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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 11, 2010

Leverett Library Brings Back a \$79,000 Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The six trustees of the Leverett Library showed up to defend the library’s 1% share of town expenses on Tuesday. The trustees hope to have a level funded \$78,917 budget approved at annual town meeting this year.

Library director Linda Wentworth passed out a chart she had prepared showing how Leverett Library’s budget compares to that of 11 other libraries with similar circulation activity statewide. One thing Wentworth’s chart showed is that Leverett, a town of approximately 1,746 people, uses its library more than much larger towns.

Last year, the Leverett library circulated 42,671 materials to its patrons, whereas Truro, for example, with 400

see LEVERETT pg 12

Closing the Books on Libraries

BY DAVID DETMOLD **WHATELY** – On Sandy Road in Whately stands the modest cinderblock offices of the Western Mass Regional Library System. Built just five years ago with the help of local fundraising efforts, grants and a low interest 35-year mortgage from the US Department of Agriculture, the WMRLS office was forced to ground its two bookmobiles in December for lack of funds for new

see BOOKS pg 14

Wegman Surprises at the Gallery at Hallmark

BY CRAIG HARBISON **TURNERS FALLS** – *Funny/Strange* (yes, the word funny is intentionally misspelled) is the title of a highly recommended comprehensive book covering the work of the internationally famous photographer of Weimeraner dogs, William Wegman (Yale University Press, 2006). It would also be an appropriate title for the novel and intriguing exhibition of his photos now on view at the Gallery at Hallmark, 86 Avenue A, Turners Falls (through May 2nd). More about the funny/strange nature of this exhibit shortly.

The Gallery itself has chosen the more prosaic title *Out of the Box, A Photographic Exhibition by William Wegman*, presumably referring to the fact that many of the dogs in this set of photos are not in those ever-present white boxes, and perhaps more importantly to signal that this exhibit is the result of Wegman poring through a number of storage boxes containing his unpublished 20 x 24 inch Polaroid photos from the 1980s – and fortunately deciding that some of them can now see the light of day. He has gone on to create a limited edition of digital inkjet prints of these photos, made available at what for Wegman is a reasonable price (\$5,000). This is also the explanation for the two different

dates on the labels in the gallery: the first is the original date the photo was taken, the second, the date the digital copy was made.

Almost all the images in this exhibit are being shown publicly for the first time. So there are many surprises here even for those diehard Wegman fans who might think they have seen it all.

All published biographies of Wegman begin with something like the phrase, “Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1943, William Wegman etc. etc...” When Wegman’s mother first learned this, she exclaimed, “But Billy, that’s not true.”

Well, it is literally true since the artist’s birth did occur in the Holyoke Hospital, but he actually grew up with his family in East Longmeadow, where his 89-year-old dad still lives. Wegman

says he was a drawer all his life, but didn’t take an art course until his senior year when he needed an A. He vividly remembers the teacher’s name, Miss Laramie, because she told him he should go to art school, which he did. But since his family was relatively poor and he had to pay his own way, he went to Mass College of Art in Boston, where the tuition in 1961 was \$200 a year. With a scholarship he could afford that.

In conversation Wegman recalls autobiographic details like these in the same down-to-earth, almost folksy manner that permeates many of his famous photographs. He says things like he’s never funny on purpose, mostly out of shyness or timidity. He’s always had difficulty getting attention, the kind of person

see WEGMAN page 8



REBECCA WOODBURY PHOTO
Sara Woodbury (center) director of the Tilton Library in South Deerfield, was among the many local supporters who attended Tuesday’s protest of proposed cuts to the regional library system at the Statehouse in Boston



CRAIG HARBISON PHOTO
William Wegman (facing front) and fans exchange iPhone photos of their Weimeraners at the opening of Wegman’s photography exhibit on Friday.

Anything Goes at Turners Falls High



DETMOLD PHOTO
Zach Boisvert, Olivia Nicotra, Jesse Langknecht, Brooke Martineau, and Megan Grimard (front, l - r) were among the passengers on board for *Anything Goes!*

BY DAVID DETMOLD – *Anything Goes*, a seagoing mash-up of mismatched lovers and matchless Cole Porter tunes, steamed onto the stage at Turners Falls High on Friday to the rousing cheers of a quay-side crowd of fellow students, faculty, and community members. High school musicals bring together

the best in any town, and this weekend’s production at TFHS was no exception.

Even before the house lights dimmed, the expectant crowd knew they were in for some top of the line stage craft when they got a look at the S.S. America set, designed by Mark Mailloux, while the pit band led by Henry

Gaida on piano tuned up their instruments and got ready to dive in on the overture.

The curtain was drawn on a tableau of brilliantly attired principals, framed in life preservers, who held a dashing spotlight pose as the band reached the first crescendo.

In this way, the crowd was introduced not only to the mixed-up couples – Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Zach Boisvert), his fiancée Hope Harcourt (Sarah Underwood), who secretly pines for stowaway Billy Crocker (Sam Letcher), befriended by underworld denizens Moonface Martin (Jesse Langknecht) his resourceful moll, Bonnie (Olivia Nicotra), and abetted in his quest to win Harcourt’s heart by evangelist-turned-nightclub chanteuse Reno Sweeney (Megan Grimard), who takes a shine to the wealthy Sir Evelyn as the cruise progresses, (queasy yet?) – but also to the

see TURNERS FALLS pg 11

Lifting People with Stunts and Cheers



KERRI LAPOINTE PHOTO
The Turners Falls Cheerleading Team – Front Row: Co-captains Sarah Underwood and Samantha Horan; Middle Row: Kelsey Waldron, Taylor Howe, Elysia Ollari, Rylie Harriman, Emily Mailloux; Back Row: Brittany Yolish, Caroline Senna, Julie Thompson, Nicole Fuller, Jolina Blier

BY ANNE HARDING –

Missing first place by just four points, the Turners Falls High School cheer team returned home from Chicopee on February 27th with second place trophies in the regional cheerleading finals.

They should be proud of their fine performance.

The squad demonstrated their routine the week before the meet, even as they struggled for much-needed gym time when school

see STUNTS pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK
Total Sweetheart



Clayton

I'm Clayton, and I'm a one-year-old male domestic long hair cat in need of a good home. I am a total sweetheart and love to purr. You'll surely fall in love with my handsome face and extraordinarily soft fur. I'm blind in my left eye, so I'll need to be an indoor cat forever. I don't mind that at all, and you'll also never know it to look at me that I only have one good eye. Won't you come pet me? Just brace yourself when you do, because you are going to fall in love. And that sounds exactly right to 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.

Music Teacher Honored



Steve Damon, elementary music teacher in the Gill-Montague Regional School District, will be honored at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's conference next week. He will be presented the Lowell Mason Award, which is given to someone who (as stated on the nomination form) has demonstrated outstanding leadership in music education and made important contributions to music, music education, and MMEA.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Book Discussion with Author David Morine

Interested in the Connecticut River Watershed? Come hear David E. Morine discuss his book about canoeing the Connecticut River from source to sea – *Two Coots in a Canoe: An Unusual Story of Friendship*. Wednesday, March 24th, 7 to 8 p.m.

Retired CEO Ramsay Peard and his old friend David Morine decided to canoe the Connecticut River. Mooching their way down the river and staying with strangers every night, Morine and Peard saw the river valley from a unique vantage point. From their hosts, they also learned such issues as

the demise of farming, the loss of manufacturing, gay rights, and Wal-Mart versus Main Street, and they were able to delve deep into the lives of complete strangers. But Morine soon realized the one life he never dug into was Peard's. After spending a month with him in a canoe, he had no idea that his friend's innermost thoughts had taken a fateful course.

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road. Directions at www.leverettlibrary.org. For more information, call (413) 548 9220. This program is free and funded by the Leverett Cultural Council.

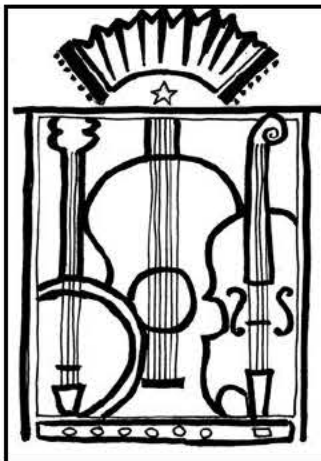
CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Mother Goose on the Loose

TURNERS FALLS – Mother Goose on the Loose with Michael Nix and Linda Hickman will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. The program is a fast paced interactive mix of live guitar, banjo, and other instruments, rhymes, stories, and puppets. The free sessions are designed for babies through preschoolers and their parents or other caregivers. For information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.



Linda Hickman and Michael Nix



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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – March 15th to 19th

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

Monday, March 15th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch & Bingo
No Knitting Circle
Tuesday, March 16th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group,

10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting
ARP Tax Prep by appointment
Wednesday, March 17th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursay, March 18th
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, March 19th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregated 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



PHOTO FROM BUDDY W. COLLECTION

This vintage photograph from the late 1800s, provided by local historian Peter Miller, shows the former B&M Railroad train depot in Turners Falls. The depot, chocked up on blocks, had apparently been recently moved to the location where the new branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank, built to resemble a somewhat larger train depot, now stands. The spire of Ste. Anne's, built in 1885, is visible in the background.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Movie Nights March 13th and 20th

Kids Movie Night, March 13th

Planet 51, rated PG, is showing on Saturday, March 13th, 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library Cinema and is free. Bring your own popcorn.

Planet 51 is a 91 minute animated feature, just released on DVD. American astronaut Captain Charles "Chuck" Baker lands on Planet 51 thinking he's the first person to set foot on it. To his surprise, he finds that this planet is inhabited by little green people who are happily living in a white picket fence world, reminiscent of a cheerfully innocent 1950s America, and whose only fear is that it will be overrun by alien invaders – like Chuck! Voices by: Dwayne Johnson, Jessica Biel, and John Cleese
Science Fiction - Horror Movie Series, March 20th
The Exorcist is showing at the Library on Saturday, March 20th, 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but seating is limited.

Standing the test of time as one of the most frightening

horror films ever made, *The Exorcist* follows the story of Regan MacNeil (Linda Blair), the daughter of an actress (Ellen Burstyn) visiting Washington, D.C., who begins to exhibit increasingly bizarre behavior, culminating with the eventual intervention of two Catholic priests who attempt an exorcism. Running time: 132 minutes. Teens under 17 require a note granting them permission to attend from a parent or guardian. This film is Rated R.

For more info about the Wendell Free Library, visit www.wendellmass.us/wendell-free-library, or call (978) 544-3559.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
Grade 6
Brennan Camara
Grade 7
Nadezhda Bochamikova
Grade 8
Danielle Loynd
Melvin Moreno

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – Winterberry Farm at 21 Teawaddle Road in Leverett will hold its 22nd annual **sheep shearing day** on Saturday, March 13th from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. The shearing itself will run from about 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Andy Rice is an unusually eloquent shearer who enjoys teaching about sheep and wool, so he's a lot of fun to watch. Weaving, spinning and felting will be demonstrated, and beautiful fiber, in many forms, will be on display to enjoy, together with great farm food. Sheep, goats, angora rabbits, and lots of poultry to visit too. Held regardless of weather; no admission charged! For directions, check out: www.winterberryfarm.org or call (413) 548-3940.

Winterberry Farm is a small family teaching farm, offering farm and fiber programs for families, kids and adults. Their website says they provide a place where people of different faiths – and people seeking faith – can reflect upon and share

their call to care for the Earth.

Come see what the young artists and musicians of Franklin County are up to, on Friday, March 19th, from 6 to 9 p.m., the **Brick House Community Resource Center**, in conjunction with DIAL/SELF and Community Action Youth Programs, will host an **open mic** and **'zine kick-off event** for the new teen publication, entitled "Copyright Infringement." The event will include arts and crafts projects, as well as free food, information about local resources and a brief presentation by the editors, at the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls. This event is free and open to the public. For more info: please call (413) 863-9559 or visit brickhousecommunity.org

In honor of maple syrup season, on Saturday, March 13th, the **Piti Theatre Company** will present **One Sweet Performing Arts Festival** at Memorial Hall, in Shelburne Falls, starting at 1 p.m. The organizers will present see **LOCAL** page 12

Who Do You Think You Are?

BY SARA CAMPBELL
TURNERS FALLS – The quest to uncover hidden family history was alive and well in Turners Falls Monday night, as over 30 genealogy buffs came together to share their research at the Carnegie Library.

The meeting quickly moved from the local history room to the larger museum space on the second floor, as attendees continued to arrive well past the 6:30 p.m. advertised gathering time. Some were looking for tips to begin the search, knowing little more than their parents' birthdays. Some were picking up data compiled by family members years ago, and hoping to delve deeper into their ancestors' lives. Some had stories to tell of long hours over the microfilm machine, looking for birth records in foreign languages.

The excitement in the room grew as each person introduced themselves and others offered suggestions of records that might advance their quest for family stories. Royal Colle and his wife Susana traveled from Ithaca, NY to share the fruits of their research into the history of the Colle Opera House and the story of Roy's

great-grandparents who built the structure. Roy has authored a 50-page booklet on the topic, available in the library.

Most other participants were from the local area, although they had forbears from Boston to New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and roots extending into Canada, Poland, Ireland, England, Germany, and beyond, Catholic, Lutheran, Congregational, Jewish.

Betty Hallett described the work she has undertaken to organize and index the records of the Catholic cemeteries in Montague for the ethnic Irish, Polish and French churches. Montague selectboard member Mark Fairbrother was in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to create a forum for exchanging information on research procedures, internet resources, and methods of presenting family history. A second session was scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie, and it will likely focus on small group discussions on a variety of topics, such as How to Get Started, Canadian Migration,

Land Records, and Internet Research.

Some of the participants arranged to travel together to the upcoming meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts in Agawam on March 25th. That meeting features a presentation by Jean Nudd of the National Archives in Pittsfield, who will describe records available to trace immigrant ancestors, including citizenship records and US census data. That meeting will be held at the Agawam senior center on Route 57, and begins at 6:30 p.m.

To get on the bandwagon and join in the fun of preserving family history, and to receive notices of upcoming meetings or programs, send an email request to rememberingancestors@yahoo.com.

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Eagle Watch

BY PAT CARLISLE
GREAT FALLS – On March 4th, both eagles were in or near the Barton Cove nest, all day. Early on the 5th, an eagle could be seen sitting low in the nest, and one or the other eagle has

remained in that position, except for when the two parents switch, apparently for incubation duty.

Without an operational camera trained on the nest from above, as in past years, we can't be absolutely sure, but it seems very likely we have an egg! We can now look forward, hopefully, to an eagle chick hatching on Eagle Island on or about April 8th to 10th, judging from past experience. If so, we can expect to see the eagle parents bringing fish for feeding the young one at about that time.

My window of telescope and binocular viewing of the nest will end when the leaves appear. Without a camera view on local access TV we can't be certain, but we can still be hopeful for eagle chicks this year!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife crew with assistance from First Light Power spent many hours last month assessing the video camera in position above the nest, and troubleshooting the wiring to the solar panel that powers it, but some continuing problem still prevents the picture from appearing at MCTV or the Great Falls Discovery Center TV.

Eagle Island is now officially off limits for any further attempts to correct the problem, but both Bill Gabriel, director of the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center and Fish and Wildlife's district manager Ralph Taylor both say they are hopeful that further attention to the equipment, after the nesting season, will correct the problem. Stay tuned.

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No Town is an Island

At a meeting last week between town residents, business owners and the highway engineers in charge of renovating the Gill-Montague bridge, Massachusetts DoT highway director Al Stegeman had this to say in response to local concerns about the impact bridge construction will have on Turners Falls.

"The bridge is old," said Stegeman. "It's outlived its useful life. It needs a lot of work. You need to put out the message, 'We're still here. We're still vibrant. You need to come visit us.' Pull together as a whole."

That about sums the matter up. Yet business owners' fears were not soothed.

Any of us who remember the long delays during the recent multi-year repair of the Coolidge Bridge in Northampton - and how easy it was to find reason to avoid Route 9 during that raucous, dusty construction and resultant bottleneck can easily sympathize with their fears.

But if the business community and residents of Northampton had been told "Pull together as a whole," during Coolidge Bridge reconstruction we could see how they could manage. There were at least easy corridors for traffic to flow into and out of that city, with its large student population and well-to-do hinterlands. Montague, and Turners Falls, have far more cause for concern.

But there is no getting around it. The Gill-Montague bridge has been in terrible shape for years, with rusting I-beams, falling concrete, rim bending potholes, and fences so weak they have to be guarded by Jersey barriers that only heighten the load on the old steel superstructure and give travelers the impression that what happened to Minneapolis could happen here any day of the week.

If Boston had not eaten up the lion's share of state infrastructure funds for the last two decades the Gill-Montague bridge would have been rebuilt before now, at far less cost. As it stands, the bridge is hardly a welcoming gateway to our town.

In four years, it will be. "So where's the mitigation money?" business owners ask.

Where's the mitigation money to help Turners Falls withstand the loss of traffic and the incon-

venience that will surely result from bridge construction beginning this June.

That's a good question, one we should all be posing to our state legislators.

According to the *City Journal*, mitigation money eventually made up one third of the Big Dig's \$14.8 billion cost - to keep downtown Boston businesses, North End neighborhoods and major employers happy during the 15-year construction phase.

If a similar calculus were applied, the Commonwealth would be spreading around more than \$13 million to ease the impact of bridge reconstruction on Turners Falls and Gill. We'd be happy with a fraction of that.

One thing that could certainly be done - if Mass DoT wanted to - is to find a way to repair, replace or reinforce the weakened gusset plates that have caused the short steel truss from 5th Street across the Power Canal to be posted for a maximum capacity of 15 tons, preventing trucks from using what will shortly become the major detour out of town.

Downtown Turners Falls has one major industrial employer left and that is the Southworth Mill. It cannot be easy to operate a paper mill in this economy, and the complications of delivering supplies and product to and from the mill over what will soon become a very congested White Bridge from Greenfield could be the straw that breaks that camel's back. We cannot afford to lose 80 more jobs downtown.

Mass DoT should do everything in its power to move swiftly to reopen the 5th Street Canal bridge for truck traffic.

As for the rest of us, we do indeed need to pull together all available resources and support our downtown. The expertise of a professional town planner would be most helpful in this exigency, but in the temporary absence of that resource we all have to step up to the plate.

The business owners and artists who have made Turners Falls an exciting place to visit in recent years have made considerable personal investments. Those investments, and the fate of years of teamwork with the state and local effort to revitalize Turners are now very much on the line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Three Cheers for Bridge Repair

Three cheers! A bridge that opened in 1940 (Fran Dolan once told me he had led the parade that inaugurated that bridge) is finally going to receive the attention it desperately needs. It would be awful if the Gill-Montague bridge were to be declared structurally unsound and no cars were to drive across until it was demolished and a new bridge built, like the Prospect Street Bridge in our neighborhood (nine years in the process). Geri Johnson should be pleased that cars can go one way. Changes take time. The miracle that is Turners has come about over many years with people working together.

As for Chris Janke's concerns, he should market the Rendezvous, which now serves lunch, to the 40 builders with the "Bridge Builders' Special".

Take out or eat in (especially when construction goes on during cold winter days). After work, a drink at the Voo with a brew developed by the People's Pint, which also owns the Gill Tavern, named for those Builders and Engineers (the B and E).

I agree that attractive signage extolling the charms of our town is a wonderful idea. It is worth a slight detour to dine at the Ristorante di Paolo, buy cardamom bread at the 2nd Street Baking Company, have coffee at the Shady Glen, and stop to see the Hallmark Gallery. Check out the wonderful Salvation Army Thrift Store and develop a theme that by crossing the canal, one drives past the beautiful red brick mill buildings where one can see the history of Turners and much of New England. We have a wide

Avenue reminiscent of the Avenues of Europe, the beautiful spires of churches built by Poles, Irish and French Canadians who came to work in the mills built by the mill barons of Boston. Today, artists, sculptors and research teachers live and work in this community, as do retirees on fixed incomes who live in cutlery row and the many beautiful buildings that line the Avenue. They sun themselves on benches in the parks along the river and Avenue and enjoy the lunches at the Franklin Technical School for a modest charge.

A strong bridge, safe and attractive, is needed. So I say, "Three Cheers!" The sooner the work begins, the sooner it will be completed.

— Joanne Potee
Turners Falls

Case Sensitive history

Thank you very much for your thoughtful March 4th review of the exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center, "From Hornbooks & Samplers to Facebook & SMART Boards - Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley," on view Fridays and Saturdays through the end of March.

I would like to clarify for your readers that the exhibit

was made possible by funds the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education granted to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District in support of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) and Memorial Hall Museum's three-season long NEA-funded Big Read program around the novel *Old School*. The Community Service Learning grant is part of a statewide effort to help schools connect with partner organizations, such as PVMA, giving students real-world

experiences serving their communities, while integrating that unique learning into the curriculum. The community, the partner organization, and the students all benefit from this win-win-win initiative!

I'd also like to explain to your readers that the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and its Memorial Hall Museum, is located in The Old Deerfield Village Historic Landmark District, the official designation for Old Deerfield. This section of Deerfield is known by many as "historic Deerfield" - that's historic with a lower-case "h". Historic Deerfield, with a capital "H" refers to a specific organization, our sister museum Historic Deerfield, Inc. The two museums often collaborate and share overlapping but not identical missions around American history. Though they are neighbors, the two muse-

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan
as of 3/9/10



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Volunteers Wanted for Telephone Reassurance Program

Our town has a number of older people who are home alone, and who do not have a support system to ensure that they are OK each day. If we could develop a system to ensure they are safe each day, it could serve the townspeople well. Such systems are often run through a senior center or council on aging.

The idea is to provide a daily contact for individuals 60 years or older who do not find it easy to get out and around and who would like to have a "reassurance call."

To do this, a group of volunteers is needed. If you are willing to help, please call the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 863-4500 and specify you are calling to volunteer for the Telephone Reassurance Program.

I would look for a pool of five to six volunteers to start with. The volunteer will be given four or five people to call each day from their home phone at a time mutually convenient to each, generally in the

morning, to serve as a check in on how things went overnight. Should an individual not answer the morning call, the police would be notified to follow up.

A backup system will have to be in place should one of the volunteers be unable to do the calling on any given day.

How will we get the names of people who would like to be on the phone tree?

I propose that we advertise the phone tree in the local newspapers, cable television, and mention it on the town website as a service. We could also contact people from a senior citizen list put together by the town clerk using age only as the identifier. Initially, I will be the point person, but once the system is up and running, I would hope home base for this would be the senior center.

The names of the individuals being called would be kept confidential unless permission to do otherwise is given.

— **John Reynolds**
Montague

HISTORY from pg 4

ums are completely separate entities. With email, texting, and instant-messaging we worry less about upper- and lower-case letters today than we used to, but in this case the "h" in the word "historic" is indeed case-sensitive!

Your readers may be asking what the difference is between the two museums and why both exist. Founded in 1870, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association was the area's first historical society. Before any of the surrounding towns had their own historical societies, when families from Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden counties had objects they wanted preserved for future generations, they donated those donated those objects to PVMA, which opened its Memorial Hall Museum in 1880. The museum's collection spans many centuries — from an ancient fossilized dinosaur track, to "The Door" from the 1704 raid on Deerfield, to early 20th-century

objects from the local Arts & Crafts Movement, to works created by Native American artists this century. As a regional historical society, PVMA collects objects and stories from any time period, including the recent past — all from the local region. In contrast, Historic Deerfield's historic houses and collection of fine art and antiques focus on the specific time period of 1650 to 1850, with a wider New England emphasis. You could actually find the 21st-century desk, textbook and hidden cell-phone that are part of the modern-day classroom scene at the Discovery Center exhibit as part of Memorial Hall Museum's collection in Old Deerfield someday — but you won't find them at Historic Deerfield.

Thank you again for your interest in the exhibit and for bearing with the explanation of who's who in Deerfield.

— **Sheila Damkoehler**
Deerfield

Town of Wendell Nomination Papers for May Election

The final day to turn in nomination papers for certification in the Town of Wendell election on May 3rd, 2010 is Monday March 15th by 5 p.m. The final day to register to vote is April 13th from 2 to 4 p.m and from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Town Clerk Office. If you have any questions please call (978) 544-6052, or email ahartjens@isp.com.

Selectboard, Three Years

• Christine Heard — Candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.

Board of Assessors, Three Years

• Thomas Margan — Candidate for re-election.
• Stephen Broll — Nomination papers filed.

Board of Assessors, Two Years (fill vacancy)

• Theodore E. Lewis, nomination papers files.
• Raymond J. DiDonato, has taken out nomination papers.

Board of Health, Three Years

• Harry S. Williston, III, candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.
• Jennifer Lynn Fyler, has taken out nomination papers.

Planning Board, Five Years

No Candidate

Moderator, One Year

• Kathy Ann Becker — Candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.

Constable, Three Years

• Anne Diemand — Candidate for re-election.

Accepted nomination.

Cemetery Commissioner, Three Years

• Richard J. Mackey — Candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.

Cemetery Commissioner, One Year

No Candidate

Road Commissioner, Three Years

• Harry S. Williston, III — Candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.

School Committee, Three Years

• Todd M. Soucy has taken out nomination papers.

Tree Warden, One Year

• Peter S. Zera — Candidate for re-election.

Library Trustees, Three Years - Two three-year terms

• Laura Botkin — Candidate for re-election.
• Phyllis Lawrence — Candidate for re-election. Accepted nomination.

Library Trustee, Two Years (fill vacancy)

No Candidate.

Co-Founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream to Speak at Amherst College

AMHERST — On Thursday, March 25th, at 8 p.m. in the Freidmann Room of Amherst College's Keefe Campus Center, Jerry Greenfield, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, will deliver a talk titled "How Ice Cream Changed the World." The event is free and open to the public.

Greenfield and his longtime friend and business partner Ben Cohen are the men behind one of the most renowned success stories in American business: Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc. A co-founder of the company, Greenfield helped build what was once a storefront venture into a \$300 million ice cream empire by making social responsibility and creative management strengths instead of weaknesses.

Greenfield was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., four days before his future business partner Cohen, whom he later met in junior high school. During his undergraduate years at

Oberlin College, Greenfield got his first taste of the ice cream industry when he took a job as a scooper in the college cafeteria. Upon graduating, he worked as a lab technician in New York and lived with Cohen. In 1977, the two friends decided to fulfill a dream they both shared of running a food business together. They eventually settled on ice cream, and, after a bit of research (and a \$5 Penn State correspondence course in ice cream-making), opened Ben & Jerry's Homemade ice cream parlor in Burlington, VT, in May 1978.

Greenfield and Cohen soon became known throughout Vermont for their rich, unusual flavors and community-oriented approach to business. In the early days of their business, Greenfield made all the ice cream, but as the company expanded into new markets, he soon found himself handling everything from distribution to orientation to employee motivation.

Greenfield and Cohen have since been recognized for fostering their company's commitment to social responsibility by the Council on Economic Priorities (which honored them with the Corporate Giving Award in 1988 for donating 7.5 percent of their pre-tax profits to nonprofit organizations through the Ben & Jerry's Foundation) and by the U.S. Small Business Administration (which named them U.S. Small Business Persons of the Year in 1988 in a White House ceremony hosted by President Reagan).

Greenfield also authored a book, *Dip: Lead with Your Values and Make Money, Too* (co-authored with Cohen), which has been described as a nuts-and-bolts guidebook to the promises and pitfalls of "values-led" business and an inspiring wake-up call about the growing international influence of the "socially conscious" or "mission-driven" corporation.

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NOTES FROM GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**L for Level Funding and for Lay-Off**

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Level funding the Gill-Montague Regional School budget will mean laying off four teachers, 11 paraprofessionals, one custodian, an administrative assistant, and the school resource officer.

That's what Gill-Montague Regional School District super-

intendent Carl Ladd recommended to the school committee on Tuesday, at a meeting at the Hillcrest School.

According to Ladd, it would cost the district \$797,070 more than last year for the district to provide the same educational services. To get to a level funded budget of \$16,537,788, the

district would have to cut by this amount.

This would be on top of the \$120,000 already cut from the FY '10 budget to comply with the budget set by the state in December 2009.

Ladd said these decisions were very difficult, adding that see **FUNDING** pg 10

NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD**Parties Work to Pare School Budget**

BY BILL FRANKLIN ERVING – "We can't print money," said selectboard chair Andy Tessier, at the beginning of Monday's budget negotiation with the school committee. "Only Obama can print money. How are we going to solve this problem?"

The selectboard had asked all town departments to bring in level funded budgets this year, in consideration of expected cuts in state aid, and all town departments did so, except the school committee.

Originally, the school committee brought back a request for about \$50,000 more than last year's \$2.95 million number for the elementary and secondary school budgets, and the selectboard worked to accommodate that request.

But due to increases in students tuitioning to upper grades at Gill-Montague, the school committee upped that number to about \$200,000 above level funding, throwing the process into disarray.

Tessier guided the sometimes acrimonious discussion back to concrete solutions, looking at various line items in the school budget one by one.

The school committee came to the table Monday with cuts of \$39,000, still far short of what the selectboard sought.

School committee member Scott Bastarache proposed the town use funds designated for the senior center to make up the difference.

"This will create a greater problem down the road," said Tessier, as well as creating the appearance of "seniors vs. students" in town.

The suggestion was rejected. Finance committee member Stan Gradowski said the school committee had become, in effect, advocates for the teachers. He said damaging the town's financial stability would end up hurting students in the future.

Getting down to line item cuts, Tessier began by asking if the elementary school's late bus had been eliminated. Bastrache

said half of that \$10,000 cost had been cut.

The selectboard went on to suggest cuts in the areas of travel, legal services, acquisition of new equipment, liason, and substitute teachers.

Charlie Paulin, business manager of Union 28, said, "The structural deficit will continue to climb as long as the [upper school] population increases. Each student that moves up from the 6th grade costs us a fee."

Jarod Boissonneault of the school committee pointed out a problem in the way budgets are constructed from one year to the next. Rather than communicating directly with various school employees or contractors in charge of maintenance or transportation, for example, and asking them to find economies on their own, the entire budget is rolled forward from the year before with the principal signing off on estimated costs. This may create a discrepancy between actual costs and rolled over yearly requests.

Finally, Winniphred Stone of the finance committee suggested the schools start looking at competitive grants as a way to help finance local schools.

Charlie Paulin argued these types of grants are given for new programs – not to support ongoing operations. "This requires us to do something that we're not doing now," and "the only way [to cut the budget] is to stop doing something that we're already doing."

By the end of the meeting the parties had managed to trim the proposed gap between level funding and the school department's operating request for FY '11 to about \$107,000.

On March 11th, Union #28 superintendent Joan Wickman said the selectboard had offered to more or less split the difference, leaving the school committee to search for about \$66,000 in additional cuts.

The school and finance committee will meet again with the selectboard in two weeks to continue working on the budget.

NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Deadline Set for Town Meeting Articles**

BY DAVID DETMOLD – In an afternoon meeting that broke records for brevity, the Montague selectboard convened Monday at 4:51 p.m. and adjourned with one minute to spare in advance of an executive session to continue contract negotiations with the three bargaining units for town employees.

During the brief open meeting, the selectboard chose June 5th at 9 a.m. as the date for the 2010 annual town meeting, and set April Fools Day as the cut

off for articles appearing on the annual town meeting warrant.

The board appointed Mark Fairbrother as an alternate to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District's governing board of representatives.

They also appointed John Furbish to the Montague Cultural Council.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he had completed a draft of a request for proposals (RFP) for the Montague Center School building's reuse, to be issued after the

April 1st special town meeting.

A zoning change from the Montague Center School's current education-recreation zone to a proposed neighborhood business zone would allow for the reuse of the building for light assembly shops, craft workshops, retail sales and services, multi-family dwellings, or business or professional offices.

Abbondanzio said he had prepared the draft RFP in anticipation of town meeting passing the zoning change on April 1st.

NEWS FROM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME CARE CORP**You too can SHINE!**

BY ANNA VIADERO MONTAGUE CITY – As more and more people reach retirement age (thanks in part to the current wave of Baby Boomers) and need

to sign on to Medicare, Medicaid, MassHealth, and other health insurance and prescription drug programs, SHINE, an important program from Franklin County Home Care, becomes even more important. SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) is available free thanks to the dedicated work of committed volunteers who learn about health insurance and prescription drug options and take time to make choices clear to those in need.

It has been a very busy year for the SHINE program already – numbers have increased by 100% during the past two months! For this reason, and in anticipation of even more people needing help, SHINE is now looking for volunteers to be trained starting April 7th. Training will be held twice a week for six weeks at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Rd, Turners Falls.

After interested persons take part in the six-week training,

promise to provide four to eight hours of service per week for two years, and successfully complete the training, they become SHINE counselors. Over their tenure as counselors, the regional director of SHINE is always available to provide assistance. There are also periodic workshops where updated information is shared with counselors.

Since the program began, SHINE counselors have staffed positions at local hospitals, town halls, and senior centers. Some SHINE counselors offer advice over the phone. In the coming year we'd like to put counselors in local libraries as well.

If you need more information or would like to sign up for the training, please contact Lorraine York-Edberg, regional director of SHINE, at lyork-edberg@fchcc.org or (413) 773-5555, ext. 2275.

Read more about SHINE at www.fchcc.org.

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Wendell will Consider Innovative Conservation Development Bylaw

BY JOSH HEINEMANN & DAVID DETMOLD – The planning board will hold two informational public meetings next month on proposed changes to the town's zoning bylaws which together would "encourage a new form of development that maintains a working landscape, a viable wildlife corridor connecting the Quabbin Watershed through Wendell to the Connecticut River, and encourages ecologically responsible residential development."

The meetings, which will take place Tuesday, April 6th and Thursday, April 8th, at 7 p.m. at the town hall, will allow the planning board to hold a dialogue with the public about the proposed bylaw changes, said Deidre Cabral, planning board chair. Cabral said the proposed bylaw changes are innovative, and may be groundbreaking in the Commonwealth.

According to the planning board's own summary of the proposed conservation development bylaw amendments, two bylaw revisions would work together, if eventually approved by town meeting.

One bylaw change would regulate "how often building permits can be allowed for lots subdivided from a larger parcel. The rate at which permits could be issued

would be once every seven years for such lots, thus slowing the roadside suburban sprawl typical of development in Wendell for the last 40 years.

"Landowners who want to develop lots more frequently can use the second bylaw, conservation development, with lots that don't require three acres or 200 feet of frontage, but also have protected land. Both development options would be considered 'by-right' in the revised zoning bylaws."

Cabral explained the protected land that would be set aside under the proposed conservation development bylaw would constitute 75% of the parcel or parcels under consideration. The parcels would not need to be contiguous in town, and they would not even have to be owned by the same owner. The land conserved from development would have a conservation restriction placed on it in perpetuity after the planning board conducts a conservation analysis of the land to determine its special features, such as potential for farming, forestry, hunting and fishing, or trail access. The conservation restriction, which would remain with the conserved portion of the land in perpetuity, would be detailed to allow for uses such as those mentioned above in negotiation with and at

the approval of the owner. The conserved land could be owned by a private individual, land trust, or public entity.

On the remaining 25% of the land under consideration, development would be allowed according to a formula that would permit greater density of construction, on common driveways of any length, saving the applicant "legal, financial and environmental costs of a standard subdivision road," in the words of the planning board's summary.

The formula for determining how many dwelling units on the 25% of land not conserved from development is quite precise. To quote again from the planning board's document: "The Conservation Development uses a formula for determining a maximum number of dwelling units, since frontage and acreage requirements don't apply. It requires the Applicant to identify total acreage and acreage having development constraints (water bodies, wetlands, 100-year FEMA defined flood plains, or slopes over 25%). Half the acreage with development restraints is subtracted from the total lot acreage; the remaining acreage is then divided by 5 to calculate the maximum number of dwelling units.

"Credit – to allow more

dwelling units – is given for affordable housing as defined by MGL chapter 40B or for work the developer does to enhance public access to the protected land. Bonus density is also allowed in the developed area if 85% of the original parcel is preserved. The Committee is also considering a bonus for small lots that use this bylaw."

Among the aims of the proposed bylaw revisions, Cabral said, is the desire to maintain a natural wildlife corridor between the Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut River. The proposed bylaw revisions have been under review by the planning board and various committees and subcommittees for about four years. The revisions were prompted by a conclusion of both the Wendell community development plan and open space plan, which found that "Wendell's pattern of residential growth could be redesigned to better fit Wendell's forested landscape," according to the planning board summary.

Cabral said the proposed bylaw changes have been reviewed by town counsel, Kopelman and Paige, and recommended revisions to language in the amendments have been incorporated at counsel's suggestion.

At their meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd, the selectboard approved the use of the town hall on April 6th and 8th for the planning board to hold the public meetings on the proposed

bylaw changes.

In other selectboard news, community development strategy meetings for updating the community development plan will be scheduled soon, after input is received from town departments. The community development plan must be updated regularly so the town stays eligible for community development block grants funds, to provide zero interest loans for homeowners to make improvements to their buildings.

Town counsel sent Wendell and other towns a letter outlining new standards for utilities to respond to power outages, such as the one resulting from the 2008 ice storm. Among other things, it calls for a Department of Public Utilities investigation into any electric utility's failure to restore service within 72 hours to 95% of its affected customers.

The town received a letter asking for selectboard support for an effort to expand the statewide bottle bill to include containers for bottled water, sports drinks, tea, juice, and other beverages. Selectboard member Dan Keller said, "It's a good idea," as selectboard chair Christine Heard signed the letter of support.

Dog officer Maggie Houghton asked that a hearing be scheduled at the next selectboard meeting, March 17th, to deal with a complaint about a dog on Kentfield Road. Houghton will speak for the woman making the complaint.

Time to Take Down your Birdfeeders

ATHOL - How common are black bears in Massachusetts and in the North Quabbin? What draws them to the area and into towns? Can people learn to live with such large, furry neighbors?

These are some of the questions considered at a recent meeting of the Athol Bird & Nature Club, on Wednesday, March 10th.

The speaker was wildlife biologist Ralph Taylor, manager of the Connecticut Valley district of the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) in Belchertown.

In its recent newsletter, the DFW issued its seasonal reminder that bird feeders should be taken down by mid-March, before bears emerge from hibernation. Too late for Cheryl Browning, who lives near the corner of Cooleyville Road and Jemison Road in Wendell. A large bear stole her birdfeeder last Wednesday.

Questions and answers about the problem of humans and bears living near each other can be found at the Mass Wildlife website at the following address: www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildl

ife/facts/mammals/bear/black_bear_home.htm

The Athol Bird & Nature Club manages the Millers River Environmental Center and maintains a natural history collection there, holds meetings featuring members or outside speakers, offers field trips all over southern New England, and hosts intensive workshops on specific natural history topics. It also organizes regional biodiversity surveys, bird counts, and butterfly and dragonfly records.

More info about the ABNC is available at www.millersriver.net.



Ralph Taylor with a Massachusetts bear cub

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Dr. Seuss Would Be Proud

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Sheffield School kicked off their “Read Across America” celebration last Thursday evening with stories, pajamas, birthday cake and cocoa.

The National Education Association began the annual “Read Across America” event in 1997, calling for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

At Sheffield, pajama-clad children and their families walked in the front door of the school and were ushered to one of five classrooms where teachers were waiting to read to them. Children of many grades were in each room, so books were chosen

to appeal to a range of ages. As one book was finished a new teacher would arrive to start another.

Though the night’s events honored Dr. Seuss, books by many authors were chosen for the Sheffield read-a-thon, some funny, some serious, some inspirational.

Third grade teacher Sherry Wood read *Nora’s Ark*, Natalie Kinsey-Warnock’s tale of the drama of the 1927 Vermont flood and the importance of community in rebuilding following natural disasters. Fifth grade teacher Elizabeth Desorgher introduced her listeners to Barbara Cooney’s *Miss Rumphius* – an unconventional soul who travels the world on one adventure after another –

who eventually decides to make the world more beautiful by scattering lupine seeds wherever she roams.

On the lighter side, special education teacher Cathy Coutu read *King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub*, the tale of a king who simply doesn’t want to get out of the bathtub.

Laurel Rollins, reading teacher and Title I event coordinator, read Beatrix Potter’s classic *Tale of Peter Rabbit* – the mischievous and slightly disobedient young rabbit who’s been a favorite of children since he first appeared on the scene in 1893.

As one of the organizers of Thursday’s shindig, Rollins was pleased to see so many families in attendance, especially with



Dressed in their matching pajamas, Victoria Veaudry and Monica Lane join Jarod Brown as they listen to Susan Guy-Greene read Millions of Cats

continued on next page

WEGMAN from pg 1

who’s never waited on in stores. How does he work? Spontaneously, just playing around. For the dog photos, he’ll take to his studio, or just find there, a bunch of objects and simply try things out in a sort of innocent whirlwind. And then, he admits, the resultant image can become more profound than he intended. You just get lucky, he says, something magical jumps out at you.

In the current exhibit, a good example of this process is the languidly reclining dog with a red guitar slung across her belly. Wegman recalls that he had already done a photo of his first dog Man Ray with blue make-up, a blue guitar and a small image from Picasso’s Blue Period, the title of Wegman’s photo as well. Now he brought a flaming red guitar to the studio and wondered what he should do with it.

With the 20 x 24 inch Polaroid images he’s always aware of the problem of fitting a horizontal dog into a vertical format in an interesting way. So a high-backed chair covered in lush purple fabric became the backdrop for the almost upright dog – and the guitar just slipped into place diagonally across her lap.

But what does this suggest: is she a prim and proper lady, covering up her private parts, or is

that a come-hither expression on her face? Wegman admits the work has a charge – dogs are in fact traditionally associated both with loyalty and carnality (they do, after all, copulate in public). With something like this, he says, you can either hide it or let it go. In this case he’s now letting it go.

Some observers have por-



Slow Guitar by William Wegman

trayed Wegman and his dog photos as outright social commentary or criticism, about the nature (decline?) of contemporary American life. In this show a dog encased in a box from China might, from such a perspective,

be interpreted as a comment on our lopsided trade with China: has this dog come from China, is everything now made in China?

Wegman himself would probably say the box just happened to be there, he certainly does not consciously think of his work as social commentary. He traces his professional origins to the Conceptual Art of the 1970s, questioning what art is, how it’s constructed, documented and received, what’s high, what’s low, elite vs. popular. At the beginning of his career when he thought painting was dead, he also refused to call himself a photographer. And if he is making social statements they are probably analogous to the more light-hearted, self-deprecating stories of, say, a David Sedaris.

In the other photos now on display at Hallmark the dogs stand on tables or boxes, play with rubber dinos or sharks, wear hats of a formal or party variety (the party hats on both the head and the rear end of a dog are certainly another provocation, like the red guitar). One dog stands on a small piece

of red carpet and then, in a set of three images, gingerly gets off it (a metaphor for the human condition of freedom and restraint?). A couple go on vacation, sailing, others get wrapped in various materials or peer in or out of holes in paper. One has a large threatening insect on its head, another innocently (?) chews a soft cat toy. Is there any issue for the SPCA here? In fact, Wegman is constantly doing benefits for all sorts of animal advocacy agencies.

Wegman obviously treats his dogs with great respect. They are only posing for 20 or 30 seconds – he feels like he just borrows them for a moment. He knows their anatomical language very well – ears back, a grin on their face and he instantly realizes they feel stressed and want to get out of there, and he lets them. They have incredibly different personalities which he both respects and takes advantage of. Some he says are narcoleptic (thus the sleepyheads in this show), others alert, playful, liking to nuzzle together, wearing hats easily (again an affecting photo in the show of this couple). Dogs are clearly Wegman’s muse.

If you like this show (and any Wegman fan surely will), you should also check out the artist’s website www.wegmanworld.com. There you can be entertained by the whole range of Wegman’s

prolific art, from spare cartoon-like drawings to recent paintings inhabited by tourist postcards which Wegman says act for him like the dogs, giving a jumping off place from which his fantasy and worldview can roam freely.

And then there are the extremely funny/strange videos – he says it was producing the videos that first made him realize he could be funny. You can see a small selection of them on the web (including the famous dog duet, deodorant ad, and stomach song). Also there is a video he did for Sesame Street which shows a lone dog wandering through the empty galleries of the Brooklyn Museum complete with a dog guard (whose body is actually that of the museum’s director), an experience both hilarious and surreal.

Many of the videos have recently become available on DVD, nice for the viewer but not so helpful apparently for the artist. Wegman says he’s not making videos right now largely because he no longer easily finds a live audience, he doesn’t get the charge he used to get from actually seeing people watch them. He seems quite wistful about this, and indeed the funny/strange world of William Wegman certainly is tinged with nostalgia.

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Erastus Field's Work Lives On

BY FRAN HEMOND

LEVERETT – The Leverett Field Museum hosted a talk Sunday by artist Louise Minks, spanning two centuries and considering two portrait painters among the many artists who have called that village home.

Titled 'Erastus Field and Me,' the talk was introduced by another Leverett artist, Susan Mareneck, who talked about the development of the Field Museum – with



Louise Minks's oil painting of Christine Bell uses costume, 'firelight' and domestic prop à la Erastus Field

its outstanding collection of local artifacts – in the building that for many decades housed the Bradford Field Library, on the town common in Leverett Center. It was Bradford Field's daughter, Elizabeth, who originally gave the library to the town in memory of her father, and the museum still bears the Field name in their honor, and in memory of the late David Field, who contributed significantly to the growth of its historical collection.

Minks projected slides of many of Erastus Salisbury Field's works and led an audience (which included a couple of sharp youngsters) to appreciate the development of his skills. Field used portraiture to suggest the human spirit as well as the physical being of his subjects, employing color and background objects – decorative carpets, books, musical instruments – to further these aims. In one 1845 portrait a tiny dog crept into the background.

A witty lady, Minks include a couple of pictures of young children in dresses in her slide presentation, prompting discussion as to whether the subjects were boys or girls.

With the advent of daguerreotypes and photographs during the Civil War era, Field departed from his earlier reliance on actual people sitting for their portraits, and began painting subjects from their mechanized images. These later portraits lacked the depth of his earlier work.

Field's early portraits were of his brothers (family and friends are readily available first subjects, Minks noted), and many later pictures were of affluent family groups in the Valley.

Field's *Historical Monument of the American Republic*, whose towers testify to the development of the country, was his magnum opus. Nine feet high by thirteen wide, the ten towers in this unusual work of art offer *bas relief* representations of various epochal events in the history of America, from Jamestown to the assassination of Lincoln, as described in the descriptive catalogue Field authored to accompany the piece. That painting, along with many other of Field's works, now hangs in the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts.

Before it assumed pride of place in that setting, however, this 150 square foot painting lay rolled up in obscurity for years in the barn attached to a large white colonial farmhouse owned by the Hubbard family, on Route 63 at the corner of Plumtree Road on the Amherst line.

It was largely due to Abby Rockefeller and her effort to gather a collection of American folk art together at Colonial Williamsburg's museum that Field was rescued from obscurity and elevated to the top rank of early American portrait artists. Since the middle of last century,



Louisa Gallond Cook, by Erastus Field

Field's portraits of his Leverett ancestors have left local living rooms for museums near and far, and expensive private collections.

Minks then showed her own portraits of today's local folks to delighted residents who knew them well. She continued with subjects from Greece and other distant locales, though in the modern world, they may as well live right next door. The background aura and spirit she found developing in Erastus Field's work is still to be seen in work like Minks's, painting portraits of personalities in modern time.

Minks' work is widely exhibited. She teaches locally (occasionally at the Gill-Montague senior center) and maintains a studio at the Book Mill in Montague.

And Leverett has yet another painter of note.

continued from previous page Hillcrest School's kindergarten registration night happening concurrently due to the previous week's snow cancellation.

Susan Guy-Greene read Wanda Gag's *Millions of Cats*, telling her rapt audience it was the first book she read to students on her first day of teaching – 33 years ago. It was clear she and the children still loved this light-hearted tale of a lonely elderly couple and their misadventures in search of a pet cat. The book is one of the few picture books to win a Newbery Honor Award, and the oldest American picture book still in print.

At 7 p.m. everyone made their way upstairs where principal Elizabeth Musgrave was

waiting in the darkened library – the space transformed with blankets for children to sit on and white twinkling lights laid out in patterns on the floor to lend a festive air. Parents stood on the periphery or found chairs to sit on. With more than 200 attending, the library filled up and the hubbub grew as children crowded together to find floor space.

Musgrave raised her hand for silence, and with the help of faculty and parents the exuberant conversations and laughter of the children ended. She introduced herself as, "The Cat in the Hat Dressed up like a Principal" then read a classic Seuss story of Gertrude McFuzz, the young girl bird whose tail feather envy gets the better of her. Following

the story, everyone traipsed down to the cafeteria for a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday," in honor of Dr. Seuss (Springfield native Theodor Geisel). Awaiting the horde were two cakes beautifully decorated by Tammy Little – one adorned with "Green Eggs and Ham" and the other with balloons and birthday wishes for Dr. Seuss.

The Sheffield School's reading initiative continues with a read-a-thon until Friday, April 16th – the start of spring vacation. Students have been challenged to top last year's mark and collectively read more than 5,000 books or chapters. Children receive reading logs to keep track of their reading, to be initialed by teachers, parents or other adults in their lives.

For every ten books or chapters a child reads, they are awarded ten pennies to drop into a giant "A" housed at the main office.

Ultimately these and other pennies collected by children will go to "Pennies for Peace," an organization that helps to build schools for children in impoverished regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Dr. Seuss would be proud.



This whimsical cake decorated by Tammy Little was part of the fun at Sheffield School's Dr. Seuss night on March 4th.

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FUNDING from pg 6

the cuts necessary to achieve level funding could be made without affecting educational programming – but that further cuts would damage the district’s ability to maintain their priorities in serving the educational needs of their students.

The school budget planning process is being turned on its head, said school committee chair Michael Langknecht.

He said school principals used to submit budget requests first, and then the district budget was

built to meet the program needs of the schools. Now, he said, administrators must plan their programming according to an already established budget number.

Ladd asked that his scheduled presentation of a Strategic Vision plan be rescheduled due to the absence of school committee members Kristin Boyle and Sorrel Hatch. That presentation will be held at a special meeting of the school committee at the Turners Falls High School on Tuesday, March 16th at 7 p.m. To allow room for more people to

hear the presentation, the meeting will be held in the auditorium.

According to Ladd, the school district’s lawyer, Russell Dupree, has had time to look at the contracts for Siemens Building Technologies professional grade energy audit for energy efficiency improvements in district school buildings, and discussed the matter with town lawyers.

Dupree has concluded that the district cannot contract with Siemens or enter into a financial agreement to raise money for either an investment grade audit of potential energy saving meas-

ures at any of the school buildings leased from the towns, or for energy efficiency work to be done on any of the school buildings leased from the towns (i.e. the Gill, Hillcrest and Sheffield elementary schools).

Dupree said a side agreement to cover and later recoup these costs from guaranteed energy savings under a contract with Siemens is a possibility.

Ladd said the town of Gill has already decided to move forward with the investment grade audit for the town and will include their elementary school building in their contract with Siemens. The decision of the town of Montague is still pending. Ladd

will talk to Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio regarding this issue.

Ladd asked the school committee to review the draft of the district anti-bullying and harassment policy included in their packet as a “first reading” and submit any questions for him to address. He said he was aware that there is legislation moving through towards the governor’s desk that may affect what they do but said, “I think it’s important we move forward and that we have an anti-bullying policy on the books.” There was no discussion on the subject at this meeting.



LYN CLARK PHOTO

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JOE GRAVELINE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Motor Vehicle Thefts

Tuesday, 3/2
6:42 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and providing a false name and social security number.
5:26 p.m. Suicide at Montague Center Cemetery. Services Rendered.

Wednesday, 3/3
9:48 p.m. Structure fire on Center Street in Montague. Services rendered.

Thursday, 3/4
12:04 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Unity Park. Services rendered.
6:50 p.m. Motor vehicle theft on Park Street. Report taken.
11:29 p.m. Accident with property damage on Prospect Street in Millers Falls. Summons issued for driving under the influence, operating to endanger, marked lanes violation, speeding, failure to wear seatbelt, and leaving the scene of property damage.

Friday, 3/5
2:54 p.m. Accident with personal injury on First Street and Avenue A. Citation issued.

Saturday, 3/6
12:33 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for second offense for driving under the influence, operating to endanger, marked lanes violation, open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, failure to wear seat belt, and failure to notify RMV of name and address change.
9:46 a.m. Chimney fire on Turnpike Road. Referred to other agency.
6:30 p.m. Unwanted person at Suzee’s Third Street Laundromat. Peace restored.

Sunday, 3/7
12:35 a.m. Motor vehicle theft on Fourth Street. Services rendered.
7:55 p.m. Domestic disturbance on West Mineral Road. Peace restored.

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STUNTS from pg 1

was cancelled due to a snow-storm. There was a lot to practice as they had changed their routine for the competition to add some flashier moves and more difficult stunts to increase the potential for earning points. To do this, the girls increased the number of flyers, used less people in the base, and where possible did not use a front for the stunt.

This was all Greek to me, but I soon learned more about the difficult sport of cheering.

Their routine begins with a stunt that has “flyer” Kelsey Waldron perched on one foot on the outstretched arms of two “bases” – Julie Thompson and Taylor Howe – while the other flyer Rylie Harriman is supported by Sarah Underwood and Samantha Horan. The “main base” holds the flyer’s foot at toe and heel, while the “side base” holds the middle and top. At the same time the “backs” Brittany Yolish and Elysia Ollari support the flyers’ ankles, and “fronts” Nicole Fuller and Caroline Senna steady the arms of the main base.

All this happens in a matter of seconds. Then the pyramid starts rotating, with the flyers outstretched in a liberty arabesque, while Emily Mailloux and Jolina Blier weave in and out of the two towers in a tumbling routine of front flips, back flips and cartwheels.

Next they “cradle down the

flyer,” which means they give her a toss in the air and let her fall... and then of course they catch her in a cradle of outstretched arms.

Each step of the way, the troupe must act in unison or risk dropping the flyer, though all members risk an injury when

of the flyers, the girls moved into the team dance – a tightly choreographed, high-energy number with complex syncopated arm movements. The cheerleaders’ many hours of practice were obvious here, as their synchronized steps and gestures transitioned seamlessly into the

are three pyramids. Fuller and Waldron, the two outside flyers, are popped up to shoulder height facing each other. As Harriman, the center flyer, jumps into the hands of her base team, the two outside flyers are briefly raised over the heads of their bases. When they drop back to shoulder height, Harriman pops up between them into the fully extended position. Their motions are reminiscent of the rising and falling horses on a carousel.

The center flyer stretches out her arms and the two outside flyers take her hands as she is dropped onto the raised arms of the base team. She is tossed up and pivoted 90 degrees, and on the way down both Harriman’s hands are grasped by Waldron and her left foot by Fuller; another toss in the air, and she is flipped over and caught once again. The base team then pushes her up through the center, where she stands on her

right leg with arms and left leg outstretched. At this point Harriman is still supported by Waldron, who keeps hold of her right hand, and Fuller, who holds the left foot. The outside flyers let go for the final pose, then all three are tossed in the air and dropped into their respective cradles.

(The entire kickin’ chicken

takes only 20 seconds, and the whole routine about three minutes. It took much longer than three minutes to write about the stunt, because I had to play back the video over and over again to follow the sequences in detail and try to capture each step.)

During practice, coach Kerri Lapointe acts as the drill sergeant, with a steady eight count keeping the cheering squad on step and in sync with the music. But during competition, the team is on their own.

Co-coach Jessica James, who has been with the team for the past three years, organized the five stunt sequences in the routine. A former Turners Falls High School cheerleader and eldest child in the family, she recalled toting her youngest sister to practices and games back in the mid 1990s. Coaching that “little sister,” junior Julie Thompson, has been particularly rewarding, but it was obvious both James and Lapointe love their jobs and their team.

James and Lapointe are unmistakably proud of the cohesive spirit and good-natured liveliness of the girls. When asked, “What’s the competition like?” the team responded in laughter then shouted in unison, “LOUD!”

James smiled and concurred, “Imagine a gymnasium full of cheerleaders all doing what they love It is the loudest, happiest event you can imagine.”

Congratulations to these fine athletes who, in their words, “lift people, not weights.”



The Turners Falls Cheer Team rehearses the week before the regional finals.
 Left Flyer: Kelsey Waldron Left Bases: (Left, Center, Back) Emily Mailloux, Elysia Ollari, Sarah Underwood
 Middle Flyer: Nicole Fuller Middle Bases: (Left, Center, Back) Taylor Howe, Julie Thompson, Brittany Yolish
 Right Flyer: Rylie Harriman Right Bases: (Left, Center, Back) Caroline Senna, Samantha Horan, Jolina Blier

stunts go awry. Perhaps the flyers have the more glamorous job, but without the strength and skillful technique of the supporting pyramid, they would not be able to manage this seemingly effortless floating stunt.

Following the cradling down

cheer dance, where intricate steps and gestures were accompanied by loud cheering.

They started with a ground cheer followed by another stunt, a second ground cheer, and finally another dance routine which included one of my favorite stunts, dubbed the “kickin’ chicken” by Sarah Underwood. In this stunt, there

TURNERS FALLS from pg 1

Grimard, lighting by Darin Pawlus, and expert stage management of Meagan Beauregard.

It takes a village to raise the curtain on a production like this, and of course the firm hand of a director like Jayne Finn at the wheel. Last minute complications thrust Megan Grimard into the leading role of Reno. She had been rehearsing with the Angel chorus of Charity, Purity, Chastity and Virtue – the easy kind – until a scant two weeks before the show. So if she dropped a few lines on her big rendition of the title tune at the first act’s finale, nobody seemed to mind. She carried off the part with a bold defiance of convention and a willingness to follow Cole Porter’s melodies to regions others fear to tread, and the crowd responded generously.

Sam Letcher, draped in a smashing suit and tie, was a revelation as the lovesick Crocker, breathing new life into tired old standards like “All Through the

Night” and making “It’s De-lovely” sound not only de-luxe but also be-lievable for a brand new audience.

Underwood glowed and smoldered, easily shouldered her side of the torch songs, and showed acting chops to match.

Langknecht and Boisvert took turns stealing the limelight, the former with his trademarked Marx Brothers-style slapstick and the latter with flawless understatement and uncanny comic timing.

But as luck would have it, the standout of the show came in the form of the minor character of Bonnie, a mere sidekick. But boy can that girl kick! Played by an effervescent Olivia Nicotra with a Jersey accent strong enough to drive a Mack truck through the Holland Tunnel, she was effusive, engaging and electric: all and all exceptional among a cast of exceptionally talented teenagers.

We can’t wait to see what any one of them does next, because as they say, from here on out *Anything Goes*.



**Great Falls Middle School
2nd Quarter Honor Roll**

THIRD HONORS
 Dominic McLellan
 Caitlyn Poirier
 Tatiana Vellon-Santiago

SECOND HONORS
 Haleigh Bassett
 Ryan Bezio
 Felicia Craver
 Alexander Fitzpatrick
 Andrew LaPenta
 Rachel Savinski
 Cole Tognarelli
 Natalie Torres Velardo

Morgan Ozdarski
 Jonathan Rawls
 Tyler Richardson
 Hayley Westfall

Grade 7
FIRST HONORS
 Trenton Bourbeau
 Sara Bradley
 Amber Caouette
 Alex Carlisle
 Danielle Conant
 Malcolm Crosby
 Liam Ellis
 Lexi Griffin
 Melanie Howard
 Emily Kells
 Ken Leng
 Ian MacPhail
 Alexander Morin
 Stephanie Robertson
 Mackenzie Salls
 Serena Smith
 Savannah Thornton
 Zachary Wright
 Nicholas York
 Charles Zilinski

THIRD HONORS
 Zachary Battistoni
 Hayley Black
 Zachary Demars
 Alex Tirrell
 Alexandra Wing-LaClaire

SECOND HONORS
 Benjamin Bocharnikov
 Meghan Casey
 Samuel Danford
 Lauren Grimard
 Emma Johnson
 Danielle Loynd
 Katri Mizula
 Tyler Peters

Grade 8
FIRST HONORS
 Elliot Bertini Franseen
 Jacob Coy
 Courtney Eugin
 Kaylannah Frost
 Jessica Fuller
 Daniel Girard
 Sophie Letcher
 Heather McKenna
 Alexander Osowski

THIRD HONORS
 Kathryn Austin
 Danielle Bassett
 Elyssa Carner
 Eric Ferguson
 Meaghan Horan
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Mike Fuller, Owner

LEVERETT from pg 1

more year-round residents, circulates about 1,000 fewer materials (and the towns of Rowley, Douglas, Salisbury, and Berkley, all more than three times the size of Leverett, circulate even fewer materials). But Truro's '09 library budget, to continue with that one example, was \$249,700, more than triple what Leverett spends on library services. (Rowley spent \$195,000; Douglas spent \$192,600; Salisbury spent \$164,000; and Berkley spent \$176,700 on library services, to cite a few of the other examples from the chart.)

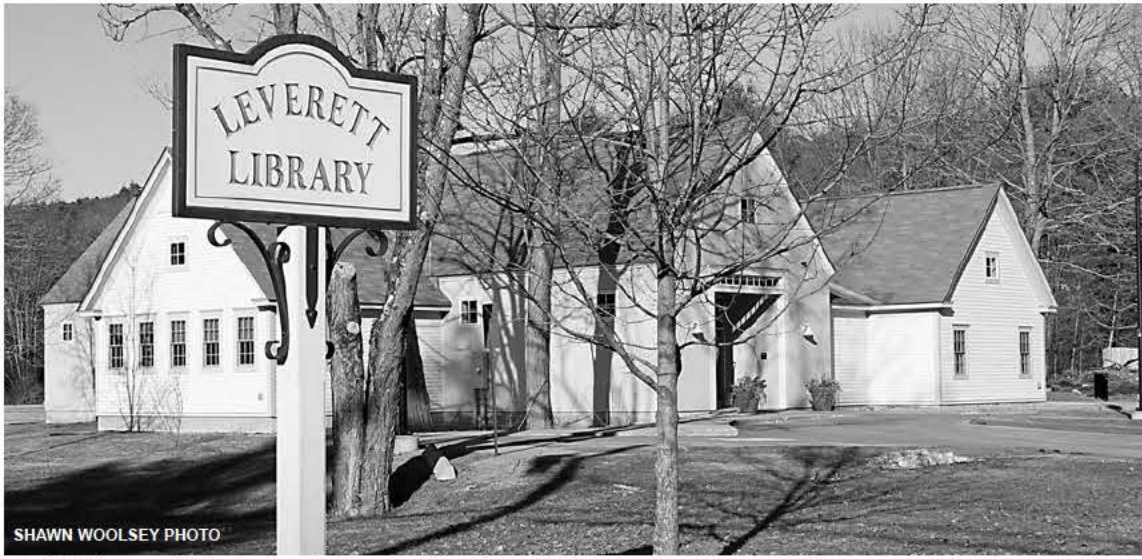
"We do things frugally in Leverett," said Wentworth, "and we're proud of it. We use a lot of volunteers."

"There's nothing to do in the sticks but read," noted selectboard member Peter d'Errico.

Trustee Elaine Barker said 50 people a day use the library, on average, checking out 2,500 to 3,000 books a month. "We are a very active library, and we provide a really good tax value for the townspeople. We had to enlarge the parking lot recently," another indication of demand.

"The library, more than any other place in town, gives a center to the community."

Wentworth noted there a lot more people using the library for job hunting these days. The fact that the library, unlike many parts



The Leverett Library circulates materials at much lower cost than libraries with comparable activity statewide.

of town, provides high speed internet access is a further draw.

"I got here on Monday," Wentworth said in a follow up phone conversation, "and people were sitting at the picnic table outside," tapping into the library's wireless internet connection.

In colder weather, they sit in their cars in the parking lot, working on laptop computers until the library opens its doors, she said.

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau asked about plans to upgrade the library's geothermal heating and cooling system.

Trustee chair Chris Condit explained the present system, an "open-source system," that "pipes water in, rips off the heat,

and discharges to a sump," relies on a well for its supply. In rainy weather, the well's chemistry and particulate content changes, leading to problems with the heat exchange system which could be avoided by a closed-loop system.

At present, when there is a problem with the geothermal system, Condit explained, the library staff switch on electric heaters, since the library has no other backup heating system.

Finance committee chair Don Gibavic said new kinds of technology may sound attractive, but the problem with the geothermal system at the library is, "It's expensive to maintain. You put in a furnace and an oil tank in the ground and it works. It always has."

Condit disagreed with Gibavic. He said if a closed-loop geothermal system had been installed at the new library as originally planned, the maintenance problems of the open-loop system would have been avoided, along with the expense of electric backup heaters.

Condit said the library now plans to work with the Franklin County Tech School to design and install a closed-loop geothermal system at the library, using most of the present system's

components.

The selectboard had asked all departments to present scenarios for a 0% budget increase and a 5% budget decrease for the coming fiscal year. In order to reach a 5% decrease, Wentworth said the library would have to cut \$11,000 from the materials line item, which would trigger a loss of \$900 in state aid to the library, a net loss that finance committee chair Tom Powers said would be unjustifiable.

But Gibavic said all departments should be treated the same, and if state aid is cut 5% or more, as expected, this year, then it may be that all departments will have to suffer similar across the board decreases to their budgets.

In other selectboard news, Tom Ewing came to discuss prospects for the town of Leverett to adopt the voluntary appendix to the state building code known as the Energy Stretch Code. If adopted by town meeting, the stretch code would impose stricter building standards in terms of the energy efficiency of new homes and additions.

Ewing acknowledged higher up front costs – "about \$5,000 to \$10,000" – for new home construction would be one result of Leverett adopting the code, but

he maintained those costs would be saved back within about 15 years on a typical mortgage, and the homeowner would actually be "cash positive from year one," by saving more money in utilities than would be expended on incremental mortgage costs.

"I'm not even talking about stopping global warming and reducing reliance on foreign oil," said Ewing, although those arguments could be mustered in favor of municipalities adopting stricter energy standards for home builders. "We're just talking about the economics, and a compelling argument can be made in favor of this on those grounds alone."

The selectboard encouraged Ewing to gain the support of the town energy committee and the planning board before bringing the matter to town meeting. A public hearing would be required, at least two weeks before town meeting, if Leverett is to adopt the stretch code.

In another matter, the selectboard will hold a hearing on developing a plan for affordable housing in Leverett on Thursday, April 1st, at 7 p.m. at town hall.



LOCAL from pg 3

a delicious potpourri of theatre, music, dance, door prizes, audience participation, children's theatre workshops and special guests. For more info: www.ptco.org/syrupmusic.

The Greenfield Savings Bank is proud to present a monthly series of informational meetings to be held in the new community room at 282 Avenue A, in downtown Turners Falls.

The first topic will be "IRAs Made Simple," and the timing is perfect, with April 15th fast approaching.

This series will be open to the entire community and refreshments will be served. The IRA session will be held on March 25th at 11 a.m., open to all, with Matt Sheridan of the Infinex Financial Group leading the discussion.

For more info: please call the GSB at (413) 863-4316 and ask for Linda Ackerman or Kerri Lynch.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Operating without a License

Wednesday, 3/2

9:15 a.m. Trees on wires on Old State Road. Located at pole. WMECO notified.

12:35 p.m. Chimney fire on High Street.

3:40 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a vehicle with a suspended license and possession of drug paraphernalia on Route 2.

4:10 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with car crash on Federal Street in Millers Falls.

Thursday, 3/3

3:30 p.m. Assisted Warwick police with arrest warrant for [redacted]

Sunday, 3/6

12:46 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with non-violent domestic dispute at South Street. Found to be custody issue. Peace restored.

12:59 a.m. Multi-person fight at Bella Note Restaurant.

1:45 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted], for operation of

an uninsured vehicle and a revoked registration.

4:25 p.m. Littering in front of a Forest Street residence. Citation issued to [redacted] for littering from a motor vehicle.

Sunday, 3/7

4:50 p.m. Montague Police requested Erving Officer assist in checking Millers Falls bridge for male party exposing himself to passing motor vehicles. Prior to arrival Montague Police advised no crime was committed.

11:51 p.m. Suspicious person at Greenfield Auto, looking in windows. Found to be a customer.

Monday, 3/8

5:20 p.m. Request for ride from French King Entertainment Center to Old State Road residence to pick up belongings. Advised of proper procedure.

10:49 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with arrest of male subject for domestic assault and battery.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Car Accidents

Tuesday, 2/2

2:10 p.m. Domestic dispute at Mt. Laurel Drive residence.

Wednesday, 2/10

4:10 p.m. Alarm going off at West Street residence. All OK on arrival.

Friday, 2/19

8:19 p.m. Two car accident on Lockes Village Road. No injuries. Minor damage.

Tuesday, 2/23

10:30 a.m. Dog bite incident on Montague Road. Dog officer notified.

Wednesday, 2/24

Snow storm caused numerous trees and limbs down on roads.

Wednesday, 3/3

One car accident on Wendell Depot Road. Minor damage to vehicle, no injuries.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

Leonia, NJ – *Q. What is white coat syndrome?*

If you suffer from white coat syndrome, your blood pressure jumps as soon as a doctor or nurse approaches you. If your doctor knows this, he or she may recommend a home blood-pressure monitor or ambulatory monitor that is worn around the clock and takes your pressure every half hour.

Blood pressure tends to spike when you are excited by an emotion such as anger or fear. But high blood pressure – known as hypertension – is very sneaky. It's called the silent killer, because it usually has no symp-

toms.

Doctors say you have high blood pressure if you have a reading of 140/90 or higher. A blood pressure reading of 120/80 or lower is considered normal. Prehypertension is blood pressure between 120 and 139 for the top number, or between 80 and 89 for the bottom number.

The first number represents your systolic pressure when the heart beats. The second number represents the diastolic pressure when the heart rests. If only one number is elevated, you still have high blood pressure with all of its dangers.

When you go to your doctor to have your blood pressure taken, there are a few things you can do to get an accurate reading. First, don't drink coffee or smoke cigarettes for a half hour before your pressure is taken. (What are you doing smoking anyway?) Empty your bladder, because a full tank can affect the reading. Sit quietly for five min-

utes before the test.

Q. How can I eat a healthier diet?

To maintain a plan for healthy eating, follow these tips from the National Institutes of Health:

Eat breakfast every day.

Select high-fiber foods like whole grain breads and cereals, beans, vegetables, and fruits. They can help keep you regular and lower your risk for chronic diseases like heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Choose lean beef, turkey breast, fish, or chicken with the skin removed to lower the amount of fat and calories in your meals.

Have three servings of low-fat milk, yogurt, or cheese a day. Dairy products are high in calcium and vitamin D and help keep your bones strong as you age. If you have trouble digesting or do not like dairy products, try reduced-lactose milk products, or calcium-fortified orange juice,

soy-based beverages, or tofu. You can also talk to your health care provider about taking a calcium and vitamin D supplement.

Keep nutrient-rich snacks like dried apricots, whole wheat crackers and peanut butter on hand. Limit snacks like cake, candy, chips, and soda.

Drink plenty of water.

Q. What is the difference between type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes?

If you have diabetes, your body can't produce insulin or use it properly. Insulin is a hormone that helps control the sugar in your blood. Insulin is made by the pancreas, a large organ behind the stomach.

A small percentage of diabetics have type 1 diabetes, which usually occurs in people under age 30. Diabetics with this form of the disease can not produce insulin.

About 90 percent of Americans with diabetes have

type 2 diabetes. It is most common in adults over age 40, and the risk of getting it increases with age. With this form of diabetes, the body does not always produce enough insulin or does not use insulin efficiently. Being overweight and inactive increases the chances of developing type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes can be prevented in people who are at an increased risk or have pre-diabetes, a condition in which glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. People with pre-diabetes are more likely to develop diabetes within ten years and are also more likely to have a heart attack or stroke

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

Turners Falls Airport will Reduce Budget by 15% for FY '11

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The Turners Falls airport commission will be bringing in a budget with a "15% or greater decrease from this year's budget," said chair Peter Golrick, at the commission's regular meeting on Monday night.

Golrick said the commission would present a \$36,540 operating budget for FY '11, down from \$45,263 this year. He said the savings would come in large part from the lower salary being paid to newly hired part-time airport manager Michael Longo, who recently replaced Michael Sweeney, who had served in that capacity for six years, and had moved up the pay scale during that time. Sweeney resigned last

September.

Longo, who assumed the unbenefitted, 11 to 15 hours a week position at the beginning of this year, told the commissioners on Monday he was "still trying to get up to speed on issues at the airport." Longo has met recently with "burn bosses" from UMass to discuss controlled burns on certain areas of the airport property, to maintain habitat for protected or rare species that favor the grasslands on the sand plains there.

He also proposed a cooperative program with the Franklin

County Tech School and Greenfield Community College to institute a "path to aviation" course for young people interested in learning about the basics of flying. The proposed 6- to 8-week course would meet at the airport office, for two or two and a half hour instructional sessions, with 6 to 8 students, Longo said. "There would be no flying; no liability issues. Part of the mission of the airport is to promote aviation any way we can."

Golrick said construction on the airport runway would be completed before the Fourth of July, if all goes well. Final electrical work, drainage and grading work still need to be done, along with the application of a top coat of premium paving, an inch and a half thick, and associated edging work on the runway. But Golrick said the airport pilots are "thrilled" to use the runway now

with only the base coat of paving; since it is such an improvement over the old, cracked runway replaced last fall in the \$5 million federally funded project.

A discussion of rate setting for hangar rentals was put off until numbers are in hand "to compare rents at other airports of similar size," at the request of commissioner Keith LaRiviere.



Michael "Mickey" Longo is the new manager of the Turners Falls Airport

The Country Players present
The Miracle Worker
Directed for The Country Players by Rick Mauran, *The Miracle Worker* illustrates the power of determination and humor to bring hope where hope seems impossible. Showtime at the Shea Theater Friday and Saturday evenings, March 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th at 7:30 p.m. Sign language interpretation available for the show on March 20th. Seats will be reserved near the front if requested when making reservations. For more information visit www.countryplayers.org. Call the Shea for reservations at 863-2281 ext. 1.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Cow at Large

Thursday, 3/04
9:45 a.m. Assisted Main Road resident with property removal.
5:50 p.m. Neighbor dispute. Report taken at station.
Friday, 3/05
12:54 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Mountain Road.
8:55 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police locating Gill resident regarding investigation.

Saturday, 3/6
8:02 p.m. Assisted Erving police with a disturbance.
Monday, 3/08
11:50 a.m. Report of a minor motor vehicle accident at a French King Highway business.
7:36 p.m. Report of loose cow in the roadway on West Gill Road.

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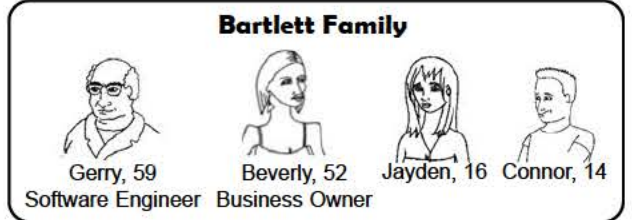
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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 2: The Transportation Challenge



In this continuing saga, three fictional families – the Bartletts, the Tinkers, and the Robbins-Levines – compete in a year-long contest to reduce their environmental impact. Read each weekly installment to learn what the families are up to as they try to outdo each other and win the prize for the most ecologically sustainable household.

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON
MONTAGUE CENTER – “And now,” declared WGBJ host Sam Lively, “It’s time to introduce our first Go Green Family challenge: Getting Around.”

“Over the next two months, each of you will re-examine your transportation choices. To win, you will need to choose

the cleanest and most fuel-efficient way of getting where you need to go. During our initial interviews, we recorded baseline information: mileage, make, and model of all vehicles driven by the three families. Now, since we’ll be evaluating the transportation habits of all family members, I am giving each family member a trip log. Starting today, you are to record the number of gallons of fuel you purchase and the number of miles you drive or ride in another vehicle. We will check your odometers eight weeks from today to see how they match your trip log.

“We will announce the winners during a live webcast in April, using software provided to all three families by our sponsor, EarthConnect. And, as a special prize for this chal-

lenge, each person in the winning family will receive a Jorg and Olif premium classic Dutch City bicycle. This stylish, low maintenance bicycle is designed for comfort and for carrying everything from groceries to kids and briefcases. Good luck to you all!”

Bartlett Family: Let’s Buy a Hybrid

As her parents engaged in heated debate on their way out to the parking lot, Jayden noticed Alex Tinker’s eyes following her, a playful expression dancing across his face. Close up, she had to admit she liked the look of his slightly ripped “Dumpster Divers” T-shirt. The Dumpster Divers were the coolest new band in the valley this year. Despite her efforts to tune out her father

and brother, who were interrupting each other in their eagerness to share opinions of how to begin the “Getting Around” challenge, Jayden found herself listening as her dad announced his new plan to telecommute.

“I’ll work from home at least one, maybe two, days a week. That should save at least fifteen gallons a week – I really hate that commute to Worcester, and I’m sure that...” Connor interrupted, “We’ve got to trade this SUV in for a greener car. We should buy a hybrid!”

His parents digested this idea. “Connor, I agree – a new hybrid just might be the way to go here.” Beverly mused.

“I’ve heard great things about the Lexus GS450,” Gerry offered. “The Sheldons bought

one last month, and they’re very impressed.”

“What does it go for?” Beverly asked.

Squeezing himself into the driver’s seat of the Explorer, her husband answered, “I believe in the neighborhood of \$80,000 – the car has sonar, LED headlights, leather seats, GPS, all sorts of options.”

Jayden asked, “But what kind of mileage does it get?” Connor backed her up, adding, “She’s right, Dad. If we’re going to trade in the SUV, we should be going for efficiency. And, you know, Mom, your Audi doesn’t do so well there either.”

Continued next issue.

Visit www.montaguema.net to read about all three families and to discuss the story so far.

BOOKS from page 1

materials – after more than 60 years of service – and is now facing an impending consolidation with the rest of the statewide regional library system.

“For FY ‘11,” said WMRLS regional administrator John Ramsay, “the headquarters building here in Whately will continue to operate. But it is unclear what services we will continue to offer.”

For small town libraries in the four counties of Western Massachusetts, loss of services from the regional office in Whately will have a noticeable impact on patrons. Even before the Western Massachusetts Regional Library Service was founded in 1961, the first of its kind in the state, the bookmobiles had been bringing new titles and materials to rural libraries in Western Mass that could not afford to continually expand their own collections, lacked the shelf space to do so, or both. Bookmobiles rolled up to the back doors of libraries like the Carnegie in Turners Falls on a rotating basis every 11 weeks, and allowed

librarians there to choose from a continually updated collection of audio-visual materials, DVDs and books. Eleven weeks later, these materials would be returned to the bookmobiles and exchanged for new titles.

Not long ago, the WMRLS had a \$200,000 annual budget for new materials; a year ago that budget had been slashed to \$17,000.

Now, Governor Deval Patrick has proposed cutting 29% out of the line item that funds the six regional library systems statewide. The plan is to consolidate them in one office, and Friends of the WMRLS fear that will mean relocating services to the eastern part of the state, and a loss of services locally.

“Eighty percent of the very small communities in Western Massachusetts are located in the four western counties,” said Ramsay. “Half of them have populations under 1,400 people. Those libraries have relied on the services of the WMRLS for almost 50 years.”

With the loss of bookmobile

service in December, the main conduit for rotating materials to library patrons in small Western Mass towns remains with the delivery service of the WMRLS, which has a computerized system for locating materials requested by patrons in any member library, and delivering them from the library that owns the requested titles to the library where a patron wants to borrow them. The WMRLS now delivers about 2 million items annually among its member libraries.

In addition, the central office provides “about 100 free training programs” for librarians each year, an important asset in a field where technology is changing rapidly, and also provides advisory services to small libraries, which often cannot afford to hire staff with degrees in library science. “We get two times as many requests for assistance as other regions in the state,” Ramsay said.

Ramsay said it would be hard for a consolidated regional library service in the eastern part of the state to remain attuned to the particular needs of the rural libraries

in the west. “The farther away you get... If it’s inside 495, you really have to yell to get attention.”

But library supporters are not taking the threatened loss of regional services lying down. Linda Wentworth, Leverett’s library director, was on the bus chartered by Friends of the WMRLS on Tuesday to attend a demonstration in front of the statehouse in Boston, with the rallying cry, “Don’t Close the Books on Our Libraries.” She said hundreds of library supporters from around the state attended, and urged their legislators to resist the governor’s proposed cut.

“I can say this,” said state representative Steve Kulik on Wednesday, “one of my biggest budget priorities this year, and one that is shared by my colleagues from the Western Mass delegation, is to oppose this cut to regional library services. We all really value the libraries and the Western Mass Regional Library System. It really makes a huge difference to our small town libraries.”

Though detractors may say

libraries are losing relevance in the internet age, Kulik maintained, “Our libraries have become more important than ever in the present economic situation.” He said libraries are centers for job hunting, high speed internet access, homework help for youngsters, and continuing education materials for adults.

High speed internet, Kulik pointed out, is still unavailable to many residents of Western Massachusetts, but is provided at even the smaller rural libraries, often with the help of tech support and grants for satellite hook-ups from the WMRLS. “With the economy the way it is, people can’t afford to buy as many books, and I hate to say it, many folks have dropped their subscriptions to newspapers and magazines. For all these reasons, libraries are more important, and more relevant than ever.”

Wentworth encouraged all library supporters to call or write their legislators and the governor to support the Western Mass Regional Library System.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 11th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, 8 to 10 p.m. Classic Rock & Dance Music.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Peter Siegel, Jay Mankita, Jim Henry, Levin Schwartz, singer-songwriters, 8 p.m. \$5.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12th
Faces & Places Gallery, Millers Falls: *Last Night's Fun*, traditional and Celtic music. 7 to 9 p.m. (413) 423-3203.

Kwajmal at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls, 7 p.m. *Kwajmal* repertoire includes Monk, Ellington, Mingus, and Gershwin, as well as their own original compositions. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee & homemade baked goods will be available. The museum and Museum Store will be open during intermission. \$6 to \$12, children free.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Opel*, rock & indie, 9:30 p.m. \$3.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Groove-Grass trio, *Jatoba*. Double Bass, Acoustic Guitars, Baritone Guitar, Mandolin, Sitar, Banjo and harmonizing vocals, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9 to 11 p.m. The Pioneer Valley legendary Reggae Band.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: Art Steele, blues at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th
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Jeff Richardson, John Jamison, Jason Scaggs are *Jatoba* at the Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. Friday, March 12th at 9:30 p.m.

Wildlife Refuge System at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Cake served! 1 to 2 p.m.

ZINE Kick-Off event and Open Mic at the Brickhouse, Turners Falls. Food, music, art and pick up a copy of our new teen zine "Copyright Infringement." 6 to 9 p.m. See what the young artists and musicians of Franklin County are up to! Free and open to the public. www.brickhousecommunity.org.

Celtic Heels Irish Dance Company at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. The unique choreography of this dance troupe beautifully blends the ancestral style of traditional Irish Dance with a toe tapping, hand clapping, vibrant modern flair! 7 p.m. \$10 for \$8 seniors & children, \$2 for children under 5. www.celticheels-dance.com

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Larry Berger and the Electric Fence*, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (413) 863-3111.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nuggets night with the Original Cowards, Ray Mason, and many, many more! \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Matt Eichenlaub*, Electric Country Blues, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT Karaoke, 8 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, MARCH 15th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Yankee Trade, White Elephant BINGO. 8 p.m. free.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Happy St. Paddy's Day! An Irish Session w/ *Amanda Bernhart, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends*, 8:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmaster Chad's Quiznite Quiz, 7 p.m. followed by *Paddy's Ramblers*, Irish/Roots. No cover.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18th
The Meaning of Wilderness, Doug Seale leads an exploration of how the meaning of wilderness has changed over time and how these various attitudes shape our interactions with nature, with special attention to Thoreau,

Emerson, Muir, Marsh, T. Roosevelt, Leopold, and a few others, 7 p.m. Great Falls Discovery Center. Turners Falls.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault & Co.* Blues Based Roots Music, 8 to 10 p.m.



Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance Live at the Shea on 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 13th Performers, ages five to adult, are excited to share with you the true flavor of Ireland! Reservations (413) 863-2281.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, singing all your favorite Johnny Cash tunes and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Luther Johnson*.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH & 20th
The Miracle Worker at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Celebrate the inspirational life of Helen Keller as The Country Players present William Gibson's story of Helen and her teacher Annie Sullivan at the Shea Theater. Rick Mauran directs Emily Eaton and Emma Henderson, who poignantly portray the teacher and the student. Nick Danjer and Jodie Brunelle are Helen's parents. The cast is rounded out by Dave Grout as brother Jimmy, Steve Tower as Anaganos, and Sue Shedd as Aunt Ev, servants Danielle Canedy, Kerrigan Walsh, Renna Earp and Hannah Winans, and blind students Sararose Adan, Ellie Russel and Sylvia Wilkins. 7:30 p.m. Continues 3/26 & 3/27.

Pothole Pictures teams up with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival showing: *Crossing Delancey*. PG,

color, 97 minutes. Friday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at 8 p.m. Music 1/2 hour before the movie. Fri: *Last Night's Fun* plays traditional Irish music and Sat: *The Doug Johnson Band* plays original country-folk. Info. (413) 625-2896.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th
Maple Syrup Day, hayrides and tours at the Field Family Sugar House, 12 to 2 p.m. Dessert contest at the Leverett Library, 2 p.m. Submit your best dessert made with real maple syrup from Leverett. Free. (413) 548-9220 or leverett@cwmares.org.

The 11th Annual Women's Belly & Womb Conference at Sirius Conference Center in Shutesbury, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. This gathering for women of all ages features a wealth of concurrent workshops that provide opportunities for learning, healing, and celebration centered on the wisdom and beauty of women's bellies, wombs and innate wisdom held within. www.alisastarkweather.com.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, Harmonic Eclectic Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Satirical songster, Dave Lippman, aka *Wild Bill Bailout*, will appear at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse in the Town Hall, Leverett. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the door \$10 to \$12.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Acoustic Open Mic Night*, 8 to 10 p.m. All welcome.

ONGOING
In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. March 5th to March 27th. From *Hombooks and Samplers* to *facebook and SMART Boards*, *Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley*. Celebrate the *Big Read* through this interactive exhibit!

Gallery at Hallmark, Avenue A, Turners Falls. William Wegman photographs, *Out of the Box*. On display through May 2nd. Gallery open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

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5. VALENTINE'S DAY PG13 DAILY 6:40 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15
6. COP OUT DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15 R
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Irish Sketchbook

BY DAVID BRULE
TURNERS FALLS –

*I've met some folks who say
that I'm a dreamer;*

*And there's no doubt there's
truth in what they say;*

*But a man's bound to be a
dreamer*

*When all the things he loves
are far away.*

*And precious things are
dreams unto an exile.*

*They take him o'er the land
across the sea-*

*Especially when it happens
he's an exile*

*From that dear lovely Isle of
Inishfree.*

The voice of our singer Seán Burke rises above the drinking din and the clatter of the pub this St. Patrick's week. His song, sung many the time each year, has special meaning during this season, for it evokes the aching longing some of us feel for the Emerald Isle.

And wouldn't you know that this story has strands that tie into our Prospect Street bridge project and the swans we see on the lovely river that flows through our town?

Since we Irish and near-Irish have the freedom to weave all manner of tales this month, and the Irish surely don't need an excuse to tell a story, this will explain how Seán, the bridge and the swans work their way onto this page.

*And when the moonlight peeps
across the rooftops*

*Of this great city, wondrous
though it be,*

*I scarcely feel its wonder or its
laughter.*

*I'm once again back home in
Inishfree.*

Our man is no sweet-singing Irish tenor. He has the working man's voice, plaintive, lonesome and lyrical, and it can cut through the noisy crowd in the bar, and stop the blathering pub talk in its tracks. The singer is a man from Maigh Eo – County Mayo, a region up towards the northwest of Ireland. You'd take a left off the road to Sligo and Donegal to get there, and you'd better brush up on your *cúpla focal* (your few words of Irish) because it's a grand Gaelic-speaking region.

Mayo has produced many generations of stout hearted road builders and heavy construction men over the years. And it turns out that when this man Seán is not singing, bringing a tear to every dreamer's eye, causing us to carefully study the lingering froth in our pints of Guinness, well, he's up over our wee town of Turners Falls overseeing the rebuilding of the Prospect Street bridge, so long closed and separating the two halves of that neighborhood. Now not only does the street provide a picturesque view of the village rooftops, but a bit further along, as the street curves slowly around the hill's contour, it does indeed give a prospect out over the river, and this is where the swans come in.

Upon this lovely river and the nearby cove, on any given day, neatly sail wondrous white swans as graceful and light as any three-masted sailing ship. Since we have the liberty and time to evoke Inishfree this week of weeks, you mention swans to an Irishman, and it's going to bring to mind the Children of Lir, this tale weaving into the song:

Isle of Inishfree



Seán Burke

*"I wander o'er green hills
through dreamy valleys*

*And find a peace no other land
could know.*

*I hear the birds making music
fit for angels*

*And watch the river, laughing
as it flows..."*

Fadó, fadó, long, long ago, up near County Mayo in fact, in the Kingdom of Lir, there were four children who were the light of the King's eye: Aodh, Fiachra, Conn, and Fionnuala. Now, Fionnuala was the sister to the three boys, and 'tis said she was as beautiful as the flowers of summer. But of course, all was not well because their stepmother Aoife, with no children of her own, was jealous of the King's love for them.

So when she saw her chance, she coaxed the children into Lake Dairbhreach for a swim, and with a wave of her magic rowan wand, changed them into swans. Her curse was a severe one, with a

riddle at the end, which no one seemed able to solve.

She commanded them to remain as swans for three hundred years on the lake, then to be sent as swans to the Sea of Moyle for three hundred years, and on top of that, another three hundred years on the western ocean. The only event that could break the spell would be for the Man from the North, to join the Woman of the South. But she did allow them the gift of song, so they could sing with human voices.

When the King heard of this, he rushed to the lake shore but he could not change Aoife's spell. The evil stepmother was banished forever to be a demon spirit of the air, but there seemed to be no way to join the Man from the North and the Woman from the South, which were two mountains on different sides of the kingdom. Three hundred years went by, during which the fame of the swan children and their beautiful mournful singing spread throughout the kingdom, even reaching the wild swans. When the children told them their story, the wild swans of course wanted to help, but no one could solve the riddle that would break the curse.

During the first three hundred years, the king strangely enough did not seem to age, but he was deeply worried about his swan children having to soon face the fierce weather on the Sea of Moyle, between Ireland and Scotland.

When it came time to leave for the northern sea, all the kingdom assembled to say goodbye, and everyone was in tears. Suddenly,

the story goes, something blocked the light of the sun and everyone looked up to see a great flock of wild swans gathering in the sky. They joined in a line high up in the air, forming a bridge that went right across the kingdom and joined the Man from the North to the Woman from the South. That's when the children turned back into humans and left the lake to join their father on the shore. And of course, they all lived *uaidh sin amach*, happily ever after.

So you should keep that story in mind, the next time you stroll along the riverside, or when in time you cross the bridge Seán and the boys are building from the West side of Prospect Street to the East to catch a glimpse of the seemingly unconcerned swans floating quietly upon the river down below. You may need them someday. There is certainly magic in the birds, and in the people who could weave such a legend, and besides, it's probably all true.

Indeed if you go up to County Meath, and if you look hard, you can find four white stones on the lakeshore under the moss, marking the spot in that magical isle where the children came back to their father.

"Ah," continues Seán...

*But dreams don't last –
Though dreams are not forgotten –*

And soon I'm back to stern reality.

*But though they pave the path-
ways here with gold dust,*

*I would still choose the Isle of
Inishfree.*

*Là Fhéile Pádraig Shona
Daoibh!*

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Evelyn Harris, choir director of the Ku'umba Women's chorus

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Our Connecticut River valley produces fine local music at bargain prices, a little gas for the car and pleasant, short drives through our scenic area. Large scale productions at our area colleges get big press, but you have to look care-

fully in our local papers for information on small gems you might otherwise miss.

Last month alone this writer attended three concert venues you should watch for in the lists of coming events.

The Brick Church Music Series in Old Deerfield features artists from the international concert world, although names not familiar to this writer. These Sunday afternoon gems attract a small local following, but deserve a wider audience.

The Valentines Day concert was performed by the Kelet Duo, a Hungarian violinist and a

Fine Music In The Valley

Taiwanese pianist. Katalin Vizsmeg and Pi-Hsun Shih are technically brilliant and perform all of their music with passion. In addition to best-loved selections of Beethoven, Korngold and Kreisler, this duo showcased music by composers of their native countries, Bartok and Yi. These young women reached out to the audience with personal introductions to each piece, making the music accessible to everyone.

This month's concert features Stephen Hamilton, faculty member of Hunter and Queens Colleges in New York. This solo concert of organ music will include works of Pasquini, Valente, Walther and Boehm as well as Bach, Mozart and Mendelssohn, on March 14th at 3 p.m., for a suggested donation of \$10.

Students and faculty of the

Northfield Mount Hermon School perform occasional concerts in the new Albert Raymond concert hall in Gill. The concert and jazz bands directed by Ron Smith and the Symphony Orchestra directed by Steven Bathory-Peeler feature pieces by classic and local composers. Concerts often highlight young student performers of great talent and promise. View their calendar at the NMH webpage using the arts calendar.

Music on Main concerts at First Church, Amherst offer a wide range of music, also on Sunday afternoon. The February 28th concert featured the toe-tapping jazz of Bob Sparkman, clarinet and Jerry Noble, piano. This intergenerational duo has a repertoire which includes "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Dr. Jazz," "Frenest," "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling," "Stardust," "Satin

Doll," and "Lulu's Back in Town," among many others. Sparkman's clarinet sound ranges from full and mellow to a throaty rasp. He has played with the Bourbon Street Six and the Gotham Jazz Band. He retired to the Valley in 1994 but continues to play with the Espresso Jazz Trio, the King Philip Dixieland Band and with Jerry Noble.

Noble is the staff accompanist at Smith College, and is a composer and arranger in his own right. Together, Sparkman and Noble are electric performers who make you wish you were out on the dance floor. The pleasing sound of the acoustics in the church sanctuary makes this a venue worth watching for.

The next Music on Main concert will feature Evelyn Harris and the Ku'umba Women's chorus on Sunday, April 3rd at 3 p.m., for a suggested donation of \$10. Follow the news on the website at First Congregational Church of Amherst, Music on Main.


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