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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 41

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 28, 2011

## CLAMSHELL ACTIVISTS AGREE TO REACTIVATE TO SHUT DOWN VERMONT YANKEE

**BY DAVID DETMOLD CONWAY, NH** - They might not call themselves the Clamshell Alliance any more, but the New England-wide network of organizers who once used Gandhian tactics of non-violent direct action to mobilize tens of thousands to stop the Seabrook nuke in the mid-70s decided last weekend to reactivate to shut down Vermont Yankee.

Gathering last weekend at a retreat at the World Fellowship Center, near Conway, NH, in the foothills of the White Mountains, former Clamshell organizers welcomed a delegation from the Safe and Green Campaign, activists who live in proximity to Vermont Yankee.

The Safe and Green Campaign ([safeandgreencampaign.org](http://safeandgreencampaign.org)) has been working for several years in towns within a 25-mile radius of the plant to build support for the decommissioning of the Vernon, VT nuke at the expiration of its original 40-year operating license.

First, a little history.

In 1977, the grassroots Clamshell Alliance found itself squarely at odds with the administration of New Hampshire governor Meldrim Thompson, the editorial board of the statewide *Manchester Union Leader*, and the



PHOTO: LIONEL DELEVIGNE, SEABROOK AUG 1ST, 1976

*"I will block out time... to be there in solidarity with my brothers and sisters in Greater Vernon." - Renny Cushing (above, center) former NH state legislator from Seabrook, NH*

powerful apparatus of the state police, armories and courts, all deployed to stop Clamshell's peaceful takeover of the site of planned twin nuclear reactors in Seabrook, next door to Hampton Beach. Two thousand people, trained in non-violence and organized into affinity groups, occupied the site of the Seabrook nuke on May 1st of that year. The next day, Thompson ordered the state police to clear the site, and 1414 Clams were arrested and locked up in armories around New Hampshire for the next two weeks.

In the glare of publicity that followed, a worldwide anti-nuclear movement was born, which gained strength following the core melt accident at Three Mile Island in Harrisburg, PA in March of 1979.

In America, following Three Mile Island, more than a hundred planned nukes were cancelled (including Seabrook Unit II), and no new nuclear plants were ordered until the effort to revive the moribund commercial nuclear power industry began in earnest under the second George Bush and Obama administrations.

Now, in Vermont, anti-nuclear activists find themselves for the first time in alliance with the

see CLAMS pg 18

## Ekstrom Optimistic About District Improvement

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE & CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO**

The towns of Gill and Montague sent letters signed by members of the selectboards to the school committee expressing concern over the continuing Level 4 status of the school district. (The full text appears on page four.) The content of these letters was discussed at the July 19 school committee meeting and led to a wide discussion of options of how to respond.

The town officials asked that the school committee request a visit from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) officials. In their letters, the town officials said, "We believe the school committee, district administration, town officials and the community as a whole all have an obligation to be better informed and more involved in improving the educational qualities of our district." Selectboard members said they continue to feel that they have not gotten sufficient explanations from DESE regarding why the district continues to be considered Level 4 and especially responded to a statement made to interim superintendent Nadine

Ekstrom by Lynda Foisey of DESE that it could take as long as three years to move from Level 4 to Level 3 status. They added that the conditions required to show improvement continue to change and that the school district and towns have already worked hard to improve. The town leaders expressed their need for a better understanding of this process and asked that the school committee ask DESE to respond by having a meeting with them in a large venue so town residents and interested parties could attend.

Members of the school committee were sympathetic to the position of the towns but, as Jennifer Waldron of Gill put it, "We've already asked DESE to meet with us and they've said no." Jeff Singleton said he agreed with the town officials and felt the state should meet with the towns as requested. There was consideration of the school committee responding to the letters from the towns by suggesting they request the meeting themselves since the school committee's request had been rejected. Singleton introduced a motion that the school committee join with the towns in requesting a

see EKSTROM pg 9

## Theater Review

### Don't Miss The Trip to Bountiful at the Shea

**BY SAM LETCHER**

**TURNERS FALLS** - Not many people know *The Trip to Bountiful* as a play, but rather as a movie. But that didn't stop the actors from the Thespis Theatre Company from producing and performing the original. In actuality, the play came first, but did not receive nearly as much renown as the movie. The Thespis Company, out of lower Vermont, first produced *Bountiful* last March and has recently brought their troupe down to the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls.

The show itself is only an hour-and-a-half long,



*The Bountiful Stars (l to r) Nancy Stephens, Jim Bombicino and Nan Mann*

and runs without a break. This is, however, not a problem because the pace at which the production moves and the flow of action within scenes is extremely enjoyable. In

fact, because there are very few scene changes, *Bountiful* can easily be viewed without an intermission and still leave the

see SHEA page 14

## Wendell Welcomes Kemsley Academy Students



CRYSTAL KEMSLEY PHOTO

*Barbara Caruso, Jenny Kemsley and Jayme Dwan-Clem*

**BY CHRIS QUEEN**  
When the founder of Wendell's new multi-cultural school, Mark Kemsley, picked up juggling balls and traded

some fancy maneuvers with the town's jester-in-chief, Paul Richmond, it looked like Kemsley Academy had made a successful landing in the

Pioneer Valley. The setting was a welcome reception and potluck at the Wendell Free Library on Sunday

see KEMSLEY pg 16

## PET OF THE WEEK Dreamy



**Kingdra**

My name is Kingdra and I'm a two-year-old domestic long hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a pale orange girl with the broad blunt face and fluffy coat that suggests some Persian in my lineage. I was a stray found in a basement, but you can see I am in this world to be your best girl. I'm a cheerful, affectionate little gal - I give head-butts and kisses; I love to be held; and I will purr and purr until I fall asleep snuggled up with you. I know we are going to be so happy together - we'll play and laugh, I'll show you how I pounce, and you can tell me about your hopes and dreams. I'm ready to bring you all the joy a cat can bring, and believe me, that is a huge amount of joy. I will take such good care of you! 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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### ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

#### Civil War Presentation to be Rescheduled

The special presentation by Jan Ross and Brad Peters about Civil War Battlefields and Artifacts, originally scheduled for July 25th at 7:00 p.m. had been postponed. The event to be hosted by the Friends of the Erving Public Library will be rescheduled later this year. Other upcoming Erving Public Library programs include: story hours, junior book club, Mad Science's Fire

and Ice, a John Root Concert, Natural Cosmetics by cosmetologist Luc Bodin, and more. For more information about programs and the summer reading program, visit the library, call (413) 423-3348, or visit our blog at [erving-publiclibrary.wordpress.com](http://erving-publiclibrary.wordpress.com). Now Open Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., Monday, 1 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m.

### MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

#### Strategic Plannin Survey, Summer Hours

Take our Planning Survey: Every five years the library is required by the Board of Library Commissioners to update its Strategic Plan. Please pick up a survey at the library or find a copy on the MontagueMA web site ([www.montaguema.net](http://www.montaguema.net)). We thank you for your help.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is now closed on Saturdays until after Labor Day. We are open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit [montaguepubliclibraries.org](http://montaguepubliclibraries.org) for more information and events.

### LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

#### Music and Art on Display

Thursday evenings are musical outdoors on the beautiful library patio (and indoors if rainy). Bring a lawn chair if you have one: July 28th, Jazz with Masala, a trio of SiriNam Khalsa, Dharam Bir Khalsa, and Jahian Cooper Monize; August 4th,

musical performance TBA; August 11th, blues with Dennis Shapson, Jon Lawless, and Alan Kurtz. Art exhibit now through August: black and white photographs of Leverett landscapes by Judith Davidov.

### Summer Soul Food

The public is invited to attend Soul Food: An Interfaith Conversation Café sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Franklin County.



In the midst of change and challenge... From 9/11 to devastating tornadoes: How have world events affected your spiritual or religious life? Your community? Has religion helped or hindered or responses to crisis?

Join a lively conversation about matters of the soul. The conversation café takes place Thursday, August 4th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 25 Church Street in Greenfield. A light supper will be provided.

For more information on Soul Food contact Sue Bowman at (413) 772-6321. [www.inteerfaith-counciloffranklincounty.org](http://www.inteerfaith-counciloffranklincounty.org)

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - August 1st - 12th

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

• **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 1st and 8th**  
8/8 - 9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, August 2nd and 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
**Wed., August 3rd and 10th**

8/10 - 9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
8/10 - 12:00 p.m. Birthday Lunch with cake by Food City  
12:45 Bingo  
**Thurs., August 4th and 11th**  
8/4 - No Tai Chi  
8/4 - 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon Brown Bag  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
8/11 - 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, August 5th and 12th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

**Monday, August 1st and 8th**



NOCKLEBY PHOTO

Boston Science Museum Education Associate for Traveling Programs, Aaron Weinblatt, and an approximately three-year-old alligator at the Great Falls Discovery Center on July 22nd for a special program on reptiles.

### Montague Old Home Days August 20th and 21st

This is a reminder to mark your calendars for Montague Old Home Days, August 20th and 21st.

Saturday the 20th will be the day during which all the fun activities are held: road races, the parade, dance numbers, raffles, games, music, the white elephant sale, the Historical Society's handicraft display, food and of course Ed the Wizard.

New this year for Old Home Days will be a silent auction, pie

sold by the slice, the second chance boutique and the introduction of dancing by performers from Ja'Duke.

Sunday morning begins with the popular country breakfast followed by a worship service at 11:00 a.m. featuring guest speaker Tina Clark, Transition Town Trainer and jazz worship music by Willie Sordillo.

For further information, or if you have any questions, call (413) 367-2061.

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~ Vissarion Grigor'evich Belinskii

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## Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - "Christmas in July" fireworks and boat parade are on for Saturday, July 30th, at the far end of Unity Park in Turners Falls, adjacent to beginning of the bike path. Though the parade doesn't start until dusk and the fireworks after 9:00 p.m. it is always a good idea to get to the park and riverside early for a great view and choice seat. Don't forget to bring chairs, blankets and some bug repellent.

**Everett Hatch** of Greenfield is at it again. Last year Hatch grew more than 11,000 lbs of squash, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers and donated it all to the **Franklin Area Survival Center** in Turners Falls, The Center for Self-Reliance in Greenfield and the Franklin County Community Meals Program. The FASC received Hatch's first donation of more than 200lbs of produce this past week. No tomatoes yet but they will be coming.

The Friends of the **Great Falls Discovery Center** are having a **very special evening** on Saturday, August 6th, starting at 7:00 pm with **David Brule** reading from his new book, "West Along the River" along with entertainment by Banish Misfortune playing Irish roots music. Brule will also be available for questions, book signing and some story telling to go along with the readings. This eventful evening will be held in the Great Hall of the GFDC, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Don't forget to bring your previously purchased book for signing.

The organizers of Montague's Old Home Days are looking for some people to bravely take the stage in a mini **Variety Show**, on Saturday night, August 20th. If you're

able and willing, please contact Peg Bridges at (413) 367-2061.

Join in a **virtual walk** through Historic Downtown Turners Falls (1866-1914) with Frank Abbondanzio of the Town of Montague on Thursday, August 18th, starting at 7:00 p.m. Learn about the power of the Connecticut River on the location and formation of manufacturing and milling within the community. This program is free and is adult-oriented, but families are welcome to attend. The virtual walk all takes place in the Historic Great Hall at the GFDC, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. For more information call (413) 863-3221. Info on coming events is also available at [greatfallsma.org](http://greatfallsma.org) or on Facebook at Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The 31st Annual **Montague Mug Race** will be held Saturday, August 20th. This is a 5.5 mile road race. There is also a 2 mile run/walk. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. at the village green in Montague Center. Entry forms are located at the Montague Center Post Office/Library or by email at [shollow@crocker.com](mailto:shollow@crocker.com). Tee shirts are awarded to the first 75 entries, mugs awarded to top finishers in each division and all participants are entered in a raffle.

The 28th Annual Greenfield **Lightlife Triathlon** will be held at the Greenfield Swimming Area off of Nash's Mill Road in Greenfield on Sunday, August 6th, starting at 8:00 a.m. The event will include a .63 mile swim, 30.4 mile bike ride and a 7.2 mile run. For more information, directions or registration go to [www.greenfield-triathlon.com](http://www.greenfield-triathlon.com)

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

## Brick House Holds Summer Workshop Series

BY MEG LITTLE AND SARA FINKLE

**TURNERS FALLS** - "This is the pamphlet stitch," explains Erika Linenfelser, as she holds up a needle and thread. It's a Wednesday afternoon in mid-July and I'm sitting in the Brick House at the free Summer Workshop Series Bookmaking class. Colorful homemade books are being passed around as twelve eager participants and I construct our own, original books with help from Linenfelser and her co-facilitator, Erin McKelvy. We search through piles of paper, select thread colors, and grapple for few pairs of scissors.

"How did I come to be here?" I think to myself as I'm practicing my stitch. It's the middle of the summer and I feel as though I'm learning more than I do during the academic year. After attending a few classes at the Brick House, I have already learned about bike maintenance, woodworking, drystone masonry, bookmaking, as well as practiced yoga and gardening. And the most exciting part: I haven't paid a dime. How did this come to be?

The idea started in the depths of winter, when Erin Myers, Programs Coordinator at Brick House brought together a group to discuss the possibility of a "Free School"; somewhere that children, teens and adults alike could learn practical, hands-on skills, all for free. The Brick House would serve as the home base for the project, but volunteers from Undergrowth Farm in Gill, Summer of Solutions Pioneer Valley, and other Turners Falls community members came together to form the organizing body. This group, the Summer Workshop Series collective, brainstormed content for classes, worked on outreach, and discussed the ideology behind the school. "Through

regular meetings, we were able to build a shared vision and start connecting with facilitators and others in the community to help make it happen," said collective member Martha Pskowski.

Many months later, the work-

participant Mackenzie Klema, 18, of Turners Falls, "some of the people had made books before and were able to help those sitting next to them."

Still to come are four weeks full of exciting courses includ-



Martha Pskowski and Meg Little plant seeds with kids.

shop series was realized. It now boasts more than thirty workshops spread over seven weeks. The workshops allow community members to share their skills. The mission of the Summer Workshop Series, listed in the catalog, is to "Develop opportunities for leadership and giving back, so that students can become teachers." Moreover, it provides participants a chance to gain new skills, practice self-sufficiency and interdependence, practice sustainability, encourage alternative economic models, and have fun with new hobbies and new friends.

The Workshop Series has been a way to develop community, both within and without the Brick House. While the Brick House is most known for its Teen Center, the Workshop Series has helped to bring in people of all ages. It has also allowed community members to meet other people who may live just down the street. "At the bookmaking workshop, there were people ranging in age from eighteen to sixty-four," says

ing wild edibles, making herbal medicine, self defense, video production, food preservation, model airplane flying, pizza making, as well as the continuation of the Grow Your Own Food, yoga, and bike mechanics series, plus many, many more. The Workshop Series will conclude officially with a party on September 3rd, featuring pizza baked in an oven that will be built at the Mud-oven building workshop on August 1 and 8. However, this does not mark the end, but the beginning, of education programs at the Brick House. Already, volunteers are compiling feedback from the workshops and reaching out to potential partners for more classes in the fall, winter and beyond.

You can learn more about the Summer Workshop Series, including a version of the full course catalog and registration form, at [www.brickhouseworkshops.wordpress.org](http://www.brickhouseworkshops.wordpress.org).

### Restaurant Oil Collection Campaign Kick-off

**GREENFIELD BIODIESEL PLANT** - Restaurant Oil Collection Campaign Kick-off will take place at Brickwall Burger, 286 Main St., Greenfield, the evening of

Tuesday, August 2. Come eat fries and learn how to help make biodiesel fuel a reality in our region! For time and details call Coop Power at 772-8898.

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## A Tale of Two Healthcare Systems

Guest Editor Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno

Last October I arrived in Istanbul to teach at a university there. During my first weeks in residence, I spent a great deal of my time filling out forms and getting official stamps on official papers. At some point I was escorted by one of the graduate assistants, who was kindly acting as my interpreter, to the accounting office. A stern balding man sat at a large desk heaped with papers. At this point I was becoming rather fatigued by what seemed to be an endless amount of paperwork, but Guldeniz, the graduate assistant, assured me this was the last stop. This man, she informed me, processed the national health insurance application for my wife, Patricia, and me. Again, this required filling out the same information, in triplicate, on several different forms. During the entire process the accountant said few words. Finally, I was informed that the university would deduct 130 Turkish Lira (about USD \$90) from my first paycheck to pay for our insurance. I assumed this would be a monthly deduction, and told Guldeniz that compared to what I paid in the states, this was quite a bargain at \$90 a month. "Oh no," she said. "That's for the whole year, for both you and your wife."

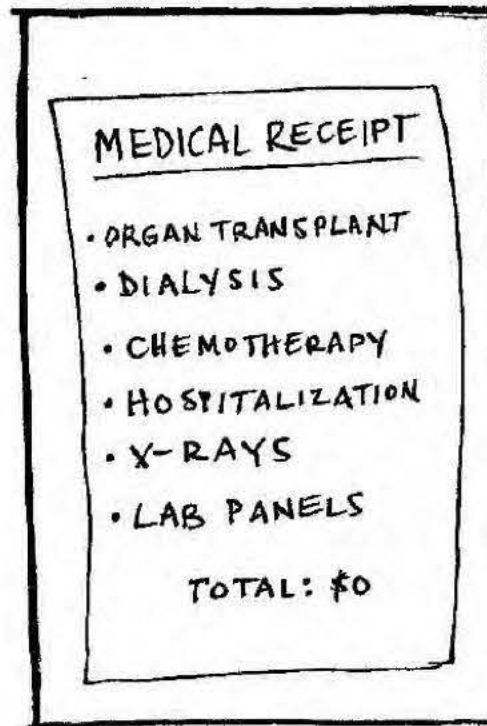
I was clearly astonished but managed to ask what the insurance covered. Guldeniz asked the gentleman to explain the coverage. He responded with two words: "Her shey." "What's that mean?" I asked. "Everything." She then went on to explain that in Turkey national health insurance pays for everything: doctors' visits, hospitalization, ambulance service, intensive care, outpatient services. It does not, however, cover prescriptions, though low income people can get any medicine they need for free. I told her to tell the accountant that I was very pleased to be covered under the plan. She relayed my message. He then looked up at her and asked if he could ask the American professor a question. Of course I said yes. Guldeniz

translated: "Would the professor explain why Americans do not want everyone in their country to have inexpensive and comprehensive health care?" I looked straight at him, then at her. "Do you have an equivalent in Turkish for 'having one's head up one's ass?'" I asked. "Oh sure," she said: "Kishinin kichina bir kafasi var." The accountant shook with laughter. "I thought that was the answer," he told her. "We can't understand Americans. I guess the professor can't either."

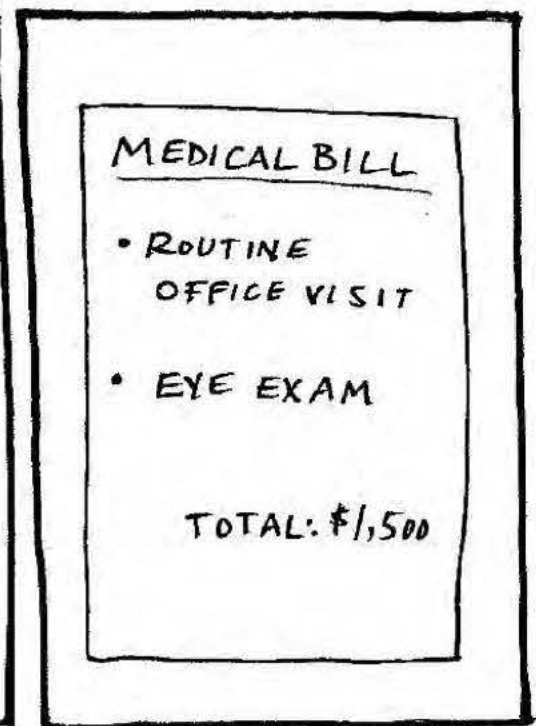
No, the professor doesn't understand either. In fact, the professor was embarrassed. How do you explain that your country, among the most advanced on the planet, is among the more backward when it comes to taking care of its citizens?

Fortunately during our stay there neither of us had to make use of the insurance, though we knew many who did. We also heard some horror stories about health care. In the U.S. One friend, an American, on a visit home to Texas ended up in the hospital in Austin with a kidney stone complication. He presented his Turkish insurance card but was told by the hospital that "it was as useless as a coupon for an oil change." But since he was in extreme pain, he agreed to pay the bill, himself. A day later he was looking at a charge of \$10,000. He was stunned, not only at the charge but that the treatment had been ineffective. He was told the right treatment would cost more than he could possibly pay. He decided not to pursue the matter as he was returning to Turkey in a few days. Payment, however, was demanded. He maxed out a couple of credit cards and settled a portion of the bill. He changed his return to Istanbul for the next day. On arrival, he called his doctor who told him to go immediately to a special clinic that treats only kidney stone problems. A day later, he was free of pain. His bill was zero. He told his doctor about his American experience. He told him to submit his American bill to the National Health Insurance. He did. They reimbursed him for

## Istanbul Hospital



## U.S. Clinic



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From the Selectboards of Gill and Montague to the Gill Montague Regional School Committee

July 18, 2011

Michael Langknecht, Chairman  
Gill Montague Regional School Committee

Dear Chairman Langknecht:

The Gill and Montague Selectboards remain deeply concerned by the continued Level 4 status of our school district, for perhaps as long as three more years. We believe the School Committee, District administration, Town officials, and the community as a whole all have an obligation to be better informed and more involved in improving the educational qualities of our District.

More specifically, without additional information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), we do not accept Level 4 status as a foregone conclusion for the

what he had put out of pocket, and paid the remaining amount due the hospital in Austin.

Is it a perfect system? No. In rural areas, there are fewer clinics than there need to be, and medicine isn't quite as advanced as it is in Western Europe. But does it work? Yes. And it works very well. No one I talked to who had experience with healthcare in Turkey had anything negative to say about it. Doctors, particularly in urban centers, are available

next three years. There has not been enough public discussion, by DESE and with the community, to understand the reasons our District is at Level 4. DESE's criteria for labeling schools as Level 4 seem to be ever shifting, and without any determined exit strategy.

We call upon the School Committee to invite senior representatives from DESE to attend a special purpose limited-agenda meeting, convened in a suitably sized venue, to discuss the following:

What are the reasons our District is a Level 4 status?

What actions must we take and what results must be achieved in order to get out of Level 4?

Why will it take three years? How do we expedite this process?

Additionally, we ask that the Selectboards of Gill and

24/7 with little waiting time. Even emergency rooms have large staffs of both nurse practitioners and doctors on call. And individuals do have free choice in determining who will be their primary care physician. But do the Turks feel as if they are compromising their liberty by not having to pay an exorbitant cost for their health care? Apparently not. No one I talked to could even understand the concept. And do they pay excessive taxes in order

Montague be specifically invited to attend this meeting, and that at least one representative from each board be allowed active participation in the meeting.

The taxpayers of our town and the parents of our children deserve an opportunity to understand, first hand, exactly what challenges our District is facing, so that they may together be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF GILL  
Randy P. Crochier,  
Chair Ann H. Banash  
John Ward

TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
Mark E. Fairbrother,  
Chair Patricia A. Allen  
Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr.

to have quality, highly affordable health care? No. The individual tax rate in Turkey is about the same as in the U.S.

Turkey has far less GDP than the U.S., is a very pro-capitalist country, has even a right-leaning government, but healthcare for all is a given. The Turks, including members of parliament, consider it a right, not a privilege. So what's the problem in the U.S.? Why are Americans so scared of the government providing healthcare to the average citizen? And why do our politicians continual-

see HEALTHCARE pg 5

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### U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 7/27/11



### 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 4th or 18th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

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# G-M Bridge on Target Wendell Depot and Lake Pleasant Post Offices May be Closed

**KATHERINE KUKLEWICZ**  
Through the diligent work of SPS New England Construction, the eighty year old Gill-Montague bridge is complementing the historic essence of Turners Falls. Rather than a sterile, simple span over the Connecticut River, the deck truss bridge is being recreated to match the rustic and elegant image of the town.

Each day, 16-18 steel workers are on site painting, welding, cutting, and cementing the bridge. "The quality of the steel is in good shape," reports Robert Demers, Resident Engineer. "The process is very linear." First the construction crew must repair the sub-structure of each section before work can be done on the super-structure. The sub-structure is polluted with pack rust, rust in between steel connection plates, which need restoring and welding.

Now, 19 months into restoration, the workers are installing railings and lamp posts on the west side. Demers believes that traffic will be switched to the new side in late September. "The project is roughly 35% complete" Demers estimates "...but the most important thing is that we are on schedule." The bridge will be completed by April 25, 2014.

The U.S. Postal Service is considering closing 43 Massachusetts post offices as part of a plan to cut costs that could lead to closing more than 1 in 10 of its retail outlets around the country. The financially-troubled agency announced Tuesday that it will study 3,653 local offices, branches and stations for possible closing. The Wendell Depot and Lake Pleasant post offices are among those under review.

The USPS uses its own revenue from stamps and other postage sales for operating expenses, and not taxpayer dollars. So it makes sense that its retail network – nearly 32,000 locations across the country – needs some tightening as an increasing number of people correspond online instead of by snail mail.

According to the USPS, 16,000 Post Offices (half of the country's Post Offices) are running up deficits. The USPS wants to close the least profitable offices but would need Congressional approval.

"It's no secret that the Postal Service is looking to change the way we do a lot of things," Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said at a briefing. "We do feel that we are still relevant to the American public and the

economy, but we have to make some tough choices."

2,000 Post Offices will be shut down beginning next March. The USPS says it hasn't made a final decision on these closings. The agency is conducting studies of each location, and will solicit community input.

Many of the closed branches may be replaced by village post offices in which postal services are offered in local stores, libraries or government offices.

Once an office is selected for review, people served by that office have 60 days to file their comments. If an office is to be closed, they will be able to appeal to the independent Postal Regulatory Commission. The Postal Regulatory Website has this notice from its chair-

man Ruth Goldway: Dear Postal Consumers: The Postal Service has indicated that it intends soon to file a request for an Advisory Opinion on a nationwide plan to review post office facilities for closure. The Commission will welcome comments from the public and will take prompt action on the

request for an Advisory Opinion. Once we receive the Postal Service's formal request for our Opinion, we will post instructions in this column on how to submit comments either formally for the record or informally for our public comment file at: [www.prc.gov/prc-pages/default.aspx](http://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/default.aspx).

The Montague Study Committee to study the size and form of Montague town meeting is seeking additional members to join the committee. The Study Committee is in need of town meeting members from Precincts 3 and 6, as well as non-town meeting members to fill "at-large" seats. The next meeting is August 10th at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**HEALTHCARE** from pg 4 continually dodge and weave when the issue of universal health care comes up in Congress? It's not really the cost, for studies have pretty consistently shown that universal health care would actually cost less than our current system of paying private insurers to administer for-profit health services. Even Obamacare—which in my opinion does not go nearly far enough to cover all Americans at a reasonable price – will save American taxpayers money in the long run. So if it isn't money, what is it? For one, a fair number of those in congress receive hefty campaign contributions from insurance and pharmaceutical companies. And big money talks big. Two, there is an ideological problem. Socialized medicine is still a pejorative. But why? The wall has been down for for more than 20 years; whatever communists are left are not about to take us over. Even our favorite com-

munist country, China, is our best friend when it comes to trade. And yet, Boehner can weep on the floor of the house because Obamacare will compromise our liberty and freedom. And some Americans somehow believe it. But it's a charade, a stupidity. Even if Boehner and the Republicans succeed in gutting social security, medicare, medicaid and Obamacare under the guise of cutting spending, Boehner and his cronies aren't giving up their government-provided health care. And I doubt if Boehner feels each time he goes to the doctor that he's surrendering his freedom. It's time Americans told Congress that we want the same health care as Bohner and McConnell and Obama and... Having the government provide excellent affordable healthcare for all is as much our right as it is for the Turks, Canadians, Europeans, Japanese or most of the rest of the world.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## It's the Small Projects that Count

BY MATTHEW LEGER-SMALL

The volunteer gardeners who tend the beds on Avenue A in Turners will be pleased to hear that the selectboard, at the suggestion of Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, approved \$4,000 for improvements to the way water is delivered to the beds on Avenue A. "This is an important program," Abbondanzio said, "because when we didn't have it, the Avenue was in pretty sorry shape." The \$4,000 will cover the cost of new faucets as well as replacing old utility boxes on the avenue.

The original request for downtown beautification was for \$5,000, but \$1,000, originally intended to cover special plantings, compost or similar associated items used in the past, was objected to by Chairman Mark Fairbrother. Fairbrother took issue with the additional funds noting that he had recently discussed a beautification project with a resident of Lake Pleasant concerning a belltower-type structure in that village that could use work. Though he "applauds the efforts and thanks [the gardeners] very much" for all their hard work on Avenue A, Fairbrother pointed out that Turners Falls receives the "lion's share" of beautification funding in town and would like to see an effort made to spread the funding around between the villages a little more evenly.

\$15,000 was dedicated to the unsafe/unhealthy buildings line item. This money is tapped for various uses such as boarding up condemned buildings and other costs related to buildings that have fallen into disrepair or pose a risk to public health. Mainly because of

expenses incurred by the arson at Strathmore Mill, the fund has been drawn down and needs an injection of cash to cover the town in the event of emergencies.

A feasibility study and space evaluation for the Department of Public Works was funded at a cost of \$13,000. The study will focus on the needs of the DPW and will be used to make recommendations on the best design concept and price tag for a new facility.

Abbondanzio requested that \$24,000 be applied as a Brown Fields grant match assuming a \$200,000 Brown Fields grant is awarded to the town and that Town Meeting approves taking out a loan of \$112,000. The combined funds will be used to remove the remains of Building 10 at the Strathmore Mill. Fairbrother specifically endorsed funding this item saying that "it should be noted 'the pile', sooner or later... because we own it, we are going to pay to remove it."

In order to fund these small projects, the board voted for the rescission of over \$111,000 in unused program money from town projects that have been completed or are otherwise inactive.

In other news, Pat Allen read a citation from the selectboard congratulating the Turners Falls girls softball team in light of their recent sweeping victory of 25 wins and zero losses for the season.

The town has received a response to its letter to the Environmental Protection Agency concerning idling trains while refueling in Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant. The letter acknowledges the problem and offers to meet with town officials and the railroad to further

discuss the situation. The Town Administrator and the Board of Health plan to meet with officials from the EPA before meeting with representatives of the railway.

Brian Dolan and Sarah Pearson presented plans to extend the area of the upcoming block party up to, but not obstructing, the entrance to DiPaolo's for a BMX demonstration to be put on by the AXO BMX Team, a professional biking group based out of Petersham. The demonstration would consist of three twenty-minute sessions.

Fire Chief Robert Escott, Jr. attended the selectboard meeting as a representative of the Turners Falls Firemen's Association to request the use of space in a town-owned garage to house an antique 1920s LaFrance Brockway fire truck. The truck will be acquired as a gift from several members of the Millers Falls Firemen's Association who have maintained the truck privately for some years. Chief Escott noted that the truck was worth saving since it is the first motorized piece of fire apparatus that the Millers Falls fire department ever had, and that it would be a shame if this "piece of the town's history" were lost. Unfortunately, keeping the truck does require a creative storage solution since housing the truck would present a significant financial burden on the Association. The selectboard endorsed the concept of using the space pending the creation of a memorandum of understanding to be worked out between the Town and the Association.

WPCF Superintendent Bob Trombley gave the board a brief overview of the ongoing combined see MONTAGUE pg 8

## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## New Pumps, New Window Inserts, No More Asbestos

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

At the meeting on July 18th the selectboard announced that R.H. White Construction was the low bidder among five bids received for the upgrade project at the Riverside Pump Station. According to Ray Purington, town administrator, there was considerable interest in the project but the R.H. White bid of \$46,000 was the lowest. R.H. White was also endorsed by Tighe&Bond who will design and engineer the project. The selectboard agreed to award White the contract contingent upon receipt of performance and payment bonds, and certificates of insurance. The upgrade is needed at the pump station because the present pumps are more than 30 years old and in danger of breaking down at any moment.

Gill Elementary will also see some needed work soon. The selectboard asked the conservation commission to supply the state with a notice of intent to perform maintenance on the well that supplies the school with water. The selectboard also agreed tentatively to award the contract for asbestos abatement and boiler removal at the school to American

Environmental. This is the same company that provided abatement services to the town in 2009. Their bid of \$4,200 was less than half that of the highest bidder. The boiler and asbestos removal should be completed before school begins. A new five-section boiler for the school has also been ordered and will replace the inefficient and ancient nine-section boiler currently in place. It is hoped that the well maintenance can also be completed before school is in session but at the very least it can be inspected.

The Riverside municipal building will get some needed energy improvements. The selectboard voted to award a contract to Brian Nugent of Orange who will fabricate indoor storm windows that are expected to greatly cut heat loss in the building. The design consists of two-piece hinged wooden frames with spines to seal the transparent heat shrink film. The cost for each insert for the 15 large windows is \$91. These new inserts will replace the present plastic sheeting on the outside. The town expects that they will pay for themselves in two years.

Fire Chief Gene

Beaubien presented the board with the new Tri-State Mutual Aid Agreement. This agreement provides fire departments mutual aid and reimbursement for covering large fires in Franklin County and in certain towns in southern New Hampshire and southern Vermont. The new agreement will be in effect for three years.

The Board also issued guidelines for obtaining a special permit for auto sales. Among the provisions is the owner of a proposed used car lot be in tax compliance with both the state and the town. The new regulations came about in response to an application by Robert Miller to open a small used car lot at 277 French King Highway. The ZBA has already approved his special permit. The selectboard will schedule a public hearing within the next few weeks. Miller intends to have no more than 10 unregistered vehicles on the lot at any one time.

Finally, the selectboard issued a statement to be delivered to the school committee in response to the letter of Mike Langknecht that appeared in the Recorder on July 15th. The full text appears as a letter to the editor.

## Montague Plains Brush Fire



Police log reports show it started on Wednesday July 20th, with follow up needed on the 21st and 22nd. (page 17)

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

# Erving Owes State Money, Montague Owes Erving Money

**BY DAVID BRULE** - The Selectmen started out their meeting with an unpleasant surprise: the Cherry Sheet forwarded to the Town by the State reversed a trend that had become commonplace over the years. This time instead of receiving money from the State, the town will be owing money to the State. The single-most important increase came from School Choice assessments. Erving residents who choose their children out to other school districts will be costing the Town \$43,000 this fiscal year, money which the Town will be required to pay the State. Much of this cost is due to increases in SPED placements in other districts. Town Administrator Tom Sharpe said "This will not break the two-week-old budget. But this is the first time I've ever seen this in Erving. They'll be sending us a bill, instead of a check." The feeling is that new Erving residents are choosing to send their children to other school systems, perhaps their previous schools, and that may change over time.

There was good news concerning the Senior Center update. The building is on schedule and now 80% complete. It is expected that a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued on September 15. With that prospect in mind, the Selectmen approved the draft job description for a part-time Building Maintenance position. It will involve 10-12 hours a week. The description will soon be finalized and posted.

Megan M. Niedwiedz has been appointed to the Cultural Council. Also Bruce Fellows was granted a business license to sell farm products (maple

sugar, honey, apples, etc.) from the Fellows Apple Farm Stand at 220 North Street in Erving.

Of the utmost importance to Erving taxpayers is the appraisal of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. This project represents 80% of the Erving tax base, making the choice of an appraisal firm a key part of the process. The Board of Assessors proved to be very diligent in researching and proposing two firms to compete for the evaluation. The low bidder was Mainstream Associates, for the third time in a row. Sharpe mentioned that the Town has been quite satisfied with their work in the past, and they will be awarded the \$32,000 contract. The full evaluation takes place every three years and will take 6 months to complete.

At 7 PM, the Erving selectmen met with the Montague selectmen to discuss their mutual concerns and interests in the sewage treatment plant the towns share, POTW#1.

The bone of contention concerns capital improvements undertaken by Erving at a cost of \$5,600,000. Belatedly, Erving has asked Montague to pay its share as per their contracted agreement. The Erving Selectmen proposed that they could make concessions in the sum they were asking for from Montague, suggesting that Montague pay a reduced amount of \$64,000 per annum over 16 years as their fair share of the capital improvements and the loan to finance the project. After a first meeting in December, the second meeting on Monday led to a stalemate in which Montague Chairman

Mark Fairbrother indicated that Montague would continue paying \$149,000 each year to Erving for shared use of the treatment plant, but that they would not consider the \$64,000 per annum payment, since they were not part of the planning for the project, and were not consulted. Montague suggested that they may build their own treatment plant to handle the sewage from the village of Millers Falls, instead of continuing the partnership with Erving. Administrator Tom Sharpe expressed hope that the towns could continue to work together, and find a compromise.

At 8 PM, the Usher Plant Reuse Committee met with Selectmen and Town Legal Counsel Donna MacNicol to review plans for the town's take-over of the site for non-payment of taxes. Committee members Linda Downs-Bembry, Sara Vega-Loris, Gary Burnett and Jeannie Schermesser heard Town Legal Counsel explain that the property would belong to the town after the findings of the Court of Redemption were known. This formal process of foreclosure would likely take another 7-9 months. Ms. MacNicol advised the town not to proceed with spending money for the clean-up of the site until the court issued its ruling that the town could definitely enter into possession of the property. The Usher Plant Reuse Committee plans on further study of the site in determining which parts of the plant would be preserved and which parts razed. They will now have until March to consider future uses of the site.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# Herrick Property Proposal Received

**BY JOSH HEINEMAN**  
July 13, 2011

The Wendell Selectboard scheduled a special meeting on July 13th to open proposals for the Herrick house on Wickett Pond Road. The town owns the property now because after Marion Herrick passed away, her heirs paid no taxes and did nothing else to contact the town. Because the house is one of the oldest in town, dating to around 1820, townspeople have shown interest in what happens to it, and rather than sell it at auction, the Selectboard chose to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP); responses were due July 13th. Only one came in, from Alistair MacMartin of Thompson Road, and Judy Hall of Blairstown, New Jersey.

Their proposal included a purchase price of \$32,000, and three phases of work: stabilize the original house; build a hoop house and permaculture garden; and then build a 1200 square foot net zero energy house. The majority of the property, a horse-shoe shaped piece abutting state land and including two wetlands, would be under a conservation restriction.

Dennis Hudson and Joy Gorzocoski had also shown interest in the property and attended this meeting although they did not submit a proposal. Hudson said they were put off by the fees and the numerous details required in the RFP. Gorzocoski said, "We blinked."

Selectboard Chair Christine Heard was on vacation, and the selectboard intention for this meeting was only to accept proposals to review before discussing them at the regularly scheduled July 20th meeting.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley came to this special meeting and told selectboard members Dan Keller and Jeffrey Pooser that she had been subpoenaed to a Connecticut court regarding the case of former tax collector Judy Wilder. The District Attorney has filed a motion that Wilder has repaid the town all she owed and that her case is complete. She has repaid the entire amount she took from the town, but not court costs; Manley said that trying to collect any additional amount would rather avoid the court trip.

Keller said he had gone to the Diemand farm when they had a visit by a firm that is considering installing a vertical axis electricity generating windmill there. His interest was the possibility of installing one near the town center to supply town buildings. The company has two sizes, a 5 kilowatt model that costs \$24,000 with an expected payback period of 5 years, and a 1.8 kw model that costs \$13,000 with an expected payback period of 10 years. Fin Com member and engineer Jim Slavav said that he had looked at the design, and concluded that its blades had a low stall speed, and so would not be able to take advantage of higher wind speeds; he was not enthusiastic about the value.

Pooser said he had looked at the website and thought the company was oriented more to urban sites than to rural sites.

**July 20, 2011**  
**Safety Officers Salaries Discussed**  
By the July 20th meeting the selectboard mem-

bers had been able to review and think about the Herrick property proposal. Alistair MacMartin, who attended both meetings, was there to hear their decision. Heard said she liked the way the proposal was written as a step by step process. Pooser said the couple (MacMartin and Hall) seem a great match for the town's needs, and Keller said it met all the qualifications set out in the RFP. It puts the property back on the tax rolls, it ensures only one dwelling on the property, and that it is a sustainable dwelling, and it allows a conservation restriction on the bulk of the land. Details of the CR are still to be written, and it may allow or restrict agriculture, forestry, or hunting. Voters will get a chance to see the proposal and give their opinions at the next special town meeting. Wendell needs a special town meeting soon, and the selectboard set the date tentatively for Thursday, September 8th to avoid the clerk's Wednesday office hours. Pooser said he would post the proposal on the town website leaving out privacy details.

Open Space Chair Marianne Sundell, who was at the meeting waiting to discuss the permaculture project, also expressed some disappointment that the proposal stopped at stabilizing the old house, and did not go further to restoration. She said the national historic community has money that might be used to bring the house back into shape.

She said she had reworked the contract that Wendell used with its town forester to fit Jonathan Bates, who is see **WENDELL** page 8

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# Ferry Meadow Farm - Part II

Turners Falls, Massachusetts - 2017

**BY ELOISE MICHAEL** - I have not seen Jason since the summer after our high-school graduation, but he looks exactly the same ten years later. I can tell this because he is more than a head taller than the crowd around him. He must be standing up on something, I realize. He is backed against a high chain-link fence, giving a

speech. Shouting a speech, really. It's hard to hear, since the microphone is mounted, with the camera, on a building somewhere above the crowd. People figure out where the best StreetLevel cameras are located and choose those spots to give speeches, or perform, or stage demonstrations—whatever they want the public



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

to see.

Now that I am paying attention I can tell that Jason is talking about the French Revolution. He speaks in English, then pauses while a woman next to him interprets for him. He is calling for the people to rise up again. "In 1857," Jason shouts, "Frederick Douglass spoke these words." He pauses; the woman says the same thing in French. He raises a piece of paper and reads from it, "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them." He passes the paper to the woman. She speaks. "We will no longer

submit!" Jason shouts. The crowd is cheering and chanting before the woman has finished interpreting.

Jason sinks to the level of the crowd around him and disappears. Someone takes his place on the improvised stage and addresses the crowd in French. I watch another minute. My French is not good enough to understand what this person is saying, though.

I go to check the news on desktop 1, wanting to discover what brings Jason to Paris. It looks like there has been a strike on for three days. The strikes happen so often, and in so many countries, that it is hard for me to keep track. As I am skimming someone's blog about the Paris strike, I glance over at desktop 2, my work. I have emails and work piling up again.

It's the end of the day before I even feel like I have time to breathe. I have forgotten about the strikes in Paris until now. It was really Jason I was interested in, not the political situation. At this point all I want to do is get away from the computer, so I go to the kitchen.

I look out the window at the

street and wonder why I am still living here. Diana is right, of course. There is nothing for me in Turners Falls. The house belonged to my mother's father, a man I saw less than once a year before he died. I have no particular attachment to my grandfather's house, and what is worse, I lived here with Rick. The house is full of memories of him.

As I look in my nearly-empty refrigerator, I wonder what it would be like to live in a place where I could buy food without having to drive twenty minutes to Hadley. When people here couldn't afford their cars anymore, the big supermarkets closed. Anyway, most people can't afford produce either.

Still there is something about this town that has grown on me. It feels real compared to the rest of my life. I think my co-workers don't even realize that people are hungry, living without electricity and cars. It's not like I am helping the situation, I remind myself, by living here, driving my Prius through the middle of it all. Jason comes into my mind again. What would he think, if he could see me now?

## WENDELL from pg 7

helping the town develop a permaculture plot as part of the community garden. There will be a charette at the town hall, Sunday July 31st from 2:00 to 6:00 with a potluck meal following, to get input on what people want there. Selectboard concerns were that no tree planted should have the potential to grow tall enough to threaten the office building or drop branches on cars parked in the lot.

Sundell also mentioned control efforts for Japanese knotweed including possible spraying, with Conservation Commission oversight. Pooser cautioned against, "shooting the messenger," and said knotweed root was high in a sterol useful against lyme disease, and the emerging shoot is edible. Every plant has its lessons.

Gretchen Smith, the town's new clerk scheduled time for some questions, concerns and initiatives. She showed board members a list of fees including reducing the late fee for a dog license to \$10, but charging that fee every time a payment is late. She said that an expert from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NDCC) thought poorly of the plan to have Wendell Firefighters with turnout gear and air packs to

remove moldy documents from the town vault, blow them off with compressed air, and leave them in boxes to air out while vents are put in the vault to allow air flow and avoid future mold. She said that the NDCC expert will come to town, look into the vault with her and give the town an estimate for the cost of cleaning out mold from the vault and its documents.

Keller said that Gregor Trinkhaus of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) had reviewed the firefighter plan and his opinion was that it would be adequate.

Fin Com Chair Michael Idoine met the Selectboard with concerns about the future of Wendell's public safety, the police and fire Departments. Wendell's entire budget for public safety is less than the salary of a single police chief in a neighboring town; both the police chief and fire chief serve essentially as volunteers. Neither Ed Chase nor Everett Ricketts will be able to do that forever. Idoine questioned if Wendell can afford a stand-alone police or fire Department, and how well a shared department would work. He suggested forming a study committee, similar to the money management study committee, to see how other towns have dealt

with the increased demand put on public safety officials and how they have dealt with fire chief and police chief succession.

The owner of a parcel of land, #2 New Salem Road wants to take that land out of Chapter 61 protection, and offer it for sale. Town bylaws give Wendell the right of first refusal, but Selectboard members felt the town had no need to exercise that right in this case. They will hold a public hearing at their next regular meeting to see if any person in town objects to the change in tax status and the possible sale of that land.

After two weeks of thinking in circles, Heard said that she was leaning toward accepting the low bid, \$3.39 a gallon from Orange Oil, for 2011 to 2012 heating oil. No member of the Fin Com and no member of the selectboard could offer a certain prediction that the price would go down not up. Other selectboard members agreed with Heard and the selectboard voted to accept that bid.

Heard also said that the Swift River School green repair schedule might be impacted by tornado repairs in Springfield which is keeping contractors busy. In addition, insulation orders are backed up 40 weeks.



## MONTAGUE from pg 6

sewer output (CSO) project, reporting that the project was proceeding as planned and that operational testing was on track to begin as scheduled next week.

WPCF Superintendent Bob Trombley gave the board a brief overview of the ongoing combined sewer output (CSO) project, reporting that the project was proceeding as planned and that operational testing was on track to begin as scheduled next week.

Greg Roy of CDM presented an overview of his recent work concerning the financial viability of building a pump station for Millers Falls and the associated upgrades to the sewer system that would need to be made to accommodate the increased usage. According Roy's report, Montague stands to benefit from huge savings projected for twen-

ty years out if they go forward with plans to treat the waste of Millers Falls rather than continuing the current treatment through the Town of Erving.

David Jensen reported that demolition of the Railroad Salvage building is set to begin soon after the full removal of asbestos from the premises is complete.

The selectboard requested additional information from the Town Administrator concerning reports of metal objects being dropped from trucks along the Route 63 area of Millers Falls allegedly due to increased use of the road for trucking as a result of the closure of the Gill-Montague bridge.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for August 1st, 2011 at 7:00PM at the Montague Town Hall.



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## Turners Falls Fish Factory Featured in Time Magazine

Australis Aquaculture, the state-of-the-art barramundi fish farm located in the industrial park in Turners Falls, was featured in the July 7th issue of Time magazine. The article, entitled "The End of the Line," focused on fish farming as possibly the only way of preserving our supply of fresh fish. Montague Center's Josh Goldman, the founder of

Australis, was quoted as saying "We're producing great-quality fish without harming the oceans or anything else." Time concluded that factories like Australis "might represent the last, best chance for fish to have a future." You can read the article at: [www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2081796,00.html#ixzz1SnO1S9Ls](http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2081796,00.html#ixzz1SnO1S9Ls)

*Australis specializes in growing barramundi, or Asian sea bass. Larval fish are flown from Australia to the U.S. The company is researching spawning techniques. Barramundi live in fresh water, salt water and estuaries (where fresh and saltwater meet).*



PHOTO COURTESY OF [WWW.UMASS.EDU/AQUACULTURE/AQUACULTURETOUR\\_000.HTM](http://WWW.UMASS.EDU/AQUACULTURE/AQUACULTURETOUR_000.HTM)

**EKSTROM** from page 1 meeting with DESE. Ekstrom suggested they wait until the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) is completed and see what kind of response they get from the state first. She said the AIP will be submitted to DESE by July 26 and was being prepared with the help of Christine LeBarge, the newly hired Level 4 Planning Manager for the school district. The state has offered the district several services to help with the process of improving status, including paying the salary for the planning manager. LeBarge was hired through DESE for a position that is expected to last for the next two to three years, in preparing to move the district out of Level 4 status into Level 3. Ekstrom said she understands everyone's frustration. Saying it can't all happen at once, that the district is moving forward, she asked for patience. Ekstrom pointed out that the district had already made progress over the last year since the district review was completed and that the three years is not set in stone. She expressed confidence that the district can achieve the improvement required more quickly and said "it is up to us how fast it happens."

When the vote was finally called Singleton's motion was defeated 4-3. Voting in favor were Singleton, Sandy Brown and Marge Levenson; voting against were Waldron, Joyce

Phillips, Jane Oakes, and Kristin Boyle. Chair Mike Langknecht abstained.

On the day following the School Committee meeting the superintendent did meet with representatives from both Gill and Montague. As a result of the discussions, Ekstrom contacted a representative from DESE who is willing to meet with the School Committee and the towns toward the middle of August, though an exact date has not yet been fixed.

Ekstrom announced the hiring of Travis Yagodzinski as the new assistant principal for Montague Elementary School. He will join the newly hired principal Maureen Donelan. School committee members asked about the new Gill Elementary principal, Kathleen Adams, and Ekstrom said she would invite her to join them at the next meeting so the committee members can have a chance to meet her.

Lynn Bassett presented the new guidelines for food services that include tightening control over payment so that parents do not end up owing large amounts of money to food service. They ask that parents pay ahead for breakfast and lunch if they can, or make sure that the children have money to pay for meals. Free breakfast/lunch or reduced lunch fees are available to those who qualify and parents are encouraged to apply. Every effort will be made to communicate with the family and Bassett

reminded them that at any time during the year a family can fill out forms requesting free or reduced fees for meals.

The new guidelines in place since April 2011 are as follows: Turners Falls High School students are presumed to be responsible enough to have money to purchase meals with them daily. High school students are not allowed to charge meals in the cafeteria if they do not have a balance on account or cash. Middle school students are also presumed to be responsible enough to bring money with them daily. However, should they forget money on occasion, parents will be notified by food service and their child will be fed that day and their account billed accordingly. The next day without payment, the child will be given a cheese sandwich and milk. The account will be billed and an additional charge of \$2.00 will be made to the student's account. Parents will then be notified by food service to have their child bring lunch from home the next day or submit payment to restore the account balance.

For students at Gill and Montague Elementary schools, should a student forget their lunch money, parents will be notified by food service and their child will be fed that day and their account billed accordingly. On the next day without payment the child will be given a cheese sandwich and milk. There will be an additional

charge of \$2.00 made to the student account. Parents will be notified by food service to have their child bring lunch from home the next day or submit payment to restore the balance to their account. Bassett assured the committee members no child will be denied food because of lack of money.

Bassett said that food services is a non-profit business and is not supported by local tax dollars. The daily operational budget comes from fees paid and state and federal subsidies. At one point the total of overdue balances was \$3500. With the new policy, she reported that the overdue balance is down to \$400 since January 2011. She said there was a big effort to get this solved. They looked at the Greenfield schools to see what they do because they seem to do this successfully. Waldron said she didn't feel it was right to punish a child or put them in a situation of being embarrassed because they didn't have money to pay for lunch and asked if there wasn't another way to do this. She said she appreciated the effort to improve communication with parents, with letters sent through the mail and personal phone calls to parents replacing the ineffective method of sending a note home with the children. Other members of the school committee agreed in terms of following their own guidelines of providing a good nutritional meal to

children which a cheese sandwich and milk did not seem to provide. As these are administrative guidelines the school committee did not vote on this but expressed support for changing the policy to let children get the regular meal and deal directly with parents regarding collection of fees. Ekstrom said she would discuss it with Jim Lloyd of Food Services when he returns in the fall.

The school committee did approve the request by Bassett that Russell Dupere, attorney for the school district, be directed to send a letter to the seven families who still owe between \$20 and \$200 to food services. The school committee also approved a ten cent (\$.10) increase in elementary school lunch fees, raising the price from \$2.25 to \$2.35 for FY12 in order to make sure that schools are providing the same level of support for students paying for lunch as they are for students eligible for free lunches. Adjustments can be made incrementally and so for this year it will be just ten cents.

School committee members expressed interest in attending the Block Party in Turners Falls on August 13. Ekstrom said she intends to be there.

The next regular Gill-Montague school committee meeting will be held on August 16, 2011 at Turners Falls High School at 7:00 p.m.



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# Wendell Food Garden Charette on July 31



Site of proposed food garden in Wendell

BY KATIE NOLAN

Wendell's food forest garden charette on July 31st will help in setting goals and analyzing the site for a proposed town garden, according to Lisa DePiano, one of the founders of Montview Neighborhood Farm in Northampton. Montview raises food crops using hand tools and human power and sells the pro-

duce in the neighborhood from an on-site farmstand as part of a movement to reduce the use of fossil fuels in food production and distribution.

A charette is defined as "a collaborative session in which a group of designers drafts a solution to a design problem." Wendell residents, people interested in food forest gardening,

and supporters of the Wendell Community Garden, Wendell Good Neighbors, the Wendell Energy Committee, and the Open Space Committee are encouraged to attend this session.

DePiano will start by explaining what forest gardening is to the charette collaborators. The Montview

Neighborhood Farm website refers to the Wikipedia entry, which defines forest gardening as "a food production and land management system based on woodland ecosystems, but substituting trees (such as fruit or nut trees), bushes, shrubs, herbs and vegetables which have yields directly useful to humans. Making use of companion planting, these can be intermixed to grow on multiple levels in the same area, as do the plants in a forest."

The charette will break up into small groups and develop specific goals for the garden. This is where the forest garden collaborators try to answer the question "What are we really trying to do?" said DePiano. Some examples of goals might include raising seed crops for a local seedbank, growing medicinal herbs, raising the most food possible in a small space, raising fruit to pick from May to October, or experimenting with novel crops. The charette participants will also walk over the proposed garden area and inventory the space. According to DePiano, an important food forest concept is "working with what's already there."

As well as working with the garden space and plants, DePiano hopes that collabora-

tors will build relationships that will support the forest garden through its periods of preparation, planting, and maintenance.

For the Wendell project, DePiano is working with landscape designer Jonathan Bates in designing a permaculture/edible food forest garden near the Town Offices parking area. The Open Space committee hired Bates after the expense was approved at Wendell's annual town meeting. Based on the goals and site information that the people attending the charette and DePiano provide, Bates will develop the final design for the garden space.

Volunteers working with the Open Space committee will prepare the soil and use donated plants and plants bought with donated money to create the design on the ground. According to DePiano, one of the goals for the charette will be providing an understanding of how to implement the design once it has been created.

The design charette will be held Sunday July 31st from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. starting with an introduction at the town hall and continuing with a walk to look over the future garden space. There will be a potluck dinner following the charette.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY STEVE DAMON

It's a weakness of mine – whenever I see a photo of a young lady with a chicken on her head, I have to ask questions. The youngster was Chloe Castro-Santos, the proprietor of Hippy Hill Farm. She answered all my questions.

Chloe has been raising chickens since she was nine; she turned 12 on 7/21. At the current time, there

are 5 chickens (Hope, Petali, Cometa, Soleil, and Friendly). These chickens were hatched on the farm with the help of an incubator from Craig's list and know-how of her dad, Ted. She and her little sister, Maya, named the chicks. The chickens, which are fed organic feed, are free-range "most of the time." The eggs, which she has been selling for just a few months, can be purchased at Upingill Farmstand.

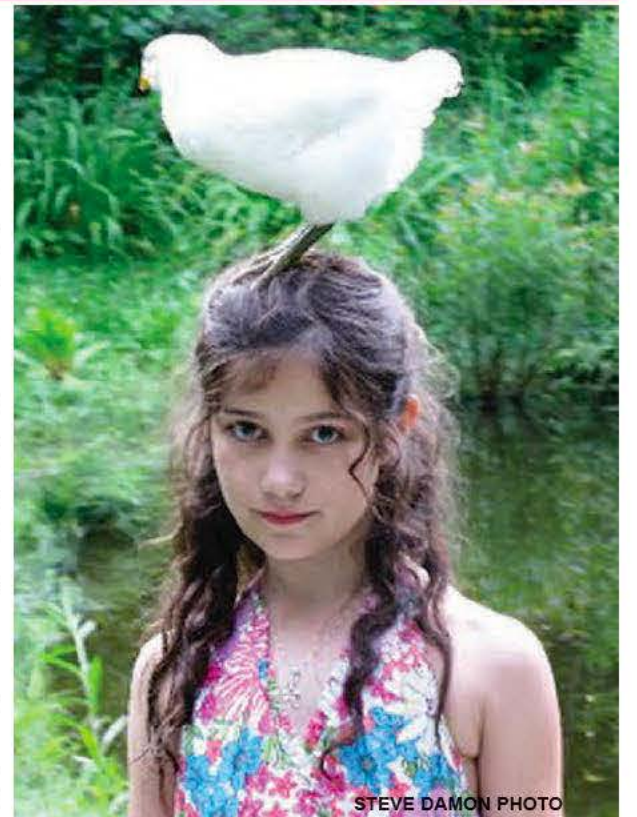
Chloe and Ted recently completed a new chicken coop. "It's the only passive solar chicken coop I know of," Chloe's mom, Jocelyn,

## Farm Neighbors Hip on Chicks

bragged. When I inquired about a "passive solar chicken coop," Chloe explained that it is southern facing, so the chickens will keep warm into the fall and keep producing eggs at their summertime rate. "It's like a big chicken aquarium!" giggled Chloe.

As for the future, she hopes to get more hatching eggs from Sorrel Hatch to fill the big chicken aquarium with clucking birds. When not taking care of feathered creatures or practicing her piano and flute, Chloe prepares to be a 7th grader at Four Rivers Charter School.

Steve Damon is the Chairperson of the Gill Agricultural Commission. His monthly column (Farm Neighbors) for The Montague Reporter features Gill's agricultural personalities.



Chloe Castro-Santos, the proprietor of Hippy Hill Farm

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

## West Gill North and Onto Dole

BY P.H.CROSBY

I am staring at a pile of suds in a little creek that runs north to south under Dole Road and into Otter Swamp. This is a particularly large pile of suds, but there are many such scattered along this brook, wherever the flow comes up against a log or rock or bank. It is above where a herd of cows are pastured, so it doesn't seem to have anything to do with their activities. I have yet to figure out what it is, but maybe it has something to do with Bouncing Bet. This pale, round-clustered flower is in bloom now along our roadsides just about everywhere. And its other common name is soapwort, because its leaves will lather somewhat, my spinner-friends tell me, and actually wash things. I would like to think this is nothing but the run-off of a soapy wildflower coming down from above.

I reached here by travelling north on West Gill again, from Center Road past the meadows, long-legged birds, ghostly trees, varicolored grasses, and damp, rich scents of the great swamp. It is a soft, gray, moist morning; in a few hours the heat will make it unwalkable for all but the most hardy. I'm in the land of the farm with the hardy fences, a spare and unsentimental place without any apparent name or many of the other accessories we use to dress up farms for company. It has barns, livestock, fodder, fences, equipment and vehicles, and the pains it takes go to keeping things functioning, orderly, and productive, not overtly charming and certainly

not quaint. This farm's got attitude. It makes a silent statement to those who think farming a carefree and delightful alternative to what has now become the "ordinary" life and work of office, store or school. This farm suggests farming is hard, continuous, taxing, often monotonous work, however worthwhile, but at least you can make the best of it by doing it faithfully, properly, and well.

Along the way I passed banks and banks of the aptly-named Queen Anne's Lace, orange day lilies next to traffic-light, yellow goldenrod, St. John's wort all but gone by, accented by the hardened plumes of dock in sculpted burgundy—tempting for flower arrangements, but you'll regret it if you spread that seed! Rabbits-foot clover dusts the west shoulder of the road with pink and violet, and eastward the dips and bands and ribbons of the swamp and its surrounding valleys and hills contain more shades of green—mint, lime, chartreuse, olive, highway-sign green, forest and more—than the most deluxe of Crayola boxes.

Turning left on Dole to finish the fifteen minutes, I travel next to a cowpath the farmer's heifers have beaten into the top of the bank, just the other side of a stone and steel-cable guard rail. You don't see many guard rails built like this any more. In fact, it's surprising someone ever found it necessary to string barbed wire tautly six inches above the top of it, it looks so solid and effective a barrier on its own. The farmer

must have had a jumper cow on his hands. As with sheep, all it takes is one jumper in a group to lead to headaches for a farmer. Till its misbehavior is prevented (or terminated by a trip to the auction), such a cow will lead its otherwise placid companions over the fences and about the town till the constables come a-calling.

Just happened to my family last weekend, as a matter of fact, when they spent several hours of a Sunday afternoon tracking stray cows through the shrubbery, only to find the cows were someone else's, not our own. There's some justice in this. Each year, my husband is dutifully nominated and elected in Town Meeting to the uncompensated but noble-sounding position of Field Driver, a tradition townspeople have been reluctant to let fall from the Warrant. This year he actually performed the function.



*Bouncing Bet or soapwort—Is this the beautiful flower lathering up the brook*

As I reach home, I am surrounded once again by banks of escaped day lilies, putting this recent poem in mind, reflecting on how much the daylilies see, even if they do only live a day...

### *It Only Takes a Day*

*I'm just a roadside lily,  
commonplace.  
You see me everywhere,  
or rather, don't.  
My clothing isn't fancy,  
nor my face.  
I could exert myself more  
but I won't.*

*They frequently replace me  
with more brilliant  
Examples of my species  
and my class,  
And though I know I haven't  
got one-millionth  
Of that allure and sparkle,*

*I stand fast  
Along the paths and byways  
of their lives,  
Contemplating motion,  
time and space,  
Accepting mine as one  
whose being thrives  
On character, and mood,  
and sense of place.*

*I know their secrets  
even though they lie.  
I know their futures  
long before they die.*

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page: -

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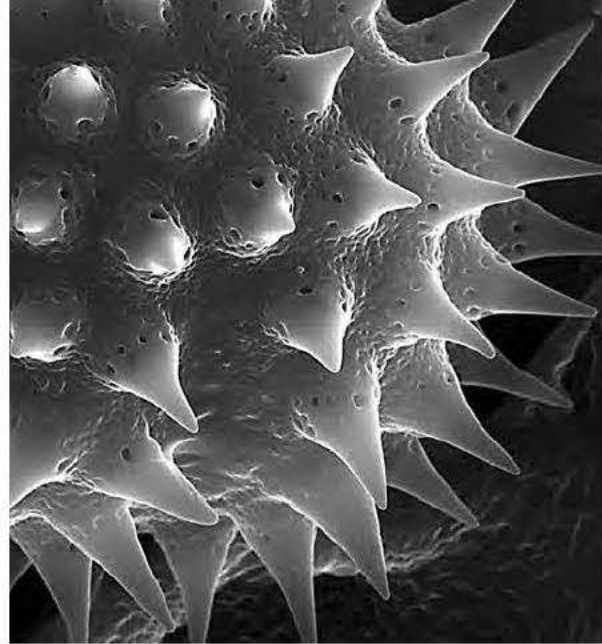
Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby

design by Boysen Hodgson & Claudia Wells

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

In spite of myself  
I love myself;  
piggy-backed pride;  
top-heavy,  
waterlogged  
remains of someone  
I can't remember.  
Water bubbles rise to the top,  
as I grasp  
for a life preserver  
with the trepidation  
of a frantic, questionable  
king.  
What to rule,  
and when,  
if at all,  
while the subjects are sleeping  
the sleep of malice,  
and dark dreams lurk  
for their moment  
of frail fame.  
Verdant hills  
hide the scorched underbelly  
of the land I knew;  
and a volcanic uneasiness  
threatens to expose  
the lie  
and, with it, the truth.  
But who can tell the difference,  
anyway, if there is one?  
All of it hot ash,  
the final reminder  
of character's swirling illusions  
in a palatial puddle

-Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls



**Conception**

It happens beneath our notice.  
Single cells intend  
no secrecy, though.  
Microscopic pollen meets tiny egg  
in broad daylight with the consequence  
of an apple falling  
ripe from the tree-- its flesh bruising  
on impact, juice running--  
only much smaller,  
  
and quiet.  
We begin to suspect,  
look for signs  
that something is growing--  
the potential that we might realize  
when it is round  
and ready-- and screaming,  
we may later bear it into the world,  
birth a loud announcement of  
something begun months before.

Now I invest hope  
in a microscopic inception--  
the concept that I might nourish,  
with what runs in my blood,  
potential. What will come is becoming  
whole in quiet darkness, ripening,  
its fruition an end  
of growth in silence  
and a beginning.

-Eloise Michael  
Turners Falls

**House of Cards**  
*For Richard Serra*

everything supports everything else  
four plates  
blood brown to scab red  
to ochre  
house not collapsed  
lead antinomy: one ton:  
48 inches by 48 inches by 1 inch  
rigidity real  
fixity askew  
plates incline at top  
outline at bottom  
nothing supports anything  
convergence in corners converges  
grace is groundedness  
fluxed scuff shines brighter than bile  
left out in rain and snow  
enclosure an opening  
as closure a beginning  
destitute rust in progress tells time  
scars shine and scratches cover  
left of absolute center  
another center  
gravity: a threat  
defiance: a gesture of optimism  
land locked horizon  
no ships no waves  
as if we had never been airborne  
or never pinned our hopes on some dream of sky  
in earth to earth transcendence  
transmittal is elemental  
decline  
descends  
blinds fold years flap  
house not collapsing but could  
anything supports nothing  
temporality a myth  
transit gone  
just a hint of a future  
push the lead



-Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno  
Turners Falls

**CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:**

Patricia Pruitt is a Turners Falls resident, poet, and former selectboard chairperson.

Don Ogden is producer & co-host of The Enviro Show on WXOJ & WMCB. He is a longtime activist and worker who lives in North Leverett. His writing has appeared in numerous publications and

anthologies over the years. Some of it is here: <http://concertobi.blogspot.com/>

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno co-edits this poetry page and is a writer and artist and traveler.

Eloise Michael lives in Turners Falls and teaches creative writing at Four Winds middle school in Gill. Her novel,

Ferry Meadow Farm, is currently being serialized in this paper.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.

Leslie Brown writes The Gardner's Companion for the Reporter.

While

Icebergs are melting

Eskimos are contemplating swimming pools

Will Dinosaurs respond to the return of moisture

If there is a tree will the rarest butterfly roost in a radiated rose

My heart or yours, his, or hers Even theirs may attain true understanding

Will the world turn back on its way to the next universe

-Patricia Pruitt Turners Falls

brother

the wheel in your hand across this fertile land so many songs you've sung so many hours ground down lenses scoping out the action the reactions, surprised parties averted gazes and the twelve steps to nowhere. vice grip pliers held that wheel in place, a two-tone bus with us half grown steering our way, off to the highway, the long, long winding road home, the stolen flag a bartender's gift, like a splash in the plaza fountain without all that fame to distract us, to grab the wheel coming loose in our hands.

-Don Ogden Leverett



Penelope

Whose is the greater bravery then? Yours: Lured by sirens, Lulled by zephyrs, Lashed by storms. Or mine: steadfastly sewing, Breathless for your return.

-Leslie Brown Montague City

So That...

A decision could be made The decision could be made

The way ahead charted Out of night into day

Night into day Out of time into travel

A decision could be made Is it late? Are we late?

A way ahead charted Beyond all impossibility

Out of time into travel What remains to be seen?

Beyond all impossibility Or an alternative created

An alternative created As if the sky did not rain

As if no one was lost And the sea was not rising

And the sea was not rising Churning water and salt

Off in the distance What remains to be seen?

Had a decision occurred? Did a boat set sail?

Off in the distance it had seemed far away

It had not seemed real As if a sky did not rain

The way ahead was charted As if no one was lost

And the boat set sail churning water with salt

It had not seemed real beyond all impossibility

Off in the distance What remains to be seen?

-Patricia Pruitt Turners Falls



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## GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL 4th QUARTER HONOR ROLLS

### GRADE 6

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Tionne Brown  
Nolan Courtemanche  
Keara Deery  
Savannah Donahue  
William Doyle  
Jordyn Fiske  
Tess Hunter  
Nathaniel Hurley  
Madelyn Johnson  
Ian Moriarty  
Daniela Parpalov  
Haleigh Paulin  
Will Roberge  
Patrick Salls  
Amanda Savinski  
Clarissa Schotanus  
Nicole Thibeault  
Luis Torres  
Hailey Trott  
Michelle Vassar  
Mark Waite  
Jordan Wyman

#### Second Honors

Jeremy Anderson  
Michael Babcock  
Timothy Black  
Tommy Bocharnikov  
Nicholas Croteau  
Jemma Rose Dickson  
Melissa Hersey  
Regina Hope  
Michelle Leh  
Dylan Mailloux  
Veronika Sankova  
Alysha Wozniak  
Jacob Wright  
Dimitrios Zantouliadis

#### Third Honors

Richard Craver  
Madison Currier  
Jack Darling  
Holley DeVarney  
Calley Hubert  
Jonathan LaClaire  
Trayanna Santiago

### GRADE 7

#### First Honors

Raleigh Carlisle

Ivy Cross  
Tarah Dempsey  
Colby Dobias  
James Fritz  
Ryan Lenois  
Riley Palmer  
Jenna Putala  
Nevan Shattuck  
Sydney Upham  
Alexandra Vieira  
Alexxis Young

#### Second Honors

Fallyn Adams  
Jacob Barboza  
Jarod Brown  
Allison Cooke  
Kamryn Frost  
Nadia Hasan  
Seth Leamy  
Lindsey Mailloux  
Mitchell Mailloux  
Timothy Momaney  
Sadie Pelletier  
Mackenzie Phillips  
Allyson Renaud  
Tanner Richardson  
Seth Rider  
Margaret Sroka  
Rachel Waldron

Hailey Whipple

#### Third Honors

Courtney Crafts  
Patrick Gamache  
Alison Ovalle  
Marissa Sierakoski  
Ciara Staiger

### GRADE 8

#### First Honors

Haleigh Bassett  
Ryan Bezio  
Sara Bradley  
Amber Caouette  
Danielle Conant  
Malcolm Crosby  
Teagan Deery  
Cheyenne Edwards  
Liam Ellis  
Lexi Griffin  
Melanie Howard  
Emily Kells  
Andrew LaPenta  
Ken Leng  
Jacqueline MacConnell  
Ian MacPhail  
Alexander Morin

Kelly Rehorka  
Mackenzie Salls  
Serena Smith  
Zachary Wright  
Nicholas York  
Charles Zilinski

#### Second Honors

Trenton Bourbeau  
Aidan Connelly  
Alexander Fitzpatrick  
Jessica Gaines  
Matteson Heath  
Brittany Miller  
Alexandra Wing-LaClaire

#### Third Honors

Zachary Battistoni  
Lisa Callahan  
Alex Carlisle  
Samantha Currier  
Zachary Demars  
Joshua Gonzalez  
Nicole John  
Connor Kelley  
Andrew Renaud  
Rachel Savinski  
Liam Theis  
Cole Tognarelli

### SHEA from page 1

audience feeling that it was just the right length.

Similar to the length of the show, the cast required is very small. *Bountiful* contains seven roles, only three of which appear in more than one scene and are actually referred to by name more than once. In fact, this anti-personalization lends more credence to the reality of the story and the flow of the show; a ticket agent would not be referred to by name and a stranger met on a bus would not stick around to keep an old woman company for hours on end.

*Bountiful* begins simply enough; the setting is a two room apartment in Houston, during the mid 50's. Ludie (Jim Bombicino), a middle aged married man, gets out of bed in the middle of the night and heads to the living room only to find that his mother, Carrie Watts (Nancy Stephens) is still awake. The two begin reminiscing about their home town, Bountiful, with Ludie claiming he remembers nothing as he left

the town at a very young age. At some point Jesse Mae (Nan Mann), Ludie's over-controlling and extremely bossy wife, wakes to find, to her utter disgust, the both of them very much awake.

Inevitably, an argument commences and the precedent for the show is set; Jesse Mae hates having Mrs. Watts around and only tolerates her for her pension check; Ludie is extremely over-protective of his mother, yet at the same time trusts her a little too much; and Carrie Watts only wants to return home to Bountiful.

Without revealing too much, the rest of the show is Carrie's escape and journey to Bountiful. These scenes are filled with heartwarming anecdotes, life lessons and many semi-clichés. All of this is

translated through superb acting by every character. In the main role, Stephens does an

bickering as if they were actually married and filling the theatre with the tension of a some-

ing to a shout, is almost grating at times, but perfectly in keeping with her character. Mann's portrayal of the 50's control freak is almost resonant of some of the characters from *Grease*, but at the same time is completely original.

The other characters, too, embody their roles perfectly, embracing Texas accents with varying degrees of intensity. Especially striking was Laura Casey, who played Thelma, a young woman who Mrs. Watts becomes acquainted with while on the bus. Mostly a quiet character, Thelma is the wife of a recently deployed navy member. Through her initial reserve, and later enthusiasm, Casey brings a light to the middle portion of *Bountiful* which is hard to miss.

If you were unable to go to, or unaware of Thespis' terrific production, do yourself a favor and take a trip to *Bountiful* for one of the following performances: Friday and Saturday, July 29th and 30th at 7:30 p.m., or the Sunday, matinee at 2:00 p.m. on the 31st.



Jim Bombicino as Ludie, and Nancy Mann as Jesse Mae in Thespis Theater Company's production of *The Trip To Bountiful* at Shea Theater in Turners Falls this weekend

excellent job of portraying the puttering, forgetful and yet, at the same time, scheming grandmother.

In the supporting roles, Bombicino and Mann have extremely good chemistry,

times strained marriage. Though Bombicino is a solid actor, and portrays the straight character very well, it is Mann who truly gets into her character, and under the audience's skin. Her shrill voice, often ris-

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# REMEMBERING HISTORIC NORTH LEVERETT SAWMILL

*With the dam at the North Leverett sawmill under emergency repair, readers might be interested in reading this story (which first ran on May 1st, 2008). It includes Lee Glazier's reminiscences of the old mill - and many other facets of local lore.*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - More than 60 people turned out to hear Lee Glazier give a talk on local history at the Leverett Public Library last Thursday, [April 24th, 2008]. The meeting room didn't hold them all.

The history buffs, young and old, were there to hear Glazier speak about the water-powered sawmill in North Leverett, which his family owned from 1919 to 1965. The mill roof collapsed a few years back, but on Saturday the town of Leverett voted to fund renovations to the building at annual town meeting. Work has already commenced.

But on Thursday, it took Lee the better part of an hour to warm up. Before he got to the sawmill, he recounted tales of fires at the charcoal kilns, barn fires, and Leverett's first fire truck (a '34 open cab Ford from the city of Natick, "pretty nice in the winter"), and other facets of local lore.

Lee started his talk by offering, "If any of you want to walk out, go ahead."

Up on Hemenway Road, Walter Jones had bought out the previously bankrupt owner of several charcoal kilns. Walter was in the habit of buying any distressed property in those days, "buying low and selling high," said Lee, and in fact he wound up buying the sawmill from Lee's dad, Perry, in 1965, although he never operated it, and sold it again soon after.

One of the brickwork kilns on Hemenway Road had been poorly constructed, and when the person tending it lit the 75 cords of wood on fire, things got out of control and the fire department had to be called in.

"We got down there," said Lee. "The fire was going pretty good. It blew the door right over our heads."

Gordon King used to be the

fire chief in Leverett in those days. Lee said the volunteer firefighters showed up and formed a bucket brigade, and set up a portable pump to establish a water supply to fight the blaze. But a fire with that much fuel can burn for a while, and along about 7:10 in the morning, people starting saying, "I've got to get to work."

"Leave 75 cord of wood for me to put out. That's our volunteer fire department," said Lee. "Don't ask me. Volunteer to go home, I guess."

Lee said he adjusted the nozzle on the hose to a fine spray and tended the hot spots of the fire that way, all by himself. "I had it under control pretty good."

A few hours later, Walter Jones himself shows up. "Where's the rest of the fire department?" he asked. Then he told Lee he'd go and get him some coffee and doughnuts. "I'll be right back," Jones told him.

"I'm still waiting," Lee said.

David Field broke in at this point in the talk to remind him, "We flooded that thing with about three feet of water before we left."

That's the way storytelling goes in Leverett. But as Lee would say, and did, at every opportunity, "That's all right."

With place names like Coke Kiln Road, it's plain North Leverett used to be a center of charcoal production, but Lee recalled someone along the Sawmill River complained to the Environmental Protection Agency about the smoke and the runoff from the kilns in the 70s. A bureaucrat came by to investigate, took one look, and told whoever was operating the kiln, "Shut that thing off!"

"Seventy-five cord of wood," said Lee. "How do you shut that thing off?"

Told they would need to install million-dollar air filters to continue operating the kilns, the owners said they weren't interested, and charcoal production passed into local legend. They still produce charcoal in Union, CT.

Marjorie, Lee's wife, recalled her grandfather telling her that during World War II most of the charcoal produced in North Leverett was sold to the army for use in gas mask filters, ironically. "We had three kilns going all the time," she said.

Lee remembered they used to make charcoal over in North Dana, too, before that town was flooded to make way for Boston's water supply. "I go back a ways."

Lee is 80, and still cuts a prodigious amount of cordwood, even if there're no kilns left in Leverett to supply. Like Lee himself, the Glazier family goes back a ways in Leverett.

"Glaziers were one of the first settlers on Brushy Mountain, over here," said Lee. "Jonathan Glazier, who came from Oakham, down by Worcester, built the house in 1790. Jonathan had ten children, and one of his children, Ebenezer, had eight, all on that Brushy Mountain."

"I went to a one-room schoolhouse, down by the coke kilns on Hemenway Road." It was later pulled a half mile up the hill by 16 team of oxen, and Lee lives in it now, with his wife Marjorie.

His father, Perry, had a portable sawmill up on Brushy Mountain, and used to truck the lumber down to the Box Shop on North Leverett Road, near the railroad trestle. According to Dan Bennett, who styles himself the Leverett Historical Society's 'Official Roustabout,' the Box Shop is located at the site of the oldest of the many sawmills that one time lined the river from Lake Wyola down to the Connecticut.

That sawmill was established

in 1716, "before Swampfield was divided, first into Sunderland, 1718, then Montague, 1754, Leverett, 1774, and, finally, Wendell." The privilege of using the water power at that site was granted to Daniel Beeman, Edward Alling, Benjamin Munn, and Nathaniel Frary, but the sawmill apparently pre-existed the deeding of that privilege in 1716.

After a lengthy digression on the topic of power lines along the M&M Trail, and how the power company managed (by helicopter) to put up the huge poles that carry the lines, Lee finally brought his talk around to the North Leverett Sawmill, as the clock advanced toward 8:30 p.m. The number of the crowd had swelled; no one had gone for a walk.

"I probably worked there longer than anybody else," said Lee. "I started there in '42 or '43. If I was old enough to drag a slab of wood, I was old enough to work there."

Lee recalled in '43 how the mill took on an order for the Boston shipyard, where mine sweepers were under construction for the war effort. The keels were constructed from 45-foot-long lengths of oak, milled from huge oak logs trucked down from Shelburne Falls.

"There'd be three logs on a truck. I remember they had big, husky boys offloading them."

Trouble was, the sawmill's carriage was only 40 feet long, so the mill workers had to execute a complicated pirouette to get the huge logs seated properly and squared off. "There was no high tech loaders in those days."

Lee used to get off the bus from high school and walk down and help his father at the mill until late at night. With all the men off to war, "He didn't have no help, and there was no getting help."

Marjorie recalled the kids in North Leverett did a lot of walking in those days. On winter

afternoons, they would walk all the way past Moore's Corner to Lake Wyola to go skating in the afternoon, and walk back home by moonlight.

Winters at the mill were warmed by a round three quarter inch thick top-loading stove, fueled by half bushel baskets of wet shavings. That produced clouds of smoke enough to fill the whole valley.

One time, a bureaucrat dropped by to tell his father he could no longer dump sawdust into the river.

"That's all right."

Perry would pile the sawdust up until dusk settled at 5 o'clock, and then open the trap door and shovel it into the river, with no one the wiser. "Same with the shavings. Remember that, Arnold?" he asked his brother.

Arnold said, "No."

The mill was equipped to make clapboard siding, and had a planer and edger to produce tongue and groove pine boards. But Lee mostly remembers turning out tobacco lathes for drying tobacco in the farms along the Connecticut, and similar useful stock. One time his brother, Arnold, turned out a baseball bat using the sawmill's equipment. "But it was too heavy to swing."

The mill was always powered by the flow of the river, just below the dam, where the bridge carries the cross road up to Cave Hill. Flotsam carried down the river in the flood of '36 took out part of the dam, Arnold recalled, but the mill survived.

The mill was never a noisy place; only the whine of the saw carried across the valley.

In summer, village children would prop a board against one side of the pitched roof, run up to the ridge and prepare to dive into the mill pond. The far side of the roof was always hot from the sun, so once you started down there was no turning back.

"It was a nice dive," Lee recalled.



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# Free Program Starting at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center

A Women's Journaling Group will be running for the five Tuesday evenings in August from 6-8pm. This is a new offering from Turners Falls Women's Resource Center (TFWRC). Journaling is a way to process and reflect on what gives meaning to our lives. Writing allows us to discern our deeper thoughts and feelings. In a confidential circle of women, participants will be given a prompt to write from and will be given the opportunity to share their writing with the other women in the writing circle. Listening

to others as they share their writing allows us to more fully understand others and ourselves - perhaps discovering how their truths mirror our own. This is a free program open to all women. The size of the group is limited to eight women so please call Christine at 863-2455 or email christine@mcscommunity.org soon to reserve a space or for more information. You can also check out our website for more upcoming events and programs [www.mcscommunity.org/programs/turners-falls-womens-resource-center](http://www.mcscommunity.org/programs/turners-falls-womens-resource-center).



Pictured left to right, Karen Downs, Janice Sorensen and Christine Diani, program coordinator of the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center accepting a donation check for \$1000 from Big Y, given to them here by Assistant Manager Mike Fleury in Greenfield. Diani said that the approach of the Women's Resource Center is women helping women, peer to peer. Sorensen said that their work is trauma informed, with an extra gentleness and friendliness, bringing it into their daily lives to be more compassionate. They credit the Sisters of St. Joseph in Springfield with recommending them for this donation and giving them support in their project. The women thanked Fleury and Big Y for the generous contribution and said it will help them invest in more programs for the community.

**KEMSLEY** from page 1  
afternoon, July 24, sponsored by the Library's Teens and Tweens program and attended by more than a hundred townspeople and academy members.

As tables under the library's giant maple tree filled up with American and Asian comfort food, librarian Rosie Heidkamp welcomed the academy's staff and twenty-four Chinese youth - university students on a work program to prepare the Farley Road campus for future generations of students, both Chinese and American. Along with his genial team of managers, we met John Marquis, Kemsley's new headmaster, who brings twenty years of experience as a secondary school dean and educator.

"What a surprise it was to meet these kids in our Country Store," recalls Jayme Dwan-Clem, a cashier at the store and co-organizer of the library event. "They have been walking up the road with their laptops to get e-mail on our wi-fi, since their campus Internet wasn't hooked up yet." The academy is transforming the classrooms, dormitories, dining hall and gymnasium of the former Maple Valley School for use as an institute where Chinese students can polish their English, and where Americans, including Wendell residents, can learn Chinese for the first time.

Recalling their search for a

suitable location for the school, Kemsley said, "We visited several towns where private school campuses were for sale, but Wendell was the friendliest of all. Now, thanks to Rosie, Jayme and the Library, we are meeting our new neighbors." Giovanna McKenna, one of the Wendell youth who attended, remarked that some of the Chinese students had taken western nicknames to make pronunciation easier for Americans. As a graduate of Swift River Elementary School and Amherst High School, and currently a rising senior at the University of Redlands in California, Giovanna will be in Argentina on a study-abroad program this fall. "I hope they throw a neighborhood potluck this nice for us."

Two of the Chinese students spending their summer in Wendell are 22-year-old Yj "Jay" Mao, and 20-year-old Yang "Elia" Sun. Jay is a business student who hopes to add Spanish to his already-fluent English when he returns to China. "I was hoping there would be a party in Wendell so that we could meet other kids," Jay said. "This is really great. I'm trying out new foods. My favorite is the cookies with the little brown things. Yeah, that's it - chocolate chips!" Asked what Chinese and American kids have in common, Jay says, "Lots of things: basketball, soccer,

music and dancing." How did he do on the library's basketball court with the "very tall" Wendell kids? "Considering I was in flip-flops, not too bad!"

Elia is from Qing Dao and attends Beijing Normal University. When informed that Tsingtao beer, made in her hometown, is very popular in the States, she was delighted. Was Mr. Kemsley working his summer building-and-grounds crews very hard? "Oh no," Elia replied, "compared to the school work and part-time jobs we have back home, this summer is like a vacation." Hoping to study journalism in graduate school, Elia reported her interview with Charles Cooper, a Wendell acupuncturist and healer. "He said Americans have already

learned a great deal from China - how to listen to nature and how to use the energies of the body to promote health and wellness."

Among the Wendell town officials in attendance, selectman Dan Keller said that Kemsley Academy is "a good fit" for Wendell, bringing cultural richness and matching the town's commitment to education and community. Fire chief Everett Ricketts was glad to meet Mark Kemsley in person, laughing that they had been exchanging official messages about the inevitable fire drills and unannounced inspections that the chief would be conducting in the years to come.

Barbara Caruso presented

Jenny Kemsley with a bouquet of garlic from her garden next door, as Jayme Dwan-Clem looked on. Xiaowei Li, an economist from China who currently resides in Wendell, helped to orient several of the Kemsley students to the folkways of western New England, as Jonathan von Ranson took in Lynn Zhao's dilemma about pursuing graduate study in insurance (her parents' preference) or clinical psychology (her own). Von Ranson's advice: "Follow your heart!"

Paul Richmond summed up the feelings of all the jugglers, food-tasters, comparative linguists, and cultural missionaries when he said, "This is a great event."

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Unlicensed Operation, Break In, Assist Other Police

**Tuesday, 7/19**  
4:20 p.m. Criminal application issued to a juvenile from North Street, Erving, for operating an unregistered motor vehicle without a license.  
**Wednesday, 7/20**  
12:15 a.m. Civil citation issued to a juvenile in River Street area.  
1:45 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2.  
1:00 p.m. Two car crash on Route 2 at River Road. No injury.  
3:38 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout on Prospect Heights Lane. Entry gained.  
10:00 p.m. Report of erratic operation of a motor vehicle on Route 2 in Gill,

heading toward Erving. Checked area. Unable to locate same.  
11:20 p.m. Suspicious person in Erving Center. Person walking through town.  
**Thursday, 7/21**  
4:00 a.m. Advised by motorist of a tree blocking west bound lane on Route 2. Mass Highway removed same.  
11:30 p.m. Report of people in pool at Weatherheads. Found to be tenant's daughter.  
**Friday, 7/22**  
9:00 a.m. Report of vandalized property on Highland Avenue.  
10:00 a.m. Report of dog barking that has no water on Gunn Street. Checked same. Dog had fresh water and food. Spoke with owner about barking. Dog

brought in house.  
10:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for default warrant and fugitive from justice.  
**Sunday, 7/24**  
6:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Farley Flats. Same towed.  
6:35 p.m. Property found on Route 2 in Erving Center - motorcycle plates. Returned to owner.  
10:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a warrant arrest.  
**Monday, 7/25**  
1:00 p.m. Suspicious persons at Pratt Street Area. Area checked. Found to be breaking and entering from area business. Same under investigation.  
8:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a warrant arrest on Millers Falls Road.

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**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:**

# Brain Cancer and Cell Phones



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** Can you get brain cancer from using a cell phone?

The best answer I can give you is from a statement by The National Cancer Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health:

“Interphone, an international collaboration, and the largest study of its kind to date, reported that overall, cell phone users have no increased risk of two of the most common forms of brain cancer—glioma and meningioma. Furthermore, there was no evidence of risk with progressively increasing number of calls, longer call time, or

time since the start of the use of cell phones. However, for the small proportion of study participants who used cell phones the most—measured as cumulative call time over their lifetime—there was a suggestion of increased risk of glioma, though the authors call this finding inconclusive.”

The study was published online May 17, 2010, in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

The 13-country Interphone study looked at cell phone use among more than 5,000 people who developed brain tumors and a similar group of people without tumors. Overall, the study found no link between brain tumor risk and the frequency of calls, longer call time, or cell phone use for 10 or more years. The researchers noted that shortcomings of the study prevented them from drawing any firm conclusions, and that more research was needed.

There have been about 30 studies into cell phone use and tumors. These studies have produced similar results. In most

studies, patients with brain tumors do not report more cell phone use. Most studies do not show higher risks of brain tumors with increasing cell phone use.

Cell phone use began in Europe in the 1980s. It came into widespread use in the United States in the 1990s. The number of cell phone users has increased rapidly. As of 2009, there were more than 285 million subscribers to cell phone service in the United States, according to the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association. This is an increase from 110 million users in 2000.

Cell phones use low levels of radiofrequency energy (RF). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have developed guidelines that limit the amount of radiofrequency energy that cell phones are allowed to give off.

The RF exposure from cell phones is measured in Specific Absorption Rate (SAR). The

SAR measures the amount of energy absorbed by the body. The SAR permitted in the United States is 1.6 watts per kilogram (1.6 W/kg). According to the FCC, this amount is much lower than the level shown to cause any changes in laboratory animals.

Every cell phone manufacturer is required to report the RF exposure of each of its phone models to the FCC.

The RF waves given off by cell phones don't have enough energy to damage DNA, the nucleic acid that carries the genetic information in cells. Because of this, many scientists believe that cell phones aren't able to cause cancer. Most studies done in the lab have supported this theory.

There have been other health concerns about cell phone use. For example, there is a concern that RF waves from cell phones might interfere with medical devices such as heart pacemakers.

According to the FDA, cell phones should not pose a major risk for the vast majority of

pacemaker wearers. However, people with pacemakers may want to take some simple precautions to help ensure that their cell phones don't cause a problem, such as not putting the phone in a shirt pocket close to the pacemaker.

If you have a question, please write to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com)

## Poets Wanted!

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



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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Unlicensed Driving, Break In, Assault, Intimidation, Harassment

**Wednesday, 7/13**

4:50 p.m. Animal stuck at Colle Opera House on Third Street. Services rendered.

9:27 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

**Thursday, 7/14**

3:35 p.m. Harassment on Church Street. Services rendered.

8:41 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for unlicensed driving of a vehicle with a lights violation and resisting arrest.

**Friday, 7/15**

1:11 p.m. Probation warrant arrest of [redacted]

6:55 p.m. Threatening, harassment on East Main Street. Peace restored.

7:38 p.m. Suspicious person at Springdale Cemetery. Unable to locate.

**Saturday, 7/16**

10:41 p.m. General disturbance on Broadway Street in Lake Pleasant. Referred to other agency.

**Sunday, 7/17**

12:36 a.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

1:26 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct.

8:46 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Church Street. Report taken.

**Tuesday, 7/19**

2:06 a.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

4:21 p.m. Assault on Veteran's Street. Report taken.

7:26 p.m. Illegal dumping on Cemetery Road. Investigated.

**Wednesday, 7/20**

9:18 a.m. Default warrant

arrest of [redacted]

4:38 p.m. Brush fire on the Montague Plains. Referred to other agency.

**Thursday, 7/21**

1:59 p.m. Brush fire on the Montague Plains. Referred to other agency.

9:03 p.m. Breaking and entering into a motor vehicle on Meadow Road. Report taken.

10:10 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for intimidating a witness.

**Friday, 7/22**

12:29 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Heat Fab, on Industrial Boulevard. Advised of options.

5:11 p.m. Brush fire near Lake Pleasant Road. Referred to other agency.

6:54 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Central Street. Report taken.

**Saturday, 7/23**

12:35 a.m. Suspicious odor on Turners Falls Road.

Referred to other agency.

1:15 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, marked lanes violations, and giving an officer a false name or address.

2:32 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Randall Road. Referred to other police.

8:54 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street.

**Sunday, 7/24**

2:09 a.m. Fight on Avenue A. Investigated.

4:11 p.m. Missing medications, larceny, on Fourth Street.

6:06 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Dry Hill Road.

7:02 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street.

**Monday, 7/25**

10:09 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on East Taylor Hill Road.

1:11 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

5:33 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Park Street. Report taken.

8:18 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Millers Falls Road. Report taken.

**Tuesday, 7/26**

12:56 a.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street. Services rendered.

1:08 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a probable cause arrest for an outside agency.

11:36 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Old Sunderland Road. Report taken.

1:12 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Bridge Street.

5:33 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

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**CLAMS** from page 1

state government in seeking to shut down an operating nuclear plant.

In February of 2010, the Vermont Senate voted 24 – 6 against granting a certificate of public good to allow Vermont Yankee to extend its operating license for 20 more years beyond its scheduled expiration date of March 21st, 2012.

In November, bucking the national tide, Vermont elected a Democratic governor – Peter Shumlin – to take the place of retiring pro-nuke Republican Jim Douglas. Shumlin lives in Windham County in the southeast corner of Vermont, the same county where Vernon is located, and before he was elected governor he led the debate to close down Vermont Yankee as state senate president pro tem.

New Orleans-based Entergy Corporation, the owner of Vermont Yankee, sued Shumlin and the Vermont Public Service Board in April of this year in federal court, claiming the federal government can pre-empt any state law that may seek to halt the operation of a federally licensed nuclear power plant.

On March 21st, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had ruled in favor of Entergy's

request for a 20-year extension of VY's operating license – ten days after an earthquake and tsunami in Japan triggered the multiple reactor meltdowns and explosions in Fukushima.

Activists gathered in New Hampshire last weekend noted that Vermont Yankee is the same era make and model – a Mark I GE boiling water reactor – as the Fukushima reactors. A top inspector for the NRC's predecessor agency – the Atomic Energy Commission, warned that Mark-I reactors would be susceptible to hydrogen explosions and containment failure as far back as 1971, yet the NRC has allowed the 23 aging Mark-I reactors in America to continue to operate regardless of the ongoing catastrophe in Japan. Not only to continue to operate, but to extend their lifetimes and ramp up their power production.

Since 2006, for example, the NRC has permitted Vermont Yankee to operate at 120% of its original design capacity.

Last weekend, in New Hampshire, Linda Gunter, of the Washington DC-based organization Beyond Nuclear (beyondnuclear.org), put the struggle to shut down Vermont Yankee – and the rest of the Mark-I reactors in America – into global perspective.

In Italy, Gunter said, a popular referendum following Chernobyl called for the phasing out of that country's three nuclear plants, and banning future reactors. The Berlusconi government tried to go against that vote, so a second, binding, nationwide referendum was held following the meltdowns in Fukushima. Last month, 54% of Italy's voters turned out and by a 95% margin they called a permanent, binding halt to the government's plans to

build any more nuclear plants.

In Japan, local governors are exerting their power to keep the reactors in their districts from reopening as they shut down for routine annual maintenance. Thirty-five of the country's 54 reactors are now offline, and the rest may soon follow suit.

After hundreds of thousands of people took the streets in Germany this spring, the government of Angela Merkel agreed to close that nation's 17 reactors by 2022. Gunter said Germany was able to make that decision not only due to decades of organizing by the anti-nuclear movement, but also due to the commitment of national and state governments to promoting alternative sources of electric power.

Gunter said 19% of electric power in Germany is now produced by solar, wind, and other renewable forms of energy. Studies also show that renewable energy has produced 370,000 jobs in Germany, she said, compared to 30,000 jobs in the nuclear industry, and 22,000 in coal.

As the discussion turned from the global effort to shut down the nuclear power industry and promote a solar powered future, the activists in New Hampshire still did not know that Entergy had already made a decision to defy the state of Vermont.

On Monday, July 18th, federal district court judge J. Garvan Murtha had denied Entergy's request for an injunction to keep the Vernon reactor running while the corporation's lawsuit against Vermont is adjudicated.

Not until Monday, July 25th, did Entergy issue a press release from New Orleans stating their intention to go ahead and spend to order new fuel rods and proceed with an October refueling,

as part of their plan to continue operating the Vernon nuke past the state's March 21st, 2012 deadline.

Although this news was not yet known, the activists gathered in New Hampshire made their plans based on the assumption that Entergy would continue full speed ahead, despite Entergy's prior written agreement to abide by Vermont state law in seeking an extension of VY's license.

"We've done the groundwork in Vermont," said Safe and Green organizer Bob Bady, of Brattleboro. "There's an incredible amount of public opinion in support. Seabrook will look like just a warm-up if Vermont Yankee operates beyond next March. We're hoping to build a non-violent campaign to shut the plant down."

He added, "I'm hoping it will serve as a magnet nationwide for the anti-nuclear movement."

In order to prepare for that, former Clamshell organizers like Arnie Alpert, director of the American Friends Service Committee in Concord, NH and others are planning to hold a "Training for Trainers" workshop soon in the Brattleboro area, with the help from the Safe and Green campaign, to rebuild the network of people sufficiently trained in the skills of non-violence to be able to train others.

Although an overarching organization has yet to be named or formed to guide the direct action campaign being contemplated, all present at the New Hampshire gathering took it as a matter of course that it would abide by the same principles of active non-violence that guided Gandhi in the March to the Sea, Martin Luther King in the march from Selma to Montgomery, and the young Egyptian organizers in Tahrir Square in their overthrow of Mubarak's regime.

Others present at the World Fellowship gathering took on tasks ranging from mapping out a geographic chart of supportive organizations and individuals to forming affinity groups – from the seacoast of New Hampshire to Gloucester to Boston.

Former New Hampshire legislator and longtime Clamshell mainstay Renny Cushing said, "I will block out time from March 22nd to 25th to be there in solidarity with my brothers and sis-

ters in Greater Vernon."

Questions were raised about what it would mean to be sitting down in front of a nuclear power plant gate, or occupying the offices of a corporate entity like Entergy, in a state that is an ally rather than an opponent of the effort to shut down a nuclear reactor. Could outreach to the Vermont attorney general or state police persuade authorities to let protestors remain where they were rather than arrest them?

Some suggested trying to bring the legislators who voted against the continued operation of Vermont Yankee to join in the direct action campaign.

Others talked of organizing the nitty-gritty details of what could be a protracted effort – everything from food and medicine to portable toilets – to support projected waves of occupiers sitting in at an as-yet-to-be determined site at an as-yet-to-be determined date.

Some talked of letting the locals take the lead in planning the campaign.

But Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance member Eric Bachman, of Barre, VT said when he was living in Germany, "I was 900 miles from Chernobyl," when that reactor exploded, showering northern Europe with radiation – keeping children from playing outdoors and making water and milk unsafe to drink, produce unfit to eat, and causing livestock to be slaughtered rather than sent to market. Under those circumstances, Bachman asked, "What does local mean?"

Safe and Green organizer Randall Kehler, of Colrain, said, "If those of us who are trying to form a steering committee send out an initial draft of guidelines to a larger group, we will ask, 'Do you want to be kept informed, do you want to be part of it, do you have resources or time to give?'"

A straw poll was taken of those 40 or so in attendance in New Hampshire, to see how many of them would be willing to work together on a grassroots campaign to shut down Vermont Yankee. All of the long time organizers raised their hands; no opposing voices were raised. The consensus was clear.

Now, as Bob Bady put it, "The Nantucket Sleighride begins."

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, acoustic rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 31st**  
Wendell Edible Forest Garden Design Workshop, 2 to 6 p.m. Meet at the Wendell Town Hall. Led by Lisa

**TUESDAYS, AUGUST 2 & 9**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, story, activity and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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Great Falls Discovery Center: Artist Norm Vexler presents *Underwater Life*, a photographic exhibition.

**NOW THROUGH AUGUST 30th**  
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**THURSDAY, JULY 28th**  
Coop Concert Series presents: *Austin and Elliot, Seven Mile Line, Haiku Handshake*. At the Energy Park, Greenfield, 6 to 8 p.m.

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

**FRIDAY, JULY 29th**  
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Now & Then*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Teens Across The North & King Falcon*, 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JULY 29 - 31st**  
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Trip to Bountiful* presented by the Thespis Theater Company, 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

**FRIDAY and SATURDAY, JULY 29 - 30 th & AUGUST 5 - 6th**  
JaDuke Black Box Theatre, Turners Falls: *The Guys* written by Anne Nelson, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 30th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Pesty-Plant-Pulling Day*, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Pre-register: (413) 548-8002 ext. 115. For ages 12 and older.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History: The Grand Trunk Hotel*, 2 to 3 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Darlingside*, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Heather Maloney and The Parade*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BYO*



String-rock quintet, *Darlingside*, performs at the 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem on Saturday, July 30th, 7:30 p.m.

DePiano, certified Permaculture designer and co-founder of the Montview Neighborhood Farm,



Katie Clarke performs along with Jennie McAvoy and Small Change at Coop Concert at the Energy Park, Greenfield on Thursday, August 4th, 6 to 8 p.m.

Northampton. Wendell Edible Forest Garden—a public perennial food garden for the Town Office Buildings. More info, contact: [wendell.local.foods@gmail.com](mailto:wendell.local.foods@gmail.com).

*Arts Eclective*, live music, poetry, fiction, theater and Small Press Fair, 2 to 9 p.m., Energy Park, Greenfield. [selahsongs@hotmail.com](mailto:selahsongs@hotmail.com).

**AUGUST 1st to 31st**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Photography by Rollin Atkinson*.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th**  
Coop Concert Series presents: *Jennie McAvoy, Katie Clarke, Small Change*. Energy Park, Greenfield, 6 to 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny Zarcone*, 7 p.m. then *Shag!* 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *T.J. & the PEEPERS*, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *David Brule* reading from his new book: *West Along the River* and music by *Banish Misfortune*, Irish roots, 7 p.m.

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets and Watershed Wildflowers*, 2 p.m. Learn about the wildflowers of the Connecticut River Watershed and the poets here who have loved them.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pamela Means*, jazz trio, 8 to 10 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 8th**  
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, An Irish session with Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & friends, 8 to 10 p.m.

**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.

**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.

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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th**  
Turners Falls Block Party!

**AUGUST 20th & 21st**  
*Montague Old Home Days*, Montague Center. Silent auction, road race, parade, games and more! Info: (413) 367-2061.

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**The Rendezvous**  
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN  
MONTAGUE CITY -

*Dog days:*

1) sultry part of summer which occurs during the period that the dog star Sirius rises at the same time as the sun (7/3-8/11)

2) period marked by lethargy or indolence.

If there is ever a time appropriate for gardening indolence, it's these dog days of heat and humidity. While the weeds may grow legion, so also do the plants, evening the competition for soil room and moisture.

The past seasons of major tomato blight have engendered gardener vigilance. During the heavy rains earlier in the month (how soon we forget), I noted with dismay that the bottom leaves of my plants were spotted and yellowing. One morning one plant while still green was totally limp from top to toe. Both of these symptoms are often the result of soil borne tomato disease. The fungi

**THE GARDENER'S COMPANION**

*The Dog Days of Summer*

*Fusarium* and *Verticillium* wilt are encouraged in their development by high moisture and bad drainage. In order to resist these diseases many gardeners use newly developed sprays which seem to insulate plants from infection. Other gardeners choose the newer varieties of wilt resistant plants.

Sadly, my favorite heirloom tomatoes are the least resistant and once in the soil, these fungal diseases generally remain present. I have waited since late February, dreaming of the first warm, vine-ripened tomato fresh off the vine. I read the labels on the chemicals guaranteed to manage these wilts and learn of course that they are not only toxic to the development of fungal disease but toxic to humans when inhaled or taken in through the skin. I search the shelves for several minutes until I find a spray bottle safe for pets and children. I buy it assuming that what is safe for children and pets should also prove nontoxic to the older gardener.

At home I remove all affected leaves and spray liberally all of the healthy plants. Soon the garden smells pleasantly of wintergreen. I wait.

Since I have used black plastic to mulch and heat my tomatoes, I have also created an environment of standing water and

reduced drainage during our past monsoon. Many years ago when we had a serious outbreak of *Fusarium* and/or *Verticillium* wilt, we pulled and destroyed these non-fruiting plants and treated the bed with a heavy dose of hydrogen peroxide, covering it with clear plastic and baking it for the entire rest of the season. We left the plastic on until the spring thaw and then used the plot for crops not affected by wilt for many seasons.

This is the first year I have once again planted tomatoes here so I am doubly concerned. Now in the summer heat my plants are green and some of the tallest I've ever grown. Unlike people and dogs, tomatoes love this sultry season. Now following a much needed rain, I spray them again with the mixture of Rosemary oil, sodium lauryl sulfate, wintergreen oil and mineral oil. These huge plants sport healthy leaves, many blossoms and, the earliest varieties, Sungold and Early Wonder, many green fruits. Once again I dream of picking the fruit of summer I savor most.

The pepper plants are also large, many sporting sizable fruits. I am leaving those of picking size because while all peppers begin green, if the gardener has patience, he will be

rewarded with yellow, red or orange fruit depending on the variety.

These ripe peppers will be all the sweeter, waiting only for the heat of the pan or the grill to render their strongest flavors.

The pumpkins and cucumbers are lush, way outstripping any weeds in the bed. The beans are twirling their leaders up the poles of the teepee. It's fine for the gardeners to retreat to the shade and the hammock, to seek out the cooling waters of the lake, to put the canoe on the river in the cooler hours of the late afternoon.

I'm glad the beds of pumpkin and bean are fenced. We planted a second hill of pumpkin seed in a bare space in the lawn, adjacent to the garden shed which is alas the home of the fattest woodchucks I've ever seen since the last one. He/she has not ventured across the open lawn much except once to sample asparagus fern which was not found to be tasty, and a second time to trim the top leaves off this second pumpkin patch. After I poured liberal quantities

of human urine down both the front and back doors to the lair, he left the pumpkins alone and foraged elsewhere until I became lazy about collecting specimen bottles for his review. We recommend the treatment but acknowledge that no doubt once we are in Maine next week all bets are off. Maybe after he polishes off this extra planting of pumpkins, he'll meander off to greener pastures across the field and stay there under my neighbor's barn.

It's time to take the proverbial dog and the gardeners to the oceanside with books to read, hikes to take, boats to ride and fresh fish to eat every day. The refreshing sea breeze will invigorate and the lack of tasks will make space for viewing old haunts and discovering new ones. And if the landlord will accept help with the lawn, we will leap like refreshed dogs to the short task of mowing the grassy hills extending to the water. We'll let the tides mark the time not the clock and move with the rhythms of the summer season, returning refreshed to whatever the garden will bring next.

*Happy gardening!*

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