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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 29

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

ARRIL 21, 2011

Goodwin and Dubay Face Off for Selectboard



Andrew Goodwin

BY KATIE NOLAN - With Jacquie Boyden withdrawing from the running, the match-up for a three year term on the Erving selectboard in the May 2nd town election now features former selectboard member Jeff Dubay, running to regain a seat on the board against current selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin, seeking a chance at a second term.

Asked why he is running for selectboard again, Dubay said, "I have the most viable vision for the future of Erving. I have 60 years of living here and loving my town and saving its history."

He described himself as a "problem solver and visionary." He added, "I love to debate, plan, discuss, look at all sides, and develop consensus."

Dubay said he is a general contractor and small businessman, who has been self-employed most of his life. He formerly served on the selectboard and the planning board and currently serves on the Usher Mill reuse committee.

Dubay called the Usher Mill is "a beautiful site on the river," that could be redeveloped for commercial or other uses. He supports trying to save the remaining building on that site, in order to maintain the connection to the history of the mill and the town.

He opposes the drive-through zoning regulation proposed by the planning board. "It will skim the lifeblood from the highway traffic and will lose money for the little stores and restaurants," he said.

On the town budget, Dubay said he would "look at the way every

department does its job, and not just do things the way they've always been done." He said, "There's a tendency to level fund and not actually look at what's occurring."

Erving Elementary School "is one of the shining crowns of Erving," Dubay said. "Children are our future; it's hard to feel we're wasting money on education."

Also, considering a future of more expensive energy, he said "We should be putting alternative energy in many of our public buildings."

Goodwin, who in November announced he had decided not to run for a second term, reversed himself in March and tossed his hat into the ring again. "I enjoy serving the community," said the incumbent. "I want to contribute to continuing to make Erving a great place to live."

Goodwin said one characteristic that would continue to serve him well if he is returned for

see **FACE OFF** pg 7

Principal Musgrave Resigns



Elizabeth Musgrave

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
MONTAGUE - The news came from Carl Ladd, superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, addressed to the school committee in the form of an email sent on April 15th titled, "Announcement."

Ladd said Elizabeth Musgrave, principal of Montague Elementary, had "announced to her staff that she would not be seeking an extension of her contract for next year, citing irrec-

oncilable differences with the superintendent regarding values, philosophy and leadership style."

Asked in a phone call to comment further, Ladd said he would prefer not to as it was a "personal issue." Ladd said he

respects Musgrave's decision and he would "work diligently to replace her."

Musgrave's resignation is part of an exodus of top administrative staff from the GMRSD, including the retirement of long time Hillcrest principal and early childhood education director Christine Jutres, former high school principal Jeffrey Kenney, and the departure at the end of this year of Gill principal Rita Detweiler. Former Sheffield principal and curriculum director Chip Wood

will also leave the district at the end of this school year.

Emily Monosson, chair of the school committee, asked if she knew what the "differences" cited by Musgrave in her resignation involved, said she did not know anything more about it.

Joyce Phillips, vice chair of the school committee, said April 15th was the final day for administrative staff to inform the superintendent of their desire to renew their contract or resign. Beyond that date, it would be up to the superintendent to ask a staff member to renew their contract.

Phillips declined to comment further, but did express concern over the loss of so many dedicated administrators and the possible effect of their combined departures on the district. The district also cut 18 staff members in order to achieve budget reductions in the previous school year, including teachers and paraprofessionals.

Kip Dresser, parent of two children in the district, said he was disappointed to

see **MUSGRAVE** pg 13

Movie Review

Buzz Kill: Vanishing of the Bees



BY SHIRA HILLEL
SHELburne FALLS - The documentary film *Vanishing of the Bees* was screened this past weekend at Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls. The historic 400-seat Memorial Hall Theater was packed to the rafters on Saturday, April 16th. The screening was followed with questions answered by local beekeepers: Dan Conlon, president of the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association and owner of

Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield and Dr. Rick Intres, owner of Bear Meadow Apiary in Ashfield. Shelburne Falls poet John Berkowitz read a poem he wrote with the subtitle, "Honeybees: this Century's Canary in a Coal Mine." Local authors Annie Woodhull and Shelley Rotner sold their children's book, *The Buzz About Bees*, and Intres sold honey.

The 2009 film is narrated by actress, Ellen Page

(of *Juno* fame) and directed by George Langworthy and Maryam Henein. It focuses on a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

In recent years, honeybees have been disappearing from their hives in an alarming and perplexing crisis that threatens as much as one third of the food we eat, including most fruits and vegetables. The movie features interviews with scientists, activists and large-scale commercial beekeepers David Hackenberg and Dave Mendes. Only a few beekeepers truck hundreds of thousands of honeybee hives back and forth across the country to pollinate a wide range of crops, including blueberry flowers in Maine, cranberries in Massachusetts, fruit and vegetables in Pennsylvania, fruit in Florida, almond flowers in California, and more.

We need bees. Bees evolved together with flowering plants in a perfect symbiotic relationship,

see **BEES** pg 14

Veterans Images and Words on Display at Hallmark



Cherie Rankin standing by her portrait at the Hallmark Gallery

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - Vietnam veterans attending the opening of "I Was There: Stories of War and Homecoming" were greeted with a red carpet reception, a sumptuous spread of *hors d'oeuvres* and drinks, and the haunting melodies of the Amherst String Quartet at The Gallery at Hallmark on Friday, April 8th.

The show features a series of stunning portraits of local combat veterans taken by Hallmark

Institute of Photography instructor David Turner, coupled with excerpts from the veterans' answers to three questions - What did you carry in wartime? What did you carry home from the war? What might you send with someone going into war today (including physical objects and advice)?

Each half of the exhibit could stand on its own merit, but together they were particularly stunning. As I moved from portrait to portrait my eye

was immediately drawn to the eyes of the veterans, and it felt as if they were standing right beside me - to read their quotes allowed me brief entry into their lives, with a glimpse of their combat experience or its aftermath.

The gallery was filled to capacity on opening night, and many of the veterans pictured attended the reception - often with family and friends. I found myself in tears on several

see **HALLMARK** pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK

See About Me



Ariel

My name is Ariel and I'm a one-year-old female domestic medium hair cat in need of a good home. Are you interested in taking home the nicest cat in the world? I was found as a stray on the streets of Springfield and am awaiting a home to call my own.

I am very playful and would be a great addition to any home. Do you have cats? I think we could be friends. Dogs? I am sure we can work something out.

I am accepting visitors all day so please stop by to see me. I'm a member in the Lonely Hearts Club because I've been at the Adoption Center for several weeks now. This means my adoption fee is half off.

To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Native People, Colonial Settler Relations Talk

"Native people of Kwintecook: Diplomacy, Deeds and Diaspora" with Margaret Bruchac, Anthropologist, Performer, and Historical Consultant will be presented on Friday, April 29th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the library.

The Native People of the middle Connecticut River Valley employed a wide variety of strategies during the 17th-century contacts with English settlers, including trade, diplomacy, and carefully negotiated terms for shared land use. During the era

when the town of Leverett was settled, however, relations with Agawam, Sokoki, Nonotuck, and Pocumtuck had deteriorated, resulting in conflicts leading up to the French and Indian wars. This talk looks at the historical evidence and oral traditions to offer insights into both colonial survival strategies and contemporary Native American perspectives.

For more information please visit www.leverettlibrary.org. Leverett Library is located at 75 Montague Road.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Holland Lop Attends Story Hour



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

TURNERS FALLS - Children's Librarian Linda Hickman brought her pet bunny, a four-year-old Holland Lop, to a rabbit themed Story Hour on Wednesday, April 20th. She talked about her rabbit and its

care, and all of the children petted the very soft animal. Story Hour is held every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. It is designed for young children of all ages. For more information, call 863-3214.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Natural History Talk, Film and Filmmaker Talk

The Natural History of Vernal Pools is being presented at the library on Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. Pat Serrentino, a local wildlife biologist, will give a talk on vernal pools - those temporary spring ponds where so many of our frogs and salamanders begin their lives. Serrentino will discuss the ecology of the pools, the animals we find in them, threats to the pools, how to protect them through certifica-

tion, and more. Pat has spent over 25 years studying marsh birds, wetlands, amphibians, and vernal pools and has worked for and with many local and regional conservation organizations.

Awesome Women Film Series presents *Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai* with brief talk by one of the filmmakers on Friday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. *Taking Root* tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - April 25th - 29th

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. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Wednesday afternoon Bingo begins May 4th; Canasta lessons with Elsie Gilman begin May 2nd..

Monday, April 25th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, April 26th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
Wednesday, April 27th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
Thursday, April 28th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, April 29th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, April 25th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 Osteo-exercise



Chocolate Pot by Bob Duris, the first place entry in the people enjoying winter category from the Northfield Mountain Winter Photo contest.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge in 1937-38.

- The potential White Bridge construction site was visited by the county commissioners of that day. On October 13th, 1868, the commission trio, George Crittenden, D. Goddard and N. Burroughs adjudged a new highway and bridge was required by public necessity.
- Two years passed as the commission reached a decision on September 8th, 1870. The proposed route was again reviewed and approval of the present route over the mountain from Greenfield to Turners Falls was granted.
- It was ruled that Montague and Greenfield would share the cost of the construction of the bridge and road, and that the project be completed by January 1st, 1872. An extremely harsh winter in 1872-73 negated the target date.
- Specifications were detailed and construction commenced on the Greenfield road during the summer of 1871. Ptolemy P. Severance of Greenfield was in charge of the road construction.

More bridge facts next week!

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Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safe guard the environment, protect human rights, defend democracy and ultimately bring down a dictator.

Yoga at the Senior Center

Chair Yoga classes with Jean Erlbaum will be held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 5th Street in Turners Falls on Tuesdays from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Classes will continue until May 24th. People from all towns and of all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs are invited. Pre-registration is not required. For more info contact Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500.

GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER
May 1st from 10:00 a.m. to noon: **Downtown Turners Falls Spring Clean-Up**
Meet in front of the Discovery Center at 10:00 a.m. For details call (413) 863-3221.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Winterberry Farm lambs, for the 18th year, invite all and sundry to visit the farm at 21 Teawaddle Hill Road in Leverett on Easter Sunday, April 24th, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The lambs will surely be frolicking. Also present will be two litters of baby angora rabbits, newly hatched chicks and ducklings.

This celebration of spring will take place whatever the weather. For directions to the farm, please visit www.winterberryfarm.org.

It's prom time again! The **Wendell Misfit Prom** will be held at the town hall on Saturday, June 11th. The theme is Carnival, in every sense of the word, and this year's beneficiary will be the Almost Home All Breed Animal Rescue. There will be a silent auction and a raffle. If you have a product, service or food you would like to donate, please contact Donna Horn at donna-horn@hotmail.com. Above all else, get your outfits ready!

Look out! The Montague Elks in Turners Falls is hosting a **Zumba-thon** on Friday, May 6th, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to benefit the 2011 Franklin County Relay for Life. DJ Bobby Paulin will keep you grooving, while trained Zumba instructors including lodge member Pam Reipold and others will keep you moving. For more info call Ron Lenois at 413-376-8371.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has announced 50 shelters nationwide that earned coveted spots to compete in the 2011 ASPCA \$100K Challenge. Following 12 days of spirited online voting by shelter supporters, and more than 500,000 votes cast, the 50 contenders will now gear up for a three-month competition for more than \$300,000 in prize grants, including a grand prize of \$100,000. The **Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society** of Springfield and Leverett made the list of finalists!

Opening Day of the Great

Falls Farmers Market, Avenue A and 2nd Street in Turners Falls will be Wednesday, May 4th, starting at 2:00 p.m. Interested vendors or residents may contact Don at 413-336-3648, or check the Farmers Market site on MontagueMA.net for updates and information. Let's hear it for local foods.

The annual downtown Turners Falls **Spring Clean-Up**, sponsored by the Turners Falls streetscape committee will take place Sunday, May 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will meet in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. For more details, call the GFDC at (413) 863-3221.

Takaaki Morikawa, a **survivor of the Atomic Bomb** dropped on Hiroshima, will share his personal history of the event at the Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College, on Friday, April 29th, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Morikawa's presentation will include power point and a film dramatically illustrating the devastating effects, past and present, of the use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Come and get some spring gardening tips from Marguerite Sgado, master gardener. The **Wake up your Perennial Garden** program will be held in the community room of Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. As always, a question and answer period is included. Light refreshments will be provided as well as a surprise for all who attend. Please bring your thoughts about a monthly plant swap. Seating is limited, so please call Linda or Kerri at 413-863-4316 to reserve a seat.

Next up at the Greenfield Savings Bank, **classic car buffs are invited to see** Fred Rosner's spring car show in downtown Turners Falls. Rosner, a Gill resident and local race car designer, builder and enthusiast, will have a selection of classic cars and trucks on display in the parking

lot of the GSB, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 30th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. These vehicles will be parked in the GSB lot by Miskinis TV, with no traffic allowed for safety reasons. Questions? Call Rosner at 413-863-2554.

Wendell will hold its **Old Home Day** this year on Saturday, August 20th. Unfortunately, Klondike Koehler, who has donated sound for the event for many years, is booked that day, and organizers will have to spring for a new sound crew. To that end, they are asking residents to donate to a fund to support the Old Home Day activities.

Karen Copeland points out, "This is not a town budget thing. This is for the Love of Wendell. Please send donations to the Wendell Old Home Day Hat, c/o Karen Copeland, P.O. Box 164, Wendell, MA 01379. I'm counting on you all! It's all of our day."

Attention parents of 8-12 year old girls. It is once again softball season. Montague is still taking registration sign-ups for the **Small Towns Girls Softball League**. The league opens its season on Monday, April 25th. The Montague Diamond Dusters and Purple Panthers will have their games posted on the local entertainment calendar of MontagueMA.net. There are still open slots to play. Sign up by contacting lisaadam3@verizon.net.

The **Newt Guilbault Little League** kicks of this year's season with a parade on Sunday, May 1st, leaving Unity Park in Turners Falls at 10:30 a.m. The parade will then head down Avenue A to 7th Street, up the Hill to follow Montague Street to the Little League fields. Opening games are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The team sponsored by Booska's Flooring will be defending their 2010 championship!

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net.

Welcome to the World
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The Memories Play 7th Annual GMEF Gala



(l to r) Paul, Joe, Woody, Jenn, Josean, and Ernie - The Memories

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS - On Saturday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School Theater, the Gill Montague Education Fund will present its 7th Annual Gala ~ "The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll," featuring "The Memories." You will enjoy the feel good innocence of the fifties and sixties and rediscover the vitality of Rock and Roll.

Ticket locations: Scotty's Convenience Store, World Eye

Wendell Food Coordinator Update

GARDENERS ANONYMOUS
 A monthly support group for gardeners of all levels will begin this Saturday, April 23rd at 10:30 a.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Share your pains and your triumphs with a supportive fellowship of individuals who are also suffering from a green thumb (or lack thereof).

FARMERS MARKET
 Wouldn't it be great to buy fresh produce in town? Stay tuned for more updates on the upcoming Wendell Farmers Market (version 2.0). Thanks to everybody who has given feedback so far!

WANT CHICKENS?
 If you've never raised chickens before, this is a great opportunity to start up a coop with the support of your community! Send me an email at liz.k.carter@gmail.com, or come to the library on Saturday if you want to talk chicken.

Bookshop, call Sandy at TFHS 413-863-7296 and at the GMEF website - www.thegmef.org.

Be a tier-giver and enjoy Fantastik "Faux Fries," the 2nd Street Mini-Whoopie-Burgers; sip on the old-fashioned ice cream sodas like the "Black Cow" and the "Dreamsicle Float."

For details, go to: www.thegmef.org click on pre-show reception at 'The Malt Shop' and download a tier-giving form.

Corrections

Leverett P.O. Meeting
 The U.S. Postal Service's information meeting about the future of the Leverett Post Office will be held at the Leverett Elementary School, not at the Town Hall.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Wendell PILOT Funds
 In last week's interview with Daniel Keller, an incorrect level of PILOT funding was cited for the town of Wendell. Michael Idoine, chair of the Wendell finance committee, corrects the record, noting that in FY'07, Wendell lost \$142,330 in payments in lieu of taxes from the state, reducing the amount the town received that year to \$64,000. Since then, PILOT funds have been "creeping fitfully up" to \$87,000 in FY '11.

The same amount is proposed for FY'12.

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Defining the Budget Debate

FROM — THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT
NORTHAMPTON - Before leaving town for the April recess, members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted on two different blueprints for the Fiscal Year 2012 federal budget — one introduced by House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and the other by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC).

After just four hours of debate, Ryan's budget blueprint was approved on a party line vote, with four Republicans joining all 189 Democrats in voting No. The CPC budget amendment was rejected, 77 - 347.

Together these budget plans represent opposite ends of the continuum of budget options currently under debate in Washington.

President Obama must navigate along this continuum during future negotiations with Congress over the FY'12 budget. In his April 13th speech on fiscal policy, the President responded strongly to a number of initiatives proposed in Ryan's plan, but offered only a general framework for his own priorities, on which he will have to build during the budget debate.

Two Visions for America

House Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan's "Path for Prosperity" and the Congressional Progressive Caucus's "People's Budget" are more than competing budget proposals. They are very different visions for our nation.

The Ryan plan limits the size and scope of government and

emphasizes the role of private corporations to provide jobs and create economic growth. The CPC plan focuses on job creation through such initiatives as the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and the Job Training and Workforce Development plans, strengthening the social safety net and reducing income inequality.

The fundamental differences between these two budgets revolve around the role of the government in the economy and the workings of the free market. The Ryan plan relies on free market forces to bring prosperity that will eventually 'trickle down' to the lower and middle classes by putting more money in the hands of businesses and wealthy individuals through tax cuts. The CPC proposal assumes there is a need for the government to make up for the failings of the free market system and to provide programs for the less fortunate.

A second distinction lies in the solution to the growing deficit problem. Chairman Ryan believes the source of the problem is out of control spending and that slashing government programs alone will reduce the deficit. The CPC believes raising revenues is as important as managing spending when dealing with the deficit because current taxation policies have reduced government income.

A third difference is the role of tax policy. The Ryan plan reduces corporate taxes and personal income taxes for the wealthy in an effort to spur economic growth, while the CPC approach uses taxes as a mechanism not only to produce revenue but also to reduce the growing income and wealth gap.

The Numbers

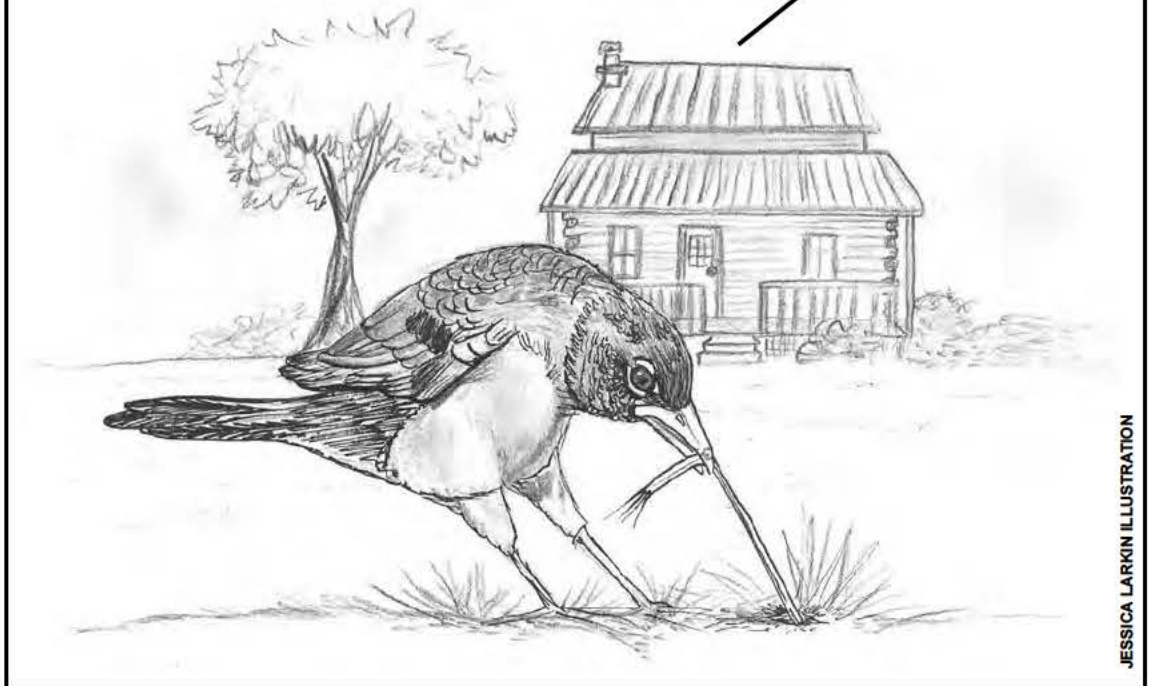
Both plans predict a reduction in the deficit. Yet the size of the reduction and the way each plan would achieve it are very different — see **BUDGET** pg 5

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter

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reporter@montaguema.net

How many years have we been waiting for a fiber optic hook-up?
Now it's here, and the Internet just crashed!



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change of Heart

With opportunity comes responsibility. Upon reconsideration, I will be a write-in candidate this year for the five-year seat on the planning board. I realized I could not finish some work for which I feel responsi-

ble by the end of this month.

I share these tasks with the current planning board and we work well together. I discussed being a write-in candidate for the same five-year seat with some of them, and they under-

stand it.

If you have questions about this change of heart, please contact me.

Thanks.

-Deirdre Cabral
Wendell

Gina McNeely Deserves our Thanks

I hope the residents of Montague realize how fortunate we are to have Gina McNeely as our town health agent. She has a tough job, can be very unpopular if she decides to cite or even close a business due to violations in the health code. But the safety of the public is first and foremost on her agenda.

One other course of action that she has played a key role in is the ordinance adopted last summer

for scooping dog and cat poop.

For many years I have handled yard cleanup at the Congo Church. The church sits on a busy corner and lots of dogs would use the lawn for 'their duty'. It was never pleasant to rake or mow or just walk thru the lawn.

As I raked this spring it was very noticeable how much cleaner the yard was. Although I would like to point out that there is someone in our midst who finds it

OK to scoop the poop but leave the bags. Please remember that plastic bags do not decompose very easily, and they are not pleasant to view. So, scoop and carry please.

Again, thank you Gina for enforcing the laws of food safety and striving to keep Montague healthy. We are all grateful for your dedication.

- Ann Fisk
Montague

Remembering Ash Trees

Last fall the selectboard of our town informed me of their plans to cut a number of ash trees on the line dividing our property from the town library.

For several decades I had admired the trees, watching them leaf out late in the spring, quite a bit later than most other neighborhood species. Ash trees are called 'precocious' because they flower well before the bursting of their leaf buds, and it was not until well into June the trees were fully clothed with their dull green leaves.

Although good sized trees, the largest over two feet in diameter and about 50 feet tall, because of their leaf structure they appeared both stately and delicate during the summer months. In the autumn, while many other deciduous species maintained their summer green, the ash trees' leaves turned a modest yellow color before falling to the ground.

I was told these trees needed to be cut because they were endangering the library and its patrons. I suppose this may have been the case, if one considers the natural falling of deadwood from

a tree to be dangerous. No doubt a large falling limb could pose a danger to a building and its occupants, or to those wandering about on the outside of the building.

I wish they could have stood for a few more years. The patrons of the library who might have been threatened by the falling of a limb were themselves often to be seen hurtling to the library in high speed steel boxes weighing thousands of pounds, which by any reasonable appraisal would be more likely to cause harm than the quietly growing ash trees. And surely the 14,000 volt electric lines just across the narrow road from the library pose a greater risk to public safety than those trees.

Perhaps the discounting of the right of the trees to keep growing where they had stood for over one hundred years is as much a reason for dismay as their actual cutting. For the trees would surely have fallen some time in the future.

In planning the new town library, consideration was not given to the ash trees. In fact, they would have been cut several

years ago, had I not strongly objected to their removal. In the design stages of the library building, it may have been possible to change the footprint so the trees would never have posed a hazard.

The new town library is a valuable, much used, and widely appreciated institution, and the town selectboard and library employees and volunteers are dedicated and caring individuals. The ash trees were carefully removed by a skillful tree company and the wood was kindly given to me by the town. As I've been cutting the wood into splittable sections for next winter's cordwood pile, I've had time to think about our human predicament. It seems inevitable that our struggles to gain a more secure and comfortable human environment always comes at a cost to the environment of other species. What does not always appear so inevitable is that this is true for small, thoughtful, environmentally conscious communities, even as it is for large, thoughtless, corporate entities.

- Bob Shulman
Wendell

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 4/20/11

| US FORCES Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of this date | |
|--|--------|
| 4448 | |
| Afghanistan | 1543 |
| Wounded in Iraq | 32,049 |
| Wounded in Afghanistan | 10,468 |

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from **BUDGET** page 4 ent.

The GOP plan would reduce deficits by \$1.6 trillion relative to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) baseline budget through 2021. The CBO baseline, which projects the amount of money necessary to maintain all federal programs at their current level of activity, assumes Congress will make no changes to current law over the next decade. Importantly, it also assumes Congress will allow for Bush era tax cuts to expire in 2013.

The CPC plan would reduce deficits by \$4.7 trillion for 2012-2021 compared to that baseline. While the CPC plan claims to achieve a budget surplus of \$30 billion in 2021, the GOP plan still envisions an annual deficit of nearly \$400 billion in that year.

There are three strategies for addressing the country's long-term deficits prevalent in the current debate:

- 1) Cut benefits Americans receive from mandatory spending programs
- 2) Cut security-related discretionary spending
- 3) Raise government revenues by increasing taxes

income, and enact a progressive estate tax. The Ryan plan would maintain the Bush era tax cuts and reduce the top individual rate from 35% to 25%.

On corporate taxes, the CPC plan would impose a transaction tax on derivatives and speculative financial gain, repeal tax deductions for oil and natural gas and coal producers, tax US corporate foreign income as it is earned instead of as a dividend, and impose a tax equal to .15% of covered liabilities for banks with more than \$50 billion in assets. The Ryan budget would reduce the corporate tax rate to 25% from 35% and close loopholes and deductions that allow some U.S. corporations to pay no tax.

The CPC plan calls for investments in highways, railways, and the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank, along with a 25 cent increase in the gasoline tax to fund highway construction.

The Ryan plan would reduce Pell grants to 2008 levels, impose time limits and work requirements for recipients of federal housing assistance, convert food stamps to state block grants, and require food stamp recipients to work or get job training. Ryan would raise the eligibility age for

attrition by 2014, institutes a government pay freeze through 2015, increases federal employee contributions to retirement, privatizes Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, decreases regulation of the energy industry, requires any increase in debt levels to be accompanied by spending reductions, and establishes a binding cap on total spending as a percentage of the economy.

The Obama Framework

On the numbers, the president's plan generates \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over 12 years: \$2 trillion in spending cuts across the budget, lower interest payments on the debt equaling \$1 trillion, and \$1 trillion gained from eliminating tax benefits for the wealthy.

To achieve the \$2 trillion in spending savings, the president plans to keep annual domestic spending (non-security) low by building on the cuts he and Congressional leaders agreed to as part of the FY'11 budget deal, saving about \$750 billion over 12 years. He would continue to invest in medical research, clean energy technology, infrastructure, education, and job training. The president also believes the mili-

| Cumulative differences from the CBO baseline, 2012-2021 | Congressional Progressive Caucus Budget | House GOP budget |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Revenue | \$3.3 trillion more | \$4.2 trillion less |
| Non-security discretionary spending | \$1.7 trillion in new spending/investments | \$1.8 trillion in cuts |
| Security spending | \$2.3 trillion in cuts | \$0.8 trillion in cuts |
| Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other mandatory spending | No cuts | \$2.9 trillion in cuts |
| Net interest on debt payments | \$0.8 trillion less | \$0.2 trillion less |
| Deficit reduction | \$4.7 trillion less | \$1.6 trillion less |

The Proposals

On the spending side, the CPC argues for the continued government provision of key public services, such as Medicare, and the role of public investment in assisting economic recovery by providing employment and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. The Ryan plan, on the other hand, limits the size and role of the government, through privatizing Medicare and reducing federal government employment.

On the revenue side, the contrasts between the two budgets are clear. The CPC increases taxes on the wealthy and corporations, stating they have not been paying their fair share, while Ryan reduces taxes for these groups citing the need to encourage private investment and job growth.

The CPC blueprint would allow for the expiration of Bush era tax cuts, enact a new tax bracket of 45% - 49% for people earning in the \$1 million to \$1 billion range, tax capital gains and dividends as ordinary

Medicare to 67 from 65, and repeal the new federal health care law. Medicare for new beneficiaries would be privatized after 2022.

The CPC plan would maintain Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors, establish public health care as an option, negotiate drug prices with drug companies, increase Social Security benefits based on higher employee contributions, and raise Social Security contribution limits, including employer contributions for high earners.

The Ryan plan provides \$214 billion in new defense spending through 2021; CPC would cut defense spending by \$2.3 trillion in the same time frame. CPC would end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by 2012; not so the Ryan plan.

Unlike the CPC plan, Ryan envisions reducing the size of government to 20% of GDP by 2015, and 15% of GDP by 2050; reduces non-security discretionary spending to pre-2008 levels, reduces public sector employment by 10% through

efficiencies to eliminate waste, cut prescription drug costs through Medicare's purchasing power, and create a Medicare commission to recommend the best ways to reduce unnecessary spending. He states these reforms will save \$500 billion by 2023, and an additional \$1 trillion in the decade after that.

On health care, the president states the reforms already enacted will reduce the deficit by \$1 trillion. He retains Medicare and Medicaid, providing additional benefits at lower costs through a series of Medicare and Medicaid, providing additional benefits at lower costs through a series of

On Social Security, Obama said though the program is not the cause of the federal deficit, "It faces real long-term challenges in a country that's growing older."

To raise \$1 trillion by eliminating tax benefits for the wealthiest Americans, Obama stated he would not agree to extend the Bush era tax cuts for the wealthy again, and would limit itemized deductions for the wealthiest two percent of Americans - a reform intended to reduce the deficit by \$320 billion over ten years.

The National Priorities Project is a non-profit institution based in Northampton specializing in analyzing federal budgetary priorities.

To read their complete report on the FY'12 budget debate, go to: www.nationalpriorities.org.

Entergy Sues State of Vermont to Keep Vermont Yankee Running Past 2012

BY JAMES MOORE

MONTPELIER - On Monday, April 18th, executives from Entergy, Vermont Yankee's corporate owner, decided to go back on their word yet again and sue the state of Vermont, claiming Vermont does not have the right to weigh in on Vermont Yankee's future.

We knew this was coming and we firmly believe the state of Vermont has every right to decide not to relicense Vermont Yankee. The chairman of the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission seems to agree. On March 11th, federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman Gregory Jaczko stated, "There are a variety of permits and requirements for this facility to operate," and added, "I would defer any of those actions (aside from the NRC's approval) to the state or other authorities." Translation? Vermont gets to have a say.

Not only that, but in 2002 Entergy signed a document stat-

ing the company would respect Vermont's authority to issue a certificate of public good to authorize Vermont Yankee to continue operating for 20 more years past its scheduled closing date. On Monday, Entergy officially went back on that promise and sued Vermont in federal court to keep Vermont Yankee running past its expiration date in March of 2012.

Let's be clear. Vermont Yankee is old, unreliable and run by a corporation that is cutting corners and can't be trusted. Entergy's lawsuit has only reinforced the bad reputation they have earned. Retiring it on schedule is the right thing to do.

Governor Peter Shumlin has shown tremendous leadership on this issue. Going to federal court is no laughing matter. We will need his leadership now more than ever.

James Moore is Clean Energy Program Director at the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

Fun with Playground Design

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - Only the last finishing touches need to be added before plans for the new Wendell playground behind the library are complete.

On April 5th, the playground design committee presented their plan in front of two people at the Wendell Library, yours truly and a New Salem resident who was learning what she could to start New Salem on its way to developing their new playground.

The scant turnout did little to dampen the enthusiasm of committee members, who were nonetheless frequently interrupted with questions, suggestions, memories and laughter.

The slide and the merry-go-round will stay, but the slide will be moved so it does not bake in the sun and burn bare legs.

Paul Newcombe began the presentation with a description of the changes coming to the basketball court. Since no one can remember a full court basketball game ever being played on that court, the committee has decided to divide the court in half, leaving one side for basketball with full height hoop, and two lower hoops for shorter people.

The other half will feature a cross-shaped skate structure made of permanent, non-splintering plastic, but no half pipe. The pavement will be painted with hopscotch, twister, four square, and other games that may be suggested.

The dividing wall can serve as a handball court.

Each half of the play area will

have its own entrance, and the surrounding fence can have colorful shapes attached, to break up the industrial feel of chain link fence.

Sally Alley suggested climbing and flowering vines arched high enough so that parents on the outside can see what their children on the inside are up to.

Newcombe suggested a storage container to protect balls from the weather when they are not in use, and Jenny Coy suggested extra helmets for skaters, bikers, and scooters.

Coy went on to describe plans for the fence that marks the south side of the playground, between library use and Apollo's gardens. That fence will have solid backing, like plywood, and a cap to protect artwork from the rain.


There will be chalkboards, with chalk stored in a mailbox, a vertically mounted wrench-iphone, (functions like a xylophone but made of old wrenches), hammers attached to the wall by small chains, bongo drums and steering wheels, all wheelchair accessible.

Where the wall goes behind the basketball court, Sally Alley said she would make and install large silhouette cutouts of salamanders (she loves salamanders) and marching fantasy beasts with the help of Swift River School students during the school year, and with others on Old Home Day.

Charlie Bado described the treehouse that will surround the several trunks of a tree near the

see **PLAYGROUND** pg 20

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**Hampshire Power Comes to Town**

BY JOSH HEINEMANN Belchertown selectboard member Kenneth Elstein, representing the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) and Hampshire Power met the Wendell selectboard at its April 13th meeting to promote expanding the program through which the town of Wendell buys electricity to include residential customers.

Through HCOG, towns and school systems in Western Massachusetts already buy electricity supplied by Hampshire Power, which in turn buys electricity wholesale at rates that change minute by minute. Over four years participating towns have saved \$1.4 million in electricity costs. Although there have been months in which the electricity bill has been higher through the program than it would be otherwise, the cost over a year has always been lower.

Hampshire Power makes no guarantee but their record has been good, showing a savings of 4% to 8% over time. Distribution of electric service will remain the same under the program; if a tree limb falls on a power line, it will be National Grid that fixes it.

After a town meeting vote approves the warrant article, the selectboard can form a compact with the Hampshire COG and residents will automatically be included in the program. Residential and small busi-

ness customers will be included automatically unless they deliberately opt out by stating so via a stamped addressed envelope and form HCOG will mail out to every electricity customer in town, according to state law.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked how the program would affect net metering, where some houses with solar panels may have negative electric bills for a month. Elstein said that might cost the residential customer money as that customer would be selling back electricity to the grid at the lower rate. Home systems are generally scaled so overall backwards flow of electricity is uncommon, Elstein said.

Also a town that builds a municipal generating plant would create issues that will need to be resolved when the time comes, but Elstein emphasized the local origin and local bias of the program.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the selectboard would put an article on the warrant of a town meeting regarding HCOG's proposal. There may be a special town meeting in late April, or the beginning of May.

Selectboard members and members of the conservation commission and interested citizens looked over a draft request for proposals (RFP) for the town owned Herrick property on Wickett Pond Road. The

town acquired the property after Marion Herrick passed away, and no one continued to pay taxes on her house and acreage. The house is not the oldest house in town, but construction details point to its being built around 1820, old enough. The building's history, stark simplicity, and large central chimney make it more than just another tax taking to many people in town, and enough of the structure is sound to make renovation possible, if not necessarily economically advantageous.

The draft RFP includes goals of getting a fair price and putting the property back on the tax rolls, restoring the house if it is practical, making the dwelling energy efficient, and having a conservation restriction on the bulk of the land so that only one house sits on the 39 acre parcel, even if that house is not the original one.

Open space committee chair Marianne Sundell submitted a letter suggesting that the goals be prioritized, and that not all of them are likely to be accomplished or are even consistent with each other. Pooser said a historic restoration would not include such amenities as insulation, and the sole heat source in an historic restoration would be a large central fireplace. It would be uninhabitable by modern standards. A compromise **WENDELL** pg 15

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**Green Energy, Cheaper Power**

BY DAVID DETMOLD – "I am adamant about doing this," said Rich Brazeau, as a discussion with the Leverett energy committee about placing a solar photovoltaic installation on town property wound down on Tuesday, April 12th.

The town owns 12 acres around the former landfill off Cemetery Road, the first spot under consideration by the selectboard to possibly site a solar array. One drawback of this location is the distance to a substation for easily converting the power from a solar array to upload to the grid.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis said the town could possibly lease space at the former landfill, or other town owned land to a solar power developer for a fixed fee, or enter into a power purchase agreement, to buy back some of the power produced at preferred rates.

Brazeau has been researching similar proposals in Amherst and Greenfield, to see how those towns are going about the process of installing solar on capped landfills. He noted that "neighbors from a subdivision in Amherst have been blasting a proposal," to put photovoltaic panels within their line of sight.

"Public response is a factor, when they see anything go up in a green meadow," said selectboard member Peter d'Errico.

"What's green about a dump?" asked George Lockwood, energy committee member.

Shirley Thomas, another energy committee member said, "I suggest we get at least enough panels up to pay for town [electricity] use. Then we can work on the rest." She noted the elementary school uses about 200,000 kilowatts of electric power a year.

"That's why I wanted it at the school," said Brazeau. The board first

tried to interest a solar developer in placing photovoltaics on town land near the school and library, but the area was not big enough to be attractive. "I thought every time people drive by the school they'll be proud: 'We're doing something.'"

A suggestion to place solar hot water collectors on the school roof or grounds as a more efficient way to produce Green energy for the school was countered by the argument that solar hot water is most efficient in the summer, when the school is not in session.

The board proposed holding an educational forum to gather the views of town residents on the possibility of producing solar energy on town land, and may eventually seek to hire a consultant to guide the town on the best method of producing Green energy on town owned land.

Brooke Thomas said the energy committee would endeavor to locate the nearest utility company substation to town owned land, and to "survey the different towns in the area to see what they are doing."

The town planning board is proposing zoning changes to permit the installation by right of a certain amount of solar power capacity on town or residential property, as one component of the town's application to become a Green Community and qualify for state energy conservation and Green power production grants.

Members of the board also expressed interest in exploring a cooperative model for installing solar power generation on town owned land, and said such a model might also be used when the time comes to bring fiber optic cable from trunk lines to individual homes in town.

Hampshire Power In other energy related

news, the selectboard heard a proposal from Ken Elstein, of Hampshire Power, a project of the Hampshire Council of Governments, about a proposal coming before town meeting on April 30th to allow Hampshire Power to supply electric power to aggregated residential and business customers in Leverett, at possibly reduced rates.

The proposal, Elstein said, "will cost the town zero," and would likely result in small but significant savings to residential customers on their electric bills over time. Hampshire Power could offer a Green Energy package to customers, something WMECo does not offer at present, Elstein said. Customers could also opt out of the power supply arrangement if they so choose, using a stamp addressed envelope and form provided by Hampshire Power to each resident, according to state law.

"We're providing electricity to many of the towns in Franklin and Hampshire County, and school districts," said Elstein, including Leverett. But up until now, the savings the company provides through its fixed rate, profit sharing or spot market plans have been confined only to municipal or district buildings. Now, for the first time, Hampshire Power is opening their electricity supply program to residents and business owners in towns that choose to participate.

Elstein said the program had already saved \$1.4 million since 2007 in electric bills for municipalities and school districts that have signed up, including \$360,000 for the town of Belchertown, where Elstein moonlights as a selectman.

McGinnis said Leverett town meeting had previ-

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Idling Trains Leave Lake Pleasant Fuming**

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY Long-time Lake Pleasant resident Elma Kuklewicz has been listening to idling trains and inhaling diesel fumes from them for decades now. "I can't plan on having company, like a cookout," without risking interruptions from idling trains, she said at Monday's selectboard meeting. Lake Pleasant newcomer Jeri

Case moved to the railroad crossing area last July and sometimes wears ear plugs so she can attempt to sleep at night.

Kuklewicz reported she has frequently heard and smelled the Pan Am Railways (formerly Guilford Rail Systems) locomotive engines idling for up to 40 hours next to her house.

"Once when there was a union strike, the trains were left idling for a week with no one on them, and kids would go play on them," Kuklewicz said.

Donna Estabrooks, another Lake Pleasant resident who lives at the railroad crossing, said that during the summer when trains are left idling by Lake Pleasant see **TRAINS** pg 14

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Readies Budget for May 5th Town Meeting

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving selectboard signed the warrant for the May 5th annual town meeting, including a \$3.6 million FY'12 budget to fund town government.

The finance committee meeting jointly with the selectboard reported they were recommending all articles, except Article 5, the Erving Elementary School budget.

The \$2,134,800 budget presented by the school committee seeks a 3% increase over FY '11.

According to finance committee member Daniel Hammock, "We asked the other town departments to level fund and they did. The school committee didn't seem to care."

Noting that the school committee cited special education costs as part of the reason for the increase, finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski said, "I'm suggesting the school committee go to the state and complain about unfunded mandates."

The selectboard met in executive session for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual..." and to "discuss a revenue sharing agreement with the Erving Paper Mill."

This was the eleventh executive session held in the last 22 selectboard meetings.

HALLMARK from 1 occasions, and in this I was not alone. Some visitors stepped outside for a moment when they were overcome with emotion, then returned to the gallery to continue viewing. Many of the show's collaborators spoke during the introduction of the exhibit and expressed their feelings of honor to be a part of this singular experience.

The project seemed to grow a life of its own from its inception as the glimmer of an idea at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) when executive director Tim Neuman and outreach coordinator Sheila Damkoehler brainstormed ideas for their upcoming Big Read program based on Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien's book, The Things They Carried.

They had partnered with Amherst-based Veterans Education Project (VEP) and executive director Rob Wilson thought the idea of sharing the experiences of the veterans in conjunction with the Big Read project was certainly in keeping with the VEP mission statement: "Veterans sharing personal stories that illustrate the realities of violence and deglorify war, in order to promote critical thinking, dialogue and healing in our schools and communities."

Damkoehler discovered an opening in the schedule at the Hallmark gallery, and Neuman happened to know photographer David Turner and arranged for him to work with local veterans to help share their stories in a new way. Many months of work fol-

lowed, with Turner taking most of the photographs in the studio at the Hallmark Institute by the end of August 2010. The remaining portraits were taken at Soldier On, a shelter for homeless veterans in Leeds where Turner brought carloads of equipment to set up a temporary studio.

Wilson said there was some trepidation in the beginning as most of the veterans had never been photographed in a studio setting, but Turner's soft-spoken manner and genuine interest in each person's story soon put them at ease. Similarly, Smith student Jennifer Johnson was able to ask questions and record answers with such sensitivity that one veteran was able to discuss some of his combat experiences for the first time.

While most of the por-

trait subjects are Vietnam veterans, the project also included those who served in World War II, the Gulf War's Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The project allows viewers to see the commonalities between wars, calls attention to the different

groundwork for an improved budget process." Goodwin called the planning board's pro-

Old State Road is being challenged for the honor of guiding voters through the thicket of town meeting warrants by Matthew

from FACE OFF pg 1 another three year term on the selectboard is his ability "to listen to everybody, think with an open mind and hear all sides."

Goodwin grew up in Northfield, moving to Erving in 1999. During his childhood, he often visited his grandparents' house on Laurel Lake. He was elected to the selectboard two years ago and is currently the selectboard chair. He works for ES3, in charge of developing warehouse software systems for supply chain grocery distribution.

Goodwin noted that new people were elected to the selectboard for the last two elections and when he started, there was "a lot to learn." He feels the current board is "working well together."

"One advantage I have is, I don't have a lot of business interests in town. I'm a resident and I see things as a resident."

Goodwin called the FY'12 budget "sound". He said that the selectboard and finance committee approached the budget differently this year, with the two boards meeting separately with town departments, and providing independent reviews of department spending. "We laid the

posed bylaw change allowing drive through business in town "a step in the right direction. We need to grow commercial-ly; it's important for tax growth. The way the planning board has put this together, it's done in a way to maintain the character of the town."

For the future, Goodwin wants to see the Usher Mill property cleaned up, the senior center building project finished, and the sewer maintenance project completed.

Further down the ballot, long time town moderator Rich Peabody, of

Janus of Ridge Road. Meanwhile, a three way race for two positions on the planning board is shaping up with the introduction of a write-in candidacy by Winnifred Stone of 94 State Road, who will face off against Jeff Dubay of Mountain Road and Bill Morris of Ridge Road.

Dubay, who served as planning board chair for many years, is also seeking to regain a seat on that board.

Polls will be open on Monday, May 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ways people are affected by war, and puts faces on the faceless.

Following the opening reception, Wilson received an email from a veteran who was unable to participate in the show. "I went up today to Hallmark. It was very moving. I think it was

more moving to me than the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC. I could identify with a lot of the comments that accompanied the photos."

To Wilson, this was the highest validation anyone could expect.



Jeff Dubay, at a tour of the Usher Mill in 2003



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The Turners Falls Fire Department Will Be Getting a New Pumper This Year

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On a two vote margin, voters at the annual district meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District provided the two thirds majority needed to finally approve a replacement for the 1979 pumper that fire chief Ray Godin said was "desperately in need of replacement."

He has delivered the same message for the past three years, but this time, with a large turnout of fire department employees and their families in the crowd of 54

(not all of whom voted) who turned out for Tuesday's district meeting at Hillcrest School, Godin finally got the votes he needed to purchase the new \$425,000 engine.

The 29 to 12 vote came after a testy exchange between Godin, who is nearing retirement in June, and Turners Falls Water Department commissioner Ken Morin, who questioned not whether the 1979 truck should be taken off the road, but whether

the district needed - or could afford - to replace it.

"Do we need it?" demanded Morin. "Once you have two trucks on the scene, at \$425,000, do you really need to get two more guys on the job? You're asking a lot of the town with the times like they are right now."

"I don't tell you how to deliver water," responded Godin. "I'm telling you what I need," to put out fires.

Godin said the 32-year-old pumper is rusting, has transmission problems, has a tank that won't hold a full load of water, and is costing his department heavily in maintenance just to keep it roadworthy. He could not offer precise statistics on how many times the oldest truck has been needed to respond to fires in recently, other than to say, "Sometimes it goes out three times in a week, sometimes it's not needed again for a month."

Taking \$100,000 from the district's stabilization account (and reducing that account to \$9,487 thereby), the voters decided to finance the remainder of the purchase price for the new engine with \$50,000 from free cash, and to borrow the remaining \$275,000 over five years - at 4 and a quarter percent interest, or

approximately \$64,000 a year. This purchase alone will add \$18.33 a year to the average district homeowner's tax bill for the next five years, Godin said.

The vote to approve the new fire engine appeared to break down along the lines of water commissioners and a small number of water department employees in opposition, and the larger contingent of fire department employees and their families in support, with the scattering of unaffiliated citizens in the room taking either side of the question.

The voters who showed up for the meeting also approved the rest of the warrant articles, except for a minor article asked to be withdrawn by Montague's director of assessing Barbara Miller. They approved \$651,691 in general government expenses to run the fire and water departments of the Turners Falls Fire District, \$847,420 to pay for fire department salaries (\$727,870) and expenses, and \$526,693 to pay for water department salaries (\$264,243) and expenses.

A \$6,000 upgrade of the fire station's kitchen was also approved, along with articles for continuing work necessary to bring the back well at Hannegan Brook online (\$75,000) and to purchase a new dump truck for the water department (\$55,000).

Godin explained the fire department employees would do the work to replace counters and cabinets at the 40-year old station's original kitchen, which had begun to smell bad in warm weather. The \$6,000 would pay for a new refrigerator and range, as well as materials for the new counter and cabinets.

Water department superintendent Mike Brown said the

department relied on the '97 Chevy dump truck for the main plowing of roads to the department's water tank, wells, filtration plant, and other sites, and maintaining the old truck has become "a burden on my budget."

Brown warned the next installment needed to bring the Hannegan Brook well online would be the most expensive phase - and that cost would likely show up on next year's annual district meeting. Still, he said the fact the water department employees were performing most of the work themselves to clear the land, upgrade the existing pump house building, install conduit and control panels to make the new well operational would wind up saving taxpayers \$120,000 over what it would have cost to bid the work out.

At the end of the meeting, Jeanne Golrick, a resident of Millers Falls, asked for \$100,000 of free cash be applied to reducing the tax rate for district residents. "We're voting a new fire truck and all kinds of good things, but no money is being taken off the tax rate."

District accountant Eileen Tela made a quick calculation and announced that if Golrick's measure passed it would reduce the average district resident's tax bill by fifteen cents. The motion failed.

Tela said the district has \$245,000 remaining in free cash.

After the meeting, Tela said the warrant articles passed by the voters on Tuesday night would raise the level of taxation for district residents by 9.38%, with a total increase from taxation of \$148,430, or about \$47 per household.

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Races and Write-Ins Enliven Wendell Election Ballot

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Wendell voters will face a number of contested races in the Monday, May 2nd town elections, including a race for town clerk, and write-in candidates challenging nominees for a one year term on the Wendell school committee, a five year term on the planning board, and the incumbent running for a three year term on the board of health.

Anna Hartjens is running for another three year term as town clerk. Hartjens has been Wendell's town clerk since 1972, and she said it never occurred to her not to run again for the position this year.

When she first took the job, she said, "We used to have just a few people in town, and all the records were on paper. Now it's all computerized; it's much better."

Hartjens said she took state training to learn the computerization system all town clerks in the state now share. "Now the births are being computerized. The census data has been for years. The way we certify elections and nomination papers, it's all by the book and much better."

Hartjens said she enjoys being town clerk, overseeing elections in town and working with people. "I like it, overall. I keep regular office hours, Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and people can call me and make appointments. They know where to find me and how to get a hold of me," said Hartjens, the post-mistress of Wendell Depot, who

keeps hot coffee brewed at the counter of the country store on the other side of the post office.

Hartjens has been busy posting election updates, and answering questions about procedures for writing in candidates on the townfolk email list in the weeks leading up to the town election. She said overseeing the new state ethics law and the open meeting law are present concerns for town clerks throughout the state. "We have to make sure those are taken care of right; we're all working with that right now."

Challenging Hartjens for the position of town clerk is Gretchen Smith, a resident of Montague Road. Smith, who works part time as a senior research associate at the UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, said she was attracted to the position for a number of reasons.

"The various tasks involved are all about being organized, making sure you know the rules and everybody else knows the rules. Those are things that appeal to me. I have wanted to get involved in town government for some time. I talked to town clerks in surrounding towns and said, 'This sounds great.'"

Smith has lived in Wendell for 22 years, raised a couple of boys who attended Swift River School, where she was active in the Parent Teacher Community Association (PTCA). In her professional life, she sets budgets, trains other employees, develops quality assurance plans, works

with data entry, and files reports. She said part of her job involves networking with various state and federal agencies to cooperate on forest health research, so she is used to "getting people involved and engaged to do things right."

Asked what personal qualities she might bring to the role of town clerk, Smith said, "I think I'm viewed as a very even-keeled person. I do my best to treat people with respect." Smith works part time at the other post office, in the center of town, in relief for Charlie O'Dowd, and has gotten to know a lot of the community that way.

"I really enjoy this town. I know what the job is about, and the wide ranging responsibilities it involves, and I look forward to carrying out the duties of town clerk."

For school committee, two candidates are in the running for an open one year seat. They are Jayme Dwan-Clem, on the ballot, and write-in candidate Sarah Chase, of 254 New Salem Road.

Dwan-Clem is the 33-year old mother of a 14-year-old boy who has an "individual learning style." She said, "I understand not all children learn the same way, and so I understand the child's environment plays heavily into the person they will become. So the school's environment is very important."

Although she does not have a child at Swift River, Dwan-Clem said she decided to run because, "Children are an important place

to put our efforts. I want to make sure their curriculum is up to date and they are being fairly represented."

She said though there were many open spots on the town election ballot, she chose to run for school committee because, "I feel putting emphasis on education and making sure our children don't get lost in high stakes test scores," is important. "Making sure we have well-rounded, child nurturing programs at the forefront is important to their healthy development. Education is not just about test scores."

Dwan-Clem is opposed to any regionalization plan that would take away local control of the elementary school, or merge Wendell's student population in a large district. "Wendell is a small, tight-knit community; we work very closely with New Salem. The school community is focused on child well being and education, including arts and music, and knowing each child's needs personally. I feel you're going to lose that with regionalization."

Chase said she decided to run because she has twins in the first grade at Swift River, and, "I want to be more involved in my kids' education. I'm a concerned parent, and I can be a voice for other parents, and I'm a concerned citizen, and want to be involved in the larger issues too."

She said she would like to be involved in everything from the school budget to maintaining extracurricular activities, art and music at the elementary school.

"Swift River has a great curriculum, and a lot of extracurricular activities that are so important for the kids. A lot of the schools around us are losing that, and I want to be a voice to keep those things."

Chase works with the PTCA to raise funds to support student enrichment activities, and helped to organize a diversity committee this year at Swift River. She said if elected, "I'd like to focus on maintaining what we have. It's a really well-rounded school and a great community." She said the partnership with New Salem is working well, and it is important for the two similarly sized communities to share the school and "keep it small."

Small schools offer advantages to students, Chase said, because, "Everybody knows everybody. I'm comfortable in a small town - that's why we're here. It's an advantage for the teachers, too. I think people can get lost in a bigger system. She said parents need to work together to "look out for the best education we can have for our kids."

On the ballot for a five year term on the planning board is Marianne Sundell, who is being challenged by incumbent Deirdre Cabral, of 210 Lockes Village Road, who is running as a write-in candidate.

Write-in candidate Amy Simmons, of 173 West Street, is challenging incumbent board of health member Martha Senn for a three year seat on that board.

More on these two contests in next week's issue.



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DETMOLD PHOTO

Rehearsals are underway at the Montague Grange for Montague's first annual Mutton and Mead Festival

BY DAVID DETMOLD - About two dozen minstrels, wenches, merry men, and townspeople from a shire town not unlike Nottingham gathered at the Montague Grange on Sunday to rehearse their parts for the upcoming Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival, to take place Saturday, June 18th on the grounds of the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club off Turners Falls Road in Montague, from 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The sheriff was there, and Robin Hood too, along with divers characters like a tavern

keeper, his family and a village blacksmith. Of course, wherever people in these parts are dressing up in period costume and assuming broad Midland accents, Kim Gregory, ye Olde Town Crier from Erving, is never far from the action.

Gregory said he had been spending a good bit of time in the local tavern, merely to gather news of Robin and his Merry Men, mind you, in advance of Sunday's rehearsal, which was preceded by a banquet laid out on a groaning board in one corner of the Grange hall, of which one and

all partook. For sooth.

The theme of this year's first annual Montague Medieval Fest will be 'Robin Hood and the Thieves of Honor,' but actor manager David Agro, who had ridden hard from Brattleboro to make it by noontide, claimed there was absolutely no relation between that theme and the fact that Monday was tax day in Montague, as elsewhere in the land.

'Steal from the rich and give to the poor,' was the cry in twelfth century Sherwood Forest, and the fact that the modern

barons of Wall Street and Capitol Hill have turned that on its head to steal from the poor and give to the rich has absolutely nothing to do with it.

Except that, "Communities and societies everywhere always have to deal with poverty," Agro allowed. And if you bring three items non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to the festival, it will get you two dollars off the ticket price. The whole event is a fundraiser for the Food Bank.

How did it all come about?

"Last September I was on a camping trip with Mark Lattanzi and his family and friends," recalled Michael Muller, of Montague Soapbox Derby fame. Muller, who is also producing the Renaissance Fest, said they were sitting around the campfire that night talking about food, and someone called out from the shadows on the other side, "Mutton." At which point Muller called back, "Mutton and Mead." Twas then, amid the mirth and revelry, that Muller consulted his Renaissance I-Phone and straightaway did purchase the domain name for Mutton and Mead.

"Two weeks later," Muller said, "I got a call from Mike Burek," (known to montague-ma net users as Junkman), who was deep in his cups at King Richard's Faire in Carver. "Dude, this is great," shouted Burek over

ye olde Skype. "We should do a Renaissance Faire in Montague." And so the legend began.

On Sunday, Robin Hood (Christopher Rose from Leverett) told a tale of a poor yeoman on the road, bringing his last copper to tithe to the church, when he was overtaken by a band of ruffians who told the poor man, "There is a toll upon this road." Just like the Mass Turnpike Authority, the ruffians pulled out clubs and took the man's last penny from him. But Robin Hood set upon the ruffians, and "sent them on their way with scar upon their flesh and pride," and told the yeoman, "the tithe has been paid; go home and feed your family."

Upon hearing this tale, there was much cheering and cries of "Huzzah!" from the assembled, and Agro soon formed them into a circle, paired them off in couples, and took them through the paces of a circle dance. Some wore Lincoln green jerkins, some wore fringed boots or articles of suede, others wore Pink Floyd t-shirts or camouflage pants. This was not a dress rehearsal.

Agro, looking a bit like a thinner version of Olive Platt in the *Three Musketeers*, wore a green turtleneck sweater until the dancing grew too hot. He took it off to reveal a Pirates for Peace t-shirt beneath. Part way through the dance, he got a call on his cell see FAIRE page 13



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Selected Poetry, Music and Literature in Istanbul

BY PATRICIA PRUITT – After the holidays, we arrived back with nearly six months of living in Istanbul ahead of us.

Although we are now somewhat familiar with the city, we knew we had only scratched the surface. There was nothing for it but to plunge into this lively place, while relying on Skype to manage our homesickness.

Turning away from the ongoing political uprisings I have wrote about in a previous article, I have a number of Turkish cultural experiences to tell you about. Since the beginning of the year we have discovered a Turkish poet — Nazim Hikmet; two classical music forms: one Turkish, called Makam, and the other Persian traditional music; and finally we have read the novel *Snow*, written by Turkish Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk. (I confess we were drawn to this novel out of some — admittedly lame — desire to commiserate with folks at home during the past harsh winter.)

The novel opens with a poet-journalist's arrival in the town of Kars in the Turkish outback during a blizzard that continues off and on for 400 of the novel's 406 pages. The story Pamuk reports is about the suicides of young female students, practicing Muslims who are required to remove their headscarves.

It's post-Ataturk Turkey; the secular government requires the separation of religion from state. In the little town of Kars the Islamists have made a stand in two directions. They condemn the suicides, since suicide is the most serious sin in Islamic law. They deride the law, which does not allow girls to wear a headscarf to school, effectively preventing the education of believers. It is a drama with tragic consequences, not only in fiction.

I have a student in my class who had to make that decision to attend university. She either had to take off her headscarf, or keep it on and be unable to attend. Many of her friends chose not to go to school because of community or family disapproval. It is

only as of the fall that the Turkish government has reversed the headscarf law. Young women can now apply to schools and not be denied admission based on their religious headwear.

While to me as a Westerner the new law is the obvious solution, it is not seen that way by those loyal to a secularist identity for Turkey. Indeed it has raised alarms about where the current government is taking the nation.

Pamuk published *Snow* (in Turkish called *Kars*) in 2002. We have heard a story that Pamuk spent time in jail on account of this novel which challenges both the conservative Islamic positions as well as rigid secularism. A little research, however, shows this is not the exact truth.

It is true that Pamuk was sued by an ultra-nationalist lawyer for making remarks in a Swiss interview about the killing of Kurds, and the earlier Armenian massacres, as examples of taboo subjects in Turkey that prevent an open examination of the country's history. The case was thrown out, but Pamuk endured a hate campaign that caused him to leave Turkey for several months. His name was put on a hit list by an ultra-nationalist group.

In June, 2005 the Turkish government passed a revised legal code including Article 301 that makes it a crime punishable by imprisonment from six months to three years for any Turkish citizen to explicitly insult the Turkish Republic or the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Under this article the case against Pamuk was reopened on appeal, and he was found guilty in March of 2011 of "insulting the honor" of five persons and ordered to pay 6000 Turkish lira (about \$4000 U.S.).

Istanbul has many concert halls, and one of the nicest and newest is only two years old. The Cemal Resit Rey concert hall offers an international variety of music: classical, folk, traditional, jazz, dance, art song, choral works, and drama. We had the pleasure of hearing two concerts

there featuring handmade, traditional instruments.

Turkey has developed its own classical music based on a repertoire of 55 different scales played by adding further tones or 'flavors' to the individual scales. The scales are either ascending or descending groups of 24 notes; the interplay of flavors with notes and cadences that govern the various scales allows Makams to be highly improvisational.

Played on traditional instruments such as the neh or reed pipe, the tanbur, a long necked lute-like instrument, the saz, a smaller stringed instrument, and the kudum, a small metal drum with an hourglass shape, Makams are learned through a master-student relationship that can last for years. The music itself is rhythmic, melodious, and transporting. Singers also join in on certain makams, adding the instrument of voice.

Murat Aydemir is both a performer and master teacher of the Makam tradition. Unfortunately the concert of Aydemir's we attended was disappointingly brief, and left us wanting more.

This was not the case with the concert by the Kayhan Kalhor Ensemble from Iran (now based in Istanbul). They play Persian traditional instruments such as the kamancheh, or Persian spiked fiddle, which looks like a child's toy until you hear it played so marvelously by Kayhan Kalhor, a virtuoso on this instrument. In addition to an assortment of drums, the group also had two percussion instruments in different sizes called santars, similar to hammered dulcimers, and a tanbur and saz of a Persian variety.

The Ensemble played for more than two hours, offering two compositions of great rhythmic complexity and musical beauty. The listener was carried along on extended musical meditations.

Kalhor is well-known in the West, particularly in New York, where he plays with YoYo Ma. He also composes for and plays with major symphonies. He has been playing the kamancheh



CHRIS SAWYER LAUCANNO PHOTO

Portrait of Nazim Hikmet, painted by his mother while Hikmet was in prison. The portrait was given to Bedri Rami by Hikmet.

since he was seven years old, and left his native Iran for the rest of the world at age 20.

The first mentioned, but last presented in this article will be Nazim Hikmet, a Turkish poet I knew nothing about before visiting the studio of the artist Bedri Rahmi, a good friend of the poet's. Hikmet flourished as a poet, but suffered enormously as a communist in a country that outlawed the Communist Party (which has since been legalized).

It was 1922 when 20-year-old Hikmet got the bug to go to Moscow and see what the revolution was all about. He was looking for 'social justice.' Moscow was a heady place in those days; he met like-spirited people from all over the world as well as Russian poets like Mayakovsky, whose innovations Hikmet was keen to learn and apply in his own poetry.

Hikmet's story is full of reversals and suffering for his political convictions, and simultaneously full of success for his work as a poet. What we learned that day in Bedri Rahmi's studio from his daughter-in-law, Hughette Eyuboglu, was that 51 years ago, in 1960, Bedri was in Paris with Hikmet and convinced his friend

to record some of his lyric poems on tape to bring back to Istanbul for eventual release. To make sure he could get the tape through customs, Bedri put five minutes of himself talking at the beginning in case the authorities wanted to hear what he had.

During this time in Istanbul, books were banned, including Hikmet's. Police would conduct house to house searches for banned publications, seizing and destroying any they found. Bedri and his family hid the tape in their home. And hidden it remained for 51 years.

Eyuboglu is now the executor of the family estates. Bringing out the last work of Hikmet's was very important to her. Hikmet's Turkish citizenship was restored in 2009, and his books taken off the banned list. She decided the moment was auspicious to bring out the recording and the poems.

The week we were visiting her, the CD and book went on sale both in Istanbul and Paris, selling out five printings in three days. Nazim Hikmet's poems are well translated into English by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk, and an expanded edition of his work is available through Persea Books in New York.

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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

The editors would like to thank
the following for their generous
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Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376;
or email us your poetry at
reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

Halic: Six Naïve Poems

1.

The tiniest boat on the Halic
gets caught in the crossroad between
a huge freighter and a Fener ferry The two
chop the water with their engine-axes
threatening to swamp the fisherman, calm, brave
who keeps on simply riding the wave

2.

The innocent abalone sky plus mist and sunlight
colors the Halic as Monet might have painted it
And the angular, geometric crowds of buildings
on the shore would require all the refraction
of 20ieth century art to explore
The unassuming boats were meant for Alfred Sisley
rather than Van Gogh Even the Fener Police
Station is just that shade of pink

3.

Bread in Air

The child does not care for big boats yet:
too many, too big. It's the gray gulls
catching bread bits
tossed in air she applauds

4.

Going To the Other Side

Riding the Fener ferry-no matter which way
you face--is a quiet cup of tea
It goes quickly
enough with plenty to see:
sky, water, boats and shores, all in light and shadow
shifts of color and the other voyagers--
such beauty ...

5.

Below Ground Is the Future

When the new station crosses under the Halic,
there will be no sky or waves, no gulls,
no tossing bread and no tea. Though
there may be a moment's quiet between the coming

and going of trains-- an almost quiet where the scraping
sound of the largest freighters above the tunnel roof
might be heard-
as once it was in a tunnel in another country

6.

The Virile Waters

serve as devoted mirror
for the sky sun
and moon polish
the water's baubles

long ago this blue/green
ribbon parted the land
allowing the Halic
to flow a little inland
while melding the Marmara
with the Bosphorus

--Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

Therefore

I won't be an astronaut.
I won't invent more efficient airconditioning.
I won't wrestle babies from placentas or run in
to burning houses. My internal compass drips.

The cold's going to kill my hands and knees.
Snow freezes and refreezes my mustache,
all around the jaws of commitment.
There are no stories to tell, just worlds to build,

complete with subdivisions and dependence on fear,
worlds with idiosyncrasies, their own
craters, pesky magneticfields.
I'm a naked man entranced by my own riddle.

Maps can't be drawn with familiar landscapes.
Topography's relative to the navigator,
given the navigator's coordinates and the size of the loot.
There are no such things as Xs.

Questions find ways into my wings like red mites.
I expect them, adore them, their unsettling pencilmarks.
What's a moon? What's someone who makes one?
I grab urgency by the lips.

The longer I sit the more the glue gets less manageable.
Directions say add water.
The new moon looks the same as the old moon.
It's nothing I could've imagined.

--C.S. Carrier
Hartford, CT

A Near Custom Fit

Cutting corners is not your style,
though neither are you rotund
hard as wood, you,
yet flexible in new spaces, new
places, with new faces
A real square - or so you repeat across
time and again,
and still, when friends gather
to over indulge, it is you
we gather round

Taller than most,
I find you shorter in a sideways length,
wider at the hip than your flat feet imply

You treat me well, effortlessly
bridging the gap
between us two,
providing a more or less
temperate repast
for one to nibble,
ponder,
in which to retreat.

We sit together for hours -
contemplation,
lust,
in peace.
We share Eternal Tea:
Wise, together, home to roost...

A toast , now, for my sturdy, steady mate,
you feed me body, heart and soul

In kind reply
I vow to present
with best offerings,
purest intentions
cardinal rules
Sharing secrets with you -
past an' present
spicy and sweet

I will stay by your side for a great long
while
Wiping away encounters
better left to you un-served.

--JC Product
Turners Falls

On The Honda

next to me in the parking lot,
that small cave below the lift-to-open handle
has 10,000 tiny scratches on it.
As if someone has removed a mat of fine hair
from around the shower drain,
scooped it up, let it dry to a filmy nest,
and pasted it onto this car door.

This happens to my brain waiting 15 minutes
in the sun for you to pick up hot dogs and rolls,
godeyes examining with no judgment
the firmament of the lot, loving the whole kit
and caboodle, as if seeing is loving,
even discarded hair or the nails of the bird
seeking to nest just in the spot where someone
will open the car and drive away.

--Mary Clare Powell
Greenfield

A bird came down the walk.

A bird was in the room.

No one knows what is the doing to the poems.
The word bird came down the word walk.

Everyone no one knows is doing to the poems.
The word bird was in the word room.

So many birds in no rooms.
Sooner than none other than birds.

My love was in the room.
In birds, then none, then other rooms.

Anyone anywhere could be doing no one knows to the poems.
Always what everywhere knows doing was to the poems.

In none in none then in the other rooms. And no birds land.
First and later the first bird. The absolute bird.

Clouds into the poems were no doing to the poems.
A bird from looking into the sun.

The absolute fastest and farthest bird.
Instead of the poems more doing to the poems.

Ships going to the sky like poems going to the poems.
Earthly agents from the poems and back to the poems.

Birds floating is one way of saying something to the poems.
At once Holy Spirits in the air room before going to the poems.

Some time for birds, no time for rooms.
No birds, no rooms, just bird, just room.

We walk among the birds, the wall of birds.
Say bird before I see bird.

My love was doing what nobody knows to the poems.

Oh good, she said, to be in the room.
She was in the bird in the room.

People carry birds into my room
that live quietly out the windows.

Mostly birds in all rooms.
Then of a sudden bird, a room.

A world of birds in a hall of records of rooms.
A conversion of rooms into birds.

A room of birds in the room.

--Nathaniel Otting
Hadley

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JC Product writes intimately about
inanimate objects, objectifying them,
even. A Massachusetts native, Product
enjoys the Worcester accent most of all.

Nathaniel Otting is a sub-sub librarian
at Flying Object, a book collective in
Hadley.

Patricia Pruitt is a Turners Falls resi-

dent, poet, former selectboard chairper-
son, and has lived in Turkey for the last
several months.

C. S. Carrier was born in Dayton, OH
and grew up in western North Carolina.

He earned an MFA from the University
of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the
author of *After Dayton*, published by
Four Way Books in 2008, and *Postcard
Feat* (with Yago Cura), published by
Hinchas de Poesia Press in 2010.

Dr. Mary Clare Powell is a professor at
Lesley University in the Creative Arts in
Learning Division where she teaches
poetry to teachers. In the last 25 she
has published three books of poetry--

Something in the Wind for Wendell?

BY JONATHAN

VON RANSON - The Urban Turbine isn't a normal wind turbine. It looks like an eight-foot octagonal aluminum hatbox without sides. But its inventor says this vertical-axis windmill generates electricity from slow winds, in the 5 to 15 miles per hour range, is noiseless at any speed, has a long service life, and pays back its investment in 3½ to 7½ years.

Mark Maynard, founder of Urban Power USA, a recent startup wind energy company in Easthampton, described his innovative turbine Wednesday evening at the Wendell Free Library. With him was his wife and business partner, Kimela Webb, and Dan Stekete, who is

helping to sign up investors. The two men answered questions about the turbines and the purchase options being offered to about a dozen attendees.

Focusing on their 1.8 kilowatt model, which costs about \$9,000, Maynard and Stekete predicted an output under average Massachusetts conditions of 8,722 kilowatt hours per year - "enough for two normal homes," Stekete said - and a payback period of about seven years.

For individual buyers, the state currently offers a grant of \$3,000 toward the purchase, reducing the payback period, based on current prices for grid electricity, to four years or less. Municipalities, Stekete said, "won't get the 30% break from

the state."

The two men said their units are not designed for prime wind power locations, where standard wind turbines are superior, but must be thought of as a "niche product" for places where average annual wind speeds are moderate - below 20 or 25 mph. The machines may not aesthetically suit certain locations, they admitted.

Furthermore, Maynard recommended against trying to mount one on a pitched roof - the predominant roof style in Wendell. A flat apartment house roof is ideal, he said, for the appropriately named Urban Turbine.

However, the 700 pound units can also be stacked one on top of

the other, or mounted on a stand, ideally 15-20 feet above ground. As testimony to their versatility, the U.N. is looking at their suitability for remote locations in Africa.

Maynard and Stekete repeatedly mentioned that their wind generators aren't hazardous to birds or bats, are very low maintenance (the normal horizontal-axis turbines, Maynard said, are notorious for needing repairs to blades or transmissions), and they are easy to install and operate.

"Are there snow or ice effects?" asked Charles Cooper.

Maynard answered there had been winter-related problems in an earlier prototype, but "we've corrected the problem," and the latest model came through last winter - a snowy one - without any issues.

Wednesday's meeting was called by Paul Richmond, an active member of Wendell Works.

Richmond's vision, he said, was to "look at this idea, at who these folks are, what kind of windmill it is, the price range. Then we can meet again and decide - 'Do we want it? Where?'"

In the buyer's spirit, Tom Mangan asked if there were a



Mark Maynard and his Urban Turbine for more info: www.urbanpowerusa.com

warranty. The answer, paraphrased, was, because this is a startup, we'll give two years - twice the industry standard. Pressed further on this point, the founder of Urban Power said, "We're very flexible. We want to build turbines and sell them." Asked how many of the units were already in operation, Maynard said two - one on the factory building at 100 Pleasant Street in Easthampton and one on the Paragon Arts building on Pleasant Street in Northampton.

Shay Cooper, speaking of the global need for clean, inexpensive power said, "We're up against it. We should be a lot more concerned than we are. I admire what you're doing."

from **MUSGRAVE** pg 1

to hear that Musgrave was leaving. He said he felt her oversight of the Montague Elementary school has been good, and that test scores at the elementary school are up. In fact, in September 2010 Montague Elementary was recognized by Governor Deval Patrick as one of 188 schools statewide showing sufficient improvement to be removed from the underachieving category.

Musgrave and her staff got high praise at that time from superintendent Ladd, who said, "Sheffield is out of status; they've done an outstanding job and I really think they should be applauded."

At the time, Musgrave said, "I'm thrilled and so very proud of both staff and students in making this outstanding progress. This is something the whole community can feel good about."

In 2008, Musgrave was given the task of bringing together the students at Sheffield Elementary with those from Montague Center School after it was closed and consolidated into the campus that became the Montague Elementary School. At the time, she spoke of how smoothly the transition had gone, and how the school felt like one family group.

Musgrave supported art teacher Nancy Meagher to put on lavish 'Renaissance Art Gallery' openings of student art in the

Sheffield gymnasium each year; these openings were mobbed by parents and grandparents from all over town, with students proudly welcoming them at the door.

Musgrave came to the \$80,000 a year position at the GMRSD in September of 2008 from a two-year stint at the helm of the Federal Street School in Greenfield. The daughter of Edward Rising, a UMass professor of industrial engineering and Joan Rising, a long-time art history professor at GCC, Musgrave served for 20 years as the head of the dance department at the Walnut Hill School in Natick, a prestigious performing arts residential school where students received pre-professional training, after passing an audition to gain admission.

In an interview two weeks into her job at Sheffield, following the tenure of Chip Wood as principal, Musgrave said, "I believe in Responsive Classroom wholeheartedly." Wood, a former Gill Elementary principal, left public school administration for a time to pioneer Responsive Classroom techniques at the Greenfield Center School. "It is for me," continued Musgrave, "the vessel that holds learning. It is a way of being with children that emphasizes shared responsibility, clear expectations that we teach children what to do and what to expect. We don't expect

they already know how to behave in the playground and cafeteria, or how to walk through the halls. We model that behavior for them."

In that interview, Musgrave also said she was "very happy to be here," at Sheffield, (now Montague Elementary). "This is just exactly the community and population I want to work with."

Sue Dresser, an active member of the MES parent teacher organization, said she is very saddened that Musgrave is leaving. Dresser, a strong supporter of keeping Montague Center School open, said Musgrave had been instrumental in bringing the two elementary school communities together after MCS closed. Dresser credited Musgrave for her role, along with her staff, in leading the school in only three years out of underperforming status, with test scores going up in all student categories.

She told a story of how Musgrave baked 18 cakes and held an "Inauguration Ball" for the students at Montague Elementary to celebrate president Obama's inauguration in 2009, with 300 students quietly sipping ginger ale and enjoying the occasion.

"That's part of heart and love," Dresser said. "She will be missed."

Musgrave has not responded to requests for comment, at press time.

from **FAIRE** pg 10

phone from Verizon Wireless. Oh, for the life of an outlaw!

"We all participate in this fantasy of the past through Hollywood and the theater," said Agro, pausing for a breather as the vocal coach took over. "This will be an interactive event, where people can participate if they want to. We will provide a venue where legends can unfold around them in an exciting way. Expect surprises!"

Muller said he is still looking for a carpenter to volunteer to coordinate set design for the medieval village they will construct on the grounds of the Rod and Gun Club.

"This festival is really going to be good for the town," said Muller, who brought more than 1500 to the first Soapbox Derby

in Unity Park last year. But a Renaissance Fest should draw from further afield.

"It's going to put Montague on the map for a lot of people who didn't know it existed before," said Muller. "People travel from far away to Renaissance Fairs. So there is opportunity for local businesses to get involved as vendors and sponsors, to get their name in front of people and show what the town has to offer."

Don't worry. There will be mutton. And there will be mead. Holy Smokes will bring smoked turkey legs and lances of lamb, and Garth Shaneyfelt will bring his locally brewed Green River Ambrosia, and apple mead too. It's all on the bill of fare for visitors to the greenwood faire.

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BEES from page 1

and human civilization has evolved together with bees. Honeybees are essential for the pollination of fruits and vegetables, nuts, seeds, and fibers like cotton. In addition, bee products of honey, wax, propolis and venom are used in health and cosmetic products.

But now, honeybees are dying in staggering numbers. There has always been a natural ebb and flow in the population of bees, but the CCD epidemic is a blight on bees of a magnitude never seen before. It results in a rapid loss in the bee population, with millions of bees simply vanishing from their hives, leaving billions of dollars of crops at risk and potentially threatening our food supply and ecosystem.

This is a worldwide problem. CCD has been reported in the United States, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, England, Israel, China, Argentina and Australia.

There have been alarming declines in other pollinator populations as well, such as hummingbirds, bats, and butterflies.

The issue of the declining bee population is a complex one, and the causes of CCD are mysteri-

ous. Theories abound, and because no single cause seems to satisfactorily explain the huge drop in bee populations, current belief points to a combination of factors. They include pesticides, malnutrition, viruses, parasites, bacteria, fungi, global warming, genetic engineering and genetically modified organisms. Many of these causes lead back to monoculture (the widespread specialization in single crop) farming.

Scientists are researching this emerging disease, but they have not pinpointed one telltale virus or pathogen. Instead, a slew of causal agents seem to be affecting the bee population. It seems bees are suffering from suppressed immune system diseases, similar to AIDS in humans.

The issue of monoculture, where farmers grow one type of crop over a large area of hundreds of acres, was cited repeatedly in the film. Science writer and food activist Michael Pollan said in the film, "In one sense [the root of CCD] is a mystery. We don't know exactly what the cause is. But in a larger sense, we know exactly what the problem is. Monoculture makes bees vulnerable." Monoculture requires con-

stant intervention and the use of lots of pesticides, because nature doesn't work that way. Natural environments contain biodiversity with many different plants.

Farmers used to spray pesticides from the air. Spraying would kill the bees immediately, leaving piles of dead bees near the hives. That practice has diminished since the 1980s. Now large farmers rely on systemic pesticides that are applied when seeding the crops. These pesticides do not kill adult bees immediately. However, some scientists believe that later generations of bees have damaged nervous systems and suppressed immune systems as a result of exposure to systemic pesticides.

According to the documentary, the FDA and EPA have yet to treat the declining bee population seriously, and government agencies have not supported restricting commonly used pesticides or GMOs. Governments, the film charges, are listening more closely to chemical manufacturers than to beekeepers. As Hackenberg said of the EPA, "They should take the Protection out of their name and just call themselves the Environmental Whatever," agency.

Bees are symbols of selflessness, hard work and cooperation. When an adult bee is sick, it flies miles away from the colony to die alone, so as not to infect the hive. This is why the bees from CCD hives simply disappear, leaving behind empty colonies in a matter of weeks, even hours.

Common practices among commercial beekeepers are believed by organic beekeepers to be harmful. Commercial beekeepers kill the queen bee after only a few months (even though the queen can live for several years) and replace her with a younger queen, to which the hive must acclimate. They artificially inseminate the queen bee, thus narrowing the hive's gene pool and creating less robust bees over generations. They replace the hive's honey with sugar water for the bees to feed on, essentially feeding them junk food.

So far there is no artificial substitute for bee pollination. A single honeybee can visit 100,000 flowers in a day. Scientists have tried to develop wind pollinating machines, but they have been largely unsuccessful. In China, thousands of people hand-pollinate pear-fruit crops. But using humans to pollinate crops bloss-

om by blossom is a slow, costly, inefficient and unsustainable process. Nothing works like bee.

If a solution cannot be found, humans may end up subsisting on a diet of corn, wheat and rice, crops that do not rely on pollination for fertilization. According to the PBS documentary, *Silence of the Bees*, if honeybees continue to disappear at the current rate, they will cease to exist in the United States by the year 2035.

As discussed in the post film talk, there do seem to be solutions to the bee epidemic, such as improving our overall sustainable living by supporting smaller scale organic farming practices with diverse crops, buying local, and supporting local beekeepers that employ alternatives to today's commercial beekeeping practices.

For those curious to learn more, the Second Congregational Church on the common in Greenfield will host a bee party on Saturday, May 14th from 10 a.m. – noon, beginning with talks by local bee experts. Also, *Queen of the Sun*, another documentary film on the same subject, will begin screening at Amherst Cinema on May 4th. 

TRAINS from page 6

Pleasant Road, "I can't breathe outside."

Town administrator and Millers Falls resident Frank Abbondanzio agreed with the Lake Pleasant residents' dim assessment of the impacts of railway trains left idling for long periods of time on everyday life in their village. He said the same thing happens in Millers Falls too.

Residents of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant have written a petition asking for relief from the selectboard, board of health, and police chief, "seeking the immediate end to the practice by the Pan American Railroad of dieseling trains, in blatant disregard of public health and the rights of property owners to the quiet enjoyment of their homes in the town of Montague."

Over 30 signatures have been collected from Millers Falls residents, noted Abbondanzio, and more are expected.

Selectboard members Pat Allen, Chris Boutwell, and Mark

Fairbrother all agreed that a joint public hearing on the topic was needed with multiple agencies to tackle the issue, and said police chief Ray Zukowski will be collecting all the noise complaint records from the police department about railway train idling to demonstrate the extent of the problem.

Montague director of public health Gina McNeely has been working on the problem since 2008, so far to no avail.

The state of Massachusetts has anti-idling codes that include the operation of railroads, but corporate counsel Robert Burns from Pan Am Railways wrote back to McNeely last October stating, "Although we appreciate the regulatory provisions adopted by the Commonwealth attempting to regulate railroad activity, it is well settled law that the operations of railroads fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 and the Federal Railway Safety Act, both of which preempt all local and state laws and

regulations seeking to govern railroad operations."

The Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant petitioners have responded to that statement with "it is to such arrogance and outright disregard for the public health that the undersigned most strenuously object."

McNeely has been in contact with the Surface Transportation Board, a federal agency, in an effort to enforce the Massachusetts code [310 CMR 7.11(2)] which prohibits trains to be left idling for more than 30 minutes, unless under repair. However, her communications with them also acknowledge that STB is not in an enforcement role with the railways.

Lake Pleasant residents Case and Estabrooks said they have not seen any maintenance or repairs on the tracks while trains have been idling. Case said she has more than once watched the train engineer get into a cab called to Lake Pleasant Road, leaving the train running after finishing a shift. The length of the idling seems to depend on

how quickly the next crew can arrive – whether that delay takes a couple of hours or three days, Case said.


A couple of towns in Eastern Massachusetts have also run into this problem and have complained to Pan Am Railways and worked with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on the issue. Yet, they have also encountered resistance from the railways to correct the problem, said Abbondanzio.

In other news, Bob Trombley, superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility, brought his message on how to avoid costly sewer bills to the selectboard, during his discussion of sewer abatement requests. Even a "simple toilet leak can cause lots of water usage," Trombley said. "Use dye strips or food coloring and put it in the toilet tank, don't flush the toilet overnight, and then check the bowl in the morning for signs of the dyes," to test for leaks, he explained. Also, when purchasing a home, always review utility usage and bills as part of the clos-

ing process to avoid costly surprises, Trombley added.

Coming up – the second annual Franklin County Spring Parade will take place on the Hill in Turners Falls on April 12th next year, with the same parade route and start times as this year's April 9th parade. Look forward to Montague Community Band performances in Peskeompskut Park this summer. And this Saturday, it's the annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza at Unity Park.

Montague will hold a pre-town meeting on Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. The special town meeting will be on Saturday, May 7th at 8:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls High School, with the annual town meeting following it at 8:45 a.m. the same day.

Peter Golrick addressed the selectboard before they went into executive session with a formal complaint regarding how the bylaw review committee was recently formed, citing an open meeting law violation. The board promised to look into the complaint. 

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On Books

Was Jesus Resurrected From the Dead? Part 1

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE - Sources: Robert Funk, Roy Hoover and the Jesus Seminar, *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*, Bart Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus*, Elaine Pagels, *The Origins of Satan...* often available at Montague Book Mill.

As some of us celebrate Easter, we may want to stop and ask, was there a man named Jesus who was resurrected from the dead and subsequently ascended to heaven?

Of course few who celebrate Easter will ask this question. For many Christians, the crucifixion and resurrection are the cornerstone of their faith, the central events that create the possibility of overcoming original sin. Faith, by definition, means you do not spend a great deal of time ques-

tioning the basic scenario.

For others, the issue is moot because the story is, at best, a metaphor. The role of the Jewish leadership claimed by the gospels in Jesus's crucifixion raises unsettling questions about Christian anti-Semitism. The pagan Easter egg tradition is more festive.

What happened back in Roman-controlled Judea, roughly 2100 years ago? Whatever it was eventually created a set of compelling beliefs that become the core of the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. These beliefs have had a big influence on our history and contemporary culture. We still have the holiday.

Although no longer a Christian, I am curious about how all this came about.

Let's start with the question of Jesus himself. Most people who

study the period - including scholars who draw on the New Testament gospels, other Jewish, Greek and Roman texts, archeology, modern social science theory and so forth believe there was a Jewish man named Jesus who developed a large following around the area of the Sea of Galilee in what is now northern Israel. The Jesus movement was one of many within Judaism and indeed within the Roman Empire that challenged traditional beliefs.

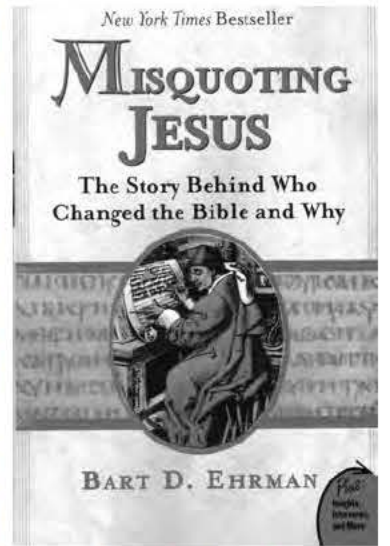
Jesus's teachings probably drew on the old Jewish prophets, but may also have been influenced by Greek Cynic philosophy and something called the 'wisdom tradition.' He seems to have been influenced by another charismatic Jewish prophet named John the Baptist. His

views may have reflected the fact that Galilee was ethnically mixed and separated from the Jewish center to the south by Samaria, whose residents did not buy into the temple leadership in Jerusalem.

Jesus accepted Jewish law, but argued that what he called the 'Kingdom of God' (or 'Kingdom of Heaven,' in Matthew) was attained not by obeying rules but through one's relationship with God, through kind works, and by following Jesus himself ("I am the door"). Jesus was also an apocalyptic fellow who taught that a full-blown 'Kingdom of Heaven' was near. It would come in a spectacular event that somehow would separate Jesus's followers from everyone else.

I find the first part of Jesus's message appealing. The good guy, bad guy, final days stuff, on the other hand, is unacceptable to me. But that, as they say, is a longer discussion.

At some point Jesus decided



to head south to Jerusalem to celebrate Jewish Passover. His behavior there caused consternation among the Jewish leadership around the temple, who decided to try to convince the Romans to kill him. To explain this key decision, three of the gospels focus on Jesus's disruption of the temple where, it is said, he turned over

see **JESUS** page 16

from **WENDELL** page 6
mise may be possible that keeps the historical look of the house but allows modern amenities.

Historic commission member Joe Coll suggested a survey or other effort to get input from more townspeople on the best use of the property.

In other news, Keller said he had entered the town vault for 15 minutes to check the mold situation and developed a week-long cough. He suggested the fire department go in with their self contained breathing apparatus, (SCBAs) remove all records, blow them off and put them in boxes in the town hall while the vault is secured from the condensation that encourages mold growth.

Keller thought insulation and a dehumidifier with a small drain hole may help. There is a budget line item set aside for correcting the mold problem in the vault. In

the early 1990s, the selectboard drafted a plan for correcting the mold problem, but it was never implemented.

The annual town meeting warrant will have an article that reduces the number of official posting places to one, the town office building bulletin board. The state open meeting law requires regular travel from Wendell Depot to the Wendell Center post office for every board and committee meeting. Under the proposal, the other posting places can still be used, but will not be required as posting places by law.

Mary Thomas submitted her resignation from the energy committee, citing restrictions from the open meeting law that make it difficult for the volunteer committee to be effective. She will be transferring her efforts to the Transition Town group, which is not an official government body

and therefore not subject to the open meeting law.

An annual town meeting warrant article will create a position to monitor and maintain the new building heating systems and the new emergency generators.

The selectboard scheduled a meeting with the emergency management committee on April 27th, at 6:00 p.m., before the regularly scheduled selectboard meeting. They will discuss the emergency management committee's needs and priorities, including a laptop computer for the committee, and visible house numbers for town residents.

They also scheduled a dog hearing with dog officer Maggie Houghton on Saturday, April 30th, at 10:00 a.m.

The board discussed the appointment of a designee to meet with the Swift River Education Association. The expected designee would be

selectboard chair Christine Heard, but since she works at Swift River School she felt uncomfortable with that role, and suggested contacting superintendent Joan Wickman, and sending Ted Lewis if he is willing.

After an executive session called under reason #1, to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual, or the discipline or dismissal of an employee, the selectboard met the finance committee to review the FY '12 budget. Finance committee member Doug Tanner spoke about complications facing the Swift River School Green Repair committee. The Massachusetts School Building Authority will reimburse towns 51% of costs if they take on repairs to their school buildings under the program, but some of the state requirements would cost so much that accept-

ing the state repayments would increase the cost to Wendell and make improvements prohibitively expensive. One requirement is a fire suppression sprinkler system, which requires more water pressure than the school water system can supply. The only way to get the required pressure is to place a 100,000 gallon water storage tank on the roof of the building.

Heard asked Aldrich to invite police chief Ed Chase to the next selectboard meeting to discuss using community policing money to meet the request of the playground committee for money for a playground overhaul.

The plate of chocolate chip cookies that Nancy Aldrich brought to the meeting had one cookie left when the meeting ended. Someone had to take that cookie home because Aldrich wanted to bring the plate home empty.



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from LEVERETT page 6
ously approved – in 2005 – residential power supply arrangements such as the one Hampshire Power is proposing, but the specifics of this proposal will come up before the voters again on April 30th.

“We buy electricity from the New England Power Pool wholesale,” said Elstein, who said the enabling legislation for this arrangement was provided under Chapter 164 of Mass General Laws when the electricity market was deregulated in Massachusetts in 1997. “We’re buying \$7 million worth of electrons right now.”

He added, “In every 12 month period, our customers have saved money compared to basic rates. We have a real good track record of saving people money, and that money will stay here in the Valley.”

Answering a question from Brazeau about the potential for Hampshire Power to purchase electricity from any solar photovoltaic array the town might have installed in the future, Elstein said, “You give us a good price, we’ll guarantee to buy it for 20 years.”

Compromise on LES Server

Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir, along with U-28 business manager Mike Kociela, LES principal Ann Ross, and school technology coordinator Karen Gravina came to the meeting to discuss a special warrant article to purchase new servers for the elementary school.

The proposal, for a warrant article to take \$14,425 from free cash to purchase replacements for the school’s 2002 and 2007 servers, which run all the computers in the classrooms, library, computer lab and offices, came at the end of the budget making cycle, and selectboard

chair Rich Brazeau said last Tuesday they came “as a surprise.”

Hajir noted that as the school committee worked to produce an elementary school budget as close to a zero percent increase as possible for a fourth year in a row, “without cutting services to kids,” he came to meet with Brazeau and McGinnis to discuss the possibility of placing the new servers on the town warrant as a special article. “I had a discussion with you right here, and you said, ‘It sounds reasonable.’ There was no attempt to hide this on our part.”

Brazeau replied, “I’m not saying it’s something we shouldn’t put on the town warrant, but we had at least two meetings,” to discuss the budget with the school committee, and the the server was not mentioned in either one of them.

Ross said, “I did know about the server; I didn’t include it in the budget. I was focused on maintaining people and cutting things. The school committee was interested in the consequences,” of this approach, Ross said, and asked her where the pain of maintenance and equipment cuts would most likely be felt. That’s when the declining status of the servers was first brought into the discussion.

“You can come over to the school and hear it dying,” said Gravina, referring to the 2002 server. Gravina said the school has a five year plan to replace computers, but added, “We’ve never had that with servers.” She said an amount to replace the older server had been included in the school’s original budget request, and then cut out.

The decision to ask for enough money to replace both servers came about when the

committee realized the 2007 server would likely be ready for retirement next year, and it would cost more to hire a consultant to set up new servers in two separate years, instead of replacing both at once.

Brazeau said the town needed to plan for capital expenses for all departments, and proposed only funding \$9,397 to replace the older server this year, to which all in the room eventually agreed.

Hajir then asked the selectboard why they had not been more aggressive in seeking a level funded budget from the regional school, when the board had been so insistent that the elementary school stay at level funding for a fourth straight year. “The regional school budget has grown from 2% to 5% over the last four years,” said Hajir. “The regional assessment has taken an increasing proportion of Leverett’s new growth. The elementary school has taken zero.”

D’Errico said he had spoken up at the four town meeting on the regional budget, saying “We need to squeeze more,” from the budget. Superintendent Maria Geryk had responded, “Further cuts can be made,” even though the regional school budget was already at level funding. (Leverett’s regional school assessment is rising 3.5% this year due to the loss of federal and state aid.) “No one else supported me,” said d’Errico.

Kociela asked if he could serve on the town’s capital planning committee.

Conservation Land

In other business, conservation commission chair David Powicki discussed the possibility of placing a conservation restriction on the Mitchell Farm on Teewaddle Hill Road, a proposal that is under consideration by the Mitchell family as well. Powicki was seeking the board’s approval to apply for state assistance in funding for the appraisal of that property.

On April 5th, the board also talked about the possibility of exempting 20 acres of land at the top of Brushy Mountain for Gabe Wegel to build a barn, and eventually a house on. The discussion is part of a larger conversation taking place between the town, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, the

Cowl’s Companies, and a private land trust to place a conservation restriction on close to 3,000 acres of land on Brushy Mountain, land that is now held in Chapter 61 as forest land.

Wegel is a grandson of the Cowl family, the land he is interested in reserving from the conserved land is accessible from Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

In a follow-up email Brazeau said, “Because the property is in Chapter 61, it requires that the owner notify the town of the pending sale, the sale amount and then offer the town first right of refusal to buy the property. The law has a provision that if a property is sold to a close heir of the owner, the town does not get the first right to purchase.”

The town and Cowls are investigating the legality of a corporation designating an heir to sell a portion of the land to.

“Does a corporation have the same rights as a person in this matter?” asked Brazeau after the meeting. “I believe they are concerned that if the town had the ability to purchase the property that some way the money would be raised.

Brazeau continued, “This area is one of the most cherished natural and historic environments in this town. I think that their concern that the town would purchase the property if offered is justified.”

At the meeting, Brazeau suggested that the deed to the 20 acres Wegel proposes to build on be written in such a way that the town could have the right of first refusal should he eventually choose to sell that land.

“We don’t want a mansion up there,” said Brazeau.

Wegel insisted he had much more modest plans for building on the site, and said he had already talked with the principals at Cowls, who expressed interest in buying back the parcel if he were ever to decide to sell it.

Brazeau said, “Relations with Cowls are better now than they have been for a long time,” but he also told Wegel, “Our interpretation is: a corporation doesn’t have kids.”

For the fourth time in three months, the selectboard reversed course and decided again to pay the town’s share of a contested bill for a retiree’s benefits from U-28, at least until the end of the FY’11.

from JESUS page 15
the tables of “money changers” doing business there. The gospel of John places this incident earlier in Jesus’s career and the final straw for the local leadership is Jesus’s dramatic raising of a man named Lazarus from the dead.

According to Christian tradition and the gospels, the leadership then pressured a reluctant Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, to execute Jesus. This part of the story I find dubious, perhaps because it has been the source of much violent anti-Semitism over the years. Death by crucifixion was so ghastly that, it would seem to me, the Romans would not resort to it unless they themselves had been seriously challenged. Why not rely on an old-fashioned stoning? Also, if the Jewish leadership encouraged such extreme measures, why did early Christians after Jesus’s death, who were Jewish, believe they could build the movement within Judaism?

In any case, after a Passover meal with his disciples (at which Jesus may have encouraged them to view the bread and wine as his body and blood) he was tried, convicted and taken to the outskirts of Jerusalem and nailed to a tall wooden cross. There he was left to bleed to death, with gospel accounts varying as to his last words.

Many scholars agree that most of this really happened. One need not believe in miracles to accept the basic story line. However the dominant Christian interpretation of this event is puzzling.

No offense to anyone but the notion of crucifixion as a mechanism to allow mankind to atone for its sins has the look and feel of human sacrifice. Even the notoriously brutal Romans had mostly dispensed with this particular tradition by the time of Pilate, and Jewish rituals were based on animal sacrifice. Thus this crucial event seems more like very old style paganism, which perhaps is why some modern Christians do not dwell on it.

But someone named Jesus, later deemed to be “the Christ” was probably crucified back in the day.

Then what happened? More next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG
Illegal Dumping, Handicap Parking Abuse

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Sunday, 4/3 7:10 p.m. Mother reported her 12-year-old daughter a possible runaway. Daughter located at a friends house and returned home. | the road. Under investigation. | Under resident turned in a recovered mountain bike found on the side of the road on Shutesbury Road. Tagged and stored. |
| Monday, 4/4 8:30 a.m. North Leverett Road resident reported illegal trash dumping on the side of | 6:55 p.m. Complaint of people abusing the handi-capped parking slots at the Leverett Elementary School during drop off and pick up times. Officers to check. | Wednesday, 4/13 4:50 p.m. Officer assisted a disabled motor vehicle at the intersection of Depot and Amherst Roads. Vehicle removed by owner. |
| | Tuesday, 4/12 2:45 p.m. Shutesbury | |

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I'm considering buying a gun to keep in my home for protection, but I'm worried about my grandchildren who visit me. What should I do to avoid an accident that might harm one of the kids?*

"We must discharge the myth that owning a gun will make a person safer," said Dr. Arthur Kellermann of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "The fact is, owning a gun greatly increases your risk of becoming a victim of unintentional firearm injuries. Knowing

the facts about firearms is the first step toward safety and injury prevention."

It's understandable that emergency physicians would be especially worried about guns. Gunshot wounds are second only to car accidents as a cause of fatal injury in children. Almost 30 children are injured or killed daily by guns, according to researchers at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

One-third of all families with children in America have guns. More than 40 percent of these families don't keep their guns locked up. Children younger than eight can't tell the difference between a real gun and a toy. Three-year-olds are strong enough to pull the trigger on a real gun. Young children and teens commit more than half of all unintentional shootings.

Pretty scary information, isn't

it?

I have to admit that I've often thought about buying a gun for my home. I fired weapons while in the Army and I've done some target shooting at a professional range. I am comfortable with guns. But, in the end, I've always decided against getting my own gun. However, I won't condemn someone who buys a gun and handles it responsibly.

If you decide to get a gun, there are steps you should take to protect your grandchildren and anyone else in your home. The following are a dozen important recommendations from the National Rifle Association:

- 1.) Think first. Shoot second.
- 2.) Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- 3.) Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that, even if it were to

go off, it would not cause injury or damage.

4.) Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun.

5.) Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

6.) Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition.

7.) When ready to shoot, be absolutely sure you have identified your target. It is equally important to be aware of the area beyond your target.

8.) Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine.

9.) Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.

10.) Be sure the gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need maintenance to remain operable.

11.) Regular cleaning is important for your gun to operate safely. Your gun should be cleaned every time it is used. Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process.

12.) Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

[In our next column, we'll give advice about guns specifically for parents and grandparents.]

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

FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME CARE NEWS

Elder Abuse an Underreported Phenomenon

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY - A study conducted in New York State estimated 25% "underreporting" of elders who are abused in some way, neglected or financially exploited by others. Most often, the older person knows the abuser.

This context can perpetuate issues of abuse, neglect or financial being taken advantage of as private matters. In most cases, there is a complex relationship between the abuser and the abused. Physical abuse over a period of time may significantly impact both the short term and long term health status of older women, who are more likely to experi-

ence an increased incidence of a range of physical and mental health problems.

Barriers get in the way of an older person reporting issues of abuse or neglect themselves. For example, they may feel disclosure on their part will make the situation worse. A significant factor for some may be traditional attitudes toward marriage and gender roles that can influence their actions. If a spouse has been in an abusive relationship, they may find themselves caring for the person who did not treat them well in the past, or they may find themselves financially dependent on their abuser.

There are many parallels

between domestic violence and elder abuse. It is important to know that if you or someone you know is being abused emotionally, physically or sexually or neglected or financially exploited, there is help. If you report a situation, the report is confidential. Call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259 to make a report.

There are over 50 reports to Elder Protective Services each day in Massachusetts. If an elder could use help, make the call.

Anna Viadero works for the Franklin County Home Care Corporation.

Volunteers Needed for Healthy Seniors Walking Club

MONTAGUE CITY - On Friday, April 29th, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. a "Keep Moving" Walking Club leader training will be held at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road, in Montague City.

Volunteers are wanted to start walking clubs for older adults within their communities. Learn to help elders increase physical activity and socialization while having fun.

This training is free and part of Franklin County Home Care's new Healthy Aging program. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, call 413-773-5555 extension 2297.

Physical activity improves the overall health and well-being of older adults. Even modest levels of daily activity for 30 minutes can prevent or control heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, colon cancer, and weight gain. Reducing the risk of disease is not the only benefit of being physically active. It can boost energy levels,

improve blood circulation, lower blood pressure, and help gain stronger muscles, bones and joints. Regular physical activity can also improve self-esteem, combat depression, and reduce stress.

In general, people become less physically active as they get older. Nearly 40 percent of people over the age of 55 report no leisure-time physical activity. Being a part of a walking club can motivate older adults to stick with a physical activity regime. Participating in a club rewards both body and soul.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Bullying Complaint, Domestic Dispute, Bike Found

Sunday, 3/13

7:25 p.m. Minor two car fender bender on Montague Road. No personal injury or reportable damage to either vehicle.

Tuesday, 3/29

2:30 p.m. Spoke with Swift River

School Principal Sheila Hunter about a parent concerned her daughter may be bullied at school. Principal interviewed all parties and found no bullying.

Saturday, 4/02

3:50 p.m. Complaint of loose dog on Farley Road. Officer spoke with owner.

Saturday, 4/09

1:35 a.m. Report of ATV going up and down Depot Road. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 4/16

11:15 a.m. Complaint of domestic dispute at Depot Road residence.

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FIXING A BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM



Tom Stearns, of High Mowing Organic Seeds, at GCC on April 13th

BY KATE SPENCER

GREENFIELD - Hardwick, VT is home to more organic farms per capita than one could find anywhere else on Earth, and perhaps one of the most valuable fruits of this labor is something that Tom Stearns, founder and president of High Mowing Organic Seeds, is hoping will take root in neighboring communities as well: a sustainable, working, healthy food system.

"The worst invention in U.S. history, in my opinion, is our diet," Stearns told a crowd at Greenfield Community College's downtown center on April 13th, the first talk in the three-part series, "Things are Looking Up Down on the Farm," co-sponsored by GCC and the Conway School of Landscape Design.

Stearns, who was featured in the 2010 book, "The Town that Food Saved" by Ben Hewitt, started High Mowing in his backyard in the late 1990s at the age of 19. He has since grown the business into a 20 person or more, five acre farm. Five years ago, along with a few other local farmers, he began a monthly gathering to "talk shop," which has since evolved, turning Hardwick into a tightly-knit network of farmers and small business owners all working toward a common goal: rebuilding the nation's broken food system.

"Imagine a place where locally owned and green businesses collaborate to create transformative change," Stearns said. "This is where Hardwick is today."

It is not a given that Hardwick would have the resources to

transform the United States food system on its own. The 3,000-resident town is located in Caledonia County in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Census data from 2008 show 11.8% of residents in the county living below the poverty line, and Caledonia currently has a higher unemployment rate than most other counties in Vermont.

"This is not happening outside of a really hip, wealthy city," Stearns said.

So how has Hardwick managed to gain national attention? Stearns cites the town's progressive and creative business network, and he offered up his own business model as an example of this network in action.

"I get compost from Highfields Composting, which is about a mile away from me. I harvest the seeds and sell those to various farmers in the area, who then harvest the crops and sell them to a local restaurant," Stearns told the audience at GCC.

"Anything that's left over on the plates or scraps from the kitchen goes into these big bins that get picked up by Highfields and turned back into compost that I then buy again to fertilize those seeds. This is all happening within three miles."

A major problem with the nation's food system, as Stearns sees it, is that it doesn't mirror the circular Hardwick model. The larger U.S. food system is linear, with food being transported across the country, to communities that played little or no part in its production.

"One thing that really grabs

me is the amount of calories it takes to transport one calorie of strawberry from California to us here in Massachusetts," Stearns said. "One calorie of strawberry takes 300 calories of fossil fuel energy to get to us here. I don't understand in which world that makes any sense."

According to Stearns, that all adds up to the U.S. food system and infrastructure being one of the leading causes of environmental problems today. "How we grow food, how we process food and how we transport food is the biggest contributor to climate change, biggest user of energy, and the biggest polluter of soil, water, and air."

It might be excusable if the food we consumed were beneficial to our health, but too often, Stearns says, the opposite is true.

"Seventy percent of the people in the United States today are going to die from a diet-related illness," Stearns warned. "That doesn't mean e. coli and salmonella. That means heart disease and diabetes."

So how can we in the Pioneer Valley possibly repair our broken food system? Stearns encouraged his listeners to realize they are in a better position than most places in the country to do just that. With a farmers market or a CSA farm in nearly every community in the Valley, we have many options year-round when it comes to buying local food. Stearns said consumers in the Pioneer Valley should use the infrastructure already in place and take it further.

"You guys have so many of the elements in this area. Be bold and ambitious with the vision that you put forth. It will be a magnet, and it will attract others to support you."

The series of talks entitled "Things are Looking Up Down on the Farm" continues at the GCC downtown campus on Monday, April 25th, at 6:30 p.m. with "From the Ground Up," a panel presentation by local female farmers, including Sorrel Hatch from Uppinghil.

NMH Students Help Spring Clean in Turners Falls

BY PAM ALLAN - On Tuesday, April 19th, Northfield Mount Hermon School held its annual service day. This year, six students from as far away as Thailand and Korea participated by cleaning up five of the boardwalks leading from downtown to the Hill section of Turners Falls. The students picked up trash along the paths and shoveled debris that had accumulated during the winter, making the walking paths safer and more attractive.

This is the second year NMH students have taken part in this project, under the direction of faculty members Pam Allan of Turners Falls and Vaughn Allen of Gill. Once again, the students commented on the beauty and friendliness of Turners Falls.



Ryan Guo (l-r), NMH faculty member Vaughn Allen, Liangliang Zhang, Thanadej Throngkeitpaisan, Deanna Kim, Gillian Friedlander, and Clara Power

Another Successful Season for the LAPPS Program

BY KATHERINE KUKLEWICZ

TURNERS FALLS - The Local Aquatics Program for Personal Safety has successfully finished its fifth year. With the help of 18 Turners Falls High School volunteers, LAPPS was able to teach 18 elementary students water safety and swimming skills.

Each day of the week, LAPPS featured a water theme, which the kids then practiced in the high school pool. By using creative titles like, "Don't Just Pack it, Wear Your Life Jacket," and "Reach or Throw, Don't Go!" we hope the children will remember the skills they learned and apply them whenever they are near water.

During the last day of LAPPS, each child was surprised with a monogrammed LAPPS towel, certificate, a LAPPS stainless steel water bottle, and a hand decorated bag from their volunteer coach.

LAPPS would like to thank Our Lady of Peace, Greenfield Savings Bank, Cori Urban and Ali Urban for their generous contributions. With their help, LAPPS has made a great difference in the community by providing free water safety lessons for children.

I am proud of each and every one of the participants, and I look forward to seeing the LAPPS program continue next year under the direction of TFHS's Mark Hudyma.

Katherine Kuklewicz is a senior at TFHS.

Gardening Workshop: When Winter Turns Straight to Summer

GILL - On Saturday, April 30th, from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Laughing Dog Farm, a survey of basic horticultural and food growing tools, including the use of backyard hoophouse greenhouses, sheet mulch applications, crafted micro-habitats and alternative grow zones will be presented, along with creative irrigation options. Dan Botkin will discuss and demonstrate several basic propagation and transplant techniques for a variety of annuals, perennials and tree or vine crops. The emphasis will be on accelerating and protecting early spring growth and pushing longer season crops towards earlier harvests in New England. RSVP and directions at: dbotkin@valinet.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Illegal Dumping, Break In, Domestic Disturbance

Tuesday, 4/12
5:47 a.m. Larceny at the Millers Falls railroad tracks. Report taken.

Wednesday, 4/13
8:38 a.m. Illegal dumping at Turners Falls Pizza House. Services rendered.
10:20 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.

Thursday, 4/14
5:03 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on T Street. Investigated.

5:10 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to take care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing up a vehicle.

6:16 p.m. Runaway report at Franklin County Technical School. Unable to locate.

8:07 p.m. General disturbance at Millers/Erving bridge area. Investigated.

10:20 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on two default warrants.

10:50 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Advised of options.

Friday, 4/15
3:55 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague Street. Services rendered.

Saturday, 4/16
12:51 a.m. Officer wanted at the Rendezvous. Services rendered.

1:53 a.m. Fight at Southworth Paper Mill on Canal Street. Investigated.
2:21 a.m. General disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Report taken.

4:46 p.m. Suspicious auto at Millers Falls railroad track area. Services rendered.

9:39 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at St. Stan's on K Street. Services rendered.

10:16 p.m. Suspicious auto at Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.

Sunday, 4/17
4:08 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering reported on G Street. Report taken.

5:34 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Hillside Drive. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 4/18
2:45 a.m. Suspicious person at Industrial Loop Drive. Investigated.

9:03 a.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

9:54 a.m. Annoying, harassing phone calls at Equi's Candy Store on Avenue A. Report taken.

7:09 p.m. Restraining order violation on Fourth Street. Investigated.

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The Town of Wendell is seeking a qualified person to manage the Wendell Highway Department as a working supervisor. This is a full time position that requires a minimum of four years supervision of heavy equipment or highway maintenance, and availability for any event that may affect the safe travel on Wendell roadways, including snow removal. Applicants must live within 30 minutes of Wendell Center. Minimum requirements include a valid Massachusetts Class A or B Commercial License with Airbrake Endorsement and a Class 2B or higher hydraulic license, the ability to manage the department budget and other record keeping, and the ability to work independently while supervising others. For job description and application information, contact the Town Coordinator at (978) 544-3395 on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Applications will be accepted at the Selectboard Office, 9 Morse Village Road, until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday May 5th. The Town of Wendell maintains a drug free workplace and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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auditions for their summer production of *Rent* at 9:30a.m. at Maple Ridge Community Center, in Sunderland for ages teens and older. Shows are Aug. 5 & 6 at *Northampton Center for the Arts*. Info: Cindy 413-533-7896.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 25th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dada Dino*, Free, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps - Season Finale*, a night of spoken word, bring a friend and your appetite, 7 - 10 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultz* from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Through SATURDAY, APRIL 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center: *Spineless Splendor*: a Photography Exhibit by Northern Naturalists, Noah Charney and Charley Eiseman.

Through SUNDAY, JUNE 5th

Hallmark Gallery, Turners Falls: *I Was There: Stories of War and Homecoming*, Public Reception - Friday, April 8th 3 - 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Siegel and Friends*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues-based roots music, 8 - 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series*, featuring Kat Good Schiff and Gary Metras, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd

Barton Cove, Gill: Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center presents *Fairy Fun at Barton Cove*, for ages 4 and up. Make fairy dust, hear

fairy stories, play games, build woodland fairy houses, and eat fairy snacks. Wear clothes that can get messy. Register at



The Gill Montague Education Fund will present its 7th Annual Gala Benefit, The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll, featuring The Memories on Saturday April 30th at 7:30 p.m. at TFHS.

800-859-2960, 4:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Salvation Alley String Band and Sweet Soubrette*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Brattleboro's own *Mo Ambesa* plays Funky, Jazzy, Reggae music, 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all of your Johnny Cash favorites and many more, 9 - 11 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*, 9:30 p.m.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *EGGstravaganza!* Children ages 4 to 12 are invited, featuring the Annual Egg Hunt where kids will have the challenge of finding well over 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs placed throughout Unity Park, and more. Bring your own basket/bag for the eggs. Rain or shine. 1 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse* featuring Tracy Grammer, 7:30 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Generations, an acoustic concert, featuring *The Banjo Queen Dian Sanabria with Jared Libby, and Ronald and Adrian Meck*, 4 - 6 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Phantom Erratic show* featuring Ms. Sandy + Ms. Yet, *Uke of Spaces, Spiderwebs, Mona Nash, Ben Hersey and DB Russell, Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth*, 7 p.m. All ages.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kellianna*, acoustic rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *John Sheldon and Blue Streak*, 9:30 p.m.

AUDITIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

Starlight Theatre will be holding open

Grace Episcopal Church - Parish Hall, Amherst: *Voices from Chernobyl*, a reading, and Henry Rosenberg of Physicians for Social Responsibility will speak after the performance. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26th

Unitarian Society of Northampton / Florence: *Voices from Chernobyl*, a reading, and Ira Helfand of Physicians for Social Responsibility will speak after the performance. 7 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Music Exchange*, bring and instrument and jam! 7 - 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27th

Deja Brew, Wendell: Book Binding Class with Trish Crapo, space is limited. Contact: tcrapo@mac.com, 7 - 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28th

Deja Brew, Wendell: Larry Kopp, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals, 8 - 10 p.m.

Capen room at Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield: *The 20th Annual Poetry Awards ceremony*, 7 p.m.

Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls: reading featuring two local poets *Paula Sayword and Janet MacFadyen*. And open mic afterward for readers signed-up in advance, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *barnRocket*, funk, grass.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Izzy & The Kesstronics*, Red Hot Roots, Rock & Swing, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Arborea, Sand Plains Index*, Free, 9:30 p.m.

Sloan Theater Greenfield Community College: Presentation by Takaaki Morikawa, a survivor of the Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima. 12 - 1:30 p.m. Reception and meet the speaker: 2 - 3 p.m. at Recovery Annex, 74 Federal St. Greenfield.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 30th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Field Walk, Invertebrate Tracking*. Limited Space. Call 413-863-3221 to reserve a spot and to get further information. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Thrive Project Half-Year Anniversary Celebration and Benefit concert*.

French King Highway Entertainment Center, Erving: *An Evening of Side-Splitting Comedy to benefit the Turners Falls Sports Booster Club*, specifically the track team, doors open at 7:30 p.m., open at 9 p.m. Tickets: 413-423-3047.

Montague Grange: *Montague Scandia, Spring dance party!* Music: Steffan Ohlstrom, Matt Fichtenbaum, Andrea Larson, & Lydia Ievins. 7 - 10 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Red Heart the Ticker*, 8 p.m.

Turners Falls High School Theater: *Gill Montague Education Fund* will present its 7th Annual Gala, *The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll*, featuring *The Memories*, call Sandy at TFHS 863-7296 and see the GMEF website www.thegmef.org, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

AUDITIONS SUNDAY, MAY 1st AND MONDAY MAY 2nd

Auditions for Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, with *The Country Players*, at Greenfield Community College, note the two locations. Sunday, May 1st at the Main Campus, East Building from 3-5 pm. Monday, May 2 at the Downtown Center from 6-8 p.m. The 2011 Summer Musical will be performed at the Shea Theater July 8th to 17th.

SUNDAY, MAY 1st

Deja Brew, Wendell: Pamela Means, Contemporary Originals & Jazz Standards, 8 - 10 p.m.

Montague Center Library, Second Floor: *Third Annual Montague Artists Movement Fine Art Exhibit and Sale*, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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12:00 2:15 4:30 6:40 9:10
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Kellianna, acoustic rock
Monday, 4/25 7 to 10 p.m.
All Small Caps Season Finale
Thursday, 4/28 8 to 10 p.m.
Larry Kopp, blues

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Catching up to the Romans

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GREAT FALLS - The Portland cement that goes into the concrete supplied for the Gill-Montague Bridge comes from Lafarge Inc. of Ravena, NY.

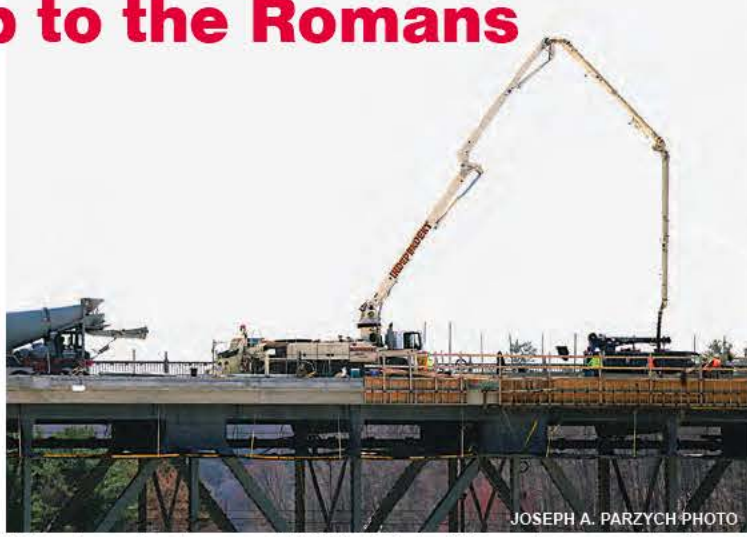
I've never been there, but I have been to Dragon Products Company, the only Portland cement factory in New England. The company has offices in Portland, ME.

But that's not how Portland cement got its name. Portland is not a brand name but rather a type of hydraulic cement invented by Joseph Aspdin, a British mason who heated a mixture of pulverized chalk (limestone) and clay on the kitchen stove in 1824. His wife must have loved that.

Aspdin ground the cooked mixture into powder. The cement he invented - hydraulic cement - hardens under water.

He named the product Portland because it resembled stone quarried on the Isle of Portland off the British Coast.

There are various recipes for



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Now that spring has come, SPS New England is pouring concrete for the new bridge deck and curbing on the Gill-Montague Bridge, using a pump that can send the lightweight concrete mix a hundred feet ahead. The light weight bridge mix contains NorLite, a ceramic aggregate made from shale in New York state. Concrete poured over the deck grid and shear pins, welded to bridge I-beam stringers, binds everything together in a composite that is much stronger than the original deck. When construction is complete - three years from now - the bridge should have a sturdier feel.

Portland cement. But they all contain limestone as the primary ingredient, adding calcium oxide with silica, iron, alumina or other additives. The mixture is heated in a long kiln, a horizontal rotating tube, taking in ingredients on

one end and discharging clinkers on the other in a continuous process. The clinkers are mixed with gypsum and ground to powder.

Gypsum slows setting, giving workers time to work the con-

crete. Gypsum was first used by Romans for gypsum mortars. Modern mortar cement for building with bricks, or blocks, has lime added to make it sticky.

Thomas Edison got interested in concrete when he built snug, low-cost houses in Union, NJ, homes that exist to this day. The U.S. Patent Office granted Edison a patent on improving rotary kilns in 1909.

Egyptians used gypsum mortars and lime mortars back in 3,000 BC when building the pyramids. The Greeks developed a lime mortar in 800 BC that was harder than the mortar used later by the Romans.

The Romans made pozzolana cement by combining lime with Mount Vesuvius volcanic ash obtained near Pozzuoli in Italy. In 1985, silica fume was introduced as a pozzolanic additive for cement manufacture in the U.S.

Most of today's concrete is air entraining for a more durable concrete, better able to withstand freezing and thawing cycles. The Romans first discovered air entraining when adding blood to

the mix, thought to have begun during a sacrifice to the gods. Since the concrete turned out well, the gods apparently were pleased, and the practice continued. Manufacturers later used dried animal blood.

Bellefontaine, OH built the first concrete street in the U.S. in 1891. It is still in use 110 years later.

Since asphalt is made from petroleum, which has gone up in price, concrete overlays of asphalt highways have gained popularity. But the Romans have us beat. Roman structures like the Apian Way, Roman baths, the Coliseum and the Pantheon in Rome and the Pont du Gard aqueduct in France, built with pozzolana cement in 300 BC to 476 AD, still stand to this day. The Romans built 5,300 miles of concrete roads, compared to only 4,200 miles of concrete interstate highways in the United States.

Perhaps the new concrete deck on the Gill-Montague Bridge will last a bit longer with the latest cement formulas, and catch up to the ancient Romans.

PLAYGROUND from pg 5
basketball court. It will have two roofed platforms four feet off the ground on opposite sides of the tree, with planks connecting them and supports far enough from the tree to avoid the roots. If it can fit, another connecting ramp will pass between the trunks of the tree. The roof will be thick hand-split cedar shakes, and Bado sug-

gested a synthetic decking as most cost effective, user friendly, and least visible. If the material can be found, supports and framing will be made from black locust, New England's most rot resistant wood, or pressure treated posts and framing if black locust is too hard to find.

Kathy Swaim suggested mounting a binocular, like a 25 cent scenic viewer, and Rosie Heidkamp suggested a periscope. Bado suggested a periscope work-

shop.

The tree fort will have multiple up and down pathways, including at least a cargo net, a ladder, and a ramp. Railings and stiles will be made of laurel.

Amelia Sawyer described the playhouse, free standing with a cedar shake roof, and open walls on three sides. The fourth side will have a half wall, with a live edge shelf and doors above that can be closed so the structure can serve as a puppet theater, or a store.

The library already has puppets. In fact, the quantity of puppets in the library was the inspiration for a puppet theater.

Someone suggested a special return slot at the library entry for puppets.

Behind the basketball court will be a maze through a non-invasive hardy bamboo forest.

The committee met again April 12th and will go to the finance committee and the April



From the poster for the playground committee meeting - illustration by Jenny Coy

27th selectboard meeting to ask for an annual town meeting warrant article requesting \$15,000 for playground construction, with a matching contribution from the Friends of the Library, and possibly a Full Moon Coffeehouse fundraiser. The committee hopes to use volunteer labor, if feasible.

Bob Marinelli, whose inspection for the town's insurance company first prompted the playground revitalization effort, said \$30,000 could have this design built and "tied with a bow." Marinelli has offered to work

with volunteers to keep the installation compliant with insurance requirements.

On May 6th at 7:00 p.m. a benefit concert will be held at the library to help raise funds for the playground construction with Laura Botkin on flute, Stephen Broll on clarinet, and Anna Wetherby on viola, with a guest appearance by the Wendell Community Chorus. Patty Scutari offered a bingo night at the pub, with the committee seeking out and supplying prizes.

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