



NEW SIGNS PLANNED
for Bridge Detour
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HOW SWEET IT IS
Lyn Clark Tastes the Cake
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 30

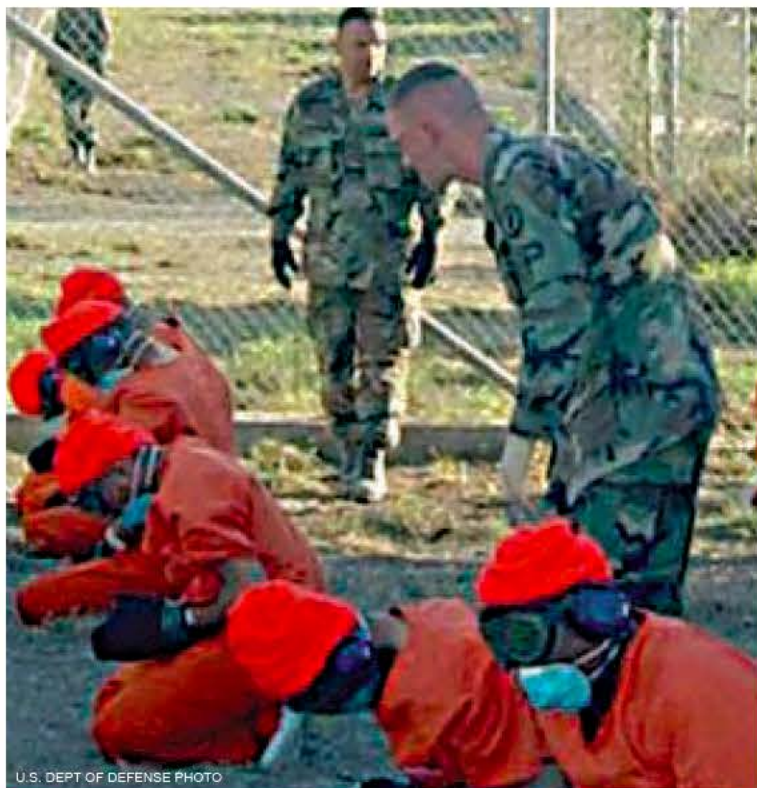
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 29, 2010



U.S. DEPT OF DEFENSE PHOTO

Leverett Welcomes Cleared Guantánamo Detainees

BY DAVID DETMOLD – On Saturday, Leverett approved a \$5 million budget to run the town and the elementary school, and to contribute to the Amherst-Pelham regional school district for the education of its upper school students. The town also, in a process unique to Leverett in the Commonwealth, nominated and elected town officers directly from the floor of town meeting. Voters agreed to have Leverett join the Franklin County Waste Management District, approved the voluntary stretch energy

building code, passed a demolition delay bylaw to allow the town historic commission more latitude to save historic buildings from the wrecking ball. And town meeting voters also made Leverett the first town in Franklin County to pass a resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to lift the ban on cleared Guantánamo detainees resettling in the United States, and welcomed such cleared detainees to settle in Leverett should the ban be lifted.

The latter resolution passed see **DETAINEES** pg 8

Kulik Backs Casino Gambling Bill

BY DAVID DETMOLD

BOSTON – In March of 2008, representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) voted against Governor Deval Patrick’s proposal to build three gambling casinos in Massachusetts, including one in Western Mass. The proposal to build resort casinos in Massachusetts failed that year on a vote of 106 - 48.

But this year, the House passed a revived version of the bill, to bring 3,000 slot machines to the state’s four racetracks and to build two resort casinos, instead of three. Kulik was among the majority of members who supported the bill, on a vote of 120 -37.

“It was a different bill than what was considered before,” said Kulik this week.

“The state of the economy and the state budget played largely in my decision,” he continued; “the state of the recession and the high unemployment that we’re experiencing. I spoke with many of my constituents in the construction trades who have been out of work, some of them for many years, who are looking forward to working on these projects. All of that made me reverse my decision on the governor’s bill.”

Kulik pointed out that Patrick’s original bill stipulated that one of the casinos be built in Western Mass, but the bill the House passed on April 14th included an amendment, which Kulik backed, to make sure that doesn’t happen.

“I’m not sure it makes sense to put one in Western Mass,” said Kulik. “I am concerned about the impact on the growing arts and culture scene, and ecotourism destinations, including Turners Falls. Casinos are more appropriate in big cities. Put one in Boston, and Worcester, not in Palmer where it will draw people from Western Massachusetts at a disproportionate rate, and impact Greenfield, and Montague, and smaller towns.”

Kulik said the state lottery would be held harmless from any losses created by the shift to casino gambling once the new destination casinos are up and running. “Revenues from the casinos would offset any losses from the lottery,” he said.

Kulik said the House bill, “dedicates \$100 million to local aid, that would be distributed though the existing lottery formula, which would translate to \$170,000 annually in added state aid for Montague, and \$20,000 for towns like Leverett and



ROSE WHITCOMB-DETMOLD PHOTO WELLS PHOTO COLLAGE

Representative Steve Kulik said two proposed destination casinos in eastern or central Massachusetts would bring extra revenue to local towns with very little local impact.

Wendell.”
“We’d get extra revenue and very little local impact,” Kulik said.

The extra local aid account would be generated by a 30% tax on casino profits. Kulik said other funds from the casino tax would be dedicated to the Massachusetts Cultural Council and regional tourism boards. Other dedicated revenues from the casinos would go to community colleges and workforce retraining.

“So I felt particularly, as we were working on the budget this year that reduces local aid by 4%, we need to find new sources of revenues. This is not going to solve all our problems, by see **KULIK** pg 11

Cooperative Reuse of Maple Valley School Proposed



DETMOLD PHOTO

Charles Cooper and Rosie Heidekamp met with about a dozen people last week at the Wendell Free Library to consider possibilities for the cooperative reuse of the former Maple Valley School

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WENDELL – On Wednesday, April 21st, a dozen residents gathered in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library to discuss ideas for the future reuse of the former Maple Valley School buildings and grounds, a 53.3-acre complex at the corner of

Farley Road and Wendell Depot Road.

The year-round residential school, which for decades housed and educated young males with behavioral problems, closed last year and has remained vacant since. The property is owned by Tuoye Brason.

The meeting was called together by Charles Cooper, a resident of Wendell Depot, who said his goal was to “establish a community business coop as a means to generate economic development for the people of Wendell,” and perhaps to use the see **REUSE** pg 16

Theater Review Arena Civic Theater presents: To Kill a Mockingbird

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – You know you are in a strange moral universe when the best the star lawyer can do, summing up the case for the jury, is say, “Not all Negroes lie, not all Negroes are immoral beings... not to be trusted around our women.”

The time is 1935 and the place is the Deep South, in a tired old county town called Maycomb, and the story, brought to the stage by the Arena Civic Theater in the second unsettled year of the Obama administration, as ancient animosities parade the land and the nation struggles once again with an economy brought low by the excesses of Wall Street, is the well loved classic of American literature, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Still, it comes as something of



Alan Maynard and Emma Henderson in *Mockingbird*

a shock to hear Atticus Finch (portayed by Alan Maynard) advise his children that everyone’s opinion is deserving of respect, even when the opinion shapers in question have developed a mean habit of calling their

see **THEATER** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Loyal Companion



Ponce

My name is Ponce and I'm a two-year-old male domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I am here in the shelter because my former person became too ill to keep me. I have been an indoor guy all my life and I would like to stay that way. I adore being massaged around my head and ears, and I love to cuddle. I'm a loyal and loving companion to my family, although I prefer to hide out when strangers are around. It would be wonderful if you took me home so we could be family. I have been here much too long, and am longing to meet you and make my new home right beside your heart! Please come soon. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Invasive Plants in Your Backyard

Invasive Plants in Your Backyard and Community: Be Part of the Solution!, a talk with Cynthia Boettner, coordinator of the Invasive Plant Control Initiative at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, at the library on Thursday, May 6th, 7 p.m. Invasive plants are

encroaching into our own yards, parks, and natural areas. Find out which plants are problems, what is being done about them, and how you can do your part.

Leverett Library is located at 75 Montague Rd. Directions at www.leverettlibrary.org. For more info call (413) 548 9220.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Crabapple Blossom Festival Events

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – There will be a children's May Day Party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 1st at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to come make traditional May Day crafts with children's librarian Linda Hickman. Refreshments will be served. The event is a kick-off for the Crabapple Blossom Festival, which runs from May 1st to 15th.

On Tuesday, May 4th at 10 a.m., Dawn Marvin Ward will offer a hands-on science program for young children called Trees Every Day.

On May 5th, there will be a Cinco De Mayo Festival from 10 to 11:30 a.m. If the weather is pleasant, it will be held in Peskeompskut Park; otherwise it will be in the Carnegie Library. The Festival includes Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll performing a bilingual concert at 10

a.m., followed by an informal parade around the park and children's crafts. The concert is sponsored by the CFCE, formerly known as the CPC.

On Saturday, May 8th, the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will hold a Used Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books are only two dollars a bag. Movies and audio books will also be available.

Also on Saturday May 8th, the family friendly band 3Potato4 will hold the Crabapple Blossom Festival Family Concert in Peskeompskut Park at 10:30 a.m. If the weather is unpleasant, the concert will be held in the Carnegie Library. The May 8th concert is sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Two Solar Workshops

The **Solar Thermal Hot Water System Workshop** (2 hrs) is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th, 9 to 11 a.m. The Solar Store of Greenfield will present a workshop on residential solar hot water heating at the Library.

The first half of the workshop will be a presentation on system components, design, and siting requirements as well as current Federal and State Tax credits, 0% loan programs and system costs. During the second part of the workshop the presenters will offer participants short individ-

ual site assessments using Google maps. From these mini assessments up to seven candidates with potentially viable sites will be chosen for free on-site assessments and designs. While the workshop is open to all, Wendell participants will have priority for the mini site assessment offered during the workshop. The follow up on site assessments and designs will be limited to Wendell households. In the event that there are more than seven Wendell participants with viable sites the on site

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 3rd to May 7th

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 Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

Monday, May 3rd
 10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
 1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, May 4th
 9:00 a.m. Walking Group
 Brown Bag is postponed until May 10th

1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, May 5th
 10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, May 6th
 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, May 7th
 10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
 1:00 p.m. Scrabble
 1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (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 info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.



Sarah Doyle with dinosaur fossils at the Cambridge Science Festival

Geology on Tour

CAMBRIDGE – On Saturday, April 24th, Sarah Doyle, of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, traveled to the Cambridge Science Festival with Turners Falls geologist Steve Winters to bring a display of local fossilized dinosaur footprints to the People's Republic.

Doyle said of the 89 booths, the Great Falls Discovery Center's was the only one dealing with earth sciences. "We talked to

easily 1,000 people who stopped by to admire the fossils and ask questions."

Doyle said they handed out nearly a whole box of Winters' Turners Falls Geology Walking Tour booklets, along with handouts from Discovery Center. "I wouldn't be at all surprised if it brings some tourists our way this summer."

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
Grade 6
 Ciara Staiger
Grade 7
 Caleb Bristol
 Kelly Rehorka
Grade 8
 Michael Whiteman

Writers Wanted

The Montague Reporter is seeking to hire committed reporters to cover local school committee and selectboard meetings. If you aren't committed yet, we can get you committed. For details call (413) 863-8666.

assessments will be determined by lottery. Please call the Library to register (978) 544-3559.

The **Solar Electric PV System Workshop** (2 hrs) is scheduled for Saturday, May 29th, 9 to 11 a.m. The Solar Store of Greenfield will present a workshop to the residents of Wendell on the basics of electrical conservation, efficiency, and solar electric photovoltaics for residential installations. They will detail design factors for sizing and general description of the components. Federal, State Tax credits, MA state Clean Energy Center Rebate program and Solar Renewable Energy Credits on the market. During

the second part of the workshop the presenters will offer participants short individual site assessments using Google maps with options and limitations similar to the May 8th workshop detailed above. Please call the Library to register (978) 544-3559.

These two workshops are free of charge to registered participants, and supported through a matching grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Choice Program.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY

DON CLEGG – The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) holds their annual food drive on Saturday, May 8th. Letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along their postal routes.

The 18th annual NALC National Food Drive to “Stamp Out Hunger” is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Carriers collected a record 73.4 million pounds of food in last year’s drive. This drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May in over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Locally, this food drive has been a major contributor to keeping shelves stocked at our local food pantries, struggling to meet rising demand.

Just to get you in the Valley Idol spirit, MCTV Channel 17, will be re-broadcasting Valley Idol performances from previous years on Saturday, May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd. Tune in and see the singers who made their way to the finals, and the singers who got gonged along the way. We can always remember the lawyer with the seeing-eye dog and the plaid shirt belting out that Harry Chapin song, and the many other contestants reinterpreting favorite classics from the 1960s in ways their originators never dreamed of.

The first 100 auditioners will

make a run at claiming this year’s Valley Idol honors on Friday, May 7th at the Shea Theater at 6 p.m. There is no better entertainment value anywhere.

Saturday, May 1st, is the date for the 18th Annual Walk for Meals on Wheels fundraiser, held at the Franklin County Tech School on Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls. Prizes will be awarded for the top fundraiser, top group fundraiser, top youth fundraiser, oldest walker, youngest walker, and most unique costume. Stop by and enjoy some food, entertainment and the spirit of helping others. Walkers start at 8 a.m. and continue until 11 a.m.

The Beijing Station restaurant at 51 Avenue A now offers expanded evening hours for greater evening service for the nightlife of our town. The restaurant will now be open until 2 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday, till midnight on Monday and Tuesday, and will close at 10 p.m. on Sundays.

Gill Elementary School 6th grade teacher Joanne Flagg and art teacher Nancy Meagher will travel to the statehouse in Boston on Friday to receive a certificate of merit from Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles. The teachers are being honored for a joint project they created for the sixth graders, called *Pangea to Pest Control*.

Principal Rita Detweiler said the sixth graders journeyed to

Harvard State Forest to learn about the widespread damage the Woody Adelgid, an aphid-like is causing to hemlock trees. Students created dioramas based on Earth changes and environmental changes over eons of time, which will be on display in the Gill Elementary School hallways soon.

The Brick House Teen Center on 3rd Street in Turners Falls will benefit from a free soup and games night at the Hope and Olive restaurant in Greenfield on Monday, May 3rd, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For those of you who have never heard of these monthly events, soup and games night at Hope and Olive are a wonderful community event where people can come enjoy free soup and play board games, while benefiting organizations earn money from bake sales and bar proceeds.

The Franklin County Technical School will host the first annual town of Montague Wiffle Ball Tournament on Saturday, May 22nd. Form a team of five players and join in. Ever try to hit a wiffle-ball on a windy day? It is like trying to hit Red Sox knuckleball pitcher Tim Wakefield, when he has his real good-stuff. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. There is a \$25 registration fee per team and you must be registered by May 19th. Contact Daniel, (413) 863-9561 x233 to register.

A home-run derby will be held at 1 p.m. Registration for this event is \$5 and only the first 20 individuals to sign up will participate. A cash prize will be awarded to the home run champ.

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

Turners Falls Water Department Semi-annual water bills to be mailed on Friday, April 30th

Payments can be made by mail or at the Water Department Offices 226 Millers Falls. The department is open Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30. A drop box is located at the offices to the left of the entry door. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and the entire bill with your payment. Payments received after June 1 are subject to a \$20.00 late fee.

Water usage is based on a six month period, approximately April 1 through September 30 for summer reads and approximately October 1 through March 31 for winter reads. Sewer bills are based on this water usage and then doubled.

Town of Erving Tax Bills Due

The Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the second half FY2010 taxes that were mailed April 1st and due May 1st, 2010: Because May 1st is a day that the tax collector is not open for business, taxes will be due Monday, May 3rd, 2010 with no interest. After May 3rd, interest at the rate of 14% per annum will be charged.

Tax collector hours are Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Monday, May 3rd, the hours will be extended from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Tax Collector can be reached at 422-2800, extension 104, or by email at ervingtax@comcast.net.

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In These Schools, Most Fish Left Behind

BY KARL MEYER

GREENFIELD – I was a preschooler when I teased apart the whacky logic of an Easter bunny delivering eggs, a little absurdity all kids eventually figure out. Today a different mythology is being offered in dozens of Massachusetts schools. I'm talking about ASERP, the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program, where fertilized hatchery eggs are brought into classrooms. Kids feed them as they hatch and grow to tiny, hybrid salmon. Those that survive are released into streams. ASERP teaches that salmon are the key to restoring our migratory fish populations and that salmon hatcheries are critical to a healthy ecosystem.

Hatcheries are potential dispersal points for diseases that can spread to other river fish and on to ocean populations. Since 2007, Connecticut River salmon hatcheries have had these emergencies:

IPN, a deadly, highly-contagious virus discovered in Sunderland – all breeding salmon plus 700,000 hatchery eggs destroyed; station flushed with disinfectant.

In 2009, 10 of 21 salmon adults captured at Holyoke turned blood red and were dying when they reached North Attleboro for "reconditioning" prior to breeding: cause unexplained.

Cold Water Disease discovered at Palmer, 300,000 salmon fry destroyed; station "disinfected."

At White River, cataracts discovered in 60% of a sampling of 1 year-old salmon; thousands destroyed.

Rock Snot, an easily-spread, habitat-smothering, alga was found in the White River upstream of the hatchery; a new water source had to be found.

After 43 years and over a half billion dollars spent on salmon, 60 adult hybrids returned to Holyoke Dam last year. Yet students are told humans will evolve a new, self-sustaining salmon hybrid – to replace a minor strain that died out here 200 years ago. While schools may be buying into the ASERP program, fish clearly are not.

Begun in 1997, ASERP is a partnership formed by angling groups and federal and state salmon hatchery operators, biologists, and research employees to reach into schools. It offers a tidy niche for teachers, incorporating basic science principles, but its message is self-promotion. The science and math paints a stilted river picture – salmon, and more salmon. Teachers are encouraged to submit public relations photos and stories; even advised how to stall difficult media inquiries asking more than a one-fish tale.

What kids aren't learning is that 97% of all the Connecticut's federal trust fish reaching the Turners Falls dam today are stuck there, where they've been pinched off since 1798, when John Adams was president. Virtually none are salmon. They are American shad and blueback herring, the very foundation of the Connecticut's migratory ecosystem. Literally millions of fish have been turned back at the Turners Falls dam in the past 40 years alone, while dam owners reap their own millions.

Native blueback herring passing Holyoke dam have plunged from 65,000 in 1997 to 39 last year; 620,000 passed in 1985. It's important to know 720,000 shad crowded Holyoke in 1992, while in 1997 just 300,000 returned. That run dropped to 160,000 fish last year.

I'm all for spending on native, wild fish. Save the still-living shad, blueback herring and alewives – fish runs disappearing today. Don't shackle kids and the river to a coldwater fish lost centuries back when a briefly-colder climate warmed here.

Meanwhile, kids should know that Turners Falls-Northfield Mountain hydro owners are mandated to get fish safely upstream, and that fish elevators are ten years overdue there. Tell them the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission and the New England Cooperative Fisheries are responsible for protecting those runs since 1967. And FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is mandated to enforce license requirements.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wheelchair Access Needed on G-M Bridge

I am 79 years old, and live at Stoughton Place in Gill. If the day comes when I can no longer drive my car, I will find some way to get into Turners Falls, probably by electric powered chair.

I hope the sidewalk on the bridge will be handicapped accessible throughout the construction phase, and beyond. A push button for the traffic light would make crossing Route 2 a lot safer.

There are 14 apartment units here at Stoughton Place. Others here would appreciate this option as well.

– Nadine Taylor Gill

Disturbed by Selectman's Vote on Native American Cultural Park

I am thrilled the town of Montague and Native American tribes plan to work together to offer cultural and educational events and to eventually establish a Native American cultural park in Turners Falls. What a testament to the power of time and trust, summed up in a quote from Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian tribe, "We perceive ourselves as your partners, for better or worse, but the objective is to better both communities. We're here for the long haul."

The collaborations and cultural park are fantastic ideas that will do much in terms of education and collaboration and, not

incidentally, tourism. What an incredible thing for Turners Falls to eventually be the site of the only Native American Cultural Park in New England! It will be another anchor in making our town and region a destination.

Chair Patricia Pruitt stated she was "disturbed" by selectboard member Mark Fairbrother's 'No' vote on the proposal.

I was disturbed by Fairbrother's explanation for his vote. To justify his position, he didn't discuss the pros and cons of the proposals at hand. He instead discussed a completely different issue: airport expansion.

As a resident of Turners, I am solidly invested in good ideas

that will enhance our town and bolster it financially. That Fairbrother would vote against this kind of progress and vision is mind-boggling.

Lastly, although I had vowed when Fairbrother was first elected to judge his actions as a selectboard member with an open mind, I am now very concerned about his motivations. I expect all of the selectboard members to act in good faith for what is best for the town, not to take the ups and downs of the political process personally, and certainly not to use the power of the position to act on grudges.

– Anne Jemas Turners Falls

Potluck Dinner to Benefit Wendell Old Home Day

On May Day there will be a potluck community dinner at 6 p.m. at Wendell town hall. The event will be a benefit for Old Home Day and will also include music by Fran Doughty. There will be Diemand Farm Turkey, cranberry sauce, assorted greens from Laughing Dog Farm, and bottled water.

Please bring a dish to share, your own plates and silverware,

and a \$5 donation for the Old Home Day fund.

Kids deserve to know too that the river is being unnaturally warmed by effluent from the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, just upstream. Just 19 shad swam past Vernon dam last year, compared to 37,000 in 1991. Most importantly, teach them that those fish, and this river, belong to them, not the corporations.

Karl Meyer of Greenfield won a 2008 Teachers' Choice Award for Children's Books for his Wild Animals of North America. He'll follow this year's fish runs at www.karlmeyerwriting.com.

Sign Me Up!

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MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Complicity is Also a Crime

In an amazing display of chutzpa the Roman Catholic Church has violated the law by shielding pedophile priests from prosecution. Instead of reporting sexual abuse crimes to the police, as the law requires, the church's policy has been to transfer the priest to another parish and not report this disgusting act to legal authorities. The victims are scarred for

life while the perpetrators, supported by the church, are often never brought to justice. This makes the church complicit in the crime of child abuse and the law should respond. How do we protect the children from an entity that thinks it is above the law?

— Vic Scutari
Wendell, MA

Sexual Abuse by Catholic Clergy: Tip of the Iceberg

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN MONTAGUE CENTER — Father DiMascola's article accusing the *Montague Reporter* of anti-Catholic bigotry calls to mind the wisdom and prison fate of another outspoken critic of abuses in the Catholic Church: Miguel de Cervantes. Writing through his creation, Don Quixote, Cervantes pointed out centuries ago that, "Facts are the enemy of truth."

Father DiMascola tells us that "less than one percent" of Catholic clergy sexually abuse children, but the actual percentage is certain to be many times higher if those who have been victimized by clergy report their violations at the same rate as those who have been sexually violated by people from all walks of life. The percentage of women who report being raped, for example, is less than five percent. And the one percent that Father DiMascola cites doesn't include clergy who've gotten away with sexually abusing children — only those who've confessed or been prosecuted.

From 1969 to 1971, I taught at an all-boys high school run by Xaverian brothers in Brooklyn, NY. Instances of sexual abuse occurred frequently, though usually under the guise of being something else. Preying mostly on the youngest and most vulnerable, it was a common practice among many of the brothers to accuse a student of smoking cigarettes and then reach into his underwear in search of hidden matches. The boys were so afraid of getting into trouble they were rarely aware of what was really happening to them.

The most flagrant forms of

sexual abuse were carried on by the principal, Brother Kyrin F. Powers, who worked his way into the fabric of the lives of his victims by coming across as a father figure who genuinely cared about their well being — a common approach for sexual predators in the teaching field. Once Powers had the boys' affection, he was able to rely on their sense of loyalty not to betray him.

Powers had his eye on one student almost from the day he first entered Xaverian High School. He initially befriended the boy by providing late passes when he overslept and allowing him to spend time in his office whenever he was bored with a class. Later, he took the boy to restaurants in Manhattan and Broadway plays, even the Metropolitan Opera. The boy was flattered.

When the boy's father died, Powers was there to help with the funeral arrangements, find a job for the boy's mother, and hire his older brother to coach the varsity basketball team. There was also a summer camp job for the boy at the high school. The boy was grateful.

As Brother Powers became more involved with the life of the boy's family, who saw him as something of a savior, he began calling the boy to his office in the middle of the class day and telling him how beautiful he was and touching him in all the places where he believed this to be so. The boy was confused.

Within months, Powers was pressing the boy against the wall of his office and, his voice laced with sexual comments about the boy's private parts, forcing his

tongue into his mouth at every opportunity. Money for treats on the way home and invitations to more plays and restaurants soon followed. The boy was indebted.

When Powers had to enter a hospital for a back operation, he went with Polaroid photos of the boy posing nude on the top of the desk in his office.

I mention this story at length to show that most of the instances of sexual abuse taking place between clergy and boys are not violent rapes or other extreme forms of sexual misconduct. More often than not, the abuses take place in loving, albeit sordid, contexts. Because many of the victims believe themselves to be loved — even when they know they are being sexually taken advantage of and are ashamed of their behavior — they are reluctant to expose their predators.

Those who try are often ignored because their parents are unwilling to believe that one of "Christ's representatives on Earth" could commit such an act. Because so many of the teachers these students confide in are afraid of getting themselves in trouble by exposing the pedophiles, the victims are frequently accused of "making up stories." Some are even punished.

This was the case when Brother Powers befriended a young student by hiring him to work the evening switchboard at the high school. What Powers didn't know was that that boy had a twin brother. The working brother told his sibling what Powers did to him in his office. To confirm the story, the non-working brother took his sib-

Pope Benedict has Worked Tirelessly to Combat Clerical Abuse

In recent columns about the Catholic sexual abuse scandal, I've noticed constant criticism of Pope Benedict XVI. But until 2001, when he was put in charge of sexual abuse cases as Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, he did not know the full extent of the abuse. After seeing so much "filth," as

he called it, in the Church, he implemented stricter guidelines in the United States regarding sexual abuse cases. He also met with victims of sexual abuse in Washington, D.C in 2008, conversing with each one privately in order to initiate the healing process. And, in their own words after the meetings, they were truly grateful

towards him. While your editorials try to paint a picture of the Holy Father as an apathetic villain to destroy the credibility of his office (and of the Church itself), the facts show his heart is full of compassion and fortitude. He has worked tirelessly to fight the evils of abuse.

— Thomas Spellman
Turners Falls

ling's place one evening at the switchboard.

The next day, both boys approached their parents. At a subsequent meeting with the principal, the victimized brother lost his job, and both boys were threatened with expulsion for attempted blackmail — an action that would have become a part of their school record, banished them to inferior schools, and reduced their chances of getting into colleges of their choosing.

And what about the pedophile? He continued to prey on the innocent as well as protect his fellow predators by threatening to expel or, in the case of teachers, fire any possible whistle blowers. Those clergy against whom there were repeated charges of abuse were transferred to other Xaverian schools in New York, Massachusetts, Kentucky, and Maryland.

Eventually, Powers stepped down from his position as principal without any legal charges brought against him to a comfortable consulting job with the New York City Board of Education and a lovely retirement home on Martha's Vineyard.

A second reason for telling the story of Brother Powers and a few of his many victims is to put human faces on the misleading statistics offered by Father DiMascola. When we allow ourselves to be distracted from seeing the victims of sexual abuse as children and think of them instead as issues that can be reduced to a set of statistics, even accurate ones, we enable those whose purpose is to distort or lessen the travesty of injustices rather than identify and correct them to accomplish their hypo-

critical aims. Instead of using statistics to play down the enormity of the crimes committed by Catholic clergy, Father DiMascola should be reaching out to those once innocent children who are now damaged adults to help heal the psychological wounds inflicted upon them, and take steps to insure that these atrocities are not repeated.


As I write this paragraph, I am listening to a report on National Public Radio about recent revelations of widespread sexual abuse on the part of Catholic priests in Mexico and the Netherlands. Included in the story is an interview with a Dutch victim who tried to tell a priest in his school about a colleague who was sexually molesting him. The priest beat the boy repeatedly with a stick.

This is not an extreme or unusual response on the part of the priest. In fact, it's another, even larger part of the iceberg of abuse by Catholic clergy. I am a Catholic school graduate. I was beaten by Franciscan and Xaverian brothers in New York and Servite priests in California with open hands, closed fists, pointers, paddles, straps, and wooden "boards of education," for offenses ranging from misspelling a word to handing in an assignment written in ballpoint pen because I had run out of ink.

The Bible tells us, "The truth shall make you free," but the opposite is also true. Not to recognize, admit, take responsibility for, and initiate action to resolve past, investigate present, and prevent future sexual atrocities only perpetuates and extends the injustices that have been done to too many for too long.

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AND MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Running for Board of Health in Wendell

With an MD from Harvard Medical School, I have been practicing medicine in the Valley since 2002. I would bring to the Board of Health broad medical knowledge and a realistic concern for the health of the people of Wendell. I see a range of health challenges facing our community, from water quality and protection of the environment to disaster planning.

Wendell's strength is the people who live here, and our sustainability as a community depends on our pooled knowledge and experience. As a Board

of Health member, I will seek out and learn from our differing points of view. I'm a good listener, I treat people fairly, and I respect both individual freedom and social responsibility. My family has been homesteading in Wendell since 2006. We raise our own vegetables, eggs, and meat. Sustainability and stewardship of the land are day-to-day concerns for us. I know the value of practical, common sense solutions.

- Jenny Fyler
Wendell

Running for Another Term as Erving Tax Collector

I am running for another three-year term as tax collector. I have really enjoyed my first term. It has been a learning experience for me. I like conversing with the people and I believe I am doing a good job.

There have been several positive changes in the tax office since I was elected. One change is a check scanner has been installed that enables us to deposit checks immediately from the office. This allows us to

process payments faster, so the money starts collecting interest sooner.

Tax payments can also be left any day the town hall is open, even if the tax office is closed. There is now a secure mail slot in the collector's door where taxpayers can leave their payments. Payments can also be left with the municipal clerk, my assistant, who is available daily.

I have more changes in mind to improve the department. Electronic bill paying is in the works and should be available soon. If anyone has any suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

I believe I am qualified for another term as tax collector. I would appreciate your vote on Monday May 3rd. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Shirley Deane
Erving

Running for Erving Library Trustee

I'm running for library trustee. I'm excited about this possibility of serving the town I love so much. There are many things I love about Erving - the Millers River, Laurel Lake, the bowling alley, the hiking trails... I could go on. But I have a clear favorite when it comes to places to go and enjoy in Erving - the library. No matter what the weather or my mood, whether fair or foul, the library always cheers me up. We have a wonderful library and wonderful librarians!

In the years I've lived in town I've seen many exciting changes take place there that have really helped me as a library patron. But I've also seen the essential mission stay the same - to serve as a

community gathering place and free resource for all of us here in Erving, equally.

I believe the library trustees - Beth, Marion and Marcia - have done an amazing job shepherding the many helpful changes while keeping the essential mission front and center. The ten-year plan for the library has wrapped up with success after success. I'd like to thank each of our dedicated trustees for their passion and persistence.

And I'd like to especially thank Beth Bazler for her efforts these past years. While I'm sad that Beth has decided not to run again for library trustee, I hope you will give me an opportunity to take the baton from her and carry on her good work.

I look forward to helping craft the next ten year plan and continue to make changes that make your library experience more wonderful and to hone in on the best ways to make the library work for you, whether it's books, music, movies, computers or time with neighbors of all ages taking part in special events together.

Again, I'm excited about the possibility of serving you and the town as library trustee. I hope that you'll vote for me for library trustee on election day, Monday, May 3rd. The polls are open at the town hall from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Robert Fletcher
Erving

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Bear Complaint; Gone on Arrival

Saturday, 4/10
8:20 a.m. Bear complaint on Hemmingway Road. Bear was gone on arrival.

Saturday, 4/17
2:30 p.m. Report of a suspicious person in the Still Corner Road area. Subject reportedly dressed up and wearing a rubber mask. Officer located a young female playing in the area with a friend while wearing a mask. No action warranted.

4:50 p.m. Officer encountered a ten year old male who had run away from home after an argument with his mother. Officer transported child back to his mother's residence. No further involvement needed.

Friday, 4/23
12:30 p.m. Report of a male subject injured near North Leverett Road after falling out of a tree while trimming. Bruce Davidson of Baker Road, Shutesbury fell approximately 40 feet out of a tree while trimming branches. Davidson was Life Flighted to Bay State Medical Center in Springfield. Unknown condition.

Saturday, 4/24
4:22 p.m. Officer discovered illegal dumping on Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Under investigation.

Sunday, 4/25
4:44 p.m. Officer discovered smoldering camp fire in the parking area off Rattlesnake Gutter Road near the Village Co-op. Leverett Fire Department responded to extinguish it.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Breaking and Entering in Progress

Saturday, 4/17
5:31 p.m. Assisted fire department with fight on River Street.

Monday, 4/19
9:33 p.m. Report of possible suicidal subject at a Main Road business.

Wednesday, 4/21
1:10 p.m. Report of illegal dumping of trash on North Cross Road.

Thursday, 4/22
10 1:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police

department with fight on River Street.

Friday, 4/23
5:54 p.m. Report of an intoxicated subject on a bicycle weaving in traffic on West Gill Road. Located and assisted same.

Sunday, 4/25
12:05 a.m. Report of breaking and entering in progress on Chappell Drive.

1:01 p.m. Report of a missing dog from the

Main Road area.

Monday, 4/26
9:40 a.m. Assisted a farmer on Lyons Hill Road, problem with cow.

11:03 a.m. Assisted a resident at the station with recovering a missing dog.

Tuesday, 4/27
4:01 p.m. Report of an unwanted subject on Ben Hale Road, assisted resident.

Yelena's Flavorland

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Pruitt Bids Farewell

BY DAVID DETMOLD - In an emotional farewell, board chair Patricia Pruitt said Monday, April 26th, would be her last meeting with the selectboard. After the meeting, she cited health reasons to explain why she would not be able to attend the last two scheduled meetings of the board as her second term expires.

"I'd like to say I am grateful to have been elected to serve on the selectboard," said Pruitt. "It's been an education for me. I have great admiration for all the people I've served with. They all have the concern for the town foremost in mind. A lot of wonderful things have happened in the last six years. It's wonderful to be part of the flowering of this town."

Board member Pat Allen told Pruitt, "You have brought a humanity for the board," considering "how it might affect other people," before making decisions. She agreed, "There have been many tremendous

changes... in the ambience and attitude," of the town over the last six years. "We will miss you."

Power Town Music coordinator Peter Hamelin and RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol reviewed plans for an upcoming music festival in downtown Turners called the Water Under the Bridge Festival, which is slated for Friday and Saturday, June 11th and 12th.

Hamelin said at least 12 different downtown venues will feature live music on one or both of those dates, including Ristorante DiPaolo, the 2nd Street Bakery, Burrito Rojo and the Rendezvous. "They will all be participating at different levels. We will map out a whole schedule of events," Hamelin said. Bands like Rusty Belle, MarkaMusic and the Stone Coyotes are booked over the weekend, and the Hot Spot Teen Center's Art Jam will take place simultaneously at Peskeompskut Park on Saturday the 12th.

Davol said they decided to call the festival Water Under the

Bridge "to have some fun with the bridge renovation," scheduled to begin about the same time.

Beginning in mid-June, the Gill-Montague Bridge will be restricted to one lane heading into Turners for three or more years, while the deck and superstructure undergo extensive reconstruction.

To assist tourists and others coming into town during the bridge reconstruction, Montague Business Association president Chris Janke, working with Davol, Pruitt, temporary town planner Walter Ramsey, and Holy Smokes Deli owner Lou Ekus, and others, developed a draft signage plan which they have presented to the Mass Department of Transportation.

At a meeting on March 31st, Mass DoT representatives asked the business community and the town to develop a signage plan to assist with traffic flow during the upcoming bridge renovation. Rushing to complete the task in time for the DoT to have the signs manufactured and put in place before the bridge construction starts, Janke said the committee came up with the nine

page treatment for a Turners Falls Visitor Wayfinding Plan after numerous meetings, research, and a face to face presentation by Ekus with DoT officials.

"They did a great job," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. "There's an excellent reason for everything that's been suggested here."

The plan includes three different types of signs, including advanced directional signs on Route 2 pointing towards Turners, advertising an "historic downtown, a bridge to art, food, recreation and more," along with gateway signs on entering Turners, and temporary downtown directional signs pointing to detour routes back to I-91, Route 5&10, and Route 2. All the signs will feature the full color RiverCulture logo, and may incorporate the Montague Business Association's proposed slogan, intended to capture the downtown's attitude toward the impending traffic detours.

That slogan, Turners Falls: "Easy to Love, Hard to Leave," created an enthusiastic response among the town hall audience listening to the report on Monday.

In other news, the selectboard

approved a plan by the Shea Theater to revive the former Tines and Tunes event, which will be called the Peskeompskut Music and Arts Festival this year. The event, which will take place in Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, July 10th this year, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., will include music, a beer garden, craft vendors, a bicycle clinic and bike swap, a used book sale, a plant sale, and circus acts, and prompted Allen to say, "That's one more thing added to an already fabulous line up in town."

Abbondanzio noted that the request for proposals for redeveloping the former Montague Center School had been issued, with proposals due back by August 5th.

Pruitt insisted that the RFP be revised to include mention of the fact that a school would be a permitted reuse of the building. "I hate to be stubborn," said Pruitt. "If it is generally allowed, why isn't it mentioned here?"

Abbondanzio agreed to revise the RFP to include the phrase, "Educational uses are allowed in all zones."

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

The Plots Thicken

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - The town of Gill is running out of space to put its residents, and doubling up with family is not an option.

Deceased residents, that is. "We are desperately looking for more land for cemeteries," cemetery commission chair Carrie Stevens told the selectboard on Wednesday. "Between the three cemeteries, we have about 12 available plots. We're trying to stick by our decision to only sell to town residents, but they're fast running out," Stevens warned.

The commission oversees the maintenance of the North Cemetery and the Center Cemetery, both on Main Road, and the West Gill Cemetery, on Hoe Shop Road. There is no available land to add to the holdings at those locations.

In fact, for some years the commission has been worried

about losing ground at the Center Cemetery, where Unadilla Brook has continued to erode the north bank during spring runoff season.

"We always worry about Mr. Croteau going in the river," commissioner Pat Haigis admitted at a selectboard meeting last October.

Now, with space running out at all three town cemeteries, the commissioners are hoping living residents in town might be willing to donate some land for a new bury patch.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash wondered whether the town could use some of the land that has been preserved in perpetuity in Gill for agricultural purposes to locate a new cemetery.

"I don't think there's a 'pushing up daisies' clause for APRs," replied administrative assistant Ray Purington.

Banash said the selectboard may look into using the town owned land known as the Boyle property, on Lyons Hill Road, for a new cemetery, once the three-year lease the town signed for haying that land runs out.

In other news, the selectboard declined to sign a contract with BHS ambulance service in Greenfield, out of concerns that the contract's wording would open the town to excessive liability issues. The board asked Purington to contact BHS to see whether mutually acceptable wording could be arrived at, or whether the town should continue to use the ambulance service without a formal contract, as it has in years past.

The recreation commission is hoping to persuade town meeting to allow a fund for the maintenance of the softball field near the elementary school to be used to put up a score board, which the commissioners would like to dedicate to the memory of Jasmine Edson.

The bleachers at the softball



The town of Gill is the proud owner of a new front-end loader

field are also in need of repair.

The girls softball team won their first game, 15-9, in the rain.

Not enough boys turned out for the 5th and 6th grade baseball team this year, and the baseball teams for the younger grades (pre-K through 2nd, and 3rd through 4th) could still use more players. Call Cathy Demars at 863-2303 to sign up young athletes for those teams.

An H1N1 vaccination clinic will be offered on the first floor

of town hall, to coincide with the annual town meeting, on June 21st.

The town may opt to build a wheelchair ramp on the second floor of town hall, to reach the stage, instead of paying \$1,000 a year to have the second floor lift serviced and licensed. That lift, which is used very rarely, used to require inspection once every five years, but now the state wants Gill to have the lift inspected and serviced annually.

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How Sweet It Is

BY LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – I have always taken Marie Antoinette's "Let them eat cake!" very seriously. Though not much of a baker myself, I nevertheless know what I like, and was delighted to be invited to the Second Street Bakery on Saturday to judge a cake baking contest.

Christa Snyder and Laura Puchalski, owners of that increasingly-popular lunch spot and bakery, had invited middle and high school-aged students, as well as anyone with an urge to bake, to submit entries. Fourteen took them up on the offer.

I was joined at the judges' table by co-owner Laura (baker extraordinaire), Bobby C of WHAI, and Laura's mother, Jane Paulin (also a baker). Amid this galaxy of g-astronomic stars I felt humbled, but determined to give

it my best, hoping my palate – in lieu of experience – would guide me.

Although the categories were divided by middle and high school age groups, the cakes were baked at home and not part of any school project. There were seven middle school level entries submitted by: Alyssa Graves and Brittany Elizabeth Gagne; Sophie Spring and Taylor Brown; Emily Sullivan and Megan Grant (top honors in this category for their chocolate with raspberry mousse); Emma Fydenkevez and Jess Cobb; Bruce DuPree and Alex Purington; Nelly O'Connell; and Cassandra Bigelow. There wasn't a loser in the bunch, which made it so very difficult to judge! We savored every piece of cake with groans of pleasure.

Anyone can concoct treats from traditional pantry staples of flour and sugar, butter and eggs.



The Grand Prize Winner, a French Vanilla with Strawberry Cake by Lisa Brandl

And, of course, chocolate. But it is the mystery ingredients that raise the bar, lifting the ordinary to the sublime, placing these bakers in a category to which the rest of us can only aspire. Was that a hint of raspberry? A subtle

essence of almond? Did I catch a suggestion of citrus? How did she make this cake so moist? How did he make it so light? And how can anyone judge between them?

At the high school level, the three entries were from: Stephanie Hancock; Brie Hunter (top prize winner in this category with a French vanilla cake); Aliza Harper and Callum Price.

Bobby C kept saying, "Oh, this is so good. This is really so good." And it was. They were. All of them.

Then on to the "all other"

group: Margot Wise with a truly delicious lemony concoction; Karen Leply with a nutty, moist carrot cake with a frosting that struck just the right note; and finally Lisa Brandl whose French vanilla with strawberry swept the Grand Prizes for both taste and appearance – whisper light and sunny, a treat held within a garden of colorful spring flowers.

All entrants should be congratulated, especially the younger ones, in whom one can see the promise of great things to come. Kudos also to the Second Street Bakery for creating the venue in which to display their talents.

Finally, I have to give a special honorable mention to Stephanie Hancock, whose theme "A River Runs Through It" blew me away! That young woman thinks outside the box, and I suspect that's true both in and out of the kitchen. I don't know how you made the grass, Stephanie, but it worked! You go, girl!

DETAINEES from pg 1

after opponents called vainly for a fourth count of eligible voters to determine whether a quorum was still present in the meeting, following the departure of two volunteer firefighters to attend an emergency call.

At the start of discussion on the Guantánamo resolution, Steven Nagy called for the third quorum count of the day, and moderator Gary Gruber determined the number of voters present in the room fell one short of the 70 needed for a quorum, even after Edith Field was pulled in from her lunch clean-up in the cafeteria.

School committee member Farshid Hajir ran a quarter of a mile to a house on Montague Road opposite the library, and soon returned with another eligible voter in tow, re-establishing the quorum which had gradually been whittled away over the course of the five-hour meeting.

In the middle of the heated discussion on the Guantánamo resolution, the last item on the warrant, a call came in on the pagers of volunteer firefighters Stewart Olson and Nancy Grossman. They swiftly left the meeting, with the moderator's

blessing, to give assistance to a bicyclist who had swerved to avoid a pothole at the intersection of Route 63 and Montague Road, hit a patch of sand at a bad angle, and skidded underneath the chassis of a car waiting at the stop sign, injuring his leg.

Matthew Clark, a student at UMass Amherst, was transported to the Cooley Dickenson hospital in Northampton, but his companion, Jon Korhonen of Cambridge, said Clark's injuries did not appear to be serious. The rear tire of Clark's Cannondale racing bike was twisted badly out of true as it lay in the bed of a firefighter's pickup truck.

Back at the elementary school, as discussion about Guantánamo detainees came to a close and Gruber acknowledged a motion to "call the question," Nagy again demanded a quorum count.

Gruber told Nagy, "I see you, but I am going to act on this motion [to call the question] first."

Earlier, as Hajir was sprinting to the neighbor's house to find a 70th voter, Gruber consulted the guidebook establishing the rules for town meeting, *Town Meeting Time*, which specifies a quorum must be present in the room to act on warrant articles, "or in the

vicinity."

There was little doubt the quorum which was constituted at the outset of debate on the Guantánamo resolution was absent from the room by the time the question was called, due to the emergency firefighters responding to an accident several miles away.

After a majority of voters present agreed to "call the question," Gruber proceeded directly to a vote on the main motion, whether to welcome cleared detainees from Guantánamo to Leverett and whether to urge Congress to repeal the ban on cleared Guantánamo detainees resettling in the United States, and, despite a loud minority of No votes, declared the motion passed by majority.

In less dramatic proceedings, earlier in the day, a larger contingent of town meeting voters easily approved spending \$1.6 million, with no debate, to operate the Leverett Elementary School for another year, and \$1.2 million to pay for upper school students attending the regional schools in Amherst.

Voters made a few suggestions on ways to reduce spending on internet access, provide security for computers in town buildings,

reduce the electric bill in town buildings, and institute a check off system for residents who would prefer to receive the town newsletter electronically, rather than by mail.

But all such suggestions were made cautiously, as an unclaimed seat on the finance committee threatened to become the unanticipated reward for any voter who showed too deep a concern for the minutiae of town finances.

At the end of discussion, the entire \$5,072,129 operating budget, a 1.3% increase over last year, was approved unanimously.

Peter d'Errico was nominated and elected to a second three-year term on the selectboard, without opposition.

D'Errico said, "I appreciate the chance you have all given me. It's an amazing thing to participate in local government, which is under attack elsewhere in the country. The Leverett town meeting is historic – the last of the old style town meetings to elect people after input from the floor of town meeting."

Standing for election to the finance committee at the completion of her first appointed term, Nancy Grossman said, "Municipal costs rise at 3.8% a year. Property taxes only rise

2.5%. This is the fiscal pickle we find ourselves in. And since I like pickles, I respectfully ask for your vote."


The meeting was glad to give it to her, and failed to find another candidate to join her and fill the open one-year finance committee seat.

Farshid Hajir was re-elected to a three-year term on school committee, and Dawn Sacks was also elected to that board.

The town approved a motion to join the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, after much discussion about a separate decision by the selectboard to no longer accept hazardous waste – such as oil based paints, paint thinners, motor oils, and pesticides – at the town transfer station. A number of voters questioned whether it would be safer for a large number of untrained residents to transport household hazardous wastes to the more distant drop off points the FCSWMD establishes, or to Amherst, rather than having the town continue to stockpile these waste materials at the Leverett transfer station for eventual transport by the town highway department to the Amherst transfer station.

see **DETAINEES** pg 9

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Work Platform Suspended Beneath General Pierce Bridge



PARZYCH PHOTO

Mimosa Construction rigger Cleverson Maciel attaches a verticle support to one of the wire ropes running beneath the General Pierce Bridge.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH MONTAGUE CITY – Mimosa Construction riggers, Cleverson Maciel and Jeremy Kiah, installed Safespan corrugated steel panels to form a work platform under the General Pierce Bridge last week. The panels are attached with clamps to three wire rope cables, one on each side and one down the middle, extending the length of the bridge. Vertical wire ropes attached the longitudinal cables to the bridge deck at regular intervals to keep the scaffolding from sagging.

Maciel wore a harness securely tethered to the bridge. Has he ever ended up in a river? “Yes, just once; that was enough. Never again.” Now Maciel makes darned sure he is safely tethered to something solid.

The Safespan scaffolding is necessary for repair or replacement of rusted girders underneath

the bridge, eaten away by road salt and water. The scaffolding will also make it possible to envelope the bridge with canvas to contain lead dust during lead paint removal.

The two riggers make erecting scaffolding underneath bridges sound simple.

“We just string the [wire] rope across under the bridge and loop ties to it, secured to girders to keep the long rope from sagging. Then we attach Safespan panels.”

Mimosa will install some sort of wooden railings along the sides at a future date, Maciel said.

Mimosa Construction specialties include structural steel, highway bridges, tanks, towers, lead abatement and blasting, industrial coatings, and related work.

Erecting scaffolding beneath bridges is no big deal – providing you don’t fall in the river.

Checking the Measurements

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH RIVERSIDE – Two weeks ago, supervisor John Erb of Atlantic Bridge and Engineering of Salisbury, MA and his crew hung over the Connecticut River on a Skyhawk apparatus double checking measurements and specifications supplied by the state for the Gill-Montague Bridge, in preparation for major renovations to that 1700 foot

span. SPS New England, also of Salisbury, holds the prime contract to rehabilitate the bridge. Atlantic Bridge and Engineering, who are subcontracted to SPS, will fabricate new rails and deck supports at their facility in Salisbury.

The plan is to demolish, section by section, the western side of the bridge decking and replace it with structural members fabricated in their shop,

then lay down a pan with a grating of parallel steel strips, four inches high, above it. The firm will then pour concrete to the top of the steel grating, before moving on to the eastern side of the bridge.

The sheet metal pan underneath is to keep concrete from slopping down through the grating into the Connecticut River below.

Erb did not mention overlaying the concrete with blacktop, but that is usually the final step.

DETAINEES from pg 8

But selectboard chair Rich Brazeau argued vehemently against continuing that practice, since the workers at the Leverett transfer station are not trained to deal with hazardous materials, and an accident involving the town transporting them to Amherst could open Leverett to severe penalties.

FCSWMD director Jan Ameen promised to sit down with the selectboard soon to come up with convenient options for Leverett residents to dispose of household hazardous wastes.

Voters approved spending \$15,000 to install a hydraulic lift at the highway garage, after highway super Will Stratford said it would make it easier and safer for his crew to maintain a number of town vehicles, including the lighter highway and fire trucks and the police cruisers (eight out of 20 town vehicles).

Voters approved spending \$6,000 for repairs to the oldest of the town’s fire engines, in hopes of extending its useful life by a few more years. The truck has been leaking water from faulty valves, and experiencing electrical problems that led it to use spotlights to get to a mutual aid call recently, when the headlights

failed.

Voters agreed to spend \$24,000 from Community Preservation Act funds to purchase 18 acres off Rattlesnake Gutter Road, as part of a long-range plan to establish a trail loop to the Peace Pagoda and permanently conserve a nature corridor.

Town meeting allocated \$38,000 to the stabilization account, amid warnings from the selectboard that further action may be required in the fall to build up the stabilization fund, and bring its reserves in line with scheduled outlays.

Some dissent accompanied the passage of the demolition delay bylaw and the stretch energy code, but the Nay votes were few in comparison to the opposition raised to the Guantánamo resolution at meeting’s end.

“I really don’t want them in the United States,” said L.Z. Moulder, referring to cleared Guantánamo detainees. “We need that like a hole in the head. Give them a free ride to the U.S. so they can get the materials and blow things up? If they’ve been in jail all these years, do you think they’ll come here and kiss your hands? They’ll get settled and wind up being terrorists again.”

Sue Nagy warned of “unintended consequences” from welcoming cleared detainees to Leverett, and pointed to a case of another former Guantánamo detainee who she said is now wanted for drug dealing and human smuggling.

But Jim Perkins said, “We abducted, imprisoned and tortured innocent people. An apology, remorse, is required.” That sentiment carried the day.

It was also Perkins who spearheaded an earlier motion, easily approved, to call for “abolishing corporate personhood,” in the wake of the recent decision by the Supreme Court in January, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

“Corporations are impacting decisions of war and peace, ruining our ecology, and deciding the outcome of elections,” said Perkins. “This motion asks us to challenge the infallibility of corporations, and the impact of corporations which are destroying our democracy.”

The motion seeks to lend Leverett’s voice to a call for a constitutional amendment outlawing the “personhood” of corporations, and thus deny them unlimited “free speech.”



NMH SERVICE DAY IN TURNERS!



LYN CLARK PHOTO

Many thanks to Northfield Mt. Hermon School students who spent hours last Thursday at various locations in Turners Falls, cleaning debris from paths, helping out at the Survival Center, and performing community service jobs at other area locations. Pictured here on the path between L and High Streets in Turners are (left to right): Ashley Gravelink, Vaughn Allen, Eleanor Mackenzie, Henry Ault, Keagan Tolman, Milo Korman, and librarian Pam Allan

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GSB Collecting Foods for Local Programs

The Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank’s newest gift for opening a new checking account with GSB April 26th thru June 5th is a Subzero lunch tote. The Turners Falls office advocates the theme “Share a snack with a buddy!” in hopes of collecting and donating snacks for the Head Start Program, the Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Survival Center. If you have questions or would like to help, please call the bank at (413) 863-4316.

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A Local Legend

BY ESTELLE CADE

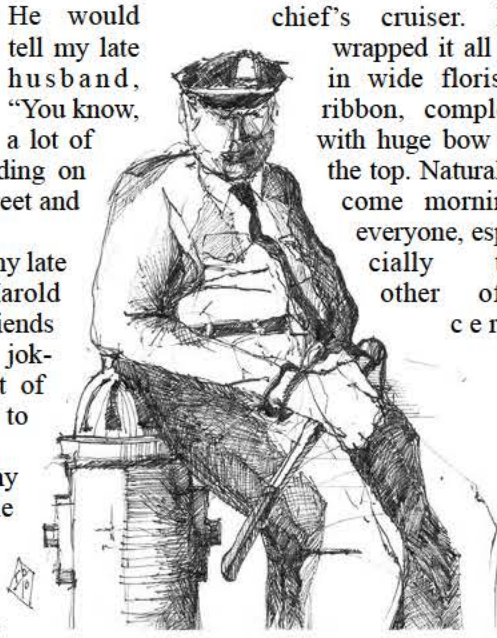
TURNERS FALLS – Back in the day, the village of Turners Falls was a place where legends lived. These were larger than life individuals known and admired for that special something they brought forward, whether in sports (lots of those), education, politics, or law enforcement.

One such person was Walter Casey, better known as ‘Cap’ Casey, who was for many years the chief of police for the town of Montague. He was a big man, very rotund, and by sheer size could command a lot of respect.

He would tell my late husband, “You know, Bob, I can prevent a lot of crime just by standing on the corner of the street and watching.”

Cap Casey and my late father-in-law, Harold Cade, were good friends and also practical jokers. Evidently, part of the fun was trying to one-up each other.

One night, as my husband told the tale, my father-in-law went down to the police station when all was quiet and gift wrapped the



ROBERT BENT ILLUSTRATION

chief’s cruiser. He wrapped it all up in wide florist’s ribbon, complete with huge bow on the top. Naturally, come morning, everyone, especially the other officers,

thought this was quite hilarious. Not to be outdone, Cap went one evening to Harold’s florist shop (at 56 Avenue A), probably on a Saturday when the store would be closed until Monday morning. He took one of Turners’ ubiquitous pigeons, and poked it fluttering through the transom at the top of the front door. You can imagine the end result of this trick, and the scene that greeted Harold when he opened the store on Monday. I shudder to think.

Doubtless there were other tricks I never heard about, and the two men remained friends until Harold’s death.

Cap Casey was a legend in his own time. He knew his town, he knew its people and

cared about them. Although he has been gone for many years, every now and then someone will tell a story about how Cap, in some way, had a lasting effect on their life.

Sadly, Turners Falls no longer seems to nurture Legends – those larger than life folks who often went the extra mile, played the extra inning, served the public well, and made a lasting impression on the next generations. Or maybe we just haven’t heard about them yet?

Estelle Cade is a member of Laura Rodley’s senior writing group at the Gill-Montague senior center. For more information about the writing group, call 863-9357.

Consultants Recommend New Hires for Fire, Police and Highway Departments

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – Gill’s finances may be in the toughest shape in decades, but that did not stop the consultants hired by the town to analyze staffing and equipment needs at Gill’s three major departments from recommending new permanent hires for the police, highway, and fire departments.

According to figures provided in the proposed pay classification plan provided by Human Resources Services, Inc., the Andover consulting firm hired to conduct the study, hiring a new fulltime police officer, highway laborer, and fulltime firefighter would cost the town at least \$92,000 a year.

The consultants also recommended bumping the position of highway superintendent up from a Grade 7 to a Grade 8 on the pay classification scale, a move that would add another \$3,500 to the town’s payroll.

“Like many other small communities in Massachusetts,” noted the consultants’ report, “Gill has had a difficult time navigating successfully through one of the most significant economic disruptions in recent decades. The most recent budget exercises have challenged the town to innovate as well as evaluate its priorities and practices more exhaustively than ever before.”

That is why the town hired Human Resources Services to take a look at staffing and equipment needs at the major departments, as the report notes, to help guide the selectboard through the

difficult budgeting process this year, when state aid to towns is forecasted to drop by 4%. An even more difficult state budget is in the forecast for next year.

The consultants’ report also recommended purchasing a new dump truck for the highway department, and a replacement for the fire department’s 1979 Ford Louisville tanker.

Gill has been taxing “within a whisker” of its levy limit, according to administrative assistant Ray Purington.

Currently, the town has cash reserves of \$106,724 in stabilization and free cash in the amount of \$195,374, Purington added.

On Tuesday, Sandy Stapczynski and Steve Delaney delivered the results of the HRS study to a small crowd of firefighters, police, highway workers, finance committee and selectboard members on the second floor of town hall. Less than two minutes into the meeting, a call came in for a chimney fire on Boyle Road, and almost all the firefighters got up and left.

A few minutes later, the sirens of the fire engines could be heard racing past town hall on their way to extinguish the blaze.

“This is a very nice community,” Stapczynski began. “I wish I lived here.”

Stapczynski defended her proposal to bump the highway department superintendent up a pay grade, saying the highway department is equal in size to the police department, and though safety concerns are greater for the

police department, nonetheless there are safety concerns for the highway department too, especially during long winter hours plowing snow.

Delaney analyzed the working relationship of the fire department, the board of fire engineers, and the selectboard, and said while things appeared to be working well at the moment, he nonetheless recommended changing the fire department’s governing structure if the town hires a fulltime or parttime firefighter.

Delaney said in order for the selectboard to maintain direct responsibility over employees, it might be necessary to alter the present governing structure of the department, which has a board of up to 12 engineers overseeing the day to day activities of the department. The board of fire engineers also hires the fire chief, who then winds up managing the people who appoint him, Delaney noted. This arrangement has led to a consensus-building relationship between the chief and the department’s call firefighters, rather than a top-down management structure.

Delaney called the present structure of fire department governance, “fragile,” and urged more communication with the selectboard through quarterly departmental meetings. He recommended quarterly informational meetings for the police and highway departments and the selectboard as well.

Delaney said it was up to the

selectboard to prioritize which of the capital expenditures or recommended personnel hires to implement first, but suggested the police department was operating under a great deal of stress since the loss a the third fulltime officer last year, a position which has remained unfilled since.

He also recommended that town meeting establish a separate capital fund, set aside from the stabilization account, dedicated expressly to equipment purchases, as part of a new capital planning effort.

Ken Sears responded to the consultants’ report saying, “This is exactly what every department has been saying for 20 years. I don’t know why we have to pay someone to tell us what we’ve been saying for years.”

The consultants’ study was paid for with \$8,000 taken from an annual \$10,000 fund donated for public safety expenses by the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Selectboard member Nancy Griswold said, “The board of selectmen need to go through this. Monetarily, their recommendations are not doable at this time, but these recommendations need to be on our radar. We need to meet and decide what our high priority items are.”

Randy Crochier said, “It still concerns me whether you interviewed members of the finance committee to come up with these results. I’m questioning the legitimacy of the results,” because though the consultants said they

had interviewed finance committee members, none of the seven members of the nine-member finance committee present in the room on Tuesday said they had been interviewed by the consultants as they prepared their report.

Joanne Flagg, a teacher at the elementary school, asked what private citizens the consultants had interviewed in preparing their report. Though the consultants did not say which private citizens they had interviewed, Stapczynski said the pool of private citizens interviewed was equal in size to the number of town officials interviewed.

Finance committee chair Tupper Brown asked whether the consultants could provide data to show whether their recommended new hires at the fire, police, or highway departments were needed “to get the job done.”

“As far as I’m aware, no one is complaining that their homes are burning down inappropriately.”

This remark caused some laughter in the crowd. By this time, the fire department volunteers had returned and taken their seats in the room, after deterring the chimney fire on Boyle Road had burned itself out.

The selectboard reviewed the HRS report on Wednesday. Chair Ann Banash said she wanted supporting data to show whether the town really needs a third fire truck, and proposed adding hours to a shared administrative clerk’s position, to allow the clerk to help out with paperwork at the police department.

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300th Series
300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.

Dispatches from Germany, April, 1945

had to make a lot of detours because of destroyed bridges. When we arrived, I immediately went to sleep on the ground until the next morning.”

Hoyt Neil tells about certain needs: “In order to reach Schroding, we made a three-day motor trip, non-stop. It created a problem. A man is not supposed to urinate leaning on the strap across the back of a truck going 30 miles an hour. The brain tells the kidneys something is wrong. The kidneys tell the prostate the same thing and nothing happens but a slow drizzle for about half an hour.”

Aaron Glenn describes the Autobahn: “We were about sixty or seventy miles out of Berlin and they stopped us, we were advancing on the Autobahn with our trucks following our tanks. They stopped our convoy and let the Russians go ahead and be first to take Berlin. I remember that real well. It was odd, those Germans were taking everything they could that would run and there were a lot of those Volkswagens. They would run them until they ran out of gas and run them off the road. And we came with those tanks and they would line up the track and we would squash the car like a beer can.”

James Kennedy recalls taking German prisoners: “We were on the Autobahn. I saw a bunch of Germans running across the road with no rifles. I waited a long time until they went by and I looked on the other side. I happened to see a squirrel. I dearly loved squirrel

meat so I shot it and picked it up and put it on my belt. I looked up and there were two German officers with their hands behind their heads giving up to me. That was when the whole German Corps was giving up about that time. I went on the Autobahn with two German soldiers goose stepping in front of me. Some of our tanks and weapon carriers came up and I heard a big ruckus. I couldn't figure out what it was. Then I heard, “Daniel Boone, Daniel Boone!” It was because of the squirrel in my belt.

“When I got back, I bet there were 300 prisoners sitting beside the road that other people had picked up. I got a dressing down because I had left without permission. Here come the Captain and said, ‘Let's go Kennedy.’ So we got in the car and went up on top of a big hill. We looked down and there was a bunch of Germans goose-stepping. We saw about 150 of them down that Autobahn and there was a half-track with a machine gun following them. We stayed and saw about six groups of them, about 150 each, with a half-track or tank in back of them. The whole Corps had given up to the Infantry.”

Don Richter describes the trip: “The whole battalion formed into one convoy with headquarters leading followed by Company A, Company B and Company C. The convoy stretched out for quite a distance, likely several miles, and was escorted by our motorcycle riders (each company had one)

as we moved out down the highway. After three days of traveling on a 6 x 6 truck on top of all of the personnel section office boxed up plus our personal gear, it became really uncomfortable with eight personnel clerks perched on top of all of this stuff with the truck moving, sometimes herky-



James Kennedy of the 300th

jerky, keeping its proper interval between the trucks ahead.

“The movement of the convoy was quite strange and erratic, with Major Crandall setting the pace in front in his command car at a proper speed, while further back in the convoy vehicles had increasing difficulty keeping up the pace until the tail end vehicle really had to struggle to keep up. The German Autobahns were really great highways of four or more lanes and having no cross traffic. However, often we encountered overpasses that had been destroyed with explosives, as the German Army tried to slow our progress by dropping overpasses onto the highway.”

BY BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS

ERVING - We continue to follow the 300th Combat Engineers on their march to VE Day as they chase retreating Germans from the Ruhr Pocket in northern Germany to Schroding in southern Germany. Beginning April 19th, the 300th travelled 24 hours a day for three days. Members of the 300th recall that trip in part on the German Autobahn.

Warren Chancellor recalls the trip: “We left the Ruhr Pocket and it was a continuous trip, day and night. We only had “C” and “K” rations for food. We only got to sleep when we could in the back of our trucks. As a medic, I was not a regular driver but I drove one of our 6 x 6 trucks most of one day only because I had gotten some sleep the night before. There wasn't any enemy action on the trip, and we did not see many German civilians. Movement was slow and we

KULIK from pg 1

expanding gambling in the Commonwealth. But it's going to help people get back to work and provide a new economic sector,” with shops and restaurants associated with the casinos.

Kulik said casino gambling should not be looked at as a panacea for the state's economic woes, but rather as one piece of the puzzle of reviving the economy in Massachusetts.

“We have the potential to recapture approximately one billion dollars that is leaving our

state to casinos in Connecticut and elsewhere,” he said. The new casinos would make Massachusetts more of a destination for regional tourism, he added.

“We've lost our manufacturing base. But I don't think this should be the focal point of our economic strategy in Massachusetts. I see this as an add-on,” while the state shifts toward green technology production, weatherization, energy efficiency, and maintains a focus on life sciences and higher education.

Kulik admitted a large part of the profits from casino gambling will go to out-of-state developers, while acknowledging that casino profits as a whole come from the losses of the people who walk through their doors. Many of those will no doubt be Massachusetts residents.

“Two or three percent of people who frequent casinos are gamblers not enjoying casual entertainment, but people who wind up facing real problems like bankruptcy and foreclosures,” he acknowledged.

Kulik said that fact weighed on him as he decided how to vote on the bill.

“I acknowledge that is a very real problem, but I felt the potential benefits would outweigh that.”

Kulik said it was very likely a casino gambling bill would be passed by the Senate and signed by the governor by the end of this legislative session, with slots added to race tracks in the state soon after, and the casinos themselves up and running in three to four years.

Used Book Sale at Carnegie Library

TURNERS FALLS - There will be a used book sale at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thousands of books, including mysteries, suspense, non-fiction, and childrens, will be sold at \$2 a bag. Videotapes will be \$1 each and recorded books will be \$2. The sale is held in the basement of the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue. A, Turners Falls. For more info: call 863-3214.



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THEATER from pg 1

father a "nigger lover."

Finch, an upright man if ever there was one, has been tapped by Judge Taylor (John Darrow) to represent Tom Robinson (Floyd Paterson II), a black man accused of raping Mayella Ewell (Halina Radosz Kusleika), a white woman.

Robert E. Lee Ewell (Jeff Hansen), Mayella's father, tells the court he has been calling on the county for many years to clean out the "nest of niggers" living down his way. Their pres-

ence in the neighborhood is running down his property values.

After Ewell spits in Finch's face in the street and threatens his children, you'd think even a paragon of civic virtue like Atticus Finch might take a stronger view of the situation than to simply tell his children that everyone's opinion is equally deserving of respect.

But this is the South, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression amid the Great Depression, and it is dangerous enough for a white man to even defend a black man accused of raping a white woman, no matter the evidence of the accused's innocence. Denouncing the prejudice and hate speech around him for what it is may be too much to ask from a character, or a play, that is rooted in a place and time that has begun to recede in our nation's psyche and collective memory.

The play unfolds through the eyes of the three children at its center — Scout (Emma Henderson), her brother Jem (John McPhee), and their friend Dill (Henry Hirschfeld) — and through the narration of a chorus of neighborhood women — Maudie Atkinson (Kathryn Lyons), Stephanie Crawford (Penney Roberts), and Mrs. Dubose (Susan Stark) who help the children interpret the actions of the men who are the prime movers in the social drama unfolding in their streets, their jail, and courthouse.

The central problem of the drama is how the children, much more so than the adults, come to understand and navigate their position in the thicket of social, class, and racial relations surrounding them and determining their range of motion.

The pace is more than measured. It is slow, like life in an old Southern town is slow, and a tad tendentious. But the children liven things up considerable,

and it is their expressions and exuberance you will bring home with you, more than the moralizing of the adults.

Henderson is particularly powerful as Scout, author Harper Lee's fictional counterpart, a high-spirited tomboy whose first reaction to meanness is to strike out at it with her fists. She reshapes her response according to her father's dictum to look at life through the eyes of others. Her older cohorts, Jem and Dill, are easily able to hold their own on stage beside her, and together they form a powerful dramatic threesome.

The three women whose observations provide the main narrative backdrop to the action are each sharply drawn characters, played to perfection. Of the three, Lyons is the most sympathetic. Her eloquent portrayal of Atkinson reveals a wellspring of wisdom beneath a cool Southern charm, and a sharp tongue honed in defense of those who cannot easily defend themselves. Her counterparts, Crawford and Dubose, are studies in small-town gossip and vituperation, respectively, each portrayal sharp as a tack and richly evocative.

People who grew up reading the novel or watching the movie probably remember the male leads more than the women and children who observed them, commented on them, or got trampled under their feet. Maynard is no slouch in the role of Atticus Finch, but it is perhaps difficult to break free of the towering cinematic shadow cast by Gregory Peck in the same role five decades ago. Moral rectitude in the face of oppression is not a trait that allows for a lot of latitude in character development. It mostly requires an actor to hold his ground, whatever the odds, and this Maynard does impeccably.

In the role of the accused,

Patterson breathes a great deal of power into a precious few minutes in the spotlight. His character may be on trial for his life, but his honest reading, tinged with a hint of bitterness, is able all at once to shift focus and bring the audience to account for their roles as passive spectators in a human tragedy, making all in the darkened room feel a bit uncomfortable for sitting quietly in their seats as the drama unfolds.

The minor characters in this strong ensemble cast are each brilliantly etched, Hansen's spiteful Ewell no less than Frank Lattuca's vicious prosecuting attorney. Lattuca plays Mr. Gilmer as a Donald Trump Dixiecrat lawyer, dripping

racism like a viper. In her battered role, Kusleika lets you feel Mayella's constricted shame.

But for moral conscience, the kind that truly strikes a responsive chord among the angels of our better nature, you need look no further than Reverend Sykes (Moonlight Davis), whose stirring spirituals, sung with the harmony of a stellar choir, at once comment on and transcend the action on our small stage, repeatedly moving a rapt audience to spontaneous applause, and tears.

To Kill a Mockingbird continues for three more performances this weekend at the Shea Theater, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Loud Noise Disturbances

Tuesday, 4/20
 12:19 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] at Food City on Avenue A, for violation of restraining order. Arrest of [redacted] for felony breaking and entering a building at nighttime, possession of a Class E drug, and stealing a controlled substance (wine).
 4:27 p.m. Larceny at Subway on Avenue A. Advised of options.
 7:04 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for driving with a suspended license and with no inspection sticker.

Wednesday, 4/21
 8:36 a.m. Summons issued in Montague Center for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.
 10:50 a.m. Suspicious auto at end of North Street in Montague Center. Services rendered.
 5:15 p.m. Safety hazard at the dam in Turners Falls. No such person can be found.
 7:01 p.m. Restraining order issued for an Avenue A resident. Served in hand.
 11:05 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.

Thursday, 4/22
 11:43 a.m. Loud noise disturbance at Spring Street construction site.

Services rendered.
 3:06 p.m. Restraining order violation on Depot Road. Advised of options.
 6:20 p.m. Summons issued for domestic assault and battery on West Mineral Road.
 9:13 p.m. Protective custody provided in domestic disturbance incident on Kettle Hole Lane.
Friday, 4/23
 19:40 a.m. Loud noise disturbance at Basically Bicycles on Third Street. Unfounded.
 4:31 p.m. Fight at Turners Falls Road address. Services rendered.
 5:17 p.m. Suspicious person on East Mineral Road in Millers Falls. Services rendered.
 6:08 p.m. Unwanted person at the Farren Shelter. Unable to locate.
 11:30 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at Unity Park. Services rendered.
Saturday, 4/24
 1:44 a.m. Structure fire on Highland Circle. Services rendered.
 3:55 p.m. Assault and Battery at Unity Park. Unfounded.
 3:56 p.m. Summons issued for a violation of an abuse prevention order at Unity Park.
 10:39 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] in Greenfield on a default warrant.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Shoulder Problems: Diagnosis & Treatment

BY FRED CICETTI

Leonia, NJ – (This is the second of two columns on shoulder problems.)

The shoulder is made up of three bones: the collarbone, the shoulder blade and the upper arm bone. The shoulder is the body's

most movable joint. It is also unstable because the ball of the upper arm is larger than the shoulder socket that holds it. The unstable shoulder is held in place by soft tissue: muscles, tendons, and ligaments.

Common shoulder problems include dislocation, separation, torn rotator-cuff, frozen shoulder, fracture, arthritis, tendinitis, and bursitis. The rotator cuff is defined as the set of muscles and tendons that secures the arm to the shoulder joint and permits the arm to rotate.

Doctors diagnose shoulder

problems by studying your medical history, giving you a physical examination and performing tests such as x-rays, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Shoulder problems are most often first treated with RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation):

- Rest the shoulder for two days.
- Ice the injured area for twenty minutes, four to eight times per day.

• Compress the painful area to reduce swelling.

• Elevate the injured area with a pillow to keep it above the level of the heart.

Other treatments:

- Slings are used often to keep an injured shoulder in place.
- After rest, stretching and exercise can improve range of motion, strengthen muscles, and prevent injury.

• Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen are used to reduce pain and swelling.

• Ultrasound to warm deep tissues and improve blood flow.

• An injection of a corticosteroid drug into the shoulder is often recommended if the injury does not improve.

When tears are severe, surgery may be required. Seniors often can be treated without surgery for a complete rotator-cuff tear.

Here are some easy exercises to strengthen shoulder muscles and prevent injuries:

- Attach elastic tubing to a doorknob. Pull the elastic tubing slowly toward your body. Hold for a count of five. Repeat five times with each arm. Perform twice a day.
- Lean forward and place your hands on a wall with your feet shoulder-width apart. Slowly perform a push-up. Hold for a count of five. Repeat five times.

• Sit upright in a chair with armrests. With your feet touching the floor, use your arms to rise slowly. Hold for a count of five. Repeat five times, twice a day.

An aerobic exercise program will help improve the blood flow

to a tendon or bursa. This helps reduce soreness. Smokers should quit smoking so more oxygen reaches the injured tendon. This will help the injury heal faster.

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

M.A.M. (Montague Art Movement) is proud to present our "2nd Annual May Day Art Show" to be held on Sunday, May 2nd from 10am to 2 pm on the second floor of the Montague Center Library building.

The May Day art exhibit and sale will feature affordable works of art by 12 local visual artists: Anna Heidenreich, Belinda Lyons-Zucker, Darlene Johansmeyer, Chris Mero, Mikael Petraccia, Barbara Milot, Kate Spencer, Jessica Star, Paul Root, Jane Stephenson, Nina Rossi, and Kristin Zottoli.

The May Day celebration in Montague Center will also feature a parade, a maypole and Morris dancers.

Come enjoy the May Day celebration and support local artists!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Road Rage on Route 2

Tuesday, 4/20

1:30 p.m. Report of a brush fire in area of Greenfield Auto on Forest Street. Found to be a resident with permitted burn. All set.

Thursday, 4/22

7:45 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

1:50 p.m. Road rage incident on Route 2 bypass. Motorist traveling very slow. Stopped same and advised to pull over and let other vehicles pass by.

Friday, 4/23

10:25 a.m. Suspicious persons at International Paper Mill. Checked and it was a survey crew. All set.

1:01 p.m. Report of sev-

eral kids and an adult near brook at Swamp Road. Caller concerned for children's safety. Checked area, unable to find.

Saturday, 4/25

9:50 p.m. Report of people around a small fire near a debris pile at Usher Plant. Checked same. Subjects gone upon arrival.

Turners Falls Water Commission Raises Rates 10.5%

BY NANCY HOLMES – The Board of Water Commissioners of the Turners Falls Water Department voted to revise the water rates, as strongly suggested by the department's accounting firm. After much discussion, the commissioners voted to increase the rates within the fire district by 10.5%, and also to increase the rates outside the fire district by 4.4%.

New water rates will be reflected on the November 1st, 2010 billing. The new rate for the semi-annual billing is as follows:

Rates for within the Turners Falls Fire District
 Minimum Charge \$30.00
 14,000 - 200,000 gallons: \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons (was \$1.90)
 201,000 - 400,000 gallons: \$2.30 per 1,000 gallons (was \$2.00)
 401,000 - 600,000 gallons: \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons (was \$2.10)
 601,000 - 800,000 gallons: \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons (was \$2.20)
 801,000 - 1,000,000 gallons: \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons (was \$2.30)
 1,001,000 and above: \$3.10 per 1,000 gallons (was \$2.40)

Rates for outside the Turners Falls Fire District
 Minimum Charge \$75.00
 16,000 to 200,000 gallons: \$4.70 per 1,000 gallons (was \$4.50)
 201,000 to 400,000 gallons: \$4.90 per 1,000 gallons (was \$4.60)
 401,000 to 600,000 gallons: \$5.10 per 1,000 gallons (was \$4.70)
 601,000 to 800,000 gallons: \$5.30 per 1,000 gallons (was \$4.80)
 801,000 to 1,000,000 gallons: \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons (was \$4.90)
 1,001,000 and above: \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons (was \$5.00)

Water usage is based on a six month period, approximately April 1st through September 30th for summer reads and approximately October 1st through March 31st for winter reads. Sewer bills are based on winter water usage and then doubled.

Within the district there is a minimum charge of \$30.00 for usage up to 14,000 gallons for each six-month period. The minimum water charge outside the Turners Falls Fire District is \$75.00 for usage up to 16,000 gallons for each six-month period.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 9: Completely Vegetarian

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON
MONTAGUE CENTER – “Completely vegetarian? Are you SURE – what’s their rationale?” shrieked Beverly Bartlett into her phone. “More than the carbon saved from switching to a hybrid? Really?”

When Beverly hung up, she hurried to the den and stood with arms crossed in front of her husband, blocking the computer to gain his attention.

“I just heard from Emily Woo, who works at Hampshire College with Jane Robbins-Levine. Besides buying organic, they’ve gone completely vegetarian. If we don’t want those ‘Radical Robbins-Levines’ to win this thing, Gerry, we’re going to have to stop eating meat!”

“Calm down, Beverly, please,” said Gerry. “There’s no reason to panic. Back in college I ate vegetarian, and it was no big deal. And actually, this could be good for me – the doc says cut-

ting down on red meat would help me lose weight. I bet if we strategize, we can kick those Robbins-Levines’ vegetarian butts!”

The next morning, the elegantly drawn menu that Connor and Jayden Barlett found on the kitchen whiteboard read:

Chez Bartlett

“Dad, is this your idea? What’s with the fancy menu?”

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Blueberry pecan waffles with crispy home fries	Vanilla orange French toast	Red and green pepper omelet	Banana oatmeal muffins, poached eggs	Cornmeal raspberry pancakes with honey
Dinner	Crepes Suzette with caramelized onions and spinach, green beans and almond medley	Water chestnut spinach dumplings, ginger stir fried vegetables with baby corn and snow peas	Shepherds pie, butternut squash bisque	Baked lasagna, garlic bread, baby greens tossed salad	Pasta primavera, stuffed artichokes with Parmesan cheese

Connor asked.

“This is called ‘Time to Lose Some Pounds.’ I’ve decided to take the doctor’s advice and change what I’m eating – and you all are along for the ride. Okay?” asked his dad.

“Are you kidding – if it means you’re cooking, no problem! You are, like, a hundred times better cook than mom. Plus, I’m SO sick of pizza.”

A Secret Habit

Meanwhile, Nell Robbins-Levine donned her floppy sun hat and began walking to downtown Northampton with little Betty in a stroller and their dog, Bingo, alongside. She didn’t mean to stop, but as she passed Little Mo’s she caught a tantalizing whiff of French fries and the unmistakable smell of hamburger. “This will be the last time,” Nell reassured herself as she told Bingo to wait outside while she went in and furtively ordered a cheeseburger. “The competition police will never find out,” she thought. “I’ll just write down a piece of pizza instead in the log-

book.”

Unfortunately, this meat “fix” was becoming a habit – earlier in the week Nell had given in to a plate of barbequed spare ribs at Randy’s Ribs. They were tender and juicy, with just the right amount of hot sauce.

Now, looking nervously out through the restaurant window, she recognized her neighbor Sue, bending down to pet Bingo. “Damn! She can’t see me here,” Nell realized. It was beginning to seem like the whole city was tuned into her life, and just yesterday in front of the cameras they’d announced that the Robbins-Levine family was going to be eating *strictly* vegetarian.

“Hell-oooooooo, Nell!” Sue shouted. “What are you doing here? Uh-oh. Was I not supposed to see you with that burger?”

Continued next issue.

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JOE GRAVELINE

Two Chicks on Eagle Island!
Eagle Watch



BY PAT CARLISLE
GREAT FALLS – A peek into the Barton Cove nest on Eagle Island afforded by the high powered telescope of some passing bird watchers showed clearly what we have been anticipating these many weeks: two little bobble-heads!

I encountered the birders last weekend by the Barton Cove campground, and borrowed their scope long enough to catch a glimpse of the two eagle chicks as their parents fed them. (It was the birders who came up with the term ‘bobble-heads’; I merely borrowed it because it gives you a precise description of what we saw.)

Many birders say the Connecticut River and the power

canal have a large variety of birds easily viewed, including some rare ones and, of course, our eagle nest families.

People used to viewing the eagle nest on local cable channels will have to wait until next year, when the crew from First Light Power and Mass Fish and Wildlife will be able to assess and make adjustments to the malfunctioning solar powered camera. We expect repairs will take place after this year’s chicks have fledged and left to find their own territory for nesting and raising families of their own. Meantime, stay tuned to this newspaper for eagle updates.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 29th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shamus Hogan*, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bok Choy Jazz*, 8:30 p.m. no cover.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Supermachine*. Poetry Journal reading, featuring James Copeland, Ben Fama, & Natalie Knight, music by *Holy Spirits*. Suggested donation: \$5, 7 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Caravan of Thieves*. This amazing band will knock your socks off. *Appalachian Still* opens. \$12 at the door, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love* singing great '60s & '70s covers, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Original Cowards and Walking Ghosts*, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, APRIL 30th to May 2nd
Arena Civic Theater presents: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Christopher Sergel's beautifully crafted adaptation of Harper

Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. \$13; \$11 for seniors and students; \$8 for 12 and under.

SATURDAY, MAY 1st
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artist's Reception, 1 to 3 p.m. Meet Jennifer Nevedov, nature photographer. View her photographs, and share photography tips and stories while enjoying refreshments.



Northfield Mount Hermon Senior and Junior Dance Companies perform Thursday thru Saturday May 6 to 8th, 7:30 p.m. Rhodes Arts Center, NMH.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls live high-definition broadcast direct from the Metropolitan Opera in

New York: Rossini's *Armida*. Renée Fleming stars in title role opposite six tenors in a new Met production. Tony Award winner Mary Zimmerman directs, bringing her fine-tuned theatricality to a work she describes as "a buried treasure, a box of jewels." The fanciful story of the sorceress who entralls men in her island prison of sensual delights, which Zimmerman says, "has an epic, enchanted quality and a tremendous visual element." In the end will *Armida* choose love or revenge? Running time is just under 4 hours with two intermissions. Simulcast starts at 1 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. Info: 625-3052 or www.shelburnefallsmemorialhall.org. \$23 at local outlets and at the door.

Deja Brew, Millers Falls: *St. Mix vs. The Industrial Revolution*. An intriguing mix of various musical influences. 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Old school *Hip-Hop Dance Party with DJ Unagi*, no cover.

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd
Annual May Day celebration at the Town Common, Montague Center. 10 a.m. Free and open to the public. Dress colorfully!

Goddess & Soul Concert at the

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: J & H Productions brings you: *The Show!* With cave bears and more. 8 p.m. \$5 cover.

MONDAY, MAY 3rd
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Movie showing of *City of Lost Children* on the big screen, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5th
Cinco de Mayo Festival! Weather permitting held in Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls. (Carnegie Library in poor weather.) Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll perform a Bilingual Concert at 10 a.m., followed by an informal parade around the park and children's crafts. Info, 863-3214.

Deja Brew, Millers Falls: *Knitting & Crafts Night*, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome. Get a chance to win our monthly crafty gift with every \$5 you spend at Craft night.



Caravan of Thieves at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls on Friday, April 30th at 8 p.m. \$12 cover.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Jazz with *Inter Trip*, 7:30 p.m., no cover.

THURSDAY, MAY 6th
Deja Brew, Millers Falls: *The Relics*, '50s & '60s Rock with Brian Mallet & Lefty Cullen, 8 to 10 p.m.

Traprock Peace Center, Greenfield showing two films: *People To People: Pastors For Peace*. Tracks the collection and transportation of donated American supplies through the U.S., Mexico and by freighter to Havana. Followed by *Sin Embargo (Nevertheless)*. Depicts the ingenuity and creativity of Cubans despite the U.S. embargo. 7 p.m. Free, donations encouraged. Sponsored by Pioneer Valley Cuba Solidarity Committee.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. no cover.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, MAY 6th to 8th
Northfield Mount Hermon student dancers and two guest artists team up for *Rhapsody*, the highly charged spring performance of the *Senior and Junior Dance Companies*. 7:30 p.m. in the Rhodes Arts Center theater. \$2 for NMH students, faculty, staff, or children; \$7 for all others. Reservations: dancetickets@nmhschool.org. *Rhapsody* will feature tango, West African, jazz, modern, hip hop and ballet-inspired pieces with guest choreography by Marilyn Sylla and Megan Buchanan Cherry '91.

FRIDAY, MAY 7th
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Friends Of Yours* with Sway. Despite their cheery name, *Friends of Yours* music is a brooding, intense experience. Building on the increasingly common boy/girl duo popularized by *The White Stripes* or *Jucifer* they differentiate themselves by writing songs that emphasize dynamics over catchy hooks or pummeling riffs. 8 p.m., \$5. www.myspace.com/friendsforyours.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 7th & 8th
The Shea Theater's Fifth Annual *Valley Idol* begins. A benefit for the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Auditions start at 6 p.m. Register as a contestant (must be 18 years old) www.theshea.org or call Shea Theater 863-2281. Audience Admission: \$3 (first night only). Round 1: 5/8 at 7 p.m. Continues 5/15 and 5/22.

SATURDAY, MAY 8th
Valley Idol, Jr., an a cappella singing competition for students 8 to 17 years old. First Prizes are \$300 U.S. savings bonds for each of three age categories: 8 to 11; 12 to 14; and 15 to 17 year olds. First round try-outs: 5/8 at 9:30 a.m. \$20 to register (see above listing). Audience admission for all dates: \$5. Round 2: 5/15 and 5/22 at 9:30 a.m.

Crabapple Blossom Festival Family Concert in Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls. Family friendly band 3Potato4, formerly the Juice Boxes, 10:30 a.m. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Carnegie Library. Information, call the library, 863-3214.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
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- HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3D** PG in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
DAILY 7:00 9:30
- IRON MAN 2 THURSDAY MIDNIGHT**
- CLASH OF THE TITANS 3D**
DAILY 9:30 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 3:00
- DATE NIGHT**
DAILY 7:00 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00
- THE BACK UP PLAN**
DAILY 6:40 9:20 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- THE LOSERS**
DAILY 6:40 9:20 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- FURRY VENGEANCE**
DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET R DAILY** 6:30 9:00
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – This is the season of early gardening joys. The biting bugs are still dormant. The weeds are manageable. It is not too hot to enjoy working outdoors.

Every day there is something new to see, either in bloom or in fresh young green growth. Perennials I forgot I planted appear. There are three trillium in the woods at the edge of the yard. I planted them: one yellow, one pink, one white, to mark a cat's grave, and then forgot them. They didn't appear the first year, but there they are now, sweet and special, a fitting tribute.

The apricot blossoms came and went quickly, as has the flowering quince. Now the apples are abloom with pink white petals. The blossom clusters on the lilacs seem bigger each day. The peas

have broken the surface of the garden. The blueberry bushes have flowered to a degree that promises a good season if I can beat the birds to harvest them.

The phoebe has built a mossy nest just under the frame of the back porch roof. I had seen her at the bird feeder and was surprised, as phoebes generally prefer food of the insect variety. Apparently she was just scoping out the territory.

I decide to use the back door as little as possible so as not to disarrange her. Often this back roof is a prime spot for wasps' nests; we'll see how that works out. I'd rather go out another door to encourage a flock of insect eaters than avoid the doorway so I'm not buzzed by angry wasps. Maybe this year the wasps will be scoping out a new nesting ground.

This is the season for experimentation. In trying out the concept of no-till gardening, I have laid out newspaper and landscaping cloth over my old strawberry bed. I have gotten two plus years out of the last one, picking from second generation plants last year. Now it's time to set out a

new strawberry bed, as last year's crop had dwindled to fruit the size of wild strawberries, however sweet they may have been.

So I have purchased twenty-five new Sparkle roots. But I have been slow to finish the soil coverings. Going out to assess planting conditions in my "lasagna layers", I found that some strong plants have grown back up, even after having been turned under.

I am loathe to disregard this energy and will to survive, and decided to save the twelve heftiest plants so I would have the possibility of a small harvest this year. Then I'll plant the new roots as their neighbors.

Growing strawberries requires no small amount of patience because you need to set new plants every couple of years and because you have to wait a year before allowing the newly set roots to fruit. Thus, I hope that while I have to snip the blossoms of the new plants so that their energy will go into plant and root development, maybe my seasoned veterans will give me a cup or two to enjoy while I wait for next year's harvest.

The tomato seedlings are up in their mini greenhouse. I planted two seeds per square in each row of five cells to be sure of enough

of each variety. Of course, they have all germinated. I could pull out every other one, but I won't do that.

It's hard to throw out a living thing. Each little one-inch plant is strong and sturdy and most will easily survive repotting, so once again I'll have way too many tomato plants. Luckily, I will be able to give away all that I am unable to use. Then I'll plant twice as many tomatoes in the garden as I need, and I'll enjoy sharing the fruit with my non-gardening friends later.

In a few days, I'll plant each tiny tomato seedling into its own two- or three-inch pot with enriched potting soil so the roots can develop thick and strong. Then I'll still need to re-transplant at least once more before I can safely put out these precious plants at the end of May. It's incredible that these minute seeds and tiny plants will eventually yield full sized tomatoes.

It's hard for me to throw away any green thing that still clings to life, although I've gotten better and somewhat more realistic. After all, a plant that struggles to life each spring but never really gets big and strong should be relocated or replaced shouldn't it?

On the other side of that good

gardening theorem is the orchid I had just prepared to consign to the compost heap. It seemed to be making no forward progress, was yellowing and had dropped a few leaves. Then on the appointed day of execution, I noticed the curled up stem and flower buds of a new stalk. Clemency granted!

If this flowering turns out to be one last fling before dying, so be it. I'll enjoy the last blooms anyway. If, on the other hand, this plant has been able to regroup, aren't I glad I didn't heave it into the dark pit of compost.

It is a good thing that while there is plenty of science to gardening, there is still plenty of magic. If we were commercial growers, it would be different. We would be counting on crop success and planting and reacting to each season accordingly. As home gardeners, lovers of the soil and homegrown crops, we enjoy the challenge of the imperfect plant, crop, and season. It's part of what keeps us coming back because, honestly, if we tallied the expense of growing our own fruits and vegetables, we'd be behind the game.

We continue to thrive on the challenge and on the therapy. After a day of stress, it's a gift to put our hands into the soil.

REUSE from pg 1

former school as the location for a cooperative business enterprise.

Cooper said he had met recently with Brason, who needs to find a reuse for the property. "His connections are with the corrections industry in Massachusetts," said Cooper. "It would be nice if it didn't turn into a prison or reform school. It would be nicer if it could be used as an economic development program for the people of Wendell, rather than a state agency."

Those present seemed to agree, and by meeting's end, they had picked a name for their effort, the Wendell Works Coop, and a second meeting date at the library, on May 19th at 7 p.m.

(For more info, call Cooper, at 978-544-2190.)

"What caught my interest," said librarian Rosie Heidekamp, "is how few of us are able to have employment in town." She urged the group to consider establishing some kind of "green" industry with a unique Wendell stamp, that could possibly be based at the former school complex. "If that happened, there would be no need for more of us to drive to work; we could reduce our collective global footprint."

Paul Richmond noted the industrial kitchen, dormitories, and gymnasium facilities might lend themselves to reuse as some sort of local health center or arts center.

Selectboard member Daniel

Keller said, "The selectboard would really love to see something like this happen, and would do whatever we could to make it happen."

He said the recent sale of the Northfield campus of Northfield Mount Hermon for \$100,000 is an indication that the owner of the former Maple Valley school might be willing to sell for less than the property's assessed value.

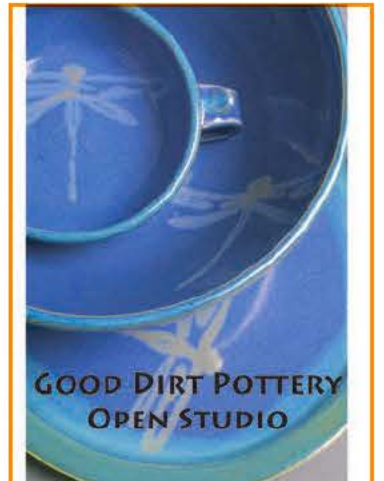
"He's willing to subdivide and sell any part of it," Keller said.

In fact, assessor's chair Tom Mangan, reached after the meeting, said the board of assessors has just agreed to lower the valuation of the property from \$5.8 million to \$3.5 million, after Brason requested an abatement to \$2.3 million. The lowered val-

uation will mean a loss of a more than a third of the approximately \$90,000 in Brason's annual tax bill for the former Maple Valley school, Mangan said.

Gloria Kegeles said there had been problems with the septic system at the school in the past, when 60 or more students were housed there, along with large numbers of staff. Keller said work had been done on the septic system since that time, and more research would be needed to determine the present state of compliance of the septic system.

Keller also said, "Wendell is low on the affordable housing quotient. If we could provide affordable housing for seniors – or anybody – there, it would help us get government grants."



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