



# STARFISH!

Recent Work from  
Jack Coughlin  
Page 20



# GREENING GREENFIELD

Comes to  
Turners Falls  
Page 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

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YEAR 9 - NO. 30

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

ARRIL 28, 2011

## GCC Ribbon Cutting Revelations



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Two of the movers and shakers at the ribbon cutting for G.C.C.'s \$31 million renovation on April 21st: Sheriff Chris Donelan and Senator Stan Rosenberg

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GREENFIELD** - The shakers and movers who made the \$31 million renovation of Greenfield Community College's main building a reality gathered in front of the newly renovated, spacious, glass windowed 'core' section of the college for a ribbon cutting on Thursday, to expound on their views.

Three of the most salient features:

1. The renovation converts a building designed for the California desert to one more suitable for the New England climate, and the handicapped.
2. Prisoners will soon be taking coursework through GCC.
3. The path to success may be

An elevator in the entry now goes to all four floors, rather than ascending one or two floors in elevators often tucked away in secluded areas some distance from each other, amid a maze of staircases, hallways and courtyards. Access from one section of the building to the other is now possible without going through outside courtyards, making for ease of access as well as energy conservation.

Thursday's ribbon cutting saw no shortage of speakers. State senator Stanley Rosenberg, senator Stephen Brewer, representative Stephen Kulik and sheriff Christopher Donelan, as well as a plethora of state officials from Boston each told of their part in bringing this project to fruition, beginning in 2009.

GCC president Robert Pura enthusiastically introduced speakers and applauded the completion of improvements, such as the level walkway to the entry, the Green heat source from geothermal wells replacing expensive inefficient electric heating, and the energy conserving construction.

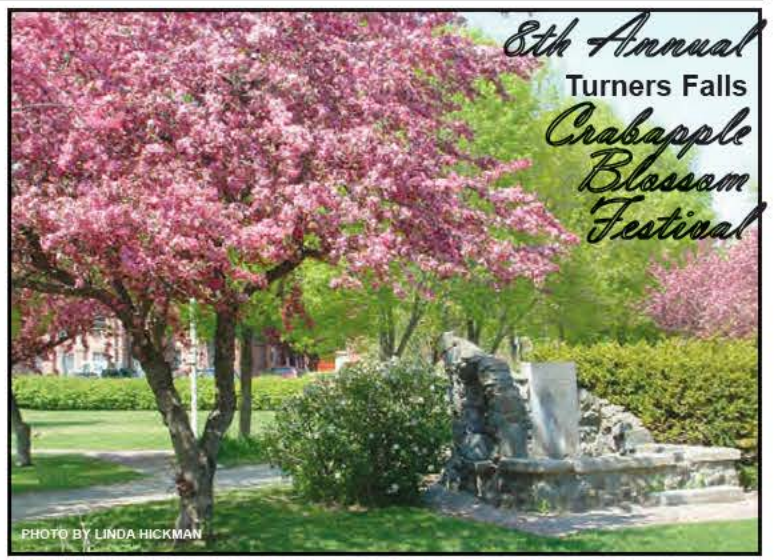
Pura welcomed state officials who journeyed out from Beantown for the ribbon cutting. They included education secretary Paul Reville, and newly appointed commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management, Carole Cornelison, marched to the tune of a tuba. Classrooms with small windows equipped with 'horse blinders' to keep out the sun are history. So are cave-like windowless classrooms, with only one door, in the renovated GCC core. Efforts to keep the sun from warming classrooms make sense in GCC's virtually identical sister building in the desert of sunny California, but did not work quite so well in New England. The light and airy 89,000-square-foot renovation, glistening with glass, is a beauty to behold. The entrance is now at ground level, doing away with the 44-step Aztec temple stairs that formerly intimidated as well as blocked the handicapped.

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see GCC pg 14



## 8th Annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival

PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

BY LISA DAVOL

**TURNERS FALLS** - The eighth annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival runs from May 1st - May 15th. Many of the downtown streets and parks in Turners Falls are lined with flowering crabapple, cherry and apple trees, and they are in full glory in early May. A wide variety of events are in store to encourage people to enjoy the beauty of the historic downtown streetscape, set off to its best effect by the flowering trees. Celebrate spring, get outside, and enjoy the nature, culture, art, history, and architecture of Turners Falls.

### Schedule of Events

- Sunday, May 1st:** 10 a.m. - Downtown Spring Cleanup - Great Falls Discovery Center
- Tuesday, May 3rd:** 10 a.m. - Feathered Friends with Dawn

Ward (for young children) - Carnegie Library

**May 3rd:** 6:00 p.m. - Do you have crabby ancestors? Genealogy meeting - Carnegie Library

**Wednesday, May 4th:** 1:15 p.m. - Spring Lambs with Linda Hickman (for homeschoolers) - Carnegie Library

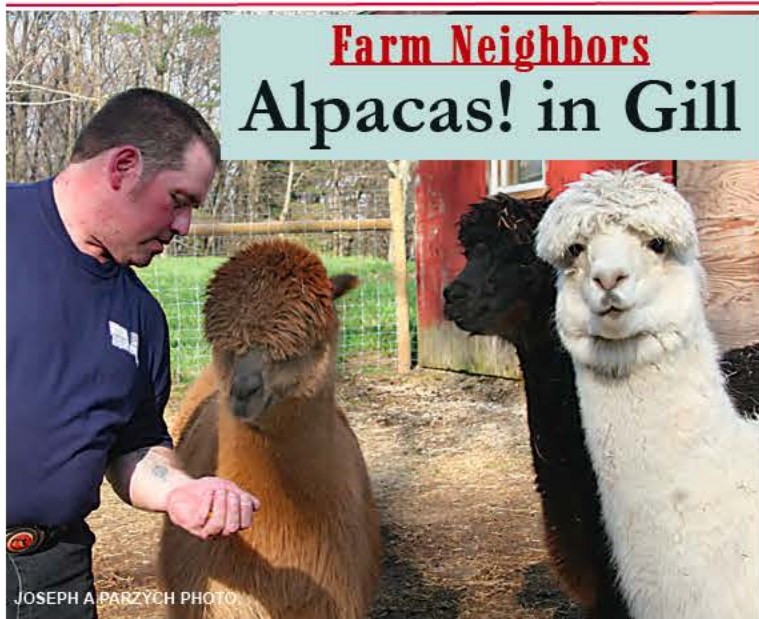
**May 4th:** 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Great Falls Farmers Market opens for the season!

**May 4th:** 4 p.m. - Rocky Ridge Hike - The Body Shoppe

**Thursday, May 5th:** 10:00 a.m. - Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival - Peskeompskut Park

**Friday, May 6th - 21st** - Shea Theater's Valley Idol karaoke contest!

**Saturday, May 7th** - Repainting of Woven River public art pathway sidewalk poem see **FESTIVAL** pg 14



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

## Farm Neighbors Alpacas! in Gill

Dave Balise has his alpacas eating out of his hand.

Alpacas are more docile than llamas, and like to be petted or hugged. (Llamas are more apt to spit in your face.)

**BY STEVE DAMON** - Dave Balise, one of Gill's newest residents, used to enjoy watching late-night television. He saw infomercials for juice machines. He saw infomercials for real estate ventures. He saw infomercials for exercise machines, vacuum-cleaner-hair-cutting kits, and 1950s rock albums. He saw an infomercial for alpaca farming, too, and found it to be an intriguing, yet odd, topic. When he saw the same infomercial the following night, Balise turned off the TV and started researching alpacas.

Soon, he began helping out at area alpaca farms. He turned to Tall Grass Farm in Whately and Maple Brook Farm in Westfield, both of which gave him lots of practical knowledge about

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see GILL pg 14

## 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Parade for Newt Guilbault League



Umpire Keith Rose makes the call as Jon LaClaire of the Montague Elks scored the winning run in a playoff game vs. Pipione's Sport Shop last June.

BY MICK LACLAIRE

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Newt Guilbault Little League is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season, 50 years of community baseball at its finest. Newt Guilbault baseball is affiliated with the Cal-Ripkin youth development, a nationally known sports program. The Newt Guilbault League serves ages 7 through 12, and this year has enrolled 108 youth on nine teams.

At Newt Guilbault, we take baseball very seriously, teaching youth fundamentals and sportsmanship. The coaches in this league are nationally certified to

coach and teach youth the way to play the game, but most importantly to have fun while playing.

Newt Guilbault baseball is well known around the Commonwealth as well, competing in several state tournaments and placing first in the state championship. Newt Guilbault baseball has seen several players move on to become successful in baseball, not to mention all the former players who now have children in the league that can now give back what was taught to them.

Locally, the Newt Guilbault League is made up of nine teams

sponsored by: Montague Elks Lodge, Saint Stanislaus, Saint Kazmierz, Pipiones Sport Shop, Greenfield Savings Bank, Tognarelli Heating, Turners Falls Athletic Club, Watroba Construction, and defending champions Booska's Flooring.

The 50th anniversary season will kick off this Sunday with a parade starting at 10:30 a.m., traveling from Unity Park up 2nd Street, down Avenue A, up 7th Street, to the playing fields on Montague Street. Opening ceremonies will commence at the fields following the parade, with skydivers from JumpTown in Orange landing on the ball fields. Let the games begin!

Following the ceremonies the games scheduled will be played are Montague Elks vs. St. Stans and Greenfield Savings Bank vs. St. Kaz. Then defending champs Booska's Flooring vs. Pipiones Sport Shop.

Newt Guilbault baseball would like to thank everyone for the 50 years of serving you: past, present and future players, coaches and parents. Come and enjoy the parade and fun at the fields on Montague Street, Sunday, May 1st.

See ya' there!



## PET OF THE WEEK Beauty Queen



**Bella**

My name is Bella and I'm a six-year-old long hair female cat in need of a good home. I know I look ridiculous with this cone on my head. But it should be gone soon enough. I just need to settle into my new home where I can relax and heal. I've had a rough go of things lately, but it's nothing that the special love of a new family won't get me through. I get along with all people, and have lived well with other cats. If you look past this silly cone, you will see a sweet, beautiful girl with love, entertainment, and companionship to give. Are you the special someone for me? I'm in foster care because I was not happy in a cage.

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](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

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\$20 for 1/2 Year

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Busy Week at the Library

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Spring is a very busy season at the Montague Public Libraries. The Crabapple Blossom Festival runs from May 1st - May 15th. On Tuesday, May 3rd, at 10:00 a.m., Dawn Marvin Ward is presenting Feathered Friends, a fun hands-on science program for very young children. Participants will explore the world of birds, especially ducks and geese. There will be a program for home-schoolers on Outrageous Owls with Rachel Roberts at 1:15 p.m. at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, May 4th. Thursday, May 5th, a Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival will be held in Peskeompskut Park or the Carnegie Library, depending

upon the weather. This event includes a bilingual concert with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson at 10:00 a.m. and takes the place of the weekly Music and Movement program. On Saturday, May 7th, there are two events scheduled. At 10:30 a.m., Dawn Marvin Ward will offer a program on Flower Fairies and Root Children at the Carnegie Library. At 1:00 p.m. there will be the Crabapple Blossom Fest Concert in Peskeompskut Park with the Greassy Cuffs Song Tour, an acoustic folk band. Saturday, May 14th, is the Spring Used Book Sale at the Carnegie Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, call the Library at (413) 863-3214.



Orange Mealer Wheelers Walk Team 2010  
Invites Walkers for Meal on Wheels 2011

**TURNERS FALLS** - Walk for Meals on Wheels May 7th from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Franklin County Tech School in Turners Falls. Funds raised by new walkers & new teams are doubled. Free FRTA bus service from

Athol, Orange, Deerfield, Greenfield and Shelburne Falls. Fun, Prizes and Refreshments. Get walk packets or reserve bus space by calling 773-5555 ext 2226 or (978) 544-2259 ext 2226 or email [pkelly@fchcc.org](mailto:pkelly@fchcc.org).

### Spring Clean Up

**TURNERS FALLS**- There will be a Downtown Spring Cleanup on Sunday, May 1st from 10 a.m. - noon. Participants will meet in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center at 10 a.m. This is a kick-off for the annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival, which runs from May 1st - May 15th. For more information, call Linda at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

### Chair Yoga

Classes with Jean Erlbaum at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. through May 24th and then resume in the Fall. People from all towns and of all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs are invited. There is a suggested donation of \$1.00 per class. For more information, please contact Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - May 2nd - 6th

**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 3rd..

**Monday, May 2nd**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, May 3rd**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Yoga  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Canasta Lessons  
**Wednesday, May 4th**

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 Bingo  
**Thursday, May 5th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:30 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, May 6th**  
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, May 2nd**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, May 3rd**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics



Chad Champoux, of Champoux Photography, snapped photos of children with the Easter Bunny at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners for hours on Friday. Here, Olivia Vassar (left) of Gill, with her sister Ella, pose for the camera. After all the children's photos were finished, bank employees crowded around for their own group portrait with the Easter Bunny. That photo is now proudly on display on a counter behind the tellers' windows. The flowering trees and shrubs were provided for the occasion by Stewart's Nursery.

### Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Suspension Bridge between Turners and Greenfield in 1871.

April 29th, 1872. This article regarding the construction of the suspension bridge appeared in the Gazette and Courier:

"The suspension bridge is being rapidly finished. Mr. Henry Wakanan has pushed the work of construction rapidly. It was commenced November 16th, 1871, but the extremely cold weather of the past season caused considerable delay.

Its dimensions are: Span from tower-to-tower, 460 feet; the cables, however are 615 feet, including the portion imbedded in the abutments; its width, clear for travel, 20 feet; suspenders, 89 feet; longest of which is 87 feet, three inches, shortest, one foot, six inches; the towers are 39 feet high."

"There are seven strands to the wire, seven wires to the rope, seven ropes to the main cable. John A. Roebling, whose death by lock-jaw occurred in New York only a few years ago, was the inventor. Charles MacDonald contractor. (He previously had built the suspension bridge at Stillwater, which still stands.) Probably cost \$ 32,000."

More bridge facts next week!

## TOWN OF MONTAGUE TAX BILLS DUE

A reminder to all Town of Montague taxpayers that the second half of the Fiscal 2011 Real Estate and Fire District taxes are due by Monday, May 2nd, 2011. Payments received after that date are subject to 14 percent interest. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-

addressed stamped envelope and both copies of your bill with your payment. The Tax office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday until 6:30 p.m.. The Town Hall is closed on Friday.

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**LEVERETT Senior Activities**

- Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga - Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
- Senior Lunch - Fridays, 12:00. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
- Contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, extension 5 or [coa@leverettma.us](mailto:coa@leverettma.us) if there is anything we can do to help you or for more information.

**WENDELL Senior Center** is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.





JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - A quilt raffle to benefit NELCWIT is now underway. A colorful lap quilt, made by Ellen DeGrave and the Cummington Quilters Quorum, is on display at the Textile Company in Greenfield. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each, and all proceeds benefit NELCWIT's services for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Tickets are available at NELCWIT, 479 Main Street or the Textile Company, 21 Power Square, in Greenfield.

Barbara Drew-Rivera, NELCWIT's community programs director, said, "Thank you to Sara Cohen of Shelburne for organizing this raffle, and to the Cummington Quilters Quorum for donating the quilt. A quilt represents how a community should be - pieced together to stand the test of time."

On Saturday, May 14th, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America will deliver much more than mail when they walk and drive along their postal routes. They also collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers who participate in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive, the largest one-day food drive in the nation, and probably the world.

Carriers collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices, then deliver the donations to local community food banks, pantries and shelters.

Led by letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), with the help of rural letter carriers, postal employees plus numerous volunteers, the drive has resulted in delivery of more than one billion pounds of donations to community food banks and pantries over the past 18 years. Locally, the post offices of Greenfield and Turners Falls have helped replenish the shelves of the Franklin Area Survival Center in Turners Falls, and the Center for Self Reliance, in Greenfield.

Create a beautiful planter of herbs, flowers, or vegetables to enjoy all season long at the Spring Planting Fling hosted by Red Fire Farm, 184 Meadow Road, in Montague Center on Mothers Day Sunday, May 8th, at 1:00 p.m. This should be great fun, with a bit of afternoon tea to enjoy alongside. The workshop is open to everybody. For more info, please visit [www.redfirefarm.com](http://www.redfirefarm.com)

Reservations are being taken for Live Owl Presentations at the Great Falls Discovery

Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. The programs will be held on Saturday, May 14th, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The program is free, but space is limited - please call 413-863-3221 to reserve a spot.

The Hampshire/Franklin TRIAD program, Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Department, local police departments and a broad range of community partners are working with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to mount a massive Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, April 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to a national survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Every day, some 2,500 teenagers use prescription drugs to get high for the first time. Locally, prescription and non-prescription medications can be dropped off at the Deerfield Senior Center, Franklin County Jail, Orange Police Department or the Montague Safety Complex. The drop off is anonymous and the pills can be in their original containers.

The Erving town wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, April 30th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are over 25 participants with maps available at Erving businesses, town hall, library and various tag sale locations

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montague-ma.net](mailto:reporter-local@montague-ma.net).

## Women's Health Week

**May 8th -14th is the 12th Annual Women's Health Week.**

**Make your health a top priority!**

**The Women's Health Network at Franklin County Home Care Corporation can help.**

**Please call: 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259**

**or contact: [info@fchcc.org](mailto:info@fchcc.org) for more info.**

## Antique Truck Show

The seventh annual show of the Western Massachusetts Chapter A.T.C.A. takes place on Sunday, May 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., rain or shine, at Pelican Products, 147 North Main Street in South Deerfield. All trucks welcome, big or small - bring them all. Free admission. For info call Fred Chase at (413) 863-8634 or Craig Gaudry at (413) 834-1677.

## ERVING TOWN WIDE TAG SALE

**Saturday, April 30th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Rain or Shine**

**Over 25 Participants**

Maps available at Erving businesses, town hall, library and various tag sale participants

## Correction

**Erving Annual Town Meeting - May 4th!**

Oops! Due to a reporting error, the date of annual town meeting in Erving was printed incorrectly in the last issue. The correct date is Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Erving Elementary School.

*Red Fire Farm*  
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[www.redfirefarm.com](http://www.redfirefarm.com)

## Feast for the Arts!

**BY LISA DAVOL TURNERS FALLS** - RiverCulture invites the community to choose and fund Turners Falls' next public art project at the Feast for the Arts on May 7th at 6 p.m. at the Montague Elks Lodge. For a minimum donation of \$10, the public will have the opportunity to vote on submitted proposals to the Turners Falls

Producers Series, while enjoying a fabulous meal provided by local venues and enjoying music from local musicians!

The evening will consist of a cocktail hour with live music by Caleb Wetherbee and Shag the Band, followed by dinner and a short presentation of proposals, after which diners will be able to informally discuss the ideas and vote on their favorite public art proposals. Votes will be tallied by the end of the evening and a winner announced. Dinner fees will go directly to funding the winning proposal.

One week before the dinner, summaries of submitted propos-

als will be up on the RiverCulture website. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org). Summaries of the proposals will also be available at the dinner on the voting ballot. The Montague Elks Lodge is located at 1 Elks Ave, near the corner of 7th and L Streets, in Turners Falls.

Many thanks to Marge Levenson, Nina Rossi, Jeff Singleton, Amy Podlenski, Montague Elks and the many volunteers and contributors who are working to make this event happen! More info at: 413-230-9910.

## Opening Day Great Falls Farmers Market

**Wednesday May 4th 2:00 - 6:00 pm**

Fresh in season local produce, perennials, annuals, vegetable plants, crafts and baked goods. The market is held every Wednesday through October 26th.



The market is located at the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street in Turners Falls, next to the Great Falls Discovery Center

For more information check out the Farmers' Market selection on [Montaguema.net](http://Montaguema.net).

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## America Needs Single Payer

BY KAY TILLOW

**LOUISVILLE, KY** - More than a year after President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law, our nation's health care delivery and coverage remain the disgrace of the industrialized world. There are more than 50 million uninsured Americans. Even if the health care overhaul works as planned, 23 million Americans will still lack health insurance in 2019.

The new norm is underinsurance. About 40 percent of us go without needed care because we can't afford it. The health care law won't change that, even once it's completely phased in. Our plague of medical bankruptcies will continue too.

For unions, bargaining for health care is getting tougher as employers demand cuts and shift more costs to workers. Negotiations over better health coverage will become almost impossible when the excise tax on health benefits begins in 2018.

Many who saw the reform bill as "the best we could get" are disappointed that support for it hasn't grown. The truth is that most people agree on the reform law. They love the parts that block insurance companies from denying coverage and care. They hate the parts that give away our tax dollars to insurance companies. They hate the mandate that will force everyone to buy insurance from the very companies whose profit motive is the source of most of our health care system's problems. They hate the escalating costs of insurance and care.

Only a single payer system can bring us the parts we love and do away with the parts we hate. It would essentially expand Medicare coverage to all Americans, providing 100 percent guaranteed coverage regardless of employment status or pre-existing conditions. That may sound expensive, but it's not. The "potential savings on paperwork, more than \$400 billion per year, are enough to provide comprehensive coverage to everyone without paying any more than we already do," according to Physicians for a National Health Program.

Every pro-patient measure in the law brings an ugly backlash from insurance companies, because they want to remain in the driver's seat. For example, the act says children who have been sick can't be denied coverage. Insurers have responded by refusing to sell child-only policies. The act says there must be minimal standards of coverage. Yet hundreds of companies have obtained waivers after threatening to drop coverage altogether.

The legislation is designed to expand Medicaid as the main way for states to cover more people. It prohibits states from dumping people currently covered. Yet with state budgets in crisis, Medicaid is under the knife. Arizona plans on dumping 250,000. Many states propose increasing patient co-pays, thus damaging the ability of patients to find doctors and fatally undermining rural hospitals.

Some assert that healthcare reform just isn't working. Yet. Give it 10 years, and all will be fixed.

But our new health law is anchored on the private insurance industry—and that's its fatal flaw. The insurers inflict enormous and unnecessary administrative costs on our system. This amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars every year and condemns us to spend about double, per capita, what other nations spend on health care.

Health care advocates must move beyond the health care reform law. Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) has reintroduced H.R. 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, which would bring all medically necessary care to everyone while assuring choice of physician. The bill is based on sound single-payer policy and progressive public funding.

If every other industrialized nation can make health care a human right, we can do it too. Our challenge is to pass effective legislation despite the powerful private health insurance companies and other corporations whose influence often trumps democracy.

First, we must have a powerful movement. We can't build it around a shriveled dream. Only single payer, with its bolder



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Crops Aire Abrere

Here in Orkney, we are three quarters of the way through with lambing, almost finished with calving, and the crops are just beginning to appear in the fields. It's still cold here, but the days are growing long.

They say here, "The crops aire abrer!" which translates to, "The

wee plants are starting to poke above the dirt!" Or something like that.

My aunt from Montague sent me a whole stack of *Montague Reporters* she had saved for me. I'm somewhat cured of my homesickness. It's amazing to me how much my Scottish commu-

nity here has in common with my much-missed community back home! Indeed, it is a small and beautiful world.

- Michelle Spence  
Beaquoy Farm  
Dounby, Orkney  
Scotland

## Redistricting Works Best if the Public Stays Involved

BY STAN ROSENBERG

**(D) AMHERST** - The state's redistricting process is now fully underway and, as senate chair of the special joint committee on redistricting, I want to remind everyone that public participation in this effort is encouraged and greatly desired by me and my committee colleagues.

Toward that end, the committee has established an interactive website - [www.malegislature.gov/redistricting](http://www.malegislature.gov/redistricting) - that we believe will give the citizens of the Commonwealth access to the kind of information they will need to be full participants in the redrawing of our Congressional districts and the districts for seats

promise of social justice, can inspire that movement.

*Kay Tillow is the coordinator of the All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care, which builds union support for H.R. 676. She lives in Louisville, KY. This article first appeared in Other Words.*

in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Massachusetts Senate. Historical documents, maps, a search engine that enables the public to find their current districts, links to U.S. Census data, and information on the laws governing the redistricting process are just a few of the items that can be found on this website.

In addition, the website's "Contact the Committee" feature allows the public to submit questions, comments and documents to committee members, thereby ensuring that the public's voice will be heard throughout the entire process. A calendar of all upcoming public hearings - an unprecedented 13 have been scheduled thus far - and meetings scheduled throughout the spring and into the summer is also available on the website. Two more public hearings will be held in western Massachusetts: one at Greenfield Community College on Tuesday, May 31st, beginning at 6 p.m. and the second on Saturday, June 11th at Pittsfield town hall beginning at 10 a.m.

On paper, the redistricting committee's task looks relatively simple: We must draw a map that leaves each of the state's 40 senators with a district of about 164,000 people; each of the

state's 160 representatives with a district of about 41,000 people; and nine Congressional districts each with as close to 727,514 people as reasonably possible. All this must be done in time for the 2012 elections.

It may sound simple, but this time the process is complicated by the fact that Massachusetts is not growing as quickly as other parts of the nation and therefore must lose one of its 10 Congressional seats. The committee will work hard to configure districts in such a way so that voters will have a fair opportunity to elect Congressional and state representatives and state senators of their choice. There are also constitutional requirements, federal and state court rulings, and the Voting Rights Act that dictate how districts can be created. The process must also address local and regional interests, information that committee members might not have unless the citizens of the Commonwealth join us in a spirit of partnership. No one, not even those of us on the committee, can say at this early stage how the nine new Congressional districts will be redrawn.

When the members of the legislature chose to have redistricting performed by a legislative committee, instead of a so-called independent commission, we opted to keep it in the hands of people who are held accountable by the political process every two years. If voters are dissatisfied with our results, it will show at the polls, a powerful incentive to see REDISTRICTING pg 5

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<b>US FORCES</b>	
Casualties in Iraq as of this date	
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Alghanistan	1562
Wounded in Iraq	32,049
Wounded in Afghanistan	10,468

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# GUEST EDITORIALS

## Support Sensible Reform on Public Employee Health Care

BY JEFF SINGLETON

**BOSTON** - The Massachusetts House of Representatives voted 111-42 on Tuesday, April 27th, to take major decisions about public employee health care out of the collective bargaining process. The vote came after House leaders agreed to add a 30-day negotiating window for local governments to try to reach agreement on changes to employee health plans with unions, and to give back 20% of savings resulting from any changes in health plans to employees. Although I disagree with the last provision, this vote is a tremendous breakthrough in the direction of common sense, fairness and fiscal sanity.

Health care is the biggest budget buster for local governments. Spiraling health care costs are certainly not caused by public employees or their unions. But dealing with the problem at the bargaining table is unworkable.

Local officials spend endless hours bickering over health care plan design (co-payments and deductibles) as well as what health care group should be chosen. Viable organizations in the public and private sector simply do not give employees veto power over these decisions. The vast majority of taxpayers who fund local government do not have this so-called right. Neither do state employees.

It also needs to be stressed that bargaining health care inevitably leads too unaffordable wage and benefit increases. This means that employees - generally at the lower end of the wage and seniority scale - are laid off. So in effect, bargaining health care costs employee jobs. Despite this fact, union leadership has attacked all efforts to bring some sanity to the process as anti-labor.

The rhetoric is, predictably, over the top: "It's clearly union busting. It looks just like Wisconsin to me. It looks just like Ohio to me. It looks just like Indiana to me. I am profoundly disappointed in every Democrat who voted to do away with collective bargaining here in Massachusetts," said Robert Haynes, president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Such comments reflect the extremism of the state union leadership, whose behavior borders on bullying. The proposed reforms are not an attempt to eliminate unions, as the Republican Party's proposal in Wisconsin clearly intends to do. The Massachusetts reforms do not "do away with collective bargaining." No one would have proposed these measures if the current system of collective bargaining was working.

This legislation is not coming from Wisconsin or Indiana but from the direct experience of

local officials trying to control health care costs here in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association has advocated such reforms for a number of years, well before the Wisconsin controversy erupted. Most municipal organizations and the governor himself have supported limits on health care bargaining, as exist at the state level.

Even the Gill-Montague school committee voted to support legislative changes in this area. This is partly the result of our recent experience trying to negotiate a small, phased increase of the employee share of health benefits from 10% to 20%. School committee members proposing the shift were treated as if we were health insurance company CEOs raking in the profits.

If the union leadership wants Wisconsin to come to Massachusetts I would suggest that they continue to work as hard as they can to block common sense reform. The rest of us should contact our state senators to support this legislation, which is long overdue.

*Jeff Singleton is a member of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the school committee*

## Dealing with Apostles and Irrevocable Policies

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - A few years ago, I began refusing to take "No" for an answer when a company would not honor a claim after the guarantee period was over, or when a check would not be replaced after the expiration date.

For a time, whenever I bought a Hood's Cottage Cheese with Pineapple, it had bits of woody core masquerading as pineapple. I called Hood. They sent me several coupons for free cottage cheese. A couple of weeks later, I picked up a tub of Hood's Cottage Cheese. Surprise, surprise. It had chunks of real pineapple in it.

I once wrote a letter for my brother. His kitchen stove's burners and oven would come on all by themselves, sometimes during the night. He'd received the same, "Sorry, it's out of warrantee," response. After I wrote the letter, a repairman came to replace everything but the shell of the stove. I wrote another letter about my brother's malfunctioning washer with similar results. There isn't space to recount all of the other encounters I have had with company 'policy.'

Not long ago, I ran across a \$50 credit card rewards check I hadn't cashed. At the bank, the teller said the check had expired. He called credit card services asking for a replacement, to no avail, even after speaking with a supervisor.

"They said they were sorry," the teller told me. "Because the expiration date had gone by, there's nothing that can be done. I tried to get them to credit the points to your account, but their policy wouldn't let them do that either. Here's the phone number; you're welcome to try it yourself, but I doubt it will do any good."

He was right. The person answering the phone gave me the same 'policy' pap. So did the supervisor. "Goodbye," she said at the end, sounding a bit smug. "Have a wonderful day."

Next morning, I had a brainstorm, and I called again. This time Ezekiel answered. I asked him to spell his name. He did, informing me that Ezekiel is a Biblical name, in a reverent tone, perhaps to impress me that he perhaps was on a first name basis with the Lord. But he wouldn't give his last name.

Ezekiel, alas, was also sorry - policy and all that.

"No, no, don't be sorry," I said. "That's perfect. I'm a journalist and this is worth a whole lot more as a story. I'm going to the courthouse with a photographer and file against your company in small claims court. We'll document the whole thing, photos and all. But I need more info. How many of these expired checks do you deny each month?"

There was long silence, except for the sound of wheels turning in Ezekiel's head. Soon, Ezekiel said in a barely audible voice, "Can you hold a minute?"

Soothing music played for a few minutes. Ezekiel came back on. "What is the check number?" he meekly asked. I read it off.

"Your points have been credited back to your account and you'll be getting a replacement check within a week. Is there anything else I can help you with?"

"No, but I must admit I'm disappointed. I was looking forward to going to small claims court, documenting the whole thing, and selling the article."

"Well, have a nice day," the prophet Ezekiel said, without mentioning 'policy' again.

### REDISTRICT from 4

do our job well. An independent commission, with members appointed by elected officials, would not have negated the political nature of redistricting, but merely removed from voters the power to express directly any displeasure with an unsatisfactory result.

Independent does not necessarily mean freedom from partiality, or freedom from political influence. Nor does an independent commission necessarily mean a better map.

According to information provided by the National Conference

of State Legislatures, of the 13 independent commissions in 2000 responsible for drawing the initial map for their states, nine, or 69 percent, were challenged in court.

Legislative committees, on the other hand, fared better. Of the 37 state legislative committees, 19, or 51 percent, were challenged in court.

It's important to note that the plan crafted by the Massachusetts Senate in 2000, when I also served as committee chairman, was not challenged in court. In fact, documents submitted to the Massachusetts Federal District

Court held up the Senate's process as an example of how to reach out effectively to the public and incorporate disparate voices.

Redistricting is a complicated process, and as long as human beings are in charge, whether as members of a legislative committee or an outside commission, it will be an imperfect process. A flawless result cannot be guaranteed by anyone. But what is guaranteed is that an outside commission would remove from the process the countervailing force of direct voter scrutiny, something my colleagues and I, as elected public servants, under-

stand very well and feel every day.

Direct accountability and direct access: this is what the legislature's special joint committee on redistricting is working hard to achieve. My colleagues and I encourage everyone to learn about the process and share their thoughts with us.

*State senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) is President Pro Tem of the Massachusetts Senate and Senate chairman of the special joint committee on redistricting.*



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**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

## Great Falls Farmers Market Granted Permit – Opening May 4th



Edie Bourbeau and Bob Johnson help a customer at last year's Great Falls Farmers Market

**BY MATTHEW SMALL**  
What's better than the official start of spring? The start of the farmers market season!

The Montague selectboard voted on Monday to approve the opening of the Great Falls Farmers Market, on Wednesday, May 4th. The market will take place every Wednesday afternoon through October 26th, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., on the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street. Residents and visitors can look forward to local produce peddled by a variety of vendors. Market coordinator Don Clegg reported that although there had been some delay in obtaining the needed insurance this year, he had received a letter from the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (which owns the land in front of the former Cumberland Farms building where the market takes place) at the last minute confirming that coverage would be secured.

Clegg said the market has already confirmed ten vendors, and two community groups to kick off the season. New vendors are welcomed to call: 413-336-3648.

Have you wondered where the signs all over town offering statistics like "99% of us think it's

important to meet our teen's closest friends" come from? Those signs are the products of the social norm marketing campaigns launched by the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership (GMCSPP). Kara McLaughlin, who coordinates the teen health project for the GMCSPP, gave a presentation to the selectboard on the Partnership's work, in hopes of paving the way for future collaboration.

GMCSPP is a group of organizations including schools, agencies and businesses that formed several years ago in response to a perceived rise in youth violence and substance abuse. The coalition promotes positive social behavior by providing support for school-based programs like peer mediation at Great Falls Middle School and Montague Elementary School. The group's focus is not solely on what goes on inside the schools, McLaughlin explained.

The GMCSPP reaches out into the real lives of the region's youth by focusing on bridging the gap between in-school and out-of-school activities, she said.

GMCSPP is dedicated to nurturing the families of the Gill-Montague region by promoting healthy decision making, working to

fight substance abuse and youth violence, and they do it all while maintaining a focus on respect for and appreciation of diversity. Talk about your local heroes!

Chris Boutwell commented that any organization working to decrease substance abuse and violence among youth is to be commended. There seemed to be agreement from all board members that the town would be interested in exploring the possibilities of working together with the Partnership in the future, and the board suggested the GMCSPP look into the possible use of block grant funds.

The selectboard reviewed and approved a map showing an updated version of the proposed reduction of voting precincts in Montague from six to three. The map was edited to address concerns expressed by residents of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant that a previous version of the map would have divided those villages in two for voting and representation on town meeting. The new map, which reflects 2010 population changes, ensures that the entirety of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant will be included with Montague Center in the newly redrawn Precinct 1. Voters in that precinct will vote at the Montague Center fire station, while voters on the Hill and Montague City will vote at the Hillcrest School, and voters in downtown Turners and the Patch will vote at town hall.

Election day is fast approaching, and the town's election warrant was read and approved. On May 16th from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., polls will be open for the election of candidates

see **MONTAGUE** pg 15

**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

## Arbor Day Celebrated in Gill

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
Bring a pine cone, three different species of leaves, one stick (the size of your femur) some white birch bark (preferably found on the ground), and a branch in the shape of a 'Y' to the Gill town hall between 6 and 7 p.m. on April 29th, and you may win a prize.

No, the tax collector has not agreed to hold special hours and accept payment in kind. It's Arbor Day, and agricultural commission chair Steve Damon will celebrate with a scavenger hunt featuring these easy to find silvicultural materials.

The selectboard on Monday granted the irrepresible Damon permission to use town hall for the occasion. Scavenger hunt winners will be able to claim a prize at the Wagon Wheel restaurant, Damon said.

Anyone wishing to get in touch with Damon may now do so at a new email address: [agcom@gill-mass.org](mailto:agcom@gill-mass.org).

In other news, the selectboard will look into the problem of a sulphurous smell coming from the sink in the principal's office in the Gill Elementary School. The smell, which is also evident in a sink in the boy's room, arises from an unknown source when the cold water taps in either of those sinks is turned on. No reports of boys losing a frog or other small animal near any of the plumbing fixtures has reached the selectboard; the town is awaiting tests of the school's water system to determine next steps.

Once again, Munns Ferry Road resident Alex Urgiel has been awarded the bid to mow lawns at municipal buildings in

town. Urgiel will receive \$355 to mow the grass at the town garage, the sewer pump station in Riverside, the Riverside Municipal Building, the town hall and common, the library and the ball field in Riverside. Cemetery mowing is contracted separately; no word on whether Skeezy and Daniel Flagg are still allowing their Nubian goats to help mow the North Cemetery, which is on a wicked slope.

The selectboard acted on behalf of a request by the zoning board, and asked the planning board to hold a hearing on a proposal to allow signs in town to exceed the 10 foot maximum limit by special permit. The town's sign bylaw does not presently allow for signs higher than 10 feet without a variance, difficult to get. As it happens, Northfield see **GILL** pg 15

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

## Hearing Held on Drive-Through Business Bylaw

**BY KATIE NOLAN** -  
The annual town meeting will be held Wednesday, May 4th at 7 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School. The date was reported incorrectly in last week's Erving selectboard notes.

At the April 25th meeting, planning board chair William Morris reported to the selectboard about the public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaw change to allow drive-through businesses by special permit in town. That hearing was held April 12th. According to Morris, there was strong support at the hearing for the proposed zoning change, but also several dissenters. The proposed drive-through business bylaw will be considered

at the annual town meeting on May 4th.

Morris told the selectboard the planning board is also discussing zoning bylaws regarding adult entertainment businesses. Currently, Erving zoning bylaws do not mention adult entertainment. Morris said that the state attorney general has recommended regulating adult entertainment businesses either using an overlay district (a certain part of the commercial zone where adult entertainment businesses are allowed) or a non-overlay regulation (adult entertainment businesses would be required to be at least 500 feet from certain other uses, such as churches, schools, or rural residential properties).

Morris said the planning board was leaning toward creating an overlay district for the Route 2 corridor to deal with adult entertainment.

Laura Herbert of the conservation commission showed the selectboard a sign prepared by the commission for the Old State Road conservation area. The sign, designed by Harry Sharbaugh, gives simple rules for use of the area (stay on marked trails) and provides a trail map.

Herbert said the commission will mount a sign at each entrance to the conservation area. The signs will be temporary, because they show only one trail, and a second

see **ERVING** pg 15

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

## Budget Compact Already Showing Signs of Wear

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE** - A level funded operating budget of \$16,408,162 for the Gill-Montague district schools for FY'12 will be presented to Montague town meeting on May 7th.

The budget amount and the assessments to the towns were established in the so-called compact agreed to by the member towns, the school district and the state.

Superintendent Carl Ladd told the school committee at their meeting on Tuesday night that a reduction in the state's contribution to the district caused a shortfall in the budget of \$95,000. The Montague finance committee and selectboard are recommending that the town of Montague cover their share of the shortfall out of the town's stabilization fund.

The assessments of \$9,541,599 for Montague and \$1,748,999 for Gill detailed in the compact agreement were based on an assumption of the state increasing Chapter 70 state aid for FY'12 by 2%. But considering the state deficit, legislators have only been able to forecast a .5% increase in state aid to the district, causing the shortfall.

Montague finance chair John Hanold said, "We calculated what we thought an affordable assessment would be for Montague. The GMRSD is asking for about \$97,000 more than that."

Hanold said the finance committee and selectboard had recommended bridging that gap from stabilization, "with a certain amount of heartburn," in part due to a recognition that a period of adjustment would be needed to meet the compact's five year budget

goals.

"But the school district has definitely done what they said they were going to do. They brought in a level funded budget. We have a lot of respect for what Carl Ladd has done, and the school committee has backed him," on the budget. Hanold added, "We are certainly disappointed that the state has not," met their goal in the compact agreement.

Gill town administrator Ray Purington said Gill is looking at an \$18,238 increase from last year's assessment total, but some of that is due to an uptick in the percentage of Gill's share of student population in district schools, from 14.8% to 15% in FY'12. Gill fared well in the budget deal worked out last year between the towns and the district, and was able to squirrel away \$38,121 in funds approved at town meeting but not needed to meet the assessment in a special education stabilization fund. Purington said the selectboard and the finance committee would be examining how much to draw down that account to meet this year's assessment.

Ladd expressed his appreciation towards the town of Montague for being willing to step in and fill the \$95,000 budget gap in FY'12, and pointed to the positive change in the budget process since the compact had been agreed upon.

Turners Falls High School principal Donna Fitzpatrick introduced Dr. Darius Greenbacher, a sports medicine specialist in head injuries and concussion currently practicing at Franklin Medical Center. He spoke to the school committee about safeguards to protect stu-

dent athletes. He described symptoms of a concussion, and some of the new techniques being used to establish when it is safe for an injured athlete to return to normal activities, including when to go back to participating in sports.

Greenbacher said sport medicine has learned more about concussions as they have become a focus of attention. He described the most common symptoms - headaches, dizziness, nausea, plus problems with memory and balance. The treatment is rest, but not just physical rest. He explained that a concussion causes an imbalance in brain chemistry that can only be healed with total rest, including rest from academic activity.

Greenbacher said it is fairly easy to tell in the first few days after an injury if a person is suffering from a concussion, but since self-reporting is the basis of establishing whether the student is healthy enough to return to normal activities, accuracy in diagnosis has been a problem. A new computer program has been developed with a series of markers to determine whether a student is functioning normally prior to clearing them for return to academic and physical activities. Greenbacher has established a mini-sports clinic at Greenfield High School where he uses this computer program to aid in the evaluation of student athletes around head injuries and concussion.

In response to questions from the school committee members, Greenbacher said it is easier to get a concussion at a

see **SCHOOL** pg 16

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

## Elementary Regionalization under Renewed Consideration

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - The Leverett selectboard attended a meeting on April 21st in Shutesbury, called by the Shutesbury Education

Study Committee, which senator Stan Rosenberg and representative Steve Kulik attended. The meeting looked at options for regionalizing the Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham elementary schools.

According to Leverett School Committee chair Farhsid Hajir, who was briefed on the meeting but did not attend, the options under consideration

include organizing an elementary region with its own superintendent and central office separate from U-28, the elementary union Shutesbury and Leverett now share with Erving, Wendell and New Salem or perhaps organizing a region between the three towns and have the new region become a member of U-28. Alternatively, the new region could seek to become a member of the Amherst-Pelham regional school district. Yet another possibility would have the new region contract for services, including the

services of superintendent, from Amherst-Pelham. The latter option seemed to enjoy considerable support from those present in the room.

If the three towns and school committees agree to pursue a new elementary school region, it could only be done with the approval of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The problem of what would happen to the remaining towns in U-28 - Erving, New Salem and Wendell - would be presumably be a concern for see **LEVERETT** pg 16

## Annual Town Meeting to Consider 26 Warrent Articles

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** **LEVERETT** - A race between Oran Kaufman and Larry Farber may be shaping up at the last minute for town moderator in Leverett. Both have expressed interest in running for the position, which is being vacated by Gary Gruber, who will handle the proceedings one more time this Saturday, April 30th, when annual town meeting convenes at the elementary school at 9:00 a.m. to consider a 26 article warrant.

Leverett is the last town in the Commonwealth to handle annual town elections by nomination from town meeting floor. The post of moderator is, so far, the only one where more than one person has expressed an interest in running, and if both candidates do stand for nomination, the election will be handled by paper ballot during the first half of the meeting, with the ballots counted during the lunch break and the winner announced in the afternoon. Will the moderator's gavel then change hands

for the remainder of the day? We shall see.

Rich Brazeau is running for another three year term on the selectboard, but he declined to make any speeches at a sparsely attended candidates night at town hall on April 5th. No candidate has come forward as yet interested in taking the three year seat on the school committee being vacated by Aaron Samoza.

On the town meeting warrant are a \$5.1 million operating budget for the town and schools, a \$375,000 fire truck, a \$31,000 police cruiser, \$11,492 for a new kitchen hood for the elementary school, \$9,397 for a new server for the elementary school, and an article seeking to establish a Leverett Peace Committee.

Other articles will set aside \$89,000 from free cash to the town's stabilization fund, put \$30,000 from stabilization into a trust fund to begin to address the town's future retiree health benefits, and allocate \$150,000 from Community Preservation

Committee funds toward renovation of the town hall.

The town will be asked to authorize the aggregation of electricity supply to residents under the Hampshire Council of Governments, a possible cost savings for consumers, and also to vote for a second time to establish a municipal lighting plant, as a prefatory move to allow for the delivery of last mile internet connections to town residents, under the Wired West municipal coop, or some other model.

The operating budget is based on level funding for most departments, with a 1.5% cost of living adjustment for town employees and an unspecified marker for school employees whose contract is presently being negotiated. State aid to the town has dropped \$35,000 from last year. The FY'12 budget is approximately \$76,000 higher than last year's amount, a 1.5% increase. That amount is roughly equal to the town's anticipated new growth for FY'12 (\$75,000).

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## Races for Planning Board and Board of Health on 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, a race for a three year position on the highway commission, a write in candidate challenging the nominee for a one year term on the Wendell school committee, and a write-in candidate challenging the incumbent for a three year term on the board of health. **Marianne Sundell – Planning Board, 5 Years**

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

Sundell said, “I enjoyed being on the planning board before – in the late 90s.” She served as the rep to the regional planning board and stayed on in that role for nine years, then became chair of Wendell’s open space committee, a post she has filled for the last

four years.

Sundell has a degree in planning from University Without Walls, studied land use journalism, took para-legal courses at Mount Wachusett, and recently completed a conflict mediation program at Woodbury College in Montpelier. She said she finds this course of studies has allowed her to develop a “useful skill set for planning. My strengths are in consensus decision making around environmental issues.”

If elected to the planning board, Sundell said she is interested in working with the “cutting edge” conservation development bylaws recently approved by town meeting. “These bylaws are a different than anything that’s been done; I’m interested in working with them and seeing how they play out.”

Sundell, who coordinated the recent updating of the town’s open space plan, said, “When you do a master plan, the first thing you do is an open space plan. You need to think about what’s precious before going on

to anything like where to plan for housing and development. I’m interested in building on that.”

If elected to the planning board, Sundell said, “I’m interested in trying to get a lot of community input,” and said she would seek creative ways to gather broad input on planning initiatives.

“We’ve been moving toward overhauling the subdivision regulations. That’s an administrative matter, and does not go through town meeting.” Sundell said updating the subdivision regulations to work in harmony with the new conservation development bylaws is an important next step. “If you have an antiquated subdivision regulation that insists you lock the land up into little blocks – unless you overhaul it in a way that encourages clustering you’re going to have a much heavier footprint than you might want.”

Sundell recalled her previous time on the planning board, when the town approved a cell phone tower bylaw, and said Wendell also needed to get a windmill

bylaw in place. She said another major concern will be what becomes of the former Lake Grove School. “If somebody comes along with a proposal, we’ll have to deal with that.”

She added, “One thing I do think is really important for any kind of proposal, including bylaws, is to make sure that when we craft proposals, they address the concerns of many Wendell residents, and try to find consensus. I want that unanimous vote at town meeting that means everybody is comfortable.”

**Deirdre Cabral, Write-in for Planning Board, Five Years**

“After serving two five-year terms, I was thinking of stepping down,” said Deirdre Cabral, “but I didn’t get as much completed this winter as I had hoped.” She said she feels a particular responsibility to put the newly approved conservation development bylaws “on a good footing for implementation, as presented at town meeting.”

Cabral, who looks back on the accomplishment of passing new

bylaws on conservation development and on common driveways as major accomplishments of the planning board in recent years, said she changed her mind and decided to run again as a write-in candidate because, “I’m simply part of a team, and with the subdivision regulations” presently under review, “I feel a little bit more responsibility. I wanted to at least see those parts through. The other thing I bring is a demonstrated ability to work with other people on the planning board, and with people who come to the planning board with questions and concerns.”

Asked whether she foresaw serving a full five years if she is re-elected on May 2nd, Cabral said, “Honestly, no, I don’t. I’m not sure I have that in me.” But she said once the tasks she is presently working on with the board are complete, and the new bylaws implemented successfully, it would be a better time to hand off the vacancy to a new member.

see RACES pg 12

## Spending, Management Issues in Road Commission Contest

**BY JONATHAN von RANSON WENDELL** – One of the five races on the ballot for Monday’s election impacts the highway department, the department that commands the largest budget outside of schools. Richard Mackey of 17 Farley Road, a former elevator constructor and current member of the cemetery commission, is challenging William Clough, the incumbent, of 95 Montague Road, for a three-year seat on the Wendell road commission.

Mackey said he’s running because he wants to change the management style he saw in the highway department under road boss David Bock, who recently resigned. He said he’d brought complaints about Bock, “which seemingly were not addressed.” He also said he’d work harder to reduce expenditures, criticizing a recent road commission request for a \$75,000 chipper.

“Some [highway department] equipment needs repair,” Mackey added. “Last I knew the grader wouldn’t pass inspection. It lost its hydraulic pump out in front of my house.”

Clough, 61, who’s been a commissioner since “three or four years before Danny (Bacigalupo, the previous road boss) passed away” in 2008, said for his part he’d like to continue the planning and oversight work he’s been doing.

About the issue of management style he said, “I think we managed [Bock] pretty well. He could get a little uppity sometimes, but there’s a lot of pressure in the job. As far as I know his management of his crew was fine.” Bock’s resignation, he



Richard Mackey

added, without further elaboration, “was his own doing.”

Clough said the highway crew, “can come to any one of us; we’re always willing and able to help them out to the best of our

ability.” He said his experience, “kind of helps out when they run into a problem there.”

On Mackey’s criticism of the chipper request, Clough called back to contest the \$75,000 figure. “I think you’ll find it was for \$35,000,” he said. [Town administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich said the most recent request was for \$30,000. An earlier one was for \$40,000.]

“We could use a chipper, no doubt about that,” said Clough. We’ve got brush still on the side of road from the (2006) tornado. When you rent a chipper for two or three weeks, you might as well buy one and have our own. We’ve got to have something that will take at least a six inch log.”

Clough said the equipment is in good shape, other than the one-ton truck. “That’s in pretty bad shape.” The problem with the grader, he said, “has all been taken care of, down at Mr. Stone’s in Montague. That’s part of what we do.”

Clough is currently serving on a hiring committee with Jeff Pooser from the selectboard and Phil Delorey, building inspector, to hire a new road boss. (He reported that four applications had been taken out, but “nothing had turned up” as of the last meeting. At the next meeting, on May 5th, “hopefully we’ll have some applications,” he said.)

Clough said he got onto the commission when a previous commissioner resigned. “I was retired after 30 years with the Montague highway department,” he said, “six as foreman,” and, “I ran all the equipment – everything they had down there.” He said he keeps his licenses current

and “in case of an emergency, I could go down and help out.”

Mackey said of his own qualifications to be road commissioner, “I’ve got significant engineering skills. I’ve got a college degree. I was in the military. I’ve



Bill Clough

managed small businesses now and then. I have a pretty darn good understanding of what needs to be done as far as being on the road commission.”

Mackey noted [road commission chair] “Harry Williston is the only one I ever see at town meeting,” and, even then, “I noticed when funds were being requested, no one showed up,” to explain the request. Mr. Gifford I’ve never even seen in town, only at road commission meetings. I’m not sure if they don’t care enough to be at town meeting.”

Clough responded, “With the job I have now, working for a moving company, sometimes I’m on the road, it makes it hard to get to meetings. I make every one that I can possibly make.”

Mackey said he believes “the management style of the highway department has been rather divisive. I’d try to create conditions that are conducive to getting work done and keeping the men happy. When I say divisive, I

mean changing lunch hours, micromanaging their work, etc.

“The David Bock issue was a debacle” Mackey added. He’d presented complaints about Bock to the commissioners, related to what he perceived as the former highway boss’s “anger, frustration, being self-absorbed.” Asked if Bock did a good job, he answered, “Maybe in terms of laying a lot of pavement or backhoe work, but in terms of management of people, he had no skills at all.”

Now, he said, “there are people who think I’m running as retribution against David, but when he resigned I could have said, ‘Naw, I just don’t want to run.’ But I didn’t. I’m running to look at fiscal responsibility.” Elaborating on his concern about the chipper request, “I can see some utility to a chipper for the town,” he said, “but not the big machine they were asking for... unless they’re going to start harvesting the town forests.”

He said he caught “some talk about expanding the floor space of the highway garage with a second level, and a covered deck out the back. I only caught part of a conversation. But expenses like this would come out of the town budget... I’d rather see the tax rates go down, drastically.”

In his interview Clough said he thought, “The town garage is big enough.”

Mackey has been in town since 2005. “After the tornado (in 2006),” he said, “I asked Anny Hartjens what I could do to help. She suggested the cemetery commission. I checked with Danny, and then got appointed. I’ve been on it since then.”



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# ELEVEN WAYS TO WALK

*First in a Series of Walks around West Gill*

**BY P.H.CROSBY** - After a long, bleak and tedious winter--no, that's not a fair way to start. It was a winter rich in cold and sun and snow, just like a winter should be. But after a long, bleak and tedious journey through that winter, I found the weather turning and I began to walk.

There are eleven ways to walk from my home in Gill, I have discovered. If I average three to four walks a week, that means I can go three weeks or more without retracing my steps, or at least many of them.

Fifteen minutes out, fifteen minutes in. Seems like everyone's life, no matter how busy, should be able to fit in that much exercise each day, right? I walk hard on the way out, often in the dark or near dark, around 5:45 or 6 a.m. these days. On the walk out, I get the 'shoulds' out of the way - swing my arms, pump my legs, push my lungs. On the way back, I take my time. That's when I see things. Not dramatic things, really; at least not often. Small things. Tender things.

My neighbor says she is hungry for green. Just a few shoots of something from the ground or a hazy spray on a limb. That will come soon enough. In the meantime, I don't mind the pale, bleached look of everything - the early gray sky meeting gray-brown trees standing in brown-

and-hay-colored earth. It's like an ashen veil about to come off the face of a woman quietly exiting church in the 50s, when women wore such things. Underneath is the warm, friendly face of your mother.

The poet Theodore Roethke describes this stage of spring like this:

*...I can hear, underground,  
that sucking and sobbing,  
In my veins, in my bones I  
feel it,--  
The small waters seeping  
upward,  
The tight grains parting at  
last...*

(from *Cuttings*, later)

**Walk Number 1** is east on Center Road and then north on Ben Hale, one of Gill's few unpaved roads. In fifteen minutes, if I really work at it, I can get to the brow of a small hill where I can just spot Sudbury Nurseries. And that's a nice place to be because there's an animal crossing there: a place where I have consistently seen interesting wildlife cross the road over the years - because there is water there, perhaps, or because a particular stand of trees offers optimal privacy.

Just short of the brow of the

hill, I have seen deer cross regularly. If I am very quiet and spot them early, I can stand there and watch a tiny herd of four or five make their way delicately across, one by one.

Once, a few years ago, on a cool summer morning with this wooded stretch of Ben Hale plunged into black shade as the sun brilliantly rose behind the trees, three deer stood and looked at me as I looked at them. It was a strange, stirring moment. A haiku came out of it:

*Three young does, crossing.  
A solitary walker.  
All four pause to stare.*

I worry about that crossing and those graceful silent creatures because there are houses going up there now - eight lots, side-by-side, one of which is already built, sold, and inhabited. I have learned over the years not to begrudge houses built in the woods. I tend to think that every house built in the woods means one less built on land more appropriately used for something else. Farmland, for example. And farmland seems even more urgent to preserve than forest these days, at least for the sake of the human species. Plus, I have nothing against my adopted hometown growing. I may be naive, but I am hopeful that new neighbors,



"Once, a few years ago, on a cool summer morning with this wooded stretch of Ben Hale plunged into black shade as the sun brilliantly rose behind the trees, three deer stood and looked at me as I looked at them...."

having chosen us over other towns to live in, will treasure the same things the rest of us do about Gill, and will work to keep it simple, serene, and beautiful.

But I wish the lots hadn't gone in side-by-side, with little room left for woods between, making it impossible perhaps for animals to hide. One would think even the homeowners would want that level of privacy.

As it is now, I wonder if these deer, fox, porcupine, coyotes, fishers, bobcats - according to my neighbor, sometimes even a moose or bear - will continue to be able to cross from the wilderness of the newly-established Gill town forest on the west, to the swampland at West Gill Road and the wooded bluff overlooking the Hastings farm, and then east across Ben Hale into the acres and acres of little-disturbed interior bounded by Boyle and Center Roads, out over Main Road, and down to

the banks of the Connecticut River.

Right now Gill has policies in place to protect these wild interiors, of which we have several. Animals are relatively safe there. But what good are protected interiors if animals can't get into them?

No deer today. But I walk back along Ben Hale Road listening to the buzz and whirr of scores of red-winged blackbirds, winging across this wide West Gill wetland. Tonight, if it stays warm, there will be the roar of peepers.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Encourages Farm to School Program

**WASHINGTON** - On April 26th, agriculture under secretary Kevin Concannon announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's child nutrition programs are implementing new rules designed to encourage use of local farm products in school meals.

The final rule, published in the federal register, will let schools and other providers give preference to unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products as they purchase food for the national school lunch, school breakfast, special milk, child and adult care, fresh fruit and vegetable, and summer food service programs. The rule is part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 signed into law by President Obama and one of the key provisions to bolster farm to school programs across the country.

"This rule is an important milestone that will help ensure that our children have access to

fresh produce and other agricultural products," said Concannon. "It will also give a much-needed boost to local farmers and agricultural producers."

The rule supports USDA's 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' initiative which emphasizes the need for a fundamental and critical reconnection between producers and consumers. 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' is helping to break down barriers that keep local food systems from thriving, create new opportunities for farmers, ranchers, consumers and rural communities, and expand access to healthy food throughout the country. USDA expects consumer demand for locally grown food in the U.S. to rise from an estimated \$4 billion in 2002 to as much as \$7 billion by 2012.

The Farm to School component of this effort is designed to help connect schools with regional or local farms in order

to serve healthy meals using locally-sourced products in their cafeterias.

USDA currently is sending teams out to select school districts to work on farm to school issues. Some of these programs also incorporate nutrition-based studies, as well as food-learning opportunities such as farm visits, gardening, cooking, and composting activities.

Improving child nutrition is also a focal point of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act that recently passed Congress and was signed by President Obama. It will allow USDA, for the first time in over 30 years, the chance to make real reforms to the school lunch and breakfast programs by improving the critical nutrition and hunger safety net for millions of children. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is the legislative centerpiece of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative.

To learn more, visit: [www.LetsMove.gov](http://www.LetsMove.gov).

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to submit original poems. Please email: [reporter-poems@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-poems@montaguema.net) for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

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# Routes to the Nuke

Meet me up at Montague Farm, early on Easter morning. We'll roll away the lead stone of time. This is where sunrise hit, where Liberation ceased to be News and tried to become a practice. Anna Gyorgy and Sluggo Wasserman wrote the No Nukes book in that kitchen right there. Sign on the barn still reads "Better Active Today Than Radioactive Tomorrow!" Ok, let's head West, believe it or not, down Ripley Road. Winding around Chestnut Hill, gone to flooring and blight. Cross the train tracks hours before the Vermonter comes through (since the budget cuts, it no longer reaches Montreal). Down through Montague Center, where a church bell still strikes the hours. The mill that made Louisville Sluggers now houses paperbacks and cappuccinos. Right onto Old Northfield Road where the houses peter out and it turns to dirt. Detour into the woods a bit and you'll find the concrete pad where the tower stood. Lovejoy's Tower: the one he knocked down on Washington's Birthday in 1974. He surrendered himself and put the nukes on trial. Take a long sip of water here.

Through the pine barrens, past spooky Lake Pleasant, down East Mineral Road to the mouth of the Millers. This fording is for foot traffic only. Look up, up, at the bottom of the French King Bridge, crossing the gorge. It's an unfortunate favorite of local suicides.

Along the east bank of the Connecticut, at the foot of Northfield Mountain. At night, the nuke juice pumps river water up to the reservoir on top. Charging up the monstrous battery. Turbines turn on its rush back down, gears grinding right below us. Further along, fine river-bottom soil grows good wheat. And small suburban houses.

Captain Richard Beers died right here - along with 20 of his men - in September, 1675. Ambushed by a mixed band of Pocumtuc and Nashaway, led by one named Monoco. He who insisted on calling the area Squakeag. Historical markers on Route 63 show the spot. King Philip himself, Massasoit's son, supposedly spent that same winter on a little hill on the other side of the river. We get to it via the Route 10 bridge, then take an immediate right.

Climb away from the French & Indian Wars now, towards the quarried landscape, left into "Hell's Kitchen", and straight through "Satan's Kingdom". If you think I'm joking, check the maps. Neglected, colonial roads back here, all the way to the state line.

Then the lawn signs hit, "VY 4 VT", which is shorthand for nuke supporters, Entergy being the biggest taxpayer and employer in town. Vernon's post office is housed in an ancient gristmill hard by Route 142.

The nuke itself is off Governor Hunt Road (does his headstone glow at night?) and is incongruously set between an active hydro-electric dam and the local elementary school. Colonial houses flower the pathway. Try to read the sign at the gate: The phrase **Deadly Force** in bold will arrest your eyes while a man in the booth proclaims through a loudspeaker:

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BY Jonathan Stevens  
Montague



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## GMRSD Candidates Forum Tuesday, May 3rd

MCTV will broadcast a "candidates forum" for the upcoming Gill-Montague school committee elections on May 3rd at Montague town hall 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The candidates for GMRSD school committee are

Patricia Crosby and Sandy Brown, running for a three-year seat from Gill, and incumbents Mike Langknecht and Emily Monosson running unopposed for two seats from Montague. The forum will be moderated by Anne Harding. The public may

ask questions at the meeting or send them in advance to [PSA@montaguetv.org](mailto:PSA@montaguetv.org). Elections for GMRSD school committee members will take place concurrent with the town elections on Monday, May 16th in Montague and Gill.

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DETMOLD PHOTO

natural gas use has declined by 5.5%, even though the steeper decline in heating oil usage is partly due to people switching to cheaper, cleaner burning natural gas. Since 2006, electricity use in Greenfield has decreased by 3.1%, at a time when the use of electric gadgets in the society as a whole is on the upswing.

"We have a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050," explained Worgaftik. "We started in 2008. A 1.8% annual reduction would get us to the goal by 2050." So far, the decrease for heating oil and natural gas use are right on target, but Greenfield needs to do better on conserving electricity, or producing more of its own electricity from Green energy, in order to meet the target.

The two offered lots of practical tips for achieving energy savings in homes and businesses, and first on the list was switching from incandescent lights to energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. A switch to an energy efficient car or hybrid vehicle was next. Growing food at home, or at a community garden, was the next suggestion - considering how fossil fuel intensive the country's current food supply chain has gotten to be, from everything from fertilizers to transportation to packaging.

Alysha Symanski asked about the carbon fuel footprint of drinking water from plastic bottles, and got this reply from Worgaftik: "We have very good water around here. When you consider the amount of energy used to manufacture, ship and recycle the plastic bottles, if you just had a bottle of your own and filled it up with water and refrigerated it, you'd be doing a major piece of work around energy conservation."

The Greening Greenfield committee hopes to team up with the Montague energy committee in the near future to offer townwide energy challenges to see who can save the most energy in a given period of time. Sort of a Go Green Family approach to meeting the energy conservation goals that will get us to a cleaner, more sustainable planet.

For more information and tips on saving energy, go to: [www.greeninggreenfield.org](http://www.greeninggreenfield.org).

Carol Letson (left) and Susan Worgaftik, from the Greening Greenfield committee, brought their graphs and charts to the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Thursday, April 21st.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Carol Letson and Susan Worgaftik from the Greening Greenfield committee journeyed across the river to Turners Falls to offer tips for conserving energy on the eve of Earth Day. They set up shop in the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, with charts and graphs, and by the end of the hour they had signed up one new participant for the 10% challenge - the ongoing campaign centered in Greenfield (but including participants in other nearby towns like Montague) for residents and businesses to pledge to reduce energy use by 10%.

According to the graphs the two women provided, Greenfield, where 690 households and businesses like G.C.C. and Baystate Franklin Medical have signed up, is already making progress on this goal.

Since 2006, the average amount of heating oil consumed per household in Greenfield has decreased by 12.8%. Over the same time period,

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## Two in Running for Town Moderator

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**ERVING** - Matthew Janus, of Ridge Road, is challenging long time town moderator Rich Peabody, of Old State Road, for the post of town moderator in the May 2nd town election.

Janus, an electrical maintenance supervisor at Vermont Yankee, said, "The reason I tipped my hat into the ring is the way that last year's annual town meeting was run, predominantly the way the situation for drive-through businesses for the French King Bowling Alley was handled."

Janus continued, "The town of Erving has an open town meeting policy. The constituents have the right to speak as well as any other constituent in Massachusetts. It's up to the moderator who gets to speak." Janus felt moderator Rich Peabody gave non-residents too much sway at last year's annual town meeting to speak in

the debate on placing a gas station in the town's aquifer protection zone, near the bowling alley, and opening up the zoning to drive-through businesses, and "that gave the potential to skew the vote." Janus added, "I don't think it was run in a fair manner for something that vital to the town's heartbeat."

He said, "My opinion, if there is any way the town of Erving can bring in commerce to increase the tax base, I'm all for it. There are some town officials who are not in favor of commerce."

Peabody, who has served two stints as town moderator, said he only had two regrets about the way he ran last year's town meeting. On the issue of siting of the gas station and drive through quick stop Ralph and Eric Semb had planned to build on land across from their bowling alley, Peabody said, "I regret I let

everybody speak as long as they wanted to speak, such that the debate got very long." And he also regrets "hustling one guy away from the microphone, because he was making personal remarks rather than addressing the issue. I regret that I shuffled him away from the microphone the way I did. But I have no regret about the principal - people can't attack other people."

Peabody added, "All in all, I feel the Sembs had a fair hearing and a fair vote. What didn't get a fair vote was the proposal for the drive through, because the first debate took so long people went home and didn't get to speak to it."

Peabody also said, "I do believe the Sembs should have a successful business there, yet what the moderator believes is not germane to how the meeting has to be run."

Janus said, "One of the things I'm doing in my current job, I run on average five to ten meetings a week, preparing agendas with

allotted timeframes for each item. The moderator has the ability to set the order of town meeting. I'd like to sit down with [town administrative coordinator] Tom Sharp and the selectboard and set the actions in order and go down the list, and give the owner of the item five to ten minutes to present their case. Then each person who'd like to speak gets three to five minutes each. When your time's up, the time's up. Sorry, that's the way it is. I have a history of running good, efficient meetings. Everybody's time is valuable."

Janus said the weekly meetings he runs at Vermont Yankee focus on organizational efficiency and nuclear risk management for public health and safety.

He vowed to bring "fairness, honesty and integrity," to his role if elected, and said, "I intend to run the meetings with no bias, and fairness to the people of the town. That's the least I can do."

Peabody, who said he's lived in town for 32 years, served first

as an assessor before Ralph Semb encouraged him to take his place on the ballot on year moderator. He swapped places again with his predecessor about ten years ago, but then, when Semb got too busy with his work with the Shriners, Peabody again ran for moderator and has kept the gavel ever since.

"You can't live in a town unless you do something for the town - it's part of my upbringing. I enjoy keeping town meetings on an even keel such that everybody feels they've been heard and everybody feels they've been treated fairly. I try to make sure everybody can follow along. We don't get lost in the minutia of Roberts Rules of Order." Peabody said he follows the guidance given him once by the late New Salem moderator Bob Henderson, "I like to lead the meetings so you make sure the farmer in the back row knows what's going on."

Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 2nd.

from **RACES** page 8

Besides serving on the board for the last ten years, Cabral would bring to the post her masters in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, along with her job experience as a regulator for the state. "I have a lot of years of experience interpreting statutes and regulations and applying them, and helping to change them so they are more practical and appropriate, and to explain them to people." Cabral said she has also made an effort to attend training session as a citizen planner to do the job appropriately.

She said if re-elected, she would like to see the board get involved in the state's current

attempt to reform the zoning act, passed in the 1960s, to allow for more opportunity for open space residential design, similar to the bylaw Wendell just passed.

She said the contemplated state reform is needed, but "There are elements of this that have the state telling the towns what they can't do, that we now can do. She called the proposed state revision of the zoning act, "a crude club affecting all planning boards," without allowing for the particular needs of rural communities, and added, "FRCOG has been admirable in helping us," work for a fairer revision.

Cabral said that if re-elected she would work to make sure the residents of town have the

resources they need to make the new conservation development bylaw, and other regulations, work for them. "Being in Wendell for only 14 years, I don't know everybody, but I'm certainly available to everybody," she said.

Also in the upcoming election, 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.

### Martha Senn for Board of Health, Three Years

Martha Senn, running for her third term, brings a background in safety and environmental compliance for manufacturing companies to her role on the board of health. She has a BA in chemistry, and is a certified drinking water system operator, and has taken training classes to familiarize herself with the state's Title V regulations for septic systems. She has taken part in exercises in recent years to test Turners Falls High School as the emergency dispensing site for the towns of Montague, Gill, Erving, and Wendell, in the event of an outbreak of disease or epidemic. She has participated in checks of septic systems for new construction, repairs to systems, complaints from renters and checks of food service providers. She has taken the required ethics training and open meeting law training.

"I like to give back to the community," said Senn. "This is one way for me to be able to do that." Senn went on to say, "I'm very concerned about the environment, as a local farmer. She grows fruit and vegetables on her farm on the common in Wendell Center.

When Senn first ran for the

board of health, Wendell was in the midst of deciding whether to relax the required distance from a well to a septic system from 150 feet to 100 feet, the state required limit. Senn said since that decision was made, "We haven't received any notice of any issues."

In general, she added, "We've tried to be fair with implementation of the laws and regulations that we have to enforce."

### Amy Simmons, Write-In for Board of Health, Three Years

Amy Simmons, of 173 West Street, is running as a write-in candidate for the three year seat on the board of health. She was motivated to run by the 'simple living' proposal put forward last year by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, to create a non-electric apartment in their barn, to reduce their carbon fuel footprint. The board of health rejected that proposal as noncompliant with the state health code, which requires dwelling units to have electric wiring, running water and a septic system. The von Ransons planned to heat with wood, use a hand pump for water, provide hot water with wood heat, use gas lanterns for lighting, and use a composting toilet.

"This is my feeling about the proposal," said Simmons. "I am fully in support of [the von Ransons'] goals, and I aim to live more simply myself. I feel that the board of health could be more helpful to them in working out the details to make it more accessible, to either satisfy the requirements of the state sanitary code or work out agreeable conditions that the board of health could monitor to help move the town towards sustainability."

Simmons is a nurse, newly

graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College, who has two children at Swift River School. She works at the Farren Care Center in Montague Cirty. She said she was too busy with home and family to run for the board of health before. She said, "I'm interested in public health." But she made it clear her interests were not only local, but global. "We have an opportunity as a town, as a work in progress, on a small scale, to tackle issues in an experimental way that could be issues that affect the whole world. We have to think outside the box, and try different things."

As to the von Ransons' simple living proposal, which had been supported by hundreds of petition signers among Wendell residents, Simmons said, "The board of health could remain involved and learn from it and share with the town how it's working. Keep it sanitary, but also make progress toward sustainability."

Simmons said, "In 1994, I traveled to Japan on a youth peace delegation to witness the effects of the atomic bomb. I think it was then that I became interested in public service, and sharing my learning experience with the community."

Simmons said she would look forward to taking trainings to help her monitor public health issues in Wendell, if elected. "But I also recognize that we have a health agent as a resource person for those matters, when it comes down to the technicalities."

She added, "I am interested in representing the views of the folks of Wendell, not in advancing my own agenda. I continue to solicit that input from the town."


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## On Books

# Was Jesus Resurrected From the Dead? Part 2

BY JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** - So what exactly happened to Jesus after his brutal crucifixion back in Roman Judea two thousand years ago?

As I said in part one in last week's issue, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are the cornerstones of Christian faith, the central events that create the possibility of overcoming original sin.

This article is not an effort to dispute anyone's faith, but rather an attempt to examine the record, as found in the gospels and how they have been interpreted by some recent scholars (see for example, *The Five Gospels, the Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*, by Robert Funk, Roy Hoover and the Jesus Seminar - frequently available at the Montague Book Mill).

Let us begin with the Gospel of Mark, considered by most scholars to be the first account of the story of Jesus.

Here, Jesus's body is taken

from the cross by a man named Joseph of Arimathea and placed in a man-made cave "hewn out of a rock." A stone was rolled in front of the cave opening.

Several days later, three women, including the famous Mary Magdalene come to the grave to rub "sweet spices" on Jesus's body. When they get there, they see that the stone covering the entrance has been rolled away. Entering the cave, they find Jesus's body gone and a young man, clothed in white sitting "on the right side." The man tells the shocked women not to be afraid. Jesus "has risen" and will be in Galilee. The women should go tell the disciples to meet up with him there. The women flee from the grave in a state of panic and, according to Mark, "did not say any thing to any man for they were afraid."

Next comes the last dozen verses of Mark, one of the most controversial parts of the New Testament. First Jesus appears

to Mary Magdalene again. This time she goes to tell the disciples he has risen. The disciples do not believe it. Then Jesus appears to two disciples walking in the country. They return to tell the others but again are not believed. Finally Jesus appears to the eleven and sharply criticizes them for doubting the resurrection. He urges them to go out into the world and preach the gospel. At the conclusion of this speech, Mark says, Jesus was "received up in heaven and sits on God's right hand."

The problem is that the oldest copy of Mark we have does not contain these last twelve verses. Close analysis of more recent versions suggests to many scholars that the verses were added by a later copyist. Some have argued that the older editions simply lost a page and the added verses were probably faithful to the original. The question may never be resolved, but if the older editions reflect the true Mark, the story ends

rather abruptly. The women flee Jesus's tomb and never tell the disciples of the resurrection.

Putting aside the question of the ending, Mark's story contains many of the basic elements found in the other gospel accounts. Women play a prominent role as they discover the empty grave. They are told by an angelic figure (or figures in Luke) to go and inform the disciples of Jesus's resurrection. Jesus then appears to the disciples, urges them to spread his message to the rest of the world, and ascends to heaven.

However, there are also significant differences between the gospels within this broad schema. For example, in Mathew, Jesus does not appear to ascend to heaven but instead tells the disciples, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Mathew's version of the story is the only one to discuss the attitudes of the Jewish "high priests" toward the resurrection. The priests station several guards at Jesus's grave because they fear the disciples will steal his body. When the guards return to report Jesus's miraculous disappearance, the priests pay them to spread the stolen body story around Judea.

Luke's version contains the famous story of Jesus's appearance to two rather dejected disciples walking on a road. Jesus joins them but they do not recognize him. He proceeds to give them a lecture on Jewish history designed to show that the recent crucifixion had been foretold and is part of the plan. Impressed, the disciples invite Jesus to stay with them for the night. As they are eating dinner, Jesus breaks some bread in imitation of the Last Supper. Finally his two companions realize who he is. Later Jesus appears to the disciples as a group, but apparently they never make it to Galilee.

John's version of the story includes three rather lengthy interactions with the disciples after Jesus's resurrection. The second meeting is the famous story of "doubting Thomas" mentioned in no other gospel. The disciple Thomas has said he will not believe in Jesus's physical resurrection until he actually puts his finger in the nail holes caused by the crucifixion.

Jesus appears to him, nail holes and all. After touching the wounds, Thomas falls on his knees and cries out, "My master, my God."

Powerful stuff, you must admit!

The point here is not to cast doubt on the gospel accounts by emphasizing the differences. It is simply to suggest that the resurrection story was probably told in different ways by different authors with, perhaps, different agendas. Some scholars have argued that John's gospel is partially designed to counter other Christians who followed the disciple Thomas.

But what does this say about the concept of the resurrection itself in early Christianity? The idea was not new at the time of Jesus. However the strong Christian emphasis on a bodily resurrection as a means of achieving universal salvation was probably unique.

One group in the Bible that believed in resurrection was the Jewish Pharisee party. The Pharisees play a prominent (and very negative) role in the New Testament. They are constantly shadowing Jesus on his journeys, testing him with various questions designed to show he is violating Jewish law. However, it is not clear that these accounts are fair to the Pharisees, who were probably not as dogmatic as they are portrayed. The missionary Paul, who played a central role in shaping the Christian message and spreading it around the Mediterranean world, was originally a Pharisee.

Could it be that Paul's own intellectual roots made him sympathetic to the idea of resurrection, which he aggressively promoted? The concept served a number of key functions, not the least to explain why the long awaited Messiah of the Jews wound up humiliated on the cross. In the long term it proved to be a powerful metaphor for the human ability to overcome sin and suffering.

The idea does not make a lot of sense to me, particularly the confusing concept of bodily resurrection. What happened to the soul? I am with Thomas here. But it is hard to argue with success, and the story of Jesus' resurrection has certainly been a success over the years.

### WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

#### Playing for Fun:

#### A Musical Fundraiser for the Wendell Playground

On Friday May 6th at 7p.m. a benefit concert will be held at the library to help raise funds for the renovation of the Wendell Center playground. Wendell musicians Laura Botkin (flute), Stephen Broll (clarinet), and Anna Wetherby (viola), will perform an upbeat program of music ranging from baroque to contemporary. There will also be a brief guest appearance by the Wendell Community Chorus.

The performance will run about an hour. Refreshments will follow. The evening is intended to be a fun and social community gathering. Donations of any amount are requested, and all proceeds will be used to benefit the playground. Donations for the Playground Renovation can also be mailed to the Friends of the Wendell Free Library, P.O. Box 133 Wendell, MA 01379.

#### Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Matthai

The Awesome Women Film Series presents *Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Matthai*, at the library, with a brief talk by filmmaker Lisa Merton, on Friday, April 29th at 7 p.m.

*Taking Root* tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace 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 help bring down a brutal dictator.

*Taking Root* tells the inspiring story of the Green Belt Movement of Kenya and its unstoppable founder, Wangari Maathai, who, in 2004, became the first environmentalist and first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

*Taking Root* illustrates the development of Maathai's holistic worldview and model for sustainable development. Maathai discovered the core of her life's work when she turned her attention to the rural women with whom she had grown up in Kenya's central highlands. Their daily lives had become intolerable: they were walking exhausting distances for firewood, clean water was scarce, the soil was eroding, and their children were suffering from malnutrition. One hundred years of colonialism and neo-colonialism had devastated the forests they'd lived with for centuries.

"Why not plant trees?" Maathai thought. Trees provide shade, prevent soil erosion, supply firewood, building materials, and produce nutritious fruit. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and began teaching women about the connection between environmental problems and their daily problems, beginning a 30-year struggle for democracy and environmental healing.

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# Lights Out, Traffic Flows Smoothly

DETMOLD PHOTO

Left - Last Thursday afternoon, gusting winds downed limbs and caused a power failure in downtown Turners Falls, and elsewhere. At the corner of Avenue A and 3rd, traffic flowed smoothly through the busy intersection, with no stop lights. The average wait was less than three seconds. Drivers waved each other on courteously and took turns proceeding and turning. Kind of makes you think.



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

A Bobcat loader rests after last minute touches before the ribbon cutting for GCC's core renovation. Note the absence of stairs and the level entry to an elevator that rises to all four floors.

**GILL** from page 1  
 alpacas. Last summer, Balise moved to South Cross Road in Gill, and began working to set up his own alpaca farm.

His new Gill abode had a barn and an open field. The barn needed remodeling and a new roof, while the open field, a perfect setting for a couple of alpacas, needed a fence. All of Balise's free time last summer was spent getting the farm in Gill ready for the animals and travelling to Worthington to take care of two alpacas there. Finally, with renovations complete, it was time to move the animals to Gill.

Thanksgiving weekend, while Americans celebrated their ancestors' immigration to the new world, Balise helped two fleecy, long legged, long necked immigrants from the Andes Mountains in South America, and another of

their kind from New York State, move from Worthington to Gill.

Balise's South Cross farm now has three alpacas, aged three, four, and eight years old. Alpacas' life expectancy is about 20 years. Although alpacas come in more than 30 colors, Balise's animals are (according to these untrained eyes) tan, brown, and black. Balise's niece and nephew often come by to "walk the alpacas."

Balise brought some of his alpaca fleece to a fiber exposition in West Springfield, where he was advised by other alpaca farmers how to handle the fleece. He is currently selling Peruvian-grown alpaca yarn, stuffed animals, socks, and hats at his farm.

So is it "happily ever after" for the alpacas and their owner in Gill? Balise hopes to purchase some equipment so he can start

producing compost. He also hopes to expand the fence and purchase more animals. He hopes to start selling his alpacas' fleece and yarn to the public this coming fall.

If you would like to meet the Andean animals or buy alpaca products, call South Cross Alpacas at 413-863-4122.

My lovely bride is very happy to not have a television in our house. I can only imagine what kind of farming I would pursue with one late-night, over-convincing infomercial.

*Steve Damon is the chairperson of the Gill Agricultural Commission. His monthly Farm Neighbor column features Gill's agricultural personalities. So far, Bill Burnham, Gary Stevens and the Dargis family have been covered. Who will May's Farm Neighbor be?*



**FESTIVAL** from page 1  
 with artist Sebastian Gutwein. Time to be announced.

**May 7th: 10:30 a.m.** - Flower Fairies and Root Children with Dawn Ward (for families) - Carnegie Library

**May 7th: 1 p.m.** - Free Concert with the Greasy Cuffs Song Tour, Peskeompskut Park

**May 7th: 6:00 p.m.** - RiverCulture Feast for the Arts, Elks Lodge

**Wednesday, May 11th: 1:15 p.m.** - Bald Eagles with Rachel Roberts (for homeschoolers) - Carnegie Library

**May 11th: 4 p.m.** - Rocky Ridge Hike - The Body Shoppe

**Friday, May 13th: 7 p.m.** - Great Falls Coffeehouse with Kathy Chapman and Blue Moon

at Great Falls Discovery Center

**Saturday, May 14th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Shea Theater's Peskeompskut Park Music & Arts Festival

**May 14th** - Voo Prom with Futurama theme! - The Rendezvous

**May 14th: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** - Spring Used Book Sale - Carnegie Library

**May 14th: 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.** - Live Owl Program (pre-register) - Great Falls Discovery Center

**May 14th: 1 - 3 p.m.** - Bike Tour and Rodeo - Montague Parks & Recreation, Unity Park

**May 14th - June 19th: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** - Turners Falls Fish Ladder opens for the season, Wednesdays - Sundays

**Sunday, May 15th: 1 - 3 p.m.**

Edible Plants of Spring Walk with Blanche Derby - Turners Falls Bike Path

**May 15th** - Great Falls Discovery Center opens 7 days a week from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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from **MONTAGUE** page 6 for a number of public offices including one selectboard member for a three year term and town meeting members from all six of the existing voting precincts.

Selectboard chair Pat Allen is running unopposed for a fifth consecutive three year term.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau reported after the meeting, "There are no races," for any townwide office. She added, "Isn't it sad?"

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the board that he and Ray Purrington, the administrative assistant in Gill are in the process of determining who exactly will be responsible for paying energy and maintenance costs for the 54 new lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge after its reconstruction is complete, three years from now. Preliminary information indicates that since the Commonwealth has designated the bridge a state highway, the Commonwealth should pay to light it (as is the case for the Sunderland Bridge), but Abbondanzio is waiting for confirmation from the Mass DOT that the bills will be paid from Boston.

The board voted to approve the recommendation of a nega-

tive vote on article 29 (regarding unregistered vehicles) to town meeting members, pending review and further consideration of the final language of that amendment.

A series of motions were adopted at the recommendation of Abbondanzio on behalf of the Capital Improvements Committee to declare the Montague Center School property as surplus. These motions, which were all approved without discussion, clear the way for a newly revised request for proposals to be sent out, seeking the reuse of the property.

The board accepted the resignation, effective April 13th, of reserve police officer Scott Bastarache, who cited scheduling constraints.

Abbondanzio read a formal response to a complaint by Peter Golrick, which the board approved and signed. He said the board believes it did not, in fact, violate the Open Meeting Laws or Public Records Laws in appointing town staff members to an advisory study committee to review the town's bylaws.

Wrapping up regular business for the evening, event requests were approved for the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball

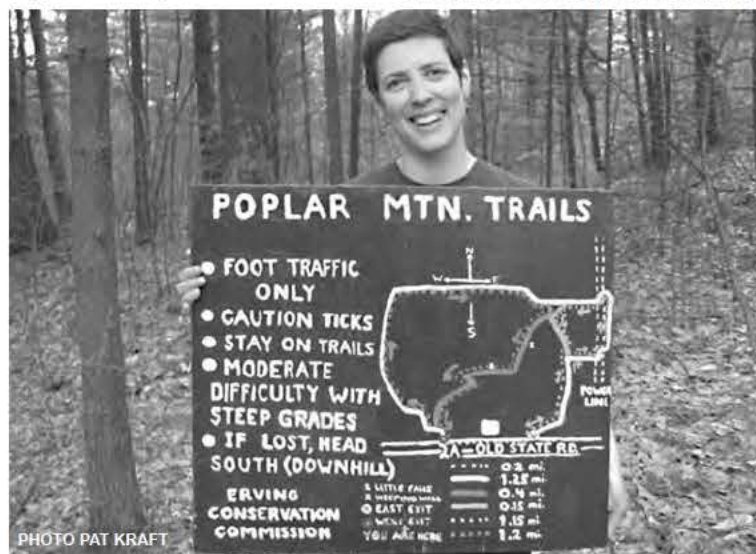
League opening day parade to be held on Sunday, May 1st beginning at 10:15 a.m. at Unity Park; the Cinco De Mayo Children's Festival featuring a bilingual concert and crafts at Peskeompskut Park on May 5th; and the Crabapple Blossom Festival Concert with the Greasy Cuffs Song Tour on May 7th in Peskeompskut Park.

Before entering into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining (regarding the contracts for the town administrator and police chief) and real estate (regarding a parcel of land in the industrial park) Pat Allen announced that, while supplies last, free flu shots are still available in the Montague town hall nurse's office on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

A series of important meetings will be held in the first week of May with the regular selectboard meeting on the 2nd, the pre-town meeting on Wednesday the 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the selectboard meeting room, and the annual and special and town meetings on Saturday, May 7th starting at 8:45 a.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater.

from **ERVING** page 6 trail is planned. Herbert was asked to provide copies of the trail map to the police and fire departments, in case either

building. The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to hold onto the signed easement until he has checked with the town's project manag-



Standing on the town of Erving's conservation land off Old State Road, Laura Herbert displays a directional sign made by Harry Sharbaugh.

department needs to respond to an emergency call from the conservation area.

After an approval vote by the entire selectboard, chair Andrew Goodwin signed an easement for Osterman Propane to install a 1000-gallon underground propane tank at the new senior center building, to be used for heating the

er Bruce Hunter to see if bids from other propane providers were solicited.

from **GILL** page 6 Mount Hermon was somehow able to get a special permit to exceed the 10 foot maximum height for their new signs, even though the current regulation does not allow for such a proceeding. And now, Green River Power Sports' sign (apparently by accident) was installed at a height far in excess of 10 feet.

The board requested the building inspector to delay enforcement proceedings against Green River Power Sports for their non-conforming sign until the planning board hearings could be held, and town meeting could have a chance to weigh in on the proposed bylaw change.



The sign at Green River Honda exceeds the town's bylaw height requirement.

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# GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL 3rd QUARTER HONOR ROLLS

## GRADE 6

### First Honors

Tyler Akey  
Gabrielle Arzuaga  
Tionne Brown  
Nolan Courtemanche  
Keara Deery  
Savannah Donahue  
William Doyle  
Jordyn Fiske  
Regina Hope  
Tess Hunter  
Madelyn Johnson  
Michelle Leh  
Dylan Mailloux  
Ian Moriarty  
Haleigh Paulin  
Will Roberge  
Patrick Salls  
Amanda Savinski  
Luis Torres  
Michelle Vassar  
Mark Waite  
Jordan Wyman

### Second Honors

Tommy Bocharnikov  
Nicholas Croteau  
Holley DeVarney  
Jemma Rose Dickson  
Melissa Hersey  
Daniela Parpalov  
Patrick Riggott  
Veronika Sankova

Nicole Thibeault  
Hailey Trott

### Third Honors

Michael Babcock  
Timothy Black  
Jack Darling  
Kieran Masson  
Trayanna Santiago  
Alysha Wozniak  
Jacob Wright  
Dimitrios  
Zantouliadis

## GRADE 7

### First Honors

Rileigh Carlisle  
Tarrah Dempsey  
James Fritz  
Ryan Lenois  
Jenna Putala  
Sydney Upham  
Alexandra Vieira

### Second Honors

Allison Cooke  
Courtney Crafts  
Ivy Cross  
Colby Dobias  
Kamryn Frost  
Nadia Hasan  
Seth Leamy  
Mitchell Mailloux  
Timothy Momaney

Sabrina Petrovicz  
Mackenzie Phillips  
Allyson Renaud  
Marissa Sierakoski  
Margaret Sroka  
Hailey Whipple  
Cullen Wozniak  
Alexxis Young

### Third Honors

Jarod Brown  
Patrick Gamache  
Catherine Landers  
Alison Ovalle  
Tanner Richardson  
Seth Rider  
Ciara Staiger  
Rachel Waldron

## GRADE 8

### First Honors

Haleigh Bassett  
Ryan Bezio  
Sara Bradley  
Amber Caouette  
Danielle Conant  
Ivy Cross  
Malcolm Crosby  
Cheyenne Edwards  
Liam Ellis  
Jessica Gaines  
Lexi Griffin  
Emily Kells  
Andrew LaPenta

Ken Leng  
Ian MacPhail  
Alexander Morin  
Mackenzie Salls  
Serena Smith  
Alexandra Wing-LaClaire  
Zachary Wright  
Nicholas York  
Charles Zilinski

### Second Honors

Trenton Bourbeau  
Lisa Callahan  
Aidan Connelly  
Teagan Deery  
Thomas Dubay  
Alexander Fitzpatrick  
Melanie Howard  
Brittany Miller  
Rachel Savinski  
Savannah Thornton

### Third Honors

Jamie Bolduc-DeHart  
Samantha Currier  
Zachary Demars  
Justin Giguere  
Joshua Gonzalez  
Spencer Hubert  
Jacqueline MacConnell  
Princess Ramirez  
Andrew Renaud

from SCHOOL page 7  
younger age, and if the person is fatigued. Females are more susceptible to concussion than males. Athletes in college are usually able to recover in two weeks, but in high school it can take from one to three months before they can come back.

According to Greenbacher, most medical doctors in general practice are not sufficiently aware of all the aspects related to head injuries, and so it is not uncommon for a student to return to school having been cleared by their physician but with noticeable limitations, suggesting they are not completely healed from a concussion. This puts the responsibility on the schools to enact strict policies requiring student athletes to be cleared by the school as well before returning to play.

The cost of the computer testing program is not high, Greenbacher said, about \$250 a year. At the end of his presentation, Marge Levenson, school committee member from Montague, asked Ladd if this was something the district could invest in for the future, and Ladd answered, "Yes."

School committee members signed warrants for the election to be held on May 16th. A discussion on whether to hold a

meeting the day after the election to elect new officers, as has been the tradition, ended without resolution.

In other business, the school committee voted unanimously to approve the job description to be posted to replace the principal at Montague Elementary, now that Elizabeth Musgrave has announced she will not be seeking an extension of her contract. As one of several policy matters the superintendent brought to the school committee to be reviewed, a task force will be formed to study the issue of entrance age to kindergarten with Jane Oakes of Gill volunteering to participate. The current policy is that a child has to be five years old by September 1st of the school year to be admitted to kindergarten. Other districts are more flexible, putting Gill-Montague at a disadvantage in terms of school choice. State regulations say if a student is already enrolled in kindergarten in another school and wants to transfer to another district, they have to be accepted. Ladd said this means if a child is enrolled at age 4 in Sunderland and then transfers to Gill-Montague, they would have to accept them.



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from LEVERETT page 7  
DESE.

"If both Leverett and Shutesbury leave U-28, I have a hard time seeing how U-28 could exist in its present form," said Hajir. He said the impetus for the renewed consideration of elementary regionalization stemmed from dissatisfaction with the financial efficiency of U-28.

At the April 26th selectboard meeting, Peter d'Errico said the towns also discussed, "some really intriguing possibilities in a K-8 region, but we're not talking about taking that step yet."

The selectboard has asked the school committee to undertake an administrative efficiency study of U-28. At the Shutesbury meeting, Kulik and Rosenberg referenced "other school unions that operate more efficiently," than U-28,

according to Julie Shively, who mentioned that in some school unions, the superintendents also act as business manager. If that were to be the case at a new region between Shutesbury, Pelham and Leverett, there would also be fewer night meetings for the superintendent and business manager to attend, she pointed out.

Chair Rich Brazeau suggested a follow-up meeting on the topic of elementary regionalization with members of the school committee, the education study committee, and the finance committee, to take place on May 10th at town hall.

"We're out in front of the school committee. They should be out in front on this," said d'Errico.

In other news, the board is readying an application for a \$50,000 planning and implementation grant from the

Mass Broadband Institute to enable the town to pave the way for delivering last mile fiber optic cable to households in town. The board talked about the possibility of renting a ditch digging machine a laying conduit and cable as a town project. The board was pleased to see a new map of middle mile cable from MBI now includes a loop up Cave Hill Road to North Leverett Road, probably leading to the North Leverett Fire Station. Shively, who lives on Richardson Road, seemed especially pleased by this development. The delivery of middle mile cable is still some years away, the board said.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford will be taking a six month leave for health reasons starting May 9th, after a stem cell donor providing a fortuitous 100% match was located to enable her

to undergo promising treatment for a difficult medical condition. She will need to recuperate for six months, although she said she would be able to do some work from home during that time.

Former town clerk Dee Ann Kelly will fill in for Stratford, five hours a week, at \$25 an hour, during her recovery.

The official town census is up from ten years ago, from 1620 (a number the board scoffed at as inaccurate anyway) to 1851 in 2010.

Portia Weiskel has proposed a display of plastic water bottles ("nothing trashy") on the town common, to encourage people to drink tap water as an energy conservation measure. The board approved the idea, with a touch of nostalgia for Weiskel's previous conservation display of clothes on a clothesline.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ** - In our last column we discussed gun safety. Today's column provides advice to parents and grandparents who have a gun in the home.

Guns and children are a volatile mix. 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 in this

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:**  
**Advice to Parents and Grandparents who have a Gun in the Home**

country; most of the guns are owned by the child's family or friends, researchers have found.

One-third of all families in America that have children also have guns, and more than 40 percent of them don't keep their guns locked up. Children younger than eight can't tell the difference between a real gun and a toy, and 3-year-olds are strong enough to pull the trigger on a real gun. Children and teens commit more than half of all unintentional shootings.

So what should you do to protect children who are in a home with a gun? I'll provide some tips, but if you want a detailed safety program you can teach your children at home, call the Eddie Eagle Program at 800-231-

0752. This program is sponsored by the National Rifle Association.

If you teach them nothing else, repeat these instructions over and over to them. If you find a gun:

**STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult.**

Don't allow guns to become mysterious. If they are an unknown, children will become curious and look for your gun when you are not around. Talk openly about them.

Discuss gun use on television and movies where firearms are often handled carelessly and characters are "killed." Tell children about the real dangers guns present.

Explain the difference

between toy guns and real guns. If your child has toy guns, you can use them to demonstrate how they are different from genuine firearms. You can also use them to teach safe gun handling.

Store guns so they are inaccessible to children and other unauthorized users. Gun shops sell a wide variety of safes, cases, and other security devices.

And gun safety is worth teaching your children even if you don't own a gun. According to federal statistics, there are guns in about half of all U.S. households. Your child or grandchild could visit a friend and confront a gun.

A recent survey done at the University of Michigan found that most American parents who own guns discuss gun safety with

their children, but the majority of parents who don't own guns ignore the subject.

In their national poll on children's health, the researchers asked 1,621 parents about gun ownership and if they had discussed gun safety with their children.

One-third of respondents with children ages 5 to 17 said they had a gun in the home. Of parents with guns in the home, 82 percent said they have talked to their children about gun safety. But only 48 percent of parents without guns in the home have ever discussed gun safety with their children.

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

*When Augustus Owsley Stanley III died on March 13th, readers perusing his obit in the NY Times may have noted his passing as just a footnote to the psychedelic 60s - another Merry Prankster gone. But Wendell's Jim Thornley lost a friend.*

**Owsley's on the Outside Looking In**

**BY JIM THORNLEY**

**WENDELL** - In 1968 I was drafted. Believing that the Vietnam War was immoral and doomed to failure, I ignored the draft notice and traveled around the country, exploring what life had to offer.

In the spring of 1970, I was arrested by the FBI for failure to report for induction into the armed services. I was sentenced to two years in federal prison, and served 15½ months in the federal correctional

institute at Lompoc, CA. Then I was transferred to the prison camp, outside the fences of the federal prison, where I served the last 100 days of my sentence.

Because I worked in food service and had to rise early, I was assigned to a room with just two others, rather than a crowded dormitory. The building was two stories, cinderblock, with dorms on each end, and rooms in the middle, three bunks to a room, with a

thick wooden door and a large glass window.

After my first week, the man in the next bunk was released. A new roommate soon appeared. His name was Owsley Stanley. I



*Owsley 'Bear' Stanley, born Augustus Owsley Stanley III (January 19th, 1935 - March 13th, 2011)*

I soon realized he was one of the most brilliant people I had ever met. He seemed to know everything about everything, from philosophy to science, especially chemistry, to the origins of modern musical instruments, and the entire history of 'The Pigskin' (football American style).

Before long he was allowed to bring in a precursor to the cassette boom box, which, unbeknownst to the jailers, had been hot-rodged to play extremely loudly and clearly. The globe of the frosted ceiling fixture soon sprouted a red light bulb, with two of our reading lamps sprouting green bulbs. Late at night, the room became our own mini-Grateful Dead concert.

Owsley's good friend Bob Thomas, also a prisoner, would stop by the room after dinner count. He was an amazing artist and musician. Along with our other roommate, Danny Montano, we would spend our evenings telling stories and reading ZAP, Mr. Natural, and the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers comic books. Thomas and sometimes a friend or two would play music.

On December 30th, 1971, another amazing character at the prison came into the food service back door where I was washing pots alone early in the

see OWSLEY pg 18

knew who he was, but not a whole lot about him. He came in on a Friday night.

On Saturday he had a visitor and was gone most of the day. I was sitting on my bunk when he returned, unsearched, as was the practice at the prison camp. He came in hurriedly, handed me a brownie wrapped in foil, about five inches long, one and a half inches wide and an inch deep, and said, "Here, eat this quick!" It had a strong flavor of pot.

For the next five to six hours, I sat glued to my bunk. That was the beginning of my 100 days with Owsley as a roommate.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Break In, Shoplifting, Illegal Dumping**

**Wednesday, 4/20**

1:37 a.m. Fight in front of Carroll's Market in Millers Falls. Unfounded.  
10:27 a.m. Pedestrian accident at Food City parking lot on Avenue A. Services rendered.  
11:21 a.m. Drug, narcotics violation on T Street. Services rendered.  
4:19 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Station Street. Services rendered.  
6:25 p.m. Structural fire on New Street. Referred to other agency.  
10:14 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on T Street. Services rendered.

**Thursday, 4/21**

12:14 a.m. Loud noise disturbance outside the Rendezvous on Third Street. Investigated.

4 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Third Street. Services rendered.  
5:40 p.m. Suspicious auto by the Millers Falls railroad tracks. Services rendered.

**Friday, 4/22**

3:47 a.m. Suspicious auto at cemetery on Montague City Road. Services rendered.  
2:34 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for shoplifting by concealing merchandise at Food City on Avenue A.  
6:10 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Third Street. Services rendered.  
7:16 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Eleventh Street.  
10:30 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G Street. Investigated.

**Sunday, 4/24**

5:34 p.m. Illegal dumping on Lake Pleasant Road. Investigated.

**Monday, 4/25**

2:08 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Services rendered.  
7:11 a.m. Summons served in hand to [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle to endanger, marked lanes violations, and failure to wear a seatbelt.

**Tuesday, 4/26**

9:10 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Country Creemee on Millers Falls Road. Investigated.  
12 p.m. Probable cause arrest for outside agency of [redacted]

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from OWSLEY page 17 morning. He handed me a small orange pill shaped like saccharin, saying, "Half of this will do you really good, but you can take all of it!"

I found out later that day, that he and another friend had handed out probably 225 hits of LSD among the 250 prisoners. That day, in the federal prison camp maybe 200 prisoners were stoned on LSD.

Being a little on the cautious side, after work I brought the pill to the room to show Bear (Owsley's nickname). He said he knew who made it, that it was pure, and that I should not take it that day but wait until the next day, New Year's Eve.

Soon Owsley had his own orange pill, and New Year's Eve 1971 was a night I will never forget! Even though

prison was very drab, it was definitely one of my most colorful evenings. A long night of philosophizing ensued, and I got to know Bear as a friend.

After several more adventures, I was released at the end of February, 1972. Bear was released a few months later and resumed working with the Grateful Dead, after which he designed their great Wall of Sound, at the time the best sound system on the planet.

In the summer of 1972, the Grateful Dead were playing their first gig at the University of California at Santa Barbara. It was an outdoor concert in the football stadium. Five of us ex-cons drove to the concert and split the cost of one ticket. We elected Joe the Priest to go in to find Bear. Forty-five minutes later, out came smiling Joe with five backstage passes. We

entered and had a private treat with Bear, dripped straight from his famous Murine eyedropper bottle. It was only the second time I had seen the Dead, but it was the first time I realized what they were all about.

For the next eight years, I saw about one Dead concert a year in such a fashion, at various venues, and saw Bear at other times. I visited his studio, along with another wild and crazy prison friend, Bob Nichols, on a day that Bear was choosing from the archives of the many early Dead performances he had recorded, to compile the album, Bear's Choice.

One of the Dead shows I saw was in the Oakland Coliseum, where the Oakland Athletics play baseball. The Beach Boys were the opening act. The stage had been set up in center field, over the bleachers and protruding onto the field. The patrons filled the rest of the ballpark on the field. The backstage area consisted of the whole outfield bleachers.

Having already had a treat

from Bear, I really enjoyed the Beach Boys. Their encore of "Daddy Took the T-Bird Away" had everyone in the whole place screaming the refrain (who, who, Daddy took the T-bird away), jumping up and down and waving their arms over their heads.

As the Dead set up their Wall of Sound, a six-story structure of scaffolding on each side of the stage filled with speakers, a forklift lifting the speakers up to the stage from the outfield got stuck, causing a delay and modification in how the system was to be set up. I saw Bear in purple pants on the top of the towers, moving speakers around, which he ordinarily wouldn't have been doing. Then I walked out amongst the crowd. I heard one fellow comment, "Hey, did you see, that guy in the purple pants just fell off the top of the towers!"

I turned around and saw no one on the tower, so I immediately walked back. There was Bear, lying on his back on the ground, conscious. He said he thought he was all right.

People were telling him not to move while they called an ambulance.

I talked with Bear about the incident at a later time. He said while moving a speaker around, he put his foot down into thin air. He said he immediately knew he had to let himself fall loosely. After spending the rest of the evening in the hospital, he came out with nothing more severe than a broken wrist, after falling six stories onto the dirt warning track.

I never saw Bear again after 1980, but kept informed of his whereabouts through friends. I was saddened to hear of his demise in a car accident in Australia on March 13th, 2011. Bear truly was an amazing person with a unique mind and outlook on life. He was a behind-the-scenes player who influenced a whole generation. Fame came to him. He was not seeking it, and indeed stayed as far out of the limelight as he could. He was always on the outside looking in. I miss Bear.



## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

### TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Chapter 40A Section 5, Section 9 and Chapter 41 Section 81Q of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 17, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Offices at Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws and the Wendell Subdivision Regulations as described below.

Article V Access, Density & Dimensional Regulations, Section B. Other Dimensional Requirements - To be changed to read: "FRONT YARD: The minimum distance between the front lot line and any principal building shall be 25 feet." Remove: "The minimum distance between the front lot line and any building or structure that contains more than one(1) dwelling unit shall be 100 feet."

Remove Article XII Large Development Review.

Add the following text in Article VI Section B, under "Site Plan Review" as the second paragraph: "The construction or renovation of one or more buildings on a single lot or contiguous lots under common ownership that will result in 10,000 square feet or more of enclosed floor area shall be subject to a Site Plan Review, provided the development or activity is not subject to a

Special Permit."

WENDELL SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS - Update of the subdivision regulations to incorporate changes in the Zoning Bylaws regarding Conservation Development and drainage, layout and performance guarantee improvements. The regulations contain the following sections: "Authority, Purpose, Applicability and Implementation; Waivers; Plan Believed Not To Require Approval (ANR); Subdivision Plans (Preliminary and Definitive); Preliminary and Definitive Subdivision Plans General Submittal Requirements; Additional Required Submittals for Preliminary Plans; Additional Required Submittals for Definitive Plans; Definitive Plan Approval and Recording; Performance Guarantees; Design Standards and Required Improvements; Project Management; Administration and Fees; Subdivision Closeout and As-Built Plans."

On or before April 30, 2011, the proposed text of the bylaw changes and subdivision regulations under consideration will be posted outside the Town Offices for review and will be available from the Town Coordinator and at the Town Library during their regular business hours.

## Rebirth of the Drama Circle

BY GENEVIEVE FRASER

ORANGE - The Drama Circle, dedicated to original works of the stage and screen, is about to be reborn.

Readings are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month, starting on Saturday, June 11th from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Formerly housed at Mount Wachusett Community College, the Drama Circle is now sponsored by the performing arts division of the non-profit organization, Art for Life, at 7 East Main Street, in

Orange.

But this time around a new twist is being added. Along with presenting original scripts, the Drama Circle will also feature readings of scenes from classical theater pieces by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen and others. The hope is that by reviewing classical theater, playwrights will develop a solid understanding of the elements needed to create a dramatic work. But just as before, readings as well as the opportunity to submit scripts will be

open to anyone of any age or ability.

The Drama Circle was originally organized in the mid-1990s and closed in 2002. Future plans include producing staged readings and full productions at the Orange Town Hall.

One of the scripts presented at the Drama Circle from years past, 'Lincoln,' is by nationally recognized author, Michael Riccards. Later adapted as a musical with songs from the Civil War period, the Orange town hall would be a perfect venue for a world premiere of this work, and Riccards, who is the former president of Fitchburg State College, has agreed.

If you are an actor or interested in participating in a reading or having an original play or screenplay read, please call (978) 544-1872, or email: FraserGenevieve@gmail.com. The Drama Circle is free of charge and open to the public.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Assist Other Police, Larceny

Wednesday, 4/13

10:30 p.m. Report of a suspicious motor vehicle at the French King Bridge. Checked same. All OK.

Thursday 4/14

1:35 p.m. Assisted state police with motor vehicle crash on Route 2.

3:10 p.m. Larceny investigation at Renovators

Supply.

Friday 4/15

6:58 p.m. Subject walking on Route 2. Subject fine. Declined any assistance.

10:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with group of people and a large camp fire on Wendell Road.

11:00 p.m. Assisted

Northfield police with possible fight. Reported two male subjects on Main Street. Checked area. Both subjects were gone.

Sunday, 4/17

2:05 p.m. Report of possible dispute in area of Holmes Street. Checked on subjects. All set and moved along.

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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Thrive Project Half-Year Anniversary Celebration and Benefit Concert*, featuring Ginevra Bucklin-Lane, Anna Burnahm, Marisol Celestia, Zach Holmes, Steve Koziol, and more! 8 p.m. Dance party starts at 10 p.m.

French King Highway Entertainment Center, Erving: *An Evening of Side-Splitting Comedy to benefit the Turners Falls Sports Booster Club*, specifically

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival*. Bilingual Concert with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll and children's activities. If the weather is unpleasant, it will be held inside the Carnegie Library. 10 a.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen playing all your favorite oldies from the 50's & 60's. 8-10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 6th**  
through **SATURDAY, MAY 21st**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol karaoke contest!*

**FRIDAY, MAY 6th**  
Montague Grange: *Benefit for Community Farm Initiative*. Contra dance with Donna Hebert & Max Cohen. 7 - 10 p.m.

Greenfield High School Auditorium: The Dance Department of Greenfield Community College presents *Spring Student Dance Concert*. A variety of dance styles will be featured, including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, tap and Middle Eastern. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ton of Blues*, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Suitcase Junket* (Matt Lorenz of Rusty Belle) and *Azwan and the Savages*, (folk-hop), 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 7th**  
Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Free Concert with the Greasy Cuffs Song Tour*, 1 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ameranouche*, The trio features two French acoustic Gypsy jazz guitars and upright bass, and is a winner of "Best of New Hampshire" awards, as well as being veterans of the famed Newport Jazz Festival. The group tours nationally, year-round, and has released two albums of largely of original music inspired by the legendary Gypsy guitarist, Django Reinhardt. 9:30 p.m.

Elks Lodge, Turners Falls: *RiverCulture Feast for the Arts*. You are invited to choose and fund Turners Falls' next public art project! For a minimum donation of \$10, you will have the opportunity to vote on submitted proposals to the Turners Falls Producers Series, while meeting your community, enjoying a fabulous meal provided by local venues and hearing music from local musicians!

The evening will consist of a cocktail hour with live music by Caleb Wetherbee and Shag the Band, followed by dinner and a short presentation of proposals, after which you will be able to informally discuss the ideas and vote on your favorite. Votes will be tallied by the end of the evening and a winner announced. Your dinner fees will go directly to funding the winning proposal. One week before the dinner, summaries

of submitted proposals will be up on the RiverCulture website for review. They will also be at the dinner on the voting ballot. Info and tix here: [www.shopwestermass.com/riverculture/](http://www.shopwestermass.com/riverculture/). 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 8th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, An Irish session with Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends. 8-10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 10th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Planet of the Apes* on the big screen.

**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 **MAY**  
Franklin Medical Center Cafeteria, Greenfield: Oil paintings on display by *Ted Graveline* of Gill. All sales proceeds will benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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 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:



*Marisol Celestia will play at the Thrive Project Half Year Celebration & Benefit at The Rendezvous, 8 p.m. on Saturday April 30th, with Zach Holmes, Anna Burnahm, Ginevra Bucklin-Lane, & Steve Koziol.*

*Memphis Kelly*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Sun Parade with Lux Deluxe, At Burrito Rojo... Fresh off the heels of their awesome performance at the Upper Valley Music Fest at the Arts Block, Northampton's own Sun Parade plays with the incredibly talented group of teenagers in Lux Deluxe! Not to be missed! 9-11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Beauty Feast and Strange Shapes*. Beauty Feast: an anchor-less band set adrift in a sea of time; a bumbling, stumbling, persistently unfocused but ultimately irresistible group of kids formed in 2007 by Kelly Zultrau, Anna Meyer, Marty Sulkow and later joined by Shane O'Connell, Doug Bleek and Chris Smith. Their music, though also bumbling and stumbling, is elegant and raw in its simplicity and frankly, very catchy as well. *Strange Shapes* is a band from Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood - twangy asymmetric power-pop. 8 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.

Greenfield Savings Bank-Community Room, Turners Falls: *Wake up Your Perennial Garden*. Come and get some spring gardening tips from Marguerite Sgadaro, master gardener. Should you cut off dead shoots? How much? Should you fertilize? How soon? When to plant bulbs, rodent problems and much more! As always, a question and answer period is included! Light refreshments will be provided as well as a surprise to all who attend! Bring your thoughts about a monthly plant swap! Seating is limited so please call Linda or Kerri at 413-863-4316. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Old Depot Gardens, Montague: *Opening Day for the season*. Get great organic starts for your home garden - a



*The Greenfield Community College Dance Department presents a Spring Student Dance Concert on Friday, May 6th at 7 p.m. at Greenfield High School Auditorium.*

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: Stefan Ohlström, 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Afterglow*, 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**

Downtown Turners Falls Spring Clean-Up: Meet at Great Falls Discovery Center. *Pitch in to clean-up Turners Falls*. This clean-up is being put on by the Streetscape Committee. For more details, call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221.

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.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th**  
Avenue A & Second Street: *Great Falls Farmers Market Opening Day*, 2 - 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 5th**

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Nobody's Fat, Jazz Trio  
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**FRI 4/29 9:30**  
**Arborea** (folk-indie)  
**The Sand Plains Index**

**SAT 4/30 9pm \$10**  
(but no one turned away for lack of \$!)

**THRIVE TURNS .5**  
Show: Ginevra & Anna.  
Steve K, Zack H., Marisol C.  
**10:30 Dance Party with DJK**

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# The Road Less Traveled

## Jack Coughlin Gets Down with Blues and Up with the Fish

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**MONTAGUE** - If you've ever picked up a copy of *The New Republic*, you're probably familiar with the name Jack Coughlin. He's been the magazine's portrait artist for more than 40 years; his watercolors include just about every major writer, musician, and composer you can think of. Everyone from Samuel Beckett to Billie Holiday to Bob Dylan.

Coughlin's portraits of blues musicians have been collected in a book called *A Brush with the Blues*, and his works are in many public collections, including those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum

of Modern Art in New York City.

If you've ever looked at

### SKY FISH



Cover art of Jack Coughlin's new book

Reporter, you've seen one of Jack's recent interests: the cartoonish characters who make up that motley band playing in the upper, left-hand corner. These musicians and others like them populate the ruined landscape that runs like a character as well as a theme through *Skyfish*, a collection of twenty-four prints that constitute Jack's playfully pessimistic view of the human condition.

In Coughlinville, many artistic conventions have been tossed to the wind. They seem to have

no place in a wasteland where the line between what is real and

what imagined is continually blurred. Much of it, like life itself, resists being reduced to simple explanations. What, for example, is the meaning behind the flying fish and the men who ride them or carry them under their arms? And what's with the alligator-snouted dogs, frogs on leashes, birds in raincoats, and people living in trash cans? Why is it only the women who smile? What do they know that the men don't? Many of Coughlin's grounded fishmen play the blues. Coughlin also plays the harmonica and sits in with various bands in the neighborhood as well as on the Cape, where he and his wife, Joan, own the Golden Cod Gallery in Wellfleet.

Whimsical, humorous, thought-provoking, and profound all at once, Coughlin's characterizations of the scruffy, mustachioed, bulbous caricatures that

populate his cartoons may recall Hieronymus Bosch or Peter Bruegel, but they are also closely related to the lovable, hapless, bowler-domed clowns of Charlie Chaplin, whose love is never required; Laurel and Hardy, whose efforts to accomplish even the smallest tasks are always accompanied by pain and failure; and Samuel Beckett, whose Gogo and Didi wait in a wasteland of perpetual hopefulness for a Godot who will never arrive.

Perhaps they know, like Coughlin's characters, that dreams, no matter what their size or how bizarre, are the most reliable way to soar above what has always been and will never change.

*A Brush with the Blues* and *Skyfish* are locally available at the Bookmill in Montague and Broadside Books in Northampton.

**Crabapple Blossom Festival**  
Turners Falls  
May 1-15, 2011

details at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org)  
organized by the Montague Public Libraries and Turners Falls RiverCulture

The Crabapple Blossom Festival is organized by the Montague Public Libraries and RiverCulture. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 413-863-3214.



### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Time to Transplant

For this next step up I've chosen a light container mix of soil and perlite. It will allow the new seedlings and their roots to stretch out; will cushion the new growth but still provide little resistance like some heavier mixes.

My intent is to save each and every seedling that has germinated successfully. That means that I have double the crop. I hate to lose one. So, I move firmly but tenderly, pulling out each compact cell of earth and separating one seedling, then another, until the trays are full of little, two-inch tomatoes, each identified by its variety with numbered sticks.

It's almost May now, so these small plants will need to make exponential progress in order to be ready for planting outdoors on Memorial Day weekend.

MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Change is rapid in this spring season. One day the daffodils show the tips of yellow buds; the next they are in full bloom. The cheery blossoms were dark pink against the blue sky; the day after they shine as white stars.

Incredibly, the tomato seeds planted a mere two weeks ago or so have germinated and are now stretching, two inches high, with long roots reaching for more leg room.

It's time to transplant, as there are two seeds per small germinating cell.

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