

The Montague Reporter

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also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 28, 2014

Skate While We Wait: River Station Seeks to Open New, Temporary Skatepark

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – At its August 25 meeting the Montague selectboard gave a tentative go-ahead for a temporary skatepark on its former site adjacent to Unity Park.

The board was acting on a request by Richard Becker, who is developing the former Chick's Garage on the corner of Third Street and Unity Park into a space for arts and business called River Station.

Behind the building is an area formerly used as a skate park which Becker wishes to resurrect as the temporary park, to be used before a permanent concrete park approved by a town meeting is completed.

According to Becker's request, many skateboarders have indicated interest in being able to use the

space on an interim basis. Tim de-Christopher, the building's previous owner, had allowed the property to be used for a skatepark for many years. While not by any means ideal, it is nonetheless a viable space for skateboarders to work on their art.

Becker was not in attendance at the meeting so his proposal was presented to the board by Barry Scott, who is selling skateboard equipment at his shop Playground Skateshop at River Station, and Brian Dolan, a spokesperson for the town's skatepark committee.

The proposal stated that the temporary park would be opened during the posted hours of neighboring Unity Park, and padlocked at other times.

see SKATE page A4



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The proposed lot was used as a skate park until late 2008, and is adjacent to land set aside for a concrete park, contingent on a matching grant from the state.

In Memoriam: Tim Lindop

By CINDY TARAIL

MONTAGUE – Montague Community Cable mourns the passing of our colleague Tim Lindop, who died suddenly on Saturday, August 23.

The board and staff recognize Lindop for the energy and creativity he put into his work at MCTV. Lindop was a founding member of the original MCTV and served as its first executive director. He subsequently served as MCTV's first technical director.

After many years away, he was glad to return to Montague when MCTV found itself in need of a technical director. Over the past year, Lindop worked hard to mentor community producers while faithfully recording many government meetings and community events – and producing high-quality short pieces about town departments and local organizations.

MCCI board member Mike Langknecht remembered Lindop as a person "dedicated to public access." He also commented that Lindop was "uncompromising about getting it right: lighting, angles, sound." He remembered him as a remarkable trainer who worked hard to educate many about the ins and outs of video production.

Lindop brought his passion for storytelling to Montague, encouraging citizens of all ages to learn to use the power of visual media.



He also worked recently as a video producer for Catholic Communications at the Diocese in Springfield.

Over the course of his 30-year career, Lindop was a cameraman for well-respected news organizations and served in a variety of leadership and technical roles at cable access television stations.

As a professional cameraman, Lindop traveled the world shooting in Haiti, Ecuador and Peru, among many other places. His assignments included filming events for Fox News, Al Jazeera, ABC, CBS, PBS affiliates The History Channel, The Travel Channel, Animal Planet and many more.

Lindop is survived by his two children, Angela and Julian Lindop, and their mother, Sonja Lindop.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 30 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace in Turners Falls.

Additional reporting contributed by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Former Erving Firefighters Ask To Rejoin Department

By KATIE NOLAN

Former Erving fire department members Mark Kosloski, Raymond Mailloux, Almon "Bud" Meattey, Herman "Butch" Meattey, William Pease, and Kelly Potts submitted applications to re-join the department at the August 25 selectboard meeting. Bud Meattey's appointment as fire chief was terminated by the board in September 2013 and the other firefighters resigned from the department soon after Meattey's appointment ended.

"We just want to help," said Pease. "I want to help the town because I can help with my qualifications," Bud Meattey said.

Pease and others stated that, since the experienced firefighters had left the department, 911 response time from fire station #1 had increased. "There are calls that have not been answered on this side of town," Pease said. "Response times are outrageous," Bud Meattey said.

Referring to fire station #1, Pease said, "This is a dead station now," and he reported at least one truck standing in the station with dead batteries and cobwebs.

"We are not bashing anybody," Pease said, but he added that chief

see ERVING page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Board Seeks Path Forward With Fire Department

By DAVID DETMOLD

According to selectboard member Julie Shively and members of the fire department present at a hearing on Tuesday, long time fire chief John Moruzzi has sent an email to Shively and to town administrator Margie McGinnis with a conditional offer to rescind his resignation.

The offer, however, is contingent on the town agreeing to waive a demand to sign a "hold harmless letter" absolving the town of liability in the event a firefighter over the age of 65 is injured in the line of duty, and to keep Moruzzi and other senior firefighters on the department past the nominal retirement age of 65. This would allow senior members to complete the training of younger members of the department.

Five current members of the department were present at a hearing with the board on Tuesday, along with former training officer Stewart Olsen, who recently resigned in protest of the "hold harmless" waiver.

The firefighters presented a letter to the selectboard decrying recent friction between the board and their department, calling public criticism

of Chief Moruzzi's administrative abilities "shocking" and damaging to morale.

The letter states, "We are very concerned about the potential loss of the 100 combined years of experience that our senior staff represents. Their absence could put the remaining, less experienced members in personal danger, as well as those residents we are trying to protect."

The personnel board has determined the "hold harmless" letter senior officers were asked to sign a month ago would constitute age discrimination.

"We understand all too well the dangers of firefighting over the age of 65. However, these dangers are faced by all members, regardless of age. We hope the town can see that the contributions of our senior leadership far outweigh any perceived risks."

The letter also takes a critical view of a suggestion at the August 12 selectboard

meeting by Peter d'Errico that the town should consider purchasing fire services from a neighboring community, in combination with Leverett's call force and firefighting equipment, to respond to fire and medical calls in the town.

The letter noted surrounding communities suffer from personnel shortages on their fire departments which could be exacerbated if they were called on regularly to cover Leverett, and said outsourcing the town's fire services could affect response times, fire prevention, and homeowners' insurance rates.

In response, board members sought to clarify their role in the ongoing dispute about the future of the town's fire department at a time when the three senior officers – Moruzzi, Olsen, and Captain Marty Moore – were all at or soon to reach the traditional public-sector retirement age of 65.

First off, the board said the "hold harmless" letter senior officers were asked to sign a month ago is now null and void, as the personnel board has determined it would constitute age discrimination.

The board offered praise see LEVERETT page A5

Sidewalk Cracks on Turners Falls Gill Bridge Won't Break Your Mother's Back

Claire Chang, alert citizen and sidewalk-shoveler from Riverside, Gill brought to the attention of the Reporter that the bridge sidewalk is already cracking on the Turners Falls end (see right). She worries that such early apparent concrete failure is not a good sign. Joe took up the issue.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By JOE PARZYCH

According to state engineers, the sidewalk concrete is of 5,000 psi bridge mix. The Memorial Bridge in Springfield, which lasted over 100 years, was built of 2,000-lb concrete.

The 5,000-lb concrete was frequently sampled and tested during construction, according to state engineers. According to those figures, this 5,000-lb concrete should last forever, if not longer.

Lane Construction, suppliers of the concrete, do not wish to comment on the cracking.

According to state engineers, the TF-Gill Bridge was reconstructed as designed. The contractor poured the sidewalks in staggered pours, spaced 25' apart to create "cold" joints.

The contractor came back, once the first sections had set, to pour the skipped spaces, with fiber expansion joints

inserted between sections to forestall cracking. The contractor poured the sidewalks in squares marked off by scored "cheaters" in an effort to limit any cracking to the scored lines.

That didn't happen in this case. The first of three cracks appears just after one of the expansion joints, and between scored "cheater" lines. One crack appeared just about midway between cheater lines.

The sidewalk cracking was not unexpected. The TF-Gill Bridge reconstruction architects and engineers anticipated concrete cracking because of ordinary bridge movement, according to a state engineer.

In anticipation of just such cracking, the architect included a "crack remedial procedure" in the plans, which calls for drilling holes and injecting epoxy resins to seal the cracks. (Ain't nothin' that wire and glue won't fix.)

The clattering expansion

joints are a result of failed nylon film, used as a bearing surface, that crumpled. It is slated for replacement. That will involve jacking up the bridge, again, which hopefully won't result in any more cracks.

The new bearing surface material will be of similar plastic material as the failed material, but hopefully will be more durable. (Tupperware, maybe – that seems to wear well.)

A final finish coat of asphalt will smooth over and hide any irregularities in the pavement. The reason the asphalt pavement came loose in places, is that the architect specified that a water-based emulsion tack coat be sprayed ahead of the oil-based asphalt paving. (Who'da think that water and oil wouldn't mix?)

The painters are nearly done touching up the under structures of the bridge, in places, with shot blasting and painting. Once the scaffolding

see BRIDGE page A6

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

Action Needed on Ebola Treatment

We were relieved to learn that American missionaries Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, who had contracted the Ebola virus in Liberia, had been released last week from Emory University Hospital, apparently cured of this deadly disease.

These lucky two received the experimental drug ZMapp, a lab-created combination of three plant-based antibodies that seems to do what no single antibody has been able to accomplish so far: neutralize the Ebola virus. Prior to this treatment, the drug had never been tested in human subjects.

It's too early to tell whether ZMapp was the proven reason for the cure. A Spanish priest and Liberian doctor Abraham Borbor died, but two other African doctors are responding favorably. Despite these fatalities, many scientists and medical researchers are highly encouraged that perhaps a medical solution is finally here.

How soon the drug will get to market, however, remains uncertain. The tiny biotech firm that produced the drug – Mapp Bio-pharmaceuticals based in San Diego – is not positioned to produce the quantities needed to combat the deadly virus that has already killed nearly 1500 people in West Africa and infected far more.

Indeed, this week Mapp Bio-pharmaceuticals tersely announced on their website that “The available supply of ZMapp™ has been exhausted. We have complied with every request for ZMapp™ that had the necessary legal/regulatory authorization....Drug has been provided at no cost in all cases.”

Three points in this statement are important: 1) the supply is exhausted; 2) the company has given away the drug at no cost; 3) the FDA has not yet approved the drug for use.

In order to manufacture the quantities needed, Mapp needs some real help. It's not unusual for Big Pharma to license a drug from a small biotech company, then help fast-track it through the FDA approval process in order to be able to produce it in quantity. But so far, Big Pharma hasn't indicated any interest in ZMapp.

There are at least a couple of reasons for this. The first and second reasons are profitability. By Big Pharma standards the market for the drug simply isn't there since so far the number of cases

does not make the marketing cut-off. Indeed, antibiotics are not big money-makers because they are used for relatively short periods of time to fight specific infections.

Big Pharma has not developed a new type of antibiotic for more than three decades, despite a growing need for new antibiotics. The return simply isn't there.

And even if a pharmaceutical giant should decide that while the market at the moment isn't tremendous, in the future it might be, there is still a problem: those afflicted reside in West Africa. As a result, there is little chance that Big Pharma can charge an exorbitant amount for the drug.

Drug manufacturing is a huge business. It costs millions to research and develop a drug and millions more to get that drug to market. Despite these costs, it is an enormously profitable enterprise. According to *The Economist* magazine, the top 11 drug companies made 711 billion dollars in pure profit over the ten-year period between 2002 and 2012.

One would think that given the ongoing health emergency, at least one of these multi-billion-dollar companies might be willing to risk losing a few dollars to help manufacture a cure that could potentially save the lives of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of individuals.

But this would be totally out of character for these companies that have amassed fortunes for their directors and stockholders by concentrating their production on drugs with huge markets, particularly in the United States, where there are no price controls on medicines.

We do see some hope, but not in the form of Big Pharma assuming responsibility. What needs to happen is that the FDA needs to approve clinical trials of the drug. If ZMapp proves to be truly effective against Ebola, the drug should be rushed to market.

Mapp, then, needs to license this drug to Africans, to manufacture in Africa, with perhaps help from the WHO. The profits returning to the small biotech firm would probably not be huge, but the nine scientists who are Mapp Biotech have not appeared to be at all profit-oriented researchers.

This makes sense for several reasons. ZMapp is a plant-based drug and plant-based drugs are

fairly cheap to produce. Indeed, drugs concocted from plants are often one-tenth as costly to produce as conventional antibody manufactured medicines.

But licensing the drug to Africa makes even more sense when you take into account that the principal ingredient is native to Africa. According to the Mapp website, ZMapp is made from three ‘humanized’ monoclonal antibodies manufactured in plants, specifically *Nicotiana*.”

Nicotiana, or flowering tobacco, is native to West and Southwest Africa – meaning that a supply of this crucial plant is readily available exactly where it is needed.

Finally, if you take Big Pharma out of the picture, and produce the drug at cost, it would be affordable for clinics and health organizations in the countries afflicted by this dreadful virus.

World governments and the U.N. could make this happen. Indeed, the case for direct governmental intervention to finance further research, development and manufacturing of ZMapp and other vaccines and antibiotics is overwhelming and very urgent.

Or maybe, if governments don't want to get involved, an ice bucket challenge is in order.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Longtime Local Yoga

In response to the lengthy story welcoming new yoga teacher Nadya Tkachenko to Montague, I suggest follow ups which might recognize two other wonderful yoga instructors, Liza Enzer and Nancy Paglia, who have been contributing to the community and its spirit in this area for a long time.

I appreciate all the work which goes into bringing the best of the community news to us.

Carol Shea
Leverett

The editors reply: *Thanks! (To be clear, it is never our intent to play favorites when we run profiles of any local business people.)*

Why I Like Denise (Gimme A Reason Not To)

We've all heard or read by now the attacks on Rep. Denise Andrews by her opponents vying for the Republican primary in the 2nd Franklin District race.

They've attacked her votes on certain taxes, they've attacked her vote – which has actually met quite a bit of respect among constituents, against increasing the maximum sentence on small time drug trafficking – and they've attacked her stance on budget matters.

So, it's pretty evident what Susannah Whipps Lee and Karen Anderson are against anything Denise Andrews is for.

One should be cautious of candidates who define themselves based on what they are not. The true questions for voters should be: what do these candidates stand for?

Looking at their respective websites, and following the Republican candidates' debate, I still come up short on an answer as to what Lee and Anderson stand for, and what voice they will bring to Beacon Hill on behalf of Franklin County.

A visit to Denise Andrews' website showed a long list of legislative achievements and policy statements. I also found detailed positions broken into four major categories: Job Creation, Accessible Education, Environment, and Vibrant Communities.

I had trouble finding what Lee stands for. When I went to the “Issues” on her webpage, I could find very little in the way of details.

To her credit, Anderson lists issues on her website, with background on each but with little details on solutions.

One exception is on the issue of Protecting Our Children, where her position is quite radical. Anderson wants to make it more difficult for DCF to remove children from an unsafe environment, by changing the definition of “reasonable cause” for removal from a home.

Both Lee and Anderson say we need a “voice” in Franklin County, but I find no real clear idea of what voice they would bring to the State House. What would a Rep. Lee or

Anderson bring to Beacon Hill? Because like it or not, Beacon Hill ain't comin' to Franklin County.

From the debate, I know they both support gun rights, are both against most forms of taxation, and both have issues with the welfare system, though Whipps is more moderate on both this issue, as well as the issue of immigration.

In fact, other than the fact that Lee thinks Anderson has very little civic experience, the candidates are pretty much “me too” candidates.

One Republican candidate has been courting Dems and unenrolled voters, reminding us on social media of the deadline to register or change affiliation to vote in the upcoming primary. So, I'm going to flip this on its head and ask my Republican and unenrolled friends, why not take a second look at Denise Andrews?

I submit that Andrews knows the issues relevant to our county, has a clear track record of working to address the issues, and knows how to do this on Beacon Hill. You can go to her website and see all the legislation she has worked on and all her policy positions which are detailed, substantive, and thoughtful.

Ask Lee and Anderson – what do you bring to the table? We know what you are against, but what will you do to effect the change you seek? What's the first piece of legislation you will support or co-sponsor? If a candidate believes in more school resource officers, how does she propose paying for this? If a candidate believes jobs are key to reviving the area, how, specifically, will she bring them here?

You might not agree with her all the time, but you know where Denise Andrews stands. I know I haven't always agreed with her.

But Denise is also not afraid to make a tough vote when no one else will, and she rolls up her sleeves and works hard on issues relevant to our community, like postal cuts, senior housing, and education, and that's someone I want in my corner.

Ray DiDonato
Wendell

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Calling all local residents and history buffs. Ed Gregory returns to Turners Falls with a fascinating audio-visual presentation on the evolution of the Turners Falls Power Canal in the Community Room of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, August 30, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Come relax, enjoy and be entertained as well as informed with Gregory's top-notch slide show. Capturing the pulse of a thriving industrial town built along the powerful Connecticut River is precisely what Gregory has accomplished with this documentary. You won't want to miss it. Light refreshments provided compliments of GSB.

On Saturday August 30 from 7

to 9 p.m., Greenfield Gardens Summer Youth Program is holding an **All Ages Talent Show**. The cost is \$5 for adults; kids 12 and under will be admitted free. All proceeds will be donated to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Guest judges will be Greenfield Mayor William Martin; Chief Robert Haigh, Jr. from the Greenfield Police Department; Diana Nunez from "What's the 413;" Jay Fidanza from WHAI Radio; GHS Crushsquad head coach Krizia Carter; and Ollie Schwartz from Community Action.

The Movement Studio, upstairs at the Brick House (5th St. in Turners Falls) is hosting a **silent meditation**, non-denominational session on Sunday, August 31 from 10 to 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Chair Yoga classes will be held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 5th St., Turners Falls on Tuesdays from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. starting September 2 and will run through Nov. 25. These classes offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, oiling for joints and fun!

People from all towns and all skill levels are invited, including folks in wheelchairs. There is a small suggested donation of \$1 for each class. For more information, please contact Roberta Potter at the Senior Center at (413) 863-4500 or 863-9357.

"On Silent Wings: The Magic of the Snowy Owl" is the subject of a photographic presentation to be held September 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library as part of its First Wednesday Speaker Series.

Wildlife and adventure photographer Peter Christoph will share his passion for photographing birds. Christoph is a frequent speaker at libraries, camera clubs, schools, and outdoor clubs. He has recently updated his book *Birds*, which will be available for checkout at the library in advance of the presentation.

His bird images are known for their artistic vision and technical ex-

cellence, have been published in several magazines and have won awards in numerous competitions.

Join Bill Wilson from the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage and DCR Park staff for a program on the **four paper mills of Turners Falls** at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, September 6, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Presenters start with a brief discussion in the Great Hall, and then walk along the canal to imagine the mills as they once were and see what remains of them today.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

MCTV Goes Black From September 2-4

Due to work being done on our broadcast rack, MCTV will be in black from September 2-4.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience to the viewing public. For more info call (413) 863-9200 or contact info-montaguetv@gmail.com

wanted:

Volunteers for clean-up in the Village of Turners Falls.

Motivation to serve will come from wanting a better environment to live in and enjoy. Service will rarely be glorious. Temptation to quit will sometimes be strong.

Volunteers must be diligent, with little or no visible results, and little recognition except from each other. You may choose to clean as small or as large an area as you want. You may want to do only the street you live on.

A start-up kit will be provided.

If interested, please call (413) 863-2643 to speak with Alice Johnson, Captain, Turners Falls Clean Team

Another Letter

Cartoon Criticizing MCTV Content Unfair

I was sorry to see last week's "political cartoon" published. I was sorry to see a community organization take pot shots at another community organization particularly when they are anonymous and grossly inaccurate.

Before I wrote in today, I checked MCTV's vimeo site and found 103 videos in their Local Events collection which spans from mid 2012 to 2014. I would hardly categorize that as town government.

In addition, there are 58 hyper-local public service announcements, 17 Discovery Center presentations and a smattering of other stuff. That makes just under 200 local productions in about 2 years. What all this

means is that people are obviously using MCTV.

I am equally sorry to share that the coverage of the CAC and MCTV public meetings has been so skewed that I strained to find similarities between the articles and the meetings which I attended.

You may be a funky community newspaper and entitled to certain allowances, but c'mon. You still have the obligation of journalism. It's hard to believe that the excellent reporting of Mike Jackson shares the same pages of those articles.

There has been no mention or critique, except by me, of the conduct of the CAC or of the larger issues that MCTV has faced over these last

few years. Additionally there has been zero inquiry as to what local access faces and the larger implications of cable mergers.

I want my local access channel in the high definition tier. I want equipment to be upgraded so I can hear the government meetings better. I want my CAC in my town to fill the public records request made 3 months ago. Where's the cartoon about that?

Better yet, where's the Montague Reporter local tv show? If you folks collaborate with MCTV to set it up, I will volunteer to produce it, editing and all.

Kathleen Lynch
Montague

Editors' Note: We did not intend to run the cartoon in question anonymously. It was drawn by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno.

GUEST EDITORIAL

In our July 31 issue, we printed a letter sent by Chris Mason on behalf of the Montague Energy Committee, of which he is the chair, to Ann Berwick, chair of the state's Department of Public Utilities and acting chair of its Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Here is her response to the Energy Committee, dated August 12.

Thank you for your thoughtful letter to me dated July 21, 2014, concerning the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline, LLC (TGP) proposed natural gas pipeline project. I completely appreciate your perspective, and would like to clarify my view of a few of the points you make.

With respect to the need for natural gas, I deeply wish that I could agree with all of your arguments. The Patrick Administration would be the first to argue that the region could do without any fossil fuels if we thought that were even remotely possible. It is not.

This Administration is deeply committed to energy efficiency and renewable power. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy has ranked Massachusetts the number one state for energy efficiency three years running.

The Governor has also set a goal

of creating 1600 megawatts of solar power in Massachusetts by 2020 (up from 4 MW of installed solar power when he took office), and has been an outspoken supporter of offshore wind.

Notwithstanding these policies, the region is skating dangerously close to the edge in terms of sufficient energy resources. It is not the case that interest in additional gas transmission infrastructure is driven just by the desire to reduce peak winter prices, rather than by a lack of gas capacity. Reliability is an absolutely paramount concern for the Administration.

In that regard, the Black and Veatch low-demand case that you reference does not take into account the closing of the Vermont Yankee facility, Brayton Point, or Mount Tom, or, for that matter, several thousand megawatts of other coal and oil facility closings that are projected for the next decades. Units representing almost 3,300 MW of electricity will retire over just the next five years.

I of course agree with you that the region's use of natural gas – and other fossil fuels – should be absolutely minimized, but it may not be possible to assure reliability in the relatively near future without some amount of additional natural gas.

That said, I want to emphasize that the competitive procurement process that has been the subject of discussion by the New England states and the New England States Committee on Electricity (NES-COE) has made no decisions whatsoever with respect to any specific projects.

That process is meant to put in place a structure and a cost allocation methodology for the region to procure more clean energy and natural gas, NOT to support or endorse any particular project. It does not reflect support for TGP or any other project or, for that matter, the need for any specific amount of natural gas.

I also fully agree that the state and the region need to replace leak-prone natural gas pipelines, although I do not agree that we currently have reliable figures on the amount of gas that is being lost to leakage. In that regard, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has hired an independent consultant who is currently reviewing gas companies' procedures for identifying leak-prone pipe and the methods used to classify leaks, in order both to maintain the highest safety standards and to quantify the amount of gas that is lost and unaccounted for during transmission and distribution.

Natural Gas Pipeline: Ann Berwick Responds



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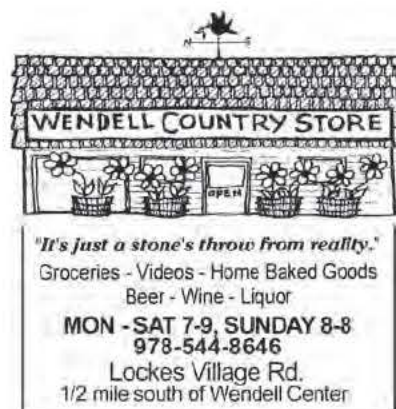
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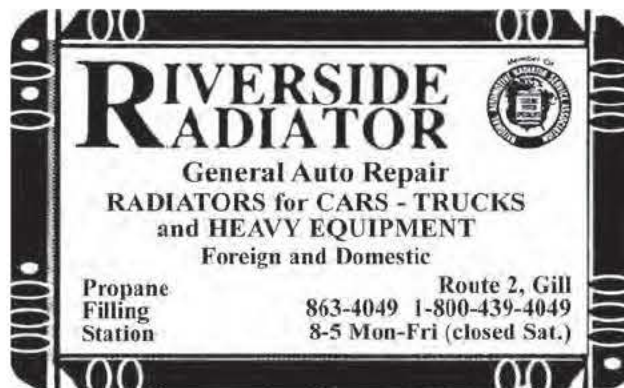
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Mon-Sat 8-8 Sun 9-6
(413) 773-9567
www.franklincommunity.coop

McCusker's Market
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Open Daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(413) 625-9411

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

An RFP for the Shea; Sewer Rates Discussed

By JEFF SINGLETON

The only major piece of drama at the August 25 Montague select-board meeting involved a theater – the Shea, to be exact. Otherwise the meeting was lacking in controversy but did touch on key issues central to economic development in a former industrial town: how to finance a crumbling sewer system and an old factory building (the Strathmore) which has become a fire hazard.

Shea RFP

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio spent a good deal of time outlining the process for evaluating the future of the Shea Theater and the status of the current board that oversees it.

Abbondanzio has proposed that the town recreate something called the “Civic Center Commission” to bring everyone “under the tent.”

He also proposed to hire Deborah J'Anthony, former director of the Shea who currently works on the staff of the Academy of Music in Northampton, to facilitate the process. He said he was awaiting a proposal from her before any decisions could be made.

A number of members of the current Shea board asked questions and expressed concerns about the process. They stressed that the Shea is currently holding open houses to facilitate input.

The town has moved forward to determine whether the theater needs to be put out to bid via a “request for proposals” (RFP) under state law Chapter 30B.

Abbondanzio stated that the town's attorney had determined that if the value of the contract exceeded \$35,000, an RFP would need to be issued. He said it was evident that the value did exceed that amount.

“Does anyone doubt that we will need to issue an RFP?” asked Mark Fairbrother. Board members shook

their heads in the negative, whereupon Fairbrother moved that the town prepare an RFP immediately. This passed unanimously.

Sewer Rates

A major focus of the meeting, however, was sewer issues when Water Pollution Control Facility Director Robert Trombley presented his proposed FY'15 sewer rates.

“It's that time of year when we discuss sewer rates,” began Trombley, who emphasized that this was a preliminary discussion and did not require it being posted as a formal hearing.

Trombley began by noting that there was \$486,453 in so-called “retained earnings.” These are balances left over from previous years that can be spent after being certified by the state. (The town calls these balances “free cash” and the school district calls them “excess and deficiency.”)

Trombley's preliminary estimate called for using \$160,000 of this to reduce sewer rates, leading to an overall increase of 3.5%. He stated that this would produce an average annual sewer bill of \$588.15 this coming fiscal year. He then stated that the rate increase was partly designed to maintain a healthy retained earnings balance to finance increasing projected debt service.

Right now the debt service is primarily associated with borrowing to deal with the recent industrial park sewer collapse, but Trombley's estimates also appeared to reflect potential investments needed to maintain an old and decaying system.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said that the plan was to place some of the retained earnings funds in a special “sewer stabilization fund” for future use. He stated that he, Trombley and Montague Finance Committee member Greg Garrison had met to discuss the issue.

Special stabilization funds, allowed under state law, are often used to save money gained from favorable annual budget balances for use in funding long term projects. This scenario appeared to be part of a long term planning process designed to deal with significant increases in sewer costs in the coming decades.

Millers Falls resident Jean Gorruck urged town officials to present the details of such a plan to town meeting, whose approval will be needed to create the stabilization and allocate money to it.

The usual questions elicited the usual response: demolishing the Strathmore complex would cost at least \$4 million, but it may be necessary to demolish some of the component buildings.

Strathmore Future

Michael Nelson asked the town administrator a number of questions about on-going projects, including the status of the Strathmore mill building repairs.

Abbondanzio gave an update which included the construction of a water pipe over the old footbridge, the cost of roofing repairs, and progress removing the large amounts of paper still in the building.

This elicited the usual questions about the future status of the building and whether more costly proposals were going to come before town meeting.

These questions elicited the usual response: that demolishing the structure would cost at least \$4 million, but it may be necessary to demolish some of the component buildings.

New Home for Dog Kennel?

Frank Abbondanzio, in his town administrator report, also opened discussion on possible options to relocate the regional dog kennel in

Montague. The kennel is currently next to the transfer station on Sandy Lane (off Turnpike Road) which is slated to be transformed into an industrial park.

A road into the park will displace the kennel, with construction slated to begin as early as next year. The county Sheriff's office, which administers the kennel, has a lease until the end of 2015.

Abbondanzio outlined various siting alternatives within Montague. Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother forcefully called on town officials to “make it clear [to the Sheriff's office] that we want this.”

Other Business

The board, now operating as the personnel board, made two appointments. Greg Fisher was hired for the position of “seasonal laborer” at the waste water treatment plant, and David Finn was appointed public works shop foreman.

“Aren't there two Fishers [working at the treatment plant]?” asked audience member John Reynolds. Bob Trombley responded in the affirmative, and stated there did not appear to be any problems.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church requested that the board approve the use of the town hall parking lot on September 13 for the collection of used electronic equipment. The “E-Cycling Day” is designed to raise funds for the Brick House, a local community center that hosts teen drop-in hours.

A donation of \$10 for each item is requested. A box full of smaller items will count as one \$10 donation. The “parking lot” being reserved is the one in back of town hall.

In other news, Jason Hunter of the Berkshire Brewing Company requested a one day liquor license for an event at the Shea Theater.

The company wishes to provide “beer options” to those attending a release party on September 26. The company has previously provided refreshments at a number of Shea events so the board approved the request with no hesitation and little discussion.

The meeting ended with a tribute to Tim Lindop.

SKATE from page A1

Parks and Recreation Director John Dobosz will be provided with a key to the padlock but “teens and users of the park led by Barry Scott will be responsible to assure that the lot remains clean of debris, properly mowed, and that ramps are painted and kept in good working order.”

Dolan emphasized that the proposal was “an incubator” for “setting a positive culture and getting a head start” in preparation for the anticipated opening of the permanent park next year.

The construction of a permanent park is contingent on funding in the form of a PARC grant from the state, which should be determined in coming months.

The proposal had the support of Dobosz and Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who seem to have helped Becker and Dolan

navigate potential pitfalls.

One of these was the request that the town “protect the owner [Becker] and Barry Scott from potential liability.”

Abbondanzio stated that, as with the previous facility in the space, and a subsequent temporary park on Eleventh Street, the town would apply the so-called “California Rule,” which provides for minimal supervision and thus liability. This requires “open and unsupervised” signage in the area.

The proposal also called for property taxes in the site to be abated “during the time of use.” This apparently was also the practice under the previous park on the property.

Abbondanzio stated the tax abatement was the town's “in kind payment” for the lease of the park.

None of the Selectboard members seemed to have problems with

any of this, and the proposal was unanimously approved.

Abbondanzio said any request to abate the water bill would have to go before the Turners Falls Water Commission.

Dobosz stated that he will need to bring the proposal before the Parks and Recreation Commission, which will meet in September.

Despite a financial commitment from town meeting, the skate park committee continues to raise funds for the project. This Saturday, August 30, there will be a benefit at St. Kazimierz in Turners Falls with bands including beloved local punks OFC.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno contributed additional reporting to this story.



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ERVING from page A1

Philip Wonkka had not reached out to these qualified veteran firefighters after he was appointed in 2013. According to Pease, Station #1 is staffed with four inexperienced firefighters.

Potts said that she had emailed Wonkka about six weeks ago, asking about returning to the department, and had not received any reply.

"We want to help," Bud Meattey said, "but we are being told no." Wonkka was not present at the selectboard meeting.

"He's not looking to be chief," Pease said, referring to Meattey, "but you can't throw away 32 years of experience." He called Meattey "the best fire person I've ever seen in my life. At administration, he sucks..."

Kosloski told the board, "We want to be firefighters and first responders in the town of Erving, we don't care who's in charge."

Selectboard chair William Bembury observed, "I look at this whole matter, the whole town has suffered" as a result of last year's fire department controversy. "I want to see it fixed, a whole fire department, just like we have a whole police department," he said.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan asked, "Can everyone respect everyone else?" and said "You all need to work together as a team." Pease said, "We never had any issues on calls. Animosity or not, when on a call, it wasn't there."

Sullivan told the firefighters and their supporters, "You've presented good arguments and given applications. But I want to talk to Phil. You're saying 'we want to come back' and to me that means a lot."

The two selectboard members agreed to talk privately with each of the former firefighters, and with Wonkka. They said they would have town coordinator Tom Sharp set up a meeting with Bembury, Wonkka, and Bud Meattey to discuss the applications and would also set up a meeting with all of the former fire department members.

As the former firefighters started leaving the meeting room, the two selectboard members got up from their seats, walked over to them and shook hands with them.

Audit Report Upbeat

Erving is "unique" among Massachusetts towns because its finances are so well managed, town auditor Tom Scanlon told the board. He praised the town for its "top-notch financial staff" and its conservative

financial philosophy.

"Your philosophy is working," Scanlon said. He noted that the town has approximately \$7 million in free cash and stabilization funds and is 70% funded for its future retiree health care obligations. He called this percentage "unheard of" where many towns have no future retiree funding at all.

Scanlon said the audit found no deficiencies in the Erving financial accounting system. However, he provided several recommendations "for greater efficiency" in handling the town's finances.

He suggested that financial officers stay informed about new rules for accounting and reporting of pension plans (Government Accounting Standards Board standard 68, or GASB68). The GASB68 standard will become effective in 2015.

Scanlon recommended that the town provide better documentation for sole-source vendors (vendors who do not go through a bidding process), educate committees or boards that take in money (such as the recreation commission) on procedures for turning over money to town accounts, and develop a financial policies and procedures manual.

He also recommended that the town ensure that the Franklin Regional Housing Authority is getting annual audits for the Community Development Block Grant. Erving is the lead town for the CDBG and is technically responsible for the audit; however, the housing authority has been contracting to have the audit conducted.

Former IP Property

Sharp reported that Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) planners were looking for grant funding of approximately \$15,000 to complete a hazardous materials assessment for the former International Paper/Millers Falls Paper property.

Sharp said that the next step after the assessment would be a \$50,000 to \$60,000 feasibility study conducted by an architect, a planner, and an engineer to identify potential re-use of the property.

Daniel Hammock of the finance committee reported that the fincom had asked Len Clark, Phil Meuse, and Andrew Tessier to act as informal advisors to the fincom regarding the former IP/Millers Falls Paper property.

Former Usher Plant

Highway foreman Glen McCory said he had met with Usher

Plant re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser and staff from consultant R. Levesque Associates and the Department of Environmental Protection.

At McCory's request, the board voted to ask the committee to hire an experienced contractor to remove invasive species at the former Usher Plant as required by the conservation commission's Notice of Intent.

McCory said that highway personnel did not have the knowledge or experience to do the work.

Televising Selectboard Meetings

The board voted to continue the process of televising/livestreaming selectboard meetings. Bembury noted that the town had funds of \$47,000 from Comcast payments that could be used to pay for equipment.

Bembury said he would talk with an Erving resident about operating the video equipment.

Grants and Appointments

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) awarded the police department a grant of \$4,355.04 for upgrading security cameras at the police station.

Ryan Henderson was appointed to the position of full-time wastewater treatment operator, subject to passing the pre-employment physical and background check.

At Sullivan's suggestion, the board voted to start the process of changing the position of town treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position when the term of the current treasurer (Sullivan) ends in 2017.

Sullivan recommended that the appointment should be vetted by a standing committee. The board asked Sharp to research the procedure for making the change.

Beth Bazler was appointed to the conservation commission.

Jacquelyn Boyden was appointed to the personnel review board. The selectboard asked Sharp to advertise for additional review board members.

Brad Peters, Rinky Black, and Marcia Bernard were appointed to the cultural council.

The finance committee reported that Jacob Smith was elected as chair, replacing Hammock.



Three Candidates Vie for Open Erving Selectboard Seat

George Moonlight Davis of Strachan Street, Scott Fritz of Central Street, and Arthur Johnson of Mountain Road are candidates for a seat on the selectboard, to replace Eugene Klepadlo, who resigned July 23.

Klepadlo's term was scheduled to end May 2016.

The special election will be held October 7. Polls will be open at town hall from 10 am to 8 pm.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

\$150,000 Deficit Discovered; Changes to Block Scheduling?

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At its final summer meeting on August 19, the GMRSD school committee announced the schedule for the start of the school year as follows: August 25-first day for Staff; August 27-first day for Erving; August 28-first day for grades 1-12; September 4-first day for prekindergarten and kindergarten.

In his report Superintendent Sullivan expressed his satisfaction with the progress made on the "strategic plan" during the administrative retreat held over three days with 11 members of the administrative team. Consensus was achieved on the five central objectives. The next step will be meeting with the principals.

Deficit Discovered

Joanne Blier, Director of Business and Operations, introduced Pat Squillante from Melanson Heath who presented an overview of the end-of-year audit. In short she found that The Management Solution, the accounting firm previously employed by the district, had made errors in accounting compounded by poor maintenance of excel spread sheets. Consequently there exists a deficit of nearly \$150,000.

Blier is working with the Superintendent to review options for covering the deficit. She will report on grants in September. Blier will be present at school committee meetings as a sit-in member of the school committee, and will make regular financial re-

BRIDGE from page A1

and their hangers are removed, the skipped area that was behind the removed hangers will also be shot blasted and painted.

With the scaffolding gone, where the painters will stand to blast and paint the area left by the removed scaffolding hangers, will be interesting to see.

As one Turners Falls resident said in regard to complaints about the bridge's minor defects, "We should quit complaining and count our blessings. Think how things could have gone, had Baltazar been awarded the contract!"



ports to the group. Student Activities Funds will have greater scrutiny due to new guidelines from the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) which is now requiring audits of these funds.

Another major financial cost for the schools is the need to put away an increased amount of funding toward the costs of retirees' (present as well as future) health care on a schedule over 26 years. Currently the district pays 1 million dollars for retiree health. It will now need to pay 2 million more for that health care to cover future costs and future retirees. There are two possibilities for doing this. One is to pay into a stabilization account. Another is to set up trust funds.

Blier also met with the Montague Energy Committee to discuss whether the schools, namely Hillcrest and Sheffield (as town-owned buildings) come under the umbrella of the town's green initiatives program for town buildings. This would enable the town/school to apply for a grant to pay for an energy audit and facilitate a move to alternative energy sources.

Block Scheduling Changes

High School principal Tom Osborne came before the school committee to explain the block scheduling change he wished to put in place so as to better support the 9th grade academy students. In block scheduling there is a period known affectionately as "the GAP," which stands for Guided Academic Progress, a period of 30 minutes that allows students to meet with teachers for one-on-one discussion or questions, or making up a quiz or getting more guidance on an assignment.

Currently the 9th graders have an early lunch, which means these students go from early lunch to after school sports without any sustenance. The first change is to make one high school lunch period at 12:30. The second is to move the GAP block to 9:09 a.m. from its former last period slot.

School committee member Mike Langknecht suggested that Osborne report back to the school committee as to how the changes were working in 6 months. The school committee approved the proposed changes.

TOWN OF MONTAGUE CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION SEEKING MEMBERS

The Montague Board of Selectmen is seeking individuals interested in serving on the town's Civic Center Commission. The Commission is responsible for overseeing the operation and maintenance of the Shea Theater in Turners Falls including the development of a lease with an Operating Entity (currently the Shea Board). The Commission will be working with the cultural community on the development of a long term plan for the Theater, based upon community input, and a Request for Proposals (RFP) from prospective operators of the facility. The Commission will then negotiate a long term lease for the Shea and report its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to: Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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Old Home Day In Wendell

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Saturday, August 16, dawned sunny and cool, the perfect day for Wendell Old Home Day. People gathered on the common, artisans and vendors offered their wares as musicians took turns playing for the crowd.

Mothers cradled babies in their arms and chatted with friends while the older children ran and played with each other. Waffles the Clown entertained the kids with tricks and games.

The town chose Milton Bergman, the caretaker of town lawns and grounds as Wendell's Person of the Year. His plaque said, "Thank you for taking care of the town lawns, they're a pleasure to behold and a treasure to enjoy."

They also honored Charles Thompson Smith for his contribution to the town for so many years of service with the Friends of the Meeting House and the Conservation Commission.

Residents honored Charles O'Dowd for his long service to the community, serving as their postmaster at the Wendell Post Office. He seemed very pleased by this show of support as he cradled the roses he received.

The town is fighting to keep their post office open full time and have made it clear how much they appreciate O'Dowd's work as their postmaster.

O'Dowd explained to *The Montague Reporter* the complex nature of his job as it relates to the somewhat unique nature of the town's residents. He said many people in Wendell are creative and nontraditional. They have many aliases.

He said, with a twinkle in his eye, that the friends of Wendell townspeople like to try to stump the postmaster with ever more untraditional names. With a smile, he added, "Working in Wendell is always interesting."

Lisa Winter brings her Mushroom Museum to Wendell every year for Old Home Day. She calls it a kind of "pop up" museum because she puts it together in just a few days before the event.

Winter collects the wide selection of unique mushrooms displayed on her table with the help of some friends, keeping them fresh until they go on display in her little museum but said they will be pretty much deteriorated by the end of the day.

Her enthusiasm for her work and the vast knowledge she has was evident as she explained and answered questions from the people who gathered around her display. Asked if she has support for her work she said no, and she doesn't sell anything, doesn't raise money, just does it for the educational value and because she loves it.

The fire department did a demonstration that shows how quickly fire can spread and how important it is to get out fast. They then doused the fire and lit one on the grill, serving hot dogs, hamburgers and French fries at

very reasonable prices.

Wonderful musicians showed up and played all day. Early in the afternoon people gathered around the bandstand to watch and listen, and dance.

Crow's Rebellion with Steve Crow, Danger Boy Experience, Mother Turtle, the Equalites, Harmaniacs, Annie Hassett, and Lynn Meryl and Friends all played. The women started dancing, while the kids played games. Then the kids were dancing too.

There were men on the lawn throwing around Indian clubs, juggling or tossing them back and forth. Hula hoops, making a comeback, were scattered on the grass as the kids tried their skill.

The atmosphere was warm and comfortable as everyone settled down to enjoy the music and the day.



Lisa Winter explains facts about the mushrooms on display in her museum at Wendell Old Home Day.



Mother Turtle returned to Wendell where her fans were very glad to have her back. Her music filled the space and people were up and dancing, loving the sound.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Home Energy Audits Extended; Kitchen Coordinator Approved

By CHRIS QUEEN

With Wendell's annual Old Home Day tribute to fun, frivolity and food fast approaching, the Wendell Selectboard turned its attention to more serious matters at its regular meeting on August 13. These included energy efficiency, the cost of electricity, the spraying of herbicides, and coordination of the new town hall kitchen. While food was not served at the meeting, frivolity was not entirely missing.

Energy Committee in Action

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger visited to announce that bike racks purchased with Green Communities grant money will arrive soon and be installed by the highway department.

She requested that the deadline for homeowners to apply for supplemental MassSave home improvement subsidies of up to \$750 – also supported by the Green Communities grant secured by her committee – be extended to June 30, 2015.

The board approved this request, as it had the Energy Committee's proposal last month to hire door-to-

door canvassers to explain the Mass Save program and to assist families in the application process.

Riebschlaeger announced that high-efficiency light bulbs will be installed in town buildings – the library, senior/community center, and town hall – at a cost of \$1,375. Selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser wondered how many Wendellites it takes to change a light bulb, but Riebschlaeger explained that a licensed electrician would be hired to do the job.

Pooser wondered why special training would be required for this task and proposed that a general contractor be hired to save money. Riebschlaeger left the room and returned with the welcome news that Tom Chaisson, a Wendell contractor, had agreed to take the job. The old bulbs, which were already highly rated for efficiency, will be stored as back-ups.

Roadside Clean-Up, Electricity Review; Kitchen

A flyer promoting the "Help Keep Our Roadsides Clean" contest will be posted around town. The first drawing for "Win a Bag of Bags" will be held on September

16. It was unclear to the reporter whether the bags were the means or the prize for cleanup activities.

The Selectboard voted to accept a 24-month contract with Hampshire County Council of Governments through National Grid to purchase electricity at 10.86 cents per kilowatt hour, a saving over the 12- and 18-month contracts.

The board also reviewed a map of locations at which National Grid will spray herbicides near its poles between August 18 and September 31. A discussion of environmental safety concluded that the dangers did not outweigh the benefits.

Local chef Eric Newman visited the Selectboard to discuss his proposal to become unpaid Kitchen Coordinator for the town. The new town kitchen, which occupies space behind the performance stage in the town hall, is slated for completion this fall.

It will feature professional appliances and storage and layout conducive to multi-purpose use. In addition to refreshments and meals for community gatherings, the kitchen may also be used for cooking classes and demonstrations, preparation

of foods for sale by the town or individuals, and food preparation for delivery to shut-ins and when the town hall is used as a shelter during weather emergencies.

Newman affirmed that the kitchen will need to be certified by local and state health departments and that costs incurred by community members or groups sharing the facility will be borne by the users. User guidelines and checklists will need to be drawn up, and sign-up procedures and schedules will need to be drafted and implemented to meet the needs of diverse users.

Newman has toured the Franklin County Community Development Corporation food production facility in Greenfield to learn how they work with local farms to produce value-added farm products. "They are interested in sharing their model and information with other local organizations, and will be a valuable resource," he wrote in his proposal to the board.

Wendell chef Myron Becker, a member of the Wendell Kitchen Committee, attended the board meeting to vouch for Eric Newman's qualifications for the coordinator position.

The board thanked Newman for his foresight and initiative, approved of creating the position of kitchen coordinator, and signed an appointment slip for Newman to be-

gin his duties.

Post Office Update

Wendell town counsel advised the selectboard that there is no legal recourse to the town in the event that the United States Postal Service acts to reduce service hours at the Wendell post office or to transfer Wendell Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd to another assignment.

Chris Queen reported that a citizen's committee continues to work with state and national representatives to lobby for preservation of full service and our postmaster's tenure as a longtime and beloved public servant and community member.

Other Business

In other business, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Borrego Solar had written to the town indicating diminished interest in leasing property on West St. for the installation of a solar farm.

Police Chief Ed Chase was notified that the Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour will be coming through Wendell on September 19 and plans to stop at the Country Store for refreshments.

The Town Warrant for September 19 was signed by the selectboard and plans for special awards to be presented at Old Home Day were reviewed.

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Turners Falls Road Cleanup This Saturday, August 30

GREENFIELD – Want to help make Turners Falls Road safer for bicyclists and pedestrians? The newly formed Greenfield Area Bicycle Coalition invites interested volunteers to join them on Saturday, August 30, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Volunteers will clip back brush, pick up trash, and sweep gravel off the shoulders to make walking and bicycling safer on this busy link between Greenfield and Turners Falls.

Turners Falls Road is a major connector for all modes of travel between downtown Turners Falls and Greenfield; however, the shoulders are narrow, cars travel fast, and brush and debris make traveling along the shoulder for pedestrians and bicyclists dangerous.

The Greenfield DPW is aware of the brush issue, but due to the steep terrain, does not always have access to equipment to mow along the road.

Recently there has been a flurry of activity to bring at-

tention to the safety issues on Turners Falls Road. In June accessibility advocate Sandra Facto of Turners Falls led a walk along the road to highlight the need for a sidewalk.

The Town of Greenfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments are exploring options to fund improvements to better accommodate bicycles and pedestrians on this road.

"Although there are many fantastic bicycle routes all around Franklin County and within the Greenfield area, there are limited options for bicycling into town from the north," said Alden Booth, co-owner of the People's Pint and member of the Greenfield Area Bicycle Coalition.

"This is why it's so important to do whatever we can to make this busy road safe for cyclists. Our work on Saturday is just the beginning but it will help to increase the visibility of cyclists and pedestrians alike and make it easier for motorists to pass them safely."

The Greenfield Area Bicycle Coalition is a group of local bicyclists who aim to make bicycling safer and more enjoyable for transportation and recreation in Greenfield and the surrounding area, through improved bicycling infrastructure and education.

The bicycle committee is collaborating with the Greenfield Police for the Saturday roadside clean-up, and the Greenfield DPW is providing reflective safety vests.

Parking is available at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority parking lot, across from Southworth Paper on the island after the bridge, and volunteers are encouraged to bring their own work gloves, clippers, brooms, or weedwackers.

For more information about the clean-up day and the Greenfield Area Bicycle Coalition, contact Alden Booth, alden.booth@gmail.com, or by phone at (413) 824-8320.



The youngest of the Ja'Duke dancers perform on Saturday on the common.

Montague Old Home Days



Peg Bridges stands in front of the fabulous quilt created by Carla Blood. The quilt was raffled off.

LYNN CLARK PHOTOS



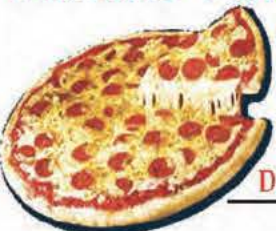
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YEAR 12 – NO. 41

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

AUGUST 28, 2014

B1

The Turners Falls Reporter

TURNERS FALLS, MASS., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1914

Here's the way it was on August 26, 1914: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archives, 100 years ago this week.

Harold LaPointe Killed

Harold LaPointe of Canada Hill, the 18-year-old son of John LaPointe, died Sunday afternoon as a result of injuries received while at work for the Holbrook, Cabot & Rollins Co. on a steam hoist near the canal bridge. In some way he was hit and crushed by the crane of the hoist. He was taken at once to the Farren Hospital, where he died shortly after arrival.

A great many onlookers who were watching the always interesting operations at the canal saw the accident, but the accounts vary as to exactly how it happened.

The unfortunate accident has brought profound sorrow to the hosts of friends of the young man and his parents. The deceased was an uncommonly lovable boy, and a great favorite with his fellow workers. He was always sunny and goodnatured, never had a grouch about anything or anybody, and was always ready and willing to help others.

Although he was so young, he was built on a big scale and did a man's work. He had been employed on the construction work under the Bates Rogers Co., and thereafter entered the employ of the Holbrook, Cabot & Rollins Co. He had worked in various capacities and took an immense interest in his work in particular, and in the construction work in general.

Automobiles in Collision

A touring car from the Parsons garage in Northampton, in charge of a professional driver and demonstrator, containing also a prospective buyer, Anthony Wysocki of South Deerfield, was passing along the Montague City Road going south, in front of the residence of Selectman M. J. Carey, when the Greenfield buss of Charles Voetsch came bowling along out of N Street, and keeping on the wrong side of the road, ran into the touring car with a crash.

Mr. Wysocki was thrown out and sustained several bruises, and both cars were considerably battered up, the lighter car, which was brand new, getting the worst of the impact.

Scores of people were on the scene instantly, and the accident was witnessed by quite a few people. Lawyers and interested parties were quickly on the scene to secure the stories of eye witnesses in an effort to place the blame where it belongs. Parties in interest of course tell different stories, and the disinterested spectators will be relied on to tell the story just as it was.

There is a wide public sentiment abroad that something should be done to lessen the increasing number of accidents from motor vehicles on the public streets, and stricter regulation of speed, a better knowledge of the rules of the road, and a better observation of the rights of other users of the public highways will soon be insisted upon by all of the public.

Severe Electrical Storms

The heavy thunder storms which have passed over this village this summer have been record breakers and will long be remembered by all those who lived through them.

The storm Friday afternoon and

the terrific and unexpected bolt Thursday did considerable damage and shattered nerves where it did nothing worse.

Thursday night, shortly before nine o'clock, a single severe bolt startled the whole town. It blew out two transformers of the Franklin Electric Light Co. with a deafening report.

The bolt is reported to have struck back of the Lyric Theatre. All the lights on that circuit were put out; and an embryo panic started at the Lyric, there being a general movement for the doors.

Fortunately, the audience was speedily calmed down, and quietly dispersed, although some of the ladies are said to have fainted with fright.

In Millers Falls, on Friday afternoon, M. M. Connors' house on High Street was struck by lightning during the shower. The chimney was badly shattered and the roof ripped off in several places.

Bertram Crouse, who was asleep in the house, was thrown from the bed to the floor by the force of the shock.

Falls for 44 years, and was widely known.

He was a native of Werden, Saxony, Germany, and came to Turners Falls in 1871, which had been his home ever since. Until a few years ago, when he retired on account of ill health, he had been continuously employed in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, most of the time as shipping clerk.

Taxes Not So High

The tax rate for the Town of Montague will be \$17.80 on \$1000 this year, which is eighty cents less than in 1913, when the rate was \$18.60. The fire district tax will be \$2.40 on \$1000.

Local Matters

Clarence A. Flagg of Central Street has an apple tree that is in blossom, this being the third time this season that the tree has blossomed. Besides the blossoms, the tree is bearing many apples.

The Turners Falls Military band will give the last of the series of open air concerts from the Avenue A bandstand Friday evening. Mrs. Peter Boudo of L Street is at the Farren Hospital, ill with an attack of bronchial pneumonia.

Thomas Sewell of L Street and his sister, Miss Elizabeth Sewell, both of the REPORTER office, are spending their vacation in New York City.

Fred Rau, son of Christian Rau of Central Street, will enter Dartmouth College this fall. He has resigned his position at the Carney store, and his brother, Jacob Rau, who has been employed by the Millers Falls Company, will take his place.

Rau, who is a graduate of the Turners Falls high school, has been prominent in all branches of athletics, especially in basket ball.

Recipe: Cucumber Fritters

Peel and grate a number of large cucumbers, press out all the juice from the pulp, and measure. To each pint allow one tablespoonful of melted butter, three tablespoonfuls of cream, two eggs, salt and pepper to taste, and one-half cupful of sifted flour with a teaspoonful of baking powder added.

Beat well and drop by spoonfuls into smoking hot fat. Drain on paper and serve hot.

Library Notes

Among the A & C Black books recently purchased by the Library Trustees are the following: Norway, Banks of the Nile, Tibet & Nepal, India, Rome, Russia, Holland, Japan, The English Lakes, South America, The Dolomites (Switzerland).

All of these books are very entertainingly written and beautifully illustrated, and will be unusually interesting reading at this time, when all Europe is at war.

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District Court

George Ingall, a resident of the poor house, strayed away from peace and plenty last week and got drunk. He was sent up to jail for a couple of weeks for a change of diet at the county expense.

John Moore misjudged his capacity to hold a liquid cargo, and got into the lock-up to sober off. A five dollar fine was the freight charge.

Antonin Stone, who lives on the Mormon Hollow Road from Wendell to Erving, was before the district court at Orange Monday, charged with selling intoxicating liquor without a license and keeping a house of nuisance.

His place was raided Sunday and a half keg of beer and some hard cider was taken. The case was continued until next Monday, and Stone was released upon the payment of \$100 for his reappearance.

Labor Day Ball Game

The management of the White Coal team have, at quite a large expense, secured the McCallum Hosiery team to play here Labor Day in the place of Orange, who were obliged to play in Athol.

The McCallum Hosiery has already played in Turners Falls this season, but the team is well worth a second appearance, as they play a very fine, fast game, and it should be a game which will be appreciated by all.

Death of Charles E. Bankwitz

Another old resident of Turners Falls has passed on, by the death of Charles E. Bankwitz, who died at his home on Third Street, Wednesday night, after a long illness. He had been a resident of Turners

Girls That Are Popular Just Now



THEATER REVIEW

BUG at the Shea: Creepy, Powerful

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Colin Allen as Peter, and Tiffany Rae Whitfill as Agnes, in BUG.

TURNERS FALLS – The Ghost Light Theater production of *BUG* written by Tracy Letts, directed by Kevin Tracy, and produced by Kim Overtree with two full weekends at the Shea Theater, completed a very successful run this Sunday, August 24.

With a name like “BUG” you can’t help but think of all those creepy movies with giant insects, spiders and such. And yes, this show is creepy and dark and scary.

But unlike film, which requires a kind of realism even with special effects, theater, on the other hand, is created with magic and illusion. It’s so much more immediate, intimate, and is a creation of those who offer it and those who watch.

It’s a joint venture, and your assumptions while you watch are confounded by the actors who create the illusion, tricking you into looking one way while the game is

going in the other direction.

BUG starts slowly and quietly with Agnes (played by Tiffany Rae Whitfill) a good hearted down and out woman “hosting” her going-nowhere men-folk who just happen to drop by.

First comes Goss, her ex-con ex-husband (played by Shaun O’Keefe) who is looking to have some fun with Agnes who put him in jail for trying to kill her. And then Peter (played by Colin Allen) arrives, who seems nice if somewhat strange. He stops in with Agnes’ lesbian friend, R.C. (played by Christine Voytko) on the way to a party. He’s shy but he decides to skip the party and stay. And stay.

see **BUG** page B4

Champs Return to the Gridiron



ROBINSON PHOTO

Warming Up: Turners and Franklin Tech held a scrimmage on Saturday.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The reigning Western Mass Division 6 champions took the field against crosstown rivals Franklin Tech on Saturday August 23. But the Turners Falls Football Indians, who finished 10 and 3 last season, have some holes to fill.

“We lost some important players from last year: Malcolm Smith, Brody Markol, Melvin Moreno, and Sam Danford,” Coach Chris Lapointe said after the scrimmage.

And what does Coach Lapointe like about his 2014 squad? “We

return a strong line and Trent Borbeau at running back, along with Jalen Sanders,” he explained.

One of the biggest questions facing the Tribe this season is... Who will be the starting quarterback? Three different players took snaps in the scrimmage and each one looked good in his own way. “We are exploring several different options for QB and nothing has been finalized as of yet,” Coach Lapointe explained.

Saturday’s scrimmage, like any pre-season game, had its share of misassignments and dropped passes

see **CHAMPS** page B4



PHOTO COURTESY DAKIN

A basset bound samples some tasty scrambled eggs at Mutts & Mimosas, a fundraiser for the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, which took place on Sunday at the Quonquot Farm and Orchards in W'batery. Approximately 175 people and 50 dogs attended the brunch, which ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event was catered by Seth Mias Catering, with live music provided by Banish Misfortune. The event was sponsored by Five Star Building Corp., Gage-Wiley Investment Securities, Quonquot Farm & Orchards, Walter's Propane and Elizabeth Collins & Brian Banks. A silent auction and raffle was held for several prizes donated from local and statewide organizations.

Pet of the Week



NARY

Do you like to snuggle and cuddle? Well so do I! I'm a real people dog. I like to be around folks who will pet me forever.

I may be barking a bit at you in my kennel, it's only because in here, I feel a bit stressed.

If you take me out, you will see what a different dog I can be.

I was housetrained in my previous home, so that's a plus!

I can be playful when you want me to be, especially if it involves a ball or squeaky toy.

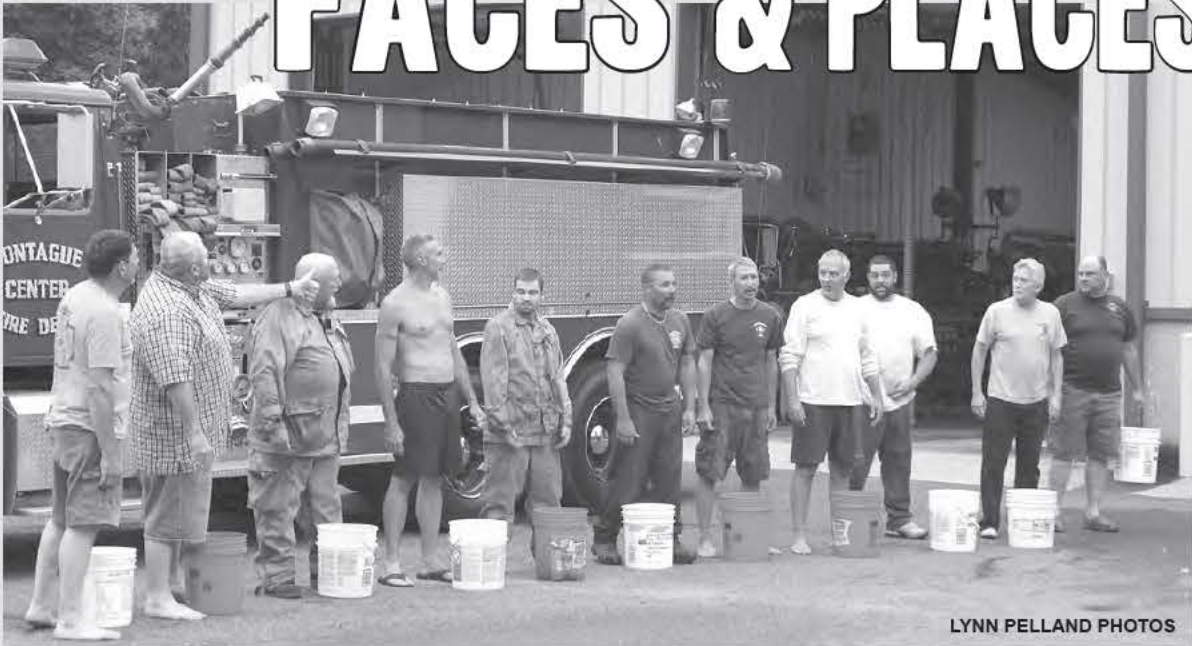
If you'd like to know more about me, or even better, take me for a walk and meet me in person, ask a staff person about me!

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

Senior Center Activities
September 1 through 5

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.	ERVING Erving Senior Center , 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 9/1 Closed Labor Day Tuesday 9/2 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time) Noon Lunch 12:45 p.m. COA Meeting Wednesday 9/3 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise Noon Lunch 12:45 p.m. Bingo Thursday 9/4 9 a.m. No Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag & Snap Applications Noon Lunch 1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns Friday 9/5 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Aerobics	Monday 9/1 Closed Labor Day Tuesday 9/2 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 8/19: 10 a.m. Dance Fitness 12:30 p.m. Painting Wednesday 9/3 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo Thursday 9/4 8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones Noon Cards Friday 9/5 9 a.m. Bowling
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.	LEVERETT For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us . Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

FACES & PLACES



LYNN PELLAND PHOTOS



In response to a challenge by Montague Center resident Misty Lyons, the Montague Center Fire Department hosted an ALS "ice bucket challenge" on August 21 at the fire station. The fundraising event was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The ice bucket challenge, which has gone viral this summer on the internet, promotes awareness of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, sometimes known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and promote fundraising for research and advocacy groups including the ALS Association, Project ALS and the ALS Therapy Development Institute. So far this summer it has raised over \$90 million for those organizations.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Vitamins: Worth It?



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. Are vitamins worth taking?

It's very important to talk with your doctor before you take any vitamin and mineral pills, especially if you take prescription medicines, have any health problems or are elderly. Taking too much of a vitamin or mineral can cause problems with some medical tests or interfere with drugs you're taking.

Vitamins and minerals are "micronutrients" your body needs in small but steady amounts. Your body can't make most micronutrients, so you must get them elsewhere.

Vitamins are natural substances found in plants and animals. There are two types of vitamins: water-soluble and fat-soluble.

Water-soluble vitamins are easily absorbed by your body. Unlike fat-soluble vitamins, they don't have to be absorbed using bile acids (fluids used to digest fats). Your body doesn't store large amounts of

water-soluble vitamins. The water-soluble vitamins you don't need are removed by your kidneys and come out in your urine

Your body has to use bile acids to absorb fat-soluble vitamins. Once these vitamins are absorbed, your body stores them in body fat. When you need them, your body takes them out of storage to be used.

Here are some water-soluble vitamins: Vitamin C, biotin and the seven B vitamins — thiamin (B-1), riboflavin (B-2), niacin (B-3), pantothenic acid (B-5), pyridoxine (B-6), folic acid (B-9) and cobalamin (B-12). Here are some fat-soluble vitamins: A, D, E or K.

Minerals come from the earth or from water. Plants and animals absorb them to get nutrients. The "major minerals" are calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfur and chloride. They are considered major minerals because adults need them in large amounts.

The "trace minerals" are chromium, copper, fluoride, iodine, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc. Your body needs them in smaller amounts.

It would be hard to "overdose" on vitamins or minerals that you get from the foods you eat. But if you take supplements, you can easily take too much. This is even more of a risk if you take fat-soluble vitamins.

Whole foods are your best sources of vitamins and minerals. They offer three main benefits over supplements:

1. They contain a variety of the micronutrients your body needs. An orange, for example, provides vitamin C but also beta carotene, calcium and other nutrients. A vitamin C supplement lacks these other micronutrients.
2. They provide dietary fiber, which is important for digestion and can help prevent certain diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Adequate fiber intake can also help prevent constipation.
3. They contain other substances such as antioxidants which slow down the natural process that leads to cell and tissue damage.

If you depend on supplements rather than eating a variety of whole foods, you miss the potential benefits of these substances.

For some people, including those on restrictive diets, multivitamin-mineral supplements can provide vitamins and minerals that their diets often don't. Older people and pregnant women have altered nutrient needs and may also benefit from a supplement.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org.

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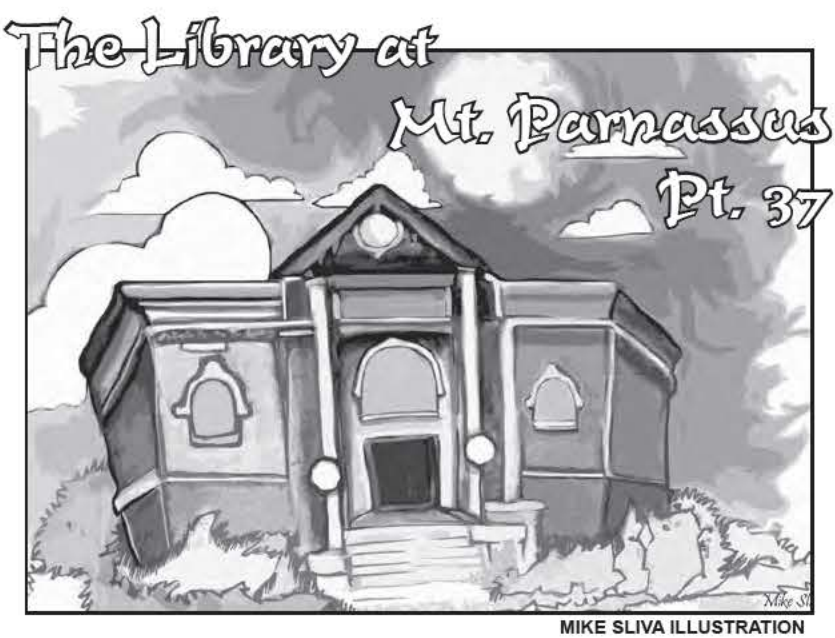
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Penelope, the children's librarian,
with all her charms on display in...



By DAVID DETMOLD

I turned away.

On the mantelpiece lay an assortment of little clay figures: a manger scene with scattered sheep, goats, a mournful donkey, the traditional shepherd leaning on his crook, his wife beside him, kneeling.

"I'm not insensitive to your charms," I said to Penelope. I picked up a little lamb and moving it closer to the others. "Do you keep this up all winter?"

I could feel her hands toying with my belt, tugging at my shirt-tails.

"Where's the baby Jesus?" I asked.

"There is no baby Jesus," she said petulantly. "This tableau comes from a far more ancient era." She reached around me. "See? This poor shepherd has enough at hand to keep him busy."

I picked up the little lamb again, and his round eyes looked into mine with an expression so sorrowful I suddenly felt like crying.

"These sheep look miserable."

"Oh, pshaw." Penelope waved her hand at the clay figurines on the mantel. "Don't anthropomorphize. Men are always imagining animals have feelings like their own."

She wound her arms around my waist. "Just like the gods dream that men have aspects of divinity tucked somewhere deep vinside their little souls... Wisdom. Foresight. Benevolence. Come now. They're only sheep."

Penelope leaned over and blew a kiss at her menagerie. I heard a sighing sound as of discordant bells, a hollow hopeless bleating.

"Where are the kids today?"

"Oh... probably outside playing in the snow."

Penelope laughed and moved over to her loom. I followed.

She gestured with an open hand for me to inspect her work – a pastoral scene of willow trees in winter, ice blue water nymphs lounging half clothed by the frozen river, a herd of pigs. I found it intricately detailed and realistic, as far as it

went.

"That's gorgeous, Penelope. I've never seen work so fine. You should finish it."

"Oh, la." Her fingers were playing in my hair again. "Finish it? Never. That would spoil the fun."

The electric light slipped and sparkled on the delicate woven forms.

"I admire your handiwork."

"You admire my handmaidens, I think. They're very playful." Her fingernails tickled the back of my neck. "Won't you come and play with us, sometime, my handsome ram?"

"Sometime, Penelope, someday soon, I'd love to."

"How about tonight?"

"Really, I would. Soon. You live nearby, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, quite near." She laughed and raised her hands above her head, wrists crossed, and spun round slowly, flaring the hem of her gown.

She gazed at me fixedly even as she spun, creating an uncanny illusion. I stepped backward toward the door.

She stopped and pointed through the wall. "Just up the hill," she said. "Just there. Through the woods. You'll see."

"My house is old, the door is oak, the floors inlaid with solid gold, the walls are hung with mirrored glass, the bed all draped in silk damask. You'll find me there, and all you want, and more, just ask."

"Well... that's very kind of you. You're just... too much. A fellow would really have to..." I backed into a small table. "...keep his wits about him if he ever wanted to play with you."

I felt the doorknob pressing into the small of my back. "But just now... I have to go."

Penelope stamped her foot and turned in a circle. Her blue gown swirled around her, her roped blond tresses, her headdress a waterfall of crystal. I let myself out into the hall and closed the door behind me.

Continued next issue.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Chickens In Road Raise Legal, Ethical Questions

Monday, 8/11
1:06 a.m. Report of customers threatening bartender at Between the Uprights; one male customer threatened to wait for bartender outside when she left. Responding officer remained in area until employees left for the night; unable to locate suspects.
9:11 a.m. Caller reported that a nearly full bottle of Oxycodone (approximately 107 pills) had been stolen from his truck. Report taken. Caller advised of better/safer methods of storing his medication.
11:57 a.m. Caller reports that the injured bear that has been sighted over the past few weeks was just seen near his residence on Walnut Street. Caller speculated that the bear may be heading toward an area where he could easily access the stream. Caller advised of the usual precautions.
5:41 p.m. Caller reports that there were two foxes at his neighbor's chicken coop. Responding officer was unable to locate any chickens; unsure if the fox took them. Investigated.
6:48 p.m. Caller driving on Hatchery Road observed a "pile of rubble" on fire. State Police and MCFD notified. Officer confirmed what appeared to be a brush fire near the road. Fire extinguished.
8:07 p.m. Disturbance at Food City. Area checked; unable to locate subject, who had been threatening employees and patrons.

Tuesday, 8/12
8:45 a.m. Report that an injured bear just walked through the parking lot at Connecticut River Internists/Freedom Credit Union. Two more callers reported seeing the bear on Montague City Road. Contacted Environmental Police and Fish and Wildlife, who advised that unless/until the bear starts getting into houses, it is best to leave it alone and advise the public of the usual precautions.
3:30 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding the bears hanging around in the area and "almost" attacking his dogs. Caller stated he would start shooting the bears.

Wednesday, 8/13
1:19 a.m. Party from Second Street removed to hospital.
1:46 p.m. First of several reports of flooding around town in locations including Thomas Memorial Country Club, Montague City Road, Old Sunderland Road, Marshall Street, and Highland Street.
3:20 p.m. Vehicle vs. pole at Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Pole snapped at base. TFFD, ambulance, and WMECO notified. Road reopened at 6:52 p.m.
5:24 p.m. Report of an assault at Millers Pub. Investigated.
7:22 p.m. Officer observed one party with an open container and one about to open a beer on L Street. First beer was disposed of; parties advised of open container laws.

Thursday, 8/14
1:24 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street reported that someone just tried to break into her living room window. Caller provided description of suspect. Unable to locate.
11:27 a.m. Report of 20-30 sheep in Old Sunderland Road. Officer and neighbor were able to get sheep back where they belong.
12:27 p.m. Report of a sick-looking fox lying in the caller's backyard. A few minutes later, caller advised that the fox had gone back into the woods.

Friday, 8/15
10:40 a.m. Caller reports that she was almost struck by a green pickup truck in the crosswalk near the Turners Falls Post Office. Vehicle description provided; officer advised.
1:24 p.m. Report of a subject screaming vulgar and offensive things from his back porch on G Street since 8:30 a.m. Officers made contact with subject and advised him regarding this behavior.
2:51 p.m. Smoke reported in a house on G Street; neighbor claimed he had left something unattended on the stove and that it was "all set." TFFD notified; ventilated building.
6:28 p.m. Female taken into protective custody after falling face first across from Carroll's Market.

Saturday, 8/16
9:29 a.m. Walk-in report of a female wearing a blue or black polka-dotted dress who appeared to be abusing a cat near Third Street and Avenue A. Area search negative.
9:45 a.m. Complaint of a barking dog on Carlisle Avenue. Officer spoke with dog's owner, who blamed the other dogs in the neighborhood for his dog's behavior. Owner advised. Owner, in turn, had a concern over the location of a boat. Boat owner spoken to; agreed to move boat.
10:22 a.m. Car into pole on Turners Falls Road. Operator refused medical attention. MCFD, TFFD, and WMECO advised.

12:57 p.m. Report of several females involved in a verbal and physical altercation outside the salon on Fifth Street. One went under the hood of a vehicle and began ripping out parts. One of the parties later called with more information. Officer requested Medcare and TFFD for a female having a seizure in front of A Turning Point. Patient transported. Parties advised of their options.
12:57 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that she found her apartment door open this morning and that her purse, which contained a sum of cash, was stolen. Report taken.
2:08 p.m. Report that a patron's vehicle was broken into at the Bookmill and a laptop was stolen. Report taken.
2:53 p.m. Stove fire on Park Villa Drive. TFFD notified. Fire knocked down.
4:43 p.m. Caller reports arriving home to find a window smashed on their vehicle. Officer spoke to caller and vehicle owner and advised them of their options.
10:45 p.m. Caller complained of "loud drunkards on the common." Officer located a group playing volleyball on Main Street who might have been the source of the noise. Parties advised of complaint and asked to keep it down.

Sunday, 8/17
1:48 a.m. Caller from Millers Pub reports that a female came into the bar who had just been assaulted by another female; has obvious injuries to the mouth and may be missing several teeth. Victim, who was highly intoxicated, refused medical care. Suspect spoken to and given options.
9:15 a.m. Bracelet reported stolen from a residence on Coolidge Avenue. Report taken.
12:45 p.m. Cell phone reported stolen from a table at the Rendezvous. Report taken.
4:28 p.m. Caller reports a fox in his backyard that won't leave; can't tell if it's a young fox or not, but it looks mangy. Officers advised; fox gone on arrival. Caller stated that the fox actually looked OK once he got a better look.
5:14 p.m. Yellow Tonka toddler bike with training wheels reported stolen from front yard on Millers Falls Road.

9:50 p.m. Caller reports that there is a bat in her house and that she has locked herself in the upstairs bathroom. Officer and animal control advised. Bat removed.
10:08 p.m. Three calls reporting females fighting in the parking lot behind the Rectory Church in Millers Falls. Involved parties spoken with. Investigated.

Monday, 8/18
11:40 a.m. Report of a child under the age of 3 unattended on the side of Montague City Road. Officer spoke with day care provider, who stated that she turned around for a minute to tend to a child who fell off the play structure in her yard when the other child ran off toward the road. DCF called advising that they are looking into this incident. Investigator from Daycare Licensing came to station and spoke with sergeant.


Tuesday, 8/19
12:32 p.m. Report of a female screaming obscenities from her apartment on Fourth Street. Officer advised quiet upon arrival. Party was advised to keep it down.
3:18 p.m. Caller reports that toward the back right of the cemetery on Turners Falls Road, there is what appears to be a fox running around; the animal has some type of injury and appears to be "biting itself." Unable to locate.
7:17 p.m. Domestic incident on K Street; one party arrested.

Wednesday, 8/20
5:59 a.m. Caller concerned about a kitten that is near the pumps at F.L. Roberts; unsure if it was dumped. Responding officer advises that this is an older cat, appears to be banged up, unsure if it is ill. A passerby assisted with moving the cat to a safer location. Animal control officer brought the cat to a local veterinarian.
9:55 a.m. Caller reports that her neighbor on Fourth Street has been screaming and using obscenities in her yard for the past 20 minutes. Neighbor spoken to; peace restored.
10:21 a.m. Caller who rents the apartment upstairs from her mother states that her mother and other family members came into her apartment and started moving her belongings around, claiming that they were trying to help her be more organized. Caller requests that they be

see MPD next page

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BUG from page B1

And stay.

If this sounds like an updated version of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, it isn't. By the end of the first act, almost nothing has happened except Goss has scared Agnes and she has thrown him out. We've also learned that Agnes lost a young son and Peter was in an army hospital for several years.

There is a lot of coke snorting and drinking which could make you think that's what the play is about, but it's just part of the character's landscape.

Long pauses in the dialogue make the action slow paced. By intermission, some in the audience were likely wondering what the play was all about. But that was the misdirect, lulling us into a false sense of security. There was no way to know what was coming.

To say that in the second act Peter and Agnes began a descent straight to hell would not be an exaggeration. It does start with bugs. Are they bedbugs? No. Smaller. Peter decides they are aphids. Blood-sucking aphids.

If that doesn't make you wonder, then you have become too used to crazy talk. Sadly, I must admit that much of Peter's ravings had the ring of familiarity as so much of it comes straight from the vast collection of paranoid theories that many people actually express. But he goes way beyond the ravings of Mel Gibson's "Conspiracy Theory."

By the final scene of the second act Peter has become unrecognizable. His mental and physical state are something terrifying to behold. All along I kept thinking Agnes would wake up, see Peter's insanity for what it was but sadly she was right there with him.

As crazy as it seemed, there was a certain logic to it that made it all the more terrifyingly believable. You can't help but feel sympathy

for Peter and Agnes as they sink deeper and deeper into a delusion that inevitably leads them to total self-destruction.

These two actors, Whitfill and Allen, are so purely in the moment, so believable in what they say and do that at no point do you remember it's not real. You watch in horror as they spin their theories and follow them where they lead.

In the end Peter and Agnes conclude that the bugs are not only dangerous to humans but will cause the end of humanity if they can't be destroyed.

All along they have developed theories of what will get rid of the bugs but never asked for help - which of course would have only come from a kindly concerned psychiatrist such as Dr. Sweet (played by Joe Van Allen) who makes the mistake of stopping by to try to get Peter back to the hospital. That does not end well for him.

The final step is the conclusion that Peter makes that he is the cause of the bug infestation. He is convinced they are inside of him, under his skin and he has tried everything he can think of to get rid of them but has failed.

Believing that these bugs threaten all of humanity, he comes to the terrible conclusion that they must be destroyed. For a brief moment, as Agnes and Peter pour bottles of gasoline over themselves, I thought, they're going to burn down the theater. It was that real.

Seconds later, there was a flash of light like an explosion, and what looked like flames but at the same time, not flames, creating only the illusion of fire. While the audience got over their shock, they sighed in relief as the building was not, actually on fire.

It's a funny thing how a fright can then exhilarate and bring laughter, at oneself I think, as you realize it wasn't real and nobody died.

When theater is that real, and

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Abandoned Belongings

Monday, 8/11

9:30 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Mountain Road.

10:50 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED] for default court warrant.

12:30 p.m. Loose dog, Forest Street. Animal control officer caught same and returned to owner.

5:24 p.m. Report of sickly raccoon in area of West Main Street. Gone on arrival.

5:45 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 at bypass.

6:40 p.m. Took report of past vandalism on Maple Avenue.

Tuesday, 8/12

6:35 p.m. Assisted motorist on River Street.

9:11 p.m. Took report of domestic disturbance at Mountain Road residence.

Wednesday, 8/13

12 noon Took report of larceny at Laurel Lake campground. Under investigation.

2 p.m. Second call of larceny at Laurel Lake camp-

ground.

5:03 p.m. Tree in roadway, Route 2 at Holmes Road. Hazard removed.

7:18 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Northfield Road.

10:56 p.m. Suspicious vehicles at Box Car. First gone on arrival; second turned out to be a taxi.

Thursday, 8/14

4 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield PD for domestic disturbance.

9 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

Friday, 8/15

11:15 a.m. Ranger at Laurel Lake called to report abandoned belongings.

1 p.m. Kept the peace during property retrieval on Gunn Street.

Saturday, 8/16

12:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Weatherheads Apartments. Found to be two subjects arguing. Verbal only.

12:30 p.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Semb Drive.

1:30 p.m. Suspicious person reported on Maple Avenue. Subject left area.

2 p.m. Accidental alarm on North Street.

Sunday, 8/17

8 a.m. Report of crash on River Road. Two mailboxes destroyed; vehicle fled scene.

2 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout on Dorsey Road.

7:45 p.m. False alarm at French King Restaurant.

10:30 p.m. False fire alarm at Weatherheads Apartments.

Monday, 8/18

8:35 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on State Road.

Tuesday, 8/19

3:49 p.m. Domestic disturbance call on Gunn Street. Arrested 19-year-old for domestic assault and battery on a household member.

6:50 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD for multiple calls.

9:58 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on

Lester Street.

Wednesday, 8/20

8:24 p.m. Report of driver slumped over steering wheel at Route 2 bypass. Gone on arrival.

9:55 p.m. Spoke with suspicious juveniles at convenience store. They were waiting for a ride.

Thursday, 8/21

3 p.m. Assisted resident with civil matter.

Friday, 8/22

8:52 a.m. Tree down on Mountain Road. Hazard removed.

1:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on French King Highway. Not a hazard.

8 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout.

Saturday, 8/23

10:10 a.m. Took report of vandalism at High Street residence.

4:20 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a motorcycle accident at Route 63 and Lake Pleasant Road.

9:10 p.m. Assisted Gill Police with disturbance. Peace restored.

MPD from pg B3

removed. Situation mediated. Parties advised of options.

8:42 p.m. Report of an assault in the alley between Third and Fourth Streets. Several involved parties were uncooperative and refused to provide written statements. Report taken.

Thursday, 8/21

1:22 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant and a default warrant.

10:21 a.m. Caller requests that police respond to his business (People's Bakery), where his son is trying to interfere and prevent his daughter from receiving a delivery. Situation mediated; parties advised of options.

5:08 p.m. Fight in progress on Park Street. Summons issued. Parties spoken to and sent on their way.

8:35 p.m. Caller reports that earlier today, she was driving her friend's father's vehicle over the bridges on Canal Road; the muffler got hung up on part of the bridge that is sticking up and was ripped off the vehicle. Referred to an officer.

11:33 p.m. House reported egged on Sunderland Road. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 8/22

5:03 p.m. Two calls received regarding fight on Avenue A involving 2-3 males and 8-10 bystanders; a third caller reported seeing "at least 30 people." Parties dispersed upon arrival of officers. Most witnesses did not want to get involved.

Saturday, 8/23

8:35 a.m. Report of 15-20 sheep in road near Hunting Hills and Federal Street. Attempted three contact numbers for owner;

no answer. The new owner of the cell phone number called back advising that he does not know the owner of the sheep.

9:44 a.m. Caller inquiring whether it is illegal to run over a chicken if it is in the road. When questioned further, caller advised that there is a group of chickens in the road near the fish hatchery. Caller stated that he thought about running over one of the chickens but decided against it. Officer checked area; no chickens observed.

10:46 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant and as a fugitive from justice on a Missouri court warrant.

4:23 p.m. Serious motorcycle accident at Route 63 and Lake Pleasant Road. Operator transported to hospital.

7:32 p.m. Caller reports a large white-faced hornets' nest on the ground near Seventh Street and Avenue A and states that he was chased across Avenue A by the hornets. Caller is concerned that a child will get stung. Officer located nest 200 feet up from the library and took steps to eradicate the problem.

9:43 p.m. Caller reported a silver Infinity doing donuts and burning out in the area of Bridge Street. Vehicle located, but no one inside.

Sunday, 8/24

2:35 p.m. Party in to station to file a missing person report on his daughter, whom he has not seen or heard from in 6 days. Daughter entered into national database as missing person.

10:08 p.m. Money reported stolen from an apartment on Fourth Street. Report taken.

MONTAGUE MUG RACE: TOP TWELVE TIMES

1. Aaron Stone 31:47

2. BenWhitbeck 31:54

3. Kim Nedeau 33:17

4. Howard Hannah 34:31

5. Robert Bezio 34:54

6. Edward Parrot 35:13

7. Mark Staples 35:27

8. Molly Hoyt 35:39

9. Laure Van Den Broeck 35:55

10. Sohan Tyner 36:26

11. Christopher Slep 36:26

12. Patrick Pezzati 36:55

ERVING CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS PROPOSALS

The Erving Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2014 deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council spokesperson Megan Niedzwiedz, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Erving – including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The Erving Cultural Council will also entertain funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket subsidy program for school-aged children.

The Erving Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year.

Contact Megan Niedzwiedz, Erving Cultural Council Chairperson, at 413-522-2447 or megan.niedzwiedz@gmail.com for specific guidelines and information. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available on the web at www.mass-culture.org/lccpublic.asp. Please be sure to supply the Cultural Council with 10 (ten) copies of your application.

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CHAMPS from page B1

es but the coaching staff were right on the field giving their brand of encouragement and gentle redirection.

With the home opener only three weeks away, Lapointe and his team have some work to do if they are to

return to championship form. And coach Lapointe remains optimistically realistic. "We need to continue to get better each and every day of camp to be where we want to be but I know this team is excited to compete and make a name for themselves."

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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope Tuesday*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children. Story, interactive game and craft with rotating topics. Ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Great Falls Farmer's Market, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m. Moves to Millers Falls Library in September.

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

MUSEUMS

Local libraries have passes for area museums. *Wendell Free Library* has: Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Historic Deerfield, Mass MoCa, and more. *Leverett Library* has: Clark Art Institute, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Historic Deerfield, Springfield Museums and more. Check with each library for museums available and restrictions.

ART SHOWS:

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *The Breathing Landscape*, by Linda Ruel Flynn of Orange. Work on display in the Marion Herrick Room Gallery through 8/31.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Out Of Line*, pen and ink drawings by artist and humorist, Linda Baker-Cimini. Work on display through 9/10.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum, Hadley: *Field Notes 4: Transect* an exhibition of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures created by architects Sigrid Miller Pollin & Stephen Schreiber, landscape architect Jane Thurber. Through 10/15.

CALL FOR ART:

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send submissions to naban@verizon.net before Jan 23. Info: www.ninas-nook.com

THEATER OPPORTUNITIES: Young Shakespeare production of *Twelfth Night*, Shea Theater, Turners Falls. There are no auditions or rejections. Every participant who registers receives one or more speaking roles. The program is dedicated to exploring these masterful works as they were written, without modernizing or editing—and thanks to the unique method developed by Richard DiPrima—young people perform with complete understanding. Beginning September 3, for young people ages 7-18, 14 weeks. Rehearsals on Sundays and Wednesdays. Tuition is \$500, scholarships available. Contact Suzanne Rubinstein: suzanne@ysp.org; 802-258-7922. www.youngshakespeareplay-erseast.org.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Thomas Memorial Golf Club, Turners Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*, \$, 8 p.m.

for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, \$, 7 p.m.

St. Kazimierz, Avenue A, Turners Falls: Skatepark Benefit with OFC, more. \$, 7:30 p.m.

Fish Park, Athol: Tool Town Live presents the *Reprobates*, 7 p.m. Rain location: Memorial Hall, Athol.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Viva Quetzal*. Latino jazz-rock fusion, \$, 8:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *I Bury The Living*, film showing, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Katie Sachs, Lexi Wege, Street Change*. Indie/folk/singer-songwriters, 9:30 p.m.

Rout 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, current & classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Vile Intent, World Domination, Pelvic Floor, Neutral Fixation, and Od*, \$, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crazy Diamond*, Pink Floyd outdoor dance party, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Music to Eat By* via DJ, 6 p.m. and then *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Welcome to Railroad Salvage*, opens in the Great Hall. Constructions, reliefs and large-scale drawings

by Nina Rossi and Barbara Milot, with historical timeline and commentary by Anne Harding. Opening reception on Saturday, September 13, 1 to 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Worriers, members of the Measure, on No Idea records, California X, western MA riff kings, Dessert First, Lily from Parasol solo*. \$, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Downtown Greenfield: *First Friday* event, 4 to 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Patton's Hit Parade*, a night of croonin' the hits of the 1940s, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Julia Weldon*, indie-folk-pop, 8

p.m.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Free Chair Massage* with Susan DelMonte, 10 a.m. to noon.

Fish Park, Athol: Tool Town Live presents *Trailer Park*, 7 p.m. Rain location: Memorial Hall, Athol.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Hanging Scarlet*. With a mix of styles from progressive rock to folk, Rob, Tim, Rocky and Joe come together to write and play music that "Rocks" and has a message of hope & love. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jukin*, rock/reggae/funk, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *The Sky Blue Boys*, \$, 3 p.m.



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6pm "Music to eat By" (DJ)
9pm TNT KARAOKE



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New Exhibitions in Turners

Turners Falls RiverCulture will be changing exhibitions in the Avenue A Storefront Galleries this Labor Day weekend. The new exhibition will feature the art of local emerging artists Max Armen, Julianne Jones, Wes Talbot and Patrick MacNab. The exhibition will run through September 12.

IMAGES COURTESY RIVERCULTURE



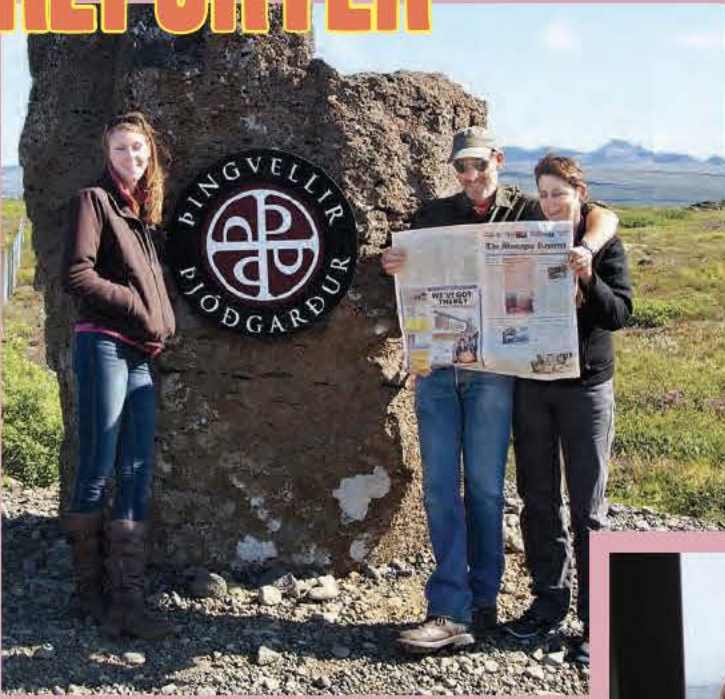
Among the art on display in Avenue A storefronts will be works by Julianne Jones.



Wes Talbot's work will also be gracing the Avenue A storefronts.

MONTAGUE REPORTER

Ella Smith (Age 2) reads the Montague Reporter while mommy Paula King enjoys some rock climbing in Hatcher's Pass, Alaska.



Tom Chalmers and Joan Meyer of Gill recently visited Iceland with our kids, Margot and Tom, and of course, brought their Reporter along. The photo was taken at Pingvellir, or Thingvellir where the Athing, a governing assembly was first held in 930.

The Montague Reporter travels far and wide. This time just a short jaunt to Hampton Beach NH with Denise Milkey.



WARD SMITH PHOTO



BRIAN MILKEY PHOTO

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