

A NEW RISK IN EVERY PUDDLE

Page B1



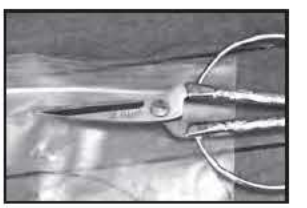
A LOCAL TRAGEDY RECONSTRUCTED

Page B1



UPCYCLING JELLYFISH

Page B6



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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YEAR 14 – NO. 26

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 14, 2016

As Volunteer Force Dwindles, Voters Asked To Weigh In On Buildup of Fire Department

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – How many firefighters does it take to staff a department?

That's an increasingly contentious question in Turners Falls. And next Tuesday night, April 19, all registered voters in the district will be able to weigh in on



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Turners Falls fire chief Bob Escott has a number of empty lockers to fill at the station.

the question, as the village's fire district holds its annual meeting at 7 p.m. at the Hillcrest Elementary School.

The department is currently comprised of eight career firefighters, a chief and deputy chief, and an active call force of 12 volunteers. "We strive to have our call force at 30 people," said fire chief Bob Escott. "But we simply have less people to draw from."

The diminished pool has led to difficulties in scheduling, he said.

"We operate with two firefighters on duty... When we go out on a call, there's nobody left at the station. Off-duty guys are called in to cover the station for the next call," he explained. This has led to a rise in overtime pay, which the district's finance committee has asked him to reduce.

Along with the prudential committee, Escott drafted a plan to cover the scheduling gaps by adding two full-time firefighters next year. He estimates that half of the added salary would be offset by a reduction in overtime pay, something the union, IAFF Local 2452, has tentatively agreed to.

If approved, the hires would expand the district's proposed operating budget by \$80,497, which Escott said would mean a difference of about \$21.40 a year to the average district taxpayer.

But the proposal has its opponents – including the district's own finance committee.

"This is a little village," said district finance committee member David Thompson. "It's not the city!"

Thompson and Steven Constantine, serving as a committee of two, are on record – and on the meeting's warrant – as opposing the version of the budget that would expand the department's roster.

see FIRE DEPT. page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Arts Bridge Head Proposes Neighborhood Project to Fix Up Millers Falls Staircase

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the selectboard meeting on Monday, April 11, Richard Widmer of Millers Falls announced that he will be organizing a community project to repair the stairs which lead from West Main Street up the hill to Grand Avenue. The stairs have traditionally provided access to downtown residents of the village to the Highland Park on the hill.

Widmer recently purchased the former St. John's church and rectory in the village and is transforming the building into artists' studios called the Millers Falls Arts Bridge. The space houses an exchange program for artists from China, where Widmer lived in Beijing prior to moving to Millers. Widmer calls the village "a place where a little bit of good energy can go a long way."

Widmer has apparently done a bit of historical research on the stairs, which he said were built in 1935 by



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The public stairs and rails have fallen into poor condition and are strewn with leaves and trash.

an organization called the Millers Falls Improvement Association. His goal is to create a similar organization to implement the volunteer rebuilding project.

He announced a meeting on Sat-

urday, April 16 to "brainstorm," noting that "this is a good opportunity for the town to work together and conserve our resources."

"I love to paint," responded selectboard chair Michael Nelson. The proposal did not require a vote by the board.

Health and Education

The board voted to endorse a letter from the Gill-Montague School Committee calling on the state to project the impact of the recommendations of its Foundation Budget review commission on individual school districts. The letter commends the commission for updating the Chapter 70 formula, the source of the largest form of state aid to cities and towns, but expresses concern that "other potential problems with the formula... could mean that many [school] districts will receive minimal, if any, benefits from these

see MONTAGUE page A4

WARMING UP



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Wilesbka Vega (L) and Hannab Wells (R) are off to a good start at a Turners Falls High School girls' track team practice.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Broadband Meeting Cancelled: Get Out Your Pitchforks! (Or Laptops.)

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – An email from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute canceling a meeting with the Montague and Hardwick Broadband Committees has caused anger, frustration and, in some quarters, a desire to "get out the pitchforks" in imitation of Shays' Rebellion, the 18th-century uprising among farmers in this region against the state.

But this rebellion will not be about farm foreclosures, or imprisonment for debt. It will be about extending high speed broadband services to those living in our rural towns in the 21st century. And

the weapons of choice are not muskets and pitchforks, but PowerPoint presentations and emails – some of them perhaps poorly worded.

About 25 residents packed Montague town hall's downstairs meeting room Tuesday night for a meeting of the town's broadband committee. There was much anger and rhetoric on display. There were also a barrage of details about fiber-optic versus coaxial cable, "make ready" costs to survey telephone poles, and the fuzzy relationship between the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which distributes millions of dollars

see BROADBAND page A4

Municipal Conference at GCC Focuses on Changes to State Education Funding Formula



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Left to right, state senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester, and Chelsea superintendent Dr. Mary Bourque, who led an hour long plenary session titled "Updating the K-12 Funding Formula" at the GCC event.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

pus.

GREENFIELD – Massachusetts senate president Stanley Rosenberg's 2016 Municipal Conference came to western Massachusetts this week, gathering early Saturday morning at Greenfield Community College's dining commons, a huge room with glass walls on three sides and views of the surrounding cam-

The conference began with welcoming remarks from Rosenberg, Linda Dunlavy of the Franklin County Council of Governments, Lee Frankl of the Hampshire Council of Governments, Greenfield mayor William Martin, and GCC President Robert Pura. A long table laden with muffins and all sorts of

see EDUCATION page A7

TFHS: The Week In Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week was a rather light week for sports at Turners Falls High School, with postponements due to snow and rain.

The boys snuck in one baseball game, upending Smith Academy, who were 20-3 last season. The

girls' tennis team went 1 and 1, while the boys' team swept their first match. The two track teams traveled to Mahar on April 8, and the ladies' softball play-day was canceled.

Baseball

The boys' baseball team traveled to Hatfield on Sunday,

April 10, where they defeated Smith Academy 1-0. Powertown's lone run came off a James Fritz homer in the top of the second. Tahner Jones smacked two hits, and Jalen Sanders accounted for the Tribe's other one.

Pitcher Quinn Doyle scattered five hits over 7 innings, allowing

see TFHS SPORTS page A6

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Enjoy Us? Subscribe!

What you have in your hands is a true aberration: a grassroots, print, nonprofit, hyperlocal community newspaper. We may not be perfect, but over the last 13-1/2 years, a team of your neighbors has put a tremendous amount of work, for little or no pay, into bashing together 624 issues and counting of this strange little rag.

At times we've stirred the pot, shouted unpopular truths, OR gone out of our way to provide a platform for community members whose perspectives are otherwise well ignored. But just as often we're quietly providing the social and civic glue: helping parents connect with neighborhood playgroups, giving concerned taxpayers the facts and figures about how money is spent locally, and connecting today's news with the deeper and broader history of our towns.

We know very well what we're doing, and why, and along with our core readership, we have a growing sense of pride over the gradual impact this paper has had in our communities. But for a newspaper to continue to operate, we need to make sure we have a solid base of subscribers, and keep it growing.

Ten years ago on this page, in the April 20, 2006 edition of the *Reporter*, Wes Blixt of our newly-formed board of directors wrote a heartfelt appeal, to you, the reader, to subscribe:

"Yes, there is a tiny staff. There is a slightly larger group of supporters, who gather now and again to help out and cheer the process on. And there is an even wider and growing group that can, perhaps, most accurately be described as 'engaged contributors/writers/reporters'.

"This critical mass of support is wonderful and it appears to be growing. That's the good news. The bad news is that David Detmold continues to shoulder most of the responsibilities, from editorial vision to distribution, largely without compensation. That's right - he volunteers all that time and energy.

"The worse news is that circulation has essentially leveled."

David retired from his editor's position in late 2012, and the paper went through a bumpy transition in 2013. In part, this was because even though he and many others had tried to build structures that could last, the organization had grown up around his leadership. But it was also because a newspaper is an exercise in trust and stability, and the loss was magnified by the expectation, on behalf of some subscribers

and advertisers, that it would mean we would fold.

So, from 2012 to 2013, we suffered a 17.0% contraction in advertising revenue, and a 21.1% drop in revenue from subscriptions. 2014 and 2015 were better years, but we're still rebuilding the "business end" of the organization more slowly than some of the other ones.

Looking back, it's strangely reassuring to learn that already, on our 166th issue, the board was worrying about a stagnating subscriber base. Because we grew, and grew - in short spurts, now and again, when we turned our attention to it.

This spring, it's time for us to make another push.

If you're already on the rolls, the way you can help is through word of mouth. We're one of the area's better-kept secrets! Recommend us to someone. Whole neighborhoods are strangely blank on our delivery maps, and new arrivals to these towns can take years before they bother to pick us up.

New readers mean much more to us than just a subscription check; they also bring value to businesses looking to advertise, but more importantly, their critical input can make us a better paper.

You can also start them out with a gift subscription, if you think it would work best.

If you pick us up from time to time on a newsstand or at a farmstand, please consider home delivery. It's \$40 a year most places in our towns, as low as \$25 if we can walk it to you, and a bargain at \$60 to get it sent in the mail.

Lastly: We leave free copies in some places: libraries, bars, laundromats and restaurants. If that's how you regularly read us, get in touch - we'd be happy to trade a subscription for a little volunteer help, if money's the concern.

2006 Wes Blixt can play us out:

"Our job is to remind you that this paper is a marvelous and highly unusual community resource. It is a community resource that needs and deserves continued growth in support. It is a resource that will not survive unless you, the good citizens of Montague, Gill, Erving and Wendell [and we can now add Leverett], step up and support it with your subscriptions, your ad dollars, your word-of-mouth and your active engagement.

"You hold in your hands a light in the darkness, a challenge to the shadow of cynicism, separation, uncertainty and powerlessness that haunts our civic life. Let it shine."



The Dangers of Free WiFi

CORRECTION and ADDITION:

In our April 7 coverage of Gill's April 4 selectboard meeting, we misstated the original cause of the town's need to install a drinking water treatment system at Gill Elementary. We wrote that the water from the school's well "had tested positive for *e. coli* and manganese."

The school's wellwater has never, as far as we know, tested positive for *e. coli*. It has in the past tested positive for total coliform bacteria.

The genus *Escherichia coliform* inhabits the digestive systems of mammals, and many of its species are associated with disease and inflammation. *E. coli* is used as an indicator of water contamination, often one that points to the presence of a mammalian waste stream.

But there are other genera in the *coliform* group, including *Citrobacter*, which is commonly found in soil, and *Klebsiella*, which shows up in water, plants and soil.

It's an important distinction, and we thank a sharp-eyed town administrative assistant for bringing it to our attention.

And while we're on the topic of mammals, a couple readers pointed out that our feature on Wendell's Medicine Mammals mentioned the wildlife rehabilitators welcome volunteers, but that we failed to include contact information for the organization.

They can be reached at (978) 544-6144.

Letters to the Editors

Fire District a "Mini-Kingdom"

It is April 8, and there is still nothing in local papers about the annual Turners Falls Fire District meeting on April 19. Last year I authored a Letter to the Editor about the arrogant and irresponsible lack of communication by the Prudential Committee of a zero-business-day notice of the 2015 meeting.

It is 11 days in advance of the 2016 meeting, and there's no public word of proposed items, nor a chance to air concerns and gather information about the warrant items.

It is my understanding that there are several items that warrant discussion, i.e., 2 additional firefighters (after adding one last year), new additional vehicles, tax increase, etc. However, the District officials opt to let as little out as possible to avoid any possible scrutiny by the taxpayer.

The ambulance debacle should be fully aired. The Call Back situation should be opened to public scrutiny. Options and policies to address excesses should be open to the public.

The average wage of \$86,700 for firefighters, with two making over \$100,000 (\$106,000 and \$108,000), should be questioned.

Mutual Aid should be discussed and the question raised "are we, in effect, subsidizing the call fire departments from other towns?"

At a recent rural fire in Northfield, 16 departments responded, including Turners Falls, with 22 trucks and 50 to 60 firefighters. Is this ef-

ficiency? I don't think so. Someone should explain the apparent lack of coordination in calling in excess resources. Are 16 departments really needed for response?

Under a proposed budget adding two more firefighters, the Fire Department budget will increase by 9.75%, and the General Government budget by 8.49%. (Immediate prior year Fire Department budgets have increased by 7.15%, 6.41%, and 6.72%.) It's business as usual for the "good old boys".

Those of you on Social Security received a 0% raise this year, and about 1% last year. How about those of you in the private sector?

An article on the warrant for April 19 includes a \$25,300 payment to the retiring Fire Chief for Unused Sick Time. How many of you in the private sector (both current and former) received a handshake like that?

The scheme of the Turners Falls Fire Department seems to be to increase staffing and service levels to match larger communities.

Actually the Ambulance service provided by the District is redundant in the respect that Ambulances from Greenfield also respond for medical calls. How many times have you seen two Police cruisers and two ambulances at a medical call? I have on numerous occasions.

This District could do quite well without its own Ambulance service. It did so for many years.

Overtime pay would drop dramatically without a district-provided ambulance. If it's such a great deal, let the town take it over and also provide service for Montague Center.

When is the last time that the Prudential Committee has scrutinized minor responses to see if a one-person response was appropriate, thus not requiring overtime pay?

With problems apparent in towns with call fire departments, it seems like a perfect time to get County Government to address the issues county-wide, and lead coordination efforts for fire and medical services.

With that in mind, I urge the residents in the Turners Falls Fire District to attend the meeting on April 19 and keep the status quo until a unified plan can be drawn up.

There has already been talk of adding two additional firefighters next year, on top of the two proposed this year and one added last year.

We're a small District, with very little population growth over the years. The populace hasn't demanded increased services. Indeed, the perceived need for increased services has been generated by the Turners Falls Fire Department with an interest in protecting their jobs and mini-kingdom.

Please attend the April 19 meeting and ask questions and seek input from the Finance Committee.

Joseph G. Janikas
Turners Falls

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Take this rare opportunity to participate in the “Troubled Waters Picnic: a **Shortnose Sturgeon Walk, Talk and Lunch**” at the Rock Dam in the Patch area of Turners Falls on Saturday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join shortnose sturgeon expert and author Dr. Boyd Kynard and environmental journalist Karl Meyer for a visit to the Rock Dam in Turners Falls. The Rock Dam is a geological gem – as well as the only documented natural spawning site for the endangered shortnose sturgeon in the Connecticut River ecosystem.

Kynard will cover the sturgeons’ life history and biology; Meyer covers the natural and human history of this spectacular site. No pre-registration required.

Wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch

if you wish. Rain or shine.

To get to the area, cross the 11th Street bridge, and turn left at the first stop sign. Meet at the public lot at end of G Street, just before the entrance sign for the US Conte Fish Lab.

Get on your dancing shoes for a **Pipeline Boogie Dance Party** on Saturday, April 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Montague Retreat Center, 177 Ripley Road.

Enjoy live music from Trailer Park and food by Hillside Organic Catering.

Admission is \$20 (sliding scale) and will go toward helping the Town of Montague challenge the proposed natural gas pipeline.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Turners Falls **Avenue A Planter Committee** will meet on Wednesday, April 20, at 4 p.m. in the Montague Town Hall. The discussion will be focused on this upcoming growing season. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate.

The Erving public Library is offering a program about “**Green Burials**” on Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. If you want to be eco-friendly to the end, come and learn about green burials. A discussion will follow the showing of the film “A Will for the Woods.”

Join the **New Salem Agricultural Commission** as they are offering a screening of *Open Sesame: The Story of Seed & Seed Exchange*. The event will be on Thursday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Salem Library. The event is free and open to the public.

Earth Day is Friday, April 22. Some people consider the spring equinox “Earth Day,” but most use the term for a holiday observed on April 22 each year, aiming to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth’s environment.

The April 22 Earth Day, officially founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was first organized in 1970 “to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution.”

The **Franklin County Spring Parade and 5K Road Race** is on Saturday, April 23. The road race begins at 11:30 a.m. from the Turners Falls High School, and the parade starts moving along at 1 p.m. from the Sheffield School.

This year, the 5K will benefit the Shea Theater Arts Center, and the theme of the parade is “Under the Sea”. Check out the parade’s Facebook page for more info.



Another Letter to the Editors

School Committee: Hillcrest Supported

On April 5, the Gill-Montague School Committee unanimously passed a vote of confidence in Hillcrest Elementary School’s work to include and support all students in the least restrictive learning environment possible.

In our view, the *Recorder’s* March 30 story omitted key information about the staff’s commitment to inclusion and its work to provide its students with a full range of programs and supports, quite like the ones reported as best practice in other places.

In general education classrooms across the school, programs such as Responsive Classroom, Tools of the Mind, and Keeping Kids Safe anchor educators’ work to build community and take a positive, skills acquisition approach to managing student behavior.

For students diagnosed with social-emotional behavior based disabilities, Hillcrest has an in-house therapeutic program which is highly effective in helping these students learn emotional self-regulation and social skills. As these students progress they typically spend increasing amounts of their day in general education classrooms, sometimes making a full transition.

This program is located in a welcoming, comfortable, full-sized classroom. The staff in the therapeutic classroom employ best practice programs to teach students to regulate their behavior, including 1-2-3 Magic, Zones of Regulation, and Superflex.

Students in this program receive

counseling services, body breaks, additional outside exercise, individualized positive reinforcement plans, unconditional quiet breaks, as well as the use of sensory blankets and vests, fidget toys, and other calming materials.

Due to the nature of their disability, a student in the therapeutic classroom may become highly agitated and physically aggressive. If this happens, the student may be brought to the school’s calm down room located adjacent to the therapeutic classroom.

A staff member remains in the room with the student unless the staff member is in danger of being physically harmed. If staff must stand outside the room he/she retains full view of the student and steps back inside as soon as it is safe to do so. A student remains in this room only until he/she is sufficiently in control of their emotions.

The District is committed to continuous improvement when it comes to the care and safety of our students. After reviewing our practices, the District decided to add padding to the walls and floors of Hillcrest’s calm down room. Additional changes will be made if the Disability Law Center or other informed sources recommend them.

We encourage those who would like to learn more about our wonderful school to speak to our families about their experiences, or to arrange a school visit.

Sandy Brown, Chair
GMRSD School Committee

Baystate Health Blood Mobile to Hold Blood Drive Monday, April 18

GREENFIELD – The Baystate Health Blood Donor Mobile will host a blood drive on Monday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Baystate Franklin Medical Center’s Emergency Department parking lot, off Sanderson Street.

All blood types are needed. Eligible blood donors will receive their choice of a Dunkin Donuts or Big Y gift card.

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you

must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds; have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, sore throat; no antibiotics within 48 hours); and not have donated blood within the past eight weeks.

All blood donated to the Baystate Blood Donor Program stays local to help patients in our hospitals.

Appointments and pre-registration are recommended; however, walk-ins are also welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Baystate at (413) 774-4600.

Proposed New Erving Library: Architect Presentation, April 14

On Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Erving Senior/Community Center, Phil O’Brien, an architect at the firm of Johnson/Roberts Associates, will present the preliminary schematic design for the proposed new Library on Northfield Road in Erving.

Phil will show a 3-D presentation of the interior and exterior features of the building. His presentation will be followed by a Q & A. Attendance and questions are encouraged.

Dan Pallotta, the Town’s Project Manager for the Library project and the Library Feasibility Committee will also be in attendance. Information about construction grants, grant and construction timelines, cost estimates and how a new Library would differ from the present one in functionality and new services will be presented.

All Erving Library Programs are free and open to the public.

Greenfield Adult Day Health Services Thanks Their Volunteers!

The staff and clients of GVNA HealthCare Inc./Greenfield Adult Day Health Services would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our many volunteers who have donated their time, talent and enthusiasm to our center.

Our volunteers include: Greenfield Police Lt. **Laura Gordon** and “**Clarence**”; **Officer Ruddock**, “**Artie**” and **Cindy Tobey-Hunter** of the Montague Police Department; **Jim Lagacy** of MassWildlife; **Jennifer Calantropio, RPH**; **Patti Waters**, LifePath Events Coordinator; Lay Ministers **George and Nan Brosky**, **Joe and Marie Bete**, **Paula Bell**, **Jane Kunhardt**, **Ginny Desorgher** and **Bea Sommer** of Holy Trinity; **Jenn Rich** of New England Health Center; The Salvation Army of Greenfield; **Fran Carme**; **Lisa Rau**; **Shirley Thompson**; the Greenfield Community College Dance program under the direction of **Sharon Arslanian**; the Greenfield Big Y Floral Department; Alliance of Therapy Dog Pet Therapy team **Kathy** and

“**Cricket**”; The R.O.M.E.O.’s; the “**Boomerangs**”; The North County Line Dancers; BayState Home Infusion staff; Northfield Mount Hermon students and their Volunteer Coordinator **Atta Kurzman**; FCTS Health Technology students and their clinical instructors **Gretchen Werle RN**, **MSN** and **Piper Sagan RN**; FCTS Cosmetology students and their instructor **Lynn Wiles**; FCTS Landscaping students; UMass Amherst 2nd Bachelor’s Program Nursing students **Alexis Mullen** and **Jesse DeZenzo** and their clinical instructor **Cheryl Sabola RN, MSN**; **Betty Clapp**; **Ken Browning**; 4-H member **Lulu Cook**; **Michelle Leh** and all members of the Greenfield ADH Advisory Council.

Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in the lives of our clients!

With gratitude,

Kathie E. Curnick BSN, RN
Greenfield Adult Day Health Services



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Route 2
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Catherine Bezio

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Emily Sisson

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PAPER
Week of April 18
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MONTAGUE from page A1

recommendations...."

The board unanimously voted to approve the statement and send it along to the state Commissioner of Education.

Development Grants

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that the board close out Phase 1 of the Avenue A streetscape project. The board voted to disburse final payments to the Berkshire Design Group (\$472.50) and Mountain View Landscape and Lawncare Inc (\$46,166.33). The board also voted to authorize a "Certificate of Final Completion." The application for Phase 2 had been submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Hunter also discussed the progress of the project to upgrade the parks in Lake Pleasant funded by Community Development Block Grants. A committee that oversees the project, which includes village residents, has put out a request for proposals and received three responses. The committee hopes to start the project in May.

The selectboard voted to request that the Montague Energy Committee request an extension from the state of the deadline for a Green Communities (\$84,935) grant to June 30, 2017. The town plans to add to the grant a \$50,000 appropriation from town meeting, and then rebid an HVAC project for the town-owned Shea Theater building.

Natural Gas

The town's appointed "pipeline liaison," Ariel Elan, briefed the board on a variety of developments related to the natural gas pipeline slated to run through Montague.

On Friday, April 15 the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP), which is proposing the project, will seek the right to cut trees in Otis State Forest for another project intended to serve Connecticut. That case involves Article 97 of the state constitution, which requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to allow such an action on state land.

TGP is arguing that the federal Natural Gas Act (1938) "preempts" Article 97. The case could set a precedent for the pipeline through Franklin County.

Elan also discussed several proceedings taking place at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). These include

Montague's challenge to the Berkshire Gas company's contract with the pipeline company; a request by the electric company National Grid to purchase gas from TGP; and a request by the pipeline company to force property owners who have denied pipeline surveys to allow them.

Elan also noted a court challenge to the DPU's decision to allow electric companies to purchase natural gas. Elan says the challenge is from GDF Suez, now called Engie, which imports liquified natural gas (LNG) to the region. LNG is seen as an alternative to pipeline for addressing electric winter price and reliability concerns.

Engie owns, but is selling, Firstlight Power Resources, which includes Northfield Mountain Project, the Turners Falls dam and power canal, and Cabot Station.

Finally, Elan noted donations to Montague pipeline legal fund from Gill (\$5,000) and Northfield (\$5,000), as well as six towns who will have articles on their town meeting warrants for this purpose.

Other Business

During the public comment period, a Turners Falls woman asked who she should contact if there were "code violations" in her building. Michael Nelson responded that if it were health-related it would be the board of health, on which he and selectboard member Chris Boutwell both sit. He recommended that she try again by writing a letter, and Board member Rich Kuklewicz suggested she copy the board of selectmen.

The board voted to approve an application from the community band for six concerts in Peskeompskut Park this summer. Boutwell noted that these events may be impacted by the noise regulations currently proposed by the board of health, to be discussed at the selectboard's meeting in two weeks.

The board voted to receive two Open Meeting Law complaints from Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick, and send them on to town counsel. The complaints involve recent meetings of other committees at which the board of health had obtained unposted quorums.

The board went into two executive sessions to discuss collective bargaining and the "reputation, character physical condition or mental health" of an employee.



BROADBAND from page A1

to help rural towns extend broadband, and the leadership of those towns.

This all came about because the Broadband Institute has expressed concerns about Matrix Design Group, the entity chosen by Montague and the town of Hardwick to extend broadband to its unserved homes. Matrix is the towns' preferred option for a variety of reasons - it plans to serve quite a few more homes; it will install fiber-optic, the wave of the future, as opposed to coaxial cable, the wave of the past; and it has consistently met with and consulted local officials. This is in contrast with the other option, the telecommunications giant Comcast, which according to the towns' broadband committees has done none of the above.

MBI officials, on the other hand, have concerns about Matrix's experience in rural areas and the financial viability of the company's proposals for Montague and Hardwick. In its April 7 email canceling the meeting, MBI stated that "the proposal offered by Matrix Design Group carries significant risk to both the Commonwealth's investment and the towns involved."

Thus MBI is "expanding its due diligence with respect to Matrix in an effort to obtain additional information on its prior experience, organizational capacity, and relevant local experience."

But since MBI had cancelled the meeting at which Matrix could respond to these concerns, local officials at Monday's meeting interpreted the email as reflecting a strong bias in favor of Comcast and a disregard for local input. This interpretation could well have been caused by an ambiguity, or even contradiction, in MBI's email canceling the meeting.

That email stated:

"After consultation with legislative leaders, there is a consensus that it makes sense to postpone the April 12 meeting until MBI's further due diligence process has been completed. Once we have completed this process we will engage with the towns relative to the next steps."

But in the same email, the MBI also stated that its review of Matrix "is expected to be completed by April 29 and an announcement of MBI's decision made shortly thereafter." While this schedule may not preclude engaging the towns about next steps, it does not

have that look or feel to it.

Thus the feeling of mutiny. "Get out your pitchforks," broadband committee chair Rob Steinberg joked at Tuesday's meeting.

Kevin Hart of the broadband committee emailed the MBI a reply on April 7 requesting a clarification, but says he has received no response.

Brian Ferrari at Senator Gobi's office, reached by telephone, stated that "our office's understanding is that this is just a postponement, not a cancellation. There will be future meetings with the towns. Senator Gobi and Representative Kulik will attend."

State representative Steve Kulik expanded on this point in his own email to the Reporter. He stated that he and Senator Gobi "have had numerous discussions with MBI, and conversations and emails with our town broadband committees."

Kulik said that the MBI "agreed to re-engage with Matrix to request the additional information it says that it needs to fully assess its proposal," and has "engaged a third-party to evaluate and report on" that proposal.

"Senator Gobi and I met personally with the Lieutenant Governor on this matter," he added, "so we have high level engagement from the Administration working with us on it."

Kulik said that given those new developments, the April 12 meeting "would not make sense, and we were in agreement to postpone it." He said he expected the MBI to reschedule the meeting after April 29, and that he and Sen. Gobi "insist that the towns have the opportunity for review and input" before the MBI makes any final decision.

The latest flareup between MBI and local officials came on the heels of a mini-rebellion at Senate president Stan Rosenberg's April 9 municipal conference. A parade of town officials complained to Governor Charles Baker, whose image was beamed up onto a large screen at Greenfield Community College, about the way they had been treated by the institute.

Baker, like MBI, stressed concerns about the financial viability of current broadband proposals. But he agreed to a meeting with the town leaders, who had left their pitchforks at the door.

As of press time, the MBI had not responded to questions from the Reporter.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Departments Dodge Cuts This Year

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

The Leverett selectboard met for a budget hearing March 29, and a regular meeting April 5.

Ultimately, the hypothetical 2% budget cuts requested of department heads for FY'17 were restored to all departments during the budget hearing. Finance committee member Tom Powers gave the selectboard positive news, stating that refinancing the debt service and the broadband project had saved some money. However, he also told the board a large requested tax abatement is still in the appeals process.

During the regular meeting March 5, the board discussed a change to the election process of the Assistant Moderator and Tree War-

den position. The proposed change would make these positions three-year appointments rather than elected positions.

"We are trying to streamline the election process," Lisa Stratford explained.

The board learned from Connie Englert of the TrueNorth Transit Group collaborative that the town's plans to join the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) would probably not succeed.

"She gave the board a reality check," said Stratford.

The board is looking at all options to expand transportation in the Leverett area, including Uber or a town-owned van. The board is also considering regional approaches and the possibility of us-

ing volunteers.

Roy Kimmel is working to learn about other volunteer ride services in the area, and Englert and Kimmel are working to draft a letter to the Secretary of Transportation to request medical transportation service.

Robert Barry and Jim Field were present to answer questions about MEMA, or statewide public safety mutual aid and statewide public works.

"They reassured the board the risks of participation are minimal," explained Stratford.

Stratford said while participation during an emergency is optional, liability does stay with the sending town. There are also benefits to sharing resources and supplies during an emergency.

A dog hearing will be held to discuss a dog that has been getting into a chicken coop and trash cans. Stratford declined to comment further.

There are no contested elections expected this year. Positions open for election include Town Assessor, Board of Health, Constable, Finance Committee, Library Trustee, Planning Board, School Committee, Selectboard, and Town Clerk. Positions will be elected from the floor of the annual town meeting on April 30.

Police chief Gary Billings appeared in front of the board to appoint a new part-time officer, Michael Galenski.

The next selectboard meeting will be April 19.

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NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

When firefighters head out on a call, the station is more and more frequently covered by career staff, often working at overtime rates.

FIRE DEPT. from page A1

"I can understand [Escott's] thought process, and what he's going through," Thompson said. "But I don't feel the taxpayers should have to pay for all this stuff – it's starting to get too big."

According to Thompson, the recent addition of a deputy chief and this year's proposed new hires are only part of a larger plan to swell the department's ranks. "What they're really trying to do is build the force up with six more full-time people," he said. "For this size town, I don't believe they need that."

Thompson said he joined the committee in an effort to prevent what he characterized as unnecessary and irreversible changes to the department. "I figured if I could get on, it could make a bit of a difference," he said.

"There's a lot of people who feel the same way I do, but they don't want to say anything, because they don't want to rattle the fire department."

Thompson added that the department's pay range of \$80,000 to \$108,000 is "a pretty good salary for firemen, I think."

Ambulance Services

One central source of disagreement is the impact of the department's addition of ambulance service three years ago.

Escott described the decision to add an ambulance as both a solution to a problem – after responding first to emergencies, firefighters were often unable to transport people to the hospital, and had to wait for a separate ambulance service to respond – and a source of revenue, as transportation is a billable service.

"We had been on calls where we waited 45 minutes for an ambulance to show up," Escott said. "We looked at it as: we have firefighters here, right now, who are trained as EMTs."

"Right now, the ambulance is totally its own financially. It's not costing anything," said David Zamojski, chair of the district's prudential committee. "Our hope is for it to eventually be a primary responding ambulance."

The town of Montague contracts

with the Greenfield-based Med-Care for ambulance service, and the southern portion of the town, the Montague Center fire district, is covered primarily by MedCare – unless that company's ambulances are elsewhere, in which case regional dispatch may send the Turners Falls ambulance there as mutual aid.

Thompson argues that the addition of the ambulance was a misstep. "There's like ten ambulances in a 20-mile radius of here," he said. "MedCare gives us good service.... Every time the ambulance goes out, they have to call two people to fill the shift at the station," he continued. "It's taken four men to run that ambulance all the time. Med-Care doesn't have those problems. They have good, quality people, like we do, and they have a good ambulance."

"As the economy tightens and people are going farther away for work, they aren't available.... It's different [now] for a lot of folks to say, 'Hey Boss, gotta go to another fire!'"

Jay DiPucchio, fire district prudential committee member

Though the department's first ambulance was purchased with a grant, Thompson told the Reporter he anticipates a request for a new ambulance next year, at a cost of \$200,000.

Given the reduction in the available call force and a necessary shift toward career firefighters, Escott argues, their skills could be put toward revenue-generating services. But neither he nor the prudential committee seemed ready to argue that adding the service has meant a net profit for the department.

"We had the ambulance side authorized as a revolving fund, so it pays for itself, ostensibly," said prudential committee member Jay DiPucchio. "We don't have enough experience yet, with multiple years

of cashflow and analysis of how this ambulance service works best, for us to know whether it's worth expanding."

"The ambulance doesn't cover the initial cost of hiring a person," Escott said, but he argued that the department should "address our staffing problem by hiring more people, and multitasking, using those people to make a full-time ambulance service, and greatly increase our revenues coming in. I think that makes the most sense, from a budgetary perspective."

"The operation of the ambulance service isn't taxation-based. Of course, a piece of that is the staffing certainly is, because it's our fire guys who go out on calls," said DiPucchio.

"[Calculating] what portion of those costs ultimately subsidizes the operation of the ambulance service, outside of the hardware, isn't something that [we] do at this point."

While DiPucchio told the Reporter that in his opinion, "right now, it doesn't seem to make financial sense" to expand to full-time ambulance service, he also disagreed with the criticism that the existing ambulance was driving the push for new staff.

"The real focus of the need for adding fire staff," he said, "is the fire prevention end of the spectrum."

Mutual Aid

"Everybody understands no town in the county can afford to do everything they need to do, for fires, on their own," Escott explained. "You help me, and when the time comes, I help you."

Escott says that mutual aid calls outbound still account for under 10% of the department's calls, but that the number is rising – as is the overall call volume. "In 1984, when I first became a full-time firefighter, we did around 150 calls of service for that entire year," he said.

These days, the department handles about 1,200 a year, roughly half of which are medical calls. "I don't think the mutual aid has increased significantly, out of proportion," he said.

The decline of volunteer firefighters has been steady and long-term, and one shared by many departments in the region. The trend places a strain on professional departments such as Turners Falls, which find themselves exporting their expertise for free when they respond to emergencies in other towns.

"There's fire departments out there that will boast they have a lot of members," Escott said, "but some of them are untrained, or are physically unable to do all aspects of the job."

"In the past," DiPucchio said, "you might have four or five towns and vehicles responding to a situation. Now you need nine or ten towns, just to get the number of qualified call or professional firefighters to show up to a particular event."

On this point, Thompson agrees. "Mutual aid – that's another problem," he said. "Did you see that fire

in Northfield that had 20 vehicles, 40 men, for a barn fire?"

In DiPucchio's view, "the erosion of on-call staff capacity is picking up. As the economy tightens and people are going farther away for work, they aren't available."

He pointed also to "the nature of the workplace these days," saying "it's different for a lot of folks to say, 'Hey Boss, gotta go to another fire. Again!'" than it was several decades ago, when the department had a full complement of 30 call firefighters.

DiPucchio characterized the pressures prompting the Turners Falls department to expand as a transitional one. "With a lot of these kinds of public capacity issues, there's a grey area: it's very difficult to make the shift from what the model was, easily and directly, to what the model needs to be," he said.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments has hosted preliminary discussions about the possibility of fire department regionalization. "Myself and some area chiefs have, for a little over a year, been working on that issue," Escott said. "We're in the process of possibly hiring a third party to do a study, to look at it."

"You may see some kind of changes in how mutual aid works – such as billing for services," said DiPucchio.

But even if enough towns eventually choose to opt into a more formal collaboration, it will be years before any such system is operational, and voters in the Turners Falls district have a decision to make next Tuesday.

Democracy in Action

"We're looking at over a \$2 million budget that typically is decided by a meeting that barely has a quorum," Escott lamented.

Any registered voter within the Turners Falls fire district, which includes Montague City and Millers Falls, can attend the meeting at

Hillcrest, and vote on 19 articles of concern to the fire and water departments.

These include purchasing new trucks for the fire department (\$50,000) and water department (\$52,000); authorizing the water commissioners to lease out a 6-acre parcel on Lake Pleasant Road, which could be a step toward a local motorcycle club finding a new headquarters; paying down a USDA loan; and setting up an enterprise fund for the ambulance.

They also include Article 5, which would establish the fire department's operating budget for the coming fiscal year. Two figures are given: one recommended by the finance committee, \$2,660,837, and a second recommended by the prudential committee and water commissioners, \$2,741,334.

"The biggest problem I have," said Thompson of the finance committee, "is most taxpayers in the Turners Falls Fire District don't even come to the yearly meeting.... Right now it's pretty lopsided: there might be eight or ten people who show up, and the rest of them are all firemen and water district people, and their wives."

"If you could get people involved and have them come to the meeting," he continued, "it would be a lot nicer. People could get their questions answered, and voted on."

On this point, Escott also agrees. "What we're hoping is that there's a packed house," the chief said. "I hope a lot of voters come out, and ask good questions."

And if district voters understand the risks involved with the current situation and reject the proposed hires – and tax hike – Escott said he would understand.

"Whatever the voters provide us with, in resources – that's what we're going to work with," he said.

"They should vote whichever way they think is appropriate. But we want it to be representative."



Chief Escott has watched the department's total call volume rise from 150 calls a year, when he started in 1984, to around 1,200, half of which are medical calls.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Harry Williston To Step Down from Highway Commission; Annual Town Meeting Set for Wednesday, June 8

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At its April 6 meeting, Wendell selectboard members signed the warrant for the town's May 2 election. There are several contested positions.

Jon Bowers of Wickett Pond Road has filed nomination papers to run against incumbent cemetery commissioner Richard Mackey of Farley Road.

Bowers has also filed to run against incumbent tree warden Peter Zera of Lockes Village Road. After 26 years on the highway commission, Harry Williston will not seek reelection. Richard Mackey and Wayne Leonard of Lockes Village Road have taken out papers for the seat.

Picking a date for Wendell's 2016 annual town meeting proved to be more of a challenge than it normally is because of prior commitments of significant people in the meeting process. In the alternating pattern that Wendell established, 2016 is a year for a Saturday meeting, and town clerk Gretchen Smith accordingly proposed June 4.

Both moderator Kate Nolan and selectboard member Dan Keller have a conflict, and so at the March 23 selectboard meeting Keller suggested June 11, which would give the finance committee an extra week to prepare.

As it turned out, fin com chair Doug Tanner cannot come June 11 or June 18. He said he is not necessary, but at this April 6 meeting Keller said that Tanner's input might be very helpful especially for a discussion of the town's effort to get broadband internet connections to every house in town.

June 25 is too close to the end of the fiscal year, and May 28 is part of the three-day Memorial Day weekend and is likely to have a low turnout, so board members reluctantly decided on a weekday evening.

Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the New Salem annual town meeting is Monday evening, June 6, and since that may go to a second evening, the board collectively decided on Wednesday evening, June 8.

They called Nolan and Smith in from business they were doing elsewhere in the building to make sure both of them can come. Nolan prefers Saturday meetings, with a lunch break, and Smith does not like to cancel her regular Wednesday evening office hours, but both went along with the decision.

Internet and Phone

With the stalled process of ex-

tending a fiber-optic network to Wendell households and the impasse between WiredWest and MBI, Tanner wrote a memo to suggest that Wendell join with bordering towns and near-bordering towns to form a smaller group to get some work started.

He suggested that Wendell could take \$50,000 to \$70,000 from stabilization so as not to impact the tax rate immediately, to fund an engineering study, a first step towards getting a network built.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked about the benefit of combining with other towns, and whether the number of towns taking part makes any difference. Keller replied that there is a logic to design a several-town network as one unit.

Wendell has significant money in stabilization, thanks to oversight of the fin com going back to the early 1980s, but not every neighboring town is as well-situated.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that her feeling from the broadband committee is that WiredWest will not survive.

A firm estimate for new telephones that will accommodate voice-over-internet calls is a one time installation cost of \$2,159.50 for the telephones and installation, and a monthly cost of \$164.95 for the service. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the monthly cost is far lower than Verizon now charges for just the individual telephones in the office building.

The library will not be included in this change, because voice-over-internet telephones do not yet allow cordless sets, which library workers use routinely. The change will come in the next fiscal year.

Regional Alliances

The town accountant said that Wendell cannot use town money to support Montague's legal fund to contest the claimed need for a natural gas pipeline that would pass through much of Franklin County, but not through Wendell. He said that the proposed route does not pass through town, and there is no clear public good that would be affected.

Keller said that the hearing is about demand for the gas, and any environmental impact from drilling to run the pipe under the Millers River near the D & B demolition debris landfill, and possible sliding of that debris into the river, will not be considered.

Aldrich participated in a long teleconference about the effort by Colonial Power to aggregate elec-

tric bills for homeowners in Wendell. Aggregation should lower electric bills overall.

The project is moving forward perceptibly. When it is approved, homeowners will receive information, and a postcard with which they can opt out of participation.

Heard said she would go to the community compact signing in Phillipston on Tuesday, May 17. The compact is a Baker administration proposal, and Wendell's part is for establishing best practices with the fire departments of neighboring towns.

Highways and Byways

Highway commissioner Harry Williston and WRATS attendant Alex have asked for a dumpster to hold food waste. Its contents would be hauled by Triple T Trucking from Brattleboro, and selectboard members signed a request for permit modification to go to the DEP for approval.

Wendell is slated to get \$190,152 in Chapter 90 highway reimbursement for FY'17. Governor Baker has pledged to release that money quickly.

The date for opening bids to replace the Wendell Depot bridge was moved to April 28, because advertising in the public register must go on for three weeks, not two. That project will close Wendell Depot road and require a detour through Farley for vehicles shorter than 11 feet and under 6 tons. Otherwise the detour choices will be through Millers Falls or through New Salem and Route 202.

Other Business

Wendell has not yet been billed for the survey to separate the center cemetery from the meetinghouse lot. The surveyor wants everyone involved to sign on: the cemetery commission, the selectboard, and the Friends of the Meetinghouse.

Board members signed an appointment slip for Adam Kohl to the conservation commission. His appointment lasts until the May 2 election, when he will have to run for a full term.

Mary Thomas is leaving her position on the com com and will become an associate member.

Board members signed for a payment for new heating ducts in the town hall. Without the mold from the ductwork that was replaced, the town hall should be a healthier place to meet. Money will be reimbursed from the Green Communities grant. A separate bid for a cold air return from under the stage to the furnace is coming.

TFHS SPORTS from page A1

one walk and slicing 4 strikeouts.

Tennis

On Wednesday, April 6, the girls' tennis team dropped a close match against Greenfield, 3-2. Alysha Wozniak swept in singles competition (6-0, 6-1), while Kortney Thurber also swept her singles match, 6-1, 6-2. Kaili Lynch lost hers in 3 sets: 6-1, 9-11, 4-6.

In doubles play, the team of Hailey Trott and Carlie Kretchmar lost in straight sets, while Sam Bocon and A. Taylor dropped their match, one set to two.

Then on Friday, April 8, the Lady Indians defeated Pioneer Valley Christian 4-1, taking 2 of the 3 single matches and sweeping the doubles. Kortney Thurber won her match 6-3 and 6-0.

Hailey Trott also swept in her match, (6-4, 6-2). Alysha Wozniak won her first set 6 games to 1, but lost the next two for Pioneer's lone victory of the afternoon.

In Doubles action, Kaili Lynch and Carlie Kretchmar shut out their opponents 6-0, 6-0, and A.

Taylor and Isobelle Farrick won their match in three sets.

The boys' tennis team also got off to a good start, sweeping St. Mary, 5 sets to nil on Tuesday, April 12. Jimmy Vaughn (6-3, 6-0), Avery Palmer (6-4, 6-4) and Ricky Carver (6-3, 6-3) all swept their individual matches in straight sets, while in Double matches, the duos of N. Morin and Jovanni Ruggiano (5-7, 6-4, 6-4) and Will Turn and Josh Gaulin (6-1, 6-1) were also victorious.

Track and Field

On Friday, April 8, both the girls and boys track teams traveled to Orange for a meet against the Senators. Although both Blue teams lost, there were some individual standouts.

Owen Ortiz leapt 19'5.25, taking first place in the long jump and in the triple jump, he also took first with a 39'6.75 jump.

For the girls, Kristin Slowinski won discus by hurling it 75'9", and Emily Giguere cleared the bar at 6 feet to take first place in the pole vault.



Wendell Voter Guide

The **Wendell Town Election** is scheduled for Monday, May 2. The Polls are open from Noon to 8 p.m. If you need an Absentee Ballot application for May 2, please pick this up at the Town Clerk's office, or fill it out online and mail it in. The application deadline is Friday, April 29 at noon. The following positions and candidates are on the ballot:

Selectboard: Christine Heard (incumbent)
Board of Assessors: Anna Seeger (nominee)
Board of Health: Nina Keller (incumbent)
Planning Board: Christopher Parker (incumbent)
Moderator: Kathleen Nolan (incumbent)
Constable: Anne Diemand Bucci (incumbent)
Library Trustees: Laurel Brenneman and Phyllis Lawrence (incumbents)

Cemetery Commissioner (contested)
 Richard Mackey (incumbent); Jon Bowers (nominee)

Road Commissioner (contested):
 Richard Mackey (nominee); Wayne Leonard (nominee)

Tree Warden (contested):
 Peter Zera (incumbent); Jon Bowers (nominee)

No papers were taken out for **School Committee**, but the position can be filled by a write-in candidate, as can any other position on the ballot.

Mark your calendars for the May 2 election, and for our **Annual Town Meeting**, which is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8. Questions? Contact the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102.

Seal LaMadeleine asked to use the town hall on Sunday April 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. for a fundraiser to defray the cost of buying and keeping in conservation a 14-acre plot that abuts the land that her Deer Paths school is on.

Because the school is a 501(c)3 non-profit, the selectboard allowed her use with the fee waived. If money is raised beyond what she needs for the school, it will be used for scholarships.

Determining that at least two unregistered vehicles are on his property, with no apparent effort to change the situation even after several contacts, board members agreed to bill a resident \$25 per vehicle per day for the month of March, or \$1,550.

State Representative Susannah Whipps Lee is scheduled to attend the next regular selectboard meeting, Wednesday, April 20.

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EDUCATION from page A1

mini Danish kept attendees well fed during opening remarks.

The conference then moved very quickly to the focus of the day, a plenary session on "Updating the K-12 Funding Formula."

The state is preparing to change the way it allocates Chapter 70 funds to school districts. This money is allocated to each district by a formula based on something called a "Foundation Budget" that it calculates for each district, and there is widespread agreement that the formula needs to change.

Each member of the panel shared their own thoughts on how proposed changes in the structure of the Foundation Budget and Chapter 70 formula could offer districts a fairer distribution of state aid.

State senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston) discussed adjusting the way school programs are counted under the formula. Some students are both enrolled in "Vocational Education" and are "English Language Learners," but the old formula saw these categories as exclusive.

Chang-Diaz spoke of the state's commitment to providing students a quality education, and of the need to close the achievement gap to make that a reality. She argued that bureaucratic structures need to be made more flexible to reflect the realities faced by schools.

What do we know of how school districts spend money?" asked Department of Elementary and Secondary Education commissioner Mitchell Chester. Chester said he wanted to know whether districts that spent more per pupil got better results than those spending less. The results, as shown on a chart he developed, seemed inconclusive.

Chester showed a second chart that compared the income levels of the students' families in districts across the state, and district spending patterns. He said that all funding from federal, state and local sources amounts to \$16 billion a year state-wide, just under a million dollars per student on average, but student achievement varied across the state, and did not seem to correlate close-

ly to spending.

So many variables go into the mix: there are high-spending districts with many low-income students, and high-income districts where spending is equally high but more services might be required to achieve equal gains. No clear pattern seemed to emerge with all the data examined.

According to Chester, districts that showed strong gains in achievement in both math and English Language Arts standardized tests turned out to accomplish those gains with a wide range of per-pupil spending.

"Are we spending enough?" Chester asked rhetorically. He suggested a better question for education policy-makers is "What are we doing with the dollars we're spending?"

Mary Bourque, Ph.D., superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, said educators need to go "more global". She said educational institutions are "always a work in progress."

"As a state, are we doing right by our students?" she asked. "Costs have not kept up with inflation, with special education (SPED) costs, increasing disconnect with our SPED students, autistic students..."

Bourque said her district was doing better with keeping special education students in-district, and spent an average of \$35,000 on them. She said that if the state was committed to educating students with special needs it has to back it up with money.

Jeff Singleton of Montague, a frequent *Montague Reporter* contributor, was the first to speak when the floor was opened for questions. He expressed concern over the possible impact the currently recommended changes to the Foundation Budget formula could have on districts. Singleton presented his opinion, backed by the Gill-Montague Regional School District school committee and the district's two member towns, that the state should evaluate how each district would be impacted by the changes before the recommendations are implemented.

Singleton spoke of the problem

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Legal Questions Raised Over May 2 Annual Town Meeting Articles

By **KATIE NOLAN**

Selectboard chair William Bembury, after discussions with town counsel Donna MacNicol, told the board at its April 11 meeting that several articles on the warrant for the May 2 annual town meeting must be amended at that town meeting to make their language legally appropriate.

The articles he cited are Articles 5 and 6, regarding Council on Aging revolving funds; Article 9, regarding ending election of the town treasurer; and Article 10, regarding water department funding.

Bembury said that MacNicol also raised concerns about Article 26, which would change the library assistant from a non-benefited position to a benefited one, and would research the legal issues before the annual town meeting.

According to Bembury, the library trustees, who proposed Article 26, and the annual town meeting voters might not have the authority to change the library assistant position without the selectboard's approval.

The board also reviewed the warrant articles, and decided which board or committee member would be responsible for answering questions on each article.

The board considered a request from the library feasibility committee for clarification about the status of the town-owned property at 34 Northfield Road, needed for the application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for the library building grant. The board felt that Article 24 of the warrant, if voted positively, would clarify the status of the property, and that a selectboard vote could be held after the annual town meeting vote.

Article 24 authorizes the library trustees to accept the design for a new library on the 34 Northfield Road property.

The library feasibility committee is holding a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 at the senior/community center to present the schematic design.

The board accepted a disclosure statement from police chief Christopher Blair, stating that Peter Walsh, a full-time highway department maintenance employee, has been training for a part-time reserve police officer position.

The board approved a business license for Jean Whitney, operating as Lion's Warden, selling Christian tee-shirts and hats online.

that "holding harmless" creates for districts. When the Foundation Formula would reduce a district's aid level the policy is to hold the district "harmless," providing level funding. When increases in aid are legislated, however, these districts are considered to carry a kind of deficit, and do not receive full increases.

Singleton wondered whether a large amount of the new aid being recommended will, in many specific districts, actually be offset by the amounts by which those districts have been "held harmless" in the past.

Bourque responded, acknowledging the problems "historical hold harmless" has caused.

Chester said that the hold-harmless approach was designed to deal with the problem of declining enrollment. He asked how else varying enrollment within districts should be addressed.

Chang-Diaz suggested that districts with low-income families should be given more options of how to spend money. "Trauma sensitive classrooms, Pre-K students - by the time they get to third grade, they have more self-regulation, more discipline, determination, perseverance." Her support for Pre-K programs was met with applause from the audience.

Other questions followed. Conference participants were primarily a mixture of elected city or town officials, administrators in school districts, and school committee members. Michael Sullivan, superintendent of the Gill-Montague regional school district, and Sandra Brown, chair of its school committee, were both in attendance.

An official from Cummington said his town is credited with too many people because more are counted than actually live there. He

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said the population count used for the Foundation Budget is based on the number of people in the zip code, not actual town residents. He wanted a change in reporting forms to reflect actual town of residence, as this affects the town's assessment.

Another attendee brought up the issue of regionalization and distances students travel to get to school, pointing out that districts are not being reimbursed 100 percent for transportation, as the state once promised.

"What is the impact on students, to have to travel long distances every day, as much as an hour each way?" another attendee said. "What is the impact on the child?"

"Time spent on bus time is time not spent learning," added another.

Michael Naughton, member of the Montague finance committee, addressed what he saw as the problem with funding being tied to enrollment. He told the panel

the Gill-Montague school district is facing challenges. "Enrollment is going down," he said. "We have 1,100 students from two towns. Costs do not go down when enrollment goes down."

Jeff Singleton, speaking to the *Reporter*, shared his thoughts on how Chapter 70 aid should be allocated. "I think what we need to do is give everyone a 2% annual increase, then adjust for enrollment every five years." He said the "up and down annual adjustments are unworkable" for districts and municipalities.

The conference broke up for workshops, and then lunch. Afterwards, Governor Charlie Baker addressed the conference from Boston, via a live video feed.

Conference attendees sat politely for the duration of his half-hour talk, and no one seemed to want to tell him that the audio feed was garbled to the point of incomprehensibility.



Senator Stan Rosenberg acted as host and moderator of the 2016 Municipal Conference held at Greenfield Community College on Saturday, April 9.

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Reduce, Reuse, Retire: Lou's UpCycles Winds Down

By ANNE HARDING and NINA ROSSI

WENDELL – Many locals will be dismayed to hear that Lou Leelyn of Lou's Upcycles has announced her retirement. Lou's bags and other crafts made out of recycled plastic bags have been popular gifts for many years, with proud owners and fans of her eco art throughout the area.

If you visit the Lou's Upcycles online store on Etsy, you will see there is still some inventory for sale, but it sounds like it won't be replenished. At last count, there were more than 180 items still on the market, ranging from small snap pouches and eyeglass cases, to earrings and day bags, to large pocketbooks and messenger bags. There are even a few of her signature "confetti style" collapsible trash bins and dog mats.

Lou started fusing plastic while she was living in San Diego and started to pay close attention to all the disposable plastic trash that had been piling up on beaches, neighborhoods, and in overflowing trashcans. She learned how to fuse the materials into a flexible, sewable fabric by

watching a video on Etsy Labs in early 2008.

Prior to her experiments with fusing, she had been turning plastic bags into "plam," or plastic yarn, and was looking for other ways to utilize the plastic bags.



A sample of a Lou's Upcycles bag.

Lou went into business as an online Etsy store in April of 2008. "I realized that there may be a creative way to generate a business from waste materials, specifically plastic bags and other found objects, although I smile when I look at my early designs, knowing I had a lot to learn," comments Lou.

She developed three basic fusing

methods. First, there's fusing bags to themselves. This works best with heavier and thicker bags, such as chip and coffee bags.

Explains Lou, "This process takes many hours as there are thousands of bags in the studio that need to be processed in this way. The end result is a sealed and durable sheet of plastic fabric. This type of bag is used for snap pouches and totes."

The second method is layered fusing, and involves more pliable bags such as frozen foods and newspaper bags. These bags more readily fuse to each other in varied layers so Lou can really get creative about designs and patterns and create large pieces of yardage of fused fabric. She used this method for messenger bags, eyeglass cases, and other products.

The last method was born as a way to tackle all the scraps left over in the studio. Lou didn't want to create waste from her production, so her signature fused plastic confetti was born. Snipping her scraps into confetti, she then melts the strips into cereal or cracker bags and crafts them into day pouches, zipper pouches, and earrings.

In addition to her online presence, in the first five years Lou did at least two or three farmers markets per week, and a show, festival, or craft fair every weekend. "As the years went on, and as I realized that the craft fair model doesn't support a livable wage for the effort that is put in, I traveled to an event about every other weekend, and focused on selling my work in stores and online."

Lou has also taught close to 100 workshops in plastic fusing methods at schools, after school clubs, organizations, private parties, churches, environmental groups, conferences, and community gatherings. Lou expressed gratitude to the generous funding of local cultural councils all over the state that made many of

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these opportunities possible.

The eco-artist estimates that she has "turned between 50,000 and 60,000 plastic bags into fabric since 2008." Many of these bags came from donations she took in from all over the world.

"Over the years, my online presence grew and people from all over the world began to understand upcycling and reuse," she says. "Word of mouth online has sent donations from Greece, England, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Mexico. I never needed to advertise specifically for donations, the roughly \$10,000 a year that have come my way have happened because of the great personal connections I have made teaching and traveling while selling my work in person."

What are her plans for "retirement"? As well as teaching, she considers herself still a "freelance upcycler." She and her creative partner, Karen Ducey of "Moon and Sundries," are working with regional breweries to create product lines from discarded malt grain bags.

But she's off the treadmill of the craft fair circuit. "I'm looking forward to a slow cup of coffee on Saturday mornings, instead of packing an entire craft fair in my truck; playing in the garden, renovating my home, and spending more time with my lovely family and truest friends. I will continue to advocate for the environment on my website and social media platforms and will continue

to educate the public about ways we can decrease our use of plastics."

Upcoming workshops by Lou's Upcycles include the following:

Thursday, April 21 from 2 to 4:30 pm at the Jones Library in Amherst. Register by calling: (413) 259-3090. Free, thanks to an Amherst Local Cultural Council Grant.

Friday April 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Belchertown Senior Center,



A trash bin made in the "confetti" style, of scraps from Lou's studio.

Belchertown. Register by calling (413) 323-0420. Free, thanks to a Belchertown Local Cultural Council Grant.

Lou also maintains a great printable resource list on her website to help consumers navigate the confusing world of plastic bag recycling and upcycling. See lousupcycles.com/donate-recycle-upcycle/.



Lou Leelyn teaching a workshop on plastic fusing.

IMAGES COURTESY LOU'S UPCYCLES

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YEAR 14 – NO. 26

B1

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APRIL 14, 2016

The Boy Who Fell Through the Rotors of History

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – It was the summer of 1968, and 17-year-old Jack Perrault was learning to fly his gyrocopter.

It was the same year that they demolished the Grand Trunk Hotel. The Vietnam War was in full swing; Michael Metelica was building his treehouse in Leyden; UFOs were being sighted all over the valley; and almost 1,000 people were working on digging out Northfield Mountain to be what is today the third largest power generator in the state.

On August 4, Perrault, a native of Greenfield, started down Turners Falls Airport runway in his home-built Bensen B-8 gyrocopter – essentially a lawn chair with a helicopter-like rotor – for his first un-tethered flight.

These gyrocopters are open-framed: nothing separates the operator of a B-8 from the manifest expansiveness of the troposphere. Perrault's had taken him two years to build. He had been practicing tethered flight all summer, his father towing the gyrocopter behind his car on the runway, the B-8 leaving the ground at 23 m.p.h.

That day, finally powered by just his own craft's pusher-configured, rear-mounted propeller, the rotor auto-rotating overhead, with a crowd of about fifty looking on, he took to the skies.

What is a Gyrocopter?

Gyrocopters, rare at present, were invented in Spain in the early 1920s to fill the need for an aircraft that could fly safely at very low speeds. They have an unpowered, helicopter-like rotor that provides lift, and usually an engine-powered propeller for thrust. Unpowered gyrocopters are flown by being towed behind a car or boat, and often weigh only 100 pounds.

While popular in the first part of the last century, they were largely replaced by helicopters before WWII.



A headline in the Recorder Gazette and Courier after the incident.



A Bensen B-8M gyrocopter, on display in the North Carolina Museum of History in 2011.

During their commercial golden years, gyrocopters achieved their most widespread use as delivery vehicles for newspapers and the mail, coming and going from the rooftops of big-city post offices. Perhaps the gyrocopters' little-remembered success in this role has inspired the future-is-now idea for drone-borne package delivery being discussed today.

Gyrocopters are the original aircraft of the weekend-warrior homebuilt scene, having been built by leisure-adventurers since the early 1960s.

Igor Bensen and Bensen Aviation

Russian-born Igor Bensen was the engineer and test pilot who deserves credit for this subculture. In 1953 he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to found his own company, Bensen Aircraft, with which to pursue his obsession with the out-of-fashion gyrocopter.

During the Eisenhower years the American middle class gained wealth and free time, and aviation took off quickly in pop-culture coolness. People wanted hobbies that represented their suburban Jet Age interests, and Bensen realized that there was demand for an aircraft that could be built by the owner in a two-car garage.

His first aircraft made for this market was the B-6 Gyro-Glider. Bensen sold the plans to aspiring aviators, who then bought all the materials for its construction at the local hardware store. It was flown by being towed by cable behind a car.

His next gyrocopter, the B-7, could release its cable and glide as freely as the flying squirrels that might have occupied the walls of his or her home. Next, Bensen built the B-7M, the first gyrocopter with its own engine. He survived crashing it during a test flight, skillfully putting it down in the woods near his North Carolina airfield.

In 1955, Bensen began selling kits for the B-8, the most successful gyrocopter in American history. It could be bought from

see GYROCOPTER page B4

Pathogens in Every Puddle? The New Risks Borne by the Lowly Mosquito

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE – Over the past fifteen years I've experienced the spread of Lyme disease in my own backyard. Within a matter of years, the field where my daughter used to unpack her little wicker basket – laying out a blue-checked table cloth and two teacups painted with images of Winnie-the-Pooh and Eeyore – has transformed from a field of emerald green grass and wildflowers to a danger zone where the consequence of a Sunday afternoon tea party may be a bout with Lyme.

In little over a decade, the Lyme bacterium, the deer ticks, the white-footed mouse, and deer that host the ticks have all become more prevalent. This is our new reality.

Human-induced change from altered habitats, reductions in predators, and a warming climate are enabling pest and pathogen to move into new spaces. And Lyme is a harbinger of things to come.

Mosquitoes, along with their disease-causing hitchhikers like West Nile, equine encephalitis, dengue, and now Zika, are on the move, finding new habitats and naïve populations ripe for infection.

Just as Lyme has made tick experts out of us all ("no, that one is just a dog tick"), we are on a first-name basis with mosquitoes like *Aedes* and *Culex*. Here in the Northeast, dozens of mosquito varieties bite, buzz, and mate. Some inject pathogens; most don't.

In Massachusetts alone, there are over fifty varieties of mosquitoes. Each has its own preferences and habits. *Culex pipiens* carries West Nile and favors biting birds to humans; *Coquillettidia perturbans* is a midsummer's carrier of eastern Equine encephalitis, and feeds upon anyone and everyone; *Ochlerotatus sticticus* is another daytime disease-carrying biter. Others prefer non-human mammals, frogs, or even snakes.

Of all disease-carrying insects, mosquitoes are the hands-down winners as the world's greatest menace. But, of the thousands of known varieties worldwide, only a few hundred bite humans, and fewer transmit disease.

Then again, it only takes one. The Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, is a relative newcomer to our region. First identified nearly 30 years ago in a Texas dump, the aggressive blood-sucker, likely aided by a warming climate, has marched northward over the decades.

Known to transmit as many as twenty dif-



According to Prof. Frank Hadley Collins at the Center for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, this 2006 photograph depicts female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito acquiring a blood meal from her human host. This female's abdomen is distended with the blood, imparting the red coloration to her translucent abdominal exoskeleton.

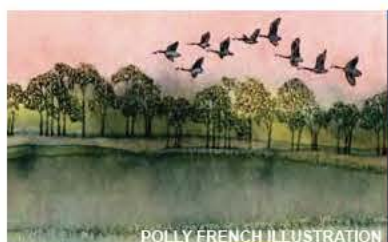
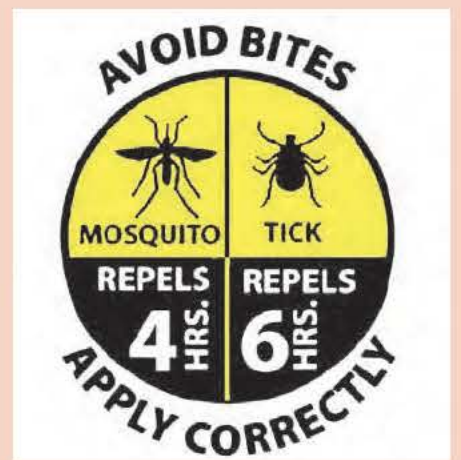
ferent kinds of pathogens in different regions around the globe, health experts fear that someday soon the tiger mosquito will be delivering pathogens like dengue, chikungunya, or Zika to more northern regions of the U.S.

Zika and dengue are also transmitted by *Aedes aegypti*. Warmer-weather mosquitoes which, like the tiger, are particularly well adapted for life amongst humans with a penchant for laying their eggs in roadside bottle-caps, abandoned tires, or backyard tarps. This habit makes them particularly successful breeders – free from natural predators like fish or dragonfly larvae – and difficult to eradicate with pesticide spray programs.

Centuries ago, yellow fever outbreaks in Northeastern cities from Boston to Philadelphia suggest that *Aedes*, likely carried aboard ship from far-flung ports, survived long enough to spread disease before succumbing to cool weather. While these beasts of the subtropical wilds haven't yet made a go of it in the north, climate change may alter that.

Those of us who remember mosquito-free evenings of the 1960s and '70s probably also remember the fog of DDT trucks. With the advent of synthetic chemistry, we turned to

see MOSQUITOES page B5



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE INDIAN NARRATIVES, PART 3:

THE NARRAGANSETT AND THE MASSACRE AT THE GREAT FALLS

By DAVID BRULE

THE GREAT FALLS – The American Battlefield Protection Program grant, awarded to the town of Montague in 2014, has as one of its components the provision for four tribes to write their own accounts of the King Philip's War (1675-76), and the events at the Great Falls on May 19, 1676.

The following is a summary of the narrative written by Doug Harris, Preservationist for Ceremonial

Landscapes, and Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

The Narragansett Indian Tribe, with an official population of 2,400, is centered in and around the tribal reservation established in 1709 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. The tribe was illegally "de-tribalized" in 1879 by the state legislature. They incorporated in 1934, and fought for federal recognition, which they obtained in 1983.



Mr. Harris states at the beginning of the short narrative, that detailing the incident at Great Falls "would actually run counter to the May 19, 2004 commitment made by Elder Narragansett Medicine Man Running Wolf in his burying the hatchet/tomahawk ceremony, and the smoking of the pipe of peace with the Montague Selectboard and Town Administrator at Unity Park."

Harris goes on to state that it is his perception that if he were to retell "the tragic Tribal events of May

19, 1676 would be... a sacrilege at cross purposes to the releasing of those spirits who were stuck here and out of balance in their greatest moment of torment."

It should be noted that prior to the epidemics of 1617-19, the Narragansetts could arm for war more than 5,000 men, making them the most powerful tribe in southern New England. By the eve of King Philip's War, they still had at least 2,000 fighting men, and were still a force with which the colonial governments needed to reckon.

As such, Narragansett oral history informs us that the Narragansett had often served as a refuge, and took under their protection the women, children, and elderly of their neighbors during times of threat. Harris states "by the ancient system of clans, regional tribes were all inter-related." These extended family and inter-related clans were often part of regular seasonal and ceremonial travel throughout New

England. The Narragansetts traveled yearly to the falls as guests of the Pocumtuck peoples and their Nipmuc cousins who had guardianship of the truce lands here.

The Narragansetts, along with the Wampanoag, Pennecook, and Abenaki had come to the Great Falls for thousands of years to fish, to plant, to perform ceremony, to find spouses, and to be buried in this region.

As the King Philip's War events, tragic for both the English colonizers and for the tribes fighting for their homelands and way of life, began to accelerate in 1675, the Narragansett maintained their neutrality and protector status up to the time of December 1675. At this point, they found themselves menaced by the combined colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Hartford. The non-combatants of Philip's Wampanoag had sought refuge among the powerful Narragansett

see WEST ALONG page B8

Pet of the Week

Hi there, my name is Ayers Cat, and I am here at Dakin because my person could no longer care for me.

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All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

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Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 4/19

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 4/20

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/21

9 a.m. Tai Chi

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/22

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite

Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/18 CLOSED

Tuesday 4/19

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 4/20

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 4/21

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 4/22

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 Bowling Fun

Market Trip

11:30 Pizza & Movie

12:30 p.m. Painting Class

LEVERETT

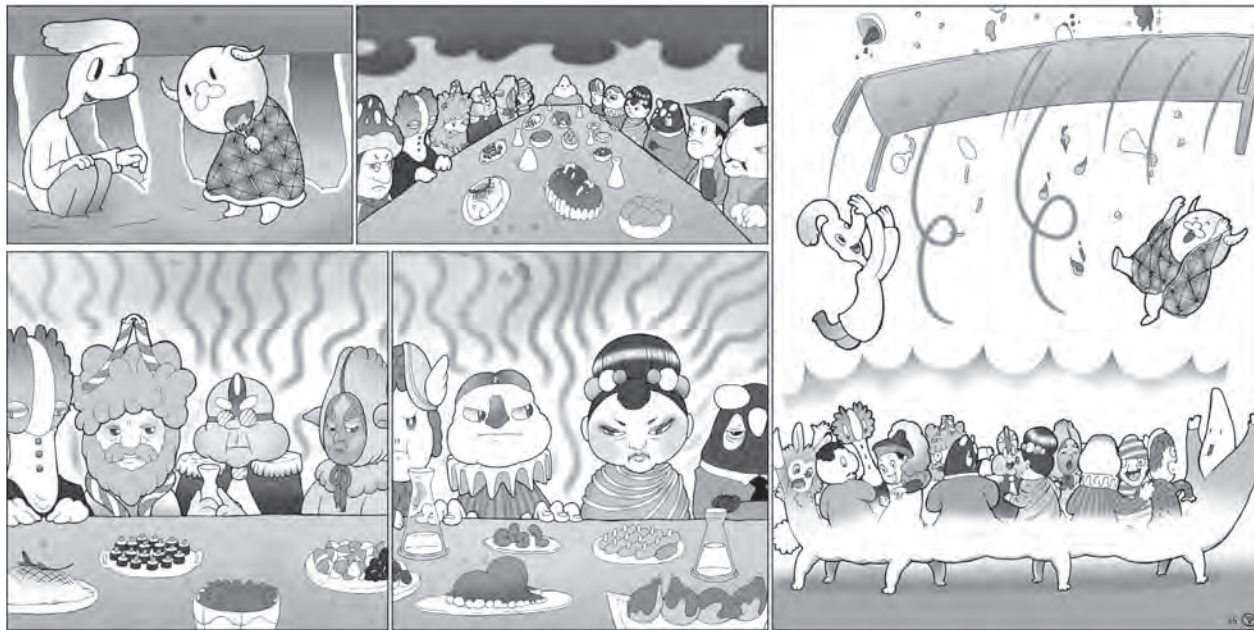
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Artwork, The Chief, and Easter

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Looking for something to do this weekend? Enjoy the opening for artist Michael Sjostedt's show *Minutiae* at the Rendezvous (78 Third Street, Turners Falls).

The artwork in *Minutiae* is inspired by “functional design elements” – background colors, accents, flourishes – collected from catalogs, ads, brochures, mail stuffers, and posters/flyers at the Rendezvous. Opening to feature Casey Williams (DJ Just Joan).

MCTV staff continue to provide you with local programming.

Every week you can check out the live broadcast of local meetings, including the Montague select-board meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m. and the finance committee meeting on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. And don't forget to check out our archive of videos online, available for streaming and download at montaguenv.org.

Check out the following videos now available in the TV schedule:

- Dodge and Donuts, April 2: Get to know Chief Dodge of the Montague Police Department as he shares food and ideas with local residents.

- Carlos W. Anderson: Easter Sunday, March 27, filmed at Unity in the City, Brookline MA.

- Carlos: “The Resurrection was a success,” April 3, filmed at Symphony Space Unity of New York.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Contact (413) 863-9200, info-montaguenv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Hard To Swallow



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I've been having some difficulty swallowing food for the past few weeks. Is this something to worry about, or is it just another one of those age things?

You shouldn't worry about occasional difficulty swallowing. Persistent swallowing problems, though, can be a symptom of a serious condition, so it is something to be concerned about. I'd get it checked out by a physician as soon as possible.

And, yes, difficulty swallowing – called “dysphagia” – is one of those age things...yet again.

As we get older, the esophagus, which is the tube that connects your throat to your stomach, loses its ability to move food downward. So, while difficulty swallowing can happen to anyone, it is most common in older adults.

Swallowing is a three-step process that involves dozens of muscles and nerves to work properly.

Step 1: The tongue gathers the food in your mouth.

Step 2: The tongue pushes the food to the back of the mouth. A swallowing reflex moves the food through the pharynx, a canal linking the mouth and esophagus.

Step 3: The food enters the esophagus. It then takes the esophagus about three seconds for the food to be pushed into the stomach.

There are a variety of causes for dysphagia. Probably the most common causes for occasional problems are chewing improperly or gobbling food. Here are others:

- The muscle at the base of the esophagus doesn't let food enter your stomach.
- Narrowing of the esophagus.
- Tumors in the esophagus.
- Food or foreign objects stuck in your throat.
- Stomach acid backing up causing the esophagus to spasm or form scar tissue that narrows this canal. This condition is known as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).
- The formation of a small pouch that collects food particles in your throat. This happens more often in older people.
- Weakened throat muscles caused by disease, stroke or spinal-cord injury.
- Improperly coordinated contractions of the esophagus.

Dysphagia can impede nutrition and hydration. And, if food or drinks get into your windpipe when you're trying to swallow, you can suffer from respiratory problems,

including pneumonia.

Occasional dysphagia can be prevented by chewing thoroughly and slowing down when you eat. Treating GERD can reduce swallowing problems caused by the narrowing of the esophagus.

There are a variety of tests for dysphagia. They include: an X-ray of a barium-coated esophagus; direct examination of the esophagus with an endoscope, a lighted instrument; a test with a pressure recorder to measure muscle contractions of the esophagus; video fluoroscopy and ultrasound, two forms of imaging that record patients swallowing.

Treatments include: exercises to help coordinate swallowing muscles or stimulate nerves responsible for the swallowing reflex; expanding the esophagus with an endoscope and balloon attachment; surgery to remove tumors; drugs to reduce stomach acid; liquid diets or feeding tubes for severe cases.

Some people are taught a different way to eat. For example, they may have to eat with their head turned to one side.

Preparing food differently may help others. People with problems swallowing liquids may need thickeners for their drinks.

Avoiding some foods – such as very hot or very cold foods – can help some dysphagia victims.

If you want to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeez.com.

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LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 13, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Lewis Seeks 13th Term on Wendell Selectboard

Running for his 13th consecutive 3-year term on the Wendell selectboard, Ted Lewis faces no formal opponent in the May 1 election but apathy. "I want people to get out and vote. Even if they don't agree with me, I want them to vote. That's what people are losing their life for, the right to vote. If you don't like what I've done, write somebody in."

Voters tried that last time he ran, when political newcomer Charlsie Baleno gave Lewis a run for his money. But no candidates have surfaced to oppose him so far this spring.

Still, Lewis said, "If I get beat, that's the voters' wish. But when only 20 to 25% of the people turn out to the ballot box, that's terrible."

Teens Tackle Issues of Racism, Homophobia

With immigrants turning out by the hundreds of thousands this weekend in cities around the country to rally for immigration reform, it is obvious America is on the verge of coming to terms with its changing identity. Are we a country of immigrants made strong by the talents and strengths of its growing ethnic diversity, or are we a protectionist society willing to guard what we've got with a 2,000-mile wall?

On Tuesday, 300 high school students and educators gathered for

a day-long conference at the Great Falls Middle School called, "Youth take action to make a difference." One of the major themes dealt with in the assembly and play that kicked off the day's workshops - and the theme of many of the workshops themselves - was racism.

The play dealt with conflict at a rural high school among students at school and at a party. Most of the vitriol was reserved for one transgendered [sic] youth named Marcus, and Spence, a Latino who bears the brunt of racists' remarks only to turn around and dis Marcus for her sexuality [sic].

The play ends with a lot more healing than some of the students who spoke up in the talk back session afterwards, or in the Fighting Racism workshop that followed, may experience in real life.

Gill Agricultural Committee Forms

Eighteen Gill residents gathered around a long trestle table on the top floor of town hall on Monday night to form a steering committee for the proposed Gill agriculture commission. Tim Sorrow led the discussion, beginning with a review of bylaws from other Massachusetts communities that have formed agricultural commissions recently.

The appointed volunteer commissions, established by vote of town meeting in most communities, are "designed to provide a forum for farmers to have a voice in the community, to keep agriculture a viable activity in the town and in the state."

MOVIE REVIEW

Risen (2016)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI



DREAMWORKS TV IMAGE

Risen is a movie about the hunt for the body of Jesus by Clavius, a soldier in the Roman military. The movie is told through his eyes, after the resurrection has taken place, to an innkeeper he meets.

Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) is shown to be a non-believer when it comes to Jesus, as well as a man who does his job, which includes stopping unrest and uprising in the city of Jerusalem. But he's also a man who is weary of dealing with death on a daily basis, and wants a day without it.

He does a good job of investigating where Jesus' body went, and talks to people who say they know he is alive, including one of his disciples and Mary Magdalene. Clavius also talks to the two Roman soldiers who were guarding the tomb, and eventually gets an honest account from one about what happened at the tomb.

But Clavius believes that the disciples are hiding the corpse to make it appear Jesus had risen from the dead, and thinks the guard must have been drunk. So he keeps an eye on them, in order to hopefully lead him to the body.

He does find them, but when he lays eyes on them - let's just say his thoughts at the sight of them lead him to be stunned. After this occurs, he spends the rest of the movie on a journey with the disciples to Galilee.

They reach their destination, but

not before the Romans get very close to capturing them through the new aide that Clavius was given at the start of this film. The man disarms the aide, and reminds him that he could have taken his life before the disciples and they continue on their journey. The aide ends up never telling of seeing him and the disciples.

Clavius finds the answers that he was seeking at the start of this hunt, but not exactly those he believes would be discovered. He also gets an idea of why these disciples follow Jesus, as he sees the healing of a disfigured man, and mentions his desire for a day without death.

As Clavius decides to end his time with the disciples, one disciple points out "how can I do anything else?," implying that he will never be the same. That is how Clavius feels as he finishes his story, and the innkeeper asks if he believes it's true. Clavius backs his story up by leaving behind the ring he wears as a Roman soldier as payment to the innkeeper.

People who hear about *Risen* may wonder how well this movie, being told from Clavius's perspective, would work, or whether it would work at all. I am telling you, *Risen* works very well. This movie was not in any way a bad way for them to tell this story.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Checkbook Not Under Microwave; Horse In Yard; Possible Battery Switcheroo; Migratory Smokers; Canal Bridge Damages Vehicle; Catnapping

Monday, 4/4

12:32 a.m. 911 caller reporting that a male is banging on his windows at Powertown Apartments and aggressively buzzing his apartment. Second 911 call from neighbor in same building reporting same. Male contacted and advised to move along.

7:57 a.m. Caller reports that he cannot find his checkbook and believes someone broke in and stole it. He usually hides it underneath his microwave, but it is not there now. Officer assisted caller, and the checkbook was located.

10:20 a.m. Caller reports vandalism at St. Kaz; believes door/dumpster were spray painted this past Friday night. Report taken.

11:01 a.m. DPW reporting accident at airport curve involving 3-4 vehicles. At least one confirmed injury (patient complaining of chest pain). MedCare, TFFD, and PD units advised. TFFD extricating from one vehicle. TF ambulance transporting one patient, Medcare transporting another. Tow requested for 2 vehicles.

1:46 p.m. Party into station to report that his vehicle was broken into overnight on G Street. Report taken.

4:04 p.m. 911 call reporting 2 car accident on Turners Falls Road; caller was struck from behind by other vehicle and is complaining of a head injury. One party transported by MedCare; operator of other vehicle issued citation.

5:51 p.m. Caller from New Street reports that while she was outside shoveling, a black Lab ran into her yard and attacked her dog, who was tied up. Caller states that her dog is bleeding by its ear, but she does not believe the vet would put a stitch in it, and the dog already has a vet appointment tomorrow. Copy of call left for animal control officer. Caller later dropped off paperwork from vet.

Tuesday, 4/5
12:30 p.m. Caller inquiring who she should contact to request reimbursement for repairs to her vehicle. Caller states that she was driving over the bridge by Paperlogic when her car bottomed out and the exhaust system was damaged. Caller given contact info for MassDOT.

1:34 p.m. Caller reports that her unlocked vehicle was broken into on L Street sometime after midnight. Numerous items stolen, including electronics and tax refund check. Officer located some of the stolen items behind the Montague Elks. K9 unit will attempt a track. Investigated.

Wednesday, 4/6
1:34 p.m. Caller reporting theft of her disabled son's

stair chair. Investigated.

2:44 p.m. Report of a horse in the middle of the road on Meadow Road. Officer located horse in a yard.

4:25 p.m. District court requesting officer to pick up a party that an MPD detective brought to court earlier. Per sergeant, only two officers are on duty and they are unable to do this. DC called and spoke to Greenfield PD; they are willing to transport to the town line if MPD can pick the party up there. Party returned home.

4:51 p.m. Caller requesting info on her daughter's vehicle that was towed to MPD and then to Rau's. Caller claims that items are missing from the vehicle - a laptop, a Nook, a tablet, 2 cell phones, and a \$700 bike. Caller also inquired if the PD would have taken the battery out of the vehicle, as she is claiming that the battery in the vehicle is not the one that was in there (which was brand new). Referred to an officer.

6:45 p.m. Caller on Fourth Street reports observing two males fighting; one male reportedly picked up a brick and went around the corner, but came back around. Officer checked area; no parties located, but did observe the brick that was left behind.

7:19 p.m. Caller reports a message left on his home phone; male voice can be heard stating "...crack-head losers... f***ing assholes..." among other comments. Makes reference to possibly a money issue. Caller does not believe this call was meant for him. Advised of options.

9:31 p.m. Caller requesting extra checks of the parking lot on Fourth Street tonight as he has noticed an increased amount of "activity" in the area tonight. Caller could not provide descriptions of people or vehicle. Patrol officers advised.

Thursday, 4/7
3:26 p.m. Report of a large

boulder that was part of Hallmark landscaping possibly struck by a tractor-trailer unit and pushed into roadway. DPW notified and en route.

7:05 p.m. Caller advises that within the last 3 days his unlocked vehicle was entered and a camera was taken. Caller states that camera is rental from Hallmark Institute and is insured. Report taken.

7:35 p.m. Caller reports that a male party wearing a hooded shirt is running back and forth on the train tracks near East Main Street; caller is concerned as it is getting dark and trains come through this time of day. Area search negative.

9:33 p.m. Caller reports that a white male in a long coat is walking in the roadway coming up the hill just before Scotty's; caller believes party may be intoxicated as she nearly struck him. Party located; PBT result of .134. Officer made contact with Wendell police chief, who agreed to meet at line and transport this party home. Services rendered.

Friday, 4/8
1:25 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that his medication, which was delivered to his doorstep by the TF post office, was stolen. Requesting police report so he can get his medications refilled. Report taken.

2:28 p.m. Caller from Freedom Credit Union on Avenue A advising their sewer lines are backed up. Caller attempted to contact DPW earlier; however, they are not open today. Caller stated they have a private company on site who have snaked the lines all the way out to the street; they will need to get into the manhole, which they cannot do without DPW. Contacted DPW; they will send someone to assist.

6:12 p.m. Caller requesting officers respond to Second Street, where she has found her son who she reported missing yesterday with a group of other teens smoking marijuana with the father of one of the teens. Caller estimates 15 teens, around 14-15

years old, possibly one younger female. Responding officers identified party in control of apartment and spoke with caller, who was allowed to leave with her son. Units clear; peace restored; officer will be contacting DCF.

9 p.m. Officer checking on occupied vehicle on Migratory Way. Occupants were smoking cigarettes here, as they are not allowed to smoke at their residence.

Saturday, 4/9
12:26 a.m. Officer checking on occupied vehicle parked on riverbank side of First Street. Spoke with female operator; same is OK, taking a break from home and boyfriend.

11:49 a.m. Report of an expansion joint sticking up on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Caller advises it is the first joint on the TF side of the bridge. Referred to an officer.

3:06 p.m. Caller advising of 1 foot deep hole on L Street side of First Street alley; hole was covered by water when he hit it. Officer advising hole is 3-4 inches deep; requests message be left for DPW to attend to.

6:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that her cat has been missing for over a week and she believes she saw it today in the window of a neighboring apartment; caller knocked on door but was not able to speak with anyone. Responding officer believe that the building the cat is in is actually on Fourth Street. Caller will follow up with building maintenance. Caller later called back to advise that the cat was let out of the apartment and she now has it back.

7:05 p.m. Caller from Plains Road reporting little yellow car driving with two children on the roof of the vehicle. While on the line, caller's husband could be heard yelling at parties involved. Caller was yelling at husband to stay inside, became very upset when he would not and "had to go." Officers responded; vehicle gone upon arrival. Will be on lookout.

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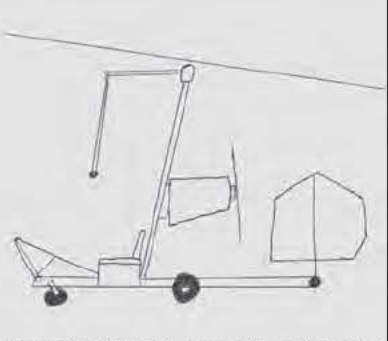
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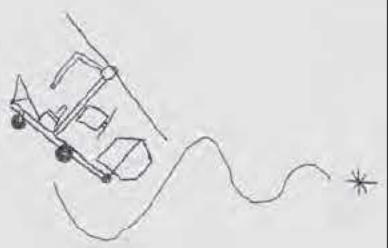
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1. Takeoff



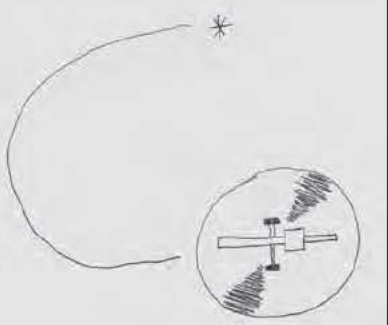
Perrault took off normally and headed out over the Connecticut River.

2. Pilot-Induced Oscillation



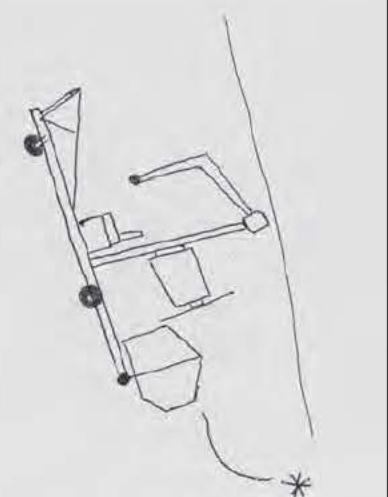
Perrault lost control by making a series of worsening overcorrections of the gyro's pitch.

3. Recovery



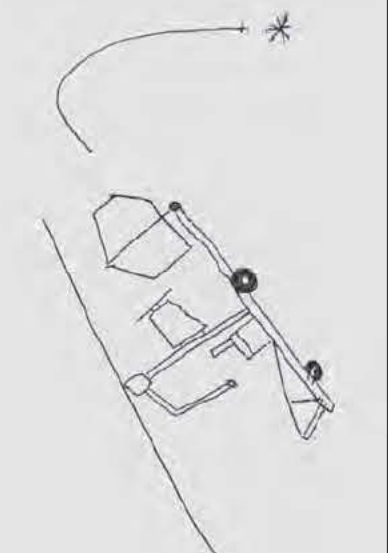
Perrault recovered, and made a 180° turn to return to the airport.

4. Zero-G Zoom Climb



But he pulled too far back, and began climbing, until he ran out of airspeed.

5. Power Push-Over



Trying to control the zoom climb, Perrault pushed the stick too far forward while adding too much throttle, causing the copter to flip over and fall.

GYROCOPTER from pg. B1

Bensen Aircraft until 1987, when they closed their doors for good, and can still be found through other sources today. This was the craft built and flown by Jack Perrault.

By 1961 he'd developed the B-12 Sky-Mat, an octagonal, riveted-metal magic carpet with eight engine-powered rotors, one in each vertex. He also built the Heli-Boat, which looks like a Zodiac (small inflatable boat) with a rotor, and the Mid-Jet, which was an experimental helicopter that achieved lift through two fuel-burning, rocket-like ramjets, one on either end of the rotor.

By the late 1960s, he was focusing as much on daredevil aviating as on engineering. He broke twelve world records for gyros in his personal B-8, the "Spirit of Kitty Hawk," including Amelia Earhart's 1937 altitude record of 18,000 feet.

Perrault's Flight

Jack Perrault lifted into the air and swung out over Barton Cove in a long arc. Then he lost control, bouncing up and down violently. He stabilized the craft, coming back over the airport, then suddenly lost control again.

His B-8 launched 300 feet into the air, then dove steeply into the woods, hitting the ground 100 yards from the end of the runway. Perrault, his neck broken, was pronounced dead at the Farren Memorial Hospital 27 minutes later.

Only a remnant of the event exists in the National Transportation Safety Board database. It notes: "PLT WAS A SEVERE MYOPIC CASE. GLASSES WERE NOT FOUND."

I was informed by Susan Stevenson of the Records Management Division that while "it's safe to say that there was an investigation done...our accident dockets for 1968 accidents have been destroyed."

Gyrocopters Today

The gyrocopter's dream is to be the personal computer of aircraft – it seeks to transform the imagination-impooverished garage and driveway concept into a transcendent hangar and runway.

Gyrocopters are cheap: plans for a B-20, Bensen's last design, can be bought for \$100, and \$1000 can cover the cost of construction. Of course, you have to put it together yourself. Because the FAA registers all gyrocopters in their Experimental Amateur Built category, at least 51% of the craft must be constructed by the owner.

The most basic gyroplanes, such as the B-8 flown by Jack Perrault, are classified as "Ultralights." For some reason the FAA does not consider them aircraft, despite being machines that defy gravity and look like they were designed by Leonardo da Vinci. In the eyes of the law, they are like bicycles: no license, registration, or inspection is required to fly an ultralight like the B-8.

Gyrocopters are especially appealing to people who want to avoid our society's barriers to entry – mainly cost and regulation. The gyrocopter's open cockpit and bare skeleton frame make it cheap and easy to construct. Jack Perrault could build one as a teenager because they're basically the Volkswagen of aircraft.

These design features inadvertently also make the gyrocopter a

stealth aircraft. This is why, according to a 2011 report I downloaded from Wikileaks, gyrocopters are often flown by drug cartels, laden with marijuana, over the U.S.-Mexico border.

It's also why Doug Hughes, the mail-carrier patriot, chose one in order to avoid NORAD on his Paul Revere-style flight of civil disobedience.

Hughes flew what appeared to be a modified B-20 (Bensen's last design), on his 80-mile flight from Gettysburg, PA to D.C. last April. In a mission that sounded a lot like an unwritten epilogue to *The Crying of Lot 49*, he safely landed his USPS logo-emblazoned gyrocopter on the Capitol's west lawn.

Hughes had written letters containing a call to action addressed to each member of Congress, demanding that they take a stand against the money that is destroying our democracy and was personally delivering them.

Hughes is a founder of the Civilism movement, which mostly exists on the internet. Civilism encourages people who love the government to save the government by fighting the government. Basically they're a tiny, Constitution-loving movement on the frontier of politics, focusing on campaign finance reform and possessing a grandiosity complex, a gung-ho attitude, and a martyr that reminds me of Russell, the crop duster pilot in *Independence Day*.

After landing at the Capitol, Doug Hughes was not only arrested, but also fired from his job as a USPS postal carrier. He recently took a plea deal that includes giving his gyrocopter to the federal government, and is now running for one of Florida's seats in the House of Representatives.

Back to 1968

We don't know what motivated Jack Perrault to build and fly a gyrocopter back in 1968. Adventure, fame, excitement; perhaps a drive to prove oneself – all seem like plausible motives.

The authorities claimed pilot error as the cause of the crash, the media at the time maintaining a patronizing "I-told-you-so" demeanor. The *Greenfield Recorder Gazette and Courier* reported that Perrault had been instructed "not to go any higher than 10 feet." The article also states that airport commissioners "weren't very happy" about allowing the boy to attempt the flight, but that the boy "held a license and could not very well be denied use of airport facilities."

While much of the reporting at the time blamed Jack Perrault for his own tragedy, more recent opinions on engineering problems with the B-8 change that narrative. John Rountree, an officer of the Popular Rotorcraft Association (PRA), analyzed the *Recorder Gazette and Courier's* account of the crash using these new perspectives.

Three out-of-control maneuvers resulted in Perrault's death. Pilot Induced Oscillation (PIO, or "porpoising") caused the gyrocopter to bounce wildly up and down. The pilot creates this situation by overcorrecting his or her flightpath more and more with each oscillation. Porpoising would not happen if, like all other aircraft at the time, the B-8 had a horizontal stabilizer. Rountree describes this flaw allegorically, saying "A bird doesn't fly without a tail."

The second uncontrolled ma-

Get Your Cameras Rolling for the 2016 Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival!

Do you care about sustainability? Have you seen it working in your community or do you have an idea for expanding sustainability in the Pioneer Valley?

If yes, consider making a short film for the 5th annual Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival to be held next fall. Whether you're new to film making or a seasoned professional you can check out your local community TV studio for training and equipment.

"Community members sharing stories and ideas visually on video seemed a great way to help us all transition to a more sustainable, community-oriented, and resilient way of life," according to Judy Phillips, Transition Northfield member.

"We are looking for films for the 2016 film festival that tell a story about some aspect of sustainable living in the Pioneer Valley," said Rawn Fulton, professional filmmaker at Searchlight Films in Bernardston, and one of three festival judges.

"While films are judged primarily on the basis of their content, aesthetic and technical aspects that go into making a compelling film are considered as well."

Films in the past have included everything from documentaries about a local commercial composting operation to personal stories of living with goats, or using bicycles to get around the 0-carbon way. Other films have been about other

people or organizations growing food, supporting our local pollinators, or fostering equity and community in their town.

The organizing group that included Transition Northfield recruited co-sponsors; Transition Towns in Greenfield, Wendell, Amherst, Northampton, Pelham and Longmeadow and the Pioneer Valley Institute, a professional filmmaker and partnered with community access TV stations; GCTV, NCTV, BNCTV, Fall Cable, Amherst Media, FCAT, AOTV, MCTV, ECAT and Hadley 5 to support the effort.

Most Community Access TV stations offer free training and equipment to citizens interested in learning how to take and edit videos to make a quality film. Today, over fifty videos about sustainable living submitted in the past 5 years can be viewed at GCTV's website.

Working together or going solo, the festival organizers urge interested participants to get started today. Video submissions are due October 7th and the Film Festival will be held November 4 at Greenfield Community College.

Join us for films, food and awards. For more information about Transition Towns, the Film Festival, judging criteria and how to submit a video go to TransitionNorthfieldMA.org or Google the full name of the festival, or you can call (413) 774-4288.

As the Rotor Turns

Perrault's death is an early piece in a gory mosaic that, after decades, finally became too large to ignore. Until these revisions, one or two people were dying every month in similar crashes; today, no one loses control because of Pilot Induced Oscillation or a Power Push Over.

For decades, the rotorcraft establishment denied that there were design flaws, as almost all the deaths were novices who did not have the right reactions to avoid these deadly maneuvers.

Horizontal stabilizers and modifications to make new gyrocopters Center Line Thrust began being added in 2004, thirty-six years after Perrault's crash.

Igor Bensen, Doug Hughes, and Jack Perrault pursued their desires against the many hegemonic forces arrayed against them. But while Perrault was not attempting to break records, or to change the course of government, as a youth, he likely had even more odds stacked against him.

The media and the official reports on the event insinuated that Perrault would not have crashed his gyrocopter if he'd just been normal. In light of 21st-century modifications to gyrocopter design like Center Line Thrust and the horizontal stabilizer, Perrault should be freed from this judgment, as are others who have died young, like Jimi Hendrix or Gram Parsons.

Like many, Perrault was drawn to an adventure that defies conventional wisdom, and death, it turns out, can happen to those who seek these moments.



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MOSQUITOES from page B1

miraculous chemical cures like DDT and other powerful pesticides. It seemed there wasn't a pest we couldn't conquer.

A few decades later, our hubris was rewarded with a catastrophic decline in raptors and resistance in targeted insects. Plenty of communities still spray next-generation pesticides (like resmethrin and biologically-based bacterial sprays), but for every chemical cure there is, or will likely soon be, a resistant population: pests with amped-up detoxification systems, or target sites with reduced sensitivity. Not to mention harm done to the innocent bystanders, those beneficial insects that prey upon pests or pollinate plants.

Most ecologists aren't too concerned. Predators that feed on mosquitoes or larvae will find other food; other pollinators will fill in where mosquitoes left off. But the end of mosquitoes isn't in our near future; at best, the strategy may work on localized populations, or regionally, rather than going global.

On the flip side, if we can't stop the pest, perhaps we can stop the pathogen.

Mosquito-borne diseases have killed hundreds of millions of people—approximately one million individuals each year. Vaccines have saved many more. There aren't yet vaccines for West Nile and chikungunya, though a vaccine for dengue, twenty years in development, just became available in some countries.

Zika is prompting vaccine developers to scramble, promising accelerated vaccine development and production. Even so, it may be years before vaccines enable us to shed our long sleeves and ditch the mosquito repellent.

So what are our options? After nearly a century of resting on our chemical laurels, we need to think differently. There is no quick fix. As with Lyme, we will all need to become a little more wary, a lot less cavalier, and a bit more humbled by nature.

We will need to be more strategic about how and when we use pesticides, how we dress when we go outside, and perhaps even when we go outside. We also need to be more aware of our contribution to the problem. But that doesn't mean we need to cloister ourselves indoors.

When we venture out into the field during tick season, a depressingly longer stretch of time each year, we expect ticks. Years ago we joked about "tick-checks." Now they are a part of the daily routine. We scoffed at "birding couture": the long sleeves, light clothing, pants tucked into socks. Not so now.

Maybe it's time to dig out that bug head net I bought for gardening, but never wore. Not comfortable, but better than the alternative (though it won't deter the ticks).

Sweeping around the yard every few days drying out the mosquito breeders will definitely become part of the spring and summer routine. As much as I know not to leave standing water, the dog bowl has nurtured plenty of newly-hatched mosquitoes over the years.

Lastly there's DEET, one of the recommended preventatives for those sharing their homes and back yards with Zika-bearing mosquitoes. A can of it sits by our door.

If you do reach for the chemicals look for EPA's "Repellency Awareness Graphic," a voluntary graphic that lets you know who it repels and for how long. Or, take a look at EPA's [matchmaking site](http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents) by going to www.epa.gov/insect-repellents and clicking on "Finding an insect repellent that is right for you".

Our environment is changing. We need to get back in touch with the natural world, and all that comes with it.



EPA GRAPHIC
The Environmental Protection Agency breaks down the bug spray bottle code for lay audiences.

And, for a species like *Aedes*, pesticide from a large-scale spray program may not find its way into that bottle cap, dog bowl, or old tire. For these buggers, control requires a more personal touch: a weekly scan of the yard, junk yard, or parking lot. With a flight range of a couple hundred meters, clearing a yard or a neighborhood block of mosquito breeders can go a long way towards control.

So far, mosquitoes carrying Zika haven't yet been reported in the continental U.S., though it is likely only a matter of time, particularly in southern states. And if it's not Zika, surely some other mosquito-borne virus will be coming to our neighborhoods someday soon.

There is some hope. Most notably, scientists have engineered mosquitoes to produce offspring destined to die before they are old enough to reproduce. This strategy is already in trials in Brazil, Florida, and elsewhere. Because reproduction is the Achilles heel of the evolutionary process (inheritance, inheritance, inheritance!), it is a strategy unlikely to be circumvented by evolved populations.

While we have learned time and again that it is difficult to fool mother nature, we also need to consider the consequences of actually doing so. Like, the consequences of a world without *Aedes* or other mosquitoes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Car vs. Deer, Car vs. Pedestrian, Car vs. Guardrail, Large Dead Bird

- Thursday 3/17**
3 p.m. Tree on power lines on Ben Hale Road. Road closed due to hazards.
- 4:20 p.m. Officer requested at Green River Powersports due to issue with power lines.
- 6:35 p.m. Domestic issue with family on Main Road. Under investigation.
- 9:40 p.m. Suspicious trucks on River Road near river. Gone on arrival.
- Friday 3/18**
11:40 a.m. Assisted residents with Firearms issue on Main Road.
- 2:40 p.m. Reported fireworks complaint from approximately 3 a.m. in Riverside.
- Sunday 3/20**
8:35 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with welfare check in their community.
- Monday 3/21**
5:45 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Center Road. Checked out OK.
- 5:35 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle and person on North Cross Road. Gone on arrival. Area search of people. Going door to door.
- Tuesday 3/22**
10:05 p.m. Assisted state police with investigation of past arson.
- 4:15 p.m. Brush fire on Franklin Road.
- 11:10 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2: car vs. deer.
- Wednesday 3/23**
6:35 a.m. Medical assist on Mountain Road. Party transported to Baystate.
- 11:35 a.m. Assisted party with past accident in town.
- 12:25 p.m. Domestic order issued for resident on Franklin Road.
- Saturday 3/26**
2:40 p.m. Erratic operation of motor vehicle in Northfield, assistance provided in stop.
- 7:45 p.m. Oven fire on Center Road at residence.
- Sunday 3/27**
1:10 p.m. Erratic operator reported on Rt 2 westbound, located in rest area. Driver tired.
- 1:55 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported at Mobil station. Lost party.
- 6:15 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with reported knife fight in their community.
- 8 p.m. Damage to headstone reported in Riverside Cemetery.
- Monday 3/28**
3:40 p.m. Resident on North Cross Road reported harassing phone calls.
- Tuesday 3/29**
5:35 p.m. Complaint of kids on bikes and skateboards creating a hazard on West Gill Road.
- Wednesday 3/30**
8:20 a.m. Traffic complaint on Main Road for speeders near Boyle Road.
- Thursday 3/31**
6:05 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on River Road. Located operator; checked OK.
- 10:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Franklin Road, no injuries reported.
- 1:30 p.m. Hazard reported in Factory Hollow. Moved stopped motor vehicles along.
- 1:50 p.m. Past breaking & entering to a residence on Riverview Drive reported. Under investigation.
- 5:40 p.m. Restraining order issued to resident on Franklin Road.
- 9:20 p.m. Fire on side of French King Highway. Traffic diverted.
- Saturday 4/2**
9:50 a.m. Welfare check requested for elderly party on Center Road. All set.
- 1:50 p.m. Firearms issue with resident on Mountain Road.
- 5:45 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with alcohol-related issue and residents on Main Road.
- 8:50 p.m. Erratic operator of motor vehicle reported, stopped in area of French King Bowling Center for Erving PD.
- Sunday 4/3**
10:15 a.m. Suspicious van on West Gill Road reported by residents, gone on arrival.
- 11:05 a.m. Hazard (large tree limb) removed from Mountain Road.
- 11:50 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on West Gill Road. No injuries reported.
- 5:45 p.m. Fire alarm sounding at Northfield Mount Hermon. All set on arrival.
- Monday 4/4**
6:40 a.m. Hazard reported on North Cross Road. Tree limb removed.
- 10:15 a.m. Motor vehicle vs. pedestrian accident at the Gill Mobil. Victim transported to Baystate.
- 3:35 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. No injuries reported. Car into guardrail.
- 6:20 Phone scam reported by resident on River Road.
- 8:40 p.m. Neighbor dispute reported on Trenholm Way.
- Tuesday 4/5**
9:45 Past vandalism reported at business on Main Road. Under investigation.
- Wednesday 4/6**
10:25 p.m. Court process issue to parties on French King Highway.
- Thursday 4/7**
3:40 p.m. Firearms issue with residents on Franklin Road.
- 4:55 p.m. Medical issue reported on Meadow Drive.
- 8:45 p.m. To Barton Cove Recreation Area for suspicious motor vehicle and persons. Moved same along.
- 9:10 p.m. To Pisgah Mountain Road for suspicious motor vehicle and person. All checked OK.
- Friday 4/8**
1 p.m. Reported dead bird on Riverview Drive: possible bald eagle. Environmental Police Officers notified.
- Saturday 4/9**
4:30 p.m. Reported intoxicated female has fallen near a bridge on Route 2. No one located.
- 5:10 p.m. Medical assistance provided to resident on Franklin Road.

Breaking the Invisible Chains

GREENFIELD – The Salasin Center and NELCWIT have teamed up to have Lisa Aronson Fontes, local author of *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*, come to The Salasin Center to give a talk on her book on Monday, April 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The book offers information about coercive control in relationships, and suggestions on how to free yourself or support someone else in breaking free from this unhealthy situation.

Lisa Aronson Fontes is an activist, writer, and researcher, who has dedicated her career to addressing cultural issues in child maltreatment and violence against women. She teaches at the University Without Walls at UMass-Amherst. She has worked

as a family, individual, and group psychotherapist, and has conducted research in Santiago, Chile, and with Puerto Ricans, African Americans, and European Americans in the United States.

NELCWIT has had a vital local presence in our community through their work with survivors of domestic and sexual violence since their inception in 1976. They offer a variety of free and confidential services for survivors and their families including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, and prevention education.

The Salasin Center is comprised of both the Greenfield Women's Resource Center and the F.U.N. (Family United Network) Centers. Believing that healing happens through mutually empowering

relationships, the Women's Resource Center offers a safe place for women to build community, support each other, and empower and heal themselves.

The F.U.N. Center's mission is to provide a safe family friendly environment where, through community participation, we provide opportunities for support and connection in a nonjudgmental, stigma-free environment. The Salasin Project also offers individual and family support services of all kinds.

The Salasin Center is located at 474 Main Street in Greenfield. For more information, contact Stacey Langknecht at (413) 774-4307 x4 or slangknecht@wmtcinfo.org. This discussion is free and open to all, and refreshments will be served.

Green Burial Film and Discussion

ERVING – The Erving Public Library is hosting a film and discussion at the Senior/Community Center on Wednesday evening, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. about green burials. The program, presented by the Mount Grace Land Trust, features the documentary film *A Will for the Woods*. After the film, there will be a discussion of the Green Cemetery Initiative, which is a partnership between Mount Grace and Green Burial Massachusetts to establish the first green cemetery in Massachusetts open to all.

While some Massachusetts cemeteries permit natural burial for residents of their town, a green cemetery would be available to anyone wishing to be buried without embalming or a burial vault. If used, coffins would be biodegradable and grave markers would be local fieldstone.

About the film:
Musician, psychiatrist, and folk dancer Clark Wang prepares for his own green burial while battling lymphoma, determined that his last act will be a gift to the planet. Boldly facing his mortality, the spirited Clark and his partner Jane have joined with a compassionate local cemeterian to use green burial to save a North Carolina woods from being clear-cut. Documenting one community's role in the genesis of a revolutionary movement, A Will for the Woods follows Clark's dream of leaving a legacy in harmony with timeless cycles, and environmentalism takes on a profound intimacy.

All Erving Library Programs are free and open to the public. The Erving Senior/Community Center is on Northfield Road (Route 63) slightly north of the elementary school.

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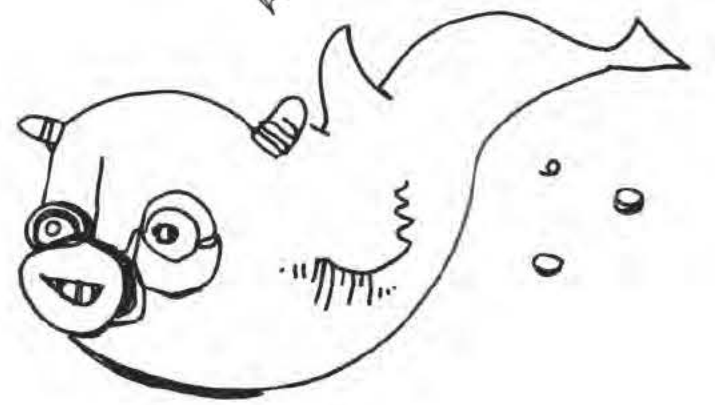
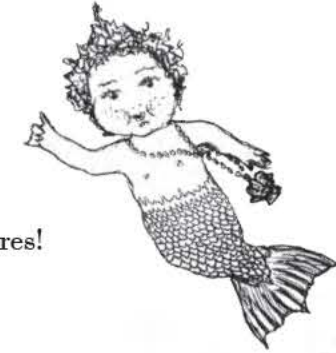
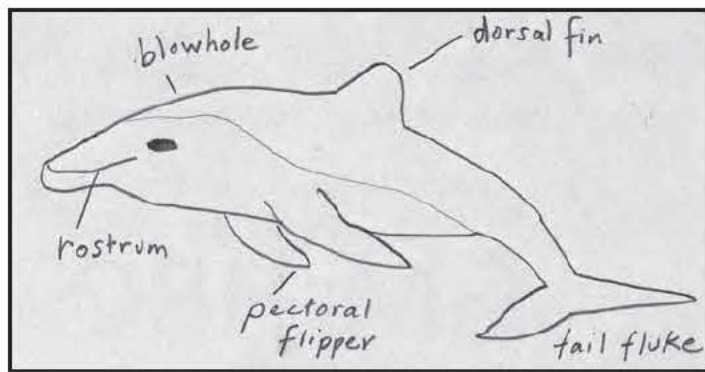
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The Children's Page

Bottlenose Dolphins

By EFFIE PAXTON

Bottlenose Dolphins are marine mammals. Bottlenose dolphins love to play, they are very social creatures! They swim very well. As you can see, dolphins are very nice sea creatures.



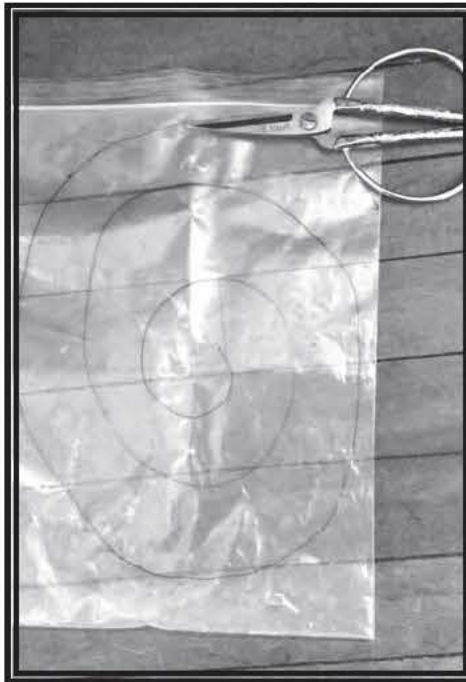
You can make a jellyfish out of old plastic bags!



Here is a real jellyfish.



Put a rubber band around the bottom of a plastic bag. Turn it inside-out, and tuck the bottom up to where the rubber band is tied.



Cut other plastic bags in spiral circles. You will need a few. These will be the tentacles.



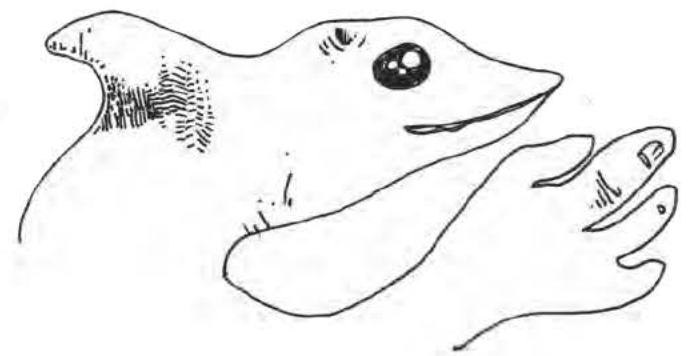
Onion bags are nice to add, just as they are, and hang them all from the center of the bag where the rubber band is. You can attach them with a twist tie.



Next use a larger clear plastic bag and repeat the rubber band tying. When you turn the bag inside out, put it over the other smaller bag and it will look a lot like a real jellyfish.



Here is your plastic bag jellyfish!



Spring Parade: "Under the Sea"

If you live in or near Turners Falls, come to the parade next Saturday!

The Franklin County Spring Parade starts at 1 p.m. at the Sheffield School on April 23. This year's parade theme is "Under the Sea".

If you like running, you might want to try the 5 Kilometer Run that takes place before the parade! The run begins at 11:30 at Turners Falls High School. Ask an adult to help pre-register you for the race.

To find out more, go to turnersfallsriverculture.org/franklin-county-5k-run-spring-parade or [facebook.com/montagueparade](https://www.facebook.com/montagueparade).



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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. First week of each month. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Outside the Lines!* Last Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.



Terry Kitchen, described as one of New England's best songwriters by the *Boston Globe*, pairs with Mara Levine this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse. Mt. Toby Friends present monthly concerts in service of the committee's mission of working for social, economic and environmental justice.

EXHIBITS:

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Winter*. Over 60 works of art created by more than 30 artists.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Vintage Powerhouse - Cabot Station: A One Hundred Year Retrospective*. This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s that tell the story of the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new power station and power canal expansion. At the time of its construction, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric facility east of Niagara Falls. Through 5/28.

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: *The Birdwatchers*. Through 4/30.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Zuihitsu: paintings by Greta Svalberg*. *Zuihitsu* is derived from two Kanji characters meaning "to follow" and "brush." Through 5/8.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *On the Cusp*. Exhibit of Natasha Henna's photographic art. Though 5/7. Closing artist's reception at the Nook on 5/7, 5 to 7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Buddha Nature*. Paintings by Juliet Seaver who spent one year painting a Buddha each day;

on exhibit are 20 paintings from that exercise. Also *The Hawley Bog & Recent Works* by Ashfield painter Peggy Grose. Grose reception Sunday, 4/17, 4 to 6 p.m. Both exhibits through April 30.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *From Darkness Into Light/ A Spring Exhibit*. Recent works by gallery members of this collaborative. Show runs until 5/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Transformation" A Group Show*. Featuring the work of member artists in paintings, fiber art, jewelry, photography, wood, pottery and more. Through 4/25.

Screaming J's. Ragtime boogie woogie band from South Carolina. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company will hold a gala fundraiser with proceeds going to the Company's upcoming 2016 summer season. Hosted by Marv Shedd. Entertainment with audience participation an option! Come and meet the members of the company. Music by *Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks*. 7 p.m. \$

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Alt-Rock Mini-Fest with And The Traveler, The Taxidermists, Zanders & The Arcadians*. 8 p.m. \$

Frontier Regional High School, S. Deerfield: *Country Players presents Neil Simon's Broadway comedy "God's Favorite"*. See The Country Players on Facebook for other dates, times, etc. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Mt. Toby Concerts presents Terry Kitchen & Mara Levine*. See photo and caption this page. 7:30 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Town Hall: *The Slik Pickers, The Green Sisters*. Benefit for Seeds of Solidarity. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Bombadils*. Folk. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mr. Noisy & the Spark Plugs*. Rock 'n Roll for your soul. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Sledge*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Michael Sjostedt Art Opening featuring the return of Rockit Queer's DJ Just Joan*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: *Danse Cafe - French & Breton dancing, instruction, live music. "French Café ambience"*. Season finale followed by potluck supper. 3 to 6 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Slik Pickers teamed with the Green Sisters*, and other bluegrass friends to host a "pick" or jam session. Anyone with an acoustic instrument or a song to sing can sit in. 5 p.m. to midnight.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Eastworks, Easthampton: *Altered Books* artist talk, with John Landino, Jack Nelson, et al. 5 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Great Falls Farmer's Market in Turners Falls is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Poster Contest to design an eye-catching poster for the 2016 Farmer's Market. Deadline is April 18.

Slate Roof Press, a member-run collaborative, invites submissions to its annual poetry chapbook contest. The winner receives \$500, and will have his/her chapbook published by Slate Roof. Winners make a 3-year commitment to the press. 5/15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com.

Silverthorne Theater Co., Greenfield: Sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. The deadline for submissions is 9/1. Complete information at www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

GCC Downtown Center, Greenfield: GCC Senior Symposia. *After the Fall: American Painting in the 1930s*. Judith Barter is the speaker. 2 to 4 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The*

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents: *Chris Lightcap's "Bigmouth"*. - 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Hip Hop in Greenfield: DELGADO featuring Makuhmilli, Gnarland, Niiten & DJ Mellow*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Grave Diggers Union*. Hard country bluegrass and old time country. 9 p.m.



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Thursday, 4/14 - 8 p.m.
The Screaming J's

Friday, 4/15 - 9 p.m.
Josh Levangie & Pistoleros

Saturday, 4/16 - 9 p.m.
Mr. Noisy & the Spark Plugs

Sunday, 4/17 - 5 p.m.
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WEST ALONG from page B1 during that winter, as was the custom and the responsibility of that tribe.

Plymouth demanded that Philip's Wampanoag who were sheltering from the hostilities under the protection of the Narragansett be turned over.

The Chief Sachem Canonchet famously responded: "Not one Wampanoag, nor the paring of a Wampanoag's nail shall I release to you!"

Harris relates that then, "the combined colonies raised a thousand-man militia for a surprise assault on the fort on December 18, 1675."

"The assault has been historically assessed to be a... massacre of more than half of the multi-tribal families in refuge at the Great Swamp fort."

He further states that "our oral history cites that the bulk of the Narragansett defenders were encamped at a military compound nearly two hours away by foot from the presumed safety of the secluded, frozen swamp surrounding the refugee fort."

As was typical, and predictable with hindsight, the English forces proceeded with terror tactics perfected against the inhabitants of Ireland and Scotland, and demonstrated during the Pequot War of 1637: they attacked the elderly, women and children, showing no quarter as every living person was put to the sword or burned alive to strike terror into the hearts of any tribe planning to resist.

ED GREGORY PHOTO



A March 26 event at Turners Falls High School to report on the study's progress was well-attended.

HAITI UPDATE

Montague Center Residents are invited to a presentation on Haiti, 6 years post earthquake. Please join us for this community event.

JESSICA BARTLETT, MONTAGUE CENTER RESIDENT, WILL REPORT ON HER RECENT TRIP AS PART OF A SURGICAL TEAM.

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As with the Pequots who lost more than four hundred killed at Mystic, so the tribes lost three to four hundred at the Great Swamp Massacre. This was to be a tragic recurrence at the massacre of non-combatants at the Great Falls, where another three hundred were killed.

The survivors of the Great Swamp Massacre headed north through Nipmuc country on the way to the Great Falls, which had been sanctuary and truce lands for thousands of years. There the tribal people fleeing the destruction in the south hoped to have a chance to regroup, fish, plant, and negotiate ongoing peace talks with Massachusetts Bay and Hartford.

Harris states that "Arriving from Narragansett country was Chief Sachem Canonchet, his brother Sachem Pessacus, Cousins Sachem Punham, Sachem Quannopen/Quinnapin and his new wife Weetamoo, woman Sachem of the Pocasset. Pocumtuck territory was considered well-supplied year round, remote,

ceremonial, and safe."

"The mixed Tribal remnants that escaped the Great Swamp Massacre settled into the wooded shores along the falls and the great bend in the river and its islands. At the secluded village of Squakheag (Northfield)... these leaders met in council with Metacom and the chiefs of the Pocumtuck, Nipmuc, Pennacook, Nashaways, Quabaug, the Tarrantines... to shape a plan to either intensify the war or respond to overtures of peace offered by colonial representatives in Hartford."

Harris relates that the two imperatives for Canonchet coming out of the chief's council were "establishing the well-being and security of the refugees along the river and making a return journey to acquire seed corn from eastern coastal caches."

But neither imperative was to be realized: Canonchet was captured on his trip to bring back the corn stored on Narragansett lands, and he was put to death by the English.

And on May 19, 1676, the refu-

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gee camp of Narragansetts and Wampanoags was destroyed by the forces of Captain Turner.

In a startling footnote not included in the Narragansett narrative, but researched by Howard Clark, and printed in the Final Report by the 2016 Research Team, we learn of the circumstances of the death of Captain William Turner, who himself was killed during the panicked retreat following the massacre.

In the "Record of Court Martial held on August 26, 1676, Trial of Indians charged with being engaged in Philip's designs," we learn of the testimony of several of the surviving Narragansett leaders present at the Great Falls battle. They spoke that day, before being executed:

Sachem Quinnapin, Canonchet's cousin and advisor at the refugee camp, was charged with taking up arms against the English, found guilty, and shot to death on August 26, 1676.

Narragansett leader Wennaquabin testified at the court martial that he was present at the falls in the fight with Captain Turner, but that he "there lost his gun and swam over the river to save his life." He was executed along with Quinnapin.

Narragansett John Wecopeak,

present at the Falls Fight, also testified.

He was an eye-witness to the death of William Turner, and was quoted as having said to John Godfree and William Heifferman "that he saw Capt. Turner, and that he was shott in the Thight, and that he knew it was him, for the said Turner said that was his Name."

Wecopeak was shortly put to death with the others, but not before giving us the chance to see into that incident of so long ago, the death of the infamous Captain Turner.

Mr. Harris concludes with this statement:

"King Philip's War was the first North American indigenous peoples' war to resist English colonization. It was America's first major regional conflict - death and historic trauma were its only true victors. Many colonial and indigenous descendants still carry the trauma of that historic nightmare."

The above is a synopsis. The entire two-page Narragansett narrative is available on the Town of Montague website.



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