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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 31

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 19, 2016

May 19, 1676 – May 19, 2016



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

By REPORTER STAFF

THE GREAT FALLS – By the time Captain William Turner led his band of English colonists to the Native encampment at Peskeompskut, the insurgency known as “King Philip’s War” had been going on for nearly a year.

Peace discussions were cut short by this surprise attack in the pre-dawn hours. Families were gathered at the traditional intertribal gathering point, the rich fishing ground in the Barton Cove and Riverside area of Gill, across the river from the present-day village of Turners Falls.

The attack by some 150 to 160 colonists under Turner’s leadership caused the death of over 200 Native people, many of them women and children. Many of the Native warriors escaped, regrouped, and pursued the English as they retreated. Captain Turner was killed. However, it was a decisive battle that hastened the end of the war, and marked the end of Native encampments at the Falls.

This massacre occurred 340 years ago today, on May 19, 1676.

Battlefield Study

Over the past year, a Battlefield Study Advisory Board that includes representatives from the towns of Montague, Greenfield and Gill, and from the Narragansett, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mohegan, Nipmuc, and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes, has been researching and documenting the likely location of the Peskeompskut attack.

Part of a larger inventory of battlefields involved in King Philip’s War, the National Park Services grant-funded study has examined records, artifacts, tribal and non-tribal oral histories, and used military terrain analysis to produce reports.

Four tribal statements are now posted online and accessible through the town’s *montague.net* website, as is a 300-page technical report of the group’s initial findings regarding available resources.

see ANNIVERSARY page A5

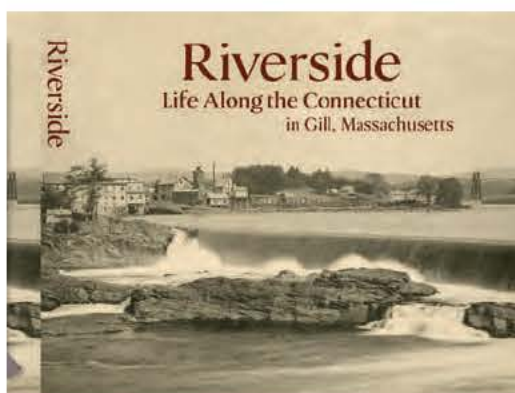
Gill Historical Commission Unveils Riverside History Book

By NINA ROSSI

GILL – When Gill Historical Commission members Pam Shoemaker and Lynn Stowe Tomb decided to put their heads together to write a book on the Riverside section of Gill, they were determined to present the fabric of village life, rather than just the facts.

“Facts don’t tell the whole story. The whole story gets told through different points of view and angles,” noted Pam. “Everyone leaves a footprint, and part of what we had to do is try to figure out where the footprints were and what they were.”

The project wouldn’t have been possible



The book is available for pre-order this spring, for delivery in the fall. See page A7 for details.

if these two hadn’t entered retirement, freeing up their time to “go down the rabbit hole,” as Pam jokingly called it. They worked full time for two years to produce a 175-page hardcover book, with over 300 photos and illustrations. The book is available to pre-order now, with delivery slated for September.

A confluence of events provided “yeast” for the project, too. “The book was just a hazy idea for a while,” said Pam. “In 2015, the Historical Commission did an architectural survey of Riverside in connection with a proposal through Mass Historic to get in the National Register of Historic Places. In the process, we thought, ‘My gosh! look at the stuff we’ve got. We should do a little book.’”

The Yeast

In 2014, a grant was issued to Gill, Montague and surrounding towns from the National Park Service to research the history of the battle at the Falls, including participation with Native tribes. A year earlier, members of the commission worked with Robert Herbert to report on Roswell Field, who quarried dinosaur footprints from the Barton Cove area in Riverside and promoted their sale to prominent scientists of the mid-19th century.

see RIVERSIDE page A6



Former ferryman Albert Smith and wife Cordelia in front of their house next to the entrance to the old suspension bridge at Riverside. (Photo detail)

HOWES BROS / COURTESY ASHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Katsoulis, Levenson Win School Committee Seats

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE and GILL – Nine percent of Montague’s voters, and nine percent of Gill’s, turned out on Monday to cast ballots in local elections.

The upset of the day came in the race for Montague’s representative to the towns’ shared school committee. Political newcomer Heather Katsoulis and two-term committee member Marjorie Levenson, with 36%

and 33% of votes cast, edged out Joyce Phillips, who has served on the committee nearly continuously since 1994, and who garnered the remaining 30%.

Though the overall turnout was low – Phillips lost her seat by 35 votes – Katsoulis placed either first or second in all of Montague’s six precincts and Gill. Levenson was buoyed by her strong showings in Precincts 1 and 5, Montague Center and downtown Turners Falls.

“I look forward to serving all of our schools, and working with the Committee in making them the best for our kids,” said Katsoulis, a High Street resident and district parent who serves on the school council at Sheffield Elementary. She expressed gratitude to neighbors who voted in the election.

“The committee has a lot of tough work moving forward,” said Levenson. “I’m looking forward to serving the district and the community, and very happy to welcome Heather Katsoulis. She clearly is both smart and caring – a real plus.”

Phillips wrote that she planned to continue as an advocate for education, through her involvement with the Gill-Montague Education Fund and the Massachusetts Association of

see ELECTION page A4



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Heather Katsoulis, attending her first school committee meeting as a member on Tuesday night, with returning Gill representative Jane Oakes at right.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving’s New Coordinator Gets Oriented, Starts June 6

By KATIE NOLAN

“I’m excited to start,” Bryan Smith told the Erving selectboard Monday night. Although he accepted the town’s administrative coordinator job last Thursday, he won’t actually start work until June 6.

The board voted to send a hiring letter to town treasurer Margaret Sullivan, so she can officially add Smith as a town employee. Selectboard member William Bembury, who has been volunteering as coordinator since last July, said he would continue to come in for an hour a day for the first two weeks, to help with Smith’s transition to the job.

Smith was given a thick packet of forms to fill out.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith questioned

Jacquelyn Boyden about the posting on the town’s Facebook page, announcing that Bryan Smith had accepted the administrative coordinator position, on the same day as his acceptance. Chairman Smith said he felt that the social media posting should have been delayed until department heads and town employees had been officially notified.

Boyden observed that postings are done cautiously, but that the town has no official social media policy.

The board decided to consider a social media policy at a future meeting.

Green Communities

Western Mass Green Communities regional coordinator Jim Barry presented an overview

see ERVING page A5

Downtown Spring Planting A Good Chance to Beautify – and Educate

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – This past week, the downtown streets were a gyrating furnace of peaceful gardening. On Third Street, outside of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, students of the G.A.R.D.E.N. Project built a new vegetable garden. Along Avenue A, 15 students from Franklin County Tech installed plantings in four planters on the Shea Theater block.

And a little farther up the Avenue, Rodney Madison, one of the drafters of the popularly-supported planter regulations, renovated his own planter with new meanings and themes.

Last Monday, drivers

and passersby alike were impressed with the great show of force and organization brought to bear on the Shea Theater block of Avenue

A. Fifteen Franklin County Tech students participated in a workshop in which they installed plantings in four installed plantings in four see BEAUTIFY page A4



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

The crew of FCTS horticulture students worked with Leverett’s Local Harmony to put in a new garden outside 56, 71, and 85 Avenue A, as well as around the adjacent Third Street signpost.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Technical Administration

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Illegal Restraint

Is our system of punishment beyond the law?

That's the troubling question raised by *Breaking Promises*, a report published by the Prison Birth Project and Prisoners' Legal Services on Monday.

Two years ago this week, Massachusetts passed a landmark bill banning the cruel and dangerous practice of shackling pregnant prisoners during childbirth.

"A pregnant inmate shall receive labor and delivery care in an accredited hospital," read the amendment to MGL Ch. 127 § 118, and inmates "in any stage of labor or delivery... shall not be placed in restraints at any time, including during transportation."

The simplest reasons for this reform are simply medical: shackles increase the risk of blood clots, and of falling.

That bill was passed by the state House of Representatives, 146 to 0, and the Senate, 39 to 0; both chambers also voted to make it an emergency law so it would go into effect immediately.

"It blows my mind that I have to sign a law for that," said then-governor Deval Patrick, as he made Massachusetts the 21st state to prohibit mothers from being tied up while bringing new life into the world.

The law also requires incarcerated pregnant women be provided minimum standards of nutrition and medical care, and decreed that inmates not be put in either restraints or isolation after giving birth.

It's not happening.

Only three counties – ours is one – have enacted policies against shackling women who have just given birth on their way back to jail. The other 11, and the Department of Corrections, have policies that contradict the state law.

The report gives Franklin and Hampden counties generally good marks, though it notes their policies do not prohibit waist and leg restraints for pregnant inmates, as the law requires. (Women from Franklin County who are waiting to go to trial or are sentenced to a misdemeanor usually go to Hampden County Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee.)

Most of the state is doing worse.

"Knowledge of the law varies not just from one prison or jail to another, but among corrections personnel who work for the same prison or jail," the report states.

"Women are being handcuffed in labor in violation of the law."

Other findings the report lists: "Women are being restrained to the hospital bed after they have their baby for no reason.... Postpartum women are being restrained with ankle shackles and waist chains.... pregnant women are taken to court or medical appointments in the back of vans that have no seatbelts.... women either go hungry or go without enough fruit, vegetables or fiber.... women are given standard-issue clothing that is too big or too small."

MCI-Framingham's written policies still mandate that prisoners "shall be secured to the bed by one handcuff or leg iron" while at the hospital.

Prisoners' Legal Services interviewed women who knew their rights, but were unable to convince correctional officers of the law, and therefore were shackled or handcuffed to their bed immediately after giving birth.

Advocates, including former incarcerated mothers, continue to work diligently to make sure Massachusetts provides the proper attention, resources and care to pregnant women and new mothers in its custody. Monday's report should be a good wake-up call that simply decreeing a reform on Beacon Hill does not make it take root.

But it also points to something deeper. We now live in a society where the default – the point of inertia – is to tolerate separating a mother from her newborn after a few hours and locking her back up, even when she is only in pretrial detention because she couldn't post bail.

And that's no exaggeration – in 2014, a stunning 34% of women incarcerated by the Massachusetts Department of Corrections had not gone to trial, a figure that has steadily risen over the last decade and one that contributes to overcrowding at our women's jails and prisons.

Have we really reached the point where rights can be removed more easily by arrest than they can be restored by legislation?

We wish the Prison Birth Project and their allies in the statewide anti-shackling coalition our full support in drawing a line in the sand, and call on lawmakers to regain responsibility for a system of enforcement and punishment that appears to be operating beyond the reaches of their control.



Les Demoiselles d'Creemee

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Effort Not Wasted

I very much appreciated Jan Ameen's letter in the May 5 *Reporter* giving the details of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District's financial and operational relationship with the Leverett Transfer Station.

I was at the Leverett Town Meeting in which Richard Drury brought articles to attempt to modify the arrangements of operating the Station, and in which Jan provided information.

I suppose the entire exercise was in some sense useful since many of us in Town who use the Station were a bit confused by the survey that was run by the Town last year on use of the Station.

However, I appreciate the careful details that Jan provided on the excellent services that the FCSWMD provides to the member towns, and especially to have the actual comparisons of various aspects of the financial benefits to Leverett from using those services.

**George Drake
Leverett**

Composted Sludge: Still Toxic Stuff

While I admire the ingenuity of the staff at the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) for developing a process to concentrate sewage sludge into a dry compost, I'm concerned that it not be spread on our beautiful valley's land – especially not on our agricultural land and gardens.

Water treatment plants don't detoxify the sludge. They filter out the solids (sludge) during the water purification process, preventing it from going downstream with the treated water.

At Montague's WPCF, the filtered sludge is processed into a dry "compost" that still contains all of the medical waste, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, heavy metals, dioxins, industrial solvents, pesticides, PCBs, chemicals from storm water runoff, and every imaginable industrial and household waste product discharged into ours and the other 24 treatment facilities which deliver sludge to Montague's WPCF.

Only one to three percent is useful to plants. The other 97 to 99 percent

is contaminated waste that should not be spread where people live. Land spreading transfers the pollutants in the sludge from the treatment plant to the soil, air and groundwater – and your food! It can also run off the land into the very streams and rivers originally intended to be protected from the contaminants.

It is unfortunate that the EPA and the DEP have very lax guidelines for approval of land spreading of sludge, requiring testing for a minority of possible toxins. (Test results are unreliable in any case, as the contents and levels of the discharges vary daily.)

The "magic"? Redefining industrial waste as fertilizer for use on food crops – waste in search of a dumping ground. The EPA says sludge is too toxic to put into landfills or incinerate, but it's okay to dump on food crops, as there's a bit of nitrogen in the mix.

Our communities have successfully (so far) organized to protect our beautiful valley, our public forests and parks, and our private agricultural land and neighborhoods, from the dangers of a fracked gas pipeline, and the involuntary tax we would be assessed to build the pipeline.

We must also become aware of and act on the danger of spreading toxic sludge compost on that same land, an equally destructive idea.

For further information, please read *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You!* by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton (Common Courage Press, 1995).

**Gloria Kegeles
Wendell**



The Board of Directors of the *Montague Reporter* wishes to thank our many friends who made our Spring Basket Raffle fundraiser in Northfield on April 30 a rousing success. Thanks to those who provided baskets and gifts, our many supporters who took chances on them, and those who provided the platform: Cameron's Winery, for venue and wine; Corki & Ken for music; Thomas Farm for cheese; and Mo's Fudge Factor for sinful goodies. It was a fun and profitable event, and we are deeply appreciative!

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or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Saint Andrew's Church is holding a **Lawn Craft Fair** on Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be plenty of local vendors, crafts and raffles. The church is located on the corner of Prospect and Seventh streets in Turners Falls.

From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank will host its monthly **Bingo** event.

Seating is first-come, first-served. Call 863-4316 for reservations.

Come support the American Cancer Society by attending "**A Night of Comedy**" on Saturday, May 21 at Montague Elks Club, 1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls. The event kicks off at 8 p.m. and will feature dual headliners from Boston, PJ Thibodeau and Mike Hanley.

There will be can raffles, a 50/50 raffle, and a cash bar, with all proceeds to benefit Valley Medical Cancer Crushers Relay for Life Team. Tickets are \$20 each. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Deb at (413) 863-5105.

Join in for the **Millers Falls Historical Walking Tour**, which starts at the Millers Falls Library on Sunday, May 22, at 1 p.m. Enjoy a leisurely stroll and learn more about local history with David Brule, Sara Campbell, and Ed Gregory.

An introduction will be held first inside the Millers Falls Library. For more information, call the Montague Public Libraries at 863-3214.

The Brick House Community Resource Center is hosting a "**know your rights**" training for all **farm-workers** on Monday, May 23 at 6 p.m. The event will be held in English and Spanish and is sponsored by the Agrarian Action Network in

collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

A light meal will be provided. Call Abby at (413) 676-9160 for more information.

On May 24, at 6 p.m. at the UMass-Amherst Lincoln Campus Center, Room 917, One Campus Center Way, Amherst, the **Massachusetts Broadband Institute** is hosting a meeting to discuss its decision to choose Comcast to provide broadband to some of the unserved parts of Montague and Hardwick. MBI controls the state funds available.

The broadband committees of Montague and Hardwick have chosen another company, Matrix Communications, for the work, and dispute the MBI's reasoning. They are calling for a large citizen turnout to the meeting.

United Church of Bernardston will be hosting their annual **Gas Engine Show and Flea Market** on Memorial Day weekend, May 27, 28, and 29.

The event kicks off on Friday with food booths opening at 11:30 a.m. For more information and events schedule please contact the church office at (413) 648-9306.

The Leverett Historical Society will be having their **annual Plant Sale** fundraiser on Saturday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Leverett Town Hall, rain or shine.

Master Gardener Dawn Marvin Ward will be on duty to help assist with plant choices and general garden questions. Plant donations can be dropped off behind the Leverett Town Hall during the week prior to the sale. For more information, contact Dawn at 367-9562 or Julie at 367-2656.

Send your local briefs to editor@montagureporter.org.

Montague Dog Owners Have Until May 31 to Register Dogs

The deadline to register dogs in Montague is Tuesday, May 31. Thereafter, a fine of \$20 will be added to the registration fee. On June 1, the Chief of Police will receive a list of delinquent dog owners for enforcement.

Dogs are licensed at the Town Clerk's office. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5, and a license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The Clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

License renewals may be ob-

tained through the town's website, www.montague.net, only if your dog's rabies vaccination that was used for last year's registration has not yet expired.

The Town Clerk's office is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information you can contact the office at 863-3200, ext. 203 or email at townclerk@montague-ma.gov.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Amherst Water May Serve Leverett's Problem Wells

By ROB SKELTON

At its Tuesday meeting, the Leverett selectboard met with the town's well committee and Amherst public works administrator Amy Rusciecki, who agreed to share the \$57,000 cost of permitting and design to extend Amherst water to Leverett.

Since the closure of the unlined landfill in 1992, a "plume" of pollutants emanating from the site is believed to have contaminated the water table, requiring the town to provide testing and potable water to a handful of south Leverett residents whose wells tested positive for volatile organic compounds.

Former selectman Richard Brazeau led the conversation, which dated from his tenure on the board, and it considered but did not favor an alternate path of creating a municipal water system with wells and employees.

Voters will have a chance to weigh in at a fall special town meeting.

Other Business

The tree warden position, made an appointed position at town meeting, was allotted to road boss David Finn, whose probationary period is nearing an end and whose subsequent raise in salary, the board indicated should placate this unfunded mandate.

The assistant moderator position, also made appointed, was returned to Fay Zipkowitz, who previously held the post. Zipkowitz, of North Leverett Road and a member of the board of health, said she was "honored."

Transfer station coordinator Ananda Larsen launched a trial balloon of serving Shutesbury residents during expanded hours, with Shutesbury paying a lump sum to Leverett, in combination with car fees and dump tickets.

The fees and expanded hours caught the board's attention, and the idea was not shot down.

Fire chief John Ingram awarded insignias to firefighters Miller, Ward and Donnelly for their comportment during a grave accident on Depot Road recently.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By JOYCE PHILLIPS

I want to thank the *Montague Reporter* for inviting me to share a response to the recent election. It was very gracious and allows closure for me.

Losing my re-election to the Gill-Montague School Committee left me with mixed emotions. Initially, the "sting" caused hurt, disappointment and sadness. However, when something like this happens, I think it is very important to reflect over your journey.

At first, I questioned myself: where and when had I let the communities, and more importantly the GMRSD, down. But then I realized with only 8.96% of the voters of Montague going to the polls, I was not the one who failed to meet their responsibility.

I have been, for as long as I can remember, an advocate for education. This will not change! Even though I may no longer work directly with the Gill-Montague Regional School

Committee, that will not preclude me from continuing my work for the students, staff and programs so necessary for their future.

I have two very important paths I will continue to travel on my journey.

The first is that I am a Life Member of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. In fact, this year is the 10th anniversary of my election as a Life Member of the MASC upon recommendation of their Board of Directors. They recognize outstanding school committee members who have made particularly notable contributions to both their district and the commonwealth as a whole.

I am very proud of my accomplishments that earned me this recognition. In the words of Maurice Hancock, the former MASC President, who presented me with the award:

"Ms. Phillips has been as dedicated a participator in Association activities and events as she has been in her local district. At MASC, she

has been a presenter at several joint conferences and workshops; an organizer and facilitator of several new member 'Charting the Course' orientation sessions, a member of the Technology Committee and actively involved in the Community Awards program.

"She has also been instrumental as a grass-roots advocate and a strong promoter of school leader advocacy at MASC's annual Day on the Hill program. Her networking with colleagues as well as the sharing of her knowledge and expertise with members of Massachusetts Association of School Committees has proven an opportunity of growth personally and professionally for everyone."

I am truly humbled by his words, and promise to continue my work with the MASC.

My other commitment is to the Gill-Montague Education Fund. Our Annual Gala makes a "full circle". It begins with communities supporting the efforts of the GMEF with underwriters, sponsors, advertising

and tier-giving. It continues as the community is "enriched" with quality entertainment within our beautiful theater. Finally, it concludes with the awarding of grants for students throughout the district, bringing children's education to life.

Students learn more when their basic curriculum is enhanced with technology, science, art, music, and physical education. Enrichment ties education together with our community.

We have currently awarded more than \$100,250 in enrichment grants. Ever since its rejuvenation in 2004, this work, and its results, have been inspiring and uplifting.

Both of these paths will allow me to continue my work for education. As I have always stated, it isn't about "me" — it is about the future of our children. It is about giving them every opportunity, and providing staff with the resources necessary for their success.

I will continue to advocate for education with MASC and the GMEF.



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By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Annual town meeting is the culmination of the finance committee's work; that's where our final budget recommendations get presented to the voters, and they make their decisions. There's always at least a little bit of ego involved – we've been working on this since January, and we hope that town meeting will agree with our conclusions, but in the end advice is only advice, and sometimes town meeting has its own ideas.

That happened quickly this year. Before the annual meeting, there was a special town meeting, which included request from the town clerk to buy a software package for her office and that of the selectboard. This passed unanimously, even though both the finance committee and the selectboard recommended against it.

In fact, no one even asked why we had opposed it!

In retrospect, perhaps that was because our recommendations were tucked into the finance committee report, which is mostly concerned with the annual town meeting, so many voters may have missed them. If so, this simply underscores the point that along with making recommendations, part of our job is communicating them effectively to town meeting.

Perhaps this is an opportunity for improvement for next year.

In this case, our concerns may still have their effect: we were not opposed to trying to use technology to make town government more



efficient – quite the opposite – but this particular request had not been vetted with the technology coordinator, and only a single vendor was being considered.

While it may well be the best choice, we preferred to have more investigation done before moving ahead with the request. There is still plenty of opportunity for that to happen before any dollars are spent.

By the annual town meeting, the voters were engaged, and there was a good deal of discussion about both the substance of the articles and the specifics of our recommendations. In most cases, the voters agreed with the recommendations, with one important exception.

For the past six years, the town and the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) have worked under an agreement by which the town has promised to appropriate a percentage of its estimated revenues for the district assessment, and the district has requested a figure equal or close to that amount.

As longtime voters may remember, this agreement ended several years of disagreement over the assessments, which had culminated

EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Part VIII: The Will of Town Meeting

in the state assuming fiscal control of the district for two years. FY'10 was the first to be resolved by this agreement, and it has worked reasonably well, up through FY'16 (the current year).

But for FY'17, the district's request came in almost \$50,000 higher than the town's offer, and attempts to find a figure acceptable to all parties were not successful.

My personal opinion is that a major factor in the impasse was the lack of any vision for the future that shows things getting better. That doesn't mean that things can't get better, or won't get better, but it is very hard to ask a cautious finance committee to bet on hope – it's not something we do, and I don't believe it's something that we should do.

But it's definitely something that town meeting can do, and I think in this case that's what it did. After defeating two amendments, one to reduce the assessment to the finance committee's recommended amount and the other to split the difference between the two numbers, town meeting approved the district's request by a significant majority.

I like to think that it was a vote of confidence for the district: both the superintendent, Michael Sullivan, and the school committee chair, Sandra Brown, had stated that the district is not sustainable in its current form and will need to figure out how to adapt going forward, and I think town meeting members decided to give them a chance.

In the short run, that means that the finance committee will have to

figure out where the money will come from, which we'll probably do over the summer. If we're lucky, our "new growth" will be certified enough higher than estimated that town meeting's vote to fund the difference from taxation will stand.

If not, there are other possibilities, and we'll likely be back at a special town meeting in the fall with a request to sort it all out.

In the longer run, we'll have to wait and see what happens. I'm sure that concerns about the district's sustainability will prompt conversations during the coming months, and I hope that they can lead to an agreement for FY'18.

The big problem is that, while there is general agreement both that the towns have been generous and that the district has been very prudent, the state has not been an effective partner. Specifically, flaws in the education foundation budget funding formula have had a devastating effect on small rural districts like GMRSD, among others.

I expect that how best to cope with this will be a major topic of discussion.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974 and a finance committee member most years since fiscal 2001. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com or by looking in the phone book.

The opinions expressed here are his own, and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government.

BEAUTIFY from page A1

planters. The students were led by their teacher Mark Amstein, as well as Owen Wormser and Adam Barnard of non-profit design/build organization Local Harmony, who did most of the preparation and organization for the work day.

Wormser's design plan for the planters could be called enlightened improvisation. He came up with the design on the spot, using as inspiration the ways different species of plants order themselves in natural ecosystems.

"I'm trying to imitate how they would appear in the natural world," he said. "This looks right to the eye. They grow in plant communities – they look better, and function better."

The group put in exactly 100 human hours of labor. Emma Devlin, a junior at FCTS, explained what she liked about the endeavor: "I like that it's a community-type project, and it gives back."

In the four planters the group renovated, about 240 plants were installed, of 21 different species. Barnard of Local Harmony said he believed it was an especially beneficial project for the youth. He echoed a weird line that I've heard from other gardener types: "I grow plants but I also grow people. Sixteen gardeners grew up today."

Last week, students at the G.A.R.D.E.N. Project (which stands for Growing Agricultural Resiliency and Developing Economic Networks) built a garden outside of Montague Catholic Social Ministries on Third Street.

Christine Diani, programs coordinator at MCSM, describes the

course as a "program for women of limited means to gain food security and to improve their economic stability." The current class, redundantly titled "Sustainable Agriculture: Organic Gardening," was taught by Deb Habib of Seeds of Solidarity.

The new garden includes two raised beds, one of which was raised high enough so that those with mobility issues, like bending over, can participate in gardening. The students chose what to plant in each bed.

One had various salad vegetables, including lettuce, spinach, and radishes. The other was a salsa garden, and will have all the vegetables and herbs required to make salsa.

Diani explained that the garden is for everyone in the community: "If people walk by and they see something they like, they can pick it." The G.A.R.D.E.N. Project is organized collaboratively by MCSM, NELCWIT (New England Learning Center for Women in Transition), and Greenfield Community College, through which students will receive college credit.

It seems that all of this administration did in fact have a positive impact on Third Street. Diani described the neighborhood's mood on the two building days: "It was joy you could feel. It was so uplifting – dirt and spring, it's the thing to do."

Next, G.A.R.D.E.N. Project students will tackle the Avenue A planter in front of MCSM, and two garden beds in the Unity Park Community Garden.

Downtown artist Rodney Madi-

ELECTION from page A1

School Committees.

The Gill and Montague selectboards will be unchanged this year, as incumbents Randy Crochier and Chris Boutwell ran unopposed, and will return to their seats on those respective boards.

Most of Gill's races were unopposed, except a competition for a Library Trustee position, which Barbara Watson won with 52 votes to Kathleen Raczynski's 35.

Jane Oakes retained her seat as Gill's representative to the school committee.

Ann Cenzano, who secured the Montague Democratic caucus nomination in March, defeated Patricia Pruitt for a two-year seat on that town's board of assessors, 336 votes to 159.

The party's nominees also triumphed in both of the other competitive races on the Montague

ballot: Judith Hastings was re-elected to the Montague Housing Authority, while Robert Traynor won a two-year term as a Library Trustee.

Kathy Lynch, Ariel Elan, Rick Widmer, Jen Audley, Jon Nelson (no relation to John "Jack" Nelson, also a Precinct 5 town meeting member), Jean Hebden, and Don Clegg all stepped up to fill empty seats at Montague's representative town meeting.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau spent the rest of the week calling write-in candidates to see if they would be willing to fill some of the remaining fourteen seats.

As of press time, she reported that Patricia Perham, George Gajda, Harry Gaines, Barbara Kuklewicz, Kevin Hastings, Sherry McKay, and Peter Hudyma had accepted positions.



son has just completed the re-installation of his planter, now called The Sonny Rollins Memorial Planter, named for the yogi robber living legend of jazz.

Beyond the lime-colored frondy plants that it features, the planter includes a number of items found on the banks of the river, including an old millstone and some driftwood that must be the river's *Crucifixion of St. Peter*.

It also features the happy-colored extruded jetsam of some nearby plastic or wire factory. Different gauges of the plastic material coil like snakes throughout the planter, some lying sleepily, others beginning to wrap themselves onto

trees or town-owned signposts. The original intent of these plastic fragments is unknown, and maybe that's the point.

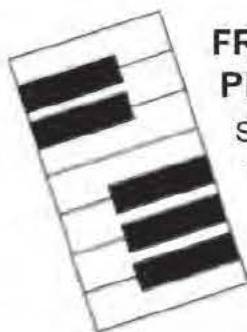
Two singular objects stand alone in the planter. One, called "The Sniffer," is an assemblage of velvet dogs greeting each other in dog language, mounted on a painted white bowling ball.

The other looks like a Dogon ceremonial piece turned into a Clinton-era CD rack, with real hair. Madison attested to its authenticity: "It's definitely from some part of Africa. It's the real McCoy, far as I can tell – the weight of the wood, the termite holes."

"I got it at auction."



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague, Hardwick to Meet with MBI May 24

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its Monday meeting on May 16, the Montague selectboard directed town administrator Frank Abbondanzio to begin the process of hiring a new Water Pollution Control Facility Superintendent as soon as possible. This will be necessary to fill the post currently occupied by Bob Trombley, who will be retiring at the end of June rather than in December as originally planned.

The previous week, Abbondanzio had indicated it may not be possible to hire a replacement by June 30, requiring the town to consider an interim director. At Monday's meeting Abbondanzio quickly read an incomplete draft of a job description that indicated that the new hire should be "[open] to innovation and [have an] interest in the new treatment process."

The board has rejected a proposal by Trombley and his staff to eliminating the superintendent position after his retirement and elevate two staff members to replace him. However, it has not met publicly with Trombley and his staff about this reorganization proposal, and its decision to reject it was not made at any public meeting.

At the meeting on Monday, selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz continued to defend that course of action by arguing that the board was under "constraints" imposed by collective bargaining. When asked whether the proposal was rejected because either of the unions representing employees at the WPCF opposed it, he cited other reasons for the board's decision.

"The proposal to reorganize, to have a shared management of the wastewater treatment plant, we thought was not in the best interest of the community, but that a single superintendent was the... better model," Kuklewicz said, "and that's the model we, as a board, voted to continue."

Kuklewicz went on to explain why he favored a "single point of accountability" in the administration of the facility. He stated that he could not recall when the board deliberated or voted on the issue.

Tina Tyler of the WPCF staff criticized the selectboard for failing to act in their role as sewer commissioners by meeting with and supporting their staff. She suggested that this did not follow the norm of other oversight boards, such as the board of health and board of assessors.

As he has in the past, Kuklewicz stressed that he supported the innovations in the plant and said that the town should "look for a new superintendent that understands that unique process." He also said he would consider updating the job descriptions of WPCF staff to reflect their current workloads.

The board voted to direct Abbondanzio to continue to develop the job description for the new superintendent. The board did not discuss the possibility of hiring an interim replacement for Trombley.

Cable Meeting May 24

Under the agenda item "topics not anticipated," Kevin Hart of the Montague Broadband Committee

announced that there will be a meeting with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) on May 24. The meeting will take place at the University of Massachusetts between 6 and 8 p.m. in Room 917 of the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center.

The MBI has received a report from consultants recommending a proposal from Comcast to serve the unserved areas of Montague and the town of Hardwick. The broadband committees of both towns have recommended a company named Matrix Design Group to install fiber-optic cable instead.

The MBI report primarily raises questions about Matrix's financing model, and its experience in rural areas. Millennium Communications Group Incorporated, an affiliate of Matrix, has issued a four-page critique of the MBI report.

The public meeting is partially the result of efforts by state representative Steve Kulik and state senator Ann Gobi, who represents Hadwick in the legislature, to engage local boards in the MBI's decision-making process.

Mark Your Calendars

Suzanne Lomanto, director of the town's Turners Falls River-Culture program, came before the board with requests involving two events this summer. The first set was for the use of public property and a one-day entertainment license for a Unity Skatepark celebration on June 18, with a June 19 rain date.

The second was for the use of public property, and an agreement with FirstLight Hydro for the use of their property, for the Pocumtuck Valley Homelands Festival on August 6.

The selectboard approved all the requests, which will involve closing down portions of several downtown streets.

Josh Goldman of the Shea Theater Arts Center was granted a one-day beer and wine license for an event on the evening of May 21 at the Shea, while Jason Hunter of the Berkshire Brewing Company was granted similar licenses for events at the theater on June 4 and June 25.

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard made a variety of appointments. Addison Mesa was appointed per diem dispatcher, and Jacob Eugin a reserve officer, in the police department. Noah Rathbun was appointed seasonal laborer at the WPCF.

Karen Wartel was appointed children's program assistant, and Lyza Groybill was appointed library assistant, at the Library Department.

Bob Escott, retiring Turners Falls Fire Chief, has announced his resignation as the town's Emergency Management Director as of September 1. He also called on the board to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for "Emergency Management Coordination Services."

However, Escott did not attend the Monday meeting, and the latter issue will be placed on the board's June 13 agenda.

ERVING from page A1

of the Green Communities program, which provides grants to help cities and towns reduce energy usage.

Erving already has met several of the criteria, including allowing solar installations by right in designated areas, and adopting an expedited application and permitting process.

The town would still need to adopt the energy-efficient stretch building code by a town meeting vote, study town energy use, purchase only fuel efficient vehicles, and develop a plan for reducing energy use by 20% over five years.

Barry said that Erving would be eligible for \$135,000 initially, and for additional grants after that.

Adoption of the stretch code will

be considered at the June 28 special town meeting. Barry will present information about the program, and stretch code, at a June 9 hearing.

Open Spaces

Usher Plant re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser asked the board to write an official letter to the planning board requesting that they commit to updating the town's open space plan. The current plan expires in January 2017. In order to apply for follow-on grants to the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant the town has already received, the plan must be up to date.

Schermesser also asked the board to support the re-use committee's

request for a \$50,000 budget, to pay for consulting services, Franklin Regional Council of Governments services, an environmental resources study, and a study of the well at the former Usher Plant.

Other Business

The board reviewed draft articles for the June 28 special town meeting warrant, revising wording, changing funding sources and considering expenditure amounts. The board will conduct further review before the warrant is finalized.

The board signed the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency contract for public safety and public works mutual aid.



ANNIVERSARY from page A1

The Battlefield Protection Project also seeks to involve the local officials, landowners, and the public in locating and protecting the battlefields and related landmarks.

Commemorative Events

Two events marking the anniversary are planned, one in Greenfield on Friday, and the other at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday.

"What Really happened Here" presents on the Native American perspective of the history of the Great Falls Massacre. David "Tall Pine" White of the Nipmuc and David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project are giving this talk at the Greenfield High School Auditorium on Lenox Avenue on Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

A "Day of Remembrance" commemoration, honoring 12,000 years of Native culture and history

at Peskeompskut, will take place at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Center will allow time for visitors to tour this battlefield area near what was once Peskeompskut for personal reflection and historic perspective. A commemorative ceremony begins at 1 p.m.

Key ingredients of the day will include elder teachings by Native American Grandmothers Jeorgina Laroque and Nancy Andry, guest speakers, musical offerings, and special tributes to Monique Fordham and George Nelson.

A post on the Nolumbeka Project's Facebook page also states that there will be reflection on "the powerful message and blessing of the Reconciliation Treaty signed nearly 12 years ago between the Narragansett and the Town of Mon-

tague."

The group, which included present members of the Nolumbeka Project, was then called Friends of Wissatinnewag. Some of the people instrumental in bringing this treaty into being and in saving what is left of Wissatinnewag, Shining Hill, will be honored.

For more background, including the affidavit of George Nelson, who revealed to the public that Native American burials were being unearthed and removed by gravel operations, goto nolumbekaproject.org.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is next to the Turners Falls-Gill bridge at 2 Avenue A. For more information on Saturday's event, please call (413) 773-9818 or nolumbekaproject@gmail.com.



Montague Weighs Two Noise Plans

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – On Monday, May 23 the Montague selectboard will hold a hearing to discuss proposals about how much noise businesses with entertainment licenses can make.

The hearings are the result of a year-long debate over regular outdoor music at Hubie's Tavern on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The selectboard has attempted – with limited success – to approach the problem as a broader "public health" issue.

This article will compare the current noise regulations for businesses with entertainment licenses with two proposals submitted on May 23. The proposals, which appear on the town website, have been labeled "Draft A" and "Draft B."

Although neither proposal has been signed, Draft A appears to have been submitted by Hubie's owner Shawn Hubert, after consultation with selectboard member Michael Nelson. "Draft B" is the work of several neighborhood residents.

1. How often outdoor music is allowed:

The current regulations, which were written with indoor music in mind, do not set any limit on the frequency of outdoor music on the property of a license holder, as long as the music stays within decibel limits.

Draft A states that no license holder "shall have any outdoor music more than 6 times per calendar month." Draft B states that "sustained periods of elevated noise shall not exceed 4 hours per day," and that "in no case shall these events be more frequent than twice

per month per city block."

2. How loud is too loud:

Current regulations limit noise levels to 70 dB(A) in business districts between 6:59 a.m. and 9:59 p.m., and 60 dB(A) for all other hours in the business districts. Lower levels are required in other districts.

These limits "may be exceeded by 10 decibels by written application to the Board of Selectmen for modification of entertainment license, and upon approval by Board of that application."

Draft A would raise the upper dB(A) threshold to 80 dB(A) between 7 a.m. and 8:59 p.m., and until 9:59 p.m. on Fridays. It maintains the lower levels in the current regulations for other districts. Draft A also allows the selectboard to reduce these limits "if they deem a significant disturbance is likely."

Draft B maintains the sound levels in the current regulations.

Both proposals, however, would eliminate the provision allowing a licensee to exceed limits by 10 dB(A) with the approval of the selectboard.

3. How the sound is measured:

The current regulations state that decibel measurements should be made by a sound level meter "at a lot line from where the noise is emanating at a height of at least four feet or higher from the ground surface."

Meters should conform to the standards of the American National Standards Institute's specifications for sound level meters. If such a meter is available, the standard shall be "if the noise is plainly audible

at a distance of 200 feet" from the source of the sound.

Draft A incorporates these measurement guidelines, as does Draft B.

4. How the rules are enforced:

Current regulations do not provide any penalties for violations of the regulations, nor do they indicate who is to enforce the regulations.

Draft A does not indicate who should enforce the regulations. Draft B states that "violations may be documented" by the police department, selectboard, board of health, or "any appointed Town official named by the Board."

Draft A states that each instance exceeding sound levels "shall be deemed a single violation of this regulation, with a maximum of one violation per day." Draft B also incorporates this standard.

Draft A provides for a written warning for the first offense; a \$100 fine and 15-day suspension of "the respective portion of the entertainment license" for the second offense; a \$250 fine and 45-day suspension for the third offense; up to a fine of \$500 and a suspension "for the remainder of the calendar year" for the fourth offense.

Draft B is steeper. It provides penalties of \$250 and a 15-day suspension for the first offense; \$350 and a 45-day suspension for the second; \$450 and 180 days for the third; and \$1,000 and permanent revocation of the "respective portion" of the license for the fourth offense.

The current regulations, and proposed changes, may be found on the town website under "New and Notices."

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The New England Fibre Co. pulp mill was built behind Fort Hill in 1886, along with a pond created by damming up Heal-All Brook. The pond water was pumped into the mill, heated, and used for steam power. Note the piles of firewood used for fuel.

RIVERSIDE from page A1

Gill residents and commission members also began transcribing local diaries from Riverside residents Henry Barton, Lorana Johnson, Myrtle Jones, Simon Cady Phillips, Joseph Marble, Chandler Munn and Jennie Bardwell.

A scrapbook of *Turners Falls Reporter* articles kept by Gill historian Ralph M Stoughton [1879-1966] was also recently transcribed, which, in addition to the Montague library’s digital archives of the *Reporter*, provided them with what Pam describes as “all the details. They were really a gossip rag; they told stories in their reporting; every article was a feature.”

These research and writing activities were all ideal catalysts for a book project. Time and talent, and a love for the place and the process were added by Pam and Lynn, bringing it all together in book form as words and images.

Gill Historic Commission

Lynn and Pam are deeply indebted to the collection of artifacts and memorabilia that the Commission has amassed over the years in the Riverside Municipal building. Officially termed the Allan D. Adie Collection, the collection is now open only by appointment. Proceeds from the sale of the book will help the commission obtain display units for the collection.

Because it is a historical *commission*, rather than a *society*, they are part of the town budget (this year’s allocation: \$800), and anything donated to the collection becomes town property. The book project also benefited from Gill Cultural Council grant monies, which helped offset expenses such as permissions for images used in the publication.

Other work that the commission does is to consult on renovations to historic buildings, such as the new roof on town hall, and plans for a convenience store at the Mobil station on the corner of Main Road and Route 2, where they hope to include local history tie-ins of various kinds into the design.

Chapters and Authors

Twelve chapters describe Riverside from its ancient geologic formation, through its history as a rich fishing ground for Native American peoples, to the battle at the Falls in 1676 and the industrial, infrastructure and social developments of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Five authors in addition to Lynn and Pam contributed chapters to the book, ensuring a diversity of perspective and wealth of expertise in specific areas. “History has multiple voices. It is one of the strengths of the book that we have multiple authors,” commented Pam.

Bonnie Parsons’ introduction to

the book details how this particular collaborative, multi-faceted version of local history differs from histories created by previous generations. Parsons is an architectural historian and preservationist; she wrote the application for Riverside’s inclusion in the National Register.

Commission chair Ivan Ussach contributed the chapter on Riverside Geology that opens the book. Ussach, who has been the watershed coordinator of the Millers River Watershed Council since 2005, cofounded the Rainforest Alliance, and has a masters in Public Health/Environmental Science from Columbia University.

In addition to historic architecture, the entire district has been formally declared as an archaeological district on the National Register. Inhabitation at Riverside stretches back for over 10,000 years; any digging in the area must be approved and artifacts, if they turn up, professionally evaluated. Peter Thomas, one of the contributing authors, did one of the last official ‘digs’ in the area in the 1970s.

Erving resident, local historian, and *Montague Reporter* columnist David Brule is the author of two chapters concerning Native American life at the Great Falls, including an account of the battle. Brule is a member of the Nolumbeka Project, an organization dedicated to preserving Native American history in the region.

What did Captain Turner see when he came over Canada Hill and looked down, 340 years ago today, May 19, 1676? Thomas and Lynn Tomb worked together to present his extensive research into what the physical environment of the Falls may have been like at the time of the 1676 battle, when large numbers of Native Americans were killed during an early morning raid, including many women and children.

Thomas concluded that much of the area above the falls, which were not dammed then, were unnavigable rapids, so the natives who got away could not have traveled across the river at that point, pointing to a northern escape route being a strong possibility.

Outdoor writer, naturalist and historian Gary Sanderson contributes his knowledge in his chapter “Fishing at the Falls.” Sanderson’s weekly column in the *Recorder* regularly highlights his own unique brand of humanism, humor, and deep knowledge of Franklin County.

Sarah Doyle writes about the time period when Roswell Field quarried his “giant bird tracks,” and other fossils found in abundance in the sandstone layers of the Barton Cove area. Director of the Jurassic Road Show, Doyle also writes and edits for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Deerfield.

The “Rabbit Hole”

Together and separately, Pam and Lynn contributed six of the twelve chapters in the book. Lynn pulled together her chapters on the “River Traffic” and “The Lumber Industry” first, to get sample chapters to help draw in support for the project.

Information presented about the industries of Riverside may seem surprising, since all traces of factories that were there have been erased by a combination of fire, competition, and time. The Turners Falls Lumber Company, named after the Falls and located on the Gill side, bought the first water rights from Alvah Crocker, before any industrial development on the other side of the river and canal.

Since it also had to get its lumber over to trains on the Turners side to ship it off, this industry definitely seemed on the wrong side of the river to begin with. It burned in 1903.

A kindling factory next to it employed many local women, and behind a short rise called Fort Hill stood a pulp mill, the only factory made of brick in Riverside. This mill, called the New England Fibre Company, used water from the dammed up Heal-All Brook to make wood pulp in some sort of experimental steam process. It was prone to explosions.

One of Lynn’s triumphs was finding photographs of the exploded mill in the collection of the Baker Library at the Harvard Business School, and persuading them to reduce their usage fees for these pictures from \$100 a piece down to \$10 each.

Lynn found another source of information very useful in reconstructing some of the industrial history: insurance company maps from 1889 showing what the power source was, the lighting that was used, and whether or not there was a night watchman on each property.

Developers at Riverside thought that those who enjoyed housing in the community could also find work in Turners Falls, once that town began to grow. They lobbied for the construction of a bridge. The mill owners in Turners decided they didn’t want it: they preferred their workers live in town.

“It was hard to write about this controversy,” said Lynn. “It was very confusing, and the legislature went back and forth on it, reversing their decisions a lot. Some people in Gill came out against it for finances and for the fact that they had been doing fine without it for 200 years.”

Eventually, though, a suspension bridge was built, spanning the river

upstream from the present Turners Falls-Gill bridge until it was removed in 1942.

Dumping History

Infrastructure improvements came along as the village grew. In “Building Riverside,” Lynn and Pam cover such topics as: what did they do with the garbage? how did they get their water? what did they do for the sewer? and how did they get their electricity?

Pam researched the development of the community in her chapters “Settling Riverside” and “Riverside Leaders.” Like Turners Falls, there were waves of immigrant settlers to Riverside. The founders of the lumber businesses predominantly were resettling from New Hampshire. Pam also found out that there was a group in Riverside who came from Cornwall, England during the 1890s to 1910.

“They were mariners in southwest England, and they liked the river, living by the water, and fishing, and they wanted a family community, not row housing,” she said. “Then there were the Germans, and others, who wanted housing where they could raise chickens and food in their backyard, and their kids could play along the river.”

Prominent families that Pam examined included the Bartons, who had a large farm and other properties including the Howland Tavern, aka “the old red house,” where Peterman’s Bowls is presently in business. Peterman inherited a “box of goodies” with the house when he bought it.

These house-related records were almost lost to history when a previous owner tossed them into the dumpster; an observant neighbor rescued the box and returned it after Peterman purchased the place.

The Henry Barton diary was an excellent source for the day-to-day life of a farmer and also the social life in the community. “He was very involved in civic affairs: the evolution of the roads, bridges, repairs. He retired in the 1930s after being the longest serving town clerk in the county,” recounted Pam. He marketed melons, squash, tobacco, wood: day after day, wagon loads to Greenfield, Turners, Orange, Athol, to the fairs, to the trains...these guys were on the road constantly,” recounted Pam.

“I was also fascinated that Henry and his uncle Leonard would walk their steers to Leyden for summer pasture and leave them there, checking on them occasionally. They would do this trip to the ‘uplands,’

and be back for mid-day meal.”

Suspicious Details

It is the inclusion of excerpts from diaries that bring history to life. As they learned about the families and how people were connected by blood, marriage, trade, proximity, and other ties, a social fabric took shape, with discoveries crossing over and weaving together strands from various sources.

“When you are working on one family and you become suspicious on a detail, trying to understand who that family was, and who lived in the household and what they did, and then you run across someone from that family who married someone from another family you’ve worked on – *Aha!*”

Pam and Lynn puzzled over one marriage. The wedding took place on Christmas, and the man died the next day. The death record wasn’t enough to explain what happened.

They turned to the archives of the *Turners Falls Reporter* to find the back story from their marriage write up: “We found they were going to marry at Thanksgiving, but he was too ill. Then they married when he was on his deathbed with pneumonia, because his children needed the protection of a mother. She was only 21!”

“Then she married someone else soon after, and you see that her sister Mary Jamison married Kerslake, the pig trainer!”

Another source they turned to was the Howes Brothers photographs owned by the Ashfield Historical Society. These were helpful in fleshing out stories of the women of Riverside, who posed in front of their homes during the day when the men were elsewhere. Gender discrepancies in historical documents like the 1910 poll tax records resulted in women who became “invisibles.”

One difficulty with the Howes images is that they are not labeled. Pam and Lynn’s painstaking efforts to match houses, families, and outdated street addresses felt especially rewarding when they were able to identify one of their diarists, Myrtle Jones.

Myrtle called herself a “shut-in” because she became wheelchair bound, but her handicap did not stop her from having a lively social life, which she recorded in her diary. She also exchanged postcards and letters with other shut-ins across the country.

Lynn knew Myrtle and a twin sister, Mabel, but didn’t know

see RIVERSIDE page A7

COURTESY GILL HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Riverside resident S. Fred Kerslake training a new family of piglets around Riverside. The piglets would join a famous troupe of animal actors that traveled this country and internationally at fairs, circuses, and the vaudeville circuit from 1891 to 1935.

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COURTESY OF JANET MASUCCI

Bob and Florence Cranford at their Route 2 gas station and store in 1933, currently the home of Janet Masucci and her Riverside Healing and Bodywork business.

RIVERSIDE from page A1

which house they lived in. “When I saw a picture of a woman with two twin daughters, 12 or 13 years old, I thought: Those are the Jones twins!

“One was sitting down, and one was standing up.”

Ending in 1942

The 1930s saw many changes in the Riverside area, with the construction of two major bridges – the French King and Turners Falls-Gill – and road work that brought more cars through Route 2. The book covers a lot of ground here, and then

ends at 1942, when the old suspension bridge was taken down for scrap to contribute to the war effort.

“We covered the most interesting part of history. We decided to stop it there,” explained Lynn. “One always worries that there is a family, a story, something we didn’t know...” added Pam. There is a spread at the end of the book that extends the timeline into the 1970s, just to include changes like the boat club and boat ramp, and some of the businesses that sprang up along the highway.

Will the conclusion of this project leave a big hole that’s hard to fill in the lives of these two researchers? Not likely. Lynn Tomb has another book waiting in the wings, this one a history of the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. Pam Shoemaker will be teaming up with distant cousin Don Kruger to research their combined families of the Ithaca, NY region and relate their findings back to an 1860s family signature quilt that Pam possesses, with a publication of some kind of their findings to be made.

Gill sets the bar high for any other local history volume with the publication of *Riverside* by combining a diversity of voices and resources to cover many aspects of social, cultural, economic and environmental history. Those who wish to order this full color, 10” by 8” book may use the order form on this page, or download a form from the Town of Gill website on the Historical Commission page: gillmass.org.

For more information, contact Lynn Stowe Tomb: lstomb@gmail.com, or Pam Shoemaker: pshoe27@gmail.com .



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SUBMITTED PHOTO



Lynn Stowe Tomb photographs a dinosaur footprint at Northfield Mount Herman for inclusion in a history of the Riverside section of Gill. The sandstone impression was dug up at Riverside by Roswell Field, and is part of a collection he bequeathed to the school.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Ward Ascends to Chairmanship; Comcast Promises Cable Build-Out

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on Tuesday night, the day after the town election, and reorganized its responsibilities. John Ward was elected as chair, while Randy Crochier was voted clerk.

Other appointments include Crochier as the representative to the personnel committee, Gregory Snedeker as the representative to FRCOG, and Ward as representative to FRTA.

Emergency Management

The board heard a proposal by Dan Nietsche, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, that Gill join Deerfield and Shelburne Falls in a Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) to assist, coordinate and facilitate emergency management operations.

The agency, created after Hurricane Irene, would not supersede the town’s emergency management system, but would act as a conduit to federal emergency programs.

After some discussion, Gene Beaubien, Gill’s emergency management director, said that he was against using the MACC since he “would rather contact NEMA directly.” He went on to say that the MACC is one more layer than is needed and that Gill already has a mutual aid agreement with surrounding towns.

The selectboard tabled the proposal until more information could be obtained about compensation for possible costs of using the program.

Comcast Contract

The board next held a public hearing regarding the renewal of the Comcast’s cable license.

Ben Hale Road resident Joe M. Parzych, whose home is currently outside the area receiving cable service, spoke passionately about his family’s need for reliable Internet service, saying at one point that “being in the 21st century and the western part of the state, we’re still the haves and the have-nots.”

Tom Hodak, chair of the town’s cable advisory committee, spoke about the current build-out of community coverage and assured Parzych that his home was part of the planned build-out.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker stated that the board was pushing hard for a solution and that they hoped to sign the contract with Comcast that evening.

Eileen Leahy, a senior manager from Comcast, spoke briefly about the three-year plan to increase coverage. She said that once coverage was upgraded, Comcast would send out a notice about the matter.

The selectboard approved the contract, signed it and handed it over to Leahy.

Later in the meeting, Purington then shared that there had been considerable confusion on the May 9 town meeting articles regarding PEG access and the new special revenue fund. He reported that he had been in contact with two attorneys who told him that the Dept. of Revenue had moved their compliance dead-

line to June of 2017. Therefore Purington advised that they wait since other towns were still in discussion about utilizing these funds.

Snedeker shared the fact that he was uncomfortable with the fact that while only a small part of Gill were paying into the charge (or tax), some residents wanted the money to be absorbed into a general use fund.

Discussion ensued and the selectboard members agreed with Snedeker when he said that many families, including his own, needed more reliable Internet service.

Ward suggested that there was a need for the subject to come up on a special article for the next town meeting so that the town knows this matter is being handled properly.

Town Meeting Follow-up

Following up on other business left over from the May 9 town meeting, Purington said that the next steps for acquiring the Riverside Cemetery are obtaining a list of the assets that would be acquired by the town, getting copies of the most recent bank statements, and attempting to consolidate the multiple titles into one.

Purington also reported back to answer the question that arose during the meeting concerning the use of the Quintus Allen fund. He specified that the funds must be used in support of the elementary school, but that the support didn’t necessarily have to be educational. Crochier stated that he liked the way Gill used the money, and Snedeker agreed, saying he preferred a “creative” approach as well.

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Black wallet, looks new, no identification.
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describe the wallet to claim it.

The discussion then turned to the purchases of a police cruiser and a backhoe, both tabled from the town meeting. Tackling the cruiser issue first, there was considerable discussion about the cost of a utility car versus a sedan. Members debated the usefulness of each and the necessity for three police cars in a town of 1,500.

Resident Janet Masucci pointed out that Gill had committed to being a Green Community and, as such, promised to replace any outgoing vehicle with one that is “more green.” Selectboard members agreed, but mentioned that, as far as cruisers go, there wasn’t much choice.

In the end, Snedeker said that based on environmental concerns and the need for safety, he recommended purchasing a 4-wheel drive vehicle that could get down problematic driveways, such as his own, when needed. Ward advocated that whoever was on duty should use the 4-wheel drive vehicle.

In the end, the selectboard decided they were not ready for a final vote, and would wait to hear back from the capital improvement committee for recommendations on what to do.

There was also a discussion about need and cost of a backhoe. The cap-

ital improvement committee had recommended purchasing a used one, with a ceiling price of \$60,000.

While consideration was given to money, Snedeker shared that, with the purchase of the backhoe, it could serve multiple benefits to the town.

The selectboard finally agreed to move forward with a recommendation to discuss the matter further in a future town meeting so that they could know more about the financials, and be able to shoot for a \$40,000 to \$50,000 price rather than the proposed \$60,000. It was also decided that the board would ask that there be time taken to choose the right one rather a quick one.

Other Business

The board approved Carole Lafleur and Robert Koolkin as election workers through June 30.

They approved the use of town hall for the ACT Program’s upcoming production of *Aladdin* in June.

They unanimously awarded FRCOG bids for highway products.

They also supported the declaration of surplus equipment at the town hall, and decided to post an auction announcement for folks to be able to bid on various items just taking up valuable town hall space.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

G-M Committee Welcomes New Member, Elects Officers

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Convening for a quick reorganization meeting on Tuesday, school committee members welcomed newly-elected member Heather Katsoulis before moving on to electing new officers.

Katsoulis won her three-year term as member from Montague, defeating long serving member Joyce Phillips. Michael Langknecht, now the longest serving school committee member, chaired the meeting.

Nominations for chair started the process. Langknecht was nominated by April Reipold of Montague and seconded by Marjorie Levenson. Langknecht paused a moment and asked out loud, "Do I want to be chair?," but then said yes, if that was the will of the

committee he would serve.

Jane Oakes, member from Gill, was nominated by Valeria "Timmie" Smith of Gill, and seconded by Christina Postera of Montague.

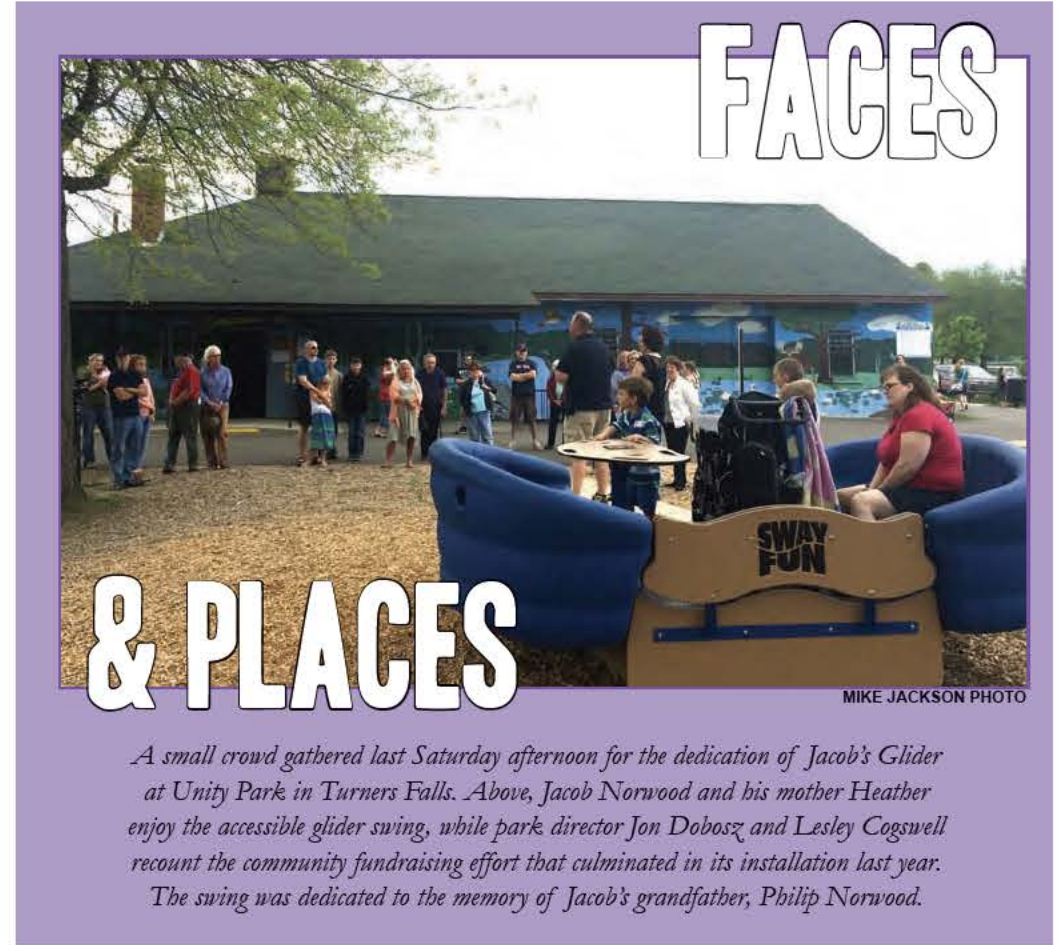
Robin Hamlett, executive assistant to the superintendent, explained that the members' votes would be public, and distributed slips of paper with each member's name on them. She then collected the ballots and counted the votes out loud for those in attendance and the television cameras.

The votes for the committee's chair came in 5-4 in favor of Langknecht. Reipold and Levenson were joined by outgoing chair Sandra Brown of Gill, Katsoulis, and Langknecht himself. Those voting for Oakes were Smith, Postera, Lesley Cogswell of Montague, and Oakes herself.

The process then turned to the position of vice chair. Brown, Reipold and Oakes were all nominated, but Oakes declined to be considered.

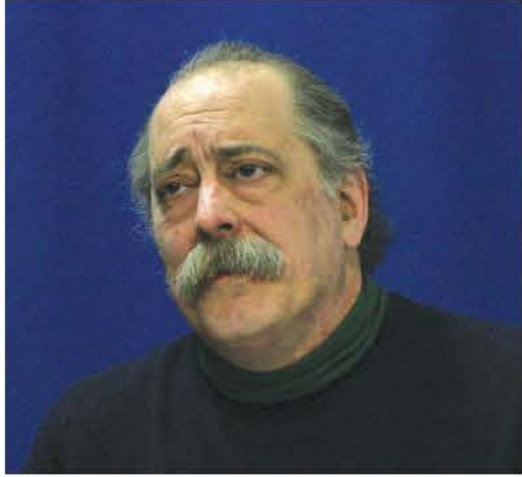
Brown was chosen as vice chair, and Reipold was then selected as secretary. Postera was then selected as assistant treasurer, a position that occasionally requires signing documents when the district's treasurer is unavailable. Both Reipold and Postera received a unanimous voice vote of approval from the school committee.

With the voting completed, Langknecht made a brief statement to the committee, saying he considered the position of chair as more of a "facilitator" than a "CEO." He emphasized what he felt was the importance of



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

A small crowd gathered last Saturday afternoon for the dedication of Jacob's Glider at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Above, Jacob Norwood and his mother Heather enjoy the accessible glider swing, while park director Jon Dobosz and Lesley Cogswell recount the community fundraising effort that culminated in its installation last year. The swing was dedicated to the memory of Jacob's grandfather, Philip Norwood.



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

A visibly elated Michael Langknecht prepares for a new term as school committee chair.

allowing all opinions to be expressed, and ensuring that all members be treated with respect and valued.

He said that as chair, he would be inclined to hang back and allow other members' positions to be expressed before putting forth his own, in an effort to minimize the inclination of members to follow the opinions of the chair.

The members then adjourned quickly to an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. The next regular meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

The Montague Reporter

is skipping its Poetry Page this month, and wishes to encourage our readers to send us their original poems! June's Page will feature a Poet of the Month, and July's will be the next open Poetry Page.

Please send them to poetry@montaguereporter.org or mail them to 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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From Rhubarb to Smirkus: A Young Performer Goes on Tour

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – For Lucia Mason, climbing is woven so deeply into her being that she has only hazy, long-ago memories of when she started. On the other hand, I will never forget seeing her near the top of a huge old maple tree in her yard at dusk on a summer evening years ago, her arms and legs spread wide as the tree swayed in the wind. It was an image of freedom, ease and confidence.



Lucia Mason, 17, working the ropes. The teen was chosen to tour with Circus Smirkus this summer.

Lucia said, “I really like being high in trees. It’s peaceful, a time to be alone. At high levels the tree gets thinner and you feel it bend more.”

Her father, Chris Mason, said, “Lucia has been climbing since the day she was born.”

“She has always been drawn to any challenge that involves strength and balance,” added her mother,

Jeanne Weintraub Mason.

A few years later in a barn in Montague Center, an older, poised and trained Lucia wound herself in green silk and performed feats of daring and grace with fabric and on the trapeze. She and her neighborhood friends had started their own youth-run circus, the Traveling Rhubarb Circus (TRC). From a few kids performing cartwheels and handstands in a Montague Center churchyard, the TRC grew to include a dozen kids between the ages of 7 and 17.

Her years of passion and commitment paid off this spring, when Lucia won a coveted spot in Circus Smirkus, the country’s only traditional traveling youth circus. Thirteen-year old flier Serafina Walker, of Greenfield, also won a place with the troupe.

Last fall, both girls submitted audition tapes to Smirkus headquarters in Greensboro, Vermont, and were subsequently invited to participate in live auditions in January. Serafina, Lucia and 28 other performers ages 11 to 18 were selected for the 2016 Big Top Tour.

The performers will travel to Greensboro in June for three weeks of rehearsals at Smirkus headquarters, then hit the road on June 25 for a 66-show tour that touches down in 16 cities and towns in the Northeast.

Circus Smirkus will be at Cheshire County Fairgrounds in Swanzey, NH on July 11 and 12, and

see **CIRCUS** page B5

Celebrating Leverett’s Historic Districts

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – “Is Moores Corner plural possessive, possessive, singular, or possessive singular?” asked Dan Bennett at the dedication of three historic districts in Leverett on May 14.

Last Saturday, the public was invited to tour historic homes in the three villages of North Leverett, East Leverett, and Moores Corner, after a series of speakers explained the significance and early history of Leverett.

“The early history of Leverett really is a history of Indian removal,” Bennett noted dryly.

Georgana Foster, expert on the history of East Leverett, explained the changes that have taken place in the town since her arrival. “When we first moved into our house, there were no streets, and no street numbers to houses,” Foster said. “We had to draw a map for our friends because they said ‘you’re too far away – we will never come see you.’”

Foster said her family was the only family who stayed all year



A Leverett mill dating back to the early 19th century that is now a fully functioning residence. The mill was restored over a period of fifteen years.

round, due to the harsh winter months.

During the height of the depression, Foster said, there was an effort to create a historical museum similar to Historic Deerfield. This endeavor did not reach fruition, but improvements were made to the four homes purchased for the project.

Anything over fifty years old is considered a historic home now, but Betsy Douglas explained how

the Leverett Historical Commission came to specify which areas and homes were significant. Douglas said the commission spent hours in the registry of deeds tracing back ownership to properties and determining boundaries, a task that was not so easy given the old language of the deeds.

“They would use words like ‘maple stake.’ I had never heard of see **LEVERETT** page B6

Laundromat Fashion Show Seeks a Re-design

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS – The Lost & Found Fashion Show, held at Suzee’s Laundromat for over 10 years, is experiencing a re-design of its own.

This year, rather than giving left-behind and donated clothing to interested designers and waiting for the final product to be revealed, the event will incorporate a series of sewing and design workshops to encourage inexperienced or novice designers to get involved and learn new, creative skills.

“It’s a re-imagining of the show to make it more inclusive,” explains Chris Janke, owner of Suzee’s and one of the organizers of the Fashion Show. “The show had grown so much in popularity that it began, because of the space limitations, to feel exclusive rather than inclusive,” he says and he intends to change that.

Janke says that many individuals involved in the show, from designers to models to audience members, felt frustrated with the limited viewing of the final products, and that only people invited or “in the know” seemed to be participating or attending.



Drae Malliaros, Marnie Tibbetts, Madeline Rosene and Hayley Brown (left to right) model the Duchess von Pruitt’s line during the 2013 Lost and Found Fashion Show.

He feels that it’s time for him to go beyond providing the space and materials for the event and “take a more active role as a kind of producer. I began to take a closer look at all of the various aspects of the show: who is in it, who is displaced – for a

few hours anyway – by it, who benefits from it, and what those benefits look like.”

The show, Janke says, rarely makes money, but that was not a concern of his when determining the

see **FASHION** page B5



THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

One Step
Forward,
Two Back

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Spring in New England is tricky; no surprise to farmers and gardeners.

Last mid-week we spent a few days with family in Rhode Island. Packing included layers in order to be prepared for slightly warmer temperatures followed by cool nights.

We left Tuesday morning and stopped on the way down for a walk in the Quabbin. It was perfect with warm sun and a cooling breeze.

Stepping out of the car we were surrounded by gnats and, mindful of my Vermont sister’s tales of early black flies, we sprayed on bug dope. No need. Once we started out on the open roadway, a gentle breeze provided all the protection necessary.

Unaccompanied, except by bird-song, we fell into quiet meditative states, the perfect rest stop before taking on the busy highways outside of Worcester. Unwilling to let go of this restful space, we stopped in Barre for sandwiches, and parked the car near the picnic area just outside of town.

At home the lilacs and my yellow Magnolia were just verging on blossom. Just a little bit past the state line, the lilacs were on full display in Rhode Island and the temperature a good ten degrees higher. Later in the evening, the warmth of the fire pit blaze was very welcome as the air cooled quickly into early spring.

At home again a couple nights

later, we found lilacs half opened and magnolia in full sunny glory. In the sunroom, the tomatoes seemed to have shot up an extra inch or two. In fact, one of the cherries has a blossom already.

Now comes the gardener’s annual spring conundrum: when to plant the tomatoes.

Tradition and the almanac recommend planting after the last full moon of the month, which often brings one last frost. This May’s full moon will be on the 21st, and the long range forecast of the following week is for warmer weather without the pitfall of a cold spell after.

We are hoping for what sounds like steadier, warmer temperatures. About half of the tomato plants are a good ten inches tall and becoming leggy. We’d like to set them out in a week or so with the other half, the late-bloomers held in reserve in case of an unfortunate return to chilly nights or even light frosts.

In this back and forward season the white throats have moved on to far north, the thrush and oriole arrived. The birds are busy with nest building and the bees with pollinating. On the way back home again, near the Quabbin a truck blocks the south bound lane for the safe passage of a plate-sized turtle. Saturday’s temperatures hovered near seventy; today we are back in the fifties with a stiff northerly breeze.

The truth is that while we pine see **GARDENERS** page B3

REPORT FROM THE ROAD

Walk for a New Spring, 2016

By ALICE SCHEFFEY

LEVERETT – Can human trust and sympathy survive the present age of inequalities, or will it be divided or destroyed by class and power and chaos?

I believe that’s the large question underlying the annual Walk for a New Spring – a question involving changes of consciousness.

The 15th annual Walk for a New Spring began in cold and rainy weather on March 4, as the Buddhist monks and nuns of the New England Peace Pagoda were joined by us and other walkers with the intent of arriving on foot in Washington, DC by the end of April. A meeting with Congressman Jim McGovern would end the walk.

Earlier Walks had focused on the danger, and unimaginable destruction, that could be caused by nuclear power facilities in our country and worldwide. Calling upon civic and corporate groups in town meet-



The Walk, on Route 9 in Hadley this March.

ings, the peace walkers carried to Washington the collective desires to change these priorities. The meetings took place at the location of nuclear facilities along the east coast

and were confined to New England.

This year, organizers of the Walk responded to what they observed as a growing coalescence of three

see **WALK** page B6

Pet of the Week

Say hello to Ace!
He's affectionate and absolutely loves to be with you. At times he can be an independent boy but loves receiving all your love just the same.
He's a one eyed-wonder here at Dakin, you see he had a really bad infection in his eye that made

it so it had to be removed. But that doesn't slow him down!
His one eye definitely gives him a unique look, one that would make anyone fall in love with him.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

CARMODY COLLAGE



“ACE”

Senior Center Activities MAY 23 to 27

GILL and MONTAGUE
Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.
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.
Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
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Tuesday 5/24
9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (fee) 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 5/25
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 5/26
9 a.m. Tai Chi 1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 5/27
1 p.m. Writing Group

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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 congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal

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9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 5/24
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Home Cooked Lunch 12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Wednesday 5/25
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 5/26
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving) 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring
Friday 5/27
9 a.m. Quilting 9:30 Bowling Fun at French King; Market Trip (call for bus)
11:30 Pizza Salad & Dessert 12:30 p.m. Painting

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.

Interview: MR at the Great Falls Farmers Market

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Normy Chaplin stopped by the MR booth at the Great Falls Farmers Market last Wednesday and volunteered for an interview. She was with Sarah Adam, the artist who designed this year's market poster.

Normy is from Orange originally, and has known Sarah since second grade. "I'm 35. I'm allergic to everything with fur. I'm a self taught artist. I do mostly poetry, some music, painting, abstract painting, photography, spoken word. My work is online at thehomecomingqueef.tumblr.com and I am hoping to show it somewhere soon."

The scariest thing that ever happened to Normy was: "I was walking down the street in San Francisco at three in the morning and a man attacked me, and then I went all feminist on him and punched him in the face, and then we got in a kind of heated exchange. He had slapped me as he walked by. He said he thought I was a sex worker and thought that was an appropriate way to treat women, and I told him it wasn't, and from there it became violent and it was



really scary.

"I wish I had handled it differently. I wouldn't have punched him, I think I would have told him just 'Don't treat me like that, its not appropriate.'

"Actually I did that at first, and he said 'well what are you going to do about it,' and that's when I punched him."

Normy didn't stay in California. "I was just living my mid twenties. I stayed out there about three years. I love my family, and this area. I like that people are open

minded for the most part, and I love the landscape. In the summer, it's the most beautiful place I've seen. California is so brown, and everything is so green here."

Music and selfhood: "I started playing guitar at 16. I was sort of into the No Wave movement. For a long time my music was really focused on queer issues, and now it's more focused more on women's issues as I transition. I'm recognizing my womanhood, however you want to say it, I am not sure how to address that, but you can ask me anything you want.

"It's been nonlinear – I came out as a teenager, and had pretty much transitioned, then had a traumatic experience and then went back into the closet for about ten years. I keep trying to nudge my way out but this time it is for real, now... My sexuality is really up in the air right now, but I definitely identify as a queer woman."

Thanks, Normy!

The Montague Reporter staff and volunteers will be at the Great Falls Farmers Market every Wednesday afternoon in Turners Falls. Stop by and say hi!

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Greetings this week from MCTV staff.

The Annual and Special Town Meetings from May 7 are now available for viewing in our TV schedule and on montaguenv.org, as well as the slideshow presented at the town meeting by Montague Water Pollution Control Facility. You

can also tune in to MCTV on Monday at 7 p.m. to see the Montague Selectboard meeting aired live.

And don't forget: this Saturday at the Great Falls Discovery Center, there will be a Day of Remembrance commemorating the 340th anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre. This event will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a ceremony at 1 p.m.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to 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!



Q. A friend of mine said you can get epilepsy when you get old. I always thought this was something that came on you when you were a kid. What's the story?

Epilepsy, which is sometimes called a seizure disorder, can strike at any age, but it usually starts during childhood and after age 65.

People with epilepsy suffer from abnormal signals in the brain that can affect the senses and emotions. These faulty signals can also generate convulsions, muscle spasms and loss of consciousness.

The common image of epilepsy is of someone on the floor, unconscious and suffering wild convulsions. This is only one scenario created by epilepsy. Doctors have described more than 30 different types of seizures. An epileptic seizure can also create less intense symptoms such as confusion, a staring spell, lapse of awareness, and jerking movements

by the limbs.

More than two million people in the United States have been diagnosed with epilepsy or had an unprovoked seizure. You must have two or more seizures to be diagnosed with epilepsy. Seizures can be controlled with drugs and surgery in about 80 percent of cases of epilepsy.

There are seizures that may not be associated with epilepsy. Many people have a single seizure without a sequel. Children sometimes have a seizure with a high fever.

Eclampsia, which can develop in pregnant women, produces sudden elevations of blood pressure and seizures. Then there are pseudoseizures that produce no evidence in the brain.

There's no cure yet for epilepsy. However, in some cases, epilepsy just goes away. The likelihood of becoming seizure-free spontaneously is better for children than adults.

The onset of epilepsy is often traced to a head trauma, disease or stroke – something that injures your brain or deprives it of oxygen. About one-third of all cases of newly developed epilepsy in the elderly appears to be caused by disease that reduces the supply of oxygen to brain cells.

Many types of epilepsy tend to run in families. However, epilepsy has no identifiable cause in about half the cases.

The following are some instructions if you see someone having a seizure:

First, call immediately for medical help.

Roll the person on his/her side to prevent choking on any fluids.

Cushion the person's head.

Loosen any tight clothing around the neck.

Do not put anything into the person's mouth, especially your fingers. It's a myth that people are in danger of swallowing their tongues during a seizure.

Keep the person's airway open. If necessary, grip the person's jaw gently and tilt his/her head back.

Don't try to restrain or wake someone having a seizure.

If the person is moving, clear away dangerous objects.

Stay with the person until medical personnel arrive. If possible, observe the person closely so that you can provide details on what happened.

Look for a medical alert bracelet. The bracelet should have an emergency contact and names of medications the person uses.

After the seizure ends, the person will probably be groggy and tired. He or she also may have a headache and be confused or embarrassed.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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GARDENERS from page B1

for a steadier return to real spring weather, we know this is often followed by unseasonable summer heat, nothing we are hugely fond of. Further, we do not wish for a speeding up of the calendar pages. The older we get, the faster the time goes, and we are not in a rush for that.

Still, spring is such a hopeful season. The daffodils bent down by wet snow recoup to bloom, the frogs that emerged in early warmth, sink back into the mud and then come out to chorus again when the temperatures rise. The fledgling vines planted to grow up the pergola have emerged and are leafing vigorously.

A wood thrush hustling to grab a good nesting spot, or a bug on the wing, flies into the glass of the sunroom. We watch, in fear of cats, as it rests, motionless, quite stunned. We check a few minutes later and the thrush is blinking its eyes with an air of “what happened?” A few minutes more, and it is airborne again.

The hillsides still cling to a soft mix of yellows and pale greens

before the full flush of summer. The trillium blooms in the woods, although the bloodroot has given up its flowers. The purple iris is abloom and the peonies are heavy with buds. The blueberry bushes are in bloom and the large, overweighted bumble bees hum busily.

And so we swing from long pants one day to shorts the next; sweaters and jackets are still at the ready. In the nippy morning and evening air we treat ourselves to a fire, as there is still plenty of firewood. Soon it will be time to order cordwood for the next season so we can stack it before it gets too hot.

We are grateful for everything this season brings, every day a new blossom or birdsong. We try to live in the moment, taking it as it comes, celebrating newness and the vigor of life. We live in such a beautiful place of hills, valleys and rivers.

Happy spring to both those who plant and nurture, and those who prefer to fish, paddle or hike!



TV REVIEW

Houdini and Doyle



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Houdini and Doyle is a TV series that premiered on Fox TV network on May 2. It featured two real life characters out of history. One of them is Harry Houdini, the famous magician, and the other is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the Sherlock Homes books.

The show’s premise makes use of the real-life friendship that actually existed between these two men.

I have always liked Harry Houdini and found him to be a fascinating character to hear about and to see on screen. I have seen a couple of movies about him.

This show has a supernatural slant on it with the two of them investigating cases with a hint of that nature for the police. Due to being the author of the Sherlock Holmes books, Doyle makes a very good detective. He is a believer in the supernatural, as he has a wife who is very near death, and he wants to be able to talk to her after she is gone.

Harry is a skeptic of such things. In fact, that’s how he was in real life. He was someone who tried to expose fraudulent mediums. (He was also a momma’s boy, which is shown with her being at a party with him in a nice dress and a necklace he got her.)

The case they deal with in the first episode involves a nun being murdered at a place which is also a home for unwed mothers. But the trouble is, someone said they saw a ghost of someone who had died there a little while ago. Both the magician and the author’s interests

are piqued.

The police end up assigning a very under-used female constable to babysit these two. It is thought that they won’t come up with anything useful to the case, but that doesn’t turn out to happen.

Houdini’s skills at picking locks end up proving to be helpful. They also find a real flesh and blood killer in their midst.

Sometimes TV episodes start at a certain point, then flash back to show how the whole situation started. This is true of the first *Houdini and Doyle* episode, and I think it works worked rather well – it pulled me into watching the rest of it, to see how they got into their present situation.

I won’t spoil it by telling who the murderer is. But the female constable, as a result of the situation, gets her desk moved upstairs from her basement office, in part due to her boss thinking she is having an affair with Houdini – which therefore means he can make it so there are no more female constables in the department, along with the magician thinking she did a good job on the case.

The show held my attention. I found it to be entertaining, although it didn’t have as much of a supernatural slant as I hoped it would. But I could still find myself watching it for the remaining 9 episodes of this miniseries.

This show first aired on ITV in Britain. Fox must have agreed with me about this being a good show. Why else would they have bought the rights to air this show on their network?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Lawnmower, Candy, Keys, Wine and Pringles Stolen; Generator Possibly Stolen; Bicycle Just Misplaced

Monday, 5/9

8:50 a.m. Party calling on behalf of a patient who was seen this morning for a dog bite. Patient advises he was bitten Saturday afternoon on Greenfield Road, but the dog’s owners have not been cooperative with providing information. Referred to animal control officer, who spoke with owner and verified dog up to date on vaccinations.

2:33 p.m. Caller observed a subject trying to sell a generator out of a pickup truck in downtown Turners. Subject was acting suspiciously and would leave quickly when someone would decline to buy the generator. Caller suspects generator may be stolen. Unable to locate.

4:46 p.m. First caller advising of intoxicated male party walking in the area of Fourth Street and Avenue A. Male described as white, bald, no shirt, no shoes, white shorts, approximately 6 feet tall with a beer belly. Caller also stated that male was belligerent, came into someone’s apartment, “trashed the place, and stormed out.” Second caller advising of male party, IDed as same, appears intoxicated, walking on Montague Street near ballfields. Officer checked area; unable to locate. Third caller reports intoxicated shirtless party staggering while walking in area of Letourneau Way walking toward Turnpike Road. Units out with male party, who was walked into his mother’s residence. All set now.

6:53 p.m. Caller reporting that yesterday afternoon she noticed that her self-propelled push lawn mower had been stolen from her garage on Montague City Road. Report taken.

Tuesday, 5/10

12:44 a.m. F.L. Roberts clerk reporting shoplifting; believes male took multiple bags of candy. Report taken.

7:56 p.m. Caller advising of belligerent male yelling and swearing inside Rite Aid. Male then followed a female party out of the store attempting to get her attention by tapping her on the shoulder. Caller told male to leave, which he did; male went into Food City. Female party into lobby advising of same; she was the one followed out of the store by the male. Officer advised.

8:45 p.m. Greenfield Dispatch advising of a male party walking through backyard and looking in windows at a Montague City Road address. Party last seen walking toward General Pierce Bridge 10 minutes ago. Requesting an officer check our side of bridge for same. Area search negative.

10:43 p.m. Caller believes

her washing machine is on fire. She cannot see any flames; only smoke. TFFD on scene advising issue with washing machine only; no fire; no other assistance necessary.

Wednesday, 5/11

12:34 a.m. Male 911 caller reporting that he was just assaulted on K Street by an unknown female. Female took his keys and tossed them somewhere in the area before leaving. Unable to locate keys; courtesy transport provided.

1:45 a.m. F.L. Roberts employee reporting shoplifting that occurred 3-4 minutes ago. White female with white male took a bottle of wine and 2 cans of Pringles. Officers on lookout downtown; unable to locate. Report taken.

10:14 a.m. Report of a resident stuck inside the elevator at the Crocker Building. TFFD, officer, and Housing Authority advised.

10:25 a.m. Caller inquiring whether any reports have come in about loose pigs. Caller was transporting several pigs from Williamsburg to a destination in Athol, and some of the pigs escaped from the truck. Advised caller of online post re: a loose pig on Routes 5 & 10 in Whately during the time frame described. Caller contacted Whately PD and was advised that 2 of his 3 pigs were located and were safe. Caller en route to pick up those 2 pigs and attempt to locate the 3rd.

2:37 p.m. Caller requesting options re: an ongoing barking dog issue on G Street. Caller tried to speak with dog owner earlier today and advises he was belligerent with her; caller says that because he has made, or is planning to make, his dog a service dog, that there is nothing the animal control officer or police can do about the barking. Animal control officer advised and will follow up.

Thursday, 5/12

6:44 a.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road reporting loud “explosion” type noise in the area; louder than a gunshot, woke parties from their sleep. Units checked area. Officer spoke with a neighbor who believes the sound was a

gunshot. Officer advises it is turkey season; that may have been the source of the sound.

9:23 a.m. Call regarding “road closed” sign Baltazar put out on Randall Road at Turners Falls Road. Caller has seen a few near accidents as people have navigated the corner. Officer checked sign and moved it a few feet, however, advises the sign needs to be in the road due to the closure, and traffic on Randall Road is primarily residents who should already be aware that the sign is there and navigate accordingly.

10:48 a.m. Caller from Seventh Street reports that his bicycle was stolen from in front of his residence 2 days ago. Caller later called back to report that he found his bike; he had left it on the bus.

3:33 p.m. Caller reports an alarm going off in the Third Street neighborhood for the last three days. Alarm found to be coming from a vacant building. Landlord contacted and advised; he will be checking on this.

9:14 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street complaining of foot traffic into downstairs apartment along with strong odor of marijuana; ongoing issue. Landlord called to advise that he has started eviction process with downstairs tenant. Tenant informed of complaint and advised to keep noise down.

11:52 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road near Dell Street reporting a 300-pound bear in his backyard. Officers in area advised.

Friday, 5/13

5:26 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street reports seeing a bear walking up the street in the direction of the school. Officer advised; no environmental police officer on duty at this time. Officer advises there appear to be a mom and cub in the Dell/Bulkley/Griswold/Dutton area. Will monitor and attempt to move further from school.

9:43 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City; female reportedly stole several beers and put them in her purse. Female has shoplifted from store before and was verbally trespassed by an officer. Summons will

likely be issued.

3:22 p.m. Bernardston officer requesting an MPD officer make contact with attached female party regarding her vehicle being in Bernardston today and someone dumping a mattress near the Windmill Motel. Officer made contact with party and advised her to contact BPD.

10:40 p.m. Officer checking on three people on Migratory Way. Parties were from STEP program, smoking and hanging out.

11:12 p.m. Cumberland Farms requesting officers remove male from property; male has been in store multiple times making staff and customers uncomfortable. Same is now outside seated at front of store. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided.

Saturday, 5/14

1:36 p.m. Caller concerned about three kids playing in an empty UHaul in the alley between First and Second Streets. No kids or hazard located.

2:03 p.m. Four loose piglets in roadway on South Ferry Road. Pigs corralled and returned home.

5:52 p.m. Caller advising of debris on General Pierce Bridge, possibly the top to a toilet tank, possibly piece of ceramic. Caller was able to avoid it but could not stop to move it as another vehicle was behind her. Officer clear; debris removed.

8:53 p.m. Caller from West Mineral Street advising that her dog is barking like crazy, which is abnormal; she is concerned that the male party “murder suspect” may be out in the woods as she does not live far from the river. Caller advised to call back right away if she sees anyone; also that bears have been sighted in area. Length of road checked; nothing suspicious seen.

Sunday, 5/15

1:57 a.m. Caller from K Street reporting unknown female banging on her door and yelling. Party taken into protective custody.

2:21 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering at Power-town Apartments on Avenue A. Report taken.

9:24 a.m. Assault on Park Street. EMS refused. Report taken.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Rent is Due; Trash is Piling Up; Radiator is Leaking

Monday, 4/25
12:05 p.m. Medical emergency on West High Street.
4 p.m. Report taken of suspicious person attempting to give child a ride, Church Street area.
11:55 p.m. Medical emergency on River Road. Assisted on scene.

Tuesday, 4/26
1:52 p.m. Mediated a landlord/tenant dispute, Northfield Road.
8 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Northfield Road. Located same, no issues found.

Wednesday, 4/27
5:05 p.m. Report of a dark pickup truck illegally dumping on Pratt Street. Gone on arrival.
7:05 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Old State Road.

Thursday, 4/28
6:50 p.m. Illegal dumping reported on Northfield Road. Located subject. Same advised they cannot dump items.

Friday, 4/29
7:50 a.m. Suspicious vehicle at International Paper. Found to be no issue.
10:30 a.m. Report of loud explosion in Laurel Lake area. Checked area. Unable to determine the cause.
12 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute mediated on Northfield Road.
1:40 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Northfield Road.
7:25 p.m. Medical emergency on Lillians Way.

Saturday, 4/30
1:40 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on Northfield Road. Report taken, same mediated.
3:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Freight House Antiques. Erving fire department called due to radiator leak. Same to be towed.
5:29 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation and without insurance.

Sunday, 5/1
7:25 a.m. Medical emergency on Old State Road.
7:47 a.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for alarm at South Mountain Road. Found to be secure.
9:158 p.m. Medical emergency on Lillians Way.

Turners Falls Goes to War: Part II



Photograph of the company, from then-Major Pierce's 1900 memoir "Reminiscences of the Experiences of Company L."

By REPORTER STAFF

This year, the *Montague Reporter* is periodically revisiting the Spanish-American War of 1898, particularly the story of Company L of the Second Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry, Franklin County's unit in what was then the Volunteer Army of the United States.

The war was officially declared on April 25, 1898, and on May 3, the company mustered at Greenfield before camping at Framingham.

We will be updating readers on the news of the men and boys of Co. L, in real time, from this spring until next, as well as the local news of the time as it pertained to the war effort. This was the first war the village of Turners Falls experienced, and we find it particularly interesting to follow along with the advent of modern American patriotism on the home front.

The following news excerpts and editorial comments ran in the weekly town paper, the *Turners Falls Reporter*.

May 11, 1898:

The only manufacturer that has occasion to-day to thank his lucky stars is the flag-maker.

It is an inspiring sight to see the stars and stripes in the breeze, but a patriot and a sloven are poor companions, so that there should be fewer flags dangling half way up the halyards or run up by distressingly green enthusiasts union down.

The Boston store, having the best of fresh goods, at prices satisfactory to all, gets good trade in these troublous war times.

Curtis Guild, Jr., hopes to be among the first to meet the Spaniard in Cuba. If it is not against the rules of civilized warfare, it is to be hoped that Mr. Guild will be allowed to make a speech to him.

James McGuire, of L street, who is now a corporal of marines in the navy, writes home that he is in exciting times, having helped capture prizes, and all that, so that he may be a rich man when they divvy up

the spoils.

The Spanish must have learned that the Yankee pig knows how to save his bacon.

The Spaniards persist in declaring sulphur contraband, which shows that war is hell!

Yankee pigs they may be called by pirates, but it takes the Spaniard to show the cloven hoof that no one can mistake.

If Spain is out of coal, why don't she fire up her leaky old boilers with some of those "words that burn," the stock of which she has demonstrated has never been low – except their application.

We hear a good deal about the splendid war spirit of the navy. We do not know exactly what the grog is now but it used to be good old New England rum – and it never failed to warm the cockles of a jolly Jack's heart.

The following Turners Falls boys went to Framingham, Sunday morning, to join Company L, and all passed the rigid examination: John Thyne, W.H. Murphy, D. Kelleher, Jerry Sullivan, P.J. Campbell, Clayton Goland, August H. Ungrich and Fred Flurey.

Charles Chapin of this village has been chosen sergeant of Company L that has gone into camp. William H. Murphy of Fourth street has been selected as drummer boy.

Photographer Berry went to Framingham last week to photograph several of the companies of volunteers. Owing to the rejection of some members of different companies he only secured negatives of the Turners Falls boys.

The next battle ought to be in the Canaries to suit the yellow papers.

We shall never feel the pangs of war taxes until bar whiskey gets back again to fifteen cents a drink at a country tavern.

The Company L men who have returned from camp because they failed to pass the rigid examination are George Clutterbuck, Jacob Stark, John Carney, Leonard Dow, Fred Williams, Frank Lyman, A.S. Foster, Nathaniel Black, of Greenfield, Frank Vladish, Arthur Clark and C.W. Munson of Turners Falls,

George Robinson of Conway.

MONTAGUE – There will be an entertainment in the town hall, this evening, for the benefit of the street lamp association, illustrating Cuba, Spain, the "Maine," the "great guns," patriotic songs and various other things of interest will fill up the evening's entertainment.

Sunday morning, there was an additional flag swung to the breeze from the town hall to a tree on the common, and several houses had small flags floating, showing the owners' patriotism.

May 18, 1898:

E. D. Goland went to Framingham to see his son before his departure to the front. Many articles and good wishes were sent by him to the other members from here who are in the company.

Campbell & Co. of the Boston store have lots of small flags for the patriotic.

MONTAGUE – The grange will hold its next meeting on Friday evening, at which time the subject for discussion will be "Spain, its past and present."

The town has bought a new flag for the school-house, which will soon be raised from the roof of the front porch.

NORTHFIELD – Dwight L. Moody, who is now at East Northfield, is busy planning for religious work among the soldiers. He is of the opinion that the war will not continue long. "If it does continue," he says, "there will be a great demand for Christian workers. I plan to stay here in Northfield if possible during the summer, but if necessity demands, I shall go to work among the soldiers."

Continuing, Mr. Moody said, "I can't help pitying Spain. She has been forced into this war by her rulers. She is sure to be beaten. It is like a big mastiff licking a little cur. The cur may deserve whipping, but you can't help pitying the little dog while the whipping is taking place."

Franklin County Technical School 2015-2016 Honor Roll Trimester 2

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HIGH HONORS

Nicholas Baranoski – Greenfield
Zachary Barker – Sunderland
Haley Lowell – Wendell
Emily Sullivan – Colrain
Teagan Valeski – Buckland
- HONORS

Meagan Blais – Halifax, VT
Brandon Boudah – Deerfield
Adam Brennan – Northfield
Jared Brothers – Deerfield
Alix Burnett – Erving
Vanessa Cannon – Orange
Samuel Carpenter – Whately
Daniel Chaboff II – Northfield
Kaitlin Churchill – Charlemont
Ivy Cross – Montague
Ciara Desrosier – Greenfield
Megan Duga – New Salem
Emmett Friedrichs – Sunderland
Andrew Goodwin Jr. – Northfield
Kyle Gray – Northfield
James Holloway – Northfield
Tala Houle – Greenfield
Victoria Howes – Orange
Cody Johnson – Leyden
Clay Kelley – Buckland
Anthony Ludwig – Orange
Samantha Macomber – Orange
Stephanie Macomber – Orange
Emily Maselli – Wendell
James Miller – Greenfield
Timothy Momaney – Montague
Walter Piela – Deerfield
Allyson Renaud – Montague
Seth Rider – Greenfield
Nicole Rogalski – Shutesbury
Delaney Shepherd – Colrain
Matthew Smith – Conway
Ciara Staiger – Montague
Justin Thompson – Orange
Derek Vaughan – Greenfield
Gabriel Vorce – Orange
Samantha Watson – Orange
- SOPHOMORES

HIGH HONORS

Dylan Robinson – Orange
Jaxon Rollins – Erving
Kristin Slowinski – Colrain
- HONORS

Lynn Arsenault – Montague
Nicholas Baronas – Leyden
Samuel Bobala – Montague
Matthew Brooks – Heath
Kevin Cardona-Cruz – Montague
Elias Collins – Greenfield
Travis Cutting – Bernardston
Adam DePretto – Deerfield
Michael Dobias Jr. – Erving
Krystal Finn – Buckland
McKenzie Gancarz – Buckland
Calin Giurgiu – Greenfield
Martin Given – Northfield
Grant Gorzocowski – Northfield
Cobi Hardin – Leyden
Todd Hathaway – Montague
Jocelyn Holloway – Northfield
Matthew Huber – Northfield
Brandon Jenks – Orange
Kurtis Kuenzel – Leyden
Cheyla LaFountain – Orange
Matthew Lively – Heath
Kailynn Mason-Emond – Greenfield
Emily Mills – Montague
Daniel Momaney – Montague
Patrick Monaghan – Amherst
Connor Powers – Colrain
Hunter Sessions – Buckland
Kevin Shimeld – Sunderland
Spencer Telega – Deerfield
Sohan Tyner – Leverett
Lindsey Watson – Orange
Leah Wozniak – Heath
Brian Zamojski – Montague
- FRESHMEN

HIGH HONORS

Gwyneth Clark – Heath
Dylan Jordan – Whately
- HONORS

Bryan Allen – Heath
Alec Blake – Greenfield
Alexandra Blake – Greenfield
Daniel Boulanger – Montague
Kaleb Brown – Northfield
Zackery Conway – Greenfield
Tai Coppinger – Leverett
Kayleigh Curtiss – Erving
Joseph Dufresne – Greenfield
James Fahey – Montague
Reagan Fiske – Montague
Timothy Fritz – Erving
Deven Goshea – Gill
Kristen Griswold – Heath
Haley Kidder – Erving
Hailey Larned – Rowe
Noah LaRocque – Northfield
Alexander LaValley – Greenfield
Ariel Medina – Orange
Emily Minor – Charlemont
Tolan Morin – Bernardston
Michael Patnode – Montague
Jonathon Pichette – Montague
Kyle Roy – Erving
Damian Sanchez – Greenfield
Isaac Savage – Erving
Kayla Shufelt – Orange
Nathan Smith – Northfield
Ayden Stacy – Erving
Samuel Trudeau – Bernardston
Cameron Verdieck – Orange
- JUNIORS

HIGH HONORS

Morgan Gradie – Colrain
Whitney Huber-Browning – Northfield
Michelle Leh – Montague
Daisy Osowski – Northfield
Rachel Shearer – Northfield
Katherine Sheperd – Greenfield
- HONORS

Christopher Benz – Greenfield
Catilyn Cairns – Greenfield
Thomas Chamutka – Whately
Loreena Cushing – Greenfield
Shayla Demers – Montague
Jacob Fuess – Northfield
Zak Giard – Shelburne
Colin Gould – Montague
Quintin Howes – Orange
Ryan Howard – Orange
Hayley Hudson – Halifax, VT
Jacob James – Bernardston
Levi Johnson – Leyden
Jared Nimtz – New Salem
Dakota Nye – Ashfield
Sara Powell – Ashfield
Dylan Rogers – Northfield
Dylan Saladino – Jacksonville, VT
Emilly Terrill – Colrain
Brianna Wilder – Wendell
Blue Williams – Colrain
Chad Williams – Leverett
Dustin Williams – Leverett

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CIRCUS from page B1

the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton on July 14, 15, and 16. Tickets sell out fast and can be purchased at smirkus.org or phone at 1 (877) SMIRKUS.

At the kitchen table in her home in Montague, Lucia reflected on the years of practice and hard work that will actually allow her to “run away with the circus” this summer. Winning a spot with Circus Smirkus was competitive. Hundreds auditioned for one of the 30 available slots.

Lucia was prepared. She has put in hours of training to build strength, stamina and flexibility. Behind the glamorous performances stand years of effort. The calluses on her hands bear testament to this, along with a couple of rope burns on her legs.

She attends the Four Rivers Charter School in Greenfield, where she is an excellent student, and also plays on the Girls Ultimate Frisbee team. She will be a senior next fall. After school she travels up to Brattleboro to train at the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), and then comes home and starts her homework.



Lucia Mason poses next to fabric used in her acrobatics.

At NECCA, Lucia is a member of the Advanced Youth Troupe, where she specializes in fabric, rope, and cyr wheel (a giant hoop she spins inside of). “Sometimes I envy my friends who are home schooled and actually have time to sleep,” she said.

Funny thing is, Lucia doesn’t look tired. She looks strong and thrilled with her accomplishments so far. She is proud of her callused hands. Her red hair and freckles bring Pippi Longstocking to mind, and years ago she dressed as Pippi for Halloween. Despite the physical resemblance, it’s actually the force field of her personality that is reminiscent of the adventurous heroine of the children’s book series.

She’s just started working with ropes and she loves it. She practices new acts with a thick crash mat below her. Her one and only injury was caused last year from slipping

on ice and had nothing to do with the daring things she does high off the ground. A full time career with a circus would be a dream come true.


When does a pastime become a passion? For Lucia, it was gradual. “You can’t just have fun on your apparatus,” she said. “Over time you learn there’s more to it than that.

“You begin to create the building blocks that will get you to the next level: You create a daily routine; you get to another level and then another, always competing with yourself. You build confidence. You don’t perform unless you feel confident. It all comes together. Being a professional circus performer would be my ideal job.”

Even an ideal situation can require hard choices, Lucia said. She will not be able to participate in the Traveling Rhubarb Circus this summer. “While I love putting on circus shows with my friends, the thought of being able to travel with a national youth troupe from town to town in the true mud show fashion was too good to pass up.”

She added, “I am excited to be training with world famous coaches and performing with other kids who are just as passionate about circus as I am.”

The summer won’t be all spotlights and sparkles. Lucia and Serafina will join their fellow troupers in doing such tasks as taking care of props, selling tickets and popcorn, and working cooperatively with the tent crew, light and sound technicians, equipment riggers, costumer, musicians and others who travel with the one-ring show.

But the payoff is the opportunity to spend the summer with teens from all parts of the country and the world, bringing their love of circus to each performance. 

FASHION from page B1

changes that should take place.

“The apparent and real exclusivities around the event were the things I most wanted to change in the role of ‘more active’ producer,” he says.

Janke knew that these changes could not be carried out solo, so he sought help from Giselle Guillén-Martínez, owner of the clothing store and community space, COSARARA, located on Avenue A, and began discussing plans to alter the event into a more inclusive community project, rather than a singular event.

Janke and Guillén-Martínez reached out to previous fashion show designers and volunteers as well as individuals active within various communities in Turners Falls, including Suzanne LoManto, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture, and Nina Yagual, who is running a teen-based arts project called Beautiful Hoodlums this summer, to brainstorm how to approach this creative twist on the established event.

The group eventually came up with the plan to incorporate sewing and design workshops leading up to a fashion show as a means to open the event to those with little experience or lack of resources, such as equipment or work space, as well as to spread the word about the event to a broader audience. The workshops, which will involve continuous work on a garment or number of garments, will culminate in a Suzee’s-style fashion show sometime in September.

The workshops, Janke explains, “will be at various levels of practicality. Although we do have some seamstresses with serious skills, we also anticipate workshops based on re-imagining a garment with scissors and a stapler, as well as with a sewing machine and fabric chalk.”

The workshops will be open and available to everyone, regardless of age or skill level. Additionally, Guillén-Martínez and Yagual both speak Spanish, and “can bridge the language gap between participants, if necessary,” says LoManto.

Clothing and equipment will be made available and all that participants will be required to bring is some enthusiasm, interest, and creativity.

The details of the project, including the workshops and fashion show, have not been ironed out yet, but the fashion show project crew is hoping for community input and involvement to fully plan and execute the event.

This Sunday, May 22, there will be a meeting at COSA RARA, 111 Avenue A, from 2 to 5 p.m. to pin down details such as the focus of each workshop, how to document the progress, and when to hold the event – among many other considerations to make this project successful in terms of wider accessibility and greater inclusivity. Janke encourages anyone interested in volunteering or participating in the event to attend the meeting.

The group is looking for volunteers with a wide variety of skills,



Sarah Purnell models a piece co-designed with Tina Bodensteiner at the 2011 Lost and Found Fashion Show.

such as “photographers, models, designers, seamstresses, clothing-gatherers, audience-members, videographers, and creative enthusiasts,” says Janke. He emphasizes that photographers would be especially helpful to document the process, particularly the “various, sometimes ephemeral, transformations we hope to be a part of.”


Based on the group’s attitude and actions, transformation and inclusivity appear to be the themes of this year’s fashion show. Transformation, Janke says, “has always been the magic of the event.”

“The transformation of unwanted clothes to beautiful and bizarre and otherwise amazing garments has been the part of the event that is most miraculous,” he explains, adding that the transformation of the space itself, taking “what is mundane or ordinary and transform[ing] it into a celebratory gesture” has also been particularly meaningful to him.

However, as previously mentioned, an opportunity to view those transformations was unavailable to most of the community, but this year, Janke and the other fashion organizers anticipate changing that trend.

“I hope the inclusive nature of the workshops will bring together people who might not ordinarily meet,” says LoManto. “This project is important in so many ways. It builds both creativity and community,” she adds.

“The concept now is to bring the transformation out into the community more broadly,” Janke says. He reiterates that their hope is that anyone interested will feel welcomed and included, whether they wish to develop their skills in workshops, design independently, or “simply pick up a pair of discard jeans and transform them back into clothes from trash by getting them out of the pile and wearing them”.

Transformation and inclusion can take many forms, and the Lost & Found Fashion Show is setting out to prove that. 

Travel Expenses!

To help cover some of the costs associated with the Circus Smirkus summer tour, Lucia’s family has set up a crowdfunding campaign on GoFundMe.

This is the link to the campaign site: gofundme.com/Senkquak. (You can also find her campaign in the GoFundMe website by searching for “Lucia” and “Smirkus”.)

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 18, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Wrangling Over Railroad Salvage

The Railroad Salvage building in Turners Falls is a crumbling relic of the town’s manufacturing heyday, but two competing developers each believe they have the right idea – and the legal right – to save the building and turn it into a profitable piece of real estate.

The owner of the building, according to Patricia Dion at the tax collector’s office, is Gary Kosuda, who runs a development business.

Despite a huge 50 by 70 foot hole in the main roof, which collapsed this winter and crashed through five floors of the building to the basement, and several (one 50 by 30 foot and two 50 by 20 foot) smaller holes in the roof, Kosuda apparently has faith the building is still, well... salvageable.

Building inspector David Jen-

sen said Kosuda had recently hired a structural engineer and paid for a roof plan and stabilization plan.

Meanwhile, Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk appears to have put together financing to proceed with a plan to renovate the building into 88 market-rent apartments and street level commercial office space.

Kislyuk received the zoning board of appeals’ approval on October 27, 2004 for this plan, contingent on his completing a traffic study for the property, a structural engineering study, 100% containment of runoff, and completion of the commercial space prior to the rental of the residential units. The ZBA also placed a \$500,000 performance bond on Kislyuk, to insure the town would have funds to demolish the building, should the project fail to reach completion.

Kislyuk was not reachable by phone prior to deadline, but former Montague selectboard member Ed Voudren commented on the project, which his company, First Source

Financial, appears to be ready to back: “It’s definitely doable. We’re hoping to get going soon.”

Jensen said another winter without a roof would likely spell total collapse for the 110-year-old, 126,890-square foot property.

Wendell Library Volunteers Save \$30,000

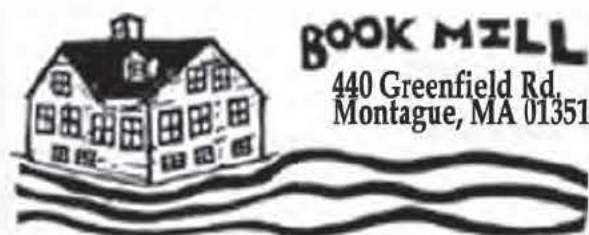
On a cold, wet Sunday, 13 residents from Wendell and New Salem drove to Suffolk’s University in Boston and spent the day salvaging shelves from the library the university is replacing. If purchased new, those shelves would cost as much as \$56,000.

Library staff had already marked the shelves set aside for the two towns, and as volunteers came in from the weather they fell into whatever job needed doing: removing, packing and wrapping shelves, dismantling supports, carrying pieces and loading the truck.

We took a break and ate pizza, and then went back to work.

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Strings at the Shea



The Happy Valley Guitar Orchestra

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By PENNY BURKE

TURNERS FALLS – Spring-time is String-time at the Shea Theater! Celebrate guitars, ukuleles and their friends along with the virtuosity of the musicians who play them, as the Shea welcomes three exciting and innovative performances to the stage on Friday through Sunday, May 20 to 22.

Filling the newly renovated Shea Theater with the extraordinary sounds of strings, strings and more strings, these concerts offer something for everyone and appeal to musical enthusiasts of all ages. The featured artists are distinguished by their utterly original approaches to music, their gusto for expanding traditional repertory and by their lively and engaging performances.

Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m.: The Well Tempered Ukes is not your usual string band. They pluck, strum, harmonize and cover their way through Renaissance, parlor, pop and art songs – the greatest song hits of the last 500 years. Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door.

“Richard (Perlmutter), Marlene (Wong) and Robin (Hoffman) are outstanding and versatile musicians with a friendly vibe and unique repertory,” says Faith Kaufmann, head of Arts & Music at the Forbes Library in Northampton. “Their original arrangements include sophisticated fusions of antique and popular music, with charm and humor.”

This summer, the Well Tempered Ukes will be featured artists

at the Boston Ukulele Melee and the Southern New Hampshire Ukulele Festival.

Saturday, May 21 at 8 p.m., with pre-show mingle at 7 p.m.: The Happy Valley Guitar Orchestra, founded in 2009 by composer, performer and guitar innovator Peter Blanchette, is an avant-garde music ensemble comprised of more than 15-20 acoustic and electric guitarists from widely varied traditions.

The concert celebrates the release of HVGO’s new CD, *Unknown Album* and features recent repertoire from Beethoven’s iconic 7th Symphony Allegretto Movement, popular mid-west rockers Wilco, minimalist composer Philip Glass, South American composer Gustavo Santaolalla and a new piece from Leo Kottke.

Says Blanchette on HVGO’s new CD: “I named it *Unknown Album* because this is music that’s never been heard before. Beethoven’s 7th certainly wasn’t conceived for electric guitars. 16th century French dances didn’t have back-beats, and Wilco’s ‘One Wing’ wasn’t originally arranged with as counterpoint as a Beethoven Symphony. HVGO’s process – where I arrange music for all these guitars and the musicians lend their particular guitar sound to the piece – is always an exploration of great music.

“It’s a search for sounds unknown to the music as it was, and repertoire previously unknown to the guitar. And, what unifies our style, our sound, is the joy we have experience

translating these masterpieces to the language of the guitar.”

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$12/students/children, in advance or at the door.

Sunday, May 22 at 1 p.m.: Beethoven’s Wig is the brainchild of Richard Perlmutter, the group’s creator, lyricist and lead singer. At this special solo performance, Perlmutter will perform Beethoven’s Wig’s most well-known songs, accompanying himself on piano, guitar and mandolin.

Called one of the best introductions to classical music for children and families, the appeal of Beethoven’s Wig can truly be called multi-generational, as its wonderful mix of education, entertainment and comedy are as timeless as the music of Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart itself.

Beethoven’s Wig is a four-time Grammy nominee, and Perlmutter’s songs have been made into animated films by Smiley Guy Studio, winning major awards at the Ottawa International Animation Festival, SNOB Film Festival, and at Anima Mundi, the International Animation Festival of Brazil. Alfred Music has published two collections of his songs and choral editions, which have been sung by choral groups around the world.

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 children 12 and under, in advance or at the door.

Advance tickets and more information about all performances: sheatheater.org.

WALK from page B1

movements: to eradicate poverty, to attain racial justice, and to protect the planet. Their consideration of the relatedness to us of these three areas could be summed up in the group statement, “we understand that our security in this country depends on advancing global security for all.”

After studying a working document entitled “Shared Security, Re-imagining U.S. Foreign Policy,” published by the American Friends Service Committee, Sister Claire of the New England Peace Pagoda said, “all of us came to believe it had profound potential to awaken a great change of consciousness away from war and toward peace and shared well-being.”

Parts of the document were sent ahead to cities and towns along the route, as a basis to prepare for discussions at the community meetings. Some of the ideas underlying the “Shared Security” document, which is available online, are the following:

1. The acknowledgement that problems in the US and the world are of such complexity and magnitude that no race or nation can any longer “go alone,” and the understanding that collective action of cooperative problems will be needed, perhaps over a ten-year period.

2. Pursuit of some policies may be at high cost but are necessary, as the cost of doing nothing would be far greater in death and displacement.

3. We knew, as early as the 1970s, that uncontrolled capital development and the earth’s stability were on a collision course. But today we have arrived at a world population of 7.2 billion people – 1.2 billion of whom live below the poverty line, unable to meet basic needs – and at a degree of climate change which, if unchecked, could destabilize the equilibrium of the earth’s processes.

4. The need to change militaristic U.S. foreign policy, which continues failed wars at the expense of development at home and abroad.

In our discussions with local groups on prison policy, policing, mental healthcare, and failing infrastructure, people understood the values uniting this debate, and felt that change must begin in local communities.

Comments were also offered on the rise of new economies such as worker-owned business, recognition of millennial entrepreneurs in music and performance, and the beginning of a change in institutional responses to great social needs.

After a morning vigil at the White House, we awaited Congressman McGovern at the Cannon Office Building, where he has received the peace walk in previous years. Coming directly from the floor of the House, he began by telling us how the present congressional atmosphere is making it difficult to accomplish his work on poverty and food security in our district.

Familiar with the “Shared Security” document, McGovern also acknowledged the success in western Massachusetts in suspending part of the planned Kinder Morgan pipeline, calling it “the caving of one of the largest companies in the world.”

In face of the great development tasks ahead, the following words may be helpful:

Genuine peace must be the product of many nations, the sum of many acts changing to meet the challenges of each new generation...

Peace is a process – a way of solving problems.

– J.F. Kennedy, 1963, advocating for a nuclear test ban treaty

For further information on sustainable development and how it could be accomplished, here and around the world, readers can find the book (also available online) *The Age of Sustainable Development*, 2015, by Jeffrey Sachs, economist and director of the Earth Institute.



LEVERETT from page B1

a maple stake, but now I know it is the stump of a maple tree that is starting to grow back,” said Douglas.

The commission started its work in 2004, and was able to get Leverett Center awarded as a National Register Historic District.

“It’s just recognition, there are no restrictions,” explained Douglas.

The work took five years to complete, so when it was time to work on the other areas of Leverett, the commission hired a consultant. In 2012 the commission applied for the other three districts to be part of the National Register of Historic Districts: Moores Corner, East Leverett, and North Leverett. In 2014, the other three districts received the recognition.

Susan Mareneck, chairwoman of the commission, spoke about the Montagues and their significance to the town. Major Richard Montague, son of a farmer and a Leverett

resident, fought in both the French and Indian War and in the Revolutionary War. Montague moved to North Leverett in 1765 with his wife, and became one of the founders of the town; he was also one of the original founders of the Baptist church in Leverett.

While the early history of Leverett was littered with conflicts with Native Americans, various mills started to pop up after 1750. Bennett said the first mill site, owned and operated by a man named Joseph Slarrow, was officially recognized as such in the 1750s.

“When the town makes it official that something is a mill, it has probably been milling for quite some time,” explained Bennett.

After the talk, visitors were permitted to tour houses around the three districts. In North Leverett, Barry Oberperiller greeted visitors at the renovated mill now home to Lynn Hall. Oberperiller renovated the mill 25 years ago, keeping the original structure intact.



Lee Glazier, talking about the history of Leverett at the Historical Commission event on May 14.

CUNNINGHAM PHOTO

At one time the mill was used for silver plating. It has also been used as a pool hall, blacksmith shop, and a dancehall in the 1930s. “I can still hear them dancing at night,” Hall joked.

Inside the three story home the original wood beams remain, and the mill wheel can be seen next to the garage. Outside, the bones of the mill are preserved. “I didn’t change that part of it,” Oberperiller explained.

Over at the old schoolhouse, which now holds the Leverett Historical Museum, school rooms now house artifacts instead of children, but the structure remains.

To learn more about the history of Leverett, visit the Leverett Historical Commission website: leverett.ma.us/content/historical-commission.

Oh, and the answer to Dan Bennett’s question? It’s singular possessive, by popular vote.



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McCusker's Co-op Market, 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. 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.



Ashfield Community Theater's 20th-anniversary play, "The Quick-Change Room" is a backstage comedy set in St. Petersburg's Kuzlov Theater as the Soviet Union crumbles in 1991-92. Above are actors Caroline Ludvik-Johnson of Shelburne Falls, William Spademan of Ashfield and Sue Tracy of Ashfield. The play begins on May 27 at 7 p.m. at the Ashfield Town Hall.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Photography of Angelina Delaney*. Through June 6.

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: *Dune Shack & Havana Streets: Photography by Trish Crapo*. Work from Havana Cuba and the Cape Cod National Seashore. Through May 21.

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 May 28.

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: Barnes Gallery presents: *Susan Valentine: Annual Open Studio & Gallery Show*. Through May 29.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Thrones*. Artists transform the common toilet seat into new art forms. See photo this page. Opening reception on 5/20, 5 to

7 p.m. Through 6/25.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Along the River: pastels by Rebecca Clark*. Through June 27.

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

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Something Else*. Photography, oils, and watercolors by Candace Silver. Exhibit through May 30.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Silverthorne Theater, Green-

field: *A Day Of Remembrance: Commemoration of the 340th Anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre*. All day event 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ceremony at 1 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Strengthen Rwanda's Future with Tony Vacca*. "Fun & educational evening to raise funds for higher education for the youngest victims of the Rwandan genocide." Rwandan arts & crafts, traditional dance, raffles & door prize. 11 guests from Rwanda & Uganda. Music by Tony Vacca. 6 p.m. \$

Arts Block (Wheelhouse), Greenfield: *Fleetwood Whack* Franklin County's Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band. 8 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *"Ender's Game"*. Movie based on the book by Orson Scott Card. This month's offering in the series Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies. An episode of "Fireball X15": "A Day In The Life Of A Space General" precedes "Ender's Game". 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Mt. Toby Friends Meeting presents: *Sue Kranz & Ben Tousley and Paul Kaplan*. Singer-songwriters for social change. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jennifer Matthews*. Roots rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mr. Noisy & the Sparkplugs*. Rock and Roll for your soul. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Alternaprom*. Benefit for the Center School. Music by *Trailer Park*, then dance party. 9 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*. Cover Band. \$

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie rock. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wishbone Zoe*. Indie-folkie sonic alchemist music. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno reads from his new book of poems *Remission*. 3 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic*. Cabaret. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts begins its 12th season of concerts with Joe Graveline, Russ Thomas, and the Frost Heaves and Hales. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends*. Original Americana with Jen Spingla. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *SONA*. Acoustic duo. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield: Ashfield Community Theater presents: *The Quick Change Room*. See photo and blurb this page. 7 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Josh Burkett, Willie Lane, Slippery Dixon, and Flaming Dragons*. Benefit for Jaume I. All ages / substance free space. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Friends of Bernie*. Alternative rock. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Adynkra*. Instrumental duo. 9:30 p.m.



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Saturday, 5/21 - 9 p.m.
Mr. Noisy & the Sparkplugs

Sunday, 5/22 - 8 p.m.
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The Week In Sports: TFHS Softball

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Softball Indians played four tough games this week, going up against two undefeated teams, and two potential spoilers. Through it all, they kept their composure, met the challenges head-on – and hit a very important milestone.

I was at the Mohawk softball game on Monday the 16th, standing next to a couple of Mohawk fans. The score was climbing to 20 runs, but the two men were not watching the game, they had their eyes fixed on the Turners Falls coach.

Gary Mullins was taking air-swings, holding an invisible bat. He showed one girl where her elbow should be to have an even swing, and demonstrated to another how not to drop her shoulder. And when his ladies were in the field, he used hand signals to reposition his fielders on a pitch-by-pitch basis.

“No one knows more about softball than that man,” one of them commented.

The other just sighed. “Yeah.” The admiration voiced by these casual observers was not misplaced. You see, Coach Mullins begins training on the very first day of practice, and continues until the last out of every game. His coaching prowess was evident in the Hampshire game, played one day earlier, when he switched his infielders around. He put the fielders in the best possible position, predicting where each batter might hit the ball.

And in the May 11 Frontier game, when Peyton Emery was struggling at the plate, he mixed encouragement with helpful hints. “You’re lurching,” he said as she fouled off a pitch. “Keep your legs still,” he called after a swing and a miss.

And she listened to Coach: she kept her legs still, she didn’t lurch, and she hit the ball over the fence for a homer.

What the Mohawk fans didn’t know, as they watched Mullins in ac-

tion, is that the Mohawk game was a milestone game. The thirteenth game of this season, and incidentally, the thirteenth win, marked a handing of the torch from Frontier legend Vi Goodnow to Gary Mullins.

With this win, Mullins has won more games than any coach has ever won, in any sport, in Franklin County history.

The second milestone reached in the Mohawk game is that it was his 1700th game. That is the sum total of all the games in all the sports Mullins has coached over the years.

So Coach Mullins’ job isn’t exactly simple, but his instinctual knowledge of the game and his raw enthusiasm have led to many successful seasons and many cherished memories for players and fans alike.

TFHS 4 – Greenfield 0

On May 12, the previously undefeated Green Wave of Greenfield trekked across the river to play unbeaten Turners Falls. The game itself had a Turkey Day-like vibe to it.

There were so many fans in attendance they were forced to park in the student parking lot, and later on the grass. Fans forced to park far away were still arriving after the game began, jogging with their folded chairs and blankets. People wore blue and green and cheered every pitch, and I saw not one, but two kids I grew up with on Wentworth Ave more than four decades ago.

And the game was all it was built up to be. It was a scoreless tie going into the bottom of the fifth. The usually proficient Blue Bombers and the Upstart Green Ladies battled pitch by pitch, inning after inning, but neither squad could break the goose egg.

That is, until Jenna Putala came to the plate in the fifth. Miss Jenna had been catching the bottom of the ball all night, popping high infield outs. But this time, she hit the sweet spot. The ball rocketed out of the park and into the grass beyond for a 3-run homer.

Pitcher Mackenzie Phillips kept Green off the scoreboard for six more outs, and Turners preserved their unbeaten status and climbed to the top of the Franklin League. In addition to Jenna, Cassidy Wozniak, Phillips, and Alyson Murphy had hits. Wozniak, Putala, Olivia Whittier and Abby Loynd scored runs. Gabby Arzuaga and Peyton Emery drew walks.

In the Circle, Phillips threw seven innings of shutout ball, fanning 14, allowing just one hit and no walks.

TFHS 2 – Hampshire 0

The competition didn’t get any easier when the Tribe traveled to Westhampton on Sunday afternoon to challenge the undefeated and reigning D-2 State Champions, the Hampshire Red Raiders.

Like the Greenfield game, this was a pitcher’s duel. However, this game was a little different, because both teams left men in scoring positions throughout the game. But through grim determination, sharp pickoff attempts and dumb luck, it remained a scoreless tie going into the seventh inning.

That’s when Putala came up to bat. Once again, she parked it to score the winning run.

“They made the same mistake that Greenfield made: they pitched to Jenna,” one of my compatriots said after the game.

But that’s not entirely accurate. Jenna was one reason why Turners won, but she is just one piece in a very successful machine. Every single player contributed to the win, from the courtesy base runners to the kids on the bench.

You see, Mullins’ Indians are more than just a random group of girls; they’re a Tribe. Phillips helped her own cause by cracking two hits, one of which was a double. Arzuaga also had 2 hits and also blasted a double. Murphy and Jordyn Fiske also made it on base with walks.

Phillips scattered six hits, K’ed 12, and gave up a base on balls.



Abby Loynd sprints past first base and makes it to second, as the throw slips by the first baseman’s glove during Turners’ 4-0 win over Greenfield on May 12.

Turners Falls 20 – Mohawk 0

After two tough victories, some teams would have a letdown game when they play a less successful team. But not Powertown.

Against Mohawk, Blue didn’t let up. They scored early and often, and when the fifth inning mercifully ended, Turners was in the lead by 2 decades.

But this was a nice test for Turners. And they adjusted well after facing two of the best pitchers, they transitioned to a slower, more predictable hurler. This gave the chance for Mullins to give his underclassmen some valuable playing time.

As in other blowouts, I’ll just give rudimentary stats. The following Blue Ladies had hits: Wozniak 3, Putala 4, Arzuaga 1, Abby Loynd 1, Phillips 1, Murphy 3, Emery 1, Johnson 1, Sienna Dillensneider 2, Hailey Whipple 2, and Fiske 1.

Jessica Loynd was hit by a pitch and scored a run, and Melissa Hersey also crossed the plate. Peyton Emery pitched the full five innings, giving up no runs, no walks, whiffing 9, and scattering 3 hits.

TFHS 12 – Hopkins 0

The very next evening, Turners mercy-ruled another team, the Hopkins Golden Hawks. Turners benefit-

ed from a 7-run third inning, a 3-run fourth, and then scored the additional 2 runs in the sixth to end the game.

Phillips and Emery shared pitching duties in the circle, striking out a combined 12 batters, allowing no runs or walks and giving up just one hit. On the offensive side of the plate, there was only one extra-base hit, a double for Abby Loynd.

Phillips had two hits and three RBIs, and Wozniak also hit twice and drove a run in. Other ladies with RBIs include Emery and Arzuaga. Putala and Fiske contributed hits.

The Turners Falls Softball Indians beat two of the best teams in Western Mass, and have recently outscored their opponents by a combined score of 74-1. But they are not out of the woods yet. They’ve barely entered.

They’re going to face even more challenging games in the week to come. On Thursday, May 19, they again face Greenfield – this time in enemy territory. Then on Friday, they host another revenge-minded team, Hampshire.

Then they play three straight days: on Sunday they host the undefeated Central Mass powerhouse Wachusett; on Monday they play Mohawk; and on Tuesday, they host Mahar. Then they have a day off before they play Pioneer.



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