



Happy Fourth of July!

No paper next week

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 38

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 24, 2010

## White Paper Casts Doubt on Future of Biomass in Massachusetts



Forest Sustainability; Carbon Neutrality at Issue

BY JOSHUA WATSON

**GREENFIELD** - In a potential blow to Massachusetts' still-developing biomass industry, an expert panel this month released a report showing that while biomass may hold an advantage for the environment over fossil fuels, the payoff could be decades away.

In November of 2009, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) commissioned the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences to produce a comprehensive 'white paper' on biomass energy. That report was released on June 10th.

A biomass plant has been in the permitting stage of development by Pioneer Renewable Energy (PRE) for the Greenfield Industrial Park for about two years, but the plan has faced significant local opposition.

Since requesting the study last November at the instigation of Massachusetts Environmental Secretary Ian Bowles, the DOER has suspended the issuing of Renewable Energy Credits for biomass plants proposed in Massachusetts. Renewable Energy Credits are crucial to the potential profitability of biomass plants in the state.

The current price for the credits is about \$20 - \$35 per

megawatt hour of electrical generation. At that price for the credits, the 47 megawatt power plant PRE has planned for Greenfield, running at full capacity, would generate about 1128 megawatt hours per day, or 411,720 megawatt hours per year, which could represent some \$8 - \$14 million dollars per year in income over and above the price received for electricity.

The Manomet Study was prepared by consultants from Manomet, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the Forest Guild, and the Biomass Energy Resource Center, among others.

When the panel was conceived, many biomass opponents cried foul, portraying the consultants as being in the pocket of the biomass industry.

At the time, Chris Matera, of Massachusetts Forest Watch, said that the consultants to the study were "proponents of wood burning biomass energy plants. That they were chosen is no accident."

But the study now calls into doubt a fundamental premise of the use of biomass as a source of energy, that it should be considered net "carbon neutral" because the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by burning biomass is recaptured (or re-

see **BIOMASS** pg 15

## Town Meeting Approves More Police Coverage



DETMOLD PHOTO

Finance chair Tupper Brown makes a point at the Gill Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GILL** - Thomas Mortimer IV, the suspect in the grisly quadruple Winchester homicide of his mother-in-law, wife, and children

arrested last Thursday in Bernardston, after reportedly spending the previous night on the Montague Plains, was on the minds of town meeting voters as

they discussed the level of police staffing needed to keep the town of Gill safe.

Timmie Smith, who lives on West Gill Road, asked the meeting to consider how Mortimer traveled from Montague to Bernardston, a route that may well have taken him through Gill. And Ernie Hastings, father of the Gill police chief David Hastings, pointed out that state troopers were seen traveling up and down West Gill Road that day apparently searching for Parmenter Road, where Bernardston chief of police James Palmieri, out on routine patrol with the town of Bernardston's 89-year-old dog

see **POLICE** pg 5

## Bill Rivers Conservation Area Dedicated



DETMOLD PHOTO

Bill Rivers' daughter, Donna Rivers, and his grandchildren Gus (6½), Alison (7) and Jessie (11) cut the ribbon at the Bill Rivers Conservation Area, walking trails and gardens at the Leverett Library on Saturday.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**LEVERETT** - Donna Rivers could not help tearing up when speaking of her father, at the dedication of the Bill Rivers Conservation Area at the Leverett Library on Saturday afternoon.

"For me, it is really special that this library and now these trails are part of our family work and effort," said Donna, whose mother, former library director Lorna Rivers, beamed at her from the front row. "Planting trees you'll never sit beneath is part of what my dad's work in this world was about."

Bill Rivers' three grandchildren, Jessie (11), Alison (7) and Gus (6½), watched thoughtfully from their position on the floor by the side entrance of the library community room as Donna continued, "It is part of a generational thing we're all part of, taking care of this land we all walk on every day."

Bill Rivers was "a man of the

woods, a walker, not a man to appreciate the vista, but appreciating what you see [in the woods] along the way, the journey," his daughter said.

Bill Rivers was also part of the conservation commission in Leverett for many years, and a forester by trade. His daughter said when he became ill with cancer, and before he passed away in 2007, Bill worked to develop a vision for planting wetland wildflowers in the front of the new library his wife Lorna had helped convince the town to build more than seven years ago. To recognize his longtime contribution to the town, and to the development of the wildflower gardens and adjoining trails, the town named the conservation area in his honor.

More than 80 people attended the ceremony. His grandchildren cut the ribbon, officially opening the trail with their great-grandfather's clippers.

"We tried to follow as best we could the plans Bill laid out," selectboard chair Rich Brazeau told the crowd. He said a "dirty dozen" of Leverett's finest volunteers planted 120 perennial wetland plants in the rain one day to implement Rivers' "clear vision" of which native plants would do best in the wetlands that border the front of the library, where a tangle of invasive species once obscured the view of the new building from Montague Road.

In addition to a \$9880 Community Preservation Act grant approved at town meeting in 2006, a grant Rivers wrote to restore and replant the wetlands, the town also received two grants from the Department of Environmental Protection, an aquifer protection grant for \$60,000 and a wellhead protection grant for \$45,000, Brazeau said, to help acquire and protect a 55-acre parcel to the east of

see **DEDICATION** pg 15

## FURBISHING THE AVE

### Photographic Journeys Culminate in Stunning Show



Group Portrait by Britt Denoncourt

BY JOHN FURBISH

**TURNERS FALLS** - Renamed and revitalized in September, 2009, the Gallery at Hallmark, 85 Avenue A, has quickly returned to its keystone role in the overarching panorama of Turners Falls RiverCulture.

The current offering of images

by photographers from Hallmark's 35th graduating class - Journeys - is a must see exhibition, through July 11th, Friday through Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The year's class of Hallmark students comes from 33 states and nine foreign countries, and

see **SHOW** pg 6

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Unassuming



### Josie

Hello. I'm Josie! I'm a one-year, nine-month old domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a very sweet, quiet girl. I lived in a home with other cats and loved it. I also lived with a dog but I didn't like him very much, he stressed me out. I should do well with gentle, older children, but I wouldn't like to be in a house with high energy, bouncing children. I am an independent girl and won't be clingy with you. I am a bit of a couch potato according to my previous family, who had to move and couldn't take me. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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## LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

### Music on the Patio Thursdays

The first of the summer 2010 "Music on the Patio" events will take place on Thursday, June 24th with Bruce Colegrove. Bruce sings and plays the guitar, and performs rock, country, and folk music. The events will take

place every Thursday through August 5, from 7 to 8 p.m., and will be indoors in the event of rain. Musicians interested in performing are encouraged to contact the Leverett Library.

## SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

### Twig Family in the Oak Tree Performed

Slate Library in the center of Gill will host Deborah Costine of Gerwick Puppets, presenting the *Twig Family in the Oak Tree*. The performance will be held on the lawn outside the library at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 26th. This original story is about a family of imaginary twig people who live in an oak tree in harmony with

nature. They share a tree with robins, a grey squirrel and a tree frog. Natural science, storytelling and fantasy combine to make this an enchanting show for all ages. This program is funded by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading Program News

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**MONTAGUE-** The *Go Green at Your Library* Summer Reading Program is off to a good start at the Montague Public Libraries. Over 60 children have already signed up for the read at home program. The weather was perfect for the kick-off concert with Jay Mankita on the Carnegie Library lawn on Tuesday, June 22nd. The next special "green" program is *The Wonders of Wind and Water* with Dawn Marvin Ward on Tuesday, June 29th at 10 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. This hands-on science program is for children of all ages. The Pizza and Games for Teens and Twens session is Wednesday, July 7th at 2 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. Participants are welcome to bring their own games or use the library's. Pizza and soda will be supplied. On Friday, July 9th at 10 a.m. is the annual No String's Marionette Company's show, *Field of Faeries* in Peskeompskut Park or the Carnegie Library, depending upon the weather.

Weekly programs for children are held daily Monday thru Thursday. On Mondays at the Montague Center Library at 6:30 p.m. is the Evening Sing-a-Long with Linda on guitar and banjo. The Millers Falls Library Club is Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library for children of all ages and includes thematic stories, arts and crafts, and snacks. On Wednesdays, Story

Hour at Carnegie Library is at 10:15 a.m. with Ruth. It is designed for young children and includes stories, music, puppets, crafts and snacks. On Thursdays is the very popular Music and Movement for young children program with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson at the Carnegie Library during July and August.

All three libraries have air conditioning and computers with high speed internet, with also wireless internet at the Carnegie. The Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 863-3214, is open Monday - Wednesday 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Monday and Wednesday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m.

## Corrections

Last week, in the letters column, we printed information about the facilitated playgroup at the Wendell Library taking a break for the summer. Happily, the playgroup has found a coordinator to continue the program through the summer months - Ms. Deb! She will have lots of great activities for preschoolers from 10 to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays; for more information, call 978-544-3559.

**Forget Him Not**  
In the poem by Gerald Collins called

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 28st to July 2nd

**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

**Monday, June 28th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, June 29th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
1:00 p.m. Canasta

**Wednesday, June 30th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, July 1st**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, July 2nd**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

## FACES & PLACES

### GREETINGS FROM YELLOWSTONE



*The Montague Reporter has been making the rounds!*

*If you are traveling to exotic locales, bring your hometown paper with you, and send us a photo, like Park Street, Turners Falls native Mary Girard did, when she visited Yellowstone National Park recently. She writes: "My father is Robert Girard and he sends me every single issue of the Reporter." Thanks, Mary!*

## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading, TNT Music Workshop

Children ages four to twelve are encouraged to come to the library this Saturday, June 26th, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to sign up and get started on their summer reading. Participants will have their picture taken and then use it to create a character to play on this year's interactive 'Go Green Mural.' For every book read, participants earn one point toward summer reading prizes and also get to add a green feature to the Go Green Mural. Sign-up will continue throughout the summer.

Along with reading, children can also participate in free Go Green programs each week throughout the summer. There will also be several family events. Pick up a schedule at the library or go to [www.wendellfreelibrary.org](http://www.wendellfreelibrary.org) for more details.

#### Go Green Games

On Wednesday, June 30th, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., for ages six and up, the week's program includes Wii games, pictionary and life-size drawing games. Pre-

"Forget Them Not," printed as part of our Memorial Day Tribute poetry section on May 27th, the name of one Turners Falls Vietnam Veteran who died in combat was inadvertently left out. We print his name now - William Beaubien, Green Beret, who died in the war on November 21st, 1967 - along with our apologies to his family for omitting his name.

or medical necessity.

**Monday, June 28th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
12:00 noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, June 29th**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, June 30th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, July 1st**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, July 2nd**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch - Call the center for details.

**WENDELL** Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

## TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT

CORRECTION FROM LAST WEEK'S NOTICE:  
**TURNERS FALLS WATER  
DEPT. WILL BEGIN  
FLUSHING HYDRANTS THE  
WEEK OF JUNE 28TH**

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

## Local Briefs

### Last Call at the Roadhouse

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - Franklin County will lose one of its best clubs when the Route 63 Roadhouse in Millers Falls closes its doors next week.

Owner Carol Cameron said, "We've been fighting the bad economy for two and a half years. It's a big club; you need a certain amount of revenue."

Poker nights, good food, great company, and outstanding music from newcomers like Yam to old faithfuls like the Outerspace Band, John Sheldon, and James Montgomery, even the checkerboard of beloved rock albums wallpapering the walls around the stage, all of these make up the rich tapestry of what made Rte 63 a great Roadhouse, in the finest Jim Morrison sense of the word.

"We bought the place seven years ago," said Cameron. "We had a vision for it. We took it to where we wanted to take it. In that regard, we have no regrets."

Cameron is seeking a buyer for the turn-key business. Interested parties may call: 659-3384.

Saturday night will feature a party with the Drunk Stuntmen, back from retirement for the special occasion. Or stop by for Bar-B-Q and horseshoes on Sunday afternoon, and tell Jaime and Carol how much their music hall has meant to you.

Esther Howe from Deerfield, a vendor at the Great Falls Farmers Market, donated over 150 vegetable and flower plants to the Great Falls Community Gardens on Fourth Street in Turners Falls

and the Franklin Area Survival Center on Wednesday, June 16th. Afterwards, folks leaving the food pantry at the Survival Center could be seen leaving with food donations, bread and plants.

The well tended community gardens on 4th and L and 3rd and L are thriving this year; stop by and see.

Starting July 8th and continuing each Tuesday until July 29th, the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is offering a free, four-part science and nature education workshop for children as part of their 2010 junior ranger "Nature Kids" program. Space is limited so please call in advance, 413-863-3221.

The Greenfield Grille at 40 Federal Street in Greenfield will be hopping on Friday, June 25th, starting at 8:30 p.m. when 2010 Valley Idol champion, Michelle Brooks, and second place finisher, Jerri Higgins perform in the Grille Room.

The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club will demonstrate off-the-grid radio operations at Poets Seat Tower in Greenfield starting at about noon on Saturday, June 26th and Sunday June 27th. Learn the value of ham radio, the profile of which was raised during the recent blackouts. The public is welcome to attend.

Greenfield's Independence Day community celebration and fireworks get started at 4:30 p.m., followed by fireworks beginning at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 2nd, with a rain date of July 4th. The event is held at Beacon Field in Greenfield, just off High Street. For more information call 413-772-1553.

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

**BY ROSEANN MARTOCCIA**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - The TRIAD program is down but not out. TRIAD, a community policing initiative between seniors, law enforcement and service providers that has worked to increase safety for seniors in Franklin County through education and crime prevention for 16 years, has been severely impacted by budget cuts that take effect in July. As it stands, the staff will go from five full and part time officers to four part time staff members, who will attempt to redesign the program and begin to work with volunteers as of July 1st.

The program will not end completely. It will differ from that of past years, and will be able to respond to requests in a more limited fashion.

TRIAD officers have been visiting elders throughout Franklin County for over 16 years. As part of the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit (EDPU) of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the TRIAD program has played a major part in linking community partnerships to reduce criminal activity that targets older Americans, to alleviate seniors' fears of victimization, build confidence, improve the quality of life and enhance delivery of law enforcement services to older persons.

TRIAD is implemented by a SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council, which may be composed of seniors, police, sheriff, the District Attorney and community agencies. Each community designs their SALT Council to be effective for their town and to include logical partners.

In Franklin County, the TRIAD program and staff have been part of the sheriff's office. They have gone above and beyond the responsibilities outlined above. They currently serve 2,137 seniors in 24 towns and the city of Greenfield. During local weather emergencies, such as the recent thunderstorm and the ice storm in December 2009, TRIAD officers assisted local fire, police and emergency personnel and volunteers to check on elders and

## A Salute to TRIAD



(l to r) Deputy Sheriffs/TRIAD officers Peter Weis, Peter Wood, Nikol Shreiver, Lt. Jim Carpenter. Seated is Joe LaChance. Not pictured is Lt. Sue Corey

evacuate them to locations as needed.

During the water contamination in Bernardston in the summer of 2008, TRIAD officers helped deliver water to seniors in town.

Mostly, TRIAD officers go about their business quietly and compassionately. They assist with emergency needs, deliver food to many in need, and conduct wellness checks every day.

In addition to home visits and security inspections, TRIAD officers have installed hundreds of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, provided workshops, distributed File of Life and 911 Flash-Lite, have been involved in the house numbering program in many communities and in many other similar projects.

TRIAD officers have been a resource to community agencies such as Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC). They helped us get the word out to seniors and make referrals for services when needed. They assisted local officials and municipal police officers to keep an eye on some of our most vulnerable citizens. They provided peace of mind for families by stopping by and checking in on a loved one.

TRIAD has worked with many local Councils on Aging. Now, many seniors stand to lose an important service.

On behalf of the staff of FCHCC, we thank the TRIAD staff for all the assistance they have given to area seniors. Our hats are off to deputy sheriffs and TRIAD officers Lieutenant Jim Carpenter, Joe LaChance, Nikol (Fiske) Schreiver, Peter Weis, Lieutenant Sue Corey and Peter Wood. We send our sincere appreciation for all they have done over the past years, and support all efforts to continue the service and rebuild it once again.

Roseann Martoccia is the director of Franklin County Home Care Corporation.

### Gill Road Work

The town of Gill will be doing oil and stone surfacing on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 29th and 30th, on South Cross, Lyons Hill, Center, and North Cross roads.



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### Looking for Caring Homes

**MONTAGUE CITY** - The Adult Family Care (AFC) Program at Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC) is looking for two host families in the area. Host families provide a room and meals in their home as well as some assistance to an elder or younger adult who is unable to live safely in their own home.

Host families receive a tax exempt stipend from Mass Health, room and board payment, and support from Adult Family Care staff.

For more information contact Janet Calcari at 413-773-5555 or [jcalcari@fchcc.org](mailto:jcalcari@fchcc.org). Read more about FCHCC and AFC at [www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org).

### Psychic Fair in Lake Pleasant

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair on Saturday, June 26th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the post office in Lake Pleasant.

Divination methods include astrology, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will also be available.

TNSA is a democratic, deistic, reincarnationist, Spiritualist organization. Principles include

belief in an infinite and eternal creating and sustaining force, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, non-judgmentalism, continuity of life of the soul, communication between the physical and spirit worlds, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

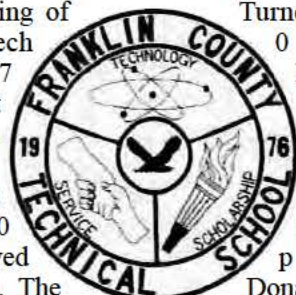
For more information, contact the TNSA internet website, ([www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org](http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org)).

### Second Annual Alumni Gathering Franklin County Technical School

There will be a gathering of alumni from the Tech School's classes of 1977 through 2005 on August 28th at Schuetzen Verein at Barton Cove in Gill. The event is from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a dinner served beginning at 4:00 p.m. The cost to attend is \$20.00 per person.

To attend send your check or money order payable to: FCTS Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 450

Turners Falls, MA 01376. Prepayment is required by July 15th. Please indicate chicken or steak dinner with your payment. Donations for scholarships greatly appreciated. Please forward this information to any alumni you think may want to attend while there is time to plan ahead.



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## Freedom Summer

According to Edward Pressey, in his 1910 *History of Montague*, in the 1830s the town of Montague enjoyed a lively debating society, called the Lyceum, which flourished up until the Civil War.

Among the topics debated were capital punishment and slavery.

On the latter topic, with Free Soilers Joshua Marsh and Kendall Abbott pressing hard for citizens to back emancipation, a Dr. Shepard was quoted in a burst of sarcasm exclaiming, "Well, when the Lord sees fit to liberate the slaves, he will do so without calling on Josh Marsh or Kendall Abbott!"

Nearly half the able bodied men in town were called up in the War to Free the Slaves some 15 years later.

Pressey does not go on to list Abbott or that particular Marsh among their roster, but two other Marshes, along with numerous Boutwells, Sawins, and many other still familiar Montague names made up the role of nearly 150 Montague men who fought in the Civil War, and the 23 who died.

Perhaps the shades of some who engaged in those long ago debates and took up arms to defend their cause gathered again on Main Street in Montague Center last Saturday evening, on the lawn of Josh and Marina Goldman, where a modern day lyceum convened to hear a reading from Leverett author Bruce Watson.

Watson read sections of his newly published book, *Freedom*

*Summer* (Viking, hardcover) to more than 40 local residents gathered in a circle on the stone patio.

Freedom Summer, in 1964, saw more than 700 college students from around the country, trained in non-violence, travel to Mississippi to work with the descendents of the slaves Montague's boys fought to free a hundred years before.

Mississippi, then as now the state with the highest percentage of black citizens in the country, had systematically excluded them from the voting booth in the depths of Jim Crow segregation: only 6.7% of eligible blacks were registered to vote.

Watson's book starts with a vignette of Herbert Lee, a 52-year-old black farmer, father of nine children, on the morning he was gunned down in a town called Liberty by his neighbor, white Mississippi legislator E.H. Hurst, on September 25th, 1961.

Lee had attended meetings of the local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. in Amite County, MI. The group was working to get blacks to register to vote, despite the stiff poll taxes and discriminatory literacy tests they would face, and the threats and beatings, if they tried to.

On that morning, Hurst, who had known Lee since childhood, followed him to the Liberty cotton gin, and pulled up next to his pick-up truck, brandishing a gun. He told Lee, "I'm not fooling around this time. I really mean business."

When Lee slid over to the passenger side of his truck to get away, Hurst followed him around and shot him in the temple, killing him.

A trial was held that same day in the Amite County courthouse, in a room filled with armed white men, where black witnesses to the murder were coerced into fabricating a story about Lee brandishing a tire iron in an argument with Hurst, who was acquitted for justifiable homicide.

see FREEDOM pg 5



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Montague Old Home Day Quilt Show

The Montague Historical Society will sponsor its second quilt show on Saturday, August 21st at Montague Old Home Days.

This year, we are inviting everyone from all five villages of Montague to exhibit your quilts. Please feel welcome also if you were a former resident of our town.

We are looking for vintage quilts as well as recently made articles. Our older citizens may

remember the Depression Quilts made with a paper mill felt for a batting and squares of wool cut from outgrown or discarded garments. These tended to be dreary in color, mostly black, navy blue, dark green and beige. If one of them has survived in your family, we would be pleased to display it.

The last time I saw one of these quilts was on the hood of my father's old Model A Ford, put there to increase the odds of it starting on cold winter mornings.

The show will be held at the Montague Congregational Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We would like the quilts by 9 a.m., to arrange them properly. This is not a juried show but merely a sharing of unique handwork. Call 367-2280 for more information.

We had a beautiful display last year but this year's quilts will all be different.

- Lillian Fiske  
Montague Center

## Congratulations Class of 2010

On June 4th, Turners Falls High graduated 72 seniors. Olivia Nicotra gave the valedictory address. Excerpts from her speech are reprinted below:



DETOLD PHOTO  
Olivia Nicotra

**OLIVIA NICOTRA**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Welcome fellow graduates, friends, family and staff, and thank you for this great honor.

There was a time, not so long ago that we were all children heading off for our first day of school. Now, after 12 short years we have learned, loved, gotten in trouble, and most of all matured together.

Although it looks intimidating now, this 'real world' is nothing but the unknown. Although we cannot predict what is ahead, we should not be afraid of the future.

To quote Abraham Lincoln, "The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

You only have one shot at life; one chance. This is your opportunity to choose your path and be your own guide. Take risks; follow your heart and not someone else's. Each one of you shares a unique gift: whether you are an athlete, an artist, a scholar or a smiling face, you are part of this

class, like a puzzle. Without just one of you, we would not fit perfectly together.

I'm not your stereotypical bookworm, and I'm not perfect; I make mistakes. Just walking up here, I'm pretty sure I tripped at least twice. But what I do have is perseverance. I ask millions of questions, as most teachers know, probably overdo it on a lot of school projects and always reach for that last breath, which pushes me to succeed in a track race.

I never go a day without smiling or being optimistic; which is what I want all of you to realize. Be happy. Why not make each day worthwhile?

As seniors, we have gone through so much together: our awesome spirit at football games, singing and dancing the night away at prom, crazy memories of the class trip, our impressive floats that pretty much won every year, and senioritis, which probably kicked in a little too early.

And somehow we all pulled through and managed to turn out all right.

To my friends, you were always there for me, no matter what time of night or how many gallons of ice cream we must have gone through. Your shoulder was always there, and hopefully I won't have to miss it, because our connection will never fade.

Congratulations, Class of 2010!

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**Note to Our Readers**  
The *Montague Reporter* will begin its summer schedule, printing everyother week, following the June 24th issue. There will be no paper on July 1st, 15th, 29th, August 12th or 26th. We return to weekly publication on September 2nd.

### American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/22/10

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# Arson Fires on Hillside Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - "There's nothing for the public to be alarmed about," said detective Brian Dobosz, about the arson fires that were set at the home of Michelle Eddy and her daughter Katherine on Hillside Road on the night of June 16th. "There isn't some wacko going around starting fires. This appears to be something directed at these people. Why, I don't know."

According to fire chief Ray Godin, the call came in from the Eddy home at about 11:05 p.m. last Wednesday, and by the time the fire department responded, "Essentially, the fires were out. We found evidence three separate fires had been set surrounding the building. One of the building occupants woke up to the sound of fire alarms going off."

That was Michelle Eddy, 46, who works in the office of Computer Science at UMass. She said she and her 20 year old daughter had gone to bed for the night, left the TVs on, but turned out the lights.

Then she heard one of their two dogs growl.

"I told him to be quiet. Ten minutes later, one of the smoke alarms went off and alerted me to the fire."

Dobosz said that fire, located in the window above the kitchen sink, was caused by a container filled with gasoline with a rag stuffed in it. The perpetrator removed the screen, set the container on the windowsill and set it on fire.

"I started putting it out with the sink hose," said Eddy. "I couldn't get it out, so I pushed it through the screen and it splashed all over the back deck," setting the deck on fire.

Two other lit containers were left leaning up against either side of the house, which is located in a neighborhood with residences on either side, and woods in the back, Dobosz said.

Eddy said she went outside to douse the flames on the deck with a garden hose. A neighbor driving by yelled that the sides of the house were also on fire. Her daughter also took a garden hose, and together they put the flames out within about 20 minutes, Eddy said.

When the fire department arrived, firefighters checked the attic and basement to make sure fire had not spread to these areas. Vinyl siding had melted where the other fires had been set.

Asked if she could think of any reason why someone would purposely target her house like this, Eddy said, "I honestly don't know. I don't think it was random. It was personal."

Since then, Eddy said her neighbors and she have been more vigilant, and she has activated outdoor sensor lights at her property that were not working last Wednesday. She said the police are patrolling Hillside Road regularly since the incident.

Trooper Gerald Perwak of the state fire marshall's office confirmed the fires on Hillside Road were arson, and said a reward "up to \$5,000 for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator or perpetrators in connection with the fire," has been offered. The telephone number to call with information is: 1-800-682-9229.

"We feel this is an isolated incident," said Trooper Perwak.

Detective Dobosz said, "There are a lot of unanswered questions right now."

## POLICE from pg 1

officer, nabbed Mortimer on Thursday afternoon when he identified the plates on his Toyota Highlander.

"The state police couldn't find the road," Hastings asserted, as he warned voters not to trust the town's security to state police backup.

But finance committee chair Tupper Brown, arguing against approval of \$14,356 to supplement \$15,633 previously appropriated to pay salaries for part time (unbenefitted) reserve officers, said the additional sum would amount to enough part time hours to equal a third full time officer for the force.

"I'm prepared to accept that we need three fulltime officers if we could see data supporting it."

Brown said he's been trying for two years to get detailed records of police coverage and call volume in Gill, but is still unclear on the inner workings of the department. He said Chief Hastings told the finance committee recently that he is "called out on average three times a month."

Brown said, "If we could get some good data, look at it seriously over the next year, then make a reasoned decision," that course of action would be preferable to locking the town into a staffing level for the department that may not be supported by the call volume.

Finance committee member Alden Booth backed up Brown, saying, "It's been hard to figure out what do we get for our money," when it comes to police coverage.

Booth said even if the town agreed to the additional hours for part time officers, there would still be times during the week when the town would have no

police officer on duty, and would need to rely on state police to provide backup.

But Deb Loomer said it was important for Gill to be able to reciprocate on mutual support calls with neighboring towns. She attributed the low call volume in town to "deterrence," because of the effective work of Hastings' department.

"I don't need to see the highway department every day to know our roads are well taken care of. Our town is a safe place to live. I thank the police for that."

The majority of voters agreed with her, approving the extra money for part time officers by a standing vote of 44 - 18.

## Raises for Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector

No other warrant article generated much controversy, except a motion to increase salaries for the town clerk, tax collector and treasurer to levels comparable to their counterparts in other local towns and to better compensate their level of experience, and their workload.

The proposed salary for the tax collector and treasurer reflected a 10% and 15% hike, respectively (those positions are presently filled by the same individual, Ronnie LaChance); while the position of town clerk reflected a proposed salary hike of 25%. Lynda Hodsdon Mayo is the Gill town clerk.

This motion was challenged early in the meeting by Sandy Brown, who said, "We shouldn't look only at other towns, but at what Gill voters feel is appropriate."

Brown advocated leaving the salaries for the positions mentioned at last year's level, and also reducing the stipends for the

assessors to levels below the amounts paid for the selectboard, but the voters of Gill disagreed with her.

The chair of the Gill selectboard receives a stipend of \$2,360; the other members of the selectboard are paid \$2,146. The chair of the assessors receives a stipend of \$2,867; the other members of the board of assessors are paid \$2,606.

Voters chose to leave the assessors stipends at those levels, and raised the salaries of town clerk, tax collector-treasurer by the amounts recommended by the selectboard and finance committee.

## Omnibus Sails Through

Without comment or dissent, the meeting approved spending \$1,327,359 (up \$59,134, or 4.9% from last year) to fund town departments' operating budgets, and backed the Gill-Montague school committee's request for a \$1,410,359 assessment for FY'11 (up marginally, \$12,926 from last year) after hearing from superintendent Carl Ladd.

Ladd said he had cut a million dollars out of the district's operating budget since he was hired one year ago, in order to present a level funded budget. He said under this budget, administrators and non-union personnel would receive no salary increases for a second year in a row, but would shoulder increased responsibilities. Even so, "We are still making educational gains within the district. Our teachers and staff are to be commended."

At about 9:30 p.m., having worked through the first 24 articles of a 35 article warrant, the meeting adjourned, continuing the last 11 articles until Monday, June 28th at 7 p.m.



## FREEDOM from page 4

This was but one of multiple incidents of murder, lynchings, beatings, and burnings of churches and homes in the black community in Mississippi in the years leading up to Freedom Summer, and it set the scene for Watson's story about the hundreds of affluent white college students descending on the state to help with voter registration efforts and Freedom Schools in June of 1964.

On June 21st of that year, the first day volunteers arrived in Mississippi, three Freedom Summer workers - Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, young Jews from New York, and James Cheney, a black CORE organizer from Mississippi - were abducted by

the Ku Klux Klan in Philadelphia, MI, beaten and shot to death and buried under an earthen dam, where their bodies would be found six weeks later after a massive FBI search.

Under the glare of the national spotlight (attention notably lacking in the murders of Herbert Lee, Medgar Evers, and countless other blacks who had already lost their lives in the struggle for civil rights) Mississippi would never be the same.

Activists like Mario Savio of the Berkeley Free Speech movement, politicians like Barney Frank and Harold Ickes, and hundreds of others who went on to found anti-war and feminist coalitions around America in the 60s and 70s got their first experience

in movement organizing in Mississippi in 1964.

Today, Mississippi has more black politicians than any other state, more black mayors, more black police chiefs, and Watson traced the lineage of this transformation directly to the work of people like Bob Moses, the grassroots activist who laid the groundwork in Mississippi in the early 1960s and conceived of Freedom Summer, and eventually sold the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee on the program, and to all the idealistic young college students from around the country who risked their lives - and even lost them - to make Moses' dream of a promised land come true.

"When the Lord sees fit to liberate the slaves, he will do so

without calling on Josh Marsh or Kendall Abbott," said Dr. Shepard in the Montague Lyceum, fifteen years before the Civil War.

Maybe so.

Or maybe it is entirely due to such callings, in whatever age, from whatever source, that the next stumbling steps along the road to freedom are taken.

Pick up a copy of Bruce Watson's new book and read about some who heeded that call 56 years ago. *Freedom Summer* will make great summer reading this year, as wars and environmental outrage continue unchecked in America, Afghanistan and all around a world where people still struggle for their basic human rights.

## Massage, Nutrition, Family Meal and Tim Van Egmond all at Montague Farm Cafe

The Montague Farm Cafe, a free family-friendly meal with activities, this week features local storyteller and musician Tim Van Egmond, plus free wellness offerings (introducing chair massage plus nutritional resources) on Saturday, June 26th, from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Montague Farm Zen House, 177 Ripley Road in Montague, near the North Leverett line.

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## NOTES FROM GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# GMRSC Stands by its Budget

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE**  
By a vote of 6-1, the Gill-Montague school committee voted Tuesday to reaffirm their FY'11 operating budget of \$16,408,162.

The vote came one day after the Gill town meeting unanimously approved their \$1,729,624 share of the G-M budget, and three weeks after Montague town meeting voted down their \$7,616,878 assessment.

With members Kristine Boyle and Emily Monosson absent, Michael Langknecht cast the only dissenting vote at Tuesday's meeting. The school committee agreed it would be fiscally irresponsible to cut the budget further, or to dip further into the school's \$351,000 E&D (excess and deficiency) fund, which serves as a hedge against unpredictable expense increases or fur-

ther cuts in state aid.

At the meeting Tuesday night, superintendent Carl Ladd offered the school committee three options: vote to maintain the current budget, which Montague has rejected, attempt to compromise with Montague at a halfway figure proposed by a group of town meeting members (cutting \$200,000 from Montague's assessment), or make up the entire difference between the assessment the district asked for and the amount approved by Montague at town meeting (\$7,230,327).

After first agreeing (4-3) to support a motion by Jeff Singleton to send a letter to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education outlining the budget choices facing the district, and seeking assurances the DESE would continue to support the district in working towards a

solution to the structural budget deficit and coming up with a long term plan for fiscal stability, the committee voted in favor of simply reaffirming their budget at the level Montague previously rejected.

Jen Waldron, of Gill, said, "I think we should stay with what we have and ask Montague again to support it."

Sorrel Hatch, of Gill, said, "I really want to see a budget passed this year. I don't think it's in our best interest to keep the state at the table." She added it felt good to attend the town meeting in Gill and hear all the support from the town for the school district. "The school has done all it can do to meet Montague's needs. I don't think we can do more."

Jane Oakes, of Gill, agreed, saying, "I do think it would be irresponsible to do more."

### Administrative Changes

Turners Falls High School principal Jeffrey Kenny, who has been with the district in various capacities for 31 years, will retire in February of 2011. Ladd announced he would appoint Donna Fitzpatrick as the new principal at the high school. Fitzpatrick will step into this position on July 1st, 2010 and Kenny will serve as assistant to the superintendent, a position paid for by a grant from the DESE, to help with the transition to a new school configuration until he retires on February 24th, 2011.

Ladd also announced he would be appointing Sheffield principal Elizabeth Musgrave as principal of the newly formed Montague Elementary School (joining Hillcrest and Sheffield as two schools on one campus). Ladd said he knew there had

been some criticism of his having increased the number of administrators but pointed out he had also eliminated other administrative posts. He told the committee, "The key is putting the right people in the right places."

### Education Fund Report

Joyce Phillips presented a final report for the Education Fund on the Sixth Annual Gala with the Aqua String Band. The total raised was \$19,265. She said for the 2010 - 11 school year, the Gill Montague Education Fund would return to two rounds of grants, fall and spring. The Christmas Concert, "Home for the Holidays," is set for Sunday, December 5th at 2:30 p.m. featuring Dan Clark, Mary Colarouso and Lauren Bowlby, with Gill-Montague students.

### SHOW from pg 1

their sojourn here for a concentrated ten-month course of studies contributes to making Turners Falls a "college village."

There are so many offerings on display from the 142 cameramen and camerawomen they had to be arranged in two rows, one above the other. The resulting photographic panoply is impressive and spectacular.

You will become a richer person by looking at Jason Esposito's study of the Gill-Montague bridge, something we've all see thousands of times, but never in such a remarkable manner. When I take pictures, I usually just stand on a comfortable spot, view find, and click. Esposito's study of the bridge is much more than a snapshot; it's practically a poster child for River Culture, and don't be surprised if you see it used in a yard-high poster for the "Water under the Bridge" music festival next year.

Esposito must have worn boots to keep his feet dry as he ventured along the rugged shoreline to find the optimal view of the bridge, the riverside rocks and jetsam in the fore-



Photograph by Jim Ordecki

ground, the river and the bridge in central focus, and the dam and trees in the background. Who knows how many times he must have gone back to that ideal location in order to be there at the right time of day and weather conditions to make his atmospheric study, misty and evocative. Walk to the gallery, drive, ride a bus, or take a cab if you have to, but check out at least this one image.

People who have pets or love animals have seven, maybe eight reasons for seeing this show. Completely charming is Amber Lavallee's interpretive portrait of a curious, playful kitten emerging from a paper bag. Xiomara Romero's cocked-head, gleaming-eyed profile of a dog against a richly-textured background makes you wish you had hired him to photograph your "Fido." Krystina Schmitt's portrait of a dog facing the camera is beautiful for the complementary underdraping of fabric against stark black background that makes the immaculately coiffed little tyke's eyes and nose stand out and shine, projecting his personality.

Is Christine Kennedy's exquisite nature study in color, a portrait of a plantlike sea animal or a lavish piece of jewelry set against a bed of seaweed? I don't know. What will you

think?

Sk8-boarders past and present will definitely want to see this exhibition. A great starting point would be Alexis Devaney's study of a teenage skateboarder in repose. Michael Sangster captured a dynamic action skateboarding shot, against a mural-wall background and aquamarine sky. Jon Corsiglia captured a well-composed and colorful action shot of a mountain biker almost flying in front of the "Nut House."

Do you like sex? That is definitely one thing you will not see in this exhibition. The only nude study in this show is Colin Pattison's well-composed naked female torso from behind, against a black background, where the cropped chin seems the most erotic aspect.

Music lovers, there are at least a dozen photos of musicians posed with or playing instruments including Elle Moreland's flying-hair shot of a rock band in full thrash.

If you like to see photographs of other people you can easily spend an hour examining all the wonderful portraits of artists, soda jerks, welders,

tradesmen and women, and costumed wedding attendees on display. Wojo Wojtkowski's half-length profile of a clown is bizarre and beautiful. Claudia Ruff's somber portrait of a puppeteer and two and a half of his character creations in the workshop is certainly one of my top ten favorites in this show, so thoughtful and so sad. Don't miss Joshua Plotke's evocative portrait of a female dancer practicing in her cavernous studio.

There are many, many great group portraits in this show for your visual delight. My favorite is the lively image created by Brit Denoncourt. She found some high schoolers in upstate New York dressed for their junior prom, and lined them in the manner of a traditional prom picture. But she wanted to try "something more fun and upbeat," and directed them to all jump up at the count of three. The result was simply marvelous.

Come see these and many more stunning photographs from the current crop of Hallmark grads at the Gallery, while the show is still up, through July 11th.



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**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

# Criteria Outlined on Beaver Lake Meetings

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

**LEVERETT** - Northeast Utilities will hold a series of four community meetings this summer with representatives of Montague, Leverett, and landowners abutting a large beaver lake at the top of Richardson Road, on the border of the two towns, to seek a solution to the problem of utility line maintenance posed by the beaver lake. Richardson Road residents not directly abutting the lake will also send representatives to the meetings.

The bases of five large wooden utility power line towers are submerged in the water of the beaver lake, and the utility needs to gain access to those poles in order to replace or maintain them.

On May 25th, Marcia Wellman, a representative from Northeast Utilities municipal relations department, told the Leverett selectboard her company was seeking "to achieve a community-based solution" to the problem posed to utility line maintenance by the 2500-long beaver lake at the top of Richardson Road.

On Tuesday, June 22nd, Ron DeFord, business affairs manager for NU, appeared before the selectboard and clarified Wellman's statement.

"It appeared in the press that we'll come up with an agreement with everybody in the room and that's what we'll do," said DeFord. "We've spent the last few months exploring the range of options we think might come out of those meetings," and run-

ning those solutions by their engineering and permitting experts.

DeFord, who will play the role of facilitator for N.U. at the upcoming community meetings, outlined four criteria by which the utility will judge any proposed "community-based solution."

"We have a responsibility to insure the system's reliability," DeFord said, and "we have to insure the safety of our workers." Third, DeFord said, any proposed solution at the Richardson Road beaver lake "can not involve undue costs to our customers. These are non-negotiable. I'll keep to those."

DeFord said he would employ a fourth, negotiable criteria in the community meetings, and that is, to come up with "something everybody can live with."

But he added, "We're willing to give up on that one," if need be.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau asked DeFord, "Isn't your position as an employee of Northeast Utilities a conflict of interest?" in terms of facilitating the community meetings.

Board member Peter d'Errico also said, "I'm a little concerned you are part of the company. If there is going to be effective mediation, it should be outside the company."

DeFord said he had proven himself to be an effective facilitator during labor and management negotiations at N.U. and added, "There's a lot of content knowledge you have to have to ask the right kind of questions," in meet-

ings like those proposed for dealing with the beaver lake on Richardson Road. "I have that knowledge."

DeFord said he had already met with a number of the parties concerned with the beaver lake on Tuesday. But selectboard member Julie Shively, who owns land abutting the lake at the top of Richardson Road, pointed out that each time the utility sends someone out to meet with the neighbors, they come during the day when she is at work.

DeFord promised to find time to meet with her soon.

Shively said the basic problem is some of the neighbors want the beaver lake brought down to a level where it no longer poses a threat of flooding to downstream neighbors should the beaver dam collapse, while other abutters want the entire lake drained.

She said reducing the lake to the level the utility drained it down to in 2000, when a "beaver deceiver" device was installed, would allow the utility to perform needed maintenance on the affected pylons.

"The problem was, they didn't come back; they didn't maintain it," at the 2000 level, Shively said.

Terry Kayne and Dick Williams, residents of Richardson Road, attended the meeting and expressed their concerns about living downstream of the lake.

"There's never been a beaver dam that hasn't eventually given way and caused havoc," said Williams. "There are parts of that

dam that are 25 years old. It has to be weak. It's a time bomb waiting to happen."

The board appointed conservation commission member Christine Nelson to participate in the community meetings with N.U. as one of the town's representatives, and will ask emergency planning member Jim Field to be the town's other representative. The first community meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the Leverett Library, but DeFord said that date may be pushed back to accommodate abutter Sam Calagione's schedule.

In other news, the board signed the necessary paperwork to approve a \$23,500 Community Preservation Committee grant for the restoration of the clapboards, soffits, and windows of the street side of the Leverett Craft and Arts building. CPC chair Laurel Kahn said the restoration of the building's façade would be faithful to historical photographs of the original box factory once located there.

The attorney general has struck down a clause in the town's recently approved demolition delay bylaw, calling for fines up to \$1000 for infractions. The maximum fine that can be instituted for infractions, according to statute, is \$350, and the historical commission will now have to seek additional approval at town meeting to institute that level of fine for infractions of the new bylaw.

Following a suggestion at the special town meeting of June 16th by Richard Mathhorst, the town will seek to employ the services of an industrial hygienist to inspect areas of town buildings where energy conservation upgrades will be performed by Siemens Building Technologies, to verify the absence of hazardous materials like lead paint, PCBs, or asbestos.


Shively reported that the fire department will spend only \$2500, instead of the \$6000 approved at town meeting, for repair of one of the town's pumper tankers. D'Errico wanted to make sure the repairs included the truck's headlights, which have failed to work during recent mutual aid calls, leaving the driver to rely on spotlights to light the way at night.

Shively mentioned a recent call to extinguish a burning automobile. "The AARP crew responded," said Shively, referring to the nickname for members of the volunteer department who are all over 50 years of age. The board briefly discussed the problem of the aging of the fire fighting crew, and hoped someone would soon organize a junior firefighters contingent to bring a younger generation into the department's ranks.

The board appointed Baptist minister Doug MacLeod to the fire department, pending results of his physical exam. "He's around during the day," noted Shively approvingly.

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### Poetry of Gloom - Franz Wright at the Rendezvous

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Poets are often caricatured as dreamers, people who traipse trippingly through life with nary a care for the laundry, dirty dishes, and jagged shards of broken homes.

Franz Wright is here to remind us how far that is from the truth. His poetry is the direct by-product of broken family, whipped puppy, inchoate fear, psychotic depression, faith and redemption.

The Pulitzer Prize winning poet shambled into the Rendezvous on Fathers Day to inveigh against his Pulitzer Prize winning father, the corporate idolaters who have allowed the ongoing rape of the Earth, and the

people at the front table who were talking too loudly while he was reading a number of yet unpublished prose screeds and poems of less recent vintage.

His was a poetry of rage against not just the dying of the light but the day itself, the chaos that gave birth to it, the women who midwived from the shadows, and all the accoutrements, rites and reliquaries of its vitreous par-turition.

Franz Wright's father, the equally renowned poet James Wright, was perhaps less renowned as a father. His son eulogized him by saying, "I loved my father more than any human being I've ever known," but

revealed the searing image of his dad emerging naked from his study one day when Franz was four, belt in hand, to beat his small black puppy until it vomited for the sin of running in circles and barking happily while his father was trying to write. "Now that the motherf---er is dead, I'd like to dig him up and kill him again," his son remarked.

What is the opposite of uplifting? Wright loosed a torrent of dyspeptic, wrathful prose and poetry on the crowd huddled at their tables and bar stools as the daylight flooded downtown streets and parking lots on Sunday, leaving all in earshot stunned and shaken. His lines



Slope Editions brought Franz Wright to the Rendezvous on Sunday

seemed to rise like some spiteful sputum from a carefully nourished bile, spreading like swarms of "cockroaches as innumerable as stars... like some kind of rapidly replicating virus." [If the Catastrophe Goes On - April 20th - May 22nd, 2010.]

Lacerations that would delight Dostoevsky dripped from Wright's pen and pages and impromptu asides. "Nobody gives a shit about poetry," he snarled. "If I read a couple more, are you going to die of boredom, or should I just stop?"

This from a man who lately told the literary and arts quarterly Image, "For me, there is no real poetry without a previous visionary experience. In a way, the writing is an attempt to save the experience, to give it a permanent form, to carry it through life after it has waned.... The poems were all attempts to find a place to store the joy and certainty of the ultimate goodness and coherence and tenderness of reality."

Wright showed a willingness to revise this view on Sunday, as he read work about the miracles of Jesus, the hallucinatory hallway of death [Peyote Journal], and the exoskeleton of abuse, [The Scar's Birthday Party].

He revealed the mutability of the creative process - "Should I say 'odor' instead of 'smell'?" - pausing on a line about Lazarus's tomb, and reveled in ignominy, "I'm very proud of myself - I've only had one drink. Just wait."

And when he railed at those

who seemed oblivious to his "narcissistic insecurity," carrying on light hearted conversation outside his purlieu of gloom, "You people want to shut the f--- up? I'm not television!" the audience was quite prepared for the avenging poet to vault like some apoplectic, apocalyptic horseman across the podium, chapbooks blazing, to the furthest table, smashing beer steins and shoving them down the offenders' throats.

Poetry readings are a contact sport, and poems mortal combat. Wright reminded us of that.

from  
the Scar's Birthday Party  
- by Franz Wright

Why do we still go on  
phoning them visiting  
feted and fed by our  
torturers why did we not  
at eighteen leave and  
never look back and  
completely forget them, I  
know, the need from time  
to time the need to prove  
they're really there you can  
see them have  
proof that they actually lived  
are even living still at a  
listed address and  
not just in your head and  
besides. Where else did you  
ever fit in, tell the  
truth, and where else is a  
monster to turn, so close  
now, what else can  
you do turn around and go  
home, and what home  
would that be?

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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  
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Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

Readers are invited to send poems to the  
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street,  
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**Romantic Poem**

Sometimes, in the morning, when she reached up from her pillow and gathered up the mess around her  
I thought of better days, amongst the outdoors of nature, where the flowers fawned in their sleep, and  
stumbled over the Autumn's crops  
When I was a child, with socks sticking out of boots and pale pink elbows  
Sometimes I thought of these things  
of growing older  
of shutting in  
and cleaning up

The skinned cat lying outside in the dirty yard  
its coat no longer shining  
I hung my head out the door with the weight of the world  
after morning fell she sat on velvet pillows  
soft to the touch of beauty's hand  
I bit my lip and it spread the pink around my face  
nestling in the throws of my hair  
I held blood up to the quakes of the day  
myself knowing nothing compared to the wisdom around me  
So stiff and inanimate  
I yearned for the passing of this day

--Imogene Pruitt-Spence  
Greenfield

**Oedipal Overdrive**

The more I feel the less  
I know. It scares me  
to not know. All  
I thought was  
true crumbles,  
cookie on the floor  
stepped on and squashed forever  
by silky stockinged feet. Grating  
instinct gnaws at me,  
and I grind my anxious  
jaw, nervously twittering  
on the brink  
of another encroaching  
neural shock,  
now just petrified  
calcium deposits  
and a quivering,  
fetal numbness.

--Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls



**Imaginary Gains**

The brook came calling one spectral night  
just as some strange creature  
pitter-pattered across the garden.  
The taxonomic repositories failed  
the definition tests  
even if the physics catalogue  
yielded cogent results  
regarding rising water.  
Hope laid bare the discrepancies  
between dreaming and waking  
forcing the advent in adventure  
to retreat into the sand.

--Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno  
Turners Falls

**Philosophy**

I'm visiting New York  
on a rare outing  
with my father.  
We're in the tropical flowers section  
of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.  
We stand there silently,  
Breathing fragrant  
greenhouse  
air.

I observe  
an exotic floral masterwork:  
exquisitely painted  
and perfumed,  
a product of aeons  
of creative genius.  
I contemplate the color harmonies  
that only an artist can perceive,  
and thus be piqued to wonder:  
how is it possible--  
by whose hand?  
How did this flower-poem  
come to be?

And my father turns  
and brusquely announces:  
"The world will end  
in fifty years,  
if not sooner.  
I don't give it much longer than that.  
Biological warfare  
nuclear weapons.  
Sooner or later,  
It's bound to occur.  
Man's evil--  
There's no accounting for it.  
It's deep,  
vicious,  
worse than any animal."

This incident  
reflects the genesis  
of my entire worldview.  
On the one hand,  
There's my mother's mystic  
Celtic vision:  
rapturous,  
life-affirming.  
On the other,  
my father's existential  
venom:  
a torturous vision  
of the maelstrom.  
Between the two,  
I generate  
a philosophy.

--Rob Couteau  
New Paltz, NY

**CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:**

Imogene Pruitt-Spence just completed her junior year at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School. Her art work has been recently exhibited at The People's Pint, Suzee's 3rd Street Laundromat and at U.Mass.

Rob Couteau is a writer and visual artist from Brooklyn. His most

recent book is a collection of poetry The Sleeping Mermaid which includes this poem. Other books include the novel, Doctor Pluss, the epistolary memoir, Letters from Paris, a book of essays and interviews, Collected Couteau and the memoir The Paris Journal. In 1985 he won the North American Essay Award, a competition open

to writers throughout North America.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno co-edits this poetry page with Janel Nockleby.

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

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NOTES FROM WENDELL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Wendell Approves Full Mahar Request; Cuts the Tech School

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Under deputy moderator Kathleen Nolan's excellent oversight, Wendell citizens met on the evening of June 16th for a special town meeting at 7:00 p.m., and the annual town meeting at 7:30; citizens approved the entire warrants of both meetings with a good deal of discussion at the annual town meeting, but only a few dissenting votes on a handful of articles.

At the special town meeting voters transferred from free cash \$40,000 to the pension reserve fund, \$20,000 to the unemployment compensation fund and \$20,000 to the insurance reserve fund, and \$9,000 to replace the oil tanks in the town hall with modern double wall tanks, \$6,000 for repainting the interior of the town hall, and \$10,000 to

repaint the exterior of the police station. The remaining \$155,760 in free cash was transferred to the stabilization account. The entire special town meeting lasted eleven minutes.

At the annual town meeting, both Swift River School and Mahar Regional High School received their full requested assessments, and the Franklin County Technical School was authorized \$77,492, as recommended by the finance committee, instead of the \$100,029 the school requested.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said the reduction is largely symbolic, and the town will have to revisit the FCTS payment, and probably pay the full amount, but he hoped the lower authorization would help begin discussion about the method used

to assess towns for their participation in the FCTS school district.

Idoine opened his comments at the annual town meeting by saying since 2001 Wendell taxpayers have paid \$4 million for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, enough to have paid for health-care for more than half the town's population for that time, or six fulltime firefighters, police officers, or five elementary school teachers for all the years since those wars began. He took those figures from the National Priorities Project's website.

After three years of Wendell trying to get the Mahar school committee to reconsider the method used to assess member towns, by authorizing only an amount an alternative method of assessment would require, this

year the finance committee recommended the town pay the full amount requested. After some discussion, voters agreed.

A relatively new member of the finance committee, Doug Tanner, may have influenced the committee's recommendation. Although Wendell's per student contribution is high compared to other towns in the district, Tanner maintained Wendell's per household contribution is comparable. He said fairness depends on whether one looks at membership in a regional school district as payment for services, or membership in a collaborative. One view would call for equal payment per student, the other would call for equal payment for a household's assessed value.

Through the winter and spring, Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre worked to avoid a scenario where Wendell would vote a lower assessment, leaving it up to cash strapped Orange to perhaps lower the overall school budget, impacting the delivery of educational services at the high school. Baldassarre met with the Wendell selectboard and finance committee to hear their concerns, and convinced the Mahar school committee to create a subcommittee to look at the assessment method. With this tentative step taken, the finance committee recommended authorizing the full assessment requested.

The finance committee recommended and voters approved articles to pay off the note for the new fire truck, the purchase of Fiske Pond, and the property at 9 Morse Village Road, where the new town office building now stands, using a total of \$203,527.50 from the stabilization account. The purpose of

these articles was to allow the town to save \$14,000 in interest payments. Voters also approved spending up to \$500,000 from stabilization to pay down the principal of the building construction debt for the town office building and new library, which could save as much as \$700,000 in interest over the life of the loan.

The loan terms may prohibit those payments, or reduce the savings considerably, but with these articles passed, the town can see if savings are possible and try to realize them if so.

Town voters approved the creation of an energy committee that would continue the work of the energy task force that was created to work one year. The meeting received the report of that task force.

Member Laurie Didonato summarized the report with a few concise statements, saying fossil fuels have given us cheap energy and attendant environmental problems, including climate change, but the supply of every fossil fuel is finite, they all come from a distance, each with its own set of problems. Renewable energy sources will not provide energy as cheaply. So the task force recommended a concerted effort at conservation for both individuals and the town.

The committee also recommended working to establish local renewable energy sources, and to produce and use local food and services which will result in a corresponding reduction of the energy and dollars spent on transportation.

Citizens approved an article directing the new energy committee to create a job description for a new town position of food production and gardening coordinator, as recommended by the energy task force.

Citizens also approved joining with other Western Massachusetts towns to establish a universal, open access, financially self sustaining communication system, Wired West, for broadband internet service, telephone and cable TV.

Wendell citizens also approved allowing Leverett to join the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

Canalside Fish Protest



BY DAVID DETMOLD THE PATCH - On Tuesday morning, about a half an hour before the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission met at the Silvio Conte Fish Lab on Migratory Way, a man dressed in a fish costume and carrying signs calling on First Light Power to install a fish elevator at the Turners Falls dam stood by the side of the 11th Street Bridge.

The fish would not comment for the record, but his associate, Tony Demick, of Hancock, MA, a member of Trout Unlimited explained the purpose of the protest.

"The way I understand it," said Demick, "we have 160,000 shad that can make it past Holyoke, but once they hit Turners Falls

they can't make it up the fish ladder, which is designed for salmon. It's ironic. You've got a ladder designed for a fish that isn't there, and the few shad that make it up here can't make it out the gate-house chute. We had 46 salmon in the whole Connecticut River basin this year. Less than 40 salmon entered at Holyoke.

"For years, First Light (and their predecessors) have promised to put a lift in at the Turners Falls dam. But so far, no progress. They're still in negotiations."

Demick added, "If they put half the money they put towards salmon into shad, we'd be in better shape."

First Light Power had no comment for this story.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault and Battery, Dangerous Weapon

Wednesday, 6/16

11:01 p.m. Structure fire on Hillside Road. Investigated.

Thursday, 6/17

11:16 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street. Peace restored.

Friday, 6/18

7:58 p.m. Unwanted person on West Mineral Road.

Peace restored.

11:07 p.m. General disturbance at Fourth Street and Avenue A. Peace restored.

Saturday, 6/19

8:32 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon and malicious destruction of

Sunday, 6/20

4:41 a.m. Arrest of Jasmine Gabriel Lincoln, age [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery, disorderly conduct, trespassing, reckless endangerment to a child, kidnapping a minor by relative, and resisting arrest.

9:25 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

property less than \$250.

[redacted], for subsequent offense of disturbing the peace and subsequent offense of disorderly conduct.

Monday, 6/21

11:57 p.m. Fight on Avenue A. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** My husband quit cigarettes and now he's chewing tobacco. What can I tell him to make him quit this disgusting habit?

For starters, you can tell him that chewing tobacco — like all other forms of smokeless tobacco — contains about 30 cancer-causing substances. Then you can follow up with these facts:

- The chances of getting a variety of cancers increases with the use of smokeless tobacco. These cancers can grow in your

mouth, throat, esophagus, kidneys and pancreas. The cancers can kill you or leave you disfigured from surgery.

- Smokeless tobacco raises your pulse and blood pressure. There is evidence that this form of tobacco can increase the risk of getting heart disease or having a stroke.

- The ingredients in smokeless tobacco can make your gums pull away from your teeth. Eventually, you can develop gum disease and lose teeth.

- Leukoplakia is white patches that appear in your mouth where the tobacco is in contact with soft tissue. These patches can become cancerous.

- There is a lot of sugar in smokeless tobacco, so it can cause tooth decay.

- Smokeless tobacco puts more nicotine in your blood than cigarettes. Holding an average-size wad of smokeless tobacco in your mouth for a half-hour provides as much nicotine as smoking three cigarettes. The nicotine makes smokeless tobacco addictive. Neither the nicotine in your bloodstream nor the addiction to it are good for your health.

In 1986, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that the use of smokeless tobacco "is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. It can cause cancer and a number of noncancerous conditions and can lead to nicotine addiction and dependence."

Since 1991, the National Cancer Institute, a part of the National Institutes of Health,

has officially recommended that the public discontinue the use of all tobacco products.

There are many types of smokeless tobacco products. They are usually held in the mouth to savor the flavor and absorb nicotine. Then devotees usually spit out the consequent juices. The types of smokeless tobacco include:

- Chewing tobacco. This comes in several forms: leaves that are sweetened and packaged in pouches, plugs that are tobacco and syrup pressed into a brick, and twists that are braided tobacco.

- Snuff. This comes either moist or dry. It is finely ground or shredded tobacco leaves packaged in tins or pouches. Dry snuff is sold in a powdered

form and is snorted.

- Snus. Snus (pronounced snoose) is a spitless tobacco in pouches that was invented in Sweden.

- Lozenges. These are pieces of compressed powdered tobacco. They dissolve in your mouth and don't require spitting.

To quit tobacco of any kind, consult a physician or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You can learn more about this quitting program

at <http://www.smokefree.gov>. The website was created by the Tobacco Control Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute.

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

## Cultural Council Completes Survey

**MONTAGUE -** Results from the Montague Cultural Council's recent community input survey have been tabulated. One hundred and sixty-three members of the community completed the postcard survey between April 1st and May 15th at such events as the 2nd Annual May Day Fine Art Exhibit in Montague Center,

and the 3Potato4 concert and Coordinates of Self opening in Turners Falls, as well as at such venues as the Carnegie Library and the two branch libraries, 2nd Street Baking Company, and the community meals program at Our Lady of Peace Church.

"The Massachusetts Cultural Council requires that each local

council conduct a survey every three years to ensure that councils allocate their grant funds according to the community's expressed priorities," noted Claudine Mussuto, Montague Cultural Council secretary. "There is a strong parallel between the results of this year's survey and the one the Council conducted in 2007. The community has asked the Council to focus its grant-making on: arts activities and projects in the Gill-Montague Regional and Franklin County Technical schools and field trips for students to museums and performances; community-wide public events such as concerts, festivals, and plays; projects led by local artists, including activities, exhibits, performances, and residencies; and environmental, nature, and science education projects.

The one significant change for the 2010 grant-making cycle is the reinstatement of P A S S applications that allow schools

to request funds for tickets to performances."

The Montague Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 councils serving 351 Massachusetts cities and towns through the Local Cultural Council Program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Grant funds are allocated to each local cultural council by the state based on a population-size formula. Grant applications are due every October 15th. Information about the Council and how to apply for grant funds is available at [www.montagueculturalcouncil.org](http://www.montagueculturalcouncil.org).

The Council is currently seeking to add two or three members to its roster of seven active participants."

For more information about Montague Cultural Council membership, contact Lisa Enzer at [enzer@earthlink.net](mailto:enzer@earthlink.net) or 413.367.2658.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Arrest for Bomb Threat Hoax

**Monday, 6/14**

2:10 p.m. Report of erratic white van west-bound on Route 2. Found to be lost.

**Wednesday, 6/16**

8:10 a.m. Report of bomb threat at Erving Paper Mills. Found to be hoax.

11:00 p.m. Assisted Montague police with structure fire on Hillside Road in Montague.

**Friday, 6/18**

12:20 p.m. Report of breaking and entering in progress at Pishgah Mountain Road in Gill. Assisted Bernardston police with vehicle stop of suspect vehicle on Center Road in Gill.

8:38 p.m. Report of suspicious person hiding in the bushes near the beach

at Laurel Lake. Located male subject. Found to be person out for a walk. Advised to be more careful.

9:35 p.m. Motor vehicle crash at Christina's Restaurant. No injury. Report taken.

**Saturday, 6/19**

4:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for false bomb threat.

7:51 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for marked lanes violation and second offense of driving under the influence of liquor.

10:00 p.m. Report of highly intoxicated male walking on Route 63 in front of the Erving

Elementary School. Montague police assisted with arrest. Found subject walking in and out of traffic. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and malicious destruction of property under \$250.

**Sunday, 6/20**

2:20 p.m. Report of a suspicious male on French King Bridge. Spoke with same. Just taking a break.

**Monday, 6/21**

6:30 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and for speeding.

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**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL - MONTAGUE** - Nadine Ekstrom, who has recently resigned her position as director of special education and student services at the Gill Montague Regional School District so she can work closer to her home and be more available to her family, made a final report to the GMRSD school committee on Tuesday that included detailed recommendations for the programs she has developed for the district.

Superintendent Carl Ladd praised Ekstrom's work and said much of the savings that allowed him to cut the FY'11 budget without impacting children in the classroom came from Ekstrom's department, and was due to her ability to expand the special education programs, keeping more students in the district and bringing in more income.

Ladd said, "Nadine has been an integral part of the administrative team. I've enjoyed her energy and enthusiasm around making sure all students' needs are met."

Ladd said Ekstrom helped him navigate the

Massachusetts laws governing special education when he first started as superintendent, moving here New Hampshire, for which he was personally grateful.

Ladd recommended the committee hire Jean Bean to step in as interim director of special education for FY'11, a proposal that the school committee approved unanimously.

Ladd said Bean had served as Ekstrom's mentor for the past two years, assisting her with budgeting and programming. Bean has served many years in the district as a school psychologist and director.

Ekstrom talked about how she and her team had developed a new philosophy that helped special education students feel part of the school community and educational environment, and how students now feel happy and at home at Gill-Montague.

Ekstrom said special education students now feel respected, heard and understood. She encouraged the district to continue the programs she has put in place.

Ekstrom said the special

## MORE NOTES FROM GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE EKSTROM DEPARTS SPECIAL EDUCATION POST



Nadine Ekstrom

education program was now 100% compliant with the regulations and rated at Level 1 (the highest rating.)

### Nurse Leader

Ekstrom also recommended the committee provide a stipend for a nurse leader, a position that was cut in March of 2010. Keeping the nurse leader position will maintain the district's compliance with state regulations and provide oversight for the other school nurses.

As part of her position, Ekstrom has also been responsible for approving curriculum plans for students who are home schooled in Gill and Montague. There are currently 34 to 36 home schooled students in the district.

Ekstrom proposed delegating this responsibility to the Director of Curriculum beginning with the 2010 - 2011 school year.

### 27 Homeless Students

Ekstrom spoke of the lack of a formal policy regarding identifying homeless students when she first took the position as a director. At the time there were

only two students identified as homeless. Since working as a liaison for those students and families, her team has now identified 27 students in the district who are homeless.

Her work with homeless students and their families involves educating the families to trust the school staff to be on their side and help them, as fear of having the family separated or the Department of Social Services taking the children away was part of the reason parents and students hid the fact of student homelessness from administrators in the past, she said.

Ekstrom added improved working relationships with homeless students and their families in some cases have allowed the district to work with DSS to get families into housing. Those students are now classified as "students in transition" and are maintained as the financial responsibility of the GMRSD even if they are temporarily housed in another district.

### Job Counselor

Ekstrom said the special education department now has

a transition program for students 18 to 22 years of age, and is working through community outreach to help students obtain work and train for positions as they move into adulthood. Community participants include the Salvation Army and Food City. There is also an active farm program component.

Ekstrom recommended the district hire a job counselor, or certified occupational therapist assistant (COTA), and seek further collaboration with the Franklin County Tech School on job training.

Ladd said he agreed with Ekstrom regarding the COTA recommendation, but said that position would need the approval of the school committee.

The person under consideration to fill the new post already works for the district, Ladd said, so it would not be considered adding a new position, as committee member Jeff Singleton argued.

The committee approved creating a job development position by a vote of 6-1, with Singleton voting no.

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Bright red partridge berries show a characteristic double "eye" resulting from their unusual genesis from two flowers on one ovum, said nature educator Dawn Ward, shown here beside Doolittle Brook.

**DEDICATION** from pg 1

the Leverett Elementary School and the library, where a blazed trail now runs up Brushy Mountain toward the M&M Trail, with bridges installed across Doolittle Brook, and 2,000 feet of frontage on both sides of the brook.

The land was taken by eminent domain from George Spence, when the town determined the parcel was critical to protecting the water supply for the elementary school.

The trailhead starts at the end of the newly expanded library parking lot, where a kiosk displays trail maps and a rustic bench bears Bill Rivers'

name.

Nature educator Dawn Ward, who works with children in the Leverett Elementary School, said she has used the conservation area in her lessons.

"The trail, the wetlands, and the meadows are my classroom. To have a trail that goes into the woodlands is a blessing. This trail covers many habitats," from vernal pools to deep woods, meadows and Doolittle Brook itself, "an amazing habitat teeming with life," Ward said. "This is the only library in the area that has a nature trail."

Ward said all the poison ivy that used to surround the side

door by which Rivers' grandchildren were seated had been removed, and that area has now been replanted with bulbs as a children's garden.

"This little haven you have here is special, for all ages, whether you are making daisy chains, seeing the flowers, or bird watching with your family."

Community Preservation Committee chair Laurel Kahn said, "Whether you are looking at the bell tower [on the Moores Corner schoolhouse] or the [North Leverett] sawmill standing sturdily, or these gardens, you are looking at many volunteer hours of your neighbors and your CPA money at work."

**BIOMASS** from pg 1

sequestered) in new forest growth, replacing the original biomass harvesting. Carbon dioxide is known to be a greenhouse gas and one of the major sources of global warming. The premise of carbon neutrality has been a driving force of the biomass industry worldwide for at least a decade.

In order to quantify the short and long-term impact of burning biomass to generate electricity, as compared to burning coal or natural gas for electricity, the study evaluates what it terms the "carbon debt" of biomass.

For the same amount of energy released when burned, biomass releases significantly more carbon dioxide than coal or natural gas. The carbon debt measures that disparity by calculating the time from when biomass first replaces fossil fuels until the time when enough carbon has been re-sequestered into new tree growth to render the biomass incineration cleaner than fossil fuel use. (Carbon released by fossil fuels is never considered to be offset by re-sequestration, because fossil fuels are not reformed.) Once the carbon debt has been recovered, biomass then enjoys a "carbon dividend," which begins to measure the net amount of carbon that has been saved over burning fossil fuels.

According to the study, replacing coal-powered electric plants with similar biomass-powered plants would incur a carbon debt that would take about 21 years to repay. The carbon debt incurred by replacing natural gas-powered electric plants would take over 90 years to repay.

Electricity generated by biomass, with no other recapture of energy released, emits about 31% more carbon than coal, and about 66% more than natural gas, according to the study.

The differential in energy, as measured in the study in British Thermal Units, or BTUs, between fossil fuels and other forms of fuel is one of the driving

forces behind fossil fuels' popularity: because they contain so much energy by weight, fossil fuels are significantly easier and cheaper to harvest and transport. For example, while you could derive 138,000 BTUs from one gallon of heating oil, which weighs 7.2 pounds, for the same amount of energy you would need about 27 pounds of biomass. Biomass is basically green wood, which contains about 40-45% water.

The study also considers many different uses of biomass, not only plants like the one proposed for Greenfield, which would only generate electricity, but other, potentially more efficient uses, such as "combined heat and power" plants, which are usually designed to capture and distribute the heat created as a byproduct of the electrical generation. That heat is then used mainly to heat buildings and homes. These plants are considered a more efficient use of biomass because if the heat is not used, it is wasted.

However, there are significant infrastructure hurdles to distributing this heat effectively, and large-scale biomass plants are not normally planned around that technology.

Biomass burned solely to generate electricity is the least efficient use of biomass, coming in at around 25% net efficiency, according to the study. Biomass used to generate both electricity and heat repays its carbon debt much more quickly than electricity generation alone.

The study also takes a close look at biomass availability, mainly in the form of forest reserves on private lands in Massachusetts and surrounding states. Biomass is usually made up of either logging "residues" - the wood left over from harvesting lumber, like branches and tree tops - or trees taken in periodic thinning of forests. The price to biomass plants for the wood is now about \$30 per green ton (or per ton of green wood, as ready for incineration). The "stumpage

price," or price payable to private landholders for their waste wood, is \$1-2 per green ton.

The study contemplates the potential biomass harvest if the price to landholders were to continue as it is today, and also if it were to rise to about \$20 per green ton. At the lower price, the study expects supplies in Massachusetts to be about 150,000 to 250,000 green tons annually, with little or no increase in harvesting on public lands. At the higher price, the study expects a harvest of about 685,000 to 885,000 green tons, with about 5% from public lands.

The study considers 885,000 tons harvested per year to be a "sustainable" level of harvesting in Massachusetts.

Further harvesting from surrounding states could equal about 110,000 - 190,000 green tons per year at the lower price, rising to about 515,000 to 615,000 green tons per year at the higher price. So full availability to biomass plants in Massachusetts, depending on price, could range from anywhere from 260,000 to 1,500,000 green tons per year.

The Greenfield plant is expected to consume about 550,000 green tons per year. The Russell plant and the Tamarack Energy plant in Pittsfield together would consume an additional 900,000 green tons. The three plants combined, if all were built, would apparently require more biomass than the study allows could be harvested sustainably, and the study predicts that, even with the higher stumpage prices, there would only be enough biomass for about one and half of those facilities.

This does not take into account other biomass plants proposed in the region.

Further, the study refers to two 300 megawatt biomass plants in the planning stages in Britain, which are "projected to consume six million green tons of wood chips annually, purchased from around the globe, with New England identified as a possible

source."

"Given the potential for such increased international trade in biomass," the study says, "Massachusetts forests could become suppliers of biomass regardless of whether any biomass plants are actually built in the state."

Matthew Wolfe, principal of Pioneer Renewable Energy and the developer of the Greenfield plant, took issue with many of the methods of the Manomet study. In terms of biomass availability going forward, he pointed out that the Manomet study specifically excludes wood products like "pallets, storm damaged trees, trees from land clearing, and invasive species," which he estimates could add hundreds of thousands of tons per year to the biomass supply.

Further, he said, "It's a little frustrating how the Manomet study is being characterized." He pointed to recent press releases from several of the organizations that prepared the study, including the Manomet Center, the Biomass Energy Center, and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, which repeat the study's conclusion that while biomass does emit more CO2 in the short run than fossil fuels based on energy density, in the long run it is a cleaner technology.

Statements from all three of these organizations highlight that the issue is complex, particularly with respect to the carbon re-sequestration modeling techniques which rely not only on estimations of landholders' future reaction to hypothetical stumpage pricing, but also on difficult variables of forestry modeling and regrowth.

The Manomet statement points out that the study also does not address the other pollutants emitted by fossil fuels (like nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide), which can have a severe impact on the environment; and it bolsters Wolfe's point about having not included other types of waste wood or construction waste in its

estimation of biomass availability.

Wolfe also pointed to a study on biomass released the same day as Manomet, by the European Climate Foundation, whose website describes the report as "the work of a consortium of organizations" that "collectively represent many of the relevant stakeholders in the debate about biomass: forest owners, pulp and paper companies, utilities, and NGOs."

This study finds "most common types of biomass energy applications reduce carbon dioxide emissions 55 to 98 percent compared to fossil fuels," and endorses the role of biomass in the European Union's efforts to reduce its fossil and non-renewable fuel use. However, the study mainly focused on biomass as fuel for combined heat and power plants, which are more efficient than plants such as the one planned for Greenfield.

"I'm still committed to the project," Wolfe said, although "it certainly hasn't been easy." He called biomass a "bridge to the future," or a method to minimize our fossil fuel consumption until cleaner fuel technology can be found.

"Think about it," he said. "Look at what the alternatives are. Look at what's going on in the Gulf."

In response to the report, the Department of Energy Resources is planning public meetings in July to prepare for policy meetings over the summer. Until July 9th, the DOER is accepting public comments emailed to [doer.biomass@state.ma.us](mailto:doer.biomass@state.ma.us). It expects to revise the Renewable Portfolio Standard governing renewable energy credits sometime this fall.

The Manomet study is available for download at [manomet.org](http://manomet.org). The European Climate Foundation study is available at [europeanclimatefoundation.org](http://europeanclimatefoundation.org).

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# Bridge Report: Happy, Productive and Safe



John Tiliakos, left, and his fellow Mimosa Construction supervisor, Nikos Kantzoglou stand in front of the dust collecting machinery and air ducts connecting the collector to the canvas covered underbelly of the G-M Bridge.

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**GREAT FALLS** - The amazing feat of building a suspended work platform under the Gill-Montague Bridge continues. In an engineering feat worthy of Christo, a section of the bridge near the Gill abutment has been wrapped with canvas tarpaulins, the edges sealed with urethane

foam sealant. A giant dust collector and an air supplier sit beneath the bridge. "The air returned to the workspace inside the encapsulated area is cleaner than required by a factor of 1,000," supervisor Nikos Kantzoglou said. "The air is drawn out of the encapsulated area at the rate of

45,000 cubic feet per minute, removing lead dust, rust particles and carbon monoxide, so that it returns air to the encapsulated work area exceeding the quality of outside air." Both Kantzoglou and fellow supervisor John Tiliakos work for Mimosa Construction, the company charged with "sand-

blasting" (with steel shot) and painting steel work supporting the bridge deck. Shot blasting has been delayed, awaiting the results of coating research in a compatibility study.

Senior coatings inspector Doug Driscoll of Greenhome & O'Mara is onsite to assure the quality of the paint. Stripping paint and rust cannot begin until compatibility is assured.

Once steel work is blasted clean, it needs to be painted in a timely manner to avoid rusting, hence the delay in shot blasting.

The first coating will be zinc-enriched epoxy. A second coat of epoxy paint is applied next, followed by a final coat of urethane paint. Mimosa Construction is the umbrella corporation doing the cleaning and painting. All Set is supplying equipment.

"Many of the steel beams are badly eroded with rust and will need replacing," Kantzoglou said. "Hydraulic jacks will prop up the bridge deck during beam replacement."

The bridge has many badly deteriorated beams: steel ones rusted and concrete crumbling,

with re-bar exposed. Both supervisors agreed the bridge's poor condition is largely a result of lack of maintenance.

"The deck drains are also too small," Kantzoglou said. "They plug up, and calcium chloride and salt from road chemicals deteriorate the concrete, corrode the steel, re-bars rust and pop the concrete. The down spouts should be twelve inches by three feet wide instead of six inches in diameter."

"This renovation work should have been done twenty years ago," he added.

Joe Elliot of Gill remembers talk of renovating the bridge in the 1960s, making it more like 50 years ago.

Construction workers rate the Gill-Montague Bridge the #1 worst bridge in Massachusetts. Its design is similar to that of the bridge that collapsed in 2007 in Minneapolis, while its deck was being resurfaced. The critical time of repair on the Gill-Montague Bridge may come during demolition of the bridge deck and removal of beams for replacement.

see BRIDGE pg 17

## Mini Storage Coming to Randall Road

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**MONTAGUE** - "This is the first of three storage units," Mike Fuller said. "As soon as we get them filled and get some money coming in, we'll build another. There'll be two buildings, 30' by 100', and one 40' by 100'."

The storage buildings are made by Heritage of Rome, NY. They are composed of aluminum clad steel, built to withstand 100 mile an hour winds. They have a roof that can handle the heaviest snow load of over 45 pounds per square inch, despite a roof pitch of only half an inch per foot.

The roof is constructed with purling that runs the length of the building instead of rafters that would have run across the building and not had the support of all the load bearing walls. Studs are made of six gauge steel.

Since the units are all ten feet wide, the load bearing walls are ten feet apart, allowing a short span that more than adequately supports the roof.

The aluminum clad steel roof is painted ocean blue with epoxy

paint for long life and low maintenance.

Building contractor Bob Gonzalez has had enough experience putting up these attractive metal storage buildings that he's able to complete the entire building in a week to ten days. He has found that it pays to vacuum out dust after drilling holes in the concrete slab so that all of the 400 studs seat fully and don't turn when it comes time to tighten nuts to anchor the building. He uses a sheer cutter whenever he needs to cut metal panels to avoid hot particles produced by an abrasive wheel, that tend to fly and burn holes in rust proofing aluminum clad or galvanized metal. Holes that can result in the metal rusting, leading to trouble later.

The biggest construction expense was site preparation and building an access road to the site, behind a scrim of evergreen trees. Stoney's Excavating graded the site, trucked in and graded gravel for the concrete pad. The four inch pad has a slump footing to stiffen the perimeter of the slab.



Building contractor Bob Gonzalez (left) and Mike Fuller, with the new mini-storage units in the background. Fuller said the storage units will be ready to go at the beginning of July.

"We've got 13 acres here we wanted to do something with, and there's a need for storage units in the area," Fuller said. "The only storage place in town is a small one in the Patch."

Fuller expects to rent units to people who need to store furniture and household items, off season equipment like skis and snowmobiles in summer and dirt bikes, motorcycles and boats in

winter, as well as a vintage car or two. Call 863-3780 for more details.

The best part of having the storage building close by is that people renting space can be assured that no one is likely to break in, especially since the area will be fenced and visible from Fuller's auto body shop and the access road visible from the apartment house in front.

Look for a notice in the paper for an opening date. That will be soon after the last of the 12,000 screws have been tightened and the perimeter fence put up. Fuller has not decided what he will do to for an opening day celebration. Maybe if he feels flush he'll buy a keg and hire a band. Sounds like fun. The address is 48 Randall Road, Montague. Bring a friend.

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Because of an overcommitted schedule of activities and the earliness of the season, I am yet again behind in planting.

The good news is that my "no-till" gardening plan has helped in more ways than one. The cardboard, silly as it looks, has kept down the weeds, so I have been able to peel it back and plant with minimal disturbance of the soil, helping to retain carbon in the soil and minimizing interference with insect and microbial life.

Underneath the cardboard I have found not only a lack of weed growth, but visible evidence of beneficial activity. The paperboard is softening and the insect population is building.

While the soil beneath is flat, it is weed free, yet teeming with positive life. I need only scratch the surface with a cultivator before I plant my seeds.

I set pole teepees and planted lemon cucumbers by seed. These cukes are good both fresh and in ripe pickles. I planted Kentucky Wonder pole beans and a hill of winter squash, Delicata and ButterBush. I sprinkled the area with compost.

Once the plants are up and standing a few inches free of the soil, I will mulch them with the rest of the bale of straw I bought to cushion my developing strawberry patch.

I have harvested a cup or so of strawberries from the old plants I let grow, and trimmed the new seedlings of bloom so they can put all of their energy into root development and plant growth. The birds tasted a few, but I was still left with a small but succulent crop of sweet berries.

I have not been so lucky with the Manchurian apricots. The

three trees were heavily laden with fruit this year, about half of which dropped naturally. They were green but growing, and I expected to have a sufficient crop to share with the squirrels and still have some for myself.

ting them outside in March. I'll also try reseeding the bed in late August. This may result in a late fall crop. If not, experience tells these plants will show up green and hearty early next spring with no extra effort on the part of the gardener.

The peas are sliding from blossom to pod. For this crop, I am grateful for the early season. This year, I will harvest this sweet-sugar crop before I leave for Maine, avoiding the more frequent circumstance of returning to find many peas too large, having moved from sweetness to starch.

Be sure to catch your personal meal(s) of this crop of garden candy. The season is not long. Pick or purchase before the pods are straining with oversized fruit, steam or boil lightly and serve with just a bit of butter and salt. There is nothing like them!

Most early season crops are like this: most tasty enjoyed when young - greens, sweet young beets, snap peas and tender green and yellow bean - unlike the season long crops that mature slowly. Harvest early and often. If you are unable to keep

up with the crop, boil lightly, chill immediately and freeze for enjoyment during the long, bare garden season. Watch for the scapes or blossom heads on garlic. Snip this growth and chop for use as a pungent green in cooking, and let the true bulb grow as large as it will. Harvest the bulb when the green tops fall over and wither.

Enjoy the luscious local strawberries! To my mind, they are best unembellished, eaten out of hand from the picking, ripened and warmed by the sun. Of course, shortcakes and crisps are a treat, as are fruit dipped in chocolate.

For a simpler garnish, which brings out the striking fruit flavor, try the recipe below.

Happy gardening!

*Strawberries with Lemon Curd*

1 jar of lemon curd, located in the jams and jellies section of your grocery.

1 graham cracker or cooled, baked pastry crust.

1 quart ripe berries.

Spread the lemon curd onto the bottom of the crust.

Cover with fresh, ripe strawberries.

Chill, slice and enjoy!

False hope. The trees were too tall for me to net and the squirrels have been too impatient to wait for ripening. The result was squirrels 1000, gardener 0.

I have enjoyed a triple harvest from my raised bed of greens. They have only just now bolted with the hot sun. I will try again this method of starting plants in the sunroom in February and put-

**BRIDGE** from pg 16

Removing the row of Jersey barriers next to the sidewalk reduced the bridge's load considerably. The west side of the bridge is slated to get a cantilevered overhang to widen the bridge, which means the curb,

bridge (facing Greenfield) will be moved to the center to cordon off the work area.

The supervisors report that Mimosa has an excellent safety record and strives to keep their employees "happy, productive and safe." Four large ducts are

parked beneath the bridge. Another duct will vacuum rust, paint particles and spent steel shot from the floor of the work area to the recycling unit parked at the Gill end of the bridge. A magnetic belt separates steel shot and deposits it into a storage bin

by a 450 HP John Deere diesel engine.

Workmen shot blasting will wear plastic "moon suits" and helmets pressurized with purified compressed air piped in, similar to a deep sea diver helmet. A 5-micron particulate filter removes water, oil and large particles.

This filter has an automatic drain device and has a second stage of filtration with a coalescing type of filter. The final stage of filtration is an activated charcoal filter that removes odors and organic contaminants down to 0.003 microns. All three stages of filtration are enclosed in the "suitcase" along with a carbon monoxide monitor assuring the air entering helmets is 99.9% pure, according to Kantzoglou. Air quality is monitored and an audible alarm sounds if CO (carbon monoxide) exceeds 10 parts per million.

The respirator air supply is either cooled by air conditioning, or heated, according to ambient temperature.

As Kantzoglou said, his company strives to keep employees happy, productive and safe.



PARZYCH PHOTO

Both the concrete beams and steel girders on the Gill-Montague Bridge are badly deteriorated. Workmen are shown here constructing the work platform under the bridge.

railings and railing supports will be demolished on that side. Barriers on the west side of the

connected to the encapsulated bridge work area to vacuum dust laden air to a dust collector

for another trip back to the blasting area

The vacuum unit is powered

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# GO GREEN FAMILY

## Episode 17: Ice Cream Cone Spirals

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** — “Ruby — what do you think you’re doing?” Alex’s sister Ruby was unscrewing one light bulb after another and dumping them all into a large canvas bag. She moved towards the living room table lamp, the bag tinkling as the glass bulbs clinked against each other.

“I’m putting in ice cream cone spirals.”

“Excuse me?” interrupted Alex. Ruby held up a spiral-shaped light bulb for Alex to examine.

“It’s a CF — a compact fluorescent. They’re going to save us a lot of energy and a lot of money, so we’re going to win this competition. These use a fifth the energy of our old bulbs. Plus, they last five years.”

“Oh quit lecturing, Ruby,” said Alex. “Just so you know, replacing a bunch of bulbs is not going to get us ahead of the Robbins-Levines. They are total misers — I heard they even unplug their appliances.”

“Where’d you hear that? From your girlfriend, Jayden?” Ruby teased.

“Oh, just shut-up!” Alex snapped, turning his back on

Ruby and walking away.  
\* \* \*

An hour later, Sam Lively, the WGBJ camera crew and the entire Tinker family watched as a Franklin Appliance deliveryman wheeled a battered, stained refrigerator out of the Tinker kitchen and down the driveway.

“That there is a vintage 1977 refrigerator. Make way for the Energy Star!” announced Billy, and everyone followed the gleaming new refrigerator as it was wheeled inside.

Watching his red-headed sister brag about the wonders of Energy Star appliances to the camera crew, Alex was astound-

ed at how brazen she was — no trace of shyness there, that’s for sure. His mother was standing next to him, and he commented, “We should get Ruby a poster of Al Gore. She worships that guy. You should hear her...” Alex raised his voice higher in imitation of Ruby: “If every family in the U.S. switches to compact fluorescents, we’ll reduce carbon dioxide by more than 90 billion pounds!”

Rita didn’t respond, instead stepping jauntily in her tall boots over to the delivery man.

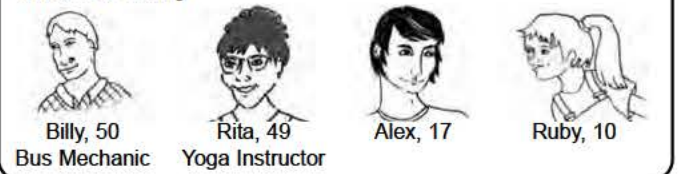
“Hey — while we’re at it,” she asked in her sweetest voice, “How about taking our old freezer, too?”

The uniformed man emerged half an hour later from the basement, lugging a dusty hulk with the streamlined contours common of an appliance manufactured during the 1950s.

Rita took her husband aside and whispered in his ear, “Billy — did you know that the thing was still plugged in?”

*Continued next issue...*

### Tinker Family



Billy, 50  
Bus Mechanic

Rita, 49  
Yoga Instructor

Alex, 17

Ruby, 10

### TALKING PICTURES

## Daycare Breakout!



## Toy Story 3

1 eagle = the pits 4 eagles = the heights

BY TODD DETMOLD

**CHICAGO** — There’s a flashback midway through *Toy Story 2* in which Jessie the Yodeling Cowgirl recalls life with her former owner, Emily, who abandoned her under the bed only to rediscover her just in time to send her away in a Goodwill donation box.

It’s heartbreaking, and the new sequel, *Toy Story 3*, functions as a feature-length, ensemble retelling of this vignette. Eleven years after the previous film came out and fifteen after the first, Pixar has kept the franchise timeline in sync with our own: our heroic toys are stuck in a box and their owner, Andy, is going away for college. They haven’t been played with for years.

The toys end up donated to Sunnyside Daycare, a development that only Woody believes to be a mistake. Everyone else thinks their time has come and looks to the unknown (read: scary) future of drooling toddlers and teething. Woody must convince his toy compatriots to bust out with him, but if they do, even their existence back home with(out) Andy remains a question mark.

The options presented to the toys are The Attic, The Trash or The Daycare — where they risk getting abused and torn apart. It’s heaven, hell or purgatory, and the heavenly option — wherein they earn a special spot on high reserved for special toys — also comes with dust, neglect and sorrow. Andy is never going to be a kid again.

There are religious connotations to the story, though more accurately it’s a spiritual, existential question that drives the toys’ plight. The motley band of brothers defines their existence through the love of a human child (their very personalities have grown from the roles foisted upon them by Andy’s imagination during playtime), so what happens to their identities when Andy doesn’t love them the way he used to? (The film will play with that question in several different ways, from a reorganization of Mr. Potato Head’s face to Buzz Lightyear’s getting reset

*en español.*)

What’s more, the film never questions the main toys’ *raison d’être*. Several supporting characters do — the leader of the “inmates” at the daycare facility, an aged, strawberry-smelling teddy named Lotso (as in “Lots-o-Huggin’ Bear”), remarks during the initial daycare tour that “no owners means no heartbreak.” In some ways this retreads the themes covered in *Toy Story 2*, wherein Woody makes the choice to stay with Andy even though their time together is finite. The villain in that film, Stinky Pete, has the foresight to ask Woody if he thinks Andy is going to bring him along to college.

*Toy Story 3* presents Andy’s move as the catalyst to the lesson that even though our time here is limited, there are rules that govern our existence and rites of passage that make us stronger for living through them. If we define ourselves by the people we love, we risk losing our very selves when those relationships end. But *Toy Story 3* says that’s still the only way to live a fulfilled life. It’s never preachy, and the spiritual journey the toys undergo is a perfectly-executed crisis of faith and renewal of the self.

And it gets dark. Like, really dark. From the prison-break escape from daycare right on through to the final frame, *Toy Story 3* becomes harder and harder to watch. It contains one of the most terrifying sequences I’ve seen in ages (nice to be reminded, after the doldrums of ostensible “horror” like the schlock *Human Centipede* or the earnest failure *Shutter Island* that I’m not actually desensitized to onscreen terror) and I have to question whether the MPAA even watched the thing before they slapped it with a “G” rating. Even Up got a PG, presumably for the hint of blood.

Two Pixar first-timers helm the film: Lee Unkrich, co-director on *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters, Inc.* and *Finding Nemo*, makes his debut as lead director while the script comes courtesy of Michael Arndt, who signed up

after winning his Oscar for *Little Miss Sunshine*. That film’s mixture of slapstick and brooding shows up again in *Toy Story 3* (which is, by the way, hilarious in equal measure to everything else I’ve discussed), but in the Pixar collective Arndt has found a team of collaborators to help balance out his wilder demons. While the collection of misfits that made up the family at the center of *Little Miss Sunshine* came across as a bit contrived, the quirks and idiosyncrasies that seem to be Arndt’s stock-in-trade work a lot better when applied to a dinosaur, a potato and an astronaut.

Arndt and Unkrich, together with the rest of their team at Pixar, pull out all the stops. In a multiplex flooded with computer animation imitators repackaging and remarketing the lowest common denominator (as it sinks ever lower), Pixar

Animation continues upping the stakes, putting its heroes in real danger and making movies not just for children or movies for children of all ages, but movies for people who think and feel. *Toy Story 3* is neither as tight as *Up!* nor as ambitious as *Wall-E*, but it adheres to the emotional core and relentlessly evades painless solutions or easy answers, making it both an immediate classic and a devastating punch in the gut. I don’t know the last time I was so affected by a movie.



*There’s gonna be a Daycare Breakout!*

## Northfield Mountain July Programs

*Exploring Barton Cove Ferns* by Boat and Foot with Elizabeth Farnsworth - Saturday, July 10th; from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participants will paddle to two locations along the Barton Cove peninsula and take short hikes in search of ferns of woodland and rocky habitats. Barton Cove is well known for its scenic beauty and nesting bald eagles and, with any luck, this paddle will allow us glimpses of both. Botanists also know this area as one rich in diversity of fern species and who better to explore Barton Cove with than Elizabeth Farnsworth, co-author of both the Connecticut River Boating Guide and the Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America? Please bring lunch and drinks to enjoy along the way, \$25 program fee includes canoe or kayak rentals. Program co-sponsor, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to celebrating and protecting the four-state watershed. Their updated Boating Guide (co-authored by Elizabeth) was published in 2007. Program also cosponsored by New England Wild Flower Society who’s mission is to protect the region’s native flora. Participants age 12 and older can call to pre-register at (800) 859-2960.

*Space-tacular: Starry Night* with Rachel Roberts, Saturday, July 17th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This exciting program features constellations. Together we will do a variety of hands-on science and art activities connected to the viewing, science, and mythology of stars. There will also be time to look at books about space, constellations, and mythology. This workshop is free and intended for families with children ages 7 and older and is supported in part by a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Pre-register for this free program by calling (800) 859-2960. More about Rachel Roberts at: <http://rachel-robertseducator.blogspot.com/>

*Blueberry Moon Hike* - July is a berry nice time of year for a sunset/moonrise hike. Join Northfield Mountain Naturalist Beth Bazler on Saturday, July 24th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to search for all kinds of berries and look for signs of other berry eaters. The “high point” of this three-mile round-trip hike will come atop nearby Crag Mountain where we’ll pick wild blueberries in the sunset and enjoy them over ice cream as the almost full moon rises. Participants ages eight and older should be in moderate condition and comfortable with a small amount of rock scrambling on steep slopes. Bring water, a cup or bowl, spoon and flashlight. Program fee to cover food costs: \$3.00. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960, a confirmation letter with directions will be emailed to registered participants.

## Junior Rangers Nature Kids at Great Falls Discovery Center

Starting July 8th and ending July 29th, the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is offering a four-part science and nature education workshop for children as part of their 2010 Junior Ranger “Nature Kids” program.

“Nature Kids,” for young naturalists ages five through seven, will meet July 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Children and parents should meet at the Discovery Center lobby at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. All programs will start at 10:30 a.m. and will last about 90 minutes. Junior Ranger “Nature Kids” programs are free and open to all. Space is limited. For more information or to register call (413) 863-3221 or visit [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org).

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The Montague Farm Cafe, a free family-friendly meal with activities, this week featuring local hero Tim Van Egmond, beloved storyteller and musician, plus free wellness offerings. Noon to 3 p.m. at the Montague Farm Zen House. 177 Ripley Road, Montague. Free transportation available. Please call Karen: 367-5275 or [Karen@zenpeacemakers.com](mailto:Karen@zenpeacemakers.com).

ers.com.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Mad Agnes. Progressive/alternative folk and



Burt Tepper, *Ghost (Hamlet's father's ghost)* above and Greg Phillips as Marcellus, Jay Gelter as Horatio, Colin Hinckley as Hamlet perform with the Vermont Theater Company production of *Hamlet at the Shea Theater on Friday and Saturday, July 2nd & 3rd, 7:30 p.m.*



drinks! 5:30-7:30 pm: (413) 256-1205 or (413) 863-9559.

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fancy Trash* and *The Ray Mason Band*, \$5 cover, 9 p.m.

Mocha Maya's Coffee House, Shelburne Falls: 5th year anniversary party with special musical guest *Brook Batteau & the New Cosmology*. Their pop-rock music will be keeping our party rockin' all evening! 8 p.m. Free. Tips are encouraged for performers.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 25th & 26th  
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Three Musketeers*. 1974 version in color, rated PG. Music before the movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26th  
Strawberry Supper at the Montague Congregational Church, 5:30 p.m. Baked stuffed chicken breast, rice, gravy, salad and veggies. Strawberry shortcake. \$9/ \$4 child under 10. Reservations: 774-7256.

Book Signing at Himalayan Views, South Deerfield host Maureen Kennedy, local author of *The Path of Remembering: Who We Are and Why We're Here*, talk and book signing, 2 p.m. Her new book explores the evolving consciousness of our species, as we turn from limitation and struggle to creativity and joy, reminding us that our purpose is to become who we are so clearly that we shine in the world.

tight harmony. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults/seniors, children 12 and under are free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, 50's & 60's Rock with Brian Mallet & Lefty Cullen, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 to 9 p.m. no cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27th  
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: LALIT, east/west improvisation, 4 p.m. [www.myspace.com/lalitquartet](http://www.myspace.com/lalitquartet). \$10 adults/seniors, children 12 and under are free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, acoustic trio/ warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 28th  
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 8 p.m. Sign up 7:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30th  
Great Falls Farmers Market. On the

lawn near the Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 2 to 6 p.m. Rain or shine every Wednesday.

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum Wednesday Folk Traditions Concert Series: *Tim Eriksen*, experimental acoustic folk artist and leader of the "shape-note" tradition. Eriksen sings traditional and original folk songs accompanied by the fiddle, banjo, guitar, and bajo sexto. 6:30 p.m.; picnickers welcome on the grounds beginning at 5 p.m. \$10/ \$2 for youth 16 and under.

FRIDAY, JULY 2nd  
Early Morning Nature Walk. Start your day off right, observing nature in Turners Falls! Leisurely explore level paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Meet outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center at 8 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, progressive jazz trio, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 2nd & 3rd  
Vermont Theater Company's production of *Hamlet* at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 3rd  
Clam Bake at Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, Turners Falls, 5 to 8 p.m. Chowder 5 p.m. Lobster or steak 6:30 p.m. \$40/ person. Open to the public. 863-8003.

ONGOING  
In the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Leslie Cerie*, photography on display through June.

Turners Falls Fishway open through June 20th. At Turners Falls Dam, behind Town Hall, 9 to 5 p.m. (413) 659-3714, free.

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G in DTS sound  
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3. **SHREK FOREVER AFTER**  
in 3D PG  
DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:20
4. **JONAH HEX** PG13  
DAILY 12:15 3:15
4. **GET HIM TO THE GREEK**  
DAILY 6:45 9:15 R
5. **THE A-TEAM** PG13  
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. **THE KARATE KID**  
PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. **KNIGHT AND DAY** PG13  
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