



MALALAI JOYA

Survived four assassination attempts and a State Department travel ban to deliver this message:

Leave Afghanistan Now 5



CLEANING UP

Two friends take matters into their own hands

in Turners Falls 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

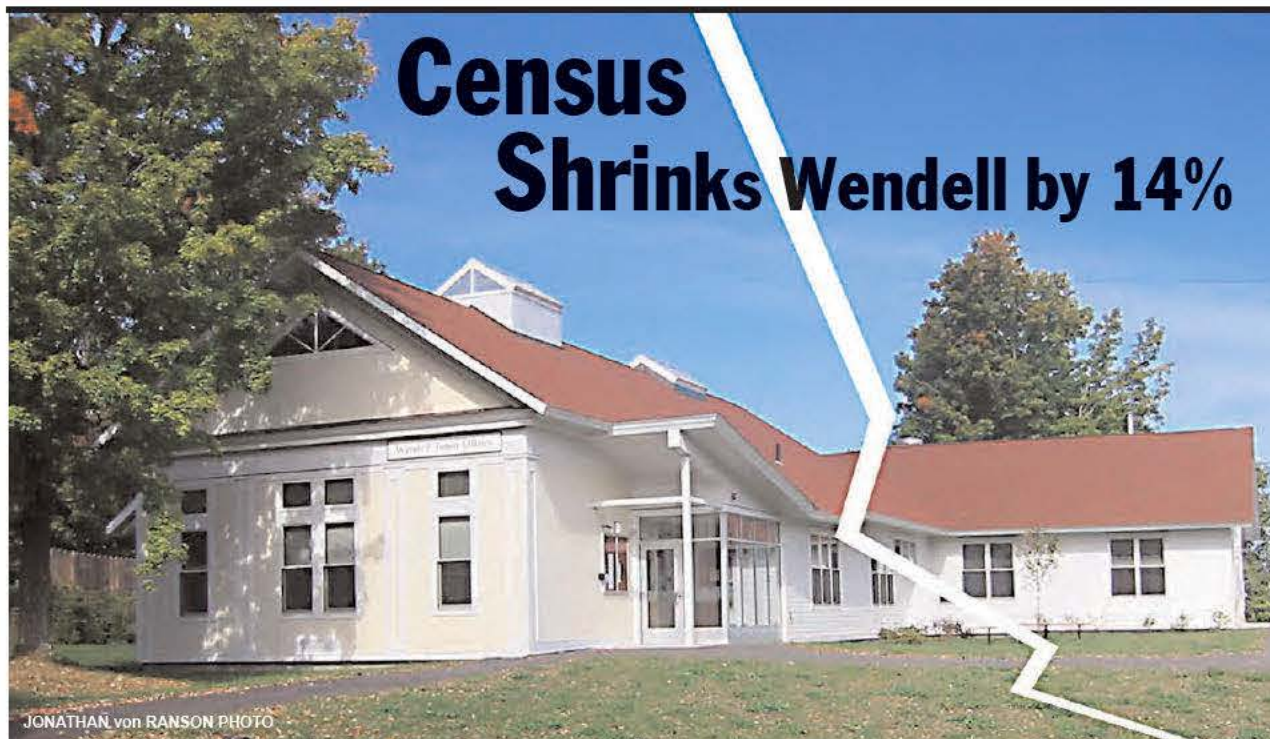
75¢

YEAR 9 - NO. 26

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 31, 2011



Census Shrinks Wendell by 14%

JONATHAN von RANSON PHOTO

The news took the remaining 848 residents by surprise, and various theories for the precipitous loss of official population were advanced - including the closing of Maple Valley School and the exodus of young people.

BY JONATHAN von RANSON - Wendell shrank dramatically in population according to the 2010 U.S. Census data released last week - 14% - more than any other of the 26 towns in the county.

Franklin County as a whole lost 0.2% of its population compared to the 2000 census. Berkshire County's percentage loss was greater - the largest in the state, at 2.7% - while

Hampshire and Hampden Counties both gained incrementally.

(At the town level, Erving gained 22.7%, Leverett 11.3, New Salem 6.6, and Orange 4.3. Joining Wendell in the losing category were Shutesbury, -2.1% and Montague, -0.6%. To the south, Sunderland lost 2.5%.)

In actual numbers, in the last ten years Wendell went

from 986 residents to 848, a loss of 138 people, data that took everyone contacted for this story by surprise. The street lists kept by town clerk Anna Hartjens show a much smaller drop of 24 residents, from 883 in 2000 to 859 in 2010. Hartjens is also postmaster of the Wendell Depot post office.

Pondering the Census Bureau's numbers, she noted the forms were dis-

tributed through the mail, and "Wendell people get mail from several different towns," making it harder to "pinpoint where somebody's living."

She had an 'Aha!' moment when she realized the change might relate to the closing of Maple Valley School. "In 2000," she recalled, "the census guy in charge in Wendell and I worked together, and he see CENSUS pg 16

School Choice Hits Gill-Montague Hard

Estimate for FY'12 Worst in 14 Years

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill-Montague Regional School District will lose \$1,083,945 in school choice sending tuition in the coming fiscal year, according to superintendent Carl Ladd and figures provided by the Department of Revenue. Fifty-six percent of that loss will be offset by students who choose into the GMRSD, bringing \$607,414 with them.

Ladd cautioned all these numbers are estimates which will fluctuate quarterly with enrollment.

But the anticipated school choice deficit for the Gill-Montague district for FY'12 - \$476,531 - is the highest net loss since the school choice program began 14 years ago.

In 2010, for example, when 185 students choiced out of the GMRSD and 97 students choiced in, the net loss to the district in sending tuition was \$438,434. In 2011, the district's net loss was \$421,929.

In the coming year, when the net loss of \$371,578 in charter school sending tuition is added in, the district will lose a net total of \$848,109 in school choice and charter tuition, according to the numbers provided by Ladd.

Ted Castro-Santos, a parent of two Gill Elementary students and former school committee member who has looked at school choice numbers for the GMRSD over time, points out that the actual loss to the district is even greater than that. Even though the district is gaining a bit more than \$600,000 in tuition from students who choose into Gill-Montague from other districts, still, the loss of over a million dollars in school choice sending tuition represents money that would flow to the district if no parents chose to bring their students to other schools. Looked at in this way, the district will actual-

see SCHOOL pg 14

John Deere Day Draws a Flock at Sirums

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH MONTAGUE - Like the sparrows returning to Capistrano, people flocked to Sirum Equipment's annual John Deere Appreciation Day from all over New England.

They flocked in from as far north as Walpole and Concord, NH, the Worcester area, from all over Vermont nearly to the New York state border, all down the Connecticut River Valley through Hadley to Springfield, Chicopee and into Connecticut and Rhode Island for this annual pilgrimage.

Farmers viewed films to learn about ways to make farming easier, more productive and profitable. There was something for everyone, whether farmer, landscaper or homeowner.

The general mood was jovial. Visitors greeted old friends and made new

ones. Sirum Equipment's family of employees worked for hours and hours preparing the amazing spread of delicious food in anticipation of the event.

To tide visitors over until the big noonday feast, Sirums supplied urns of hot coffee and box upon box of Food City donuts of every description - compliments of the house.

The terrific spread on John Deere Day epitomized Sirum Equipment employees' appreciation for their customers.

On display were new and improved John Deere models of lawn tractors and an improved Gator, an all terrain off-road vehicle, sporting all wheel drive and all wheel independent suspension, for a better ride and the capability of traversing any terrain without chains. If anyone ever put chains on, the four wheel drive vehicle appeared to have the ability to climb a

tree.

The Gator is not only useful with its handy dump body, but it's a fun vehicle for off-road riding. No farm, construction job, sports center or home is complete without one.

As no woman can have too many shoes, no man can have too many mechanized tools to make life more productive and more enjoyable. The very sight brings joy to a man's heart.

A new item in the excavating lineup was a John Deere excavator sporting rubber tracks that make it an ideal all-around machine that can also be safely used for street work without fear of marring pavement. An optional backfill blade makes the machine doubly productive.

Stihl offered a greater line-up of landscape tools this year. The all purpose Stihl power unit has the Swiss Army Knife capabil-



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Too busy to even shave, Ed Sirum seals a deal with customer Tom Gessing, who drove down from Charlemont for the event.

ities of roto-tiller, cultivator, motorized broom, lawn groomer, de-thatcher, aerator and string trimmer, all in one. This handy multi-purpose machine is both lightweight and powerful with an optional set of wheels for easier use.

Customers tugged at the Stihl representative's sleeves from all sides, requesting information on various tools and accessories amid customers clamoring to buy. Stihl

offers special synthetic engine oils, and bar-and-chain oils that are biodegradable for environmentally minded customers.

Not to be outdone, Kubota and John Deere offer new lines of synthetic engine and hydraulic oils specially formulated for Kubota or John Deere machines. This year, Kubota offered new and improved tractors with a larger, more powerful trac-

tor of over 100 horse power.

With discounts on parts as well as machinery, and special prices on cleaning and inspecting machinery, the parts and repair departments were swamped with customers. Sirum Equipment attracts clients from a wide area because of their able mechanics, sterling reputation, reasonable prices and sales people who are open to negotiat-

see SIRUM pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK Special on Rats



Must Go!
(Cats Making them Nervous.)

Quest

If you are on a quest for a terrific pet, look no further. Your quest ends with Quest (that's me in the picture) and my sister, Fluffernutter. We are the Dynamic Duo of two-year-old rats, virtually inseparable except when we're eating a Cheeto and don't want to share!

We enjoy exploring and climbing – the world is our jungle gym. Give us a shoulder to perch on and we may camp out for a few hours. Rats are social, affectionate, smart, and very clean pets! To find out more about adopting us, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS!
Week of April 4th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

on Avenue A for over 10 years

Jay K's Liquors

If we don't carry your favorite brand, we'll order it for you!

Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am-11pm • Sun Noon-7pm

59 Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-9900

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday, (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Nature Fairies at the Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Children of all ages and their families are invited to join Ruth O'Mara for a fun program on Nature Fairies at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, April 9th at 10:30 a.m.

Participants will learn about fairies and make their own nature fairies. The program is free, and all of the materials will be supplied. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

National Poetry Month Celebration

Friends of the New Salem Library sponsored "A Library for All Seasons," celebrates National Poetry Month with a month of poetry inspired readings and activities. Saturday,

April 2nd will also be a celebration of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales. Please come join in the family fun from 10:30-12:00 Saturdays at the New Salem Public Library.

Organic Lawns for Homeowners Workshops

Northeast Organic Farm Association's Massachusetts Statewide Organic Lawn Days presents "Organic Lawns for Homeowners" workshops on Saturday, April 9th. Workshops are lecture-style with hands-on component for those interested; covers all aspects of organic lawn installation, maintenance and best cultural practices. Funded by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute of UMass Lowell. Workshop fee: \$25. For more information or to register contact Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or

Kathy@nofamass.org.
• **PELHAM** – Held at the Pelham Public Library, 2 South Valley Road, from Noon to 3 p.m. Taught by NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional David Hatfield of Pioneer Valley Organics.
• **NORTHAMPTON** – Held at Look Memorial Park, 300 No. Main St., Florence, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Taught by NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional Bernadette Gibling of Safeground Organic Landcare.

Gill Committee Openings

Gill is seeking members for an open space advisory committee to help the town update its open space and recreation plan, with assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for decisions dealing with land use, which may impact ecosystems and the lands that contain unique agricultural, historical, recreational and scenic values. The most recent plan, from 2005, is available at www.gillmass.org. The process

is expected to take six meetings over a six-month period, starting soon.

The selectboard has established a Gill Town Forest task force to assist the conservation commission with managing the town-owned conservation area on Bascom, Hoe Shop, and Dole Roads. Possible projects for the new task force include writing recreation and stewardship plans, creating and maintaining trails, and applying for conservation grants.

There is also an opening on

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – April 4th - April 8th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Call the Center now to reserve for the May 16th Catskills trip with Judy Johnson.

Monday, April 4th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, April 5th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, April 6th
9:00 a.m. Erving Line Dancers
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Quilters
Thursday, April 7th
No Tai Chi

10:30 to Noon Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, April 8th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Monday, April 4th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, April 5th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, April 6th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
10:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic



DETOLD PHOTO
Gary Billings bottled this season's maple syrup at his fifth generation sugar shack on West Chestnut Hill Road in Montague on Sunday.

Penny Gill to Talk at Leverett Town Hall

The committee for a Leverett Peace Commission brings Penny Gill, Mary Lyon Professor of Humanities and Dean of Mt. Holyoke College, to the Leverett Town Hall for a talk on "Fear or Consciousness: Dare We Change?" on Friday, April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. Gill will address "barriers that inhibit our confidence in our ability to create the changes we all so long for – a peaceful world, a sustainable economy, and stable climate." Gill writes, "To reclaim our ability to act together, and work to create livable communities on every level, we must first excavate our fears. Only then will we be able to dispel our pessimism and sense of powerlessness, which divide us from our creativity and from each other."

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

- Grade 6**
Brianna Wilder
Miguel Russell
Grade 7
Sydney Upham
Grade 8
Danielle Conant

the Gill conservation commission.

Anyone interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact Ray Purington, at (413) 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT

**WILL BEGIN
READING METERS
ON MONDAY,
APRIL 4TH**

Mon, Tue & Wed Specials

- One Large 16" Pizza with 1 Topping for \$9.95 plus tax
- With Any 12" or 8" Sub 1 FREE 12 oz. Can of Soda or 1 FREE order French Fries
- Meat Lasagne - \$6.50 plus tax

**Roberto's
Family Restaurant**
196 Turners Falls Road
863-0022

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service



(413) 773-3622



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Pioneer Valley Regional High School basketball coach (and Gill police chief) **David Hastings** has won the Positive Coaching Alliance's coveted Double-Goal Coach award, presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance for his positive impact on youth athletes. The award, named for coaches whose first goal is winning, and whose second, more important goal is teaching life lessons through sports, carries a \$250 prize and trophy.

"David wins on the scoreboard, and more importantly, he wins by creating a positive, character-building sports experience for youth athletes," said Jim Thompson, PCA's founder and executive director. "Ultimately, the youth athletes David coaches are the real winners, and those athletes become tomorrow's leaders; our society as a whole wins."

Nearly 60 people are signed up to attend the bi-annual meeting of the **Communities that**

Care Coalition this Friday, April 1st, at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The agenda includes highlights of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, Community Action Youth Program's 84 Campaign, the unveiling of the new Regional Parent Social Norms Marketing Campaign, and lunch from the Burrito Rojo. For more info, call Kat Allen at 413-774-1194 x 115.

Did you know that, on average, the **food we eat travels 1500 miles** before it reaches our plate? On Wednesday, April 6th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church next to the Greenfield Town common, a discussion will be held on **Local Food - Building our Delicious Future**, with Franklin County Community Development Corporation director John Waite and Greening Greenfield's Carol Letson. The Pioneer Valley Institute co-sponsors the event.

"Growing the local food economy will help us avoid some of the impacts of spiraling fossil fuel costs and the effects of climate change and reconnect us to the abundance of what the Pioneer Valley can offer," said Waite.

The spring meeting of the **Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts** will feature a lecture by David Ouimette, from Salt Lake City, where he manages content at the largest free online source of genealogical information, FamilySearch.org, prioritizing historical records for acquisition and online publication for family history research. Ouimette has local roots in his maternal line, Czelusniak of the local funeral homes, having ancestors who immigrated to this area from Wojtowa in southern Poland. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 7th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicopee Public Library, 440 Front Street, Chicopee. The talk is free and open to the public. Ouimette specializes in records of New England, Quebec and Ireland. He will describe his efforts using original manuscripts and genetic techniques to prove the parentage of John Bettis (b. 1773), a French Canadian who lived in Vermont, whose family lore said was the French Caribbean pirate Jean-Baptiste Perrin.

During the month of April if shoppers spend more than \$40 at Food City, 250 Avenue A in Turners Falls, and then ask that a

donation be made to **Meals on Wheels**, Food City will donate 1% of the sale to Franklin County Meals on Wheels. Shoppers spending more than \$40 during a trip to Food City in April may also choose to have the store donate 1% to the Dakin Animal Shelter or the Franklin Area Survival Center.

Saturday, April 9th, from noon to 4:00 p.m. marks the 4th annual **Kids Exhibition** at the Barnes Gallery of the Leverett Crafts and Arts Association, 13 Montague Road in Leverett. This year, the exhibit will include more young artists than ever. Artwork from students in Iraq to the Pioneer Valley, including students from Hartsbrook, the Campus School, Leverett, Shutesbury, Crocker Farm, and Wildwood Elementary, Connecting to Your Source - Fine Arts & Healing Center, Cushman Scott Children's Daycare, and Hampshire Franklin Children's Daycare Center. Come and enjoy a day of music, dance, puppets, food, face painting, games, bake sale, a raffle, and more..... including Bob Hepner's Carnival Truck!

The Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in partnership with Greenfield Community College will host Paul Chappell in the **Roots of Peace** speaker series at the Sloan Theater, on the GCC Campus on Friday, April 8th, from noon to 1:30. Chappell is director of the Peace Leadership Program for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF). He graduated from West Point in 2002, was deployed to Baghdad, and left active duty in November 2009 as a Captain. In the army he served in numerous leadership positions such as platoon leader, battery commander, and deputy chief of doctrine, training, requirements, and lessons learned for the air defense branch.

The Franklin County **Interfaith Council** is offering the first of a seasonal series of conversations to build community, get to know our cross-country neighbors, and increase understanding of the cultures and religions that cultivate our spirits. All are welcome to join in a lively conversation about matters of the soul at ARC Common, 20 Chapman Street, in Greenfield on Thursday, April 7th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more info contact Sue Bowman at 413-772-6321. A soup supper will be provided.

Our Lady of Peace Church, Seventh Street, in Turners Falls will hold a giant tag, bake and rummage sale on Saturday, April 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net.

Support Good Neighbors

BY LOLA BEDAW

WENDELL - The North Quabbin Community Coalition's annual 'food-a-thon,' will be held Tuesday, April 12th, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Orange and Athol. The food-a-thon will be broadcast live all day by WJDF and AOTV. Volunteers from local food pantries and meal sites will be on hand to assist in the effort to raise funds and food to support these programs.

"Good Neighbors" is your local food pantry serving the residents of Wendell and New Salem. We have seen a 38% increase in membership over the past year. In fact, more than 30% of Wendell's population is currently enrolled, with new people joining weekly.

We need our community's support now, more than ever. We

have an excellent group of committed volunteers (with new people signing up regularly). The fundraising has begun in both Wendell and New Salem General Store, our libraries, schools and churches, as well as at the Leverett Village Coop. Donations can be made at any of these sites, as well as at the Athol Hannaford, Orange Walmart, WJDF and Athol Memorial Hospital, or at the event on April 12th.

Also a coupon is available for the month of April to enjoy dinner at the Deja Brew, with 10% of the bill supporting the food-a-thon.

Contributions can be sent to: Good Neighbors, P.O. Box 222, Wendell, MA 01379, or North Quabbin Community Coalition, 427 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331.

Starhawk Comes to Montague



Starhawk

On Sunday, April 3rd, eco-feminist author Starhawk, whose books include *Dreaming the Dark* and *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, will present "An Evening with Starhawk in Celebration of the Heart and Soul of the Five Rivers Community," at the First Congregational Church of Montague, 4 North Street, in Montague Center, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. A book signing will follow the talk. For more info, contact Joshua Dostis at jjwaffles@juno.com or (520) 358-1520.

Gill Corrections

Due to reporting errors in the March 3rd story (MR IX #22 - Gill May Get By with Level Funding) about anticipated expenses in Gill, the figure of \$960 was inaccurately referred to as a bill, when in fact it was an estimate, for work required to replace just the antiquated burner at the Riverside Municipal Building.

The \$6400 estimate provided in the same article is the amount that would be required if the town decided to replace the entire boiler at the Riverside building, not what it would cost to replace the leaking boiler at the safety complex, as reported. An estimate for replacement of the boiler at the safety complex is still being developed.

In an earlier issue, (MR IX #18 - Green Burials Proposed for Gill) we inaccurately stated that the town of Gill has a bylaw against Green Burials. In fact, the town has no such bylaw, but the town cemetery commission does have a regulation that would prohibit Green Burials, by stating, "Caskets shall be enclosed in a vault of concrete or other equal material."

"We do require vaults," explained cemetery commissioner Carrie Stevens. She added, "If you stop and think about it, 200 years ago, that's all they had was Green Burials. Now, we face the dilemma of not knowing where people are buried. People want to come by and purchase a cemetery plot, and it looks empty, but it isn't."

Photovoltaic Discussion Rescheduled

LEVERETT - Due to a failure to post the meeting in advance, Tuesday's meeting between the selectboard and the energy committee has been rescheduled for April 12th at 7:00 p.m. On that date, the landfill photovoltaic project will be the main topic of discussion with the energy committee.

"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, and all the sweet serenity of books."
~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Wendell History Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Wendell History Group is scheduled for Thursday, April 14th at the Wendell Library at 7:15 p.m.

Benefit Concert for Lisa Emond Stratford

To raise funds for expenses related to a pioneering treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, to fight a recent recurrence of Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Saturday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

French King Entertainment Center
55 French King Highway (Rt. 2), Erving

- \$20.00 minimum donation
- DJ Bobby C. • Raffle with fabulous prizes
- Great live music featuring Wheels of Fire - a tribute to Cream, Ruby's Complaint and Curly Fingers Dupree

If you can't attend and wish to contribute, checks can be made payable to: "Acts of Generosity" c/o Northampton Cooperative Bank 253 Triangle Street, Amherst, MA 01002

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
We Know Entertainment

* Free Consultation
* State of the Art Sound
* Best Music for all Ages/Occasions
* Rental Karaoke System

Steven Therien
413-522-6035
www.tntprodj.net

Simply Computing

Software Support
specializing in
QuickBooks
IRS-Approved Tax
Preparer on Staff



Debbe Dugan
863-5030

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design

 Claudia Wells - Art Director
Katren Hoyden
Janel Nockelby
Boysen Hodgson

Photography

 Claudia Wells
Joe Parzych

Editorial Assistants

 Hugh Corr
Shira Hillel

Distribution Manager

Don Clegg

Technical Administrator

Michael Muller

"The Voice of the Villages"
Circulation

Janel Nockelby

Founded by

 Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Unsafe at Any Exposure There is no Safe Level of Radiation

BY DR. IRA HELFAND
NORTHAMPTON - As the radioactive contamination of food, water, and soil in Fukushima, Japan worsens, the media is continuously reassuring us that these levels are "safe." But there is no safe level of radiation.

Yes, at lower levels the risk is smaller, but the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science has concluded that any exposure to radiation makes it more likely that an individual will get cancer.

The press is reporting that 100 millisieverts (mSv) is the lowest dose that increases cancer risks. This simply isn't true. According to the NAS, if you are exposed to a dose of 100 mSv, you have a one in 100 chance of getting cancer, but a dose of 10 mSv still gives you a one in 1,000 chance of getting cancer, and a dose of 1 mSv gives you a one in 10,000 risk.

Those odds sound fairly low for one individual, but if you expose 10,000 people to a one in 10,000 risk, one of them will get cancer. If you expose 10 million people to that dose, 1,000 will get cancer. There are more than 30 million people in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

To understand the danger of low levels of radiation exposure, consider several factors.

First, the total dose is the most important factor, not the dose per hour. When you get an X-ray, you're exposed to a one-time burst of radiation. If you work for 10 hours in a spot where the radiation level is 1 millisievert per hour, your dose is 10 millisieverts, and the dose goes up the longer you stand there.

Second, there's a big difference between external and internal radiation. If you're standing in a spot where you're exposed to external radiation, that exposure ends as soon as you move away. But if you ingest or inhale a radioactive particle, it continues to irradiate your body as long as it remains radioactive and stays in your body.

Further, if you ingest radioactive particles, the dose isn't spread evenly over your entire body. It concentrates where the particles lodge. The average total body dose may be relatively low, but the dose at the site may be large enough to damage that tissue and cause cancer.

That's why the radiation being found in Japan in spinach, milk, and other food — as well as water — is so worrisome. If consumed, it will create ongoing radiation exposure and increase the risk of cancer.

A large majority of the hundreds of thousands of cancer cases that have occurred in the former Soviet Union because of the Chernobyl catastrophe were caused by people eating radioactively contaminated food.

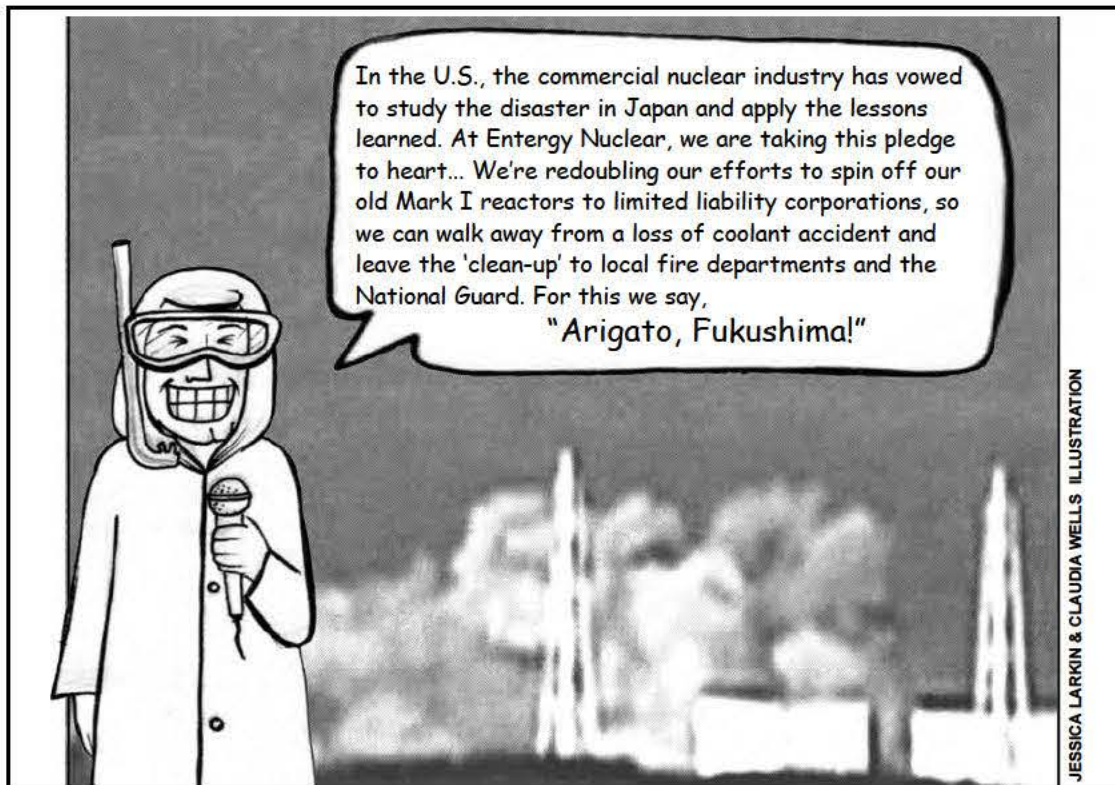
Finally, it makes a big difference who gets irradiated. Children are much more vulnerable than adults. If a fetus is exposed to only 10 mSv in utero, his or her risk of getting cancer by age 15 doubles. So it's particularly dangerous when children or pregnant women consume radioactive food or water.

Reports indicate that the total radioactive releases in Fukushima have been relatively small so far. If this is the case, then the health effects will be correspondingly small. But it's not "safe" to release this much radiation. Some people will get cancer as a result. Most importantly, we don't know at this point how much more radiation there will be.

That's why the U.S. government has said that people shouldn't be allowed within 50 miles of the plant.

If a comparable accident were to occur at the Indian Point nuclear reactors 24 miles north of New York City, 17 million people would need to evacuate. That's something to think about when we're told everything is "safe" at our nuclear plants.

Ira Helfand is a member of the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility. This article first appeared in Other Words.



JESSICA LARKIN & CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

In the U.S., the commercial nuclear industry has vowed to study the disaster in Japan and apply the lessons learned. At Entergy Nuclear, we are taking this pledge to heart... We're redoubling our efforts to spin off our old Mark I reactors to limited liability corporations, so we can walk away from a loss of coolant accident and leave the 'clean-up' to local fire departments and the National Guard. For this we say,
"Arigato, Fukushima!"

GUEST EDITORIAL

Near Misses at U.S. Nuclear Reactors

A new report released Tuesday by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MassPIRG) documents a history of safety problems at nuclear reactors in the United States. These incidents — like the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi reactors in Japan — illustrate that nuclear power carries unacceptable risks to human health and safety.

Since 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has rated 17 instances at domestic nuclear power plants as a "significant precursor" of core damage, meaning a dramatic increase in the risk of a serious accident. According to a new report, *Unacceptable Risk: Two Decades of 'Close Calls,' Leaks and Other Problems at U.S. Nuclear Reactors*, there have been four of these instances since 1990.

Since 1974, when MassPIRG supported a local referendum in Western Massachusetts to stop the construction of a nuclear plant in

Montague, we have been saying the same thing: "Nuclear power is simply too risky."

Among the details:

ized steam. Rupture of the vessel head could have resulted in the loss of coolant and damage to the plant's control rods, creat-



The Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, MA

In 2002, workers at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Ohio discovered that an acid leak had eaten through six inches of carbon steel on the reactor vessel head, leaving only 3/8 inch of stainless steel to contain the reactor's highly pressur-

ing the conditions for rapid overheating of the reactor core.

In 1996, critical systems at a reactor at Catawba Nuclear Station in South Carolina were without power for several hours when the plant lost outside
see NUCLEAR pg 12

Dollar Savings not Worth Loss of Community

While I always appreciate the efforts of our town administration to cut costs wherever possible, reducing Montague's number of electoral precincts from six to three (*MR IX #23: Montague May Shrink Number of Polling Places, Reduce Town Meeting Representation*) is not the way to go about it.

We live in an age of increasing voter apathy and rising transportation costs, with a sig-

nificant elderly population, in a town of five villages spread over many miles. Do we really want to make it much harder for people to get to the polls to save a tiny fraction (one 300ths of a percent) of the town budget each year?

In a decade, sure, we may be able to buy a new police cruiser with the savings, but the very experience of walking to one's polling place, saying hello to

neighbors, participating in the ritual of voting, help build community, thus making such purchases less urgent.

To paraphrase what a wise man told me just a few years ago, in terms of the overall good of Montague, cutting the number of polling places in half is stepping over fives to pick up ones.

- Jamie Berger
Turners Falls

Snowmobilers' Thanks

It's been a wonderful winter for our sport as well as fellow cross country skiers and snowshoers! The snow has left us as quickly as it came.

Our club wants to thank all

landowners and supporters in Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett and New Salem who have so graciously granted us permission to use their property for our trail network. We sincerely hope we can continue to build our relationships within our community to support our sports.

We look forward (but we are in no hurry!) to seeing you on the trails next season!

- Louanne Soos,
Porcupine Ridge Runners
Shutesbury

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 3/30/11



We Welcome Your Letters!
Montague Reporter
58 4th St Turners Falls,
MA 01376
reporter@montaguema.net

Sign Me Up!

- \$20 for half year subscription
 \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

OP ED

Regarding the Proposed Leverett Peace Commission

GOVERNMENT WE CAN BELIEVE IN

BY PETER D'ERRICO - The proposal to establish a Leverett Peace Commission took a new turn after proponents met with the selectboard on March 22nd (MR IX #- "Conflict Breaks Out Over Peace Commission") to discuss their proposal to create a new governmental body in the town.

The idea being put forward after the meeting is to create a Peace Study Committee "to imagine and work towards a just and peaceful future; and... to study and report to the town on ways this objective may be advanced."

I was one of the persons who criticized the initial proposal in my capacity as a member of the selectboard and now, considering the current recommendation of a formal study, I wish to present and clarify my concerns here, as a follow-up to the recent coverage.

First of all, some proponents of a peace commission as part of town government expressed themselves in terms of a spiritual agenda. There are grave dangers when government powers are mixed with spiritual or religious perspectives.

It is difficult enough to govern on the basis of secular values, without raising the ante to spiritu-

al values and goals. It seems that spiritual goals have a tendency to divide people as much as to unite them, to make people willing to kill other people as much as to let them live their lives differently. The famous "separation of church and state" was designed to avoid such dangers. We need to keep that separation intact. When spiritual expressions are amalgamated to political power, they lose their spirituality and derail democratic politics.

Second, the proposal was quite vague. It called for a commission to "lead the way for the town of Leverett to support a world without war;" it also said the commission would be involved in "identifying and seeking to ameliorate sources of conflict in the community." What exactly do these phrases mean? What function of town government includes national and international issues of peace and war? What would it mean to legally empower a commission of elected citizens in town government to identify "sources of conflict" in the community?

Town government is a limited, institutional, hierarchical arrangement of officials, respon-

sibilities, and enforcement powers, backed by the power of the state. It has power to coerce individuals who do not obey its laws. This power is called the "police power" of government.

The police power of town government extends beyond what we typically call "policing" (traffic control, criminal prosecution), into the broader realm of "public health and safety." For example, regulation of wells and septic systems rests on police power over water quantity and quality. In fact, boards of health were historically among the first creations of government power. They have power to condemn, which is a grave use of force.

We may agree with use of the police power, but we should recognize it for what it is: the threat or use of official force; and we should be careful when we create bodies backed by that force. We should not create a government body with vague and ambiguous purposes.

Third, the absence of an official peace commission is not an obstacle to those who want to offer themselves as a group to help resolve conflict and facilitate peaceful relations; they may

come forward as an independent body, based on the power of shared spiritual understanding, operating without recourse to any government force, and offer their services. Such an effort might be wonderfully useful and valuable. Its usefulness and value would derive precisely from the fact that the persons involved are offering themselves as fellow humans and neighbors, not as officials of government.

Finally, if they work during the coming year as a Peace Study Commission, with an objective "to imagine and work towards a just and peaceful future; and ... to study and report to the town on ways this objective may be advanced," perhaps they will discover a town function that does facilitate peace.

However, I share a pervasive sense of doom about the world that was voiced by several proponents of the peace commission; and that is a major reason I want to be sure we take actions that do not lead us to further despair and cynicism.

Peace is not something that can be "made" by the official application of force or designation of a commission. That is an oxymoron, as George Orwell showed us. The only way for a government to "make peace" is

for it to stop making war. As soon as government tries to "enforce" peace, we are back in the quandary.

We should be familiar enough with this phenomenon, because U.S. national history celebrates its birth in war ("O, say can you see....?") and its entire economy is now based on continuous war waged in the name of peace.

My criticism of the original proposal was based on my sense that an official peace commission would indeed lead us to further despair and cynicism, because there is not yet identified any town governmental function we can exercise toward the global ends we desire.

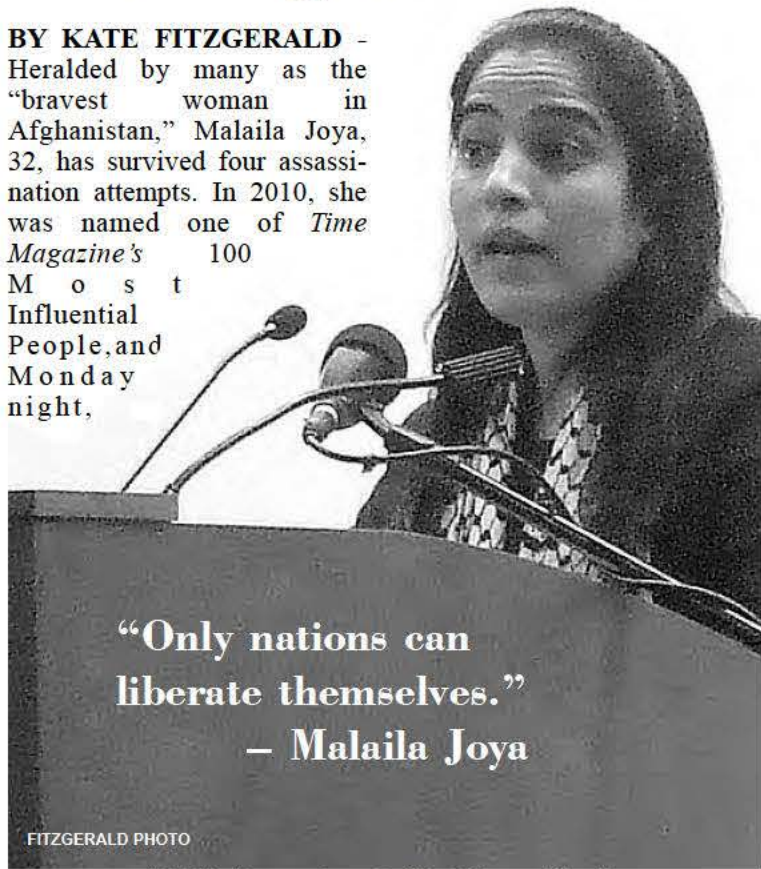
To my mind, the worst aspect of President Obama's failure to produce any "change we can believe in" is that fervent hoping for such change seems only to increase the cumulative effect of frustration and disappointment and make the possibility of change less and less believable.

I want to make every step count when we take action in our own town. I want local government to continue to be believable.

Peter d'Errico is a member of the Leverett selectboard. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the selectboard.

Leave Afghanistan Now

BY KATE FITZGERALD - Heralded by many as the "bravest woman in Afghanistan," Malaila Joya, 32, has survived four assassination attempts. In 2010, she was named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People, and Monday night,



Malaila Joya spoke at Smith College on Monday

a mere five days after the U.S. State Department succumbed to pressure, reversed its position and agreed to issue her a visa, Joya appeared before a packed auditorium at Smith College.

Joya, the author of the memoir *A Woman Among Warlords*, was elected to the Afghani par-

liament in 2005, and later ousted in response to her impassioned public criticism of president Hamid Karzai's administration.

"We have a corrupt, non-democratic government," Joya said of her home country, which is currently also home to about 100,000 U.S. troops pro-

viding stability for the government in Kabul. "Karzai's regime is full of the warlords, drug lords, and criminals who have killed and tortured my people for decades."

Joya, who hails from the Farah province in southwest Afghanistan, was raised in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. She returned to Afghanistan during the reign of the Taliban, where she got her start in political activism, secretly educating young people in underground schools.

When U.S. and NATO forces moved into Afghanistan in October of 2001 to wipe out Al-Qaeda strongholds and remove the Taliban from power, Joya said she saw the situation for her fellow Afghans go from bad to worse.

"They pushed us from the frying pan into the fire," she told the crowd at Smith. "They brought to power the foot mafia of the Taliban, these fundamentalist warlords."

Joya denounced the 2009 elections that returned Karzai to the presidential palace, declaring them fraudulent and "ridiculous."

"We have a famous saying in Afghanistan. It is not important who is voting, it is important who is counting."

Joya's message to the United States, which she is hoping to deliver to as many

people as possible on her current tour, is loud and clear: "Leave Afghanistan now."

Joya said, "I believe that the only solution to Afghanistan is that troops should withdraw, because their presence is making our fight for justice much harder. Only nations can liberate themselves."

Joya sees Afghanistan as surrounded by three enemies: the Taliban, the Karzai regime, and the occupation forces. If the occupation forces were to leave today, Joya believes the backbone of the warlords and Taliban would break, and the people of Afghanistan would go from fighting three enemies to none.

What Afghanistan needs instead, she says, is a helping hand from those who can truly make a difference for her people: peace-promoting organizations, feminist organizations, anti-war campaigns, and "progressive, justice-loving people around the world."

"They are the ones who should not leave us alone," she said. "We need their support as much as they can."

When asked by an audience member what type of democracy the Afghani people envisioned for themselves, Joya replied, "Democracy is democracy. It is not Western, Middle East or Afghani."

GIFTS of FAITH
 First Communion
 Confirmation

Imagine Jewelers
 38 Bank Row, Greenfield
 413-475-1310
 Wed thru Fri 12-6; Saturday 10-2

Mesa Verde
Eat In or Take Out!
BURRITOS, BOWLS, SOFT TACOS, QUESADILLAS
Now Serving BBC Steel Rail
 (413) 772-2531
 10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
 Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

PETER WATERS
HOUSE PAINTING
 Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
 Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
 SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
WHERE ECONOMY IS KING
AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS
 Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai

 413-774-5517
 335 High Street, Greenfield
 greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
 GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

Bryan G. Hobbs
Remodeling Contractor
 Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
 Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
 Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation
 Home/Office 413-659-0250
 Bryan G. Hobbs
 94 South Prospect St.
 Millers Falls

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Representative Denise Andrews Warns of Tough Times Ahead

BY DAVID DETMOLD State representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange) gave a thumbnail sketch of the Massachusetts budget outlook at Monday's meeting of the Gill selectboard. "It's going to be tough sledding for a long time," said Andrews, who is three months into her first term representing the 2nd Franklin District.

Andrews held office hours at the Gill town hall after meeting with the selectboard.

She told the selectboard that Governor Deval Patrick's budget proposes a 5% - 7% reduction in local aid, a target she called "a best case" scenario.

The state budget that emerges from the house and senate will include "serious cuts," said Andrews, including cuts to elder services and homes for the developmentally disabled. "A lot of our most vulnerable citizens and the people who serve them are on the chopping block," said Andrews.

She said she has checked into pay rates for executives who run social service agencies, and she found that a number of

them have not taken raises in four years, and their staffs have followed suit in many cases.

"There is a growing disparity between the haves and have nots," said Andrews, who said she is "very concerned about what is going on in Wisconsin," as someone who supports public and private sector unions.

Andrews said the task at hand for Massachusetts legislators is to determine, "How do we take the tax money we collect and distribute that efficiently to create a community that works for people. A whole new level of conversation is needed, because the money is not there. We need a lot more collective problem solving now."

Andrews posed a series of rhetorical questions. "Do we need a more progressive tax system? Is business paying their fair share? You all read that G.E. paid no taxes in the U.S. this year. It's not right. How do we get citizens to show up again at town meeting, and vote?"

Andrews said, "People are dying in other countries to get the right to vote for their elected officials." She added, "Let's deal with rebuilding the best

country in the world," and she was not referring to Egypt.

Andrews said, "If one percent of voters show up to town meeting, we celebrate," and of those, perhaps "only five people in the room truly know what they're voting on. It's not going to work to build a democracy in times of crisis like we are in. Do we watch 'Dancing with the Stars' or start showing up at rallies and public hearings and meetings and figuring out what to do?"

She didn't say whether Kirstie Alley would be at any of those rallies.

In other news, the selectboard deliberated over a proposal from Gill cable advisory committee member - perhaps the sole remaining active member of that committee - and volunteer videographer Rick James to use funds from the town's annual ComCast franchise fees to pay for the services of the camera operator who tapes the Gill selectboard meeting. For the last 14 months, that person has been James himself, but he said he was thinking of the big picture.

"Maybe if we did pay a little something for camera operators, you might get some people to come in and pick up a couple of bucks."

James said MCTV, which replays the Gill selectboard and town meetings for cable viewers in Gill, regularly broadcasts the phone number for volunteers to call if they are interested in helping tape local government meetings, or other events of interest to Gill residents, but the response has been, "No calls."

James said he has been volunteering to video meetings and other Gill

see GILL pg 9

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

School Committee Submits a \$2,134,800 Elementary Budget - Up 3.2%

BY KATIE NOLAN - Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo told the March 28th selectboard meeting the school committee had submitted a FY'12 budget of \$2,134,800 for the elementary school, a 3.2% increase over last year.

The secondary school budget submitted by the school committee totaled \$1,039,104, a 4.6% increase over last year.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said the school committee had been asked to submit a level-funded budget, but it submitted a "level services" budget instead.

"I don't know where else we would cut from" to fund a school increase, Hammock said.

Referring to the school committee, Klepadlo said, "The inclination I got was, they'll fight it on town meeting floor."

Hammock said, "Instead of fighting, I prefer to negotiate prior to the meeting if we can."

Klepadlo agreed, saying a joint meeting of the school committee, selectboard and finance committee could "talk and come up with something reasonable."

The selectboard scheduled time at its April 4th meeting to discuss the budget with the school committee and finance committee.

FRCOG Update

Franklin County Regional Council of Governments (COG) director Linda Dunlavy attended the March 28th meeting, and told the selectboard the COG's FY'12 budget was level-funded, but Erving's regional services assessment of \$23,441 shows an increase from last year, because of an increase in Erving's property values.

Dunlavy explained the formula for setting assessments is based on both equalized value (a town's total property value as certified by the state Department of Revenue) and population. A separate (and smaller) statutory assessment pays for the town's share of the Franklin County Retirement System.

Dunlavy told the board that only 7% of FRCOG's budget is funded by the regional services assessment; the majority of funding comes from federal and state grants.

Dunlavy reminded the selectboard that FRCOG submitted a grant application for a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation block grant on Erving's behalf last year, and obtained \$81,000 for energy efficiency improvements at town hall. She described many FRCOG programs that benefitted the town, including a study of regional emergency dispatch, cooperative bidding for appraisal services for the assessors, coordinating the cooperative inspection program, acting as the regional planning agency, and providing funding for Brownfields site assessments and cleanups.

Under the Brownfields program, Erving received a \$50,000 grant and a \$150,000 loan for cleanup of the Usher Mill property. Dunlavy said FRCOG staff are working with the Route 2 Task Force on Route 2 safety improvements, with designs in progress for work in Erving Center and Farley.

Hammock said FRCOG provides Erving "incredible value for the money."

Dunlavy told the selectboard the FRCOG

offices will be moving to the new Franklin Regional Transit Center in Greenfield, which is designed as a "net zero" building that minimizes energy use and has the potential to generate energy onsite.

The selectboard will finalize the warrant for the May 4th annual town meeting at their meeting on April 14th.

Senior Center Update

Commenting on the progress of the new senior center building, Klepadlo said, "They're drilling wells now [for the geothermal system]; it looks like they're on track."

Goodwin remarked, "I want it done right and on schedule."

Sharp asked about the \$250 approved by the selectboard at its March 3rd meeting to fund a rental van to transport senior center building committee members for a site visit to a "twin" senior center in Kingston, MA.

Sharp asked if the money would also cover time spent by town employee Jacqueline Boyden on that trip.

The selectboard said Boyden would not be paid for that trip, because she was not acting in her capacity as assistant assessor, but as a building committee volunteer.

Sharp informed the selectboard that conservation commission chair David Brule had published a book called "West Along the River" including essays about life along the Millers River. Sharp asked if copies could be sold from his office in town hall. The selectboard asked Sharp to check with town counsel Donna McNichol to see if she had any objections.

Finance committee mem- see ERVING pg 8



Ronnie LaChance (with Ed Golembeski, rear) flip pancakes at the annual Friends of Gill Pancake Breakfast on Saturday. A good time was had by all!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

River View Muscle Therapy
Muscle Therapy
Swedish Massage
Therapeutic Touch
By Appointment Only
Julie Lowensburg, RN, LMT
Member, AMTA
2 Bridge Street • Shelburne Falls • 413-625-9932 or 624-0220

UPINNGIL
411 Main Road
Gill
413-863-2297
Farm store open daily, 8-7
Fresh Milk • Farmstead Cheese • Gill Grown Wheat
Seasonal Fruits & Vegetables
Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.

COUTURE BROS
Celebrating 101st Anniversary
Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer
www.couturebros.com
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM
DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM
Compassionate and Professional Care
for Your Small Animal
NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS
194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls 413-863-0025

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT
Now Serving BURGERS & BEER by the FIRE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
7 days a week
Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE
Your Automotive Answer
CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS
TELE: (413) 772-8862 U-HAUL
409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

The Barn at Bartlett Farm



MICHAEL MULLER PHOTO

Owner Dean Garvin working with Donald Mays on the renovation of the barn at Bartlett Farm in 2003

BY CAROL GIRARD BARTON
MONTAGUE CENTER - Our family moved to Montague Center in the spring of 1946. Through our front windows, we could see the house and main barn of the Bartlett Farm. When that barn collapsed under the weight of snow this winter, it brought back many memories.

Bartlett Farm was located across what is now called Center Street (then called Central Street) and from our home on the east corner of Union we could see the big house and main barn from our front windows. They were landmarks for me, and part of more than 60 years of family connection to Montague.

Maybe because they had already stood for nearly a century before I discovered them, I believed those buildings would last forever. How deeply sad I

felt when I saw the front page picture of the collapsed barn in the February 3rd issue of the *Montague Reporter* this winter.

In 1949, the Bartlett Farm was still a working farm. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett were elderly and infirm, yet with the help of John Kopinto, Sr. and others, in times where more hands were needed, they maintained three work horses - Molly, Jerry, and Pete - a small herd of milk cows, pigs, and chickens. The many out-buildings were filled with farm implements, some antiques even then, and a tractor of sorts, converted from old parts adapted from a Model A Ford.

As children we were always welcomed and watched over. We had to follow basic rules like not going behind the horses and staying out of the silo. But otherwise we were free to ramble.

I remember a huge oak barrel

filled with ice cold water for the horses to drink. Even in the heat of summer, sticking your hand in it was a shock.

Sometimes we helped fill the feed bags for the horses. Pete always stomped his feet when it was time to eat. Lifting the slanted lid of the grain bin released a wonderful aroma.

Even now, the smell of horse and cow manure is not offensive to me, though we held our noses as children when the stalls and cow troughs were mucked.

In contrast to the sunny day outside, the barn was dark and cool and mysterious. The hay in the loft smelled sweet when fresh cut, then changed to a nutty scent as it dried.

Before the Bartletts had a hay baler, we rode to the fields in the big wagon pulled by a team of horses. We bumped along in the wooden seats as the wagon ford-

ed the Saw Mill River. We could smell the fresh cut hay, clover and timothy.

Rows of cut, tossed and rolled hay waited to be pitch forked into the wagon. Once, we rode home atop a pile of fresh hay back across the river, up the winding road to the barn, a privilege and a thrill.

We jumped in the hay stacked in the loft, and when there were rectangular bales, we made tunnels to hide in, much to the chagrin of Dick Bartlett and John Kopinto who had so carefully stacked them.

Those hot summer days, my friend Betsey (Crawford) Whitcomb and I would walk down the winding wagon path to the river to swim or just to lie in the grass watching the clouds and dreaming of our future. We made dandelion chains and bouquets of bluets and buttercups, glorying in the land and our freedom.

During the winter months when all was covered with snow, every day after school we'd sled and ski through the apple orchard, down the hill, across the wagon road and into the meadow. We never seemed to mind the bitter chill wind or the snow that covered us from head to toe and got into our boots.

One day, the animals had all been sold and the farm implements were put up for auction. I never got a chance to say thank you to the Bartletts for their kindness and tolerance to all of us who frolicked on their property.

It almost seemed like the big barn was happiest when it was filled with horses, cows, pigs, chickens, cats, grain, feed, farm-workers, and all of us neighborhood children. It held us all with a style and dignity of strength that endured even while it stood empty, as the years and weather slowly took their toll.

That great barn will live on in

the memories of all of us who grew up with the wonderful sounds and smells and experiences of the Bartlett Farm.

Carol Girard Barton lives at 106 Smith Street, in East Tawas, MI 48730 now, but her heart is still in Montague Center. You can also reach her at: carolgirardbarton@yahoo.com.

from SIRIUM page 1
ing prices.

With farms becoming more and more mechanized, when a customer's tractor or other machinery is down it becomes a major calamity. Sirum Equipment's crew makes every effort to get the customer's machine back up and running as soon as possible. The same holds true for landscapers, or excavating contractors who need their machine to continue production.

Sometimes a loaner machine is available to tide the customer over until the customer's machine is repaired.

Speaking from personal experience, Ed Sirum once removed a hydraulic fitting from one of their tractors to get my tractor back on the job, instead of making me wait until the replacement part came in. It is that reputation of concern for the customer and honest dealing that keeps customers flocking back to Sirum Equipment Company like the sparrows of Capistrano. On Saturday, Ed Sirum was so busy dealing with customers he didn't have time to shave.

The next big event will be the Sirum's 50th Anniversary. That will run for an entire week, some time in May. Look for an announcement in the *Montague Reporter*, the voice of the villages.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

2ND STREET BAKING Co.

Now Open Sundays!
 Tue - Sat 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Check out our Great Lunch Menu
 Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Cakes, Pastries, Coffee, Soup and Bread
 Closed Mondays
 69 2nd Street
 Turners Falls
 863-4455

Site Work

- Bulldozer and Backhoe Work
- Driveways
- Land Clearing
- Septic Systems

 Residential and Commercial
L & D Builders
 413-648-0110

Dan's Veggies & Camp Wood & Poplar Mt. Maple
 Northfield Rd. (Rt 63N) Erving
 Maple Syrup & Maple Cream For Sale!
 Call 423-3242 for more information
 Coming Soon: Fresh Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Spinach and Radishes!

Domestic, Asian & European Ron Kelley, Owner

Eagle Automotive
 147 2nd Street, Turners Falls
 (413) 824-8111
 Engine Light
 ABS/Brake Light
 SRS/Air Bag Light
 Complete Car and Truck Repair

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

 People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.
 - Gary and Nancy Melen
 We engrave memories that last forever
 MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
 10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA
 "The perfect remembrance"

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

 30 Montague St.
 TURNERS FALLS
 413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
 www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

Pipione's SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licences
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

 Open 7 am 7 days a week
 101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
 UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
 413-883-7323
 Easy in-town location
 Secure 24-hour access
 VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES
 OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
 Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE

 Licensed and Insured
 Christopher J. Morin, owner
 7 Kimberly Lane
 Turners Falls
EXCELLENCE IN TREE CARE
 413-522-6119



TAMI STILES PHOTO

The Mud, Blood and Beer band's Josh Levangie, Matt Eichenlaub and Simon White

Mud, Blood and Beer at the Deja Brew

Anderson sported a mohawk in need of a slight trim, and bass player Dan Putnum was squished into the corner of the cozy Deja Brew.

With feedback that would make whales cry, it took a while for the band to find its footing. But after a few technical adjustments, they were off and running like Secretariat. It was a honky tonk blaze of yesteryear, with songs like Folsom Prison Blues, Hard Headed Woman and Good Hearted Woman.

There is something about good hearted, hard headed women that men like to sing about. And Levangie's band was no exception.

As the Mud, Blood and Beer band rambled through Good Hearted Woman, a few sponta-

neous Yee-haw's broke from the audience. Foot stomping commenced. Suddenly, the concert became a good old family jam session as a member of the audience broke out his harmonica and began playing along. The musicians on stage took it all in stride as the audience members set up their own rhythm and clapped along.

As that tune concluded, someone from the audience shouted out, "Honky Tonk Woman." Allergic to classic rock, I'd never really heard that song before, but with the line, "She blew my nose, and then she blew my mind," it was just possible to deduce what the Stones were up to back in the day.

Tossing in a random Bob Marley tune, Eichenlaub took lead vocals for "Stir it Up." The group vocals were very tight on this number, with Anderson on the Afuche Cabasa, a Latin percussion instrument made with stainless steel bead chain, which created a rhythmic scraping sound and pattern, rounding out their sound. The

band was completely in sync, the audience responded in kind, the applause echoed off the walls and the beer flowed on.

Dwarfed by his stature, and with a slight crick in the neck I had a chance to speak with Levangie during the break. He sipped casually at a whiskey on ice and told me the bass player and drummer were fill-ins for the regular members of the band. The band's name was inspired by the song "A Boy Named Sue." He never met Johnny Cash in person, but his dad introduced him to Cash's music at age 15, and from then on Levangie hit the honky tonk highway and never looked back.

After the break, Josh Levangie and the Mud, Blood and Beer band carved out a little corner of the room, settled in, and turned it into a juke joint any rocking country music fan would feel right at home in. So the next time you're in the mood for some down home Johnny Cash, get rhythm and check out this band. You will not regret it.

BY TAMI STILES

WENDELL - As spring was just about to break through, I took a drive into Wendell to the Deja Brew Pub last week to listen to the Josh Levangie and the Mud, Blood and Beer band.

It was a regular ol' Johnny Cash revival, minus the wearing of black, or the use of the Johnny Cash middle finger.

Levangie is a man of formidable height, and his eight and one quarter gallon hat

appeared to almost touch the ceiling of the bar. He wore orange snakeskin cowboy boots, flannel shirt and a beard to impress any member of ZZ Top.

Lead guitarist Matt Eichenlaub played a sweet toned Paul Reed guitar, while drummer Simon White had a picture of Chuck Norris with nunchucks looking ominously out in the audience from his bass drum. D'jembe player and supporting percussionist and vocalist Adam

from **ERVING** pg 6

ber Winifred Stone-Rubinaccio wondered if Brule had donated copies of the book to the library.

Darby Chagnon, having completed the probationary period, was voted as full time employee at the wastewater treatment plant. Daniel Hammock was reappointed as the animal inspector.

Drive Thru Businesses

Also from the selectboard meeting of March 21st, planning board chair William Morris said a public hearing will be held on April 12th on a proposed zoning bylaw to allow drive-through businesses at all commercially zoned properties in town by special permit. He said the special permit process would give the planning board "all types of control" over drive-through proposals.

"I'd like to see this move

forward, because the Sembs are moving forward," Morris said. By this, Morris referred to plans the Semb family have advanced to build a drive-through fast food store on property abutting their French King Entertainment Center on Route 2.

Last year, town meeting turned back a bid by the Sembs to allow for a drive through business and gas station at that location, which happens to be in the town's aquifer protection zone. A separate motion to allow a gas station in the aquifer protection zone also failed at town meeting.

Library Needs Room

Library trustee Marcia Bernard told the selectboard that circulation and visitors at the library continue to grow, and described the library as "a vibrant place."

She said the current library building is "jam packed" and staff needs to move book shelves when programs occur. She said trustees are exploring the possibility of using the current senior center as a new

library space once the new senior center opens.

As part of that exploration, the trustees have invited the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to a "walk through" at the senior center building in April.

According to Bernard, the state library commissioners have funds to pay two thirds of costs for designing and planning library renovations, and from 35% to 60% of renovation costs.

She said the commissioners are very interested in Green renovation designs, an interest the town library trustees share.

Bernard said the library trustees have prepared a level funded library budget for FY'12.

New Police Officer

The selectboard voted to hire Robert Holst, currently a police officer in Gardner, as a full time Erving police officer. Hackett described Holst as an outstanding choice, rated first by all of the members of the hiring committee. He will start work in Erving within two

weeks.

Hackett reported that police chief Chris Blair wanted to add another full time officer in place of current part time officers for FY'12. The selectboard agreed that costs for a fourth full time officer, estimated at \$27,000, should be presented as a separate article on the town meeting warrant.

Sharp informed the selectboard that electricity supplier Hampshire Power, a program of the Hampshire Council of Governments that has been saving the town money on electricity, is now interested in offering a program for residents.

The selectboard decided to meet with a Hampshire Power representative to discuss the proposal after the selectboard wraps up its work for annual town meeting.


The selectboard also decided to put off until April consideration of a request from MassPIRG to support an expanded bottle bill in Massachusetts.



Sokolosky Realty
Your Home Town Team
 59 Years of Continuous Service

413.863.4393
 159 Avenue A
 Turners Falls

Craig Dalrymple
 Sales Associate



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

VIDEO GAMES ETC. Todd Cousino
 Owner

Buy, Sell, Trade
 Games, Electronics, and More!

229b Main St.
 Greenfield, MA
 01301

New & Vintage Video Games
 and Machines.

1,000's of DVD's

Phone: (413) 772-0044
 E-mail: vgect@yahoo.com

Locally owned since 1941



Full service market
 Fresh Fish from the Boston market
 Beer & Wine

70 Allen Street
 Greenfield, MA

413-773-1100
 FAX 413-773-1105

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

DVD~ MINI DVD~DVC~VHS/VHS
 C/SVHS~BETA~REGULAR/HIGH &
 DIGITAL 8 MM~HOME MOVIES/SLIDES~
 CD'S/REEL TO REEL/8 TRACKWIRE
 AND OTHER FORMATS.

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

WILLIAM & KATHY WHITE
 (413-773-7747)

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
 21 MOHAWK TRAIL BOX 259
 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 LAPINE@VERIZON.NET

ED L Dealer in used
 Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
 Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make
 Lamps Lite!

Open 7 Days a Week

GOOD USED USABLES

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net
 863-8316



Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street
 Northfield, MA 01360

Office: 413-498-0207
 Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
 Home Phone: 413-863-9166
 Home Fax: 413-863-0218
 Email: bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
 ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
 REALTOR®

"My Office is Always Open to You!"



Twenty Montague farmers, growers and friends of agriculture gathered at town hall on March 24th

BY DAVID DETMOLD - About 20 people got together in town hall on Thursday, March 24th to try to revive the moribund Montague agricultural commission, and to consider ways to boost local food production, support local farmers and growers, and continue the effort to preserve agricultural land in town.

The meeting was called together by town planner Walter Ramsey, who opened the proceedings by reminding the audience of progress the town has made to date. Ramsey said almost half (44.8%) of Montague's 2700 acres of farmland is permanently protected under the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, and an additional 36% of the farmland in town is protected by the town's Chapter 61-A program, which reduces property taxes on active farms but does not

provide permanent protection for that land. More than 19% of the town's farmland is not currently protected from development, Ramsey said.

About 14% of Montague's total area is agricultural land, and that includes some of the most fertile farmland in the country, along the Connecticut River.

Ramsey noted that although Montague's population has been almost level over the last ten years (the population declined by just 40 people from 2000 to 2010 - to 8,437 according to the recent census) Montague is still "developing at less dense levels," threatening a loss of open space and agricultural land.

To counter this trend, Ramsey said the town should take a fresh look at its subdivision bylaws, which he called, "arcane." He said, "Our subdivision bylaws were developed in the 1960s.

They leave no room for flexibility, no possibility to allow development to be clustered for the sake of preserving farmland."

Ramsey said Montague has 20 active farms, according to an inventory performed by planning board chair Ted Armen in support of the update of the town's open space plan last year.

Some of them, like the Waidlich Farm on East Mineral Road in Millers Falls, the Red Fire Farm on Meadow Road in Montague, the Jiang Farm on Center Street, Nourse Farms, and others, were represented in the room, as were the two wait-listed community gardens on L Street and the Great Falls Farmers Market on Avenue A and 2nd in downtown Turners.

Pete Webster, the Franklin County representative of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and

Margaret Christie, special projects director from the Community in Support of Agriculture (CISA), headquartered in South Deerfield, addressed the audience about the importance of local agriculture, and local agriculture commissions.

Christie, who said her family grows food for home consumption in Whately, said CISA's mission is to strengthen agriculture by linking farmers with the community, through the Local Hero campaign and similar promotions. She said a recent focus has been on developing strategies and storage capacity for winter marketing of local foods.

"We're thinking about processing and distribution, through the Western Mass Food Processing Center in Greenfield, freezing produce for sales to schools," and supporting the senior farm share program, and working to provide EBT machines for vendors at farmers markets to be able to process electronic food coupons under the state's SNAP program.

Christie said the Whately agricultural commission assisted with the passage of the Community Preservation Act at town meeting, to provide a steady source of local matching funds for open space and agricultural preservation.

Also, "The agricultural commission responds periodically to friction between farmers and neighbors, from a noisy rooster, to a noisy reefer truck next to somebody's deck."

Webster kindly overlooked the fact that the Montague agricultural commission has been inactive since 2006 when he noted all the towns in Franklin County have agricultural commissions except for Erving, Monroe, and Warwick.

"An agricultural commission can do an awful lot by sitting down with other boards and talk-

ing about what farms do. In some towns, selectboards are not aware of the farms, and farmers are too busy to talk to other community members. Often, without over-regulation, committees can improve local agriculture."

Webster said when the question first gets asked, "How many farms are still here," the answer is generally, "Eh, not very many - but when you go around you find a lot of people involved, from beekeepers to small growers."

Xin Miao Jiang, from the Jiang Farm on Center Street, said, "Our farm grows all Asian vegetables. Each year, it is better and better. Last year came down some, and surprised us. We are growing beautiful vegetables, mostly to sell to Fosters, and UMass." But now Jiang, who has been attempting to build a shed to store winter vegetables, has run afoul of the state's 21-E Brownfields law, according to Ramsey, because the farm is located on the former refueling depot for the Chapin and Sadler bus company. Some incidental leakage of fuel oil occurred, and though the Jiangs were not aware of the issue when they bought the land, they are now liable for the cleanup and testing, at a dollar figure Jaing said the farm could not afford.

In a current example of how a Montague agricultural commission could be helpful, Ramsey said he is now assisting Jiang navigate the system, advocating for clean-up funds from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and generally supporting a farmer who feels like "a little actor in a world she doesn't understand."

Betty Waidlich said, "One of the challenges is farmers don't get together," and the group discussed whether the Montague Grange remained true to its national charter to support local farmers and growers.

see AGRICULTURAL pg 13

from GILL pg 6 happenings out of civic pride. "I do it to give back to Gill. My family's been here for six generations. I love Gill."

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said he had surveyed about a dozen area towns and cable access stations to find out whether and how much camera operators were paid. He determined that most towns paid camera operators for local cable access stations between \$10 and \$18 an hour, while a minority continued to rely on volunteers.

Purington said Ann Banash, who was absent from the meeting, had expressed the opinion earlier that the purpose of the cable access money was to provide equipment to allow people to get involved in community television, not necessarily to

provide paid work for anyone.

The contract with ComCast brings in about \$8,000 and \$9,000 a year to support cable access equipment and production in Gill.

The board took the matter under advisement, and asked James to bring them a plan for how he would like to see that annual allotment spent, now that the initial capital costs have been paid to provide camera and community calendar equipment for town hall.

Recreation commission member Deb Loomer told the selectboard about plans for an upcoming dedication of a new scoreboard for the girls softball field at the elementary school. The scoreboard will be dedicated in memory of Jasmine Edson, who died in an equestrian acci-

dent nine years ago. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 20th.

"We want to make it a community event, maybe invite the fire department to hold a Bar-B-Que, with a softball game that night," said Loomer.

Loomer also told the selectboard about a rate increase for the basketball program to use the gymnasium at the Turners Falls High School this year, where the fee has gone up from a \$15 flat fee to at least \$90 for a three hour session on a Saturday morning, with a possible \$75 custodial fee on top of that. Loomer said that increase would make the town basketball program unaffordable, and selectboard member Randy Crochier said, "I'd like to ask

see GILL pg 17

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assist Other Police, Suspicious Vehicles

Wednesday, 3/23	year old male, with major head trauma.	turbance on North Cross Road. All parties calmed.
4:40 p.m. Assisted Erving police with search for five subjects trespassing on Railroad tracks.	Saturday, 3/26	10:25 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in Riverside Area. Subject stated they were lost, provided directions out of town.
5:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with Life Flight for thirteen	2:14 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle, selling carpets from van, all over town. Moved along.	
	4:40 p.m. Domestic dis-	

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

Phil & Paul Waldron



Waldron Building & Remodeling
A Name You Can Trust

Kitchens, Baths, Decks, Replacement Windows
Additions, New Construction 413-422-2252 Phil
Sheetrock, Painting & More.. 413-834-0534 Paul

Fully Insured, CS #088999 & HIC 145293
Free Estimates & Reasonable Rates

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner



The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

John Moore Painting

FAUX & FINE FINISH WORK

FINE INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING

Specializing in transforming old rooms into vibrant new ones

413-367-2889 cell: 413-775-2650

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
Accountant
413-768-9095



IRS-Approved Income Tax Preparer
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks
Now accepting new tax clients

RAVEN USED BOOKS

5 BANK ROW (RT 5&10)
GREENFIELD, MA
413 - 772 - 1968

4 OLD SOUTH STREET
DOWNTOWN
NORTHAMPTON, MA
413 - 584 - 9868

2 LOCATIONS • USED & DISCOUNT BOOKS
OPEN DAILY • RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM



BLEDDYN BUTCHER PHOTO

The Pogues, with Shane MacGowan, at the House of Blues

BY DAVID DETMOLD

BOSTON - To the strains of the Clash's "Straight to Hell" the Pogues marched - or in Shane MacGowan's case shambled - onto the stage at the House of Blues (the former Avalon Ballroom) next to Fenway Park on the Friday before St. Patrick's Day and proceeded to tear the place apart.

For a band that relies on traditional instruments like penny-whistle and mandolin - to say nothing of the beer tray smashed

against Spider Stacy's forehead in time to the rhythm in Fiesta! - the heavily amplified band was able to lay down a solid wall of Celtic Punk that got the crowd churning in the mosh pit. And let you savor every guttural lyric torn from MacGowan's whiskey ravaged soul.

Who in America ever thought they would have the chance to see this band again, after they kicked frontman and chief songwriter MacGowan out for drinking too heavily and falling down

on the job back in 1991? But the Pogues came roaring back to the States for well regarded tours in 2006, and they've been back each year since, notably in the week leading up to St. Patrick's Day. Which guitarist Phil Chevron told the *Irish Times* the band has lately rechristened St. James Cagney Day. ("St. Patrick was a non-descript evangelist that doesn't merit this attention.")

The band blew onto stage like a bad wind, singing a whiskey drinking song of unknown authorship, segueing immediately into "Let Me Go Boys", with MacGowan wailing like a banshee in between choruses, knocking back a plentiful tumbler and smoking a cigarette all the while.

Let no one say Shane MacGowan has reformed. He is an incorrigible drunk and a great singer, both at the same time, and that is the central fact of the matter. It's hard to cheer the band when you see Shane in the shape he's in, but you cannot help yourself, and neither can he, apparently - they're outrageous, so is he,

and isn't that the shame of it?

They played the "Broad Majestic Shamon" next, and the song epitomized the glory and the squalor of the Pogues entirely - the soaring exalted sweep of the music, with Stacy's tin whistle picking out the melody high above the rolling chords of banjo, mandolin and guitar, while MacGowan brutally mauls the tenderest of sentiments: "Take my hand, and dry your tears, babe; take my hand, there's no more fears, babe, There's no pain, there's no more sorrow; They're all gone, gone in the years babe."

James Fearnley, with shaved head, played the accordion in an energetic style that recalled Vincent Schiavelli's approach to subway trains, leaping about the stage as if he were about to come totally unglued. Chevron, a diminutive figure next to the manic Fearnley, wore pin striped suit and kilts and maintained pinpoint focus on the tune at hand. Darryl Hunt on bass, Andrew Ranken on drums, Terry Woods on mandolin, and Jem Finer on banjo, the original line up were all on hand to do right by all their

original material - "Boat Train", "A Pair of Brown Eyes", "Down All the Days", and many more.

Legend has it, and the band has said nothing to dispute it, the Pogues got their start when Stacy and MacGowan met in the toilets at a Ramones gig in London in 1977. Those were the days when Jonathan Lydon sang about anarchy and fans wore buttons advocating "Destroy All Music." But in fact, the Pogues were originators, often imitated, never equaled, melding traditional Irish music and punk into something vital, unholy and timeless that will certainly outlast them.

Back in the mid-80s, when the Pogues played Rahars in Northampton, MacGowan knocked back the whiskey and chain smoked all night long. A lot of time has passed, and though the band is in top form, energized, still making great music, MacGowan has not changed at all. He is still singing his heart out, knocking back the whiskey, and smoking cigarettes all night long. But in his case, it's sad to see how drink and the devil has done for the best.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY STEVE DAMON

GILL - Debby Dargis felt she and her son Kyle needed more bodies at her house when her

to grow up to be a veterinarian. The family trekked to Hillman Farm in Colrain and purchased its first goat.

Farm Neighbors Dargis Family Warmth

Air Force husband, Neil, was sent to the warmth of the Persian Gulf for his first of many missions. Kyle, at the time, wanted

And that's how it has been for Neil's subsequent five Persian Gulf visits over the last 14 years. Debby joked, "He would leave, and come back to another animal."

As I write this, I have started to hum, "Old MacDonald had a Farm." At some point, the Dargis family of Gill's Vision Quest Farm has been the overseers of goats, sheep, dogs, chickens, cats, rabbits, ferrets, roosters, and cockatiels. E-I-E-I-O. I'm, sure I missed some-

thing.

Now, ten years after that initial goat purchase, the farm's focus has become clear: "We take animals before they get sent to the slaughterhouse," said Debby. These animals mostly reveal themselves as goats and sheep. The goats provide milk that Debby turns into cheese and yogurt, or for drinking by the glass. The



DETMOLD PHOTO

Popcorn

sheep serve as the farm's warmth. The Dargis's provide the warm barn, and the sheep provide the wool for the family - see **DARGIS** page 20

intuit
Certified ProAdvisor
QuickBooks

Rachel J Roy
QuickBooks Works
Setup & Troubleshooting
Report Development & Initial Data Entry
Training
Reasonable Rates
Specializing in Small Contractors

5 Pleasant Street, Turners Falls MA 01376
racheljroy@comcast.net 413-863-5459

magpie
woodfired pizzeria

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gld
413-475-5570

Huge Selection of Passenger, Light Truck/SUV, Truck, Farm, Off Road, Industrial, Trailer, Lawn & Garden, ATV

Pete's
TIRE BARN, INC.
Tires for Work. Tires for Play.

www.petestire.com
Northampton • 186 North King St. 413-586-8815
Brattleboro • 220 Old Ferry Rd. 802-254-3628
Orange • 275 E. Main St. 978-544-8811

FULL LINE OF
New & Re-manufactured
TONER & INK JET
CARTRIDGES

As Good If Not Better
Prices Than The
Big Box Stores

Repair Service
on Printers &
Copiers

BAKER Office Supply
310 Main Street, Greenfield
413-774-2345

BASICALLY BICYCLES
New England's
Recumbent
Headquarters

413-863-3556
88 Third Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Electric Bikes
starting at \$499.95

Order online at www.BasicallyBicycles.com

mww **ROCKET FUSION**
Montague WebWorks . com

Now powered by RocketFusion
413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com

make the web work for your business

Your **LOCAL** Solar Energy Experts

GREENFIELD
SOLAR STORE
413-772-3122
Advice, Design & Installation
www.SolarStoreofGreenfield.com
Solar Store of Greenfield • 7 Fiske Avenue • Greenfield, Mass

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Tile
Lino
Carpet

Member
The Flooring Network.

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
413-367-2481

Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Waiting for Spring

suckers that grow straight up, and opening up the remaining branches to the sun. It's also an opportunity to prune late blooming shrubs at the base to remove drooping lower branches.

This is more than a cosmetic treatment. Raising the crown of branches at the base of the plant will allow for improved drainage and more light, both of which will deter molds and fungal growths, increasing the health of your flowering shrubs.

A well planted and modestly tended flowering shrub will give pleasure for many years and gen-

erations without huge investment of the gardener's time.

Do not, however, prune your early spring flowering plants like lilac and forsythia unless you are prepared to remove the buds of spring bloom to come. These plants are better trimmed and shaped after blooming.

If you choose, you can cut some stems you'd like to prune and bring them inside. The increased warmth in your home will force the blooming for a natural bouquet inside, giving you a head start on spring.

Early spring is also the season of extreme fatigue in many house plants. I've been ruthless with those that don't approach spring with new green growth and healthy roots. With others, I'm a little more generous.

are out of school and in their early 20s, share a "common interest and a joint care for the environment."

Brunette said, "At first our friends laughed at us. They thought it was pretty funny."

"But now they won't litter anymore," said Rapelye.

"At least in front of us," added Brunette.

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - As the first full week of April nears and we hope for the true warmth of spring, the sharp winds belie the bright sun. It's too cold for gardening, except for putting on the layers and cleaning up the yard.

This is still the ideal time to prune fruit trees, removing the

Improving the Neighborhood

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - The next time you see Stacy Brunette and Ashley Rapelye, thank them. These civic minded young women spent a good part of the day on Wednesday picking up litter with gloved hands and scooping up dog droppings and generally improving the neighborhood on 4th Street and L Street in downtown Turners this week. No one asked them to do it. They just did it because they wanted to.

"We talked about it with our friends. And we just decided to come pick up trash," said Brunette. "It's disgusting."

As they stooped with trash bags to pick up the litter in the side yard of the former bodega on the corner of 4th and L, Mark Buonanno, 14 years of age, a resident of 3rd Street, stopped by after getting off the school bus.

"This place is a mess," said Buonanno. "I wish they had kept

up the yard better." He added, without a trace of irony, "I want to take pride in my neighborhood."

He complimented Brunette, who lives on K Street, and Rapelye, who lives on 2nd, for the job they were doing. "I think it's really good," he said. "I think more people should be like them." But he did not stop to help.

"Sometime we can get people to come with us," said Brunette, who picked up trash around downtown last fall, until the snow came.

Rapelye said the two friends, who



Stacy Brunette and Ashley Rapelye clean up on 4th Street

I have an African violet that I have not turned consistently. Now the leaves on the window side look burned from the cold. If removing these seems detrimental, I'll let the plant go. Since it seems inclined to bloom, I'm guessing that it is mostly healthy with some treatable environmental issues. If not, it will join some other non-producers in the compost bin and will gradually become food for new plants.

A few years ago I bought a Phalaenopsis or Moth orchid at a local grocery store right around Easter time. It had beautiful white flowers with maroon centers and large, oval, glossy leaves. It bloomed twice that year and then took a two-year vacation. Because it has remained green and shiny in foliage, I continued to give it the care orchids prefer: bright but indirect light and the opportunity to dry out thoroughly between watering.

A couple of months ago, I noticed the start of new leaves, so I began to give it the occasional feeding with highly diluted orchid food. Now it is sporting three flowering stems with buds in various stages of development. I had really considered it done with blooming so this new development is a great surprise and pleasure. It looks as if there will be some bloom again for the Easter season, a lot of pleasure from a small investment.

The garden is nearly free of snow. Walking out, I pressed my finger into one of the raised beds and encountered soil soft enough to take a fingerprint. Sadly, it is still too soon to dig small planting holes and put out the cold crops.

They are three inches tall now, these seedlings of lettuce, kale, beet and leek. At this point they would likely prefer the chill outside to the rising heat in the sunroom. While I wait for the soil to soften more, I run the fan in the sunroom to disperse the heat which on a clear day can rise well into the eighties.

It's hard not to be impatient for warmth outside as the early signs of spring appear. The daffodil shoots are emerging all over the yard; the song sparrow sings. New England springs are like this, offering the gift of sixty degree days here and there, then returning to weather more reminiscent of winter. Spring will come all of a sudden, with soft breezes and heady warmth that tends to evolve quickly into summer heat.

Enjoy, then, the gifts of these occasional spring siren days. Take a deep breath and plant tomato seeds if you can. Although it seems too early, it's not. Very soon, the cold crops can be moved outside, clearing table space for tomatoes, and then in a couple more weeks, for sweet peppers. With luck these plants will be ready to put out in late May or early June, promising beautiful and tasty fruits by the end of August.

In the meantime, visit a local farmers market or fair and collect apples, squashes, root crops stored over the winter yet still fresh tasting. Enjoy also the preserves of fruits and vegetables, fresh sprouts and baked goods. Get out for a taste of the fresh syrup of the season served on snow, pancakes or waffles. Inhale the scent of steamy sweetness in the room of boiling sap. Buy a bouquet of daffodils to brighten your rooms. Bundle up for a brisk walk in the clear, bright air. Take advantage of the lengthening days and keep thinking spring.

Order summer bulbs like iris and daylily. Browse your local stores and feast your eyes on the colorful seed packets. Plan for your upcoming garden space, taking care to rotate crops so that vine crops swap with nitrogen fixing legumes. Get out to one of the early spring flower shows. In a word, get ready. When spring finally comes, summer won't be far behind.

Happy garden planning!

HOMESPUN By Andy's
329 Deerfield St., Greenfield 413-773-3911 www.andyssoak.com
Braided Rugs Home Accessories Curtains
Come In To See Our Everyday Specials
And Ask Us About "Try Before You Buy"

HOPE & OLIVE
SERVING HOME GROWN
FARM-INSPIRED FOOD & DRINK
44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD, MA 01301
PHONE 413 774 3150

CopyCat
PRINT SHOP
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

Diemand Farm
• Farm Fresh Eggs
• Whole Roasting Chicken
• Pot Pies
• Home Made Soups
• Desserts
Products Vary Weekly
Farm Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays
Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

Smart Computer
PC / MAC REPAIR
VIRUS REMOVAL
NETWORKS & 'THE CLOUD'
RESIDENTIAL & SMALL BUSINESS
OPEN MON-FRI 9-7, SAT 9-5
345 MAIN ST.
GREENFIELD, MA
413-475-3727
MYSMARTCOMPUTER.COM

GREENFIELD@COPYCATPRINTSHOP.COM
413-774-3500
Please visit our website for
printing tips and online services:
copycatprintshop.com
UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
OLD-FASHIONED PERSONAL SERVICE

Gardens
Llani Davidson
Home Vegetable Garden
Consultation and Installation
P.O. Box 35
Montague MA 01351
413-267-0047
localgardensforchange.com
for Change
Fresh Food Forever!

Geri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com
Don't settle for less
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)
Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation.
The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done.
Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.
Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS
66 French King Hwy., Gill
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

Kubota Your Local Kubota Dealer
413-367-2481
Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A Visit to Mount Toby Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - About 70 people gathered in the spare, sunny meeting room of the Mount Toby Friends Meeting house on Sunday, as the rebels in Libya advanced on Ras Lanuf and American and allied warplanes

bombed Tripoli and Surt in the air war against forces loyal to dictator Muammar al-Qaddafi.

It was a cold March day, with a gusty wind pushing the weather system from the west that carried radioactive iodine from the crippled reactors and spent fuel

pools in Fukushima, Japan, where workers in hellish conditions struggled to contain the ongoing catastrophe.

On Sunday, public health officials in Massachusetts said trace levels of Iodine-131 from Fukushima posed "no threat" to drinking water supplies.

In Syria, the army patrolled the streets of restive towns where dozens of protestors seeking democratic reforms had been gunned down the day before, and by Sunday in Yemen more than 80 protestors had died in the mass movement to end the 32-year rule of president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

As is the tradition at Friends Meeting, people sat in silence, waiting for the spirit to

move them to speak. There is no minister at the Leverett meetinghouse, no altar. The congregants sat nearly motionless on long, straight cushioned pews, arranged in parallel rows before the unadorned white walls, facing an empty space in the center of the room where the sunlight pooled and gathered.

While the children studied in First Day School in a separate part of the building, the Friends remained in meditative prayer or silence in the hall, until one woman rose to speak.

"I've been thinking about the expression 'way opens,'" she said, "or 'spirit leads us.' Back in December, concerned about how Muslims are being treated in this country..." Mount Toby expressed concern in a 'minute,' a statement of belief arrived at by consensus, which began, "We stand with those who live in fear because of their religion."

The woman speaking to the meeting on Sunday advised Friends that in order to grow in

understanding of their neighbors' religion, an opportunity to attend a talk at the mosque in Amherst was upcoming on the evening of April 5th.

Silence greeted this message. There was some clearing of throats, some coughing, the little sounds that intrude upon the deeper silence in the room.

An older woman rose. "I am stricken with grief," she said, "for the workers at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan, and for people uprooted from their lives in fear, never to return, for the people breathing in radiation."

She continued, "Last Sunday afternoon, over 500 of us were at Vernon, at the reactor, all from different backgrounds and faiths, all very much together with the monks from the Leverett Peace Pagoda. I was very much moved when [Rev. Gyoway] Kato-san was asked to speak, because the situation in Japan is unbearable and getting worse. He spoke quietly, in his see **TOBY** page 18



The Mount Toby Meeting House on Long Plain Road in Leverett

from **NUCLEAR** page 4

power at the same time one of its emergency generators was out of service for maintenance.

In 1994, workers accidentally allowed 9,200 gallons of coolant to drain from the core of a reactor at Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Kansas. The plant's operators estimated that the condition - had it persisted for five more minutes - could have led to the plant's fuel rods being exposed and put at risk of overheating.

In 1991, valves and drain lines in an emergency shutdown system failed at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant in North Carolina. Had an emergency occurred during that failure, the plant may not have been able to be shut down safely.

There have also been several documented accidental releases of radioactive material from U.S. nuclear power plants in the past decade.

In 2002, it was discovered that radioactive material had been leaking into groundwater at New Jersey's Salem nuclear power plant for five years.

Radioactive tritium and strontium leaked from the spent fuel pools at the Indian Point Energy Center in New York, which are located just 400 feet from the

Hudson River.

Radioactive tritium was discovered in groundwater near the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, even though the plant's owner, Entergy, had repeatedly stated in sworn testimony that the plant had no subterranean pipes capable of leaking nuclear material. Despite this, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended Vermont Yankee's operating license for twenty years on March 22nd, 2011.

The Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, MA has its own history of problems. According to local expert Mary Lampert:

Pilgrim has detected continuous levels of tritium in their monitoring wells since they installed wells in 2007. The source or sources of tritium are unknown.

Pilgrim is the same design as the reactors in Fukushima - weak and outdated. Fukushima has 60% of its highly radioactive spent fuel assemblies in a common ground level spent fuel pool. All of Pilgrim's spent fuel is stored in an overcrowded pool in an upper story of the reactor, outside primary containment, with a thin roof overhead. If, for example, the water level in that pool were to drop to the top of the

assemblies from human error, mechanical failure or acts of malice, experts for the Massachusetts Attorney General's office estimated consequences up to \$488 billion dollars of damage, 24,000 latent cancers and over a hundred mile radius contaminated.

Pilgrim is now located in the fastest growing area in the state, but the infrastructure needed in an emergency to evacuate and otherwise service the population is inadequate.

Events outlined in the new

report show that American nuclear power plants are not immune to the types of natural disasters, mechanical failures, human errors, and losses of critical electric power supplies that have characterized Fukushima and other major nuclear accidents. Indeed, at several points over the last 20 years, American nuclear power plants have experienced "close calls" in which the potential for damage to a reactor core was acute.

The nuclear crisis in Japan is a

terrifying reminder of all that can go wrong at a nuclear power plant. The United States must move away from this inherently dangerous technology and towards safer energy sources.

MASSPIRG is calling on the Obama administration to put a freeze on the construction of new nuclear reactors and to suspend relicensing of the oldest plants in the country until all safety concerns have been addressed.

- Janet Domenitz
Boston, MA

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault Arrest, Dumping, Break In

Wednesday, 3/23

12:01 p.m. Illegal dumping at First Light Power.

12:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for violation of an abuse prevention order, aggravated assault and battery, domestic assault and battery, kidnapping, intimidating a witness, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, attempted murder, and threatening to commit a crime.

Thursday, 3/24

Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, and a motor vehicle lights violation.

8:07 p.m. Reported drug activity on East Main Street.

9:17 p.m., 10:22 p.m. Loud noise disturbances on Lake

Pleasant Road in Lake Pleasant. Referred to other agency.

9:58 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Keith Street.

10:09 p.m. Trespassing at Carroll's Market in Millers Falls. Area search negative.

11:15 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at The Rendezvous on Third Street. Services rendered.

Friday, 3/25

10:58 a.m. Illegal dumping at Family Dollar on Avenue A. Report taken.

11:12 a.m. Trespassing at Shea Theater. Services rendered.

1:45 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

7:33 p.m. Assault and battery with a deadly weapon on Bridge Street.

8:50 p.m. Walk-in report of a

pedestrian accident. Removed to hospital.

Saturday, 3/26

1:13 a.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, marked lanes violations, and speeding.

12:01 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

for no inspection sticker, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, on a straight warrant.

3:38 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Bridge Street.

5:25 p.m. Juvenile problem/disturbance on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered.

Sunday, 3/27

9:18 a.m. Illegal dumping near Railroad Salvage building.

1:16 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering near Depot Street and bike path.

4:12 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Central Street.

4:45 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

10:52 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Third Street. Report taken.

Monday, 3/28

7:52 a.m. Officer wanted at Franklin County Technical School.

9:37 a.m. Officer wanted at Turners Falls High School. Peace restored.

10:00 a.m. Illegal dumping at Family Dollar.

1:07 p.m. Motor vehicle fire on Park Street. Referred to other agency.

5:56 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

8:07 p.m. Probable cause arrest, for outside agency, of [redacted]

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties

413-325-7823 Or 978-544-7452

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • **413-863-2236**
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT **FREE ESTIMATES**
MASS INSPECTION STATION NO. 12051

Sokolosky Realty

(413) 863 - 4393

159 Avenue A,
Turners Falls

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

Local Farmer-Owned

Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture

Products for your animals,
home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

AUTO RATES GOING UP?

We forecast a flurry of DISCOUNTS!

413.863.4373 **www.ahrst.com**
159 Ave A Turners Falls

Size Matters in Superstore Discussion



Architect's rendering by Margo Jones shows relative size of proposed development (right) in relation to Stop & Shop

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - Does the proposed Big Box development on the French King Highway comply with the corridor overlay district guidelines, asked Linda Smith, vice chair of the Greenfield planning board, at a continuation of the board's deliberation on a special permit for Ceruzzi Properties of Fairfield, CT to construct a 135,000-square-foot combined discount retailer and grocery store on the former Mackin gravel pit.

On Thursday, March 17th, Smith delivered a lengthy speech outlining her concerns about the proposed development.

"The purpose of the corridor overlay district is to create attractive entryways into Greenfield, to minimize strip development, and traffic congestion, to protect scenic and natural features, and to promote high quality building and site design," said Smith, reading straight from the zoning document passed by Greenfield in 1993.

Smith continued reciting from the zoning document: "The long range goal of these guidelines is to ensure high quality new development and to encourage incremental improvements to existing development along the corridor over time. It is the intent of the planning board to tailor the application of these design guidelines proportionally to the degree of change proposed. The greater the degree of change proposed, the greater the degree of compliance

expected. Minor improvements may be made to existing uses without costly upgrades or an entire makeover of the site. The planning board may alter or waive these guidelines if deemed appropriate based on the scale of the project."

She summarized: "The goal [of the corridor overlay district guidelines] is to ensure high quality new development, and the greater the degree of change proposed, the greater the degree of compliance expected."

Smith continued in her own words: "The intent seems pretty clear, and we as appointed members of the planning board are obligated to honor this intent and to take these guidelines seriously. These guidelines were written by planning board members years ago to ensure some protection to this entryway into Greenfield. The applicant was well aware of these guidelines before purchasing the property and can be expected by us to comply with them. And where they are not in compliance, we will give them an opportunity to come into compliance. I think we all want a high quality project here, a project Greenfield can be really proud of."

Turning to the corridor guideline calling for building scale to be proportional to and compatible with adjacent buildings, Smith said, "This, I believe, is the biggest issue we have before us: 'Scale of the building [should be] compatible with adjacent build-

ings.' Stop and Shop is about 62,000 square feet, and by far the largest building in the corridor. This building is more than twice the size of Stop and Shop. It is not in compliance with this standard, by any measure. We must require a smaller store if it is to be located in the corridor overlay district."

Smith said, "We can do that and meet the needs of the great

"Why would we risk setting the precedent to open this entire corridor to large scale development, in absolute contradiction to the corridor guidelines?"
- Linda Smith, vice chair, Greenfield Planning Board

majority of the citizens who spoke during the many evenings of public hearings. Overwhelmingly, those who spoke, no matter whether they were for or against this particular project, agreed that Greenfield does need a discount department store.

"I, too, am concerned about Greenfield shopping dollars leaving this community, and want to make it possible for people who want to shop at a discount department store to do so here. Over and over, people said they drive to surrounding communities to shop at stores smaller than this proposed project - a clear message that a smaller store can meet their needs. I think we have an opportunity to find a way to end the divisiveness that has gone on far too long in this community around this issue."

Smith continued, "I, personal-

ly, am heartened by two proposals that have been put forth, one by Mayor Martin for a less than 100,000-square-foot store, and one by [city council vice president] David Singer for an 80,000-square-foot store. Both have made provisions for expansion within a certain amount of time should the traffic issues and other concerns not materialize."

She concluded, "The truth is, none of us knows for sure what the impact of this project will be, but why would we risk setting the precedent to open this entire corridor to large scale development, in absolute contradiction to the corridor guidelines, the major development review regulations and the special permit requirements? There is a huge danger, I think, in devaluing all that residential property - an area that extends from the abutters' properties next to the site all the way to Main Street, and from the mountain to Federal Street and perhaps even beyond. Why not start smaller, and comply fully

the first week in May, did not show much support for Smith's comments.

"We may each and every one of us have ideas about what we think is a good size for the development," said planning board chair Roxann Wedegartner, who subsequently spoke about reducing the size of the superstore by 7% to 10%, or to 125,000 square feet, twice the size of Stop and Shop, and to Wedegartner, "a perfectly reasonable size."

Former WalMart employee Jim Allen said, "I don't want us to throw 100,000 [square feet] or less out there and have them move out and build something bigger. I realize they have to make a profit."

He added, "There's no secret there's a huge WalMart going in around Hinsdale. People who shop out of town, they'll shop where you have multiple choices, rather than driving to a store that doesn't have everything."

"Why did we build a smaller store?" I hear that all the time about Home Depot," Allen said.

"This isn't Let's Make a Deal," said Ceruzzi lawyer Tim Sullivan.

"It is!" interrupted Al Norman from the floor.

Sullivan continued, "A smaller store doesn't work here. That has to be very clear."

Mayor Martin, who came in late to the St. Patrick's Day meeting, said he would be satisfied to see the developer build a 135,000-square-foot store if it were more attractively designed.

The planning board will continue its deliberations on April 7.

from **AGRICULTURAL** pg 9

Paul Voiland, father of Red Fire Farmer Ryan Voiland, said, "Farm worker housing is a major issue," and called for "utilization of youth as farm workers as in olden times," and public transportation for town resi-

dents to take advantage of pick your own seasonal produce." Voiland and others in the room spoke of the need for a year-round farmers market, while Jen Downes called for more land for community gardens in town.

Ramsey said eight people had

expressed interest in reviving the agricultural commission. His next step will be to recommend a list of five people, at least three of whom are actively involved in agriculture, to the selectboard to re-establish that board.

Real Food, Real People, Real Investment



Local, Organic Produce,
Deli, eat in or take out,
Bakery Specialities,
Meat & Cheese, Natural Groceries,
Supplements & Body Care Items,
Monthly Specials



Green Fields Market
144 Main St., Greenfield
Mon-Fri 8-8
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
(413) 773-9567




McCusker's Market
3 State Street, Shelburne Falls
Open Daily
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(413) 625-9411

www.franklincommunity.coop

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured

Montague, MA 01351



EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 413-367-2228
866-262-5361 FAX 413-367-2212



Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net



Jack Nelson

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner



COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1986
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

NEEDFUL THINGS

SELLING QUALITY USED FURNITURE AND COLLECTIBLES

~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430
199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5 & 10), Greenfield

SCHOOL from page 1

ly lose \$1,455,523 in school choice and charter tuition funds this year.

Either way, the trend toward steady losses in school choice tuition to the Gill-Montague district has been building since 1998, when school choice began. Annual losses stayed below \$100,000 until FY'04. That year, when the district laid off nearly two dozen teachers and staff during a budget crisis, the net school choice loss jumped from \$39,107 to \$264,843. School choice losses have climbed – although not steadily – ever since.

This year, for the first time, superintendent Ladd decided to send out a survey to all parents of school choice students in Gill and Montague to try to find out why they were choosing not to educate their children in the district.

Almost half (79) of the 160 surveys were returned, a representative sample. The top reason (80%) cited for choosing to send students to schools outside the district was, “concerns about academic standards.” Slightly fewer parents (69%) cited the positive draw of the new school’s quality of instruction as the reason for leaving the GMRSD. Half the respondents checked “concern about safety” as a reason for pulling their students out of the district.

After that, in declining order, parents gave family preference or tradition (47%); enrichment in the new school (44%); class size (41%); concern about curriculum (38%); overcrowding (24%); convenience for childcare (22%); concern about an individual staff member (13%); lack of communication between school and parents (8%) and religious reasons (5%) as determining factors in causing them to send their students to other school districts.

Other than an informal survey taken from about 50 parents in 2007 by Ted Castro-Santos during the debate about closing the Montague Center School, Ladd said, “This is the first time the school district has gathered any information from parents who have chosen to leave the district.”

He added, “I think in this world of school choice, when parents have the ability to take their children elsewhere, it’s really incumbent on us to be as responsive as possible. We need to find out what the underlying reasons are, and what we can do

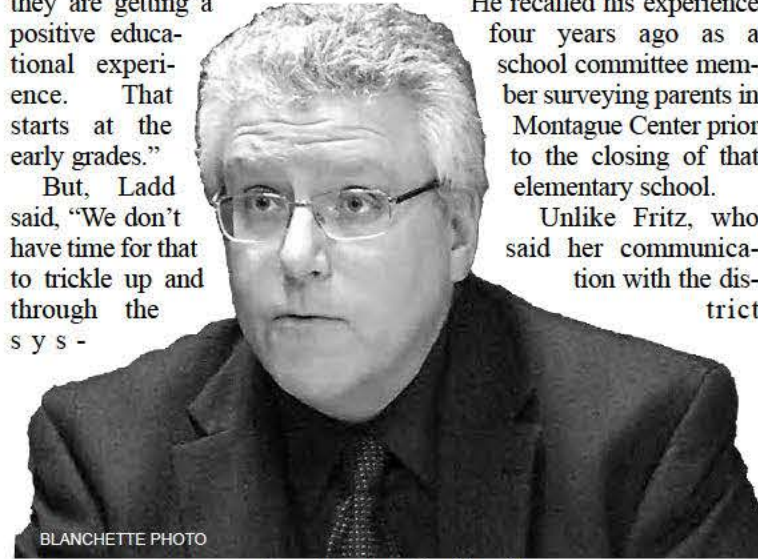
about it. It’s not beyond our control. We need to figure out a plan of action.”

Toward that end, Ladd said he will discuss the problem of escalating school choice losses with the school committee on Tuesday, April 5th. Ladd is also planning to reach out to district parents in Gill and the villages of Montague, with informal “coffee with the superintendent” get-togethers, to gather face to face feedback on parents’ views of the district schools.

Ladd said the district’s approach to reversing the negative school choice trends, “has to be two-pronged. We do have to make sure that the students and families who come in at kindergarten feel accepted, and feel they are getting a positive educational experience. That starts at the early grades.”

But, Ladd said, “We don’t have time for that to trickle up and through the

s y s -



Superintendent Carl Ladd

tem. We also have to deal with the upper school, particularly at the transition points at 5th and 6th grades and at 8th and 9th grades.

“And because we have such a high transient rate with students who come into the district mid-year, we need to consider how we greet them and make them part of the learning experience, and make them feel part of the school.”

Earlier this year Debbie Fritz, a resident of Turners Falls, moved her 13-year-old to the Great Falls Middle School and her 9-year-old to the Montague Elementary School from Holy Trinity School in Greenfield. She’s glad she did.

“The kids are really happy here. The teachers are great. I love the Ed Line. We could never have had the ability to check their grades daily like that at Holy Trinity. If there is anything the children need help with, the teachers are right there for them.”

Fritz said at the small private

school her children attended since kindergarten the teachers had to “teach to the average. When you go to public school, they teach to different levels.”

She said she only misses, “the small school feeling, knowing all the parents. I loved Holy Trinity. Here, it’s not as close knit.”

Otherwise, the change has been only positive. “Both my students are doing great. My 13-year-old has made high honors for the first two quarters, and he looks like he will again. He’s on the swim team; he’s trying out for Middle School baseball. It’s a great environment.”

Castro-Santos noted, “Usually people want their children to go to the school in their town, and they are upset when they leave.”

He recalled his experience four years ago as a school committee member surveying parents in Montague Center prior to the closing of that elementary school.

Unlike Fritz, who said her communication with the district

has been “great,” Castro-Santos said, “The impression that I was left with is that a lot of people were surprised that anyone would call them. It was the first time. There seemed to be a real sense of disconnect with the administration.”

This week, Montague Center parent Alison Page said she would prefer to have her preschooler follow her older child to Leverett Elementary, but there may not be space for choice students to enter that school now.

She said she watched the Montague Elementary school bus stop in front of the Congregational Church in Montague Center on Wednesday at 3:35 p.m. to let one last child get off.

“Montague Elementary doesn’t feel local to me. In an ideal world, they’d figure out some way to open the Montague Center School and my child would walk to school.”

Castro-Santos said, “Different people want different things in an

elementary school. I was one of those people advocating opening up intra-district choice as a response to that,” so that parents from Montague could send their children to Gill or vice versa. “Most people wanted to send their children to a school within the district, and really liked the idea of having a choice.”

Yet Castro-Santos, who more recently worked with the Gill Education Commission to study alternative education options for students from Gill noted that a third of students resident in Gill do not attend district schools. That percentage has not budged since the Gill Elementary School opened up to intra-district choice.

Now, with nearly half the students at that school coming from Montague or Greenfield, Castro-Santos said new parents have brought new energy, but the community feeling of the school has changed.

“The older kids used to wait on the younger kids at the lunchroom, and all grade levels were encouraged to play together at recess. That has been lost. It’s not as nurturing a place as it used to be.”

He laid the blame for that change on the school administration.

School committee chair Emily Monosson said, “I think we need to take a serious look at the tangible concerns of the parents. If they are concerned about a particular district school, we need to take those concerns seriously, evaluate them, and respond.”

The survey data showed, “Five of the top seven reasons for choosing out are related to ‘content and culture’ within the schools, particularly at the elementary level,” Monosson said. “I don’t know how much of this is perception and how much is reality. But I hope, now that the survey is released, that those who can address these concerns most directly – the teachers and the administration – take these comments seriously.”

She added, “I know there are a lot of really dedicated and great teachers in this district who are passionate about teaching. I am hopeful that these teachers, who can contribute the most towards improving the district, will step up, be creative, listen to the community, and assume some ownership of their schools, the reputation of those schools and the experience of the students within

the district.”

Monosson suggested a number of things that the upper school could do to build community and enhance the core curriculum. “We don’t have a science fair. We don’t have a school newspaper. A drama club. The students could work more with video. These are the types of visible, creative things that might help to enhance the educational experience, that could be done in collaboration with community volunteers.”

Ladd said changing perceptions in the community and reversing the school choice trend will be “tougher to do with limited resources,” part of the vicious cycle of school choice losses.

“I think part of the conundrum around this whole thing,” said Ladd, “is that the parents who are most engaged are the ones who are picking their children up and taking them somewhere else. Those are the parents you need in the system. They’re the ones who want to make sure their children – and everyone else’s children – get the best learning experience possible.”

Monosson said, “On the flip side, I’m not sure we are getting the word out about the positive things we do in the district. Kids from the high school are going off to really good colleges. We have more AP courses than all of the surrounding districts except one. When Carl [Ladd] said that at a combined selectboard and finance committee meeting, everyone looked surprised. There are some perceptions in town that this is not a college-oriented district. That’s not correct.”

Ladd said, “I don’t have the exact numbers – our students are still getting their acceptance letters – but the board outside the guidance office is just full of students being accepted, everywhere from Cornell to UMass, difficult four year schools to get into. It’s pretty positive. We’ve got to market that better.”

In an era of school choice, marketing is something district schools need to take seriously. “School choice has really taken away that sense that this is my community school, and I’m going to make it better,” said Ladd. “Now it’s a dynamic of, ‘I’m taking my child and leaving.’ That’s very different than town meeting members remember when they were growing up.”



413-256-6217
fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored
Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

AFFORDABLE FINANCING FOR VA & FHA LOANS
MetLife MetLife Home Loans
TIM PREVOST - Mortgage Consultant
413-773-8984
tprevost@metlife.com
All loans subject to approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. L09086294[exp0909][All States][DC] LENDER BC1

mww
Montague WebWorks . com
make the web work for your business
michael muller 28 Center Street
owner montague, ma 01351
413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com

Leslie Matilainen, LMHC
Holistic Psychotherapy
creative & expressive
techniques
children, adults, families, groups
(508) 451-2403
located in Millers Falls
LKM9092@YAHOO.COM
on Facebook

A Custom Touch
Interior/ Exterior Painting & Home Repairs
Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Community Yoga
& WELLNESS CENTER
affordable classes morning, noon and night
free class every Sunday 4-5 pm
change your body... change your mind... change your life
beginners welcome
www.Community-Yoga.com
413 774-4700



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. How can I tell if I have an aneurysm?

Aneurysms are dangerous artery bulges that can be lethal if they burst.

Fortunately, aneurysms can be detected by a physical examination, x-ray, ultrasound and modern imaging systems such as a CAT scan or an MRI.

The size and location of the aneurysm determines the treatment method. For example, aneurysms in the upper chest are usually operated on immediately. Aneurysms in the lower chest and the area below your stomach are watched at first. If they grow too large or cause symptoms, surgery may be required.

The standard treatment for aneurysm once it meets the indications for surgery is replacement of that weakened portion of the aorta with an artificial graft.

In recent years, a treatment has been developed to repair an aneurysm using less-invasive surgery. In the procedure, a stent-graft made of a polyester tube inside a metal cylinder is inserted into the bloodstream at the end of a catheter. The stent-graft is positioned to carry the blood flow instead of the aneurysm.

Q. How safe is anesthesia today?

Anesthesia is risky, but today it is safer than ever for all age groups. Your age is not as important a risk factor as your medical condition and the type of surgery you are having.

Safer drugs and major advances in the monitoring equipment doctors use in surgery have reduced anesthesia complications. In the last

decade alone, deaths caused by anesthesia have dropped 25-fold, to 1 in 250,000.

In addition, shorter-acting drugs, more specific drugs and new intravenous drugs can minimize the nausea and vomiting that sometimes occur after anesthesia.

Before your surgery, you can expect questions from your doctors regarding your anesthesia. The following have to be considered: medical problems you might have, medications you take, whether you smoke or drink alcohol, any allergies you have, previous negative experience with anesthesia, and adverse reactions to anesthesia by other family members. The information collected by your doctors guides them in their treatment.

Q. Can pets make you sick?

Animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans are known as "zoonoses." Seniors are among the most vulnerable to zoonoses.

Psittacosis is a common bird disease known as "parrot fever." It occurs frequently in birds such as parakeets and cockatiels. Bacteria in bird droppings and nasal discharges can be inhaled. Psittacosis can develop into pneumonia and other health problems.

Cats can carry a parasite that causes the disease toxoplasmosis. You can get it from cat feces. Cat-Scratch Disease (CSD) may cause fever, fatigue, headache and swollen lymph glands. Most cat scratches don't develop into CSD.

Worms can infect dogs, cats, and humans. Worms live in the intestines of animals and are expelled in the stool. Yards and homes can become contaminated from worm eggs that are passed in animal feces and hatch in the soil.

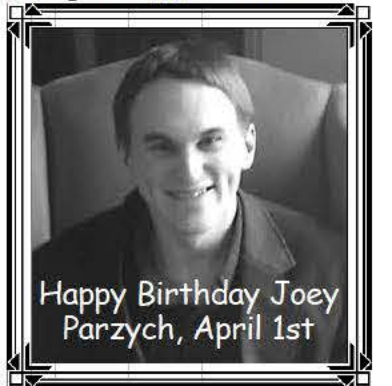
People usually get salmonellosis by eating contaminated food. But it can also be transmitted to people through pets, particularly reptiles, baby chicks, and ducklings, which common-

ly pass the Salmonella bacterium in their feces.

Rabies, a deadly viral disease, is transmitted through the saliva of a rabid animal, usually by a bite. Domestic animals account for less than 10 percent of the reported animal rabies cases.

Mycobacterium is one of the main infectious germ families associated with fish and aquarium water. People should wear rubber gloves when cleaning a fish tank.

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



Welcoming the Birds

Winter is a quiet time, but step outdoors today and listen: The birds are returning and singing their songs of love. The black-capped chickadee, the state bird of Massachusetts, for example, is adding a sweet "fee-bee" to its familiar "chick-a-dee-dee."

The return of the birds means the return of the birders – and here in the North Quabbin, the Athol Bird & Nature Club is offering a number of opportunities to join them.

New this year are two "Birding Lite" sessions, beginners welcome – morning coffee and birdwatching from the patios of private homes, the first in Athol on Saturday, April 16th, and the second in New Salem on Friday, May 20th. Both events run from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Participants should meet for carpooling at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol at 7:45 a.m.

Joseph Superchi returns with his popular "First Tuesday"



State bird of Massachusetts, the black capped chickadee

accessible birding sessions from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on April 12th, May 11th, June 14th, July 12th and August 9th, meeting at the Center before heading out to a variety of sites. Those wishing wheelchair van access can call ahead to (978) 248-9491.

Jeff Johnstone, known as a great mentor for beginning birders, will be leading the "Early Bird" sessions, meeting at the Center at 7:00 a.m. every Sunday from April 24th to May 29th. Birders carpool for these outings to a series of sites and are welcome to attend for an hour or all morning.

see BIRDS pg 17

Easter Bazaar

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church is having a food and craft bazaar at 44 Sugarloaf Street in South Deerfield on Saturday, April 16th, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Homemade traditional foods as well as handmade holiday crafts, jewelry plus raffles will be available. Call Marion at (413) 834-7372 to place an order for pickup at the bazaar.

Book Launch of
As You Write It
A Franklin County Anthology by local writers, edited by Laura Rodley
Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.
at the Montague Senior Center,
Fifth Street in Turners Falls
Inspiring stories from the depression era, and beyond; going to the fair, working for the circus and enjoying life to the hilt. Joseph A. Parzych is author of *Jep's Place: Hope, Faith and Other Disasters*. Both he and writer Frances F. Hemond write for the *Montague Reporter*.
This event is free. Refreshments will be served. Wheelchair accessible.

FOOD CITY Shop Food City in APRIL!
& Meals On Wheels
Spend more than \$40 at Food City in April & they will give a donation to Meals on Wheels.
Please ask them to donate to M.O.W. at checkout.
Keep Meals on Wheels rolling!
www.fchcc.org

The Montague Congregational Church
70th Annual Sugar Supper
Saturday, April 9th 5:30 p.m.
Cornbeef Hash, Harvard beets, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade breads and donuts, dill pickles, beverage.
Ripley Farms will provide the "Sugar on Snow"
Adults: \$10.00; Children under 10: \$5.00 For
Reservations Call: (413) 774-7256

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

BARLOW
• Paving • Power Sweeping
• Excavating • Landscaping
• Demolition • Seal Coating
• Septic
Turners Falls
413.772.2155
cell: 325.5596
www.barlowpavingexcavating.com

Totally Free Checking!
Free Gift!
Love it!
GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK
Linda Ackerman
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls
413-863-4316
www.greenfieldsavings.com
Member FDIC • Member DIF

GREENFIELD Veterinary Clinic
Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.
18 French King Highway
Greenfield
Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic
Propane Filling Station
Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

T.L.C. TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.
Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center
Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

"I'll Buy Your Timber"
Hillocks Logging
7 Rastallis Street - Turners Falls
Jim Hillock
Licensed & Insured
Phone 413-863-2203
Cell 413-834-0023



PHOTOS L. NCOLN BARNES

SHUTESBURY - Camp Anderson in Shutesbury, at the intersection of Lake View Road and Lockes Village Road near the Wendell line, is now called Pine Brook Camp. The camp once hosted hundreds of children for sports, picnics, swims, games, campfires, new friends, hikes - all these activities went together to make a pleasurable stay. Many local children enjoyed their days there, and a small group of former campers have started to put together a collection of

pictures, written memories, and memorabilia about the camp. People can go to www.campandersonmass.org to share memories, take a trip down memory lane and perhaps download pictures and try to identify the year and as many campers as possible. The group is especially interested in collecting memories of Reverend "Uncle Herbie" Dixon, the camp director for many years. The Leverett Family Museum,

located at 1 Shutesbury Road in the center of Leverett, will be hosting an exhibit of photos and memories starting on April 9th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extended hours will be held on the 16th and 23rd of April. The library will be closed on April 30th (town meeting day), but will be open extended hours on Saturdays through May and early June. To make an appointment during the week or to add to the collection, contact Edie Field at 413 548-9452.



from **CENSUS** page 1 told me he had the kids from Lake Grove School [as it was then called, in his census count]. I think at some points they had over 100 kids there." The school shut its doors in June, 2009.

Asked about numbers of students, Jenny Gross, who went to work at the school in 2002, recalled, "They didn't open the new dormitories until I think it was 2001. So [in 2000] they had the Community Transition Home, which would have had 4-6 [students], and on campus I believe there would have been not more than 25 or 30 at the most" - for a possible total of 36.

Patty Scutari, owner of Wendell Country Store and a neighbor of the school, found the most definitive evidence - a November, 2001 newspaper clipping in her file reporting that, while there were 83 students at the time of the writing, there had been 46 students at the school the previous year - 2000. A fluctuating school population, Scutari said, made it difficult to know "exactly how many students were at Lake Grove at the time of the census."

So further explanation for the 14% recorded drop in Wendell's

population would seem to be required. Might an anti-authoritarian spirit in some quarters of town have affected the head count for the town as a whole?

"I can imagine a number of people in Wendell would be noncompliant to the census," theorized Michael Idoine, member of the finance committee and former selectboard member. "My intuition is the census number is wrong."

Scutari, who informally tracks the public mood, said she didn't pick up any defiance at her store during last year's census and rather remembers it as one "that just came and went," in contrast with the 2000 census, which she felt was "very aggressive. Every day in the store all the census workers were strategizing about where they were going."

The question is, did the bureau's 2010 mail-in approach, with follow-up where a form wasn't returned, work?

It might have, because another factor - the number of families in child-raising mode - is probably also in play. Detailed census breakdowns from 2000 say that approximately 27% of Wendell households had children

under 18 living at home. Scutari said in her observation that percentage has since dropped. "I'm hard pressed to think of a kid I could hire now, having owned the store for the last 18 years. The kids [of that age] are gone. Their parents still live in the houses. Couples in their 30s are all having kids now." Making for "a lot of kids second grade and down," she said.

Data on such demographics for 2010 will be issued eventually by the Census Bureau.

What will the fiscal implications be to Wendell from the lower census number?

"It won't affect the road budget per se," said Ted Lewis, former selectboard member and member of the board of assessors. "Now we only get Chapter 90 road money, they divide it up, and have a percentage for all the towns. They go by miles of road."

But Lewis is not entirely correct, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's website. A little more than 20% of Chapter 90 funds to each town are allocated based on population, with an equal number allocated based on the number of jobs in town, and the rest - 58.33% - is based on road

miles as certified by the Mass Department of Transportation.

Chapter 70 school money, according to Brian McNiff in the Secretary of State's office in Boston, "is only affected by school enrollment," a statistic that is not in question.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich agreed the lower census won't affect Wendell's road money. "Being a town under a thousand is a category for some of the grant sources," she said. "There are none that it will affect, off the top of my head."

There may be some fiscal resources that are population related, though, since Westwood, in Norfolk County, is considering appealing what it believes to be an undercount. There's a Count Question Resolution Program described on the census bureau's website. It begins in June of this year and ends in June 2013.

One certain consequence of the 2010 census is that Massachusetts is losing a Congressional seat. The boundaries of existing state senate and house districts will also be affected. Paul Dunphy, aide to state representative Steven Kulik (D-Worthington) said, "We've already had calls from Wendell from people who

are hoping the redistricting will keep Wendell in Steve's district."

Those inclined to dark predictions will note that power is creeping eastward, toward Boston. The biggest gainer of population among all the counties in this census was Worcester County, the geographic giant to our east.



NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

BestLocalBank.com
Reach All Locations 772-0293
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

Leaf Busters

Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

Animal Crackers

Saturday Fish Special

Fun stuff for pets and their people.

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies
44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10)
Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346

• Aquarium Plants
• Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters
Open 7 Days

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL

Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes

28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

• Dead Bolts
• Household Lock Sets
• We Master Key & Re-Key
• Safe Combinations Changed

863-2471

Good Dirt Pottery Studio

38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

Private Room Available

THE CHURCH STREET HOME

24 Church Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

A retirement home for independent senior women of Franklin County since 1942.

Family-style meals, beautiful surroundings, and the security of a hostess on duty at all times.

Visitors always welcome!
(413) 773-7252

Reading for Rivers at Montague Elementary

BY ANNE HARDING - The students at the Montague Elementary School kicked off the National Education Association's 14th annual "Read Across America" by celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss with books, cake, ice cream and a pajama party.

Continuing the tradition of pairing reading awareness with community service, the students are "Reading for Rivers" to raise money for the Connecticut River Watershed Council in support of the annual Source-to-Sea cleanup of the river.

Each year administrators choose a charity that can be incorporated into the daily activities surrounding the read-a-thon. This year, for each

completed log sheet of ten books read, the children earn ten pennies (provided from a modest memorial fund) that they get to deposit into a "river tube." The goal is to read 10,000 books before the six-week program ends on Friday, April 15th. They are well on their way with more than 6,000 books logged between the two school buildings.

The students are charting their progress in a variety of ways. Younger students are learning to count by tens, others are creating bar charts, while Adrianna DiMaio and Kayleigh Williams have created a map of the 410-mile-long Connecticut River showing its beginning on the Canadian border, down between Vermont

and New Hampshire through Massachusetts to Long Island Sound in Connecticut. A sparkling river is emerging as the students map their reading progress by gluing blue glitter on the map — from the source to the sea.

The students are learning about the historic and present importance of the river and studying businesses like the Russell Cutlery factory, which moved from Greenfield to Turners Falls in 1870.

In addition, they are learning about the Council and its mission to protect the river and its watershed.

The cleanup is just one aspect of the Connecticut River Watershed Council's work. But it's one that leaves a lasting



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Student read-a-thon poster art by Justin Mikalunas depicting children placing pennies in rivertube to benefit the Connecticut River Watershed Council impression on students. The 2009 tally of 85 tons of trash collected has been compared to the weight of a dozen school buses — something students can really relate to.

Visitors to the schools can

see posters of some of the more unusual items pulled from the river — from shopping carts and bicycles to sofas and washing machines — along with art projects, reading logs, math projects and more.

Proposed Legislation Related to Massachusetts Elderly

BY ATTORNEY KATE DOWNES

SHELBURNE - Of the 5,300 bills recently filed in the 2011-2012 Massachusetts legislative session, four relate to the financial and physical well-being of our older citizens.

The legislative bills were drafted by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and sponsored by various senators and representatives. All are intended to help preserve the financial resources of elders and allow them to live independently for as long as possible.

An Act to Help Families Care for Elders (SD 1255, HD 1515) would permit older individuals to pay privately for a family member to provide per-

sonal care or managerial services without later disqualifying the individual for MassHealth long-term care benefits. Currently, MassHealth considers a contract for family care to be a disqualifying transfer of assets for less than fair market value. This legislation would help maintain an individual at home and make it financially possible for the family member to provide care. The contract services must be reasonably priced and necessary to divert or delay placement in assisted living or a nursing home.

An Act Regarding the Assets of Medical Assistance Recipients (SD 1175, HD 2780) will help community spouses of nursing home residents retain their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) by making

them non-countable assets when the resident applies for MassHealth. This change in the law will permit a community spouse of a nursing home resident to retain an IRA from which the spouse can receive distributions. Currently, if the spouse has an IRA, he or she may, in some cases, be required to liquidate the account, resulting in a significant financial penalty. During this time of economic uncertainty, the spouses of nursing home residents need these accounts to allow them to live independently and with dignity.

An Act Relative to Nursing Facility and Long Term Care Claims (HD 2573): Current MassHealth regulations allow nursing home residents to exempt assets from MassHealth estate recovery if the resident

purchases long-term care insurance that meets state standards. Many older individuals have purchased long-term care insurance thinking they will qualify for the asset recovery exemption because their policies meet these minimal standards. What they may not know is that use of their policies to pay for community-based care prior to entering a nursing home may disqualify them from the estate recovery exemption. This bill allows older individuals who purchase long-term care insurance to use that insurance to pay for community-based care before they enter a nursing home without disqualifying them from the MassHealth estate recovery exemption.

An Act Relative to Transfers of Assets by MassHealth Members (HD

2337) would protect innocent individuals from ineligibility for MassHealth nursing home benefits. Currently, when MassHealth determines eligibility for nursing home benefits, the agency looks back five years to ensure that the applicant did not transfer their assets for less than fair market value. Many individuals innocently make gifts without contemplating future nursing home care and without knowledge of the rules about transfers. If an individual later suffers a catastrophic illness or accident, he or she may find that they cannot qualify for MassHealth benefits, regardless of their need.

This bill clarifies that a period of ineligibility for nursing home benefits does not apply to an applicant who transferred assets for a purpose other than to qualify for MassHealth.

You may contact your state senator or representative to voice your support of any of these bills.

Kate Downes is an attorney with the Elder Law Project, of Western Massachusetts Legal Service, an agency that offers free legal services to persons age 60 and over. Call 413-774-3747 or 1-800-639-1309 for an appointment or more information.

from **GILL** pg 9

the school committee why the drastic change for the town recreation department."

Loomer said the recreation commission is looking for new members.

Joe Elliot has edited his last issue of the Gill newsletter. Pam Shoemaker is returning to the role of newsletter editor, beginning with the April issue.

The town of Gill has hit a nice round number of residents in the 2010 census — 1500. That

number is up 10% from ten years ago. However, Purington said some of the discrepancy may be due to the 2000 census missing a good number of Gill residents who live on campus at Northfield Mount Hermon, and had been included in the Northfield census figures accidentally ten years ago.

In 1990, census takers counted 1583 residents in Gill, the high water mark in the last 50 years.

from **BIRDS** pg 15

"Evenings with the Birds," led by Joan and Larry Duprey, also make a return this spring, meeting on Tuesday, April 26th at the wastewater treatment plant gate on South Street in Athol, and on Wednesday, May 18th at the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park, Main Street in Athol. Both sessions begin at 5:30 p.m.

All of these trip leaders are self-taught enthusiasts who have become experts over time.



PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US

PZ

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

Visit Our Tip of the Week at www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

SCAPES BUILDERS

Your Green Building Company

110 North Hillside Road P.O. Box 469 South Deerfield, MA 01373
T: 413.665.0185 F: 413.665.0186
Scapes Builders & Landscaping, LLC

Carol's Beauty Nook

29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers

Gift Certificates Available **413-863-2888**

REAL PICKLES

Naturally Fermented & Raw

Served at
The Lady Killigrew,
Holy Smokes, &
The Wagon Wheel!

www.realpickles.com
(413) 774-2600 Greenfield, MA

LOGOS & BRANDING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
WEB SITES
COPY WRITING
BUSINESS STRATEGY
INTERNET MARKETING
MISSION & VISION

H₂O
BOYSEN HODGSON

413 303 9193
www.h2-om.com

Montague BOOKMILL

Open Daily 10 - 6

413-367-9206
www.montaguebookmill.com

from **TOBY** page 12 usual way, against nuclear weapons and power, but in compassion for people everywhere."

Then she offered a Buddhist prayer that began, "May all beings be happy, free from suffering and the causes of suffering," and ended, "May we

come to understand and love one another."

A baby fussed, with a sound like water bubbling up from the Earth in spring.

When that sound faded, a sharp, clear silence again pervaded the room.

A grey haired man rose to say, "Today, we are blessed

with babies who invite tenderness and openness on our parts... I am sensing a great blessing."

Another baby cooed eloquently. Some in the room smiled in response.

Others, seated with eyes closed and hands extended, remained impassive. Some held their bowed heads in their hands. An elderly woman leaned on her cane. A Japanese woman sat against the wall by the door, wearing a dust mask.

I thought of the summer day, 34 years ago now, when 60 bicyclists bedded down in this room, in this building, or in tents outside, before leaving for the Vernon reactor and the planned Seabrook Station on

the seacoast of New Hampshire, talking to people along the way about the dangers of nuclear power and weapons. That message seemed just as urgent as it did then, in the silence of the room.

The children from First Day School entered quietly with their teachers, swelling the numbers to more than 80 for the last few minutes of the meeting.

A woman rose to say, "Help us to remember that God's love is steadfast. It is we who forget to listen."

The meeting ended, and the gathered Friends shook hands and greeted one another, and welcomed the strangers in their midst.



Cabaret

Fridays and Saturdays,
April 8th, 9th,
15th and 16th at 8:00 p.m.
and matinees on Sundays April
10th and 17th at 2:00 p.m.

at the Shea Theater Avenue A, Turners Falls
For more info and to reserve tickets call the
Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281, ext. 3. Tickets
prices are \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students
and \$8 for seniors and students. Tickets
also available at World Eye
Bookshop, Greenfield and Jones Library,
Amherst. ACT receives support from the
Massachusetts Cultural Council

Well Testing Recommended Along Route 63


BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - "You could have knocked me over with a feather when I got this email," said Montague's health agent, Gina McNeely. She was talking about the message that came last week from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regarding the potential hazard to private wells from arsenic and naturally occurring uranium in bedrock in some areas of town.

According to maps prepared by the DEP, those areas show a "less than 1% probability of exceeding public drinking water standard," and are mainly to be found along Route 63, extending into Erving and Leverett as well. Looks like the Northfield Mount Hermon campus of Gill is also in a zone that could be at risk of arsenic or uranium,

along with some outlying area of Wendell. (To find DEP's probability map, go to: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/au/autowns.htm>).

McNeely said, for the indicated zones, "I think private well owners should be concerned enough to have their water tested for arsenic, uranium and radon. Long term ingestion of arsenic or uranium can have long term health effects." McNeely said she looked into the price of water testing, and found a range from \$45 to \$115. "For that small amount of money, it would be well worth it." No pun intended.

McNeely said she is considering putting out a mailing to warn homeowners in areas with possibly affected wells. For more information, call her at 413-863-3200 x 205.



PRINCIPAL OF GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

210 Days (180 school days + 30)
Start Date: July 1, 2011
Salary: \$65,000 - \$75,000; Competitive Benefits

The Principal provides leadership to the Gill school community and the Gill-Montague Regional School District. As the school site leader, the principal serves as a teacher of teachers, focusing curriculum and instruction on increasing student learning. The Principal will also serve as the district's early childhood education coordinator (PK-K). In this capacity the principal will provide leadership, guidance, and educational support to administrators, teachers and staff in both elementary schools relative to early childhood educational services - primarily through oversight and management of all in-district early childhood education grants.

Qualifications:

- Masters Degree
- 5 years elementary teaching experience
- Demonstrated experience in early childhood education required
- Administrative experience preferred
- Certified by Dept. Elementary and Secondary Education as Principal

Send cover letter, resumé, transcripts, references & certification to:
Carl M. Ladd, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Gill-Montague Regional School District
35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376
EOE

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

2nd QUARTER Honor Roll

GRADE 6	THIRD HONORS	Ivy Cross	Emily Kells
FIRST HONORS	Michael Babcock	Akeeva Forcier	Ken Leng
Tyler Akey	Nolan Beauregard	Kamryn Frost	Ian MacPhail
Gabrielle Arzuaga	Nicholas Croteau	Lindsey Mailloux	Brittany Miller
Tionne Brown	Madison Currier	Mitchell Mailloux	Alexander Morin
Nolan Courtemanche	Jack Darling	Trevor Mankowsky	Mackenzie Salls
Savannah Donahue	Keara Deery	Riley Palmer	Serena Smith
William Doyle	Brandon Holmes	Sabrina Petrowicz	Alexandra Wing-LaClaire
Jordyn Fiske	Calley Hubert	Mackenzie Phillips	Zachary Wright
Tess Hunter	Nathaniel Hurley	Allyson Renaud	Nicholas York
Madelyn Johnson	Alyson Kilanski	Tanner Richardson	Charles Zilinski
Michelle Leh	Veronika Sankova	Ciara Staiger	SECOND HONORS
Clarissa Levin	Mark Waite	Tatiana Vellon-Santiago	Hayley Black
Ian Moriarty	Jacob Wright	Rachel Waldron	Trenton Bourbeau
Haleigh Paulin	GRADE 7	Hailey Whipple	Zachary Demars
Patrick Salls	FIRST HONORS	Cullen Wozniak	Alexander Fitzpatrick
Amanda Savinski	Fallyn Adams	THIRD HONORS	Justin Giguere
Luis Torres	Raleigh Carlisle	Dominic McLellan	Matteson Heath
Jordan Wyman	Allison Cooke	Sadie Pelletier	Angelina Kosloski
SECOND HONORS	Tarah Dempsey	Devan Rivera	Jasmine Richotte
Holley DeVarney	Colby Dobias	GRADE 8	Dejaneira Rodriguez
Jemma Dickson	James Fritz	FIRST HONORS	THIRD HONORS
Melissa Hersey	Seth Leamy	Haleigh Bassett	Zachary Battistoni
Regina Hope	Ryan Lenois	Ryan Bezio	Alex Carlisle
Alison Hulslander	Timothy Momaney	Sara Bradley	Aidan Connelly
Dylan Mailloux	Jenna Putala	Lisa Callahan	Samantha Currier
Daniela Parpalov	Seth Rider	Amber Caouette	Thomas Dubay
Patrick Riggott	Nevan Shattuck	Danielle Conant	Mackenzie Emery
Nicole Thibeault	Margaret Sroka	Malcolm Crosby	Joshua Gonzalez
Hailey Trott	Sydney Upham	Teagan Deery	Spencer Hubert
Michelle Vassar	Alexandra Vieira	Cheyenne Edwards	Nicole John
Wileshka Vega	Alexxis Young	Liam Ellis	Andrew LaPenta
Alysha Wozniak	SECOND HONORS	Jessica Gaines	Rachel Savinski
Dimitrios Zantouliadis	Jarod Brown	Lexi Griffin	Liam Theis
	Courtney Crafts	Melanie Howard	



AJ's CYCLE

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- clothing • used bikes • tank bags
- boots • gloves
- accessories
- gift certificates

(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Trespassing, Vandalism of Railroad Property

Tuesday, 3/22 3:30 p.m. Arrested William Schroeder, age 46, of Northfield Road, Erving, for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2 9:45 p.m. Report of possible abuse at West Main Street address.	Wednesday, 3/23 4:35 p.m. Report of five youths trespassing on railroad tracks. Same almost got hit. Subjects in Montague. Advised Montague police. Thursday, 3/24 9:59 p.m. Report of kids pulling pins on	the railroad cars in Millers Falls and Erving. Checked area. Gone upon arrival. Saturday, 3/26 2:45 p.m. Barking dog complaint on Gunn Street. Three dogs barking. Advised owner. Monday, 3/28 12:16 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2 in Farley.
--	--	--

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK.



SECO CONSTRUCTION

Paul Seco

- residential & light commercial
- remodeling & repair
- roofing, siding, decks & more
- licensed & insured

no job too small!

413.863.9171 secoconstruction1@hotmail.com

Simons & Simons

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com



About-Face

Computer Solutions
Computer Sales & Service

We've Moved!
Phone: 413-863-5447

Find us at:
151 Avenue A, Turners Falls!
www.about-facecomputers.com

Turn your computer troubles puno.re

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

p.m.
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artist's Reception-Turners Falls High School Students' Fish Exhibit*. Meet some of the local, young artists whose works are on display in the live exhibit room. 1 - 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Phasers to Stun*, DJK spins pop and hip hop, strictly danceable. Free. 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Asia Mei*, piano, singer, songwriter, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd
Montague First Congregational Church, on the commons in Montague Center: *An Evening with Starhawk*, Music, Mirth, and Ritual, 7 - 10 p.m.

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

Montague Senior Center: *As You Write it*, book launch, featuring work by Fran Hemond, Dorothy Hmieleski, Joseph Parzych, Harry Stafursky, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Falltown String Band* performs with special guest performers, 7:30 - 10 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, featuring John Hennessy and Caroline Knox, 7 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultzzy from Curly Fingers DuPree*



Ramblin' Red and the Blackstone Riders, perform at the Great Falls Discovery Center, in Turners Falls, Friday April 8th at 7 p.m.

host. All are welcome. Acoustic guitar, bass and hand percussion provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Marco Benevento*, the future of rock piano, 9 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 8th & 15th
SATURDAY, APRIL 9th & 16th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cabaret*, co-directed by Jerry Marcanio and Sondra Radosh, 8 p.m. Additional shows on April 10th and 17th at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse Series: *Ramblin' Red and the Blackstone Riders*, croon cowboy tunes. Corralled from across New England, the cowboy musicians are singer and taboritza (octave mandolin) player Lisa "Red" Abbatomarco, pedal steel guitar player "Prairie Phil" Abbatomarco, and string players Charlie "Chuck Wagon" Moser, Michael "T.R. Wilburn" Nix, and Bob "By Jiminy" Asprinio, with a special appearance by Miss Patricia, a.k.a. "the Schoolmarm." 7 - 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Chris Scanlon / The Doomsday Ladies*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9th
The Franklin County Spring Parade will make a three mile loop, beginning at 1 p.m. at Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. Then, a left onto Montague Street, and then a turn left onto Turnpike Road. The parade will go past the Turners Falls High School, and take a left onto Millers Falls Road. At Scotty's Convenience Store, the parade will turn left onto High Street and end back at Sheffield. 1 - 3 p.m.

The Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *4th annual Go, Kids Art, Go!* Celebrating the artist in every child. Featuring Tom Knights, Celtic Heels, Who'da Funk it. A day of music, dance, puppets, food, face painting, games, bake sale, raffle, and more... including Bob Hepner's Carnival Truck! 12 - 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney Band CD release show*, with special guest Brooke Brown Saracino, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Dan Blakeslee*, indie folk rock, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 8 - 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, an Irish session with Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends,

THE BRICK HOUSE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
Weekly Feature:
GREAT FALLS CREATIVE MOVEMENT
Creative Movement for Kids - Dance with your Toddler Mondays, 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.
Creative Movement for Adults Fridays, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
More detailed info, including rates at movementstudio.wordpress.com.
Contact / Registration at studio.movement@gmail.com.
(413) 863-9576
24 Third St., Turners Falls, 01376
www.brickhousecommunity.org

8 - 10 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15th
Leverett Elementary School: *Ambush on T Street*, the original production from well-known Pioneer Valley artists Court Dorsey, Al Miller and John Sheldon... a clash of autobiography, poetry, guitar screams, healing humor and manic raves, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Told and Retold: Art Exhibit by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association/Memorial Hall Museum*. Art created by Northfield Elementary School students.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1st through SATURDAY, APRIL 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center: *Spineless Splendor*: a Photography Exhibit by Northern Naturalists, Noah Charney and Charley Eiseman.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1st and SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole Pictures* joins with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival for showings of *Avalon*, Barry Levinson's 1990 film about a Russian-Jewish family assimilating into American life in the early 20th century. Friday showing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday showing at 8:15 p.m., with music starting at 7:30 p.m.

Greenfield High School: *Greenfield Schools Film Festival*, selected films made by the Greenfield School community. There will be 4 categories of short films (5 minutes or less). Categories include films made by individuals and classes at the Elementary level, Middle School, High School and Staff/Teachers. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place films will be shown to the public at 7pm on April 1st and again at 2pm on April 2nd at the Greenfield High School.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal*, modern bluegrass/ jazz, Free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin Experience*, 9-11p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: GCC Music Department Benefit Concert, *So Nice to Come Home To*, An evening of music inspired by the WWII era sound, 7:30 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *Lecture-Discussion by Penny Gill: Fear or*



Martha King-Devine plays Sally Bowles and Frederick Edwards the Emcee in Cabaret at The Shea, running two weekends in April.

Consciousness: Dare We Change? 7 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heavy Metal Round-up*, 9 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Eileen Jewell*, roots musician, with Sandy Bailey, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Ray Mason, indie rock, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, Reggae Fantastico! 9-11 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy at The Shea*, Brian Longwell along with Bill Braudis, 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Celebrating 20 years of Western Mass Gender Role Free Contra Dancing!* Extended dance, experience session 4-5:30 p.m., benefit supper 6-7 p.m., all level dance 7-10 p.m., caller Adina Gordon, music by Nor'Easter.

Temple Israel, Greenfield: *Mystery Comedy Dinner Theater, Maiden China*, Faux murder and mayhem ensues, in the form of a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, 7

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881

www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for
Friday April 1st to Sun April 3rd

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2: RODRICK RULES PG DTS
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:20 9:10

HOP PG DTS
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:40 9:10

RANGO PG
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:40 9:10

PAUL R
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15

SUCKER PUNCH PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15

Deja Brew
Cafe & Pub
Great Food
Fine Wine
Draft Beer

Friday, 4/1 9 to 11 p.m.
The Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin Experience
Saturday, 4/2 9 to 11 p.m.
The Equalites. Reggae Fantastico!
Sunday 4/3 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Pamela Means, jazz
Thursday, 4/7 8 to 10 p.m.
The Relics, 50's & 60's

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

The Rendezvous
LUNCH & BRUNCH!

THURS 3/31 8pm \$5
HOUSETOP returns!
(swing!)

FRI 4/1 9:30 FREE
UNCLE HAL
(modern bluegrass/jazz)

SAT 4/2 9:30 FREE
PHASERS TO STUN
(djK spins pop and hip hop, strictly dance-able)

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
THEYOD.NET 413-863-2866

Happy Birthday Miette

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Ron Sicard
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

Gift Certificates Available
863-2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

HK Power Town Apartments

152 Avenue A
PO Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

The Road Less Traveled

Monet's Water Lilies: a Lasting Impression

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN

HARTFORD - Claude Monet had been obsessed with painting outdoors since he was a teenager, but he could not have imagined what was in store for him when he rented a house in Giverny in his mid-forties. There were no water lilies then. They wouldn't come for another ten years. What a splash they made!

Monet painted the flowers that grew in the geometrically-designed "French" garden in front of his house for years before he discovered across the road a small, overgrown, mostly hidden pond that was connected to a stream known as Le Ru. He purchased the land and hired six gardeners to clear the pond and expand its shores. When the gardeners told him he could control the water temperature by regulating its height through adjustable dams at each end of

the pond, Monet realized he could import flowers that weren't native to the region of France just outside of Paris. The neighbors objected to the contribution in water Monet would require them to sacrifice for his aesthetic pleasure, but the artist didn't care. Nothing they grew could compare with the water lilies he'd ordered from Japan.

Monet soon became obsessed with his water lilies. From 1893 until the day before he died in 1926 at the age of 86, he painted little else. Over 200 works in all. Monet became so obsessed he hired a special gardener to clean his lilies by giving them a daily dunking. He even paid to have the road running alongside the pond paved to keep additional dust from falling on his precious flowers.

And what flowers! Monet's garden, with its weeping wil-

lows and irises and Japanese bridge, was just as artificial as the one in front of his house, but you'd never know from the paintings.

And what paintings! Impressionist, yes, but some foreshadow the abstract expressionist movement that exploded 25 years later. Try finding the water in his painting of the lilies peeping through the fog. Try following the lines of the Japanese bridge in the work he completed just after he had his cataracts removed. Both are on display in the recently opened Monet's Water Lilies: the Last Obsession, currently at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford.

The more Monet painted, the closer he got to the water. He even had trenches dug along the shores so he could be on the same level as the lilies. Soon the trees and other flowers completely disappeared from his canvases. And the more Monet painted, the bigger the canvases got. Some are as long as 40 feet. A special studio had to be built just to house them all.

Monet's obsession is captured in the nine paintings on



COURTESY OF MUSÉE MARMOTTAN, PARIS, FRANCE

Claude Monet, Water Lilies, 1919

exhibit. Like the water lilies, the paintings float far enough away from one another to allow you to focus on each individual work as well as appreciate the collection as a whole.

Photos of Monet in his garden are also included as well as a short film showing the genius at work. Rarely does Monet make more than a couple of dabs on the canvas without looking back at the pond. Occasionally, he'll look back several times before making a single stroke, dab, or even a lump. It all happens very quickly. Back and forth, back and forth. The paper

holding the tobacco in his cigarette barely moves before the film is over.

Although he's been accused of never painting from his imagination, it's clear from the movie and the paintings themselves that none could have been completed in a single session. That was only the "impression" Monet wanted us to have. Perfection came later in the studio.

The result is not so much a series of resemblances of a pond with water lilies as an immersion into a world of nature re-created by Monet. Dive into it anytime between now and June 12th.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Debby Dargis feeding Bobby

DARGIS from page 10

ly's clothing and rugs.

"Everything is done here," Neil emphasized when speaking of the shearing, cleaning, carding, spinning, and knitting. The shearing is done by a family friend who uses old-fashioned shears. "We do the rest," replied Debby and Neil in warm unison.

When Neil is neither at Vision Quest Farm nor the Persian Gulf, he is at work at Barnes Air Force Base, serving with the military police. When at home - "I muck stalls!"

Meanwhile, Debby has started her own type of shearing business. She is doing business as "Have Scissors Will Travel," caring for shut-ins in need of a haircut.

Kyle has foregone the idea of becoming a veterinarian and moved on to theater, studying at Greenfield Community College and preparing for The Scottish Play at the Shea Theater.

Theater is not the family's

only art. Both Neil and Debby Dargis are amateur musicians and potters. Debby adds with a warm twinkle in her eye, "I would love to teach people to spin yarn!"

If you, Montague Reporter reader, are interested in learning to spin, or purchasing fleece and knitted works of art, or need some organic compost from Vision Quest Farm, contact the Gill Agricultural Commission at agcom@gill-mass.org.

This reporter is anticipating being invited to watch the old-fashioned shearing, and convinced the sheep will still feel the Dargis family warmth.

Steve Damon is the chairperson of the Gill agricultural commission. His monthly column - Farm Neighbors - features Gill's agricultural personalities. Bill Burnham was featured in January, Gary Stevens in February. Who will April's Farm Neighbor be?



PLACE YOUR COLOR BIZ CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE
SOLAR ELECTRIC

Solar Store of Greenfield
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield • 413-772-3122
www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria
@ the Green Emporium
Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

fabulous dining,
great music, neon art,
full liquor bar,
and the best pizza!

www.greenemporium.com Colrain Center
413-624-5122

RISTORANTE DiPAOLO
Wednesday Wine Specials • 1st & 3rd Thurs Jazz
Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10
GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday
413-863-4441

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

The Gill Tavern
Come For a drink, stay For a meal

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006