morning, May 18, Lt. Susan Corey of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office will conduct an iris scan clinic at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch on Avenue A. Adults and children ages 5 and over are invited to volunteer to have their eyeballs photographed, for entry in a nationwide registry.

Grown-ups' scans will be stored in a database in Phoenix, AZ used by the National Center for Missing Adults – Lt. Corey explains that participation can be useful for "people with a tendency to roam" – and

children's with the Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project.

The CHILD Project, LLC and Senior Safety Net, LLC are both wholly owned subsidiaries of BI² Technologies, a private corporation based in Plymouth, MA that specializes in "biometric identity management solutions." In addition to these two initiatives, BI² is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on its Next Generation Identification (NGI) biometric repository program.

The images will be stored with names, addresses, emergency contact information, and other identi-

fying data. For reasons of informed consent, children's records will be stored until they turn 18, at which point they will be deleted, according to Lt. Corey. Iris scans have been used to make positive identifications of abducted children.

Many of us were once fingerprinted on school field trips or in the Cub Scouts or Brownies, or for getting in trouble, but compared to iris recognition, fingerprints are a crude biometric tool. The government of India has undertaken an initiative to scan the irises of its 1.2 billion inhabitants, in order to issue each such catalogued person an unique

see IRIS SCAN page 5

On the Inside, Looking Out – Part 2

The worst day of my life came when I overdosed shooting cocaine. It was January 23, 2013. I will never forget that horrific day as long as I live. It was my mother's birthday. I went into her bathroom to do some cocaine, just the normal amount that I would normally do. Suddenly everything turned black. I was blind. I was deaf. My heart began to pound through my chest, my knees got weak. I was overdosing. I screamed for my mom. I truly thought that day would be the end of my life. But I wasn't scared to die because it seemed to be the only way out of the hell I had been living in. I didn't want to do it anymore. I felt my heart was going to explode. I struggled for breath as everyone stood around me. I was crying and I just kept yelling, "Mom, I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! It's your birthday, I'M SORRY!"

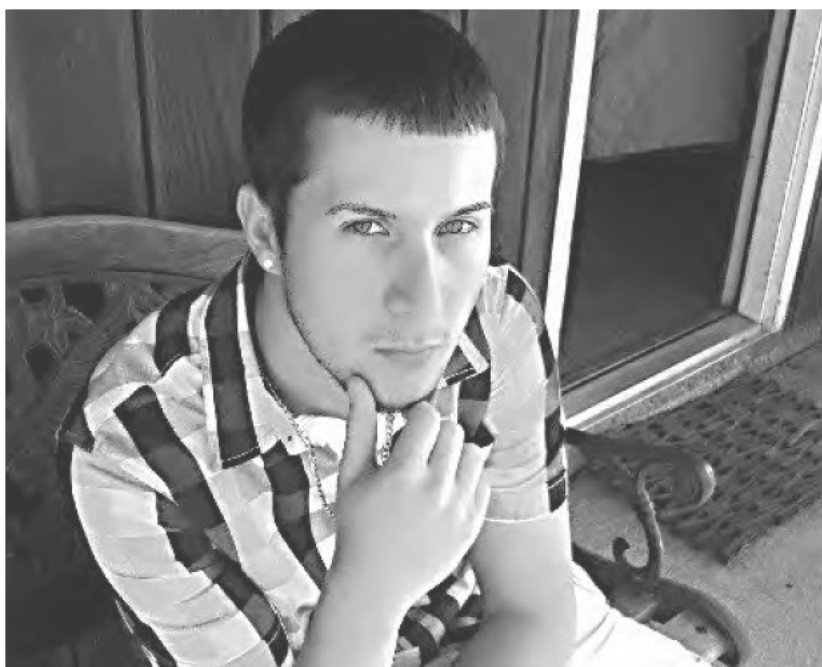
I know I am very lucky to be alive here today to tell you about it. You would think an experience like that would be enough to stop someone from using drugs. It was not. I began shooting cocaine again that very same night. I'm telling these stories because I want to give you a true sense of just how powerful these drugs are. When you hear stories about people stealing from their parents and loved ones, believe them. They are absolutely true.

My story became very public

when I was caught attempting to break into a store. I felt terrible. I admitted to it; I was charged; and that was ok with me. Police quickly began to try to tie my name to every single crime that was happening. My apprehension was made very public in the press. My picture was printed next to awful articles in *The Reporter* that implied I was responsible for crimes about which I had absolutely no clue. My name was quickly being destroyed in the public eye. Other people that were being convicted for crimes didn't get a front page spread in the newspaper with a picture and a long article. I did, not once but three times. It truly hurt. Please try to picture yourself in my shoes.

After the publication of these articles with my picture accompanying them, I instantly began to feel the wrath from the Turners Falls locals. People I had never met were hating me. I was being made out to be some type of hardened criminal, when people who know me, know I am everything but that guy. I'm the complete opposite. I just struggled with a drug addiction. I'm not sure I will ever be able to live a happy life here in Turners Falls. Nor, it seems, will I be able to get any type of job here, or even live with out harassment.

I was put in jail on February 22, 2013. I was picked up on a warrant



Author Lance Rice

for missing a court date and even that was printed in the newspaper with my picture and a rather large article. I remained in jail for 60 days. I have been clean and sober for over 80 days and I'm loving it. I truly believe this time that I have this thing beat. I'm kept very busy with probation. I attend five Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week. I am subjected to random drug screening seven days a week. I will soon be moving to New Bedford, MA. I've been accepted into a rehabilitation program that treats addicts who are facing jail time due to crimes related to their

drug addictions. I am nervous, but today I have a positive attitude. And things are getting better one day at a time.

To all the people out there who are reading, I want to end with this note: Addiction is a disease. We are people just as you, who need help. We are suffering and no one can do this alone. So I ask, before you jump to a conclusion, remember this could happen to you, or your child, and be grateful that it has not. It is no life for any human being. I got a second chance at life, unlike many loved ones of mine who never made it.

To those of you who are out there struggling: If I can do this, any one can!

IRIS SCAN from page 4

identification number. After four years they have completed 327 million. The city of Leon, Mexico is working on a similar program, in order to secure its public spaces with iris-scanning checkpoints, including cameras that can scan a crowd and identify its individual members.

In a world in which it will become increasingly difficult for organizations to quickly determine who should and should not gain access to safe spaces, iris recognition technology offers an elegant and accurate solution. The human iris has over 200 uniquely recognizable points, making it an information-rich body part for pattern-recognizing software.

For the time being, the most pragmatic avenue for the rollout of this helpful tool is in identifying people who are less able to positively identify themselves. The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association has provided equipment to all the sheriff's departments in the state, and as a public service they periodically offer clinics like Saturday's.

The clinic is offered as a free service and will take place from 10 a.m. to noon. Come on down!



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It's Never Too Late!

If you or someone you know is ready to quit using any substance, there is help. Walk in any time to the *RECOVER Project* at 68 Federal Street in Greenfield, a peer-facilitated recovery community, to hook up with a range of resources, or call them at (413) 774-5489. They seek to support all paths of recovery, and recognize that many of us are dealing with trauma in our lives beyond drug and alcohol abuse. They can also provide bus passes to Greenfield.

Here are some other specific services close by:

PREGNANT WOMEN seeking substance abuse treatment have priority access in this state. Call the *Institute for Health and Recovery* at (617) 661-3991 and ask

for Frances Kennedy.

YOUTH under 21 in any bad situation can always call the *DIAL/SELF TeenLine* at (413) 774-754 x 102. Someone there can talk to you and help connect you with further options.

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The Town of Erving is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Animal Control Officer (ACO). Reports to Erving's Police Chief. ACO is responsible for responding to calls, and fulfilling administrative duties. Anticipated appointment is July 2013. Submit resume and cover letter to Board of Selectmen, 12 E. Main St. Erving, MA, 01344 by 3:00PM on June 12, 2013. AA/EOE.

Andrew N. Goodwin
Select Board Chairman

Fire Chief

The Town of Erving is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Fire Chief. Reports directly to the Select Board. The position is responsible for staffing, responding to calls, and fulfilling administrative duties. The successful candidate must reside in Erving, or be willing to relocate within six months to Erving. Anticipated appointment is July 2013. Submit resume and cover letter to Board of Selectmen, 12 E. Main St. Erving, MA, 01344 by 1:00PM on June 10, 2013. AA/EOE.

Erving Board of Selectmen
Andrew N. Goodwin, Chairman

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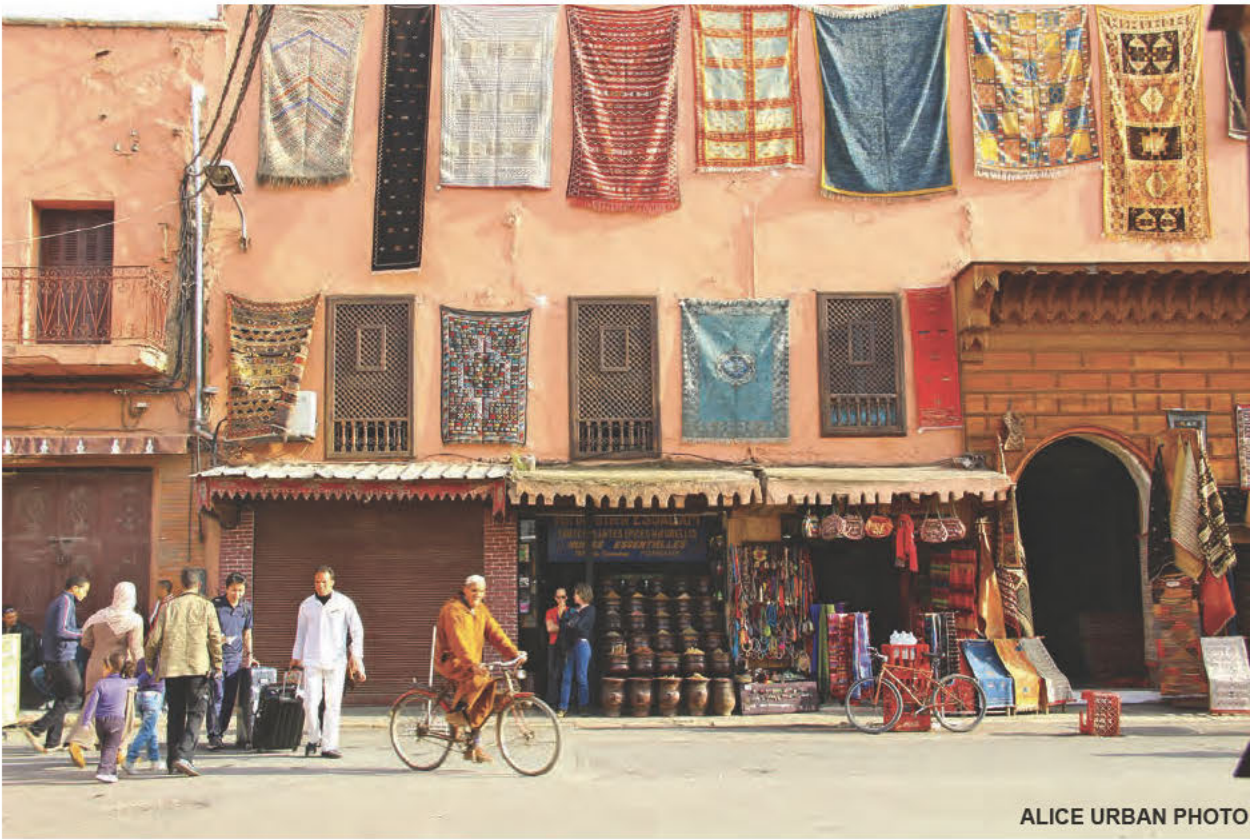
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ALICE URBAN PHOTO

The street bustles in Marrakech, Morocco's mellah district. Moroccan Jews historically lived in mellahs, walled neighborhoods that were once home to more than 225,000 Jews. Only about 3,500 remain in the country today.

MOROCCO from page 1

Connect Four grid and filled with colorful dies. For more than nine centuries, leatherworkers have treated cow, goat, sheep and camel hides to make bags, clothes, slippers and shoes. After being treated, hides are laid out on the

rooftops above the tanneries.

The medinas of other cities are smaller, yet still bustle with mothers ushering their children to school, vegetable hawkers, panhandlers and water sellers clanking their cups together. Men with large hand carts piled high with Moroccan bread yell *balek*,

balek— look out, look out!

Often outside of the medina proper lies the *mellah*, the Jewish quartier found in most Moroccan cities. Meaning salt in Arabic, the *mellah* housed, often by force, Jews expelled first from Jerusalem and later from Spain and Portugal. By 1930, there

were more than 225,000 Jews living in Morocco, many merchants, and constituting the largest Jewish population in North Africa.

Now, as few as 3,500 Jews live in Morocco, and the *mellahs* are inhabited by Muslim Moroccans as well. The architecture remains unique — with distinctive iron balconies on street-side walls, in contrast to the interior courtyards of the medina's homes.

Aware of its cultural and architectural heritage, Morocco has made significant efforts to maintain many of its *kasbahs*, *medinas* and *mellahs*. With nearly \$112 million in assistance from the U.S. government, reconstruction of historic sites within the Fes *medina* is reaching completion.

In addition, nine locations in Morocco have been named UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Ait-Ben-Haddou, several historic cities — as well as their *medinas* and *mellahs* — and the medinas of Tétouan, Ess-aouira, Marrakech and Fes.

Still, other sites face the harsh passage of time. Along the "Road of 1,000 Kasbahs" near Ait-Ben-Haddou, ancient roadside *kasbahs* are left to the elements. The imposing earth structures crumble slowly as strong Sahara winds blow in from the east.

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Registration for this program is still open. Come to the Brick House at 24 Third Street from 2:30 to 4 on Thursdays to meet with coordinator Nancy Bair, or contact her by email at nancycbair@gmail.com, or by phone at (413) 549-3702.

Online sign up is also available at www.brickhousecommunity.org.

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CHOIR from page 1

cert held at the Turners Falls High School theater on Thursday evening, May 9, they performed before an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. The choir sang three pieces, "Pie Jesu" arrangement by Greg Gilpin, "The River Sleeps Beneath The Sky Preview" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, and "Afternoon On A Hill" arrangement by Mary Lynn Lightfoot.

These were beautiful, gentle

songs and the students sang with simple, clear voices in lovely harmonies, with perfect timing and enunciation. They were professional in every way, disciplined, and elegant.

Students in the TFHS Concert Choir are: sopranos Brooke Martineau, Samantha Estabrook, Kayla Drumgool, Hannah Jackson, Rachel Savinski, and Jessica Fuller; altos Erin Simmons, Beth Laramie, Natalie Torres, Autumn Patterson, Joana Browning, Laren Grimard, and Cheyenne Sell; tenors Spencer Hubert, Chase Blain, and Riley Wood; and basses Ken Leng, Emmet Turn, Owen Ortiz.

Bradley told the audience that

choir members had overcome big obstacles to go on this trip. Once they arrived, he said the students were expected to learn something and "when they walked into this competition the judges loved them, said they were so well behaved, so easy to work with." He acknowledged the importance of having parents who encourage and support their children.

Bradley also honored Brooke Martineau for all the work and support she offered to him from the very beginning of his position as musical director at the high school. He said even though she was not in his classes she would stop by and ask what she could do to help. In what was called a Senior Moment she spoke to the audience about her experience at Turners Falls High School and performed a song which was much appreciated by the audience.

Martineau will be graduating this

year; she has performed in many musicals, as well as being an outstanding student.

Throughout the evening, Bradley introduced each group with stories, praise, humor and obvious affection for the students he had patiently prepared for these performances.

Earlier in the program the Great Falls Middle School Chorus performed, made up of middle school students and a few high school students who added some voices to the mix. They sang two pieces, "Jubilate Deo," which they sang sweetly with gentle harmonies, and "Sam the Man," arranged with complex rhythms and interesting patterns that required students to keep good time and remember where they were, as others around them sang other portions of the song in a round.

The Gill-Montague Upper Band performed two pieces, "December Sky" by Erik Morales and "Clouds" by Anne McGinty. It was evident

that these students have worked hard on perfecting their technique and timing and so played well together, in harmony with each other and show great promise as they progress in their musical education.

Band members played, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone and a variety of percussion instruments. Patricia Gardner, principal of Turners Falls High School, said she appreciated the progress students had made and looked forward to having a strong band next year in the tradition of the high school.

At the end of the concert, with Bradley praising and thanking everyone in his very gracious and good humored way, he pointed out the hard work of Melina Swanson who teaches music to the elementary school students. He said, "She is such a phenomenal joy to work with."



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Campaign for Affordable Farms Benefit at Rendezvous

TURNERS FALLS — Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is sponsoring a hip-hop music party at the Rendezvous Lounge on May 17th, *Fresh Beats for Red Fire Farm*. DJ D Fresh will be spinning "old school jams" from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. \$5 cover, 21 plus.

Proceeds will benefit the Campaign for Affordable Farms: Red Fire Farm project. Mount Grace is working with Red Fire Farm in Montague, to create a permanently affordable whole farm conserved for the community. Mount Grace hopes to raise \$400,000 to secure the future of the farm.

For more details see mountgrace.org.

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Postcards from Myanmar (Burma)

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Not many local residents can say, “I just got back from Burma.” But Cathe Janke can.

Long regarded as one of the most repressive nations in the world, right up there with North Korea, Eritrea and Saudi Arabia, Burma, also known as Myanmar, has been undergoing a rapid transformation from entrenched military dictatorship to military dominated democracy in the last two years, meriting a lifting of global sanctions, and visits last year from Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

But as Janke told an audience of about two dozen locals who came to hear her talk and view her slideshow at the Brick House in Turners Falls on Monday, her reasons for visiting the long-closed society over the course of a few weeks in December and January were spiritual and artis-



tic in nature, not political.

In fact, when she traveled there, to take part in a *yatra* (in this case, a tour of the Burmese holy places of Theravada Buddhism, where the technique of Vipassana meditation was preserved) she said, “I didn’t know too much about the political history. I’m glad I didn’t know.”

What emerged on the canvas of her multimedia presentation on Monday was a kaleidoscopic sketch of a country immersed in dualism, of vast mountain vistas and muddy river deltas, of golden-spired temples and dirt-poor countryside, of chanting monks and nuns, modern commercial centers, and the hovering shadow of communal warfare, no-go provinces, and a regime that still controls the levers of power affecting everyday life, social media, and the emergence of multi-party democracy.

The dualism of the East was evident even in the way Janke turned



the tables on the normal tourist pastime of creating photographic travelogues as they wander through farflung destinations. In Burma, Janke took photographs, true, but turned them into gorgeous watercolor postcards which she mailed home to friends who helped to fund her journey (through an internet fundraising site called indiegogo). And instead of wandering from tourist trap to tourist trap, she took part in a “moving meditation” ten-day bus journey to temples, monk’s caves, and holy sites, where she would sit for hours in contemplation with her colleagues.

Although outside economists regard Burma, after decades of economic sanctions, as one of the most impoverished, underdeveloped countries in the world today, Janke said the people she met there were “very strong, and giving.” She said, “They are always believing in their country, to do the best to serve their country. They told me, ‘We have so much hope in Aung San Suu Kyi and our new president and democracy.’”

She said whenever people would give her change, or gifts, they would hold out both hands, or hold the wrist of one hand as they extended the gift with the other, to symbolize, “We are both sharing this; I don’t

own it, you don’t own it.”

Aung San Suu Kyi is famous for sitting in one place. Held under house arrest after her party won an overwhelming victory in national elections in 1990 for 15 of the next 20 years, she has now emerged with the democratic opening to win a seat in parliament and receive the accolades of world leaders in person, rather than in absentia as she was when she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Suu Kyi is now criticized for being too cozy with the generals who held her captive, and silent on the persecution of the Muslim Rohingya, but she continues to advocate for the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the emerging national polity, and the end of the interethnic strife and warfare that has characterized the central government’s relations with the minority groups on the nation’s borderlands.

The images Janke brought back from Burma are rich in color and context, from the roadside fruit stands and bustling markets, to the longest teak bridge in the world, the second tallest statue of the Buddha, and the sacred Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, which is reputed to be the oldest in the world, and to hold



eight hairs of the Buddha among other relics. She has transposed many of these images into vibrant works of art, postcards from Burma, if you will, and you can see many of them on her website at cathejanke.com.

“Art connects people,” said Janke, who since her return has been studying up on the conflicts that still convulse Burma, even as the people there practice daily devotions, meditations, and prayers (89% of the Burmese people are Buddhists).

Janke had the opportunity to hear S.N. Goenka, perhaps the chief practitioner of Vipassana meditation in the world today, as she sat with others to hear his teaching in Yangon.

The main message he delivered, she said, is that the mindfulness technique of sitting in quiet meditation is universal, for anyone of any religion who would like to relieve the stress and suffering of everyday living. “Be happy,” is Goenka’s credo. A good message for the people of Burma to hear as they emerge from decades of authoritarian rule, as it is for all of us.

Midsummer Night's Dream at the Shea

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

At the Shea Theater last weekend and the next, The New Renaissance Players will perform their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. I had the pleasure of attending the performance on Sunday. Shakespeare is not easy for actors or spectators but as long as you don’t try too hard to understand every bit of late 16th century English spoken here, and watch what the actors do, there is much fun and not a little bit of wisdom hidden within the plays.

This is a comedy, which means it ends happily but the path is a long and complex one. The basic story is of romance gone wrong, with the main characters all in love with the wrong person. Hermia loves Lysander, but she is betrothed (promised) to Demetrius who is demanding that she keep her family obligation and marry him. Meanwhile, Helena loves Demetrius who does not even like her, if his behavior towards her is as it seems. There are, of course, royalty involved in this as is the case frequently in Shakespeare’s plays. They are the ones, in particular the Duke of Athens, to whom the issue of who gets to marry Hermia is brought to adjudicate, but truly, it seems the fairies have more to say about the matter. Off in the woods, these young lovers are caught in a fantasy, touched by magic potions that confuse the matter further, with

all the wrong people tricked into love with each other, requiring the fairies to do more to set things right. The confusion is further caused by a disagreement between the Fairy King and Queen whose competing spells do much to leave the young lovers lost and wandering in the woods, wondering how things could go so wrong.

With that as the basic underlying story, there is a great deal of very good acting in this production. Of note is Amanda Dettloff who plays Hermia as a young woman who is innocent but determined to stand up for what she wants in spite of her father’s wishes. Her scenes with Lysander (John Garrett) feel true and he is a very sincere and attentive lover. Christina Doe is excellent as Helena who passionately throws herself at Demetrius (Bartlett Doty) constantly and repeatedly while he rejects her with just as much determination. Their scenes are some of the most intense, and one cannot ignore that the passion with which they interact has some possibilities.

Julienne Guillaume is often the center of attention in many scenes as she plays Titania, the fairy queen. Her performance is particularly good and entertaining. She has great stage presence with a style that has great power. She is very present in the part, believable in spite of the magical nature of her being. She has humor and grace which enriches her performance. She is followed about

by a group of young fairies. At one point in the first act they stop to sing a song, with Ashley Blom (whose fairy being is a cobweb) singing a sweet lullaby that director Anthony Manica wrote using Shakespeare’s words put to music. This moment is an example of some of the creativity brought to this production. Margot Kistler plays Robin Goodfellow (Puck) who charmingly serves as the very clever instrument of action for Kim Overtree (Fairy King). Quite fun to watch, she is also occasionally the one to tell the story and pull it together at the end. Overtree is excellent in her part, as is Gilana Chelinsky as Bottom.

Many of these parts are of men being played by women. Bottom leads a group of actors (a play within a play) who are going to present a play, which in the end is one of the more silly/funny scenes, although the part about Bottom being turned into an ass is a close second. The comic scenes are interspersed with more serious discussions but the audience seemed to enjoy the comic best.

The set design is not attributed to anyone, instead the list of those involved in building the set are Jenny Silver, Michael Glazier, Jillian Morgan, Katie Knowles and Anthony Manica, who is also the director. Although I cannot give credit, the set design is beautiful and fills the entire play with enchantment. I do question the use of the floor in front of the stage so much, instead of the stage



In *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Shea Theater, Christina Doe (Helena) begs Bartlett Doty (Demetrius) to give her a chance but he only loves Hermia. As much as he resists, she promises to continue to pursue him.

itself. It works well with Bottom and the players, and with the fairies when they seem to be working in secret off to the side, but when actors lay down on the floor they are out of sight and so we forget they are there. Unless seated in the very front, audience members cannot see the action. I also wish they had made a real playbill with descriptions of the scenes as Shakespeare is hard enough to follow and a bit of information would be helpful to those who may not be so well informed. That said, the production provides a very good theatrical experience.

There are still three more performances next weekend, May 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and May 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are generously priced at \$10 for adults and for those under 19, entrance is free.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD Heard Accepts Another Round as Selectboard Chair

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The first order of business at the May 8 Wendell selectboard meeting was to reorganize, by electing a chair for the coming year. Selectboard member Dan Keller nominated Christine Heard, who has been chair for several years, and selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser seconded the nomination. Heard quietly accepted the position. The next business before the new selectboard came in the form of Seal Lamadeleine's request to reserve the town hall for a concert by the Wendell chorus on May 31. The concert is sponsored by the recreation committee, so no fee will be charged for the building's use.

Following that came two pole hearings. The first would install six poles by 804 New Salem Road, and move the electric lines to the roadside from a stretch where they have been taking short cut across private land. In September 2012 a tree fell on the electric line over that private land, bent poles, and pushed the wire into a pond. Electricity was restored quickly, but the wire remained under the tree, and remained live. Some days later a cow took a drink from the pond and was electrocuted. After that, electricity to the downed wire was cut. Warren Willard, owner of the cow and one of the property owners, spoke in favor of the move, as did a neighbor, Florrie Blackbird.

National Grid engineer Lisa Jasinski said that all the trees along one side of the road would have to be removed, along with those between the pond and the road. Willard said, "Take them all. Most of them have been girdled by the horses anyway." Blackbird concurred, wanting more of a clearing by the road. Highway commissioner Harry Williston only said that the poles should be several feet from the road itself to allow room for the snow plow.

The second pole hearing would allow wires to be re-routed at the junction of Poske Place and Farley Road, and would require stub poles and anchors along with the poles that support the wires. Williston said that there was a problem because some of the braces, as they are now marked with stakes, would be too close to the road. The selectboard agreed to have

the hearing continued to their next regular meeting, which will allow road boss Rich Wilder and a National Grid engineer to look at the site and the stakes, and decide what can be worked out.

Internet connection at town buildings

Robbie Heller tried to explain the possibilities and choices available for connecting Wendell's town buildings to the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI)'s middle mile fiber optic cable. After some technical talk, and consideration of the projected cost as outlined by librarian Rosie Heidkamp, the Wendell selectboard decided that for the purposes of a town meeting warrant article, the safe choice was to ask for \$6,000 for set up and \$7,000 for a year of monthly bills. If the cost is lower, the money saved will be returned to free cash. Heller said that the fiberoptic cable should be ready by July.

There is a charge for each connection to a building, and a monthly charge. It may be possible to connect only one building, and then relay a wireless signal from that building to the other town buildings in the town center. Since the distance that signal would travel is short, relative to the distance a signal has to travel from a satellite, there will be no latency, and an interruption in service is less likely.

Heidkamp outlined both the monthly and set-up costs for three internet service providers; Crocker, Corner Stone, and Access Plus which is the ISP that provides the library with internet service, relayed from Springfield to Mount Grace to the Wendell police station and library.

Heard said a taskforce should form to understand all the possibilities and costs, and make a recommendation to the selectboard when a decision has to be made. On that taskforce will be: Chris Maselli, from the police department, which now has a high bill from HughesNet, along with special concerns about privacy and security; Robbie Heller, Doug Tanner and Garrett Sawyer, from the Fin Com; Jim Slavas as facility engineer; and Robbie Leppzer from WiredWest.

Leppzer said that the decisions the town makes about its MBI connection will not

affect the later connection to all homes in town through WiredWest.

In a separate issue, Leppzer asked that the town reimburse him and Nan Riebschlaeger for mileage expense that they incur traveling "all over the map... to towns I never even heard of" for the monthly meetings of WiredWest. After checking that other town workers get mileage reimbursement, the selectboard agreed to put an article on this year's warrant for \$600, which is what they estimate their expense was. At the 2014 annual town meeting that expense will be part of Article 4.

Other Details

Following the recommendation of the state election commissioner, town clerk Gretchen Smith suggested a bylaw requiring petitioned articles for the annual town meeting be submitted 25 days before the meeting, allowing time for the clerk to check signatures and for the warrant to be posted one week in advance of the meeting. Petitioned articles for a special town meeting would have to be submitted 35 days in advance of the meeting, to allow for the warrant to be posted two weeks before the meeting.

Outgoing Fin Com chair Michael Idoine requested a town meeting article that would move the town meeting day from Monday night to a Saturday, with the hope of attracting more people. Keller suggested that article be worded as a resolution, like the article in support of a medical marijuana dispensary, and be non-binding, to get an idea of people's opinions.

The selectboard accepted the low bid of \$3,250 from Tri-County Construction for replacing the basement door to the town hall. Keller and Williston will consult about regrading outside that door so water is directed away and the new door does not rot.

The selectboard accepted the low bid of \$3,200 from Wendell resident Lisa Pepin for painting the senior center. Window sills and some clapboards should be replaced or repaired first, and Keller said he would ask building and grounds coordinator Ted Lewis to look at that before Pepin starts to paint. The bid

see WENDELL page 9

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Sidewalks & Sewer Emergency Update

By PATRICIA PRUITT

After approving six weeks' worth of selectboard minutes and executive sessions, Mark Fairbrother and Chair Chris Boutwell had two other important items of business: a request for monthly use of downtown sidewalks brought by Riverculture coordinator Lisa Davol, and an update by Superintendents Bob Trombley and Tom Bergeron on the progress and next steps in the ongoing sewer emergency at Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road.

Downtown Sidewalk Use

Davol explained that she, along with downtown businesses and artists, were planning on a Thursday Night Out in Turners to happen the 3rd Thursday of each month from June through October, to take advantage of nicer weather and to bring people downtown to enjoy themselves through diverse offerings on the sidewalks and in shops.

Abbondanzio explained use of the sidewalks would require a patio permit, and people would have to keep access open for walkers and handicapped persons along the sidewalk.

Fairbrother said he needed to see more specifics about what and where was planned along sidewalks. Davol said she was to attend a second meeting to discuss those specifics, and would return with that information. She wanted to know if a specific business could get a patio permit for one Thursday evening a month for the period proposed. She did not really get an answer to that question.

Sewer Emergency Update

Trombley and Bergeron, both appearing rather somber, came forward to bring the town up to date on the sewer emergency. A mind-boggling pipe fact was shared by Bob Trombley regarding transite asbestos/concrete piping in North America: there are some

300,000 miles of this type of piping, originally installed in the 1950s, and evidencing at this point a break per mile.

His next bit of news follows on the heels of that fact: a second segment of pipe, approximately 350 feet long, has also been found to have blockages. Therefore, contractor CDM Smith Inc. has taken a survey, completed borings of the damage, and has prepared a document for the four contractors to bid on by Friday, May 17.

The bid will be chosen on Monday, May 20. The work is scheduled for 40 days, and will include both Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road, plus some work at Hillside Plastics and at the trailer park.

Trombley and Bergeron made the decision to continue hauling waste by septage haulers during the repair period as it is less interfering with any repair work.

The board adjourned to go into three executive sessions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vandalism, Threats & Various Disturbances

Monday, 5/6

11:42 a.m. Burglary /breaking & entering, █ Millers Falls Rd. Services rendered.

1:23 p.m. Safety hazard, sand pit, Plains Road. Services rendered.

2:31 p.m. Trespassing, Hassay-Savage Co., Industrial Boulevard. Services rendered.

4:37 p.m. Larceny, Turners Falls High School. Referred to an officer.

4:37 p.m. Larceny, Chestnut Street. Referred to an officer.

6:02 p.m. Vandalism, Eighth Street at T Street. Investigated.

6:28 p.m. Domestic disturbance, L Street. Investigated.

10:41 p.m. Arrested █, on a straight warrant on East Main Street.

Tuesday, 5/7

2:15 p.m. Threatening/harassment, █ Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

4:51 p.m. Missing person, Turners Falls.

Returned to home. 11:23 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, Fourth Street. Peace restored.

Wednesday, 5/8

12:10 a.m. Loud noise disturbance, Lake Pleasant Road. Investigated.

9:34 p.m. Vandalism, Eleventh Street. Referred to an officer.

9:50 p.m. Burglary /breaking & entering, 24 G Street. Investigated.

Thursday, 5/9

12:08 p.m. Larceny, █ Avenue A. Report taken.

2:40 p.m. Threatening/harassment, █ Lake Pleasant Road. Referred to an officer.

6:40 p.m. Threatening/harassment, █ East Main Street. Advised of options.

8:40 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Montague City Road. Investigated.

9:09 p.m. Assault, █ Third Street. Investigated.

Friday, 5/10

7:39 a.m. Vandalism, █ Third Street. Re-

ported taken. 8:50 a.m. Vandalism, █ Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

1:15 p.m. Summons issued for a motor vehicle violation at post office, Avenue A.

6:29 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, █ Third Street. Services rendered.

9:36 p.m. Unwanted person, █ Third Street. Peace restored.

11:08 p.m. Burglary /breaking & entering, █ Federal Street. Services rendered.

11:32 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Bridge Street. Person not found.

Saturday, 5/11 12:37 a.m. General disturbance, The Rendezvous, Third Street. Person not found.

1:24 a.m. Loud noise disturbance, █ Fourth Street. Peace restored.

4:32 p.m. Environmental incident, Crocker Avenue at Oakman Street. Referred to another agency.

4:49 p.m. Threaten-

ing/harassment, █ East Main Street. Referred to an officer.

6 p.m. Personal well-being check, Peskeomskut Park. Services rendered.

11:31 p.m. Disorderly conduct, Route 63 Roadhouse, Federal Street. Investigated.

Sunday, 5/12 12:46 a.m. Investigated open door/window, Montague Town Hall.

1:10 a.m. General disturbance, Farren Care Center, 340 Montague City Road. Dispersed gathering.

9:18 a.m. Larceny, Third Street. Services rendered.

10:11 a.m. Vandalism, █ Randall Street. Referred to another agency.

2:50 p.m. Larceny, Rite Aid, Avenue A. Report taken.

4:09 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation, First Street alley. Referred to an officer.

7:52 p.m. Illegal dumping, Family Dollar, Avenue A. Services rendered.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fire Engine Maintenance & Other Tales of Woe

By DAVID DETMOLD

Fire chief John Moruzzi updated the board on the maintenance issues facing the department's engines. The newest engine is temporarily out of service for warranted maintenance in North Attleboro, the second-oldest engine will undergo in-town maintenance to repair the packing around a vacuum pump used in draughting, and the oldest engine blew a primer pump during a training session last week.

Moruzzi said high on the list of the vehicles giving him headaches over repairs was the chief's own antique Dodge Durango, which has difficulty making turns.

"The steering mechanism is shot," he said. "I'm afraid of it. I can't keep driving it."

Coincidentally, just as Moruzzi entered the room, the selectboard had been discussing the possibility of using some of the town's Green Community grant funds, in combination with a current grant on offer from the state Department of Energy Resources, to purchase a hybrid vehicle, or an all-electric vehicle and charging station, for a town employee or employees to use.

Moruzzi said he would be glad to drive a new Prius as long as it had enough trunk space for his gear. And as long as its steering mechanism was intact. He left the meeting threatening to drive straight into the former library building, which caused some merriment in the room.

The selectboard also accepted the resignation of Nancy Grossman from the fire department, and heard from Moruzzi that two new firefighter trainees had passed their

physical exams.

The selectboard signed a three year contract to continue receiving ambulance service from Amherst, with a 2% escalator, paying \$26,300 in the third year.

The board expressed dissatisfaction with a notification of planned borrowing for capital improvements at the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, which intends to spend \$870,634 on upgrades, including \$306,000 for a new tennis court at the middle school and \$261,000 for renovations to the locker room.

"We're laying off teachers and fixing the tennis court?" asked d'Errico incredulously. "There's something wrong with this picture."

"I'd rather put half a million dollars into auto mechanics, electronics, and art in the schools," added Rich Brazeau.

The board will discuss the matter with Leverett's representative to the regional school committee, Kip Fonsh.

Housing in Poor Repair

The Franklin County cooperative building inspector, Jim Hawkins, has posted a notice of unsafe conditions on the barn at 1 Dudleyville Road, which town clerk Stratford, a near neighbor, described as, "falling into the river."

And speaking of buildings in poor repair, health agent Steve Ball and board of health chair Fay Zipkowitz appeared before the board to discuss the ongoing problems at 142 – 148 Montague Road, duplex rental buildings owned by David Biddle, which have been the subject of numerous board of health cita-

tions over recent years, notably for failed or compromised septic systems. The house at 142 – 144 seems to have "four to seven cars" parked in the driveway now, and the yard is littered with spare tires and litter. At least once, recently, Zipkowitz said, she has encountered tenants or occupants of that building burning trash in the yard. The septic system there is not performing as designed, said Ball, whereas the septic system at the neighboring building "has failed, and needs to be replaced."

Zipkowitz said, "The sad part of it is, there is so little affordable housing in this town. It could be decent housing and could benefit the town."

Julie Shively commented, "The whole thing is a nightmare."

Then There's Siemens Building Technologies

Turning to another long-running problem, the board will invite a representative of Siemens Building Technologies to a meeting to discuss warranty issues with the new, factory direct Adams furnaces Siemens installed at town hall two years ago, as part of an energy savings program for municipal buildings in Franklin County.

Siemens has declined to guarantee the performance of the problem-plagued furnaces for another year, writing to the board that, "the town has enjoyed the beneficial use" of the furnaces for "two full heating seasons."

Brazeau begged to differ, saying the town has enjoyed "minimal use" of the furnaces instead, with many of the offices in town hall relying on electric backup heaters as recently as this past February.

SCHOOL from page 1

d'Errico said, "We don't want to wait until August to sign a contract."

The selectboard mentioned the names of Fenna Lee Bonsignore, a former selectboard member, and Susan Mareneck, currently serving on the historic commission, as possible candidates to fill the open seat or seats on the school committee at the May 28 meeting.

Interim appointments are made by joint vote of the current school committee members and the selectboard who attend that joint meeting. Appointees serve only until the next town election.

Mareneck, reached by phone and asked whether she might be interested in accepting an appointment to the school committee, said, "I'm thinking I probably will not at this point. On Saturday, the historic commission talked me into accepting the chairmanship of that commission when [current chair] Betsy Douglas retires."

"I think the school committee will be a big commitment in the next few years as we discuss regionalization."

But Mareneck said she intended to attend the reorganizational meeting of the school committee on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m. to

learn more about the committee's work.

An attempt to reach Bonsignore by phone prior to press time was unsuccessful.

In recent public hearings and at town meeting Bonsignore has publicly supported the selectboard's effort to consolidate building maintenance and school custodial functions under the selectboard's authority, and also spoken in support of regionalizing Leverett Elementary School with Pelham and Amherst under the Amherst superintendent.



WENDELL from page 8

was for painting only.

Riebschlaeger, as chair of the Planning Board announced a public hearing May 14.

The selectboard gave Ginny Schimmel and possibly others permission to hold a tag sale on the common on May 25. Schimmel is leaving town and resigning from the council on aging. Dvora Cohen has volunteered to replace her.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Cindy Freeman's dog is no longer at the Mt Tully Kennel. A person at the kennel thought Freeman had found a new home for the dog, but was not sure. A court date of May 14 is still on the schedule, and at this meeting board members agreed to hold that date to avoid

having to restart the case if the dog is back in town. Aldrich will check with Freeman and the neighbors.

The kitchen planning group asked for and received permission to open the town hall at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, and invite citizens in to learn about the plans they have made to renovate the kitchen and to invite public discussion.

The community garden committee is developing plans to use solar-generated electricity to pump water from the garden well to a holding tank, where it can water the garden by gravity feed. Heidkamp has grant money which can be used for solar applications, and education, and is ready to use that money for this project, but she wanted to consult with the selectboard before using the money. Board members thought

it was a good plan, and an appropriate use of the grant.

Wendell's contract with Seaboard Solar allows the town to host two megawatts of solar generated power to another group, leaving Seaboard Solar with eight megawatts, but the town was supposed to notify Seaboard Solar by January 4, 2013. Dan Mascroft has a plan for generating those two megawatts on private land in town, and is concerned that the town did not notify Seaboard Solar by January 4.

Seaboard Solar does not yet have their full 8 megawatts on line yet, and Keller said his personal experience with Seaboard and their representative, Dave Thomas, makes him think there will be no problem.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Erving to Participate in Contract with Hampshire Power Program

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's May 8 annual town meeting voted to spend approximately \$8.7 million and put \$795,413 into stabilization. The biggest ticket items were: funding municipal services (town administration, fire and police departments, highway, water, and wastewater services, library, and parks and recreation) at \$3 million, \$2.5 million to fund Erving Elementary School (EES), \$852,000 for secondary school tuition, and \$490,000 for a new pumper truck for the fire department.

The majority of the financial articles passed unanimously, with few questions or discussion.

Article 34, allowing the selectboard to develop and participate in a contract for power supply through the Hampshire Council of Governments, did generate questions and discussion.

Under the Hampshire Power municipal aggregation program, HCOG would buy electricity in bulk and sell it to Erving residents and small businesses. Hampshire Power says that this is likely to result in lower electric bills for consumers. Their municipal power supply program has resulted in 12% savings for municipal customers.

If the selectboard enters into a municipal aggregation contract with Hampshire Power, WMECO and National Grid customers would automatically become Hampshire Power customers. In order to stay with WMECO or National Grid, the customer would be required to actively opt out of Hampshire Power.

Voters questioned Hampshire Power spokesman Ken Elstein about potential costs to the town and about the opt out provision. Elstein assured the meeting that the aggregation program "does not involve any appropriation ever" from Erving, and that all expenses are paid by an 0.2% charge to rate payers.

Elstein said that, "anyone who does not want to participate does not have to and can leave without penalty." He said that adding

Hampshire Power to the providers in Erving gives consumers another opportunity to get a better price for their electricity supply.

Article 34 passed by majority vote.

The meeting also voted \$305,000 for Franklin County Technical School and \$100,000 for a continuing appropriation for highway improvements on North Street, Church Street, and High Street. The meeting agreed to put \$300,000 into a trust fund to pay for future retiree benefits.

Other purchases approved include: \$95,000 for a Ford F550 truck for the highway department, \$35,000 for accounting software, \$20,000 for an air cascade system to fill firefighter air tanks, \$20,000 for a town hall telephone system, \$15,000 for a washing system for firefighting gear, \$12,000 to fund upgrades to EES computers, \$12,000 for a new town hall copier, \$7,855 for bullet resistant vests for the police department, and \$4,500 to upgrade fire department radios.

Water department superintendent Pete Sanders was honored at the meeting for receiving one of the top scores for a small community public water supply from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The meeting voted to establish a revolving fund for the Council on Aging van, which receives reimbursement from Medicaid, and to establish a revolving fund for senior center facility use payments from outside groups.

The meeting voted unanimously to ask Baystate Health System to "commit all necessary resources to ensure provision of all needed services and to commit to the long term viability of a full-service community hospital at Baystate Franklin Medical Center which will meet the health care needs of the residents of Franklin County."

The article's preamble noted that "some important services previously available at Franklin Medical Center are now only available at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield."

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court
Docket No. BR13D0516DR
Felicia A King vs. Michael S King
Bristol Probate and Family Court
Office of Register Suite 240
40 Broadway Street
Taunton, MA 02780

To the Defendant **Michael S King**:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown of the marriage.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
Felicia A King
10 Morton Court
New Bedford, MA 02744
your answer, if any, on or before **07/22/2013**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
WITNESS, Hon. Anthony R Nesi, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 19, 2013
Gina L. DeRossi, Register of Probate
CJ-D 112a (11/09)

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The Poetry Page

Poetry Page Edited By Patricia Pruitt
design by Claudia Wells

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

Klondike Sound,
Green Fields Market,
Montague Dental Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin,
Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller.

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at poetry@montaguereporter.org.

Just in Case
after “This is Just to Say” by William Carlos Williams

If you’re wondering
why
the car is
gone

Good
I went for
milk
you’re out

The leftovers
were stale
the last
supper

– Nick Batutis



The Whipping
after “The Whipping” by Robert Hayden

The old woman across the way
Is whipping the girl again,
Calling her a slut for having sex with the boy,
Shouting to the neighborhood how bad she is for the world.

She strikes with force, breaking the skin,
Circling the girl with the battered thin stick.
One more strike and the stick breaks.
Tears of fear roll down her face, trailing memories and leaving scars.

Hating her life and everyone in it.
But still loved be them.
In the end she learned my lesson.

– Dakota Guerro

Edge
after “Edge” by Sylvia Plath

The woman is perfected.
Her dead

Hair is like straw against her face,
Looking at the pile of bodies.

Three lanes wide,
All naked.

The middle of a field
Never looked so small.

The terrifying smell of flesh
As the last one screams.

Roaring smoke, charcoal black.
Burning her eyes, she stares blankly

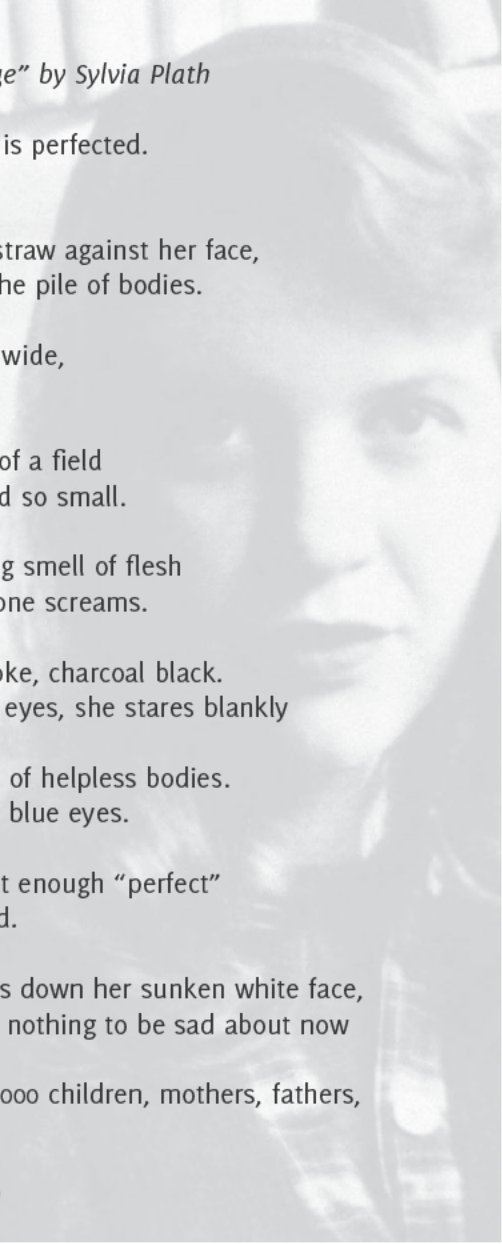
At the lanes of helpless bodies.
Blonde hair, blue eyes.

There wasn’t enough “perfect”
To be spread.

A tear scrolls down her sunken white face,
But she has nothing to be sad about now

With over 1,000 children, mothers, fathers,
Burning.

– Anna Morin



Chaos & Order

Out of chaos comes order
Too many people concerned about others’ disorders
Over-population spilling over borders
We care too much about material things, like hoarders
My brain’s a rhyme-sorter
Lyrics are the brick, flow is the mortar
Life is like a barter, with no fair-trade
Make a mark that never fades
Forever permanent like bleach stains
Hip hop is the blood that runs in my veins
Words flow like burst water mains
Don’t look at me weird ‘cause I’m not same
I gotta be different, that’s the name of the game
Put yourself in my shoes, maybe then we’ll see the same
Until that moment I’ll remain insane
And always take the time to embrace the rain

– Danny Rivera

Hope is a Desire

Hope is just a desire
That we acquire
When we inspire
People that admire other people
To reach even higher
Life was a rollercoaster ride, when I dangled my feet
I felt relieved in my speech
I won’t fall like leaves in an autumn creek
One hundred thoughts, but only one common belief
Jokes on them, and it’s a comic relief

– Ty Phillips

Contributors’ Notes

Anna Morin, Ty Phillips, Danny Rivera, Nick Batutis and Dakota Guerro are all seniors at the Franklin County Technical School. They wrote their poems in Alyssa Kelly’s English class.

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Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic session*, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

Avenue A & 2nd St., Turners Falls: *Farmers Market*. 2 - 6 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultz* from *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Free.

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center: colorful paper quilts and story quilts created by K-8 students.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Celestial Cafe* featuring three-dimensional collage by artist Emily Goodwin. Now through June 22.

LOCAL EVENTS:**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock. 8:30 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Root Hog Or Die*, second screening. Music at 7 p.m.: *Paul Crook & Carol DeLorenzo*, celtic music. Screening at 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 7:30 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*, blues. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fresh Beets for Red Fire Farm*, old school dance party. Donations encouraged.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Mud, Blood, & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Root Hog Or Die*, a 1974 documentary about horse farming in Franklin County. Newly restored. Music at 7 p.m.: *Whistlestop*, fiddle & banjo. Panel discussion featuring director and local farmers. Screening at 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 7:30 p.m., \$

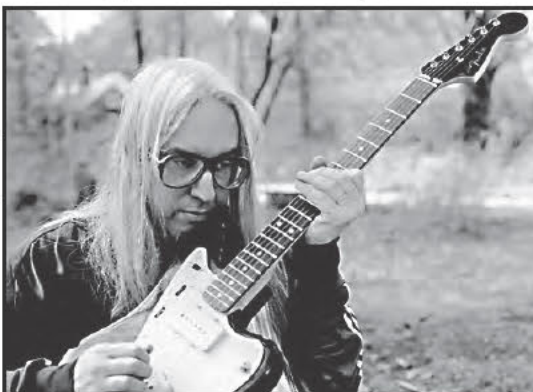
Greenfield High School: Pioneer Valley Symphony's final "At the Movies" concert, *Mozart and Mahler at the Movies*. They'll do the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro and the *Vesperae solenne de confessorie*, and then Mahler's 4th, all of which should be familiar to the filmgoing public. 7:30 p.m., \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Town

Hall, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Blues. "Traditional without being moldy." Benefit for the Young Entrepreneurs Society. Open mic at 7:30, main act at 8 p.m. Baked goods, sliding scale cover, good times.

Montague Bookmill: *Jay Mascis*, guitar player, famous for being in *Deep Wound* with the guy who would later front *Folk Implosion*, who did that one song that was in that movie by the guy who made *Spring Breakers*. Openers are Eric Gagne's new *Passerine*, and singer's singer *Dredd Foole*. OK Mascis is also in *Witch*. Tickets on sale May 11. 8 p.m., \$

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Swells, Cheap Love, Flown Past, and Neoteric*, screamo, post-hardcore and whatnot. 8 p.m., all ages / substance-free, \$.



Western Mass lifer J. Mascis will play a solo set at the Montague Bookmill this Saturday night. This is a big deal for rock bookstores everywhere. 8 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Alternaprom*, a benefit for the Center School. With DJ Z and an '80s photo booth by *Chattman Photography*. Visit *centerschool.net* for tickets. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* dance party, with mystery guest DJ. 9:30 p.m., \$

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, indie rock. 2:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Linda Cunningham* reading & book party, 6 p.m., free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *SundayFunday with Marlene & Friends*. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, up close & personal. 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 20

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo* themed rave. Glowsticks not provided. PLUR.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Leverett Elementary School: *4th Grade Play*, first show, 9:30 a.m.

Leverett Elementary School: *4th Grade Play*, second show, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, featuring Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & Tommy Boynton. 8 to 10 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: The Shea Theater presents *Movies in the Park*, with a screening of *Field of Dreams* (1989, PG), the one with Kevin Costner and baseball and positive affirmation / optimism / ghosts. Free, 7 to 9 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Pioneer Valley Regional School E Theory Band*. Free, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Galina & Alexey Khomchik*, Russian folk music. 7 p.m., \$

Montague Bookmill: *Dire Honeys*, wholesome sounding lady trio, with *Wes Buckley* and *Catfox*. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *SisterMonk*, folk alternative pop. 8 p.m.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Broken Water, Bunny's a Swine, Funsuck, and Grammerhorn Wren*, variations on fuzzy nth-wave shoegrunge revival. 8 p.m., all ages / substance-free, \$.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Bow Thayer & Perfect Trainwreck*, rock America style. 9 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hobson's Razor*, reggae/rock/funk. 9:30 p.m., \$

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Roogaroos*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

The Brick House, Turners Falls: H'Art & Soul presents eclectic folk-rocker *Marc Black*. Children under 17 free; suggested donation for adults. 1 to 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Christa Joy*, singer/songwriter, with special guest *Fireseed*, celtic appalachian folk. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, chicago-style blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, blues rock 'n' roll. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Frost Heaves, Original Cowards*, indie rock. 9:30 p.m., free.

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By LESLIE BROWN

A string of unusually warm temperatures followed by drenching rain brought us right into late spring.

We are experiencing what Yankees call “an on year”. The bloom on everything is huge. Plants which didn’t even throw a blossom last year have bloomed extraordinarily. We have slipped almost seamlessly from early bulbs, to the extravagant blooming of the fruit trees to the azaleas and rhododendrons. The early leaves on the trees have unfurled to summertime size and even the latest, the ash and the locust are budded.

The weeds, ditto. We had snipped and dug out most of the unwanted growth in the beds edging the yard. Almost overnight new weeds albeit

different ones have appeared to fill the spaces.

Orioles have returned to join the Bluebirds, Cardinals, Titmouse and Chickadee. The Phoebe and the Thrushes carol anew. The tree frogs have replaced the chorus of the peepers.

Sweet, tart spring so slow to start, so quick to leave. Two more birthdays and we are both a year older.

So, before the heat of summer, the list: The asparagus beetles are hatching. I have pored over the ingredient list of two of the “organic” products for insect control. These insecticidal soaps can be safely used up to a day before crop harvest. I read more. They are also skin irritants, hazardous to aquatic invertebrates and toxic to bees. So much for organic. Apparently the other clean option is to pick off and destroy the offending creatures. We’ll give that a try and give the so-called safe options a miss.

We have purchased fencing and posts which await trench digging and installation. Last weekend I put

in a strawberry bed. Now, as soon as it dries out a bit, I need to make sure that the heavy downpours have not uncovered the crowns of these new plants. I may have to mound the dirt up around them again to protect them against the expected late frosts.

I hope to clean out the weeds in the beds edging the lawn one more time and then plant spreading perennials like ground covers and day lilies which should be able to reclaim these spaces again. It’s also time to snip and dig out the newly sprouting Bittersweet again before it really takes hold and prune the multiflora rose out of the honeysuckle and flowering quince.

In the sunroom the tomatoes are ready for transplanting and feeding. We’ll progress from seaweed to real plant food for these rapidly growing babies. It’s not too late to start melon and squash seeds for a head start this summer. We are harvesting lettuce and asparagus and hope to see the pea plants show a growth spurt after the rain.

After these labors, it will be a

treat to get pots of flowering plants ready to hang or set around the yard. You can buy lovely pots already set with flowers, vines and grasses, but if you have the time and inclination, it can be cheaper and great fun to buy a mix of flats and create your own. Last year I enjoyed adding colored grasses – just a sprig or two-to pots of pansy, impatiens and petunias. I also discovered sweet potato vine. It comes in several colors of foliage and is hardy and vigorous in growth. I also learned that it needs to be planted with flowers of some height and equal strength or it will take over the pot.

For years my late husband Woody and I grew some sixty or seventy odd tomato plants and gave most of them to friends, family and neighbors. I continued this tradition in his memory for several more. This year as I get nearer to the seventy mark, we have downsized, not for lack of generosity, rather as a necessary accommodation to the limits of our energy and the number of other projects we want to undertake.

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

This Beauteous Season

There is value in the notion of a bucket list. While we expect to be well and active for a good bit of time to come, we are also mindful that like the spring we will not last forever and there is much left we want to do. We shorten the list of projects for the yard and garden a little and make plans for traveling we still want to do. This summer will include a camping trip on Lake Champlain as well as the annual trek to the coast of Maine for ocean therapy. There are many books to be read and new studies to take up, walks to take and friends to spend time with.

One of the gifts of spring is its reminder of renewal and new birth. It is a reenergizing time which gets the sluggish winter blood moving and the spirit alight. If it is moving and then chill again, we still relish this time before the heavy heat of summer, the biting insects and the humidity. Spring may be short-lived but it has freshness and sparkle like no other time of year.

Enjoy this fragile season, dig your hands into the dirt, plant anew, but don’t forget to enjoy the brightness of the greens, the sharpness of the blue, the bird song and the scent of flowers. Take a break for contemplation and let your garden feed your soul.

Happy spring and happy gardening.

Montague Dog Owners Have Until May 30 to Register Dogs

May 30 is the deadline to register dogs in Montague at the Town Clerk’s Office. A \$20 fine will be added to the registration fee after that date. On June 1, the police will begin licensing enforcement. A license is \$5 for neutered or spayed dogs, \$10 for an unaltered dog. The Clerk’s office requires proof of rabies vaccination, and also of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

License renewals may be obtained through the town’s website, www.montague.net, only if your dog’s rabies vaccination that was used for last year’s registration has not yet expired.

The Town Clerk’s office is open Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Arrest on French King Highway

Monday, 5/6

5:45 p.m. Suspicious vehicles at rest area on Route 2. Both subjects advised to move along.

Tuesday, 5/7

6:50 a.m. Report of illegal dumping at Erving-side Fire Department. Under investigation.

7:15 a.m. Arrested

[REDACTED], Erving, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked license, which was for operating under the influence.

10:27 a.m. Medical emergency, River Street. Assisted on

scene.

11:13 a.m. Loose dog reported at town hall. Owner located and advised of bylaw.

4:30 p.m. Assisted Montague PD in search for missing child.

Wednesday, 5/8

11:55 a.m. Report of small brush fire near railroad tracks off West Main Street. Same handled by Erving Fire.

3:30 p.m. Well-being check on Lillian’s Way resident. Found to be fine.

Thursday, 5/9

9:30 p.m. Report taken about harassing text messages.

Friday, 5/10

2:14 p.m. Medical emergency, East Main Street. Assisted on scene.

Saturday, 5/11

10:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2. Found to be fine. Moved along.

Sunday, 5/12

11 a.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant. Found to be secure.

11:59 a.m. Domestic disturbance reported at Route 2 rest area by Mountain Road. Found to be all-verbal.

11:38 p.m. Alarm on East Main Street. Found to be all set.

YOU ARE INVITED!

WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 6 TO 8 PM

TURNERS FALLS ELKS CLUB

Multi-cultural dinner and entertainment, activities and awards to youth and adult “unsung heroes” that have helped make Gill Montague a better place.

This event is **FREE** but you **MUST** pre-register by May 13th to attend as seating is limited. Register on-line at www.gmpartnership.org or Call Kara 863-7512 or Cate at 863-3604 or e-mail us: pd@gmpartnership.org manager@gmpartnership.org



Rep. McGovern to Hold Open Office Hours May 18

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern will hold one-on-one office hours for residents of: Belchertown, Ware, Hardwick, New Salem; Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury; Deerfield, Greenfield, Montague, Gill; Northfield, Irving, and Wendell on Saturday, May 18th.

At office hours, constituents will have the opportunity to discuss issues with Rep. McGovern.

Rep. McGovern’s Schedule:

For residents of Belchertown, Ware, Hardwick, New Salem: 8:30

to 9:30 a.m., Ware Cafe, 24 West Main Street, Ware.

For residents of Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury: 10 to 11 a.m., Black Sheep Deli, 79 Main Street, Amherst.

For residents of Deerfield, Greenfield, Montague, Gill: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Lady Killigrew, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague.

For residents of Northfield, Erving, Wendell: 1 to 2 p.m., Northfield Coffee & Books, 105 Main Street, Northfield.

Mother’s Day Stands for Peace

While Mothers Day is generally celebrated with flowers, brunches and family gatherings, when the holiday began in 1872 it was meant to be an annual mothers day for peace. In honor of the original spirit of the holiday, North Quabbin Women in Black, a local peace group, held a silent procession from Athol to Orange on Saturday, May 10.

Wendell: Campaigners Snarl Traffic

Dozens of complaints about parking delays at the annual election prompted the selectboard to start drafting a policy regulating campaigning outside elections. Town clerk Anna Hartjens said about a hundred people complained about delayed access to the polls or being

forced to stop by campaigners walking in front of their cars. While they cannot prohibit leafleting more than 150 feet from the polls, officials do have a right to keep traffic moving along, she said.

Montague: Dancing Into Spring

People passing by the town common on Montague Center on May 3 were witness to a time-honored tradition that has its roots in the rural villages of England from centuries ago. The maypole dance, with children winding ribbons round the pole uniting heaven and earth, had given way to troops of men and women clad in white and green with ribbons on their shirts and bells on their ankles.

Public Forum on Millers Watershed

Communities in the Millers River watershed will have an opportunity to work together to bring

about a shared vision for open space and recreation in the region for a public forum on Tuesday, May 20. Although the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative was discontinued by the Romney administration, the state is proceeding with development of a regional open space plan for the Millers River Watershed.

Editorial: What’s Wrong With This Picture?

The Gill-Montague schools have endured deep cuts over the past few years. But those cuts will look like child’s play compared to the ones coming down the pike from Boston this fiscal year. With a “no new taxes” governor, and a legislature reduced to whistling in the wings, there seems to be no hope for relief in state aid figures this year. It’s enough to make us want to don a sprig of evergreen and start another Shay’s Rebellion.

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