

WE CONNECT
THE COASTS

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WE LOUNGE IN
THE SUNSHINE

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WE FISH AT
THE ROCK DAM

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LAKE PLEASANT

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 34

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 9, 2016

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Inches Forward on Last-Mile Broadband Project

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On the evening of May 31, the last day for legal posting of the annual town meeting warrant, Wendell's broad-

band committee had a long, productive meeting with representatives of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). Selectboard member Dan Keller and finance

committee chair Doug Tanner were at the meeting, and Keller reported Wendell is one of the first six towns for which MBI will do a readiness assessment.

Keller said that MBI will continue assessments with towns six at a time, but plans for a simultaneous system buildout of last-mile high-speed internet.

Keller recommended that Wendell withdraw from WiredWest, in spite of the organization's new business plan, and pursue cooperation with fewer and closer towns. Wendell has paid dues to WiredWest, and that money is spent, but the \$49 deposits that town residents paid to WiredWest are being held in an escrow account.

see WENDELL page A5



HEINEMANN PHOTO

Last Saturday, the Wendell Free Library sponsored a "box city" on the common. Boxes, tools, and fasteners were provided, cross streets were laid out, and some elaborate structures were created.

Graduating Class Celebrates

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – The Turners Falls High School gymnasium was filled to the rafters with joyous, cheering friends and family last Friday as the Class of 2016 began its procession towards graduation. Entering through a decorated archway as the band played "Pomp and Circumstance," each student took a turn once slowly around the room until they reached the front. Taking seats facing the stage, they waited for the ceremony to begin.

At the podium, Principal Annie Leonard said that although it was her first year,

and she hadn't had the opportunity to know the students throughout their time at the high school, she was very happy to be there. She welcomed everyone and congratulated the

see GRADUATION page A4

BLANCHETTE PHOTO



Class of 2016 graduates hold roses given to them by the Gill-Montague Education Fund, to be given to a "special someone" in their life.

All That Airport Dirt: Explained

By JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – ET&L Corporation of Stow, MA is in the midst of a \$2.2 million dollar job of constructing a new taxiway, 40 feet wide and 1,500 feet long, at the Turners Falls

Airport. Orange- and white-checked flags flutter gaily from every vehicle on the job, making it look like a triumphant invading army.

"The flags are for safety," job superintendent Jonathan DiGregorio said. "Only vehicles with a checkered flag are

allowed on the job, making it easy to spot a vehicle that shouldn't be there."

The taxiway job was started April 15, and must be completed before July 4.

The company first broke up the old taxiway pavement,

see AIRPORT page A3



PARZYCH PHOTO

The taxiway construction project, as seen from the sky.

Iconic Downtown Buildings See One More Renaissance



PARZYCH PHOTO

Renaissance Builders owner Stephen Greenwald stands at the porch of the former American House on Fourth Street, one of the Powertown Apartments buildings his company is helping renovate.

By DAVID DETMOLD
with JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – The scaffolding has come down on the handsomely refurbished facade of the Hibernian Hall on Avenue A. Across Fourth Street, the finishing touches are being placed this week on the imposing two-story porch of the old American House, with its six massive columns tapering upward from their 16-inch bases.

Power Turner Falls LP, new owners of the sprawling, ten-building Power Town Apartments complex, has invested heavily in the renovations of these two signature architectural masterpieces on the Avenue to maintain the historic accuracy of their facades, down to the last detail.

see BUILDINGS page A6

At the head of the firm that handled the painstaking renovation of the cornices of the Hibernian Hall and the American House porch is Stephen Greenwald, a builder with long years of experience downtown. He has assisted the town with complicated restorations of key buildings in the past.

Owner of Renaissance Builders, Greenwald first moved to Turners as a member of the Renaissance Community in 1974, when that commune of adventurous young people practically took over the downtown. The commune bought up the Colle Opera House, Shea Theater, Cutlery Block, and many other downtown buildings, and opened a number of quixotic enterprises that put a distinctly psychedelic stamp on Power

Mystery Canines Kill Cows, Calves; Coydogs, Coywolves, Liberals Blamed

By JEFF SINGLETON

GILL – Coydog or coyote? Gill police chief David Hastings does not think the genetics of the animals that killed a local farmer's cow and two newborn calves matter very much. "I'm more concerned about a farmer's loss of property than [the attacker's] DNA," Hastings told the Reporter.

The department's Facebook page, however, had become a venue for the ongoing debate over whether a wild animal that has

populated the northeastern United States in recent decades is a coyote, a "coydog" (dog-coyote mix), or a hybrid involving the eastern wolf and the western coyote.

The current state of the science seems to suggest the latter, but Hastings is certainly correct that this does not help Brian Peila. Peila is a local farmer who grazes his cows in a Main Road pasture about a mile south of Gill's town hall.

In the early afternoon of June 6, Peila was

see CANINES page A8

The Playoffs: Softball Advances

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Three Turners Falls High School sports teams played in the MIAA playoffs this week. The baseball team traveled to Ware, the boys' tennis team went to Greenfield, and the softball team hosted Pioneer.

Baseball

On Thursday, June 2, Ware defeated Turners Falls 7-1 in the first round of the MIAA baseball playoffs. Powertown took a brief 1-0 lead in the first inning when Jalen Sanders batted in Tionne Brown, but it wasn't enough, as Ware tied it in the bottom

see PLAYOFFS page A7



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners' Melissa Hersey gets a solid hit in the softball team's 2-1 victory over Pioneer Valley on Monday.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Preliminary Aeration

Kate Jones, administrative assistant at Montague’s Water Pollution Control Facility, let us know that one of our reporters misinterpreted a statement she made at the May 31 Montague selectboard meeting.

Tensions have been high between the department and town hall, so it’s worth a correction, as well as some further discussion.

We took the time to review a video of the meeting, which as always is available online via MCTV’s website. Referring to an advertisement the town has posted for a new superintendent to replace Bob Trombley, who retires at the end of this month, here’s what Jones actually said:

“One of my concerns about the ad is that you are requiring – and I know that this came right out of the superintendent’s job description – ‘ten years of experience.’ That will probably have you looking at people who are very comfortable with conventional, possibly not as open to something that’s alternative, like the Montague process.”

Guessing wrong at a missing noun, Jeff Singleton wrote that she was concerned the requirement would select for candidates “comfortable with conventional [methods of administration].” But Jones was referring to conventional methods of *wastewater treatment*, not of management.

She and others were making clear that they are worried that a manager hired from outside might not support the staff in continuing with their experimental – and apparently quite successful – approach to waste treatment, which involves recycling activated sludge all the way back to the headworks so that digestion can begin during preliminary treatment.

Singleton’s article may have led some readers to believe Jones was advocating for a restructuring plan department staff had collectively proposed, to promote her and operator John Little into joint leadership positions after Trombley’s retirement.

The selectboard had voted against that idea after discussing it in executive session, a prerogative they assert was legal under the state open meeting law, based on the idea that it could affect the town’s position in collective bargaining with the unions representing workers in the department.

It’s still not totally clear to us why that should be the case.

The town’s labor lawyer has explained in an email to the United Electrical Workers (UE) that the selectboard’s rationale in rejecting the idea was that “it wants to ensure that it has a confidential manager” – i.e., a non-union member – “who is responsible for the overall Department operations, budget and management of employees.”

But from what we had heard, the staff felt that whether or not either supervisor position would be in the union should be up for discussion with town hall. And we’ve seen no indication yet that the UE was asked about the plan, or that it signaled it would have any qualms over Little leaving the union.

In any case, Jones wanted to stress that she and others have accepted the selectboard’s decision, and are moving on.

At that May 30 meeting, she, Little and selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz finally had an open and public conversation about the idea.

It’s worth sharing with a broader audience, because it’s a conversation about how our town is governed and how our infrastructure is managed, not a secret negotiation in which taxpayers and employees bargain over opposing interests.

Jones: Thank you, Rich, for hanging in here. I know it’s been challenging. I appreciate your efforts. In order for the staff to be able to begin to move beyond our plan – and I understand the decision’s been made – in order for us to move past that, and move on to superintendent, and hopefully we get one that will be successful, I have a question. I was not privy to any discussions. I understand that the point is, not having a single point of contact. Was it entertained that there be some modification to the plan that we had, where John and I were co-managers, where he was Chief Operator and I was Administrator, so that you could get your single point of contact?

Kuklewicz: We had some discussions with John around that, and those didn’t go the way we felt – We talked to John about that.

Little: Yeah. I offered to step out of the union and be the single point, but you still didn’t like that idea.

Kuklewicz: No, John, that wasn’t how it went. I think you went and told us that we would never want you as a superintendent; we would fire you within one or two weeks.

Little: You’re right.

Kuklewicz: So why would we put you in a position where you’ve told us we would fire you?

Little: Because, if the group that I worked with wasn’t taken care of, then I would be a thorn in your side, even worse than I am on the union side of it. That’s what I meant. But I meant I would step out of the union, and do it for less money –

Kuklewicz: That wasn’t the message you gave us that day, John.

Little: I believe I did say that. I believe I did say that. In fact, I put it to you –

Kuklewicz: Well then John, you certainly have the qualifications, and you can put in an application for Superintendent.

Little: It’s not going to work that way!

Jones: That takes John out of where we need him to be.

Kuklewicz: Well, we can’t do things both ways.

Little: We need workers, not – I’m sorry, Rich, but we need workers. A superintendent is going to sit behind a desk primarily, and do the paperwork.

Kuklewicz: I didn’t get that message when I walked around and saw what Bob [Trombley] does every day, that he sits behind a desk. I’ve shaken Bob’s hand and realized that he doesn’t sit behind a desk all day. If you shake my hand, you’ll see what it’s like when somebody sits behind a desk all day. *[Laughter]*

So I understand, and that’s a unique person – that’s what we’re looking for. And it may take us some effort, it may take some time. I don’t want to hire the wrong person. So, we’ll work at that, that’s all I can tell you.

There you have it. The town will be challenged to hire a successor to Trombley, but at least officials are aware that they’re looking for a hands-on boss who is open to new ideas and encouraging of employee initiative. It’s a tall order, and we wish everyone the best of luck in moving forward.

Letters to the Editors

Snakes Must Face Democracy

I read with interest Anne Stengle’s letter to the *Reporter* (June 2) concerning the proposed introduction of rattlesnakes to a Quabbin Reservoir island, and take exception to a few of her points.

Firstly, she states that “increasing the number of species in an ecosystem improves the health of the ecosystem.”

Unlike her, I am no PhD candidate in biology, but surely she knows better: have the likes of the Asian longhorn beetle, the zebra mussel and the emerald ash borer – invasive species all – “improved” the health of the Commonwealth’s ecosystem, rather than put it at serious and costly risk?

Second is her assertion that rattlesnakes are a “key species in our environment.”

Really? Isn’t the timber rattlesnake population estimated at around 200 statewide, and only found at Mt. Tom and the Blue Hills, other than a couple other tiny isolated groups? Ms. Stengle may want rattlesnakes to be a “key species,” but plainly they’re not. What crucial niche does she claim they currently occupy?

Third is her claim that the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is required to protect all endangered species, regardless of public popularity. Alright, fair enough, but I’m missing where anyone’s proposed eradicating the existing rattlesnake populations. Perhaps Ms. Stengle could enlighten us?

The final point that caught my eye is her anger that politics, instead of science, is the chief factor in the legislature’s decision.

Leaving aside the question as to what her closing remark urging us to lobby our state senator to thwart the effort is, if not a political ploy, yes: the public does get to influence what conservation efforts our tax dollars will support.

That’s the nature of a democracy, however inconvenient Ms. Stengle might find it.

Robert Traynor
Turners Falls

Athetes Awarded

The Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following four students who have been selected to receive our scholarships.

The awards, in the amount of \$1,000 each, are payable to the individual student for their second semester at the college of their choice.

1. Jenna Putala of Erving
2. Mackenzie Phillips of Gill
3. Haley Whipple of Montague
4. Ryan Lenois of Montague

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck.

We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible.

Applications for Second Semester Scholarships are available at the Turners Falls High School guidance office. TFAC: Supporting Sports & Academics for the Youth of Turners Falls Since 1934.

Sincerely,

TFAC Scholarship Committee
Christian S. Couture,
TFAC President

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Relive history as you walk through Cabot Station on this special 100th Anniversary guided tour on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. Cabot Station began generating electricity in 1916, supplying power to the Montague area and communities throughout the Connecticut River Valley. At the time of its construction, it was the largest hydroelectric station east of Niagara Falls.

Enjoy this unique opportunity to see inside a working power station on these free, forty-minute tours highlighting the station’s history on the banks of the Connecticut. Today, much of the original generating equipment is still in use. Tours begin at 9:45, 10:45 and 11:45 a.m., and 12:45 p.m.

The tour route includes some uneven footing and several flights of narrow stairs. No open-toe shoes allowed, and photo ID is required.

Cabot Station is located at 15 Cabot Street, Turners Falls (Montague City). To register, visit www.bookeo.com/CabotStation100, or call 1 (800) 859-2960.

The **Wendell Misfit Prom** takes place at the Deja Brew Pub this Saturday, June 11. This year’s theme is “Gods, Myth, and Legends.”

The event kicks off with a parade at 6:30 p.m. on Wendell Common, and the pub doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20, and children under 12 are free. Proceeds to benefit the Wendell Free Library.

Red Fire Farm will be hosting a **Strawberry Jam making class**

from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, June 12 at its farmstand down in Granby. See the jam making process from beginning to end, and get your questions answered about canning. You can learn to preserve the peak of the harvest for enjoying all winter.

The farmstand is located at 7 Carver Street in Granby. Free and open to the public.

Stop by the **Retirement Party for Father Charles Di Mascola!** Father Charles has been at Our Lady of Czestochowa for 30 years.

Everyone is cordially invited to the open house event from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 12 at Saint Kazimierz Hall, 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Diemand Farm is hosting a fundraiser to benefit military families Sunday, June 12. Chicken and rib BBQ from 2 to 5 p.m. All donations welcome.

All proceeds will go to the Arredondo Foundation, to provide emergency fund assistance to military families that have experienced a suicide, and college education assistance to siblings. RSVP please: (413) 522-4453. The farm is located at 126 Mormon Hollow Road in Wendell.

On Wednesday, June 15, join a **School’s Out celebration** at the Great Falls Farmers Market from 2 to 6 p.m. Festivities will include music and storytelling by Tim Van Egmond, hula hoop lessons, a side-walk art contest, kid-sized items for purchase, and more!

Start summer off right at your

local Farmers Market, held weekly on Avenue A in Turners on the lawn by the Discovery Center. For more information, visit the Great Falls Farmers Market page on Facebook, or call Donna at (413) 687-1288.

Enjoy some **Brews, Books and Beer** at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday, June 16, at 6 p.m. Hear Element brewers discuss the process of brewing beer, beer type appreciation, and how to access additional resources, including library books. After the discussion, tour the Element Brewery right across the street at 23 Bridge Street. Tastings will be available. For more information, call 863-3214.

Join runners and walkers on June 18 for a **5K Race to raise funds for the Brick House Community Resource Center!** Onsite registration opens at 9 a.m., and the race starts at 10 a.m.

Start and finish is at the gravel parking lot at the top of the bike path (DCR Canalside Rail Trail) at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The course follows the bike path, crosses the canal onto the patch up to Migratory Way, and loops back to the bike path via G St. and Power St.

The cost is \$20, and a sliding scale entrance fee is available at on-site registration, no runner turned away. Prizes include gift cards for The Rendezvous, LOOT, and 2nd Street Baking Company, and a wooden cutting board from Dolan Casework. The Five Eyed Fox has offered a beverage voucher for all registered runners, and additional support is provided by Whole Foods Market.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register here: www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k. There are many volunteer opportunities available – please email thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com if you’re interested in helping out.

After that, from noon until dark, stick around for the **Unity Skate-**

park Opening Celebration! There will be a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m., a skate contest from 2 to 4 p.m., as well as live bands, free food, and family activities.

Co-sponsored by the Unity Skatepark Committee, Montague Parks and Rec, and Turners Falls RiverCulture, the event will feature Representative Steve Kulik, as well as music from bands including Rob Skelton’s Pitchfork, the Warblers, OFC, Rebel Base, Chris Worth and the Equalites.

The Unity Skatepark Committee is also looking for **volunteers** to help with setup, cleanup, food and parking. To pitch in, sign up on the Unity Skatepark Campaign page at Facebook, or directly at goo.gl/forms/u1XIhU7SvR, or call Anne Harding at (413) 863-4993.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day, join Red Fire Farm in the Montague fields for free samples, pick-your-own, live music, fairy house building, and a walking tour of the farms’ Interpretive Trail by Mount Grace.

Pick-your-own organic strawberries from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and enjoy tasting of their 12 strawberry varieties, free and open to the public, from 2 to 5 p.m.

For more information on the farm’s **Strawberry Soiree**, which includes a Feast in the Fields dinner (not free) and a wrap-up outdoor concert with Jake Klar, visit redfirefarm.com/news/strawberry-soiree.html.

That weekend, June 18 and 19, is also the annual **Mutton & Mead Festival**, which takes place at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club. Tickets start at \$15, and youth, senior, military, weekend and family discount rates are available.

We’ll have more information in next week’s *Reporter*, but for now check out www.muttonandmead.org for information on the medieval festival!

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of the Week

week ending 5/27/2016:

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Grade 7

Catherine Bezio

Grade 8

Kaitlyn Miner

Mirela Cioclea

AIRPORT from page A1

which was composed of two layers of asphalt “base” pavement. A Komatsu excavator, with a 6-cubic-yard bucket, loaded the broken bituminous asphalt pavement and its gravel base onto ET&L’s Volvo A 35D articulated off-road 35 ton rear dumps. They transported it to a stockpile, where a Cat D8 bulldozer blended it with material excavated from the area of the new taxiway.

On the other side of the stockpile, a bucket loader loaded the blended material onto other Volvo A35D articulated dump trucks, which hauled the blended material back to the excavated part of the new taxiway.

ET&L’s water truck wet the soil down, as its Volvo vibratory roller compacted it. The company’s bulldozers and graders are equipped with GPS devices to automatically maintain accurate grades to plan specifications.

This project is a continuation of a runway project that earlier had to be moved 15 feet to accommodate claims of sacred ground by Native American tribal leaders. Moving the runway brought it too close to the taxiway, which is now being moved 15 feet away from the runway to meet airport regulations.

ET&L got its start when Anthony Colosi worked for Eastern Tree & Landscaping. The equipment lineup back then consisted of little more than a couple of Ford farm tractors with York rakes, and a couple of wheelbarrows. Mr. Colosi later bought the company, expanded it and incorporated as ET&L Corp.

Colosi has since retired, and his daughter, civil engineer Jennie Lee Colosi, now president of the company, sits at the helm. For 10 straight years, she has been chosen as one of the top 100 women business leaders in Massachusetts.

The company is involved in building roads,



Heavy scoops: Superintendent Jon Digregorio stands by the company’s Komatsu excavator to give perspective to bucket’s size.

bridges, airport runways, and site development. The only tree and landscaping work the company performs now is that which is incidental to their construction projects.

ET&L has come a long way under Ms. Colosi’s leadership. Large amounts of construction equipment glutted the equipment yard at the job site. Asked why the taxiway project has such a massive amount of equipment on the job, Digregorio stated, “When we need a piece of equipment, I

don’t want the job held up while we hunt it down and wait for it to be delivered. This way, when we need it, the equipment’s here – ready to go to work with no delay. Sooner or later, all the equipment on the job will be put to use.”

The base beneath the new taxiway is being compacted in 6-inch lifts with ET&L’s Volvo vibratory roller. The beach-like sand, part of prehistoric Lake Hitchcock, is clean with few fines, making compaction a challenge. A water truck equipped with a sprinkler nozzle wets down the sand to aid compaction.

The 32-inch base layer under the new pavement consists of the recycled taxiway material plus a foot of red rock processed gravel, 19 inches of select borrow, 4 inches of sandy onsite material, and 6 inches of 4-inch-minus trap rock. Both the red rock and trap rock are supplied by Trew Corporation’s quarry in Deerfield.

Warner Brothers LLC, also of Deerfield, is slated to pave the taxiway with two layers of 2” base once it is graded and compacted. ET&L’s crew is presently working overtime to insure that the job finishes before the July 4 deadline.

ET&L has been in business for 65 years engaged in highway, roadway, and bridge building. Recently, the firm was selected for the \$56,450,977 Sagamore Bridge rotary reconfiguration, and Braintree-Quincy improvements to Route 3, Burgin Parkway and Centre Street. Here in Montague, the company is also working on the eastern portion of Greenfield Road and its pedestrian bridge.

The good news for Montague residents is that the current project at the airport is 90% funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, and 10% by the MassDOT Aeronautical Division. The bad news is that the funds all come out of taxation, one way or another.

Sorry, there is no free lunch, folks.



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GRADUATION from page A1

graduates for their achievement.

Leonard introduced senior class president Noah Cordonnier-Padilla who said, “Look at this. We made it, all in one piece!” Cordonnier-Padilla said it was weird to realize this would be their last time in the school.

“For many, it feels like home,” he said. “We’ve gone through three principals, three musical directors – and a lot of flavored water,” he continued, bringing a laugh from his classmates, who cheered loudly when he added, “We beat Greenfield every single Turkey Day.”

He closed with these sincere thoughts: “We have supported each other even when it was difficult... This class is awesome! Noah signing off.”

Student council president Nadia Hasan spoke next. After recounting some humorous stories, Hasan said, “I know you can conquer everything. May you stay forever young.”

Salutatorian Jenna Putala spoke of overcoming obstacles in her life, saying, “I have learned to live in the present: don’t worry about the past, or the future.” To her fellow graduates, she said, “Your teachers and classmates are so proud of you.”

Neven Shattuck, the class valedictorian, spoke with confidence and a smile of joy on his face. He spoke of the value of fighting for freedom or what’s right, saying that “even if efforts seem small, they are important. Everything great that comes into your life comes with risk – find a way to be happy.”

Making Connections

In his address to the graduates, Gill-Montague district superintendent Michael Sullivan told the Class of 2016 that the state of Massachusetts sets very high standards for graduation, and praised them for

their academic accomplishments and perseverance. He spoke of the expansion of courses offered at the high school, and complimented them on their willingness to stretch themselves and try new things.

Sullivan then referenced President Obama’s speech, the previous week, at the memorial honoring the dead in Hiroshima, Japan. He had been talking about the high cost of lives lost in the war, and the consequence for humanity of the development and use of the atomic bomb.

“Technological progress without an equivalent progress in human institutions can doom us,” Mr. Obama said. “The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well.” Obama had suggested in order to make war obsolete, we must learn to think of ourselves as one community.

Addressing the graduates as they move into the next stage of their lives, Sullivan said surveys have shown once Turners Falls High students graduate, they go off either to Greenfield Community College, to a four-year college, or into the workforce in generally three equal groups. He added that nationally, statistics show many students do not stick with college, often leaving to get jobs.

While some of this is economic, Sullivan said that often it is because college students feel the lack of connections they had in high school or in their home communities. He spoke of a college that responded to a high dropout rate among Hispanic students by organizing “Zola Nights,” creating an opportunity for the students to socialize and make connections. This worked well, reducing the dropout rate at the school.

Sullivan then told the story of combat soldiers, coming home after long deployments, feeling the loss of connection and purpose in their



School committee chair Michael Langknecht looks on as class president Noah Cordonnier-Padilla moves a classmate’s tassel, signifying that she has graduated.

lives. They found by reaching out to fellow soldiers to rekindle the kind of camaraderie they had before they returned helped them feel less isolated, and helped them find purpose in their lives at home.

Sullivan offered these examples to warn graduates of the isolation they may feel once out on their own, and to understand the importance of connections that restore a sense of community in their lives.

“People are social beings,” Sullivan said. “We need each other. Isolation is the enemy. Relationships are messy, but worth it. My hope is you will carry these rich experiences with you, stay connected, and build community around you.”

Now was the time they’d all been waiting for. In their blue and white gowns, the students rose and left the room.

Returning one by one through the arch, band playing, each student stepped up to the stage as their name was called. They accepted their diplomas from Principal Leonard, and walked across to greetings and warm

congratulations from Sullivan and other members of the administration. Michael Langknecht, school committee chair, shared a brief moment of switching tassels on their caps. Each then received a pink rose provided by the Gill Montague Education Fund as they stepped off stage, returning to their seats.

As the ceremony reached its end, students took time to rush through the room, giving their roses to “someone special in their life.” This emotional moment was followed by cheers as the principal announced they had officially graduated.

They threw their caps into the air all at once, and the room filled with excitement, chatter and applause. Out on the lawn, grads were surrounded by family: little ones running around, babies cuddled in their mothers’ arms. The sun was still up and the scene was festive, with balloons and lots of picture-taking.

Another wonderful Turners Falls High School graduation. Congratulations to all from the Montague Reporter!



Franklin Tech Class of 2016 Urged to Live Life to the Fullest

By MICHAEL REARDON

GREENFIELD—Nick Tokman’s commencement address to the Franklin County Technical School Class of 2016 was irreverent and funny, but also held an important life lesson.

The cast member of the Discovery Channel show “Deadliest Catch” urged the 122 graduates to make the most of the days ahead of them. Tokman, a West Springfield native, said that without any “hiccups” along the way, the graduates could live to be 100 years old, and they should live their lives without regrets.

“There was a study conducted interviewing people on their death bed asking them about their regrets in life,” he said. “The consensus was that most people did not regret the things they did do, but actually the things that they didn’t do.”

Tokman said he didn’t regret moving to Alaska to become a crab fisherman, which led to his inclusion in “Deadliest Catch,” despite going broke, being homeless and having to sell a gold necklace his mother gave him. He added that he didn’t regret crashing a racing car, or streaking in the Holyoke Mall parking lot, although he recommended the graduates not do it because “you could be labeled a sex offender.”

In the end, Tokman advised the graduates to follow their hearts and do the things in life that are important to them before it’s too late.

“Decide on a path closely and deliberately,” he said. “Try it as many times as you think necessary. Then



Salutatorian Kaitlin Churchill of Turners Falls addresses her classmates.

ask yourself one question, ‘does this path have a heart?’ If it does, the path is good. If it doesn’t, it is of no use.”

The graduation was held this year under a tent at Greenfield Community College, due to construction projects at the Turners Falls school.

FCTS principal Shawn Rickan opened the ceremony by noting that it was the 40th anniversary of the school, and his first year as principal. He said he was “proud of the 122 graduates here this evening.”

“It was my pleasure to serve you as your principal, and I wish you all the best,” Rickan said.

Richard Kuklewicz, FCTS school committee chair, said the graduates will experience many more accomplishments in their lives, and when

they hit a bump in the road they must rise to the challenge. “There will be setbacks,” he said. “That just means that you’ll have to work harder to achieve the next accomplishment.”

Superintendent Richard Martin challenged graduates to weigh risks and rewards throughout their lives. He said the group took a risk by leaving their friends from eighth grade and coming to Franklin County Tech. The reward was finding “new friends for life, real work experiences, and a pathway toward a new career.”

Martin said it is risky, but necessary, to stay the course when others express doubt, and to not give into the temptation to seek a solution with little or no effort.

“You have heard the saying that

‘nothing good in life is free,’” Martin said, “but I challenge the graduates to take on a new philosophy and believe that the rewards of your life are in each of you, when you seek the interests of others before your own, honor those who raised you, and care for those who need you.”

Salutatorian Kaitlin Churchill quoted Maya Angelou, saying “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

“Passion is a quality that Franklin County Tech students never lack,” she continued. “You have to want to be here and you have to want to do well.” Churchill, a resident of Turners Falls, said FCTS students represented the school in the community which included overcoming stereotypes of young people who choose a vocational and technical school education.

“We became powerful parts of the community doing things that some people twice our ages never do,” she said. “I’m still amazed every day by our accomplishments and the overall wonderful people that I was lucky to have in my life for four years.”

Valedictorian Hailey Lowell spoke about how the Class of 2016 came from 19 different communities, but bonded and grew together.

“We helped each other find our way through the years and helped each other find who we are,” she said. “We gained knowledge, trust, compassion and common interest with others. We’ll have to continue

to push ourselves to become better versions of ourselves.”

Following graduation, Lindsey Mailloux of Erving, who sang the “Star Spangled Banner” to kick off the event, said she was happy, but also a little sad to be leaving her friends and teachers after four years.

“I got to meet so many people from different towns,” she said. “I got to learn the cosmetology trade that will help me out in the future. I’ll miss my friends and the shop.”

Briar-Rose Colon of Orange, another cosmetology student, is hoping to one day open her own salon. She said FCTS did a great job in preparing her for the workforce.

“I’m a licensed cosmetologist and the program here helped me with my career in the future,” Colon said. “It gets you ready for the real world. But, I’ll miss my friends, teachers and the memories. It went by fast.”

Clay Kelley, an automobile technology student from Buckland, said he felt a sense of accomplishment. He said the school environment is very welcoming to all the students. “I’ve been reflecting lately on how the teachers make the school into a community,” Kelley said. He plans to major in chemistry at Baldwin Wallace University in Ohio in the fall.

Sunderland’s Zach Barker said his education in the school’s machine technology program has already paid off. “I got a job at Bete Fog Nozzle,” he said. “I’m happy about that.”

Michael Reardon is a public relations representatives at FCTS.

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WENDELL from page A1

About 20 residents came Thursday evening, June 2 when Wendell’s broadband committee held an information meeting, and at that meeting, broadband committee co-chair Ray DiDonato said that MBI is working to get the USDA to allow municipal loans for network construction. All other loan options open to Wendell are expensive.

DiDonato also said that the first steps of the buildout, a pole survey and network design, can be taken before it is decided who will do the buildout, who will become the network operator, and who will become the internet service provider.

Two articles on the June 8 town meeting warrant would take \$20,000 from stabilization funds for a pole survey, and \$50,000 from stabilization for network design, the first steps necessary to create a fiber-optic network. Broadband co-chair Robert Heller said that wireless signals are inherently limited, and Wendell’s hills and trees make the signals even more so.

Meeting Tweaks

The finance committee asked that this year’s Article 4, the town’s operating expenses, be slowed somewhat from the last year’s process, because of the compromises

the fin com had to make to keep expenses from rising.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith sent in a question about the meaning of the words used at the close of or a break taken in the middle of a town meeting. With some discussion, selectboard members came to the following definitions: A “recess” is taken for a short break, for example, a lunch break during a Saturday meeting; “adjournment” comes from the word *jour*, French for “day,” and means a stop in the proceedings and the meeting will continue on another day; at the end of the meeting, with the business completed, the final article is to “dissolve” the meeting.

Coordination

Fire chief Joe Cuneo met the board with a quick explanation of a Multi Agency Coordination Center (MACC), and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for selectboard chair Christine Heard to sign and forward to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The MACC is a concept that was developed after hurricane Irene, with the idea of providing a single central coordination center for organizing during a large-scale incident. According to the MOU, Wendell is not bound to it, but the town agrees

to use the center.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 16 there will be a meeting at which Orange Ambulance will present a contract for towns to sign onto. This action seems contrary to the back-and-forth process that was established at prior meetings. Keller agreed to go, and so did town coordinator Nancy Aldrich.


Other Business

The standard test for ticks and Lyme disease costs \$30, and Mary Thomas asked whether Wendell would be willing to subsidize that cost for residents, as some other towns do. Heard said that question should go to the board of health.

The selectboard granted a request to use the town hall kitchen on June 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for community bread baking. The event is limited to ten people, and because it is for Wendell citizens, the fee is waived.

The selectboard got a request to use the town common for a tag sale. There is a regular Saturday morning farmers market, and Heard remembered that the Diemand family once organized a town-wide tag sale years ago. “I don’t want a store up there,” she said, and the board will ask for more information.

Building inspector Phil Delo-



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rey came in and said that a woman wants to replace a worn-out mobile home with a newer one. Delorey said his department’s current fee structure would cost her the same as new construction, \$1,200, and said he thought that was too high. Board members agreed that he could lower it.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that Deer Path nature school, his neighbor, had looked at the essays that Wendell got as applications for the Mass Audubon Wildwood camp, and although they cannot find a way to fit each writer in, selected Maddy Bodine to work a week there this summer, and that they are very open to doing more next summer.





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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Hope Springs Anew at IP Parcel

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving selectboard chair Jacob Smith told the board on Monday that Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is again discussing the town’s International Paper property with Sisson Engineering of Northfield, with the potential for Sisson to build at the property after the town has demolished some of the current buildings.

Sisson, which supplies complex machined parts, has been looking for a location to expand in Franklin County. In October 2015, president and CEO Cody Sisson toured the IP property with selectboard members and FRCOG staff.

After that tour, selectboard member William Bembury reported that Sisson felt that the property was too large and that the condition of some of the unmaintained buildings was a negative.

In a report to the town in November 2015, the town’s consultant, Tighe & Bond, indicated that pre-demolition asbestos abatement and consulting during abatement for the IP buildings would cost approximately \$200,000, and that property-wide management of hazardous materials, such as lead, would cost approximately \$48,000.

In February 2016, Tighe & Bond presented the International Paper Mill Feasibility Study, assessing the current condition of the property and providing four scenarios for enhancing the site’s development potential. Depending on the number of buildings to be demolished, the estimated costs ranged from \$13 to \$49 million.

“It’s not a simple question,” Smith remarked. “There’s a lot of money in the demolition options.”

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said he felt the board should “entertain further discussion” of the costs of partial or total razing of the IP buildings, and decide whether “the

return on investment is worth it.” Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden commented that the 40-acre property can be subdivided. “There’s a creative way to come out with something that would work,” she said.

The board decided to continue to review the costs, and discuss the best way to develop the property.

Library Issues

Boyden, as IT coordinator, asked the selectboard to meet with librarian Barbara Friedman and the library trustees to discuss whether the Erving Library is following the town’s IT protocols. She said there was “blatant disregard from the librarian” regarding those protocols.

Boyden said that the town had established a policy for buying computers for town departments as a group, and had decided to use Windows 7 as the operating system for town computers rather than Windows 10, which had caused problems for some town computers. Boyden told the board that the library had purchased a computer outside of the group-buying scheme, and had not communicated with her as IT coordinator.

According to selectboard chair Jacob Smith, who is also the town’s computer consultant, one of the computers at the library had Windows 10 installed, apparently by a library patron.

The board agreed to contact the library trustees and suggest a meeting either June 20 or June 27.

Smith said the board should discuss the library’s posted summer hours with Friedman. He said that it appeared that the library assistant might be scheduled for more than 19 hours per week during the summer.

At the May annual town meeting, voters defeated a motion to increase the assistant’s hours to more than 19.5 per week, the time beyond which an employee is eligible for insurance and other benefits.

Smith said he would check with

the treasurer to find out whether the assistant could work more than 19.5 hours per week for a limited number of weeks without becoming eligible for benefits. He said he didn’t want the town “legally bound to do something voted down at town meeting.”

Fire and Police

Fire chief Philip Wonkka told the board that he had received three bids for a fire department trailer, to be used as a mobile command center and also to house the Gator utility vehicle. The low bid, \$11,300 from Vassar Complete Auto Service of Greenfield, was accepted.

Wonkka said that, because of the Gator’s height, the trailer would be custom-built.

The board signed an agreement with the state Executive Office of Public Safety for a grant to fund additional body cameras for Erving police officers.

Debra Smith asked if the animal control officer would have a body camera. “I strongly object if he has a Taser without a body cam,” she said. Bastarache said he would contact police chief Chris Blair and ask him to provide information at the next department head meeting.

Other Business

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, on his first day on the job, was appointed the Green Communities contact person. Asked before the selectboard meeting how his first day went, he smiled and said, “It was interesting.”

The board decided to ask the department heads to discuss developing the town’s social media protocols at the next department head meeting, and asked administrative coordinator Smith to research social media protocols for other towns.

The board reviewed 22 draft articles for the June 28 special town meeting. The board plans to close the warrant at its June 13 meeting.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 8, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Override Fails in Montague

Citizens for Public Education, the committee of Montague parents, teachers and school officials who printed flyers, put up lawn signs, and made phone calls in support of the \$600,000 Proposition 2½ override request for the schools last month, have a long summer ahead of them.

Voters in Montague turned down the request by 236 votes. With 1388 – or nearly 32% of the registered voters – turning out, the final vote was 812 to 576.

This margin was an improvement over the results of the last school override in Montague, in August of 2003, when voters rejected a request for \$275,000, less than half the amount of money sought on Tuesday.

On Tuesday night, school committee members huddled with town officials in the hallway of town hall as the precinct returns came in, considering their options. The idea of finding some cuts on the town side of the budget, finding proportional cuts or new revenues from the school budget, and heading back to the voters with a smaller override request later in the summer were some approaches under discussion as the evening wore on.

More Talk on Railroad Salvage

A mysterious brick sat across from selectboard member Pat Allen’s stack of paperwork during Monday night’s board meeting. The artifact was later identified as a piece of the Railroad Salvage build-

ing, situated by the barricaded Power Street at the north end of the Patch.

The street was closed off for safety purposes in February after town officials noticed large pieces of the building’s roof had fallen in. Two weeks ago, part of the brick wall tumbled into the road, prompting the Montague highway department to add additional barricades to prevent residents from walking by the building.

The safety hazard posed by the building is also joined by a potential emergency hazard for residents of the Patch, who now only have one exit route, due to the closing of the Power Street bridge.

Regarding the building’s owner Gary Kosuda, building inspector David Jensen said, “He has the basic people to put the project together [to renovate], but they haven’t been working together. It’s frustrating that he didn’t nail all this down earlier.” Jensen is optimistic that substantial activity will begin on the building by the fall.

“If my perception is that he is not moving ahead, the only alternative I see is a court order to demolish the building,” said Jensen.

NMH Receives \$10 Million Bequest

A Northfield Mount Hermon School alumnus has donated securities valued at \$10 million to the school. David Bolger, real estate developer, investment banker, financier, and philanthropist, has asked that his gift be used to endow scholarships, establish a faculty chair, and support an endowment for the school’s Memorial Chapel.

This is the largest gift NMH has received in its 126-year history. Bolger graduated in 1950.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION

Fourth Street's American House, long after its days as a hotel and shortly before its conversion to affordable housing in the 1980s.

BUILDINGS from page A1
Town, including Zapmia Pizza, the Cucumber Grocery, and the Noble Feast.

Many of the businesses that got their start in Turners during the commune days have survived and thrived in the decades since. Not just Renaissance Builders, but Renaissance Excavators, Renaissance Greeting Cards and Renaissance Painters, along with Silver Screen Designs, a t-shirt company now based in Greenfield, all had their roots in, and perhaps benefited early on from, the group energy and idealism in the Renaissance Community.

Greenwald took a few minutes out of his busy schedule – his company is now in demand as one of the premier builders up and down the Valley – to relax on the porch of the Rendezvous with Joe Parzych and me a few weeks ago, and to reminisce about the old days, and the progress the town has made since.

Trial and Error

Greenwald said he once wanted to study to be an engineer, but got kicked out of high school at 16, “took a left turn,” and “went to Woodstock instead.”

He wound up in Warwick in ‘72 when his family moved north from Miami, became familiar with the Community of the Spirit before the group changed their name to the Renaissance Community, and moved to Turners two years later.

Parzych asked if Greenwald had ever gone back to school to study engineering as he had planned, or how he came to be the man in charge of complex renovations, like turning the three-story Turners Falls Pizza House into a two-story building, with all the detailed brickwork of the original cornice transposed, after a devastating fire in 1999.

He also oversaw the installation of a new roof on Building #9 at the Strathmore Mill after arson destroyed the adjacent mill building in 2007. Anyone who stood on the other side of the canal and watched the prog-

ress of that job, and the Spiderman skill of the workers who dared to do it, were impressed with the technical skill involved in staging it.

But Greenwald said he simply learned the ropes by doing – “by trial and error, and paying attention to what I took apart.”

“You can’t convince me you haven’t had some technical training,” Parzych persisted.

“It’s just been trial by fire,” Greenwald replied.

What he took apart and rebuilt at the Hibernian Hall – forty-five feet off the pavement – included measuring, removing and replacing the old wooden cornices on the Avenue A and Fourth Street sides, and carefully reproducing the 75 corbels that support the new cornices.

The original central arch surrounding the insignia on the Avenue A side has also been faithfully reproduced, so passersby can still plainly read that the building was built in 1888 by Division #1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mutual Aid

David Brule of Millers Falls explained that the Irish, like many another immigrant group before and after, faced severe discrimination in America. They banded together under a fraternal order for protection, mutual aid, and camaraderie as they worked as laborers to help build the mills and power canal in Turners Falls.

Like the Polish, who, coming from two distinct geographic areas of Poland, formed not one but two social clubs in Turners, the Germans, who hung out at the Herman Hall, and the French, on the front porch of whose original social club, the Rendezvous, Parzych and I were sitting with Greenwald just weeks ago, the Irish congregated at the bar of Hibernian Hall, or played basketball in the gymnasium on the third floor.

Town meetings, dances with dance hall bands, boxing matches and other events were held at the Hibernian, under the watchful eye of

the club’s manager, who back in the day was called Bainisteoir Shea.

“Shea kept a careful eye on everything that happened in town,” recalled Brule, and made sure the Irish were always in the thick of things.

The Hibernian housed numerous restaurants on the main floor, and, at various times, Fournier’s drug store and soda fountain, a bakery, a shoe store, and a pool hall entered from a back door on Fourth Street. The old shamrock motif is still plainly visible along the facade, symbols of the building’s proud Irish heritage.

Scott Allen, of Northfield, chipped away the four courses of brick at the roofline to allow Renaissance Builders to install and anchor 4” x 10” beams, to firmly attach the new cornices. The old woodwork had lost its integrity when the roof system’s gutter had worn, allowing water to rot out the original woodwork.

Now, a new roof and gutter system have been installed, and the painters from Russo Brothers in Manchester,

CT have given everything a fresh, protective coat of paint.

Power Town

Parzych said Alvah Crocker was the visionary who helped found the industrial village of Turners Falls, shortly after the Civil War, and who also profited handsomely from its construction, largely financed through Crocker’s own banks:

“Crocker’s Turners Falls Company promoted the sale of building lots for mills or homes which Crocker’s banks financed. Though it was a very cozy arrangement, it was largely responsible for the rapid development of Turners Falls, which would not have been possible otherwise.

“Though growth was rapid, it was planned and orderly. Not at all a shanty town, all of the Turners Falls buildings along Avenue A – including the Hibernian Hall and the American House – were of brick, supplied by three local brick yards in Montague City; the Burnham Brothers Brick Yard, the New England Brick Yard and the Thomas Brothers Brick Yard located where the Thomas Memorial Golf Course is now.

“During its heyday, the downtown district revolved around trade generated by workers in the silk mill, cotton mill, Turners Falls Paper Mill, Esleek Paper Mill (now Southworth – the sole surviving mill), Keith Paper Mill, the Cutlery, and the Romper Factory which stood where the United ARC offices are located today, next to the Greenfield Savings Bank.

“Payday was on Friday,” Parzych recalled. “Saturday evening the town teemed with shoppers generating the festive atmosphere of a county fair.”

Greenwald recalled that when he first got to town in the early ‘70s, the foot traffic and cars heading up and down Third Street to the factories was so thick you couldn’t get across Avenue A at the main intersection until shift change was over.

“This bar was full at 7 in the morning,” added Greenwald, like all the local watering holes that once vied to keep up with the thirst of the

night shift crews getting off work.

Among those watering holes was the bar at the American House, which was notorious for its rough-and-tumble atmosphere since the days of the logging drives.

“Parents used to lock up their daughters,” said local historian Sue SanSoucie, when the loggers came to town. But rumor has it they could find just about whatever they were looking for at the American House.

“Turners Falls had social clubs and churches for most of the ethnic groups, in addition to a plethora of places that catered to anyone with the price of a drink,” Parzych explained. “The all-encompassing American House ran non-discriminatory auditions for a time, attracting amateur strippers whose only requirement for an audition was to be drunk enough to get up on stage for a tryout before the enthusiastic, largely male audience.”

A Many-Storied Building

Stripping was also part of the job Greenwald’s crew undertook on the American House porch. But in this case it involved decades of lead paint, stripped and carefully bagged in plastic for disposal, from the eight huge columns out front.

Built in 1896, the American House was also a hotel, with a small bowling alley on the lefthand side.

Sue SanSoucie remembers living on the same block as a child.

“The American House was a pretty raucous saloon and restaurant,” she remembered. “It used to get pretty rowdy. The guys would get drunk, and there’d be lots of fist fights. I used to always be afraid to walk by there. All you could smell was beer, and all you could hear were guys cursing. The doors were always open.”

One popular tale holds that world heavyweight champ John L. Sullivan showed up at the American House one day, got a snootful, and challenged the local clientele: “I can lick any man in the house!”

A log driver drinking at the bar
see **BUILDINGS** next page



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The interior of the American House, as photographed before its 1980s renovation.

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BUILDINGS from previous pg took up the challenge, hauled off and knocked the champ out cold. His friend said, “Do you know who you knocked out? John L. Sullivan!” As recounted in the Historical Walking Tour of Turners Falls Village, available at the Carnegie Library, the logger said, “Let’s get out of here before he wakes up!”

An old photo in that guidebook shows the American House with a one-story porch. There’s no telling when the second story was added. Greenwald said some of the main columns had been replaced over the years, but the ones made out of red pine, an extremely durable wood, unavailable now, were probably original to the first construction.

“We first photographed the building from every angle,” said Greenwald. “We blew up two of those photos to 24” by 36”. We measured the porch, wrote down all the measurements, the spacing, the heights, the distance between columns. Then we took it apart, wrapped it in plastic, and measured all the pieces individually. Almost all the new parts are identical to the original parts.”

With the permission of the historical commission, a few new pieces were manufactured. Greenwald said the capitals and bases of the columns were reproduced at Josef’s Art Woodturning and Son in Hempstead, NY.

The columns are hollow, and sit up from the porch floor on 3/8-inch spacers to allow air to circulate inside, and prevent them from rotting out again.

And, not visible to the eye but vital to the porch’s structural stability



The Hibernian Hall, also circa the late 1970s or early 1980s.

for the next century or so, the interior of the columns are now centered on pressure treated 8” x 8” posts, which are doing the real work of holding up the second floor.

Dormant Periods, and Heydays

The logging drives, the heyday of the mills, the hundreds of comunards in tie-dye and bellbottoms: they’ve all come and gone, and left their mark on the downtown.

Parzych and Greenwald swapped stories of the 1970s while the bartender tried, with no success, to serve another round.

“The town went through a really dormant period,” recalled Greenwald, who moved to Gill with the last stalwart holdouts of the Renaissance Community, who chose to get back to the land after the tumult of the downtown bars, biker gangs and

rock star tours of the late ‘70s.

The Noble Feast, with its colorful stalactite interior, is long gone, though its chef, Alan Harris, still carries on the name in a successful catering business based in Shelburne.

“All the stores downtown... Most of them were shuttered. There was not much happening here,” said Greenwald, recalling the late ‘70s, early ‘80s. “There’s a resurgence now, partly due to generational change, younger people moving here, and partly due to the resurgence of the economy.”

Greenwald said the area is crying out now for specific types of skilled labor, such as machinists.

Machinists – they used to be a dime a dozen around here, when the mills were going full steam.

After Greenwald left to get back to work, Parzych relayed a few more

stories from the old days.

“During WWII, the labor shortage provided abundant employment for young and old, the sick, the lame, even the blind. The blind man was not completely blind but nearly so when drunk. On payday, he would often turn up at the payroll window so drunk he’d tumble down two flights of stairs on the walkway over the canal before lurching up to the payroll window for his check.

“One day, the woman handing out the payroll hesitated to give him his check, but was required to do so by her superior in order to avoid a scene. In her haste, she gave the blind man someone else’s check. The blind man was too far gone to read his name, but the teller at the Crocker Savings Bank, in a hurry to get him out of the bank, cashed the check anyway.

“It wasn’t difficult to straighten

out, since the Keith was a union shop where both men and women were all paid the same rate, regardless of seniority, sobriety or type of work. The various characters employed at the tolerant Keith Paper Company made it an interesting place to work.”

Parzych looked back over a lot of years from his perch on the Rendezvous front porch. Noise complaints have troubled the Avenue lately, but nothing like in days of yore.

“The empty lot next to Hubie’s on Avenue A was once the site of a barber shop,” said Parzych. “Robert Sabato, a dentist who happened to be sitting in the barber’s chair, one day took a ride to the middle of Avenue A, still sitting in the chair, when the building blew up. “Accumulating high pressure natural gas, which had leaked from porous joints, followed the trench of the ancient low pressure pipes into the building, and ignited with a resounding blast.”

The Ancient Order

Buildings come and go. So do local characters. But the careful reconstruction overseen by Stephen Greenwald, natural born architectural engineer, will stand as proud testimony to the enduring quality that first put Power Town on the map in the 1870s, and still runs through her streets and veins today.

Thanks to Renaissance Builders, the architectural heritage of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and the American House will be appreciated by denizens of the downtown for years to come, down through the decades.

I’ll drink to that.



PLAYOFFS from page A1

of the first.

“We had bases loaded, but could only put one run across,” skipper Scott D. Minckler lamented after the game.

When Turners was leading 1-0, few Blue fans were there to cheer them on. Many could not find the game. Folks were driving all over downtown Ware, communicating on cellphones, trying to find the field – which was hidden behind a bank parking lot, with no signs whatsoever.

The Blue Tribe trickled in until the fifth and even sixth innings. Lennie Fritz was one of the first to arrive, only because a police officer actually escorted him to the field. One Turners alumnus, 2012 Hall of Fame inductee Artie Burke, did arrive on time – but he had to: he was the home plate Ump.

Ware took a 4-1 lead in the second, when they hit a base-loaded triple. But Blue was not deterred. With the support of their ever-expanding fan base, Turners kept Ware off the scoreboard for three straight innings, keeping the deficit at 3 runs.

Then in the sixth, Ware had a three-run rally, and eliminated Turners 7-1.

“A few players stood out this year,” said head coach Minckler, looking back on his inaugural season. “Tionne Brown proved to be our best hitter, with a batting average of .361, and he really grew into a leader on this team. And Quinn Doyle was our pitching workhorse throwing 61 innings this year. His bat was a pleasant surprise as he batted over .350.

“The seniors that stood out were Jalen Sanders and Tanner Jones. We expected a lot out of Jalen, and he

produced. He did very well defensively and he was our third and final player to bat over the .300 mark.

“Tanner was just a leader. He would do whatever was asked of him and not complain about it. He had a hard job as our primary catcher and he did it well for us.”

Looking forward, Skipper said, “I expect big things from this team next year. We are losing seven seniors – four of which were everyday starters. But we also have a young team, with a great deal of experience. My top three pitchers [Doyle, Josh Obuchowski, and Tyler Lavin] will be back, ready to go...

“Also, five JV players played in a varsity game or more this season, so we will be young, but will have good varsity game experience. I will also be more experienced, and even more prepared to give everything I have to this team.”

Tennis

In their third match this season, last Saturday, the Turners Falls Tennis Indians lost to the Green Wave. And again, the score was 3-2. (So much for coach Bob Walsh’s adage.)

But the mood on the courts was congenial. Both coaches, Steve Touloumtzis of Turners and Ricky Miner of Greenfield, gave advice and offered encouragement to both sides. As you may know, Ricky is a TFHS alumni, and was a star receiver back in the ‘70s.

In Saturday’s match, Ricky Craver continued his dominance over Green Wave players (3-0 this year) by winning his match, 2 sets to 1. Jimmy Vaughn dropped his singles match 3-6, 6-1, 1-6, and Avery Palmer, who is transferring to Northfield Mount Hermon next year, lost his in straight sets.

In doubles action, Mason White-man and Brian Porier dropped their match, 5 games to 7 and 2 to 6.

The second doubles match was the most entertaining of the afternoon. Nick Moran and Jovanni Ruggiano kept playing tie-breakers while both teams watched and cheered. Nick and Jovanni eventually won in straight sets, 7 (7) to 6 (5) and 13 to 11.

And of course, when all was said and done both teams shook hands and wished each other good luck in the future.

Softball

Turners Falls 2 – Pioneer 1.

To paraphrase Muhammed Ali, “When you can whip any man in the world, you never know peace.”

I think that fits here. The state champion Turners Falls Softball Indians have a big bull’s eye on their backs, and have become the team to beat. Even last year, respective newspapers reported that the Eastern and Central Mass playoff teams were well aware of the Blue Ladies’ prowess and were gearing up for a very tough game.

The Pioneer Panthers, who had been outscored by Powertown 22-0 in the regular season, knew they had to play the best game they could to upend the mighty Indians. And they did play extremely well.

Through superb pitching and wonderful fielding, the Panthers limited Turners to just 2 runs on 6 hits. And after a throwing error got a Panther to second base in the seventh inning, an ensuing double put the score at 2-1.

But although Pioneer kept the Indians’ bats quiet, they had no answer for ace pitcher Mackenzie Phillips, who nailed the door shut at 2-1 with three consecutive strikeouts.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Catcher Gabby Arzuaga (left) and pitcher Mackenzie Phillips (right) meet at the mound during the seventh inning following a run scored by Pioneer, a runner on second, and no outs. Phillips struck out the next three batters, sealing the 2-1 victory.

Mac was so hot in the circle that she scorched 16 strikeouts in total, leaving only five outs for the rest of the team to make. Phillips allowed just two hits and a walk in the victory.

The Tribe’s six hits were spread among six batters: Hailey Whipple, Melissa Hersey, Gabby Arzuaga, Cassidyh Wozniak, Alyson Murphy, and Phillips herself. Phillips and Arzuaga had the RBIs, and Wozniak scored both runs.

Jenna Putala, who was sidelined with a previous injury, was replaced at second by seventh grader Olivia Whittier. Putala was cleared to play and drew a walk in the sixth inning

as a pinch hitter.

So the Turners Falls Lady Indians won a very close, hard-fought game. They next play Mount Everett on Thursday, June 9 at UMass-Amherst.

And although Turners may have defeated the Gold Eagles 11-1 back in April, rest assured that Mount Everett will try their best to upend the mighty Indians. After all, last season the Blue Ladies “whipped” all the other teams in the Division, and now they are the team to beat.

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CANINES from page A1

informed by the owner of the pasture that one of his cows was “down... for an unknown reason,” according to a report by Hastings.

Peila then “walked into the pasture to check on the cow, which was not due to have its calf for another 3 weeks, when he was confronted with 15-20... what he believed to be ‘coy dogs’. As the animals ‘bared’ their teeth to him, he chose to move quickly from the field area and get help.”

He got the help of Hastings, who happened to be nearby in his police cruiser. Hastings “retrieved a shotgun” and then headed for the field with Peila. While the chief was retrieving the gun, Peila “observed some of the dogs dragging a calf into the woods.”

When the pair arrived at the pasture, they found the cow dead “with her head [in] a bush and her legs folded up under her.” There was a trail of blood “where it appeared that the calf was dragged that Mr. Peila had observed.” The two men found portions of what they believed was another calf in the field.

Hastings estimated that this gory incident cost Peila \$2,400 in lost property. The status of the calves, which had not been born the last time Peila checked, and of the cow was a matter of speculation.

Attempts to contact Mr. Peila were unsuccessful as of press time, but Hastings said Peila told him that it was possible the cow died in childbirth, or died from a heart attack after being chased by the “coy-dogs.” Hastings stated that the police would continue to monitor the pasture, and that he had informed state environmental police of the incident.

“The debate of Coy Dogs vs. Coyotes is on-going via social media.”

It certainly is. The initial attack was reported on the Gill, Massachusetts Police Department’s page on Facebook as the work of “coy dogs.” This elicited a quick

response from a number of posters. “We don’t have ‘coydogs.’ We have eastern coyotes, which are a mix of coyote and grey wolf DNA,” posted Charles Ricko. He said that it was quite common for them to attack calves and other animals in the spring when they have young pups to feed: “They become more bold when liberals ban trapping and limit hunting.”

“Thanks to those who pointed out that they are coyotes and not coydogs,” responded Melanie Lamere. Lamere then criticized “liberals” for a state ban on foothold traps: “So the next time your cat, or calf, goes missing, call a representative to reinstate foothold traps, the most humane way to catch a coyote when they are in residential areas.”

In later posts Lamere argued that current foothold traps “are not the traps of the past that everyone sees horrible pictures of. They are padded or offset and more selective than the cage traps and cause less stress in the animal.”

Others were not so sure. Nathan Caron, for example, thinks the animals are coy dogs who are bigger than coyotes and travel in larger packs. “The biggest issue with [coydogs] is that people don’t know they exist,” he argued.

“Foothold traps are BARBARIC are you kidding me?” posted Rina A Bee. She stated that they were “punishing wildlife for just trying to live.”

The suggestion that liberals were partially responsible for the Gill cow attacks caused the conversation to develop into a culture war. “Are you actually implying that wild animals watch Fox News?” posted Josh DeGrenier.

“So before you start calling me a racist, Trump supporter, put down your Vente Latte, and do a bit of research,” responded Ricko.

Good data on the impact of the leghold trap ban on the coyote or coydog population is hard to find. The Massachusetts legislature banned steel-jawed leghold traps

in 1995. The ban was extended to padded traps in 1997 as a result of a successful ballot initiative that was codified into state law.

Most of the attention concerning the impact of the ban has focused on the increase in beaver populations during the few years after the ban went into effect. One estimate holds that the beaver population in the state increased from 20,000 to 70,000 in the three years after the ban.

Concerning the genetics of the animals, a peer reviewed 2010 study published in Northeastern Naturalist (v 17:2) found that 67 coyotes (*Canis latrans*) found in Massachusetts carried “mitochondrial haplotypes from both Western Coyotes and Eastern Wolves, consistent with their hybrid origin from these two species. There was no evidence of either *C. lupus familiaris* (domestic dog) or Gray Wolf mitochondrial DNA in the animals. These results indicate that the Eastern Coyote should more appropriately be termed Coywolf to reflect their hybrid origin.”

Jonathan Way, one of the authors of the study and one of the most aggressive proponents of the “coywolf” theory, argues that the animal’s behavior is “as one might predict from a 30-40 pound canid”.

That is, larger than a western coyote, with a wolf-like appearance: “it has a larger home range than most western coyotes... travels long distances daily (10-15 miles), it eats a variety of foods including deer but focuses on medium-sized prey including rabbits and voles, and it is very social (when not killed by people), often living in families of three to five members.”

But a pack of 15 to 20 such animals killing a cow and its calves? Clearly the jury is still out on this week’s incident in Gill and, as Chief Hastings suggested, none of this helps Mr. Peila recoup his income, or recover his cows.



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Many a Bone to Pick



Brian Carroll of Northfield enjoys catch and release shad fishing at Rock Dam.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Rock Dam is a beautiful and slightly hidden spot on the river, accessed by a short walk through the Cabot Woods off Migratory Way, and for several years in the 1990s I trusted it as a place where my little boys could wade, despite a drop off and swift current that occurs surprisingly close to the shore.

After two fourteen-year-old boys, Winter Clark and Chris Gallagher, got caught in an eddy and drowned in July of 1998, we didn't enter the waters there again.

There were other pleasures for young boys at the dam. A steep descent down the bank on a natural staircase of roots and dirt yields out onto a shore of rocks and river-worn hunks of brick from factories upstream, perfect materials for their building projects. They were drawn to the strange red water seeping in a slow stream from the bank, and lived to pile sticks and stones to divert its flow: busy, silent, dirty, working and thinking with their hands.

Red shale broke into flat chips, perfect for skipping across the river. As we gazed across the water, rafts and river trips to the nearby island were fantasized, a solitary and self-sufficient river rat existence beckoned each of us according to our private wishes for escape.

ROSSI PHOTOS

getting breakfast at the Shady Glen, or never stopping at the town dump on Sandy Lane: I'd be missing out on a tradition.

Also, I don't pay enough attention to the river and what happens on it. For me it is just there, opening up my sense of sky and stretching this space around me, its turbulence murmuring and sometimes roaring an ancient story of transformation, change, and power.

The air is never stale here, but if you get antsy anyway, there are plenty bridges and dams to cross to different shores. The many bridges make a definitive boundary between here from there strengthening our sense of place in several directions.

Our bridges have as much personality as the towns themselves, being strangely divided and invisibly flawed to the north, hump-backed and truck-clogged and oddly named to the west, and to our south, dangerously falling apart and named after a Spanish-American war commander few have ever heard about (unless they've been reading our "Turners Falls Goes to War" column).

I found a fisherman, Brian Carroll of Northfield, through a mutual friend; he was happy to go down to Rock Dam to fish for shad with me tagging along. We met at the pull-off on Migratory Way last week for a few hours of fishing.

Seems like shad fishing requires little gear: he had his pole and a light jacket he carried in one hand. No bucket for the fish, since he

see **SHAD** page B4



Two shad in my sink, ready for filleting.

Greenfield's Full Disclosure Festival Makes Artistic Collaborations Central

By REPORTER STAFF

GREENFIELD – For five years now, Eggtooth Productions has produced a yearly performance art festival in Greenfield that seeks to connect people with alternative sites within the downtown. Places such as the mothballed hotel rooms on the top floors of Wilson's Department store, or the abandoned and spectacularly deteriorated lobby of the First National Bank on Bank Row.

This five-year experiment in "creative space-making" by Eggtooth is spearheaded by Linda McNerney. McNerney has worked professionally in the theater for over thirty years as an actor, director, teacher, producer, and artistic director.

This weekend will see a two-day spread of performances for audiences to choose from in downtown Greenfield during the 2016 Full Disclosure Festival on June 10 and 11. The line-up of performances

repeats each night, and tickets are good for both nights.

The theme is *Against the Current: Human Impact Upon Place*.

To this end, McNerney has connected climatologists, anthropologists, and historians with artists "to find new ways to express what we know and what we don't know about the state of our earth past, present, and future...we allow the Artist to translate the academic language of Science and History into a populist language of Art."

Artists and researchers were paired months ago on a "blind date" at a Greenfield pub. The idea was for the researcher to share their work with an artist, who would then interpret it creatively for the festival. This weekend, those artists at different locations downtown will present their work, some in the form of site specific installations and performances.

Terry Jenoure, artist and violinist, met with Don Conlon, apiologist. "One day, after my discussion with Don about honey bees, his professional path, his interest in

see **FESTIVAL** page B2

Local Connections to a Big Dreamer: The Legacy of Theodore Judah



Theodore Judah's grave marker at the Federal Street Cemetery. Someone has placed a small locomotive engine on his headstone.

By JEFFREY WEBSTER

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Several years ago, my wife and I were living in Sacramento, California, home of the NBA's hapless Sacramento Kings. Sacramento's historical claims to fame are many.

It boomed due to the nearby discovery of gold in 1848, sparking an influx of fortune seekers, called '49ers, to California. It is the capital of the most diverse state in the union, in terms of geography, demographics, and industries, from agriculture to zippers – Google it.

It's where Pony Express riders concluded their relay race from St. Joseph, Missouri. And, most importantly for this article, Sacramento was the western terminus of the transcontinental railroad.

When some friends visited from Greenfield, we took them to the excellent State Railroad Museum in Old Town. The introductory film spoke of Theodore Judah, and our docent also brought up the name.

Our friend, a history buff, said, "He's buried in Greenfield, you know."

No, I didn't. The otherwise knowledgeable docent didn't, either.

Theodore Dehone Judah was a pivotal figure in building the transcontinental railroad, and it turns out he and his wife, Anna Pierce (whom he married at Greenfield's St. James Episcopal Church), are buried in Greenfield's Federal Street Cemetery.

It further turns out that my wife's family owns an adjacent

see **JUDAH** page B6



By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – It's been one of those months in late spring where it seems not much is really happening, then everything happens all at once. It was quiet along the river, after the late winter birds who spent the season with us, left amid high spirits, courting songs and lively chases through the branches.

They're off raising families in the Far North now. The yard seems quieter without them, but the woods just beyond ring with summer warblers: the redstart, black and white, yellow, and chestnut sided. As I have for years, I keep track of this transition in an old notebook:

May 11. The wood thrush arrived in the night, and now spends the morning filling the pale-tinged trees with song, between the yard and the river. He's singing like there's no tomorrow, the endless summer coming now just around the corner.

The thrush has been absent from our woods for two years, and is in decline all over New England. We

thought maybe we had heard his virtuoso performance for the last time back in 2014. But he's here now, and with a mate, so we'll have at least one more season of early morning and late evening song, all harmonies, double-stops, crescendos.

May 12. There's a sense of a small wilderness that exists just beyond the privet hedge and the bower of great-grandfather's lilacs planted one hundred and forty years ago. The season of the wild is coming back, the green wall of foliage and woodland is deepening, getting impenetrable. My own piece of the

see **WEST ALONG** page B6



Northern Parula Warbler – Setophaga americana



Pet of the Week

Meet Link, he’s a pretty sweet boy once he settles into his new environment.

Link came to us from a local animal control, so not much is known about this handsome boy.

From what we’ve seen he is pretty mellow and enjoys lounging

around in the sunshine.

Once he settles in we feel that he will make the perfect addition to any household.

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



“LINK”

Senior Center Activities JUNE 13 to 17

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 6/13
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 6/14
9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (fee)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Wildflowers w/ John Root
Wednesday 6/15
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/16
9 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 6/17
1 p.m. Writing Group

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 6/13
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
Tuesday 6/14
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Wednesday 6/15
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 6/16
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring
Friday 6/17
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 Bowling Fun at French King; Creative Aging Walking Club
11:30 a.m. Out To Lunch
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

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 congregate meals.

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

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.

FESTIVAL from page B1

music, and other things, I was looking at videos of bees,” writes Jenoure. “I listened to a couple of hours of bees buzzing, bees making that absolutely mesmerizing sounds... I wondered if I could create that sound with a multi-track violin recording. I’m fascinated with the direction I’m headed. For one thing, I’m trying to recreate natural sounds with my violin and voice. Also I’m searching for connections between bees and humanity that can work in performance.”

Jenoure presents with Bob Weiner at Studio Seven, 229 Main Street at 6:45 p.m.

Artist and writer Sam Wood described her “date” with historian David Glassberg as consisting primarily of her interviewing him. Shortly before the end of the evening, Glassberg asked her a question that she has been haunted by ever since: “How will you make hope tangible?”

Wood has been working with found materials. “In this way, even the act of building this installation is the embodiment of uncertainty and mirrors a bit the adaptation required in facing climate change. There is nothing antiseptic about this – I am using some old materials

that are culled from local industry, examining them closely and guessing about their history...While I am working from ideas that are universal, it leads me to fall in love with this place.”

Her installation will be at 170 Main Street.

Other pairings in the downtown include Amy Johnquest: Greenfield Cinema Window, 361 Main Street (Betty Sharpe, historian); John Bechtold: Studio Seven, 229 Main St. (Julie Brigham Grette, climatologist); Kate Hunter: First National Bank, Bank Row (Christine Hatch, climatologist); and Rachael Katz: Studio Seven Window, 229 Main Street (Elizabeth Chilton, anthropologist).

A centerpiece of the festival is Emma Ayres’ new production of *The Water Project*, a music theater piece adapted and inspired by local author Jane Yolen’s book *Letting Swift River Go*, about the expropriation of towns to create the Quabbin Reservoir. McNerney writes, “Her work blends the history of the disincorporation and destruction, in April 1938, of four towns with our present conflicts with power, politics, and natural resources in a unique view of man’s impact upon environment.”

The band Mama’s Marmalade plays during that production, which takes place on the fourth floor of the Arts Block, 8 p.m.

Poetry offerings at the Arts Block each evening include works by Paul Richmond, Sam Wood, Amy Dryansky, Jane Rosenberg, Trish Crapo, Conolly Ryan, Ayshia, Mary Clare Powell and selections from Jane Yolen’s aforementioned book. Poets will be reading each other’s work in most cases, rather than their own.

This is followed by renowned poet Hildred Crill reading from her new cycle of poems, *Human Appropriation*, as Lori Holmes Clark and Co. dance.

There will be a sculpture by Melinda McCreven of Mnemosyne, with memories of the elders and the Quabbin in the Wheelhouse (downstairs at the Art Block).

Lindel Hart is tending a Secret History Booth at GCTV, 393 Main Street, where people can sign up for ten-minute slots to tell a story of this place, i.e. “Greenfield, or thereabouts.”

For tickets and other information, see eggtooth.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the event at the Arts Block side entrance.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN
It’s that time of year again, as kids start preparing for the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. On MCTV you can check out our latest finished videos, including the Montague Center Memorial Day ceremony from May 29, the Turners Falls Memorial Day celebration from May 30, and last but not least, the May 13 Coffeehouse at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

This Coffeehouse featured Moonshine Holler, the husband and wife duo of Paula Bradley and Bill Dilloff. Having launched their band in 2001, Bradley and Dilloff bring us old time southern Appalachian ballads, blues & breakdowns.

And stay tuned! The next Coffeehouse in the series will be this Friday, June 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. – that’s at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls --and will feature Jim Matus.

You can check out his sounds at www.jimmatus.com.

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 us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@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

More on Your Genes



By FRED CICETTI
[My last column was on medical genealogy. This is a follow-up on genetic testing.]

parents. DNA guides the cells in your body. If your DNA contains a mutation, you could develop a medical condition.

A test can reveal mutations that raise the risk of developing a disease. Positive results for certain diseases can induce people to take preventive action, such as surgical removal of endangered organs.

About 900 genetic tests are now offered by diagnostic laboratories. The tests cost from less than \$100 to a few thousand dollars. Your health insurance may not cover testing.

Testing usually requires a blood sample, but may require hair, skin or other tissue samples, such as cells from the inside of your cheek.

Genetic testing should be viewed as a fallible tool. A positive result for a mutation doesn’t mean you’ll get a disease. And a negative result doesn’t mean you are immune.

Multiple mutations can cause a disease. Multiple genes can be responsible for a single disease. There are gene changes that develop without any link to your ancestors; they happen because you smoke or get too much sun or sometimes for no known reason.

If you decide to try genetic testing, remember that what you learn about yourself could be reassuring, but it could also be upsetting.

Genetic testing is a subject to discuss first with your personal physician. You may be referred to a medical-genetics specialist, who is trained to interpret the results of tests.

To find genetics professionals in your area, contact the National Society of Genetic Counselors at www.nsgc.org; GeneTests at www.genetests.org; or the American Society of Human Genetics at www.ashg.org.

To find more information about the medical conditions present in your family and about support groups, contact the Genetic Alliance at www.geneticalliance.org.

You may also want to consult a lawyer to protect your interests. Results of genetic tests are usually kept in your medical records.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination in health coverage and employment based on genetic information.

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

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June 21-22: Mosaics Workshop at the Gill-Montague Senior Center

TURNERS FALLS – Do you have some treasured broken bits of family china saved in a box somewhere? Bring them to the Mosaics Workshop at the Gill-Montague Senior Center and make something wonderful with them!

The art of making decorative and functional mosaics out of bits of china, tile, glass and other materials is an ancient one that has been around for thousands of years. In this introductory workshop, participants will learn the basics of this beautiful art form while creating a decorative tile or frame that could well become a family heirloom.

Local artist Edite Cunha will lead this hands-on workshop, introducing participants to the design, technique, materials, tools, process,

and a bit of history of Mosaics, as well. Cunha is a writer, artist, educator, and founder of the Smashing China Mosaic Studio.

Materials and tools will be provided, but you may want to bring some bits of broken pottery, sea glass, shells, or other tokens that are special to you, to make your mosaic really personal.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, June 22 from 8 to 10 a.m. Both days are required to complete a project. The workshop is limited to 8 participants, so sign up early!

Sign up at the Gill-Montague Council on Aging, Fifth Street, Turners Falls, (413) 863-4500.

Returning to Roots



IMAGE COURTESY THE HISTORY CHANNEL

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The History Channel did a remake of the 1977 TV miniseries called *Roots*, which premiered on Memorial Day. The whole story of *Roots* is the oral history of author Alex Haley’s family, which he learned as a child.

The first thing I learned about the remake from seeing the previews, include that the naming ceremony featured in the original series would still be there. I also learned that the series would stay true to the original, featuring the lineage of one family, starting with Kunta Kinte all the way to his grown great-grandson Tom.

The original was in 12 parts, but this one is just a four-part miniseries. It shows the period of history from when Kunta Kinte was sold into slavery through what happened to the family after the Civil War.

The character of Fiddler, who was played by Louis Gossett Jr., is featured in the remake, this time played by Forest Whitaker.

Lawrence Fishburne plays the man who narrates this story to the audience as it begins. It is spoken of that at the time of Kunta Kinte, they had to deal with slavery in his homeland. We briefly see him as a captive. This scene is timed perfectly with talk of why this man was born into this world. Which is more or less something anyone would wonder – *why?* – when in his position.

Next, we’re treated to the birth of Kunta Kinte, and shortly after that, his father performing the naming ceremony. We then jump forward to see him a grown man, undergoing his training to become a warrior for his tribe.

During a close call with slavers, Kunta Kinte shows us what kind of

a warrior he is: one who’s ready to fight.

Kunta Kinte is shown to be a brave man when he encounters slavers trying to take him. He attacks them and steals a horse to get away from them. That to me shows a great amount of courage. But if he had been successful, there would be no story to tell.

We watch a scene where a number of slaves are being held in the cargo bay of a ship, talking to each other. If you were to give an Emmy for just one scene in this movie, this would be the scene. It was in the original one, and they remade it very well.

We’re treated, I understand very accurately, to how things were on a slave ship. The captives are chained together like animals, and made to dance that way. Since the History Channel made this, if a historian was watching this, there would have been nothing to comment about in terms of how accurately things are portrayed. I also believe Alex Haley would not complain about what filmmakers have created, when it comes to this remake.

I don’t recall whether or not there was an attempt to sieze the ship in the 1977 original. I believe that the History Channel remake will certainly show us how well Kunta Kinte can put his warrior skills into action.

When he tries to run again, we are introduced to Fiddler. Fiddler ends up being put in charge of handling Kunta and showing him how things are done – basically, showing him how to be a slave.

Fiddler has a challenge on his hands, to say the least.

As the first chapter ends, he is still the man who’s holding on to his name Kunta Kinte, as he is running toward freedom.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fox Shot; Syringe Retrieved; Kittens Escape; Mattress Dumped; While Male With Mullet Yells

Monday, 5/30

1:37 p.m. Report of a mangy looking fox in the area of Dell Street and Letourneau Way. Unknown child reportedly following the fox. Area search negative.

2:42 p.m. Caller from Wentworth Avenue reports that a mother and daughter left an address in separate vehicles and were driving at a high rate of speed; ongoing issue. Investigated.

3:24 p.m. Report of a fox that “looks sick” on the sidewalk in front of Judd Wire. Officer located animal in front of Park Villa. Checked area; lost sight. 3:48 p.m. Officer located fox in a gully in Springdale Cemetery. Officer advises 3 shots fired; believes animal was struck, but it took off.

4:15 p.m. Officer located fox in St. Anne’s Cemetery and it has been put down. Animal control officer advised.

Tuesday, 5/31

7:49 a.m. 2 vehicle accident at 4 way intersection in front of police station; no injuries. Both vehicles towed. One operator given verbal warning for failure to use care in an intersection.

6:22 p.m. Caller from Rod Shop Road reports a suspicious black vehicle with a male and female inside who appear to be “doing drugs,” possibly marijuana. Caller states that a small child is running around outside the vehicle; concerned for child’s well-being. Vehicle located; however, no one around.

Wednesday, 6/1

7:42 a.m. Caller advises that there are a few subjects operating their motorcycles at a high rate of speed (estimated 70 m.p.h.) down South Prospect Street regularly around 7 a.m. Caller expressing concern for safety of motorists as well as children walking to the school bus. Referred to an officer.

10:20 a.m. Caller from Franklin Street advises that a black bear crossed through her yard approximately 10 minutes ago; believes it has gone into woods. Unable to locate.

6:49 p.m. Bicyclist reporting alarm sounding at a South Ferry Road location. MCFD on scene; determined to be faulty smoke detector. Same removed by MCFD. Note left for owner.

9:52 p.m. Report that the eastbound traffic light sensor at Avenue A and Seventh Street is not working properly; lights are not changing when vehicles are in position. Call placed to DPW. They are aware of the problem.

Thursday, 6/2

12:37 a.m. Male 911 caller states that his vehicle is missing from where it was parked on Avenue A; last seen approximately 8:30 p.m. Officer clear; caller is intoxicated; after digging further, caller described lending vehicle until morning to his friend who lives in the Patch. Caller advised to call back if vehicle is not returned Thursday.

8:20 a.m. Report of syringe on the side of Oakman Street. Item retrieved by officer.

11:54 a.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reports that attached female, an employee, had stolen the cash/safe drop box. Incident occurred on 5/29; same is on surveillance. Officer en route to speak with caller and view tape. Investigated.

1:25 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road advising her two little 8 week old kittens were let out today. Caller advised this would be on record in case same were located. ACO also advised of call.

2:58 p.m. Caller from High Street advising a raccoon was out in the area in the middle of the day; animal slumped off into the bushes but was not otherwise acting strange. Advised caller that animal was probably out looking for food and may even have babies she is trying to feed. Conferred with ACO who stated same; no issues unless erratic behavior or foaming at the mouth.

5:41 p.m. Caller reports that the shrubs on either side of her husband’s headstone in Springdale Cemetery have been removed. Caller advised to contact cemetery directly as they may have had them removed for a reason. Caller was already in process of doing same; just wanted this on record.

7:06 p.m. Received several calls about a deer in the area of F.L. Roberts; callers concerned for welfare of animal as well as vehicles that may hit it. Unable to locate.

7:07 p.m. 2 abandoned

911 calls from L Street. Officer checked on residence; female party was attempting to call about the deer.

10 p.m. Caller advises that while driving home on Montague Street, she saw a mother bear and five cubs crossing the street traveling in the direction of Turners Falls Road; just wanted PD to be aware.

10:15 p.m. Minor 2-vehicle accident involving parked car on Avenue A; no injuries/airbags/smoke/fluids. Citation issued for failure to use care.

11 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reports that a train is idling on the tracks outside her house; third one today. No action needed; caller simply wants this on record.

11:03 p.m. Caller reports 2 males going in and out of Verizon substation on Crescent Street. Officers clear; both males provided Verizon ID; they are working odd hours now that they are back from strike.

Friday, 6/3

9:33 a.m. Caller advising of mattress dumped behind wildlife management area sign on Ripley Road. Info passed along to environmental police.

10:05 p.m. Caller complaining of after-hours basketball on the court at Unity Park. Officer removed same.

Saturday, 6/4

1:35 a.m. An adult female was arrested after a report of domestic assault and battery.

9:36 a.m. Cell caller reporting a smoke detector going off at a G Street address. Caller knocked on door and advised that an elderly woman answered and said that her daughter is “coming to shut it off.” TFFD notified as a precaution.

9:59 a.m. Caller requesting assistance for his daughter who brought a vehicle to a car dealer in Gill; business is now refusing to return vehicle. Caller advised that vehicle owner should contact Gill PD since that is where the issue is occurring.

12:15 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that her vehicle was entered/broken into sometime in the last three days and a cell phone charger and a bottle of Oxycodone were taken. Caller travels for her job; medication may have been stolen in Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Leeds, Greenfield, or Turners Falls. Advised of options.

1:03 p.m. Vehicle into guardrail on Route 63 at Gunn Road; caller reports he was cut off by another vehicle which caused him to hit the rail. No injuries. Report taken. Vehicle towed. MassDOT notified of damage to guardrail; spoke to “Joe,” who will have it checked.

2:18 p.m. Food City store manager requesting removal of female party sitting outside store who has been involved in several recent shoplifting incidents. Officer spoke to party and advised her that she is not allowed back to Food City.

9:00 p.m. Caller complaining of fireworks in Turnpike Road area. Patrol units advised.

9:32 p.m. TFFD checking Millers Falls Road area for reported outside fire. Officer off with FD. Party advised of burning rules.

Sunday, 6/5

5:09 a.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue reports that overnight a stray cat somehow got into her house and scratched and bit her hand all up; advised she was finally able to catch it and has it in a tote in her vehicle. Call placed to emergency vet in Deerfield; officer will be bringing the cat to be put down, and vet will send out for rabies testing. ACO will follow up tomorrow.

4:28 p.m. Caller was in line at the Greenfield Savings Bank ATM when she observed a white male with a mullet yelling at the occupants of the car in front of her. Area search negative.

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OYSTERGIRL's guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

#16: What Does “Natural” Mean?

By VANESSA QUERY

The word “natural” is thrown around a lot these days, especially within phrases like “natural health,” “made with natural ingredients,” “natural parenting,” etc.

I don’t often use the word, because although it seems simple, it can be loaded with implications and assumptions. However, I often struggle to find an appropriate, equally succinct word.

The title of this column, for example. I went with “real living” – as in authentic, true to oneself. I toyed with the idea of referencing an ancestral lifestyle, or rewilding – but those terms seemed at once inadequate and too ambitious.

I could easily have called it “Oystergirl’s Guide to Natural Living.” Most of the things I write about would probably fall into that category, as most people understand it.

But what does “natural” actually mean? According to *Dictionary.com*, it mainly means:

1. existing in or formed by nature (as opposed to artificial)
2. constituted by nature
3. of, or pertaining to, nature or the universe
4. uncultivated

Mostly things – in an annoying, circular definition kind of way – to do with the word “nature,” which means:

1. the material world, especially as surrounding humankind and existing independently of human activities
2. the natural world as it exists without human beings or civilization

Herein lies my problem with these words. Our culture defines humanity as wholly separate from nature (nature, which includes other animals) – even as above or against it. The iconic “man conquering nature” ([sic] not needed). This dichotomy purports that humanity is superior, and nature is inferior. We deserve better than nature, so we have declared war on it.

We win battles when we build dams, and lose them when hurricanes devastate cities. We “own” land, livestock, and pets.

We control our environment by living in the climate-controlled indoors, and control our bodies by doing all we can to stifle their fluids and smells.

The final definition of “natural” – uncultivated – might be more useful. Forgetting for now that “uncultivated” also means uneducated or uncultured, let’s have it mean untouched or unaltered.

The problem with this definition is that, when scrutinized, it rules out not only agriculture, but also the classic example of beavers building dams.

“Natural” in Food Labeling

Using the word natural in the phrase “natural foods,” particularly

in advertising, can be presumptuous and meaningless.

The USDA has regulations only for meat, poultry, and eggs. Its website defines a “natural” product as “containing no artificial ingredient or added color and is only minimally processed. Minimal processing means that the product was processed in a manner that does not fundamentally alter the product.”

Part of the issue here is another circular definition: including the word “artificial” in the definition of “natural.”

What’s the definition of natural? Not artificial. What’s the definition of artificial? Not natural.

The FDA does not have regulations for food manufacturers who use the term. From *fda.gov*: “[I]t is difficult to define a food product that is ‘natural’ because the food has probably been processed and is no longer the product of the earth. That said, FDA has not developed a definition for use of the term natural or its derivatives. However, the agency has not objected to the use of the term if the food does not contain added color, artificial flavors, or synthetic substances.”

And since pretty much all foods – including many additives – are derived from animals and plants, this can be highly subjective, especially to food manufacturers whose only purpose is to sell their product.

“Natural” vs. “Unnatural”

A farmer friend of mine frequently ranted about things that were “unnatural” (e.g. oil tanks; the Internet), and therefore bad. Her intention was usually clear, but sometimes, when I asked her to elaborate (both on what defined “unnatural” and why it was inherently bad, and what made agriculture, for example, “natural”), she stumbled.

Like all of us, she held a lot of presumptions, even regarding things she had questioned.

I asked another farmer friend what he thought about the distinction. He said that he didn’t really think about things in terms of natural and unnatural, but rather in terms of what worked and what didn’t. He meant this in a sustainable, earth-and-living-things-friendly kind of way.

What Doesn’t Work

This was helpful. The thing is, we live in a civilization that is arguably unfriendly to the well-being of animals and of many humans as well.

We are raised in a society whose conventional wisdom states that we are separate from, and better than, “nature.” We are inculcated into a system of practices that comes from and supports this way of life. Anything we do is arguably a response to this.

There are human activities that, while seemingly “unnatural”

SHAD from page B1

just likes the challenge of catching them and throwing them back, and uses lighter tackle on his rod for the sport of it.

When we reached the watering hole, the other anglers at the river had buckets and heavier line, obviously going for fish as food. There was a funny art installation down on the beach consisting of a rusty shopping cart dredged from the river carrying a load of rocks inside of it, as though someone had been shopping on Sole Beach.

This would be the tail end of the spring shad run, Brian noted, since a certain water temperature turns off the upstream spawning migration. The bulk of the migration was earlier in May: “when the crabapple and lilacs blossom, it is time to fish for shad.” During the rest of the year, these herring-like fish go back to saltwater “parts unknown.”

Fishing, and Talking

When they are really running strong, “you can pull ten fish out on a good morning,” said Brian, who was confident he’d pull up at least a couple, despite the fact that we were starting out at a lazy 7:30 a.m., not hardcore zero-dark-thirty. He says that time of day doesn’t really matter for this fish, because they aren’t actually feeding in the river. The dart lure he uses is just meant to get in their face and piss them off.

Brian cast off and reeled back in over and over for about half an hour up on some rocks by the natural dam. I took notes, but there wasn’t much to write. I admired instead his amazing mustache, which arched out from under his nose and swooped smoothly and gracefully over the upper lip, much like the waters of the natural dam, while he told me about his career with the Mass Electric Underground.

Below us, they were pulling in their quota for the day of three apiece, so we moved down to the beach so Brian could try his luck

there. Someone else took our spot, and got a hit almost immediately. That’s the way it goes.

Brian shared his favorite recipe for shad with me: “Clean the fish, and slather the fillets liberally with mayonnaise mixed with some Worcestershire sauce and lemon juice and whatever herbs you like with fish – dill, tarragon, etc. Get a cedar plank about 18 inches long and lay the fish on it. Put the whole thing in a 300 degree oven for 45 minutes. Take out the plank, throw away the fish, and enjoy the wood!”

The shad is not popular with many Americans because of the 3,000 bones buried throughout its flesh. The Native Americans told a story about it being a porcupine turned inside out. Despite this, it was a key food source for both the Natives and colonists. And supposedly, it tasted very good. The American shad’s Latin name is: *Alosa sapadissima*, or “most delicious herring.”

During the next hour, Brian landed two male shad of medium size, and we took leave of Cabot Woods for our own “parts unknown.”

Cleaning, and Eating

I’ve cleaned a lot of fish in my time because I used to work on the docks, but I always had a thin, flexible, and very sharp fillet knife to do it with. It was a sick butchering in my kitchen with the stiff knife I had to use, and the large, slippery scales stuck all over the place. As I skinned the meat, I could feel the knife cutting through hundreds – umm, *thousands* – of bones.

My top hit on Google for shad



End result: delicious fish cakes with Sriracha mayonnaise.



Another bite for Brian.

recipes was some fish cakes made by poaching, then de-boning and grinding the meat. I can’t imagine trying to do it any other way; each eighth-inch-thick flake of meat was braced by a clutch of thin, filament-like bones. I ended up taking pinches of meat from the cooked fillets and sort of rubbing them between my fingers, under a strong work light.

It took an hour or so to go through the meat, and then I pulsed it in a food processor and re-examined it, finding more bones surfacing from this pulp afterwards. But I got about a pound of fish, to which I added:

- One egg
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. basil
- 1/4 tsp. chipotle pepper
- 1 tsp. dill
- 1 Tbsp. chopped chives

After mixing these together, I pressed them into six patties, coated them with panko, and fried them gently with a little olive oil. I made a Sriracha-mayo sauce to go with it. And Hey, it was really, really good!

The whole morning was spent obtaining the fish, cleaning and cooking it, but it was a “most delicious herring.” To be sure my opinion wasn’t biased because of the amount of time I’d spent on it, I shared fish cakes with three people, and all three concurred about the awesome taste of this dish.

And for me, something is completed, though I am not sure exactly what. Maybe a missing piece was filled in about living in “the armpit of the Connecticut,” here in Turners Falls.



– which can mean, as we’ve established, anything or nothing – work, when they help to counter destructive cultural norms. These include using technology, especially the Internet, to find like-minded people and gather community to make sustainable living more accessible.

They can be things that are actually only culturally unnatural, such as going off the grid or not using shampoo. They can include more sustainable energy sources such as wind turbines and solar farms.

There are also human activities that, while seemingly “natural,” don’t work, when they are market-

ing ploys by profit-hungry corporations, devised to con consumers into thinking they’re doing something good for the earth and themselves.

These include so-called “natural” hygiene products that still contain creepy chemicals and come in the same wasteful packaging, and foods with high-fructose corn syrup labeled as natural – true story!

When folks that are well-meaning, and not evil capitalists, use the word “natural,” I don’t question it as much. There is a generally-agreed-upon if not vague definition of the word that is more or less the aforementioned meaning

of “uncultivated.”

But when things are assumed and taken for granted and therefore easily co-opted, I think it’s important to unpack them a little.

The real question is: where do the beavers and their dams fit in?

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the ancestral/paleo movement. She writes about food, movement, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Third Time’s the Charm;
Two Wallets Found & Returned

Tuesday, May 17
8:15 a.m. Harassment complaint file about resident on River Road.
1:25 p.m. Secret Service Agent in town regarding security protocol for dignitary.
5 p.m. Harassment complaint file by resident on Cove View Lane.
9:45 p.m. French King Bridge area for possible jumper. No one located.

Wednesday, May 18
1:45 p.m. Motor vehicle located at French King Bridge, possible jumper. All parties notified as search begins.
6:20 p.m. Neighbor dispute of residence on French King Highway.
9:30 p.m. Suspicious Person reported in area of Walnut Street. Checked ok.
9:50 p.m. Suspicious Motor vehicle area of the pump station. Check ok.

Thursday, May 19
3:30 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint of speeding motorcycle on Boyle Road.

Friday, May 20
12:15 p.m. IRS scam reported from resident of Main Road.
3:05 p.m. IRS scam reported from resident on Boyle Road.

Sunday, May 22
8:20 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road with injury. Operator transported to Baystate.

10 a.m. Firearms issue with resident on Main Road.

4 p.m. Welfare check of resident on West Gill Road. All ok.

Monday, May 23
10:20 a.m. Suspicious object floating in river. Confirmed deer, not human body.
11:15 a.m. Wallet found at Four Winds School. Returned to owner.

4:30 p.m. Complaint of Go-Cart driving on River Road. Gone on arrival.

9:50 p.m. Welfare check on Chappell Drive.

Wednesday, May 25
11:45 a.m. Abuse order issued for party on Trenholm Way.
7:55 p.m. Possible suicidal message on computer from resident on Oak Street.
8:45 p.m. Life line activated by resident on Center Road. Checked ok.

Thursday, May 26
2:10 p.m. Welfare check for resident on Walnut Street.
4:08 p.m. Found wallet at Mobil station. Returned to owner.
4:45 p.m. Reported deceased deer on French King Highway. Removed same.
6 p.m. Life line activated by resident on Center Road.

6:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with two-car accident on Route 10.

9:10 p.m. Reported possible jumper headed for French King Bridge. Located prior to arrival.

Friday, May 27
1:15 p.m. Suspicious object in river. Thought to be a body, determined a log.
4:44 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Gill lights. No injuries and minor damage.
6:45 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Dole Road. Assisted same.
7:45 p.m. Medical assist at Main Road residence.

8:20 p.m. Arrested resident of Wyart Road for a warrant.

Monday, May 30
3:12 p.m. Body located in the river near Trenholm Way. Believed to be murder suspect by description. All agencies notified and recovery completed.

Tuesday, May 31
5:38 a.m. Suspicious female at French King Bridge. Party transported to Baystate Medical.
6:55 a.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer Accident on West Gill Road
11:15 a.m. Suspicious Motor vehicle in rest area below dam. Check ok as party was sleeping.

Turners Falls Goes to War: *Part V*



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 are updating readers on the news of the men and boys of Co. L in real time. Last week, we ran the second letter written by a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter.

Here we reprint an abridged version of Sullivan’s third letter from Florida, which ran in the June 8, 1898 Reporter, following an excerpt of local news from the same issue.

When the war taxes get on and stay on for a number of years, the people will then know what the preceding generation had to stand for glory. The shouters for war will have to pay the fiddler with the rest....

In spite of their patriotism, not all who wished could join the army, but the people who remain at home have taken it upon themselves to see that the boys who went to the front, and the families which some of them left behind, shall not lack for anything.

To this end the minstrel entertainment which was given so successfully last week, for the benefit of the Village Improvement Society, will be repeated at the opera house, on Thursday evening, June 16, for the local fund of the Grand Army, and especially for our own soldiers and their families.

Editor Turners Falls Reporter:

Since I wrote to you last, we were ordered to pack up and hold ourselves in readiness to move. Swinging out from under the oaks and pines of our camp in Lakeland, with a hot sun beating down upon us and luggage enough on our backs to test the strength of a modern Samson, we marched in solid column up to our nees in sand, along the highway leading to the depot in the much talked of town of the lakes.

Never before now did I imagine the modern newspaper man to be such an imaginative creature. There was nothing about Lakeland, as far as I could see, for the poet to rave about. For Lakeland I saw a parched dried up town with scarcely a blade of grass in view, and with such streets! Attempt to cross the main street in town, and if your friends did not come to the rescue with shovels, the chances are, that you would find yourself imbedded in the hot sand up to your armpits....

I have tested the spring of “eternal youth,” the spring of Ponce de Leon and other degenerate Spaniards, to

my sorrow. Many a poor private has done the same, and when Florida and its sunny clime has faded from our minds, the laxative qualities of that rotten spring will always remain fresh and green.

It is a wonder that they did not arrest us as we left the place for we had two-thirds of its free soil upon our persons, or upon our clothes. With all due respect to the inhabitants of Lakeland who used us well, provided we paid for everything we got, the town and its scenery should be condemned to oblivion.

Leaving Lakeland by rail we passed through a tableland country covered with pine, and in spite of newspaper talk with very few orange groves. Between Lakeland and Ybor, a distance of over thirty miles, I saw scarcely a dozen houses, and they were nothing more or less than negro shanties not much larger than a good sized dry goods box.

Arriving at Ybor, a small Cuban settlement on the outskirts of Tampa, the colonel told us that this was to be our camping place for the present. Just before arriving in the town we passed a stockade containing over three thousand army mules. The boys realized at last that Uncle Sam was not in the war business for the fun of it.

As we were unloading our supplies a train filled with bluejackets tore by. We were pleased to see them and they cheered us in a vociferous manner. How entirely different they looked from us. Their complexions were as fair to look upon as that of the average New England girl, while ours were tanned, browned and sunburned.

We marched over a sandy road for 2 miles to camp, your correspondent avoiding the deep sand by a little expert walking along the rail of an electric track. Arriving in camp, we put up our tents and made ourselves as comfortable as possible.

We are encamped on a sandy plain thinly covered with scrubby oak and fine pine trees, the latter of which are everywhere in sight all over the State. The water here is excellent, that is as Florida water goes. The spring that supplies the camp is the one that a sack filled with arsenic was discovered in some time ago. A strict watch is kept over it at present, and a red-hot reception awaits the next crank or spy who tries his hand.

To the south-west of us are encamped the 25th U.S. cavalry (colored). They were sent down south last spring from off the snow plains of Montana and died like flies before they became acclimated.

To the east of us are the heavy U.S. artillery commanded by Brig-Gen. Rodgers. Over twenty heavy guns have arrived to date and from twenty-five to fifty more are expected in a short time. It is rumored in headquarters that the 2nd Mass. Vol. will do escort duty to this splendid park of artillery on the march in Cuba, or as some say, in Puerto Rico.

The heavy guns are five inch howitzers, and seven inch guns, firing an explosive shell filled with shrapnel a distance of seven miles. The artillerists tell us they are of a modern design, and that great things are expected of them....

As I am writing there is great yelling amongst the colored cavalry. I wonder what is the matter.

It is reported that we break camp next Saturday, and leave here for Puerto Rico. If we keep on we will get there some time in the distant future, but the wisehearts say we will find ourselves in Cuba or Puerto Rico inside of two weeks....

Overheard our major say to a recruit this morning, “Look for your sight, boy, you are firing for pleasure now, but you will be firing for keeps in two weeks.” Quite comforting I must say.

All the Falls boys are in good health. Ike Goland ran the guards, and went down to the beach and found a small alarm clock in his path on the way back. It is the general impression in camp that Ike wandered from the path of righteousness when he procured that clock.

Harry Hall sports a full beard which does not improve his general appearance by a long sight. Every other youth is doing what he would not dare to do in the Falls, viz. raising a mustache....

It is now definitely settled that we are to move out of here. Five hundred rounds of ammunition are to be dealt out to each man. We expect our Krag-Jorgenson rifles and belts this afternoon.

Yesterday it was reported that we were to be in the army about to invade Puerty Rico, but today it is rumored that we go direct from Tamp to Santiago de Cuba, and carry the town, thus compelling Cervera to go out in the open and fight.... The boys are in high spirits at the prospects of a chance to move and are anxious to have a crack at the Dagos. The boys say they will present 499 rounds of their ammunition to the Spaniards, keeping one for themselves, if the worst comes to the worst, preferring death than the tender mercies of the Spanish jailor....

The Falls people do not need to worry for us. An Irish Indian from the wilds of the Russell block, or the untutored savage from off the plains of South End, can stand most any kind of hardship, and still come up smiling.

I must now bring my note to a close, and I am afraid it will probably be the last one I will be able to send you, owing to the uncertainty of our destination and the scarcity of writing paper, stamps and envelopes.

If possible I will write and try to keep up the correspondence, but I earnestly believe the chances are against my doing so.

I remain, yours truly,

J.J. Sullivan,
Co.L 2d Regt. Mass Vol.
Ybor, Tampa, Florida.

LOTION DISPENSER



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The Turners Falls Fire Department is the recipient of two free sunscreen dispensers for public use, provided by the Melanoma Foundation of New England. The Foundation’s “Practice Safe Skin” program is aimed at reducing the incidence of skin cancer, with one person dying of the disease every 50 minutes. The dispensers are loaded with an all-natural blend of 6% zinc and 6% titanium SPF-30 sunscreen, safe for people aged 6 months and up. The dispensers are located in the Public Safety Complex lobby, and the apparatus bay of the fire station. It would be nice to see these become commonplace at all outdoor sports and recreation locations!

OF THE WEEK

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JUDAH from page B1

plot, where some of my wife’s ancestors lie in repose.

Judah was born in Connecticut, and became a railroad engineer. No, not the type of engineer who drives a train; he was a civil engineer, the kind who builds stuff. He helped construct railroad-related structures and routes throughout the Northeast, including an attractive stone-arch railroad bridge in Bernardston.

The bridge is just south of Northfield Road (Route 10) and east of River Street (Adams Road becomes Lampblack Road, then River Street). At Bernardston Farmer’s Supply, look east. It’s easier to see through the trees after the leaves have fallen.

Judah’s story ends happily for all those relying on trains to cross that 7,000-foot speed bump called the Sierra Nevada.

Unfortunately, his story does not end happily for him. In the 1850s, Judah, with his wife, moved to California to help build the Sacramento Valley Railroad. But he soon became fixated on laying tracks over the Sierra. He earned the nickname “Crazy Judah” for his enthusiasm about the seemingly impossible scheme.

In *A Practical Plan for Building the Pacific Railroad*, Judah wrote in 1857, “The project for construction of a great Railroad through the United States of America, connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific ocean, has been in agitation for over fifteen years. It is the most magnificent project ever conceived.”

Judah finally realized his dream of finding the route over Donner Pass. That’s the same route that hadn’t worked out too well for its namesake travelers. Judah’s plan attracted investors, including those who later became known as the “big four.” They were Leland Stanford (yes, that one), Collis Huntington,



View of the Fall River Viaduct, spanning the Fall River in Bernardston, built by Theodore Judah. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Engineering Records Collection, item MA1340.

Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker.

What was the big deal about a railroad crossing the country? It depends on who you are.

To Judah, it was the challenge. He was the kind of guy who saw a shiny technology and had to see if he could apply it in an extreme way.

To the investors, it was an opportunity to grant themselves lucrative contracts to build the damn thing. The Big Four made a lot of money off the plans of Judah.

To the railroad companies, it was strictly business. They had been granted land along

the right of way. If they could put settlers on that land, they would create a market for goods to be shipped over the rails.

To the military, especially to William Tecumseh Sherman, it was a solution to “the Indian problem.” Knowing that construction would rile up the natives, Sherman and others saw Indian attacks as justification to bring down the hammer.

Plans in hand, Judah traveled to Washington, DC to sell the idea of a railroad that would span the continent. In 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act au-

thorizing the project.

Judah subsequently had a falling out with the money men and decided to find the funds to buy them out. In October, 1863, he and Anna set sail for New York via Panama. The canal would not exist for another 52 years, so they made their way by land over the isthmus to a ship on the Caribbean side.

During the trek, Judah contacted yellow fever. He died at the Metropolitan Hotel in New York City on November 2, 1863.

On May 10, 1869, Judah’s dream, the transcontinental railroad, became a reality. Judah, forgotten by some, was celebrated in Sacramento. It was a dark day for Anna Judah, because May 10 was also her wedding anniversary. She said, “It seemed as though the spirit of my brave husband descended upon me and together we were there unseen, unheard of by man.”

At the entrance of the Federal Street Cemetery in Greenfield, a small sign pays tribute to Judah. His grave is at the top of the rise, straight in from the street. It was constructed in the shape and scale of a cathedral.

On the west coast, along Interstate 80 between Sacramento and Reno, the tracks that Judah had dreamed about hug the edge of cliffs and run through the town of Truckee on the shore of Donner Lake. Snow sheds cover stretches of track to help mitigate the tons of white stuff that often blanket the Sierra.

Memorials to Judah stand in Old Sacramento and Folsom, California. An elementary school in Sacramento is named for him, and in San Francisco, Judah Street runs from the University of California SF Medical Center to the shore.

Along the way, in typical California style, a vegan coffee shop bears the name “Judahlicious.”

WEST ALONG from page B1

wilderness is an old yard, house and pasture perched on the floodplain terrace above the newest bed of the eternal Millers rushing by.

Just beyond the hedge is the domain of the fox, mink, and beaver. The black bear is back on his ancestral lands too, and at any moment could step out of the woods over there, his black fur glistening, his sharp eyes sizing up the house, nose twitching for the tell-tale scent.

He was in the yard last night, we met him face to face. He was non-plussed, finished pushing over the empty feeder and then, shrugging us off, went over to rummage in the compost for a bit.

For now, this morning, the thrush has been singing since dawn, and the smaller creatures go about their springtime business. But the wild is just over there, and the primeval still dwells just on the edge of this known world of a backyard.

May 25. The blackpoll warbler has been calling for days. This last migrant species of the springtime warblers signals the end of the wave of those brilliant jewels who flow through our trees on the way north. A favorite among all others, the parula warbler graced our yard briefly this year before moving on. And now the blackpoll draws the curtain down.

Nighthawks, also in decline, still linger on the way north in the evening. They used to nest on gravel roofs in town, but now you never

hear their sharp call in the nighttime over Avenue A or the old flat roofs of the high school. Moving on, they will soon leave the evening skies to the swallows, swifts, and bats.

From time to time a great blue heron moves over the yard, on the way to the Wendell rookery, like the old man of the river rowing through the gathering dusk.

May 26. The lilacs are in full bloom, the dogwood is fading. The cherry blossoms are now changing to swelling green cherries. The grass is growing by leaps and bounds and would be dismaying to those who prefer the manicured rich green carpet properly fertilized and controlled. My back yard is still an organic crazy quilt of wild-growing flowers, ferns, and interesting weeds.

I’ve mowed once so far, on a slalom course in and out, around beds of buttercups and violets. I’ve left a rectangle near the vegetable garden where I know the goldenrod is growing as in the past years.

Garter snakes and leopard frogs like the unkempt stands similar to my goldenrod and fern patch, and they help in keeping bug populations in check. Besides, literally hundreds and hundreds of pollinating flying insects, wasps, bees, and flies will visit the patch in July and August, swarming on the goldenrod flowers in the bright sun, so I’ve learned to leave certain parts of the yard untouched until September or October.

For the time being, the lawn grows somewhat wild and whimsical, mowed pathways weave around the islands of buttercups, like a small green labyrinth. Robins will work the cut parts while the garter snakes will lurk in the tall grasses of the margins.

June 4. The maples and oaks towering over the edge of the yard have now formed emerald green caverns and canyons, through which the scarlet tanagers and exotic grosbeaks weave at will, flashing red, black and white high above us. Jungle-like squawks and lilting songs drift down. Who knows what drama or adventures are being played out way up there.

Now below, ferns, wild vines of the fox grape, roses, irises, blue flag and yellow flag on the river shore spire upwards in their short few days of flowering, before becoming leaf once again, growing and storing energy for their brief moment in the sun, next year.

June 5. The rains were coming down, much needed, gently like in the Irish prayer. Soft just outside the open bedroom window. All is green out there, where the wood thrush couple accompany each other on the fresh-mown paths through the grass, cut just before the forecast rain. They bob and advance like robins and keep an eye on one another. Their nest must be just beyond the lilacs in some secret place.

The redwing shakes himself in the showering rain, drops fly off him like water from a wet dog.

June 6. This past weekend in towns all across the county, young people were graduating, getting their fifteen minutes of fame in the admiring sunshine of their families.

Strangely enough, I was somehow drawn to look into that old cigar box of mementoes where I knew an old graduation program lay quietly in the dark. That’s the way it is in this old house. Some ancestor from generations past and who now sleeps under the grass of Highland Cemetery gives you a wink and suggests you look in some old corner or desk drawer to find something of them. So at least they’ll be remembered once in a while, especially on a June day like this when life is all in bloom, when the lilacs bow gracefully beside the kitchen door.

I went to get the TFHS graduation program in grand-uncle Doug Smith’s old cigar box, stored in a bookcase. The program was as crisp and proper as it was back in 1909, with gold and black ribbons, the class colors still attached.

There was, inside, the Ivy Poem composed by Jerome Kelleher. It had long been a tradition for each class to plant a shoot of ivy along the wall of the old TFHS building. I wonder if the plants of generations past still grow there.

The class song, written by Arabelle Pollock, was sung by the fif-

teen graduates of the Class of ’09: “Now our high school days are ended, We are leaving Turners High, Through her halls our way we’ve wended, Alma Mater now goodbye...”

Among the graduates are old family names many of us would recognize today: Bernard Farren Jr., Eugene and George McCarthy, William Pollard, Flora Pollock, Sadie Rock, George Welch.

Today the ephemeral lilac blooms, as did youth’s promise of 1909 enclosed in a cigar box: why evoke the two together? Those young people so much in full bloom more than one hundred years ago graduated, full of themselves and confident, just like our youngsters this past weekend. They did, and will live out their lives near and far. Who knew, and knows, what’s in store for them. May they gather their rosebuds while they may.


Time to put the old 1909 program back in its box, and turn to the lilacs once again.

They have still flowered over the century, year after year, for their brief time in the June sun before their purples and lavenders fade. A few of them will spend time on the kitchen table in a crystal vase.

Time to put away the old notebook, and while I think of it, I’ll get up to the old high school on Crocker Avenue to see if that 1909 ivy still grows and clings to the wall.

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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.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *Open Mic*. 6 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

EVERY 3RD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

EXHIBITS:

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. \$

Sawmill River Arts Gallery at The Montague Mill, Montague: *Summer Celebration*. Featured artists: Louise Minks, Roy Mansur, Christine Mero, Christine Pellerin, Patricia Czepiel Hayes. Artists' reception, Saturday, June 25, 1-4 p.m. Exhibit runs through 8/29.

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, Saturday, 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



Facing the Fire is a photography show by Derrick Zellman at 28 Bridge Street in Millers Falls (former Element Brewing Building). A reception and fundraiser will be held on Thursday, June 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with an artist's talk at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Boston Fire Department and others. \$

EVENTS:

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m. *The Jays and Lexi Weege*. 9:30 p.m.

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 Greenfield: *Full Disclosure Festival*. What happens when climatologists, anthropologists, and historians team up with artists. Talks, interviews, readings, sculpture and more. See the festival's Facebook page for more info. 4 p.m. onward. \$

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. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Taking Back Eden*. Indie rock. 9 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *11th Year Anniversay Celebration*. All day.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Arts Block and throughout Greenfield: *Full Disclosure Festival*. See Fridays listing for more info. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Misfit Prom 2016*. "Legendary event", come in your favorite fantasy. Music by Rodd Cummings and the Vibrators. Video performance by multimedia artist Genevieve Gaignard. Proceeds benefit the Wendell Free Library. 6 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Dyado, William Joseph Jordan*. Folk music from mid-coast Maine and S. Carolina. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Glenn Roh (fingerstyle guitar) and special guest Shawn Taylor (singer/songwriter)*. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Sledge*. Rock and roll cover band. 9 p.m. \$

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rick Murnane*. Pop rock. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 13

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Second Tuesday Deja Word with an Open Mic*. Each reader has 5 minutes of fame. 6:30 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Rail Yard Ghosts, Belligerence, Nina, and Fickle Fauna*. Folk-punk. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

West Whately Chapel, Whately: Watermelon Wednesdays presents: *Astrid Schween*, cellist with the Julliard String Quartet. 7:30 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents *Charlie Conant, The frost heaves and hales, Small Change*. 6 p.m.

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

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Grace & Catastrophe*. Folk duo. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Avery Pavillion, Leyden: Leyden Cultural Council on Aging presents *Zydeco Connection*. 5:30 p.m. Potluck 7 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Dave Lippman and Jay Mankita*. Comical singers about serious topics. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Out-law country. 9 p.m.



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The Brick House 5k

June 18th 10am start!

contact: thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com

Registration opens at 9:00 am.
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<https://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k>

\$20*

*sliding scale fee available at on-site registration



Interview: Montague Reporter at the Great Falls Farmers Market

By HANNAH SANCHEZ

TURNERS FALLS – As the school season comes to an end and summer approaches, I’ve been thinking about the ways we learn. Four-and-a-half year old Luciano Stoffolano reminded me that we often learn through play.

This fine gentleman impressed me when he cheerfully spelled out his name during our interview, prompting me to ask where he had learned to spell. The origin is unclear, though Luciano suspects it is through school.

I asked Luciano what he will be doing during the summer while not in school. He enjoys swimming, and is also particularly excited that Yankee Candle acquired new Legos.

“Brand new Legos... Two bad guys, one good guy. The bad guys try and get the bombs and guns, because they’re bad



SANCHEZ PHOTO

guys.”

Given Luciano’s grasp of political conflict and natural brilliance, I had to ask what the good guys could do in the face of such a threat.

“That guys has [sic] a light saber, and it kinda gets the bad guys,” he answered.

I could not help but agree that, even in the wider world, those good guy tactics seem to be only “kinda” working.

Luciano attends the Academy of Early Learning in Greenfield, where he plays and learns to spell. Enjoy your summer Luciano, and congratulations on another year of learning. Keep your eyes forward on a new summer for putting knowledge into action!

The Montague Reporter will be at the market every Wednesday. Stop by and say hi!



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