



SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC AT DAKIN

Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society has received a two-year grant from Petsmart Charities for the Dakin Community Spay and Neuter Clinic. This grant will provide free sterilization for pet cats of low income residents living in Greenfield, Orange, and Turners Falls. Read on for contact information for Dakin and the Pet of the Week!

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 35

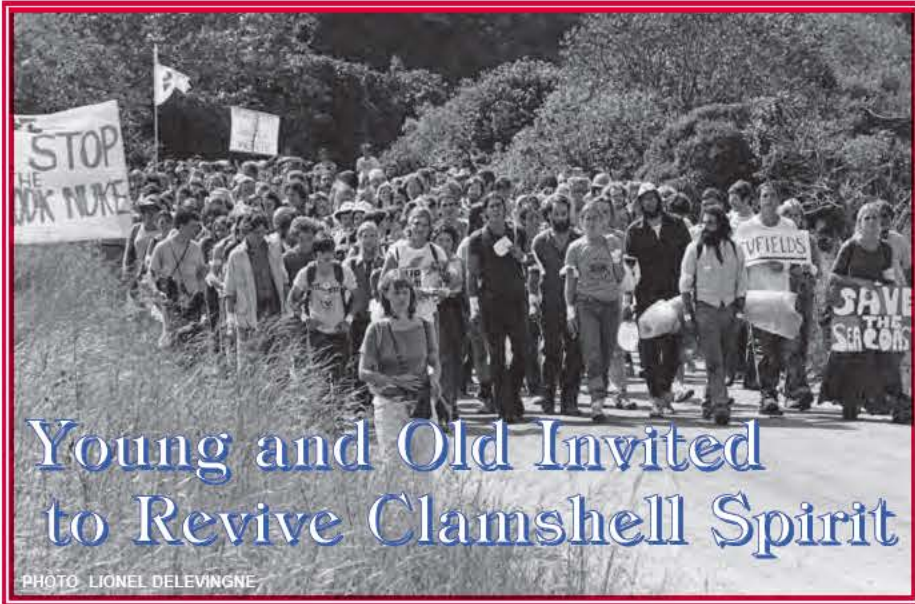
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 2, 2011



Young and Old Invited to Revive Clamshell Spirit

PHOTO: LIONEL DELEVINQUE

A No Nukes party and potluck is scheduled Saturday, June 25th at the Wendell town hall and town common, from 1 - 8 p.m., rain or shine. Above, an image from the Clamshell Alliance occupation at the site of the Seabrook nuclear plant from 1977.

JONATHAN VON RANSON WENDELL - Why are local anti-nuclear organizations throwing a party when the reactors at Fukushima are seething and tens of thousands of Japanese who survived the earthquake and tsunami are forced to evacuate their homes, and live with the fear - and reality - of radioactive contamination?

The short answer is for our health. The longer answer ...well, it makes a good story, with a look at what swung an earlier generation into united action.

Sharon Tracy, the main organizer, said the party idea grows

NEWS ANALYSIS

out of the unresolved question of the shutdown or continued operation (for another 20 years) of the 40-year-old Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, "in light of the meltdowns ongoing at Fukushima. Everyone around here," she said, "is pretty aware that the Vermont Yankee reactor is the same make, model, age as at least one of the reactors there. Of course it has four to six times as much nuclear waste in its 'attic,' which is where they store the waste, which could be devastating for those of us who live this close to the nuke."

Tracy, founder of Quabbin Mediation, is currently a New Salem resident. She was intimately involved in the 1977 occupation at Seabrook Nuclear Power Station on the New Hampshire coast and has continued to be active in the regional anti-nuclear movement.

"As you can see from the co-sponsors," she said, "local organizations have been working for years to permanently

close the VY plant. They're all offspring, in a sense, of the Clamshell Alliance, which sparked massive resistance to nuclear power in New England and similar alliances around the country - that was 35 years ago.

"In our region, all up and down the Connecticut River Valley, there were tens of thousands of people involved in this brief upwelling." The result of that activism, specifically against Seabrook, created enough understanding of the negatives to nuclear power - from the huge capital costs, to the fact of its centralized, democracy-defying,

see REVIVE page 8



Don Girard played taps to close the Memorial Day Ceremony in Montague

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

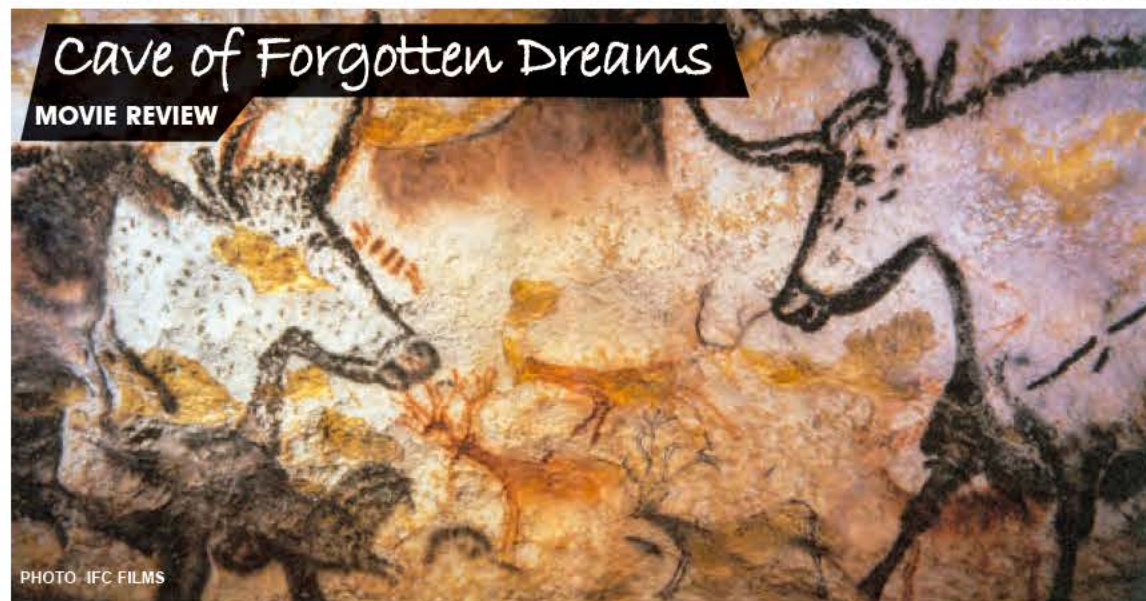
Memorial Day in Montague

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - Don Girard played taps to close the ceremonies at the Turners Falls Memorial Day observance Monday. About a hundred area residents participated, and more lined the Avenue to witness the veterans parade, with the Turners Falls High School and Franklin County Tech marching bands accompanying.

At the veterans memorial park on Avenue A, naval commander Michael Walsh, the main speaker, called on his audience to "Honor the living and all those who have served before us."

Massachusetts national guardsman and Afghanistan veteran Richard Haskins laid a wreath at the base of the new memorial for those who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell urged those in attendance to remember those currently overseas in active conflict zones. Pamela Lester and Russell Brown of the Montague Elks sounded the chimes at the eleventh hour, and two jets flew over head, surprising even event organizer Al Cummings, who claimed he did not put in a call for the flyover. It added a soaring touch to a solemn ceremony honoring the sacrifice of those who served.



Cave of Forgotten Dreams

MOVIE REVIEW

PHOTO: IFC FILMS

Prehistoric drawings on the walls of the Chauvet Cave.

BY SHIRA HILLEL AMHERST - In December 1994, three speleologists (cave explorers) were hiking in southern France looking for wind currents against the rocks that could signify the presence of a cave. Following the wind, they shimmed down a small crevice and found themselves inside a large cave.

"They were here!" called one of the three to her partners upon seeing a painting on the cave wall.

Thus, the Chauvet Cave,

named after one of its discoverers, was found. Since the cave is not open to the public, Werner Herzog's latest film, Cave of Forgotten Dreams, allows most viewers their first access to its stunning contents.

This vast cave is the home to the oldest cave paintings - indeed, the oldest known paintings in the world, dating back 32,000 years. Ancient peoples continued to add to the paintings over a period of 5000 years. Previously the oldest cave paintings known were estimated to be 19,000 years old, so

the Chauvet Cave paintings are nearly twice as old. The Chauvet Cave is in almost pristine condition because it was sealed off by a rock slide that collapsed its original entrance thousands of years ago.

The Lascaux cave, also in southern France, has paintings that are over 17,000 years old. After its discovery at the end of the 19th century, it was opened to the public. It received such heavy traffic that the breath of the visitors caused mold to grow on its

see CAVE pg 14



Von RANSON PHOTO

Idling Trains at Issue in Public Hearing

The clangor of diesel trains filled downtown Millers Falls Tuesday night, as engines revved back and forth, cars coupled with loud bangs and steel wheels screeched.

JONATHAN VON RANSON TURNERS FALLS - Long exposure to the heavy thrumming of nearby, idling diesel locomotives has bothered some two dozen residents of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant enough lately to bring them out to a public hearing last Tuesday at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The selectboard called the hearing in response to an increase in local complaints about locomotives of the Pan Am Railway idling for hours on end - or even all weekend. Speakers told of

stress and lost sleep from increased switching activity and engine repairs occurring near their homes. They described the sound of the engines revving, moving away, subsiding, revving again, then returning. One or two even wondered about damage to town roads from the vibrations in the ground set up by the massive machines.

Mostly, though, they worried about the health effects of breathing fumes from the diesel combustion in their neighborhoods as

see TRAINS pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Very Friendly



Jeffery Panda

My name is Jeffery Panda and I'm a six-year-old male cat in need of a good home. My previous family had to move and couldn't take me with them. I'm very friendly. It is said that I'm even lovable to strangers. I'd prefer to be an indoor single kitty but if you have a dog that's no problem. I used to live with a rottweiler. I'm a big boy who's got a lot of love to give. Won't you let me show you? I'm also one of Dakin's longest residents so they put me in the Lonely Hearts Club which means my adoption fee is half off! To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Science Fiction and Horror Film Series Continues

Another film in the monthly series of Science Fiction and Horror movies on or about the new moon at the Wendell Free Library. This moon's film is director Roger Corman's *The Haunted Palace* (unrated) showing Saturday, June 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Free admission (but seating

is limited).

The Haunted Palace of 1963 is a truly brilliant Gothic horror film, and, alongside the ingenious *Pit and The Pendulum* of 1961 and *The Masque Of The Red Death* of 1964, the greatest installment of Corman's superb Poe cycle with the inimitable Vincent Price.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Movement Continues

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE CENTER - Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will continue at the Montague Center Library on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. until the end of June. In July, it will move to the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, as long as funding by the Family Network is con-

tinued. This very popular, free program is attended by many families with young children and a few day care providers. It rotates between the three Montague Libraries, and has been offered weekly for over ten years.

For more information, call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

Brick House Summer Workshop Series

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House community resource center at 24 Third Street will introduce a series of summer workshops with a cookout at the Brick House, in the PowerTown Apartments picnic area, on Saturday, June 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., followed by a Battle of the Bands on Saturday, June 11th at 3:00 p.m.

More information about the upcoming community workshops series will be available at these events.

On Thursday, June 16th, at

7:00 p.m., a facilitation orientation will be held for anyone interested in leading a workshop at the Brick House through the months of July and August.

The objective of the summer workshop series, which will vary from one-time workshops to ongoing classes that run the entire summer, is to share skills among community members in Turners Falls and the greater Montague area.

For more information, go to tbhworkshops@gmail.com or call 863-9576.

Quilt and Needlework Show

BY LILLIAN FISKE
MONTAGUE CENTER - The Montague Historical Society is planning its third Quilt Show on Saturday, August 21st. This year we are including other types of needlework such as counted thread, embroidery, crewel, crochet and knitting items.

The exhibit has added another

dimension to our Old Home Days. We would be pleased to exhibit items from residents of all five villages of Montague and former residents of the town of Montague.

The hours of the exhibit are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call 367-2280 if you have any items you would like to have displayed.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 6th - 10th

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. • **Reservations are now being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical *Hairspray*.** 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, June 6th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, June 7th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday, June 8th

9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by

appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Birthday Lunch, cake by Food City
12:45 Bingo

Thursday, June 9th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

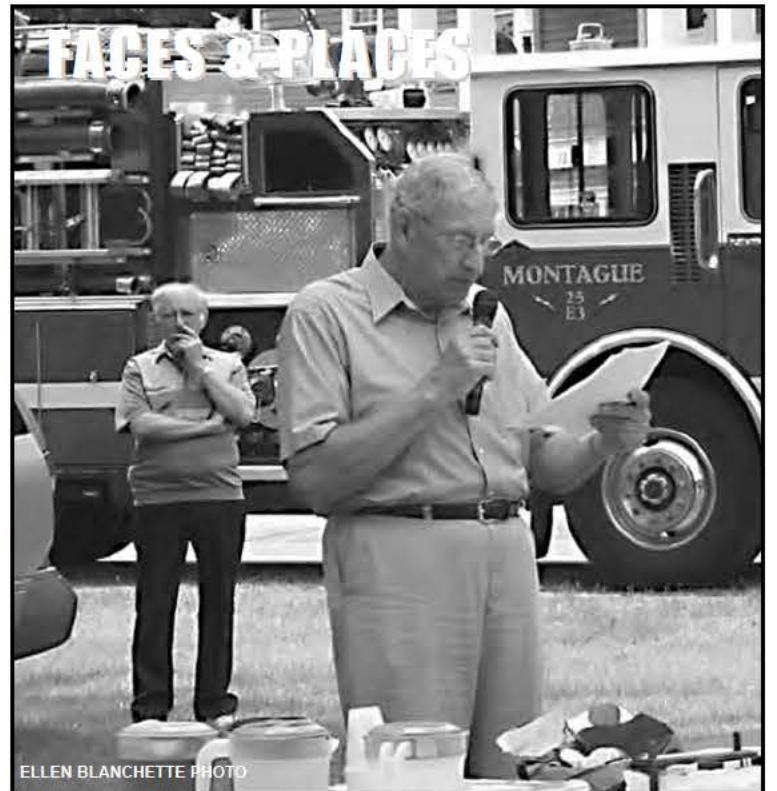
Friday, June 10th

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 find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, June 6th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



Leslie Cromack was the main speaker at a Memorial Day service on the common in Montague Center on Sunday. Cromack recalled his time as a young soldier in Korea, and his experience visiting an American cemetery there. He said many Americans do not realize how many of our war dead are buried on foreign soil. He said he would never forget those soldiers or how it felt to visit that cemetery in Korea.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

Committee for the Gill-Montague Bridge:

The following men served on the town of Montague Bridge Committee appointed by the selectboard in 1933 to obtain legislative action from the state for the construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge:

Robert G. Allen, chairman; Charles F. Mosher, secretary; George Martin, Jr., James Ryan, Arthur Beaubien, Erwin G. Haigis, Judge R. H. P. Jacobus, Dennis J. Shea, Albert R. Smith, W. J. Morgan, Norman Farwell and William Croft.

More bridge facts next week!

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local gossip, news & business listings

The Montague Police Department
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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Learn how to create a beautiful, low-maintenance, **edible landscape** for your home or farm at a workshop presented by Jonathan Bates of Food Forest Farm on Monday, June 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell town hall. A \$5-25 suggested donation will support the Wendell Community Food Forest.

Naturalist John Root will lead a free **edible wild plants** walk on Sunday, June 12th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Red Fire Farm, 184 Meadow Road in Montague, sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council. All ages are welcome.

On Saturday, June 4th, Zoar Outdoor and Northfield Mountain/FirstLight Power will offer the first annual **River FunFest**, a paddle sports community outreach event at Barton Cove, in Gill, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is free, and mini-clinics are open to everyone ten years of age and older.

No experience is necessary, so the River FunFest is suitable for families who want to try a new activity together. "Smart Start" and "essential safety" mini-clinics review the basics of river kayaking, and there's even a mini-clinic designed to help recreational kayakers transition to river kayaking. The "cool kids in kayaks" clinic is specially designed for children ages 10-14 and teaches skills through group activities and games. For more information, email janet@zoaroutdoor.com.

Community Yoga at 16 Federal Street in Greenfield offers a free community yoga class on Sunday afternoons, from 4 - 5 p.m., with a rotating roster of teachers. Learn how to create a calm mind and peaceful body as you are gently guided into deeper states of consciousness. All levels of experience are welcomed. For more info call 774-4700 or visit www.community-yoga.com.

The **Montague Town Health Nurse** will be offering summer drop-in office hours on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Montague town hall, 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. starting on June 2nd.

Stop by the public health nurse's office for free services such as a blood pressure check, blood glucose test, medication review, health education and information on community resources. The nurse will also be available at the Gill-Montague senior center, 62 5th Street in Turners Falls on the fourth Wednesday of the month, starting June 8th.

The first annual **Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival** is coming to the grounds of the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club in Turners Falls on Saturday, June 18th. The festival, traditionally known as a Renaissance Faire, is the first of its kind for Montague and will bring together fun, food, and entertainment with a medieval flair. This will be a day for everyone, kids, teens, and adults alike. Dressing

up in period costumes is not required, but it will heighten the experience.

The theme for the inaugural year is Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest, "Thieves of Honor." Many characters from the legend, including Robin and his band of Merry Men, will be making appearances in the woods around the faire along with a varied assortment of entertainers, craftspeople, and other vendors from across New England. There will also be jousting, eagles and falcons, knife throwing, archery demonstrations and contests, craft tables, face painting, games for kids and adults, various food vendors selling contemporary and period-authentic foods, as well as artisan crafts and medieval merchandise.

The Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival will be hosting a canned food drive for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts throughout the day, and it is Robin Hood's mission to protect the food from the greedy hands of the Sheriff of Nottingham and Prince John!

In addition, the Festival will be giving a portion of the day's profits to Montague Grange #141, located in Montague Center, as well as a charity chosen by the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, the hosts of the Mutton & Mead Festival.

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

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Wendell Farmers Market Starts in July

BY LIZ CARTER

WENDELL - The kickoff party for the Wendell Farmers Market will be on July 9th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Wendell Country Store, 57 Lockes Village Road. Come out to hear live music, buy fresh produce, browse the community tag sale, and more!

The Wendell Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., rain or shine, from July 9th until October 8th. Vendors will be selling fresh fruit and vegetables, local poultry and meat, specialty items like mushrooms and figs, baked goods, and handmade gifts and crafts. Roots, Fruits, and Greens Farm will be distributing CSA shares at the market. The local food buying club will set up a system for customers to order bulk grains, nuts, beans, and other staples. A rotating health and wellness tent will allow market attendees to relax and get a massage, acupuncture treatment, or a wellness counseling session.

The Wendell Local Foods

Project, a neighbor-to-neighbor network promoting economic development around the local foods industry, will be setting up a table where gardeners and homesteaders can sell surplus produce on consignment.

A community tag sale will be held the second Saturday of each month while the market is in session. The plan is to build a destination market that will support micro-entrepreneurs and emerging farm businesses.

Slots are still available for produce vendors able to commit to weekly or bi-weekly participation in the market, as well as several openings for artisans and wellness professionals able to commit to one or two Saturdays during the season. Emerging farms and market gardeners still developing marketing strategies are encouraged to participate in the Wendell Local Food Project consignment booth. Contact Liz Carter at wendelllocalfoods@gmail.com or Adam Zucker at (413) 336-6529 for more details.

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12 Miles from Fukushima

"I'm sure most of you have lived in this village all your lives and have never planned on moving," mayor Norio Kanno told residents three weeks ago.

"To those of you that I now have to ask to pack up and leave your homes, I am deeply sorry."

That was the message the mayor of Iitate, located just outside the mandatory 12 mile evacuation zone the Japanese government had drawn around the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant in the middle of March, was finally forced to deliver to the citizens of his village in the middle of May, two months after the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami devastated the northeast coast of Japan and knocked out offsite power at the Fukushima nuclear complex.

Mayor Kanno's announcement came in the wake of revelations on May 15th from TEPCO, the utility that owns the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors, that the nuclear cores at three reactors had melted down to the bottom of their stainless steel cores, and that holes in the cores or associated piping had allowed massive leaks of radiation to escape into the atmosphere.

After the cores melted in the first hours following the loss of outside power, the containment buildings at Units 1, 3, and 4 at Fukushima were severely damaged, with exterior walls and roofs entirely blown away, in resulting hydrogen explosions, eliminating the last barrier to the airborne release of radioactive particles of iodine (a cancer causing substance that concentrates in the human thyroid gland) and cesium (a much longer lived radionuclide that builds up in the food chain which, for a period of 300 years, can cause cancer if ingested) and other radioactive isotopes.

So, two weeks ago, unable to cling to the illusion of protection in the government's previously declared 12 mile evacuation zone, the 8,000 villagers of Iitate joined the tens of thousands of other Japanese farmers and fishermen, senior citizens and school children, who have been forced to leave their homes for hotels, public housing, and evacuation centers around the main island of

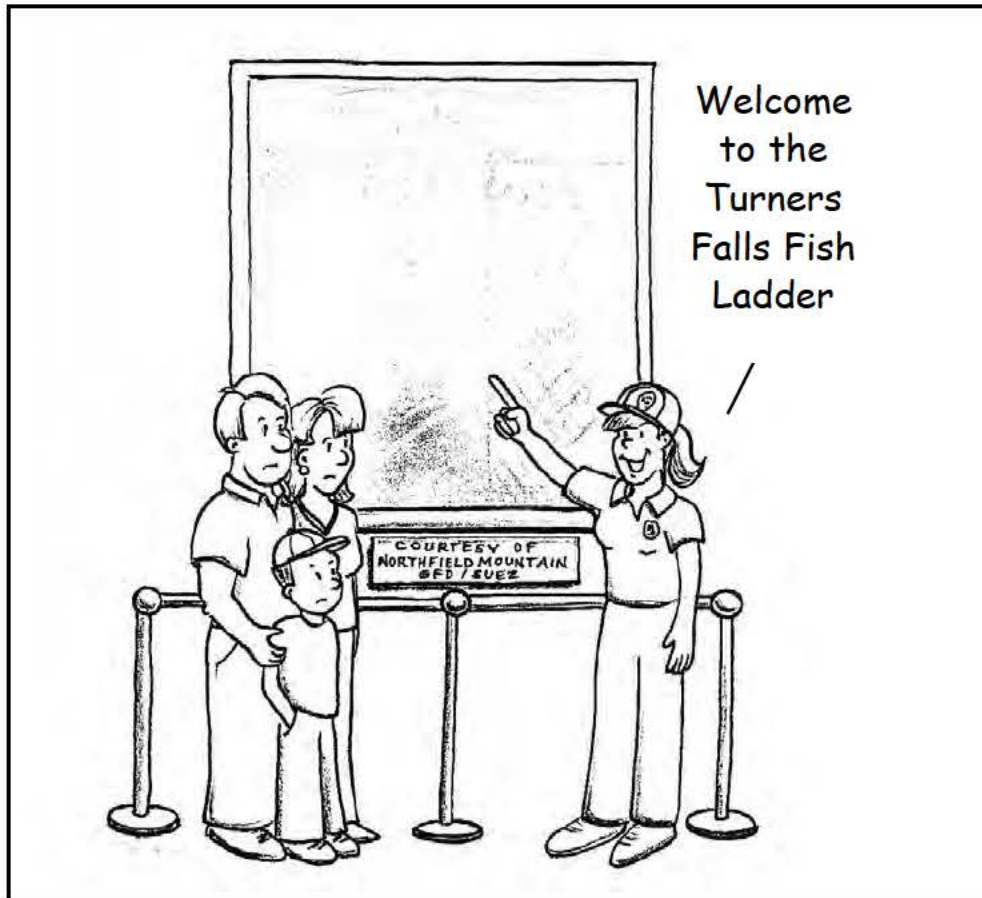
Honshu, never to return.

That is something the 8,000 residents of Montague, just beyond the illusory 10-mile evacuation zone surrounding Vermont Yankee, might want to consider as the legal battle is joined in Vermont about the fate of Fukushima's twin - the 39-year old GE Mark I boiling water reactor in Vernon.

Loss of outside power can occur at nuclear plants for a variety of reasons; already this year tornados have knocked out power at nuclear plants in Virginia and Alabama. The same thing could happen here.

The cascading series of disasters that struck Fukushima were worsened by a number of factors, including the fact that it is difficult even for trained operators to keep track of four reactors experiencing core melts and explosions and giving off lethal radiation levels all at the same place and all at the same time. The failure to insure that back-up diesel generators would be protected from the tsunami that followed hard on the heels of the earthquake on March 11th was a root cause of the catastrophe, now rated as serious as the explosion that wiped out Chernobyl reactor Number 4 on April 26th, 1986. But a stuck valve and operator error were to blame for the partial core melt at Three Mile Island Unit 2 in 1979 - and equipment breakdowns or operator error can occur anywhere, at any time.

Great uncertainty remains about the extent of damage to the vessels housing the melted reactor cores at Fukushima, and to the spent fuel pools holding tons of radioactive fuel now open to the air at Fukushima's Units 3 and 4 (these pools similar, but less densely packed than the seventh story fuel pool perched beneath a metal roof at Vermont Yankee). But the presence of radioactive strontium and plutonium on the grounds of Fukushima, coupled with the scattering of material from fuel rods up to a mile from the reactors (probably blown from at least one of the spent fuel pools during the hydrogen explosions), and the ongoing leakage of radioactivity to the ocean and atmosphere around Fukushima



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

School Choice Bleeds our Schools

The Reporter has published several articles and letters recently about school choice. As a town we are looking for the reasons that parents choice their children out of the district. I would like to point out that this issue is not unique to Montague. School choice is bleeding resources from public schools around the nation.

How did this happen? School choice, along with school prayer, was a favorite cause of Ronald Reagan. Under his administration a federal program was born which might have been called The War on Public Schools. The George W. Bush administration thought that No Child Left Behind had a better sound to it. The War on Public Education has a new name today— Race to the Top— and no one should think that the federal policy on education has become less conservative because there is a Democrat in the White House. Race to the Top has done more damage to public schools than No Child Left Behind ever could.

School choice is taking money from public schools. More and more standardized testing takes

money and time from our children, as well. We spend our tax dollars on these tests and then pay private companies to score the tests. While the country is deep in recession, educational testing as well as education consulting are growth industries. The corporations who profit from our public schools would like to see more school choice, more testing, and national standards. The Democrats and Republicans are equally happy to help these corporations dismantle the public school system. If we want to save our own public schools, we must look at what is happening on the federal and state levels. We must demand that public schools remain public and democratic, as they have been in the past.

Recent studies, including the UCLA-based Civil Rights Project (CRP) "Choice without Equity: Charter School Segregation and the Need for Civil Rights Standards" have found that racial segregation has increased alongside the increase in charter schools. It doesn't seem like a stretch to imagine that this is true along class lines, as well.

School choice is causing problems for districts like ours all across the country, segregating students and draining resources away from the kids who need them most.

The editor suggests, in the May 19th issue of the Reporter, that we establish an in-district charter school. It seems likely that this option would keep local families in the district, but how would it work? Would the charter school offer something that we don't have already at our public schools? Would it offer smaller classes, calmer, more nurturing teachers, or better-behaved students, an attractive school which offers music, arts, and athletics? I believe that is what we want for all of our students and what we are already striving toward — and frequently achieving — at our public schools. One way to improve on what our schools are doing would be to give them money to pay for more of the above.

It seems to me that the only thing a charter school can offer that would be different from what see **SCHOOLS** pg 5

as TEPCO pours tons of water hour by hour into the leaking reactors, mean that once again, as in Chernobyl, an uncontrolled nuclear disaster will continue to exact a terrible toll in human lives and suffering over a vast area, over decades, while wreaking havoc on the natural world. TEPCO's contracted workers, highly paid to take a year's

heightened dose of radiation in an hour of frantic work, in a hellish environment of twisted cables, sloshing toxic water, and jury-rigged equipment will undoubtedly suffer the highest toll as they struggle to contain the disaster.

Germany will shut down all its nuclear plants by 2022. Switzerland has called a halt to its nuclear program. Japan has canceled new nuclear plants, and shuttered others in active earthquake zones. China has put its nuclear power program on hold. But the United States, under the urging of the Obama administration, is still demanding 100% taxpayer loan guarantees to pur-

sue a rash course of building new nuclear plants, while keeping aging, accident plagued reactors like Vermont Yankee running at 120% of original design capacity, placing downwind communities at terrible risk.

Do we have to join the villagers of Iitate, uprooted from our homes forever, before we realize the threat we live under every day Vermont Yankee is allowed to remain in operation?

We applaud Massachusetts attorney general Martha Coakley for joining last week in the lawsuit with the state of Vermont to shut Vermont Yankee down on schedule ten months from now - if not sooner. And we urge all citizens to contact their legislators, call the Senators and Representatives, call a halt to the taxpayer bailout of a failed industry, and join in efforts to end the threat of nuclear power in our Valley, and our country, forever.

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/1/11

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq as of this date
4,454

Alghanistan **1,604**

Wounded in Iraq **32,227**

Wounded in Afghanistan **11,191**

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GUEST EDITORIALS

Single Payer Health Care a Boon for Vermont?

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTPELIER - Last week, Vermont committed itself to creating a publicly financed health care system commonly known as a 'single-payer' system.

'Single-payer' is a nerdy term that essentially means the government takes care of all health care financing through taxation, eliminating the various other 'payers' like the insurance industry. The government would not control the delivery of services directly by employing doctors or running hospitals, as under the traditional British system. Single-payer is the way Canada provides health care.

The single-payer idea suddenly became enormously popular in

left wing circles in the late 1980s. It attracted a lot of support from doctors who were fed up with all the micromanaging and paperwork from insurance companies. Grassroots citizen action groups discovered single payer was a good organizing tool, allowing them to argue that the most intractable problem of health care - how to extend coverage to the uninsured and at the same time control costs - could be solved by eliminating the administrative costs of private insurance. Single payer studies designed to prove the point proliferated.

But single payer never got its day in court. Moderate liberals, who could count the votes in legislatures and Congress, believed

it was a political non-starter. The Republican takeover of Congress in 1994 pushed the whole debate away from government funding in favor of some form of "individual mandate" to buy private insurance. This was the framework for the Massachusetts Health Care law of 2006, and of the federal health care law of 2010. (About the time Democrats decided to compromise and swallow the individual mandate, Republicans abandoned it as a "big government takeover" of health care.)

But now Vermont has used the opening for state experimentation, also part of the new federal law, to create a road map to single payer health care. Actually the

road map at this point is rather sketchy. The legislature and governor have essentially committed the state to implementing "health care as a right" through public funding by 2014. An independent board has been created to work out the small details, such as exactly how the policy will be financed and what will be the role of private insurance.

These are portrayed as "difficult decisions" but they will in fact tell us whether the claims made by the single-payer advocates are true. I am a skeptic.

The core argument for single-payer has always been that, given the administrative savings achieved by eliminating the insurance industry from health

care finance, we should be able to achieve universal coverage without spending any more than we do now. At the same time, advocates argue, everyone - the currently insured, government and businesses who provide coverage today - would save money too.

The problem is - both things probably can not be true. If the savings from reducing administrative costs are somehow diverted to covering the uninsured, then they will not be seen by businesses and individuals who are insured. On the other hand, if the latter save money, it will not be available to cover the uninsured.

see PAYER pg 10

Under Proposal, Half of Wendell State Forest to be Exempt from Logging

BY KRISTINA STINSON

WENDELL - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation recently announced proposed new zone designations for its forest holdings. Under the proposal, six percent of the Commonwealth's forests - 60% of DCR's holdings - would be exempt from logging.

This represents a departure from the department's previous logging orientation, and comes after a Forest Futures Visioning Process carried out by a panel of experts and a public committee, including public hearings last fall.

In Wendell, the proposed zones for the Wendell State Forest would include Parkland at the Ruggles Pond Recreation Area, the newly cleared northern end of Wickett Pond, and a third piece of state forest at the Jerusalem Hill lookout. Parkland would be managed for active recreation, with careful attention

to 'ecosystem services'.

Reserves would include a broad swath of state forest in the northeast part of town, and a parcel across the road from the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station a quarter mile toward New Salem (where logging and a biomass chipper were active a year and a half ago). Reserves would be left forested basically for natural processes, not to be harvested or managed, and open to hunting and low-impact recreation. Any off-highway vehicle use now allowed would be re-examined for each particular parcel.

The rest of the land in Wendell State Forest would remain categorized as Woodlands, harvestable under 'excellent management practices' that aim to maximize certain species of wildlife. The woodlands zone would include all the southwestern areas of the Wendell State Forest, from a line running roughly from the late

Danny Bacigalupo's house near the Farley bridge, to the Gallant/Richardson homestead on Bear Mountain, to Klondike's place on Bear Mountain Road, to Christine Heard's home on Wendell Depot Road.

By the DCR's proposal, Wendell would have roughly equal areas of Reserves and Woodlands - major change from the past when nearly all of Wendell's state forest land was able to be logged. However, regional maps of important forest sites show Wendell lies in a key position in relation to wildlife corridors and unbroken forest habitat from the north, from Warwick, Royalston and southern New Hampshire; from the south, from the Quabbin, Pelham, Shutesbury, and Leverett; and from the west, from Montague.

Members of the recently formed citizens group the Wendell Forest Conservation Alliance would prefer all of

Wendell State Forest to be held in Reserve status. But in consideration of other views in town, we are proposing Reserve status at least for the entire northern block of the Wendell State Forest, everything north of Farley Road. At present, everything up to about a mile north of the road is designated Woodlands. This area has fewer roads and trails, gets less maintenance than the south side of Farley Road, and gets much less recreational use. It was a de facto Reserve for a century or more,

until the past decade when a few logging contracts were let in it.

The Wendell Forest Conservation Alliance favors Reserve over Woodland status because: Fragmentation of uninterrupted, mature forest habitat threatens an important group of plants and animals in our landscape. Logging activities open up forests to biological invasions and make them more susceptible to pests and pathogens. Logging is a huge source of carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. Living canopies of mature trees cool the ground below and provide carbon stocks to offset climate change in our region.

Water quality and quantity are threatened by logging because mature forests keep surface waters cool, clean, and copious. Soil disturbances from compaction and erosion caused by logging activities are dramatic - disruptions to natural microbial dynamics in the soil can make a logged forest unable to recover to a mature forest in the future.

from **SCHOOLS** pg 4

we have now would be the opportunity to learn in a separate building from the lowest-achieving and the most disadvantaged students in the district. In response to this people have said to me, "But everyone can apply to a charter school," and certainly this is true. However, what if everyone did? There would not be room for everyone, so presumably there would be a lottery to choose the students. If the lottery

were fair, then we would have a random sampling of the population of Montague, in other words, a public school. My prediction is that this school would experience the same successes and challenges that our schools do right now.


I don't believe we will solve this problem by figuring out why parents are choosing out of the district. All of our children can have the schools they deserve without having to fill out applications, win lotteries, or find trans-

portation to another school, but only if we are willing to stand up to the corporations and demand that they stop taking money from the poorest children in order to add to their already overflowing coffers. We must also demand that our politicians start representing the interests of individual people - and their children - rather than the interests of corporations.

- Eloise Michael
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Thank You and Farewell, Bill Burnham



Bill Burnham

BY STEVE DAMON

GILL - The temperature had crept to 10 or 15 degrees that early December morning when the phone rang. On the other end was Bill Burnham, my buddy, fellow maple sugarer, and member of the Gill agricultural commission.

Upon hanging up the receiver, I, feeling like a seven-year-old, told my wife Joyana, "Mr. Burnham asked if I could go play with him. Mrs. Burnham will be there to watch us. He said Isaac (my then-4-year-old son) can come too. We'll be home for lunch."

Isaac and I arrived at Mr. Burnham's (No, I can't call him Bill. I was introduced to him in the early '80s as Mr. Burnham, and it won't change.) to find him ice skating on the backyard duck pond.

Mr. Burnham skated as Isaac and I slipped around in our barn boots. The hockey sticks came out and I got to show Isaac some of my Bobby Orr moves. Over the next two hours, Mr. Burnham and I spoke

of religion, agriculture, Vermont's flatlanders and 'chucks, the strife of area schools, athletes' salaries. You know - typical 7-year-old talk. The three of us continued to shoot pine cones and branches toward the imaginary goal. Isaac and I finally had to go home for lunch.

All the way home I had flashbacks of playing street hockey in Greenfield's West Street back in the '70s. I wondered if this day would stay in a four-year-old's memory.

Mr. Burnham died last Wednesday. I found out early Thursday morning and was prepared to tell Isaac when he got off the bus. When I mentioned Mr. Burnham to him that afternoon, Isaac told me, "He died yesterday. I found out at school." That was that.

As Isaac went to bed that night, we concluded his prayers with, "And please welcome Mr. Burnham into Heaven."

The day of Mr. Burnham's memorial service, we told Isaac he had a choice to make: go to the memorial service or stay home with Grammy Roth. When he decided to stay, many questions bubbled forth. "Will they talk about Mr. Burnham?" Yes. "Will they talk about his animals?" Probably. "Will they talk about skating?" I don't know. Joyana and I

prepared for the memorial service.

Isaac, I thought, was in the house with Grammy Roth, when I was backing the car out of the driveway. But Joyana, sitting next to me, shouted, "Stop! He's running after us."

I stopped, got out of the car, and asked the sobbing Isaac, "Do you want to come?" He said nothing, getting into the back seat.

Last winter I interviewed Mr. Burnham for the Montague Reporter. When I asked him for the meaning of life, he answered quickly and without pondering: "to love one another." I thanked him for his heartfelt response and for a wonderful interview. He thanked me for "making him famous." I didn't make him famous, his neighborly love did.

During Mr. Burnham's life, I thanked him for his help on the Gill agricultural commission. He was there to help with farmers markets, cheese night, and many maple projects. He had the idea of the "Annual Gill Rotten Tomato War," on the Gill common, to use up the summer's excess tomatoes (an idea not, sadly, approved by the rest of the agricultural commission). I also thanked him for the fun Isaac and I had on the many tours of Mr. Burnham's "Turkey Ridge Farm" barn and for the fun we had on the frozen duck pond.

Now, a week after Mr. Burnham's death, I say, "Thank you, for being Isaac's buddy, and mine."

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wilder Hired as Highway Boss

BY JOSH

HEINEMANN - The highway commission - Harry Williston, William Clough, and Michael Gifford - came to the May 25th meeting of the selectboard and, following the recommendation of the hiring committee, asked the selectboard to hire Rich Wilder as highway supervisor.

Wilder has been working for the highway department, but hesitated to apply for the job, and he applied only after some encouragement. Wilder was chosen over more than ten other applicants.

The selectboard voted unanimously to hire Wilder to start Saturday, May 28th. The town will begin hiring for a truck driver laborer to fill the position Wilder will leave vacant.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the selectboard needed an official vote to approve the request for proposals (RFP) for the Marion Herrick property, as it was returned by town counsel. They did so, unanimously. The RFP must appear in the Central Register for 30 days, and then the selectboard will meet on an off Wednesday, July 13th, to open proposals, although they do not have to make a decision right then.

Aldrich has a list of people who have expressed interest in the 30-acre town owned property on Wickett Pond Road. The RFP does not exclude hunting, but does limit development to one

house lot, with a preference for keeping the original house intact.

Community garden chair Kate Nolan met the board to see if they would approve the use of the slope below the town office building parking lot for a permaculture garden. Article 14 on the annual town meeting warrant would authorize spending \$750 to hire a consultant to create a plan for a multi-layered perennial garden of food crops there.

Selectboard members approved, but Keller told Nolan any digging would have to go around a building drain that passes under the parking lot and comes out on the slope.

Because of many past wheelbarrow trips through the area, Nolan said she was aware of the drain pipe.

Michael Idoine has tilled the more level area below the slope, and Nolan, with some help, planted buckwheat to hold the soil, keep the weeds down and act as a green manure for expansion of plots of the community garden.

School committee members Richard Baldwin and Johanna Bartlett met the selectboard to provide a regular update on school committee business, regarding Swift River School, Union 28 and Mahar Regional High School.

Baldwin said that Wendell's share of Swift River School expenses has gone up \$100,000, for

several reasons. After years of decline in the number of students attending Swift River, Wendell's share of the school population is now up 6%. Health insurance costs for school employees has gone up by almost 20%. The cost for insuring retirees has climbed as well, along with the cost of heating fuel and unemployment insurance.

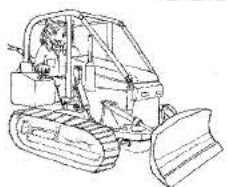
Repairs to the school roof to be partially reimbursed through the state's Green Repair program should be complete by the beginning of the next school year, and principal Sheila Hunter is thrilled. The elementary school has adopted an anti-bullying policy, as required by the state.

Baldwin said there is some talk of Leverett and Shutesbury leaving Union 28 to join a region with Amherst, which is where their high school students go. Any action in that direction is some time off, if it occurs at all.

The Mahar school committee approved an alternative assessment method that would reduce Wendell's per student cost and keep it in more in line with Wendell's relative wealth (as compared to other towns in the Mahar region). This change has come about largely due to the efforts of superintendent Michael Baldassarre. Baldwin said.

The school has shown a dramatic decrease in tardiness and absences under Baldassarre and principal see **WENDELL** pg 13

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Ladd Given Generous Buy Out

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE - When the school committee came out of their executive session late on the evening of May 23rd, they agreed to everything the outgoing superintendent asked for, including a lump sum payment for accrued vacation and sick time in addition to his full salary until June 30th. They agreed that he could leave at the end of the week, which he did, ending his official connection with the district on Friday, May 27th.

Ladd said he was leaving early to give incoming interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom time to hire the principals for the two elementary schools and to give her latitude to address other issues that need her attention to guarantee a smooth succession.

The Gill-Montague school committee members accepted Ladd's early departure, with only Jeff Singleton voting no on the approval of Ladd's exit package. According to the memo outlining his recommendations, Ladd would be paid a lump sum amount of \$15,150 which is a pro-rated amount for vacation and sick days minus the deduction for tuition reimbursement which Ladd

agreed to return to the district. Lynn Bassett, business director for the district said Wednesday Ladd has already received this payment. He will get three more paychecks, one this week, and the next two on June 16th and June 30th. Ekstrom will work part time and be paid per diem, also on a pro-rated amount, based on a salary which has not been officially announced.

This arrangement will hold just for the month of June, until Ekstrom officially takes over as full time interim superintendent on July 1st.

The question of contract negotiations was left to school committee chair Michael Langknecht, who was authorized to negotiate on behalf of the school committee, the details of which are confidential because they were discussed in executive session. According to school committee member Jane Oakes, the minutes for that meeting should be released after the next school committee meeting on June 7th.

While this kind of exit package is not unusual, some teachers have questioned the combination of lump sum payment and full salary in Ladd's buy-

out. Business director Lynn Bassett agreed the deal seemed generous, and that often an employee is given a choice: work until the termination date or take vacation time and leave early.

Considering the fiscal constraints of the district, and the recent emphasis on cost cutting, the generous exit package for a superintendent who abruptly announced his decision to leave a year before the end of his contract did raise eyebrows at teacher's union meeting last week, according to informed sources.

Basset said, in her opinion, it didn't matter what was in Ladd's contract, it was up to the school committee to decide what to give the superintendent. Oakes said in her opinion the buy-out package was in no way unusual.

For the period between May 30th and June 30th, the district will pay Ladd his full salary while also paying Ekstrom on a part-time per diem basis. The only question put to Bassett by the school committee concerned whether there was enough money in the budget to pay this, and she said there was.

Edible Forest Garden Workshop

WENDELL - Want to have a more bountiful landscape without extra work? Learn how to create a beautiful, low-maintenance, edible landscape for your home or farm at the Edible Forest Garden Workshop featuring Jonathan Bates on June 13th at from the Wendell town hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

Many of us already grow flowers, trees and shrubs, or vegetables in our landscape. Edible forest gardening allows us to think outside the box, working with nature instead of fighting it, and merging our need for beauty and food into any size garden.

Bates owns Food Forest Farm — a source for useful, edible, hard to find plants. He's been studying, creating and working with rural and urban gardens in the

Connecticut River Valley for the last nine years, and is a co-designer and inhabitant of an edible forest garden in Holyoke, MA. Learn more about him and his work at www.PermacultureNursery.com

This workshop is a precursor to an initiative to create a community permaculture garden. Bates will create a design for a small garden near the community garden on the town office site and provide a stewardship plan for this section of town property. The garden will provide an educational model for the community, and will help supply food for the Good Neighbors food pantry, and other Wendell residents. The community permaculture garden project will also include a half-day design charette on July 31st from 2 - 6 p.m. to

provide community members an opportunity to share their ideas about the project.

A \$5-25 donation is requested for the edible forest garden workshop. Nobody will be turned away for lack of funds. This workshop is brought to you by the Wendell open space committee, the community garden committee, Good Neighbors food pantry, and the local foods sub-committee. People who are interested in helping with the community permaculture garden project are encouraged to attend the workshop on June 13th if possible.

For more information contact Marianne Sundell at msundell65@hotmail.com; or Liz Carter at wendelllocalfoods@gmail.com or (360)797-4034

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DISCOVERY PROGRAM - (Ages 5 - 12).
When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fees: Montague Residents: \$60.00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$75.00/child/week

SPORTS & ADVENTURES - (Ages 9 - 12).
When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
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**SWIMMING LESSONS** - Saturday mornings; June 25 - August 13  
Fees: Montague Residents: \$40.00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$45.00/child/week

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 12  
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SUMMER BLUEFISH SWIM TEAM - May 31 through Early/mid August
Fees: Montague Residents - Guppies (Novice) / Minnows (Intermediates) = \$110.00,
JV Dolphins = \$115.00 / Dolphins (Advanced) = \$120.00
Non Residents - Guppies (Novice) / Minnows (Intermediates) = \$125.00,
JV Dolphins = \$130.00 / Dolphins (Advanced) = \$135.00
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**PLAYING IN A BAND** - June 29 - August 3  
Who: Youth ages 12 - 17  
When: Wednesdays; 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Fees: Montague Residents = \$55.00, Non-residents = \$60.00

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 24  
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YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM - (Ages 5 - 12).
Session I: Week of June 27 - Week of July 22
Session II: Week of July 25 - Week of August 19
Fees: Montague Residents = \$40/session, Non-residents = \$45/session

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 17 Registration Deadline: Friday, July 15

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT TENNIS PROGRAM - (Ages 18 & Up).
Session I: Week of June 27 - Week of July 22
Session II: Week of July 25 - Week of August 19
Fees: Montague Residents = \$35/session, Non-residents = \$40/session
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**OUTDOOR YOGA at UNITY PARK** - July 7 - August 11  
When: Thursdays; 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
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Session II: Week of July 25 - Week of August 19  
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## Food City Shares the Bounty with Dakin, Meals on Wheels

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - The results are in from Food City's second monthly give back to the community campaign in April, where shoppers could choose from three different local non profit organizations for Food City to donate 1% of any store sale above \$40.

Once again in April, shoppers showed their sympathies by making the Dakin Animal Shelter, based in Springfield and Leverett, their top pick - with \$627 donated. Franklin Community Home Care Corporation's Meals on Wheels program was the second choice

for shoppers, with \$325 donated, and the Franklin Area Survival Center received \$184 in donations.

Food City manager John Steiner wants customers to know the store now has a new produce supplier - Shapiro Produce out of Everett. "We're at the Boston

Market every day," said Steiner, who said the store features regular in-store specials to promote their produce department's offerings.

On that score, local growers are also welcome to contact Steiner at 863-9591 to discuss the possibility of carrying their fresh farm produce at Food City.

When you stop by Food City,

at 250 Avenue A in Turners Falls, you can now order a deli sandwich, made to your order by Jeanie Wondoloski at the deli counter between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Customers may already know how good Wondoloski's sandwiches are from shopping at her other place of employment - Scotty's on the Hill.

from REVIVE pg 1

nature, "and mainly that they're dangerous - every nuke is a weapon of mass destruction, pre-deployed - that no more nukes were ordered until now.

"The resistance to Seabrook," Tracy continued, "was building at the same time the Montague Farm people had resisted the Montague nuke. Sam Lovejoy [famed toppler of the weather tower for the proposed twin nukes], Anna Gyorgy [author of the anti-nuclear tome, No Nukes] and others went up to the Seacoast in 1976 and met at Guy Chichester's house. Guy was a terrific person. His son named the Clamshell Alliance. The alliance was made when the two groups came together and said 'What should we do?'"

"At that time, Randy Kehler [peace and justice activist from Colrain] was in Germany. He connected up with the movement in Whyll, Germany, where they held an occupation against the reactors. A film was made of it and he brought it back. There was a three-way cross fertilization happening, of folks here who'd been studying nuclear power, folks on Seacoast, and ideas from Germany about non-violent occupation, as opposed to mass demonstrations.

"You also have to realize the time," Tracy explained, "...the end of the anti-war movement, many people involved in stopping the Vietnam War...which came after the civil rights movement. So nonviolence was an important key to the whole

thing.

"Anyway, all throughout New England in the late 70s, local groups sprang up, did education in their communities, held cultural events. People were writing songs, creating art. It was a socio-cultural-political movement. There was a joy, a celebration, of working together, that we can - united - do something about this.

"Tens of thousands of people were trained in nonviolent direct action. There was a series of occupations. The best known to many, what really brought the movement to national and international attention, was the 1977 occupation of Seabrook. Two thousand people occupied the site. It was well organized, with food, first aid, portable toilets...

"Then, New Hampshire did the best thing they could have done for the anti-nuclear movement: they locked up people in national armories. I was on the legal team. We'd walk into these enormous rooms, people would be singing, organizing, hanging laundry in a corner... (you can read accounts on Clamshell Alliance.org, in the legacy section). There's a story from Court [Dorsey, Wendell resident], how in Somersworth Armory the National Guard decided to segregate the men and the women. They were going to bus one sex away, I forget which one. But the men and women didn't want to be segregated. And because the guards couldn't take them without their shoes, they tied them together and threw them into this huge pile, all tangled

up. So there was no way. The Guard gave up, and let the men and the women stay together. "It was a dramatic time; it had a deep impact on many who were involved; it had an impact on how we've led our lives since then. We thought we'd finished the job - we did - when the

"people of deep, abiding faith" in the invulnerability of their technology. "And faith is irrational - evidence does not come into it... That's what we're dealing with, all the way to the top

reunion, at World Fellowship, a conference center in Conway, NH in late July. Tracy said "We're calling all Clams for July 23rd, the second day of reunion, to come and talk."



HENNING MÜLLE PHOTO

Last Saturday, May 28th, 160,000 people took to the streets in Germany to demand an end to nuclear power. On Monday, the German government agreed to shut down all 17 of Germany's nuclear power plants by 2022.

bankers refused to bankroll any more new nuclear power plants."

Now, 35 years later, Tracy has seen nuclear power come again to the fore, with a host of NRC license extension approvals and some new plants in the pipeline. The federal government continues to promote nuclear power: two days after the meltdowns began at Fukushima, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued its permit for Vermont Yankee to operate for 20 more years.

Around three years ago Tracy had a conversation with former Vermont Yankee spokesperson Rob Williams. As she recalls it, he told her, "We know absolutely, with no question, that nothing will ever happen. The ten-mile evacuation zone was created as a sop to the anti-nuclear people. It's just to appease those scaredy cats."

It was "a revelation," she said, that the people in and around the nuclear industry are

in this country."

Tracy admits she has "too good of an imagination" and can picture Fukushima, Three-Mile Island, Chernobyl-type disasters happening right here. She mentioned brain research that has shown that the antidote to fear is "connection to one another..."

"So with this thing in Japan, many people around here, their anxiety level is up, what do you do? You pull people together. Reconnect. Pot luck, talk together, celebrate the fact that we can do that here; it's not banned because of cesium 137 in your lettuce leaves." After the NRC approved VY's power uprate not long ago, she told her affinity group, "I'm scared; I've come to you to ask what I should do." The answer that came back was "We're behind you, we don't know what to do either, but as events unfold it will become clear to us."

The June 25th party is also a staging for this year's Clamshell

The No Nukes Party is a celebration of reason, opportunity and action in the face of threat. It's to acknowledge a local history rich in spirit... that's in search of some younger blood.

"We're hoping we get some people who don't have gray in their hair," Tracy said.

She wants there to be plenty of time to mix and mingle, as well as sit down and talk and see "what comes clear."

The main sponsor of the No Nukes Party is the Wendell Conservation Commission; co-sponsors are CLAM, Citizens Awareness Network, Safe & Green, Solar Rollers, Green Mountain Post Films, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice and Western Mass. American Friends Service Committee. Music both of the movement and from younger groups will be featured, along with a discussion time from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. about organizing to help assure the scheduled closure of the Vermont Yankee reactor in Vernon.



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**THE GARDENER'S COMPANION**

*Memorial Day Musings*



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - When I was small and Memorial Day was always on the 30th, it was an especially joyous birthday because it was celebrated with a parade. When we were a little bigger, my sister and I rode bicycles decorated with crepe paper and playing cards snapping on the spokes. Now the holiday has become yet another in the chain of day-off Mondays, and my birthday is as prosaic as any other.

This Memorial Day weekend is marked by a visit to Aunt Marion, aged 100. This woman's tiring body still houses a keen wit and a fine sense of humor. We found her in her living room and sat briefly to catch her up on the family news. Considerable conversational time focused on a family member's upcoming trip to Alaska. None of us present had been there, but much was made of its spectacular beauty. After a brief pause, Marion observed pithily: "We have beautiful scenery here if you care to look."

Next a birthday party celebration at the Wagon Wheel with my family. A visit to the engine show and flea market was highlighted by admiration for the antique gas driven water pumps and mills used to grind corn into meal. The flea market netted a 1941 vanity plate from Maine, a new wine glass and slight sunburn.

Afterwards, it seemed fitting to stop at the old Bernardston cemetery. This peaceful spot is filled with lovely old slate stones memorializing the precarious nature of life in the eighteen hundreds. We read of the death by drowning of the Fox boy at the age of ten and the loss of a two-year-old baby.

Many of the women, "consorts" or relicts of men who survived them, died at a much too early age, perhaps in childbirth. The graves of those who served in the military are decorated with American flags.

Two residents of this large burying ground must have been especially hale and hearty for the era, as they lived well into their 90s. The poetry speaks of the happily anticipated rejoining with lost loved ones. It is a comforting and easeful spot.

We hung the Mexican hammock between two trees with a river view, and then, when the day cooled to evening, put the canoe in for a restful paddle around Barton Cove.

I think about my maternal grandmother, my mom and my dad and the dwindling of family to a sister, her husband and their three children, all of whom are in their 20s. I note the first fragrant blooms of the beach rose and remember my long ago honeymoon on this spot. I am comfortable in thoughts of the next phase in my life.

On Monday, I at last prepared the garden bed for the tomatoes and peppers. These plants are tall and more than ready to be placed in the ground. I have removed the bottom set of true leaves and will set the plants in deeply up the stem. These buried stems will develop additional roots to feed and stabilize plants which will before long bear the heavy weight of fruit. A scoop of manure, ditto of compost and a sprinkle of bone meal; they will thrive in the anticipated heat of the coming days.

Three times lucky has held true for the asparagus bed that now sports ferns a foot tall. We start the process of filling in their troughs with dirt to surround the base of the developing plants. The remaining dozen or so strawberry plants look hale and hearty and are topped by numerous blossoms, leading us to hope for a small crop for

shortcake.

The peonies will open soon; there are buds on the roses, and the Beauty Bush struggles to flaunt itself under a mass of grapevine I didn't get to deal with earlier, before it all leafed out. I'll settle for cutting the vines at the base of the bush, and the growth will slowly die off.

The rhododendron is covered with bright white blossoms, the peach azalea blooms droop.

The bluebirds have returned to the yard, flashing the miraculous blue of their feathers, then disappearing like a mirage as they move off secretly to nest. The cardinals call loudly and show off their brilliance with considerably more comfort, while the oriole's calls have changed from the earlier liquid notes to the tsking sound of nesting parents.

The start of June will be a perfect time to plant green beans, squash and another seeding of midseason lettuce. If you care to do eggplant, cucumber or pumpkin, set them in either in seed or seedling form. We are well past frost now and nearly into the summer weather in which these crops burgeon.

Enjoy the sun and the water, the cooking out, the gatherings with friends and family. Somehow the warm weather thaws our skeptical New England souls, opening up to the strong emotions of love and remembrance, and the treasuring of these moments.

Eat heartily of each of the season's local offerings and feel yourself rejuvenated by knowing that you know where your food comes from and how it was raised. And, if you enjoy any little bit of involvement in this prolific growing season, happy gardening to you!



DETMOLD PHOTO

Montague Highway Crew at Work

Catch basins have been under construction in several villages this spring.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Montague highway crew has been busy removing and rebuilding catch basins in a number of Montague's villages. This week, they began jack hammering up the old catch basins on the corner of Avenue A and 4th at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, completed those two by Wednesday and then moved on to the corner of Avenue A and 5th.

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron said salt run-off and the process of time wears away at the concrete basins. Each year, when the highway department goes around with the vacuum truck to clean out winter debris, highway foreman Dick Clough will mark the most deteriorated ones for replacement.

"We've already done some in Montague City and Montague Center," said Bergeron. "We're heading over to Millers Falls next."

The catch basins in Lake Pleasant are in good enough shape to make it until next year.

After they get that project finished, Bergeron said the highway crew has plans to mill and

repave a stretch of L Street from 7th up the hill to the intersection with Montague Street, as well as Central Street in Turners Falls.

Oh, and Unity Street down to First will also get repaved this year, in plenty of time for the second annual Montague Soapbox Derby!

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**TRAINS** from page 1

the trains jockey back and forth, carrying out switching operations that were formerly performed in Brattleboro.

"I'm concerned about the health of my family," said Donna Estabrooks of Lake Pleasant. She called the noise "oppressive." Another mother wondered afterward whether her child's asthma could be related to the diesel locomotives.

Montague health agent Gina McNeely considers the situation "a serious health threat" to the neighborhoods. She quoted the Environmental Defense League as saying that diesel locomotives are "smokestacks on tracks," and said 60,000 cases of acute bron-

chitis, nationally, can be attributed to the pollution diesel locomotives produce, and 290,000 lost work days.

Children at two Montague schools have "double the asthma rate of the rest of the state," McNeely said, adding she felt "impotent" to address the problem.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio explained that railroads enjoy a specially favored legal status in relation to state and local regulations – one that is often described simply as "pre-emption." He said the federal Surface Transportation Board tends to uphold laws passed long ago to expedite rail construction and operation, and under that framework railroad companies have often won court decisions in nuisance complaints.

But health matters may "pre-empt pre-emption," as Abbondanzio put it, and he and McNeely both said

Massachusetts uniquely has health regulations enforceable by the federal EPA.

The Tuesday hearing was a first step in bringing legal – and political – pressure to bear on Pan Am to restore cleaner air, along with relative quiet, to the affected neighborhoods.

Explained Abbondanzio, "We'll be forwarding DVDs of the hearing to both the Environmental Protection Agency and to [Congressman John] Olver. We'll also be sending copies of all the petition material, letters, and probably [soon] some official votes of both the selectboard and the board of health requesting that the EPA enforce the Clean Air Act."

Cyndi Scarano, executive vice president of Pan Am Railways and a 20-year employee of the company, was present to defend the operations.

In Lake Pleasant in the last

several months, she said, "There's only been one locomotive parked there, and it had engine failure."

Scarano, who works out of Billerica, MA, added that the heavy snows of last winter caused the East Deerfield train yard to become bottlenecked, shifting pressure to the Montague tracks.

She explained operational challenges the company experienced last summer by referring to an unexpected "up" of the recent down economy. "We employ 780 people," she said, "with a salary of \$40 million. When the market crashed, we didn't lay off, we just didn't replace people as they left or retired. Our business had dropped 32%. In May, business suddenly increased 35-36%, and we were caught without enough employees."

In Millers Falls, she said, where the yards are near the

downtown as well as a residential neighborhood, "we are mingling with another railroad. Now we have the Vermonter [passenger train] running up to Brattleboro. It changed the way we are servicing. Two trains are suddenly there five days a week."

"But two locomotives take the place of 75 trucks," she said pointedly.

The town is relying on its lawyer's review, which Abbondanzio quoted this way:

"In summary, there are cases that indicate that while you may not use local regulations to inhibit railroad activity, you can work within the statutory scheme of the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. That's because the CMR's [the state statutes] are specific – one of two in the nation – where the Massachusetts air quality law is regulated by [federal] EPA."



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**PAYER** from page 5

The reality will probably be the latter. The savings from single payer (estimates vary, though grassroots activists have tended to make wildly exaggerated claims) will trickle down through the system rather than being collected into a big pot to pay for extending coverage to the uninsured. You will still need a tax increase to finance health care as a 'right,' something reformers in Vermont will confront soon enough. I am not at all opposed to a new health care tax, but we should be honest about it. Single payer has essentially evaded the issue by attacking the insurance industry.

There is a similar evasion when it comes to the even harder issue of cost controls. The single payer movement persistently conflates short-term administrative savings

with cost controls. They are not at all the same thing. The reality is, single-payer systems like Canada (and Medicare!) control costs through setting low reimbursement rates to doctors and hospitals. This leads to a form of health care rationing.

Now there are very good arguments for this sort of rationing: European social insurance systems essentially do it. It has been much more effective and equitable than the American market system.

On the other hand, government imposed cost controls in health care are a political mine field. You are essentially taking the most vexing fiscal problem state and federal governments now face and making it much, much bigger. And you will no longer have the insurance industry to blame, since they will be out of the picture.

Be careful what you wish for.

Still, I strongly feel we should support the Vermont experiment, lobbying for a federal waiver so the state can implement its policy. Allowing state experimentation has been central to the evolution of American public policy. Even the Republicans, with their emphasis on states rights and opposition to federal bureaucrats should support it. A federal waiver would be a good test of whether that political party has any integrity left.

Furthermore the potential pitfalls of a single-payer system are no greater than for other proposed reforms. For example, Republican plans for individual vouchers to buy private insurance, in the hope that the free market will produce a better product at a reduced cost, are really forms of government rationing too. To

work, they will require a very expensive subsidy and a great deal of regulation of the insurance markets, both of which get you right into big government.

Single payer supporters should be given the chance in Vermont to prove their system would work better! Ditto conservative proposals for individual vouchers. I would suggest that South Carolina or Texas try this idea.

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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:

**Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Joe Graveline, Montague Dental Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Green Fields Market, and Michael Muller**

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

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



Sometimes, When winding slow by brook and bower,  
Beating the idle grass,—of what avail,  
I ask, are these dim fancies, cares, and fears?  
What though from every bank I drew a flower, —  
Bloodroot, king-orchis, or the pearlwort pale, —  
And sit it in my verse with thoughtful tears?  
What would it count, though I should sing my death,  
And muse and mourn with as poetic breath  
As, in damp garden walks, the autumn gale  
Sighs o'er the fallen florigage? What avail  
Is the swan's voice, if all the hearers fail?  
Or his great flight, that no eye gathereth,  
In the blending blue? and yet, depending so,  
God were not God, whom knowledge cannot know.

--Frederick Goddard Tuckerman  
Greenfield

### The Lady

Whenever I see her  
on the hill,  
Her beauty always gives  
me a thrill.

Mem'ries she brings to me  
from the past.  
Hope for a bright future  
that will last.

Who could not cherish all  
she stands for?  
Loyalty, Honor, and  
so much more.

I've seen her other times  
and places.  
At band concerts, ball games,  
and races.

At times a tear wells up  
in my eye,  
When leading parades she's  
passing bye.

Just who's the Lady 'bout  
whom I brag?  
Red, White, and Blue, she's Our  
Country's Flag.

--C.J. Collins  
Casa Grande, AZ

### The Crossing

I plucked the wind,  
its sadness harmonized with hope  
and led me to your eyes.  
My disguise, to you,  
was clear,  
and peaceful,  
though it always had  
made me afraid. "Of being afraid,"  
I thought...  
I stopped...  
I sobbed...  
and I loved. You,  
the bridge  
to my heart which runs  
and rubs the rocks  
on its journey back. To you  
I've sung before,  
but now more quietly,  
so that I, too, may  
hear.

--Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls

### Bald

I mistake it for a raised mole  
whose base has eroded  
it appears to float,  
not cleaning itself  
or walking about, the fly  
just facing forward.  
The man is unaware,  
he reads papers  
in his folder.

If he can't discern  
the small touch, was there  
ever such a blessing?  
Yes, across the aisle,  
I witness sunlight on his head  
and a fly this particular morning,  
then a stewardess  
hurries by  
with a white trash bag  
and it is gone.

--Mary Clare Powell  
Greenfield

### The Bird's Day

It had been 7 months since he'd won a race  
He was even having trouble just tryin' to place  
But the call came in, there was a slot, he could run  
Woolley thought, "ya know, this just might be fun."  
Now those other horses, they all travel first class,  
747's, air conditioning, they shouldn't tire their little horses ass.  
The Bird's ass was trailer bound, and it was 1500 miles to Churchill Downs.  
When he got there, all the others could do was laugh  
They said he would make it through the first half  
And by the time the silks went out, he was 50 to 1  
the Bird just relaxed and thought "today, I'm gonna have some fun."  
Then the bells, and the gates and out he flew  
He knew exactly what he was supposed to do  
But those other horses just crowded and fought  
So to the back of the pack the Bird was caught  
And he stayed right there for ¾'s of that track  
then something inside the Bird snapped,  
he started moving up on the outside  
this was going to be one a hell of a ride  
and then Borel saw it, a tiny hole up against the rail  
he pointed the Bird's nose and off they sailed  
They left those other horses in the mud  
they looked like cows stopping to chew their cud  
and when he crossed the line he was moving away  
'cause the 09 Kentucky Derby was Mine that Bird's Day.

--Lou Ekus  
Montague

### The Scarecrow and the Hourglass

The leaves falling, all golden rust, spreading 'round their leafy musk.  
Soon to rake, they fill the bags and breath new life into these old rags.  
Laying there, he's kind of small, add a stake, he's six feet tall.  
Standing at his silent guard, left alone in the night filled yard.  
He's here but a moment fleeting, can't understand something  
so misleading, thrown upon the mulch pile bleeding.  
He's more like us than you may think, for all anyone really has here,  
Is time.

--Brian Stafford  
Montague

### CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

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

Lou Ekus is a Montague resident who frequents the Rendezvous open mic with his poetry, and who co-owns Holy

Smokes BBQ Delicatessen on Avenue A with his wife Leslie.

Frederick Goddard Tuckerman (1821 - 1873) wrote many of his poems celebrating the natural world from a perch (now named, in his honor, "Poet's Seat") overlooking the Connecticut

River Valley. On Sunday, June 12th at 2 p.m. there will be a free program at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Connecticut River watershed wildflowers and the poets in the area who have loved them, including the work of Tuckerman, Emily Dickinson, and others.

Gerald (Jerry) Collins is a faithful reader of The Montague Reporter and a graduate of Turners Falls High School, Class of 1952.

Brian Stafford of Montague, age 52, has been reading poetry all his life, and

has been writing for a few years.

Dr. Mary Clare Powell is a professor at Lesley University in the Creative Arts in Learning Division where she teaches poetry to teachers. In the last 25 she has published three books of poetry—Things Owls Ate, Academic Scat, and In the Living Room.

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**MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER**

**Focusing on Residential and Small Business Energy Savings**

**BY SALLY PICK** - The Montague Energy Committee will focus this year on working with residents and small businesses to promote energy efficiency, while it wraps up on-going projects and addresses energy-related town issues that demand immediate action.

Plans are in the works to offer two hands-on, volunteer work sessions to weatherize the Millers Falls and Montague Center libraries this fall. The committee will be looking for people willing to take a few hours to caulk and weather-strip windows and doors at the branch libraries. The Carnegie Library will be weatherized under the town energy performance contract between the town and Siemens Building Technologies. Members of the committee continue to provide input as

the town finalizes the performance contract.

Meanwhile, the solar hot water panels purchased this winter with Clean Energy Choice matching funds, donated by Montague residents, will be installed at the town's wastewater treatment plant this summer. Bob Trombley, superintendent of the water pollution control facility, is taking the lead on getting bids for installing these panels, and will use funds from his budget to have the panels installed on the roof of the facility's office building, where the solar panels will heat water for staff showers.

Several committee members with technical expertise in lighting have reviewed lighting plans for the Gill-Montague Bridge. In contrast to the state's commitment to reducing energy consumption, the replacement lighting on the

bridge will greatly increase energy use and light pollution, adding approximately 50 150-watt high-pressure sodium lights which will illuminate in all directions. Because the state will pay the electricity for bridge lighting and will maintain the lights, the town has no say in these lighting decisions.

The energy committee has decided to explore the possibility of a dark sky ordinance for the town, which would address light pollution.

Soon, the Massachusetts Green Communities grant program will be announcing a request for proposals for competitive grants to help municipalities pursue energy efficiency measures. As a Green Community, Montague will be able to apply for its second grant from this program. The energy committee is exploring possibilities for such projects

that would be competitive with other qualifying Green Communities; ideas are welcome. Out of a committee discussion with Tom Bergeron, Montague's superintendent of public works, came one possible proposal: the replacement of the streetlights on Avenue A with energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) globes.

Lastly, the energy committee joined the planning board at its last meeting to make recommendations and raise questions about draft regulations for photovoltaic (PV) and hot water solar installations in Montague. The energy committee was pleased to learn that the planning board's intent is to promote solar energy. The planning board confirmed that Massachusetts law allows roof-mounted installations on any building, as reflected in Montague's draft regulations.

The planning board's proposed regulations allow for town oversight for some ground-mounted solar panels, with a focus on large installations. Three to five acre solar projects in the industrial

zone would require a site plan; projects over five acres would also require a special permit. Ground mounted installations are allowed as of right, for projects under three acres in the industrial zone.

Ground-mounted solar panels for residential PV or solar hot water, primarily for on-site use, would require a special permit while others, such as residential PV for off-site use only, would not be allowed. The energy committee raised the question of why and how the regulations would regulate where the electricity will be used, citing a desirable prospect of neighborhood net metering where solar power generated on one property might be shared among several neighbors. Planning committee members were unaware of this practice and seemed open to adjusting their regulations to allow for neighborhood net metering. When the planning committee finalizes its regulations, they must then be approved by town meeting and reviewed by the attorney general and the Department of Energy Resources.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

**Changes to Union 28 Proposed**

**BY KATE FITZGERALD** - The pros and cons of configuration changes in the 110-year-old superintendency union governing the elementary schools of Leverett, Shutesbury, Erving, and New Salem and Wendell were aired at a joint meeting of the selectboard, finance committee, school committee, and education study committee in Leverett on Tuesday night, with Leverett selectboard member Peter

d'Errico pushing for simplification of school governance as a major goal, if changes are to be made to an already complex arrangement.

"I think at this point we should not even pretend that making more complexity within Union 28 makes any sense whatsoever," d'Errico told Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir. "We're not Rube Goldberg-ing this whole thing. We're trying to find a way to

say that any teacher and any employee can understand who they work for, and who makes the decisions."

The option that has come to the forefront, following an April 21st meeting called by the Shutesbury education study committee that the Leverett selectboard attended in Shutesbury, would be a new three town K through 6 region consisting of Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham, which

all send their students to the Amherst-Pelham middle and high schools.

Pelham is currently a member of elementary school Union 26 with Amherst.

However Hajir pointed out that the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would be unlikely to approve a new region between these three towns, if doing so would leave Erving, New Salem and Wendell stranded without a viable administrative structure for their elementary schools.

Pam Stone, chair of the Leverett education study

committee said the committee is not interested in "destabilizing" Union 28, and would remain in consultation with Erving, New Salem and Wendell about options under consideration.

U-28 superintendent Joan Wickman was quiet during this part of the discussion.

Hajir suggested the study committee should pursue a study of a three town K through 6 region of Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury "under different central office configurations."

"One would be an independent central office. One see LEVERETT page 16

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - Q. *I get low blood pressure after I eat a meal. It makes me a little woozy. What can I do about it?*

This is a senior malady called, "postprandial hypotension." When you eat, blood pours into your digestive system. To maintain your blood pressure, your heart pumps more often and your blood vessels constrict. But these compensatory mechanisms don't work for some people.

To help prevent postprandial hypotension, eat small portions several times a day and limit high-carbohydrate foods such as

potatoes, rice, pasta and bread. In many instances, low blood pressure isn't serious. However, it is important to see your doctor if you have hypotension symptoms, because they sometimes can point to serious problems. Chronic low blood pressure may increase the risk of Alzheimer's-type dementia in some older adults.

Q. *I am a senior who is afraid that my infirmities make me a target for dogs. Am I being paranoid? What should I do when confronted by a dog?*

Seniors are bitten by dogs more than any other group except children. Older people are more prone to being bitten by an aggressive dog because they tend to be slower and weaker than younger adults.

Here are some tips from the experts on how to avoid being attacked by a dog:

- Don't look a dog straight in

the eye. This is provocative.

- Do not run away from or past a dog. This can make them aggressive and want to chase you.
- Never go up to a dog you don't know and try to get friendly, especially if the dog is behind a fence, tethered or in a parked car.
- If an unfamiliar dog comes up to you, stand still. Most of the time, the dog will sniff you and then walk away.
- Never bother a dog that is eating or sleeping. And stay away from a mother tending to her litter.
- If you're threatened by a dog, don't yell. Respond calmly. In a commanding voice, tell the dog to go away. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly.
- If you are attacked, give the dog an object, such as a jacket or tote to bite. If you are knocked down, roll yourself into a ball and

second article authorizing a municipal lighting plant, as a step toward allowing the newly formed Wired West municipal coop to provide last mile broadband coverage in town, and a home rule petition to ask the legislature to allow the town to develop its own bylaws to permit alternative energy and sanitation systems for use in owner occupied residential units.

Town meeting starts June 6th at 7:00 p.m.

**Turners Tennis in Tournament Play**

The Turners Falls boys tennis team, 12-2 on the season, is tied for first in the Division III Tri-County League, and will enter post-season play this Saturday, June 4th, against Monument Mountain High from Great Barrington. The match will be at Turners; time to be announced.

The selectboard approved the "Fire Spinners" who will perform for the annual Misfit Prom on June 11th. Fire chief Everett Ricketts already gave his approval, and so the selectboard followed his decision.

The selectboard had to wait while the finance committee finished its work on the warrant for the annual town meeting, so board members could sign the warrant and post it for the June 6th meeting.

The proposed town department operating budget for FY'12 is \$1,954,253, with several other expenses on top of that. There is an article requesting \$15,000 for improvements to the playground, an article that would allow residential users to be supplied electricity from the Hampshire Council of Governments, following a system that has saved money for municipal buildings, a

from **WENDELL** pg 6

Scott Hemlin. The new principal, Ishmael Tabales, was introduced at the May school committee meeting.

Jenn Gross and Lisa Winter of the zoning board of appeals met the selectboard to ask for a new appointment to the ZBA, so that board will have enough members for a special permit hearing to be held on June 29th. Ted Lewis is an official alternate member, and for the hearing he can fill in for Doug Simon, who has resigned.

Heard reported that an emergency management grant request has been completed and is on its way to the Mass Emergency Management Agency for approval. Among the items requested are cots, a defibrillator, and reflective house numbers to help the fire department and police quickly locate emergency calls.

lie still. Cover your head and face with your hands.

Q. *Does bursitis get worse with age?*

Yes. Bursitis is inflammation of a bursa, which is a small sac filled with fluid. We each have about 160 of these bursae, which act as shock absorbers and grease for our joints. They are buffers between bones and overlapping muscles or between bones and tendons and skin. When bursae become inflamed, they can ache.

While repetitive motions are the usual culprits in bursitis, simple pressure can cause inflammation too. A couple of examples: Pushing a vacuum cleaner can give you bursitis in your elbow. But sitting on a hard surface for a long time can inflame the bursa

over a bone in your buttocks.

You can usually take care of bursitis yourself. Rest the affected joint. An ice pack will reduce swelling. To reduce pain and inflammation, take a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) such as ibuprofen or aspirin. It usually takes a week or so for bursitis to go away.

You should go to your doctor if the symptoms don't subside after 10 days; you have a fever, excessive swelling, redness, bruising or a rash in the affected area, pain is sharp, shooting or disabling; you have a medical condition or you take drugs that may increase your risk of an infection.

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

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

| Assist Other Police, Truck Stuck                                                     |                                                                     | Bernardston police with an arrest.                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, 5/16</b>                                                                  | friend.                                                             | 11:30 p.m. Complaint of a truck stuck on the Gill Montague Bridge, officer assisted. |
| 2:15 p.m. Assisted Erving police with a runaway juvenile.                            | 5:35 p.m. Court process served to a party on River Road.            | <b>Saturday, 5/21</b>                                                                |
| 8:00 p.m. Assisted Erving police with a breaking and entering.                       | 6:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a motor vehicle accident. | 4 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint on the French King Bridge, officer moved party.       |
| <b>Wednesday, 5/18</b>                                                               | <b>Thursday, 5/19</b>                                               | 7:30 p.m. Lost wallet reported from Gill Mobil, officer assisted in locating party.  |
| 4:45 p.m. Reported intoxicated subject sitting on the railing of French King Bridge. | 10:20 a.m. Alarm at Schuetzen Verein club, set off due to weather.  |                                                                                      |
| Subject released to                                                                  | <b>Friday, 5/20</b>                                                 |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                      | 6:15 p.m. Assisted                                                  |                                                                                      |

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CAVE from page 1

walls damaging the ancient art. It has since been closed. To preserve the paintings, the Chauvet Cave will never be open to the public. Filmmaker Werner Herzog received special permission to film provided he adhere to special restrictions.

Inside the vast cave (its interlocking caverns stretch 1300 feet in length), there are stalactites and stalagmites, animal bones (many from large mammals now extinct), animal and human footprints, and a large collection of Paleolithic cave paintings, mostly depicting animals and human handprints. Many of the animals painted in the murals are now extinct as well: woolly mammoths, woolly rhinoceri, ancient cave bears, and ancient lions. Other animals shown on the walls of the caves, such as horses, deer, leopards and bison are still in the world today, though many not in Europe.

Herzog interviews speleologists, art historians, geologists, zoologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists studying the Chauvet Cave, examining the cave findings from different angles. For instance, scholars had previously wondered whether now extinct lions of the ice age had manes. Based on a cave painting (essentially an eye witness account from the time) depicting two lions, one male and one female, it appears the male lions did not have manes.

Even though there is much to be learned from the cave, the most compelling aspect of the film is the attempt to glean glimpses into the inner lives of the people of that time. During this period of the ice age, there were more than one species of hominids, Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon, living in Europe. While both walked upright and made tools, only the Cro-Magnon (our ancestors) made decorative rep-

resentations of pictures and figurines. The purpose of the Paleolithic cave paintings is not known. A couple of the archaeologists interviewed commented that it was so emotionally overwhelming to be in the cave, it was a relief to get back into the open air.

The best part of the film is the prolonged footage of the spell-binding paintings themselves, which allow the viewer's eye time to wander across the cave wall recesses. The art on the walls is amazingly alive, depicting animals in sequential movement. The style of painting remained largely unchanged as people added to it over thousands of years. In some ways it is much more modern and expressive than art made by later civilizations. Ancient Egyptian paintings, for instance, are more static. But in the paintings of the Chauvet Cave, horses seem to gallop and whinny; rhinoceri appear animated in the midst of fighting.

The walls of the cave are not flat surfaces. The artists incorporated the shape of the rock with its undulating curves to inform the full shape of the animals depicted, such as the bison. One part of the mural paintings look as if a herd of animals is going in and out of the rock crevice. In this sense, the art on the walls combines sculpture and painting.

The human aspect of the ancient artists is fascinating. Researchers can even identify one particular artist based on his distinctive palm print with its crooked pinky finger appears in various sections throughout the cave.

Herzog's signature voiceover style of posing philosophical questions teeters on the edge of pretentious at times, but is ultimately fitting for the subject matter. Herzog is trying to understand the mindset of Cro-Magnon people across an abyss of time. To this end, he inter-

views multiple Paleolithic scholars to give a fuller picture of what we know of their lifestyle. They discuss their hunting practices, the clothing they wore in the ice age, art figurines of the same period, even their musical instruments. One scholar displays a flute artifact made from an eagle femur. Fertility goddess figurines, altars, and incense seem to point to religious practices and possible shamanistic rituals. One French anthropologist interviewed said: "I think Homo sapiens is a misnomer. We really don't know much. We should be called more accurately Homo spiritualis."

Herzog is ultimately interested in profiling people and exploring the human soul. He investigates not only the motivations of the artists of the cave paintings; he also honors the varied men and women studying the cave.

Herzog filmed this documentary using 3D technology. In doing so, he demonstrates that this technology need not be limited to action movies or kids entertainment. He apparently utilizes the 3D technology to illustrate how the ancient artists used the curvatures of the cave walls in their paintings. Unfortunately, the movie is not being shown in 3D in the Pioneer Valley.

Movies can take us to places we can never go ourselves, never more true than in *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. It's not a perfect film. Some of Herzog's sensibilities lead him to needless digressions that could certainly have been edited out (like the perfume maker who tries to find hidden caves by sniffing rocks). But as a whole, what a small trade off for the chance to be transported into a vast, ancient cave to spend an hour and a half contemplating life in a far distant time.

*Cave of Forgotten Dreams* is playing at the Amherst Cinema.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Under the Influence, Break In, Weapons Violation

Wednesday, 5/25  
4:27 a.m. Hit and run accident arrest of [redacted] for operating a vehicle under the influence, and of [redacted] for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

9:53 a.m. Brush fire on West Mineral Road. Services rendered.  
2:46 p.m. Open door, window at Covenant Church on Bridge Street. Investigated.  
6:36 p.m. Open door, window at Covenant Church on Bridge Street. Investigated.  
10:23 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Franklin Street. Investigated.

Thursday 5/26  
12:21 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Franklin Street. Investigated.

Friday, 5/27  
1:15 a.m. Accident with property damage and arrest of [redacted] for second offense of operating a motor vehicle under the influence, leaving the scene of property damage, failure to take care in starting, stopping, turn-

ing or backing up, speeding, and marked lanes violation.

3:50 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

Saturday, 5/28  
3:09 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Central Street. Referred to an officer.

10:31 a.m. Suspicious person and default warrant arrest of [redacted] and resisting arrest.

4:53 p.m. Weapons violation on Franklin Street. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 5/29  
11:37 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.

2:58 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Second Street. Report taken.

10:33 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Main Street. Investigated.

Monday, 5/30  
1:32 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

3:08 a.m. Suspicious person at Food City on Avenue A. Investigated.

7:03 p.m. Animal found at Montague Bookmill on Greenfield Road. Protective custody.

Tuesday, 5/31  
7:00 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Meadow Road. Report taken.

6:22 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Oakman Street. Advised of options.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Easy Street Nightclub, Round 2 Metalympics Event Nine featuring: The Black Heart Epidemic, 7 Minute Stagger and The Aberration*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Julia Josephine Stone*, indie pop rock, with special guest *Jamie Kent*, reggae, jazz, pop, rock 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pamela Means*, Contemporary Originals & Jazz Standards, 8-10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 7th**  
Gill Commons: Summer concert series, *Amandla Chorus, Vocal Music from Around the World*, 7 p.m.



*Pothole Pictures: two documentary films by local Montague resident, Christian Munoz-Donos, Wild View, and Atacama, (above). Friday, June 10th and Saturday, June 11th at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Theater in Shelburne Falls.*

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Doing Your Work Workshop*, with *Matthew Latkiewicz*, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Down and Dirty Drag Show, Watcher*, 9:30 p.m.

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

Greenfield Energy Park: *Coop Concert Series*, featuring *Michael Orten, Tom Carroll, and Small Change*, 6-8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and SATURDAY, JUNE 11th**  
All of Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge Festival*. Music performances at

**Memorial Hall Theater**  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
Friday & Saturday  
June 3rd & 4th at 7:30 p.m.  
**WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF**  
Liz Taylor tribute night, 1966, R  
Music 1/2 hour before the movie  
Fri. Coop Jazz, Sat. Michael Nix  
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several venues in town.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole pictures* presents two documentaries, *Wild View*, about bald eagles, old growth forests and salmon in the Connecticut River Valley. Also, *Atacama, the Flowering Desert*, features wildlife in one of the harshest environments on the planet, the Atacama Desert in S. America. 80 min. total for both films. Meet the filmmaker, director *Christian Munoz-Donoso* from Montague. Music featured before each showing at 7 p.m.: Friday, *Small Change - acoustic swing, &* on Saturday, *Last Night's Fun - Irish/Celtic music*.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and 17th and SATURDAY JUNE 11th & 18th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Macbeth*, 7 p.m. Also, 2 p.m. show on June 19th.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Daniel hales, and the frost heaves* at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, offering a mix of indie rock, psychedelic folk. Joining Daniel (guitar, sitar, harmonica, and lead vocals) are James Lowe (bass, kazoo, and vocals), Charlie Conant (guitar, dobro, and vocals), Ivan Ussach (drums, percussion, and vocals), and Emily Breines (violin and vocals), 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nobody's Fat*, funk-jazz, *Mountain Interval*, indie-experimental, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *All day celebration of Mocha Maya's sixth anniversary.*

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman*, singer, songwriter, with special guest *Elise Hayes*, acoustic pop soul, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *GeoPlus River Walk*, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Children's series: *Crayfish and aquatic insects*, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge Bike Tour* along the Canal-side bike path. Learn

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about the history of bridges over the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, coordinated in partnership with Turners Falls Riverculture for the Water Under the Bridge music festival, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9-11 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *The Veterans Education Project and the Echo Lake Coffeehouse* present an evening of songs and stories of war, performing will be *John Sheldon, Al Miller, Ron and Adrian Meck*. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bella's Bartok*, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Adam Bergeron*, classical piano, 1 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mullholland Band*, classic blues rock, with special guest *Glenn Roth*, innovative finger style guitarist, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY JUNE 12th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets and Watershed Wildflowers*, 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

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**EVERY TUESDAY in JUNE**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidledoscope*, story, activity and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

**EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT**  
Between the Uprights, 23 Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultzzy from Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

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

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
Thrive Project, 37 Third Street, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, an informal drawing group led by Anja Schutz. All skill levels more than welcome. 1 - 4 p.m.

**NOW THROUGH JUNE**  
Wendell Free Library: exhibition of recent paintings by *Heather K. Lenz*, these ten oil paintings present the viewer with an unusual combination of beautiful, rich imagery and stimulating content focused on transformation, regeneration and growth.

**THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 5th**  
Hallmark Gallery, Turners Falls: *I Was There: Stories of War and*

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 2nd**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series*, featuring *Chard diNiord and Thomas Lux*, 7 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: *Coop Concert Series*, *Sue Kranz, Joe Graveline, Boys of the Landfill*. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, food and drinks, 6 - 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd and SATURDAY, JUNE 4th**  
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: 7:30 p.m. both nights: *Liz Taylor* tribute movie - *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Mike Nichols's directorial debut. Some scenes shot at Smith College & in Southampton. Sandy Dennis, George Segal. 1966. Rated R. 129 min. 7 p.m. Music feature before each showing: Friday: *Coop Jazz* Saturday: *Michael Nix*.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal* (old-timey), 9:30 p.m. Free.

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

Montague Bookmill: *Apocalypse Five and Dime with Who'da Funk it?* 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Caravan of Thieves*, with special guest *Heather Maloney*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heavy Metal Roundup 3, Featuring: The Black Heart Epidemic, Grzelakurse, Speak Well Of The Dead, End-Time Illusion*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*, 8 p.m.

1794 Meeting House, New Salem: *North Quabbin Film Series*, presents *Invictus*, free, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4th**  
Greenfield's Temple Woods, Near Poet's Seat: The Thrive Project presents a Tree Bark ID Hike with Michael Metevier, 1 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, film showing *The Haunted Palace*. Limited seating, unrated, 7:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Damon Reeves and the Love Thieves*, rock,

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**LEVERETT** pg 12 would be a member of a region within Union 28 [similar to Wendell and New Salem's Swift River region within U-28]. One would be a member of a region within Union 26. Amherst doesn't lose any power: instead of sharing all of it with Pelham at the elementary level, it would share it with the three towns of Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury."

Hajir suggested the study committee arrive at estimates with the Amherst superintendent to determine how much it would cost to become a member of Union 26, and how much it would cost to use the Amherst central office services on a contractual basis.

D'Errico added he hoped the study committee would not only consider the "nuts and bolts" of central office administration, but also that they heavily weigh any curricular opportunities that may arise as a result of a new regional arrangement.

"School committees end up talking only about administrative issues and hardly ever get a chance to talk about education," d'Errico said. "I want to encourage the study committee to imagine curricular possibilities. If it looked like there were some useful possibilities, we'd figure out the administration piece."

Also discussed Tuesday night was the current

vacancy in the Leverett school committee. Hajir stated that two interested parties – Beth Adams and Sarah Dolven – had come forward to fill the three year seat left open when Aaron Samoza declined to stand for re-election this year. After much discussion involving a possible conflict of interest for Dolven, an attorney whose husband works for the district, the selectboard ultimately decided the vacancy should be further advertised, and that any additional interested persons should contact Hajir (549-5974; or farshidhajir@gmail.com) before June 14th, when the appointment will be made in joint session between the school committee and the selectboard.

Also on Tuesday, U-28 business manager Mike Kociela and Leverett finance committee member Tom Powers presented an analysis comparing town spending for the elementary and regional schools over the past three years. When all aspects of school finance were taken into consideration, including building debt, health insurance costs for teachers [which have increased for elementary school teachers, grouped with other town employees, by 6%, while for the regional school teachers health costs have climbed about 3% over the same time period thanks to a plan redesign], charter school payments, and other items, the level of

payments for both the elementary school and regional school are in fact roughly equivalent.

However, Hajir said, "the programmatic budget for the elementary school has remained quite static [at \$1.69 million] for the last three years," while the budget for programming at the regional schools has increased.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said the town may be facing the necessity for a Proposition 2½ override to meet the needs of the school budgets next year.

On the contentious issue of U-28 retiree benefits, Brazeau said the selectboards of all five towns in Union 28 have signed on to a petition for special legislation to allow those benefits to be set in accordance with the level at which each member town compensates their own employees. Meanwhile, Hajir said an advisory opinion from DESE attorney Josh Varone had arrived on Wednesday afternoon, affirming that the Union 28 joint supervisory committee has the power to set those benefits, and Hajir

said that committee would be meeting in Shutesbury on June 15th at 7 p.m. to come up with a proposal that could be satisfactory to the five towns regarding compensation levels for U-28 employee and retiree benefits.

Selectboard member Julie Shively and finance committee member Ann Delano agreed to serve on a committee to look into the administrative efficiency of Union 28, both historically within the union itself, and in relation to other similar

school districts. But, in point of fact, Union 28 is unique among elementary school unions in the state for sending students to three different upper schools, so exact comparisons may be hard to come by.





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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Chick Pea Soup</b></p> <p>½ cup of cut up baby carrots<br/>½ cup of chopped cabbage<br/>½ cup of chopped red onion<br/>1 cup of diced red potatoes<br/>1 crushed garlic clove<br/>1/2 cup of diced tofu<br/>3 packets of beef bullion<br/>1 bay leaf<br/>1 can of chick peas<br/>1 cup of fat free sour cream<br/>1 heaping tablespoon of flour<br/>No-Salt and Mrs. Dash to taste</p> | <p><b>Garbanzo Bean Soup</b></p> <p>1/2 cup of sliced carrots<br/>½ cup of chopped cabbage<br/>½ cup of chopped red onion<br/>½ cup of diced red potatoes<br/>1 crushed garlic clove<br/>1 cup of diced ham<br/>1 packet of beef bullion<br/>1 bay leaf<br/>1 can of garbanzo beans<br/>1 heaping tablespoon of flour<br/>1 cup of sour cream<br/>Salt and pepper to taste</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Since the first items each need longer to cook than the next, put them into a pot of 2 quarts of boiling water as you prepare them. Go about it leisurely, giving each ingredient time to cook a little longer than the next. Dump in remaining ingredients and turn heat down to a simmer until done.

Since the first items each take longer to cook than the next, put them into a pot of 2 quarts of boiling water as you prepare them. Go about it leisurely, giving each vegetable time to cook a little longer than the next. Add the remaining ingredients. Reduce heat to a simmer until done.

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