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LAKE PLEASANT

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Dodge Appointed Permanent Chief

BY SHIRA HILLEL

Montague has a new permanent police chief.

On Wednesday, November 14th, the selectboard interviewed two candidates for the position: Charles "Chip" Dodge, acting police chief for the past three and a half months, and acting Sergeant Christopher Lapointe.

After a brief deliberation, the selectboard voted to offer the position to Dodge.

And Dodge was quick to accept the post. "I am honored and very thankful for this opportunity," he said late Wednesday, after accepting the position.

The two selectboard members present, Mark Fairbrother and chair Chris Boutwell, both voted in favor of Dodge. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio supported their decision; board member Pat Allen is out of the country on vacation.

"Both candidates did exceptionally well. I am quite proud of the caliber of people we have working in the department," said Abbondanzio. "But there has to be an exceptional reason to go with the second candidate and not the acting chief."

The selectboards agreed,

see DODGE page 7

A Great Day for Dogs

RIBBON CUTTING AT FRANKLIN COUNTY DOG KENNEL



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Nancy Spring, a volunteer at the regional kennel since June, with one of the dogs that got adopted last Wednesday

BY LEE WICKS

"This was a great day for the dogs," said Leslie Colucci, director of the newly renovated Franklin County dog kennel. On Wednesday, November 7th, nearly 100 people crowded into the reception area for a community open house and the official ribbon cutting.

Some simply could not resist the dogs. Five were adopted by the end of the day.

"The small ones get adopted most easily", Colucci said. "Big dogs are harder to place." Nevertheless, a huge tan shepherd mix found his forever home at the open house.

Though Coco, a boxer mix sporting an Adopt Me vest,

meandered peacefully among the crowd, showed no aggression at all, and even avoided the donuts, he is still looking for a forever home. While he waits, he could not be in a better place. The kennel is clean and well lit, there is ample access to the outdoor runs, and a cadre of two dozen volunteers dote on the dogs.

Lost or surrendered dogs in 12 towns now have a comfortable place to go while they await adoption or a reunion with their families. Since last spring, 80 dogs have come through the kennel, said kennel director Colucci. "Twenty-five (now thirty) were adopted

see DOGS page 6

Give Thanks for Diemand Farm



JONATHAN VON RANSON PHOTO

Peter Diemand, ready for business at the new sawmill at the Diemand Farm in Wendell.

JONATHAN von RANSON WENDELL - The Diemand Farm has tried this year to sell more turkeys, more lumber, new food products and has made other creative adjustments to keep their business viable and compensate for the loss of most of its egg production, following the implementation of new regulations that sock family farms while trying to solve the problems of agribusiness, despite the growing domination of huge factory farms over U.S. food production.

Fifteen months ago,

Diemand Farm's three sibling owners, Peter, Faith and Anne Diemand, announced they would severely reduce the farm's egg-laying flock, "the cornerstone of our business," to get under the limit of new federal Food and Drug Administration sanitation and food safety regulations, brought about by "recent well-publicized problems...at some of the large egg production companies."

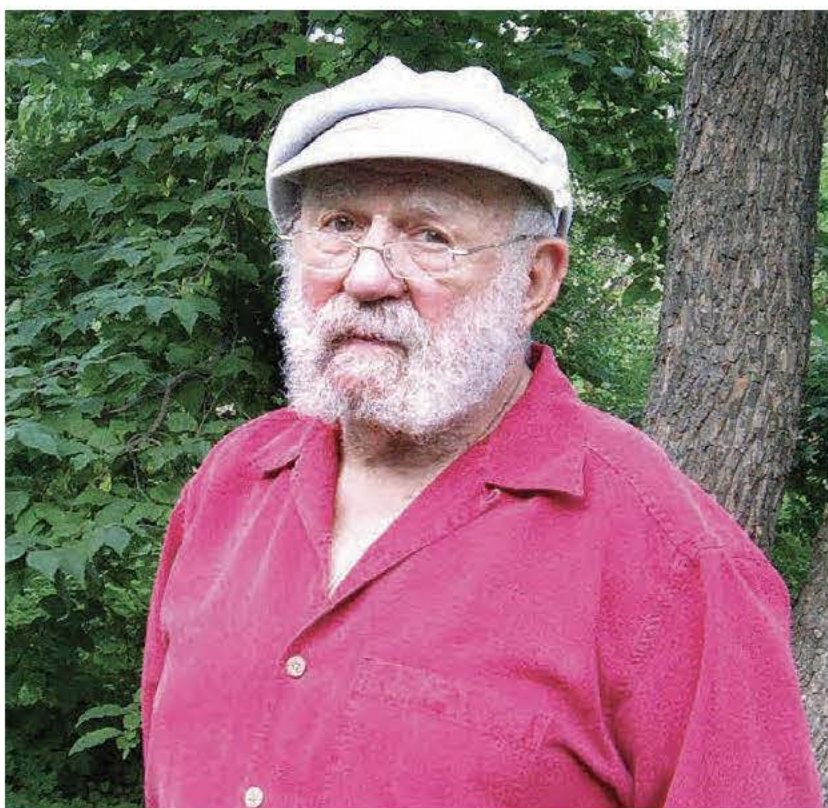
The new regulations would have required, among other things, elaborate documentation of the family farm's oper-

ations, which the Diemands said, would "only be possible for us with a huge investment of money, time and manpower that we cannot afford."

Neither large enough to cope with these requirements nor small enough to be exempt, the farm last April made the decision to reduce their flock by 75 - 80% to get under the reporting threshold. Since then, the Diemand Farm has branched out, as Peter Diemand reported, into sidelines like selling lumber and doing custom sawing. Peter

see DIEMAND page 5

Aikido Therapy: One Veteran on a Mission to Treat PTSD



Tom Osborn

BY SHIRA HILLEL -

HOLYOKE - Veterans Day serves as a time to recognize and honor fellow citizens who have served in our military. But after the flags and bunting are furled, one of the most serious consequences of combat - the mental scarring that can permanently alter a veteran's psyche - all too often remains untreated.

Holyoke resident, Thomas Osborn, a vet who has experienced these issues himself, believes veterans who suffer from Combat Related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (CRPTSD) are not receiving the best help they can. Osborn is the author of the recent book, *Combat Related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: a*

Holistic Approach (published by Levellers Press, Amherst, 2012) that promotes what he believes is a more effective alternative approach for treating CRPTSD in veteran soldiers.

Osborn has become an advocate for a unique treatment: he thinks the practice of Aikido is particularly suited for people suffering from this affliction.

With large numbers of veterans returning home from the Mideast, many suffering symptoms of CRPTSD, a growing need is anticipated for assistance as these veterans re-establish civilian lives. Over 44% of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who sought treatment at a

see PTSD page 7

Turners Falls Filmmaker Wins UN Film Fest Award



SARAH WENTWORTH PHOTO

(Left to right) Daniel Keller, Suzette Snow-Cobb, filmmaker Steve Alves, Christopher Sawyer Laucanno, and Maisie Sibbison Alves traveled to the United Nations this week to accept their award for "Food for Change."

BY AMY LAPRADE - Turners Falls producer Steve Alves will be granted an award from the United Nations Film Festival (UNFF) on November 20th for his film clip titled "Food for Change: the Twin Cities Story." This 15-minute segment is taken from what will be Alves' latest feature-length documentary, titled "Food for Change," due to come out in spring of 2013. Both the clip and the full-length documentary are based on the history of the food cooperative movement in the United States, which seeks to address the "consolidation of the U.S. food industry by giant agribusinesses, with their reliance on toxic chemicals, heavy machinery, and massive capital," in Alves' words.

Alves, who is also the producer of "Where We Live" and "Talking to The Wall," submitted "Food for Change" to UNFF as a way to

commemorate the 2012 International Year for Cooperatives, IYC, which seeks to raise public awareness of the co-operative business model as a socially responsible and viable alternative to corporations, which Alves considers a threat to our democracy.

Suzette Snow-Cobb of Turners Falls, co-manager of the Franklin Community Co-operative (which owns Green Fields Market in Greenfield and McCuskers Market in Shelburne Falls), has not only been an educator of the co-operative movement in Franklin County, but has been a generous and infallible contributor in "Food for Change." Snow-Cobb, along with other team members Maisie Sibbison-Alves (production assistant, Greenfield), Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno (co-writer, Turners Falls), and Dan Keller (co-

editor, Wendell), will travel with Alves to New York, where he will collect his UNFF award.

"Food for Change" should serve as a milestone for public awareness of the future of environmentally sound food production, under siege by agribusiness and powerful interest groups.

The film clip opens with a camera panned on Alves shopping at Green Fields Market where he became a member in the early 1990s, because he "wanted to buy food grown as locally as possible and in a way that didn't destroy the biodiversity of the soil or pollute the ground water." Alves goes on to fault agribusiness as unsustainable and failing by any measure on principles of economic fairness.

Alves delves into the history of the Franklin Community Co-op. He describes its beginnings, in the

see FILM page 10

PETS OF THE WEEK

Two Are Better than One!



Blackie & Kelly



Blackie and Kelly are 12 year old brother and sister Siamese mixes, who need to be adopted as a pair. For more info on adopting them, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Mireya Ortiz, Danielle Lively

Grade 7

Hannah Graves

Grade 8

Brianna Wilder

Montague Recycling Notice: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the trash and recycling pick schedule will change as follows next week: Tues. and Wed., no change. Thursday will be picked up Friday; Friday will be picked up Saturday.

RECYCLE PAPER!
Week of November 19th
in Montague

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Then the Dog Died

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER - Monday morning I spent an hour cutting mats from Izzie's coat. She's a Great Pyrenees - nearly 100 pounds with enough hair for two dogs.

On Tuesday, Lola, the lab mix, ran into the woods and rolled in something putrid; it took two baths to get rid of the smell.

Wednesday, they both had an appointment at the vet to get their nails clipped. On Friday, Izzie developed a problem with her anal sacs. Yes, this happens; it is not a joke. You can tell when a dog drags her bottom along the floor and licks her private parts excessively. Hot wet compresses, applied over three or four times a day, helped.

All this in addition to daily walks and feeding. It's almost a full-time job, and I keep asking myself why a retired couple would adopt two high need rescue dogs that do not like kennels or house sitters, thereby preventing travel, unless we find a pet friendly inn.

The answer is twofold. First of all, I didn't know I was retired

when they came into our lives. Secondly, Lola, the shy one, rescued me when I was sinking into depression.

In June of 2009, along with thousands of Americans, I was laid off from my job, and I felt sad, angry and humiliated. A month later our dog Cora died of bloat. We got her to the vet not knowing how badly damaged her twisted stomach might be, and found that there were just two choices - immediate surgery or euthanasia. The surgery would cost between three and four thousand dollars, a huge sum in the wake of a layoff, and there were no guarantees that she could be saved.

And so, we let her go.

You come home with the old leash and collar, and wash the water bowl and food dish. You cry. Every dog owner goes through it, but in the past I went to work the next day where colleagues commiserated and deadlines loomed. Not so in 2009.

I filed for unemployment and searched for a job, deluded into thinking I might find one at my age, in that terrible economy - I was 63. I soon became one of Mitt Romney's loathed 47 percent, calling in every week to report on my doomed job search and gratefully depositing my unemployment insurance checks, to which I felt entitled. Thank you president Obama for extending these benefits to 90 weeks during that awful time.

see RETIRE page 6



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - This is the third column in a series about vision correction.

There are three basic ways to correct faulty vision: eyeglasses, contact lenses or surgery. This column will cover contacts.

There are two basic kinds of contact lenses - soft and hard.

Soft lenses are thin and gel-like and are more popular than hard contacts. Soft lenses are comfortable and come in many varieties. I never felt them in my eyes. Some choices in soft lenses are:

Daily-wear lenses are removed before sleep. They are the least expensive of the soft lenses.

Extended-wear lenses can be worn during sleep. They are removed at least once a week to be cleaned and disinfected. There is greater risk of eye infections when wearing contacts overnight.

Disposable-wear lenses are the most convenient of the contacts. They are removed nightly and

replaced on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. These are the most expensive type of contact lenses.

Replacing disposables every day means you always have clean, flawless lenses that produce sharp vision. And you don't have to deal with maintenance. These are enormous advantages.

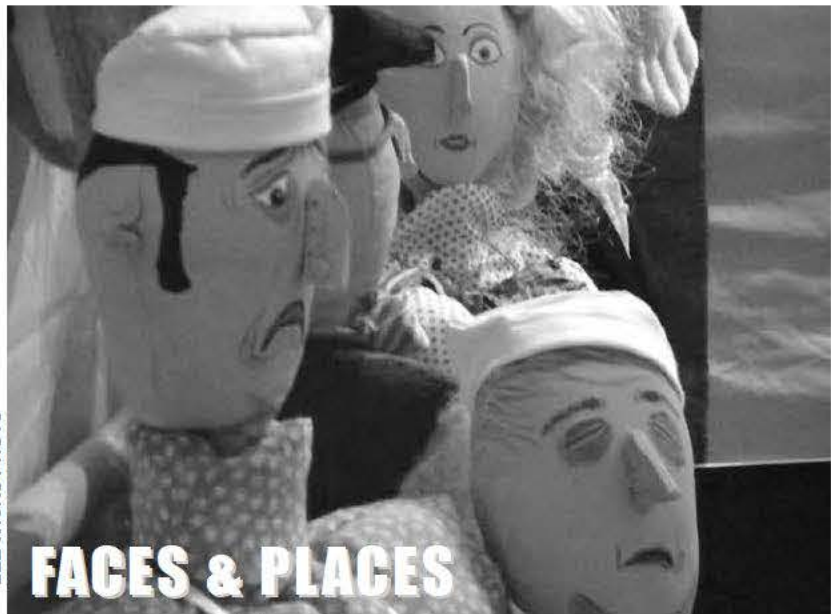
Hard contacts today are rigid gas-permeable lenses (RGP). Hard contacts allow oxygen to flow through the lenses to the cornea, the transparent cover over the pupil in the center of the eye.

RGP lenses may be a better choice over soft lenses in the case of astigmatism, an uneven curvature of the eye's surface. There are soft contact lenses called *torics* that can correct astigmatism, but not always as well as RGPs.

RGPs are also preferable if you have allergies or tend to form protein deposits on contact lenses.

Multifocal contact lenses are available - both hard and soft. They can correct nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism in combination with presbyopia, the natural condition of aging that makes it more difficult to focus on near objects.

The major downside of contact lenses is the maintenance they require. Any lens removed from



LEE WICKS PHOTO

FACES & PLACES

Ironwill Tate, an original adult-oriented puppet show, created and performed by the Montana puppeteering team, Ariel Gregory and Brit Juchem, brought quirky humor and wild imagination to the Montague Grange on Sunday, November 11th.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY EVENT

Sci-Fi Movie: *The Day the Earth Stood Still*

The Day the Earth Stood Still will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m.

An alien (Klaatu) and his mighty robot (Gort) land their spacecraft on Cold War-era Earth just after the end of World War II. They bring an important message to the planet. However, communication turns out to be difficult, so, after learning something about the natives, Klaatu decides on an alternative approach.

This cinema sci-fi drama and suspense classic is an interesting

reflection of the concerns of its 1950's era, which have obvious similarities with those of the present.

There will be a short 1/2-hour film before the movie: *Flash Gordon and The Planet Of Death*, from 50's *Flash Gordon* TV series.

This film screening is part of the monthly series of Science Fiction movies at the Wendell Free Library. Admission is free.

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

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Contact Lenses

the eye must be cleaned and disinfected before reinserted. Lenses that are not properly cleaned and disinfected increase the risk of eye infection.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends the following contact lens care guidelines:

- Before handling contact lenses, wash hands with soap and water, then rinse and dry them with a lint-free towel.
- Minimize contact with water - remove lenses before swimming or going in a hot tub.
- Contact lenses should not be rinsed with or stored in tap or sterile water
- Do not put lenses in your mouth to wet them. Saliva is not a sterile solution.
- Do not use saline solution or wetting drops to disinfect lenses. Neither is an effective or approved disinfectant.
- Wear and replace contact lenses according to the schedule prescribed by your eye care professional.
- Follow the specific contact lens cleaning and storage guidelines from your eye care professional and the solution manufacturer.
- During cleaning, rub your

contact lenses with your fingers, then rinse the lenses with solution before soaking them. This "rub and rinse" method is considered by some experts to be a superior method of cleansing, even if the solution you are using is a "no-rub" variety.

• Rinse the contact lens case with fresh solution - not water. Then leave the empty case open to air dry.

• Keep the contact lens case clean and replace it regularly, at least every three months.

• Lens cases can be a source of contamination and infection. Do not use cracked or damaged lens cases.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – November 19th to 23rd

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 by 11 a.m. the day before. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Leave a message if the center is not open.

Monday, November 19th

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

NO. Knitting Circle

12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday, November 20th

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. SHINE Presentation

Wednesday, November 21st

10 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, November 22nd

CLOSED - THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 23rd

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

Fuel Assistance Applications

New applications for this heating season are available at the Senior Center. Help completing forms and obtaining the necessary paperwork is available. To find out income availability and other information, call Polly at (413) 423-3649.

Monday, November 19th

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

11 a.m. Quilting

Tuesday, November 20th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Name that Tune with Steve Damon

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, November 21st

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Yoga

10 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Program

12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, November 22nd

CLOSED - THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 23rd

9:00 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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 12. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – **Leverett School Community Night** will be held at Bertucci's Restaurant, 51 East Pleasant Street, in Amherst on Monday, November 19th. Fifteen percent of all sales for the entire evening will go to the Leverett PTO.

The Gill/Montague Senior Center, Fifth Street, in Turners Falls will hold its annual **Holiday/Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a wide range of homemade crafts, baked goods, a white elephant table, and a coffee can raffle, along with coffee and donuts. All monies raised help support senior activities throughout the year.

Between the Uprights, 23 Avenue A, in Turners Falls will host the **2nd Annual Turners Falls Alumni celebration** on Friday, November 23rd, starting at 6:30 p.m. All TFHS graduates over 21 are welcome to attend.

Ryan Wilder's 187 rushing yards broke the Turners Falls High School Football record for rushing yards in a single season, as Turners defeated Easthampton High School, 40-30 to improve to

a 8 win and 2 loss record on Friday, November 9th. The senior running back has 1,676 rushing yards this season, breaking Topher Prondecki's mark of 1,643 yards set in 1998. Go Wild!

TFHS wraps up the regular season with traditional holiday opponent, Greenfield High School, on Thanksgiving Day with kick off at 10:30 a.m. at GHS. The 2011 matchup between these two teams resulted in a 7-6 win for TFHS. Turners has not defeated Greenfield in consecutive years since 1972.

The **Montague and Erving Police Departments** are partnering with the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, November 17th, to present a special hour of meet, greet and get to know you.

Officer John Dempsey from the MPD and officer Robert Holst of the EPD will bring their K-9 partners to enlighten you with their crime solving and life saving techniques. Stop in GSB at 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls and join in; youngsters are definitely welcome.

While you have your calendars open, come and meet **Franklin County Home Care** caregiver

staff Laurie Deskavich and Holly Angelo on November 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the GSB community room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Laurie and Holly will be available to answer your questions and offer creative solutions to help elder caregivers get the break they need. Please stop by to find out how Caregiver Grants can give caregivers opportunity to refresh and renew with time away from their responsibilities or how respite services provide care for your loved one so you can get a break. Call Linda at (413) 863-4316 for more information.

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521, 1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls, will offer its **annual night before Thanksgiving Dinner** with spaghetti, baked chicken, and tossed salad on November 21st at the lodge. The event is open to members, guests, and the public. The meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available in advance for \$6.00 per person by calling the Montague Lodge at (413) 863-2521. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.00 per person.

The annual **Leverett Holiday Fair** will be held at town hall on Saturday, November 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event includes a craft fair, tag sale, bake sale, and luncheon and is sponsored by the Leverett Congregational Church (LCC).

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

Elks Support Public Safety Day



PAMELA LESTER PHOTO

Front row from left: officer Dan Miner of the Montague police and member of the Montague Elks Lodge #2521; Kaitlyn Miner, Safety Day participant; and Chris Lapointe, sergeant of the Montague police and Drug Awareness chair at the Montague Elks Lodge #2521; in the trailer is Donald "Tra" Traceski, of the Montague Elks.

BY PAM LESTER

MONTAGUE – The Montague Elks #2521 participated in the 2012 Public Safety Day held on Sunday, October 14th at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. The lodge partnered with the Montague police department.

Donald "Tra" Traceski, Exalted Ruler, PER staffed the drug awareness trailer and handed out printed pamphlets about drug use prevention. Sergeant Christopher Lapointe of the Montague police department is the lodge's drug awareness chairperson, and was present in both of these capacities. LaPointe reports that about 350 people attended, mainly families the event. Six Montague police officers, three dispatchers, and 15

Turners Falls Fire personnel staffed the event, which featured: tours of the fire safety house; demonstrations using hydraulic rescue tools; police dog demonstrations; fire extinguisher use demonstrations; and child safety kits were handed out.

Lapointe commented, "Not only were we able to educate our youth about keeping away from drugs, but we were able to put a smile on their faces with the Elks pencils, balls, and frisbees. Thank you for your continued support of this community and the betterment of our youth."

Perhaps Public Safety Day will become an annual event and if so, the Montague Elks will be pleased to attend to demonstrate our motto, Elks Care, Elks Share.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY EVENT Hands on Science for Homeschoolers



SHEILA JOHNSON PHOTO

Homeschooling children made erupting volcanoes out of clay with children's librarian Linda Hickman at a recent Around the World homechool session at the Carnegie Library. The series will take a break for the holidays. The very popular Hands-On Science program with Jim Klaiber is scheduled to return in January.

LEVERETT LIBRARY Author's Talk: Matthew Dicks

Matthew Dicks, author of *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, will speak at the Leverett Library on Monday, November 19th, from 7-8 p.m.

Dicks is a writer and elementary school teacher, as well as a *Moth* storyteller. He is the author of two previous novels, *Something*

Missing and *Unexpectedly Milo*.

Publishers Weekly said his latest novel was a fun and "engaging exploration of the vibrant world of a child's imagination."

Signed copies will be available for purchase.

This is a Leverett Cultural Council sponsored event.

CONCERT FOR CARING A Benefit for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia

Franklin County Home Care is proud to be a sponsor of an upcoming concert to benefit home based caregivers of persons with dementia. The concert is set for Saturday November 17th at 7 p.m. in John M. Greene Hall at Smith College in Northampton. Performers include: Green Street Brew, Mount Holyoke V8s, Strike A Chord, High Definition, Smith Smiffenpoofs, and the Williams Octet.

Tickets are available at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

To expand the care offered, the Music and Alzheimer's project needs iPods to create customized music for each dementia patient. People can donate their old working iPods at the concert.

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Superstorm Sandy Cat Relief

Dakin is reaching out to assist our friends in Monmouth County, NJ. Cats already in shelter there needed a place to go so that Monmouth County SPCA can help the animals and people in their devastated community. For a limited time, Dakin Adoption Centers in Springfield and Leverett will have a Name Your Price adoption event to help our adult cats (six months and older)... and the adult cats who have arrived from NJ... get into loving homes. We have a full house already and are working hard to help our neighbors hard hit by Hurricane Sandy.

The 10 cats arrived from Monmouth County are all cats who were sheltered there. These are not cats that have been lost or abandoned as part of the storm. We are assisting our friends and colleagues in New Jersey by taking some of the animals they



already had available for adoption, allowing them to focus their efforts on helping the animals who are part of search and rescue efforts as a result of the hurricane. The animals in our care do not have fami-

lies looking for them.

Dakin's Name Your Cat adoption event applies to adult cats (six months and older) only. Kitten adoption fees remain unchanged.

In 2011, when Dakin was hit by the tornado that ravaged parts of western MA, Dakin was fortunate to have animal welfare organizations step up to help our sheltered animals. Some of those organizations were from the very area that needs our help now. We are pleased to be able to offer our assistance but we can't do that without you.

Help us help them.
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Trojan Horse in the Debt Showdown

BY SARAH ANDERSON

WASHINGTON DC - It's budget showdown time in Washington. With various tax increases and spending cuts set to kick in at the end of the year, the pressure is on for Republicans and Democrats to make a deal.

A major player in this hot debate is a new corporate coalition called "Fix the Debt." They've recruited more than 80 CEOs of America's most powerful corporations and raised \$60 million for a big media and lobbying blitz.

Their ads call for what appears to be a moderate agenda of balancing spending cuts with some tax increases in order to bring down the deficit and ensure a bright future for the United States. But a closer look suggests the Fix the Debt campaign is a Trojan Horse.

Behind their moderate slogans is an extreme agenda focused on further reducing corporate taxes and shifting the burden onto the poor and elderly.

Take a look, for example, at a slideshow presentation the campaign has prepared as a "CEO tool" for wooing supporters. You can check it out right on their web site. It says flat out that the so-called "fiscal cliff" is an opportunity to push for "considerably less" spending on Medicare and Medicaid. It also calls for a shift to a "territorial tax system," which would permanently exempt U.S. corporations' foreign income from U.S. taxes.

At the Institute for Policy Studies, we analyzed how much the Fix the Debt member corporations would have to gain from this particular corporate tax break. The results are staggering.

We focused on the 63 Fix the Debt member companies that are publicly held and therefore must report how much they've amassed in overseas profits. Combined, these firms stand to gain as much as \$134 billion in tax windfalls if the territorial system is adopted. That's \$134 billion that won't go towards fixing the debt. To put that figure in per-

spective, it would be enough to cover the salaries of two million elementary school teachers for a year.

One of the biggest potential winners from a territorial tax system is Microsoft, which could reap a savings of \$19.4 billion on its \$60.8 billion in accumulated foreign earnings.

Why does Microsoft have so much dough stashed overseas? A Senate investigation this year shed light on this question. They found that Microsoft takes the patents for software developed at its U.S. research facilities and registers them in tax haven countries. That way, when a U.S. customer buys a copy of Microsoft Office, a hefty chunk of the profits is recorded in no-tax zones.

Under current rules, Microsoft would have to pay U.S. taxes on such foreign earnings if they bring them back to the United States to invest or pay shareholder dividends. But under Fix the Debt's favored territorial system, they would be permanently exempted.

The Fix the Debt campaign's CEOs are attempting to portray themselves as the reasonable compromisers. Some of them have even offered to give up the Bush-era tax cuts for the rich in exchange for other parts of their agenda. But given the massive windfalls they could get from a shift to a territorial tax system and other corporate tax breaks, this is hardly surprising. If their companies save billions in tax dollars, corporate profits will soar — and their CEO pay will skyrocket too.

Beware of this Trojan horse. These CEOs may try to conceal their tired old agenda of more corporate tax breaks in a patriotic package. But if they're serious about helping America, they wouldn't be trying to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable.

Sarah Anderson directs the Global Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington. This article first ran in OtherWords (OtherWords.org).

DAVID DETMOLD, founding editor of the Montague Reporter, is retiring!

Join the Board of Directors and other fans of the Montague Reporter on **DECEMBER 7th, 6 - 9 p.m.** at the French King Restaurant, Route 2, in Erving, for Detmold's **RETIREMENT PARTY!** **SAVE the DATE!** \$20 at the door, includes substantial dinner buffet. Cash bar

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LETTER TO



THE EDITOR

Thanks for the Solar Assistance, Sally

Now that the Solarize Montague program has officially come to a close, we would like to publicly thank Montague Solarize coach, Sally Pick and the members of the Montague energy committee for a job well done. Their enthusiasm for the program was infectious and helped to nudge Montague to Tier 4 pricing status.

Sally and the members of the committee provided numerous opportunities to learn about the program by holding meetings, tabling at community events, writing articles for our local papers and keeping the public visibility high. Sally was always available to answer questions and seek out additional information. Whether you decided

that solar was a workable option for your household or that it wasn't feasible, chances are you were able to make that educated decision because of the hard work and the efforts of our dedicated neighbors.

—Judith Lorei,
Laurie Rhoades
Montague Center

Regarding the Discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer in Massachusetts

At public meetings held on October 16th and 17th, in Pittsfield and Sturbridge, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), the U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the USDA's Forest Service addressed the implications surrounding the recent discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Dalton, Massachusetts.

Central to these meetings was the issue of establishing a quarantine boundary within the state that would restrict the movement of

certain wood products under certain conditions. Attendees participated in a question and answer session and were invited to offer feedback, both during the course of the meetings and subsequently, in order to help guide the state's actions as it moves forward with responding to the discovery of this destructive pest.

If you would like to view the presentations made by the state and federal agencies at the public meetings, they are posted at

www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/forestrygeneralpast.htm. In addition, we encourage input during an extended public comment period that has been extend-

ed through the close of business on Wednesday, November 21st. Comments can be submitted by emailing emabmailingdcr.updates@state.ma.us, noting EAB in the subject line; or by calling 617-626-4974; or by writing to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114.

—Edward Lambert
Boston

Edward Lambert, Jr. is the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Remembering (the first) Armistice Day



Catherine Webber remembers the first Armistice Day on Avenue A

BY MATT ROBINSON
TURNERS FALLS - As a deacon of the First Congregational Church, I've had the pleasure of visiting with Catherine Webber periodically for most of the last decade. For Mrs. Webber, that's less than a tenth of her life. You see, Mrs. Webber is One Hundred and Four Years old. Or as she puts it, "I'll be one hundred and five in June."

After she receives communion from the minister, we generally catch up. She fills me in about what she's done in the past month

or two and the trials and frustrations she's endured as a centenarian, plus four.

And then we get to the good stuff. Her memories. Her long, long long term memories.

Listening to Catherine is like walking down an old country trail with a friend, a trail lined with paths leading where she knows where. I get to ask where each path leads and she takes me down them and shows me all the interesting sights.

During our previous visits, she told me what it was like growing

up in Gill, raising a family during the Depression, the great flood and of course, World War II.

But on Sunday, I asked her about World War I. She remembered the war vividly. After all, she was a ten year old girl when the war ended back in 1918. Her older brother Eddie served in the war, as did several cousins and neighbors.

And as she thought about that first Armistice Day, November 11th, 1918, she smiled like a ten year old girl. Then her smile turned into a chuckle and she leaned forward as if she was revealing an embarrassing secret. "All those proper women," she laughed. Then she became serious. "You understand, it's only because the war was over and everyone was so happy. The boys were coming home."

I nodded and she continued. "Avenue A was filled with people." Her eyes became wide. "There were so many people, and everyone was so happy." Like a child telling on her parents, she said, "All the adults in town, all the proper ladies..." She paused. "Were drinking and dancing and hugging," she whispered. Then she quickly added, "But they never did that. Those proper ladies never drank in front of me. It's only because of the war and the boys coming home."

I pictured hundreds of people packed onto Avenue A, celebrating the end of the war. Proper ladies caught up in the moment, dancing, and hugging and even drinking and a ten year girl soaking it all in, and I was reminded of the line from Longfellow's poem: "Hardly a man is now alive / Who remembers that famous day and year."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Zoning Board Decision Raises Broad Planning Issues

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER - It is, to say the least, rare that a hearing before the Montague zoning board of appeals (ZBA) lasts for over seven hours and takes up three evenings over a two-month period. The ZBA is a local volunteer board of six members. Its primary responsibility is to make decisions on applications for special permits and variances for construction projects.

A special permit allows a project to deviate from a zoning ordinance if it is generally consistent with the spirit of the bylaw. The bylaw in question should state that a restriction exists "except by special permit."

A variance has a much higher bar to jump. An applicant must show, among other things, that the literal enforcement of the zoning bylaw would cause "substantial hardship," a phrase that has been interpreted very narrowly by the courts.

As one might suspect, this is not the stuff of prime time television. Although its decisions matter a lot to individual property owners and perhaps their immediate neighbors, the ZBA is not a high profile board. But in some cases, their deci-

sions can impact entire neighborhoods and raise broad policy questions about economic development, housing and planning policies.

In the Montague Center School redevelopment case, the ZBA is confronted with applications for two special permits and one variance. These would allow a former school building to be turned into a 22-unit apartment complex. The variance would be needed to allow a few of the units in the building to be constructed below the minimum 700-square feet required by the town's zoning.

The developer is Olive Street Development, owned by Mark and Barbara Zaccheo. They have been "developing and renovating historic buildings for over 15 years," according to a prospectus submitted to the town. Currently they own and manage 14 properties in Greenfield.

The model for the Montague Center project is a mill building on Olive Street in Greenfield, which contains 16 residential loft apartments and two office spaces. The project has numerous Green features, including solar thermal hot water, photovoltaic panels, dual flush toilets, "bio-based" insulation, and energy saving appliances and



JEFF SINGLETON PHOTO

Twenty-two high end apartments are proposed for the former Montague Center School building.

lighting, just to name a few.

It also has a waiting list, despite relatively high rents.

The town of Montague has struggled to find a viable use for the school building, which it has owned and maintained since the elementary school closed in 2008. The town has conducted a reuse study and has issued two requests for proposals for developers. Olive Street

has provided the only viable option.

The town is saddled with several derelict buildings at the present time, notably the Strathmore Mill and the Griswold Cotton Mill. These were recently owned by developers with big ideas but insufficient funds. The buildings are now in danger of falling apart, or falling apart in the case of the former cotton mill.

The Zaccheos, by contrast, have a very strong track record of property development.

So why the packed meetings, a petition containing over 150 signatures from the neighborhood and two file folders filled with public comment in opposition to the project?

After reviewing tapes of the

see **ZONING** page 9

DIEMAND from page 1

handles the farm's maintenance needs and the mechanical side of operations.

Anne, who is in charge of the farm kitchen and store, reported "incredible" success wholesaling a new line of turkey soups, including a non-gluten turkey noodle. Faith, whose responsibility includes caring for most of the farm animals and the remaining egg production, showed off new samplers the farm is offering - five different assortments of whole and farm kitchen prepared food products. They come packed into a reusable insulated bag imprinted with the Diemand Farm logo, and can be ordered ahead for pickup.

Also contributing to the income stream is a new Diemand Farm presence at festivals, Anne said, like nearby Old Home days and the hugely popular Mutton and Mead Festival in Montague. "We sell cold sandwiches and barbecued turkey legs." A nice bonus has showed up. "This new market for the turkey legs streamlines the kitchen work," she said, "because it means we have fewer legs to de-bone for turkey pot pies. Deboning the breast and thighs," she said, "is a lot easier."

Peter mentioned the farm had "increased our turkeys by 500, to 5,000 for this year. We doubled our roasting chickens, from 2,000 to 4,000." The farm raises a small herd of beef cattle. It also keeps goats, sheep, a miniature horse and miniature donkey in a sort of petting zoo

in the grassy front field of its well-kept operation on Mormon Hollow Road.

Finally, Peter said, "We bought the sawmill last March. We've sold lumber, so instead of just logs, we're creating value added. We've already done a little custom sawing, too." The new mill is located below the farmhouse, set up in a handsome wooden shed built with "trusses we made ourselves."

Zoe Burch, Faith's daughter and the farm's bookkeeper, plans with her mother to start a home school class in March. One day a week, it will be held at the farm and center around seasonal farm life. "We'll show them compost making, do things with the sheep - shear them, clean and card the wool," Zoe explained. "They'll help do chores: clean stalls, collect eggs, then cook the eggs in the farm kitchen." Burch home schools her own children.

Under serious consideration for the future is the idea of hosting events, preferably around a pavilion the three owners would like to see built when finances allow. Hosting at this level has already begun organically. "We've held a few events," Anne said, "a 50th birthday party, a memorial service, my own wedding. A customer is looking at doing a wedding here." This goes with the pavilion idea. "For now, people would have to rent a tent."

In the offing is a stone grill at which people could picnic and enjoy the farm, perhaps grilling up farm store offerings like the three kinds of turkey burgers - cheddar

cheese, blue cheese and sun-dried tomato - beef burgers or barbeque chicken.

Serving as host for outings and events like these fits the farm's many obvious charms - especially its reputation for hospitality - but also its beautiful, hillside holdings with a view down the valley of the Millers River to the southwest.

One effort - to generate some of the farm's own power and create an extra attraction - hasn't proven itself yet. This is the vertical-axis windmill the farm recently purchased.

"I'll be honest with you," Peter said, "growing up here I always felt there was a pretty good breeze. I wasn't aware of how much wind it takes to run a turbine. I thought a wind like this one, today, would do it. Mark [Maynard, principal of Urban Power, of Easthampton, which installed the turbine] seems to think 5 - 8 mile per hour winds will turn it consistently. He's doing modifications - a second belt to guard against slippage, end plates on the wind cups, thinking of raising the whole thing to catch more wind."

But, so far, Peter said he's "been disappointed that the return was not what I thought it would be." The farm, he said, has put close to \$40,000 into the wind turbine.

All told, although the commercial egg business was no easy line of work, this year of adjustment is, according to Peter, "a struggle." The three owners have taken cuts in pay. Is the farm managing to stay in the

black? "We'll know better at the end of the year," he said, "after the turkey income."

Owned and operated by as agreeable, public-spirited and especially hardworking a trio of siblings as these born and bred farmers, the Diemand Farm would have had plenty of buoyancy as a business at

any other time in history. The struggle they're experiencing, an outgrowth of current public policies that favor mega-sized businesses, may suggest that the rest of us, in our purchasing, think about favoring locally-owned businesses like theirs - and give thanks that they're still around.

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KENNEL from page 1



Renee Ezbevarria and Mario Zink,
members of the all-important Orange Team that worked on the kennel project.

and the rest were either reunited with their families or held at the kennel."

This project is a poster child for regionalization of services and won a highly competitive state Community Innovation Challenge Grant (CICG) in 2012. The CICG program, established by the Patrick-Murray administration in November 2011, invests in innovation among local governments. The grant for the dog kennel, written by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, allows 12 communities, working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, in cooperation with Franklin County sheriff Christopher Donelan, to implement a shared animal control officer and dog kennel.

Inmates from the Franklin County jail (known as the Orange Team) did an incredible amount of work on the renovation, and will in the future also help train the dogs, said Donelan, citing research about the therapeutic effect of these relationships. Sandri Oil Company donated the kennel's furnace. Pioneer Stone and Gravel of Millers Falls gave 60 tons of stone. Pam Murphy is contributing her dog training services. Five local veterinarians are helping with health care, Terry Gagnon made dog bed covers, and Tom Bergeron and the DPW donated labor. Volunteers assist staff in running the daily operations of the kennel. In all, the \$20,000 grant leveraged \$75,000 of donated goods,

labor and in-kind services, Donelan said.

There will also be cooperation and collaboration between the Franklin County dog kennel and the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett, said Dakin director Leslie Harris. "More can only be better," Harris said. "It is important to Dakin that the county has a good animal control program."

Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez, who traveled from Boston for the ribbon cutting, said, "We loved this project when we received the application. This is exactly what this grant program is looking for. Regionalization is the way of the future." Even with level funding, he explained there will not be enough money in the budget to fund all the needs of cities and towns. "Communities can do what they need to do in smarter, better ways," he said, adding, "This project proves it."

State representative Stephen Kulik thanked Gonzalez and said, "Franklin County is a special place. We're leading the way. Send us all the money you want. We will spend it wisely."

The Franklin County dog kennel is open daily, but it is best to call if you want to meet a homeless dog or volunteer some time. Call 413-676-9182.

RETIRE from page 2

No dog to walk, no dog walkers to meet. I think I played a thousand games of Solitaire between checking job sites, Facebook, and my email, and then starting over again. I didn't want to volunteer somewhere and then leave when I found a job. All of my friends were still working.

It didn't take long to start searching for another dog. Enter Lola.

She's a Dixie dog who was either abused or ignored in the past. The first time I saw her she would not be touched. She tucked her tail so far under her body that it hugged her belly. My husband and I decided she was just too damaged, and we drove away. But that week I dreamed about her sweet face and floppy ears and terrible need. Six days later we went back and brought her home. Lola needed very gentle socialization. A walk around the quiet village was perfect unless we passed a baby carriage, a recycle bin, a flag waving outside the post office, or that huge, scary sign outside the Mini Mart.

But as the rehabilitation of Lola continued, my days took shape. She needed many small walks, short training sessions, dog school, gentle touch, and cheerful reassurance. Very gradually Lola began to respond, and just as gradually I came to accept a new life.

I stopped telling the sad tale of my layoff to everyone I met, whether they wanted to hear it or not. I stopped calling other colleagues who'd been laid off that day to rail about what had happened. I stopped feeling sorry for myself and began to consider the advantages of unemployment. Thank you Lola.

Six months later we brought Izzie, the Great Pyrenees home. Unlike Lola, Izzie likes people and most dogs, but she dislikes certain dogs, especially Aussies, and there are two in town. When she sees one of them she rears up on her hind legs and roars. But she and Lola get along just fine. Two dogs are better than one, I thought. And, if I ever go back to work fulltime, they will keep each other company.



Izzie and Lola

Time passed. Lola went to dog school a lot and became much more confident. Izzie went and dropped out when she decided there was nothing she needed to learn. I did not find work.

My husband retired, and we became that old couple with the two white dogs. My Medicare card arrived in the mail, and unemployment benefits ran out just as I became eligible for Social Security. The timing was perfect, but when you have a Medicare card and you're collecting Social Security, it is time to admit that you are retired.

This is good in that it sounds better than being unemployed, but it also feels strange. All the retirement materials show people with gray hair and perfect teeth, probably false, on cruise ships or playing golf. That's just not me.

For me, retirement doesn't mean an extended rest or abundant play and travel. It does mean that we have time to take on dogs like Lola and Izzie who were difficult to place. They need a lot of care, and they like to do the same things at the same time every day. The schedule they impose makes it easier to think about where and when I might volunteer, when I will exercise, take care of the grandchildren, visit with friends, cook, clean and write.

It turns out that I'm not a free spirit at all; I thrive on structure. Who knew?

Today I am quietly happy that Izzie's anal sacs seem okay. Lola is clean and did not find anything dead to roll in today. We had a long morning walk, and now they are asleep, one at my feet and the other on the sofa.

So I write for a while, continuing to think about this strange time of life. Ten years from now I may regret that we didn't see the world — maybe. But I will never regret the day we went back for Lola, or the day we found Izzie.

The daily companionship of dogs is a cornerstone of these retirement years. Not planned, but fine.

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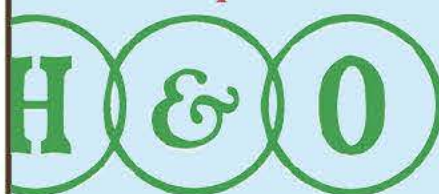
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PTSD from page 1

Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility were diagnosed with one or more mental disorders, according to the agency's 2009 summary of veteran health care.

According to the VA's summary, 92,998 service members, or 23%, were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, while 63,009, or 16%, were found to have depressive disorders.

"These numbers are in addition to the number of veteran soldiers from previous wars who suffer from PTSD," added Osborn.

According to a statement released by the Pentagon in June of this year, suicide rates of military personnel and combat veterans have risen sharply since 2005, as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan intensified. The suicide rate among the nation's active-duty military personnel has spiked this year, eclipsing the number of troops dying in battle, the Pentagon reported.

"One way to get out of PTSD is suicide, or alcohol, or drugs," Osborn added.

Unlike physical injuries, PTSD is a hidden condition, in that veterans who suffer from it may look fine on the outside, and are thus often not given proper care and treatment. Over the years the disorder has had many names: shell

shock, battle fatigue, combat neurosis, burn out and now CRPTSD.

Osborn served in the U.S. Army for over eight years. He spent two years on Special Forces A teams in Vietnam.

When Osborn was discharged in 1966 upon returning from Vietnam, he believed he was in "pretty good shape." But his family didn't agree. His uncles, who had served in WWII, told him that adjusting to civilian life was a slow process and he wouldn't rebound so quickly.

At that time, there were few services available to combat veterans, and to be labeled with "combat fatigue" was seen as a shameful thing. Beneath a façade of normalcy, Osborn suffered bouts of violent anger, sleeplessness, deep melancholy and despair - all symptoms of what today would be considered CRPTSD.

Like many combat veterans he still struggles with some of these symptoms. "In some ways, PTSD is like cancer. You can never cure it. It may go into remission, but it's always there," Osborn said.

In 1967, having already achieved a black belt in karate, Osborn took up Aikido, a martial art where practitioners learn to defend themselves while also protecting their attacker from injury. Aikido deals with aggression through mindfulness and a focus on peace.

Now, Osborn has been studying and practicing the art of Aikido for 45 years. He credits this discipline with helping maintain his mental equilibrium, and believes it can help others suffering from the disorder.

Upon retiring in 2010, he conducted an Aikido class several times a week at a veteran's facility where he worked in the ward for vets with CRPTSD. He and the staff noticed the practice was having a therapeutic effect on the men. This led to his belief that Aikido could be an effective part of a full treatment program for other veterans with CRPTSD, and resulted in his writing his book.

"The book is based on my personal experience," Osborn said. "As I wrote and researched, the book rapidly morphed into an attempt to clarify why I believe Aikido has a place in treatment programs for vets with CRPTSD. Now, it has become a proposal that the best overall modality for working with CRPTSD is a holistic approach offering a smorgasbord of treatment options, including the practice of Aikido."

Each vet who suffers from CRPTSD needs individual treatment. No two combat vets are exactly alike. Osborn said, "Teaching veterans with CRPTSD presents a very unique set of issues."

A combination of individual and group talk therapy and medication are the most common forms of treatment for PTSD today. While these approaches are useful, Osborn feels they fall short in many ways. Traditional Western medicine views the mind and body as a dualistic dichotomy. A holistic approach to healing recognizes the mind and body are entwined and indivisible.

The symptoms of PTSD include a combination of severe depression, a sense of hopelessness, sudden flare ups of anger, great inwardly-directed anger, a constant internal state of war, trouble sleeping, withdrawal from society, resistance to crowds, an avoidance of emotional and physical intimacy, a fear of being touched, and a fear of harming others combined with violent, combat responses to perceived threats and actual physical disabilities, Osborn said.

Osborn added that the statement he hears most often from vets with PTSD is that they feel out of control and more than anything they want to regain a feeling of control over their emotions. "They don't want to fear themselves any longer."

That is the first hurdle they must overcome "before they can begin to lead a constructive life." Successful interpersonal relationships, independent functioning and employment all come later; they hinge on

the issue of self-control.

As Osborn put it, "this condition was caused by a physical situation," and, thus, it requires a combination of talk therapy and physically based therapy.

Inherent in Aikido, Osborn said, is a powerful form of "kinesthetic therapy" that enables veterans "to redirect the energy of their anger and fear in a constructive manner."

"Energy is neutral." People must learn "how to channel their energy," Osborn added. Aikido is performed by blending with the motion and momentum of the attacker and redirecting the force of the attack using entering and turning movements, rather than head-on opposition.

Unlike meditation, yoga or tai chi, which are mainly individual practices, Aikido practitioners work with partners.

In some other forms of martial arts, "the goal is to crush and defeat your opponent," in Aikido you must cooperate with your partner so that you and your "attacker" end up in a safer place.

Similar to other Eastern arts, Aikido helps people focus and center their mind. Aikido training is mental as well as physical, emphasizing the ability to relax the mind and body even under the stress of dangerous situations.

"As the body moves, so does the mind," Osborn affirmed.

**DODGE from page 1**

while both men were high quality candidates, Dodge stood out as having more managerial experience. He is "more seasoned and has a deeper understanding of the job," Fairbrother said.

"Dodge really knows the nuts and bolts of the department," agreed Boutwell. "Lapointe is on his way up, and will make a good police chief someday."

Dodge received the top score on the recent BadgeQuest assessment exam, and also submitted a letter of recommendation from former chief of police Ray Zukowski, who retired last November, backing him for the job.

Dodge, a Montague resident, said of the town, "This is where I was born and where I plan to spend the rest of my life." He has served as a police officer for over 20 years. He called the position of police chief his "dream job."

Dodge interviewed for the position of police chief twice before landing the position.

When the board asked Dodge what he considered the "most serious mistake of his career," Dodge referred to his "less than desirable off duty conduct 12 years ago."

An off duty fight with another patrolman in May of 2000 is the blemish on his career Dodge was referencing. The physical altercation left him with bodily injuries



Charles Dodge, Montague's new Chief of Police, has reinstituted the policy of community policing. To combat crime, he now has officer Michael Sevene walking the downtown beat to become familiar with residents, business owners and their concerns.

and extensive damage to his private vehicle. He was demoted from sergeant to patrolman after urging an investigating officer to not report the incident. Dodge has since attributed his behavior in that incident to "youthful indiscretion."

"I was young... I've learned a

lot. I've learned how valuable my job and my family is... I've learned that it is not acceptable and that you have to lead by example."

During the interviews, both candidates were asked about their positions on 'community policing,' a system of assigning partic-

ular beats to police officers so they become familiar with neighborhood residents and their issues. Both men agreed Montague would benefit from more of this method of policing.

Dodge defined the approach as "getting out and talking to members of the community about their

concerns... getting away from driving down the street with the windows up."

As acting police chief, Dodge has already created a new beat patrol position. "I have appointed a community officer." Officer Michael Sevene has been on the police force for a long time, but has been Montague's community police officer for only a little over a week.

"The goal is for him to spend most of his time on the job outside of his cruiser. He's another set of eyes and ears on the street, and hopefully people will feel comfortable approaching him," said Dodge.

Asked about what the department can do to combat the rash of breaking and enterings over the past six months, Dodge responded that while they continue to investigate these crimes, the police want to stop them in their tracks. "We are taking a proactive rather than reactive approach," he said.

Sevene has already gathered a lot of information to assist those ongoing investigations, Dodge said. He added Sevene has already collected, "information that has led to one arrest, and officers are investigating a second suspect who we believe to be involved in the downtown break-ins."

The police are part of the community, Dodge said.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

What Goes Up, Must Come Down on Locke Hill Road

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

As they went over routine bills for the treasurer to pay last week, Wendell's selectboard members noticed tax taking procedures are being initiated for the 600 foot former microwave tower on Locke Hill Road. Selectboard member Dan Keller wondered aloud if owner American Tower was trying to let the tower fall into town hands for back taxes to avoid the expense of taking it down, as ordered by the town's building inspector, Phil Delorey.

Town administrative coordinator Nancy Aldrich said after the meeting she had spoken with Delorey, who told her American Tower has since brought their taxes up to date. A representative of the company assured Delorey the company would be taking the tower down.

"It appears they are going to do what they are supposed to do," said Aldrich.

Dogs involved in both dog hearings held in the last month have broken the terms of their hearings.

Cindy Freeman's dog was found on a neighbor's porch four or five times; complaints were made to dog officer Maggie Houghton.

At the hearing Freeman had said, "If they get out it's on my Head." The dog was called dangerous because he killed chickens.

Because the original hearing was held before the new state dog law came into effect, the selectboard was not required to have the dogs euthanized. They decided instead to order Freeman's dogs out of town. Freeman has ten days in which she can appeal the decision in court.

Andy Hamilton's dogs have continued wandering. In fact, selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser said Hamilton's dogs ran in front of him as he drove to the November 7th meeting.

These dogs, called a nuisance, were ordered out of town at a hearing on September 26th. But Hamilton left that hearing saying, "Screw you; they ain't f going anywhere."

Houghton told the selectboard she does not want to pick the dogs up again and risk aggravating Hamilton more.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said, "(Police chief) Ed (Chase) has agreed to pick them up" the next time the dogs are found loose, and Keller added that

it likely won't be a long wait. Keller said the next complaints about Hamilton's dogs should be addressed to Chase, not Houghton. Stephen Broll, representing the Valley Land Trust met the selectboard and paid one dollar for a license allowing the land trust to change the grade on town land below the office building and redirect drainage so water will flow away from the foundation of the land trust house just downhill of the town's property. The land trust and the selectboard have agreed to create an easement allowing the work, but an easement requires a town meeting vote. The land trust lawyer recommended a license to allow the work be issued instead, so the work can be done before the ground freezes.

The planned work will include a level parking space for two cars.

Board members created a priority list for the community development strategy plan as follows: housing rehabilitation; pursuing Green community status; high speed internet; making the town hall kitchen useful for community groups; creating and writing a building guide for owner builders; supporting cottage industries; food security; supporting regional businesses; classifying roads in town.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Friends of the Wendell Library made two donations to the library: one, for \$1056, will pay for Sunday staffing of the library from December 2012 to April 2013. The other donation of \$5,000 is for general programs and needs.

David Coy resigned from the regional school planning committee. His departure will allow alternate Dick Baldwin to become a voting member of that committee.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Choir Heading to Virginia Festival

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - The school committee meeting opened Tuesday night with Michael Bradley, the new director of choral and instrumental music at the Gill-Montague school district requesting approval for a trip to Williamsburg, VA, on April 26th to April 28th, 2013 for members of the Turners Falls High School choir.

The choir would have the chance to perform at the Worldstrides Heritage Music Festival and attend an awards ceremony at the Busch Gardens Theme Park. Bradley hopes at least 14 students will participate, and perhaps as many as 20. He said more students have signed up for school choir now that they know about the trip. Bradley emphasized the importance of showing students with an interest in music that it can be a serious profession, which many people have made their life's work.

Interim superintendent Mark Prince smiled broadly and gave Bradley his approval for the trip, and the school committee followed with a unanimous vote of approval.

Andrew Paquette of Management Solutions, the company in charge of the district's business department, presented a budget spreadsheet that reflects their new "all funds approach." In this approach, everything is included in the spreadsheet: grants, state funding, all sources of revenue and all expenditures whether grant funded or not. This allows the school committee to view the budget in a way they have never been able to before.

In the past, only those costs covered by income from the state and the

member towns has been included in budget reports. Grants were kept off budget as a separate, intermittent funding stream.

The budget report presented at the meeting only reflects the current school year budget as it exists, revised to realign it as of October 31st, 2012 to current budget realities. Adjustments reflect changes in personnel costs and changes in state funding this year. It does not address changes such as additional funds or shortfalls which will be brought to the school committee and superintendent for approval at a later date. Paquette asked for school committee approval of the budget as presented, and received unanimous consent.

Prince said the district will participate in the 64th annual Student Government Day program to be held on Friday, April 5th, 2013 at the State House in Boston. The program is sponsored and coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This program encourages students from Massachusetts public and private high schools to learn about the structure of state government, become engaged citizens, and develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities we share in a democracy. Students will either participate in a simulation of the Massachusetts state legislature or of the members of state judicial court.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27th, at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.

First Congo Interfaith Thanksgiving

MONTAGUE - On Sunday, November 18th at 3 p.m. the Interfaith Council of Franklin County (www.interfaithcouncilof-franklincounty.org) will host its annual interfaith Thanksgiving service. This year it will be held at the First Congregational Church of Montague. Included in this prayerful service will be offerings by Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Pagans, Native Americans and others who are members or friends of the Interfaith Council. It will be followed by a potluck supper, which though

unplanned, is always sumptuous, mystically reflecting the abundance of our joy and blessings in this world. Please invite family and friends to join us!

The mission of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County is to bring together representatives of various faith communities and religious organizations, as well as interested individuals, for the purpose of dialogue, information sharing, celebration and social transformation. We honor the rich variety of religious and spiritual traditions of our community.

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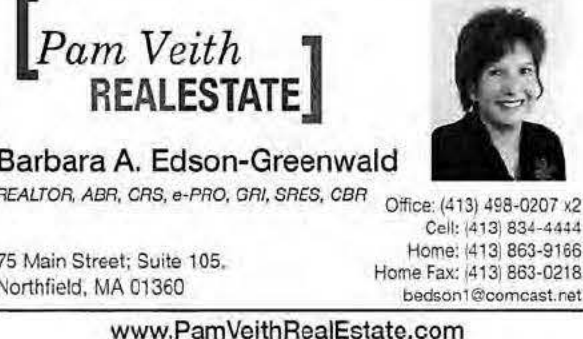
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ZONING from pg 5
three meetings, the ZBA files, and talking to neighbors, the short answer is this. There is nothing even remotely resembling the proposed project in Montague Center or its environs. There are literally no apartment buildings in the village, and no structures in Montague Center with more than four units. The proposed project at Montague Center School would be 22 units.

Given that, one might predict some opposition. Former select-board member Sam Lovejoy, a local resident, noted at one hearing that he counted a total of approximately 18 units in the former school's entire immediate three-street neighborhood. This project would more than double that total.

Lovejoy argued that an apartment building of this scale would change the character of the neighborhood. "There is no doubt in my mind [that Montague Center will become] like Sunderland, a bedroom community for student housing," he opined.

As is often the case, criticisms of the process were raised. The initial reuse proposal, the basis for the town award to Olive Street, called for 16 to 18 units. Local residents, who had serious concerns about the scope of this project, seemed shocked when the developers wound up requesting a

variance for a 22 unit project from the ZBA instead.
It is of course possible that both sides in this debate are right. That is, the project may have significant positives and negatives. The goal would be to make a decision based on a cost-benefit analysis, hopefully good for the neighborhood and good for the town as a whole. Can Montague's prior long term planning efforts help inform this decision?

In fact, Montague has produced a large number of plans and studies designed to guide development decisions. The town has a Comprehensive Plan (1999), a Housing Plan (2004), an Energy Reduction Plan (2010), and a Community Development Strategy (2013) among others. These reports contain detailed data on housing and community development, as well as extensive recommendations. They have been produced by broad-based planning committees with a good deal of input from the public.

Yet the Montague Center School building case raises questions about the ability of current planning tools to resolve a controversy like this. For example, the various Montague plans promote development in village centers and existing buildings, as opposed to new construction on agricultural lands and forests. This goal provides a strong justification for

this project. On the other hand, all plans stress affordable housing as a criterion in evaluating new housing construction. The proposed project, although impressive in design and financing, is certainly not intended to provide rental units that meet the definition of "affordable."

A number of plans stress the need to preserve the "historic character of neighborhoods." On that, the proposal preserves a key historic building; on the other hand it calls for a multi-unit apartment complex that seems inconsistent with the history of the neighborhood.

Both the comprehensive plan and the housing plan stressed the need to rethink and update various zoning bylaws. But these plans make no specific mention of the 700 foot minimum dwelling space requirement, which town officials, in justifying the variance to allow the Zaccheos to build some smaller units, have called "antiquated."

In the end the ZBA voted 4 to 1 to approve the special permits and the variance. After seven hours of listening, a process that seemed above and beyond the call of duty for a volunteer board, members did not discuss issues raised at the hearing or explain the basis for their decision. Unfortunately this raised the question in the minds of critics who had packed these meetings: had the board in fact listened to anything that had been said?

Perhaps more importantly, the lack of discussion raised the question of whether the board had based the decision on the legal criteria for permits, and especially variances.

Or had the board approved the project because it felt the town needed to sell the building and finally had a solid developer waiting in the wings?

This may well be strong justification for the project, but it is not clear that it conforms to the law on zoning variances.

Next: Everything you always wanted to know about variances, not only in Montague but on Cape Cod and in North Carolina.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Selectboard to Take Control of School Custodial Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD - As the town moves to hire a new part time facilities manager to replace John Kuczik, (to the extent it is possible for anyone to replace the multitalented Mr. Kuczik), the selectboard agreed on Tuesday night to place the town's custodial staff under the direct supervision of the new manager.

The town has a custodian to take care of town buildings like the town hall and library, but the selectboard decided this week to also include the two custodians who look after the Leverett Elementary School under the direct supervision of the soon-to-be-hired facilities manager.

In order to do this, the selectboard will direct the school committee to remove approximately \$250,000 from their annual budget - the amount dedicated to custodial salaries and supplies at the elementary - so that an equal sum can be included on the townside of the budget.

"Part of the purpose [of the facilities manager position] is to have one person see all of the buildings as a whole," said town administrator Margie McGinnis.

Selectboard member Julie Shively warned of the possibility that the school committee might have a "psychological" tendency to view the removal of the custodial line item from their budget as an opening to spend the quarter million dollars on other school priorities.

Shively also reported on the progress of the four town Regional School District Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury, and Leverett, looking into the possibility of a K-12 region for those four towns. The committee is hopeful that grant funding from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education might be forthcoming to hire consultants to examine the financial and educational costs and benefits of a new four town region.

"It's not at all certain all towns or all committee members would vote for it," Shively acknowledged. And she said, "There are grave concerns in government and finance," for such a region. Although the plan is still in formative stages, it could hitch the governance of the three smaller towns' elementary schools to Amherst's under one regional school committee, and may potentially require raising the salaries of teachers and staff at the smaller schools to a level commensurate with Amherst's.

But Shively called the possible educational benefits of such a

region "exciting." She said, "We could have one or two innovation schools to bring people back," to the local public schools, which have lost students in recent years to area charter schools, like the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School in Hadley. Advocates also say regionalizing at the K-6 level with Amherst would facilitate streamlining of elementary curricula with the upper school.

But, Shively admitted, "You could do that anyway, without regionalizing." She added, the four town regionalization effort is "moving at a snail's pace."

Also moving at a snail's pace is the agreement between the current five towns that make up elementary school Union 28 - Erving, Wendell, New Salem, Shutesbury and Leverett - to tie the level of benefits paid to U-28 central office staff to the rates each member town pays their own employees. That agreement, made possible by recently enacted special legislation, is under review by school committees, U-28 towns and lawyers. Leverett has withheld payments for one recent retiree's benefits, pending the finalization of the agreement, but selectboard member Peter d'Errico said Tuesday, "We will pay what is assumed to be our outstanding balance when the agreement goes into effect."

With the advent of cold weather requiring town hall workers to bundle up in recent weeks, the factory direct heating system installed at town hall last year by Siemens Building Technologies, which suffered repeated wiring malfunctions over the course of a frustrating winter of trouble shooting, finally kicked in and began warming town hall again on Tuesday, once additional repairs were made to the controls.

"I can see the benefit of this energy management system," commented selectboard chair Rich Brazeau, wryly, "because we really don't use any energy."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Larceny, Burglary & Theft

Tuesday, 11/06 9:49 p.m. Larceny at █ G Street, Turners Falls. Wednesday, 11/07 11:47 a.m. Larceny at █ Fourth Street, Turners Falls. 1:34 p.m. Hit and run accident at █ K Street, Turners Falls. 5:25 p.m. Larceny at █ Chestnut Street, Turners Falls. 1:34 p.m. Larceny reported at the Montague Police Department, Turners Falls. Thursday, 11/08 7:53 a.m. Open window sighted at Calvary Church on Prospect Street, Turners Falls. 1:50 p.m. Fraud reported at █ Greenfield Road,	Montague. 7:13 p.m. Fraud reported at █ Randall Road, Montague. Friday, 11/09 3:31 p.m. Larceny in front of the Rite Aid at 240 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 5:25 p.m. Larceny at █ Chestnut Street, Turners Falls. 7:07 p.m. Larceny at █ Central Street, Turners Falls. Saturday, 11/10 1:29 p.m. Burglary reported at █ Fifth Street, Turners Falls. Sunday, 11/11 11:36 p.m. General distur-	bance at The Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls. Individual removed to hospital. 11:44 p.m. Harassment reported at █ Second Street, Turners Falls. Monday, 11/12 1:54 p.m. █ arrested at F.L. Roberts, 132 Third Street, Turners Falls. Charges include domestic assault and battery with a weapon. 2:11 p.m. Larceny at █ Avenue C, Turners Falls. 5:07 p.m. Assault at █ Greenfield Road, Montague.
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Animals in Distress

Monday, 11/05 5:55 a.m. Resident from North Cross Road has issue with Firearms in the area. 8:30 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2, westbound lane at Mobil Station. Operator assisted. 11:50 a.m. Medical assistance on West Gill Road. Party transported. 6:10 p.m. Sick raccoon on Franklin Road. 8:00 p.m. Injured owl	from motor vehicle accident on Route 2. Tuesday, 11/06 9:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with bus vs. truck accident on Turners Falls Road. Gill resident involved. 3:55 p.m. Sick raccoon on South Cross Road. Wednesday, 11/07 6:35 a.m. Welfare check of elderly resident on West Gill Road. 3:05 p.m. Assisted Utah Department of Public Safety with arrest of Gill	resident from Mountain Road for possession of pounds of marijuana. Thursday, 11/08 11:20 a.m. Power outage on north end of town. Located problem in Northfield at a motor vehicle accident site. 4:10 p.m. Assisted resident with elder issue on Highland Road. 4:30 p.m. Riverside resident reported her cat shot by BB gun on Wednesday, Nov. 7. 5:30 p.m. Lost dog reported on West Gill Road.
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5:45 p.m. Possible jumper reported on Gill Montague Bridge. No one located at same. Friday, 11/09 9:40 a.m. Suspicious person and motor vehicle on French King Highway near vacant home. Subject was moved along. 3:30 p.m. Met resident family members regarding elder issues for party on Highland Road. 4:45 p.m. Residents requested sex offender information.	Saturday, 11/10 3:37 p.m. Sick skunk on Boyle Road. 6:15 p.m. Passing motorist captured loose dog on Main Road; awaited police response. 6:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with domestic situation. Sunday, 11/11 12:30 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on French King Highway near Factory Hollow Bridge. 4:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest on Route 10.
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One Man's Opinion on the Turkey Day Game

BY DENIS BORDEAUX
TURNERS - Close, but.

As in close but no cee-gar. It's gonna happen, just not in '012. The event we have to wait for, of course, is Turners and Greenfield playing for the Intercounty League crown on Turkey Day. We'll just have to settle for two teams with high powered offenses, and very stingy defenses, whose next Thursday game is just a tease for runs to their respective Super Bowls. Gee, poor us.

I'm hoping and speculating that both teams will be playing 100% (most significantly Zach Bartak and Garrett Hudson of Greenburg). With three weeks to heal and both teams at full strength, this should be a donny-brook of major propor-

tions. (I don't know if that word is hyphenated, but it should be.)

Let's start with the defenses.

Until Turners gave up 30 points to the high octane, playoff bound

Easthampton squad, they were giving up 6 points a game. They have averaged just over 7 until running into league champ Belchertown.

With both teams losing just a few players, could this be a 7-6 war of attrition like in '011? Hardly. These two teams punt the ball less than in flag football, or Little League baseball, for that matter. Like last year, Greenfield QB Zach Bar-tak (I don't know if that word is hyphenated, but it should be) is probably the best all-around on the field. He's a game breaker on offense, running and throwing, but he is no less effective on the other side of the ball, where he quarterbacks the defense. He has veteran receivers in Bordon and Lively, and he hits

them. Newcomers Stack and vet Duclos give them balance on the backfield.

For the Indians: T.D. maker, turf shaker, record breaker, Ryan 'Wildman' Wilder is just the tip of this Titanic-sinking iceberg. When you have lots of talent at the skill positions, you can expand your playbook to include everything a coach can imagine that a spirit crushing dynamo of a football team can do. Ryan righteously credits his line for his monster season, but that line opens holes for everybody. John Ollari, Alex Osowski, and the X-factor Malcolm Smith provide multiple headaches, even for good defenses.

I say Turners QB Malcolm is the X-factor, not just to be a wise guy. But with so many weapons to account for, Greenburg is going to leave room for Smith to take off on 3rd downs to keep drives alive, and keep the ball away from Bar-Tak.

So for me, straight up, I see the Powertown Indians by 13. Given the day, the history, and the intense emotions that can manifest in so many variables, the score will probably be closer, say Turners by 6.

Keys to the game: J. Ollari on offense; J. Ollari on defense.

Remember, you heard it here first.



Water Craftsman/ System Operator

The Turners Falls Water Department located within the Town of Montague is accepting applications for the position of Water Craftsman/System Operator. This full time position requires the ability to perform a wide variety of skilled work in construction and maintenance of a public water system. Requirements include on call work and some weekend/holiday and a Massachusetts Driver's license. Pay scale is \$14.00 - \$17.73 per hour. Applicants should submit a resume with letter of interest or an employment application no later than 1:00pm Friday November 30, 2012.

Application forms are available at the Water Department Office or at www.turnersfallswater.com Please submit replies to: Kenneth G. Morin, Chairman Board of Water Commissioners Turners Falls Water Department 226 Millers Falls Rd Turners Falls, MA 01376-1605

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Tax Classification Hearing

The Gill Selectboard and Assessors will meet November 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall to determine the percentages of the local tax levy for each class of real estate and personal property for Fiscal Year 2013, as defined in Section Two-A of Chapter fifty-nine of the Massachusetts General Laws. Time will be set aside at the public hearing for residents to present oral or written testimony.

FILM from page 1

late 70s, as a tiny make-shift store that opened in Turners Falls, and once catered to a subculture of folks who not only believed in the benefits of whole foods but also in running a business democratically, as opposed to a top down management structure, adhering to the dictates of for profit corporations.

The film shows clips of the original co-op when it occupied a modest storefront on Avenue A in Turners Falls (now home to the Absolutely Fabulous hair salon) before mushrooming in popularity. Alves cuts to footage from the early 1990s, where we see the new location, much as it is today, in its anchor location on Main Street in Greenfield. Alves goes on to explain how the Co-op has become home to 2,100 members and 80 employees, and now grosses over 7.5 million in annual sales.

"Food for Change" enlightens viewers about the Co-op's goals, which are: caring for the community, exercising local control over business, the protection of natural resources, and equity toward not only its employees but the farmers who supply its food.

The film shows that Green Fields Market is only one of hundreds of food co-operatives across the United States. A large chunk of them are concentrated in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN.

Alves delves into the history of America's first expansion in the co-operative movement, during the 1930s, which helped the Twin Cities remain resilient during the Great Depression, due to the co-operative model that still plays an important role in the local economic structure. Alves sketches the co-op movement's second wave, which began during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"The goal was to put people before profits," said Alves, while displaying black and white footage of protesters marching in the streets with banners reading "People Power not Money Power."

"Young, practical idealists saw

the co-operative structure as a way to transform society from the bottom up," said Alves, narrating vintage footage of cooperatives in the 1970s. In addition to viewing America during these historical time frames, the viewer gets a glimpse of downtown Turners Falls as it was in the late 70s. The images are intermingled with voiceovers of current store managers in the Twin Cities region, where Alves conducted many of his interviews.

"Co-ops start out of a need somebody has of something they're not already getting," offered Lindy Bannister, general manager of the Wedge, Minnesota's largest food co-op. According to Bannister, the Wedge found the co-op model insured their survival during the nation's near-economic meltdown of 2008. "None of our employees were laid off," said Bannister, who proudly announced the Wedge finished off that fiscal year with a

"Cooperatives are
the path to human
survival."

— Steve Alves

gross

of \$31 million.

"Food for Change" shifts to a gloomier tone as Alves explains how the consumer's right to choose is being annihilated by the "consolidation of the grocery business by a few major corporations," creating "a narrower and narrower channel by which food is being delivered to grocery stores." Alves dubs this trend an "hour glass effect," which not only narrows consumer choice but also impacts the health of the planet and the health of the people. To emphasize his point, Alves includes disturbing footage of a giant factory farm nestled in America's bread basket with nuclear power plants looming in the background. Plumes of steam from the reactors' cooling towers hover over the cornfields while the voiceover of general manager Sean Doyle, of Seward Coop, states "Residents can no longer drink well water in the state of Iowa," due to the run-off of pesticides from factory farms. Cooperatives are one of the main entities working to reverse this trend by vouching for both an organic and local food system, to eliminate pesticide use and reduce the carbon footprint of our groceries. As a not incidental benefit, money spent at co-ops circulates locally, going back into the pockets of community members, rather than corporate overlords.

Alves' film will inspire viewers because, the producer says, "Co-operatives are the path to human survival, and to operate them requires thoughtful actions."



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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.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through NOVEMBER 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Photographs by John Grabill*.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: *Stories Set in Stone, Sculpture by Tim deChristopher*. DeChristopher is a sculptor who works primarily in stone and steel. His work is deeply rooted in the tradition of architectural stonework, masonry and sculpture with a contemporary sensibility.

NOW through December 12th

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Separated at Birth* – paintings and installations by artists Cathe Janke and Stephen Cahill.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Leverett Library: *PJ Story Time*. Children pre-K to 3rd grade can enjoy stories, songs, craft activity and snacks with Julie Stepanek. 6:30 p.m.

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Shag*. 7 to 9 p.m.

Stinchfield Lecture Hall, Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: *"Bringing Permaculture to Our Valley,"* a presentation on local permaculture by GCC's own Abrah Dresdale and Ryan Harb, Chief



PHOTO COURTESY ALAFIA

Eleven-piece Afrobeat funk band Alafia, formerly known as Fenibo, travels from Brattleboro to start the party at the Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls, Friday, November 16th at 9:30 p.m.

Sustainability Specialist at UMass-Amherst. 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock. 8 to 10 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

Leverett Town Hall: *Leverett Congregational Church Craft Fair*. Crafts, baked items, white elephant table. 9 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour, "Gobble Gobble!"*. Have you ever wondered about wild turkeys? Young children 3-6 and their parents are invited to explore their questions through story, crafts and games. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free.

Amherst History Museum: Lunchtime History Bites Lecture: Dr. Else Hambleton *"The Puritans and Sex."* 12 p.m. Free.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Book Mill: Poetry Readings by *Anselm Berrigan and John Coletti*. Music by *Thurston Moore*. 8 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pale Cowboy*, americana garage power pop. 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Tooth and Nail Puppetry Front's "Spooky Suitcase*

Show." Political puppetry at its downright scariest! 8 to 9:15 p.m.

Arts Block Café: *Mark Nomad*, blues. 8:30 p.m., \$.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Alafia*, (formerly *Fenibo*), 11 piece Afrobeat dance band. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Mary Jane Jones*, jazz, blues, soul. 9:30 p.m., free.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: Senior Center Christmas Bazaar features crafts, gifts, raffles and food. Proceeds go towards the "Friends of the Senior Center" for improvements and events. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls, MA: *The Little Drummer Craft Fair*. Featuring over fifty artists and craftspeople

from the Pioneer Valley and beyond. Artists' work includes fiber arts, knits, crochet, quilts, felting, jewelry, cards and other paper products, woodcarving and wood-turned products, hooked rugs, handbags, pillows, mittens & hats, doll and children's clothing, pet products, herbal arts, balms, salves and lotions, candles, freshly made fudge, photography, oil paintings, watercolors, word bricks, seasonal decorations and more! Quilt and other raffles. This fair is held indoors with plenty of free parking. Refreshments, made by our culinary students, will be available throughout the day, including our signature Autumn Bisque, pies and tarts! All proceeds benefit the Franklin County Technical School Music Department and award winning Drumline! 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: In recognition of National Transgender Awareness Week, the Alumni Association Speaker Series presents Jennifer Madden, M.D. ('78), author of *Confessions of a Transsexual Physician* about her emotional, spiritual and physical transformation from male to female. Dr. Madden, a practicing family physician and graduate of GCC, Brandeis University and UMass-Worcester, will be joined by other members of the gender identity community for a panel discussion followed by optional small roundtable workshops. 2 to 4 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Movie Night*, 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*. Bring soft-soled shoes. 7

p.m. to 10 p.m., \$.

John M. Greene Hall, Smith College, Northampton: *A Night to Remember*. Concert to benefit homebased caregivers to people with dementia. Performers will include: *Green Street Brew*, *Mount Holyoke V8s*, *Strike a Chord*, *High Definition*, *Smith Smiffenpoofs*, *Williams Octet*. The Music and Alzheimer's project is requesting donations of old working iPods, to be used to provide customized music for each dementia patient. For more information, contact Heather SR Craig at heathersrc@gmail.com or (413) 320-9814. 7 p.m. \$

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 7 p.m. \$.

Arts Block Café: *Happier Valley Comedy Show*, with the *Ha-Ha's* and *Deep Dish*. 7:30 p.m., \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Andres Wilson*, jazz blues funk pop rock, and *Asia Mei*, alternative singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, '80s pop rock and ballads, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Session*. Musicians of all levels can sit in and perform traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players production of Tennessee Williams' 1947 American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 7 p.m. \$.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Tim O'Brien & Red Molly*. 7 to 10 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*. 8 to 10 p.m.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Irish Session*. 8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Haste!* (formerly *Vaudvillains*) and friends, 8 p.m., free.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

Leverett Library: Author talk & book signing. *Matthew Dicks*, author of the novels *Something Missing*, *Unexpectedly Milo* and *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*. 7 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Quebecois Session*. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White*, acoustic reggae. 8 to 10 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, Thanksgiving Show. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Moonlight Madness* at 4 p.m. *Seth Adam*, pop rock, 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, guitar-based blues, 9 to 11 p.m.


Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Sharp Dressed Man*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m. to

midnight.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry*, with *Dana Osterling*, alt-folk and olde tyme, 9:30 p.m., free.

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Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *"Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smul"* show in February 2013. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net, with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by 1/20/13.




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Vermont Yankee Shut it Down Activists Headed to Trial



MARY-ANN DEVITA/PALMIERI PHOTO

Chief Mary Beth Hebert of the Vernon Police arrives at Vermont Yankee to arrest (l-r) Nancy First, Ellen Graves, Frances Crowe, Hattie Nestel, Betsy Corner, and Paki Wieland, after they locked the nuclear power plant gates on August 30th, 2011.

BY MARCIA GAGLIARDI BRATTLEBORO — The state of Vermont has scheduled a trial the week after Thanksgiving for civil resistance at Entergy Corporation's Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. The actions of six women arrested on August 30th, 2011 for unlawful trespass when they padlocked the main gate will be weighed by a jury beginning November 27th.

The state's action represents the first time that anyone has been brought to trial in the last seven years for demonstrations at the Vernon nuclear power plant.

The women are all part of the Shut it Down affinity group, members of this group, including the six women involved in the action on August 30th, 2011, have been arrested 22 times for trespass or

unlawful mischief at the Vernon nuclear facility since 2005.

The six women facing trial this month acted in the immediate wake of Hurricane Irene and a then recent earthquake to demonstrate the imminent danger posed by a potential meltdown at the nuclear plant.

The women face penalties, if convicted, of up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$500 each. They intend to defend themselves on the grounds of competing harms, and say they were obliged to lock the power plant gates because the catastrophe from a nuclear accident at Vermont Yankee would far exceed the individual burdens they may face if found guilty of trespass at the plant.

Those to be tried are Frances Crowe, 92, Paki Wieland, 68, and Nancy First, 81, of Northampton;

Betsy Corner, 64, of Colrain; Ellen Graves, 69, of West Springfield; and Hattie Nestel, 73, of Athol.

Assistant state's attorney Steven Brown will prosecute the women. A spokesman for the clerk of the superior court criminal division said jury selection will occur Monday, November 26th, followed by the trial November 27th and 28th.

Only Crowe has previously faced trial, despite the women's 22 civil disobedience actions at the Vermont Yankee gates or corporate headquarters. Her case involving charges of unlawful mischief were dismissed by the judge when she maintained that she was not mischievous but instead acted seriously and responsibly with concern for potential consequences of a meltdown at Vermont Yankee.



Montague Reporter Hits Jackpot

Turners native Beth (Dobias) Hanson (left) is shown here at Mt. Charleston, right outside Las Vegas, Nevada, perusing the real estate section of the Montague Reporter, with Karen Collins, of K Street, who was visiting the Silver State.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

BY SALLY PICK MONTAGUE CENTER — Weatherization upgrades were performed this month at minimal cost to the Montague Center Library by Co-op Power as part of their training program for Green jobs, through a grant received by the Brick House. The grant is for teaching at-risk youth job skills, and placing them in internships.

Five students are in the program, and will advance to internships if they finish the training. As a result of the work performed by Co-op Power and the Green job trainees, the library should see lower heating bills this winter.

This project was organized by the Montague energy committee, as a component of its efforts to reduce the town's municipal, residential, commercial and agricultural energy use and costs.

Chris Pletcher, Good Green Jobs Coordinator at Co-op Power, worked with the energy committee to help make this collaboration happen.

For more info on the Green Jobs training program, contact Jarod Libby at the Brick House (863-9576) or Chris Pletcher of Co-op Power 413-834-0977.

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Reducing Heat Loss at Montague Ctr Library



Scott Reed, Co-op Power's lead trainer for the Green Jobs program with the Brick House, shows trainees places to seal air leaks along the sill basement.

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