



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 27

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 20, 2017

0.5K to Couch: Adopting Retired Racing Greyhounds

By EMILY ALLING

TURNERS FALLS – For me, it started in college. A housemate had a greyhound named Zorro, a sweet, mellow fawn boy with black eyeliner whose primary activity was napping on our sofa. Though he was a large dog, his presence in our small living space barely registered, other than occasional delicate snoring.

There is something about these animals, with their elongated features, doe eyes, and docile natures, that invites a connection and creates a lasting impression. When, a decade later, I was ready to adopt a dog of my own, I thought first of greyhounds.

“Anybody who works with greyhounds will tell you: once you’ve met one, you fall in love,” says Lisa Packard of Amherst,



Mercy, one of GPG’s greyhounds.

who would know. She adopted her first greyhound, Gemini, in 2002 after encountering the breed through one of her home care nursing clients.

Today, greyhounds have taken over Lisa’s life. As president of Gemini’s Pampered Greyhounds (GPG), the area’s newest greyhound adoption group, she devotes nearly all of her time to taking in and caring for foster dogs, finding the right adoptive families for them, and educating adopters and the public about this distinctive breed.

A Racing Dog

Almost all greyhounds in the United States were bred as racing dogs. Starting in puppyhood, greyhounds’ lives are highly structured. They are socialized from a very

see **GREYHOUNDS** page A6



PHOTOS COURTESY GPG

Tosh, available for adoption from GPG.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Closed-Door Hydro Sessions Begin

By MIKE JACKSON

The town of Gill, along with a number of local towns and agencies, has been invited to send representatives to a series of meetings to negotiate a “settlement” with FirstLight Power Resources, in advance of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)’s anticipated relicensing of the company’s hydroelectric projects at Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain.

At their meeting Tuesday night, however, Gill selectboard members expressed unease with the confidentiality “ground rules” document FirstLight has asked participants to sign before participating in the meetings,

suggesting that doing so could land them in a position of violating either state open meeting law, or the public trust.

The first in the series of daylong meetings, which are expected to last all year, will take place next Tuesday, April 25 at Northfield Mountain.

“Just because FirstLight asks for confidentiality doesn’t mean we’ll be able to comply with those laws, and provide confidentiality to the level they’d like,” administrative assistant Ray Purington explained, adding that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has consulted legal counsel and is drafting a “response” to the

see **GILL** page A7

Swift River Students Create Care Packages for Soldiers in Iraq

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

WENDELL – Many boxes decorated with bright yellow signs that read “Little Box of Sunshine” were spread across the floor of the Swift River Elementary School cafeteria on a recent Friday afternoon. Members of the student council were lined up in front of tables piled high with snacks, toiletries, and other treats to send to soldiers stationed in Iraq.

Guided by first-grade paraprofessional Tammy Richard, they were giving their time in an effort to help bring comfort to soldiers stationed just outside of Mosul, where there is no access to such luxuries.

Sitting on the floor, Elise and Abel were decorating the insides of the boxes with pictures of a beaming sun. David and Astha leaned over one of the tables, inspecting the goodies piled up to be loaded into the boxes.

The variety of items was impressive: toothpaste, shaving cream, energy bars, candy, gum, microwaveable meals and soft toilet paper, to name a few. The items were made possible by donations

see **CARE PACKAGES** page A5



BARTLETT PHOTO

Astha and David survey some of the items to be packaged.

FRTA Weighs Elimination of Montague – Greenfield Route

By EDITE CUNHA

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) held an informational public hearing at the Discovery Center on Tuesday to report on proposed changes to local bus routes, and to solicit community input on the changes.

The meeting got off to a delayed start due to technical difficulties, which caused FRTA personnel to eventually abandon the equipment and face the audience directly. FRTA administrator Tina Cote began by explaining that the new management and route planning team had been working on developing route changes to increase efficiency, and deal with serious budget shortfalls. “We are currently working with \$50,000 less in funds, and by the start of next fiscal year, we will be \$100,000 in the hole,” she said.

The proposed changes would eliminate the popular and well-used Route 22, the Montague/Greenfield route, and restructure

Routes 32 (Orange/Greenfield) and 23 (Sunderland/Greenfield) to make up for that loss.

The audience was small but vocal, made up of people whose lives are directly affected by the FRTA’s decisions, and they did not hold back in expressing their unhappiness both with the proposed new changes and past ones.

Community members expressed displeasure with the route changes and cuts implemented last summer. Stops were eliminated, such as one at Eleventh Street and Avenue A, resulting in residents of the Patch neighborhood having to walk to Food City to catch the same bus, often in dangerous conditions, walking in the road due to un-shoveled sidewalks, and often in the dark.

The elimination of an early-morning route to the Turners Falls industrial park, they said, left several workers without transportation to their jobs and livelihoods. And the elimination of “flag-stop” locations has the transit service inaccessible for many.

see **BUSES** page A4

“The Elephant In the Room is Money”: Candidates Debate Wendell’s Future

By JOSH HEINEMANN
and KATIE NOLAN

On April 14, nearly fifty Wendell citizens gave up a Friday evening to attend a forum in the town hall, a meeting of the two candidates running for selectboard, incumbent Dan Keller and challenger Ray DiDonato.

The citizens of Wendell face in their May 1 election a choice between two competent, intelligent candidates.

The forum was organized into four parts: opening statements, questions given ahead of time, questions from the floor, and closing statements. Jonathan von Ranson moderated, and his wife, Susan, rang the bell that told when a speaker’s time was ending.

Keller made the first opening statement. He has lived in Wendell since the early 1970s, when he bought a farm and sold cucumbers to Oxford Pickles at 85 dollars a ton. He was attracted to the town because of the natural world, including farms, the community spirit, and the civil tone of conversation.

He was on the finance committee for 17 years before being elected to the selectboard. As a selectboard member he was on the committee that oversaw construction of the new library, office building, central water supply, and septic system.

Keller said that Wendell faces a financial challenge in the next fiscal years, with increasing expenses in the

see **WENDELL** page A5



Dan Keller



Ray DiDonato

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

With March Madness behind us and the Bruins and Celtics struggling in the playoffs, we can focus on high school sports again.

This week, the Turners Falls boys tennis team went 2-1, the baseball team slid to an even record, the softball team faced two top 20 teams, finding a way to win both games, and two locals ran in that Boston race.

The spring season is now in full swing with multiple games, matches and meets happening on a daily basis. Those of us who attend these events have to decide which of these we’ll attend. On Thursday, I decided to go to Easthampton instead of Southwick, and on Tuesday, I chose to go to Athol instead of going to the tennis match or trucking to the Berkshires for the baseball game.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – Mohawk 0

TFHS 4 – Sabis 1

Pioneer Christian 3 – TFHS 2

On Thursday April 13, the Turners tennis team beat the Mohawk Warriors 5-love, los-

ing just 4 games in 8 matches.

Jimmy Vaughn won his match in straight sets 6-0, 6-1. Ricky Craver also swept his match 6-2, 6-0, and Brian Porier likewise shut out his opponent 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles matches, Jovanni Ruggiano and Nick Morin blanked Mohawk 6-0, 6-0 while Will Turn and Josh Gaulin completed the sweep in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0.

The next day, Turners bested Sabis 4-1. Two of the matches went to three sets, as Vaughn dropped his match in three (6-7, 6-4, 6-10) while Craver won his in three (3-6, 6-1, 6-4).

Porier swept his match in straight sets (6-1, 6-0), and in doubles action, both Turners Duos won in straight sets (Ruggiano/Morin 6-2, 6-0, Turn/Gaulin 6-0, 6-0).

Then on Monday, April 18, Pioneer Christian came to town and put the Tribe’s two-game winning streak to an end. The Christians edged out Blue 3-2. Ricky Craver was the lone singles winner for the team, as both Vaughn and Porier dropped their matches.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A7

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Someone Else’s Problem

This week, the world learned – if the world can be said to learn – that for nearly the entire duration of World War II, the American and British governments were aware that the Nazi regime was slaughtering Jews in death camps.

An archive of evidence kept closed for over 70 years by the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC), an entity that preceded the actual United Nations, has become public, and it establishes with certainty that as early as December 1942, our governments knew that over 2 million Jewish Europeans had already been exterminated.

This revelation casts a new light on the 1943 debates over whether the Allied nations should seek to rescue Jewish refugees. It was not until January 1944 that President Roosevelt ordered the formation of a War Refugee Board for the “immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.” What happened in the intervening 13 months?

In March 1943, the British House of Lords debated aid for the refugees. It was shot down. “That there may be a danger of enemy agents mixing with these refugees and coming to this country is possible,” said Viscount Samuel.

“There is already an immense body of refugees both in this country and in the British Colonial territories overseas,” argued Viscount Cranborne, “and this inevitably limits the further numbers that we can take in.” Cranborne also advised against relaxing policies specially for the Jews, since “every nation in Europe is being tortured by the Germans.” At the time, his country was granting visas to a mere 800 refugees a month.

In America, powerful players in the State Department wanted to put a lid on any discussion of the genocide, out of fear that broad prosecution of German war criminals would endanger postwar trade relations between the US and Germany. They maneuvered to undermine Herbert Pell, Roosevelt’s representative to the UNWCC, who was documenting the atrocities.

Jewish migration to the United States was restricted, and then obstructed, by assistant secretary of state Breckinridge Long, who regarded *Mein Kampf* as “eloquent in opposition to Jewry and to Jews as exponents of Communism and chaos,” and complained of pressure from “communists, extreme radicals, Jewish professional agitators, refugee enthusiasts.”

In April 1943 the two nations sent delegates to meet in Bermuda to discuss the problem of Jewish refugees. They accomplished nothing: no increase in the quota of refugees the United States would take in, and no plan to allow them to escape across the Atlantic in empty troop supply ships.

Many Jewish American activists tried to bring the nation’s attention to the Holocaust, but they were met with resistance. In October 1943, four hundred rabbis marched on the White House. Roosevelt pretended he had other business.

And in November, Long quashed a House bill to establish a rescue agency by falsely testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that 580,000 Jewish refugees had been taken in. In reality only 195,000 Europeans, of various backgrounds, had arrived.

Eventually the truth came out. The American public came to understand the scale of the German state’s extermination campaign, and by the end of 1944, Long had resigned and Pell was vindicated.

The War Refugee Board was able to save tens of thousands of lives – too little, too late, many think. And after the liberation of the camps, the Nuremberg trials established a new global prohibition on something called *crimes against humanity*, meaning that humans everywhere can claim international recourse against atrocities committed by state and proto-state actors.

History sometimes presents us with problems that can only be solved by international solidarity and cooperation. These problems are, inherently, inconvenient to nationalists, who will do their best to ignore and deny them.

It’s too easy to look back on World War II as a triumph of good over evil, of cooperation over domination, of solidarity over racism. Such a relieved and rosy history holds no place for people like Viscount Cranborne and Breckinridge Long: powerful men who loved their nations’ borders more than they loved humanity, and may have been responsible for hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths.

Nationalism is again on the rise. It offers a short rush of power and security, and an excuse to turn away from humanity’s shared challenges. But even if it only means a delay, one day people may look back at this time and see not just a delay, but a mistake – with a death count.



Librarian Lisa Graybill restocks the DVD collection at the Millers Falls Library. The branch is now open from 2 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Letters to the Editors

Montague Town Meeting: Vote “No” on Article 49

In the most recent Broadband Committee meeting, the committee voted to hold off on implementing the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) as unnecessary at this time. We might need it in the future, and that option will remain open. Before then, it’s just an expense and yet another committee.

Before we need an MLP, we have to answer these questions:

1. *Is there a need?*

Our information is that, historically, an overbuild of a second network will only get 30% of the potential subscribers.

2. *Is it affordable?*

We estimate that a town-wide

fiber network will cost between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

3. *Is there money for it?*

The committee spent four years researching funding for a town-wide network. No private company would participate without a significant subsidy. The State is funding Comcast, not fiber, and we haven’t found any federal money for an overlay. That leaves the town as the remaining source of funding, or individual subscribers in advance of any construction.

While we still believe fiber is superior, Montague has other pressing needs, including the DPW building and the Strathmore complex.

If anyone wants to pursue town-wide fiber, they don’t need an MLP as a vehicle to do the hard work of getting support, designing the network, estimating the costs, proving that there’s a demand, and securing funding. If all that works out, an MLP could be quickly implemented then.

In the meantime, we’ll keep the pressure on Comcast to deliver on its promises. We respectfully suggest a “no” vote.

Robert J. Steinberg
Montague Broadband Committee

Volunteer Recognition...

The staff and clients of GVNA HealthCare Inc. / Greenfield Adult Day Health Services would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our many volunteers who have donated their time, talent and enthusiasm – and even a couple of planter boxes – to our center.

Our volunteers include: Greenfield Police Lt. Laura Gordon and Grace; Cindy Tobey-Hunter of the Montague Police Department; Lt. Ray Zukowski of TRIAD; Jennifer Calantropio RPH; lay ministers George and Nan Brosky, Joe and Marie Bete, Paula Bell, Jane Kunhardt, Ginny Desorgher, and Bea Sommer of Holy Trinity; Jenn Rich of New England Health Center; Jessica Mattson, service dog trainer; Shirley Thompson; the Green-

field Community College Dance program, under the direction of Sharon Arslanian; the Greenfield Big Y floral department; Alliance of Therapy Dogs pet therapy team Kathy and Cricket; JoAnn Bernhard and Jake, our Bright Spot therapy team; the ROMEOs; the Boomerangs; the Farley Five; entertainer Robie Bones; Chow, the Melha Shriner clown; Mary DiGioia and Mark Lincourt of the Food Bank of Western Mass; WGGB meteorologist Jacob Wycoff; the North County Line Dancers; Baystate Home Infusion staff; Northfield Mount Hermon students and their volunteer coordinator Atta Kurzman; FCTS health technology students and their clinical instructors Gretchen Werle RN, MSN and

Piper Sagan RN, and therapy dog Baby; FCTS cosmetology students and their instructor Electra Manley; FCTS landscaping students; UMass-Amherst second bachelors program nursing students Allyssa Bergquist and Charlotte Olson, and their clinical instructor Cheryl Sabola RN, MSN; Betty Clapp; 4-H member Lulu Cook; Michelle Leh; and all members of the Greenfield ADH Advisory Council.

Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in the lives of our clients! Please do not hesitate to contact me at (413) 774-2275 if you have any additional questions.

With gratitude,

Kathie E. Curnick BSN, RN
Greenfield Adult Day Health Services

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Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The **Franklin County Better Greener Living Show** is coming to the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield on Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23.

The show offers exciting ways of improving our quality of life and living more lightly on the Earth, while also supporting local businesses and non-profits, learning new skills, and getting to know our neighbors. Attendees can meet home and garden specialists, find out about new products and services, and take workshops on home improvements, gardening, green energy, healthy living, and more.

The grounds will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is free, with a suggested donation for parking. This event is a collaborative effort organized by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and Greening Greenfield.

Celebrate **Earth Day** on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The center is hosting an Earth Day Open House, with theme of “Put

Yourself in the Picture.”

All ages are welcome to join for activities to help make a difference in the Connecticut River Watershed. Exhibits ask: How have people helped or hurt the habitats in our watershed? What will you do to help?

Also this weekend at the GFDC, enjoy an artist reception for the **Montague Favorite Places Exhibit**. Come see the results of a town-wide effort to capture our favorite places in the villages of Montague through art. Enjoy refreshments in the Great Hall on Sunday, April 23, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Families are invited to drop by the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday, April 22 to check out the many **specialty programs 4-H has to offer**. Tom Waskiewicz and 4-H staffers will be available to answer questions on local 4-H groups and how youngsters might be able to join, or how new groups and leaders can get started.

Today’s 4-H knows no boundaries – literally. Outer space and programs in aeronautics are within the

scope of 4-H, as are the more traditional programs such as farming, sewing and equine clubs. The list of opportunities is endless, needing only imagination, leaders and participants. Stop by to get the scoop!

The Bernardston Historical Society and Historical Commission are presenting **Mary Todd Lincoln**, portrayed by Greenfield actress Kathy Kennedy Llamas on Sunday afternoon, April 23, at 2 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center

Admission is free, and refreshments, along with Mary Todd Lincoln’s cake recipe and lemonade, will be provided. The Senior Center is located at 20 Church Street.

Evangelical Churches of the Pioneer Valley present a live performance of the drama **“Heaven’s Gates and Hell’s Flames,”** with over 50 local area residents performing.

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, Monday, April 24, and Tuesday, April 25 at the Greenfield Middle School Auditorium. The show’s run time is approximately two hours. For more information, visit www.livingwatersaog.com.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library will be hosting a very special **Earth Day celebration** for area children at the New Salem Public Library on Tuesday, April 25, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Activities will be centered around Dr. Seuss’ well-known children’s book *The Lorax*, which highlights the plight of the environment and the importance of caring for nature.

Children will watch the original “Lorax” cartoon movie, make a Lorax planter with sunflower seeds, enjoy a Lorax snack, and other fun activities!

Swift River School students may take the bus directly to the library if they provide a note from home to

the school. Children in second grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult. For additional information, contact (978) 544-8916.

Learn how to play ukulele with Julie Stepanek on April 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cushman Library, 28 Church Street in Bernardston. Twenty-two lucky adults and teens/tweens will get to participate in this very hands-on workshop with ukulele-player extraordinaire Stepanek. Come and learn how to play some tunes on this fabulous little instrument in one night!

Space is limited, so pre-registration is required at cushmanlibrary@gmail.com, or drop by during open hours and sign up. Include your name, age, email address, and phone number. The workshop is supported in part by a grant from the Bernardston Cultural Council.

Park Serve Day, Saturday, April 29, is a chance to give back a little time and effort to the Massachusetts State Parks that you love. The Department of Conservation and Recreation invites you to the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to noon. Help with planting, rake a leaf, weed a weed, or clean up the Canalside Rail Trail. We all can make a difference.

The community is invited to the debut reading of **“As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology, Volume VI,”** featuring Estelle Cade, Joan Hopkins Coughlin, Lillian Fiske, Noreen O’Brien, Laura Rodley, Joseph A. Parzych on Sunday, April 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Gill Montague Senior Center.


This event is free and wheelchair accessible, and there will be raffles and delicious free desserts. See page B1 for more information, and a sneak peak of the group’s writing!

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Letter to the Editors

Arbor Day in Montague

“All the people strive on Arbor Day to plant many, many trees, both forest and fruit. May the day and the observance thereof be cherished in every household, and its name and fruits become as a shower of blessing to the long lines of generations who shall succeed us.”

– J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day

“Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”

– Greek proverb

Plant a tree on Arbor Day. That has become something of a civic mantra in America since J. Sterling Morton first proposed the idea to the Nebraska legislature in 1872. They took him up on it.

On that first official Arbor Day, folks in Nebraska planted more than a million trees. As editor of Nebraska’s first general circulation newspaper, Morton was able to spread the word about the benefits of arbor culture quicker than Jonathan Chapman could plant an apple orchard. Let’s see how well we can emulate his effort with the *Montague Reporter*!

Today, climate change is bearing down on us like the hot summer sun. We need more trees in our villages for many reasons: to shade and cool our homes and businesses, to add beauty to our concrete streetscapes, to support a host of species that nest or feed or shelter beneath their branches, to capture

carbon dioxide rather than release it to the atmosphere.

Planting trees is a matter of ecological urgency as well as civic pride, and towns like ours need to do more to live up to their status as Green Communities. We need to plant more trees!

As more trees fall to bigger and bigger power lines, as more trees are lost to damaging storms, our town budget cannot keep pace with the need to replant them all. But each resident, each business owner can make a vital difference in restoring a healthy tree inventory to our streets and village centers.

Ask town meeting to make replanting trees a town priority. Petition our selectboard to get Montague to become one of the more than 3,400 Tree Cities in the USA (arborday.org). Ask our town tree warden to plant a shade tree in front of your home or business – and volunteer to water it in its early years. Do your part to turn Montague into a Greener Community on Arbor Day – and every day.

The Montague Tree Advisory Committee has been hard at work setting up a number of activities on April 28 and 29 to celebrate Arbor Day, and to teach young people and their parents about the benefits of maintaining a healthy urban forest. We invite you to join us – find out more about those activities on page B3, or visit www.turnersfalls-riverculture.org.

Sincerely,
**The Montague Tree
Advisory Committee**

Our New Spring Tradition

By **REPORTER STAFF**

TURNERS FALLS – The Spring Parade and Franklin County 5K race is this Saturday, and it’s **not too late** to join in the fun! This year marks the seventh year for the popular event. We checked in with organizers Michael Nelson and Kelsey Cadran for details about this weekend’s **festivities**. Here’s what we found out:

First of all, the **theme for the event is Candy Land**. Costumes are encouraged all around! Get your sugar rush as a giant lollipop, candy cane, M&M – sorry, no veggies allowed this year!

Second of all, the 5K race happens first at 11:30 a.m. from the High School, and it is a **benefit for the Stone Soup Café**.

Beneficiaries are decided upon each year: the skate park, the Shea, FC Dog Shelter have benefited in the past. Stone Soup executive director Willow Ross was excited that the kitchen, which serves a free community meal every Saturday in Greenfield, was chosen, and she said they will be there **sharing some free tasty treats** (fudge was mentioned) on Saturday.

Kelsey Cadran has received 50 advance entries to the race, and pre-registration ends Thursday, April 20 at midnight (\$25) online at give.classy.org/FCSpring5k or email Kelsey at fcspring5k@gmail.com.

You may also register at 10 a.m. the day of the race for \$30. Under twelve years old, the fee is only \$15.

“This week and the spring-like weather has really picked up the pace. We hope to have over 100, as we have in the years past. Last year we were able to donate \$2,000 to the Shea – we hope to do that, and more, this year,” reported Kelsey.

The first 100 registrants are guaranteed a **swag bag full of goodies**. There are race awards for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd female and male; as well 1st male and female in age brackets 0-19, 20-29, 30-30, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. There are **raffles** in the set-up area with gift cards, baskets, and other generous donated goods. Costumes are encouraged, with a prize awarded to best one.

We asked runner Jacqueline Luchessi of Turners Falls if she would be there this year, and, indeed, she was heading out to buy some pink tulle for a cotton candy outfit. “I go all over New England running races,” she responded. “Why wouldn’t I **run a race two blocks** from my house? Small race, good vibes, *and* I get to make a costume – **I’m all about that!**”

The roads will not be closed during the race. Volunteers and officers will be present on the course and at major intersections to stop traffic and provide safety. Please use caution while running. Walkers and strollers

are welcome!

The **parade** follows the same route as the race, but it starts at 1 p.m. from the Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. It will take a left onto Montague Street, travel to the end, and turn left onto Turnpike Road. The parade will go past the Turners Falls High School, and take a left onto Millers Falls Road. At Scotty’s Convenience Store, the parade will turn left onto High Street and end back at Sheffield. **It’s a three-mile loop**.

Organizer Mike Nelson says that so far there are 35 entries in the parade, about the same amount as previous years, and that it’s still not too late to join. “People interested in joining the parade should arrive at Sheffield School at 12 noon,” he says. “Any community group, school, band, antique car, business, etc. is welcome to join. It is free to participate. Some of my favorite entries are the beautiful antique cars, the Shriners, and all the entries that scream ‘warm’ and ‘summer.’”

Cliff’s Backyard BBQ will be at the parade set-up area with lunch options. Find out more and get updates on [facebook.com/montagueparade](https://www.facebook.com/montagueparade).

Thinking about this opportunity a little too late to get it together this year or have scheduling conflicts? Start preparing for next year’s **event** – the theme will be Super Heroes, and the date will be Saturday, April 28, 2018.


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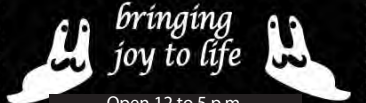
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GUEST EDITORIAL

By LUCIA MASON

We all know that climate change will melt ice caps, raise the sea level and cause massive changes in weather patterns. What you might not know is that as temperatures rise we are opening the door for a tick apocalypse.

Already, Lyme disease is a severe problem in western MA and as winters become warmer and summers hotter, ticks will roam our fields in increasingly larger numbers over a longer season of exposure. Simply going outside will put you, and your children, in increasing peril of these lethal, flat parasites as the planet continues to warm.

It's crazy scary, right? So let's not let it happen!

It has become clear that the federal government will not take climate action. Consequently, it is now vitally important for us to take on the challenge at a local level.

Though it's easy to feel powerless in the face of this global crisis, there are local efforts which have the potential to initiate large scale change, and they need your help. Currently there are two carbon fee and rebate bills moving through Massachusetts legislation. Despite the wordy name, carbon fee and rebate programs are actually fairly simple, and could provide you with financial benefits at the same time as reducing our state's carbon emissions.

Everyone on the planet will feel

the effects of climate change. However, some people contribute to the pollution which causes it much more than others. Why should some people be allowed to pollute the air, a common resource, without penalty in a way that will negatively affect everyone in the end? They shouldn't. Therefore, as a community we should place a fee on releasing carbon, like we pay to dispose of garbage in a landfill.

As fuel is purchased, consumers would be charged an additional fee to cover the cost of the pollution that fuel will emit when burned. Those who use more fuel, and thus pollute more, pay more.

The proposed carbon fee and rebate bill will provide rebates to every resident of Massachusetts in an equitable manner at the end of each year. This means that the people who release the least amount of carbon dioxide – e.g., people of limited income, those that use energy efficient cars and appliances, or people who live in smaller houses – will receive more money than they pay to begin with, thus providing an incentive for people to use less carbon.

Additionally, people who live in communities that rely heavily on cars to get around – Franklin County, for instance – will receive a larger share of money back than those who live in areas with easy access to public transportation.

The positive benefits of a carbon fee and rebate program spread be-

yond mitigating climate change. In addition to lowering carbon emissions, a carbon fee and rebate program will create clean jobs, increase investment in green energy, benefit low income communities, and guide Massachusetts towards more renewable energy sources and more efficient means of using energy.

Carbon pricing is thought to be the most effective means of reducing carbon emissions by both liberal and conservative economists. Though Massachusetts would be the first state in the US to pass a carbon fee and rebate bill, further north, British Columbia, Canada instituted a similar program in 2008. They have seen a 16% drop in carbon emission since the bill in the past eight years, and their economy is surpassing the rest of Canada.

So, what can you do to help pass these bills? If you want to make a large time commitment to the movement you can get involved with Climate Action Now, an organization lobbying for them.

A smaller but equally important commitment is to sign up for Action Alerts from Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future, Climate XChange, and Climate Action Now. By signing up you will receive emails informing you of specific influential actions you could take at crucial times as the bills work their way through Massachusetts legislation.

You could also take matters into

your own hands and contact Governor Baker and your Massachusetts senators and representatives to urge them to support carbon fee and rebate programs. Lastly, you can pass on information about the bills to friends and relatives and encourage them to take action as well.

We live in a small state. If we can contact representatives, reach out to relatives, and prioritize climate action, we can get one of these bills passed. If we succeed, Massachusetts will take a monumental step toward a cleaner future and serve as a role model for the rest of the nation.

On a national level we need to take action as well. April 29 is the People's Climate March on Washington. It is unacceptable that the US is denying climate change, and we need to let our government know that.

You can look up the march on *350.org* to find local sister marches and people nearby who will also be heading to Washington at the end of April for carpooling opportunities. Please sign up for action alerts, and spread the message with your friends and family.

Thanks for reading, and hope to see you in DC!

Lucia Mason lives in Montague. She is a senior at Four Rivers Charter Public School in Greenfield, and a climate action activist.

BUSES from page A1

FRTA's transit services "are supposed to be a convenience, not an inconvenience," said one Patch resident.

"Why," asked downtown resident Joanne Davis, "would you eliminate a route that you knew had regular riders who needed it to get to work?"

"We didn't know," admitted Cote. "That information was not transmitted to us."

She went on to say that a previous manager had made some bad decisions, which had led to the changes implemented last summer, and that the administration, herself and others, had been wrong to approve them without deeper review. "We trusted that he was doing his job properly," she said. "Once we started riding the bus routes, we understood that things weren't working."

As far as the need for the current proposed changes, Cote pointed to decreased ridership and inefficiency in routes. "Ridership is down from 2,500 to 1,300 people in the last year," she said.

But Paul Hilton, who lives at Park Villa, argued that the lower ridership was due in part to the previous round of cutbacks to service. The 22 bus, which Hilton rides most days of the week, was reduced from every hour, to every two hours, and many people who depended on the old schedule had to make other arrangements.

Under the new plan, Route 22 would be eliminated completely, including Hilton's Park Villa stop. While the plan makes changes to Routes 23 and 32 in order to pick up some of the loss, Hilton said that the changes would not adequately meet his needs, nor those of some of his neighbors he said were unable to attend Tuesday's hearing.

Both general manager Molly Morin, and assistant general manager Rauley Caine, the team in charge of crafting the proposed changes, assured the alarmed transit riders present that nothing is yet set in stone, and that their input was welcome

and would be considered. "That is why we are here now," Cote said. "We want to hear from you."

And hear they did. By the end of the two-hour meeting, Cote had a significant list of concerns and items marked for review, which included: re-evaluating the now eliminated 7 a.m. Turners Falls Industrial Park route; re-evaluating the location of downtown Turners Falls stops; re-considering the elimination of Route 22 and the Park Villa stop; considering re-establishing a stop in the Eleventh Street area; re-considering distances between stops and increasing "flag-stop" locations; increasing downtown Greenfield stops; adding a shelter stop on Avenue A across from Food City; and considering the need for quick stops on the Orange/Greenfield route.

The FRTA team promised to go back to the "drawing board," revising the plan to incorporate community recommendations before submitting it for final approval to the FRTA board of directors' meeting on May 18.

In addition, Cote announced that the FRTA is taking steps to restore weekend service to Montague, a service that has been non-existent for over a decade. While the new service would be dependent on receiving an additional \$180,000, grant specifically earmarked for partial Saturday service, she said she was hopeful the Authority is well positioned to receive the funding.

"This is the only transit community in the state that does not have some kind of weekend service," she said.

Linda Ackerman of Greenfield Savings Bank made an appearance on behalf of her branch customers who use the transit system. "You know, I talk to them when they are in the bank, sometimes just getting some shelter, between buses, or a cup of coffee. The system is important to them," Ackerman said. "They need the service." She offered the bank lobby as a location where the FRTA could

post information for the community.

In closing, FRTA staff said that their goal is to provide the needed services within their current budget constraints. They urged community members to contact management directly, use the dispatching system to communicate concerns, and talk to the drivers.

"The dispatchers are very good," Cote said, "and the drivers are very involved in providing feedback. They are invested in this process."

In the end, Paul Hilton left the meeting reassured. "It started out rocky, but I think it was good," he said. "It brought us Turners [Falls] people together. It was just us and them, eye to eye, talking in a straightforward way. And I think they understood what we are concerned about." He said he was particularly pleased that the elimination of Route 22 would be reconsidered, since he and his neighbors depend on it every day.



- Summary of proposed changes, effective July 1:**
- Route 20**, Federal-Corporate: New route to serve Greenfield and Greenfield Corporate Center.
 - Route 21**, College-Federal: Modified to better serve Greenfield and Greenfield Community College.
 - Route 22**, Montague: Discontinue service.
 - Route 23**, Sunderland via Montague Center: Modified to better serve Turners Falls, Montague Center, and Sunderland.
 - Route 31**, Northampton: Modified to better serve Northampton, Whately, Hatfield, and Deerfield.
 - Route 32**, Orange: Minor changes.
 - Route 41**, Charlemont: Minor changes.
 - Route 65**, Greenfield Parking Shuttle: Discontinue service.

Community members who want to express concerns or add input to this process may contact the FRTA by calling (413) 774-2262 and asking for Molly Morin or Rauley Caine.

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WENDELL from page A1

schools, fire department, and police department, and a need to address Wendell’s lack of high-speed internet connection, coupled with a decrease in revenue from state and federal governments.

Keller said he sees the role of the selectboard not so much as leading, but as an “executive board” that advances concerns expressed by citizens. According to Keller, the issues ahead of the town are pursuing federal, state and private foundation money, and getting internet connections.

DiDonato has lived in Wendell 15 years. He said he was attracted to Wendell’s natural resources and historic character.

He served on the open space committee through the process of acquiring Fiske Pond, the finance committee, the zoning board of appeals, and the broadband committee. He is now a member of the broadband operations committee, which recently has been meeting jointly with the broadband construction committee.

DiDonato said he wants to make Wendell a place where children can grow up and want to return, and can afford to. He sees broadband connections as important in making that possible, and sees the population, property values, and tax base going down without it.

He said he wants to add new energy and ideas into town government, and engage citizens and committees early in all projects, a problem he feels the current selectboard has not addressed adequately.

Listening and Vision

The first question concerned treating townspeople fairly and listening to information from other boards and committees.

DiDonato told the audience that he has a “team mentality,” and can set aside personal biases. He said selectboard members need to look at ideas on their merits and not on who proposed them. He said he would identify stakeholders early, and get them engaged in decisions.

Keller said that as a selectboard member, he has tried to listen to citizens and be fair. He said he felt sad and disheartened that some people felt unheard by the board. He said the selectboard is committed to a spirit of openness, and offered his telephone number and those of the other board members.

After mentioning budget increases and the static tax base, von Ranson asked the second question: “How do these factors fit into your vision for Wendell, and possible changes in the town’s character?”

Keller replied that the town is under pressure from all directions, with mandates increasing and aid decreasing. He told the audience that in 1976, the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state land within the town was \$110,000 – in 1976 dollars, and part of a much smaller town budget. PILOT payments went to \$0, and have risen slowly since 2000. Federal revenue sharing, \$42,000 in 1982, was also cut to zero under President Reagan.

Keller said the town needs to “hammer on” elected representatives about funding, especially for mandated actions, and recruit money from foundations, especially for the schools.

DiDonato said he didn’t want people taxed out of Wendell. He said he would advocate for state PILOT money, and proposed hiring a grant-writer. He said that the tax base will shrink further if the town doesn’t get broadband, as residents will leave town, increasing the burden on remaining residents. He suggested considering a Leverett-style model, in which a tax relief committee allows contributions to help those who need help paying real estate taxes.

Several of the questions from citizens were actually statements, in support of a candidate or about national issues such as national wealth disparity. “The elephant in the room is money,” said former finance committee chair Michael Idoine.

Broadband

The first questioner asked about a letter she had received from another resident, urging people to vote for the younger candidate. DiDonato, the younger candidate, said, “That’s not why I’m running.”

“I appreciate that someone younger is running,” Keller said. “I do thank Ray for that.”

But most of the questions from the audience concerned broadband.

One questioner asked why the selectboard had split the previous broadband committee into construction and operations committees. Keller responded that it had been a difficult decision: the board believed network construction would require a smaller, more “nimble” committee whose work would be finished when residents were connected. He also said that the new committees have been meeting jointly and working pretty well, and that the town’s broadband effort did not lose momentum with the split.

DiDonato said that construction and operations go hand in hand, that more experienced people had advised the selectboard against splitting the committee, and that the re-organized committees have been functioning as one for months.

One person recommended the town put out a document outlining the “pros and cons” of different broadband options. DiDonato said that the broadband committee held a forum last year, and plans to hold another one, and that one member is working on an informational brochure.

Keller said there are many involved technical and financial questions involved, and offered to discuss the pros and cons with citizens.

Another questioner asked the candidates whether they favored a private or a municipal broadband system.

DiDonato said he favored a municipally-owned network, the recommendation from the original broadband committee. He said there is greater risk in a private network, as a private company could raise rates after it is built, or go bankrupt.

CARE PACKAGES from page B1



Elise and Able with boxes decorated and ready to fill for the care packages.

of money from parents and other community members, as well as local businesses, including the Orange Fire Department, Ford of Northampton, and the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Key Club. Tammy used the donations to buy other items she knew the soldiers would need and enjoy. Students school-wide had also contributed items on the school’s “Spirit Day.”

Tammy knows what to buy because her son, Patrick Richard, 20, is one of the soldiers stationed near Mosul. Taking part in his first deployment, he is “promotable,” or waiting to be promoted to the rank of sergeant. Expected to be back by the first week in October, he will turn 21 while he’s there.

When asked what her message was to the folks stateside, she said, “They may not agree with why we’re there, but they must not forget that the soldiers are making us safe, and we need to support them.”

Student council adviser and sixth-grade teacher Tina Newman explained that the council had participated before in the “Touch of Home” project and were “excited to be able to continue sending packages to the troops in Iraq.” In this case, they were aware that they were sending items to Patrick and his friends, and that their picture would be included in the package so that the soldiers would know them.

Also helping out was Patrick’s girlfriend, Kaila Lundgren. She explained that care packages were important because these days there was not the focus on soldiers that occurred during previous wars like WWII. Of these modern soldiers, she said, “They worry about being forgotten.”

Students at Swift River are doing their best to make sure that doesn’t happen.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Gears Up for Town Meeting

By ROB SKELTON

Town moderator Larry Farber met with the Leverett selectboard at its April 18 meeting to review the annual town meeting warrant, motions, and budget.

Article 1, choosing town officers, has no contested races. **Articles 2 and 3** fund the regional school district, the former accepting the statutory funding formula, the latter establishing a reserve fund.

Article 4 budgets for town expenses, and **Article 5** pays elected officials.

Articles 6, 7 and 8 transfer monies from the stabilization accounts for departmental purchases: \$37,000, \$45,000, and \$175,000 for a police cruiser, 1-ton highway truck, and fire rescue truck, respectively.

Articles 9 and 10 transfer monies from free cash for the purchase of a new thermal imager (\$8,000) and dry sprinkler heads (\$27,950) for the fire department and school,

respectively.

Articles 11 and 12 transfer unspent but already appropriated monies towards fire department grant-seeding, contingent on grant receipt: \$3,750 toward a new brush truck and \$5,600 for “multi-gas meters.”

Article 14 transfers \$47,000 from free cash to stabilization to fund the capital plan, and **Article 15** transfers \$31,670 from free cash to the “OPEB” trust account (something to do with Medicaid and special education at the school).

Articles 16 through 22 concern authorizing disbursement of Community Preservation Act monies, a fund derived from taxing property transactions, earmarked for historic, conservation, and other community-enhancement programs, including low-income housing.

Article 23 shifts most permitting powers from the planning board to the zoning board of appeals. **Article 24** loosens accessory apartment bylaws. **Article 25** amends zoning bylaws. **Article**

26 loosens bylaws concerning ground-mounted solar arrays.

Article 27 addresses the historical commission’s citizen components. **Article 28** amends a 2013 town meeting authorization of a municipal light board, switching from six- to three-year staggered terms.

Articles 29 and 30 transfer monies from bond premiums reserves to other interest accounts: town (\$803.66) and school (\$941.22).

Article 31 amends town bylaws to authorize a Departmental Revolving Funds bylaw, allowed under state general law. **Article 32** concerns state Chapter 90 funds and authorizes the selectboard to enter contracts with the department of transportation.

Articles 33, 34, and 35, citizen petitions, call for President Trump’s impeachment, green energy aggregation, and single-payer health plans, respectively.

The annual town meeting will be held April 29.

With a municipal operator, he said, the goal is not profit, but saving rate-payers money.

Keller pointed out that residents now get electricity and phone service from private enterprises, and when problems arise, they get fixed. He said he did not support “broadband at any cost” – that it was important to determine what the system will cost, and who will pay for it.

If a private company builds the network, the town will not need to borrow money to pay for it. However, Keller said, “information is still coming in.”

DiDonato was asked about quitting the broadband committee when it was re-organized, and quitting

other town committees. “I’ll own it,” he replied. “I stepped away sometimes.”

He said he didn’t understand the selectboard’s actions in forming two separate committees, and stepped away. He added that he had served for 4-½ years on the school committee.

Keller said it was important to realize how emotional the broadband issue is. “The issue has divided the town, to a certain extent,” he said.

DiDonato said he also does not favor “broadband at any cost,” but wants to see the system built in a fiscally responsible way. He said voters had already authorized borrowing money to build a network.

Keller argued that the “landscape” had changed since that 2015 town meeting vote, “when people thought WiredWest could pull this off.” He said the town is facing serious choices, and may need to sacrifice some other important town functions in order to pay for the network.

The candidates’ final statements were short. DiDonato said he hoped to come up with new ideas to face the town’s challenges. He said he favored a “horizontal organization,” rather than a vertical one.

Keller said the town should have “more meetings like this,” and thanked participants for attending.



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GREYHOUNDS from page A1
early age, and their daily schedule is absolutely consistent.

As sprinters, their routine is punctuated by brief, intense bursts of activity a couple of times a week; the rest of the time, they lounge or sleep for extended periods. As greyhounds leave the racing industry – some are “non-starters,” some are injured, some grade off, some age out – most are taken in by adoption groups and re-homed as pets.

Their life histories both facilitate and complicate the transition to life as a pet: housebreaking, maintaining a schedule, sleeping 18 to 20 hours a day, and interacting politely with people tend to come easily, while wood floors, televisions, stairs, sliding glass doors, and the acquisition of basic house manners require a bit of work.

Local greyhound adoption groups once took in a steady stream of dogs from tracks in Massachusetts and neighboring states. In 2008, however, voters passed a ballot initiative that brought an end to racing in Massachusetts, which is now one of forty states where live greyhound racing involving gambling or wagering is banned. Four other states, including Connecticut, still permit racing, but falling attendance has resulted in the closure of all of their tracks.

Of the six states with active greyhound racetracks, the closest to Massachusetts is West Virginia, and it is there that GPG sources its hounds. Once a month or so, Packard and her husband Chris either drive to Wheeling to pick up dogs, or arrange for a trusted hauler to bring dogs north on the last leg of their race to someone’s couch.

The transition from track to adoption group is a stressful one. Following vet checks and a 12-plus hour road trip, incoming greyhounds – like other out-of-state shelter or rescue pets – are required to undergo a 48 hour isolation period in an approved facility upon their arrival in Massachusetts. After their isolation period, dogs receive another vet check before moving on to temporary homes with their adoption groups. There, they are tested for compatibility with cats and scheduled for yet more veterinary attention, including spaying or neutering.

Track to Adoption

Unlike some groups, that place greyhounds into foster homes shortly after their arrival, GPG’s dogs are fostered in the Packards’ home right up until their adoption. Initially, the dogs resume a familiar lifestyle, living in crates (“To them, it’s a den; it’s their bedroom; it’s their safety place,” Packard explains) and following a regular feeding and turn-out schedule.

Once they have settled in, GPG’s foster dogs are gradually introduced to the entirely new world of home life, spending more time exploring and enjoying the house with guidance and supervision from volunteers. This incremental approach “gets the dogs past that initial stress,” says Packard. “When they get to another home, they go ‘okay, this is old hat, I know what I’m doing.’”

By the time a dog is ready for adoption, GPG staff and volunteers have gotten a good sense of its personality and the type of home in which it might thrive. The adoption process, which involves an application, a home visit, and a two-week trial, sets dogs and their new families up for success through early education, careful matchmaking, and post-adoption support.

“Some owners don’t need hand-

holding, other times it’s a daily thing,” says Packard, who works with some owners years into their adoptions and, in times of crisis, has been known to meet adopters at the emergency vet in the middle of the night.

Education and outreach are integral to GPG’s mission. In addition to coaching and mentoring individual adopters, the group introduces the general public to greyhounds via meet-and-greets at local pet stores, representation at special events, and visits to schools and institutions. GPG also enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with its volunteers, who sustain the group by giving of their time and talents but also gain practical experience and work readiness skills.

Packard describes watching some of the group’s shy volunteers develop assertiveness when acting as “leader of the pack” with the dogs and build confidence when interacting with the public as ambassadors for the breed. GPG’s relationship with New Directions School in Northampton, which offers special education services to 30 students, started as therapy dog visits but has grown to include volunteer opportunities for students, providing personal growth and fulfillment as well as preparation for work.

Greyhound Personalities

In the end, though, it all comes down to the dogs. During my visit to GPG, I got to spend time with some of the fosters, all of whom I would have happily brought home, but two of whom stood out.

Mercy, who has been waiting the longest for an adopter, is an eight-year-old brindle female who “flunked out” of racing, graduated from a prison dog program, and is in training to become a service dog. She is a compulsive hoarder of stuffed animals and, unusually for a greyhound, knows how to sit.

Vic, “the sweetest dog in the world” whose racing career was cut short by an injury, faces the quintuple whammy of being (a) large; (b) black; (c) male; (d) not cat-safe; and (e) diagnosed with a food allergy that requires a raw diet. (Black dogs are often overlooked by adopters, who gravitate towards cat-safe “pretty little females.”)

What should potential greyhound adopters know about the breed? “The big thing is that they always need to be on leash or in a fenced-in area,” says Packard. Greyhounds can run as fast as 45 miles per hour; at the sight of a squirrel, their brains can turn off as instinct and speed kick in. Before you know it, your dog could be lost or hit by a car.

Most greyhounds, however, are happy to snooze indoors for upwards of 18 hours a day and require little exercise. Despite their size, greyhounds “need little space and are perfect apartment dogs,” a claim which was borne out in my experience with Zorro.

Greyhounds are sociable, as well as sensitive to extreme temperatures: they must live as part of the family inside your house, not outside in a kennel or run, and must never be tied or tethered lest they break their necks when suddenly starting off in pursuit of prey.

While each dog is an individual, Packard describes greyhounds in general as “not dog-like. They are smarter than most humans, and they know how to manipulate.” Greyhounds are very schedule-oriented and thrive on a set routine: “God forbid you are ten minutes late with their food. That’s the end of the world.”



Lime, available for adoption from Gemini's Pampered Greyhounds.

They are fairly low-maintenance dogs who rarely bark and require minimal grooming, a few trips outside and two meals of high-quality kibble per day, a coat in the winter, and one or two good leash walks or off-leash runs in a fenced-in area per week. Different greyhounds respond differently to cats, children, and other dogs; a good adoption group will know their dogs’ inclinations and work with you to find the right one for your household.

Now in its fifth year, GPG, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, places around 20 dogs per year and is continuously working to maintain financial stability. In addition to the routine and anticipated expenses associated with transport, isolation, food, and veterinary care, the group is often hit with large vet bills due to injuries, as well as other unforeseen expenses. Adoption fees partially offset but do not cover the costs of pre-adoption care.

Most recently, GPG has found itself in a dispute with the town of Amherst over zoning requirements and is facing mounting legal bills. In addition to donations of cash or goods (clean blankets, towels, dog toys, and gift cards from Dave’s Pet City are always appreciated), special events such as a Dining for Dollars at Bertucci’s on April 27; a tag sale in Amherst on April 29; a dine-out at Applebee’s on May 3, and a Yankee Candle fundraiser all provide opportunities to support the group.

More information on all of these events can be found on the group’s Facebook page. To learn about available dogs and the adoption process, visit GPG’s website at geminispamperedgreyhounds.org.

Generations of Hounds

I adopted my first greyhound, Chase, in 2001. He was a one-and-a-half-year-old black male who left training early because he was losing his sight due to a genetic condition called PRA.

Just about completely blind by the time we got him, he quickly eschewed his crate, established himself on the couch, rode in the car only reluctantly, and learned to avoid our bossy cats.


During his ten years with us, we fostered five greyhounds who went on to be adopted. Each had a distinct personality, and each went on to flourish in a very different home environment. We finally flunked fostering on #6, adopting a pathologically shy girl named Bridget who, in her time with us, slowly came out of her shell; took to sneaking up on us, surprising us with little kisses, and running away; also found her way to the couch; and revealed a delightful impishness that one would never have anticipated.

After our first generation of hounds was gone, we held out for a few years before adopting our latest from GPG: a large, boisterous brindle boy named Rusty who, like our first, is going blind from PRA. Rusty loves his crate and lounges in it daily, though we no longer shut him in. He refuses to even consider climbing onto the furniture, adores car rides, and exhibits endearing greyhound traits like chattering his teeth when he is happy and sleeping on his back with all four legs sticking up awkwardly.

Like any pet, a greyhound is a huge commitment. Packard encourages people to consider carefully their reasons for wanting to adopt – “people who think they’re saving abused dogs are adopting for the wrong reasons” – and learn as much as they can about the breed before starting the adoption process.

If you understand the responsibilities that come with greyhound ownership and find yourself smitten with these sweet, bony creatures, GPG or another local greyhound adoption group can help you find just the one to fill the void in your life – and on your couch.





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GILL from page A1

company’s proposed ground rules on behalf of municipalities.

Gill selectboard chair John Ward said he planned to attend next week’s meeting, and member Greg Snedeker has indicated an interest in joining him at future meetings, raising concern that a quorum of the selectboard could be said to be participating in private deliberations.

“I think you get dangerously complicated,” Snedeker said. “You have a body of three, with one person making decisions for the entire town in a stakeholders’ meeting. I don’t see how anybody would be comfortable with that.”

Member Randy Crochier agreed that the board faced the prospect of “one member making the decision for three, without being able to bring information back.”

“I can easily see their settlement negotiations breaking down,” Ward said, “and not getting them exactly what they want.”

The conversation shifted to the broader implications of towns seeking a settlement outside FERC’s process.

“This process is entirely to [First-Light’s] benefit,” Ward continued. “The settlement is to avoid some of the time-consuming negotiations that they need to have, and it’s also to have a prepared settlement that they can hand off to FERC.”

“What if, as a group of stakeholders, we refused to sign this?” asked Snedeker.

But Purington cautioned against rejecting the settlement talks, wondering “how much weight or interest or attention” the towns’ concerns would get, “not only in the settlement discussions, but in FERC.... Will the issues that we want input on have already been signed and sealed during settlement talks that we opted out of?”

“FirstLight is using this as a tool to, I think, subvert some of the FERC process,” said Ward.

The board took no decision on the matter.

Highway Department

The board agreed to let Fred Chase take a look at a 2009 Sterling dump truck, bought used last year for the highway department, which employees refuse to drive after diesel fumes made operators sick.

During repairs, Chase said, the truck’s exhaust was reconfigured in a way that may be directing fumes into its cab. “I would love to just take five minutes with you people and show you,” Chase told the board, but they opted to stay at town hall.

“I would donate the time, as long as you pay for the materials to fix the stack,” Chase offered. “That would be under \$100, which is kind of nothing after the thousands that have been spent on it.”

Other issues have been raised with the truck, but Crochier said these were “muddying the waters.” “The truck is what we bought,” he said.

Roger Augustine of North Cross Road took the opportunity of the open discussion to register concerns with the highway department’s recent work.

“I’m not a complainer, and I take everything with a grain of salt, but I’m just wondering what’s going on,” he said.

Augustine described dirt piled, but not collected, on Boyle Road Extension over the previous weekend; a late start to snow plowing during the season’s last snowstorm; leaning road signs; and trees in the roadway.

He also said that cars speed down his road in the early mornings. “Seems like we could put a cruiser there,” Crochier said.

Purington took notes on Augustine’s comments, but the selectboard did not respond directly to them.

Fire Department

The Riverside water district has announced it would start charging the town \$40 per 1,000 gallons of the district’s water, which is purchased from Greenfield, when the town fire department uses its hydrants.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien objected to the charges, arguing that

fire departments are permitted to seize any source of water when necessary, but Crochier said it made sense to him in principle. “Either the town gets a bill, and 1,500 people help pay for that water,” he said, “or the town doesn’t get a bill, and the hundred households in Riverside pay for that water.”

Beaubien said he didn’t feel the charges should come out of his department’s budget, and selectboard members agreed with that.

The board did take issue with the proposed per-gallon price, which they said is several times what residents of the district pay for the water.

Beaubien mentioned that the department needed to maintain a source of water for training, not just fighting fires.

Land Trust

Richard Hubbard of the Franklin Land Trust said that his organization wished to donate to the town two lots from the former Sandri property on Hoe Shop Road, initially designated to be sold as housing lots.

The lots, totaling 4.7 acres, could join the adjacent town forest, and Hubbard suggested that the town place them under conservation restriction with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, like the rest of the forest.

Ward observed that they were a “relatively very small piece” to add to the town forest, and Snedeker said he guessed the loss of tax value would be low, since the lots were a “hard sell” in any case.

The gift would need to be approved by town meeting – perhaps by the special town meeting on June 5 – and the board voted to put it on the warrant.

Other Business

MassDOT has announced that Gill will receive \$148,714 in Chapter 90 funds for roads in FY’18. The figure continues a gradual reduction in aid, and is \$1,147 lower than FY’17.

Purington noted that the state es-

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timate of the town’s road length was 4/10 of a mile shorter than four years ago, though no one could say why.

No discussion was held regarding a proposal to direct the town’s police force not to enforce non-criminal detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The town is watching to see whether executive-branch threats to withhold federal grant money to municipalities that enact such policies holds up in court.

The board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Nancy Griswold from both the capital improvement planning committee (CIPC) and finance committee, noting that Griswold had been an inaugural member of the CIPC, and that she would continue on as an assessor.

Daniel Trenholm was appointed to the CIPC, and Cody Scopa, returning from four years of service in the Marine Corps, was reappointed as a firefighter.

The board voted to award a bid for grading gravel roads to Warner Bros. at \$1,500 per eight-hour day, and a bid for street sweeping to Vermont

Roadworks at \$100 per hour, with a caveat that the sweeping needs to be done sooner in future years.

Gill participates in a brush-cutting program with Northfield, Erving, Greenfield and Deerfield. Ever-source provides \$26,000 to Deerfield to buy or rent a brush mower and keep the power lines clear of brush. The board signed an annual agreement to remain in the program.

The cemetery commission is concerned about the health of a large maple tree in the town’s North Cemetery. The town currently has no tree warden, but Brian Koshinsky is running for that office next month, and is an arborist. The board suggested asking him if he would like to take a look at it.

The board reviewed, and signed, the warrant for the annual town meeting on the evening of May 1.

A “Clean Sweep” bulky waste recycling day will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 6. The Northfield highway garage is the nearest location. Information, including a price sheet, will be available on the town website.

TFHS SPORTS from pg A1

Softball

Turners Falls 12 – Southwick 0
Turners Falls 3 – Athol 1 (8 Innings)

The State Softball Champions started their season with a 12-0 shellacking of play-off perennial Southwick.

The Blue Ladies shot out to a 4-zip first inning lead and never looked back. They scored single runs in the next three frames, piled on 4 more in the fifth, and added an insurance run in the sixth.

First-year starter Peyton Emery allowed just 3 hits, 1 walk, and struck out 8 in six scoreless innings. At the plate, Alyson Murphy banged off three hits, including a home run and a 2-bagger.

Taylor Murphy also slapped 3 hits, Jordan Fiske cracked a triple, and Eliza Johnson, Olivia Whittier and Hailey Bogosz all hit singles. Other players who crossed the plate include Cassidhe Wozniak, Gabby Arzuaga, and Maddy Johnson.

On Tuesday, the Powertown Ladies traveled to Athol to take on the Red Raiders. I had a choice of traveling to Mt. Greylock to watch baseball, Athol for softball, or Turners to see Tennis. I chose Athol because I’d missed the first softball game. I knew I wouldn’t get to the diamond until 4:30, but the game was delayed and I didn’t miss a pitch.

Athol is good this year. Very good. They’re ranked #17, and were coming off a 28-0 laughter against Pathfinder and a 1-run loss against #8 Northampton.

The Raiders gave the Blue Tribe all they could handle, keeping Turners off the board until the sixth inning. But as in so many previous games, the Turners Falls Softball team found a way to win.

DAVID HOITT PHOTO
Raising the Bar: Turners’ Dabney Rollins competes in the high jump event during a home meet April 11.

In Tuesday’s game, it was an interference call and a pickle gone wrong which led to a 3-1 extra inning RBI-less victory. Early on, it looked good for Blue, but Turners was unable to convert in their first two innings, even though they had three men on in scoring position.

Then in the third, the resurgent Red Raiders broke the ice. They scored a run after hitting a double over the right fielder’s head and converting on a 2-out line drive.

Blue’s bats remained silent until the top of the sixth when they scored the tying run. Alyson Murphy reached on a full-count grounder, and when Arzuaga reached base next, Murphy was unable to score because the base path was blocked. After a short debate, she was sent home on an interference call, and the game was knotted at 1.

With both pitchers on point, neither team was able to score the go-ahead run and the game went into extra innings. In the eighth, Powertown got their first two batters on base but it looked like Athol would shut Turners down.

With 1 out in the pocket, the Raiders caught the Blue runners off base. Both Tay-

lor Murphy and Alyson Murphy raced to second base, and the Red infielders got the Murphys in a pickle. Alyson darted back to first while Taylor confused the throwers by running toward third. Athol decided to throw it to first, but Alyson reversed direction back to second and the throw to first went out of bounds, sending both runners home.

And for the first time in the game Turners took the lead, 3 to 1. Emery put the nail in the coffin in the bottom of the eighth by striking out 2 of the 4 batters she faced.

Although Turners had no RBIs in the game, Cassidhe Wozniak, Taylor Murphy, Alyson Murphy, Hailey Bogosz and Maddy Johnson all placed singles, with Alyson scoring 2 runs and Taylor scoring the third. In the circle, Emery struck out 8 batters, and allowed 3 hits, no walks, and a run.

The 121st Boston Marathon

I went to the Boston Athletic Association website to see which local runners participated. No one from the towns of Erving, Leverett, Gill, or Wendell were listed, but two runners from Montague finished the race: Patrick Pezzati, who finished in 3:47:46, and Ann E. Van Dyke, who had a time of 5:24:24.

When I spoke to Dr. Van Dyke on Tuesday, she raved about Pezzati. “How should I put it?” she said. “Patrick is the Elite.”

Baseball

Easthampton 4 – TFHS 1
Mt. Greylock 14 – TFHS 0

This week the Turners Falls baseball team had two away games. On Thursday, April 13 they dropped a close game against Easthampton, and then on Tuesday they traveled to the Berkshires where they were shut out 14-0 by

Mt. Greylock.

Although most of the crowd at Thursday’s game were enthusiastically watching the ball game, there was an undercurrent of something more sinister. There was murmuring from the Easthampton fan base that their school is suffering from an epidemic of bullying. In fact, a disabled buddy of mine made a point of mentioning to me that he himself gets bullied. But kudos to the Easthampton kids who just wanted to play baseball and let the adults deal with those issues at another time.

Both Turners Falls and Easthampton scored in the first inning. In the top of the inning, Tionne Brown reached on an error, then stole second, and eventually scored on a passed ball. In the bottom, East knotted it at 1.

Turners found themselves in another 1-1 pitchers’ duel until the sixth inning, when East put three runs across the plate to break the knot for the eventual 4-1 final score.

Kyle Bergmann and Riley Watroba both recorded singles, while Dom Carne and Mike Babcock drew bases on balls. On the mound, Quinn Doyle allowed 5 hits, 4 runs, and a walk, while whiffing 5 batters.

On Tuesday, the Blue Tribe traveled to the Berkshires to challenge Mt. Greylock, who handed Powertown their first blowout loss of the season. Blue’s first three outings were pitchers’ duels, but on Tuesday Greylock exploded.

By the time Turners took to the plate in the fourth, they were down 11-0. Greylock added three more runs while shutting down Blue, and took the game by two touchdowns. Bergmann had Turners’ only hit.

Next week: Jostling for position!

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Opportunities for Photography!



Above: Joshua Hoffman of the Montague Police Department is sworn in as sergeant Wednesday evening by town clerk Deb Bourbeau. Hoffman has served as a full-time officer for five years, and a detective for two years.

Top left: Adam Grier (left) and Dan Higgins (right) of Republic Services, Montague's waste hauler, present town administrator Steve Ellis and Millers Falls Arts Bridge director Richard Widmer with a donation of \$1,500 toward community art initiatives in Millers Falls.

Bottom left: Grier and Higgins award town planner Walter Ramsey, Turners Falls RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, and highway superintendent Tom Bergeron a \$3,500 donation for RiverCulture.

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As You Write It: A Treasure Trove of Memories

TURNERS FALLS – The door of the Gill-Montague Senior Center will be flung open on Sunday afternoon, April 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. to welcome the public to a debut reading of the latest *As You Write It* anthology of elders' memoirs.

The Franklin County memories will flow, as will refreshments and good cheer, as featured readers Estelle Cade, Joan Hopkins Coughlin, Lillian Fiske, Noreen O'Brien, Laura Rodley, and Joseph A. Parzych share some stories from the sixth edition of this favorite local compilation.

Memories of work and play, family and friends, pets, sorrows and joys, will be shared by these authors, who have written their pieces in workshops led by Laura Rodley, with sponsorship by the



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO
The Gill-Montague Senior Center

Montague Cultural Council.

Reproduced here are three stories from the book, which may be found in Montague and Greenfield libraries, and is for sale at local independent bookstores such as World Eye in Greenfield and Boswell's in Shelburne Falls.

Writing with Your Nose

By NOREEN O'BRIEN

It's pouring out – wipers swiftly pushing the heavy rainfall out of the way, making mini rivers across the edges, first one side, and then the other, on the windshield. I can't get beyond this sense of being in second grade, while trying to focus on driving given the poor visibility, yet images of my second grade teacher continue to intrude, like the rivulets of rainfall, repetitively pushed aside by the wipers. What is this about?

I can't recall her name, but my teacher was young, pretty, and had long, dark hair – and it was the elementary school on Bunker Hill Street in Charlestown. Miss Kiley was my first grade teacher and Mrs. McOwen my third grade teacher, but what was my second

grade teacher's name? Who cares? Focus! Focus!

I can see myself drawing lions and tigers in cages at the zoo. I see the bars of the cages, drawn in with a chubby black crayon. I see the big cats. I see light brown crayons filling in the bodies of the animals, with black crayon and darker brown stripes for the tiger's body. I smell the waxiness of the crayons.

I'm in the second row, next to the last seat. The teacher passes around a box and we are told to put our crayons in the box and remember to keep the crayons intact. We are told to save these crayons, keeping them in one piece, whole, not broken bits, and at the end of the school year, we will be able to take our crayons home. I adore my crayons. I care for them tenderly and cherish them.

see **WRITE IT** page B5

OYSTERGIRL's guide to LOCAL LIVING by Vanessa Query

Dosa Kitchen: Traditional Indian Food, With a Local Twist

BRATTLEBORO – The first time I went to Brattleboro, I asked my Facebook friends for food suggestions. More than a couple people strongly recommended Dosa Kitchen, a food truck that serves lunch in the parking lot of Grafton Village Cheese.

Their main dish is the titular *dosa*, a sort of crepe made from fermented rice and lentils.

I'm big into traditional foods, so they had me at "fermented." I also love-love-love Indian food, it being pretty prevalent in my native Providence.

My first lunch there one warm September afternoon was a feast for the senses: the beauty of the view, Wantastiquet Mountain on one side and the bright blue of the Dosa Kitchen truck on the other (what can I say, I'm a color nerd); the sun and the warm pastoral breeze running along my skin; the aroma and taste of the tangy, savory dosa with chicken curry and kale salad.

Since that day, I've dined on dosa every chance I can. My 6-year-old loves dosa, too. He's not a fan of food that has more than three identifiable ingredients, but he will eat most of an 18-inch dosa slathered in ghee. That, plus a mango lassi, is a valid meal in my book!

A Unique Combination

Food writer Leda Scheintaub and chef Nash Patel started Dosa Kitchen in Brattleboro in 2014. They'd recently moved there from New York City, and liked the idea of bringing a bit of its diverse food culture to Vermont.

At first, they "squeeze[d] our food truck down an alley in the middle of Main Street," Leda says. "Coming from New York City foodie culture, we thought its off-the-beaten location would add intrigue."

ELIZABETH UNGERLEIDER PHOTOS



The Dosa Kitchen truck, on location at Grafton Village Cheese in Brattleboro.



Chef Nash Patel preparing a chicken curry dosa plate.

But we found people like things more straightforward here, and they like parking, so the next year we moved down the road to Grafton Village Cheese."

The inspiration for Dosa Kitchen was the idea of both global and local eating – dosa is the food of Nash's childhood in Hyderabad, India, and Leda's focus as a food writer has been on local, sustainable, and traditionally-prepared food.

"It takes a bit of time and organization to coordinate local sourcing," Leda says, "but the rewards far outweigh the benefits of streamlined deliveries from a single industrial food source."

They source ingredients as locally, sustainably, and ethically as possible: vegetables from farms throughout the Brattleboro area, cheese from Grafton Village Cheese (as local as you can get, since the Dosa Kitchen truck is stationed there throughout the summer), milk and yogurt from New England-based farms, meat and maple syrup from Vermont, eggs from their farmer neighbors.

Everything on their menu is naturally gluten-free, their meat and dairy comes from ethically-treated animals, and there are plenty of vegan options. Of equal importance to them are the oils they cook everything in: they favor coconut oil, extra virgin olive oil, and organic sunflower oil.

What is Dosa?

As I mentioned, dosa is a savory rice and lentil crepe. It's sour and tangy, airy and crispy. It's a staple in South India, eaten daily. A traditional breakfast is a *masala dosa*, a dosa filled with spiced mashed potato.

To make dosa, rice is soaked with an Indian lentil called *urad dal* for several hours. The mix is then ground into a batter, and fermented in a warm space for about eight hours. The batter is then cooked on a skillet, like a pancake, to make the crepe.

The dosa can be eaten on its own, or spread with *ghee* (clarified butter), or served alongside a curry, or filled and rolled into a wrap, or topped like a pancake. You can order dosa all of these ways at Dosa Kitchen.

What Else is On the Menu?

Dosa Kitchen also serves rice bowls, dessert, drinks (mango lassi – the famous mango yogurt drink – and

see **OYSTERGIRL** page B4



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

HIGH WATER ALMANAC

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – Spring flooding spread through the lower valley of the Millers this past week. Braids of the ancient stream thread through the riverside woodlands creating watery paths for muskrat and beaver, new islands for the wood ducks.

The strands turn silver among the trees under the full moon, while the river sends rushing swirling sounds all night long through the open windows of the upstairs bedrooms.

Daybreak brings the clamor of geese. Up to now there had been a threesome flying over, but this day there are only two, one of the suitors has been sent on his way. The newly-affirmed couple trumpets and coasts, wing-tip to wing-tip, in noisy nuptial triumph over the marsh and sleeping neighborhood. Soon that marsh across the river will produce another generation of honkers.

Down here on earth, this Easter Sunday morning is all a rosy haze and birdsong. Sure enough, nature out here is talking Resurrection. Across my little corner of the valley, and from where I sit, the rose hue hangs faintly in the trees, swirling and out of focus like a Monet painting done in his later years. Only this impressionist palette is due to the early maple buds



Spring Beauties – Scilla siberica

all deciding to show themselves at once across this landscape.

Winter birds are already gone, taking their mating songs with them, farther to the north: tree sparrows left early in the morning just last week. Fox sparrows lingered long enough to share a faint, rare song before moving on. They'll be back in November.

We still hear the call of the white throat with his "Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody..." whistled sweetly from the bare lilac. *Scilla siberica* are sending up their pale blue flowers over the grave of our lovely Enya, a sweet Siberian husky companion buried in the garden so long ago one April morning of our youth. The blue of the flower matches her pale blue lonesome eyes. It's good to remember her today.

see **WEST** page B8

THEATER PREVIEW

Characters Transform Throughout *Six Degrees*

By JOE KWIECINSKI

DEERFIELD – For director Tony Jones, working on the Arena Civic Theatre's first offering of the season, *Six Degrees of Separation*, fulfills a longtime aspiration. The award-winning, iconic play will open Friday night, April 21 at the White Church Community Center, 16 Memorial Street in Deerfield at 8 p.m.

"I've been researching this play," said Jones, "for years. I'm fascinated by its deep layers of meaning, which are touched by the themes of class, gender, homosexuality, identity, mental illness, and race. Above all, this comedy-drama focuses on how human beings are linked together despite their seeming differences."

The critically acclaimed masterpiece follows the adventures of a charismatic, brash young con man who, claiming he is the son of superstar Sidney Poitier, ingratiates himself into the lives of a circle of Manhattan status seekers. The responses of the members of this group of friends facilitate fascinating insights into their individual personalities.

The play's epicenter is the charming rogue Paul, played by Phillippe Janvier. His burning desire to improve his life, to become accepted, and to be loved strikes a universal, sympathetic chord despite his barrage of lies and deceit.



Phillippe Janvier as Paul in Arena Civic Theatre's current production, Six Degrees of Separation.

"Paul is a fine young actor," said Jones. "He has a great deal of lines and the text is intensive. Paul traps himself in his attempt to reject authenticity. As a black man, I resonate with his character and can relate to how the main character opens the door to hurt, mistrust, and anger. Life lessons abound throughout the play for all the characters through the work's marvelous humor."

Kip Fonsh plays Flan, a middle-aged wealthy art dealer in Manhattan. Flan thinks the world revolves around himself and art. Like so

many players in *Six Degrees*, he's exceptionally obsessed with how others view him. He's an aloof man concerned with selling his goods.

Louise Krieger essays the role of Ouisa, Flan's socialite wife. Ouisa (pronounced *wee-za*), a person who wants everything to be right, is the brain behind Flan's art business and their marriage. She has exacting standards and yet has more compassion than any other character in the play, according to Jones.

Paul Rothenberg plays Geoffrey, a South African art dealer and businessman. His character, too, is guarded at the start of the show and undergoes a transformation. Geoffrey is a guest at the home of Flan and Ouisa.

Meanwhile, Kitty (Dawn Mayo) and Larkin (Jim Merlin) constitute a typical upper class New York couple, constantly in competition with Flan and Ouisa in a friendship based on outdoing each other. Unaware of their motivations, Larkin, who runs a foundation, and Kitty are extremely humorous characters.

James Reilly tackles the role of Dr. Fine, an M.D. who is manipulated by the main character into letting him stay at the good doctor's dwelling. Hillary Dennis plays Tess, Flan and Ouisa's daughter. Riddled with teen angst, Tess is a freshman at Harvard

see **THEATRE** page B3

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Peat Moss! You know that peat moss improves your soil. But I can improve your life!

I was once a stray, so there isn't much known about me, but I'm a good one! I'm an FeLV+ kitty and that makes me special.

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“PEAT MOSS”

Senior Center Activities APRIL 24 TO 28

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 A.M. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch

M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 4/24

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/25 See above

Wednesday 4/26

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/27

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/28

1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/24

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 4/25

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Homemade Lunch & Comedian David Shikes

Wednesday 4/26

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs

Thursday 4/27

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Friday 4/28

7 a.m. Walking

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert

12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

WENDELL

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

FACES & PLACES

The Turners Falls All Sports Booster Club held a “Supermarket Sweep” fundraiser at Food City on April 9, to raise money for Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School athletes.

The lucky winner, pictured above with his family, was Tony Bardwell, who took home \$295.99 worth of groceries.

Jill Putala of the Boosters writes: “We wish to thank Food City for opening early on the 9th, and all who purchased a ticket in support of the TF Sports Boosters!”

Meeting With the Musicians

By MATT ROBIDOUX

TURNERS FALLS – “Music at the Discovery Center” is a new monthly afternoon concert series, free and open to the public, aiming to present adventurous and accessible programming and a general vibrancy to the Discovery Center’s Great Hall.

The second concert in the series will be held Wednesday, April 26, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Great Hall, located 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The series is presented by Community Enterprises, a non-profit, CARF-accredited community agency that provides supported employment, education, and living services to people with disabilities. The goal of the series is to establish a forum for people of all abilities to experience and engage with the arts close up, with performers who will donate their time and talents, and explain their craft.

Wednesday’s installment will feature rising Valley singer-songwriters **Eli Catlin** and **Tess Burdick**, who will showcase original works alongside folk standards.

Earlier this month, the performers were interviewed via telephone by three participants of Community Enterprises’ community-based day program, **Kasey Giguere**, **Alicia Hemmingway** and **Holly Elmer**, to discuss their relationship to music.

The following is a transcript of that conversation.

KG: Hi, how’s it going? What are you up to?

EC: Right now, or what am I up to in general?

KG: In general... Yeah, you’re pretty awesome.

EC: Cool! In general, trying to play as much as I can, looking for solo shows, playing mostly country / blues style music and some of my own songs too – trying to meet all sorts of people, get into all sorts of musical situations, playing guitar and singing, and making it happen.

AH: How long have you been playing? How long are the songs

that you play?

EC: The songs that I play are generally three to five minutes long, but sometimes, if I’m really getting into it and really feeling the groove, I’ll go for 10 minutes or something like that. And I’ve been playing and working at playing for about 12 years.

AH: That’s good! I’ve started off my series with dreaming, then making stories and putting them into music, then playing it on the radio. That’s how I process music.

MR: I think Alicia is wondering what your process is like – how you approach songwriting?

EC: That’s really cool. Generally, something will pop into my head and I’ll try for a cohesive story and work it into a song.

I usually come up with the music first and the words come after that, but it can happen all sorts of ways. I’m trying to think of a more consistent way of putting out songs, but right now it’s just here and there. But the dream way of doing it, that’s a cool thing.

HE: What are your songs about?

EC: I’ve got some romantic relationship songs, I’ve got a couple of general life-themed songs. Most recently though, I wrote a song based on a police incident, something of a commentary on the drug war, sort of a story-song, in which a police officer shoots another police officer thinking he is selling drugs... That’s my most recent one.

KG: Please come play for us. You’re famous and you’re popular. What coffee do you drink?

EC: I’m rarely drinking coffee these days, but I like all the places around town. I’m more of a tea drinker. Thanks so much for having me!

AH: How’s the music business going these days?

TB: Lately, I’ve been spending time at home trying to practice and write more music, so I haven’t really been involved with the business side as much. I’m really enjoying taking

this time to be more creative and try and really work on the music I’ve already written and improve it, and keep writing even more.

AH: I’m planning on doing some projects with certain people and hoping that they’ll understand me like I understand them, and I think music helps me and helps everyone out with my thinking, and their own thinking.

TB: I use music and songwriting as a way to process what I’m feeling, and things that I’m going through. I feel that you don’t even necessarily need words to help people to understand that: how you’re feeling, and what you’re going through.

You can express so much with just music and sound, and I try to take advantage of that, to break it down and try and really express how I’m feeling – not just so that other people can relate to me or understand or enjoy it, but because it’s really helpful for me to have that as a tool to process how I’m feeling, and express myself.

With music, I’m able to put a creative and artistic spin on anything that I want [to express], which I really love.

KG: What’s your favorite coffee?

TB: I actually have a song written about coffee, so this is a good question for me. Lately, I’ve been really into Indian coffees... I started drinking my coffee black recently, because I feel like I can taste so much more of the bean.

KG: What type is your music?

TB: I take a lot of different influences into account when I’m writing, but generally feel like my music is kind of like folk music. I have a lot of influences from gospel, ‘60s Motown. I love older folk music and music from all different genres, really, so it’s hard for me to pinpoint exactly what mine is because I can hear so much influence in it.

KG: I’m dedicating songs to you, at the concert!

Matt Robidoux is a day activities coordinator at Community Enterprises.

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FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

THEATRE from page B1

who takes herself too seriously. The role of Dee, Dr. Fine’s daughter, and that of a doorman are handled by Tina Towle.

In addition, Emma Geryk plays Jen, Kitty and Larkin’s daughter. A spitfire, Jen is in much psychological pain and, in the director’s opinion, proves the adage that “hurt people hurt people.”

Meanwhile, Carolyn Como as Elizabeth and Dominic Baird as Rick, her boyfriend, play a couple moving from Utah to the city to make it big. Elizabeth has visions of acting in her future.

“Directing this play has expanded my view of life,” said Jones. “Among other topics, it deals with the expectations we place on others and vice-versa. There are also lessons about navigating in a world that, at times, doesn’t make sense.”

Two other cast members have challenging roles. Ethan Blake and Dominic Baird score “hat tricks,” playing three characters each. Blake appears as Woody, the son of Ouisa and Flan; Trent, who trained Paul how to fit in with the world he aspires to; and a policeman. Baird not only plays Rick, but also a detective, and brings to life the role of a hustler.

What is meant by the play’s unique title? John Guare, its author, popularized with this play a network theory concept first written about in fiction form by Hungarian author Frigyes Karinthy in a short story called “Chain-Links” back in 1929. Guare explained it this way: “Everybody on this planet is separated by only six other people. Six degrees of separation between us and everyone else on this planet.” (Social network analysts now believe that we are only separated by 3.5 people, thanks to Facebook and the internet.)

The Deerfield production will first lift the curtain on *Six Degrees* four days before a Broadway revival opens April 25. The new version of the New York show stars Allison Janney, who’s earned seven Emmys, Tony Award winner

John Benjamin Hickey, and Corey Hawkins of the high-voltage TV show, *24: Legacy*.

Six Degrees of Separation originally opened on Broadway in 1990. It captured the New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award, the Olivier Award for Best New Play, and was a finalist for the Tony Award for Best Play. *Six Degrees* also sparkled on the big screen in 1993. Stockard Channing, Will Smith, Donald Sutherland, and Ian McKellan were the headliners.

This first play of the year marks actor-director Tony Jones’ debut at the helm of an Arena Civic Theatre production. At 37, Jones is a veteran director who’s done most of his work on the East Coast. He is a graduate of the School for the Arts in Baltimore, has led the Enchanted Circle Theatre in Holyoke for six years. The theatre company brings the arts into standard academic settings to integrate them with the curriculum.

“We’re lucky we got permission,” said Megan Healy, “to do the play.” Healy is the president of the Arena Civic Theater, a non-profit community group based in Greenfield which was established by Ann Christern in 1970. “I think we’re just far enough from Broadway, so they honored our request.”

Western Massachusetts theatre-goers will get a chance to see *Six Degrees* thanks to a special arrangement with Dramatic Play Services, Inc. of New York. Healy added, “I do want to stress that this show is *not* appropriate for young audiences.”

In addition to opening night April 21, *Six Degrees of Separation* takes the stage Saturday April 22, Friday April 28, and Saturday April 29 at 8 p.m. The play’s run ends Sunday April 30 with a 2 p.m. performance. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$13 for students and seniors.

For reservations, tickets, and more information, please call (413) 233-4368 or visit arenacivictheater.org.



Kip Fonsh as Flan, and Louise Krieger as Ouisa, rehearse their parts in Arena Civic Theatre’s current production, *Six Degrees of Separation*.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Enjoying the summery weather? We’d like to shine some light on new programming available for viewing on MontagueTV.org and on our TV channel.

• *2 the Moon Duo*, March 2017: Watch as singer-songwriter Carrie Ferguson and singer Shelley Hines come together as a musical duo at Deja Brew in Wendell. The duo sing familiar songs by Joni Mitchell, Carole King, the Weepies, and Annie Lenox, as well as a few originals.

• *Spring Clean-up: Downtown*

Turners Falls 2017 – Watch as filmmaker Julian Lowenthal interviews numerous community members and business owners doing their part to make downtown Turners Falls beautiful.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Skunk in Alley; Possums on Porch; Bear in Tree; Drunk on Bridge; Thefts of Juice, Purse, Gas, Bike

Monday, 4/10

10:26 a.m. Landlord reports that workers found a male sleeping in the basement of her building on Fourth Street. Subject detained; mess cleaned; subject moved along; officer will contact landlord about charges.

12:59 p.m. Caller reports that a male (phone number provided) has called her six times in the past 5-10 minutes, stating that he has her picture and is going to find her and assault her. Caller believes that this is a scam; doesn’t know of anyone that would want to harm her. On callback, number provided is a non-working number. Officer will patrol area as a precaution.

2:14 p.m. DPW reporting a sewer backup on Industrial Boulevard; requesting police assistance with school traffic.

3:37 p.m. Caller reporting injured skunk in alley between Third and Fourth Streets. Officer located skunk, but area is heavily populated. Advised to keep calling animal control officer. Dispatch made contact with ACO, who will not be back in town until 1 a.m. and cannot respond.

3:41 p.m. Homeowner on Turners Falls Road reporting three boxers loose in area; one ran into her house aggressively. Dogs returned to their yard.

4:15 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states that her dog got spooked by her horses and ran away. Dog described as a white Great Pyrenees, friendly toward people and other dogs. Dog returned home; all set.

Tuesday, 4/11

3:16 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle parked in Millers Falls rail yard. Operator is photographer waiting for train to go by so he can get a night exposure.

3:35 a.m. Officer out with vehicle in Unity Park. Subject moved along and advised of no trespassing in park; was playing Pokemon Go.

10:04 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City; subject was observed on camera putting a bottle in his pants. Officer located subject downtown; he admitted to taking a bottle of juice but did not have it on him anymore. Subject and companion advised that they are no longer welcome at Food City.

11:11 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reporting illegal dumping beyond railroad tracks that run behind his property. Officer located area in question and found fresh grass clippings on top of obviously older dumping. When advised of officer’s findings, caller insisted that all items dumped there over the past five

years be cleaned up and said several times “if it’s OK to dump there, maybe I’ll start dumping there too” (or words to that effect). Caller was reminded that this call was recorded and advised not to dump anything on the land.

5:50 p.m. Caller states that a group of kids is hanging out on a Fourth Street porch smoking marijuana while young children play in the area. Party advised of complaint.

6:17 p.m. Caller reporting a group of 5 to 6 children, ages 7-8 or so, who appear to be playing chicken with oncoming traffic on Park Street. Officer on scene; group of kids is selling lemonade. Officer spoke to parents, who were present. Kids were not in road but were holding a sign and running along edge of road.

6:27 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting sick skunk in his yard. ACO unable to respond (out of town). Officer and caller attempted to cover skunk with a blanket and move it to an area where it could be put down; however, it crawled under a large smoker, and it appears that the animal may pass where it is. Caller advised to call back if skunk comes back out.

7:05 p.m. Report of two-car accident at Paradise Parkway and Montague City Road. Ambulance and MedCare en route. No entrapment; all parties out of vehicles.

8:47 p.m. Caller states that he was outside and his neighbor began to egg him on in front of his eight-year-old son. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 4/12

3:10 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting being woken by some type of loud animal on porch next door. Officer advises that possums appear to be living on the porch among a large number of items. ACO will be notified by day shift.

2:06 p.m. Caller requesting removal of an intoxicated male on bench outside of Food City. Subject observed drinking from a bottle of Wild Irish Rose. Courtesy transport provided.

2:27 p.m. Report of a bear, possibly a cub, in a tree in a backyard on Dell Street. No one is home, but students will be released from school shortly. ACO reports that bear is sleeping in tree. Additional calls received from people concerned that mother bear may be around or that the cub is scared because people are at the bottom of the tree looking at it. Officer advised everyone to clear the area and allow the bear to do what it needs to.

3:32 p.m. Party into station to report that his neighbor’s son threatened to assault him and kill his

dog. Party will call back when neighbors are home so that they can be advised of complaint.

4:06 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop. Verbal warning issued for speed. Dog in car was in distress and on way to vet. 7:03 p.m. Officer reporting TV in middle of northbound lane on Lake Pleasant Road. Unit moved TV to side of road. DPW contacted.

9:59 p.m. Caller from Farnen Avenue reporting small puppy on her porch. Responding officer heading to shelter with dog.

Thursday, 4/13

10:32 a.m. Caller from K Street requesting removal of a subject who is causing a disturbance outside his rental property. Second report of same received from building tenant. While officers were en route, subject left on foot and made mention of possibly getting a bat. Subject located and advised not to return to property.

1:20 p.m. Report from Avenue A of two pushy/rude solicitors claiming to be from Eversource. Officers located subjects, who were advised of process for obtaining a solicitation permit and moved along.

11:09 p.m. Caller states that she was driving over the Gill-Montague Bridge and saw a shirtless white male standing over the rail as if he might jump. Caller turned around and drove back over bridge; subject was now on other side of bridge, walking in and out of the middle of the road. Subject was almost hit while crossing the intersection at the lights in Gill and nearly fell over several times. Officer spoke to bartender at Between the Uprights, where subject had been earlier. Subject located and released into care of his sister.

Friday, 4/14

7:30 a.m. Disabled vehicle in intersection of Bridge and East Main Streets. AAA gave a tentative ETA of 45 minutes for tow company, but advised that the ETA did not come from the tow company and that 45 minutes is just the standard ETA that they give out. Second call received; bus company advises that their drivers are having trouble getting through the intersection to pick up children on their routes. Tow company on scene; AAA advised.

9:27 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that someone broke into her residence overnight. Report taken.

10:14 a.m. Caller reports that a male stole his wife’s purse. Caller tracked suspect down and recovered purse. Suspect located; summons issued.

11:14 a.m. Report of three women going door

to door handing out pamphlets about the supernatural. Officer located parties, who were soliciting for religious purposes and do not need a permit. No further action needed. 12:16 p.m. Report of patron driving off without paying for gas at F.L. Roberts. Unable to read license plate from tapes. Clerk believes that patron is a regular and will try to work out the issue with them when they next come in.

12:16 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street requesting assistance disposing of a dead skunk that is under a smoker in his yard (see earlier call). ACO clear; animal has been picked up for disposal.

2:47 p.m. Report of opossum on sidewalk on Gill side of Gill-Montague Bridge. Caller expressing concern that opossum might be stuck. Shelburne Control advised.

6:06 p.m. Party from Turners Falls Road into station to report that her granddaughter’s bike was stolen last night. Report taken.

8:39 p.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle at end of East Mineral Road. Two parties fishing. No problems.

Saturday, 4/15

12:01 p.m. 911 caller reporting heavy smell of natural gas and a hissing sound coming from basement on Randall Wood Drive. FD on scene reporting that it is two propane tanks outside that were on; requesting PD to check out some possible tampering. 12:55 p.m. Officer out assisting with Easter activities at Unity Park.

9:50 p.m. Two 911 callers reporting a white sedan operating erratically on School Street and Route 63. Shelburne Control notified; later advised that vehicle matching description had hit a wall in Erving.

Sunday, 4/16

8:22 a.m. Caller reports hearing gunshots in area of Avenue A. Officer spoke to group of men from VFW; they were conducting a 21 gun salute.

10:04 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting that someone keyed her vehicle overnight.

7:12 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer re: his son having been assaulted by a boy at the skate park about a half hour ago. Officer spoke with suspect’s father, who will be accompanying him to Second Street to talk with his son. Report taken.

7:25 p.m. Report of a large snapping turtle in middle of Greenfield Road. Caller has been directing traffic around turtle. Turtle made it safely across road. Caller will call back if turtle returns to road. Copy of call left for ACO.

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OYSTERGIRL from page B1
kanji – a fermented beet drink, similar to kvass – are highlights), and frequent specials.

I’ve sampled most of their menu, and it’s all so delicious, I can’t recommend only one thing to try! Just get one of everything.

Leda has some more concrete suggestions, though.

The *masala dosa*, with traditional spiced mash potato, is both a South Indian tradition and a new American favorite, ranked number four on the Huffington Post’s list of “Ten Foods to Try before You Die,” and is one of CNN Travel’s “World’s 50 Best Foods.”

If you’re an omnivore, Leda highly recommends the Dosa Dog – “a beef and bacon Vermont Smoke & Cure hot dog topped with Grafton cheddar, house-made cultured mustard, and masala sauerkraut (our Indian spice version of kraut) wrapped into a thick dosa.”

ELIZABETH UNGERLEIDER PHOTO



Dosa Kitchen proprietors Leda Scheintaub and Nash Patel.

How Can I Get This??

The Dosa Kitchen truck is stationed outside Grafton Village Cheese, on Linden Street (Route 30) in Brattleboro, from May through October, every Wednesday through Sunday, 12 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3 is their target opening day this year. For updates on that, more information about their upcoming events and projects (including a new Dosa Kitchen cookbook!), visit their web site at dosakitchen.com. You can also find Dosa Kitchen on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable – especially food. She moved to Turners Falls last year and has been enjoying getting to know the area. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.



April 28 and 29: Arbor Day Events

This year, the Montague Tree Advisory Committee is teaming up with a number of community institutions and organizations to bring our town a wide variety of educational and fun activities to celebrate Arbor Day.

On Friday, April 28 the tree committee will partner with Turners Falls RiverCulture to sponsor an event at Spinner Park, at Avenue A and Fourth Street in Turners Falls. Plans for the re-construction of the park will be unveiled at 4:30 p.m., followed by the electro-pop musical duo Home Body at 5 p.m.

La Mariposa, at 111 Avenue A,

will host a free screening of a documentary about Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and first woman from Africa to win the Nobel Peace Prize, at 6 p.m.

Retired Smith Botanical Garden director, Michael Marcotrigiano, will give a public talk at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29 titled “How Not to Kill a Tree.”

All activities are free, and refreshments will be served. For more information, see www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part X (July 9, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections.

We are reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title “Looking Backward,” in our own pages.

– Montague Reporter eds.

Compositors had a heart-breaking and head torturing time trying to read the manuscripts of Cecil T. Bagnall, editor of the Reporter. Sometimes they wouldn’t know which was the top and which the bottom of the sheet. He seldom numbered the pages but threw them to one side one after the other, regardless.

When writing something which intrigued him he worked at white heat and the paper would be filled with incredible speed. The compositors made so many mistakes in the copy and guessed wrong so much of the time that when the proofs came back there was scarcely room on the margins to indicate all the errors.

So when time was limited or the article especially important I was assigned the harrowing task of copying the manuscript on the typewriter before it went to the tender mercies of the compositors.

At first I was as much at sea as anyone else but shortly I got really expert in getting at the meaning of the weird scratches and quirks. Often whole words were omitted as the writer’s mind invariably worked faster than even his speedy pen and it was necessary to become quite a mind reader and to develop a fertile imagination in order to make sense out of the copy.

I was the only one of the premises who could read the bewildering stuff at first trial. I got so I liked to bring order out of the written chaos and even to this day I am able to read anything which anyone perpetrates with a pen provided it is in English. Grand training for working out puzzles.

Once in a while I would get floored, however, and would have to take a piece of copy to the editor and ask him what that curley-cue or that blob of vowels was meant to indicate, or what he was trying to say without writing it out.

Strangely enough I’ve known him to be completely baffled by his own writing. Then he would say he couldn’t be expected to read it after it was “cold.” Whereupon I’d have to draw still further on my imagination and write what I guessed he might have intended or else he would have to rewrite the whole passage.

Mr. Bagnall had a very extensive vocabulary, using many words that the average person would not know there were even in the dictionary so it was no wonder that reading some of his manuscript developed into an endurance contest and taxed the patience to the utmost.

One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the “N.B. Hall Dining Room,” now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

PHOTOGRAPH E.W. COOK – COURTESY PETER S. MILLER

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A Spring Cleaning



The Town of Gill highway department's John Deere 310SJ TC backhoe, doing spring roadwork during a warm beautiful day last week.

By JOE R. PARZYCH

GILL – A lot of work needs to be done in the aftermath of winter. Heavy equipment operator John Miner, in the backhoe’s cab, operates the controls of the hydraulic boom shovel while digging and excavating to open up a clear pathway of water for a culvert, to keep the water from flowing over the road.

Hey kids and teenagers – future heavy equipment operators, and all fields of trades and engineers – you might learn something: John Deere has been around since 1837, 180

years ago. It was founded in Grand Detour, Illinois, and moved to Moline, Illinois. Deere manufactures a wide range of products, including agricultural, construction, and forestry equipment. As of 2016, the company was experimenting with an electric tractor.

We will see what the future holds for John Deere and other companies – what engineers come up with in the years to come.

When I was a kid, growing up with heavy equipment, my grandfather – a local writer of Gill, and retired from construction (JA

Parzych Excavating) – would take me to construction sites with his hard hat and camera. In the early days, I started with a 35 mm camera, and worked up to a digital camera. I still use both.

There was an educational film back in the early ‘90s called *Road Construction Ahead* (directed by Fred Levine, with actor George Woodard) that I and other kids learned about a long time ago. Teachers and parents can find it at your local library from the Book Mobile or other libraries – just ask – or you can find it on *Amazon.com* on DVD and VHS.

WRITE IT from page B1

I will care for them forever, draw and color so very carefully – these crayons are quite valuable, but most importantly and above all, they are mine.

In between stops on my list of errands, various stops at the store, picking up the kids, dropping one off at a friend’s, in and out of this crazy rainfall late in the afternoon on this February day, I can’t escape the smell of those crayons. I finally recognize that it is this waxy smell that has transported me to grade two – and the painful memory of my teacher failing me: she did not allow us to take our lovely, fat, cared-for crayons home on that last day of school. I’m devastated. Shocked. I want to cry. I feel lied to. I feel cheated. I did my part in caring for those crayons and she, the meanest person on earth, did not. She didn’t even remember her promise – or else, she never meant to keep it.

Who cares? That was decades ago! What is this about?

Then, Amy, my oldest, from the back seat of the car, pipes up, sniffing, “Mum, why does your coat smell like crayons?”

Hmph! My favorite winter coat, usually worn only for birdwatching treks, is a Barbour wax coat, tossed on today because it was the first one I touched when I reached into the closet. A wax coat, releasing a waxy smell from the wet of all the rain and heat of the car.

The power of it – who knew? Three decades later, I’m still feeling

the pain of not having those crayons, the feelings of betrayal.

Medicine by Mother
By ESTELLE CADE

I’m probably four years old. “Mamma, I just fell off my bike and skinned my knee and it hurts.” Mom takes a look. “Let’s wash it off first,” she says. Out comes the washcloth, wrung out in hot soapy water and some mild soap.

“Ouch, that stings,” I whine. “There, it’s clean now,” Mom says. “We don’t want an infection. I’ll just put some mercurochrome on it and a nice clean Band-Aid.” I cringe. “Will it hurt?”

“No, it will just feel a bit cooler as I put it on.” The little glass applicator is quite fascinating and the happy face Mom paints on my knee helps a lot. All is well until time to change the Band-Aid. “Just lift up one corner and pull,” she says.

“Ouch!” It feels as though my skin is being ripped off! But a newer happy face painted on my knee afterwards makes me smile.

Fast forward. I’m six or seven years old, sitting on the front steps playing Jacks. I gather up the Jacks for the next lay and gather up a long splinter as well, right at the end of my fourth finger (ring finger). I ignore it and finish my game, but by supper time my finger is red and rather swollen. “That needs to come out,” my mother decrees and gets a sewing needle from her sewing box. Holding it in one hand she passes it through

the flame of the gas stove burner and approaches me, bent on performing this minor surgery! I cower in my chair, eyes squinted shut, in order to block off this horrid scene. “Hold out your hand,” she says. “This will take only a second or two.”

She lies! It must have been twenty minutes at least, I think, before she triumphantly exclaims, “There! It’s out. Now go and wash your hands thoroughly with hot water and soap.”

Medicine by Mother. Need I mention the brown and vile smelling Iodine (the big guns) brought out as I grew older, to be used on various larger scrapes and cuts (roller skating, games of tag – you remember those days, I’m sure), and who can ever forget the vile and disgusting chalky Milk of Magnesia our mothers had in their arsenal of medical supplies for their children? And some mothers even tried to hide castor oil in orange juice given to their unsuspecting young!

Well, I grew up, not too scarred physically or mentally, never had an antibiotic until sulfa drugs appeared when I was in high school, and my abscessed ear was healed quickly. No doubt we were all better off in those days, but oh, how they lied! “This will only hurt for a minute!” Or, “This will make you feel much better.”

And what did we tell our own children? Yes, those hard-earned phrases we all learn in Mother School: “This will only hurt for a minute!”

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was April 19, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

then died. “It’s old,” said Zukowski, laconically. “We’re all old.”

Intra-District Choice on the G-M Agenda

Gill and Montague will hold special town meetings on Thursday, at the Gill town hall followed by the Montague high school, to vote on a proposal to implement intra-district school choice within the Gill-Montague school district.

If passed, the proposal will enable parents or guardians of elementary school students in Montague to choose to have their children go to school in Gill, if there are openings for them there, and allow parents in Gill to have their children attend elementary school in Montague. The current district agreement in place between Gill and Montague limits students between kindergarten and sixth grade to attending schools in their hometown.

Power Out to Much of Downtown

Around 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Chester Rich, maneuvering a semi-tractor trailer load from Yarmouth Lumber, Inc. in Gray, ME, rounded the corner from Avenue A to Second Street on his way to the Southworth Paper Company, cut the turn a little close and clipped the utility pole.

He knocked the pole on a 45-degree angle, a power line fell across the street, residents of the Crocker Building saw sparks fly, and the lights went out along Avenue A up to Seventh Street, at least as far as L Street. The Crocker Building and Second Street toward the canal also lost power.

At the police station, Chief Ray Zukowski said power went out at 11:31 a.m. An ancient generator came to life briefly, supplying the station with emergency power, and

A Solution to Australis Odor

The Montague board of health and representatives from Australis Aquaculture LLC met on Wednesday to iron out an agreement for alleviating a persistent odor that has been bothering the neighborhoods south and west of the industrial fish farm.

Josh Goldman, managing director of Australis, announced that the fish farm will alter their method of releasing manure from the plant at the end of April or the beginning of May. The change will take place in order to eliminate an odor that residents and businesses near the Industrial Boulevard facility say they have been bothered by more or less continuously since the summer of 2006.

Australis currently uses a 200,000-gallon airtight tank for storing manure from the fish farm for extended periods, before eventually using the waste to fertilize farmers’ fields. The stored manure, while in the tank, creates high levels of hydrogen sulfide, a gas that is odorous even at very low levels. A three-gallon-a-minute waste stream drained the effluent from the tank to the town sewers, and the sewer line was the source of the odor for neighbors further along the line.

“The new system won’t involve storing manure,” said Goldman. Three gallons of manure per minute will instead be released from the farm in an effluent stream, in order to circumvent the storage and consequent build-up of sulfides. Australis will decommission the tank they currently use to store manure.

The “new” method is actually an old one the farm used from 2004 until 2006.

Book Project on View at LOOT



A page from one of the Rotation Art Books, by Sally Reid.

TURNERSFALLS—Fortwelve months, twelve artists and writers have exchanged their art books with each other, bringing home a different book every month in which they created their own page on a chosen theme. For instance, one participant used “Loss” as her theme; another decided that her pages would be individual tarot cards; another challenged fellow “bookies” to make a new holiday.

Each artist interpreted the theme in any style and medium they wanted to. At the end of a year, everyone ended up with twelve original pages of art, poetry, and prose in their book.

This is the third such Rotation Art Book Project founded by Pam Allan of Turners Falls. Allan is retired from NMH where she was the library director, and now works part-time at the Greenfield Public library.

Come see the new round of books at a special two-hour exhibit and reception in the LOOT showroom this Sunday, April 23 between 12 and 2 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and meet members of this year-long endeavor while browsing a dozen very rare handmade art books, as well as LOOT’s ever changing collection of industrial antiques and local crafts, at 62 Avenue A.

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

THE ODOR OF EMPIRE

Sulphuric cloud,
rotten eggs and guns.
Free trade, death for dime store dregs.
Chinese Uncle Sam
waves a bundle of heroin on a stick,
calls it Old Glory,
salutes me with his middle finger.
Hail, plutocrats!
Hail, international arms dealers!
Hail, granulated cancers crawling through your milk!
The police and military are sacred cows
with bleeding, diseased udders,
protecting us from themselves,
waiting for their turn on the chopping block.
All empires buckle, eventually.
The weight can never sustain itself.
Why can't you just lance the boil?
Be done with it?
Feel the sublime relief
of malignancy put to rest?
Why must you let it fester?
Curdled mother's milk
for the nation-infant to gag on.
God bless America,
because that's what he does.
The great American godhead.
The great American figurehead.
His missile is shooting blanks,
and the Virgin Mary gags
on the taste of sulphur.

- Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

A Ghazal for Patricia

She stared out the window streaked with rain
and said, "the dead come down with the rain."

It began as a night of shooting stars
but then the clouds closed and it began to rain

The sun dogged me when I was a child
relenting only when it started to rain

In hot places palm trees provide welcome shade
but do little to protect heads from torrential rain

One purple evening in Prague a deluge began
so we strayed into a church to get out of the rain

A celestial choir sang strands of Bach
accompanied by the tintabulating rain

Thunderstuck by our luck we listened and waited
not wanting to venture into the rain

The downpour continued even as the last notes
were sung.
"Christopher," you said, "now we can endure the
rain."

- Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Turners Falls

- Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

Nightfall

There has always been somewhat of a mystery how dusk/nightfall/sunset/or the precise moment
daylight's end that is so very special. It's an end.
We witness the end of something every day and, as would be the case for many, the moment may
seem uneventful; the change of light to dark, sky color, ability to see; every color losing itself into
the cool air; the air increasing its pressure on everything, pressing people to tire; most animals
will shift into sleep-mode and will start showing us how darkly-stunning they are. All earthly
beauty relinquishes its place to its crystalline and mysterious end. The rules of day have changed.
Some speak of a seeping evening as though it's unwanted; a time we'll simply re-tool for the
hours ahead; but we cuddle, huddle, rest and seek finality. We come together; change our
garments and complete the undone. But what of its life meaning-its opportunity? Nightfall
brings a new day; one of thought-one of change. It brings glide before we repair; every
relationship, with every one - of this/the past world.

-Alice Thomas
Greenfield

Between Brothers

I couldn't have survived your life,
my brother said. I skinned my knees
a lot as a kid. Our grandmother's
garden made me think I could fly.
Steam from her bread rises
to my face, her clabbered, hand-
churned butter a silk tang, melts
around my tongue. I am a simple
begging waif at her door, the cross-
wired pattern of her screen door
is on my nose. Three soldiers stand
in an ambush, their smiles still here.
A boy, his vest filled with explosives,
pats the smoke on his chest.
Heat rises from the barrel of my rifle.
The lieutenant I awaken in his hammock,
a seated ashen Buddha rises
from the remnants of his hut.
I couldn't form a reply, thought instead
of our fishing trip to Steamboat Lake.
The fall slate sky, a wind from Wyoming,
the solitary immensity of the surrounding
silence, more intense going toward emptiness,
the trout undecided, reeling them to shore.

- Al Miller
Montague Center

Have you stood

Have you stood in a forest lately? Noticed its wild beauty? How closely the trees stand to one another? Erect – strong – mature... even though they're older than you?
Every member of the color spectrum: browns, yellows, reds, greens bleed in a U.N. of the forest; their high branches intertwine with one another.
Studies remind us how many of these trees are of the same variety. They sway, stay healthy, withstand weather together, stand united because they are literally *related*.
Yes!... are a family; each sheltering, feeding, reaching up together. A family! They don't leave home, abandon their forest; move or remove to a distance. They thrive!

-Alice Thomas
Greenfield

Contributors' Notes

Kevin Smith is a tubist, therapist, poet and dedicated dog walker.
Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno edits this Poetry Page. His most recent books of poems are *Dix méditations sur quelques mots d'Antonin Artaud* (Paris: Alyscamps, 2017), and *Remission* (2016) and *Mussoorie-Montague Miscellany* (2013), both from Talisman House.

Patricia Pruitt edited the Poetry Page for many years. Her most recent book of poems is *Drawing Point* (Paris: Alyscamps, 2017). The poem on this page is from *Full Moon at Sunset: Selected Poems*, which Talisman House will issue this fall.
Alice Thomas, regional poet, painter and maker of photographic-multimedia assemblage, is a frequent contributor

to the Poetry Page. She is an editor for *Plum Online Literary Journal*, has published in *Silkworm*, *Plum* and other journals and anthologies, and is the layout editor for a local business webpage. She has exhibited her art at Greenfield Community College and was a winner in the 2014 Poet Seat Poetry Contest.


Al Miller, Vietnam veteran, furniture maker, poet and owner of Brookbend Farm has frequently contributed poems to this page. His poem "David" was the winner of the Annual Pat Schneider Poetry Contest from Amherst Writers and Artists. His poems have appeared in a number of national publications.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcb Brass@vermontel.net for location and details.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Crafts and activities* for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

New Salem Public Library: *Teen and Tweens*. Program for 11 to 18 year olds. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jazz Series with Ted Wirt and his Hammond B3*. 7 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

3RD WEDNESDAYS

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 6 to 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive before 7 p.m. to sign up for 5 or 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Franklin Community Coop/Green Fields Market, *Greenfield: Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

EXHIBITS:

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mother and Son Exhibit*. Jon Bander shows his welding artwork in an exhibit that also features paintings and sculpture by his mother, *Nina Rossi*. Exhibit through May 9.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Pastel Studio Spring*. Group show. Through April 26.

Domestic Darling's Salon, Turner's Falls: *Small Pieces From a Large World* by Robert Markey. Through April 30.

GCC, Greenfield: *Art Student Exhibit 2017, South Gallery*. Includes painting, photography, computer arts, video and more. Reception Thursday, April 20, 7 to 9 p.m. Through May 11.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Favorite Places Exhibit*. Art featuring our villages. Come see the results! Through April 23.

Hope & Olive, Greenfield: *Anja Schutz exhibit "Photographs,"* landscapes, portraits, still lifes, and dogs. Through May.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The Kings of Leverett*. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spring Mix*. Fine Art and Craft by area artists. Through May 10.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Nathan Hanford: Friendship Thread*; portraits of friends and artworks by *Veterans of Soldier On*. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. Through April.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: On-going art offerings by gallery member artists.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Framing Faces*, a year long exploration of oil painting and faces by *Kate Troast* of Amherst. Through May 23.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Better Than Taxes*, a group show by member artists. Through May 1.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Jane Litwin Taylor's Catching The Light*. Mosaic art and beadwork. Also in the Herrick Gallery, *After the Fair, photography by Jessica Star*, taken at night at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Both exhibits through April. Also deadline for Joe Ellis painting raffle is April 22.

SUBMISSIONS:

Call for Art: *Exploded View* is curating a community art show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls in May. Artists living in western Massachusetts can submit wall art on the theme of rivers and water for this "Catch and Release" exhibit. Deadline April 22. Submit up to three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com Questions? (413) 834.8800.

Conway's Sestercentennial (250th birthday). Request for Proposals for one act plays to be performed on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the Sportsman's Club Pavillion. Send all proposals and questions to Mike at verybratty@aol.com.

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: <http://slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit>.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Enthusiast presents Green Fest*. 5 p.m to 1 a.m. Free.

GCC, Greenfield: *Arts Night! An evening of dance, music, theater and art*. 5 to 9 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Greenfield Garden Club presents: Attract Bees and Butterflies to Your Gardens* by Tom Sullivan of Pollinators Welcome. 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Silverthorne Theater presents musical Jacques Brel is Alive and*

Well and Living in Paris. April 20 to 23. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, Northfield: *Life in a Pond: Earth Day Celebration*. Family event, children 5+ years. 1 to 3 p.m.

White Church Community Center, Deerfield: *Arena Civic Theatre presents: "Six Degrees of Separation"* by *John Guare*. Through April 30. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Signature Sounds presents Suitcase Junket*. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Greys and Lonely Whale*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby*, rock/surf. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levan-gie & The Pistoleros*. Outlaw country. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Matt Bryde & Guests*. Indie/ Americana. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Degrader, Hollow Point, Depreciator, Repressed, Divided Life, Brickshot*. 5 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Town Hall: *Gaslight Tinkers, Emma June, and Caleb Wetherbee*. Benefit for Wendell Free Library. 7:30, \$

Montague Bookmill: *Original Cowards/And the Neighbors*. 8 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Big Fuzzy, Olivia WB, Wendy Eisenberg, Custom Drummer, Creative Healing*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Ashfield Lakehouse, Ashfield: *Home Body*. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Dave Noonan's Green Island* and *Kate Lorenz Band*. Celebrate Earth Day. 8 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Loot, Turners Falls: Reception for *Rotation Art Book Project*. 12 to 2 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Closing Reception: *Montague Favorite Places* exhibit. 1 to 3 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jazz Sundays: The Green Street Trio*. 5 p.m. \$

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

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Ruth Garbus, Banny Grove, Bromptreb*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Helltrap Nightmare, Andrea Pensado, Omeed Goodarzi, Bill Nace*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Rhythm Center w/DJ George*. Spinning Vinyl. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Old-Time Music Session*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Spinner Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body*. Free. 6 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Conway Tornado Relief Fundraiser*. Music by *Trailer Park, Carinae, Rocky Hill Revival, Headband, Nate Martel* and others. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Dustbowl Revival*. American roots orchestra from California. 7:30 p.m. \$

St. Patrick's Church, Northfield: *St. Patrick's Coffeehouse presents Robin Lane*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Shovels, Peasants, Pigeons, Phurnne*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$



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What a Machine!

By JULIAN MAYO

GILL – Have you ever had a mouse trap game? Or seen an episode of Tom and Jerry with a large machine? That is a Rube Goldberg machine.

Wikipedia defines a Rube Goldberg machine as “a contraption, invention, device, or apparatus that is deliberately over-engineered to perform a simple task in a complicated fashion, generally including a chain reaction.”

Ms. Linzi’s fourth grade class at Gill Elementary school is doing a cool project that is making Rube Goldberg machines. Each student must use two “simple machines” – pulleys, screws, inclined planes, etc. – which we learned about in science.

In science we did many interesting activities alone. When the project was introduced to us, our teacher showed us YouTube videos of Rube Goldberg machines.

So why is it called a Rube Goldberg machine? Rube Goldberg is actually a real name – he was a cartoonist who was famous for drawing marvelous inventions that were over-complicated with everyday objects. The fourth grade’s Rube Goldberg machines are not as elaborate as the machines he drew.

Our Objectives

The objective of each machine is what task the machine needs to complete. The most commonly used objective is rolling a ball into a cup, but sometimes there can be other things going into the cup, like nuts or bolts.

Ally Prevett’s objective is to lift a cup. Brady’s objective is to roll a ball down an



Griffin Moore (at right) demonstrates his coin-flipping machine to fellow students.

inclined plane (a ramp). Autumn Brooks’ machine is, so far, the biggest Rube Goldberg machine, with three simple machines put into work. Keira Richardson-Meatty’s objective is to knock over a tower. Same for Ari Wiles’ machine.

I’d like to go more in depth about Griffin Moore’s Rube Goldberg machine. His machine is extremely unique in many ways. For one reason, his objective is to flip a coin.

Here is an explanation on how his machine works: A large marble rolls down a paper towel roll, and falls into a cup. The cup falls down on dominoes and they fall up Lego stairs. The last domino falls on a matchbox car, and the car falls on a lever – basically like a seesaw – and that is where the coin is placed, and flipped.

Presentations

Last Friday, April 14, the school prin-

icipal, Conor Driscoll, agreed to have the fourth grade present their machines on the day they were due. Ms. Linzi had classes sign up to watch the presentation on Friday.

Each student had their individual project on their table. They waited to gather a small audience, and explained how the machine works, or its name, while they set up.

The machines were made from scratch – as in, not from kits. We collected things from around our houses, and found ways to make them operate. We also shared supplies.

I brought in some pipes from an old vacuum cleaner, Bendy Straws, and some shoelaces. Almost everyone brought in cardboard, but some people brought in wood, for the base.

So, at the show, there were Rube Goldberg machines everywhere!

WEST from page B1

Down in the frog pond on the edge of the river terrace, the frogs have gotten down to business. They’re making sure that although threatened everywhere on the planet, the Millers River batrachian societies will have myriads of progeny in the form of pollywogs, for at least another year.

With the warming temperatures of these early mornings, a favorite wool hat has been replaced by another red but faded Red Sox ball cap. It helps to shade eyes and notebook journal from the bright unfiltered sun beaming horizontally at 8 AM. The sun used to rise up over the sentinel pines on the ridge line over this valley, coming up over Dry Hill in Wendell. Now it’s miles across the horizon to the east, peeking up over the neighbor’s roof line.

Trout lilies, just out of reach of the high water, are poking their speckled-trout blades up through last year’s leaf litter. Soon their modest yellow bell-shaped flowers will spread across the woodland floor.

April brings a month of firsts, to be checked off on the spring list of the season’s progress: the first yellow-shafted flicker, the first yellow-bellied sapsucker, tree swallows are in, the first bats swoop through the evening air. The first bear has swaggered into the yard and knocked down a section of picket fence. The spring peepers have chimed in, and the woodcock have performed their evening sky dance, winnowing up into the twilight, before twirling down to the waiting birch and alders where a demure female, duly impressed, sits waiting.

But springtime is always a-teasing here, alternating 70-degree days with early morning frosts. Bit by bit, with eye-dropper deliberateness, this high water season will usher in other species and events. But that all will take time.

Right now the new pup is getting restless. He’s my time-keeper and enthusiastic task-master. He knows it’s time to get up off the porch and see what new sights and smells have turned up overnight along the river’s edge.

Besides, those squirrels over yonder, acting as mad as March hares, fighting with sticks and rolling on their backs, are just asking to be chased up a tree, just for the fun of it.

On a spring morning like this, I have no choice but to follow my feet, and the bounding dog.



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