

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 30, 2016

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board OKs Dodge to Work; Hires Interim WPCF Super



CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Montague police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, in a 2014 file photo.

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard took police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge off paid administrative leave Monday night, returning him to his official duties without explaining why he had been taken off them last Thursday. The board issued a terse

statement saying that the "Chief has the full support of the board and we are confident in his abilities" and that he "has been open and forthright in his handling of this situation."

The selectboard's statement did not specify what "this situation" was, but referred to an "ongoing investigation by the [state] Attorney General's office." That investigation was apparently discussed at the non-public session prior to the Chief being placed back on duty.

The session is allowed under the state Open Meeting law "to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or dismissal of, or complaints, or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual..."

A source at the Attorney General's office stated that "it is our policy neither to confirm or deny investigations." The source could

see CHIEF page A8

Montague's Most Hardcore Voters Opt to Accept Debt

By REPORTER STAFF

A tenth of Montague's voters made it to the polls Monday to weigh in on two borrowing items, approved by the annual town meeting, that will show up on property tax bills over the next ten to twenty years.

By a 2 to 1 margin, they approved the financing for a project to repair two key parts of Turners Falls' stormwater drainage and combined sewer overflow system.

And by a narrower, 3 to 2 margin, they agreed to fund a cleanup of hazardous materials at the town-owned Strathmore mill complex, which town officials have argued will be necessary regardless of the buildings' ultimate fate.

Turnout ranged from 7% downtown, Precinct 5, to 12% in Precinct 3, the eastern ward on the Hill.

Low turnout in Precinct 5 may

have corresponded with high rates of occupancy by renters, who only pay property taxes indirectly.

The 61 voters who did turn out in that neighborhood, however, were the most sharply in favor of funding the projects. (Due, perhaps, to their close proximity to the infrastructure in question – or perhaps, in the estimation of a commentator on the www.MontagueMA.net web forum, because the typical residential tenant "thinks like Bernie Sanders and believes we should fund everything because it's fun" until they "realize that the rent is getting too high and load up their 1998 Subaru wagon at the end of the month and move onto the next town and start the cycle yet once again.")

In every precinct, the sewer project, estimated to tack \$16.65 a year onto the tax bill faced by

see DEBT VOTE page A8

HOLIDAY WEEKEND AHEAD

MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The blue Connecticut River seeps through FirstLight Power's dam at Turners Falls. Going outdoors is advised.

Zoning Board Grants Ramblers Permits

By MIKE JACKSON

LAKE PLEASANT – "This was the biggest leap of all," Paul Grimard, president of the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club, after Wednesday night's meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Ramblers are hoping to lease a 6-acre parcel of land on the corner of Beach and Lake Pleasant roads from the Turners Falls Water Department, and build a new clubhouse to replace their current headquarters in the Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area, which they have been ordered to leave by the end of the year.

They needed two special permits from the ZBA: first, to replace their existing "non-conforming" building, categorized as a "non-profit club or lodge," with a new one

in another location (5.1.4); and second, to build in an industrial district (5.2.6(b)), on the theory that it could count as an "open recreational enterprise."

ZBA chairman Ernest Brown recused himself, as his son Michael Brown, present for the hearing, is the water department superintendent. The board's vice chairman, John Burek, Sr., also stood down; his son, John, Jr., is the treasurer of the Ramblers.

This left Robert Sojka to chair the hearing, and members Richard Ruth, Bill Doyle, and Allen Ripingill to vote on the permits.

The first permit hinged on a determination that the new building not bring "substantial detriment to the environs or the town."

see RAMBLERS page A8

On the Common: Jazz, Blues, and More

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MONTAGUE CENTER– Imagine four terrific bands, and people dancing in the street with an expression of celebration and joy. Well, you don't have to just visualize this merry musical scene. It's coming to life Saturday, July 9 when the second annual Montague Jazz Festival, hosted by the First Congregational Church of Montague, begins at 12:30 p.m. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

The four featured bands are Broken Cello Orchestra, which is making its second festival appearance (12:30); Sfere at 1:30; Doug Hewitt

see JAZZ FEST page A6



SUBMITTED IMAGE

The Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra, based in Holyoke, will close out next Saturday's program.

Phillips Best Player in the State, Says ESPN Boston

By DAVID HOITT

BOSTON – Turners Falls' senior pitching ace Mackenzie Phillips will receive ESPN-Boston's 2016 "Miss Softball" award, recognizing her as the top high school softball player in Massachusetts.

Phillips had an outstanding career at Turners Falls High School and was instrumental in leading the Indians to the state finals the past three seasons and two consecutive state crowns. She will pursue her softball and academic careers next year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

	W	L	IP	K
Mackenzie Phillips	20	1	141	257
career	68	4	472	820
Peyton Emery	2	0	21	40
career	2	0	28	54
Jessica Loynd	0	0	0	0
career	0	0	1	1

See page A6 for the team's batting statistics!



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Phillips at the mound in Turners' 8-0 win over Mahar, April 15.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Allergies and Inclusion: What Is "Reasonable Accommodation"?

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The recent finding of the federal Department of Justice that the Turners Falls-based Young Shakespeare Players East (YSPE) violated Title III of the Americans With Disabilities Act may serve as a wake-up call to other organizations in the region.

YSPE productions feature original works of Shakespeare, directed and performed by children ages 7 through 18. The initial complaint charged that the YSPE had discouraged Mason Wicks-Lim, an eleven-year-old who has a serious nut allergy, from enroll-

ing in the program, threatened to shut down the program if it was required to have a parent on duty at all times to administer the drug epinephrine, and ordered that another child who supported Mason in an email apologize to the program director for rudeness.

The Justice Department, whose chronology of events differs in some ways from the complaint that prompted its investigation, found that the program violated the Americans with Disabilities Act "by failing to make reasonable modifications and procedures [in its program] when such modification was necessary, and

see ALLERGIES page A3

The Montague Reporter

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Going It Alone

Last Friday morning we awoke to discover history had, after a basically well-screwed-together quarter century, begun to come loose.

A referendum vote in the United Kingdom, originally designed to deflate dissent within the ruling Conservative Party, turned out to be an opening just wide enough for an immiserated, resentful national majority to compulsively claw its way out of the European project.

Very few Europeans are entirely happy with the way the European Union has been going.

The vehicle for international cooperation was thought of as an institution that would promote “four freedoms” – movement of capital, movement of goods, movement of services, and movement of people. A little something for everyone, in other words.

But the road has been bumpy. Overlapping subsets of EU member-states have joined the Schengen Area (which guarantees passport-free travel) and Eurozone (using a single, shared currency); only Romania, Bulgaria and the UK had sat out both.

The Eurozone has been a cauldron of struggle, with a powerful clique at its core insisting its peripheral states – Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain – swallow a cocktail of austerity, shrinking their public sectors while sweating through major recession.

And the Schengen Area is unravelling this year, as many of its member states “suspend” its provisions in the face of an influx of refugees from outside Europe.

But withdrawal will be staggering in its effect. Millions of financial decisions have been made every day for decades on the assumption that the trajectory of these giant institutions, however lumbering, was toward harmonization, and many of those decisions have now been proven faulty.

The UK is, itself, a multinational project of sorts, and could break down itself. Voters in England and Wales may have asked to leave the continent, but majorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland, after all, didn’t; Scottish independence and Irish reunification could be next on the agenda.

Polls have shown that the secession vote was particularly popular among those who identify as “English” rather than “British,” a maneuver toward ethnic particularism that clicks grimly with other polls indicating that worry about immigra-

tion was one of the strongest ideological predictors of a Leave vote, and being older one of the strongest demographic correlates.

In one of history’s funny twists, the very strongest showings for Leave were in the East Midlands county of Lincolnshire, which happens to have been the birthplace of Margaret Thatcher, responsible for the ultimate slogan of capitalist globalization: *there is no alternative*.

Since the collapse of the Soviet bloc, to be an internationalist – to believe in universal human values, to wish to dismantle cruel and arbitrary oppressions, to strive to make war seem impossible and antiquated – has for many progressives meant moping unhappily in the backs of buses driven by such capitalist globalizers as the architects of the EU.

Common markets may have had their downsides, but at least they swept aside the backwards-looking old boys’ networks.

2016 may mark the end of that one-way coalition.

Earlier this month, an article titled “Neoliberalism: Oversold?” ran, not in some obscure left-wing journal, but in *Finance & Development*, the quarterly publication of the International Monetary Fund.

“[T]here are aspects of the neoliberal agenda that have not delivered as expected,” its authors admit. “The benefits in terms of increased growth seem fairly difficult to establish when looking at a broad group of countries.”

Both removing restrictions to the movement of capital (“openness”), they realize, and the “fiscal consolidation” known as austerity result in increased income inequality. And the effects of inequality are so severe that they limit growth.

Why it took over 40 years for the high priests of the world’s dominant economic religion to realize that is simple: it was a club that promoted believers, sponsored by those its dogma benefited.

But the angry English residents of depressed Lincolnshire know full well that globalization sorts us into haves and have-nots, and that they were no longer on the side of the line they preferred.

Barbed-wire borders won’t restore our control of our own lives any more than exposure to the global market will provide lasting wealth and security.

But the damage has been done, and we may see an awful lot of barbed wire before someone comes up with a better idea.

CLARIFICATION:

Dan Nietzsche, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), let us know we’d gotten something wrong in our reporting on the Montague selectboard’s June 13 meeting (MR Vol.14#35, *Board Backs “Rock Paper Scissors” Sculpture for Downtown Bumpout*).

“The selectboard,” we wrote, “approved the request... that Montague be the ‘lead town’ in applying for a grant to study regional fire services. Nietzsche stated that he did not necessarily think the study was

necessary but that there was widespread concern about the condition of many small-town departments in the region.”

Here’s what Nietzsche actually said, upon review of MCTV’s recording:

“There’s a want, and a need, across multiple towns, about seven fire departments, for a study to be completed: a results-driven study. Not necessarily a fact-finding mission, but something to bring these departments into a direction, in terms of jurisdictional sharing, consolidation, regionalization – all of

those words that sometimes people have a hard time hearing. But I feel there’s a need for it – well, *I* don’t. Excuse me. *I* don’t feel there’s a need for it; there is a call for it. So, the grant would help to pay for that study to be completed.”

“I truly believe in the need for this study,” Nietzsche wrote to the *Reporter* this week. “What I was referencing in the ‘it’ is my personal thoughts on the possible outcomes of the study, not the study itself.”

We appreciate the clarification, and apologize for any confusion we may have sown.

Letters to the Editors

Another Whole Problem: Oil Trains

Climate activists who have been involved in the successful effort to stop the Kinder Morgan fracked gas pipeline project through Massachusetts will gather at the Greenfield Commons on Wednesday, July 6, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., to alert their fellow citizens about the clear and present danger of “bomb trains” that go through Greenfield.

July 6 will mark the anniversary of the bomb train explosion in 2013 that killed 47 people and

leveled the downtown of Lac Mégantic, Québec.

This year is the third annual *Stop Oil Trains* week of action, that will call attention to the threat of oil trains across North America, including Greenfield (see *explosive-crude-by-rail.org*).

It’s estimated that 9 million barrels of crude oil are moving over the rail lines of North America at any given moment. Oil trains charging through Virginia, North Dakota, Al-

abama, and Canada’s Quebec, New Brunswick, and Alberta provinces have derailed and exploded, resulting in severe environmental damage and, in the case of Quebec, considerable human casualties.

This vigil is being organized by the 99th Monkey Affinity Group, a project of Post Oil Solutions.

Tim Stevenson
Director, Post Oil Solutions
Athens, Vermont

Erving Library Building Committee Seeks Members

The Board of Selectmen is looking for members to join the Library Building Committee.

The Library Building Committee is charged with all development and design aspects, the grant application process, and the cost analysis associated with a potential new library for the Town of Erving.

The design aspects will include all interior and exterior components of the potential building for the designated property. The Building Committee will work closely with

the Library Director, the Town’s OPM (owner’s project manager) and the architect, as well as the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) throughout the entire process.

Should MBLC grant funding be awarded in July 2017 and the Town vote to approve the unfunded portion of the project on or before December 2017, the committee members should anticipate a commitment of no less than four (4) years in order to see the project through its grand

opening and satisfactory completion of the punch list.

If you are interested in being on the Library Building Committee please send a letter of interest by July 11, 2016 at 12 p.m. to: Erving Board of Selectmen, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

Please contact administrative coordinator Bryan Smith or municipal clerk Betsy Sicard at (413) 422-2800 x. 100 with any questions.

Erving Board of Selectmen

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Join Mass Audubon and Northfield Mountain naturalists this Saturday, July 2 from 9:30 a.m. until noon for a morning paddle on the Connecticut River, to **explore scenic Barton Cove and look for eagles.**

Bald Eagles first built a nest on Barton Cove Island in 1989, and have nested on the island continuously since then. During the past few breeding seasons, three eaglets have successfully fledged from this historic nesting location. The tour will delve into the success of the restoration program, their fascinating life history and hopefully catch a glimpse of these majestic birds. Perhaps a fledgling bald eagle will be ready for independence, as this is often the timing of their first flight.

This program is appropriate for both beginning and experienced paddlers, and is co-sponsored with Massachusetts Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Register by calling Arcadia at (413) 584-3009.

For further details, call Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center at (413) 659-4426.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is having a **book swap** on Saturday, July 2, from 10 to 11 a.m. There is expected to be a wide variety to choose from. Remember to bring a book to get a book.

Greenfield's Independence Day celebration will be held at **Beacon Field** on Saturday, July 2, from 4 to 10 p.m. The **fireworks** will be set off after 9 p.m.

There are many good viewing locations along Avenue A in Turners Falls near Food City and the Carnegie Library, along with the parking area near the 11th Street Bridge, and seating along the canalside bike path.

The **Montague Center Fire Department** will host their **annual bonfire** on Sunday, July 3 at Montague Center Park on Station Street.

The Tom Fuentes Band will play from 7 to 10 p.m., with a bonfire lighting at 9 p.m.

Head on down and enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and cheesburgers cooked up by the MCFD fire-

fighters, and enjoy a fun night!

The public is also invited to celebrate America's 240th Birthday: the **5th annual reading of the Declaration of Independence**, "America's Birth Certificate," on Monday, July 4, at 9 a.m. at the Greenfield Town Commons.

Participants include Greenfield Mayor William Martin, public officials and other citizens of Franklin County. Eight participants will read the entire Declaration, and special guests, including the 4D1G Quartet, will sing patriotic music. A special prayer will be offered for the country.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is offering "**Holiday Bike Path Bingo**," a special nature walk for children along the Canalside Rail Trail, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on July 4.

So, kids, grab your parents, bug spray, and sunscreen, and go exploring with a DCR Park Interpreter. All ages are welcome. You'll practice examining the natural world with field guides, binoculars, and a fun game to find out just how much you can see!

On Friday and Saturday, July 8 and 9, Northfield Mountain will host the 34th Annual **Connecticut River Valley Astronomers' Conjunction**. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain. Held during the dark of the

moon, the weekend will be jam-packed full of slide presentations, talks, and Friday and Saturday night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes.

Registration forms available from Richard Sanderson at rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org or by writing Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118. The event is appropriate for ages 12 and older, and is free to the public.

The Friends of the **Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter** (FCRDS) recently announced the shelter has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Petco Foundation in support of veterinary care of shelter dogs awaiting adoption.

FCRDS is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter, medical care and behavioral training for abused, abandoned and homeless dogs from eighteen member Franklin County towns. Since 2012 the shelter has adopted out, or returned to their owners, over 700 animals.

Petco's contribution will help them assure all dogs to be adopted will receive all necessary health screenings, medications, spay or neuter surgeries, vaccinations and micro-chipping. For more information about the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, visit www.fcrdogkennel.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

ALLERGIES from page A1

by retaliation."

The finding is being challenged by the YSPE's lawyer, New-Jersey based attorney Frank DiPrima. Di-Prima claims the modifications to accommodate Wicks-Lim are not "reasonable" for a program that relies heavily on volunteers and self-directed production by young actors.

The core of the department's finding appears to be that YSPE refused to guarantee that a trained staff member or volunteer be present at all times to administer epinephrine, a drug that counters life-threatening allergic reactions.

According to the department's report, YSPE agreed to make the program "nut free," but could not guarantee that an adult with training in the use of an EpiPen in case of an allergic attack would be present at all times.

After several months of negotiation, the YSPE requested that the parents sign a waiver acknowledging that...

"1. There will be times throughout the program both planned and unplanned when neither the [volunteer] nor [the director] will be with the ensemble."

"2. Dress rehearsals and performances leave children in the ensemble unsupervised in the greenroom and throughout the theater for hours at a time (full days). Neither [the director] nor [the volunteer] can be with the actors during these long stretches of time." [Quotes from DOJ finding]

Wicks-Lim's parents refused to sign the waiver, and initiated the complaint with the Justice Department, which found that these requirements discriminated against Wicks-Lim.

DiPrima, for his part, challenged the findings:

"The only points of disagreement between YSPE and Mason's mother were: First that YSPE could

not guarantee that its two continuing volunteers would be in Mason's presence every minute during three-to six-hour rehearsals (they are sometimes in or running between different parts of the same theater; different parents sometimes babysit the young actors; and YSPE sometimes has 17- and 18-year-old unpaid apprentices); and Second, parents were asked to sign a waiver of liability that all YSPE parents sign without objection..."

Evolving Policies

What impact might the Justice Department's criteria have on other local organizations?

Amber Garcia, director of the Ja'Duke youth theater program in Turners Falls, says the program, which features acting classes, has an "EpiPen-certified" staff member on duty at all times.

According to Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein, a staff member, who receives EpiPen training annually from the school nurse, is present at all times.

Garcia said the last two years have been the first in some time, "in recent memory," that the issue has not come up. The question of the need for a total ban on nut products during the program, she said, "depends on the kid."

John Dobosz, director of Montague's parks and recreation department, says that parents with nut-allergic children sign a form, and generally provide an EpiPen, for children enrolling in summer programs. The staff, which includes both adults and teenagers, is expected to administer the antidote, but "has no

formal training."

The issue, Dobosz says, "has never come up" and is handled "rather informally." The program does not have a nut-free policy at this time because peanut butter in some cases is "all kids will eat."

Similarly, the issue "has not really come up" at the Brick House Community Resource Center, which runs an afternoon teen drop-in center and programs for youth, according to youth program manager Dana Mengwasser. "We don't have a nut policy."

The program serves teens who are generally expected "to navigate" their own allergies. "We don't generally serve food here," Mengwasser explained, "and if there is a potluck, the center asks participants to label the food."

Mengwasser said the staff, which has general first aid training, could probably administer epinephrine.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District had a nut-free policy at Hillcrest and Sheffield Elementary schools, but relaxed it for all grades several years ago as allergic children moved on to the middle schools. Under the current policy, all school lunches are free of nut products, and a nut-free table is provided in the lunch room.

According to Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein, a staff member who receives EpiPen training annually from the school nurse is present at all times.

Attempts over the course of a week to reach Annie Leonard, principal at Great Falls Middle School and Turners Fall High School, were unanswered as of press time.

As for the Shea Theater, the current operator, Shea Theater Arts Center, responded to the *Reporter's* inquiries about its own policies by issuing the following statement:

"STAC's mission is to provide an accessible space for education as well as music and theater per-

formances. We rarely function as operators or educators, but rather as facilitators of programming that musicians, artists and educators produce themselves using the theater as a community space."

A Question of Burden

At the core of the Justice Department's finding was that providing 100% adult coverage for Mason Wicks-Lim would have not placed an "undue burden" on the Young Shakespeare Players, organizationally or financially:

"Regulations define an undue burden as a 'significant difficulty or expense.' Factors determining whether an action results in an undue burden include the nature of the action and the effect on resources. In this regard providing an adult to supervise children ages seven through eighteen for hours at a time is not inherently burdensome, as most adults would find it surprising that, after paying up to \$650 to participate in a production, their children would not already be supervised. YSPE has also not demonstrated that it would have had a significant expense or effect on its resources."

The finding went on to note that YSPE parents "are routinely asked to participate in bake sales or other volunteer activities." The organization, the finding argued, could have reached out to parents in order to find those "who might be available to supervise children during rehearsals, and who would be able to administer the EpiPen."

The Justice Department noted that YSPE emphasizes the role of children in all phases of its production, yet uses parent volunteers during performances "in case of an emergency". These parents "observe certain boundaries" and do not interfere with "the children's running the show." The program, the Department argues, could have requested that Epi-trained parent

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volunteers similarly monitor rehearsals without "placing an undue burden on YSPE."

YSPE's legal counsel disagrees: "It cannot be that a charity with no money, no staff, and two uncompensated volunteers bears sole responsibility for 100% coverage..."

DiPrima has received an extension until July 25 to respond to the department's finding. He says his client currently plans to challenge the decision on so-called "findings of fact."



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Declines to Join Fire Regionalization Study

By AIDAN BELANGER
with MIKE JACKSON

Gill's selectboard meeting on Monday was largely focused on emergency preparedness programs. In light of a desire to share resources circulating among local fire departments, the meeting began with a visit from Tracy Rogers, the Franklin Regional Council of Government's program manager for Regional Preparedness.

Rogers came to the selectboard meeting to present a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for participation in a fire service study, to be signed by the selectmen.

The study would research the workings of town fire departments in order to determine how regionalization could work. The intention of the MOU was to assess the interest of local fire chiefs in the proposal, and encourage commitment to the program after other chiefs have backed out.

Gill's fire chief, Gene Beaubien, was in attendance and he expressed concern over regionalization. Beaubien said he believes regionalization will be more expensive than people think, saying the town would be paying for the larger fleets of trucks in cities that are a part of the region, and that Gill would be losing the small-town department it has.

The selectboard decided to make no movement because Beaubien, who plays a critical role in the process, had no desire to authorize the town's participation.

After the discussion over the regionalization, Beaubien and the board discussed the town's application to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation for a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant application for volunteer fire services, which would match \$2,000 in local spending.

The department plans to spend

it on turnout gear for fighting brush fires, according to Beaubien.

The selectboard then moved on to discuss another MOU, about receiving mutual aid through the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) program. Town administrative assistant Ray Purington explained that it appeared to him that under the state's existing mutual aid laws, there must be a supplementary agreement between each aid-giving and aid-assisting town.

Selectboard member John Ward wondered if signing the document as an authorization to receive aid would inadvertently authorize the town to be invoiced from aid-sending towns.

The board decided to add a clause before signing to prevent that, and allow FRCOG to choose whether to accept the document or not.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has been responsible for disbursing emergency preparedness funds paid by the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant upriver in Vernon. Gill has seen \$8,500 a year in recent years.

MEMA has negotiated for the shuttered plant's owner, Entergy, to pay a final "two years" worth of funding – \$4,500 for FY'17 and \$3,200 for FY'18 – which the town expects to receive in one check.

"They are dropping responsibilities before they have done what they need to do," observed selectboard member John Ward.

The fire department applied last year for a \$180,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for new equipment, including air packs, but at this point it looks unlikely that the town's application ranked high enough to receive the grant.

"By the time it got to us last year, there was no money left," said Beaubien. "Looks like same thing is happening this year."

New Agreements

The town of Gill is attempting to transfer ownership of the Riverside Cemetery. Of the six parcels of land, four are owned by the Riverside Cemetery Association, but the two oldest may still be owned by "The Inhabitants of the Second South School District, Being No. Six."

Town counsel Donna MacNicol has advised the town make a deed for the transfer of the four parcels it can take. The town may then be able to take the others through eminent domain, as the school district in question was likely dissolved in the 19th century.

"Most of those people may now be inhabitants of the very land we're trying to acquire," Purington told the *Reporter* on Wednesday.

Contingent on town meeting approving it, the selectboard voted to sign a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Borrego Solar, which plans to build a solar array on land leased from Northfield Mount Hermon.

Sign-Making Program

FRCOG received a grant of \$14,000 to purchase equipment and software to allow towns to make their own highway signs for regional use. At the selectboard meeting, Gill was given the opportunity to join the program.

Purington said he had spoken with highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire, who said there are not a lot of savings to be had for Gill through this program. The signs would cost \$31 to make through the program – \$21 in materials and a \$10 fee – but can otherwise be bought for \$42.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier added that any savings had could be lost through personal error in crafting new signs.

The selectboard decided not to join at this time.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the use of the back corner of the public safety complex parking lot for the use of the Wheeling for Healing benefit bike ride on August 21.

The selectboard appointed Zachary Lastowski as junior firefighter through June 30, 2017.

The DEP has provided the town with its newest results on manganese and arsenic at the Gill Elementary School well. As of Monday's meeting, the town was waiting to hear whether the department will require the treatment system planned for the school's drinking water to be redesigned to remove arsenic.

Purington confirmed on Wednesday that this will not be a requirement.

The board approved all appointments for the coming fiscal year. There was concern over the appointment of part-time police officers who may work details, but are not scheduled for shifts.

The board appointed all of the part-time officers, including those working shifts, through July 31, and decided to speak with Chief Hastings to determine the reasoning behind the arrangement.

Greg Snedeker volunteered to attend Franklin Regional Planning Board meetings, which take place every three months.

Randy Crochier volunteered to cover the Franklin Regional Transit Authority advisory board, which meets five times a year.

Northfield Mount Hermon contributed \$25,000 to the town for emergency services.

The season's Common People Concerts will be held on five consecutive Tuesdays on the town common, beginning July 12 and ending August 9. The concerts start at 7 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Backhoe, Police Cruiser Purchases Approved

By MARK HUDYMA
with MIKE JACKSON

Gill residents held a special town meeting Tuesday night at town hall to deal with unfinished, year-end business.

Town moderator John Zywna was not available, and Ray Steele was elected as moderator *pro tem* with no dissent. The meeting, comprised of 39 voters, quickly delved into the articles passed over by the May 9 annual town meeting.

Before the meeting began, selectboard chair John Ward announced that "it appears our grant has not come through" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for \$180,000 the fire department hoped to spend on capital expenditures.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien noted that the hoped-for money was primarily intended for self-contained breathing apparatus. The current gear, which dates to 2002, is old enough that broken harnesses are "hard to find parts for," he said.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington introduced the first article on the warrant, which would have created a special fund for money related to local cable access

activities, as an opportunity for the selectboard and town counsel to examine the implications of spending the town's 2.5% cut of the contract with Comcast on general expenses.

Purington said the state departments of Revenue and Telecommunications "need to talk" to determine whether such spending would be legal. He speculated that the confusion is part of why the state's deadline for towns to establish such special funds had been extended to July 2017.

The town meeting unanimously struck down the article, following the recommendations of the selectboard and finance committee.

The second article, passed by a voice vote, authorized borrowing to fund the purchase of a backhoe for the highway department, which has been renting one, at a cost of \$40,000 for the last three years. Allocating money that would have been spent on rental to a purchase, in addition to money from the Snow and Ice Removal fund and the Road Machinery fund, would make the purchase a net-zero on the town budget.

Taxation to repay on the loan for the recently replaced public safety complex roof was passed unani-

mously with little discussion. The town estimates that the average single-family homeowner will pay about \$22 a year over the next three years for the project.

The town's energy stabilization fund is being used to pay off a bond the town took out for energy improvements, including lighting and a new boiler, at Gill Elementary School last year. The town meeting approved transferring \$14,684 from its school district account to replenish that fund.

The remaining annual balance of the building repair and maintenance fund, \$2,850, was allocated toward a drinking water treatment system the town is required to build at the elementary school.

"The state moves slow on these things," said selectboard member Randy Crochier of that project, which has been under negotiation and redesign for some time now. "We're moving as fast as we can."

A small handful of dissenting voices opposed the purchase of a new Ford Interceptor Utility vehicle for the police department.

"This is the most-sold vehicle on the market for patrol officers, and here we're all patrol officers," said chief David Hastings, who spoke in

favor of the article.

"The crime rate is very low here," noted Gary Bourbeau, "and there's a reason for that."

Purington asserted that the town lacked a viable option for a full-sized hybrid vehicle.

"It may be easy for you to get in and out of one of those, if you're 5 foot 5 and 140 pounds," continued Hastings.

The town's first Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from Borrego Solar will arrive on November 1, to the tune of \$14,938. The company plans to build a solar array on land leased from the Northfield Mount Hermon school. A motion to enter into this agreement passed unanimously.

Purington estimated that the land itself, now eligible for taxation, might be valued at \$100,000.

Gene Beaubien wondered whether the money could be earmarked for the fire department.

The final article on the warrant would have scrounged for money from other parts of the budget to patch the fire department's budget for FY'16, but as of Tuesday's meeting, it appeared that this would no longer be necessary.

Purington made a motion that it be passed over, and it was.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Board Mulls Technology, Social Media, Surveillance, and Drug Policies

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving’s information technology coordinator, Jacqueline Boyden, told the town selectboard at its Monday night meeting that the board should adopt a policy regarding IT technical assistance.

Boyden said, when she became IT coordinator, she was designated as the first point of contact for departments seeking IT technical assistance. Instead, she said, “things have gotten lax,” and some departments and individuals are contacting the town’s IT consultant, selectboard chair Jacob Smith, directly.

“I’d like you to think about it, put it on a future agenda. You need to formalize it,” said Boyden.

“The library’s needs are not being met by the present procedure,” said library director Barbara Friedman. “It’s a matter of actual service: sometimes we need immediate service on our computers.” Friedman said she wanted a joint meeting of the selectboard and library trustees, to “sit down and talk... have a real discussion... plug it out.”

At the June 6 selectboard meeting, Boyden had asked the board to convene a joint meeting with Friedman and the trustees to discuss whether the Library is following the town’s IT protocols. At that meeting, Boyden said there was “blatant disregard from the librarian” regarding the protocols.

On June 7, the board sent Friedman and the trustees emails proposing to meet on either June 20 or June 27, but according to Smith, the trustees had not responded with a preferred date. The selectboard has scheduled a discussion with Friedman and the trustees on July 11. “I hope the trustees can come in on that date,” Smith said.

Selectboard member William Bembury said that the town needed a “larger discussion on IT,” because town IT use will “get busier and busier.” He suggested that the town might need to consider “a different situation” than Boyden and Smith, both working on the town’s IT issues for a stipend, to keep up with the town’s computer needs.

Public Records Law

Town clerk Richard Newton told the board that, under the state’s new public records law, in effect January 1, 2017, the town must designate a records access officer, responsible for handling records requests.

“This has the potential for being a nightmare,” Newton said.

Because Newton works part-time, he suggested that the administrative coordinator and all department heads should be designated.

Newton said he would train the people designated as records access officers. He also recommended consulting with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for advice on how to implement the law.

According to Newton, towns will be required to keep a database of all requests for public records, and report annually to the Secretary of State about the requests. “It’s a state law, so it’s not clear on what data to collect,” Newton said.

He said that the town should develop a template database and that each department head/records access officer should fill in the database as records requests are received. The information would then be collated monthly on a town-wide basis.

Camera and Computer Access

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan and payroll assistant Julie Wonkka asked for access to the feed from the security cameras located at the entrance and main hallway at town hall. According to Boyden, Sullivan and Wonkka want to know who is entering the building when they work late.

Boyden said that the surveillance software is “not very sophisticated” and that it would be difficult to isolate just the door and hallway cameras. “It’s all or nothing,” she explained – the employees would also have access to the feeds from all of the town hall cameras, and be able to play back surveillance videos taken at other times.

“I have concerns about giving access to everyone,” said Smith.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said he would agree to give the treasurer’s office access, “if we can restrict it to certain cameras.”

Smith recommended that the board decide on the access once there is more information about restricting it to live feed of certain cameras.

“I’ll see what I can do,” Boyden said.

Wonkka, who also works as highway department secretary, requested remote computer access to her treasurer’s office computer while she is working at the highway garage. According to Boyden, Wonkka would like to be able to process payroll information while working as highway secretary.

Boyden said that she had researched the costs for remote access software about a year ago, and that it was cost prohibitive at that time. She also noted that remote access would be a weak point for system security.

The Board asked Boyden to look into the cost again, to see if the software costs were lower now.

Early Voting for State Elections

Newton told the board that early voting for the November 8 election would start October 24. Any Erving voter can come to town hall during the hours when town hall is open to vote.

Because the number of voters who will use early voting is unknown, Newton suggested that administrative coordinator Bryan Smith and municipal clerk Betsy Sicard, who are in town hall during open hours, could take care of the early voters, after he trains them on voting procedures. He said he had purchased a tabletop voting booth to provide privacy for early voters.

Newton said he believes that most Erving residents like to vote at the polls on Election Day, and that the number of early voters will not be large.

Library Building Committee

The board approved the charge for the library building committee, developed by the selectboard with help from Friedman.

The charge states that the committee will be involved with “all development and design aspects, grant application process and cost analysis associated with a potential new library.” Friedman and selectboard members stated that the committee could be working on the project for as much as four years.

The board will appoint seven committee members at their July 11 meeting, selected from residents who have written a letter of interest.

Other Business

The board reviewed a second draft of the employee drug policy. Selectboard members praised the draft, but recommended eliminating redundant information, making text and titles more consistent and clarifying that the policy applies whenever the employee is on duty, whether on town property or not. The board will consider the policy further at the July 11 meeting.

The board received a rough draft of social media policy from administrative coordinator Bryan Smith. Friedman noted that the library trustees set policy for the library, in the same way that the school committee sets policies for the school system. The board will consider the policy further at its July 11 meeting.

The board approved a list of appointees for the fiscal year starting July 1. In the future, the board will consider staggered appointments, so that entire committees are not appointed each year. The board decided to review the length of appointments starting in September, when it will consult with individual committees.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Town Adopts “Stretch Code” for Buildings

By KATIE NOLAN

At its June 28 special town meeting, Erving voters approved the “stretch” building code on a majority vote after discussion of the energy-efficiency standard on homeowners and builders. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith commented that, despite the need to hire an energy efficiency contractor when building a new house, “there are a lot of savings for taxpayers, and the net effect is positive.”

Adopting the “stretch” building code is one of the criteria for Erving to become eligible for grants under the state’s Green Communities program.

The meeting started approximately fifteen minutes late because town clerk Richard Newton was not present, and there was no voters’ list to check in registered voters. Several volunteers improvised by checking in voters with a copy of the town street list, and administrative coordinator Bryan Smith took notes on motions and vote tallies until Article 7, when Newton arrived. Newton apologized for being late.

All of the expenditure articles passed unanimously. The meeting approved \$50,000 for the assessors’ legal defense fund, \$45,000 for a highway utility vehicle, \$36,000 for a submersible gasoline/diesel pump at the highway garage, \$20,000 for preservation of town records, and \$16,000 for upgrading the lighting in town hall.

The meeting also approved approximately \$16,000 in equipment for the senior/community Center, including exercise equipment, an ice machine, an awning, and a surround sound system and screen.

Also approved unanimously were:

- \$6,500 for computers for the police station;
- \$5,000 for new furniture for fire stations #1 and #2;
- \$5,000 for historical building improvements;
- \$4,500 for a secure door entry system at the Pleasant Street school building; and
- \$1,500 for groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies at River-side Park on Arch Street.

After voting these expenditures, the meeting voted to move \$122,508 from free cash into the stabilization account, maxing out the amount allowed into stabilization for fiscal year 2016.

An assessors’ proposal was the only article, besides the adoption of the “stretch” code, that was approved by a majority and not unanimously. This article had the town accepting a provision in state law that allows the selectboard to exempt up to 10% of the value of commercial properties occupied by qualifying small businesses, and to shift those taxes to other commercial and industrial taxpayers. Several residents said the provision sounded unfair to small businesses that did not qualify.

Another assessors’ article, to exempt \$3,000 in the value of personal property, was approved unanimously.

Dana Moore, Jr. thanked his fellow residents after they extended the deadline for the state legislature to pass special legislation regarding his enhanced retirement package.

The enhanced package was approved at Erving’s October 6, 2015 special town meeting, with a deadline for the state legislature to act by June 30, 2016. Because the state legislature has not yet passed the special legislation, a new deadline of December 31, 2016 was approved.

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Turners Falls Softball: Year-End Batting Stats

	AB	H	AVG	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	R	HBP
Gabby Arzuaga	80	35	.438	12	0	0	21	8	22	0
career	245	98	.400	26	2	1	68	25	66	2
Mackenzie Phillips	72	27	.375	5	1	2	22	8	15	0
career	235	79	.336	10	3	8	65	25	54	0
Jenna Putala	74	36	.486	8	2	8	25	8	31	2
career	204	147	.721	32	2	24	113	18	91	3
Jordyn Fiske	59	15	.254	1	0	1	11	3	13	0
career	184	58	.315	7	2	3	36	18	53	2
Hailey Whipple	49	14	.286	3	2	0	6	5	17	0
career	144	40	.278	8	2	0	24	19	51	0
Melissa Hersey	41	11	.268	3	0	0	10	2	7	0
career	117	25	.214	6	0	0	19	7	17	2
Jordan Meattay	29	8	.276	1	0	1	9	6	16	0
career	98	30	.306	6	1	2	25	12	42	0
Cassidhe Wozniak	79	23	.291	2	1	1	15	7	30	0
career	79	23	.291	2	1	1	15	7	30	0
Maddy Johnson	20	1	.050	0	0	0	0	2	3	0
career	78	9	.115	0	1	0	10	10	20	1
Alyson Murphy	74	26	.351	5	0	2	22	11	20	0
career	74	26	.351	5	0	2	22	11	20	0
Abby Loynd	55	15	.273	3	1	0	8	3	12	0
career	60	17	.283	3	1	0	10	3	18	0
Jessica Loynd	27	5	.185	1	1	1	6	4	7	1
career	56	14	.250	2	2	2	12	14	16	1
Peyton Emery	27	6	.222	0	1	1	8	5	9	0
career	30	7	.233	0	1	1	8	5	9	0
Sienna Dillensneider	18	6	.333	0	0	0	8	2	7	0
career	19	6	.316	0	0	0	8	2	8	0
Olivia Whittier	5	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
career	5	0	.000	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
Lexi Lacey	1	1	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
career	1	1	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hailey Bogusz	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
career	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Our sports writer, Matt Robinson, sent in the end-of-season data on the state championship team. See page A1 for pitchers' stats.

JAZZ FEST from page A1

Group at 3; and another returning band, the Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra, closing out the program at 4:30 p.m.

“The closing performers are fantastic,” said the church’s pastor, the Reverend Barbara Turner Delisle. “The BNJBO has an unforgettable, big, swing-type band sound. It reminds me of what you’d see and hear in films of the 1940s and the 1950s.”

All four professional bands are donating their time to appear at the festival, thanks to Rev. Delisle and Jeff Dickey, the leader of Broken Cello Orchestra and organizer of the event. BCO is a highly regarded group that features an all-pro Front Four with Rebecca Bosworth-Clemens, Eric Weld, Kelly Rose Fluty, and Joe Ricker in the band’s front row.

“I’m super excited about our returning bands and the upcoming performance,” said Rev. Barbara. “It’s a nice feeling that we can give all four groups a location in our church building at the First Congregational where the acoustics are first-rate. People can also enjoy the sounds outside just as well as inside. We’ll have the street blocked off for those who really want to dance in the street.

“There’s a scripture that notes that whenever two or three are gathered in His name, He is there, too. Certainly, community and re-

lationship are implied.

“Any opportunity we have to gather people together in a joyful occasion provides a chance to experience the Holy Spirit. It’s what gives us strength and resilience and the ability to counter some of the less pleasant aspects of life.”

Jeff Gavioli, who conducts and plays alto saxophone in the Bad News Jazz and Blues, is equally enthusiastic about the festival gig. “We’ll be playing inside the church and it’s a nice venue to play at. The sound inside this building resonates perfectly.”

The BNJBO comes to town from its Agawam base. It’s an 18-piece big band jazz orchestra whose vocalist, Cindy Reed, is blessed with an incredibly clear, strong voice.

In the first half of its program, according to Gavioli, the focus will be on the classic big band sound with an emphasis on the Glenn Miller book along with other giants of that era. Gavioli adds that his orchestra leavens the swing sound with rock and roll arrangements now and then. In the concluding half, the blues will fill the air.

“We try to showcase our individual talents,” said Jeff, “particularly when we play the blues. I think we may stand out from other bands in the western Mass. area, because we put the spotlight on all of our performers if we can. We have a lot of talented soloists.

I try to find strong arrangements that enable them to shine. It keeps the excitement level up. We like to bring the crowd into our performance by injecting a lot of energy into our music.”

Gavioli anchors the band by sitting up front in the middle of the players. From his perch, Jeff can play his alto sax or clarinet or can swivel to conduct when the music calls for changes in tempo and intensity.

The conductor of the BNJBO is a modest fellow. His grandfather was a jazz drummer, but Gavioli notes that he himself didn’t study in college as many of the members of the 18-piece band did. Nor is he a former music teacher or a current professional player, again as quite a few of the performers have been.

Ironically, Jeff’s original music teacher, Walter Gladwin, is in the orchestra. Gladwin taught Gavioli saxophone in the mid-1990s at Abner Gibbs Elementary School in Westfield. A master of most instruments, according to Gavioli, Walter does many of the group’s arrangements.

Light refreshments will be available free of charge, with donations welcome.

The First Congregational Church of Montague is located at 4 North Street, on the Montague Center Common. For more info, please call (413) 367-9467.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Moves Toward Green Electricity Option

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

At Tuesday’s Leverett select-board meeting, board members were able to add Leverett to a list of regional towns applying to receive aid from the Department of Energy Resources. Alyssa Larose, planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Government, told the board the aid would be up to \$5,000, since Leverett is designated by the state as a Green Community.

Margie McGinnis passed on some information about the residential aggregation of electricity. The town is looking for a supplier to offer quotes for three tiers of electricity, so that residents can decide for themselves how much of a premium they choose to place on getting theirs from green sources.

“We should announce how we will award the contract,” McGinnis said.

Tom Hankinson suggested using an average of the quoted “base” price and the upgraded “green” energy pricing. “This way, [bidders] can’t manipulate the base to be less

by cranking up the other two,” Hankinson explained.

Peter d’Errico added that the board should add flexibility as a factor to consider.

“We don’t want our hands to be tied based on price,” Julie Shively agreed.

“We don’t even need to label one the ‘base.’ We can just have option one, option two, and option three,” McGinnis added.

McGinnis is working on the announcement, but none was completed at the meeting.

Aging in Peace

The board opted to join Mayors for Peace again. A fee of \$16, or 2,000 yen, was required to join the organization.

This year Leverett will send \$32, to cover two years. “Last year, they sent the check back because it would cost more to change dollars to yen than the check was worth,” McGinnis explained.

Tom Masterton updated the board on the Aging in Place meetings that he has been attending. Masterton is

not attending on behalf of the board, but rather for his own interest in a service called Village to Village, which provides vetted volunteers and contractors to paid members.

“It used to be that family members were around to provide services to the elderly. Now that’s not the case,” Masterton explained.

Masterton told the board a basic membership could be purchased for \$100, which would provide access to the website. After two years with the basic membership, Leverett would either have to opt out or upgrade to a full membership.

The board declined to purchase a membership, but encouraged Masterton to provide updates for any larger issues that arise.

The Burden of History

The historical highway garage will require some repairs. McGinnis said an architect with historical knowledge should make recommendations about the repairs.

“Now there are changes in code that require the building to have a certain weight bearing load,” Mc-

Ginnis explained.

The construction may be cheaper if the chimneys are removed from the structure. Considerations of historical value, code requirements, and structural integrity were discussed.

“Is the chimney by a weight-bearing wall?” Hankinson asked.

“According to the Historical Preservation Commission, the outside needs to be historically preserved, but we can do whatever we want to the inside,” said d’Errico.

“If removing the chimney is more cost effective, then that is what we should do,” Shively agreed.

Due to the limited budget, the board agreed on the cheapest possible method to preserve the structure and comply with code requirements.

Missing Fiber?

The municipal light plant has told McGinnis that Leverett should have some fiber on hand, in case repairs need to be made to the town’s broadband network.

D’Errico voiced concerns about the disappearance of existing fiber after the contract with Millennium wrapped up.

McGinnis said there is money for the purchase of new fiber, and the board voted to pursue that option.

Brace for Arrows

A regional highway sign-mak-

ing program, run through FRCOG, will allow Leverett to create low-cost highway signs. A Leverett employee will be sent to Greenfield to be trained in sign making, and from there on out will be able to make signs at a lower cost than purchasing the signs outright.

“This would be the kind of thing that would be great for arrow signs,” said d’Errico.

Other Business

McGinnis told the board she needs to update the Community Development Plan in order to submit the application for funding. The board agreed to use a plan submitted in 2008 as a guide.

Two abutters, residents constantly at odds, Lisa Crocker and Clayton Prince, were reported to still be working out their issues. Crocker has been asked to create an action plan with milestones for zoning violations.

“She can’t have an animal structure right on the property line. That includes a fence,” d’Errico explained.

The board is considering their next steps, including whether law enforcement should get involved.

“We are concerned about her progress,” said Hankinson.

The next meeting of the Leverett selectboard will be held Tuesday, July 12.

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Esta es la página en español del periódico The Montague Reporter. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



DACA y DAPA: ¿Y ahora qué?

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

La semana pasada debido a la noticia sobre el Brexit, la paralización de DAPA y la extensión del DACA han pasado casi desapercibidas entre las noticias diarias. A unos meses de dejar la Casa Blanca, el Presidente Obama ha visto como uno de sus proyectos legislativos más importantes ha sido paralizado por un empate en la Corte Suprema.

En este momento, dicha Corte consta de ocho jueces al no haberse llevado a cabo el reemplazo de Scalia tras su fallecimiento, pese a que el presidente Obama propuso el nombre de Merrick Garland. El Senado con mayoría republicana, decidió tomar en cuenta la propuesta del senador McConnell y esperar hasta después de las elecciones, el próximo noviembre, para cubrir el puesto de Scalia.

El empate se produjo porque en este momento hay cuatro jueces liberales y cuatro conservadores.

Para entender mejor qué supone esta paralización, hagamos un poco de historia. DACA (Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia) es una acción ejecutiva, que no ley, anunciada en 2012 y que tiene la intención de favorecer a inmigrantes no documentados que entraron en los Estados Unidos siendo niños, los llamados Dreamers.

Por supuesto, para solicitar esta acción ejecutiva se deben reunir una serie de condiciones, como por ejemplo, ser menor de 31 años en 2012 o haber obtenido el título de bachillerato.

DAPA (Acción Diferida para Responsabilidad de los Padres) es la acción ejecutiva anunciada por Obama en 2014 para favorecer a personas indocumentadas

que sean progenitores de ciudadanos estadounidenses. Al igual que con DACA se deben cumplir una serie de condiciones para acceder a sus beneficios.

Tanto DACA como DAPA son acciones ejecutivas, no leyes, y por lo tanto no son vías para la ciudadanía.

Al no ser una ley, 26 estados republicanos capitaneados por Texas, presentaron una demanda contra la acción ejecutiva de Obama ya que consideraban que el presidente se había excedido en sus funciones al entrar en un terreno que podía perjudicar de algún modo a dichos estados. La base de la demanda es si el presidente tiene el poder para legislar o esto supondría la ruptura del equilibrio de poderes.

La paralización de estas dos acciones ejecutivas tiene consecuencias directas para unos cinco millones de personas de los once millones de indocumentados que se baraja viven en los Estados Unidos. El empate no supone que la Corte Suprema haya dado la razón a los estados demandantes, ni que se la haya quitado a Obama, simplemente que debe tomarse en cuenta la decisión de la última corte federal que decidió sobre el caso.

Carlos González, dreamer de origen dominicano que trabajó con el congresista Mike Honda, lamenta que la paralización no permita legalizar la situación de muchos familiares, pero aclara que respecto al DACA esta paralización solamente afecta a la extensión de beneficios que había propuesto Obama.

Para los Dreamers, no todo está perdido queda esperanza aunque no sea en un futuro inmediato.



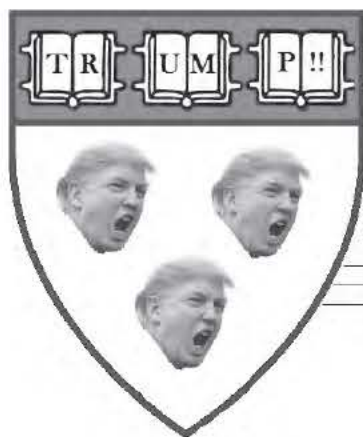
El juez Gonzalo Curiel y la Universidad Trump.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

En 2005 Donald Trump decidió fundar con otros dos socios Trump University. Trump quiso aprovechar el tirón de su éxito como celebridad y el auge de las universidades online.

En 2011 tuvo que cambiar el nombre por Trump Entrepreneur Initiative ya que se le prohibió seguir utilizando la palabra university por resultar engañosa. Este negocio tuvo que cerrar hace algunos años, pero ¿qué se enseñaba en esta pseudo universidad?

Se dictaban cursos de relacionados con el sector inmobiliario, sobre la bolsa y especialmente, y tal y como rezaba su publicidad, la forma de alcanzar el éxito. Los precios podían variar de mil a 30.00



dólares, dependiendo del tipo de curso que se eligiese.

Por supuesto, las quejas no se hicieron esperar, multitud de demandas individuales y finalmente dos demandas colectivas. Una fue realizada en New York acusando a la institución de estafa, ya que nunca fue

realmente una universidad. La segunda interpuesta en California que lo acusa de fraude por falsas promesas.

Gonzalo Curiel es un juez del Distrito Sur de California, de origen hispano y nacido en Indiana donde también se graduó en la Facultad de Derecho. Curiel falló en favor de lo que pedían los demandantes, entre ellos el periódico *The Washington Post*, obligando a Trump y su negocio a publicar los documentos internos de dicho negocio, ya que al ser un candidato a la presidencia de los Estados Unidos se consideran de interés público.

El candidato a la presidencia acusó duramente a Curiel, alegando que al ser mexicano sentía odio hacia él y por ello no le debía ser permitido juzgar

el caso.

Es de todos conocido las proclamas que el candidato ha lanzado durante la campaña a favor de la creación de un muro entre México y los Estados Unidos o los ataques directos a los mexicanos, por ello considera que Curiel tiene un conflicto de intereses al no ser imparcial.

Por supuesto, las protestas ante estas declaraciones no se hicieron esperar y diversas organizaciones latinas exigieron las disculpas de Trump. Así mismo, miembros de su partido como Paul Ryan o Arnold Schwarzenegger condenaron estas declaraciones.

Trump está bastante lejos del arrepentimiento y más aun de disculparse y sigue insistiendo en el conflicto de intereses.

OPINIÓN

La matanza en Pulse reabre el debate sobre las armas.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

No puedo negar que se me hace muy duro escribir este artículo. Cincuenta personas, incluido el autor del tiroteo perdieron la vida y otras 53 resultaron heridas. Es muy difícil para alguien que no ha crecido en los Estados Unidos, entender que sea tan fácil poder comprar un arma que pueda acabar con la vida de medio centenar de personas.

Pulse era un santuario para la comunidad LGTB de Orlando y nació con la idea de un lugar de diversión y esparcimiento para una comunidad que no se siente segura en otros lugares de ocio. Dio la casualidad que esa misma noche se celebraba una fiesta latina y la mayoría de las víctimas fueron puertorriqueños, cubanos y mexicanos.

Este ha sido el mayor ataque en Estados Unidos a la comunidad LGTB, seguido del incendio provocado en bar de ambiente homosexual en Nueva Orleans en el que murieron 33 personas.

Omar Mateen entró esa noche en el club y abrió fuego contra todos los que estaban allí. Las razones no están claras, y quizás nunca se sabrán, el asesino se las llevó consigo. Algunos apuntan al terrorismo islámico, otros que se trata de un caso de homofobia y los menos, alegan un trastorno mental. Puede haber otras razones o incluso ser todas a la vez, y fue en Pulse, pero podría haber sucedido en cualquier otro lugar de este país.

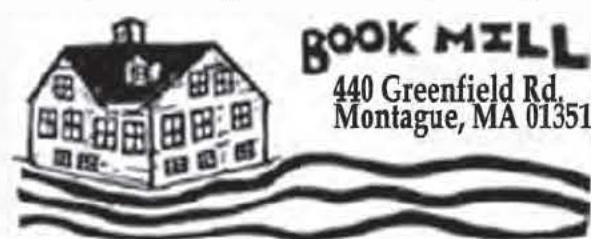
Y digo en este país porque no hay otro lugar en el mundo donde sea tan fácil poder comprar de una forma legal un tipo de arma que sea capaz de matar un gran número de personas. Al final, por mucho que los diversos intereses políticos y partidistas quieran dar importancia a las razones para llevar a cabo este tipo de acto, lo único que debe tener importancia es que 50 personas perdieron la vida y que en el momento en que estoy escribiendo estas líneas, o quizás en unas semanas o meses, otra matanza así se puede producir de nuevo.

Y esto debe ser suficiente para hacer reflexionar a los políticos y a los ciudadanos sobre la importancia de restringir la compra de armas o al menos controlar de alguna manera qué tipo de armas se venden. Porque lo único importante es que no se vuelva a producir una matanza de estas características.



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CHIEF from page A1

not say at what point the substance of an investigation would be made public.

“From the information provided to the board, we saw no evidence of wrongdoing,” selectboard chair Richard Kuklewicz explained to the Reporter on Tuesday.

Consultant to Helm WPCF

In other news, the board appointed Grant Weaver, president of the Connecticut-headquartered Water Planet Company, as interim administrator of the town’s Water Pollution Control Facility. Weaver will replace Robert Trombley, who retires on June 30. Weaver will serve as interim while the town hires a permanent superintendent.

Weaver, who has been consulting with the WPCF for several years, holds a bachelor of science from Kansas State University, a master of science in bio-environmental engineering from Oklahoma State University, and “completed post-graduate studies” in environmental toxicology at MIT. Weaver has administered several plants and has provided 60 others with “plant optimization technical support.”

Weaver’s proposal was selected by the selectboard after it obtained two other quotes for consulting services under state open bidding laws. The proposal states that “Water Planet will administer the functions of Town’s Sewer System, supervise staff, and otherwise perform the duties of the WPCF superintendent.” He will be paid \$34,950 for the period from July 1 to October 31.

The board also established a “selection committee” to assist in the appointment of a permanent superintendent. The committee will include town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron, WPCF staff member Tim Little, town planner Walter Ramsey, town accountant Carolyn Olson, building inspector David Jensen, and Weaver himself.

There was some discussion of whether it should include members

of “the public.” Abbondanzio noted, however, that the WPCF superintendent was not a “higher level position” like a school superintendent or town administrator which would presumably require a broader hiring committee. The position has already been advertised so the hiring committee was directed to begin interviews as soon as possible.

Abbondanzio stated that he believed Weaver should stay on the job until the end of October, even if the permanent position was filled, to help with the transition. Weaver stated he was eager to “get the frustrations behind us,” apparently a reference to the recent controversy over the selectboard’s rejection of a staff plan that would have eliminated the single supervisor position. Weaver said his goal was to “solidify the rewards” of recent plant innovations.

Two Other Grants

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board execute a \$40,000 grant from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The grant will help the town update its subdivision regulations, which “have not been touched since 1989,” according to Ramsey. The town may contract with Franklin Regional Council of Governments to do the work.

Ramsey also requested that the board approve a \$20,000 grant to assess the feasibility improving utility and infrastructure connections to the Strathmore building on the power canal. This grant is from the state Executive office of Housing and Economic Development. The board approved both requests.

Various Nelsons

The selectboard, acting as the personnel board, accepted the resignation of Danielle F. Marie as a per diem police dispatcher. It appointed Alan Stevens as a groundskeeper and Mark Nelson, Jr., as maintenance worker at the DPW. Selectboard member Mike Nelson said Mark Nelson was his “biological brother,” but that he had urged

DPW head Tom Bergeron to show no favoritism in the hiring process. Bergeron said Nelson’s brother was the best candidate.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson then requested that the board allow him to build a retaining wall on 40 Greenfield Road along the town right of way.

He said the wall is necessary to maintain the stability of his front yard as a result of the widening of Greenfield Road. He said that both the state Department of Transportation and the DPW felt the wall was needed, but neither wanted to undertake the work.

The board approved the request, with Nelson abstaining.

Other Business

The board approved a request by Greg Garrison for the ninth annual Northampton Cycling Club Race at the Montague Industrial Park. The race will take place on four dates in July. Garrison said the Lady Killigrew cafe would donate dinner to the winner, and beer to the other participants.

The board made numerous appointments to town committees and paid town positions which are set to expire on June 30. These range from the town administrator position to the Forest Warden to the members of the Battlefield Grant advisory board.

Ramsey announced that the town had been notified that it had been awarded “Phase 2” of the National Park Service Grant to study the battle, or massacre, at Turners Falls.

The board approved a request by pipeline liaison Ariel Elan to sign an agreement with other towns to receive donations for the cost of opposing the proposed natural gas pipeline.

The board retired to three executive sessions, one to discuss collective bargaining strategy and two to consider personnel matters. The second of these involved police chief Chip Dodge. The board reconvened at 10:30 to make their announcement that Dodge had been taken off administrative leave.

RAMBLERS from page A1

Resident Sam Lovejoy asked if the building’s septic system would be placed far enough from Green Pond, part of the district’s protected aquifer, and Michael Brown told him his department was happy with the planned setbacks.

“People in Lake Pleasant have appreciated their presence in the area,” said building inspector David Jensen, a resident of that village himself. “This club has been very effective at conscientious use of the land surrounding them.”

“The state is not opposed to the Ramblers at all,” added Lovejoy, who works as a land agent for Fisheries and Wildlife.

The board and building inspector puzzled over the definition of an open recreational enterprise. Only

5% of such an operation may be covered with “structures and paving,” and the plans would exceed that if an overflow parking lot were paved, but it didn’t sound like it would be.

The board voted, 4-0, to issue the permits. “I think it’s really great that the club is able to find a place so close to where they were,” said Sojka.

According to Ramblers building committee member John Collins, the club’s next step is to be cleared by the state’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

He has submitted that application, which will require a 60-day period that could include inspection by a biologist – and, as Grimard added, the site would need a “turtle sweep.”

If everything goes well, the club hopes to start building as soon as this fall.



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George Eliot



DEBT VOTE from page A1

an owner of a \$200,000 property for 20 years, proved more popular than the Strathmore cleanup, which could cost the same owner \$10 a year for 10 years.

Nevertheless, both questions won a majority in every precinct, except for Precinct 2, Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant, which found itself split 49-49 on the question of whether asbestos and other dangerous materials should be left in the mills.

The election, known as a debt exclusion vote, was necessary because the spending would temporarily increase the town’s tax burden in

excess of that permitted by the state law known as Proposition 2.5.

Total turnout town-wide was 605, about a fifth of that for the spring’s presidential primary vote or the 2014 state election.

It was not the lowest in recent memory. Last June, a similar debt exclusion vote, to replace the windows on the Sheffield Elementary School gymnasium, saw only 400 voters, 82% of whom favored borrowing for the project. And in May 2014, 393 residents cast ballots in a town election, despite a lack of any contested races.



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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Earth, Air and Water

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Reflection on the effect of humankind on this beautiful planet is not uplifting. We have done much to despoil the very life breath of earth, air and water.

But we are not the masters of the universe, much as we may like to think.

There are other more powerful forces at work, whether we name them spiritual or natural.

We read once that the science of weather prediction hasn't grown much since World War I. Meteorologists have radar and weather balloons and trends to assist, but as we all know, the predicted path of a winter storm can change in a matter of minutes because of the jet stream, prevailing winds or ocean effect.

The population of honey bees has been negatively impacted by our persistent use of pesticides, but it is not just that simple. There are factors of season, weather, temperature and the crop of foods pleasing to bees that are equally significant to the overwintering, health and hardiness of the hive.

It is the same for the gardener. We can do much to control pesky weeds, insects and four-legged varmints, but we can't control the seasons. We are having a wonderful "on" year of much bloom and fruit, but a too-late frost took out the area's peach crop overnight.

That said, we gardeners try hard to optimize growing conditions by giving seeds well-fed soil, and by mulching and watering the plants, giving more sun to some and less to others. We try to plant with the weather to mitigate the potential

of frost at the season's start and still ensure enough growing time for each crop with its preference of cool to hot temperatures.

We don't like to admit it, but a lot depends on chance or lady luck.

While we returned from our winter escape later than usual, and were thus starting our tomato seeds a good two weeks after the usual late February plan, these plants came along fine, and given the good luck of an early hot spell, were set out well before Memorial Day. They had not lingered in the sunroom becoming lank and leggy waiting for warmer temperatures. They are blooming now and displaying small green fruit.

Now, we could change our planting timetable next year based on these successes. But there is no guarantee that next winter will be the same nor the spring temperatures for that matter.

I was late planting the peas. They can go in as soon as the ground can be crumpled in hand, as they prefer cool temperatures. As it was, we got an early hot spell and I hastened to plant them. Fortunately, we soon cooled down and got rain. The peas settled in and are now perhaps a week behind the usual first picking date of the Fourth of July.

We also have pole and bush beans growing on schedule, as well as pumpkin and cucumber plants just getting started. No harm done here. Some of gardening is planned, other bits more impulsive.

Ken had some sprouting red potatoes, and rather than consigning them to the compost, set out pieces of potato, each with an eye. Sure enough, they are coming up and if they produce a crop of potatoes, it will be serendipitous.

see GARDENERS page B3



On Thoreau's Trail: Part Two

By DAVID DETMOLD

ADAMS – Heat waves were rising off the asphalt as I pulled back onto the Mohawk Trail, and geared down for the climb up Greenfield Mountain. By the calendar, summer was still ten days away. But it was already shaping up to be a hot one.

What does it mean to be "late" on a bicycle trip? For me, being late is a feeling tied to the workaday world, where everyone seems constantly to be running to catch up with other people's schedules, and time is measured in distance divided by the average length of car trips.

Once you pack a toothbrush and a change of clothing and get on a bike, the measurement of distance over time changes. It becomes more flexible: "I'll get there as soon as I can, without exhausting myself, or missing anything worth watching along the way."

And what does it mean to "take a wrong turn" in a part of the country as beautiful as western Mass. in June?

It means a chance to see more roadside flower stands, to sample more roadside springs, to admire old barns that have not yet entirely fallen down to their foundation stones, though they appear to be listing in that direction as you slowly pedal by.

As Henry David Thoreau put it, back in 1849, recalling his trip to Mt. Greylock, the same mountain I was cycling to now, "...what's the hurry? If a person lost would conclude that after all he is not lost, he is not beside himself, but standing in his own old shoes on the very spot where he is, and that for the time being he will live there; but

the places that have known him, they are lost – how much anxiety and danger would vanish."

On Greenfield Mountain, no one had climbed the rusting steps of the Three State Long View Tower to gaze over to New Hampshire or Vermont in many a long year. Caution signs hung from its girders, and a sign on the window of the abandoned gift shop read, "Dan's Repair and Remodeling – No Job To Small." That said it all.

I saw a medicine wheel of broken asphalt by the old Overlook Lodge. I found the king of flies – an electric green dragonfly – lying dead in the gutter by Frank Williams Road. Near Hager's farmstand I found two discs – in good condition – from a 3-CD set of Ray Charles' greatest hits tossed on the shoulder.

You can find a lot by the side of the road if you keep your eyes open on a bike trip.

The first mowing was drying in the fields by Clesson Brook, the manure was perfuming the air by the dairy barns, and the Bernie Sanders banners were blowing in the wind. The new corn was three inches high.

After a steep climb, I stopped at the Lake House in Ashfield, under new management, for an asparagus and smoked mozzarella quesadilla, and a cold draft beer. No more peanut shells on the floor.

It was more than pleasant to sit by the lake, with a fresh bouquet of peonies on the table and the bartender recounting his meeting in Boston years ago with Muhammad Ali. "He was polite. He said hello to everyone in the lounge. A real gentleman." Back when a Muslim was America's hero.

Heading west on 116, I stopped

to see an irresistible field of purple heather and buttercups in the evening sun. Great sentinels of ancient sugar maples marched side by side up the hill to the white clapboard center of Plainfield. One tree, long dead, was left standing to fill its place in line, rather than leave a gap in the honor guard.

Still climbing, on the road to Savoy, I passed a lake so beautiful, surrounded by green-leaf trees in the full splendor of spring, and set about with grassy tussocks and the liquid calls of birds, I could not help but admire the wisdom of whoever left this place entirely undeveloped. What better welcome sign for your town than an unspoiled lake?

Not long after, I bedded down in a little furrow of ground to the north of the highway, snacked on lentil salad, and let the infrequent sound of passing cars lull me to sleep.

Thoreau recalled sleeping by a fire after admiring the poetry of newspaper advertisements he found atop Mt. Greylock in 1844. "My only companions were the mice, which came to pick up the crumbs that had been left in those scraps of paper; still, as everywhere, pensioners on man, and not unwisely improving this elevated tract for their habitation. They nibbled what was for them; I nibbled what was for me."

Next day, I met my friends at the Greylock Visitor Center in Lanesborough. Despite warnings from the staff – and the weather apps on their cell phones – we decided to head right up the mountain we had come so far to climb. We took the Cheshire Harbor Trail, and started up just as it began to rain.

Gentle at first. But we weren't on the trail half an hour when we

see TRAIL page B4

Turners Falls Goes to War: Part VIII



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 (well, we're behind by a week at this point). We have so far published three letters written by a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter.

The June 22, 1898 edition of the

Reporter ran Sullivan's fifth letter, which we reprint in full, after a few snippets of local news.

The Crocker national bank takes subscriptions for the war bond issue.

John Morrison of this town, a marine on the "Panther" is at Guantamono, where there has been some sharp fighting going on.

The war revenue bill has been passed and on and after July 1 we will have to do our share towards paying for the war. A good many people will change their ideas on the subject and will pray as fervently for war to cease as they did for it to begin. It takes considerable more

see WAR page B4

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The Silverthorne Theater Company opened its summer season this past week with a production of *The Miser* by Molière, a farce that offers humor and reflection on the foolishness of anyone who chooses love of money over family and friends. The original play was performed in France in the mid-1600s during the reign of Louis XIV, whose patronage Molière received.

This production is a more modern version, adapted by Miles Malleson and set in the 1930s, when the theme of greed and selfishness certainly suited the times. As you laugh, you may also find yourself reflecting on the truth revealed behind the melodrama and farce of this play.

The main character is a miserly man of some sixty-plus years named Harpagon, a widower with two grown children. John Reese brings Harpagon to life in a performance of a quality rarely seen. The many faces of John Reese – it is simply amazing how one person can show so many different emotions and states of mind in one scene.

Reese is constantly on stage, appearing in almost every scene. Tall, slim, dressed in what can only be described as some kind of night shirt with an odd white cotton cap, strings hanging down beside his face, looking strange yet in command at every moment.

His energy and focus are impressive. In one long scene towards the end of the play he goes from fear to



Scene from Molière's *The Miser*, a French farce produced by the Silverthorne Theater Company, in performance at GCC Sloan Theater this week.

Ben Sarat, who plays Harpagon's son Cleante, is shown here with Carolyn Paine, playing his love interest, Marianne, who is also promised to Harpagon.

joy to anger to despair, even to death itself, but a death that is an illusion, a failure to recognize that he is alive. Just a momentary lapse, where he doubts he can survive without his money. Simple determination revives him, plus the idea that surely he can get the money back.

Director Julian Findley, a local actor/director of extensive experience and talent, has brought to this performance the gift of creating an environment where the actors work well together. They collaborate in each scene; it is always interesting to watch as well as listen to the repartee of the characters.

Great comic timing, a quick pace of action, lots of

see MISER page B6

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Boo Bee! I'm a dapper, mature gentleman, far from retirement!

We'll enjoy playing as I fetch toys, jump on crackly things and chase critters. I've been an indoor/outdoor kitty, but I was only allowed to hang out in a fenced-in area. I found the chipmunks and mice especially entertaining! I get along with other cats - I'm very good with kittens! The dog and I didn't hang

out together but I could probably live with one. I like to greet guests when your friends and family come to visit. I would do best in a quiet adult household.

My guardian is moving but isn't taking me with him! Come see about me!

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



“BOO BEE”

Senior Center Activities JULY 4 to 8

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 7/4 CENTER CLOSED
Tuesday 7/5

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 7/6
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 7/7

No Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 7/8 Aerobics, Chair Excs.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 7/4 CENTER CLOSED
Tuesday 7/5

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
Homemade Lunch (sign up)
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 7/6

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
1-3 p.m. Veterans Here to Guide

Thursday 7/7

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring
Friday 7/8
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling; Walking Club
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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

MR at the Great Falls Farmers Market: Giants in Gill!

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Bunnies, that is...

At the Farmers Market last Wednesday, I learned about a large and lusty rabbit who lives in Gill and has sired some sixty young ones so far. This Flemish giant is only three years old, but he's been "a very busy boy" over there, according to owner Linzee Lang.

The twenty-one-pound rabbit "has the best mood and attitude," she says. "He won't eat unless I kiss and hug him and love him. I have quite a few rabbits like that: they are just a lovable, very social breed."

People come from the Canadian border, from Connecticut, the Cape, and New Jersey to get one of her Flemish or lion head rabbits for a pet.

"People like to put them on leashes and walk them," reports Linzee. "They say they watch TV. They are great couch potato buddies."

Linzee was at the market to buy some more herbs and other goodies



to plant on her South Cross Road land in Gill, which she calls "Hoppinhill Farm."

But the rabbits and lambs she keeps there aren't really a business – they are therapy for her. "I was disabled – well, I still am, but now they told me I am 'just old' – so I started raising animals so I would get up and move and do things for them, because they are counting on me to keep them alive. I am in such pain all the time, this is what I have to do, and it helps me."

A Flemish giant rabbit can live up to fourteen years! I will be visiting Hoppinhill soon to pet some of the lovable bunnies there. Linzee welcomes visitors who give her a heads up before coming over. Look for Hoppinhill Farm online to contact her about a visit.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Is it just us at MCTV or is this year whizzing by? We're looking at you, July.

Viewers! We've got a full course of new programming available this week:

- Val's Valley View, Episode 2 is available for streaming, as well as at select times in the TV schedule. Follow Val as she explores Paddle Sports at Barton's Cove in Gill.
- Circus Smirkus's big top tour is coming to the Pioneer Valley! Circus Smirkus's youth circus is coming to the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton in July. Three youths,

featured in this video, call the Pioneer Valley their home. See what it's all about – check out this promo video online!

- Carlos W. Anderson's June 11 sermon "Choose Again" was filmed at Unity in the City, Brookline MA, and is now available on our website.

And now for this week's features...

- Lots of folks had a blast at the Mutton and Mead Festival this past June. Relive the festivities with this theatrically introduced production: twenty minutes of music, dancing, and the joust. See it online or in our TV schedule.
- Last but not least, catch the

Girls' Division III Softball Championships, which were held in Worcester on July 18 and pitted Turners Falls against Austin Prep. You can check it on TV or catch it online, anytime. Hint: you'll be cheering for our very own REPEAT champions!

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

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

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Falling Down



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Do older people faint more than younger people?

Yes. When you pass 70 years, you double the chances of fainting. And the odds triple after 80. Fainting is common. About one in three people faint at least once in a lifetime.

Syncope (SINK-o-pea) is the medical word for fainting or a temporary – a few seconds' – loss of consciousness. Fainting happens when your brain isn't getting enough oxygen from your blood supply.

Syncope is often foreshadowed by "premonitory symptoms" that include nausea, feeling lightheaded and irregular heartbeats.

[Personal note: I have what doctors call "presyncope." My knees buckle and I get very close to passing out but never quite make it. This happens only when I see my own blood in clear bag or syringe. I've been kicked out of blood banks.]

Syncope is a symptom, not a

medical condition. Syncope can be an indicator of a serious problem, so it should not be taken lightly. If you have a fainting spell, get checked out by a doctor. It's sometimes difficult to diagnose syncope in seniors because there can be multiple causes.

Here's a typical fainting scenario: You stand up. There's blood in the legs that has to be redistributed so there's enough going to your brain. Your nervous system starts sending rapid signals to the heart and blood vessels to correct the imbalance. Older people's bodies simply don't respond as well as they used to; they tend to faint more often because of their reduced capacity.

In another common syncope scenario, you feel faint after a meal because blood has poured into your digestive system.

There are many causes for fainting. Some are benign; some aren't. The causes include abnormalities of the blood, brain, arteries and veins, heart, medications and low blood pressure. Passing out can be the only symptom of heart attack in older people.

Low blood pressure is commonly caused by drugs for high blood pressure, surgical medications, anti-anxiety agents, diuretics, heart medicines, antidepressants, narcotic painkillers and alcohol. Other causes of low blood pressure include dehydration, heart failure, heart arrhythmias,

shock from infection, stroke, severe allergic reaction, major trauma, heart attack and advanced diabetes.

Even after extensive testing, the cause of syncope is not found in almost half of the cases.

There are names for categories of syncope. These include:

- Vasovagal, the common variety, which happens when blood pressure drops suddenly;
- Situational, a form of vasovagal syncope that is triggered by events such as anxiety, hunger, pain, coughing, wearing a tight collar or urinating;
- Postural, which occurs when the blood pressure drops suddenly because you got up too fast;
- Cardiac, which strikes when heart or blood-vessel problems interfere with blood flow;
- Neurologic, which is caused by seizure or stroke.

Treatment for syncope depends upon the cause. Treatment may include: diet changes, support garments to improve circulation, changing medications, avoiding situations that cause syncope, rising slowly from a sitting or lying position, and installing devices to control your heart rate.

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

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GARDENERS from page B1

If not, just a fun experiment with Mother Nature.

When I once tried planting sprouting potatoes, everything went well until potato bug radar found my crop and decimated the plants.

Then there was the sudden appearance of a flock of cedar waxwings this spring. Somehow they found my one apple tree and proceeded to eat the petals, taking all of the blossoms in the matter of a morning.

When you are a gardener, you want to make things come out well, and do your best to make that happen. If you are an intrepid

gardener and crops fail or do poorly, you feel the challenge to try again and perhaps again. Then, and only then, do you decide to let go of a certain crop or plant and try something new.

If only we could put our vast human knowledge to righting the wrongs of our interference with earth, air and water. Then we could allow the planet to do what nature can do, and right the balance itself.

This may be fool's thinking, but what would be the harm in giving it a try?

In the meantime, I'll go back to tending my own garden.



The YMCA, as a Whole

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The YMCA, which stands for Young Men's Christian Association, was first founded by a London draper name George Williams. According to Wikipedia, he and his colleagues had concerns about "the lack of healthy activities for young men in major cities." His idea sprang from the bible and prayer meetings among his fellow workers at his business in London.

On June 6, 1844 this man officially created the first YMCA in London. The purpose he had in mind was "the improving of the spiritual condition of young men engaged in the drapery, embroidery, and other trades."

The year 1851 saw them in the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States. There are currently Y's in every New England state.

At the moment, the YMCA has many programs to help people with fitness, which connects with "Healthy Development," which is part of the Y's mission. There is a summer camp where kids can go as part of "Youth Development," something that is focused on at the Y as well. Lastly, "social responsibility" at the Y is done, one way, through helping someone get their GED. The whole focus of the Y as stated on the official website is "for youth development, for healthy development and for social responsibility." These goals seem to be very worthwhile for someone to do, and I personally have been to the summer camp that goes on in my area.

The people who work at the YMCA also seem to sing their praises. I found this out from a few workers at the YMCA in Greenfield and the one in Athol.

"If you never worked out before,

it's a great place to get fit," says Dee, a program director at the Y in Athol. Dee has been there for over 20 years, and has been program director for the last four. "I run the aquatic department," she mentions, and she always works in either that or the fitness department.

She revealed one interesting fact about the staff as well: "We had a lot of volunteers. We have staff that started as volunteers, and stayed on."

The people at the YMCA in Greenfield have something interesting to say, too. Another director named Jane, who has been in charge of fitness for 18 years, said, "We help people get fit, from babies up to seniors and beyond."

She also has a little to say about financing this endeavor: "We have a generous sliding scale. We turn no one away. They will not deny anyone a Y membership for participation in most activities due to lack of funds. The amount of assistance is based on the household size and household gross income."

"We're a great place to work. We have 135 employees," said a man named Bob, who has been the executive director for 29 years.

Bob called the Y "a non-profit charity that serves all ages, abilities and income levels."His work is like this to him: "Never considered it a job. It's been a fun hobby for 29 years."

A couple of thoughts come to mind when I hear some of these comments. One is that the organization seems to still be practicing the Christian values it was founded on, after all this time. George Williams could be very pleased with the part about never denying anyone a membership due to funding problems, and their commitment to serve "all ages, abilities and income levels."

Given where the idea sprang from, there is a fair chance that George would not dislike the way it is now.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Tough Times on Fourth Street; Weekend Excavation; Prank Calls

Monday, 6/20

9:22 a.m. Caller reports that he was parked near the Bookmill, left for a bike ride, and came back approximately 15 minutes later to find one of his vehicle's windows smashed. Report taken.

1:18 p.m. Postal carrier reports a hypodermic needle on the steps of a Seventh Street residence.

2:24 p.m. Party into station with the container of sharps she found outside her apartment building on Fourth Street.

2:52 p.m. Caller reports that someone spray-painted his building on Rod Shop Road; requests that an officer stop and view the graffiti.

10:25 p.m. Caller complaining of noise coming from the Unity Park basketball courts. All parties moved along.

10:49 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Tuesday, 6/21

8:24 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with possession of a Class A drug.

4:26 p.m. Animal control officer advising he picked up a juvenile skunk from a location on Turners Falls Road.

8:33 p.m. Caller reports seeing a 40-50 year old male sitting on the side or rail of the Canal Street bridge. Officer located party (a female), who is currently sitting on the rail of the bridge smoking. Officer spoke with party; advises she is sitting on the inside railing and appears to be fine for the time being.

8:59 p.m. Report of a hydrant with water running from it on South High Street. TFFD notified. Per FD, this water is coming up out of the ground. They are contacting the water department.

11:51 p.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle in trees across from basketball court at Unity Park. Officers clear; vehicle and operator moved along.

12:14 a.m. Report of loud music in Lake Pleasant. Officers clear; parties advised to quiet music. Officers en route back to location as music has picked up again. Parties again advised to quiet music for night.

12:23 a.m. Report of shoplifting at F.L. Roberts; description of suspect and vehicle provided, last seen heading toward Avenue A. Possible involved vehicle seen in Greenfield; GPD units en route to area. Vehicle located in lot at registered owner's address. MPD on scene; able to re-

cover most stolen items. Summonses issued.

10:17 a.m. Caller reports hearing gunfire possibly from the golf course or DPW. Area search negative.

3:41 p.m. Multiple 911 hangups from pay phone outside Food City; sounds like kids playing with the phone. Kids located and spoken to; parents also spoken to about this activity.

10:27 p.m. Northampton state police attempted to transfer a call from a party reporting fireworks being set off in the area of the fish ladder. Area checked; nothing located.

Thursday, 6/23

8:12 a.m. Caller reporting that he hit a cat on Turners Falls Road. Caller was headed to work in Amherst; was advised he could leave the scene. Officer unable to locate cat. Owner called in and was advised; will attempt to locate and remove cat.

2:14 p.m. Caller from Playground Skate Shop advises that things are missing from the business; thinks someone broke in. Caller will bring list of missing items. Investigated.

2:22 p.m. Caller advises there are many people living in the tan garage next to her house.

4:18 p.m. Assault on Fourth Street. One party with head injury and lacerations transported to hospital. Investigated.

5:51 p.m. Caller from Federal Street requesting that his tenant be asked to leave due to his sex offender registry status; caller's son reportedly lives there and takes care of young children. Officer spoke to caller, who stated that tenant called him a racist and that is why he wanted him to move out. Caller wanted it on record that he is not a racist and just thinks tenant needs to get on with his life.

6:52 p.m. Motorist reports that a train passed through the area near Swamp Road; she now smells something like burning rubber, and

there is quite a bit of smoke in the area. Shelburne Control requested to tone MCFD.

9:21 p.m. Caller from X Street reports that his residence was broken into, front door kicked in, sometime in the last 24 hours or so. Report taken.

Friday, 6/24

5:46 a.m. Caller reports a larger-sized, deep hole in the road on L Street with multiple cracks around it; concerned that this may be a sinkhole starting. Officer confirmed hole and requested contact DPW, who will be en route.

6:15 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that at 5:15 this morning a male showed up with a "billy club" looking for a male party who he says has been squatting in the building where an earlier assault took place. Advised of options.

12:31 p.m. Report of an intoxicated male walking around on the canal end of Fourth Street with a long knife; knife reportedly half the length of his arm. Party was holding knife but not waving it or threatening anyone to caller's knowledge. Caller advises that the presence of the knife is making people in the area nervous. Area checked; did not locate anyone matching description.

1:14 p.m. Caller advising that a female party just left to meet with another party and give him money to purchase heroin for her. Male party is reportedly standing by corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 6/25

11:21 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports a female that is refusing to leave his apartment. When he asked her to leave and she refused, caller states that he pushed female to get her out, and she "took a swing" at him. Responding officer advises that the female party left "unwillingly." Both parties advised of options.

11:53 a.m. Caller reports passing by the construction area and noticing an excavator with a party inside atop a pile of stone. Caller thought it was odd that there would be work on a weekend. Officer spoke to party on scene; confirmed this is a company hauling out of this location today.

Sunday, 6/26

5:00 a.m. 911 call from F.L. Roberts; male ran into store requesting that someone call 911 because a white female had held him at knife point on L Street. Female fled area toward Unity Park. Area searched; unable to locate suspect. Report taken.

6:58 p.m. Caller advising she had taken in a stray dog and it was just hit by a car; states she lives in Rowe but came to Turners and dog was hit at corner of Fourth Street and Avenue A. Caller took dog inside apartment of a friend but cannot bring it to the vet. Caller requesting animal control officer response but does not want police coming to the residence. Message left for ACO. Officers responding; caller has active warrant.

[redacted] was arrested on a default warrant. Caller admitted that the dog had not been hit by a car in Turners; caller was passenger in a vehicle that was in an accident in Deerfield this afternoon. Caller fled scene with dog, who appears to have internal injuries and is still bleeding. Contacted Deerfield emergency vet, who advises that without an owner to bill, they cannot accept the dog as a patient. Parties elected not to take dog to emergency vet tonight; will bring it to Dr. Brown's in the morning. Animal control officer later advised that people involved with the caller are claiming that the caller was the actual owner all along and that she has taken the dog home. ACO will be investigating further.


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WAR from page B1

than shouting for Uncle Sam to “lick the Spaniards.”

The war tax on beer, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes has gone into effect.

A unique wargraph entertainment, particularly appropriate at this time, will be given at the opera house next Monday and Tuesday evenings. The wargraph will reproduce pictures of all the great battleships, admirals and war scenes in Cuba. The pictures will be produced by T.J. Mapes, who was for 15 years the illustrator with John L. Stoddard.

The new war tax on bank checks will probably go into effect July 1. After that date when you draw a check for an amount no matter how small, you will have to attach a two cent stamp.

On Board the Seneca, June 12.

To the Editor of the Reporter:

Owing to the great hurry in provisioning our transport I was unable the last time to write a longer and interesting letter. To make up for the brevity of my last letter I will endeavor to try and make up the deficiency by writing this epistle, as it will undoubtedly be my last before landing in Santiago.

We are told here on board that a censor has been placed on all newspaper correspondence as it is the wish of the government to keep all tidings or news of this expedition away from the people as much as possible. We are also informed that all our letters will be held in the postoffice in Tampa for five days after the fleet sails. If this is true it will be sure to cause anxiety on the part of the relatives at home.

TRAIL from page B1

heard the first claps of thunder.

By the time we reached the top we were wringing wet from the bills of our caps to the soles of our shoes. Thoreau took a different route.

When he climbed Greylock, he approached it from the north, on a route called the Bellows, frequented by parties of Williams College students. He wrote, “The thunder had rumbled at my heels all the way, but the shower passed off in another direction...” We had no such luck.

There were farms on the mountain then, and Thoreau provides a vignette of one farmer’s daughter he met along the trail, “...a frank and hospitable young woman, who stood before me in a dishabille, busily and unconcernedly combing her long black hair while she talked, giving her head the necessary toss with each sweep of the comb, with lively, sparkling eyes, and full of interest in the lower world from which I had come...”

On our way up, I searched for her. But again, no luck.

We did find the charming Bascom Lodge, built by the Civilian Conservation Corp at the summit

As to our present location, we are anchored in Tampa bay as yet, but rumor says we will sail this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Life on board is just as tough as ever. A good many of the boys took to sleeping on the upper and lower decks but had to relinquish their favorite sleeping places on account of the terrific rain storms we had the last two nights. Companies M and E of our regiment were transferred from our transport aboard a smaller one as our vessel was overcrowded.

The two companies are now aboard the Manteo, a small Mallory liner. C. E received a barrel of doughnuts and another of ginger bread from the ladies of Orange, also orange streamers to be work around the hat band with inscription stamped on them “Remember the Main,” “To hell with Spain.”

If there is anything that disgusts me it is to hear men yelling out that coarse double phrase. We are not surely going to war over the sinking of a vessel, the sinking of which was laid only in an indirect manner at the door of Spain. “For humanity’s sake” would have been a sweeter slogan.

Surely a civilized people is not going to let vengeance derange their reasoning powers or to destroy their better nature. The man who is continually thirsting for the blood of his fellow man kills all claims to civilization. Whoever wilfully or eagerly takes the life of another commits a terrible crime in the sight of God.

Therefore, as we are about to see the color of the Spaniard’s eyebrows in a short time it must not be taken for granted that we are thirsting for Spanish gore. If we meet them I suppose we will have to let a principle stifle for awhile our better feeling. But I hope America will not

in the 1930s – the highest lodging house in the Commonwealth. As we arrived, the rain quit, just as my friends’ cell phones had predicted. This made me wonder privately at our wealth of technology and our dearth of common sense.

The summit was shrouded in mist. We could not see the famous war memorial, built to memorialize the War to End All Wars. Just as well. It was under repair, suffering the wear and tear of the sanguinary century that followed.

But at the lodge there was a fire in the great stone fireplace, and hikers on the Appalachian Trail were drying out, as we were, and sampling apple cake fresh from the cafe bakery, with plenty of hot coffee to wash it down.

There is no company like the company that forms among hikers on the mountain trail. It warms you in the wettest weather.

That afternoon, I bid my friends farewell and cycled on alone. The day had cleared, and the night was mellow. In the morning, after the long climb past the hairpin turn and over the Hoosac Range I reached Florida. Amazing! The places you can get to on a weekend bike tour.

be forced to blush for any brutality on the part of her soldiers.

The real man of arms is always a real gentleman. Only the poltroon disgraces the profession.

The true warrior is a man of blood and iron whilst the battle rages and is as gentle and kind as a girl when the smoke clears away.

The real soldier is a mighty lion seeking to devour the uttermost until the enemy is *hors du combat*, when he binds up his wounds and administers his wants.

The true soldier is magnificent in eve and carriage when shot and shell fly, and beautiful in character when the foe comes bearing the white flag.

I hope that the American people will not be forced to read of atrocities committed by our troops. If we depart from the right path the whole world will stand ready to exaggerate our crimes. I believe if the strict discipline of the present is maintained the nation have very little to fear in that manner.

On close investigation I discovered that the sufferings of the Cuban people are not exaggerated by any means, from Cubans in Ybor who up to the time Weyler assumed command of the Spanish army in Cuba, were living happy and contented in that now blood-sodden land. They claim it was a favorite order of Weyler’s to order all the reconcentrados to be branded on the breast and kept herded together within a corral like so many cattle.

A poor Cuban told me with tears in his eyes, how his pure-minded virgin sister was outraged before his eyes by the brutal soldiery and dragged off to have her fair breast mutilated by red hot irons.

They say the people are not so

I ate a nectarine by the great bronze elk – another noble memorial to the forgotten dead of a dimly remembered war – and tossed the remnants to the sparrows.

Then, at 6 a.m., as triage workers sorted through the carnage at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, in the aftermath of the latest exhibition of the NRA’s “well regulated militia,” in a Florida far removed from mine, I got back on my bike and took off down the mountain-side to Charlemont.

After three days on the road, I had learned to trust my bike again. I did not touch the brakes. No cars passed me in either direction, for many miles.

It was a breathtaking ride, with the sun drenching the Cold River Valley. The road followed every curve of the river, far below; the trees lifted their leaves to the morning sun, the air rushed past as I picked up speed and descended, letting my bike fly.

You don’t need to be a transcendentalist to have a transcendental experience. Take a copy of Thoreau with you for instructions. Just get on your bike, and leave the cares of the world behind.

badly off as they were a few months ago. Sweet potatoes and other vegetable foods are able to keep body and soul together, thanks to ripening of the crops. They tell us we will find excellent water in Cuba, especially in Matanzas and Santa Clara.

How delighted the old Cubans were when we handed them our guns and let them show us how they handled them in the last war.

There are lots of people in the Falls who never saw a Cuban but would like to know how they look physically. Judging the book by the cover their external appearance is far from being perfect. They are a dark, swarthy looking people, several of them being darker than the average mulatto. A small frame, not a very well knit body, small head and narrow face about hits the average Cuban.

The women are not good looking, and there were no aching hearts in the 2d after our visit to Ybor. They put powder on their faces so thick on Sunday that you would be ready to swear that their husbands

came home Saturday nights and jammed their heads into a flour barrel. But in spite of their appearance we must respect them for what they have done for their country.

I must now say good by as the last boat leaves in a few minutes. This may be my last letter to the REPORTER or any body else, but let it come. The man who wears soldiers’ clothes should be a soldier. When I left home I did not leave it for the miserable allowance the government gave me; it was something purer and holier that urged me on.

Five of the transports have already sailed; we follow in half an hour.

The recruits for the 8th regulars arrived this morning. Only Co. L of Greenfield and I of Northampton are on this boat. The rest belong to the 8th.

All the Falls boys are in good health, not a single complaint from any of them this morning.

Now good bye for awhile.

Yours,

J.J. Sullivan



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 22 and June 29, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Creche Display Prompts Free Speech Dispute

Eric Chester, the 2002 1st Congressional District Socialist candidate against John Olver, is mounting a campaign for 1st Amendment rights on the Montague Town Common. He appeared before the Montague selectboard on Monday seeking the board’s approval to put up a 2’ x 6’ sign on the common saying, “U.S. Out of Iraq Now.”

The board hesitated to approve Chester’s request, until he pointed out they have routinely permitted the Congregational Church to put up a creche scene around Christmas time each year, and the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Knights of Columbus vs. Town of Lexington* held that any regulations governing the use of the town common must be “content neutral.”

In other words, if *any* displays are allowed on a town common, for a certain length of time, *all* displays must be allowed, for a similar length of time. Another option open to a town would be to ban all displays on the common.

Montague Board Battles \$600,000 Budget Gap

On Monday, June 26, the Montague selectboard worked to close a \$600,000 budget gap left in the wake of the June 6 override defeat.

According to chair Patricia Pruitt, the board hopes to avoid the need for a second override

attempt, by meeting the schools halfway. To this end, the board has proposed a series of cuts to town departments to be acted on at a special town meeting.

The proposed cuts include \$65,472 from the highway department, resulting in the loss of two positions there, and \$24,635 from the board of health, resulting in the loss of the town’s public health nurse.

Additionally, the board has proposed a reduction of \$3,360 in wages at the town clerk’s office, to be accomplished by saving one month’s salary when the clerk retires next May, at which time the assistant clerk would presumably run the office for the month of June.

Erving Approves 185-Acre Conservation Land Purchase

Citizens at the Erving special town meeting voted Monday evening, June 26, to spend \$800,000 in free cash and buy approximately 185 acres in two parcels on Old State Road from the estate of John Giniusz, and also to buy back the conservation restriction on 6.78 acres, which will remain owned by the family.

Of the remaining acreage, 167.3 acres on the north side of Old State Road will be kept in conservation land; 16.7 acres on the south side of the road will be put to a future use by the town which has yet to be determined.

Debate centers on the cost of the parcel, and the consequences to the town of buying the land, or of leaving it available for another buyer, most likely a developer.

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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 Monday each month, is off for the summer. Check here in the fall for announcement when it begins again.

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 THIRD FRIDAY

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



Detail from a painting by Karen Evans in her new show, *'Impressions of Turners Falls'*, at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. People who live locally will likely recognize the sites on which her paintings are based. Through July 30.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Found Object Art – An Exhibition by Andy Rothschild & Students*. Through July 8.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Impressions of Turners Falls*, paintings by Karen Evans. See photo and blurb this page. Through July 30.

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. Through October 30. \$

Sawmill River Arts Gallery at The Montague Mill, Montague: *Summer Celebration*. Featured artists: Louise Minks, Roy Mansur, Christine Mero, Christine Peller-

in, Patricia Czepiel Hayes. Exhibit runs through August 29.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Clouds*. The "sky of mind" of three artists, Marjorie Morgan, Nina Rossi and Barbara Milot fill the Nook with sculpture, pen and inks, and small canvases. Opens 7/7 through 8/27. Reception Friday, July 22, 5 to 7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Homecoming*. Paintings by E. Joseph McCarthy. Artist reception Saturday, July 2, 4 to 6 p.m. Through July 31.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Out and About...Shelburne Falls"*. A group show by artists celebrating Shelburne Falls. 18th Anniversary Reception on Saturday, July 16, 4 to 7 p.m. Through July 25.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

Sloan Theater at GC, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company presents Moliere's "The Miser". Classic French farce in a contemporary (but respectful) translation. 7:30 p.m. \$

Jaume I, Greenfield: *F/I/P* (Nace and Meginsky); *Bucket T* (Moore, Lane and Capistran); *BTO* (Bromp Treb and Offal). Experimental. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mya Holmes*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Jaume I, Greenfield: Opening, Rodney Madison & Luis Felipe Gonzalez. Refreshments; works for sale. 6 p.m.

Sloan Theater at GC, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company presents Moliere's "The Miser". See Friday's entry for details. Matinee at 2 p.m. Final evening performance at 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Transcendence* - Johnny Depp is in trouble when his consciousness is uploaded into an AI. Part of the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies. Feature starts at 7:30. Episode of *Flash Gordon* at 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Liberated Waffles, Cold Spring, and Fissure Cat*. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok*. 6-piece band melds Bohemian Klezmer Punk with pop sensibilities into a dance party. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Long Journey*. Folk. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Brick House, Turners Falls: *DEN, Donkey No No, Alexander, and Wren Kitz*. 3 p.m. \$

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Paper Bee, Wydyde, Math the Band, and the What Cheer! Brigade*. 8 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, JULY 5

S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Whately: *A Natural Music School presents A Natural Concert Band outdoor music series*. Musicians perform wind ensemble music in relaxed outdoor venue. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

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.

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: Joe Graveline, Lexi Weege, Devlin Miles. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets featuring Cassandra Cleghorn & Jeffrey Levine*. Poetry reading. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Definite Maybes*. Rock, Blues, R & B. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. '60s & '70s gold. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Primate Fiasco*. "Mind-bending accordion, funky pockets of a hyperactive sousaphone, and a banjo that thinks it's a Fender Strat." 8 p.m. \$



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ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

John Reese plays the miserly Harpagon, in the Silverthorne Theater production of Molière's *The Miser*. Here he displays one of his many expressions, this one of anticipation of winning what he wants: the hand in marriage of the young and reluctant Marianne. Cecilia Darby who plays Harpagon's daughter, Elise, look on.

MISER from page B1

movement on stage with scenes choreographed in a way that fascinates. No one sits still for very long. Each scene, every bit of stagecraft, shows the skill of the director, working closely with these wonderful actors.

Harpagon's son Cleante, played by Ben Sarat, has to scheme to get what he needs because of his father's miserly ways. He has fallen in love with Marianne, played by

Carolyn Paine, a graceful, intuitive actor who brings much passion and elegance to the part. Marianne returns Cleante's feelings but she is poor, spending her life caring for a sick mother.

Sarat and Paine have great chemistry, he with his good looks and charm, adding to his display of attraction to her with exaggerated emotion and implied sensuality. Their interaction mixes comic timing with much activity onstage, as they rush

together then move apart in a choreographed ballet of deception.

This little romance is central to much of the comedy of errors that takes place, as a ridiculous plan of Harpagon's to marry Marianne with the help of a matchmaker named Frosine (Ann Steinhauser) offers many opportunities for confusion, deception and manipulation.

Harpagon may be old, but he is rich and smart. Everyone schemes behind his back but are also afraid of his disapproval, as he does hold the power of the purse. Except that he never seems to want to pay for anything.

Reese, in his little moments of perfect timing, will often do something quite funny, like the way he lifts his long bony leg and does a kind of Jackie Gleason move, just as he's stepping off the stage. It gets a laugh every time he does it. The scenes between Harpagon and Frosine are carefully choreographed, he in his nightshirt, she in a long multicolored cloak and hat with feathers. As they banded for a win, their movements became a dance.

The rest of the cast is equally impressive. Steve Henderson plays La Fleche, Harpagon's servant who is always looking for a way to get his hands on some of the miser's money. He and Frosine (Steinhauser) seem familiar in their manner with a natural rapport, working together to fool Harpagon and help his son Cleante. La Fleche (Henderson) gets laughs as he sneaks around and gets caught but wiggles out of it.

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Another romance sprouts between Harpagon's daughter, Elise, played by Cecilia Darby and a young servant/aristocrat named Valere played by Theo Gabriel, whose story unfolds in surprising ways. Their romance is objectionable because he is a servant, but she loves him and so disobeys her father, an idea not new to our time. Their moments together add charm to the story, a sweetness of young love and secrets.

Jonathan Caws-Elwitt plays Jacques, Harpagon's servant, taking the role of both his coachman and cook. He also steps in to resolve the disagreement between Cleante and Harpagon, which does not go well. His performance in the many roles he plays is exceptional, as he brings wit and honesty to whatever part he plays. He is also just fun to watch.

There are no small parts in theater, so these are all excellent in performance: Stephen Fruchtmann plays

several parts, as does Brandi Weyers, and Nick Simms plays Seigneur Anselm. The stage manager is Robert Moore; costumes and props by Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette with Mariska Pichette; sets by John Iverson.

Silverthorne Theater Company co-founders Lucinda Kidder and David Rowland are the show's producers.

See a performance of *The Miser* at GCC's Sloan Theater on Thursday, June 30, Friday, July 1 and Saturday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. There is a talk-back session afterwards on Thursday, with director and cast. Tickets are \$19 general admission, \$17 students/seniors (over 65) and are available at World Eye Books in Greenfield, Broadside Books in Northampton or silverthornetheater.org, or by calling (413) 768-7514.



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