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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 38

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 7, 2016

Former Hallmark Institute Owner: School Is Closing, Without Following Rules

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Former Hallmark Institute of Photography owner and president George Rosa III made a bombshell allegation on Wednesday, claiming that the school's current owner, Premier Education Group LP, has been winding down its operations quietly this year in an attempt to avoid regulatory scrutiny.

In an email to the Massachusetts attorney general's office, the state Division of Professional Licensure and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, Rosa said that the school was conducting a "teach-out" of its 10 remaining students without notifying the proper authorities.

"The community part of this is that it looks like Hallmark is about to close," Rosa told the *Reporter* Wednesday evening.

"If there's a proprietary school in a situation where it might be closing, they are required by the Department of Education, and typically the accrediting body and licensing agency, to protect those students who have invested their money," he explained.

"They've walked this fine line of cutting back all their expenses. They're teaching the students, which



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

George Rosa III, who pled guilty in 2014 to fraud and tax evasion, says the school is enacting an unapproved teach-out.

is their obligation. But the reason they haven't asked permission is that it would jeopardize their access to federal aid" – namely Title IV financial aid – "for all of their other schools."

Attempts made after regular office hours to contact Premier CEO Nick Hastain and vice president and general counsel Jessica Mastrogiovanni seeking comment on Rosa's allegations were unsuccessful, as

see **HALLMARK** page A2

Melissa Pitrat Hired As Sheffield Principal

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan announced on July 4 that the district has hired Melissa Pitrat as the new principal of Sheffield Elementary School.

Pitrat first joined the Sheffield administration on February 22 when she was hired as an assistant principal. She previously worked as a second- and third-grade teacher, including in the Greenfield public schools. Sullivan called Pitrat "approachable, confident, and even tempered," adding that she "lives in the area, knows the school well and is committed to staying with us."

Pitrat was one of two finalists for the position selected by a search



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pitrat came to the school in late February as an assistant principal.

committee following the resignation of Sharon Moberg from the position this spring. The candidates

see **GMRSD** page A4

NEWS ANALYSIS

State Budget: Local Aid Rises, Even As Revenue Estimates Fall

By JEFF SINGLETON

BOSTON – The final budget negotiated by the state legislature's conference committee and sent to Governor Baker last week contains increases in local aid, despite sharp declines in projected revenues for the coming fiscal year.

Revenues are now expected to be as much as \$750 million lower than those assumed at the beginning of the budget process last February, primarily due to significant reductions in capital gains tax revenues. But the two largest local aid accounts, Chapter 70 school aid and "unrestricted general government" aid (UGGA), have increased by a total of \$116.1 million and \$42.1 million, respectively.

The total state budget that emerged from the conference committee is \$43.4 billion. Of this, approximately \$4.5 billion is earmarked for Chapter 70, and just over

**For the Gill-Montague
Regional School District,
this would mean a
Chapter 70 increase of
approximately \$60,000,
or just below 1%.**

\$1 billion for UGGA. By contrast, the MassHealth program, the state's version of Medicaid, is budgeted at over \$15 billion.

The budget is funded by approxi-

mately \$27 billion in state tax revenues, including income and sales taxes. These have been the focus of the lowered revenue estimates over the past month. Most of the remaining spending is funded by various forms of federal aid.

The increase in Chapter 70 education aid statewide was primarily due to an increase in the per-pupil amount guaranteed to local school districts that do not qualify for aid under the core formula, from \$20 under the governor's initial proposal to \$55 under both the Senate and House budget bills.

For the Gill-Montague Regional School District, this would mean a Chapter 70 increase of approximately \$60,000, which is just below

see **STATE BUDGET** page A3

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Officials Concerned Over Fiske Pond Partying

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their June 29 meeting, the Wendell selectboard, with board member Geoffrey Pooser present by speaker phone, heard from members of the Fiske Pond advisory committee, Ed Chase and Doug Smith from the police department, and other citizens about some less-than-idyllic things that have been happening at the pond.

Recreation committee member John Fitzgerald said his family, wife and two children, was at the pond that evening and were "almost stalked." There was no touching but the man who followed them was offensive, rude and inappropriate. After his wife Johanna spoke to the

man he left, but the sour experience had made its impression.

One swimming day there was a raft whose occupants floated in front of the swimming area and threw cigarette butts into the water, and made swimming not family-friendly.

On a weekend when Lake Wyola was closed, people moved their expedition from Wyola to Fiske, and there were campfires and alcohol. Wendell's fire department has had to respond, some years ago, to a brush fire that grew out of a similar campfire at the pond.

Ruth Mazurka said the Fiske advisory committee has found evidence of overnight camping, including litter and a used sex doll.

see **WENDELL** page A6

Healing, With Sound

By TIA FATTARUSO

MILLERS FALLS – A waterfall bumbles under the house. Amethyst rests on my chest to calm, malachite on my belly for protection and citrine between my ankles for energy. Sage is smudged over me.

Leslie Matilainen entrains my heart to the beat of her drum as she guides my body to move energy down and out my toes, starting from my feet and moving upward. The cumulative repetition of limbs strikes a chord, reminding me of chant-like childhood songs.

Then the bowls begin to sing, and my only job is to follow their sounds and vibrations. The spontaneous percussion is starkly, beautifully different from the usual soundtrack of my life, the recorded music, radio news and leaf-blowers that are often in the periphery. I begin to journey through a sea of faces: I see face after face, familiar but not necessarily recognizable, floating behind my eyes, each staying for an indeterminate amount of time, and occasionally repeating. Days later, I still feel their presence.

I know the gong will come last, but as it enters my senses, the sound

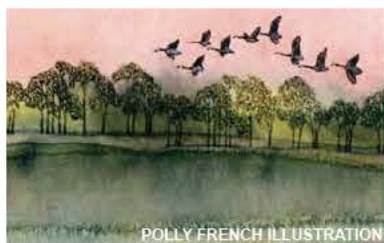


Leslie Matilainen performs sound therapy at her Millers Falls practice.

seems alien and penetrating. As it crescendos, my normally chilly hands heat up, and though they don't budge from my side, it seems I feel them reach toward the amethyst, as if to pull it right into my chest.

I would stay here as long as Matilainen would let me. I feel sure of, and crave, the deep layers of healing that exist in sound. But as the last tones dissolve, I begin to come around from my altered state, as she brushes a tincture on me with a

see **SOUND** page A5



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED AT THE FALLS: PHASE II

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT / TURNERS FALLS – The massacre of Native Americans gathered at the Falls by Captain William Turner's militia, and the counter attack by tribal soldiers on May 19, 1676 may well be the most important historical event that occurred in our towns of Montague, Gill, and Greenfield.

Thanks to a Phase I grant awarded to the town of Montague by the US Department of the Interior/ National Park Service in 2014, extensive archival research of the event has been brought to light, and to the fingertips of every interested local historian and citizen.

This past June 21, Montague received the good news that the Park Service has awarded the town \$81,000 in further funding, to con-

tinue the study of events at the falls in the context of the fourteen-month-long King Philip's War 1675-76. The continuation of this study, dubbed



This map, showing the "English Attack on Peskeompskut Encampment," was included in the Phase I Final Report published by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center in April.

"Phase II," will begin August 1.

The Phase I of the Battlefield Study completed by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum Research Team, with the cooperation of five towns and four tribes (Narragansett Indian Tribe, Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe, the Nipmuc Nation of Massachusetts, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans) was essentially one of data gathering. The team researched primary sources, and reconnoitered the terrain, especially the approach

see **WEST ALONG** page A5

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

Time Off for Good Behavior

Hello, readers!

As we've done every summer since 2003, we're headed into a biweekly publication schedule. Expect our next edition to come out July 21.

Two "off" weeks in July and two more in August will allow us to catch up on sleep, balance the books, clean the office, and put in some long-delayed work on our website (montaguereporter.org).

The *Reporter* is an independent nonprofit, governed by a board of directors and involving a large cast of volunteers and slightly stipended writers and staff. We are always looking to involve more members of our communities on all levels of our organization.

We're especially looking for

volunteers who can help with one-time projects that strengthen the organization behind the scenes. This includes helping us out with signing up new subscribers; helping us catalog and archive back issues; writing applications for grants and interns; reaching out to prospective advertisers; and properly disposing of disused electronic equipment.

We're also seeking a paper carrier for Ervingside and Millers Falls, and a stringer who can write news articles on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Get in touch with us this summer if any of that speaks to your interests. It's unglamorous work, but you'll be helping keep this wonderful and unlikely community asset on its feet and moving forward!

HALLMARK from page A1

of press time.

Premier acquired Hallmark in 2009 from People's United Bank after Rosa defaulted on loans from the bank. He remained president at the school until 2012, and in 2014 pled guilty to bank fraud and tax evasion.

Enrollment at the career training school has declined steadily from a mid-2000s peak of about 235 students.

"Unfortunately, my personal financial challenges got in the way of that," said Rosa. "I thought I brought in the best company at the time – and I did, but they've changed."

According to Rosa, Premier's former CEO, Gary Camp, was instrumental in saving the school after he was caught siphoning money – \$2.6 million, according to the Department of Justice – from its operations for personal use. "When Gary was there, Premier was supporting the school to the fullest," he said, "and I believe that it was the right step for the school after the mess that I had created."

Camp told the *Reporter* in April that he left Premier in March 2015, and since had initiated a "substantial federal lawsuit" against the company's partners. At the time, Premier was also suing Camp, claiming he owed the company \$1.7 million in unpaid loans, which he disputed.

"My claim against the partnership is that I had been promised, and I had bought into, the ownership, and that the partners were fraudulent in conducting their business," Camp said. "I bought those buildings up

there for the partners. I negotiated with the bank for the partners."

He described Hallmark as a "wonderful acquisition" for Premier, crediting Rosa with its prior success. "As a result of business decisions over the years, and recent changes in photography training and technology, the school has suffered," Camp said. "But they've ignored it over the years."

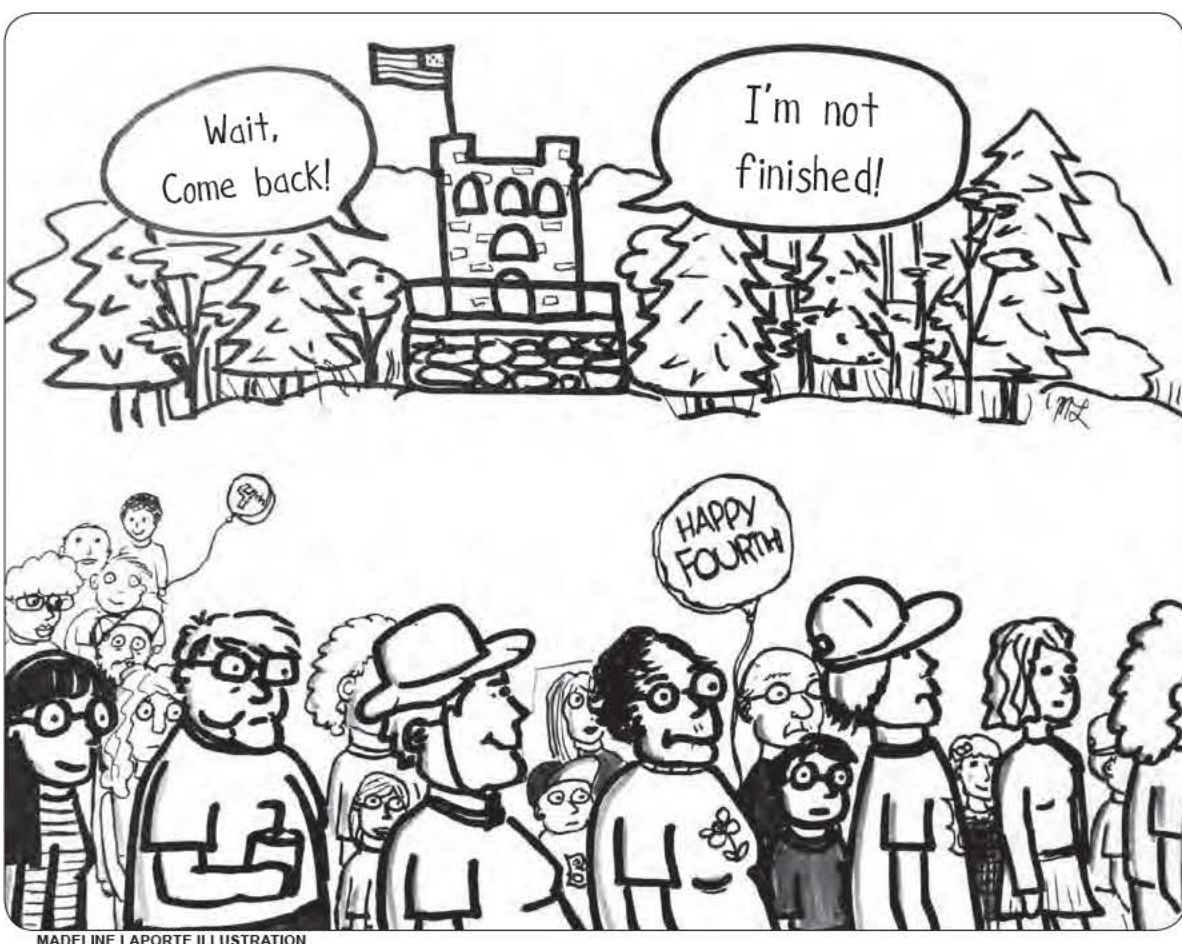
In response to inquiries the same month about rumors it was no longer enrolling students, Premier Education Group sent the *Reporter* a carefully worded written statement, saying that "Hallmark is currently evaluating its program offerings to ensure it is providing the best educational opportunities to its students. In making this determination, we will carefully consider options. During this process, Hallmark will continue its operations in Turners Falls."

According to Rosa, after Camp's departure, "good people left, and things really unraveled." The school made cuts in admissions department staff last December, and on Tuesday, Premier eliminated both Ed Martin, Hallmark's campus president and executive director, and the school's director of financial aid.

An attempt to contact Martin on Wednesday went unanswered as of press time.

"I think there's a receptionist, a director of education, one full-time instructor, and I think everyone else is on a *per diem* basis at this point," said Rosa. "There's not leadership that has been appointed at the campus, which is a requirement for your license and accreditation."

Rosa acknowledged that the



MADLINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

Leonard Looks Back at Her First Year

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – An empty school on a summer morning holds a strange silence, a heap of nostalgia for the recent grads, and an aura of hope for the year ahead.

In Annie Leonard's office, one wall is covered with notes from a planning meeting held just about a year ago, before she began her first year as principal of Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High.

Teachers and administrators gathered to articulate their core values as educators. The student-centered learning that took a prominent place in those discussions was very much on Ms. Leonard's mind as she reflected on her first year on the job.

First of all, she says, she would like a new tee shirt. It would read, "I Love Power Town," with a heart representing the word "love". She says the diversity of the five villages that make up Montague, and the fact that some students in the middle school and high school have parents and grandparents who went to their school, adds tremendous strength to the educational experience.

At games, Ms. Leonard is an enthusiastic sports fan. She has an opportunity to speak there with these



Leonard serves as principal at Great Falls Middle and Turners Falls High Schools.

parents and grandparents, to hear their opinions, hopes and dreams – in short, to connect, often in a casual setting that yields comfortable relationships between the school and the families it serves.

"When I go to a football game, I meet grandparents who are supporting the school," Ms. Leonard says. "My experience as a newcomer is that people have made a

see **LEONARD** page A4

photography industry "has dramatically changed" in recent years, but dismissed Premier's public statement that "a decline in the demand for trained photographers... has resulted in a decline in Hallmark's student population" as "their company line."

Change in the industry "does not mean there is not a place for a Hallmark," Rosa argued on Wednesday. "If you were to poll the members of the school's outside advisory council, I think they would tell you that there is still validity in a Hallmark – but that things would need to change, from producing the same education as they were 10, 15 years ago."

"I have no axe to grind with Premier," he continued. "But... I think they're destroying the school, after we had the opportunity to save it

after 2009. I know the contribution it's made to the community, in the 41 years since it's opened."

Rosa, who now works as operations manager for the Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield, said he had tried to interest new "potential investors" in the school in January, but that "Premier made it very, very challenging, when they requested some financial information.... It didn't allow for the people to get comfortable."

He said he feels the class of 10 students who started that month "have been done an absolute injustice," and speculated Premier had avoided filing a teach-out plan because "it would call to light the fact that – why doesn't this \$100 million company have enough backup money to take care of these students?"

Premier Education Group, which owns 27 for-profit career-training schools, faces an unrelated False Claims Act suit brought by former employees who allege it has falsified both student grades and its own career placement record.

That suit is pending in the US Federal District Court of New Jersey, though last week the company argued that it should be dismissed in light of a recent Supreme Court decision (*Universal Health Services v. United States ex rel. Escobar*) pertaining to the False Claims Act.

"It's just unfortunate that it's come to this," said Rosa. "I'm happy to share the information; I'm not happy that my name gets brought into it. But I felt strongly that the authorities needed to know."



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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The hours at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls have been expanded as of July 6. The library will be open Saturdays year round, and open to the public on Wednesday mornings.

Previously the library was closed Saturdays for the summer, and opened at 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Many library users have requested additional hours, both in person and in writing. The library wishes to thank the Town of Montague for making this possible, and to everyone who has asked for additional open hours.

Parents of the Turners Falls High School varsity softball team are raising money to buy the team state championship jackets and put on a banquet. There will be a "Helmet Drive" – we're guessing this is a batting helmet, in keeping with the softball state champs theme – to ask the public to pitch in.

Look for them from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, July 9 on Avenue A, at both Seventh Street and Third Street (i.e., both sets of lights in downtown Turners Falls). See the ad elsewhere on this page.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust invites both first-time and experienced campers to enjoy the outdoors in the company of friends, family, and neighbors at the third annual Community Campout at Skyfields Arboretum, 1461 Old Keene Road in Athol, from 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, to 10 a.m. Sunday, July 10.

The event is part of the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Campout initiative. Campers of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in family-friendly games, outdoor activities and crafts.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gear, but

extra tents are available and can be requested at registration. The event is free for Mount Grace members, or \$10/family.

For more information or to register, contact Maya Apfelbaum at (978) 248-2055 x28 or outreach_ameriCorps@mountgrace.org.

Beth Palmquist RT(R)(CT), of Baystate Medical Center, is bringing Slim, the Life-sized Skeleton to the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, July 12, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Beth will also show a slide-show of real x-ray images and children will have a chance to match real bones to Slim. Designed for ages 9 to 13.

The Nature Concert Band will kick off the Common People Concert series on Tuesday, July 12, on the Gill Town Common. The series will then continue for the next four weeks ending on August 9.

All concerts start at 7 p.m., and move to the Congregational Church if the weather is poor. The remaining schedule will be posted on the Gill town website.

On Friday, July 15 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 16 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tom McCabe's Paint Box Theatre presents Raggedy Anne at the Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls. This family show promises costume changes galore, and lots of audience participation. Visit www.tommccabe.com for more information.

The Deerfield Lions Club invites you to attend the 25th Anniversary Antique & Classic Auto Show on Saturday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This fundraising event will be held at Yankee Candle Village located in South Deerfield.

Automobiles and trucks up to 1991 are invited to participate, with pre-registration strongly encouraged. Register your vehicle for just \$10 in

advance, or \$15 the day of the show. All vehicles from the Brass Era can enter at no charge.

Awards will be given for "Best in Show," "Top Forty Cars," and "People's Choice," among others. Spectator admission is free!

Come wander among the autos of your past, listen to sounds of Justin K's Mobile DJ, and enjoy food from Yankee Candle Village Food Booth and Chandler's Restaurant. In the event of rain, the Auto Show will be held on Sunday, July 17.

Enjoy a benefit concert, "Playing for Paint," to help restore the Wendell Meetinghouse with a fresh coat of paint. Held outside the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell on Sunday, July 17, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Bands include the Bear Mountain Boys, Josh Levangie, Frances Doughty, Richard Chase, Bill Klock, and Shelley Hines & friends, including Carrie Ferguson. A donation of \$10 to \$20 is suggested. For more info, please visit www.wendell-meetinghouse.org. The pub will be open.

Talking Hands Theatre, which entertains children with puppets and storytelling, presents Bugaboo Revue at the Millers Falls Library on Tuesday, July 19 at 10:30 a.m. Learn more about why it's important to keep bugs alive and eat and garden organically. Designed for ages 2 to 8. The program is supported by the Montague Cultural Council.

And something else for car buffs: come to the Riverside Car Show on Thursday, July 21, at the Schuetzen Verein, 55 Barton Cove Road in Gill. The show starts around 6 p.m.

Enjoy pre-1974 autos, trucks, rat rods, street rods, and more. Cash bar and food available. Contact "Chuwee" at Riverside Radiator, (413) 863-4049, for more information.

Earn your Junior Ranger Patch from Mass Parks! Become a Connecticut River Watershed expert and find out who lives along the Canal-side Rail Trail and Connecticut River in Turners Falls. The DCR staff at the Great Falls Discovery Center offers a four-part nature education workshop on Mondays, July 25 through August

15, for young naturalists ages 8 to 11. Friends and siblings welcome.

Children, with a parent or guardian, should meet at the Discovery Center lobby at 10:30 a.m. Junior Ranger programs are free and open to all. Space is limited, so please register early at (413) 863-3221.

Franklin County Technical School is holding their 40th Anniversary Gala & Fundraiser on Saturday, July 30, at the Schuetzen Verein in Gill. The event runs from 4 to 8:30 p.m., with dinner at 5 p.m.

The event will feature live music by the Old School Band, a chicken or steak dinner for \$20, and a fully stocked cash bar. The event is open to the public, and dinner tickets are not required for attendance, but there will be a \$5 cover charge to help with scholarships for two graduating students.

Dinner tickets will only be available until July 16, and will not be sold at the door. To purchase, visit www.fctsalumni.org, or call Sue Kelley at (413) 325-7665. You can also send a check or money order to FCTS Alumni Association, PO Box 450, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Here are a few Montague Reporter updates. Summer is here, which means the paper is published every other week. Therefore, there will be no papers on July 14, July 28, August 11, or August 25. We'll return to regular weekly publication in September! Mark your calendars please.

If you're getting out of town this season, don't forget to bring the Montague Reporter on the road with you while on vacation, and send us a photo of yourself or your traveling companions. See page A8 for an idea of what we mean!

Finally, we are still looking for someone to deliver papers in parts of Millers Falls and Erving. Summer might be a good time to try it out, because of nice weather and only a few weeks of delivery, to see if you wish to continue.

If you're interested or have questions, call (413) 863-8666, and we will certainly get back to you!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

STATE BUDGET from page A1

1%, while the education aid to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District will increase by approximately \$84,000 or 0.9%.

Nearly all school districts in our region – and in fact, nearly three-quarters of the state, this coming fiscal year – do not qualify for aid under the core Chapter 70 formula calculation. The state typically holds such districts "harmless," giving them the same amount as the previous year plus a small per-student increment.

The downside of this arrangement is that the higher per-pupil increment, while no doubt welcome to local school officials, actually increases the gap between formula-driven Chapter 70 and what districts actually get. So, despite nearly flat Chapter 70 for the past decade and a half, districts like Gill-Montague and Amherst-Pelham are perceived as "getting more than they deserve." Efforts to reform the formula by adjusting its components often produce widely varying outcomes, depending on a district's history.

Unrestricted general government aid, the second-largest form of local aid from the state, fared even worse than Chapter 70 during the last re-

cession. But it is not burdened with a complicated formula so all cities and towns in the state received a roughly 4.3% increase this year.

For Montague, this means an increase of \$56,810, to \$1,377,972. Gill received a \$9,642 increase to \$233,871; Leverett \$7,076 to \$171,624; Wendell \$6,908 to \$167,569; and Erving \$2,664 to \$64,264.

Of course, towns in the region are not only dependent on local aid. Their residents and programs also go to state colleges and universities, receive housing and health care subsidies, make use of energy efficiency programs and must deal with decaying roads, bridges and sewer systems. Declining projected state revenues do not bode well for some of these programs over the coming year.

For example, the budget for the University of Massachusetts is funded at \$506.3 million which, according to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, is a cut of \$6.8 million, or 1.3%. "This amount of funding makes it more likely that tuition and fees will continue to rise across the system," the Center notes.

The Emergency Assistance Shelter program is funded in the budget

at roughly \$40.5 million less than this past year. This program has traditionally been underfunded, and then requires supplemental appropriations during the fiscal year to provide assistance to qualifying low-income families and individuals.

The MassHealth program, the state's version of Medicaid and one of the largest expenditures in the budget, may be significantly underfunded. Budget analysts with the Policy Center say the budget is balanced by making potentially low caseload estimates and "pushing the payment of some 2017 costs on to 2018." The budget also has a reduction of \$3.4 million in funding for state parks.

Increasing local aid in a season of reduced revenues has led to some so-called "tough choices." One particularly difficult choice was experienced by the Brick House Community Center in Turners Falls. The center was notified it had lost all of its annual \$25,000 Youth At Risk Grant rather abruptly last week.

That grant has helped the Brick House fund street outreach through the DIAL/SELF program, a youth worker from AmeriCorps, onsite office hours in job readiness from the Franklin County Career Center, and

its own payroll and supplies.

According to operations director Jared Libby, the center, which has recently been awarded some program funding through the town of Montague's latest Community Development Block Grant, is hoping it can avoid cuts in staff hours.

More cuts like this could be coming during the next fiscal year, if revenues continue to decline. According to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, a respected state fiscal watchdog:

"The Conferees are to be commended for producing an on-time budget based on more realistic revenue assumptions; however the solutions put forth in this budget still leave the state in a precarious financial position. The majority of the cuts come from reducing the assumed caseload for entitlement programs – meaning that if caseload exceeds present expectations, these savings will not materialize.

"Furthermore the use of \$150 million in reversion savings [unspent reversions from projected spending] leaves the state with fewer options to address unexpected costs or revenue shortfalls in the months ahead..."

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GMRSD from page A1

held a "meet and greet" event last Thursday to interact with parents, teachers, and interested members of the community.

Sullivan said he had concluded that Pitrat was the "best fit" for the position. "Her leadership will be grounded in knowing what good instructional and school community practices look like," he wrote, "and she is highly motivated to support school staff... Sheffield will be able to continue its forward progress with little lost momentum."

"I'm excited to be beginning this new position," Pitrat said, reached at her home on Wednesday. "I'm looking forward to continuing the work we've been doing with literacy and writing, helping the staff continue their work with these programs."

Pitrat begins her position as principal immediately. A search for a new assistant principal will begin soon.

Hillcrest Improvements

As reported in our June 16 article on the investigation of Hillcrest Elementary School by the Disabilities Law Center (DLC), the superintendent's office received the DLC's report on June 7, but were told it was not intended to be released publicly.

In discussions with the Law Center, Sullivan explained that given media coverage of allegations of abuse and neglect in the "calm down room" at Hillcrest, it was not practical to keep the report, which found no evidence of either, private.

The DLC agreed to allow public release of the document, with some redactions made to protect student privacy. The report offered several recommendations for better practice around the use of the room.

Sullivan was free to discuss the particulars with the Gill-Montague school committee at their meeting on June 28, after the document was released publicly. He had described, without specifics, some of the DLC's recommendations at the June 14 meeting, but a few details added to the picture, regarding what changes the district had made since the DLC's February site visit, or planned to make.

Sullivan said the district welcomed the recommendations. "The school and the district are committed to providing all Hillcrest students with current best practices in the field of therapeutic programming, trauma informed care, restraint and time-out practices," he said.

The report noted the narrow window in the room's door of the calm down room did not provide full visibility. Sullivan said the school would be making a larger window for the door this summer, and will place a convex mirror in a ceiling corner.

The report also found there was no consistent log kept of the room's use. Sullivan said this is not a requirement or recommendation by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), but that the school had initiated a log in January 2016. Staff fill out an incident report each time they place a student into the room, similar to ones required for student restraint. "These reports will be filed with, logged and reviewed by the school principal, and shared with parents," he explained.

The DLC was concerned about the fact that the door could be locked from the inside. (It was not possible for it to be locked from the outside, which some had claimed on social media sites.) Sullivan explained that this was a security measure, used on all doors in the school, allowing students to "shelter in place" safely

if necessary. Teachers carried a key that could unlock it, he said.

He and Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein discussed this, and decided to remove the lock, since a teacher would always be there with a student and could quickly direct them to a safe room in the case of an emergency. He said he believed the lock was removed in February.

The report indicated concern over unclear guidelines for when the calm down room should be used, how it should be used, and how parents should be notified when the room is used.

Sullivan said he agreed with those concerns. The DESE does not provide protocols, he said, so his administration developed their own, and submitted them to the DLC for feedback. He also added that the district has developed a procedure for parental notification.

Fun With Procedure

School committee chair Michael Langknecht said the committee's attorney, Adam Dupere, had clarified that they do not have to vote to allow non-members to participate remotely in executive session negotiations.

Members voted unanimously to revoke a vote they had taken June 14 to authorize someone's remote participation.

Langknecht said that all members present must be able to hear what is being said by any non-member calling in to participate in such a session.

Budget Recap

District business manager Joanne Blier reported on end-of-year figures for charter and choice expenditures.

For FY'16, the district had budgeted for \$700,000 in school choice revenue. It took in \$803,098, creating a surplus of \$103,098.

The district had budgeted \$1,450,000 in school choice expenses. The actual cost came to \$1,495,499, leaving a deficit of \$45,499.

Charter revenue was budgeted at \$170,000, but only \$89,316 came in, leaving a deficit of \$80,684. Charter expenses were budgeted at \$950,000 and came to \$947,927, leaving a slim \$2,073 surplus.

The four lines amounted to a net deficit of \$21,012.

The budget for FY'17 is approximately the same for the school choice lines, but the charter revenue budget was increased to \$200,000 in revenues and \$110,000 in expenses.

Blier also reported an unexpected expense was revealed in a detailed school choice report, which showed an out-of-district placement the district had not been aware of because it had been made by another district.

Ordinarily, a school district to which a student has transferred through school choice would inform the home district when it places a student requiring special education support into a third district, but this had not happened.

This placement would have cost Gill-Montague an additional \$39,857. Blier said the district was able to re-submit its Extraordinary Relief claim to the DESE, and was reimbursed for the additional amount for this student in full. Blier said she appreciated the state's quick response, which allowed the payment to be included in the FY'16 budget year.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on July 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the TV studio at Turners Falls High School.



Summer Jobs & Beyond for Montague Teens – Final Application Event This Friday!

The Brick House Community Resource Center, located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, will be hosting a Summer Jobs & Beyond Application Event this Friday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Summer Jobs & Beyond, a program offered through Community Action! Youth Programs, gives youth who are residents of any of the villages of Montague (Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, Montague City and Montague Center) – or who are residents of another town, but are students at Turners Falls High School – the opportunity to work at a site in the community during the summer.

Applicants must be sixteen years of age or older, and entering their Junior or Senior year of high school.

Representatives from Community Action and the Brick House will be present to assist interested teens and their parents with the application process. Parents must sign the application form for any teen under the age of 18, and financial information is required.

Successful applicants will be placed at a local site, of which the Brick House is one, where they



will earn \$10 an hour while building their skills and talents, and gaining work experience.

The deadline for applying is July 8, so if an interested teen cannot attend this event, they can access the application by going to www.communityaction.us/youth-programs.html and clicking on the link for the youth application. Finished applications can be hand-delivered to Community Action Youth Programs at 154 Federal Street in Greenfield or faxed to (413) 774-7565, but they must be received by Friday afternoon.

This program is funded with a two-year grant awarded by the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, entitled *Summer Jobs & Beyond: Career Pathways for Youth*.

LEONARD from page A2

huge effort to make me feel at home."

This year, the Class of 2016 hosted members of the Class of 1991 at a school meeting. (One of the advantages of the school's size, says Ms. Leonard, is that the entire school can gather once a week.)

At this meeting, the Class of 1991 opened a time capsule they had buried twenty-five years ago. There was a yearbook, a copy of the newspaper, a varsity sweater, and some tapes of popular music of the time.

These items prompted the Class of 2016 to create a time capsule of its own, and to think about change: Twenty-five years from now, will our cell phones be recognizable? Will there be printed textbooks? What message would the class like to send into the future?

There are always surprises in a new job. In response to a question about low enrollment and students who choose out to other schools, Ms. Leonard says, "It surprises me that anyone would think this is not a great place to send their kids to school. We have dedicated teachers, plenty of academic opportunity and beautiful facilities."

She adds, "Our action plan is to be a school where parents want to send their children and where those children want to stay. I've tried to find ways to broadcast the small wonderful things that are happening here."

There's a Gill-Montague Facebook page, with frequent updates about student council events, clubs, honor roll awards, winning sports teams, and more. Enrollment numbers do not tell the entire story; the social and economic demographics of the town contribute as well. This district's enrollment is influenced by factors beyond the control of leadership, says Ms. Leonard, citing housing instability and custody issues.

"Though I appreciate the work

that goes into the economics of enrollment," she says, "for now, I am concentrating on the quality of our teachers and learning environment."

"I would love to take a walk around the school with anyone who questions the learning environment here."

I suspect she might change some minds. This writer has spent considerable time at the school in the past year. I have seen enthusiastic young people assuming positions of leadership. I have listened to peer mediators so dedicated and well-trained that they sound like adults. And I know that does not tell the whole story about any school. My experience only demonstrates that those who want to succeed can do so at the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High.

Ms. Leonard has a hard job. The two schools once had separate principals. She has chosen to see this as an opportunity, and likes knowing she'll see the middle-schoolers through their high school years. She will be at their games, stop in at student council meetings, fight for the programs they want and need, and encourage their teachers.

She also points out the advantages of having the middle school in the same building as the high school. "For me as the principal and for the teachers and coaches, we get to know these kids well, and the transition from middle school to high school is achieved without trauma," she said.

Before setting off for a well-deserved vacation, Leonard put in a plug for the federally funded summer grants program. Turners Falls was one of just eleven schools nationally who got this grant, which places high school students who are sixteen and older in summer jobs. There are still a few openings, and interested students should contact the school. The program provides support services and transportation!



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WEST ALONG from page A1

and retreat routes of Captain William Turner’s militia.

The analysis method termed KOCOA (key terrain, observation, cover and concealment, obstacles) was developed by the US Army as a model to evaluate military significance of battlefield terrain. In Phase I, initial evaluation of “core” and “ancillary” sectors was conducted on local sites of the event that helped bring an end to King Philip’s War. That event, which was essentially an attack on a refugee camp in the neighborhood now known as Riverside in Gill, claimed the lives of more than 300 women, children, and elderly, and has gained notoriety as a genocidal act. A debate about that event continues on, often heatedly, even 340 years later.

The 320-page Final Report, available on the Town of Montague website and in local libraries, is the most definitive compilation of documentation to date on that event.

The information available to our townspeople about the land they walk upon in their everyday lives, the roles played in ancient events by familiar landscape features, and the stories of 340 years of both colonial and tribal generations native to our place on the river, can be now inserted into the 10,000-year historical narrative of this landscape.

The first step in Phase II will be the posting of an RFP (request for proposals), which is expected to attract archaeological teams compet-

ing for the Phase II contract. All contracting, reporting, and disbursement of funds will pass through the Town of Montague, with the support of the Battlefield Advisory Board, made up of the historical commissioners of five towns – Montague, Gill, Greenfield, Deerfield, Northfield – and the four tribes mentioned above. (As a historical commissioner of Erving, I serve as chair of the advisory board.)

The archaeological team will conduct investigations of the sites using metal-detecting equipment. Since this is a battlefield study, conducted on actual or suspected terrain where there was military action, the team will be searching for metallic items such as musket balls, metal uniform buttons, buckles, metal arrowheads fashioned by tribal soldiers from brass pots, and any other metal artifacts that may have been dropped by battle participants.

Already identified have been musket balls from the Riverside neighborhood and from vicinities near the White Ash Swamp and Cherry Rum Brook. Stone implements, arrowheads, bone fragments, being non-metallic, will likely not be found, and certainly not detected by metal-detecting equipment.

When a metallic object is found, a flowerpot-sized plug will be dug, the artifact removed, and the plug replaced. There will be no test pits excavated. Artifacts relating to military action will become the property of NPS. Eventually these objects

will be returned to the towns to become part of an exhibit housed in a local museum, or an anticipated cultural center possibly located in Montague.

Close to two dozen landowners in Gill and Greenfield, plus the utility FirstLight Power Resources, have volunteered to have their properties surveyed by the metal detecting team. Landowner participation is entirely voluntary, and owners may opt out at any point.

Other objectives of the project will be refining GIS data files to include the boundary of the 1676 Great Falls Battlefield, locations of camps, major engagements and individual actions, associated ceremonial sites, and the distribution of artifacts and features.

So far, one of the unexpected bonuses of this Battlefield study has been the lively debate over the multiple interpretations of these historical events. Interested historians, in addition to descendants of both the original English settlers and Native tribes present that day, have engaged in debate and discussion of the deep history of King Philip’s War, as if it had happened yesterday.

In addition, the solid collaboration between the five towns and the four Indian tribes of the region has been another unexpected benefit. The cooperation modeled by the towns and tribes is forming a template for future Tribal-Town projects and relations throughout New England.



SOUND from page A1

feather. The wet coolness on my skin reminds that the veils of consciousness are thin and permeable.

“Ancient practices are coming back,” Matilainen says later. “History repeats itself.”

As a psychotherapist and licensed mental health counselor, Matilainen works in schools, where she notices that children are the “whistleblowers” for stress and anxiety.

“Everyone has generalized anxiety now,” she says. “Stress triggers illness, so we have to treat stress.”

As a sound healer, she says she sees her clinical background, heritage and spirituality all coming together. The drums, singing bowls and gongs are, “bringing energy sources into the body to synchronize the body on an energy level,” Matilainen says. “We have to think on a quantum level, and we have to think on a holistic level, and we have to think on a preventative level.”

Matilainen says that while we are “disconnected from the earth, and need to tune in with our senses,” she sees integrative wellness practices becoming more widely accepted.

She speaks of a trend in psychiatry, due to pressures from insurance companies, of prescribing psychotropic medications in ever-increasing doses, with more medications to treat side effects of those drugs, rather than to help with symptoms temporarily while one works on root causes.

Matilainen takes umbrage at the medical field’s reliance on pharma-

ceutical drugs for quick answers, and to what she calls “Big Pharma’s” reliance on the “revolving door of drug addiction” for profit.

“Providers mean well,” she says, but face exhaustive amounts of paperwork, driven by the potential for liability and medical malpractice lawsuits. They have less time to see more patients, many of whom turn to holistic alternatives when their needs are not met.

Matilainen is a seeker. She recalls growing up in New Jersey amongst sisters who all experienced psychic gifts in different forms. Their mother, who grew up in West Virginia, was a true mountain woman, says Matilainen, deeply influenced by Native American heritage.

According to Matilainen, her mother, also named Leslie, was part Melungeon – an Appalachian group of mixed African, European and Native American ancestry – during a period, and in a place, of extreme racism. She ran away from home at 16, married, and moved with her husband to New Jersey. Though the elder Leslie did not pass on traditional knowledge from her own upbringing, including the medicinal uses of plants, Matilainen found herself drawn as an adult to healing work.

After leaving behind twenty years as a musician in the Born Again Christian Church, during which time she says she learned not to speak out about her psychic experiences, Matilainen discovered that she heard words and messages of guidance, and started to pay attention, listen to,

and be taught by those voices.

She heard the word “shaman,” which she had not heard before, and studied shamanism at the Michael Harner Foundation for Shamanic Studies, and with Steve Wilson at Sacred Healing Grove in Mason, NH. There, her studies were focused on drum journeying – “listening to the binaural beat of the drum is the only way to dream while awake.”

She learned to call in the power of the elements and call in the four directions. This work helped her see how emotional energy drives intentions, however inadvertent that sometimes is.

Later, it was “waterfall,” a word which guided her to her current home in Millers Falls. There, clients receive sessions as the sound of a waterfall, which runs directly under the house, floats up through a renovated outhouse within the healing room.

Matilainen stumbled across her first singing bowls at a tent selling Himalayan wares, where she would listen to the sound each bowl made. The vendor offered to trade bowls if Matilainen would tune them for her.

She steadily increased her collection of bowls, and went on to study intensively with Mitch Nur, Ph.D., archaeomusicologist and sacred sound researcher, practitioner and teacher at 9ways Academia, a sound therapy school in Pennsylvania.

“Sound and light are on the same energy spectrum,” Matilainen says. “I am using them to fill the body and excite it on a molecular level,” to speed up the body’s vibration,

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LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Following a Tornado

At 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, there was a virtual power wash from the skies outside the windows of the *Montague Reporter*.

A twister had gone through the center of Wendell. Trees had fallen into the road, bringing power lines and poles with them. The Powl-ing barn was missing, everything looked different. Tops of trees were missing, branches and treetops scattered on lawns. There were walls of impenetrable thicket, of bushes, branches, and whole trees, where once there has been a lane or driveway. A trailer was wrapped around a tree at a home on Morse Village Road. An exploded electrical box was spotted on the common. Splats of goeey black mud from swamps at least a quarter of a mile away on the side of a house.

Bob Schulman and Kate O’Kane’s old pet goat was saved from being stuck under a low pile of jumbled boards. The skeletal front wall of the former Wendell senior center, the town’s first town hall, was leaning even further north than it used to – 10 inches out of plumb – prompting the building inspector to call for it to be razed.

Montague Finally Has a Budget

Town meeting members got down to the nitty gritty Wednesday night, July 12, working their

way through a lengthy special town meeting, carefully debating every facet of a negotiated budget compromise and turning back a few of the selectboard’s proposed cuts as they closed a \$600,000 budget gap. Both the town and the G-M schools came away with a budget in hand by the time the meeting closed.

After a budget override was turned back on June 6 by 58% of the voters, the Montague select-board, finance committee, and the G-M school committee went back to their respective drawing boards and labored over cuts in prices and personnel. Last night, town meeting members added their views.

The most hotly contested of the proposed cuts was the town nurse. While some felt the position was a luxury other area towns don’t supply and Montague could no longer afford, others argued for the position.

In the end the town nurse was retained while two DPW positions were cut (a tree specialist and a mechanic, both of whom have worked for over 20 years at the department) and many other reductions were made to the town budget.

The reduced school budget will entail a cut of seven positions in the district: five teachers, and two paraprofessionals. Much discussion also revolved around the state mandating certain things from the board of health and the school system without funding them.

Seventy-one town meeting members attended Wednesday’s meeting, ten more than the needed quorum.



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WENDELL from page A1

Fiske neighbor and advisory committee member Jenny Caron said the area is a conservation area first, and then a recreation area. A sign at the entrance clearly states that there is no lifeguard, and that alcohol and fires are prohibited, but the print is small.

A suggestion was made for a larger sign with larger letters that clearly state, "No Alcohol, No Fires, No Smoking" on the trail and by the beach.

Police chief Chase said that he checked license plates at the pond recently, and five of the eleven cars were from Wendell, with others from Greenfield and Northampton. Because the town got state money for its purchase of Fiske Pond, it may not restrict the beach to Wendell residents, and restricting access is not the aim.

Chase said he could not enforce the alcohol ban because there is no town bylaw that prohibits alcohol on town property. He can advise people to stop drinking, and he has done that.

One suggestion was to limit use by making the parking lot smaller. Parking is prohibited across the street, but not on the Fiske Pond side. The internet has allowed more widespread knowledge of the pond, and of the fact that there is no fee for its use.

Most Fiske Pond users have followed the rules, and while there is no way to stop misuse, a more regular police presence can help, it was suggested.

Settling Up

The 2017 fiscal year started the day after the meeting, but not all 2016 finances had yet been settled, and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich brought up several transfers from one account to another so that books end the year balanced.

The WRATS bulky waste free collection is costing the town \$4,375.15 so far, and board members approved transferring that money from the veterans' benefits account which is renewed on July 1, with the new fiscal year.

They allowed a transfer of \$75.86 from the highway expense account to the snow and ice removal account, extra WRATS payroll expense for the bulky waste collection from the town office repairs account, and \$100 from the selectboard expense account to the town administrator expense account.

Accounts that will be carried forward into 2017 include the town auditor expense – required because of the USDA loans – treasurer's account, tax title taking account, website training account, broadband consultant account, and cemetery grave openings account.

Not entirely certain about what the fire department has spent of authorized money, board members agreed to speak with fire chief Joe Cuneo or the finance committee before they carried items over or returned them to free cash: money authorized for air tanks, face masks,

turnout gear, the garage air cleaning system, the Swift River School capital projects account. They agreed to consult with the town emergency manager, Lonny Ricketts, about the emergency management account.

The town has until July 15 to finish finances for FY'16, and the selectboard has invited the fin com to its July 13 meeting.

Another Committee

Chair Christine Heard and board member Dan Keller signed appointment slips for 2017, but held back from the broadband committee appointments until their next meeting.

At the June 15 selectboard meeting some broadband committee members had proposed a subcommittee of theirs to oversee construction of the fiber network, while the larger committee continues its work on the financial and administrative part of the work.

Selectboard members felt that would be a committee layer too many, and preferred forming two new committees: one that oversees construction, and a separate operations committee. Overlap of members is possible, and with participation by fin com and selectboard members, would even be helpful.

Septic Lending

Treasurer Carolyn Manley met the selectboard to discuss the town's community development block grant (CDBG) fund, as it applies to a septic loan program.

Wendell has money it can lend, she said, but the system is in a holding pattern because the original terms of the loan program have expired. The town can continue to lend money, but now will have to administer the program, and with boards changing members, keeping track of loans and payments might get sticky.

Loan repayments may be incorporated into residents' tax bills, allowing a cleaner collection avenue, but the town would have to authorize that.

Heard said she would meet with the board of health and the town health agent, Wibby, who is familiar with the program, to explore the best approach. Wendell may also return that money to the general fund.

Other Business

Manley asked for a transfer of money from the treasurer's assistant account so she can replace her old computer, which has outlived its usefulness. The selectboard approved that transfer.

The Swift River School transportation account is short \$13,091, and the selectboard approved transfer of that amount from the reserve fund, which had before the transfer \$14,906, and will be replenished with the new fiscal year.

The board approved having Dennis Hudson clean the senior center one or two hours a month, paid for out of the grant that the Council on Aging gets from the state.

Lisa Peppin resigned from the cemetery commission. Former commission chair Richard Mackey

asked to be appointed to the commission. Commissioner Joel Sears supported his appointment for his financial knowledge, and Mackey lost re-election for the commission by only two votes.

Keller said that most of the representatives to the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline want the coalition to stay together and be ready for "other atrocities" that come in this direction. They would meet irregularly now that Tennessee Gas is not pursuing the natural gas pipeline it had proposed.

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(413) 774-2600 Greenfield, MA**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG****Three Dogs, One Bear, One Bat, 25 Vehicles****Tuesday, 5/24**

4:55 p.m. Call to the station. Subject with loose dog. Animal control officer handled same.

8:44 p.m. Report of two loose dogs on Route 2 in Farley area. Same returned to owners.

Wednesday, 5/25

11:40 a.m. Alarm at French King Motel. Found to be false alarm.

Thursday, 5/26

9:01 a.m. Report of two car motor vehicle crash on Route 2 in Farley Flats. Assisted state police on scene. Erving fire department on scene.

11:30 a.m. Report of large black bear on Northfield Road near Poplar Mountain Road.

4:05 p.m. Report of motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Wheelock. Same unfounded.

11:15 p.m. Report of two suspicious vehicles on Paper Mill Road. Located one disabled motor vehicle. No other vehicles in the area.

Friday, 5/27

12:45 p.m. Caller reports suspicious motor vehicle on Northfield Road. Checked same. Appeared to be a disabled motor vehicle.

1 p.m. Tractor trailer parked on Route 2 in front of convenience store. Same advised was a no-parking zone.

Saturday, 5/28

7:43 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license.

Monday, 5/30

1:33 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near River Road. Assisted state police with scene.

Tuesday, 5/31

11 a.m. Disabled vehicle, Route 2 eastbound. Stood by for tow.

Wednesday, 6/1

7:18 a.m. Criminal complaint issued to [REDACTED] for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with revoked license.

11 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED] on court warrant.

12 p.m. Welfare check East Prospect Street. Found to be fine.

1:25 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle while suspended.

2:57 p.m. Report of suspicious person, Route 2 at Wheelock. Located same.

3:50 p.m. Report of two-car crash on Route 2 at Prospect Street intersection. Assisted state police on scene.

4:20 p.m. Advised of log blocking westbound lane of Route 2. No obstruction found.

Thursday, 6/2

2:10 p.m. Welfare check East Prospect Street. Same found to be fine.

6:15 p.m. Report of bale of hay in roadway, Route 2 at Route 2A. Unfounded.

6:30 p.m. Medical emergency Poplar Mountain Road. Assisted on scene.

Friday, 6/3

6:05 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED] for illegally attaching plates.

8:45 p.m. Report of distraught subject at Dunkin Donuts. Met with same.

10:45 p.m. Report of loud fireworks at Forest Street. Checked area.

Saturday, 6/4

10:15 a.m. Report of IRS call to Ridge Road resident. Found to be same IRS scam that is going around.

12:15 p.m. Report of Publishers Clearing House

scam call to Forest Street resident.

Monday, 6/6

4 p.m. Officer at station to speak with resident regarding issue with another subject. Report taken.

10:30 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance at Forest Street. Report taken.

Tuesday, 6/7

8:28 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at State Road. Same gone upon arrival.

5:45 p.m. Medical emergency, Pratt Street. Assisted on scene.

Thursday, 6/9

6 a.m. Report of fire at mill on Paper Mill Road. Assisted Erving FD on scene.

Friday, 6/10

10:35 a.m. Report of phone scam at Lillians Way residence. Report taken.

12:25 p.m. Report of a tractor trailer on Route 2. Lost load and is on roadway. Same under investigation.

10:55 p.m. Report of female subject letting air out of tires at Renovators Supply. Report taken.

Sunday, 6/12

11:30 a.m. White van reported on side of Route 2. Found to be hikers. Not a hazard.

2 p.m. Tree down. Blocking North Street. Tree removed by Erving highway department.

2:43 p.m. Report of possible breaking and entering at Weatherheads Storage Sheds. Found to be renter of shed. Same forgot key.

Monday, 6/13

7:50 p.m. Possible illegal dumping at Laurel Lake. Incident report taken.

Wednesday, 6/15

1:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Prospect Street. Not a hazard. Making own arrangements.

Thursday, 6/16

12:12 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near Bridge Street. Assisted on scene.

9:25 a.m. Report of breaking and entering and larceny at River Street residence. Same under investigation.

7:15 p.m. Report of trespass at Renovators Supply. Subject was asked to leave.

11:45 p.m. Noise complaint Pratt Street. Subject in car blasting music. All quiet upon arrival.

Sunday, 6/19

8:30 p.m. Medical emergency at Laurel Lake Campground. Assisted on scene.

Monday, 6/20

2:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 East Main Street. Assisted getting same into safe location. Owner taking care of tow.

Tuesday, 6/21

7:09 a.m. Animal complaint at Forest Street. Bat in the house. Animal control officer to assist same.

10:20 a.m. Report of two suspicious males at Veterans Park on Moore Street. Checked same, no issues.

Thursday, 6/23

9:07 a.m. Report of larceny at Pocket Saver. Report taken and under investigation.

4:30 p.m. Report of tree on wires on Swamp Road. Same removed.

Friday, 6/24

2:32 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 in Farley Flats. Same just taking a break. No hazard.

Saturday, 6/25

6:35 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

10:45 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Papermill Road. Same all set.

Sunday, 6/26

9:10 a.m. Report of small fire on side of Northfield Road near sub station. Assisted with traffic. Erving fire on scene.

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NatureCulture: The Science Page

If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: science@montaguerreporter.org.

Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Water on the Web

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Given recent headlines about Flint, Michigan's problem with lead, and a local *E. coli* scare over the winter, it seems a good idea to think more about water and how we depend upon it.

Here's some great information direct from the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), which along with sixteen partners launched a 2016 Connecticut River water sampling program:

Water samples are tested for *E. coli* bacteria as an indicator for all types of other pathogens that could potentially make you sick. River users can visit the "Is It Clean" web page located at *ConnecticutRiver.us* to find bacteria test results at more than 147 river access and recreation sites in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and northern Connecticut. Samples are typically collected at each site weekly or bi-weekly and test results are posted online 24 hours later, through early October.

Water sample results are color-coded and map-based to offer guidance about whether the water is clean enough for swimming and boating. Results are a snapshot of river conditions at the moment the sample was taken, but give river users information they can use to make informed decisions and prevent potential illness.

The website provides bacteria data for the Connecticut River and more than 20 tributaries, including the Chicopee River, Mill River (Northampton), Mill River/Lake Warner (Hadley), the Farmington River in Connecticut, the Ottauquechee and Black rivers in Vermont, and many more.

The water sampling project is now in its ninth year and is comprised of many partner organizations, all of which rely on trained volunteers to help with sampling. Every year, these organizations must apply for grants and request donations to keep their testing programs going. If you find this information useful, support your local watershed organization by becoming a member! For more information: ctriver.org

The U.S. Geological Survey maintains a web site relevant to all things watery: usgs.gov/water/

Included on the site are stream flow conditions on rivers, including 164 sites in Massachusetts, and scientific information about water quality and how it is tested. There are straightforward explanations about how water moves on the surface and under the ground.

It's easy to get lost in this site, scrolling through maps, reading reports, and generally exploring. There's a lot of real-time and archived information, and it's nice to know someone is collecting it all, arranged by watershed. The site should be of special interest to anyone wanting to expand on the excellent information offered by the CRWC.



Moon Calendar for July & August

Monday, July 4: Monday, July 11: Tuesday, July 19: Tuesday, July 26: Tuesday, August 2: Wednesday, Aug 10 Thursday, August 18: Wednesday, Aug 24:	New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter
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Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC). Moon image by NASA / Bill Ingalls.

The Prehistoric Valley: Lake Hitchcock and its Inhabitants



By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

DEERFIELD – Professor Richard Little made 30,000 years of history fly by for an engaged audience at a June 18 conference hosted by Eaglebrook School. "Glacial Lake Hitchcock and Its Primal Inhabitants" was the subject of the conference, presented by the western branch of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society at the private school, which kindly provided space and food for the event.

Professor **Richard Little** presented the geological history of the Connecticut River valley in his usual interesting and humorous way. He highlighted dinosaur footprints, discovered in our area by stone mason Dexter Marsh, and afterwards (and more famously) collected and written about by professor Edward Hitchcock; and armored mud balls, which Little himself discovered in our region. His talk provided an excellent overview of the valley, allowing attendees to more easily understand the context of the presentations that followed.

Barbara Calogero spoke about the abundant lithic resources (rocks made into or flaked off of tools) found in a site in Deerfield. Optical analysis showed that material from the west was brought here to make these tools, as most of our native rocks are not suitable, being too coarse-grained.

Richard Gramley spoke about the Paleo-American cultural sequence in New England, the discovery of a Clovis point in Northampton by Jason Lovett (who was on hand to show the point), and the Bower Road mastodon site in New York. The Clovis point, an isolated find in a farmer's field, poses a mystery as to how it got there since the 13,000 year old artifact was found alone and not with other artifacts as would normally be expected.

Professor Gramley used the example as a means to show how archaeological hypotheses are posed and then attempted to be proven. The audience was invited to speculate and add their own theories, some of which were deemed at least possible.

The mastodon portion of his presentation informed us that the last mastodons were in our area about 12,400 years ago, and Gramley believes they were wiped out by people hunting them. He suggests that amateurs who have found sites get in touch with him, and that everyone publish their ideas.

Local professional archaeologist **Peter Thomas** spoke about the Riverside Archaeological District in Gill, and using the example of a less-established river in Alaska, hypothesized how our Connecticut River might have been "braided" in its younger days, meaning many-stranded and meandering, and thus not a barrier to people wanting to cross it. Thinking of the river's bed as having been carved down through the glacial lakebed sediments also gives clues as to where sites of different ages could be found within the valley.

Lester Garvin, a professional aerial photograph interpreter and map maker, made a fascinating presentation with maps showing the shoreline of glacial Lake Hitchcock, and an analysis of where to find archaeological sites based on access to the lake.

Stuart Fiedel demonstrated how scientific analysis of glacial varves (the fossilized clay ripples that were once the bottom of the lakebed) can provide more than an accurate timeline. Fish fin imprints were found, showing that arctic char were present in the lake at about 15,500 years ago. He hypothesized that Paleo-era peoples followed swan migration to the lakes, which means they had food sources here.

In all, we learned quite a bit about glacial Lake Hitchcock, including that, in the Greenfield area, its shoreline was about 300 feet above sea level; that Mt. Sugarloaf and the Holyoke Range were islands in the lake; and that Native people visited the shores of this lake, which hosted fish and waterfowl at certain time periods.

For more information about the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, visit massarchaeology.org.



Example of a Clovis fluted blade that is 11,000 years old. Image courtesy of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

NatureCulture Events:

Growing Season: Women in Agriculture and Food Production

The exhibit "Growing Season" focuses on the growth and encouragement of women in agriculture and food production at Massachusetts Agricultural College from 1910 through the 1930s.

With growing local food supply issues from 1900-20 due to World War I and population movement from farms to cities, MAC started special short course programs that engaged women in practical agriculture, like gardening, fruit growing, dairying and also rural social services and home economics.

On display in Special Collections and University Archives, floor 25, are collections that reflect women and food production, including cookbooks focused on preservation and canning; Helen Hunerwadel who taught and advised on agricultural in Burma and Iran in the 1940s and 1950s; and Elizabeth Henderson, an organic farming pioneer and founding

member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Now through August 15.

UMass W.E.B. DuBois Library Learning Commons (lower level) & Floor 25 Archives

Info: Kirstin Kay: kay@library.umass.edu or (413) 545-6834

The Little Farm Show: Where Does Your Food Come From?

An original musical theatre performance about farming, food, and the environment courtesy of North American Culture Laboratory Theater.

The play navigates through the history of agriculture from 10,000 BCE to today, exploring sustainability, local food systems, and organic farming.

Steeped in history, philosophy, and a wheelbarrow-full of information, and will not only entertain, but will ask people to consider their food choices and the effect those decisions have on their bodies, the environment, and society.

Bring blankets, chairs (no dogs please). All ages.

Sunday, July 10, 4 p.m.

On the lawn at Amherst College Observatory off Snell Street, Amherst. Tickets: \$9 adults / \$7 children under 12.

Info: kofest.com/the-little-farm-show-nacl-theatre/

Accessible Birding with Joe

Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month (through November) in a search for birds at local sites. Open to birders of all abilities.

Tuesday, July 12 and Tuesday, August 9 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Meet at the Center at 100 Main Street, Athol.

Call ahead for wheelchair van access: (978) 248-9491

Info: Athol Bird Club: athol-birdclub.org.

Quabbin Tracking with David Brown

The intense mating activity of mid-winter and spring settles down to family life, leaving sign of

one kind or another for the tracker to find and construct scenarios of largely hidden wildlife behavior.

Summer is the subtle season where this sign may be harder to find than on the surface of winter snow, but the insights into wildlife activity are a marvelous reward.

Sunday, July 24. Pre-registration required. Fee.

Info: dbwildlife.com

WeeMuse: Parent/Child STEM Session

Join us for STEM as we explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. This program is designed for children ages 2 to 4 and their caregivers to teach concepts at a level where sensory and exploration rule their world. Older and younger siblings are always welcome to join in. Free.

Wednesday, August 10, 10:30 a.m. Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street (Route 7), Pittsfield.

Reservations: Jesseca Williamson (413) 443-7171 ext. 334 or jwilliamson@berkshitemuseum.org. Info: berkshitemuseum.org

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FACES & PLACES



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Chris Mero and Sally Praseh drove a pick up to the Montague Center wildlife management area last weekend to haul away an overflowing trash can and clean up the litter surrounding it. From now on, visitors should carry out their trash and leave the area clean.

MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

Jerri Higgins (left) brought us with her on a recent trip to southern Maine. Here she is at a Portland Sea Dogs game at Portland's Hadlock Field, with Barbara Jagareski-Baxley of Portland.

*Going somewhere this summer? Bring us with you!
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BOOK REVIEW

The Life of Light

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE – Bruce Watson, Montague’s latest writer in residence, is a genius. His latest book, *A Radiant History from Creation to the Quantum Age*, is brilliant.

A combination of science, art, history, religion, literature, and fantasy, *A Radiant History* reads like a novel. Amazing characters, dramatic conflicts, extraordinary experiments, wonderful discoveries, and marvelous adventures in travel come together to celebrate a whole about which we are very familiar but know very little: light.

A Radiant History is also very funny. Anyone who’s read Bruce’s columns in the *Amherst Bulletin* and *Hampshire Life* can testify to his sense of humor. It’s in his DNA.

Those familiar with his *Smithsonian* magazine articles also know how interesting, informative, and thought-provoking he can be. The same is true for his books, which range from the man who invented the erector set to Sacco and Vanzetti to the Freedom Riders of 1964 to the role the American Dream plays in the lives of migrant workers.

These many columns, articles, and books – in their own ways and for different reasons – prepared Bruce to take on a subject as vast as the universe and smaller than the tiniest laser beam.

Like some of the scientists he writes about, Bruce breaks his subject into particles. He begins at the dawn of western civilization, with the Greeks. They adored light and thought it “instantaneous” because they didn’t believe it traveled. It was simply everywhere.

Then there is the inner light. The ancient Chinese, South Asians, and Arabs were so fascinated with light they bestowed upon it all kinds of metaphorical and spiritual qualities. Did you know that *manara* in Arabic means “place of light”? It’s where the word “minaret” comes from.

Early Christians got into the act, too. The Greek artist Apelles may

have painted grapes to look so real that birds would peck at them, but none of his paintings survive today. No Greek paintings do. And all of the paintings that have managed to come down to us through the Middle Ages look as if they were painted on the brightest days of the year.

Enter Leonardo da Vinci. Imagine him covering each painting with a thin mixture of cypress and juniper oils and particles only he knew what to do with. The effect was to make seamless the lines separating Mona Lisa’s famous face from the background against which it appeared.

Now call to mind that other Michelangelo. The one who went by the name of Caravaggio. He was able to use light for dramatic effect, and what he did in and around 1600, Rembrandt and Vermeer perfected before the century ended.

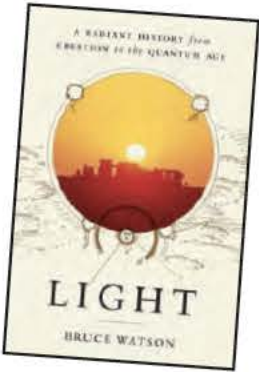
It was the light in one of Rembrandt’s last paintings, *The Jewish Bride*, that caught the eye of Vincent van Gogh who said he would give up ten years of his life to sit for two weeks in front of the painting with only a crust of bread to eat.

But by van Gogh’s time, the recently invented camera could develop a better likeness of anyone or anything than any artist could produce. Other ways had to be created to represent the world. So where did artists turn for inspiration? Light. Not the light as it had shone on people and objects for centuries, but the visual sensations emitted by light as it reflected from people and objects. There’s a word for these artists: Impressionists.

At the same time that Monet was shining his special light on water lilies and Edison was beginning the process that did to the stars what the pre-Impressionists had done to art, Einstein was turning Newton’s theory of gravity on its head and himself into the great mind of the twentieth century.

That means, among other things,

see **LIGHT** page B6



Turners Falls Goes to War: *Part IX*



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 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 have so far published five letters written by a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter, as well as excerpts from that newspaper describing activities on the home front.

Last week we ran Sullivan’s last letter from the transport *Seneca* in Tampa Bay, dated June 12, 1898, which ran in the June 22 edition of the Turners Falls Reporter.

To follow the story, we turn now to the memoir of the company’s captain, Frederick E. Pierce:

There were long days and monotonous ones, but finally, under protection of consorts, we started.

The suffering on these crowded transports can be imagined when I tell you we were on them fourteen days before landing. The water issued to the men was vile. It was Mississippi water, but stored in foul casks. The water drunk by the officers was the same but stored in an iron tank and run through ice.

I reported the condition of affairs to the surgeon, but he said I was mistaken, that the water was chemically pure. I finally took a cupful to him and the odor was so offensive that it nauseated him. I laid in with the steward and between us we hypothecated all the water we could, and I passed it out of my state room window to my men....

As senior officer of the Second Regiment on board the “*Seneca*” it was my duty, in company with the majors of the Eighth, to inspect the

boat twice each day. The bunks, made of rough boards, had been thrown together hurriedly and every inch of space was utilized.

The boat, filthy to start with and overcrowded with men, supplies and baggage, was hard to keep in



Captain Frederick E. Pierce, the Greenfield postmaster whose 1900 memoir we are reading. The General Pierce Bridge, between Montague City and Cheapside, was named after him.

anything like a sanitary condition. In consequence the lower decks were foul and ill-smelling.

The men in a great measure preferred to spend their time and sleep on the upper deck and you would find them huddled together in every conceivable spot. Even when it rained, they preferred the fresh air and wet clothes to going below where the air was close and stifling....

It was a grand sight to see the long line of transports in three columns guarded on the flanks and in advance by the warships of our navy. I shall never forget the magnificence of it all. There were nearly fifty boats of all kinds in this expedition. The signal lights at night, with their beautiful colors and the long flash of the search-lights, were superb.

No one knew where we were

going. One day it was Santiago de Cuba, the next it would be Porto Rico, but we were pretty sure it was Santiago when we turned to the west after leaving the windward passage.

I have every reason to believe that the Fifth Army Corps was originally intended for Porto Rico. But after Cervera’s fleet was bottled up in Santiago harbor, prominent naval officers predicted that the city could be taken by the combined forces of the navy and a land force of 10,000 men. Our corps being the nearest to readiness for active duty, was hustled off for this purpose.

While anchored near the breakwater off Tampa Bay, the boys had lots of sport swimming and diving in the water. We had some expert swimmers and divers in our Company and the magnificent physique and set-up of the men was the wonder and admiration of the regular officers. They would dive off the top rail of the boat, some thirty-five feet, with the ease and grace of an expert diver. Privates Woodard and Albert Brown were, perhaps, the best divers in our Company. They were both good soldiers and did excellent service.

Occasionally a school of sharks would appear near by and there would be a grand scramble for the side of the boat. But no casualties occurred from this cause....

On the way down I saw a real water-spout. I had never seen one before except as pictured in my geography, and it was well worth the seeing, I assure you.

The Southern Cross was also an interesting sight, not that the stars are any brighter, but because it cannot be seen so far north as this.

We slowed up off Santiago, and it was finally announced that we were to land somewhere the next day.

The bombardment and maneuvering of our war vessels was a

see **WAR** page B4

WEIRD HEALING by OPERTURA

See art show information on p. B6!



Opertura, a.k.a. Overture, is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

Pet of the Week

Hi there, my name is Mr. Fishowner. I came to Dakin as a friendly stray, so not too much is known about my past.

One thing is for sure though, I am quite a handsome boy. I'm also very outgoing and affectionate. I'm pretty entertaining to watch too! I would

live peacefully in a home with other cats. If I may be the right fit for you, stop in and ask an adoption counselor for more information!

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



“MISTER FISHOWNER”

Senior Center Activities JULY 11 to 22

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.

T, W, Th: Noon Lunch
M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 7/11 & 7/18
Noon Lunch 7/11 only
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 7/12 & 7/19
7:12: 1 p.m. FRCOG Focus Group
7:19: 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
7:19: 1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 7/13 & 7/20
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/14 & 7/21
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m. Cards & Games

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

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

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

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

Monday 7/11 & 7/18
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
Tuesday 7/12 & 7/19
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
Homemade Lunch (*sign up*)
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
7:19: 12:30 p.m. Friends Bus. Mtg.
Wednesday 7/13 & 7/20
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 7/14 & 7/21
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (*fast moving*)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring
Friday 7/15 & 7/22
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling; Walking Club
Noon "Out To Lunch"
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.

Silverthorne Theater Premieres *Two Rooms*

GREENFIELD – American professor Michael Wells' (Charles Holt) captivity by Lebanese terrorists stretches on for years. Back in the US, wife Lainie (Emily Bloch) strips his study bare in an effort to recreate his prison conditions, and is caught in the crossfire as official State Department policy conflicts with media demands to grab the headlines with her husband's plight.

Carmela Lanza-Weil portrays Ellen Van Os, charged by her foreign office minders to keep Lainie in line while ambitious journalist Walker Harris (Jay Sefton) urges her to go public to secure his release.

"[T]his arresting work deals with a subject much in the minds of contemporary society – the taking of innocent hostages by political terrorists... the play illuminates both the numbing agony of the one detained and also the helpless fury of those who are left behind." (*NY Times*)

Rebecca Daniels, a Turners Falls resident, will direct Lee Blessing's drama. Recently retired from her position as chair of St Lawrence University's Performing Arts Department, Daniels has a long career as a director, educator and scholar. She was a founding member of Portland OR's premiere professional theater, Artists Repertory Theater.

Two Rooms opens July 14 and runs through July 23. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, July 14 to 16 and July 21 to 23. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.

On Thursday, July 21, a panel of local Middle East specialists will join the director and cast after the show for a talkback about the themes and contemporary relevance of the play.

Tickets are \$19 general admission, \$17 students/seniors (over 65). Group rates are available. Tickets available at World Eye Books in Greenfield, Broadside Books in Northampton or online at silverthorne-theater.org where there is also information about the Dinner+Theater program. For more information call (413) 768-7514.



Rebecca Daniels, director of the Silverthorne Theater production *Two Rooms*, opening on July 14.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We're kicking past the midpoint of 2-0-1-6!

This week, please enjoy the latest installation of Val's Valley View, which brings us an in-depth look into this year's Mutton and Mead festival.

Have you ever spoken with a

tree? Follow Val as she searches for her knight in shining armor and meets some interesting characters along the way.

This week you can also view the 6/28 Gill Special Town Meeting. And don't forget to check out our Facebook page: [facebook.com/MontagueTV](https://www.facebook.com/MontagueTV).

Something going on you think

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

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



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I'm a 76-year-old woman and I have to take a long nap every day because I'm up nights urinating. I know a lot of my contemporaries have the same problem. I'm curious to know how widespread this is.

First, don't presume that the nightly bathroom trips are insignificant. See a doctor to determine the cause. There are solutions to your problem but they depend upon a diagnosis.

You're suffering from a very common problem called "nocturia," the need to urinate at night. Some people with severe nocturia get up as many as six times a night to go to the bathroom. The International Continence Society defines nocturia as two or more voids at night.

Nocturia is more common among seniors than younger people. In a survey taken by the National Sleep

Foundation, about two thirds of the adults (55 to 84 years old) polled reported an urge to go to the bathroom at least several nights a week.

There are a variety of reasons for nocturia in older people.

First, we produce less of a hormone that helps us retain fluid. Because of this decreased capacity, seniors produce more urine at night. Second, the bladder – a muscular sac – loses its capacity to hold urine. Third, we have more health problems that can affect the bladder.

Both men and women get nocturia.

Many men suffer from nocturia because of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), also known as enlarged prostate. The prostate is a walnut-size organ that surrounds the tube (urethra) that carries urine from the bladder and out of your body.

BPH is common in men 50 and older. An enlarged prostate may squeeze the urethra, making it hard to urinate. It may cause dribbling after you urinate or a frequent urge to urinate, especially at night.

Pelvic organ displacement, menopause and childbirth can cause nocturia in many women.

The pelvic floor is a network of muscles, ligaments and other tissues that hold up the pelvic organs: the vagina, rectum, uterus and bladder. When this hammock-like network

weakens, the organs can slip out of place and create disorders.

A woman reaches menopause when a year has passed since her last period. Menopause, like many of the changes in a woman's body through her lifetime, is caused by changes in hormone levels. Menopause can make it difficult to hold urine.

There are other medical conditions that cause nocturia. These include infection, tumors, heart disease, high blood pressure, liver failure, diabetes and sleep apnea.

Sleep apnea is much more common in older adults and men. Apnea is Greek for "without breath." People with sleep apnea stop breathing for as long as 30 seconds at a time. These interruptions can happen hundreds of times a night. The breathing cessations may wake you.

There are people who overproduce urine at night. This is called "nocturnal polyuria." It can cause nocturia, too.

Other causes of nocturia that are not medical conditions are drinking caffeine, alcohol or too much liquid close to bedtime. In addition, diuretic medications can contribute to the problem.

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

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WAR from page B1

great sight. The bombardment took place at both Siboney and Daiquiri, so that our actual landing place should not be known to the Spaniards. A perfect shower of shells was fired into the sides of the mountains and along the coast.

A serious mistake was made just before our landing. The officers had dressed themselves in their Khaki uniforms and they were much more comfortable than the thick blue ones. But the senior officer in command of the troops on our boat, a strict disciplinarian and West Pointer, refused to allow us to land in any but our blue fatigue uniform. We suffered much in consequence from the heat and because the officers became conspicuous marks for the ever watchful sharpshooter.

Finally we were ordered to land at Daiquiri. This was no easy task, as the "Seneca," improperly loaded with heavy siege guns and in the trough of the sea, rolled from side to side, until it seemed as if she would capsize. It did not soothe our feelings much to learn that there was a quantity of dynamite stored in the hold....

Finally the boat in which I landed was filled with men and pulled away from the "Seneca." We could not row ashore but waited to be towed in by launches.... I never saw men so ill from seasickness in my life.... It was as hard landing as it was getting into the boats, but we finally got safely ashore. Others lost their lives later in making this landing.

Here I saw the first and only wounded Cuban I saw during the campaign. He was a poor, inoffensive native, who had been hit by a shell from one of our battleships and lost his arm. The inhabitants here were very kind and hospitable.

Here we got our first cocoanuts and saw some of the natural beauties of the island; such magnificent palms and rank tropical growth I had never seen before. The mountains, too, were grand, raising their heads away up in the clouds. It surprised me to learn that many of these peaks were higher than our own White Mountains.

Another peculiarity, but not an attractive one, about those high peaks, was that nearly every one of them was surmounted by a Spanish block-house. These block-houses are rather interesting to look over (after they are in your possession.) They look something like a Chinese pagoda and not unlike a signal station, or switch house on our large railroad systems....

I remember seeing the American flag raised at Daiquiri. The men sent to raise it had to climb a high peak overlooking the harbor. It was a long, tedious climb up the narrow, winding pass, but they finally reached the top and took down the Spanish flag and hoisted the American flag in its place.

As the stars and stripes proudly fluttered in the breeze, the war ships saluted with their guns, and the transports blew their whistles, and one could not but feel proud that he was an American. During the bombardment and landing, the band on

our boat played that familiar tune, "There will be a hot time in the old town to-night."....

At Daiquiri, I was ordered to furnish a Company for scouting purposes, and I detailed Company E, the Orange Company, for this duty. I was also ordered to furnish a detail for engineer work and selected the men from L Company....

We camped that night not far from Siboney and the next day entered the town. We nearly overtook the Spaniards and so hasty was their retreat that they left their breakfast cooking on the fires....



First Lieutenant Charles H. Field, of Greenfield, was the first killed in battle.

Siboney, or better known as "Crab City" by the boys, was a quaint old place. The Cubans were poor, but kindly disposed and hospitable. Their homes generally were thatched huts. The floors are of natural clay soil. Some of them at this place were more pretentious, owing to its being a mining and lumber town, the industries largely being run by American capital. Some of their huts were without furniture, cooking utensils or other conveniences, and only with mere heaps of cast-off clothing or rags for beds. These unhappy creatures subsist on native fruits for the most part.

We had to be very careful about eating the fruits common to the island. Mangos could be eaten, but caused a fever if eaten in large quantities and with liquors. The liquors would cause fermentation and sickness was sure to follow....

Did you ever see a land crab? They range in size from a ten cent piece to a good sized lobster. It is a delightful sensation to wake up and find one of these repulsive crustaceans crawling over you. They are harmless and, we learned, were good eating, but there is something so creepy, crawly and repulsive about them as they click, click over the ground, crawling backward as rapidly as forward, that I should indeed be hungry to try my appetite on one of them.

The spiders and scorpions, too, were nightmares to us.... I have seen and killed a great many spiders as large as your hand stretched out with fingers and thumb extended. The colored soldiers dug them out of the ground and had fights between them. They were as great fighters as the colored troops themselves, and never ended the contest until one or both were killed....

The men accidentally discovered a lot of wine and stores left by the

Spaniards and helped themselves quite liberally before the officers learned of the discovery....

The Second was left to guard the town and the Eighth and Twenty-second were pushed ahead to reinforce the colored troops and Rough Riders. We could hear the crack, crack of the rifles away up in the mountains and knew there was an engagement on. We were hurried along later, and reached the scene of the battle of a few hours previous, just at dusk.

I shall never forget that scene. It was our first experience of the results of battle. It was not the worst part of army life to face bullets, but to see the sufferings of the men around you. It was a sad sight which met our gaze.

Stretched upon the ground were our dead, numbering sixteen, all told. The colored boys were burying their dead as we reached La Guasima. All around were the wounded, and some suffering terribly....

Finally the time came for us to advance. You who have faced death and know the sound of the minie ball or the ping of the mauser, can appreciate a man's feelings as he enters action. We had tramped through the mud, and forded several streams before we were finally ordered to bivouac for the night. How well I recall that last night before the battle of "El Caney"....

Companies L and M were designated for the firing line in our battalion.... we found ourselves in the thick of the fight, in the open, with but little to screen us from the watchful eyes of the enemy. We were directly in the zone of fire and the only protection afforded us was the tangled undergrowth and a few spreading palms and mangos....

We lost several men wounded before we realized our position. Private De Revere was the first man hit. A bullet struck his rifle, glancing off and penetrated his hand, crippling the two middle fingers of this left hand. With the blood streaming from his wound he started towards the rear. He was met by our Major who inquired in his gruff way where he was going. De Revere showed him his hand and the Major told him to go back to the hospital and have it dressed.

Private Schiller was hit near by. He was evidently just raising himself from the position of lying down when a bullet penetrated his chest in a slanting direction, coming out of his side several inches below....

Private Cornell was also wounded at this position before crossing the sunken road. He was hit in the chest, the bullet penetrating one of the shoulderblades. He took the situation philosophically, and bore the pain with fortitude. I missed him very much later on, as he had been of material assistance to me, being a carpenter by trade, and always willing and ready to be detailed for any work in his line.

But we pushed on through the tall grass across a sunken roadbed, and lying down, began firing. Hardly had the smoke from our Springfields begun to rise before we received such

a shower of bullets that it seemed at one time as if the Company must be wiped out of existence. I remember kneeling in the grass and discussing the situation with Lieutenant Field. We both agreed that our position must be changed or our loss would be terrible....

The noise was terrible, and not until I had nearly reached the spot where I had left the Lieutenant did I manage to hear one of my men hollering that he thought the Lieutenant was wounded where I had left him but a moment before.

I hurried to the spot and found poor Field. He had pitched forward on his hands and knees and I saw that he was badly wounded. A bullet had struck him in the left eyebrow and came out at top of his head. I tried to carry him to a safer spot but found I had not the strength, but some of my men came to my assistance and carried him to the roadbed.

He only lived a minute or so, and I never wish to pass through such an experience again. Put yourself in my position. I had known Lieutenant Field and been associated with him in a military way for more than ten years. Never had a hard word passed between us in all that time. Obedient to commands, always, and ever ready for any duty assigned him, he won the respect of all he came in contact with....

There was many a close call from death. Private Wilson was burned on the hand by a bullet. Private Ungrich received a bullet clean across his breast, going through his canteen strap, blouse and two shirts, and not touching his skin. He slipped down from the bank beside the roadbed and stood there in a sort of dazed condition....



Private Joseph M. Lanois, of Riverside, was wounded and died July 3.

Private Cook had a ball pass between his arm and breast.... Private Spaulding's drinking cup was perforated by a mauser. He threw it away because, as he said, it would not hold water. Had it been mine I would not have taken \$1000 for it.

Time and time again I had to scold my men for needlessly exposing themselves to the fire of the enemy.... It has been said that the Second Regiment was withdrawn from action early in the day, but this is not so, for aside from a cessation of fires by volleys early in the fight, the Companies on the firing line kept up a desultory and individual fire throughout the entire action....

It was shortly after this that the

colored regulars made their charge and took a block-house. The Major and I were behind a tree, and looking through a glass, when suddenly we saw the Spaniards begin to climb out of their trenches and retreat. Our men mowed them down like grass as they tried to make their escape toward Santiago.

The battle of "El Caney" was over, but it had lasted nine and one-half hours.... It had been planned to take El Caney in a half hour, and then our division was to proceed towards San Juan and attack the enemy on the flank while the other division engaged them in front; but the day was far spent when our first battle was over, and the men were tired almost beyond endurance....

I remember some of the colored troops passing us as we were resting by the roadside. Some of them were pretty badly used up, but they had lost none of the dash and good nature so characteristic in them. "Hello, you Second Regiment fellows, what do you think of that for a charge?" was their familiar greeting as they swung by us. They had every reason to be proud of their work that day....

Private Blackmer received a scalp wound over the ear. I saw him walking about in a dazed manner and asked him what was the matter. He didn't seem to know he was hit, but I saw the blood trickling down the side of his face, and after examining the wound I sent him back to the hospital.

We lost one officer killed and six men wounded (one fatally). The wounded behaved like the heroes they were and bore the pain and suffering without wincing, even making light of their wounds.

Private Lanois died July 3rd, at hospital, from wound received at "El Caney." Poor fellow, I saw him for a minute at the hospital before I had to leave. He was as brave as anyone I ever knew. He knew he must die and was not afraid to face death....

It seemed hard and cruel to me to be obliged to leave our wounded so poorly cared for and our dead unburied; but there was no alternative, and we pushed ahead towards San Juan.

Meanwhile, in the July 6, 1898 edition of the Turners Falls Reporter:

The news of the fighting at Santiago made many anxious hearts in town. Those having boys at the front feel anything but gay, but we are all glad for the splendid record made by the brave boys of the gallant 2nd.

By the new state aid law each Massachusetts soldier in service is to receive from the state \$7 per month, and to dependents of the soldiers \$1.25 per week. This is a total of \$13 per month. The soldier can consign the \$7 to any of his friends.

There was "a hot time in the old town" last Sunday. The heat was all but unbearable. We could sympathize with our troops in Cuba.



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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.

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:

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 Pellerin, 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.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Camera Materna*. Group photography show "revealing the artist behind the nurturer". Artists' reception Sunday, July 10, 4 to 6 p.m. Through July.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Take Me to Your Leader: New paintings by Charlie Shaw*, who examines the similarities among indigenous art from around the world in his acrylic and plaster paintings. Through August.

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 is 10/1. Complete information at www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html

EVENTS:

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. \$

FRIDAY, JULY 8

GCC Grounds, Greenfield: *Green River Festival*. Friday through Sunday. See their webpage or facebook page for line-up. The fun starts at 5 p.m. \$

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents: Fletcher & Manzi*. Original acoustic music, eclectic blend of blues, jazz and R & B. 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mikey Sweet & Road Dog Gospel plus Moonlight Davis with Miro Sprague*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Federated Church, Charlemont: Mohawk Concerts present: *Chiara String Quartet* performing Ravel, Bartok and Beethoven. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shokazoba Afrobeat*. Afrobeat ensemble blends jazz and old school funk with a West African beat. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week features Turtles. Hands-on experience for young children. 10:30 a.m.

Center Common, Montague Center: *2nd Annual Montague Jazz Festival with Broken Cello Orchestra, Sfere, Doug Hewitt, and the Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra*. Donations benefit the First Congregational Church of Montague. 12:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: 2-W Drive. Classic rock. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Samantha Farrell*. Jazz/pop. 7:30 p.m. \$

Federated Church, Charlemont: Mohawk Trail Concerts presents *The Chiara String Quartet*. Ravel, Bartok, Beethoven. 7:30 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Home Body and Death Savings Flag*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.M. Gold*. Your '80s dreams come true. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Roxy Roca*. "Austin-based powerhouse of Southern soul". 8 p.m. \$

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

MONDAY, JULY 11

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *In the Spotlight*. Montague Community Band Summer Concert. 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Poetry Night*. Sign up for open mic at 6:30. Readings begin at 7 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concert Series presents: *Roland LaPierre, Jim Eagan, Russ Thomas*. 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy*. Traditional music from Ireland and Canada. 7:30 p.m. \$

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: PaintBox Theatre Presents: *Raggedy Ann*. For the whole family. 7 p.m. \$

Arts Block (The Wheelhouse), Greenfield: *The Jays, John Divvy, & Silver Lake*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Terryfics*. Classic rock, folk, jazz. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week features Rabbits. Hands-on experience for young children. 10:30 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: PaintBox Theatre Presents: *Raggedy Ann*. For the whole family. Two performances, 10

a.m. and 1 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Goonies*. Pirates, monsters, treasures and skeletons!. Movie starts 7:30. Music by James Smith, jazz/blues/poetry, 7 p.m. \$

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Red Cross Emergency Call for Blood, Platelets

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The American Red Cross has issued an emergency call for blood and platelets, urging all eligible donors to give now to replenish an extremely low summer blood supply.

Blood donations have fallen short of hospital needs for the past few months, resulting in about 39,000 fewer donations nationwide than what's needed, as well as a significant draw down of the overall Red Cross blood supply. In addition, the Independence Day holiday may have caused many regular donors to postpone donations due to vacation plans.

"Right now, blood products are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in, which is why we are making this emergency request for donations," said Nick Gehrig, com-

munications director, Red Cross Blood Services. "Donations are urgently needed now to meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks. If you've thought about giving blood and helping to save lives, now is the time to do it. It's the blood donations on the shelves that help save lives when an emergency occurs."

To schedule an appointment to donate, use the free Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. The Red Cross is extending hours at many donation sites to allow for more donors to make an appointment to give. Donation appointments and completion of a RapidPass health history questionnaire online are encouraged to avoid longer wait times. Donors with all blood types are needed.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

- Friday, July 8** Greenfield Fire Department, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, July 8 Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, from 1 to 6 p.m.
Monday, July 11 Sunderland Fire Department, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday, July 12 UMass-Amherst Student Union, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, July 16 Greenfield Republican Masonic Lodge, 215 Munson Street, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday, July 18 Public Library, 2 Canal Street in South Hadley, noon to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, July 19 Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield, from 1 to 6 p.m.
Thursday, July 21 Holy Family Parish, 29 Sugarloaf Street in South Deerfield, noon to 5 p.m.

LIGHT from page B1

I've never been good at either math or science. When I got to the chapter on Einstein and quantum theory, I hesitated. Experience had taught me that what would follow would be one big blur.

But Bruce had already turned into the science teacher I always wished I had. How did he do it? By not being a science teacher. His background, as is evident from his writing, is literature, art, and history. His mission is to turn people on.

And unlike every other science teacher I ever knew, he doesn't throw around words he assumes ordinary human beings should be embarrassed not to know. He explains them in language that is immediately accessible to any general reader. I still don't know much about quantum theory, but thanks to Bruce, I'm no longer clueless.

To better explain what he writes about, Bruce has visited almost all of the places mentioned in his book. He's seen everything from the rising of the sun on the darkest day of the year in Newgrange, Ireland, to the largest telescope mirror ever made. Twenty-eight feet in diameter, it will enable the Giant Magellan Telescope in Chile to discover First Light, that particular radiance that has been around since the universe was formed billions of years ago.

Before reading Bruce's book, I hadn't heard of either Newgrange or the Giant Magellan. Now I know that light, because it isn't matter and can't decay, is eternal. It never goes away.

Bruce doesn't just visit the places he writes about; he also reproduces in his kitchen some of the experiments he's come across through his research. I can see him hammering nails into a pizza pan to confirm the experiments with refraction that Ibn al-Haytham conducted in 969. At the same time, I couldn't bear to envision Bruce detaching the retina of a horse's eye to create a camera obscura the same way Descartes did sometime around 1630. The image inverted and so did Bruce's stomach.

My favorite of the many amazing people who populate Bruce's narrative is Richard P. Feynman. Using words like "screwy," "dopey," and "absurd" to show what happens when light collides with matter, Feynman created diagrams with squiggly lines that he also painted on the side of his Ford van. He called his diagrams some "half-assedly thought-out pictorial semi-vision thing," but they won him the Nobel Prize in 1965. One physicist called them "the sun breaking through the clouds with rainbow and pot of gold."

The same could be said for Bruce's *A Radiant History from Creation to the Quantum Age*.



Opertura Exhibit, Fecund Opening, at ECA+ Gallery

EASTHAMPTON – The collaborative artist unit, Opertura, will offer new artwork in the exhibit, *Fecund Opening*, at ECA+ gallery from July 5 through July 26. There will be an opening reception on July 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Regular gallery times are Monday through Thursday, 12 to 6 p.m.

Fecund Opening features new illustration, installation and animation by Opertura focused on the transfer of energy. The active and receptive ends of nutrient exchange are on display in the overripe and digestive villi, the airborne spray and organic matter.

Opertura is the collaborative artist unit formed by Aya Yamasaki and Jason Brown. They create handdrawn animation, illustration, comics, installation and more, drawing inspiration from the natural and magical world, the humorous and tragic, and folk storytelling traditions.

Their work has screened and been presented domestically and abroad, and their comic strip, *Weird Healing*, is printed exclusively in the *Montague Reporter*.

See opertura.org for more information.

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