



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 33

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 2, 2016

A DAY OF REFLECTION



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

There was no Memorial Day parade in Turners Falls this year, and the planned holiday commemoration at the Soldiers Memorial on Avenue A was moved into the Elks Lodge in anticipation of a rainstorm that let up well before the event. Nevertheless, veterans, family members and members of the general public congregated Monday morning at the memorial to reflect on the wars of our nation, and those lost fighting them.

Fun, Fishy and Free at the Falls!

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – A tradition continues for the eleventh year at the Great Falls Discovery Center: Family Fish Day will delight adults and children of all ages this Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The program is free, and chock full of things to do and see, at the riverside location next to the Turners Falls-Gill bridge and also upstream at Bartons Cove.

At the Great Falls Discovery Center, try your hand at fly casting, fly tying and stream demonstrations. Janel Nockleby, interpretive park ranger at the Center, says that thanks to the Connecticut River Watershed Council, “there will be a fish catapult! I don’t know what

see **FISH DAY** page A6



BETH PELTON PHOTO

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, dressed as a shad to promote the townwide family fish day, wonders whether such an animal would need a bicycle.

TFHS Sports: The Regular Season Ends

By MATT ROBINSON

This week marked the end of the regular high school season, and the jostling for playoff seeds. Three Turners Falls teams – baseball, softball, and boys’ tennis – made it into the post season. The track teams, which are an amalgamation of Franklin Tech and Turners Falls, sent athletes to the individual meets on May 21 and Western Mass meet on May 28.

Track and Field

Roman Tsipenyuk, or Coach T. as the track team knows him, explained that the track team consists of both Turners Falls and Franklin Tech students. Because his team is so small, he has been emphasizing individual improvements instead of trying to win meets.

“We have several exceptional athletes on our team and I have been working with those individuals to improve their personal records,” he explained.

Coach T. mentioned several of the kids who’ve qualified for the postseason, including Owen Ortiz and Nik Skiathitis in the 100 meter; Kahmal Wilson in the high jump; Ortiz in the long jump; and Wilson, Skiathitis, Dalton Wesoloski and Ortiz in the 4 by 100 meter relay.

He also mentioned the girls who qualified, including Wileshka Vega, Amanda Cooke, and Bryn Kruzlic in the 100 meter; Kristin Slowinski in discus; Vega in

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A8



DAVID HOULT PHOTO

Franklin County Technical School senior Samantha Watson wins the 2-mile with a time of 15:07 at an April 28 track meet against West Springfield High. The school shares a track and field team with Turners Falls High School.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Wastewater Issues Get More Complicated; Outdoor Noise Rules Just A Little Simpler

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague’s selectboard, not originally scheduled to meet until June 13, decided to meet on Tuesday, apparently in order to “discuss staffing issues at the Water Pollution Control Facility.”

A controversy over staffing and succession at the town’s wastewater treatment plant has reached a crisis point, due to the June 30 retirement of superintendent Bob Trombley and a planned medical leave, starting on the same date, by chief operator John Little.

The board acknowledged a state Open Meeting Law (OML) com-

plaint that it had improperly discussed and rejected a proposal to reorganize the department upon Trombley’s retirement during an executive session. It then moved on to discuss the department’s staffing issues.

With a full complement of WPCF staff sitting in the audience, the meeting turned into a discussion of the very issue that generated the OML complaint: the rejection of the plan, backed by Trombley and his staff, to replace his position by promoting two current employees into shared management of the department.

see **MONTAGUE** page A5

Body of Murder Suspect Recovered, Confession Found

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – The state medical examiner’s office confirmed on Wednesday afternoon that a corpse found in the Connecticut River over the holiday weekend had belonged to Tyler Hagmaier, the sole suspect in a grisly murder in Plymouth earlier last month.

Hagmaier’s car was found abandoned at the French King Bridge on May 6, and on Monday, May 30 his body was discovered a mile downstream on the Gill side of the river.

He had apparently traveled to his mother’s home in Montague after murdering 76-year-old neighbor Vibeke Rasmussen, a Quincy last month.

see **SUSPECT** page A8

Wendell Gears Up for Annual Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell voters, and officials, are preparing for the annual town meeting, which will be held next Wednesday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

The warrant authorizes \$2,320,152 for the operation of town government, and in order to keep the tax rate from rising too much, would authorize paying \$110,679 from stabilization to pay for the town building construction loan, the Mahar reconstruction loan, and to make contributions to the insurance reserve fund, the unem-

ployment compensation fund, and the pension reserve fund.

Other articles would spend money from taxation, or another source not specified in the draft: \$32,000 for group health insurance, \$34,000 for design of a walkway between the common and the Wendell Country Store, \$15,000 for culvert design work, \$1,000 for work on the dam and culvert on Lockes Village Road, \$5,000 for fire department turnout gear, \$22,000 for Swift River School capital projects, and \$10,000 for town

see **WENDELL** page A6

A Safe Passage for Area Youth at DIAL-SELF

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – When Dr. Robert Maloy of Shelburne, along with concerned community members, founded DIAL/SELF in 1977, the focus was on providing services to at-risk youth in the community.

Thirty-nine years later, DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services has evolved into an influential, prominent agency, offering a multitude of resources throughout the county.

“Our mission,” said executive director Phillip Ringwood, “is to help young people become more independent by connecting them with



DIAL/SELF director Phillip Ringwood

housing, education, employment, and civic engagement opportunities. We work side by side with youth – not above them – aiding them in seeding opportunities and realizing

see **PASSAGE** page A5

The Montague Reporter

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Demanding More

If you had to choose between a giant, well-established corporate entity that would stick to the center and has left many suspicious and dissatisfied over the years, and an obscure upstart that promises innovation and universal benefit but might have a shaky and improvised game plan, which would you choose?

The people of Montague, who by the way happened to vote two-to-one for Bernie Sanders back in March, seem to be leaning toward the second option when it comes to the two firms that have submitted proposals to build out last-mile high speed internet to the town's southern reaches.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), tasked with awarding the half-million dollars in state funds on the project, is leaning hard toward Comcast, much to the chagrin of residents who point out that the company's proposal could skip as many as 140 households, and would use traditional coaxial copper cable, among other shortcomings.

Residents of the town's unserved and far-flung hills, and the town's own broadband committee, prefer an alternative proposal put in by the Matrix Design Group, which could cover more homes and use fiber-optic cable.

The MBI and its consultants have been quite harsh toward Matrix's plan. MBI points out the company "has never operated a residential broadband network before, let alone one in a rural area," and has called into question its business model for the project.

Matrix has been working on the ground in Montague -- and in Hardwick, which is in the same boat -- on a plan that would involve the towns much more closely in the process, arguably exposing them to more risk in pursuit of a better network.

It is a classic clash of paradigms, seemingly sealed in place by the institutions in dispute.

The town's broadband committee is comprised entirely of volunteers from Chestnut and Dry Hills, who have a direct stake in rejecting Comcast. The selectboard has gone along with its recommendations.

And MBI, whose director unexpectedly resigned and was replaced this year and has spent far more on executive salaries to date than on broadband projects, has taken on the hallmarks of a

dysfunctional bureaucracy, and it makes sense that it would favor the plan it saw as safer.

For a purported state and local collaboration, the two groups seem to agree on nothing, including the point of the process, the criteria by which proposals should be judged, the minimum standard for technology used, the way to evaluate financial viability, or even how many homes are currently unserved.

The process itself seems to be damaged. Montague and Hardwick may be experiencing something like the regional towns that banded together under WiredWest, an effort that also ran aground on MBI criticism. As with WiredWest, the public conversation has become such a snarl of acrimony that it is hard to sort out all the facts and choose the wisest path forward.

There are some steps that Town Hall can take which would make the eventual path forward clearer.

Questions swirl about the quality of the work Matrix did just across the border in Leverett. MBI indicates that Leverett officials experienced frustrations with the company, while Montague residents favoring the fiber option say they've heard otherwise. It seems important that the town of Montague get a clearer picture of just what happened there.

Similarly, the town should independently review the financial model proposed by Matrix, and the existing criticisms of it, and come to a better understanding of the risks it would bring before accepting the company as the white knight to save us from the Comcast dragon.

We sympathize with town residents who still don't have viable high-speed internet at home. It is a modern necessity.

And we can accept the premise that Montague can do better than what Comcast has offered.

Matrix might be a good partner here -- and if concerns about them can be allayed, then the whole town should join our unserved residents in pushing the state to help us move the last mile buildout forward.

But it might also be time for everyone to go back to the drawing board, and have the towns and state work together to put out a new request for qualifications. None Of The Above is a tough choice to make, but we can only do this once, so we should do it right.

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Letters to the Editors

River the Key to Millers' Past, Future

I would like to express thanks to local historians David Brule, Sara Campbell and Ed Gregory, as well as Montague Public Libraries Director Linda Hickman, for presenting the recent Millers Falls History walk. After a long and cold spring, it was a joy to meet with neighbors in our tiny library and then stroll about the red, white and blue history of our village on a sunny day in May.

I would also like to express thanks to writer David Detmold for his wonderful article "Walking Through Millers History" which appeared in last week's MR. I enjoyed the writer's insights, his curiosity about the future of Millers, as well as his sense of humor.

With two mills, two taverns, two churches, a school, a post office, a train station, a library, a VFW post, a hotel with a ballroom, a grocer, a haberdasher and a doctor who made house calls ... it sounds to me like Millers was once the center of the

world. But where did all that go?

The bulk of the history walk focused upon the life of the village before the closing of the mills, with little to no discussion about the village's long and gradual decline. "How to explain the loss of local industry," the writer asks. Disastrous trade policies, pure capitalism, China? Is the writer suggesting that China is to blame?

The formula for success in New England river towns was simple: rivers provided cheap energy for mills, mills provided jobs for settlers and immigrant families, settlers could buy cheap land and build homes. Voila: Millers Falls.

The whole village burns down in 1895. We rebuild the whole thing all over again in three short years. No problem.

But as soon as the mill owner can find a cheaper source of energy, and a cheaper source of labor, off they go in search of greater profit. This

is the way of capitalism. Seems to me that US businessmen sold out Millers Falls.

Since the closing of the mills, almost all of the village's key community assets have been removed: the school, the post office. The library is open just two days per week. What is left? How will the Millers community survive as more than a zip code? How to attract good businesses and families? Do the people who live here want this place to be better?

At least one major asset remains -- the river. Connecting to the history of Millers Falls, and connecting to the Millers River, are two ways to nurture a sustainable community. Yes, I am hopeful. There is so much more to learn about the history of this place, and there is also a wonderful future for us to create here.

Richard Widmer
Millers Falls

Senate Anti-Snake Amendment Undermines Conservation and Science

A proposed amendment to Massachusetts State Budget plan would prevent the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from introducing Timber Rattlesnakes in any area that they do not currently inhabit across Massachusetts, including known historic sites that have only recently been extirpated.

This is a political attempt to stop the Quabbin Timber Rattlesnake Introduction Project, based on public concern for safety and misguided media coverage. If this amendment passes, then the Commonwealth will be allowing political agendas, and not science, to dictate the management of endangered species.

Many species have been successfully re-introduced in the Commonwealth, including Bald Eagles, the

American Burying Beetle, and the Wild Turkey. This amendment will set a bad precedent for all future conservation efforts in the Commonwealth: if the public does not like a species, it will not be protected, and our ecosystems will only consist of bunnies and butterflies in the future.

The greater the variety and number of species within an ecosystem, the more stable and resilient it is. Within an ecosystem, all species provide an equal contribution to stability of the ecosystem.

Increasing the number of species in an ecosystem improves the health of the ecosystem; therefore, introducing the Timber Rattlesnake to Mt. Zion is actually enhancing the ecosystem, not harming it, and not increasing public safety threats.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is required to protect all endangered species, regardless of taxa or public popularity. By allowing this amendment to pass, the Massachusetts State Senate will be preventing the Division from performing its job.

I have intensely studied this species since 2009 across the Commonwealth, and feel very passionately they are a key species in our ecosystems, and need to be protected.

I urge everyone to contact his or her state senators, to not allow this amendment to pass.

Anne Stengle
PhD Candidate, Organismic
and Evolutionary Biology
UMass-Amherst

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **After-School Community Theater Program** at Gill Elementary School, or ACT, will be performing "Aladdin" on June 4 at 7 p.m. on the Gill Town Hall stage.

The play is a version of the story of Aladdin from The Arabian Nights. Seventeen fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders are participating, as well as sixth-grade teacher, Dave Grout. This is the program's fifth year of putting on a play.

The cost is \$5 for 14 years and up; everyone else is free.

The Powers Institute Museum, located at 20 Church Street, Bernardston, will be open on Sunday, June 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the upstairs of the Senior Center. The second floor museum is elevator accessible from the front lobby, with parking and entrance at the rear of the building.

Come see treasured artifacts such as framed original signatures of the Bernardston minutemen

Revolutionary War volunteers, and the profile portraits of the Allen family by Ruth Henshaw Bascom.

Antique farm implements, military relics and old wedding dresses will also be on display. One room is devoted to taxidermist Luman Nelson's animals and birds. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend.

The GMRSD is having a **district-wide food drive** from June 6 through June 10. Please help them collect non-perishable food items for the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Food Pantry. The food pantry serves many families in need within our community.

Items may be dropped off during school hours to any district school office. Items needed are the same foods we find in our own kitchen cabinets, such as canned vegetables and fruits, soup, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, oatmeal, instant potatoes, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce and juice as well as any snacks.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Community Benefits Advisory Council (CBAC) will host a "Community Listening Session" – a **community health needs discussion** – on Tuesday, June 7, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the first floor meeting room at the John Olver Transit Center on Olive Street in Greenfield.

The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served. CBAC is a group of hospital employees and community representatives charged with guiding Baystate Franklin Medical Center's community benefits priorities and process.

A **tribute to Mason and Ina Phelps** will be held Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Bob Wilber, director of land protection for Mass Audubon, will give an illustrated account of his impressions and experiences working with them over many years. It will include descriptions of Wendell's Whetstone Wood Wildlife Sanctuary.

There will also be a **River Dance Party to benefit the Millers River Watershed Council** on Friday, June 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the French King Restaurant in Erving. A meet and greet will begin at 6 p.m.

Boogie for the river to the sounds of duo Free Range, and partake in a 50/50 raffle. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door. Sponsored by

Dean's Beans, Myron's Fine Food, and the Friends of the River.

The second ever **Valley Gun Buy Back** will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northampton and Greenfield police stations. Sponsors include the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Baystate Health, Valley Medical Group and many others. The aim is to get unwanted but working guns out of people's homes, so they don't fall into the wrong hands.

All guns in working condition will be accepted, no questions asked, and participants will receive a \$50 gift card, as long as supplies last, for each gun returned unloaded, in a bag. Ammunition will also be accepted, but there won't be gift cards given for it.

Happy Birthday to frequent *Montague Reporter* writer and photographer Joe Parzych of Gill, who turned 87 this week.

And **save the date** for Saturday, June 18: In the morning, the Brick House is hosting a benefit 5K Race at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

After that, there will be a **grand opening celebration for Unity Skatepark!** We will bring you more details as they are announced.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



More Letters to the Editors

Cable Expansion Meeting Deserved Better Coverage

In the May 26 *Reporter*, Jeff Singleton provided an account of a public meeting between community members and representatives of state government that both gave an inaccurate picture of what transpired and missed the main point.

He made the meeting seem like a polemical tennis match, a volley of denunciations that failed to advance the negotiations in any way.

In fact, the discussion, while heated, was substantive. It helped advocates understand why the Massachusetts Broadband Institute has been

so unresponsive to our needs, and it showcased the commitment and expertise of community residents fighting for an alternative to Comcast.

The details of the specific proposals are important. But the underlying issue is that the taxpayer-funded Massachusetts Broadband Institute has done little or nothing to meet the needs of underserved communities.

A better telling of that story could help improve its performance.

Nancy Folbre
Chestnut Hill Loop, Montague

MONTAGUE VOTER REGISTRATION

Tuesday, June 7, 2016 is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming June 27 Debt Exclusion Vote. Voters will be voting to borrow \$900,000 for the Combined Sewer Overflow and Storm Drain Project and \$385,000 for the removal of hazardous and asbestos containing materials from the Strathmore Mill Complex.

Registration will be held at the Town Clerk's Office for all Montague residents who will be 18 years old on or before June 27. Office hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Town Clerk's office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200, ext 203 or visit www.montague.net. You may also register to vote online at www.RegisterToVoteMa.com

Montague's Sludge: Some Further Conversation

We, the staff of the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), share Gloria Kegeles' concern about our beautiful valley. We offer these facts in response to her letter to the editor of May 19, "Composted Sludge: Still Toxic Stuff."

1. We accept no sludge from outside towns, unless it is first tested for the items of concern.

2. Composting was an intermediate step in the earlier Montague Process that is no longer needed. The Montague Process continues to evolve and become more efficient.

3. No sludge has been taken to a landfill or incinerator from the plant in three years. No compost has been removed from the plant at all.

4. The 1,000,000+ gallons of thickened sludge received at the plant on average every month are reduced by the Montague Process

to sand, gases, and clean water, yielding monthly revenue averaging around \$40,000 for the ratepayers of Montague.

5. After the Montague Process is applied to the thickened sludge we receive from 20+ municipalities, there is not enough organic material remaining to make composting viable. This was related in Jen Holmes' article of April 28.

6. By receiving thickened sludge from nearby communities, we help reduce noxious emissions from trucks that would otherwise be carrying their loads many, many miles to far away disposal sites, thus generating higher levels of emissions.

7. If we did *not* use the Montague Process, we too would be contributing to transport emissions, and the negatives of incinerating or landfilling our waste.

The Montague Process was

originated at the Montague WPCF by one of the operators, John Little, and is an evolving process, tweaked and monitored daily by all the operators. We are told by outside industry professionals that this process is of national, if not global, importance to the wastewater industry and our planet. The "magic" referred to is the process, and not the composted by-product.

This beautiful valley is our home too, and we work to protect it. We are working hard to develop the best methods possible to achieve this goal.

The Montague WPCF Staff

Editor's note:

*Thanks for writing to us!
Gloria, who volunteers as a Wednesday night proofreader with the Reporter, points out that the April 28 article her letter was re-*

sponding to ("Montague's Water Pollution Control Facility: Innovation, Teamwork, and a Little 'Magic'"), contains the following passage:

"Trombley says the facility is hoping the composted solids will be classified as Type I, which would mean it could be used or sold, with minimal oversight by the Department of Environmental Protection, for any use including growing vegetation."

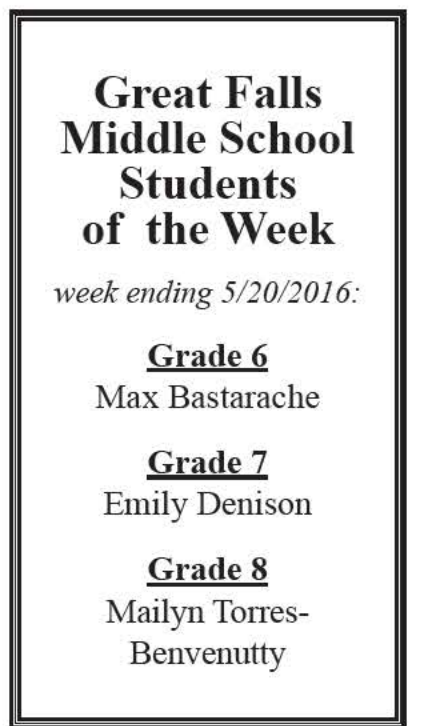
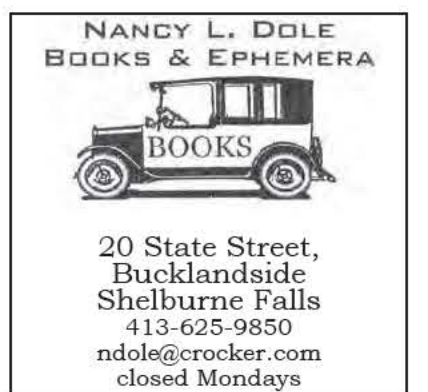
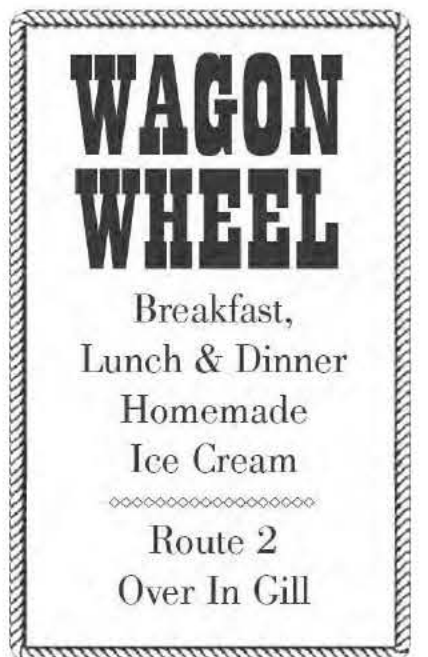
Her concern was understandable, though we apologize if it was due to an error in our reporting.

We're also curious about the composition and destination of the solids referred to in your letter as sand.

We will be happy to set the record straight over the coming months in order to keep the public informed about the process at the plant, though we know the dept. has more immediate challenges to deal with.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Youth Jobs Program Planned for Turners Falls; District Eyes Cutting School Nurse Position

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Students at Turners Falls High School will have an opportunity to participate in a summer jobs program this year, including training and ongoing support funded by a grant from the federal government intended to benefit students in communities with high poverty and at-risk youth.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan announced at the May 24 Gill-Montague school committee meeting that our region was one of eleven in the country selected to receive funding from a \$21 million dollar grant program, *Summer Jobs and Beyond*, provided by the Obama administration through the Department of Labor.

Sullivan said, "We were pleasantly surprised to receive this highly competitive grant, which will bring just under \$2 million to Turners Falls, Orange and Ware for summer employment and training opportunities to high school students starting this summer."

He credited Patricia Crosby, executive director of the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, for leading the effort to obtain the grant. The program will continue beyond the summer with support for local groups that work with youth in the community, including the Brick House in Turners Falls.

Sullivan also announced continuation into the next school year of an after-school music program at Sheffield, started earlier this year by Vicki Cit-

ron. This is an instrumental program which currently has eight students participating in it, with room for up to fifteen students. The program currently runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. from April to June 8. Students enrolled in the program get instruments with no additional charge, provided either by the school or Musica Franklin, a Greenfield-based program begun by Citron.

Sullivan asked for two additional half-days in the 2016-2017 school calendar, on October 26, 2016 and March 8, 2017. He said the reason for this request was that the school district "lacks sufficient time for educator professional development and collaboration."

He argued that in order to maintain improvement in their performance throughout the school district, teachers should have more than a few brief individual lectures by outside experts, and called for ongoing coaching and collaboration among the teaching staff, with more frequent opportunities for professional development.

The administration is currently exploring options for a more comprehensive model, but for the coming school year, Sullivan said he would like to take the small step of adding these two afternoons for early release time.

There was some concern among school committee members about the impact of these short days on working families. Sullivan acknowledged the concern but said it was time necessary for important work to be done by faculty and staff. After a brief discussion, the change to the

calendar was approved.

As it was the first regular meeting since the election, the committee discussed its goals and procedures. They approved reappointment of members of the warrant subcommittee, made up of Sandra Brown, Jane Oakes and April Reipold. They also approved chair Michael Langknecht to sign payroll should it be necessary.

Superintendent Sullivan requested personnel changes for the next school year: an increase for an adjustment counselor, and psychologist staffing at Sheffield. To make this budget neutral, he suggested not filling the vacancy left when the school nurse retires this year.

Sullivan also would increase teacher staffing for Sheffield's therapeutic program. He said the program has become too large for a single teacher and single classroom, and proposed to add a second teacher in a separate classroom. This would be funded by eliminating three paraprofessional positions at Sheffield: one in the therapeutic program, and two that support special education students across grade levels.

He noted this reorganization was possible due to an increase in special education teaching at Sheffield and an overall decline in special education enrollment. The school committee approved his requests.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

This story of today starts in 1934. The American Legion Post 21 Championship baseball team from Springfield, Massachusetts has been invited to play in a national tournament in Gastonia, North Carolina. When the team gets off the train, the band stops playing. A bus pulls away from the curb. At the hotel, there's no bed for the only black player: Bunny Taliaferro. He has to sleep on a cot and be registered as the coach's valet.

More than two thousand Gastonians show up for the team's first practice. If the players insist on taking the field with Bunny, they'll never see another baseball glove. The Ku Klux Klan will kidnap them in the middle of the night, and they'll never see their families or friends again.

Bunny responds by hitting the first six pitches thrown to him out of the ball park. The people retaliate by filling the air with empty Coke bottles and half-eaten hot dogs.

Meanwhile, the teams from Florida and Maryland announce they will not take any field where Bunny has taken a position. The hotel manager tells the Post 21 coach that his team cannot attend the evening's welcoming banquet as long as Bunny is on the roster.

Coach calls for a meeting. The players are given a choice: they can play without Bunny or head home. Captain Tony King is the first to speak: "If Bunny doesn't play, I'm not playing either." The team votes unanimously, and without debate, to withdraw from the tournament.

A heroes' welcome awaits the players back in Springfield. Thirteen years before anyone ever heard of Jackie Robinson, a group of fifteen- and sixteen-year-old kids from Mas-

sachusetts stood up for their friend, made a statement against racism, and hit a home run for progressive-thinking people everywhere.

When Post 21 protested the national headquarter's tolerance of racial discrimination, it retaliated by striking the team from its record books. The local chapter then disbanded baseball until the Legion leadership reconsidered its position. It never did.

In 2003, a monument honoring the team's heroic action was erected in Springfield's Forest Park. In 2010, Post 21 reinstated baseball. Governor Deval Patrick gave championship rings to the team's two surviving members: Danny Keyes and Tony King.

My illustrated children's version of the story, *A Home Run for Bunny*, was published in 2013, and in 2014, Springfield College named the Post 21 team the recipient of its first annual Humanics Achievement Award.

That summer, I sent a copy of my book to Mayor John Bridgeman of Gastonia, who wrote a letter of apology to Mayor Sarno and the people of Springfield. The two mayors agreed to establish a home-and-away series to heal old wounds and build a different kind of relationship between their two cities.

The first game of the series, scheduled for Forest Park on Father's Day in 2015, was rained out. Now the Post 21 team is scheduled to play, on June 26 in North Carolina, the game that wasn't played eighty years ago.

North Carolina. In March, the state legislature passed a law requiring people to use public restrooms that correspond to the genders listed on their birth certificates.

The response was swift and sure: PayPal canceled plans to build an

office in the state capital; Bruce Springsteen cancelled a concert; and the governors of Vermont, Connecticut and New York placed restrictions on employees conducting state business in North Carolina.

Even corporate criminal Bank of America complained that the law would weaken their efforts to recruit employees.

What Ted Cruz and company forgot, or perhaps chose not to remember, is that when Post 21 players were in Gastonia, all-gender bathrooms were the legal norm – for black people.

Then there was the response to the response: eleven states sued the federal government for violating the Constitution; Republicans in the House of Representatives defeated a bill prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT Americans; and the governors of Texas and Mississippi ordered their state schools to ignore President Obama's directive to accommodate transgender people.

Even Ted Cruz got into the act, claiming that allowing a "man" to enter a women's restroom because "he feels like a woman" invites sexual predators.

What Ted Cruz & Co. forgot, or perhaps chose not to remember, is that during the time when Post 21 players were in Gastonia, all-gender bathrooms were the legal norm – for black people. White people had their separate public restrooms,

but black people shared theirs.

At the ceremony before the game that ended Post 21's protest against the American Legion for racial discrimination, Judge Danny Keyes appeared with a grandson he'd flown in from Florida. When one of the reporters asked the boy what he would do if he was given the choice of not playing in North Carolina in 1934, the twelve-year-old replied, "I'd play."

A collective gasp sounded from all within earshot, and the face of the former player turned beet red.

What has happened since the time when Danny was a kid? How did the players on his team know that trust, loyalty, friendship, standing up to bullies, and protesting against racism were more important than winning a baseball championship?

What would happen if today's Post 21 players were given a similar choice? Would they vote to play in Gastonia or advance the causes of equality, inclusion, and diversity by staying in Springfield? What would their decision say about our community, and our culture?

There may or may not be a transgender person on the current Post 21 team, but does there have to be for today's kids to play a knowing role in America's history of discrimination? What if they, like the players in 1934, decided to state their presence through an absence?

Do we have the courage to allow them to make this decision for themselves?

Richard Andersen lives on Taylor Hill Road in Montague. He is the author of the children's illustrated book A Home Run for Bunny (2013, Illumination Arts), and the historical fiction novel We Called Him Bunny (2014, Levellers Press).

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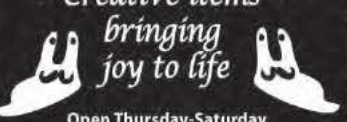
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MONTAGUE from page A1

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz read aloud an email from Layla Taylor of the legal firm Sullivan and Hayes, which represents the town in employee union contract negotiations. The email had been sent to Chad McGinnis, an official of the United Electrical Workers (UE), which represents the majority of WPCF employees.

The letter stated that “although a management prerogative, the employees in [the WPCF] have been pushing very hard publicly for their proposed reorganization model,” but that “after careful consideration the Town’s Board of Selectmen decided to retain the Superintendent position,” thus rejecting the plan.

The letter went on to state that the “other requests” the WPCF staff has made, such as for wage increases and position upgrades, “can be addressed only in collective bargaining.” It stated that the town would be willing to discuss these issues, but requests that “you ensure that [WPCF employees] understand and maintain fidelity to the legally required bargaining process.”

The meeting quickly evolved into a debate between department employees and Kuklewicz. Chief operator John Little took the lead, arguing that hiring a director from outside who was unfamiliar with the process at the plant would be a disaster.

“A superintendent would just sit behind a desk,” he claimed. “I did not get the impression that Bob Trombley just sat behind a desk.”

Secretary Kate Jones was critical of the advertisement that had been posted for the superintendent position, which required that the candidate have ten years of experience. She said that would attract applicants who were “conventional people, comfortable with conventional [methods of administration].”

Others complained that the selectboard had failed to discuss the reorganization proposal with staff, causing, in Trombley’s words, “the sense of excitement” at the plant to be “damaged.” He raised the specter of a “burnt-out factor, a safety factor.”

“I can not change what did happen,” said Kuklewicz. “I can only change what will happen.” He went on to say that a hiring com-

mittee would be formed that would include staff members, and that negotiations with employee unions would begin on June 21.

Also discussed was the need for a plan to resolve the staffing problems caused by Trombley’s resignation and Little’s sick leave at the end of the month.

Finance committee chair John Hanold suggested that the town had delayed planning for “things we have known about for a long time.” He said that “things that could have been foreseen last fall were ignored,” and thus the “stress level has risen.”

Kuklewicz noted that Trombley’s early retirement, originally scheduled for December 2016 but now looming in a month, could not have been foreseen. The town is apparently looking at the possibility of hiring an interim superintendent until the position can be permanently filled.

Less Noise, But Less Quiet, Too

The selectboard posted, perhaps after the required 48-hour deadline, a last-minute “amended” agenda for its meeting that added an item calling for “review and approval of noise regulations for entertainment license holders.”

The previous week, the board had provisionally approved new regulations designed to govern outdoor music, with the final vote to be taken at its next meeting. But with summer in bloom and potential outdoor events just around the corner, waiting until mid-June for final approval was deemed unrealistic.

The board made significant progress on the pesky issue on Tuesday, revising and simplifying the set of regulations governing outdoor music for establishments with entertainment licenses.

It restored maximum decibel levels allowed in business districts between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., which it had previously lowered to 65 dB, to 70 dB.

The previous version would have allowed license holders to register up to that volume 16 times a year, and up to 75 dB four times a year, and to apply to the selectboard for permission to hold events up to 80 dB.

Under the new version, they

would need to receive permits for up to four events per year at 75 dB, and those events could only take place between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays.

The regulations also state that the board “reserves the right to limit concurrent special permits.”

Violations can be “documented or recorded by the Selectboard, the Board of Health, the Police Department or “any appointed Town official named by the [Selectboard].” The new rules set penalties ranging from a warning for the first violation to a \$500 fine and revocation of the “respective portion of the entertainment license” for a year.

Parkland Alterations

The meeting began with some important, but relatively non-controversial votes.

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board approve a contract with Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, Inc. of Greenfield for construction of a parking lot on the corner of Canal and Third streets in downtown Turners Falls.

The board did, and also approved a \$9,650 contract with Berkshire Design Group Inc. to provide oversight for the project.

The space, which has been targeted for new downtown parking for over a decade, has served in recent years as a temporary “youth sculpture park.” Upgraded versions of the sculptures on the site will be integrated into the new lot, according to Ramsey.

A firm called GZA GeoEnvironmental was awarded a contract to develop a Master Plan for two parks in Lake Pleasant, Rutter’s and Norma’s Parks. The total award was \$18,590. The planning process will be overseen by a committee including several Lake Pleasant residents, representatives of the parks and recreation department, and Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Hunter presented the request to the selectboard.

At approximately 8:20, the board went into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Their next meeting is currently posted to take place on Monday, June 13.



PASSAGE from page A1

their own strengths.”

DIAL/SELF offers a broad, interlocking continuum of services that is built upon the foundation of its housing program. The continuum has four distinct parts: outreach, drop-in services, emergency housing services, and longer-term housing services.

Outreach can occur on the street, at school, at an event, or at a Safe Place Program.

Drop-in services include a food pantry, hygiene products, bus tickets, laundry, showers, clothing, information and referral, case management, computer access, life skills, and mental health counseling.

In addition, family mediation and the Night Owl Teen Center are available daily on an as-needed basis. Kinship homes, host homes, and housing subsidies are also possible options in emergency housing services.

There are three primary longer-term housing services: the Transitional Living Program; Permanent, Supportive Housing; and LGBTQ Housing First. Four two-bedroom

apartments are located in Turners Falls, with 10 efficiency apartments in Greenfield and 10 of the same in Orange.

“We’re very proud of our broad series of services,” said the dedicated Ringwood, “from helping someone when we see them on the street, to providing them with an apartment to live in for several years – along with a case manager who checks in with that teen weekly, to help them navigate their young adult years.

“Since 1977, DIAL/SELF has assisted more than 35,000 area youth.”

Ringwood has served the agency for 17 years. He began as an administrative assistant and held various other spots before he assumed the mantle of leadership in 2012.

“I experienced homelessness as a youth and a young adult,” said Phil. “I learned early in my life that people sometimes need a hand up. Giving young people a hand up provides me with a tremendous sense of fulfillment. It makes all the long hours we work here well worth our efforts.”

However, Ringwood feels that life is much harder for young people these days.

“Some of youth’s core needs are similar,” said the Turners Falls resident, “but socio-economic changes have made things a lot more difficult for younger people. There are higher expectations on the job, too. Then there’s the problem of inflation versus wage increase. It’s a generational shift with an economic pattern that families might be caught in, and that we want to break.

“Opioid addiction is also now a threat. Life is much more challenging for young people today. I think there are steps we can take, but even larger steps in the community are needed.”

Where would Phil like to guide DIAL/SELF in the future? “I’d like to continue to work with Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals, Inc. to create a new housing facility in the Northampton area. There are no youth-specific housing facilities in that locality right now.”

Ringwood would also like to continue to expand the existing

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- Applications received by Thursday, June 2nd will be given priority.
- Screening will begin immediately, and continue until position is filled.
- Interviews for all positions will be held in Greenfield on 6/13/16.
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Board Recommends SUV for Police; Borrowing for New Used Backhoe

By KENT ALEXANDER

This past Tuesday evening, the Gill Selectboard met and, after approving the meeting minutes from April 19, dove into the business at hand.

Highway department superintendent Mick LaClaire addressed the issue of the town's diesel pump at the safety complex, saying that the pump, which is extremely old and out of date, needed to be replaced.

After he reported on the various ways to replace it with a working pump, the selectboard thanked LaClaire for his diligence, and member Randy Crochier advised him to continue to check alternate sources for either a new pump or how to get the best prices for replacement parts.

The board then tackled various items that were carried over from the recent annual town meeting. These items included two funding plans for a new backhoe recommended by the capital improvement planning committee (CIPC), each with the stipulation that the cost of the used backhoe should not exceed \$60,000.

Scenario A proposes that the town purchase a used backhoe outright by transferring \$29,400 from the FY'16 Snow & Ice budget, \$4,100 from the Road Machinery fund, \$9,500 from the FY'17 Highway budget, and \$17,000 from stabilization.

Scenario B would transfer the \$29,400 from Snow & Ice and \$4,100 from Road Machinery, but only \$6,500 from the FY'17 Highway budget. The town would then borrow up to \$20,000, with a plan to pay it back from the FY'18, '19 and '20 highway budgets.

After careful discussion among the selectboard, LaClaire, as well as emergency management director Gene Beaubien about costs, insurance considerations and possible replacement of the ancient Kubota tractor, the selectboard decided to recommend Scenario B to the next town meeting.

Fire Budget

Before addressing the next article carried over from the annual town meeting, Beaubien, also the town's fire chief, gave "fair warning" to the selectboard that the fire

department budget is facing a negative balance, and therefore will shortly need funds to continue to function properly.

Beaubien discussed various in-process grants to finance several needed fire department air packs, as well as trousers and shirts worn by firefighters. The department's needs also include a "gear washer" that would facilitate the necessary cleaning of carcinogens and other unsanitary materials from the clothing worn by firefighters.

Crochier requested that Beaubien send the gear washer information to him so that he could further research what to recommend.

A Bigger Cruiser

The next matter discussed was the CIPC-proposed purchase of a police cruiser: either a Ford Interceptor sedan, with an equipped price of \$37,125, or a Ford Interceptor AWD utility vehicle, with an equipped price of \$38,825.

Several points of view surfaced during this conversation. Selectboard member John Ward voiced concern that the town the size of Gill did not warrant three cruisers, while both Snedeker and Crochier felt differently.

As the discussion continued, retired police officer Fred Chase II joined the conversation. Chase spoke about when the town came to purchase its first cruiser, and stressed the need to consider public safety when looking into this situation. He also argued that when one person is responsible for each cruiser, each vehicle is better maintained.

Crochier also weighed in on the matter, saying how important it was to consider not only the all-wheel-drive factor, but also the amount of room needed by both officer and passengers when entering and exiting a vehicle.

In the end, the selectboard decided to recommend the utility cruiser. The town meeting article will need to include language indicating that the purchase would be contingent on a debt exclusion vote.

June 28 Town Meeting

Ray Purington then delineated the eight articles included for approval at the next special town meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m. at town hall.

Article 1 would establish a PEG access and cable-related fund. **Article 2** relates to the backhoe, and **Article 3** helps repay the cost of the roof replacement at the public safety complex.

Article 4 would transfer \$14,684 from the school district account into an energy stabilization fund, and **Article 5** would allocate some money left in the FY'16 building repairs account toward repairs, or a

water treatment system, on the Gill Elementary School well.

Article 7 authorizes the selectboard to negotiate a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with Borego Solar, which proposes to build a solar plant on land leased from Northfield Mount Hermon, and **Article 8** covers labor costs involved in emergency management.

Emergency Management

The next order of business brought forward by Purington was his follow-up report from a May 17 meeting about joining the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC).

After a brief discussion concerning mutual aid agreements with other neighboring towns, Snedeker voiced his opinion that he "didn't see a downside" for signing on to the MACC, since the town could choose to use or not use it when the time came, and could opt out of being a member at any time.

In the end, the board recommended that any decision be held back for two weeks, while Purington checked back with the town's attorney about the matter.

Bridge Safety

The selectboard then solemnly discussed the recent incident at the French King Bridge, and the current MassDOT Suicide Prevention plan being considered by the various constituencies.

Snedeker went on record to say that he had nothing but praise for Gill's first responders, and that they did a "wonderful job" in searching for and recovering the body of a recent jumper.

The selectboard noted first that the bridge is, unfortunately, being known as a place for suicides, then examined the various options including the placement of an infrared camera on the bridge, as well as placing netting or fencing along the bridge as a retention system to keep people from using it for unsafe practices.

Crochier noted that there was a meeting planned in June or July to further discuss what action or actions to take.

Other Business

Purington then reported that Triton Stone Water Group submitted the lowest bid – almost \$100 less than the FY'16 cost – for the catch basin cleaning award by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The board unanimously approved the submission.

The selectboard briefly discussed, with humor, the various successful Memorial Day services.

Purington stated that there were no current project updates or public service announcements, and the meeting was adjourned.

FISH DAY from page A1

this means yet, but this is a mystery to be solved by attending the event."

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto will be helping make giant fish crowns at the event with Mary King and Liliana Moresco, CFCE Coordinators for the Gill Montague Schools. "What I really want to see are sixty kids with giant fish on their heads," LoManto says.

The fish are ones that can be seen at the nearby fish ladder viewing station: sea lamprey, shad, and sturgeon. At the fish ladder, check out some fish as they travel past the giant window and learn how to create *gyoyaku*, an ancient Japanese fish print, from noon to 2 p.m.

There's a fish story corner, fish games and lots of fish themed activities for kids. Follow a seahorse along a story walk, with pages recreated from the Eric Carle book *Mister Seahorse*. Have your face painted!

Jocelyn Castro-Santos worked with Hillcrest kindergarteners and first graders to make artwork based on the *Mister Seahorse* story. They used their own painted papers to make vivid collage compositions that will light up the windows galleries on Avenue A for several weeks to come. "It is a nice way to get artwork out into the community – the kids love seeing it!" commented Castro-Santos.

A free fishing program will be offered across the bridge in Gill at Barton Cove. Equipment will be provided and no fishing license is required.

"There are things for every 'kind' of kid," said LoManto: "the kid who wants to do something gets to fish; the one who just wants to

watch fish swim by at the ladder can do so; and the one who is really into sitting down and doing an art activity can do that, too."

In connection with publicity for this event, LoManto was helped out by Kim Noyes and Beth Pelton of the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, who loaned a full-sized fish costume to LoManto. She toughed it out inside the sweaty attire for a day-long, multi-location photo shoot. Each day, another funny photo of this fish out of water will go up on the Family Fish Day event page on Facebook: [facebook.com/events/480624082148649/](https://www.facebook.com/events/480624082148649/).

On display on the walls of the Great Hall are birds painted by Karen Gaudette's Greenfield Middle School students. Sixth graders at the school created portraits of birds of prey on ceiling tiles for the school's art room. They had to capture the likeness of their bird while painting it on the large scale of 2' x 2'.

Fifth graders at the school created stylized portraits of various owls painted on stools that will be distributed throughout the GMS classrooms. Check out these artful renditions of wildlife and, of course, tour the permanent watershed exhibits inside the center.

Multiple partners and volunteers made so many activities possible: MassWildlife, Western Mass Fly Fishermen, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Gill-Montague Schools, Turners Falls RiverCulture, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Montague Libraries, Turners Falls Fishway and Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center!

The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.



WENDELL from page A1

building repairs.

Article 17 would spend \$200,000 for a highway dump truck, and sander.

Article 19 would authorize a contribution to the town of Montague to help pay for its legal intervention over Berkshire Gas' contract with the company that attempted to build a natural gas pipeline through Franklin County.

Article 23 would put \$284,422 in free cash into the stabilization fund.

Articles 24 and 25 would take a total of \$70,000 from stabilization to pay for a pole survey and design work for a buildout of a broadband network. **Article 28** would instruct the Baker-Polito administration and Massachusetts Broadband Institute to work with towns to get an internet connection to every house in town.

Article 26 would take \$5,196 to pay for the consultant who worked with the conservation commission on the proposed solar installation off Wendell Depot Road.

With hours remaining before the town meeting warrant had to be signed and posted, the planning board submitted two articles on Tuesday that would make changes to Wendell's zoning bylaws.

The first, **Article 29**, defines a commercial junkyard and a private junkyard. A commercial junkyard must be on a lot of at least 10 acres, and at least 500 feet from any existing residence. The materials stored must be a minimum of 100 feet from any property line, well, or wetland, as defined by Wendell's general wetland protection bylaw.

A commercial junkyard would require a special permit from the planning board.

A private junkyard would be defined as any storage area greater than 250 square feet that holds materials for salvage for more than 30 days. An area less than 250 square feet, or one used to store materials for recycling, is not considered a private junkyard. Private junkyards would not be allowed, according to this article.

Article 30 would add "approved private way or street" to "existing public way" in the zoning regulations, and would allow frontage of a building lot on an "approved private way or street."

Under Article 30, each lot for a dwelling of greater than two units would require a minimum lot size of four acres and 200 feet of frontage, and would require a special permit.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Town Hears Options for Buying Renewable Energy Credits

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

The Leverett selectboard met for its regular biweekly meeting on Tuesday. Present were Julie Shively, Peter d'Errico, Tom Hankinson, Margie McGinnis, and Lisa Stratford.

The meeting kicked off with a new appointee to the school committee. Craig Cohen was sworn in to create a five member committee.

"I've been serving on the [Leverett Elementary] school council since 2014," Cohen explained.

Next, the energy committee put forth two recommended green energy providers to supply green energy to the town of Leverett.

"The committee recommends an aggregation project," Judith Davidov explained. "All residents of Leverett will be a unit, and will be able to purchase energy in bulk."

Mark Cappadona, president of Colonial Power Group, pitched first.

"We believe energy is a commodity," Cappadona explained. "Our goal is to bring the most cost-effective solution."

According to the Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs, RECs, or renewable energy certificates, represent one megawatt hour of power that a green energy source puts into a power generator. By working with an aggregator, Leverett would be purchasing some number of these RECs.

RECs are further divided into classes according to supplier compliance percentages put forth by the state and qualifying generation units. For example, a Class I REC includes energy from solar thermal electric, solar photovoltaic, wind energy, small hydropower, gas from landfills or anaerobic digesters, marine or hydrokinetic energy, geothermal energy, and eligible biomass fuel. Class II RECs include wind, small hydro, solar, landfill methane gas, solar, and geothermal sources built before 1998.

"I can get you any class RECs you want," Cappadona told the board.

As an aggregator, Cappadona would be in charge of purchasing RECs for Leverett at the best price. Residents could then opt in, or opt out, of the program.

"There is no minimum," said Cappadona. "What Leverett is agreeing to is to bring its customers to Colonial Power Group."

Cappadona said Colonial would be flexible about contract length, and can renegotiate the price every six months if the board desires, or every year, or every two years.

"The shortest length we have done is a month," said Cappadona.

Colonial Power is a local aggregator, and Cappadona said he would keep the money local by purchasing RECs from Massachusetts.

A national competitor, Good Energy, presented to the board after Colonial Power. John O'Rourke, director of marketing for the Northeast, explained that his company could do as much as 25% renewable energy. Davidov explained that the energy committee had asked for figures for 100% renewable energy, which O'Rourke said he was willing to do.

"We can't guarantee the energy coming into your home is green," O'Rourke explained, "but by purchasing RECs, you are increasing the green on the grid."

There was some confusion about whether purchasing green RECs actually increased the green on the grid. Cappadona said the energy was already created, but Leverett would be buying into a market for green energy.

Good Energy works with Mass Energy, a nonprofit organization striving to make energy more affordable. As a charitable organization, Erin Taylor explained on a phone call, there is a unique opportunity for residents to receive tax deductions for charitable donations.

"We would not do it below five percent," Taylor explained, "because that would come out to very little money per household."

It was not clear why Good Energy was able to work with Mass Energy while Colonial Power was not, but Taylor told the board she was willing to work with any aggregator.

"Why do we need an aggregator if you sell RECs?" d'Errico asked.

"It is much faster to purchase electrons when working with a broker," Taylor explained.

"The electrons are what actually comes into the home," Davidov explained further. "We need to purchase both RECs and electrons."

When the salesmen were dismissed, the board resolved to follow up to discover whether Colonial Power Group could work with Mass Energy.

Other Business

Concluding the meeting with the energy committee, the board moved on to other business, including re-organizing the tax committee.

"There is a little over \$6,000 in the tax relief fund," said Shively.

Instructions and explanations for how to apply for and access the fund will appear in the next town newsletter.

"We should explain what it is and

FACES & PLACES



COURTESY MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Left: Frank Grindrod of Earthwork Programs visited the weekly Homeschool Science program at Turners Falls' Carnegie Library last month to present "The Art of Making Fire".

Below: Destiny McDonough of Whately, a senior in the Franklin County Technical School's cosmetology program, took gold medal in Nail Care at the SkillsUSA state leadership conference last month, and will compete at a national level in Kentucky later in June.



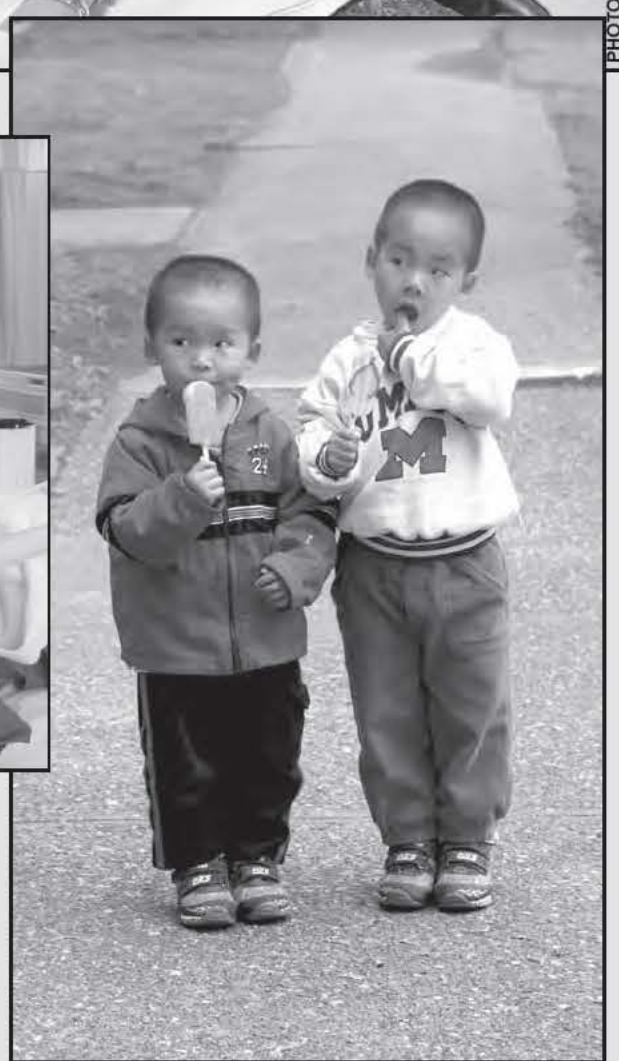
PHOTO COURTESY FCTS



PHOTO COURTESY FCTS

Above: Kaiti Churchill of Turners Falls, also a senior at Franklin Tech, was named the school's Outstanding Vocational Technical Student of the Year. Churchill, a health technology student, is headed to UMass in the fall, where she plans to major in neuropsychology.

Right: Alvin and Shawn Teo enjoy cold treats on a hot day in Turners Falls.



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

how to ask for it," d'Errico said.

Paperwork and preparations for the town's community development strategy must be completed by December 31 of this year.

"This is new from 2009. Now we have to choose five sustainable development principles to go along with the development strategy," McGinnis explained.

The board is working to finalize specs to put forth a request for bids on a new highway garage. The board hopes to have preparations completed in a month's time.

"We will try to put it out for bid in a month," said McGinnis.

Stratford asked the board if she should continue to attend Aging in Place meetings. The board agreed Stratford would continue to attend meetings into the fall, but would stop if the meetings seemed like a sales pitch.

"People pay for a build kit," Stratford explained. "But there are also a team of vetted volunteers that can be called to the house, for a fee."

A neighbor who is having some difficulties with some adjacent farm

animals wrote a letter to the board requesting help.

"All we can really do is bring the two neighbors together," d'Errico said.

Some concern was expressed over statements made by the police chief threatening to arrest one of the neighbors, and the board agreed to follow up to clarify the nature of the interaction.

The next meeting of the Leverett selectboard will be June 14.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

the high jump; Slowinski, Emily Gigure, and Julia Massey in javelin; Vega and Cooke in the long jump; Vega in the shot put; and Gigure in the triple jump.

Tennis

Although the girls' tennis team didn't make the playoffs, Coach Victor Gonzalez emphasized the positive and has hope for the team's future.

"We have several standout players," he said. "Eleventh graders Alysha Wozniak & Kortney Thurber at 1 and 2 singles, and tenth grader Carlie Kretchmar, who plays first doubles or third singles, and up-and-comer Amber Taylor (7th)."

The boys' tennis team did make it to the second season, and will travel across the river to face Tri-county champs Greenfield this Saturday, June 4. Although the Green Wave beat the Tribe twice this season, both matches were 3-2 contests.

Coach Steve Toulountzis has been working hard with his boys to get them into playoff shape. "Our main technical work," he said recently, "has been on net clearance: knowing where you are in the court zones; quality of groundstroke, fol-

low through, and acceleration; and beginning steps in switching to Continental grip serves, versus Eastern forehand grip forward pokes lacking in wrist pronation."

And about his players, Toulountzis said, "Jimmy Vaughn has steadily improved his technique at No. 1, Avery Palmer at No. 2 has been very mentally tough, and Javonni Ruggiano has impressed with his hustle and athleticism as a newcomer at doubles."

Baseball

The Turners Falls Baseball Indians finished their regular season in South Hadley on Thursday, May 26.

The game was interesting on a number of levels. The South Hadley Orange Tigers were fighting for the MIAA's number 1 spot in Division 3 West. And the other contender for the number 1 spot, Southwick, sent 2 scouts to the game.

"We're either going to be number 1 or 2", they said. "Depending on this game."

As it turns out, after beating Turners, South Hadley did retain the number 1 seed, while Southwick slipped to number 2.

To add to their motivation, it was

Hadley's Senior Day. So all their families, replete with black and orange balloons, came to cheer their boys on.

And the Indian seniors who had almost beaten them earlier in the season? They were on a senior trip. In fact, Tahner Jones was the only senior in attendance. At the customary meeting-at-the-plate where the coaches and captains meet to discuss the rules and boundary lines, Jones was the only Blue Shirt there, while every Tiger senior stood with him.

Mix that with two Turners injuries and their ace pitcher being out of the state and you might have a recipe for disaster – a long, hot afternoon being pummeled by the number-1 team in the area.

But the Blue Tribe was not deterred. Although they made errors, allowing runs to score, they kept trying. Pitcher Tyler Lavin was helped immensely by his young fielders. Shot after shot rocketed into the outfield, but they were continuously snagged by the outfielders. Second baseman Will Roberge made a circus catch later in the game to end an inning and prevent further runs from scoring.

And the young blue bats answered. When Ryan Campbell came to bat in his very first varsity game, he clocked a sharp single up the left field line. Later in the third, he hit another shot, earning him a RBI, and Turners went into the bottom of the inning leading 2-1.

But Orange has a lot of experience and talent. They answered with 4 runs in the third and 3 in the fourth, and coasted to a 9-3 victory.

Campbell went 2 for 4 at the plate, had a RBI and scored a run. Josh Obuchowski also had a hit and batted-in a run. Kyle Dodge, also in his varsity debut, had a hit and scored a run. Jeremy Wolfram scored the third Turners Falls run, and Roberge drew a walk.

The Baseball Indians will not have to play a team like South Hadley again. Not this year, anyway. Turners will play Division 4 teams in



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Jimmy Vaughn is in position to return the volley during April 27 singles play against Greenfield High School. The Green Wave tallied a 3-2 victory.

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the playoffs, beginning their second season this Thursday, June 2 against the Ware Indians.

And next season? After watching the younger kids compete at South Hadley, the sky's the limit.

Softball

After beating Pioneer 10-1, the Turners Falls Lady Indians finished the regular season with a record of 19-1, and were ranked second in the D3 West.

They will have a bye in the first round and will play the winner of Granby (7) and Pioneer (10), preliminarily scheduled for Sunday, June 5 at Turners Falls.

Next week:
First round results!

SUSPECT from page A1

College professor, according to the *Boston Globe*, and left behind a note there confessing to the murder.

Helicopter and diving crews searched in vain for the body in the river, though it was not confirmed Hagmaier had jumped.

Last week, MassDOT announced that it intended to build barriers and install cameras on the 140-foot bridge, which is a common location for suicide. Local authorities have been calling on the state to take such measures for some time.

On Wednesday, a temporary camera had been installed, according to the Montague police.



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California Dreamin':

POP AUTEUR PAYS A VISIT TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

This coming Saturday, June 4, the Brick House will host the Los Angeles-based soft-psych songwriter Chris Cohen. Cohen is a veteran of the early millennium rock scene, playing in nationally-known bands like Deerhoof and Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti. He has two albums out under his own name, including the just-released *As If Apart*.

Cohen began learning music as a child. When we spoke, he listed ten bands that he's played in over the years. "I can't remember a time when I didn't play," he explained.

At age 13, in a classic teenage experience, some punks at a supermarket befriended him because of his Sonic Youth t-shirt, and then invited him to join their band, Lazytown.

Lazytown played clubs all over LA, and Cohen, younger by five years than any of the other band members, would often have to wait outside until it was time to play.

In a later band called Suckers Bros, Cohen and his bandmate would pretend to be Scandinavian professors of electronic noise music. Their characters always expected to be playing at a college or opera house, but would realize too late that all their shows were in the basements of punk houses.

From there, Cohen formed the indie-pop group The Curtains, in which he had full creative control, and worked in a number of other bands.

Chris Cohen's music conjures memories of Brian Wilson, or Bob



Chris Cohen

Lind. The songs on *As If Apart* are built around vocals and keyboard. His drone-y, warm voice comes through clearly with the relaxing tones of an unexcited human male. Gentle harmonies complete the ear-pleasing effect.

Minimally-altered keys and sometimes upbeat, sometimes jazzy-sounding drums dominate the backing music. The guitar playing is mostly sparse, but sometimes breaks through with treble-high solos reminiscent of California beach-day montages.

As If Apart has a magisterial studio vibe, the virtuosic playing on the album feels like it was written for underwater royalty.

Some of the songs exist free of normal song structures and verse-chorus conventions. Most don't grab you out of the moment in that classic-rock radio way, and they often come across more like a textural experience in experimental pop.

But the song "Yesterdays On My

see COHEN page B8



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Suddenly Summer

May and we set up the watering system, as the ground is bone dry. Planting is super easy as the broad fork has loosened the soil beautifully.

The peonies are heavy with fat buds. Both the beach roses, pink and white, are beginning to bloom.

The shoots of the butterfly bush push up around last year's dry branches, which never did get cut back.

The bush roses are greening up and setting their first buds. They await a sprinkle of Epsom salts, of all things, to encourage blossom growth. This will soon be applied at the base of the plants and be sprinkled in with the hose or maybe some rain.

There are new asparagus spears every day and we eat our fill, but are at the same time dismayed by this year's large crop of asparagus beetles. As I do not want to dust with poison the food we are continuing to eat, I brush the beetles into soapy water daily. I have read that a couple of chickens would make short work of these beetles, but they are another crop we've put off raising.

Then, after a particularly blistering Saturday, the fifth day dawns a bit cooler, and by afternoon we have drier, more comfortable air. In the morning we awaken to a steady rain we badly need. This too clears out, so as not to dampen the memorials of the day.

It's a good early summer feeling now, with warm days and cooler nights with passing showers. We awaken too early to the avian contest of which bird is proudest of

see GARDENERS page B8

STORYTELLERS DESCRIBE LIFE IN OUR LOCAL LANDSCAPE

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER—Turns out a cool church basement is an excellent place to be when the daytime temperatures top 90 degrees, as they did last Friday. About fifty people gathered at the First Congregational Church in Montague to hear Michael Humphries, Lisa McLoughlin, Jay Goldspinner, Paul Voiland and Haley Norris talk about their personal experiences with "Local Landscapes," at a story night of the same name co-sponsored by Red Fire Farm and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

As advertised, there were "no power points, no handouts and no agenda — just good old fashioned yarns." These yarns, and a story read by Paul Voiland, underscored the emotional, geological, and political history of our land, while eliciting laughter and sighs.

Humphries acted as the moderator and welcomed the first volunteer, Cathy Potter, who told a short fable about a chicken and pig that ended with a call for all species to embrace kindness and respect.

Farming Legacy

Voiland, from Red Fire Farm, then read his story, which was set in the future and written from the point of view of his grandson on the occasion of being given his first real "job with the land." With this job came the privilege and the responsibility of clearing weeds from a cornfield, by hand.

With it also came enormous pride, and the realization that "what we own is not the land, but the right to work with the land on river valley soils that have been cultivated for a thousand years, maybe more."

The story was a reminder that behind the quaint farm stand and abundant produce raised at Red Fire Farm stands a philosophy grounded in hard work and gentle respect for the land and those who work it. It would be so much easier to spray those weeds with poison, to take more from the land than you give back, to ignore the needs of future generations.

Instead, our local organic farmers are treading lightly, and in the case of Paul Voiland, writing about it — which will leave another legacy



Montague's First Congregational Church hosted the story night.

for his children, grandchildren, and others, if he chooses to share his story more widely.

A Different Path

Lisa McLoughlin, an artist in see STORIES page B5

A Place for Wildness, Where Civilization Can't Go

By JONATHAN von RANSON

WENDELL — Although both friendly, soft-spoken, civic minded people, Mason and Ina Phelps had an unrelenting fierceness, a burning, countercultural side as revealed in the forty-year-long thread they spun into a fabric of protection for pure, wild nature that's rare if not unique in the field of land and wildlife conservation.

Ina died in 2013 and Mason in 2015. With their deaths, two top activists on behalf of the planet's own operating system departed bodily, but their work had a momentum that's carrying on, a built-in strategy that will continue to influence directly and through example for the indefinite future.

The clearest echo of the call of the wild to them is the Whetstone Wood Wildlife Sanctuary they left — 2300 dedicated, contiguous acres in northeast Wendell that extends a bit into adjacent New Salem and Orange. It serves as part of a wildlife corridor that runs from Mount Toby near the Connecticut River all the way to the Quabbin Reservoir and beyond.

Its woodlands, wetland and water bodies serve both forest interior species and those that require a diversity of habitats, and are home to fisher, bobcat, moose

see PHELPS page B4



Ina and Mason Phelps

MONTAGUE REPORTER



Dylan and Al browse the Reporter while waiting for a Muay Thai fight to start in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during their band Holy Vex's recent Southeast Asia tour.

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org!

Pet of the Week

Are you looking for a playful, friendly, affectionate dog? Well, look no further, I am the dog.

I would love a yard to run around and play in. My favorite toys are stuffed toys and I love to carry sticks.

I am house trained and crate trained! I am looking for a lap to warm, a spot next to my people on the couch, a dog sibling, walks to keep my body in shape, and most of all LOVE.

I am so eager to meet you, maybe you will be my next family. Come on down and ask staff to introduce us. Be prepared, you might just fall head over heels over me.

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



“CAPONE”

Interview: MR at the Great Falls Farmers Market

By JERI MORAN

TURNERS FALLS – Frank “Sonny” Collis stopped by the *Montague Reporter* table at the Great Falls Farmers Market in Turners Falls last Wednesday, and left with a *Reporter* t-shirt and a copy of the week’s edition.

And he told me a few things about himself.

He’s lived in Erving most of his 73 years, he retired from Millers Tool Co. seven years ago, and is enjoying his retirement – including getting into some “small trouble,” like stealing pumpkins from a farmer’s field.

He and a friend actually did it twice, and they got caught both times. The first time nothing happened; the second time he had to go to court, but ultimately nothing bad happened to him.

“I apologized to that farmer, and bought him a six-pack,” Sonny said. “But then I saw him again, and he wouldn’t even look at me. So maybe I should steal his pumpkins again!”

He laughed and said “Nah, I won’t do that.”

He also likes to shoot off fireworks, but his neighbors think he might damage something, so he’s kind of thinking what to do about that.

He says that he “looks at” the *Montague Reporter* in Prondecki’s store (Franklin Grocery and Package Store in Erving), but if his picture is in the paper, he might actually buy one of our papers.

Okay, Sonny, here it is. Enjoy the paper!



Senior Center Activities

JUNE 6 to 10

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

Monday 6/6
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/7
9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (fee)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 6/8
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:15 a.m. Friends’ Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/9
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 6/10
Reflexology appointments
Noon Pizza Party
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 6/6
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
11 a.m. Manicure appointments

Tuesday 6/7
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 6/8
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 6/9
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 6/10
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 Bowling Fun at French King; Creative Aging Walking Club
10:30 a.m. Market Shopping
11:30 a.m. Pizza Salad & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

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.

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Summer’s in the air, and June is upon us. This month, don’t forget to check out “Thrones: an Artful Approach to the Toilet Seat,” an art exhibit open through June 25 at Nina’s Nook, at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Now in our TV schedule and available online are replays of the May 24 Gill-Montague Regional School Committee meeting and the May 14 Unity Park Glider Dedication Ceremony. The Sway Fun Glider, recently installed at Unity Park, is a new accessible addition to the playground designed to accommodate wheelchair users and users of other mobility devices.

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

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-montaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

For Future Generations

Jessica Larkin Illustration

Q. My grandson asked me to participate in a family tree about our medical conditions. He wants to ask me questions about my health, but I’m a pretty private person. I don’t know about this. What do you think?

I respect your reluctance to discuss personal matters with your grandson. However, the information you have to share with him would benefit your entire family and future generations. Perhaps your grandson could submit questions in writing, and you could answer them in the same way. That might help avoid uncomfortable moments.

A medical family tree or family health history (also known as a medical genealogy) is like the ones genealogists prepare, but it also includes all the maladies suffered by members of the family. A medical tree can reveal patterns and help everyone in a family choose medical tests, diagnose diseases, prevent medical problems, and assess health risks.

Many of the causes of our illnesses are inherited from our ancestors. Almost a third of known diseases have genetic links. These include colon cancer, heart disease, alcoholism, and high blood pressure.

Family gatherings are an opportunity to get started on a medical genealogy. If you want to prepare one, you should write down your questions in advance. You should ask enough questions and the right questions to make a medical genealogy useful to members of the families and their doctors.

The following is important information about each family member – living and dead – that should be included in a health history. Frame your questions to elicit this data.

1. Birth and death dates.
2. Cause of death.
3. All medical conditions with dates and outcomes. Include anything outside the norm, not just serious diseases. Don’t forget problems such as allergies, vision and hearing difficulties.
4. Birth defects.
5. Mental health problems.
6. Lifestyle description. This would include information about smoking, drinking, diet, obesity and exercise.
7. Racial and ethnic background. Some medical conditions are more common in certain groups of people.

If you want to prepare a medical genealogy, an extremely helpful resource is “My Family Health Portrait,” an online tool provided by the U.S. Surgeon General. You can find it at www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/portrait/index.html.

The tool guides you through a series of screens that helps you compile information for each of your family members. Then you get a graphic printout with the information organized in a diagram or a chart. The tool allows users to return and update information.

I used the online tool to do my own family tree. It was a simple process that produced a valuable report.

If you want something more basic, you can get a free five-generation ancestor chart at www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html.

This chart is designed for a standard genealogy, but it’s a good basic document to create your own medical family tree.

The information in a medical tree provides indications, not guarantees that family members will inherit problems from their ancestors. How you take care of yourself is a major influence on your health.

(My next column will be about genetic testing.)

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

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LOOKING BACK. 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was May 25, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Railroad Salvage Building Collapses

On Saturday afternoon, May 27, at 6:21 p.m. a walk-in to the Turners Falls police station reported part of the Railroad Salvage building had just collapsed into Power Street.

By the time selectboard member Pat Allen pulled up to view the damage, at about 7:30, a second section of the wall had fallen, and a cloud of dust was still settling. The Montague police responded, and called in a crew from the Montague DPW to install more barricades.

Building inspector David Jensen said he had contacted the building's owner, Fort Lauderdale developer Gary Kosuda, by mail the week before the wall collapse, and had spoke with him by phone following the incident.

"I told him he needed to get his structural engineer and his contractor out here and tell me what he's going to do about it. He seems to be running out of options," said Jensen.

G Street resident Hyrum Huskey, part of an ad-hoc property owners' group that expressed concern over the building's deteriorating condition to the selectboard on May 22, said, "It's a pretty dangerous situation. Every time I walk by there, I find the doorways open. You know how kids are. My fear is one of these days we're going to lose a kid, and everyone will be up in arms."

Concerning Kosuda, Jensen said, "He has claimed all along his intention is to renovate the building, and in our most recent conversation, he stuck to that line. The interior demolition, with debris leaning against the walls

where the roof had fallen, was actually an impediment to renovation. The structural engineer had recommended taking down an exterior wall. Ironically, if renovation is in the works, they're halfway there."

Memorial Day Parade Returns to Montague

In the morning, rain threatened. By 10:30, when the first Montague Memorial Day parade in more than a quarter century stepped off from the parking lot of the Discovery Center, the sun broke through for a minute or two. But the weather remained poised between humid and clouds, as if a thunderstorm were brewing somewhere down the valley.

A few families were seated on the Avenue in lawn chairs, in front of Power Town Apartments. Children were dancing in the street by Spinner Park. As the tattoo of the drummers from the Turners Falls High School marching band rounded the corner of Second Street, more children came flocking from the alleyways to watch the parade go by.

Officer John Dempsey led the procession, the lights on his cruiser flashing. Michael Dale followed, carrying the banner of the VFW Post 923, Turners Falls, followed by a color guard of a few VFW members, including commander John Murphy.

A black and white kitty cat scampered across the street, and darted between two buildings near the corner of 5th. A young man on a bicycle tore down the Avenue in front of the parade. One woman sat by herself near the new Italian restaurant, the only spectator on that side of the block. Diagonally across from where she sat, a tag sale in front of the old Turners Falls Inn waited for customers.

PHELPS from page B1

and many other species. Whetstone Wood encompasses most of the watershed of the Whetstone Brook.

The impacts of industrious humans are everywhere, but in the sanctuary, those impacts are fading to zero because of restrictions on human access and the requirement for permission to enter.

Information is on the signs posted on trees all around the edge of the sanctuary. In Wendell, you see the signs alongside New Salem Road, at or near its southern end. The northern end reaches almost to the Millers River near Wendell Depot.

The permits were originally controlled by Mason Phelps, who wrote, "Whetstone Wood should serve as an unmanaged area where natural processes, not human activities, would be in control." Since his death the permits come from Mass Audubon.

Mass Audubon is one of the conservation organizations with which Mason worked most closely. He and Ina were members since the late 1950s or early '60s. As an organization, "we are committed

to Mason's and Ina's vision for the sanctuary," said Bob Wilber, its director of land conservation and a mentee of Mason's.

Remembering Mason and Ina

A tribute to Mason and Ina Phelps will be held Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Bob Wilber, director of land protection for Mass Audubon, will give an illustrated account of his impressions and experiences working with them over many years. It will include descriptions of Wendell's Whetstone Wood Wildlife Sanctuary.

Wilber will bring stories of their work together to the June 10 event described in the inset above. He'll also relate things of a biographical nature that he's learned about the couple, who met in college and spent 63 years together, most of it in Wendell in the home Mason built.



Turners Falls Goes to War: Part IV



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.

We will be updating readers on the news of the men and boys of Co. L in real time. Last week we ran the first letter from the company, from a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter.

In the June 8 edition, the paper printed a second letter from Sullivan, dated to May 29, from the troops' camp at Lakeland, Florida. We reprint an abridged version of that letter, after a few excerpts from the June 1 Reporter.

We wonder if the soldiers at Tampa would have any objection now to a glass of soda or a plate of ice cream.

Berry, the photographer, is showing a good many photographs of camp life at Camp Dewey, including pictures of "the boys" taken in their uniforms.

A patriotic "somebody" ought to present a new flag to float over the High school. The old one shows every day of its age and is so badly torn that the tattered ends are braided to prevent further damage. It is not an inspiring object.

The Turners Falls contingent of Co. L will undoubtedly hail with delight a message from home in the shape of a large box, made up by the contributions of their friends here, and which was sent them to-day.

A plentiful supply of tobacco and pipes, a wealth of writing paper and postage stamps, and many other necessary little articles, from the lack of which the boys have suffered, are all contained in the box. The company will probably give a good account of themselves in the invasion of Cuba and letters will be anxiously looked for.

MONTAGUE – Interesting patriotic exercises were held in the schools on Friday afternoon. Besides the exercises by the children, representatives from the school committee, the Grand Army post and Woman's Relief corps made brief remarks.

Editor Turners Falls Reporter:

Received the sample copies of your valuable paper, this morning, and allow me, in the behalf of the Falls boys in Co. L, to thank you for the favor extended to us. Although in Lakeland at the time of our writing I believe it will be our

last Sunday on United States soil for some time and will not be taken by surprise if we eat our morning meal the following Sabbath on the shores of Matanzas.

We have just been notified by our commanding officer to hold ourselves in readiness to move at a five minutes' notice. I am sure the people of Massachusetts will feel proud when they hear the Second Regt will be one of the first, if not the first, on Cuban soil....

As far as physical qualities go, the Massachusetts boys are miles above the New Yorkers, the latter being made up chiefly of clerks or men of indoor occupations, whilst our boys represent the bone and muscle of the Old Bay State....

During the week the good priest visited us and told us he would administer to our wants the following Saturday night and Sunday. To-day he delivered a good common sense sermon "On the sufferings of Christ," and wound up by telling us of our duty as Catholics to be the greatest, grandest republic on the face of the earth.

The service was held in the marque or headquarters of our regiment, which by the way is nothing but a rotten old shed formerly used for housing oranges ready for transportation....

A finer fellow than Fred Pierce never commanded a company, as nearly all of his privates, who, when short of money approached him for a loan, can testify. Our lieutenants vie with each other in seeing which of them can make it the more comfortable for the men. Last night at supper we were indebted to Lieut. Field for the preserved peaches which were served to us....

A good many of our boys have been in the habit of buying half-baked pies and other unhealthy delicacies every day and are quite surprised why their stomachs begin to kick, when the aforesaid stomachs would kick under the same treatment up in Massachusetts. The drinking water here is not as good as I should like to have it, being pumped from the lake, and leaves a sandy deposit in the bottom of the glass or vessel.

On this account nearly all the regiment have been troubled with diarrhoea more or less. Constipation has been quite troublesome to some of the boys.... Taken altogether, the health of the falls boys is as good if not better than their comrades around them.

Now as for camp life. It is not free enough for some of the boys. We are like a lot of hens cooped up in a coop.... A bugle is worth a gold mine in camp at present. The buglers are allowed to wander beyond the line to any shady spot they may take a liking to and practice. The result is that boys whom I know cannot tell one note from another can be seen wandering with a bugle

in their hands around to the other side of the lake and invariably winding up at the cavalry canteen where they play all the tunes that the government allows them to.

If our commanders employ one-half of the strategy in licking the enemy that some of our boys use in lining up on the shady side of a whisky bottle, I, for one, have no fear for the result of the war....

The Southern people, although very careful and polite in their speech, are very slow in their actions. There is more life in a Massachusetts Yankee than there is in the whole population of Florida. If you ask a "Florida cracker" a question it will take him a week to answer it....

The two cavalry regiments are practicing the different evolutions on the opposite side of the lake. It is a magnificent sight but we see it so often that we begin to weary of it....

It will surprise a good many people at home to know that the Second is standing the climate better than the regulars. They own up to it themselves. If some of the Falls girls could only see handsome P. in his new uniform there would be more than one aching heart amongst the girls. It is given up to him that he is one of the handsomest men in camp.

More than one of the Falls boys have been commented upon by the officers of the day for their splendid physiques.

A good many people hold erroneous views of the colored troops up north. I found them good open-hearted fellows, willing to turn their bright side towards you if you will only give them a chance. When a colored trooper enters a drug store in a sober manner, planks down his money, asks for a drink of soda and is refused simply because he is a "n-----," I think it's about time something should drop.

Several of the 10th regiment are colored men from Massachusetts and New York and are of too sensitive a nature to let our Southern brothers walk on them.... If the white people here would only look at their own faults and overlook that of the negro it would be better all around.

The latest report is that we are about to leave by cars, or as some say to march over the road to a famous beach four miles below Tampa, this afternoon or to-morrow morning.

Wherever we go, to Puerto Rico or Cuba, I will try and keep in touch with the people at home through the medium of your valuable paper. Hoping to receive a few sample copies of your paper in the future.

I remain, yours respectfully,
J.J. Sullivan
Co. L, 2d Mass. Vol. 1st Brigade,
2d Div., 5th U.S. Army Corps.

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Antique Loom Freed from Library Closet

TURNERS FALLS – While investigating the artifacts loft at the Carnegie Library last year for a series of articles in the *Reporter*, Nina Rossi asked library director Linda Hickman about an old loom filling up one of the upstairs closets. The 200-year-old loom, of a type called a “barn loom,” had originally come from the south and Hickman was interested in finding a good home for it.

Rossi connected her with Peggy Hart, a weaver in Buckland (featured in the July 9, 2015 edition of the *Reporter*).

“Partly because she told me the

loom came from the south, I put it out to students from the fiber arts crew at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina that I had worked with. Stefanie Riggs emailed to say she’d come get it,” said Hart.

“When I was about her age, someone gave me a pile of beams that were supposed to be a loom, and I put it together and have been using it ever since. It will be a bit of work to get it all operational, but I’m sure she’ll get it together.

“A happy ending for all.”



Stefanie Riggs, left, and Peggy Hart with a truck full of loom parts destined for repatriation in southern climes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Bear and Cubs Have Last Word

Tuesday, 5/3 3 p.m. Report of possible breaking and entering on Central Street. Investigated same.	Wednesday, 5/11 2:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with missing juvenile. Same found safe.	Road. spoke with tenant. Advised to keep noise level down.
Thursday, 5/5 11:15 a.m. Report of verbal altercation at Semb Drive bus stop. One subject left area.	Thursday, 5/12 12:17 p.m. Report of fire in basement of River Road residence. Fire out upon arrival. Assisted Erving fire department.	Sunday, 5/15 6:30 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED] for operating without a licence, attaching registration plates, and operating with a revoked license.
Friday, 5/6 3:45 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance on Gunn Street. Mediated situation and took report.	Friday, 5/13 7:15 a.m. Report of low hanging wire on North Street. Located same. No hazard.	Monday, 5/16 10:40 a.m. Crash reported on River Street. Report taken.
Sunday, 5/8 7:30 a.m. Report of male subject causing disturbance at Dunkin Donuts. Peace restored.	Friday, 5/13 7:40 a.m. Suspicious male reported walking on Route 63. Spoke with same. Just walking to a friend's house.	5:35 p.m. Report of black smoke coming out of chimney on Briggs Street. Assisted Erving fire on scene.
Monday, 5/9 4:10 p.m. Assisted Erving fire with brush fire on Papermill Road.	Friday, 5/13 8:30 p.m. Passing motorist reported seeing something on the bank of the Connecticut River. Found to be trash.	Thursday, 5/19 10:15 p.m. Report of 911 call at River Street residence. Found to be child playing with phone.
Tuesday, 5/10 7:20 a.m. Report of credit card theft – felony larceny on High Street. Report taken. Under investigation.	Saturday, 5/14 12:11 a.m. Noise complaint on Northfield	Friday, 5/20 7 a.m. Tree across Dorsey Road. Highway removed same.
12:31 p.m. Report of suspicious person walking back and forth at Rail Yard Restaurant. Same gone upon arrival.		Sunday, 5/22 7:05 p.m. Report of bear and cubs on Route 2 bypass. Gone upon arrival.

STORIES from page B1

Northfield who lives at the end of a steep driveway that, according her neighbor, needs work, entertained the crowd with stories of that neighbor. He says he’ll fix her tractor, but never quite gets around to it, while also advising her to use the same tractor to clear the brush on the side of that driveway that needs work.

He’s a libertarian who does not believe in global warming: they could not be more different. Yet they co-exist and find points of connection because they are each bound by the land, and this transcends political or philosophical differences.

With humor and strength, Ms. McLoughlin delved into the challenges and joys of defining exactly how you want to live. When her parents visit, they make repeated references to her dangerous (granite) front steps. They are puzzled by her choices.

A copy of her diploma is framed now and hangs on her wall, but the original became a nest for mice after they shredded it.

She also talked about her comfort in the nearby woods where there is no obvious path and yet she always knows just where she is. When she leads people on tours through this landscape, they are unsettled by the lack of a pathway.

People are used to having clear markers to set them on their way. Ms. McLoughlin has found those markers in “a spill of rocks or a meandering brook,” that form her mental map.

The Legendary Nelsons

Jay Goldspinner had a long friendship with Wally and Juanita Nelson, and said she could think of no others who demonstrated a stronger connection to the land. She met them in 1974 when they arrived at Woolman Hill to live a simple life in a hand-built cabin without indoor plumbing or central heat. To them, the most important thing was how you lived your life, Ms. Goldspinner said.

“They lived a simple life and dedicated themselves to community. They started the Greenfield Farmers Market. They sold their excess garden vegetables, but made sure they never made enough money to be required to pay taxes that supported war.”

Juanita and Wally are legendary people now, with names familiar to all local activists. Ms. Goldspinner brought the wonder of personal friendship to her talk, and ended with the fine news that a young couple has now moved to Woolman Hill with the intention of restoring Wally and Juanita’s gardens.

Becoming a Farmer

In a room mostly filled with people who have been around for a while, it was refreshing to listen to Haley Norris, the harvest manager at Red Fire Farm, talk about a young person’s journey into farming, or as she said, becoming “the Other.”

She said, “Farmers are the Other. They have different values.” Then she told stories about how her values gradually changed as she worked the land. “Muddy shoes, broken nails, sweat – no problem. Muscles – yeah.”

On a visit to her parents she realized how much she had changed when she saw that her mom had bought one bunch of asparagus for six people. It was the second step in becoming a farmer.

If the first was, “I’m gonna let my shoes get wet,” the second was, “Eat like a farmer.” She told her mom she could eat that whole bunch of asparagus herself, and maybe more.

Some people in the room thought “Eat like a farmer” might make a good bumper sticker around here. But you’d also have to work like a farmer. Haley makes it sound like fun, but she’s been toughing herself for years.

One winter she took a job at an alpaca sanctuary in New Mexico, run by a couple who lived in separate houses separated by the alpaca herd. In New Mexico, where it does get cold in winter, Haley slept in a tin hut and learned that New Mexico was filled with prickly things, some of which she brought back home as souvenirs, along with rocks she’d collected.

“You begin to see your otherness when you pass out things like that as souvenirs,” she said.

A neighbor drove through some and then into his garage, which had a small opening into his kitchen, which began to reek.

She has tried to be open to other careers; she considered teaching for a while, arguing to herself that each year’s group of students could be considered a crop, but it didn’t work.

Haley has become a farmer, and there’s no turning back. She was funny, proud, insightful and said, “What I have learned about the land is that you should never take more than you can give back.”

Chicken Poop and Pyromania

Michael Humphries, a furniture maker, had the whole room in gales of laughter when he told about his efforts to “give back to the land” with a truckful of chicken manure he hauled from Diemand Farm in Wendell back to his place in Warwick some years ago.

He was trying to enrich a pasture. Horse manure was too full of seeds, and no farmer was willing to part with cow manure, but chicken manure seemed like just the thing.

To him the chicken manure looked light and fluffy, like marshmallows. Each time the folks at Diemand Farm paused to assess the

load on the truck, Humphries signaled for more, and more, until the springs began to sag.

On the long, slow trip home, plops of chicken manure fell to the road, leaving a smelly trail behind him. A neighbor drove through some and then into his garage, which had a small window opening into his kitchen, which began to reek. Mr. Humphries had to spend some intense time with that neighbor to “mend fences,” so to speak.

He also told about a childhood game called “pyro,” which involved one child setting small fires and a “pyro team” putting the fires out. Humphries tired of making small fires, and came up with the idea of starting two and diverting the pyro team.

The conflagration that followed gave him a permanent respect for fire, and was another occasion when he and his family had to spend a lot of time with neighbors, explaining.

Plains Speaking

Sam Lovejoy ended the program with a brief history of the Montague Plains. I knew the story of Sam’s toppling of the tower, and have long been grateful to Sam for his part in preventing a nuclear power plant from dominating our landscape.

But that was not the only threat. In 1967 the Boston & Maine Railroad came up with the profit-making idea of hauling gravel from the plains to Boston, and bringing Boston’s garbage back to the plains.

In more recent history there was the threat of the Nestle bottling plant hoping to tap into the vast aquifer below the plains, and most recently, the proposed NED gas pipeline.

This tract of scrub pine, created ten thousand years ago when Lake Hitchcock receded, is home to twelve endangered species, said Lovejoy. It possesses a unique beauty and should be preserved.

To that end, he is delighted by the recent cutting that replicated what would naturally happen if we allowed the forest to burn every twenty to thirty years. This cleans out undergrowth and allows viable trees to grow stronger.

If there were timed and controlled burns when necessary, the plains could be brought back to where they were two thousand years ago, said Lovejoy.

People have complained to him, worried about the effect of the recent cutting on wildlife. Lovejoy said he is not worried, and said the bears and other creatures will go elsewhere until the blueberry bushes come back, which won’t take too long.


As a veteran in the struggle for environmental preservation and social justice, Lovejoy said he has learned to be patient.

There have been other story nights, with different themes. The next time you see an announcement, mark your calendar – these are not to be missed.



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Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Food + Science = Fun!

By LISA McLOUGHLIN
with JACQUELYNNE CHASE

GILL – Twenty-two lucky fifth graders at Gill Elementary School learned about the science and fun of cooking this year with their teacher, Jackie Chase, and Chef Sam Icklan from Project Bread.

“Chef Icklan visits the school every Tuesday and cooks samples that the kitchen staff later incorporates into the school-wide lunch. The recipes emphasize making healthy ingredients taste good and make kids want to eat them. I was impressed with how many students actually liked kale,” reports Ms. Chase.

Ms. Chase prefaces each cooking lesson with a science lesson about the health, biological and nutritional background of that particular recipe. “I lead each cooking lesson up with a science lesson about the health, biological and nutritional background of that particular recipe,” she says. “We have discussed the science of cooking food through heat and acids like lemon juice. We discuss nutritious choices and what our bodies need every day to function well...and types of foods and their nutritional breakdowns, like proteins, amino acids, fats and carbohydrates.”

There are some wonderful connections with lab work and kitchen work, as well as insights into the math and science (chemistry and physics) involved in cooking. “Our project-based learning approach incorporated math by focusing on measurement. When one group added a tablespoon of salt in their salad dressing instead of a teaspoon, they learned a lesson they won’t soon forget!” adds Ms. Chase.

Here are some of the reflections of students in her class on their experiences with this innovative program. The students have extended their learning into journalism as well, vibrantly reporting their experiences.

Thank you Ms. Chase, Chef Icklan, and 5th grade Gill Elementary School class for sharing your experiences with us on the science page!

Here is one of many websites for further exploration of Science and Cooking: exploratorium.edu/cooking/

Harvard University has a Science and Cooking Course: here’s a video about it: [youtube.com/watch?v=p3v8eFwDWnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3v8eFwDWnk)

My favorite part of cooking with Chef Sam was chopping carrots. Cooking relates to science because it involves temperature and cooking makes some food change from hard to mushy like carrots. I learned that recipes are important because they tell you how to make food from scratch and they list the ingredients.

Matthew Gobeil

It is fun to cook with friends and I like trying new things like chicken sausage because I’ve never had it before. It’s fun to help each other in the kitchen.

One time, one of my classmates asked me if he was cutting right and I had to help him reposition the knife to cut better.

We learned that cooking is a science. You have to learn about measurement. A teaspoon is three times smaller than a tablespoon. This is important, because if you mix this up when measuring salt, it would taste gross.

When we cooked the first time, when we made the salad, we didn’t follow the recipe, which is a set of directions. It still tasted good, but we learned from it.

We learned about how to be safe in the kitchen, like scientists in a lab. Something as simple as handing a knife to another person can be dangerous, but we know to be safe. If we aren’t then you can get hurt and lose the privilege to cook at school.

That wouldn’t be fun because it is a privilege that not everyone gets in school. When you fool around you will get in trouble and miss the opportunity.

Robbie Murphy

We like cooking with Chef Sam because we get to cook at school, have fun, and we get to make and eat yummy, delish, and awesome food. We also get to try new foods and learn more about it, and the best part is that we get to eat healthy foods plus have loads of fun every time we cook with Chef Sam!!

Cooking with Chef Sam relates to science because when you are cooking on a stove it releases heat and heat is one of the six domains of energy and in science we are learning about energy.

Some things we learned are, cooking can sometimes be dangerous, cooking is fun no matter how gross the ingredients are, and we learned that lemon juice “cooks” the kale.

Abby Moore, Abriella Stumpo and Noah Wiles

Our favorite part of cooking in school is making healthy things that taste good. Other things we like are working with our friends, cutting things up that we have never cut before (onions, garlic cloves, etc.), and trying new foods.

Cooking is a form of science because all the ingredients are like things that go into a formula. When you bake a cake and it rises, how lemon can cook kale and first meat is raw and then you cook it and it’s ok to eat, that’s science.

We learn that when you cook you have to be super careful because you could hurt yourself. Like a scientist in a lab they have to be careful to use the right chemicals otherwise you’re in trouble.

When you cook you have to put in the right ingredients or it will taste bad!

Pearl Schatz-Allison and Djibril Diaw

What made cooking so fun was that we were all doing it together, and we were actually having a hands on science class! Chef Sam and our teacher Ms. Chase were the people who made this all happen, so we owe it all to them.

In our first cooking session, we made a kale salad. Before we left, our awesome teacher, Ms. Chase, put on a slide show about the “super hero vegetable.” One of Isaac’s favorite parts was when we were watching the slideshow, and one of the slides showed what fat is good for you, not, and [what] isn’t the best, but isn’t horrible.

Grace’s favorite part was how the teachers actually trusted us with the knives and how most of the cooking was us. Also, that the slide was educational, funny, and helpful when cooking. My (Anna) favorite part was how when all the class was cooking, we seemed to have few arguments besides for what jobs we got. (Which was also very few!)

“We all seemed to work in harmony; we were having fun!” But it wasn’t just that, I also loved eating “the fruits of our labor” except it wasn’t fruit! It was just an amazing experience! Everyone agrees that it was scientific in the fact that we were learning about food and how healthy they are for you!

And then we get to use some of the foods we all learned about in our meals! In the food that we made there were healthy things like kale.

Grace Parzych, Anna Baskowski, and Isaac Morton

We love cooking with Chef Sam. We loved cooking with Chef Sam because, he has taught us that just because some foods are healthy does not mean it does not taste good.

We have used kale in both of our recipes and it tastes better



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gill Elementary school students James Staelens, Matthew Marchefka, Anna Baskowski, Abriella Stumpo, and Grace Parzych mix the dressing on their kale salad, with Chef Sam Icklan (in the far back right) and classroom aide Melissa Zilinski.

with all the green goodness.

Cooking with Chef Sam relates to science because it involves heat to cook. It has chemical change. Why? It changes raw meat to cooked meat.

We love science. That is why we love cooking so much. We also love food and we cook that and get to eat it at the end of our “session.”

Morgan Dobias, Aisha Pruitt Gonzalez, and Kole Broderick

Our favorite thing to do in the kitchen with Chef Sam is to prepare the ingredients with slicing and dicing of the carrots and kale. We have learned many things about the food we have cooked.

The last meal we had, was chicken sausage white bean soup, it was delightful to eat.

We hope to fit another great experience of cooking with Chef Sam.

We have been using Kinetic and Potential energy combining to make Mechanical when cooking the food. The food needs heat energy for it to be cooked or boiled.

We have learned that cooking can be very rewarding when cooking with healthy foods with many nutrients.

Toby Sol and James Staelens

Cooking with Chef Sam was fun and fascinating. Because he showed us how to do certain cuts. And also the difference between tablespoons and teaspoons. And how to skin cucumbers and carrots.

It was all really cool how we got to eat what we made. Plus it was healthy.

Cooking is also related to science in many different ways. Like if you mix certain ingredients on the oven it will make a reaction. And also how you have to use measuring cups.

In conclusion, science and cooking is really fun together.

Julian Smith and Olivia Vassar

Cooking relates to science in many different ways and some of them are...

One way cooking and science are related is heat. Heat is related to science when, in a lighter, heat ignites the gas and makes fire. Heat relates to cooking when, in a cooking pot, heat heats the water to make steam.

Another thing that relates to cooking and science is electricity. Electricity relates to science when electricity powers a light bulb and or video games.

Tommy Labombard, Alex Sulda, and Matthew Marchefka



Moon Calendar for June 2016:

Saturday, June 4 :	New Moon
Sunday, June 12:	First Quarter
Monday, June 20:	Full Moon & Summer Solstice
Monday, June 27:	Last Quarter

June’s full moon is called the **Strawberry Moon**, so named by Native tribes because it coincided with picking these ripe fruits.
Creative Commons photo: almost full moon composite image.

NatureCulture Events

The Great Holyoke Brick Race

Build a race car from a brick and compete. All ages; teams and individuals. If you don’t have a brick race car built, you can go watch the race and get ideas for next year.

Saturday June 4. Check-in at 10 a.m. Event 11a.m. to 3 p.m. 80 Race Street, Holyoke.
Info: brickrace.org

Accessible Birding with Joe

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month (through November) in a search for birds at local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Call ahead for wheelchair van access: (978) 248-9491.

Tuesday, June 14 at 8 a.m.
100 Main Street, Athol

Local Geology

Learn some interesting aspects of our local geology with Paul Kachinski. Eventually there may be a regular meeting schedule for this group.

Tuesday June 21, 7 p.m.
100 Main Street, Athol
Questions: info@atholbirdclub.org

Yoga Gone Wild! (for women)

Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location TBD. Fee. For more info: herwildroots.com

East Quabbin Land Trust Silent Auction

To support conservation. Register at eqlt.org (\$60/ticket). To donate items for auction, contact Judith Jones at (508) 344-5757 or Nancy

Grimes at (413) 627-0076.

Saturday June 25, 5:30 p.m. Cultural Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, Hardwick.

Wildlife Tracking at the Quabbin with David Brown

Sunday, June 26
Pre-registration required. (Register by June 22.) Fee. For more information: dbwildlife.com

Connecticut River Valley Astronomer’s Conjunction

Friday July 8 through Sunday July 10
Northfield Mountain, Northfield
For more information: philharrington.net/astroconjunction/program.htm

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING EVENTS:
EVERY SUNDAY

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.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

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.



And The Kids will be performing at the Shea Theater on Friday, June 4 at 8 p.m. "And the Kids are among the Western Mass. indie scene's brightest creative lights," says Pitchfork. This is a release party for their new CD "Friends Share Lovers" produced by Signature Sounds.

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.

EXHIBITS:

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

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: Barnes Gallery presents: *The Horse Show by Bella Halsted*. Artist reception on Sunday, June 12, 4-6 p.m. Show runs through 6/25.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *Relics and Curiosities in Memorial Hall*. "Interesting" objects such as wreaths made of human hair and weapons made from shark's teeth are in this exhibit which runs until 10/30. \$

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Thrones*. "A ubiquitous household item becomes object d'art at the Nook" as artists transform the common toilet seat into new art forms. Through 6/25.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Along the River: pastels by Rebecca Clark*. Through 6/27. Also *Cheryl Rezendes' Interludes*, A collection of new works, wall hung mixed media on fiber. Through 6/26

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"The Nature of Things" Mixed Media by Nancy Baker*. Artist reception, Satur-

day, June 18, 2 - 6 p.m. Through 6/27.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Slate Roof Press: Submissions to our 2016 Poetry Chapbook Contest/Elyse Wolf Prize will now be accepted through June 15. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com

Silverthorne Theater, Greenfield: Sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. Deadline for submissions is 10/1. Complete information at www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html

ues throughout Turners Falls. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield: Ashfield Community Theater presents: *The Quick Change Room*. 7 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Looking for Sugar Man*. 7:30 p.m. Live music at 7 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Chris Cohen, Claire Cronin, and Ruth Garbus*. All ages, 8 p.m., \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *And The Kids CD Release Party! w/The Snaz*. See photo and blurb this page. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*. Hick rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lunar Carnival*. Magical blend of folk, jazz, and Americana. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Lake Side Drive*. Cover band. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old time jazz, blues and more. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mole Story Time* presented by Paul Richmond. Sign up for one of 12 slots; hour of stories. Vote for your favorite 3. 7 p.m. \$

West Whately Chapel, Whately: Watermelon Wednesday presents: *Osmany Paredes*. Cuban-born, jazz pianist Osmany Paredes Gonzales brings his Afro-Cuban trio to the chapel. See website for tix and directions. 7:30 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Palaver Strings "Sun Salutations"*. Musician-led orchestra of 12 young professionals. Non-profit to aid in discussion of social issues, support for the arts. Classical music and more. 8 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents *Bruce Colegrove, Jim Eagan, and Orlen and Gabriel*. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All Stars*. Rock/folk and a little bit of everything. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents Jim Matus*. Jim Matus plays jazzy, middle eastern & folk on a 'laoutar.' Come see what that is! 7 p.m. \$

Arts Block and throughout the town, Greenfield: *Full Disclosure Festival*. What happens when climatologists, anthropologists, and historians team up with artists. Talks, interviews, readings, sculpture and more. See the Arts Block on Facebook for more info. Continues on Saturday, June 11. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Amber Wolfe (singer/songwriter) w/ Lady Jane (local singer/songwriter Esperanza Friel)* and stories from local author Jedediah Berry (*The Manual of Detection*). 8 p.m. \$

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The Brick House 5k

June 18th 10am start!

contact: thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com

Registration opens at 9:00 am.
Start and finish at the gravel parking lot
at the top of the bike path at
Unity Park in Turners Falls.

All proceeds benefit
The Brick House
Community Resource Center.

Pre-register here:
<https://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k>

\$20*

*sliding scale fee available at on-site registration

COHEN from page B1

"Mind" is an infectious pop anthem, with punchy verses, a sing-along chorus, and guitar lines that stand out more than elsewhere on the album.

The song discusses separation, following the footsteps of the singer passively looking, half-hoping, for a lover on hiatus. Cohen sings, "I guess we'll both try / to give it some time / but yesterday's on my mind."

While Cohen has lived in California for most of his life, he recently spent two years living in Shaftsbury, Vermont. He worked at Clear Brook Farm growing organic vegetables. "It helped me with my back," he explained, which was challenging for this writer to understand.

Cohen recorded a lot of music in Bennington, saying that the low rent on old industrial studio space "gave me a place to do it." His first album under his own name, 2012's *Overgrown Path*, was recorded there.

Brattleboro-to-LA transplant Abby Banks, author of the coffee-table book *Punk Houses: Interiors in Anarchy*, speaks glowingly of Cohen. "Chris has worked on all kinds of magical musical projects with all kinds of interesting artists over the years. He continues on this path and is a very kind, inquisitive, humble guy," she says.

Banks adds that Cohen is in an old Sonic Youth video. (1990's "Cinderella's Big Score" — that's him in the flannel shirt.) "And now he looks exactly the same," she says, conspiratorially. "He might not age — he might be an indigo child or something."

Saturday's show will be a special one. Cohen will arrive on tour with Georgia-based songwriter Claire Cronin, who has a new album out in col-

GARDENERS from page B1

wife and nest of young.

At night we are lulled by insect song.

We work in the yard and garden early and late, and save the heat of midday for reading or napping. There are new treasures every day. The iris is up at the garden edges and the Japanese iris not far behind. The beauty bush blooms prolifically. The grass seems ready for mowing every other day and the lawn is full of violets. The woods at the edge of the yards are full of phlox.

It's time to dig out the bathing suits, dust off the kayaks, and find quiet waters for refreshment, or pack sandwiches and take out the Jeep for a ride on the dirt roads of the hill towns and stop by a waterfall.

Make time to enjoy this early summer season when you can and as you please. As Shakespeare wrote, "... summer's lease hath all too short a date."

Breathe in the scents, tune into the sounds and soak up the warmth. It will be steamy July soon enough.

Happy gardening!



laboration with Cohen's former Deerhoof bandmate John Dieterich.

They will also be joined by Brattleboro pop minimalist Ruth Garbus, performing with Julia Tadlock. When talking about his musical influences, Cohen mentioned Garbus as the only musician he is currently listening to.

"I wasn't even sure what I liked anymore," says Cohen. Garbus' *Joule* EP, released on OSR Tapes, he says, was "the only thing where I could say, 'this was good.'"

The show will begin at 8 p.m. and is seated on a first-come, first-served basis. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, and is an all-ages, substance-free venue. A \$10 donation is suggested at the door.



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