



ART CONTEST

TFHS Freshman
Winner Danielle Bassett
Pg 9



RECENT WORK

Photographer Ariel Jones
Pg 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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YEAR 9 - NO. 42

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 11, 2011

Diemand Egg Farm Breaking (with) Eggs to Make an Omelette?



Anne, Peter and Faith (kneeling) of Diemand Farm

BY JONATHAN von RANSON

WENDELL - The Diemand Egg Farm has notified its wholesale egg customers that it will cease delivery starting about six months from now. Already small by industry standards, the egg farm plans to drop from a flock of 12,000-15,000 hens in recent years to "somewhere below 3,000" by July 2012. In a letter to customers, the owners said they've already begun reducing the number of baby chicks sustaining their flock.

In the letter, Peter, Faith and Anne Diemand said eggs will still be sold at the farm's store, but that the reduction in laying hens, "the cornerstone of our

business," must be made to exempt the farm from new FDA sanitation and food safety regulations brought about by "recent well-publicized problems...at some of the large egg production companies." The new regulations contain elaborate documentation requirements and "would only be possible for us with a huge investment of money, time and manpower that we cannot afford," the letter said.

Last Saturday, sitting on a couple of rocks alongside a field as the farm hosted this year's Northeast Chevy-GMC Truck Show, the three siblings all helped describe how they hope to adjust to the further pressure

brought about on small family farms because of the needs and political clout of large corporate agriculture. They've already diversified greatly from when they first took over the egg farm from their parents, Albert and Elsie Diemand, during the early 1980s, adding turkeys and prepared foods and a retail store component. More recently, Peter also began the making and selling of compost.

(For several years they tried a maple syrup operation. They used to barbecue on site, and they would serve what they catered. But the Diemand siblings - though never afraid of hard work - found those lines of

see **DIEMAND** page 12

No Buyers for Montague Center School

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO
MONTAGUE CENTER - Montague Center School will remain the property of the town's taxpayers for the conceivable future. Although there had been hope that at least a few bidders for the property would come forth by the August 4th deadline, there was not even a single response to the town's RFP for the former school. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he was "discouraged by the lack of response," but was not giving up hope. He said that at this point he wasn't sure how the town will proceed: "It will go back to the Capital Improvements Committee for discussion."

The RFP asked potential buyers to submit minimum bids dependent on their projected costs of investment in renovation. If the prospective buyer could demonstrate that the projected investment in the property would exceed one million dollars, the minimum bid was \$50,000. For those intending to invest a half-million or less, the minimum bid was \$200,000. Or as Abbondanzio explained, an investor willing to do major renovation on the building could have picked up the school for as little as \$50,000.

The 14,182-square-foot building, built in 1949, is located at 15 School Street. It sits on 3.3 acres of land, adjoining wetlands, with some parking out front. It has been in town hands since June of 2008, when the

Gill-Montague Regional School District closed the school. The property, which has a new roof and a recently tested and approved underground oil tank, is assessed at \$978,400.

Abbondanzio said that he felt the building would have sold if the economy were better. "It's a great building in excellent condition." He also noted that the town had set the minimum bid and stringent conditions because they did not want to sell to just anyone. "We didn't want to give the building away, or give it to the wrong owner." The RFP bears this out. Among the requirements for potential buyers was "a demonstrated capacity and expertise to undertake and manage the development..." In order to demonstrate this capacity, the RFP asked bidders to submit descriptions of successful past development projects and "the financial ability to successfully complete the project including evidence of ability to obtain financing."

Abbondanzio stressed that because the building is in excellent shape the costs to maintain it in good condition are not terribly high. Reports obtained from the town accounting office show that March 2010 through June 2010, the total maintenance cost was \$8,990.82. The majority of this cost was for heat (\$8296.13). Between July 2010 and June 2010 the total cost to maintain the building was \$15,081.59. Of this amount, heating oil accounted

see **SCHOOL** page 13

DOUBLE EDGE THEATER:

A Traveling Spectacle



Odysseus on Circe's Island (Carlos Uriona as Odysseus, Hayley Brown as Circe, John Peitso and Brian Fairley as Musicians)

BY SHIRA HILLEL

Double Edge Theater is pushing the envelope of theatrical creativity and trying to crack the whole endeavor wide open. As

their fans already know, this company has adopted a kind of experimental theater that relies upon collaboration and interdisciplinary artistic approaches.

Double Edge actors undergo intense training. Some theater people consider their process as part of the "laboratory theater" see **THEATER** page 12

Fifth Annual Turners Falls Block Party This Saturday

BY SAM LETCHER
TURNERS FALLS - It's that time of year again and the fifth annual Turners Falls Block Party is just around the corner. The Block party, as in previous years, will use mostly all of Avenue A, stretching from first to fourth street. Traffic in the area will be shut down from the start of the party at two until its conclusion at eight. There will, of course, be a thruway for traffic at the intersection of Third Street and Avenue A.

In the past, Turners Falls RiverCulture organized the event but this year The Gill Montague Community School Partnership (GMSCP) is

in charge of the Block Party. The Partnership is a fully non-profit organization compiled of community groups whose collec-

tive goal is the betterment of the quality of life for residents of the district. According to Lisa Davol,

see **PARTY** pg 12



Scene from last year's Block Party

PET OF THE WEEK A Flirt



Tigger

My name is Tigger, and I LOVE people. I am a three-year-old neutered male cat and was brought to DPVHS because my former family had allergies. So now I am on the search for a new forever home. I'm feeling sad being here because all I want to do is be with people. You see, I am a social butterfly. I really enjoy sitting on laps, following people around, and just being curious about anything. I like children, too. Please come in to meet me. I am currently staying in one of the offices upstairs – it feels more like a home. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane

Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program Parties

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE-The annual Summer Reading Program parties will be held at all three Montague libraries on Monday, August 15th and Tuesday, the 16th. The Montague Center Library costume party will be held on Monday, August 15th from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. It is optional, but encouraged, to come dressed as a favorite book character. Tom Ricardi will bring Live Birds of Prey to the Carnegie Library party on Tuesday, August 16th at 10:00 a.m. The Millers Falls party will also be Tuesday, August 16th, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

The Carnegie Library Party will be held on the library lawn, weather permitting. It is advisable to bring a blanket or something to sit on as there may be

wild cherries on the ground to stain clothing. In case of rain, the Carnegie party will be upstairs in the library. All Summer Reading Program participants who request them will receive participation certificates at the parties. For those unable to attend, certificates will be available at all three libraries. The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries, the Gill-Montague Community School Coalition, the Massachusetts Library Systems, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Boston Bruins. Weekly incentive prizes for reading will be available until school begins in Montague. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Harry Potter Enthusiasts Enjoyed the Day

The Leverett Library held a Harry Potter Party on Wednesday, July 13th. Between 150-200 people came, kids and adults. We had quidditch matches, live chess (where the people are the chess pieces), a wizard's magic show, trivia contest, and much more. One of the biggest surprises that came out of planning the party was a Leverett connection to the films. Bob Douglas, who grew up in Leverett and whose parents still live here, is the owner of two beautiful historic cars, identical Ford Anglias. When the first Harry Potter film was in the works, the film studio contacted him to inquire whether they could borrow one of the cars for the films (it became the famous "flying car"). When

planning this party at the Library began this past spring, Bob learned about it from his parents and got in touch to offer one of his Ford Anglias for the event. It was great fun to have the powder-blue car here for the evening, and patrons enjoyed having their photos taken next to it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVERETT LIBRARY
Leverett Elementary School teacher Bill Stewart, arriving at the Harry Potter party in one of the Ford Anglias owned by former Leverett resident Bob Douglas. Bill is dressed as Professor Gilderoy Lockhart.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – August 15th - 26th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

• The Senior Center annual **Ice Cream Social** is on **Tuesday, 8/23 at 1:00 p.m.** with special entertainment by the ROMEOs. Call the Senior Center to sign up. The event is free but small donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, August 15th and 22nd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
8/15 12:00 noon Pot Luck
8/15 No Knitting Circle
8/22 1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, August 16th and 23rd

9:00 a.m. Walking Group
8/23 1:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social
Wed., August 17th and 24th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
8/17 11:00 a.m. Third Wednesday Book Review
8/24 10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
8/17 12:45 Bingo
Thurs., August 18th and 25th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, August 19th and 26th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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 information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm summer activities schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, August 15th and 22nd



Weekly visitors to the Great Falls Farmers Market include a variety of rabbits from The Bucking Bull Farm of Greenfield.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge.

- With the construction of the first dam in 1792 by the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals, the resulting pond gave stiller and deeper water, so the ferry was moved down river to where the Upper Suspension or "Red Bridge" once crossed.
- A recollection of Henry E. Barton (deceased) of Riverside (for whom the Barton Cove is named), is told here.
- "Albert Smith ran the conveyance when I was a boy, holding a contract from the towns of Gill and Montague. Average fares were three cents for a man, 12 cents for a single team and 20 cents for a double team. Albert lived in Gill, on the riverbank, so that when a person wished to cross from the Turners Falls shore, he was obliged to blow a tin horn hung there for that purpose."

Flood Perils

Henry Barton told of hearing from older men how in 1820, a ferryman named Remington, was transporting a man, a horse and a pair of oxen during the spring freshet, when the boat overturned, drowning boatman and passenger. The livestock were carried over the dam. The horse and one ox found the shore below the dam and the other ox was stranded on Samoset Island (some know it as Peskeompskut Island) for several days until the water receded, and the animal could be rescued. No account remains of Remington and his passenger.

More bridge facts next week!

Wendell Old Home Day August 20th

Organizer-in-chief Karen Copeland promises "fun, sunshine, music and everything else" for Wendell Old Home Day on Saturday, August 20th.

The Old Home Day parade starts at 11:30 a.m. and will feature Wendell fire department's Engine 1. At noon, Noah's Raven Dance Band will get people up and moving with interna-

tional circle dancing. Bear Mountain Boys, Rhythm Inc., Earth Vibes, Francis Doughty, Kelliana and many musical surprises are scheduled. Food vendors and garden tours are some of the other highlights.

Come by and help us celebrate Wendell's unique community and creativity.

Correction

Due to an editing error in the July 28th (Vol. IX, #41) article "Clamshell Activists Agree to Reactivate to Shut Down Vermont Yankee" we printed an incorrect figure regarding the Vermont Senate's vote against granting a certificate of public good to allow Vermont Yankee to extend its operating license. The senate's vote was 26-4, not 24-6 as we reported.

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LEVERETT Senior Activities

- Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
- Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
- For more information, call the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 (x5) or email coa@leverett.ma.us.

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



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Volunteers are wanted to help with the flower gardens at the **Peace Pagoda** in Leverett. Call Angela at 413-548-9284 for more information.

The First Congregational Church of Montague on 4 North Street is holding a **Jazz Worship Service** on Sunday, August 21st, starting at 11:00 a.m. The popular jazz musician, Willie Sordillo, from Boston and a local Transition Town Trainer from Montague combine to lead a jazzy worship service with a message of resiliency and sustainability geared to our times. This is part of Montague's Old Home Days weekend which runs Saturday Aug 20 and Sunday Aug 21.

Sordillo and a jazz pianist will lead off the service with a 10 minute participatory hymn sing with lots of old favorites to sing together. Then their soulful music will be woven in and out of the body of the service, lifting your spirits and guiding attendees in fellowship and worship. For more information please call Rev. Barbara Turner Delisle at 413-367-9467

Skeleton Crew Theater is looking for actors with strong improvisational talents. Previous puppeteering experience is a bonus, but not a must. Actors should be able to work outside comfortably in October evenings and be willing to help with set up and break down of the show as well. Performances will run weekends in October. Auditions will be held on Sunday, August 14th, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Avenue, Greenfield and Monday, August 15th, at 6:30 p.m. at Camp Kee-Wanee, Health Camp Road, in Greenfield. For more information call the assistant casting director, Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe at 413-455-5912.

The **4-H Program** is looking for adult volunteers (age 21 and older) to start up 4-H "clover-

bud" clubs in their local communities. The 4-H "cloverbud" program is designed specifically for boys and girls in Kindergarten through third grade (ages 5 to 7) and is built on cooperative learning, rather than competitive activities.

4-H cloverbud clubs are activity-focused and not project-focused with members participating in activities and opportunities in which they practice skills, discover talents, and learn about fairness in a non-judgmental environment. All new 4-H cloverbud leaders will be provided with an orientation training, resource materials, activity curriculum and support. Cloverbud curriculum includes activities in topics such as animals, nature, gardening, science, food & nutrition, crafts and community service.

For more information about 4-H or to sign up to become a 4-H cloverbud club leader, please contact 4-H Educator Tom Waskiewicz at (413)-545-0611 or by email at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu. 4-H is the outreach youth education program of the UMass Extension system which is funded through the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The **5th Annual Basketball Club Golf Tournament** will be held at Oak Ridge Golf Club, 236 West Gill Road, Gill on Sunday August 28th starting with an 8:00 a.m. shot gun start. For team registration and information contact David or Alyn Hastings at 413-863-5007 or email CoachHastings@comcast.net

Previous attendees to the **Turners Falls Block Party**, which is on Saturday, August 13, might notice that the Zombie, Lawn Chair Brigade, well behaved dogs on a leashes and what ever else you can imagine parade is going down Avenue A

in a different direction than previous years. The parade will start at 4th Street and head on down to the Great Falls Discovery Center lawn area.

Thinking about **adding a puppy** or mature dog to you household? Please join Dr. Lauralyn Brown and her staff at the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue, in Turners Falls on Saturday morning, August 13th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Dr. Brown will help you find answers to such questions as big verses little dog, long hair verses short hair along with cost issues like purchase price, vet care, training food and training.

Do you like doodling or drawing cartoons? Also at GSB you can learn from presenter, Justion Prokovich, on Saturday, August 20th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. This promises to be a fun filled morning learning the craft of drawing comics, imagining superheroes and story lines. Light refreshments will be provided. For more info on all GSB events please contact Kerri or Linda at 413-863-4316

The **Arbor Day Foundation** is offering an August special to receive 10 Colorado Blue Spruce Trees. Everyone who joins the nonprofit foundation during the month with a \$10.00 donation will receive trees at the right time for planting in each member's area starting in October. Mailing address is Ten Blue Spruces, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave, Nebraska City, NE, 68410 or join online at arbor-day.org/august.

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

LEARN ABOUT VA HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

Open House on Monday, August 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to provide information about Veterans Health Administration benefits and additional Veterans-specific information about VA services.

This is a free event. Veterans who are not currently enrolled for VA benefits are encouraged to bring their DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," to the open houseto assist coun-

★ Soap Box Derby Trophies ★

MONTAGUE, MA - The Montague Soapbox Derby is looking for local artists and sculptors to help create a series of six to ten trophies for winners of the various style categories of soapbox carts entered into the derby.

Categories can be vague or specific, and trophy sizes may range from six to twenty inches in height. Any material may be used, found or crafted, as long as the trophy appears to be a valid, worthwhile object representing excellence in that category, and is able to be mounted on the standard wooden base provided by the race committee.

Artists may sign the trophy, and if interested, may present the trophy in the awards ceremony at the end of the race.

Artists interested in producing a trophy for the derby may call Mik Muller at (413) 320-5336 or go to the official derby

website: www.montaguesoapboxraces.com and fill out the "Contact Us" form.

The Montague Soapbox Derby is a fundraiser for the Montague Community Cable TV non-profit. It will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 17th in Unity Park, Turners Falls.

MONTAGUE SOAP BOX Races

Saturday, September 17
High Noon
montaguesoapboxraces.com

Erving Police Association K-9 Raffle

Help support our newest member. Win two Red Sox tickets - game day is Wednesday, September 14th. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 each and available at the Erving police department, Erving town hall, the French King Entertainment Center or see an on duty officer. Drawing will be held at the French King Entertainment Center on Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend the drawing. All Donations go directly to the Association for the Badge.

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Level Four is Catch-22

Guest Editorial by Jeff Singleton

At first glance, the decision by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to continue the Gill-Montague School District (GMRSD) in Level 4 "underperforming" status seems a textbook case of an out-of-control bureaucracy bullying a struggling local school district. If anyone would like to know how it feels to be part of the process this decision has produced, I would recommend they read Joseph Heller's Catch-22, a classic exposé of the absurdity of military life during the Second World War.

In that novel a character named Major Major tells his subordinates not to let anyone enter his office when he is there. They are only allowed in to see him when he is not there, an order he gives to his aid while straddling an open window. The vignette is a metaphor for the rules and habits of a system whose primary goal seems to be to avoid reality.

I was reminded of Catch-22 when we were told of the process the GMRSD school committee would need to follow in responding to the state evaluation placing us in Level 4. It turns out that the first "Finding" of the evaluation involves an extended critique of the school committee, which the report claims did not advocate for the district budget because it is still divided over the 2008 closing of an elementary school. Because this analysis bears no resemblance to reality (and is rather divisive), four members of the committee sent a letter to DESE requesting a meeting to discuss the report.

Not only did DESE refuse to sit down with us, but the department directed two consultants sent to work with the committee not to discuss the state report. Thus we must address the issues that placed us in Level 4 but are forbidden to discuss the issues that placed us in Level 4.

Magnifying this absurdity, the first Finding begins by stating categorically that the school district does not have a viable

budget approved by the member towns. In fact the district has a budget approved by unanimous consent of the member towns at a historic district meeting that took place two months before the state report came out. One school committee member, apparently attempting to be charitable to state officials, suggested that perhaps this portion of the report had been written prior to the district meeting.

She was probably correct but the only way I personally find this situation psychologically tolerable is to inject a bit of dark humor from the great Joseph Heller novel.

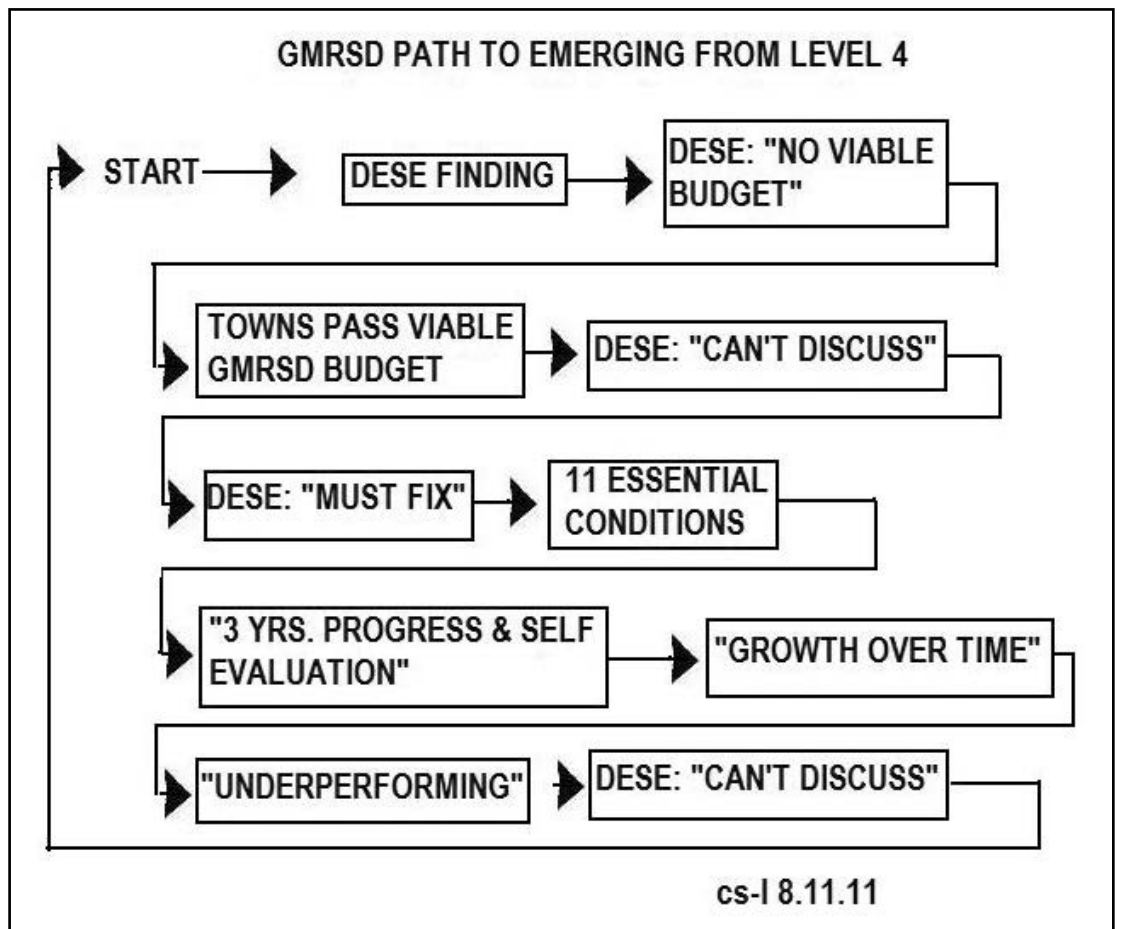
Kidding aside, we pay taxes to the state, which has a profound influence on local public education. State aid finances approximately forty percent of the budget of the GMRSD and the state's various initiatives, regulations and laws vitally affect what we do. For both practical and ethical reasons I do not think it acceptable to sweep this mess under the rug and "move on," as is the current tendency within the school district.

Maybe the GMRSD deserves to be at Level 4 but it is impossible to tell. The state evaluation is not only riddled with factual errors, there is no statistically or methodologically sound definition of what Level 4 actually means. We are not compared to other similar districts in the state on any of the variables that placed us in an underperforming status. Thus we are the only school district in the state in Level 4 that does not have a Level 4 school.

The only time I can recall a state official explaining what Level Four actually means was when the committee was shown a power point with an upside down pyramid. Level Four was near the bottom (or inverted top as it were), just above Level 5. This seemed to perplex everyone but thankfully we were never shown the upside down pyramid again.

Having little basis for the Level 4 designation makes it very hard to get out of Level 4. So the state has suddenly pre-

see LEVEL FOUR pg 5



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emperor's New Clothes

I was happy to read that the towns of Montague and Gill are pressing the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for more information about our district's "Level 4" status. Reading the letter from the select boards reminded me of the story of the Emperor's New Clothes. The state and federal governments, along with the media, have repeated the myth that schools are "failing" so many times, that people have begun to think it is true.

Race to the Top is like the emperor's invisible clothing. It is a huge farce, the real purpose of which is to privatize our public schools and to break up teachers' unions. If you have been following the recent story about the leaked American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) documents, you will know that privatizing public education was high on the list of priorities for this organization.

Standardized test scores correlate directly with socio-economic status across the country and around the world. So when we test our students, the results tell us very little about how effective individual schools are. Mostly the test scores show us where there are concentrations of poor kids.

The U.S. Census already provides this information.

The United States is the richest country in the world, based on the GDP. Still 14.3 percent of us were living in poverty in 2009. Though children were 25% of the total population, they were 35% of those people living below the poverty level. It's unrealistic to imagine that schools alone will be able to erase the effects of poverty. We need to create jobs and provide support for poor families. Eliminate poverty, and all of our students will be proficient in school.

It's silly to think that Gill-Montague schools will come up with a magic plan to elevate their status from level 4. Teachers and administrators have always known what makes a good school and have always been extremely dedicated to providing the best education possible within the confines of their budgets. Parents also know what makes a good school: small classes, up-to-date books, arts education, attractive buildings...

In addition teachers and administrators are very much aware of the challenges in their building and are constantly working to overcome them. We don't need tests to tell us how our

schools are doing. They tell us that kids from privileged families do better on tests. We also don't need consultants to tell our teachers how to do their jobs. Both are a waste of money.

We should not be worried that our schools are "failing." That is a myth, plain and simple. If you compare the test scores of kids in the U.S. who are living in poverty to those of kids living in poverty in other countries, we actually do pretty well. We should all be like the child in the Emperor's New Clothes who points out that the emperor is actually naked. I applaud the select boards for pressing the state for an explanation. I will be surprised if they can offer anything beyond the sound bites we are accustomed to hearing.

The fact is that our nation is failing. We allow companies like Exxon-Mobil, Bank of America, and General Electric, which make billions of dollars in profit each year, to avoid paying taxes. We give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires. Meanwhile schools - and our children - have to get by with less each year.

- Eloise Michael
Turners Falls

Speeding on Millers Falls Road

Again, I am posting a letter in this newspaper in regard to the speeding on Millers Falls Road due to the increase in traffic due to the construction of the Gill-

Montague bridge.

It appears that no one obeys the speed limit signs near Highland Apartments going in both directions. Trucks, cars and

most of all motorcycles when going toward the airport consider this to be a raceway. This will probably go on until someone is seriously hurt or killed.

At times a police officer is parked and traffic slows when the officer is in the vicinity, but I realize that it is impossible for an officer to be in the area at all times. Therefore, I am again, as I mentioned in a previous letter, asking that the town consider purchasing a speed monitoring sign which can be placed in various problem areas within town limits. Other towns have them, why can't the Town of Montague purchase one?

- Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 8/10/11



Note to Readers:

Summer Print Schedule

As a small town weekly, *The Montague Reporter* follows the news of local boards, many of which switch to summer schedules this time of year.

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on August 18th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

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& MORE LETTERS

End of Life Choices

Recent political debate around health care brings up of the notion of 'death panels', when talking about a person planning in advance for his or her care at the end of life. No matter what side of that debate you are on, advanced planning is something we should all be thinking about. The way we die is as personal as the way we live. The choices and decisions around what is done for us at end of life can only be decided by the person dying. It is something we don't like to think about, let alone talk about. But, it is a necessary and important conversation for families to have long before the end is near. Ideally, it is a conversation to have while there is the presence of mind and the clarity to think thru these hard decisions. When no advanced planning is done, that decision falls on the

family. It is so much easier for a family to make hard decisions in a hard time when they know what their loved one would want. Your family can best decide on your behalf when they are absolutely certain of what you want, because you told them. It takes courage to initiate the conversation. It is a conversation to have with your doctor, who can guide you through the choices. Make sure your decisions are written down and in your family's possession as well as in your medical record. Then you can forget about it and hopefully not think about it again for a long time.

**- Dvora Cohen
Wendell, Massachusetts**

Singleton's "Declaration of Independence" Series Lauded

Your three-part series of Jeff Singleton's "Declaration of Independence" is one more exceptional offering of The Montague Reporter. Singleton's able reviews of current publications first led me to read Joseph Ellis's *American Creation* and then follow up with Ellis's *Founding Brothers*. I look forward to reading the other historians of this period that Singleton cited. In this 21st Century we need to temper the political-religious manipulations of our origins with accurate historical analysis.

The contradictions and dissent among our founders and in their national documents need to be understood as we employ their heritage today. Our forebears did not provide one unilateral position upon which to base the cur-

rent political pressure. To quote Singleton:

"The Declaration was a radical and inspiring document that in many ways was inconsistent with political and social realities of 1776... [Historians] also point out that the Declaration was a justification for revolution, not a constitutional blueprint for a new government (6/30/11)."

This tightly written thesis is expanded in his well-reviewed book. I hope those of us educated by the obligatory high school test book and by the myths of our nation's founding will enjoy the further enlightenment proposed in the "Declaration of Independence" series.

**- John Preston
Greenfield**

TURNERS' FIFTH STREET BRIDGE TO BE SHUT FOR REPAIRS SEPTEMBER 11

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has announced that getting in and out of Turners Falls will become even more difficult beginning September 11. According to Michael Verseckes, a Public Affairs spokesman for the Mass DOT, the work should only take about a week. The September 11 date was chosen to coincide with the annual draw down of the canal. When completed, the DOT will be able to lift the weight restriction from the bridge. Currently, all truck traffic to and from Greenfield must use alternative routes.

from **LEVEL FOUR** pg 4
nted the district with "11 Essential Conditions For School Effectiveness" that we must fulfill. These 11 Conditions, for the most part, seem like perfectly good things but they are not "aligned" with the Findings that put us in Level 4. It is as if some committee created these Conditions without even looking at the process for evaluating districts. Responding to the 11 Conditions is apparently going to take the district three years, which is a long time to be stigmatized as "underperforming" Why? Typically we have received no clear written explanation at all. Our superintendent tells us that she spoke with a DESE official who told her that we need to show "growth over time since we have one year of data to show growth in self-assessment, the next two years will be needed to show continuous growth." Can anyone explain what this means?

There is apparently an on-line "self-assessment tool."

In fairness, the 11 Essential Conditions and the state evaluation do have one important thing in common - they ignore what is probably the main

problem the district faces, declining enrollment. Over the past decade enrollment in the GMRSD has declined by approximately one-third. Ironically, state aid policy (the famous Chapter 70 'formula') is heavily influenced by enrollment. Unless we address this issue, we may not receive adequate state aid and be able to implement our long-term fiscal plan, which ended state control of the district. The Level 4 process not only ignores the problem but being labeled "underperforming" for three years makes it that much harder to solve.

I began this short essay by suggesting that "at first glance" the GMRSD is being oppressed by a bullying bureaucracy. Actually, I have met and worked with state officials frequently over the past year on our long-term fiscal plan. I have found them smart, caring professionals who sincerely want to improve education. However, they are trapped in a system that is clearly "dysfunctional" (a word often applied to the GMRSD School Committee). The system is dominated by jargon, half-baked power point presentations, disembodied lists of "11

Conditions", and an aversion to written narrative with footnotes, bibliography and sound policy analysis.

There are a variety of theories about why the GMRSD is trapped in this swamp. A popular one is that we are being

punished for challenging the state on fiscal policy. I prefer Catch-22. Perhaps it should be required reading for one of the school committee's "professional development" sessions to get out of Level 4!

Jeff Singleton is a member of the GMRSD School Committee. The opinions expressed are his alone and not positions of the committee as a whole.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Problems Persist at International Paper Mill

BY KATIE NOLAN -
At the August 8th meeting, the Erving Selectboard decided Swamp Road will be closed to all traffic for several weeks starting August 22nd as MassHighway re-decks the bridge leading to Swamp Road, according to town administrator Tom Sharp. As a result of the closure, there won't be a direct route from Erving to Laurel Lake, and traffic from Erving will need to go through Warwick to access the lake.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) inspected environmental conditions at the former International Paper Mill property on Papermill Road on August 5th. Speaking at the August 8th selectboard meeting, Sharp said that the DEP representative "was not concerned" about the amount of contamination remaining at the site. The property was classified as a hazardous materials disposal site due to arsenic detected in the soil during an environmental investigation earlier this year. A recent report from the environmental consultant for the owner the Tower Erving LLC of Woodland, California concluded that all cleanup actions had been completed.

Another problem exists at the site, however.

According to Sharp, trespassers are stripping copper from the building and police chief Chris Blair has reported repeated vandalism at the closed plant. Fire chief Almon Meathey told the selectboard that the building's roof is not in good shape and the building is infested with pigeons. Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo commented that "the [building] floor is punky." Sharp said it would be good to involve the board of health, fire chief, and building inspector to ensure that the International Paper property doesn't become "the next Usher plant", referring to the brownfields site on Arch Street that the town is planning to clean up once it has completed taking ownership for non-payment of taxes.

Meathey reported that 49-year fire department veteran Leonard Clark, Jr. is retiring and asked the selectboard to consider recognizing his years of service. The fire department will be hosting a cookout in Clark's honor. Meathey also announced the appointment of Philip Wonkka as first deputy chief.

The selectboard commended Luke Hartnett for his work in bringing the reverse 911 system to Erving, but decided not to submit Hartnett's name for

a Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) award. Hartnett, who attended the meeting, agreed with the decision and said, "Everyone in Erving has worked together to keep people safer."

"It's a good thing, but it's not that land is coming off the tax rolls," commented Klepadlo when informed that the Franklin Land Trust had bought three of the five building lots between Route 2 and Dorsey Road for permanent conservation protection. Sharp noted that two other contiguous building lots are under contract to the land trust.

Sharp reported that the town's parking ordinances, called "traffic rules and orders," were instituted in 1962. He told the selectboard that town counsel Donna MacNichol concluded that the board could make changes to parking rules without going to town meeting for approval, because these are not town bylaws.

Sharp presented an update on the regional dog shelter proposed by Franklin County Sheriff Chris Donelan, to be sited at the Franklin County Jail. The shelter committee has met three times and Blair will be attending the next meeting.

grounds for violation.

Friday, 7/15

2:55 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Lockes Village Road. No injuries.

Saturday, 7/16

9:45 p.m. Report of fireworks on Lady Slipper Lane. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 7/20

9:41 p.m. Unwanted person at Lockes Village Road residence. All OK, party left peacefully.

Friday, 7/22

12:05 a.m. Supervised party removing belong-

ings at Lockes Village Road residence.

Sunday, 7/24

7:55 p.m. 911 hang up call at Locke Hill Road residence. All OK, child playing with phone.

Monday, 7/25

11:40 a.m. Kelmsley Academy student drove car into building on property. No injuries.

Wednesday, 7/27

11:00 a.m. Report of three trash cans missing from Lockes Village Road residence.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Dogs Removed from Chestnut Hill Farm After Biting Incident

BY MATTHEW LEGER-SMALL -

A group of Chestnut Hill residents gathered at Town Hall on Monday evening to testify to the selectboard concerning four dogs that are reportedly terrorizing their neighborhood. The hearing was a direct result of a recent incident involving Lisa Lindgren who was biking past the property. She related that as she approached the farm one of the dogs in question rushed up and bit her thigh. Within seconds, two more dogs followed her bicycle barking and behaving aggressively. She picked up some speed and managed to get away. As soon as she was clear of the dogs she said, "I couldn't stop crying for forty-five minutes. I was terrified." The dogs were placed under a mandatory 10-day quarantine by Gina McNeely of the Board of Health following the biting incident.

"Terrified" was the keyword of the night as other residents of the rural road relayed their experiences of being trapped by the dogs and being unable to avoid them. Everyone present at the hearing agreed that they've each taken extraordinary measures to avoid using the street near the farm where the dogs are kept because, despite a fence and instructions to the owner to keep the dogs chained, the four dogs are left to roam freely through the neighborhood. "I've taken to carrying bear spray when I'm in the woods," one of the residents reported. "That's what we've had to resort to."

Despite the alarming first-hand accounts and the general consensus amongst the neighbors that the dogs in question posed a very serious pub-

lic safety risk to anyone wishing to access Wendell state forest via Chestnut Hill Road, the residents seemed nearly unanimous in expressing two other opinions. First, no one present at the hearing seemed to blame the dogs themselves directly and no one called for their immediate destruction. Second, the picture painted of the owner of the dogs, Mr. William Hunting, was that of a good neighbor and a caring man who simply did not have the ability to care for his dogs in the way that they needed.

The police department was ordered to remove all four dogs from the property as soon as possible. The selectboard voted to euthanize one of the dogs, referred to as "the aggressive one," despite a nay from Chris Boutwell who requested proof that the dog's aggressive behavior was primarily to blame for the bite in question rather than the dog's environment. Provided that an appropriate agency or organization can be contacted to provide the services, the remaining three dogs from the property will be evaluated for suitability to be re-housed.

As a side-note to the dog hearing, one of the residents present requested the selectboard review the procedures in place to deal with complaints of aggressive dogs. She gave an extensive account of contacting the police at various levels as well as previously contacting the selectboard about these specific dogs. If action had been taken sooner, she noted, or if the police were empowered to take more action than simply notifying the owner and requesting that the dogs be controlled, it's probable that Lindgren would never have been bitten. The

board seemed reluctant to acknowledge that the problem had gone unremedied. "That's surprising," said Pat Allen, "because we've had many dog hearings. I don't know what went wrong this time." No further discussion of the request took place.

A letter from the selectboard addressed to Anne Gobi, the chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and her counterpart in the Senate expressing the board's frustration in recent dealings with Natural Heritage Program (a division of Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife) was approved on Monday. The letter points out that the current interpretation of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act has strayed from the original intent of the bill and has led to undue difficulties for towns like Montague that are pushing for development and redevelopment. Specifically, a proposed 100-acre industrial park project on the Montague Plains (a pine barrens) was stalled when the land was identified in 2005 as a priority habitat.

In total, 8,508 acres of the town are designated as priority habitat, which is 42% of the town's land. In order to develop the 100-acre industrial park, Natural Heritage would require Northeast Utilities, the company that currently owns the land, to give up a chunk of the remaining 300 acres of their land, or reduce the project to a mere 30-acre project.

The letter goes on to point out that the citizens of Montague, in general, are conservation-minded. This is underlined by see MONTAGUE pg 10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Metal Theft, Car vs. Building Accident

Tuesday, 6/21

4:49 a.m. Domestic violence alarm at Morse Village Road residence. All OK, electrical malfunction.

Wednesday, 6/22

5:55 a.m. Domestic violence alarm at Morse Village Road residence. Again malfunction, all OK.

Sunday, 7/10

1:00 a.m. Noise complaint on Montague Road. All quiet on

arrival.

Monday, 7/11

9:30 a.m. Report of scrap metal taken from Depot Road garage.

Tuesday, 7/12

Time not recorded: person acting up at Wendell Country Store. Sent to Franklin Medical via ambulance.

Thursday, 7/14

9:50 p.m. Possible violation of restraining order at Lockes Village Road residence. Found no

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Progress and Particulars of the Gill-Montague Bridge Project

BY P.H. CROSBY

Gill Selectboard members John Ward and Ann Banash dealt efficiently with issues of well and boiler replacement, school operations, new business establishment, fire department membership and highway safety in their August 1st meeting, in the company of members of fire, police and highway departments and a few spectators.

Initial discussion included the fact that the board has scheduled a meeting with former highway superintendent Ernie Hastings to get his views on drainage issues before proceeding further with diagnosis of the Gill School well problems and potential repair or replacement of the well. Siemens work on energy upgrades for the school is proceeding according to plan, and another contractor is installing window inserts at the leaky Riverside Municipal building.

Board members also reviewed the letter from Interim GMRSD superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, requesting that they and Montague not set up a meeting yet with DESE to question the system's continuing Level IV status and DESE's continuously-tweaked criteria and timelines.

Along with Montague town officials, the board is taking Ekstrom's points into consideration but feels the need to proceed with plans for a meeting

between DESE and town representatives. The town is looking for an opportunity to affirm their stance that—in contrast to what the School Committee Chair has publicly stated—they are not happy with continuing Level IV underperforming status and do not agree with Chair Mike Langknecht's stance of "welcoming the opportunity" of continuing DESE oversight.

Fire Chief Gene Beaubien was present at the meeting to seek approval of three new junior and three probationary firefighters, with authorization readily granted. A Gill police officer also joined the meeting, commenting on the suddenness of the late afternoon thunderstorm which had just pounded the North Cross section of Gill while barely touching other neighborhoods. With Mitch LeClair, Highway Superintendent, also present, the upper echelon of Gill town government was well-represented.

Perspectives of all of these officials were welcomed in the ensuing discussion of the Mass Highway Department (MHD) response to a letter sent by the selectboard with questions about the progress and particulars of the Gill-Montague bridge project.

Board questions were, in sum:

Are there to be other changes to traffic flow besides widening to the

entrance onto the bridge?

Can there be two distinct lanes southbound, from Main Rd.?

Will vehicles traveling west on Route 2 be able to make a right turn on red?

Can there be a button-activated crossing signal for pedestrians across Route 2?

Can the town be provided with transmitters to complement the emergency pre-emption receivers planned for this project?

MHD's responses in most cases were unsatisfactory and prompted so many new questions that Administrative Assistant Ray Purington was instructed to set up a meeting with an MHD representative to get more complete answers, (or perhaps more accurately, to get answers closer to what the town would like to hear).

A case in point is the town's request for police department transmitters to accompany the emergency receivers that will be installed as part of the bridge project. Chief Beaubien maintained that if the state could spend \$40,000 on signage for Turners Falls as part of the project, they certainly might consider underwriting the cost of emergency equipment Gill will have to purchase to take full advantage of the new feature.

Another issue was the perceived need for a second full lane (for turning) on the Main Road approach to the intersection, and the acknowledgment that it might require a re-design of the traffic island, the curb and the drainage ditch. The fact that such a re-design was needed was reinforced by LeClair, who pointed out that the drainage ditch

see GILL page 10

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Senn Appointed to Board of Health

BY JOSH HEINEMAN

By voice vote the Wendell Selectboard appointed Martha Senn to fill the Board of Health vacancy created when Jennifer Fyler resigned. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked that the board wait another two weeks before appointing anyone and cited the fact that Senn was defeated in the spring town election and that letters of opposition to Senn had been circulating on the e-mail list which serves those Wendell residents who use computers and write e-mails.

Selectboard Chair Christine Heard said that the two remaining Board of Health members, Chair Lonny Ricketts, and Amy Simmons, who defeated Senn in the election, both recommended Senn. In addition, the position had been posted for two weeks and no one else had volunteered. Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich read Senn's letter of interest which mentioned not just her prior experience on the Board of Health and the knowledge of the law that she gained through that experience, but her work as Health and Safety officer at Judd Wire, and her present work at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Pooser asked again that the appointment be delayed two more weeks until the next meeting, but Selectboard member Dan Keller agreed with Heard, and said he would hesitate to take internet chatter too seriously. The town can seldom afford to turn down a willing volunteer. Senn's appointment ends in May when she will face a regular town election. Appointment of a replacement for Fyler was posted two days in advance of the

meeting as required by Open Meeting Law, and no citizen attended the meeting to object or volunteer.

Town Treasurer Carolyn Manley said she had found a bank account number, and had contacted the bank to ask for more information. She needs a letter from the selectboard to authorize the bank to give her more information, and the selectboard was happy to give her one.

Finance Committee Chair Michael Idoine met the selectboard to bring up some issues, and to discuss the warrant for the special town meeting that is scheduled for September 8th. A draft of the warrant includes an article to accept a Massachusetts General Law that would allow a town to forgive members of the National Guard for non-payment of taxes while on active duty. Other articles would pay the \$1,000 membership fee for Wired West, and authorize the sale of Marion Herrick's house and property according to the one proposal the town received.

Idoine said the word is out and he had some ideas of people who would be interested in serving on a succession study committee patterned after the money managements study committee, that would look into the problem of replacing the town police chief, and fire chief. Both, he noted, serve essentially as volunteers, and neither will be able to serve forever.

Idoine handed board members a paper that outlined a reimbursement that the Mahar School District can return to member towns because the state is paying more in transportation reimbursement than the School Committee expected. 4.8% of the

students at Mahar High School come from Wendell, but because of the skewed statutory method of assessment Wendell pays 6.65% of the assessed budget. However, Wendell is receiving only 4.8% of the money being returned to the towns, following an equal per-student-assessment, and not the amount of money the Wendell paid into the Mahar budget. The difference is \$1,218 that Wendell would receive if the reimbursement rate were consistent with the assessment rate.

Aldrich said that the town emergency management grant was accepted by MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency). MEMA, however, did not approve of spending state money for freestanding house number signs. Wendell, though, can use its matching funds for those, although there is not enough money to pay for a sign for every house. Wendell can use the state share of the grant money on two-way radios for neighborhood co-captains, and a computer for the Emergency Manager. The Selectboard did not have a list close at hand of the things requested when the town applied for the grant. Money has to be spent by the end of September but with MEMA occupied with tornado damage in and around Springfield, coordination with the agency might be difficult.

Aldrich received a letter from the vet who euthanized Hannah, one of the Kentfield Road dogs ordered out of town after the recent dog hearing. The other dog, Kira, has been moved to Conway.

The selectboard had sent out paperwork to town departments asking if

see WENDELL pg 11



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ELEVEN WAYS TO WALK *Eleventh in a Series of Walks around West Gill*

Into the Woods

BY P.H. CROSBY

You will definitely need the landowner's permission for this walk. It's right out the back door and into my woods.

The woods are going to be a mess, I know. It's hot, though just past dawn, but I still wear jeans and boots and a long-sleeved shirt and hat. Though tick season seems to have wound down, these woods are for the most part both disturbed and unblazed, a bad combination leading to some challenging undergrowth—low-hanging branches, ragged sapling stumps, uprooted red maples and pines, brush, thickets, pricklers of all kinds. Past trips bring to mind the image of all the young suitors and treasure-seekers in Sleeping Beauty, trying over the years to get into the sleeping kingdom, caught, some of them forever, in the Witch's wall of bramble and thorn.

The woods, at least the first thirty yards of it, were "disturbed" in the early 90's, when we first moved back to Gill. At that time our property consisted only of the "Crosby place" — (known back then as the former "Bell place"). The "farm" back then consisted of fifteen acres, only around five of it open, scarcely enough to support a flock of sheep let alone any cows, so my husband went to work trying to extend its open boundaries south toward the golf course, southeast toward Mason Hill, and even a little west toward the "new" Bell place (which later became the home of one my sisters). Even with the help of browsing sheep and rooting pigs, it was tough going clearing that wood sufficiently and keeping it cleared. The opportunity to buy the old Eddy farm on Main road afforded us an open forty-plus

acres of land for berries, cows, and the rest of the business, so these woods were left to return to their not-so-natural state of disturbed forest chaos, ready for re-exploration.

However, first I have to get there. We don't have much in the way of stiles (though there is one pretty clever one from the stable-yard to the spring), and gates are few and far between. Standing in the orchard, where I first have to chase off a few white-tailed deer stealing apples (they have no trouble with fences), I look for a weak spot in the electric-wire fence and find it—a support I can lift easily out of the ground and lay flat, where I gingerly cross it, letting it twang up behind me.

The back-acre garden and pasture are so silent! Almost all the songbirds are gone now, leaving the morning wake-up hours oddly empty. As I progress farther through the pasture prodding my senses open, however, I become aware that filling that void is the hot, dry, deep summer sound of crickets and cicadas. It's the sound of childhood: of hours and hours outdoors, with acres and acres of ours and our neighbors' untracked woods to explore, and the hum of insects as our iPod.

Leaving the lavender and yellow shooting-star blossom of horenettle behind, along with cloudy mists of asparagus tops and strata of daisy fleabane, I contemplate another electric fence-line, more stoutly-poled, and decide to go under this one. Easy enough at this time of year, but impossible in winter, especially in snowshoes. These are among the reasons this woods is so little-traveled these days, except by the terrier, of course. He precedes me, with little regard



PH CROSBY PHOTO

Into the Woods with Hector

for fences.

The woods, in the flat heat of this morning, is a little cooler, at least, and to my surprise, a path from the fence-line and ahead a good twenty yards is recognizable—not by a path at my feet, but at least by an absence of low hanging branches and shrubs dragging at my sides. The woods are actually betraying signs of some of my past summer trips, armed with pruners. However infrequent, those journeys were not entirely fruitless. High up, an insulted crow lets everyone know I'm coming. Ahead of me are more ferns, the broad and earthy-smelling trunks of downed and upright pines, close stands of

young birch and maple, and sparkles of light amid the shade and fog.

Before long I will reach the limits of our land. A stone wall almost buried marks the beginning of golf course land, where I will immediately begin finding the lost golf balls of many annoyed patrons. My father was always urging us to collect these and take them over to the club to offer for sale, and we probably could have made a few dollars, but it always seemed unfair somehow, unsportsmanlike. (On the other hand, follow Otter Brook halfway through town and you will find those golf balls floating along or stuck in the bank,

dozens of them from across the decades, so we would have been doing our part to clean up the waterway a little, if nothing else.)

A more enthusiastically-received idea of my father's was moonlight skiing to the golf course. In the sixties there was a craze for "shorty" skis, perfect for kids in the woods. Hot chocolate in a thermos never tasted so good as it did those January nights under a full moon, as we paused to rest at the edge of the woods, which opened on to a long, inviting hill as bright as day.

I am not very deep in the woods, but I could be—I might as well be, for all I can see and hear at the moment. There is a David Wagoner poem called "Lost" about this feeling of being here — just here, just now — in the woods. Anonymous, strange, familiar and comforting:

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you

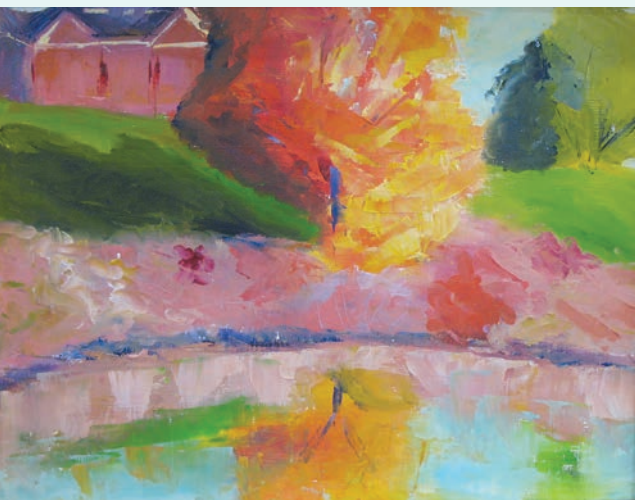
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,

And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,

Must ask permission to know it and be known....

I have a sense of enoughness in the woods, as I have had in many of these walks. I guess a more correct word would be "satiation," but that word's precision somehow makes it inadequate. It is a mysterious feeling of utter satisfaction coupled with the anticipation of more to come. When I started the Eleven Ways to Walk, of which this is the last, it was spring. In a few short weeks it will be fall, and I can do the walks all over, and there will be new things to see and hear and touch, and I will never capture them all. The happiness of knowing that is complete. And it is enough.

Wendell Free Library Hosts Exhibition of Plein Air Paintings by Mary and Emily Gilman



Emily Gilman, Smith College Campus Pond

BY RICHARD BALDWIN

WENDELL - The Wendell Free Library is pleased to present an unusual exhibition of paintings by Mary Cunningham Gilman and her daughter Emily Gilman. Both Wendell artists undertook a project of making paintings together directly from nature (*en plein air*) based on various sites in Massachusetts. Seventeen oil paintings are presented in gold frames making for an elegant and lively show.

Mary has an extensive background in art. She

majoring in painting at the Rhode Island School of Design, and then had fellowships at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA and in Skowhegan, Maine. After working as a book and magazine illustrator for a number of years she returned to school to become an occupational therapist. She resumed painting last summer studying at Cape Cod and in western Massachusetts with Mary Giammarino, a well known plein air painter. Emily has been involved in art since

see GILMAN page 16



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TFHS Student Winner in Suicide Prevention Art Contest



Winning art by TFHS freshman Danielle Bassett

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
TURNERS FALL - Danielle Bassett, a freshman at Turners Falls High School, has won second place in a contest for

high school students in the Pioneer Valley titled, "Suicide Prevention Awareness Through Art." The Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide

like a negative. The text that Bassett superimposed on top of the digitally altered photograph is full of synonyms for depression, such as "blue,

calamitous, dejected, desolate, gloomy, heartbroken, in-a-funk, joyless, woebegone." The viewer should notice that she has arranged the words alphabetically, repeating them several times over in a way that creates a pattern. The words surround the image of the young woman but also show through her. All of this is presented in a dreary black and grey palette. And then there are words in bright blue and white, presenting a strong statement challenging the darkness with optimism that dominates everything else: "Life, it's worth it". Hoitt said the contest succeeded in bringing awareness to this issue, and reached many more students beyond the three students in his class who entered the contest. He said the other students in his class were impacted by Bassett and the others working on the project.

The contest received a total of 49 submissions and was open to students working in a variety of media, including fine art, photography, graphic art, video art, music, poetry and prose. The judges were so impressed with the quality of the students' work that they doubled the number of awards. There were five top awards with cash prizes, and all contest participants received a movie gift card. The awards ceremony on June 2nd, 2011 was held at the Mason Square branch of the Springfield Public Library where some of the awardees and participants attended with their families and members of the community. Robert Reardon, speaking on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, said the

purpose of the contest was to make suicide a topic that could be openly discussed in order to help those who might be struggling with self-destructive thoughts. Their hope was that through their artistic expressions, the youth who participated in the contest would convey messages that could open the door for conversations to take place and provide support to others to feel comfortable enough to bring up the subject of suicide if they suspected someone was in need of help.

Anyone in need of immediate support for depression or suicide issues are encouraged to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). For further information on suicide prevention go to www.masspreventsuicide.org.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - Part III

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico - 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - "I think we have been here long enough," Diana says to me.

"Yeah, we've made our appearance," I agree. Some people who have been working at Case Pearman for years, who are actually friends, are sitting together talking, but most have already left. There are big glass doors that open directly onto the beach. Diana and I move toward them, trying not to call too much attention to the fact that we are leaving.

We slip out one of the doors into the night air, which is warmer and heavier than the air inside the dining room. It's glorious compared to winter in Massachusetts. The resort has lights on the beach, but it's pretty dark once we get down to the

water. I can see some constellations through the hazy night. Diana takes off her shoes, then runs up the beach toward the hotel, where she leaves the shoes. I follow more slowly and do the same.

Letting the waves wash over my feet as we walk, I feel like I am leaving behind my identity as Diana's coworker and becoming the person I was in school, when I first met her. I am about to say something about work. Everyone at the bank knows that the U.S. will finally get rid of paper currency before the next election. The mom-and-pop stores have been fighting it, but it looks like the switch is about to happen anyway. The bank aims to develop the best point-of-sale software first and dominate the market.

It's six years into the future. The recession has turned into an all-out Depression. Our protagonist, Theresa, is one of the few people still making any money...

That's why we're here in Mexico.

I have some ideas about the project I want to run by Diana. Somehow the noise of the surf drowns my software thoughts, and I say instead, "I never thought that we would end up working for a bank. Did you?"

"I didn't think about it at all," she answers. "If I had, maybe I would have had a better plan."

"Yeah," I agree. There's nothing more to say. I don't need to ask whether Diana is happy, because I know her well enough.

"You could get a Doppelganger," she says, changing the subject completely.

"Huh?"

"You know what they are."

"I know what they are supposed to be," I say skeptically.

"People really have them."

"How do you know?"

"I just know," she answers. "There are six billionaires who have them, and a couple others who don't have the money but know the right people."

"And how do you know all this?"

She pauses. "Cause Neil developed the technology."

"Oh," I say. It takes a minute to process this. I know that Diana would not lie to me. And I know that Neil has been experimenting with this kind of project. Finally I say, "I thought Neil was replicating, you know, single atoms."

"He was. And once you can replicate single atoms, then the next step is to do more atoms at once."

"Yeah, I get it."

"So his team, they all thought that the application would be transporting people. You know, you would make a copy of a person, well, somewhere else, and then, at the same time, destroy the original. But people didn't like the idea of being erased like that."

"I can see why," I say.

"Neil still insists that the copy would be you, so it wouldn't matter."


"I'm not so sure," I begin.

"No, actually he's right about that."

"It just seems," I start again.

"The copy definitely is you," she says. It seems like she has something important she is trying to say, so I stop interrupting and let her talk.

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MONTAGUE from pg 6

fact that 35% of the Town's land is in some form of permanent protection. The letter is intended to convey the need to find better balance between the need to conserve our land for posterity and to provide as much economic opportunity for the people of Montague today.

In other news, Bob Trombley requested that the selectboard vote to declare an unusable GMC Sierra snow

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plough as surplus property. "It's time to see what we can get for this piece of rust," he said.

Trombley also asked for the selectboard's input as he considers the sewer rates for this year. He expects that the rates will remain the same.

David Argy requested that the selectboard approve the transfer of the Turners Falls Pizza liquor license to his name as his company moves forward with the purchase of the Avenue pizzeria. Argy said that nothing was really set to change at the restaurant when he takes over.

Kathryn Greenwood Swanson, the artist behind the upcoming River of Light lantern procession on August 18 was present to request use of public space.

The next selectboard meeting will be held on Monday, August 15th.

GILL from page 7

already needed work, that "it hasn't been draining properly" for some time.

Town officials were especially displeased with MHD's lack of responsiveness regarding a pedestrian crossing for the intersection, with several officials and audience members affirming that they or people they know cross Route 2 regularly to and from the bridge—walking dogs, going to the Wagon Wheel or Shady Glen, bicycling to Unity Park, etc. MHS noted that pedestrian access would require handicapped access, and the latter is only provided when there are sidewalks present. Banash pointed out that there was no reason why a short sidewalk couldn't be part of the plan, remarking that a similar installation has been made by MHD at the intersection of Route 2 and Colrain Road in Greenfield.

The town's last request was

that the prohibition against a right turn on red to traffic coming west on Route 2 be abandoned. Since visibility is quite clear in both directions, the signage there seems unnecessary to some. (Since there is an advanced left-turn green arrow for traffic coming from the opposite direction, however, this last request may be problematic.)


At 5:30 a public hearing was held to review an application by Robert Miller to "operate a Class II Motor Vehicle license to buy, sell, exchange or assemble second hand motor vehicles at 277 French King Highway." Several friends or abutters were present to advocate for the business. Miller was granted a license with a number of standard conditions, including a requirement that signage not exceed set limits and that there be no more than 10 vehicles on site at any one time.

The next meeting will be held August 15th.



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Mahar Regional Assessments Lowered for Member Towns

BY KATIE NOLAN WENDELL - The Mahar Regional school committee voted on July 19 to lower fiscal year 2012 assessments to the four member towns because the state provided higher than expected reimbursements for school transportation. At the June 6-7 annual town meeting, Wendell voted \$350,850 for the Mahar FY'12 assessment. This amount will now be decreased by \$3,168. Orange's assessment was reduced by \$49,673, Petersham's by \$8,585, and New Salem's by \$4,501.

According to Robin Briand, Mahar administrator of finance, the amounts returned to the towns were calculated according to the number of students each town sends to Mahar, with each town receiving back money based on its percentage of enrollment, a method that treats all per pupil costs as equal.

The assessments paid by the towns to Mahar were calculated according to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) statutory method, which uses a

formula based on relative wealth of towns but does not consider the number of students attending from a town. Under this formula, a town like Wendell with a very low percentage of students in a regional school will pay more per student than other towns with similar financial profiles. For the 2011 fiscal year, Wendell paid approximately \$10,000 per pupil at Mahar, while Orange paid approximately \$5,000 per pupil, and New Salem and Petersham each paid approximately \$8,500 per pupil.

At Wendell's annual town meeting in June, Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre asked the town to vote the entire (statutory) assessment and that, if approved by the town meetings of the other member towns, the Wendell assessment could be re-calculated using the "alternative averaging" method and Wendell might receive a return of \$39,000. The "alternative averaging" method was approved by New Salem and Petersham annual town meetings, but not by the Orange annual town meet-

ing, killing the alternative method for FY'12.

Orange town administrator Rick Kwiatkowski asked the Mahar committee if there was potential for additional reductions in the assessments to the towns, citing additional reimbursement Mahar had received for charter school expenses. Baldassarre said that he doesn't know the number of Mahar students who might decide to attend charter schools in FY'12, so Mahar should keep the money until the actual cost of sending students to charter schools is known. Kwiatkowski said he hoped that any money not used for charter school expenses will be returned to the towns in the future.

The school committee decided to raise the price of school breakfast to \$1.50 and school lunch to \$2.75, in order to reduce the long-term cafeteria deficit.

New Salem representative Michael Yohan told the committee that the Swift River school committee had chosen contractors for the Green Repair project at Swift River see **MAHAR** page 16

Supporters of Educational Enrichment Honored



Katherine Kuklewicz, former student representative on the GMEF Board of Directors and a 2011 graduate of TFHS (right) presents the annual plaque to Nadine Ekstrom, Interim Superintendent.

their ongoing partnership as corporate underwriters.

"We sincerely thank our many contributors for the continued support and are truly humbled and grateful by the generosity of our community," said Joyce A. Phillips, Annual Gala executive producer. "The Annual Gala, while earning financial support for the enrichment of our stu-

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill-Montague Education Fund (GMEF) Board of Directors continues their tradition of honoring its benefactors with a classic walnut-tone plaque outside the theater at Turners Falls High School. Each engraved plate on the plaque honors tier-givers of their 7th Annual Gala - "The Golden Era of Rock 'n' Roll" featuring The Memories.

Recognition levels are the Einstein Club (\$1,000), the

Michelangelo Club (\$500), The Galileo Club (\$250) and The DaVinci Club (\$100). Contributions were made as "tribute gifts" in honor of educational staff members, in honor/memory of loved ones, as class gifts, and to support the enrichment opportunities of the Gill-Montague students.

Also recognized on the plaque are Hillside Plastics Inc., Montague Elks Lodge #2521 and The Greenfield Savings Bank in appreciation of

dents, has proven to be enrichment for our communities."

As a result of the Annual Gala, the GMEF has awarded more than \$64,800 in grants to enhance learning in various fields including science, math, music, art, athletics, language and reading. To learn more about the GMEF, grants previously awarded, and upcoming concerts visit the website at www.thegmef.org.

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WENDELL from pg 7 August 31st meeting. The library Teens and Tweens group requested permission to hold a bonfire on the town common the evening of Saturday August 27th. They already got approval from the fire chief and they plan to remove the turf before building the fire. Once the ashes have cooled they will carefully replace the earth.

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74 PROSPECT ST.
TURNERS FALLS

from **THEATER** page 1

school.

Since 2002, Double Edge has presented a community performance each summer. The performances in their "indoor/outdoor traveling performance spectacle" series take place in the hills, fields, barns, woods, stream, and pond of their Farm Center in Ashfield. This summer's spectacle is their retelling of Homer's Odyssey.

Their take on the classic tale is not only ambitious in its scale of production, but also in the archetypal epic saga they have chosen to tackle. The Double Edge players offer a unique depiction of the hero Odysseus' adventures while trying to return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, including his love affairs with Calypso and Nausicaa, as well as he and his men's close encounters with Poseidon, the Cyclops, Circe, the Sirens and the mistake of opening the bag of winds.

The audience follows the action of the play by moving from location to location on the farm. Double Edge utilizes the farm's natural topography to craft a rich experience. It's wonderful to observe how they sculpt space to enhance their

story. Small corners of the farm open up; humble settings take on grandeur. The little brook is transformed into a river with actors coming out from the reeds; a small pond with a canoe is used to depict Odysseus' travels to the underworld of Hades; Odysseus' ascension of a hill at the end of play is made to seem like the culmination of a long journey.

The work of Double Edge Theater is much inspired by the artist Marc Chagall. At present, the theatre is engaged in its fourth cycle of work in what it calls the Chagall Cycle. Like Chagall, they are interested in portraying stories in a fantastical, humorous, whimsical, wondrous, surreal, dream-like fashion. Chagall's visual art informs their palette and overall sensibility. As Matthew Glassman of Double Edge explains: "Each performance of the Chagall Cycle uses the paintings of Chagall as inspiration for the visual imagery and narrative... This year we used Chagall's mosaics of Ulysses and his paintings of the Odyssey to do several artistic images including the mosaic, the wall paintings of the pigs and the colors of all the fabrics."

Double Edge prides itself on

the high quality artistry of their set and costume design. Many local artists collaborate with them and volunteer to create the detailed sets. For this production, local artist Cynthia Fisher created a colorful glass mosaic inspired by Chagall; painter Paula Bird painted Chagall-like paintings on the back of the pig barn; local artist Nancy Winship Milliken created large sails throughout the farm, some made from wool and some from shiny pieces of metal that capture the light; wooden ships or parts of boats were strewn though out the farm to remind the audience of Odysseus' multiple shipwrecks...

The indoor sets were also fantastic. One particularly multi-layered scene that takes place in a barn features a wooden feast table that is easily transformed by the actors into a ship with oars as they slip seamlessly into the next scene. The creative elements extend to the costumes well. The gods were given elaborate masks, layers of colorful fabric made up their dress, and the Cyclops was a huge puppet!

Original, live music is a huge part of the world the actors create. The music is

interwoven into the action of the play. The actors sang seafaring ballads and played different stringed and percussive instruments. A bard provided exposition through song while leading the audience to the next scene.

Another important feature of Double Edge is the way they fuse their performances with the physicality of circus arts. Many of the actors perform feats of aerial acrobatics using ribbon-like fabric. The effect is mesmerizing. The theater's overall aesthetic, while beautiful, is raw and unpolished. They rely on minimal use of make-up and the barefoot actors get dirty as they run around the farm and jump into the brook and pond.

Double Edge is so ambitious in its vision that perhaps they try to take on too much. At points it feels that the company is spreading themselves thin and the acting, musicianship, and acrobatics all suffer at times. The performance I saw was an early one and was not yet fully polished. I believe as the summer progresses, later performances will coalesce.

The travelling spectacle is a truly special experience. Although at times it can be a bit

jarring to the audience to have to move. It can take the viewer away from the mood of the story when the entire audience has to resettle and make room for everyone to be seated before the next scene can start. All in all, it is a small price to pay for the Double Edge experience.

Their production of the Odyssey culminates in two captivating scenes. In both the penultimate and final scene, the play succeeds at last in being awe-inspiring, moving, lyrical and poetic. In the play's finale, Odysseus returns at long last home to Ithaca. As he approaches, he walks up a winding hill with shimmering sails in the dusk while the goddess Athena recites a poem titled "Ithaka" by the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy that begins:

As you set out for Ithaka hope the voyage is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery...

The Odyssey will be staged through August 21st at the Double Edge farm in Ashfield. For more information: www.doubleedgetheatre.org



DIEMAND from pg 1

work too much effort for the return. The farm wholesaled roasting chickens for a time, but stopped when the demand meant they couldn't raise enough roasters for their own farm store).

Hosting the truck show, Anne said, is one example of the kinds of things they're considering. Beyond that, Peter said, "We have lots of ideas, but nothing is in the works yet," although he did mention the farm is "ready to sign a contract to do a wind turbine." The three are talking about building a pavilion so they can host groups: "People have asked for classes, meetings and things." With their catering capability they can offer event organizers a pretty full package for day events. "One place we all feel we can grow is in food - value-added and processing."

Peter said they've recently increased roasting chicken and turkey production to replace

some of the income that will be lost. Anne said they may even "pick up on wholesaling roasters again."

"We have a lot of different ideas," Faith said: "Roasters for people's freezers. Cage-free laying chickens...people collecting their own eggs." (The idea here, they said, is people would be given boots, as a sanitation measure, to enter the laying house...or the farm could create access to nests from the outside through small doors).

The concepts they've been batting around began to flow. How about building "a few cabins to rent," as Faith put it, on the farm's 175 acres? It could be tied to "having people work with us on the farm, only pay us for the experience."

"We could have a barbecue once a month, open to the public," Anne said. "Build a stone outdoor grill. We could smoke chicken" after the example of a farmer they know in Barre.

Sell Peter's bowls." (Peter turns bowls in the farm's woodworking shop out of local ash, oak, maple, cherry wood). "Hold classes in the wood shop, and people could come out with a cutting board. Hold classes in the farm kitchen..."

The possibilities, given the Diemand's land, infrastructure, experience and good reputation, seem aplenty. Meanwhile, running the farm in recent years has been growing harder with the aches and pains of late middle age and beyond. Anne, the youngest, now operates the farm store, overseeing six to eight part time employees, leaving the heavy physical work mostly to the older two. "The month of November is a burnout that gets harder every year," Faith said. "We dread it." The three siblings noted that there are no children of the next generation ready to step in at the moment, leaving a generation gap that has left more work on their shoulders and on

their two part-time helpers. (Grandchildren, though, have expressed a desire to step in once money isn't such a central object for them in their lives - "We like to think the farm will stay together in some form," Faith said).

Despite the challenges, and pressure in recent years from PETA, an organization identified with animal rights and liberation, all three agreed that the farm would have continued on much its present course for at least another five years if it weren't for the new regulations. "The FDA regulations," Peter admitted, "pushed us over the top."

So a change has come suddenly to a farm that has been successful by hard work and conscientious service, and by next July, it will have reduced its flock by 75%. In their letter, the Diemands told their wholesale customers, "If you personally miss having your fresh Diemand eggs, be assured they

will still be available here at the farm, and we will certainly appreciate and enjoy seeing you come through our door..."

So without the egg wholesaling component, "we don't know what the next 3-5 years are going to bring," Anne said. "But there are moments we are excited about what the future might bring. We're looking forward instead of being scared: what's ahead for Diemand Farm?"

She recalled seeing a car pull in to the store a few days before. "People got out holding cut-up apples to feed to the animals" that the farm keeps fenced in for the public near the store area. "Also - it was the cutest thing - an older woman sitting cross-legged on the grass...one of the goats had approached her. It was the greatest feeling. This is really a cool business!"



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION
BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - As a health reporter, I have to follow as many studies as I can to stay on top of the latest research. The best part of this self-education is reading some of the weird stuff going on in academia. It occurred to me that I should share some of these reports with my readers. So, from time to time, I'll do a column that I call "Silly Science." Here

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:
Silly Science

goes...

I Believe, Therefore I'm Fat

A study by researchers at Northwestern University in Chicago found signs that people who attend religious services put on more weight.

The researchers reported that 32 percent of those who attended services the most frequently became obese by middle age. Only 22 percent of those who attended services the least became obese.

One theory for the difference in poundage was that many eating traditions surrounding religion involve constant feasts or desserts after services or at holidays. Another possibility, researchers said, was that people who attend services, Bible study and prayer groups aren't getting enough exercise.

(None of the scientists involved considered the fact that most sins burn off calories.)

Breast-Feeding Makes Bigger Brains

Researchers at the University of Durham in England found that brain size relative to body size was most closely associated with the length of time a mother breast feeds and carries her offspring in pregnancy.

According to the research, the amount of time spent breast-feeding affects brain growth after birth; the length of pregnancy determines an offspring's brain size at birth.

They also said the findings from their study of humans and 127 other mammal species offer further proof that breast-feeding is good for brain development and support the World Health

Organization's recommendation that babies should be breast-fed exclusively for their first six months of life, followed by continued breast-feeding with other foods up to age 2 or longer.

"We already know that large-brained species develop more slowly, mature later and have longer lifespans, but what has not always been clear is why brains and life histories are related," lead investigator and anthropology professor Robert Barton said. "One theory is that large brains increase lifespan by making the animal more generally flexible in its behavioral responses to unpredictable challenges."

(I'm waiting for a study that explains why larger brains seem to lead to more self-destructive behavior.)

Contagious Itch

At Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina, researchers investigated the causes of contagious itch.

"It is conceivable that the neuronal networks or mechanisms underlying contagious itching may be similar to the ones involved in contagious yawning, a phenomenon that is still intensely studied, but not exactly clear," dermatologist Dr. Gil Yosipovitch said in a medical center news release.

"The brain has such a powerful contribution to itch, and by understanding it, we may be able to develop future therapies that can target these areas and relieve the itch impulse," he added.

The researchers said it was especially interesting to find that visually induced itch led to scattered, whole-body distribution of scratching.

(What I want to know is why I get an itch in an unreachable place in my back just as I'm going to sleep.)

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Break In, Hit and Run, Domestic Assault

Wednesday, 7/27

12:30 a.m. Domestic disturbance at U.S. Post Office on Avenue A. Peace restored.
1:53 a.m. Domestic violence alarm on Fourth Street. Investigated.

3:45 a.m. Domestic disturbance on South Prospect Street. Advised civil action.
1:22 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Old Sunderland Road.

4:35 p.m. Vandalism at Erving old paper mill. Assisted Erving police.

6:30 p.m. Shoplifting at Carroll's Market on East Main Street.

Friday, 7/29

4:05 p.m. Hit and run accident at Heat-Fab on Industrial Boulevard.

8:32 p.m. Restraining order violation arrest of [redacted]

Saturday, 7/30

10:01 p.m. Domestic disturbance at F.L. Roberts on Third Street. Investigated.

Sunday, 7/31

10:12 a.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted], for domestic assault and battery, larceny over \$250, use of motor vehicle without authority and intimidating a witness.

11:37 p.m. Structure fire at Salvation Army on Avenue A.

Monday, 8/1

1:09 a.m. Illegal dumping on Old Northfield Road.

8:07 a.m. Structure fire at Salvation Army on Avenue A.

8:17 a.m. Larceny at Equi's Candy Store.

1:28 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Central Street.

9:20 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street.

9:25 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street.

Tuesday, 8/2

10:28 a.m. Assault and battery on West Street in Montague.

1:36 p.m. Illegal dumping on East Chestnut Hill Road.

9:52 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

Wednesday, 8/3

9:22 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Chestnut Street.

9:51 a.m. Vandalism at Sheffield Elementary School on Crocker Avenue.

Thursday, 8/4

10:52 a.m. Structure fire at Australis Aquaculture on Australia Way.

Friday, 8/5

3:51 a.m. Burglary, breaking & entering on Central Street.

12:50 p.m. Robbery near Avenue A and Fourth Street.

7:50 p.m. Fire at Spinner Park on Avenue A. Investigated.

Saturday, 8/6

2:43 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Investigated.

7:21 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Coolidge Avenue. Investigated.

Sunday, 8/7

11:17 a.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street.

1:00 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fairway Avenue.

1:46 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

5:55 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Wendell Road.

7:55 p.m. Assault on Wendell Road. Advised of options.

8:12 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a vehicle under the influence.

Tuesday, 8/9

4:27 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Randall Road. Investigated.

5:50 p.m. Breaking and entering into vehicle on Oakman Street.

from **SCHOOL** page 1

for \$5180, insurance for \$5387.20 and repairs to the heating system totaled \$2950.13. About the same amount of expenditure is expected this year.

During the rancorous debates over closing the school in 2008, the interim superintendent at that time, Ken Roche, stated that \$228,000 in savings could be realized by closing Montague Center School since the town would not have to invest in

upgrades or in maintenance. Many opposed to closing the school argued that this figure was unrealistic as the town would still have to maintain the building until it was sold. So far, the amount spent on keeping the building well maintained has yet to exceed Roche's estimate. But Abbondanzio did say he would be placing a warrant before town meeting to pay the costs of maintaining the Montague Center School for another winter.



from **MAHAR** page 11

Elementary. RAC Builders was chosen as the general contractor, Titan Roofing for roof repairs, and Adams Boiler as the plumbing contractor. Yohan noted that the committee originally considered re-opening the project for new bids but wanted the work to

get started as soon as possible because all work must be completed by December in order to receive the promised 69.5% reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.



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INSURANCE

PARTY from page 1

RiverCulture's coordinator, the reason the Block Party was turned over to GMSPC this year was that she felt it was time to spin off established activities to other community groups so that RiverCulture could concentrate on new events, such as the River

of Lights Lantern Parade coming up on the evening of the block party. Davol said that she was "thrilled with the plans" GMSPC has for this Saturday's downtown bash.

As has always been true with the Block Party there will be a kick-off parade at two in the afternoon followed by a multitude of performances, activities and local food.

Musical performances will be in two locations; at Between the Uprights outdoor café and also at Spinner Park. Between the Uprights' lineup is slated to start at noon and go late into the

night, ending at one in the morning. Spinner Park's music will begin at the conclusion of the parade at two thirty and will host musicians until eight at night with fifteen-minute breaks between each act. (Show times and listings are available through the Block Party's facebook page: facebook.com/turnersfallsblockparty.)

In addition to live music, this year's block party will also host BMX stunt bike demonstrations every hour outside of the Power Town Apartments, sponsored by the Unity Skate Park Committee.

Also new this year winners from the 2010 Montague Soapbox Derby, as well as new contestants for the 2011 Derby will be in attendance. Their carts will be part of the parade. After the parade attendees of the block party will be able to sit in and even ride some of the carts. In addition, Turners Falls artist Jack Nelson, of Carriage House Designs, will unveil a marble bench he made just for the derby, complete with an engraved image of the derby logo.

As with previous years, there will be numerous activities and games open to all attendants of

the Block Party. This year, however, most of the games will be hosted on the grass of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Additionally, many local stores will set up street fronts through which participants will be able to enjoy the delicious foods of Turners Falls. An added vent this year is The Lantern Parade. Throughout the duration of the block party participants are invited to make lanterns which will be used to light the way of the parade at the close of this year's Block Party.



Erving Seeks Facility Worker

The Town of Erving seeks a Facility Maintenance worker. P/T, 10-15 hr/wk. Early morning and some weekend hours typically. Must be able to work flexible hours on a week to week basis. Driver's license and minimum of one year of related experience required. Drug screening and CORI checks will be performed. Applications available at Town Hall 12 E. Main St. Deadline to apply is noon on 9-1-11. AA/EOE.

The Town of Montague

The Town of Montague is accepting bids for the purchase of surplus equipment at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

One item only, being sold as is. GMC Sierra 4X4 pickup truck with snow plow & frame.

The bids should be in a sealed envelope marked with the equipment being bid on and mailed or delivered to the Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351.

Bids will be accepted until 10:00 A.M. on Friday 12 August 2011 at which time bids will be opened and read aloud at the Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA, 413-773-8865.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

from **GILMAN** pg 8

summer she joined Mary in Giammarino's class.

The paintings in this exhibition are primarily landscapes. In several instances mother and daughter focus on the same subject. In three sets of paintings: "Rock Harbor Boats," "97 Wendell Depot Road," and "Wicket Pond Road," Mary's and Emily's paintings hang next to one another. In the Wicket Pond Road paintings, Emily develops more of a focus on the foreground. Here the road is quite angular, and the

shadows are in high contrast to the road surface. In Mary's version the road is more muted, and its softer curves and lower contrast lead the viewer's eye upward to more visual activity in the trees.

In the two paintings, "Rock Harbor Boats," the compositions are quite different. Mary places the images of the two boats in the center of the painting, closer to the viewer, boldly confronting the viewer. Emily's composition presents the same two boats in the upper half of the painting and corresponding-ly further away from the view-

er. This placement creates a more contemplative feel.

Both artists use a combination of palette and putty knives as well as brushes in applying oil paint fairly thickly on gessoed panels. This results in a wide variety of marks on the surfaces from broad patches of smeared color to softer brushed areas. Painting knives are also used to scratch through paint to make hard-edged lines.

In all these paintings the two dimensionality of the surface is emphasized. Detail clarity and color intensity tend to be similar at both top and bottom,

which results in flattening out the paintings. This treatment of space, the use of thick paint, textured surfaces and relatively intense colors, create an overall sense of energy and liveliness more intense than in the actual settings.

Mary and Emily clearly enjoyed the process of painting directly from nature and doing so together. Please stop by and share the experience. The exhibition runs through August 31. The hours are: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Stolen Motor Vehicle, Assault and Battery

Tuesday, 7/26

5:35 a.m. Runaway juvenile from North Street residence.
7:00 a.m. Report of malicious destruction of property at Zilinski Field, vandalism to property.
8:04 a.m. Report of past larceny at Box Car Restaurant. Under investigation.
8:16 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering into building and stolen motor vehicle from North Street.
7:11 p.m. Suspicious person going door to door at Central Street. Unable to locate.
7:25 p.m. Report of small dog going in and out of traffic on East Main Street. Dog gone

upon arrival.
8:40 p.m. Barking dog complaint in area of River Road and West High Street.

Wednesday, 7/27

1:30 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, defective equipment, and civil disposition citation issued.
1:40 p.m. Report of loose horse from Northfield Mountain project.
4:40 p.m. Report of juveniles at International Paper Mill, smashing windows. Building searched, unable to locate.

Thursday, 7/28

10:22 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police officer requesting immediate assistance on Bernardston Road. Assisted same until other units arrived.

Friday, 7/29

9:50 p.m. Report of female standing on bridge, leaning over rail at Millers Falls Bridge. Checked, same is OK. Out for a walk.

Saturday, 7/30

11:00 a.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic dispute on Chappell Drive.

Tuesday, 8/2

1:47 p.m. Report of a suspicious letter delivered to Wells Street resident.

4:45 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Gunn Street residence. Resulted in domestic dispute.

5:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for two counts of assault and battery, domestic.

Wednesday, 8/3

8:30 a.m. Gunn Street resident called to complain that someone was threatening him regarding his dog.

6:40 p.m. Assisted Orange police at East River Street with arrest of an armed subject.

Thursday, 8/4

8:15 a.m. Report of a dead raccoon in roadway on Prospect Street. Department of Public Works advised.

6:15 p.m. Report of a stolen motor vehicle from the French King Motel.

Friday, 8/5

11:30 a.m. Landlord/tenant

dispute on North Street. Report taken.

4:25 p.m. Call of possible suicidal person. Checked area. Unfounded.

Saturday, 8/6

3:00 a.m. Report of suspicious persons at area of River Street and Renovators Supply.

Sunday, 8/7

11:50 a.m. Loose dog on Dorsey Road. Owner walking same, advised of leash law.

6:22 p.m. Report of intoxicated male sleeping in a driveway on Lester Street. Same relocated to his residence.

Monday, 8/8

10:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with call of self-inflicted wounds on Millers Falls Road.



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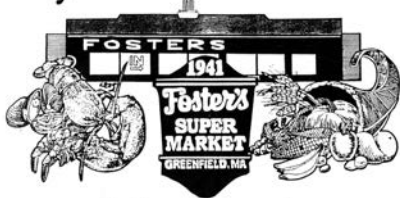
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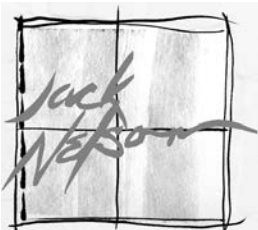
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Gregoire, and Heather Maloney, 7 p.m.

Bike Path, Turners Falls: *River of Lights* parade of handmade lanterns. 8 p.m.
 Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, not your father's blues band, high energy guitar based blues, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mountain Interval and Nobody's Fat*, jazz, indie, rock, free, 9:30 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14th
 Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets and Watershed Birds*, Free. How many ways can you look at a blackbird? Wallace Stevens found thirteen. Emily Dickinson knew that the oriole was "a Pleader - a Dissembler - an Epicure - a Thief." Obsessing about birds is quite natural for poets. Come learn about the birds of the Connecticut River Watershed and the poets here who have loved them. 2 - 3:30 p.m.



Brook Brown Saracino plays the Montague Bookmill on Friday, August 12th 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *A Midsummer's Day Dream*: A family celebration with Moonlight and Morning Star, Miro Sprague and Eve Christoph. Music, puppetry and spoken word. 4 - 6 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: *Co-op Summer Concert Series*, Special Sunday Show, *Russ Thomas, Jenny Goodspeed and Friends, Stephanie Marshall and Friends*, 6 - 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, free, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 15th
 Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, free, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16th
 Brick House Community Center, Turners Falls: Summer workshop series continues with *Fermentation: Cooking with Sourdough, with Dawn Montague*. We'll discuss some of the science & history of fermented foods and drinks, with a focus on sourdough. We'll demonstrate simple methods of baking using basic, easily accessible materials. There will be samples for participants to try! 5 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Local Food Systems Planning workshop with GCC instructor Abrah Dresdale*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo Movie Night, American Graffiti*, free, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17th
 Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Quiz Nite Quiz*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18th
 Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls: A Planned Industrial Community- History of its Early Development (1866-1914)*, Join us on a virtual walk through Historic Downtown Turners Falls with Frank Abbondanzio of the Town of Montague. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kwajmal Jazz Band*, free, 8 p.m.

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

Leverett Library: *Summer Reading Party*, 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: Photography exhibit of landscapes by *Judith Davidov*.

NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4th
 Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: Exhibit *A Space for Faith, The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*, 1 to 5 p.m. Photographs by Paul Wainwright.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11th
 Coop Concert Series presents: *Sue Kranz, Daniel Hales & The Frost Heaves, Green River String Band*. Energy Park, Greenfield, 6 to 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Payton's 1940's Hit Parade*, free, 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, classic rock & dance music, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th
 The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center Coffee House: *Al Canali & Small Change*, 7 to 9 p.m. In the Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Montague Bookmill: A Night of Acoustic Music, with *Julia Read, Brooke Brown Saracino, Jazer Giles, Nathan Hobbs, Eben Kling, Tom Cain, and Michael Gundlach*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zach Holmes (Ghost Quartet), Donny Hayward (Unity 7 & Jones Trio), and John Fisher (Left-Ear Trio)*, jazz, free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Miles Band*, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 & 13th
 Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Top Hat*. Music 1/2 hour before the movie, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th
 Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Second Saturday Children's Series: Dinosaur Footprints*. Stop by the Great Hall between 10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. to check out some dinosaur footprints and explore a creature from a distant past!

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Block Party*, All day activities, arts and crafts, shopping, food, friends, entertainment, Great Falls Farmers Market. Live Bands and Acoustic Music and Fabrication Fashion Show! 2-8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Block Party Animal Discovery!* Join us on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center for activities, displays, and crafts about the natural world of bugs and mammals during this town-wide celebration of Turners Falls. 2 - 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Block Party at the Shea, Kid's Afternoon at the Shea* featuring, Marcy Gregoire, 3:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Block Party at the Shea, Adult Swim Block Party Concert featuring Been Lookin', Marcy*

MONDAYS in AUGUST
 Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Introduction to Electronic Design with David May*, 7 p.m. Come join us in Nerd Heaven!

TUESDAYS in AUGUST
 Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, story, activity, and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
 Second Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market* at Avenue A and Second Street, 2 - 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS in AUGUST
 Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Primate Fiasco*, 8 p.m.

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

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
 Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*

FRIDAYS in AUGUST
 Brick House Community Center, Turners Falls: *Advanced Art Seminar, with Mike Childless & Emma Kohlman*. This is a course for artists of any age that have experience making art work. This course will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to art making and its history. Three classes -- Fridays August 12th, 19th, and 26th from 4-6 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY
 Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, 4 p.m. Free. Draw for fun! No previous drawing experience necessary.

EVERY DAY in AUGUST
 Great Falls Discovery Center: *Rollin Atkinson*, photographic exhibition.

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Recent Work from Ariel Jones



Harry
Harry Williams Garage

Ariel Jones, who for years maintained a photography studio on Avenue A, is back in the area after a hiatus of several years. Her new show of recent work, featuring photography and mixed media work will be unveiled at Ninas Nook, a tiny hole in the wall art space in Turners Falls, at 125a Avenue A. The opening reception is Friday August 19th from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The show will run from August 19th through September 15th. Hours are Friday 2-5 p.m., Saturday 1-5 p.m., with special extended hours during the exhibit on Thursdays from 3 until 8pm.



Voltmeter
Harry Williams Garage



Tip for Tops'n- Provincetown
Tip for Tops'n is a longtime favorite restaurant for locals, located on Bradford St. in the West End.

from GILMAN page 8
childhood, her mother being her on-going teacher and mentor. Last summer she joined Mary in Giammarino's class.

The paintings in this exhibition are primarily landscapes. In several instances mother and daughter focus on the same subject. In three sets of paintings: "Rock Harbor Boats," "97 Wendell Depot Road," and "Wicket Pond Road," Mary's and Emily's paintings hang next to one another. In the Wicket Pond Road paintings, Emily develops more of a focus on the foreground. Here the road is quite angular, and the shadows are in high contrast to the road surface. In Mary's version the road is more muted, and its softer curves and lower contrast lead the viewer's eye upward to more visual activity in the trees.

In the two paintings, "Rock Harbor Boats," the compositions are quite different. Mary places the images of the two boats in the center of the painting, closer to the viewer, boldly confronting the viewer. Emily's composition presents the same two boats in the upper half of the painting and corresponding-

ly further away from the viewer. This placement creates a more contemplative feel.

Both artists use a combination of palette and putty knives as well as brushes in applying oil paint fairly thickly on gessoed panels. This results in a wide variety of marks on the surfaces from broad patches of smeared color to softer brushed areas. Painting knives are also used to scratch through paint to make hard-edged lines.

In all these paintings the two dimensionality of the surface is emphasized. Detail clarity and color intensity tend to be similar at both top and bottom, which results in flattening out the paintings. This treatment of space, the use of thick paint, textured surfaces and relatively intense colors, create an overall sense of energy and liveliness more intense than in the actual settings.

Mary and Emily clearly enjoyed the process of painting directly from nature and doing so together. Please stop by and share the experience. The exhibition runs through August 31. The hours are: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.



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