

**GEN. PIERCE
BRIDGE OUT**

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**HOT DAYS?
COLD SOUP.**

Page B1



**2 TFHS TEAMS HEAD
FOR DIVISION FINALS!**

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 11, 2015

Ramblers Hope For Land Swap



JACKSON PHOTO

By MIKE JACKSON

LAKE PLEASANT – The Mohawk Ramblers couldn't have picked a better day than last Saturday for their spring charity run. About 75 motorcyclists – members of the club, friends, and a contingent from Bikers Against Child Abuse, the event's beneficiary – rumbled into the Ramblers' Montague Plains clubhouse after the ride for barbecue, raffles and a quiet afternoon celebration.

But time is ticking for the club's lease on the site, which it has occupied since the mid-1960s. The land's owner, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, wants to tear the clubhouse, pavilion and children's play structures down as part of a major project to restore pitch pine and scrub oak habitat on the Plains.

At a meeting arranged and attended by Rep. Stephen Kulik last July, the Ramblers see **RAMBLERS** page A7

WENDELL TOWN MEETING

Voters Approve Broadband Article, Keep Elected Positions

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell citizens spent two evenings, June 8 and 9, considering and voting on 33 warrant articles for the 2015 annual town meeting.

On the first evening, Monday, the Wendell town hall was full to capacity, with citizens standing around the edges, and some sitting on the stage behind town officials because there was room there.

Voters overwhelmingly approved – 115 to 11 – an article to borrow up to \$1.92 million to establish a fiber optic broadband network in town.

That was Article 5, and after it passed, close to fifty people left the hall, leaving the

more dedicated citizens to conduct the remainder of the town's business. Thirty-five citizens returned Tuesday to continue the meeting, starting with Article 22.

The annual operating budget of \$2,175,965 passed unanimously, following closely, but not precisely, the recommendations of the finance committee. The estimated tax rate for fiscal 2016 is \$19.53, up one cent from 2015.

Article 5 brought out the most discussion.

Broadband committee member Robbie Leppzer said that although the loan repayments will increase an average homeowner's monthly tax bill by \$14 to \$22, that homeowner will save overall because the network

see **WENDELL** page A4

TFHS Class of 2015 Graduates

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – There was an air of restless energy in the gymnasium at Turners Falls High School last Friday evening as family and friends gathered and waited impatiently for the Class of 2015 graduation ceremony to begin.

Folding chairs sat in rows on the polished wooden floor, for those afraid of heights, but it was the bleachers that filled up first. Some parents and grandparents could be seen pacing.

The band played a tune somewhere in the distance, difficult to hear over the sound of people shouting to each other across the room. Anticipation filled the air.

When the ceremony start-



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

The Class of 2015 held their diplomas – and roses – last Friday.

ed, the graduates just seemed to stroll in, waving, smiling, shaking the occasional hand stretched out to them. Girls in white, boys in blue, the colors swayed as they walked. The sound level came up a bit as the crowd caught on that the processional had started. Cheers went up in the rafters when a group of fans noticed their favorite gradu-

ate. The biggest cheers were from the grads and their fellow students; they filled the huge room with enthusiasm for each other.

On the platform at the front stood the Principal Thomas Osborn and Superintendent Michael Sullivan, joined by school committee chair Sandra Brown, looking

see **GRADS** page A3

NEWS ANALYSIS

Manganese In The Groundwater?

By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT – Stories of global severe weather, especially the drought in the Western states, are food for our daily newsfeed, but despite a few dry weeks this spring, western Massachusetts seems relatively lucky in its water.

Residents here protect their water from Nestle, and challenge pipelines. Wise

environmental stewards in our neighborhoods can tell us about native swamp milkweed and its exquisite filtration capabilities.

Some tout the quality of their well water as superior to other sources, especially municipal water treated with chloramines. When the well runs dry or the taste and quality changes due to heavy rains, or the power is out and the pump goes down, those

municipal water supplies are coveted.

In towns with no municipal system, like Leverett, it is the individual homeowner's responsibility to maintain their water, including testing and, if need be, implementing filtrations systems or digging new wells.

When the town decided to close and cap, but not line, the town landfill in 1993, they had see **WATER** page A6

No Small Job: Greenfield Road Reconstruction Under Way

By JOE PARZYCH

MONTAGUE – Baltazar Contractors of Ludlow have a \$5.2 million job reconstructing just under 2 miles of Greenfield Road in Montague. Soil conditions are tough. Wet running sand overlaying wet clay, on top of bedrock of extremely hard basalt blue stone, is enough to make job supervisor Robert Macauley's hair turn white and fall out in clumps.

On portions of the job, despite drought-like conditions, wet running sand mixed with silt and clay slumped off the slopes. On the flat section, Baltazar's crew installed ABS corrugated sub-drain, ranging from 8" to 18" depending on the amount of groundwater, and bedded the sub-drain with crushed stone.

On the hill, what was thought to be basalt bedrock stymied the company's see **ROADWORK** page A3



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Enrique Tyson of Baltazar walking a dog – guiding a sheepsfoot vibratory roller by invisible leash remote control.

Martin Espinola Retires From GMRS D Administration



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Marty Espinola

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – Martin Espinola has worked under a total of seven superintendents in the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The first, Brenda Finn, hired him in 2001 for a newly created position, Grants, Technology and Curriculum director.

Espinola held the position until it was eliminated as part of the 2011 budget, and for the past 4 years has

served as Director of Teaching and Learning. At the end of this fiscal year, on June 30, Espinola will officially retire from the district.

Soon after graduating college, he was hired as a fifth-grade teacher at an East Hartford, CT parochial school. Before that, his experience in teaching had been limited to teaching Sunday school.

This experience in East Hartford gave him an appreciation of working with kids, and while there, he worked

on getting his teaching certification.

Certification in hand, he next taught in the Granby, CT schools, again as a fifth-grade teacher. During his six years there, he decided to undertake graduate work in Curriculum and Planning, and received an advanced degree in School Administration.

He became Granby's first curriculum director, and then spent the next decade at the Newington (CT) Public School System as their curriculum supervisor.

In 1998 he moved to Florence and worked two years at the Hilltown Cooperative Charter School as its Education Director. At this point Espinola had already achieved a 24-year career in education.

In 2001, Espinola began his now 14-year professional career at the Gill Montague Regional School District.

His list of proud accomplishments in his work see **ESPINOLA** page A3

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Seeing is Believing

Violent crime has decreased consistently since the early 1990s in this country, and is now back to about 1970 rates.

In the past few years, even the nation's prison population has finally begun to decline slightly.

But it seems like every day the headlines come, and the videos show up in the newsfeeds.

On Friday in McKinney, TX, police called to break up a teenage end-of-school party at a community pool that had reportedly gotten out of hand got pretty out of hand themselves.

After a cell phone video of Police Cpl. Eric Casebolt running in circles, pointing his service revolver at youth, barking curses, dragging a young girl to the ground by her hair and sitting on her went viral on the internet, he was forced to resign.

"Our policies, our training, and our practice do not support his actions," his department chief told the press.

McKinney is a residential boom town north of Dallas – its population was 21,283 in 1990, and now it is estimated to be over 150,000. Friday's fracas took place in Craig Ranch, a sprawling, mostly affluent planned development in the west of the city.

A few years ago, McKinney settled a civil rights suit that alleged it was enforcing segregation by limiting Section 8 housing to its east side. According to witnesses, conflict at the pool began when an older white woman told a black teenager to "go back to Section 8 housing."

But when the police arrived, from the looks of the video they knew who they were asking to leave – black youth, even those from the neighborhood who had pool passes.

"It was kind of like I was invisible," said their white friend who filmed the incident. He simply wasn't a target: the police weren't telling *him* to leave.

On Saturday in the Bronx, Kalief Browder hanged himself. When he was 16, Browder was arrested for a crime he swore he did not commit – the theft of a backpack – and thrown into a juvenile prison on Riker's Island, where he would spend a hellish three years without ever facing a trial.

Two of those years were spent in solitary confinement, and during his captivity, Browder suffered documented violence at the hands of correctional officers and his fellow inmates.

After his case was dismissed in

May 2013, his experience at Riker's was featured by Jennifer Gonnerman in the *New Yorker*, and he became a *cause celebre* for prison and pretrial reform.

But the personal and psychological damage had been done.

And on Monday in North Charleston, SC, a grand jury indicted police officer Michael Slager for the murder of Walter Scott, following an April traffic stop. A bystander, Feidin Santana, filmed Slager shooting the unarmed Scott eight times in the back as he ran away.

After shooting him, the video shows, Slager handcuffed the dying Scott, went back and picked up an object, and planted it next to Scott's body. He didn't attempt CPR, though he would later write in the police report that he had, that Scott had taken his Taser, and that he felt threatened.

Santana initially held on to his video, worried his life might be in danger, but posted it online after he realized that Slager's narrative of a self-defense killing would otherwise go unchecked. The officer's lawyer resigned hours after the video came to light.

To many residents of towns like ours, this national moment feels unfamiliar. Maybe a few bad apples, and a few unfortunate and tragic flukes like Browder's situation, are unfairly taking center stage in the national discourse.

But a big part of what's happening is that most people now carry camera phones, which means the long-submerged and unresolvable conflict between those Americans who as a rule believe police reports and those who as a rule disbelieve them is being slowly forced out in the open.

Realities that many of us have never had to experience are now being documented, and shared with concern. The role of police – and the ultimately impossible job many of them are tasked with – is coming under unprecedented scrutiny.

Even if we assume most police do their job well, with compassion and caution and without bias, in the places where they straddle social fault lines they can too easily become accomplice to larger injustices.

We hope that law enforcement professionals and their closest supporters see the current moment as an opportunity to make changes that benefit everyone, and not a chance to double down in defense of an old system that, for many Americans, is just not working.



LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Sunday, June 14, is the last day the Turners Falls Fishway is open for the season. Admission is free. The fishway is located on First Street just behind Montague Town Hall.

Last week, the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center's name

changed to MCSM Women's Center (Montague Catholic Social Ministries Women's Center).

The Women's Center is offering a new free program for women starting on Monday, June 15, and two spaces just opened up. "Let's Build a Simple Website!" will get women started on building a website, starting a blog or creating an

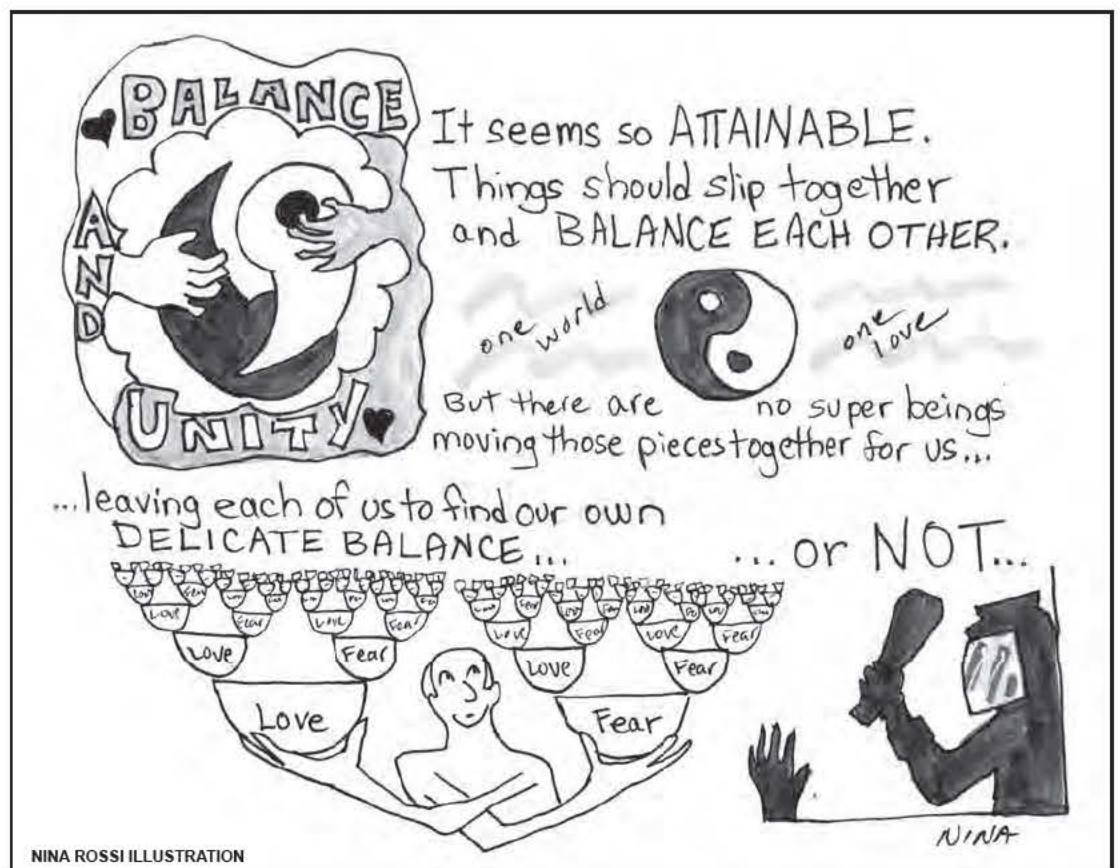
online store. Call programs coordinator Christine Diani at (413) 863-4804 ext. 1003 to register.

Classes will meet at 41 Third Street in Turners Falls on Mondays, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and June 22 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Montague Community Band will perform their season-opening concert on Monday, June 15 at Peskeomskut Park, Avenue A, Turners Falls at 7 p.m.

Walking in the tracks of dinosaurs, carving a stamp to leave your mark, sharing a picnic supper and singing around a campfire are just some of the fun planned for families during an evening celebration

see BRIEFS next page



Letter to the Editors

Clear Cutting for Industrial Scale Solar?

On June 17, 7 p.m. at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, the citizens group *Alliance for Appropriate Development* will host a discussion about the proposed industrial-scale solar development in Shutesbury. The project's developers, W.D. Cowls and Chicago-based Lake Street Developers, are invited.

The meeting seeks to discuss concerns about a proposed 6 MW industrial-scale, commercial solar installation slated for a pristine wooded parcel off of Pratt Corner Road in Shutesbury.

The 850 acre parcel, known as the Wheelock Tract, is at the top of a hill with wetlands to the east and south. It is crisscrossed with seasonal springs, vernal pools, and water-saturated terrain. This is a recharge area for the wells of residents on Pratt Corner to the north and northwest. Surface springs feed the Amherst watershed, and eventually Atkins' reservoir.

Local residents are deeply concerned that Lake Street's plans do not appear to consider what is apparent to those who live in this region: this is an environmentally sensitive tract whose hydrology would be altered drastically in unpredictable and negative ways by a large-scale solar development.

The proposed 6 MW development is extremely large when compared with other local arrays. This project is three times the size of the solar arrays on Route 202!

A tract equivalent in area to 23 football fields would need to be clear-cut and graded with gravel, destroying the wetlands and natural topography of the area. Construction would require hundreds of truckloads of debris traveling up and down a fragile, old logging road that is the site of surface springs that keep it wet year-round.

Pratt Corner Road is a dirt road that can handle neither the construction traffic nor the dramatic increase in stormwater runoff created by this massive-scale de-

forestation project.

Shutesbury is designated a Green Community by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Initial excitement about bringing solar power to Shutesbury, however, faded quickly among abutters and Shutesbury residents as the details emerged.

Questions and concerns are backed up by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' own guidance on the siting of industrial, ground-mounted solar projects. The DOER "*strongly discourages locations that result in significant loss of land and natural resources, including farm and forest land...*"

The Alliance for Appropriate Development is proposing 3 things for the town of Shutesbury:

1. A moratorium on commercial solar development until zoning bylaws for such installations can be created through proper process.
2. Develop appropriate zoning bylaws specifically to deal with large scale solar installations.
3. Reject all permits until zoning bylaws have been created.

Other towns are also questioning the appropriateness of industrial-scale solar projects. The towns of Heath and Hatfield have recently objected to the permitting of similar projects.

Other communities are questioning the appropriateness of large-scale, commercial solar energy plants in residential, agricultural, and forested areas. Small towns need to plan for their own energy future and not be strong-armed by wealthy landowners and venture capitalists into environmentally irresponsible projects.

Michael Suter,
Alliance for Appropriate Development
Shutesbury

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BRIEFS from previous page

of the beginning of summer fun. On Wednesday, June 17, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff for **"Families Exploring Hidden Mysteries at Barton Cove."**

Designed to introduce outdoor-loving families to each other and to pursuits that will foster future family nature adventures, participants will try letter boxing, questing, and learn how to build a low impact version of the classic campfire.

Bring a brown-bag supper, a drink and wear play clothes, close toed shoes, and an extra layer in case there is a breeze off the river for this outdoor romp through the woods of Barton Cove.

Suitable for ages 6 and older. Please call to pre-register at (800) 859-2960.

Come into any of the library branches – Carnegie Library, Montague Center Library, Millers Falls Library – on Thursday, June 18 and sign up for the **Summer Reading program**. It's fun and free. There will be great programs to attend and prizes to earn for participating.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's **"Clinical Notes"**, a hospital-based women's capella chorus, will perform a free summer concert on Thursday, June 18, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the hospital's Conference Rooms B & C.

Under the direction of Kathryn Aubrey-McAvoy, the group will perform a variety of selections, including classical, jazz, traditional and rock. Individual members of the group will be featured as soloists. Hospital staff, patients, visitors and the public are invited to attend.

Alice Johnson and Rodney Madison will be leading a **cleanup at Turners Falls' Spinner Park** (Avenue A at Fourth Street) on Saturday, June 20. Volunteers are needed – please come out and support them at 8 a.m.

They will be pulling weeds and clipping shrubs. If you have garden tools, please bring them with you. Trash bags will be provided.

On Saturday June 20, 4 p.m., the North Leverett Baptist Church, 70 North Leverett Road, Leverett, will host the **4D1G Gospel Quartet and Hymn Sing**. Pianist Dennis Ainsworth and a choir from 10 area churches will also perform.

For more info, visit Gospel-HymnSing.org. For text reminders, text "hymn" to (413) 372-8080.

The **Montague Jazz Festival** is Sunday, June 21, from 2 to 6 p.m. on the Montague Center Common, rain or shine! Two bands will perform: The Broken Cello Orchestra and The Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra. Bring your own chair or a blanket. There's no charge but donations are welcome to benefit the First Congregational Church of Montague.

The **Newt Guilbault baseball league** will hold a tag sale on Saturday, June 27, in the parking lot next to the Sheffield School and Field house parking lot on Crocker Ave. in Turners Falls.

If you would like to donate items to benefit the league, please call Kelly, 863-2698 or Jen, (413) 522-2351. They will arrange to pick up.



Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GRADS from page A1

a bit lonely on their quiet island surrounded by all that energy. Once the graduates settled into their seats, Principal Osborn welcomed those gathered and then offered some thoughts.

He told them, "You represent our future hopes and dreams." He expressed his confidence in their ability to face the challenges ahead. "We believe in you because we have seen what you can do." In closing, he said, "Go out there in the world and show everyone what you can do. Class of 2015, go out there and be great!"

Class President Danielle Conant led her fellow graduates through the ceremonies with grace. Standing on the podium, looking out at her fellow graduates, she spoke fondly of their time at Turners Falls High School and their lives in the town itself. She said, "This is a place I will never forget. This small town is the foundation of our lives."

Salutatorian Alexander Morin had the audience laughing at anecdotes of experiences with teachers and classes during their time at Gill-Montague. The moment of humor was well received.

Valedictorian Ian MacPhail brought a more somber note to the proceedings as he spoke of his dad, who died when he was 14 years old. "Dad is the reason I'm standing here today," he said, and spoke of his father's inspiration in his life. He closed with congratulations to his classmates and pride at what they've accomplished.

Michael Sullivan, superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, congratulated the 61 graduates and their families, recognizing their perseverance and resilience in studying a range of subjects, even some they may not have always found interesting, and applauded them for excelling in sports and the arts.

"You look out for each other, have a strong sense of social justice and honesty," he said, then suggested, "Take a moment to reflect on a special experience with gratitude towards a teacher or coach."

Sullivan reminded them to be kind to their parents, for while this is a day of celebration, it is also a nostalgic one for their parents as they watch their sons and daughters get ready to move on to a new life.

He said that half the graduating class will be off to four-year colleges, and another quarter will be going to two-year colleges. Of the rest, some will be going into the military, some going directly to work, and a few haven't decided yet.

Sullivan closed his remarks with some sage advice on the meaning of life, then told the graduates that he hoped their high school experience has prepared them for a life of learning.

In her new position representing the school committee as its chair, Sandra Brown offered some brief but gracious comments congratulating the graduates and wishing them well.

With speeches concluded, it was time for the graduates to get their diplomas in a process of handshakes and hugs as they stepped up onto the podium. Each was handed a diploma and a red-tipped pink rose.

In a small ceremony at the edge of the platform, the graduates took turns moving each other's tassels, indicating they were now graduates.

This was just symbolic, of course, since once they offered their roses to their special loved ones, the principal announced them graduated, and all of those caps were thrown high up into the air in celebration.



ESPINOLA from page A1

here includes reforming the Gill-Montague Education Fund, co-founding the Community-School Partnership, and getting the grant that helped make the middle-high school a green school building.

He is also pleased to have gotten grants to fund programs and services for students such as a program to reduce the high school dropout rate, and a grant to start and operate summer school programs. In addition he has worked to develop technology programs and services for the district.

When asked what factors were instrumental in GMRS leaving Level 4 status, Marty responds readily: first, managing to develop budgets in cooperation with the towns; developing curriculum maps and professional development for teachers; building data teams to keep track of and review student performance regularly; and learning walk-throughs to observe classes and provide feedback to teachers.

"But," says Marty, "the District is still struggling to find resources." He was sorry to see the Academic Coaches eliminated, because they were a help to new teachers. He notes that the technology staff, originally four people, is down to two. "Nevertheless," he says, "staff and teachers are always talking about how to improve."

On the day of our interview, Marty Espinola was a busy man with back-to-back meetings. Somehow he found time to talk to the *Montague Reporter* and even to have his picture taken by our roving photographer, Mark Hudyma.

Espinola said he looks forward to concentrating on his nature photography, which is his hobby, and learning how not to have a job. We wish him well and thank him for his service to students and staff.



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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 6/5/15:

Grade 6
Paige Bonarrigo

Grade 7
Emily Sisson

Grade 8
Grayson Funk
Mireya Ortiz

ROADWORK from page A1

hydraulic hammer, which could only create a little dust. Local geologist Steven Winter later identified the bedrock as "re-cemented silica rich shale". The shale had shattered into fragments eons ago, possibly by earthquakes, to be later re-cemented, according to Winter.

Ironically, the blasted re-cemented shale will once again have to be re-cemented – into a 600-foot-long retaining wall, 22 feet high in places, sporting a concrete cap on top.

Baltazar has no shortage of equipment on this job. Crowded into about an eighth of a mile of construction were a Komatsu PC 300 LC excavator, a Cat 345B excavator, a Volvo EW170 excavator, a Samsung SE 130 LC-2 excavator, and a Freightliner tandem dump truck.

In addition, Chicopee Concrete Service of Chicopee crowded onto the scene to pour concrete into footing forms that will support the mortared boulder retaining wall.

Amidst the heavy equipment, Baltazar laborer Enrique Tyson walked a five-ton BMP 8500 Economode sheep's foot vibratory roller down the road using a remote control, appearing as if he was walking a dog on an invisible leash. The remote-controlled roller is especially

useful when backfilling trenches after digging shields have been removed, thereby eliminating the risk of a worker getting buried.

This job has the highest ratio of equipment to employees this reporter has ever seen.

Earlier, Baltazar's crew performed a great deal of preliminary work such as clearing trees, stump-

ing, and installing sub-drains in wet areas with a high water table. They will have more sub-drains and road culverts to install as the job progresses.

Varandas & Sons, subcontractors to Baltazar, are building the stone wall of huge boulders blasted out of the onsite bedrock. They also use additional boulders from Mitchell's quarry in Northfield. Owner Gus Varandas, a real hands-on CEO, was at the controls of the company's Volvo EW170 excavator hoisting boulders into place on the wall, which will be some 20 feet high in places.

The wall is backed up with gravel borrow with 4" ABS weep pipes installed through the wall to carry off any groundwater that accumulates. Another sub-drain at the base of the wall at the road's edge collects underground water as well as the water from the weep pipes.

Gus Varandas's son, Richey Varandas, darts about the project like a water bug, grading and supplying sand and gravel for the wall, with a JD 320 skid steer loader.

Son Bruno Varandas said his family is proud of how nice the concrete cap and finished portions of the wall appear.

Apparently, pride in workmanship still exists.



Varandas & Sons owner Gus Varandas, at the controls of his Volvo EW170 excavator, is a real hands-on CEO. The company is subcontracting under Baltazar.

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WENDELL from page A1

will provide unlimited internet service for \$49 a month, instead of close to \$80, the cost of satellite internet, and telephone service for \$25, instead of an average of \$60 for a land line.

WiredWest executive committee vice chair Jim Drawe said that fiber-optic cable is not likely to become obsolete or break down. It has a greater tensile strength than steel, it does not corrode, and it allows greater bandwidth than any transmission through the air. He said that the prices for service are not likely to increase arbitrarily because WiredWest belongs to the towns.

Citizen Morgan Mead said that the internet is "vastly overrated: Our father, who art in Google, What problem has it solved? It has not made us more educated, it has not made us wiser, or caused us to elect better leaders. The money would be better spent on solar power, insulation..."

Before more skeptics were able to speak their opinions, the question was called, the vote was taken, and the "yea's" easily passed the 2/3 requirement.

For the fire department, voters approved \$40,000 for a cascade system to fill air bottles; \$65,000, most of which may be recovered with a grant, for new SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatuses); \$5,000 for new turnout gear; \$2,850 for a wellness program; and \$35,000 for a ventilation system for the fire station/highway garage.

Highway commission chair Harry Williston said that repair of the building's roof was more pressing than a ventilation system, and several citizens who work in garages questioned why a simple hose from the vehicle exhaust pipes would not suffice.

Voters approved \$40,152 for a new police cruiser, an expense that was postponed in 2014.

Those protection expenses were taken from the stabilization fund, and voters approved putting \$298,052 free cash back into stabilization.

Four articles at the end of the war-



Monday night's annual town meeting in Wendell.

rant would have changed the offices of treasurer, tax collector, clerk, and the board of assessors from elected positions to ones appointed by the selectboard.

Citizen Michael Idoine asked for these articles to be on the warrant to begin a discussion, and in their defense he said that all those positions are becoming increasingly complex and technical. The selectboard can terminate an appointed person at any time, but an elected person can be removed only for stealing money, or by being voted out of office. An elected office must be held by a town citizen, but an appointed one can be held by anyone from anywhere.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley, tax collector Penny Delorey, assessor Chris Wings, and several citizens spoke to the virtue of having those positions held by people who know the town. Wings mentioned one assessor who has lived in town 70 years.

Fin com chair Doug Tanner questioned whether the town could pay anyone from out of town enough to get them to work. All four articles were defeated, two by hand count, two by voice vote.

Article 33 closed the meeting.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Hall Kitchen: Logistics!

By JOSH HEINEMANN

With the warrant signed and posted, June 3, the last regularly scheduled selectboard meeting before the annual town meeting, was short and direct.

The evening's longest discussion was with kitchen co-coordinator Heather Willey about the soon to be opened town hall kitchen. The kitchen committee expected to have an opening May 31, but the construction project still has details to be worked on before the kitchen can be opened for use. As selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said, "The strawberry shortcake opening may become a tomato opening."

Willey brought up concerns that kitchen committee members have had about kitchen use once it is established and operating. One provision that comes from the town hall use policy is that the hall is not for commercial use.

There are people in town who have been waiting for the certified kitchen to open so they can hold a cooking class, and get paid, or have a fundraising meal, or process home

grown foods for sale. The kitchen committee formed with the idea of, among other things, allowing community meals, but also other potentially profit-making uses.

The town hall without a kitchen has been used for classes that charged a fee, and may even have made a profit, but no use has really been commercial, and board members felt some discretion in authorizing use can be allowed.

Willey brought up the thought of parallel use: while one group is using the kitchen, another may be able to use the rest of the town hall if both activities are contained. Other parallel uses are incompatible.

A potential kitchen user would have to connect with one of the kitchen co-coordinators, Heather Willey and Eric Newman, and they will need an orientation but also would have to meet with town coordinator Nancy Aldrich who schedules overall town hall use.

The fee for kitchen use will have to cover the expense of maintaining the kitchen, but that cost is not known now. Neither is the amount of use the kitchen will get.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that for the start, the kitchen policy can stay the same, as the overall town hall use policy, and policies can evolve as needed.

Broadband

Heard questioned whether the selectboard should take a position on town meeting Article 5, which would authorize borrowing to establish a fiber optic broadband network in town.

Pooser said he felt it was unnecessary to take a position, as people he hears from want the broadband network, "whether it costs \$2 million or \$100 million." But he added that the article involves a lot of money, and there are still some concerns.

MBI has made it clear that authorizing the borrowing does not have to happen now for them to contribute what they have promised, but psychologically people want to support the project.

Keller added that the town still has large payments on the USDA loans for the new buildings, and those payments are still early, going mostly towards interest. The principal, the town's debt load, is still high. If the town borrows for a broadband network, it will be unable to borrow again for another 20 years.

Summer Forum To Highlight Immigration

CHARLEMONT – The 2015 summer Charlemont Forum series will give focus to the contentious issue of immigration in the United States, drawing on local and national experts to outline American history and look at current policies and practices. The topic carries urgent political and cultural importance as a bitter political debate continues around the eleven million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.

Using the Forum's format from the previous five years, the series invites local communities to come together and think afresh about U.S. immigration history, current laws regulating immigration and the various related legislative proposals and policy pronouncements over the past year. In particular, what ought Americans to think of President Obama's recent executive order temporarily deferring deportation of nearly five million undocumented immigrants?

The series begins Friday, June 19, with its program **First Families of Charlemont: Who, When and Why** in celebration of the Town of Charlemont's 250th anniversary.

Aaron Miller, archeologist and Assistant Curator of the Mt. Holyoke College Art Museum, will recount the town's history dating from its earliest residents, Native Americans, to immigrant arrivals in the mid-18th century. His presentation will include historical artifacts from the area.

On Wednesday, July 8, the presentation entitled **The Melting Pot: Who's Getting Burned?** will bring the immigrant theme to the present, taking a hard look at present government policies and practices.

On Thursday, August 6, the Forum will address **Immigration and Politics: Dilemmas & Solutions** as it considers one local town's immigrant experience before moving on to lay out possible policy solutions for national lawmakers.

The Forum series will all take place at 7 p.m. at the Charlemont Federated Church on Main Street. The 2015 Forum has received financial support from the Massachusetts Council on the Humanities and from the Cultural Councils of Charlemont-Hawley, Rowe, Amherst, Shelburne, Buckland and Heath.

Pooser said that the \$1.9 figure is padded out and the actual borrowing will be less.

Other Business

Aldrich mentioned that Article 18 on the town meeting warrant, \$39,609 for fire turnout gear, should read \$5,000. The error should not create a problem at the town meeting, just an explanation.

When the town hired Roland Jean as assistant building inspector, Charlie Bado was passed over because he was still working on his certification. Aldrich reported that he sent the selectboard a letter which stated that he is now certified by Massachusetts as a local inspector.

The "Berkshires to Boston" bicycle tour organizers sent the selectboard a courtesy letter stating that about 125 riders will be passing through town on September 18. The Wendell Country Store is one of their featured stops.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the insurance company wants something installed on the front roof of the highway garage to break up snow as it slides off the roof, either heat tape or "fingers". Keller said the usual volunteers can do that.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Net Metering: What's All The Fuss?

Part 1

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Some readers may have recently received desperate emails requesting that they lobby the state to “raise the cap on net metering.” The cap, we are told, limits the amount of solar energy production in the state. Most of us feel that increases in solar production are a good thing, particularly if we are trying to make a case against a large natural gas pipeline cutting through your town. So we dutifully make the calls to our legislators and other powers that be on Beacon Hill.

But what exactly is this thing called “net metering,” and why is it capped? What other policies are designed to promote solar energy in the state and to what degree have they been successful? Are there any downsides or negatives to these policies that cause the Governor, for example, to oppose lifting this cap?

I suspect quite a few of those receiving desperate emails would be hard pressed to answer these questions. I was hard pressed myself so, of course, I decided to write a “news analysis” about the topic for the *Reporter*.

Many thanks go to Chris Mason and Sally Pick, both of whom serve on the Montague Energy Committee; to Greg Garrison, who runs his own solar business and serves on the Montague Capital Improvements Committee; and to Claire Chang and John Ward of the Solar Store in Greenfield. One might say they bailed me out.

What is Net Metering?

The basics of net metering are relatively simple. You have solar panels on your roof, and these are attached to a meter that measures how much electricity you use.

When you use electricity from the electric company (via the so-called grid), the meter moves forward. When you use electricity from your solar panels the meter does not

ereed by an organization called New England ISO.

If during the course of your billing period (generally one month) you generate more electricity than you use, then you receive a credit. In Massachusetts, customers can apply their accumulated credits to reduce future electric bills.

You may, for example, accumulate credits during sunny summer months, and use them during the dark months of the winter to reduce your electric bill.

Net metering credits can also be assigned to another user of electricity. This can be done for a fee or, as is sometimes the case with smaller rooftop solar systems, may be in the form of a charitable donation. The solar producer must submit a form called Schedule Z to the electric company showing how the credits are to be applied. Schedule Z can only be changed twice in one calendar year.

The above explanation has focused on the small rooftop solar system, but the expanding solar industry in the state involves a good deal more than this. The average rooftop solar system in Massachusetts is approaching 7 kilowatts.

The solar array at the Bete Fog Nozzle manufacturing company in Greenfield, on the other hand, is sized at approximately 145 kilowatts. Larger profit-generating solar arrays can exceed five megawatts. (A megawatt is 1,000 kilowatts.) An array currently being proposed in Shutesbury is rated at 7 megawatts.

These ratings, by the way, refer to the peak production moment of the solar array during a sunny hour. That is, a rating of 5 kW means that your rooftop solar array produces roughly five kilowatts of electricity at the peak moment on a bright sunny day.

SRECs

Net metering and the credits it produces were designed to promote renewable energy and stimulate the

cate for the amount of energy you produce. One SREC is equal to 1 megawatt of electricity produced by your solar array. The quantity is not “net” of the amount you buy from the electric company, as in net metering credits, but is the total electricity your solar system produces.

Therefore you will need a separate meter to calculate your SRECs. To be counted for SRECs you must be registered with the state and monitored by an organization created to track your solar energy production.

SRECs in Massachusetts are traded on a market. The market essentially consists of electric companies, which are required to purchase a certain number of certificates annually or pay a fee, which is generally higher than the price of a SREC.

There are a variety of mechanisms for trading SRECs, including long-term contracts and short-term but more risky “spot market” sales. Smaller solar producers can trade their SRECs through a broker or “aggregator” who consolidates them for the market. Sally Pick of the Montague Energy Committee trades SRECs from her rooftop system through the Hampshire Regional Council of Governments.

The Growth of Solar Power

The combined benefits of net metering, SRECs, and the various tax incentives have created one of the fastest-growing industries in Massachusetts. In 2010, when SRECs were created, the state set a goal of 400 megawatts of solar-generated electricity by 2020. That seemed like an ambitious goal at the time but, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, in 2014 alone Massachusetts added 308 MW of solar power to reach a total of 751 MW statewide.

SREC II, as it is now known, has set a new target of 1,600 MW by 2020, and a potential target of 2,500 by 2025.

Granted, solar production remains a very small percentage of total energy production in Massachusetts. According to John Ward of the Greenfield Solar Store, the 2020 target for solar capacity would produce roughly 4% of current annual electric use.

The target of 1,600 MW must also be considered in light of the imminent closing of key coal-fired power plants producing electricity for the grid. Some estimates have put the loss of coal-generating capacity by 2020 at well over 6,000 megawatts. For example, the mostly-coal-powered Brayton Point plant, slated to close in 2017, has a capacity of 1,535 MW. Furthermore, coal plants are not dependent on sun and can operate at peak production levels consistently, if supply is constant.

These estimates have produced a great demand for more natural gas pipeline capacity. Yet if one combines the projected expansion of solar production with new offshore wind and hydro power from Canada, the renewable generation needed to avoid a large increase in natural gas pipeline capacity begins to look realistic.

To put it another way, the past five years have seen a revolution in energy policy, with a massive increase in solar generation coinciding with a massive increase in the use of natural gas to power the electric grid. To

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Tree Trimming; School Boiler

By TIA FATTARUSO

Tree warden Bill Lemieux joined selectboard members Bill Bembury and Arthur Johnson, without Jacob Smith Monday night, as Lemieux gets ready for this season's roadside trimming.

He asked the board to think about how extensive they would like trimming to be, as he could potentially curb the need to continually maintain particularly troublesome spots for years to come by taking a slightly heavier hand cutting this year.

Lemieux was mostly referring to dead trees and poplars, which he considers “junk trees,” and which he would choose to thin out significantly. More than usual roadside work could necessitate police detail beyond his anticipation for FY'16.

The board encouraged him to use his best professional judgment, and reminded him of the importance of contacting landowners where he is trimming, which Lemieux confirmed he does diligently.

He also suggested replacing cut trees with maples when possible, which is an option he often offers homeowners when he removes trees, though he is yet to be taken up on it.

Town administrator Tom Sharp was in agreement about transplanting maples. Jacquelyn Boyden recollected a precedent for funding transplanting from a warrant article at a previous year's town meeting, and it appears that discussion will continue.

School Boiler

Scott Bastarache, chair of the school committee, attended to discuss the elementary school's boiler with the board. He started off, though, by noting that Jen Haggerty, the incoming Union 28 superintendent, has been getting to know Erving, its people and places.

Moving on to the boiler, Bastarache expressed concern about timing, noting that the committee has obtained one estimate, from Sandri Oil, and that they are already booking out to late August. Furthermore, the Sandri quote was for fixing the boiler, though it is possible, if not likely, that upon further investigation it will need to be replaced entirely. Either way, estimates are still needed from three different companies, each providing quotes for both

the cost of repair and replacement. The cost to fix the boiler was approved at town meeting.

Bastarache emphasized that there appears to be a need for clearer procedures for communication between the town and the school committee regarding capital improvements, initiating a general discussion about procurement protocol, what is whose job, and the possibility of a subcommittee to more formally handle the school maintenance. While the school has a custodial staff, it does not have a maintenance one.

It appears that, in the ways of municipal government, much had been accomplished in the past rather informally through the many hats worn by different people.

Bastarache also told the board that the school's budget will be coming in tighter this year than in the past due particularly to increases in staffing. While he believed it would still be in the black, he suggested that the school may need some or all of the state's Medicaid refund, around \$29,000 this year, which generally goes to the town.

Increased costs in secondary special education may also be higher than expected for FY'16, though the committee does not currently have a figure on that.

Other Business

A closing date for the town's purchase of 34 Northfield Road will be set between June 29 and July 2; however, the current owners are asking for permission to enter and remove property until April 1, 2016. The original discussion allowed for such through the end of 2015, which all agreed should be time enough.

The board will seek advisement from town counsel Leah Phillips regarding liability.

The board gave Debra Smith the approval she required to hold elected appointment on three boards, the planning board, personnel relations review board, and library feasibility.

Historical commission welcomes new member John Rice, while current members Bill Lemieux and Nancy Kruzlic are now alternates.

The special town meeting set for June 29 has been moved to the elementary school.

many, the two policies appear to be on a collision course.

Yet solar policy, like natural gas policy, is now at a crossroads. Net metering, and thus solar production, is capped at a percentage of the peak amount distributed by utilities (4% of a company's peak load for private projects and 4% for public). The largest energy distributor in the state, National Grid, has reached its cap, and there are significant numbers of new solar projects waiting to be approved.

Advocates for solar energy have lobbied the state to raise or lift the cap to allow more solar production. This is opposed by the electric companies and certain business interests.

The electric companies have complained that solar subsidies, in their current form, undermine their bottom line. Business interests, particularly a manufacturers' group called Associated Industries of Mas-

sachusetts (AIM), argue that the high cost of energy, driven in part by solar subsidies, makes industries in the region non-competitive.

The electric companies and other critics of the current solar energy wave argue that solar subsidies are financed by the majority of electric users, particularly low-income users, who do not participate in the solar industry.

Governor Baker has opposed lifting the cap on net metering until this policy debate is resolved. Advocates for solar power have urged the state to lift the cap while the debate is being resolved. The state recently completed a 500-page study which, among other things, attempted to quantify the costs and benefits of solar.

State policies regulating solar energy, and the debate over them, will be discussed in Part 2 of this series.



The large solar array behind the Bete Fog Nozzle plant in Greenfield has the capacity to generate 147 kW of electricity.

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If your solar panels generate more electricity than you use, the electricity is returned to the grid, and the meter runs backwards.

This “grid,” by the way, is the system of wires that distributes electricity to the region. The distribution system is funded by your electric bills to the electric company which owns the wires and poles. Electric power is generated by independent generating companies and, in this example, a homeowner with rooftop solar. The grid is regulated and ref-

solar industry in the state.

But net metering is not the only policy designed to promote these goals. There are significant state and federal tax credits (the federal credit of 30% is scheduled to expire in 2016). There is also an accelerated depreciation schedule in the federal tax code that allows commercial solar producers to write off some of the value of their solar capacity.

But perhaps the most important stimulant to the solar industry in Massachusetts is the Solar Renewable Energy Credit or SREC.

A SREC is essentially a certifi-

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WATER from page A1

to abide by the regulations and recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), including testing the water in aquifers and private wells on a down gradient from the site.

The landfill, or dump as it was known, opened in 1950. Due to higher-than-standard levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including acetone and 1,4-dioxane, as well as ions of iron and manganese, the DEP required the town to provide solutions for five nearby homes: one on Cushman Road, and four on Teawaddle Hill Road.

There is a budget item in the annual town budget for quarterly monitoring of the homes' water, as well as upkeep on filtration systems and bottled water for two of the four homes. This year's town meeting approved \$29,000 for FY'16 for this expense, an increase of \$1,000 from the prior year. At a May selectboard meeting, funds were approved to replace a component in the filtration system of one of the homes on Teawaddle Hill, as the water flow was reduced and the water was leaving a rusty stain.

Over the years, the DEP has issued the town updated requirements regarding testing procedures, and timelines with new safe standard levels for the nine monitoring wells and five residential wells. In 2009, the town voted to replace the well at the Cushman Road home, and in 2012 the DEP found that groundwater from that well is not impacted by the landfill, with consistent "non-detectable" (ND) levels of VOCs, and well-below-safe average readings for iron and manganese.

But Ed Coletta, spokesperson for the DEP, said that the "safe" threshold for manganese might be lowered from the current 0.3 mg/L in the future, as it is currently under consideration as a draft candidate for the department's "emerging contaminants" list.

Coletta reiterated that the DEP only oversees public water supplies — places that serve 25 people or more for 60 or more consecutive days. His understanding is that private well water is under the jurisdic-

tion of the local Board of Health.

When asked about the homes near the capped landfill being financially supported by the town, Coletta didn't have an answer.

Leverett's Burden

The situation with these homes has been an ongoing challenge for town representatives trying to spare the yearly expense in light of other financial burdens. The guidelines cited in the DEP regulations on Environmental Monitoring Requirements for landfill closures (310 CMR 19.132) have a time frame of up to 30 years.

Over the years, the town has debated their options for long-term arrangements, including connecting the homes to the Amherst water supply by extending the Amherst water line (estimated to cost \$1.7 million); drilling four new wells; and even condemning the properties.

Representatives on town committees question if there truly is a "plume" leaching from the landfill, as it is capped properly and monitored carefully with no recorded problems.

Representatives on town committees question if there is truly a "plume" leaching from the landfill.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis could not locate a signed agreement, also known as an administrative consent order, between the town and the DEP regarding the process of closure, and the terms and conditions under which the landfill would be brought into compliance. McGinnis did provide copies of two correspondences from December 2010 and March 2012 between the town selectboard and the DEP that detail the department's updated requirements.

The March 2012 letter identified that the Cushman Road residence with the replaced well has consis-

tently shown "ND" levels of volatile organic compounds, and low levels of iron and manganese, the manganese being well below the department's recommended drinking water guideline of 0.3 mg/L.

The town has provided bottled water for one of the affected Teawaddle Hill residences since 2011, and the March 2012 letter included the Department's determination that the town should either continue to supply bottled water to that home or install a filtration system, as manganese levels were above safe guidelines and VOCs were detected at trace levels in a monitoring round.

The Boutt Report

Individual homeowners can pay for their own well water test and then decide to upgrade to a water filtration system, or new well. The levels found in independent studies throughout town are sometimes higher than those recorded at the four homes monitored by the EPA.

The Hydrogeologic Investigation of Leverett was prepared for the town's Board of Health in 2008 by the UMass Department of Geosciences Hydrogeology Group, a research project guided by David F. Boutt, Ph.D. Referred to as the Boutt Report, it supplements a 1975 study conducted by Richard Williams of the Amherst College Geology Department.

The ground wells closest to the old landfill yielded lower amounts of manganese compared with the town's other studied wells.

This over 300-page document provides a comprehensive look at the town's major drainage areas and geology, and provides data from multi-seasonal tests of both groundwater from sample wells and surface water from streams and rivers to test for cations (e.g. manganese, iron, aluminum), anions (e.g. bicarbonate, chloride) and alkalinity, though not VOCs.

The well water was taken from 32 homes throughout the town, and 4 of these locations were tested monthly between May and October of 2008 for a more comprehensive study. The health benchmark levels were taken from the EPA.

The study showed that 68%, or 19 locations, had higher than standard concentrations of iron, sodium, manganese, aluminum, fluoride, and nitrate. Manganese itself was found to be 21% above the standard in some locations, and 21% below the standard in others.

The report notes that all of these ion species can be found naturally, and typically occur due to mineral dissolution from the bedrock and sediments in which they travel and are stored. The levels fluctuate during the seasons.

In the Doolittle Brook watershed, which includes Teawaddle Hill Road and Cushman Road, surface levels of manganese measured in milligrams per liter were the same as the town average, and lower than two other watershed areas, during the high-flow April sampling and the low-flow September sampling.

The ground wells tested closest to the old landfill location yielded lower amounts of manganese compared with the town's other studied wells.

Risks of Manganese

The DEP's website FAQs and guidance on drinking water has a featured link: "Manganese in Massachusetts Drinking Water." In 2013, the DEP sent notice to public water suppliers in the state of their initiative to raise awareness of manganese as a potential health hazard, especially for children and infants.

Although some space is given to the fact that manganese is necessary for healthy bones and cartilage, and for wound healing among other things, the villainous potential is highlighted most memorably for its association with children's health.

Cited studies feature headlines linking manganese to lower IQ in infants and children and ADHD in children. The EPA's website on manganese says children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with a manganese concentration over 0.300 mg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.

This notice includes a link to an EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory for Manganese which presents conflicting studies and information. A 2011 paper (Bouchard, et. al.), "Intellectual Impairment in School-Age Children Exposed to Manganese from Drinking Water," includes a cross-sectional study of 362 children 6 to 13 years of age who drank groundwater near Quebec, and found that lower Performance IQ scores were related to higher water manganese levels. The study did account for socioeconomic factors and maternal IQ, but did not provide information on medications taken, chronic illness, or genetic conditions.

This study referenced another study, "Water Manganese Exposure and Children's Intellectual Function in Araihaazar, Bangladesh," published in *Environmental Health Perspective* in January 2006, which states: "In the United States, roughly 6% of domestic household wells have MN (manganese) concentrations that exceed the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lifetime health advisory level. We conclude that in both Bangladesh and the United States, some children are at risk for MN-induced neurotoxicity."

The levels measured in tube well water in Bangladesh had an average concentration of .793 mg/L of manganese. 142 ten-year-old children from this region were tested. It is unclear of the exact region in the territory where the tests were conducted, or if they were near the Padma Textile Mill.

A third study, published in 2014 in the *Journal of Environment and Human*, focused on the constituents of the dyes from the mill in the groundwater that failed to break down, including chromium, copper, lead and cadmium, and the potential health consequences to the public, including neurotoxicity.

The EPA's web page on manganese studies even includes one that ties the high arrest records of the native population of Australia's Groote Eylandt, which has exceptionally high manganese levels in its soil.

The study eventually confesses that high alcohol intake, anemia, and a vitamin-deficient diet may contribute to increased uptake and retention of manganese.

One multi-age study in Germany listed found no ill effects of heightened manganese intake.

The take-away message from the EPA and DEP sites is that the results on the dangers posed to health by manganese in the water supply are currently inconclusive.

Secret Science?

In April, 2015, the Senate approved a bill to stop the EPA from using "Secret Science," or relying on health studies whose parameters and results were flawed, could not be reproduced, and typically could not legally be made public. It is a controversial bill brought by Republicans on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee that would require the EPA to pay more for each study used to affect policy.

The take-away message from the EPA and DEP sites is that the results on the dangers posed to health by manganese in the water supply are currently inconclusive.

They typically use 50,000 scientific studies to design yearly regulations, according to the 2014 report from the Congressional Budget Office. It is not uncommon for right-leaning politicians to bash the EPA for stonewalling business and industry, especially in terms of extracting natural gas.

In light of the recent Senate decision, it is interesting that the EPA came out this month with its findings that fracking posed "no widespread, systemic impacts" to the nation's drinking water. Could this be a *mea culpa* in the shadow of the gallows?

Recently, there has been a broader push to challenge scientific studies that goes beyond partisan politics in Congress.

Dr. Richard Horton, editor of the prestigious peer-reviewed medical journal *The Lancet*, wrote in the editorial to the April 11, 2015 volume, "much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness."

Several years ago, this sentiment was shared by *The New England Journal of Medicine* editor of two decades, Marcia Angell, who explained that she left the position because "it is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published."

If the DEP lowers the regulations on safe manganese levels, it is up to municipalities and towns to take a hard look at these studies.

There is a codicil in the DEP's regulations regarding landfill termination protocols in which a town may request a shorter duration of testing based on analysis by an acceptable third party.

Peter Reich said the Leverett Well Committee will consider how to conduct a more thorough investigation in well data across town, looking for trends in the fluctuations of levels of ions, cations, and possibly VOCs to present to the Board of Health.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

LCA Restriction; Transfer Station Improvements

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

Mitch Mulholland made an appearance representing the Leverett Crafts & Arts (LCA) before the Leverett selectboard Tuesday night to discuss a proposed historical preservation restriction.

He asked the board to write a letter stating they did not object to the restriction, and also to ask for their approval as mortgage holders. While the board stated that they did not object to the restriction, there was some confusion over the mortgage.

"The LCA is trying to get a grant, and we need all the mortgage holders to sign off on it, including the town," Mulholland explained.

The confusion over the mortgage arose because the selectboard members were not aware of its existence prior to the meeting. Many of the board members remarked on the unusual nature of such a mortgage, and could not discern where or who had originated it. In the end, the selectboard resolved to learn more about the mortgage and where it came from, but also to give the LCA the green light for the historical preservation restriction.

The Registry of Deeds website shows a \$23,500 mortgage between the Town and Leverett Crafts & Arts on June 30, 2010, and on the same day, a historic preservation agreement between the two parties in consideration of \$23,500, paid from Community Preservation Act funds. The latter document was signed by the selectboard.

Containing and Compacting

Next, board members heard from transfer station coordinator Ananda Larsen regarding capital improvement items. Larsen told the board the containers used for the recycling will need to be replaced at some point.

The selectboard did not make any changes at the meeting, but is considering all the options regarding the containers used for the recycling program. Currently the town does not pay into the service it is using, because Leverett supplies its own containers.

"We would have to increase the budget to pay for the services," Larsen explained.

Tom Hankinson pointed out that it doesn't seem like any of the containers get seriously abused by the service, and Larsen said she thinks the containers will last at least another year.

Peter d'Errico suggested staying with the current arrangement, and offering the equipment as a contribution to the program.

"I do think we should start paying into the program," said Larsen, "but we can continue what we are doing for another year or so."

No decision was made regarding the containers.

The issue of a new paper compactor was raised, which would cost \$15,000. The town could apply for a grant that would pay for half the compactor, but Leverett would still need to find \$7,500. There was some confusion about whether the purchase of the new compactor would include a new container or just the compactor.

"Can we get the specs of the compactor to see what is included?" asked Julie Shively.

The compactor will allow the town to include more paper in each container, saving money in hauling costs, but the actual savings was not known at the meeting.

"How much will it actually save us?" asked Hankinson.

The board did not make a decision on the new compactor, and Larsen was sent back to do further research regarding the savings and the specs of the compactor.

While it was not implemented at the meeting, the board responded favorably to a possible switch to stickers instead of the measurement method for trash. This would save \$10,000 in costs and make the trash collection process more straightforward. The stickers could be sold at the Leverett Co-op and would cost a minimal amount.

The plan cannot be put into place, however, until the bags that are currently being used run out. At this point, there is no change to the trash system.

Other Business

Town administrator Margie McGinnis told the selectboard she consulted DPU and testing was recommended on some murky water that appeared at one of the Leverett residences. While the situation has reportedly cleared up, the cause is still unknown.

McGinnis said the cloudy water could have been caused by sediment in the well or chemicals. The residents have been supplied with bottled water, so no possibly contaminated water was consumed, but McGinnis really isn't sure where the problem is coming from.

"The water at this house hasn't really been a problem," McGinnis told the selectboard.

Improvements may be in the works for the Cave Hill Road intersection to make the road more passable for trucks. Now that the Montague bridge has reduced weight restrictions, trucks use Cave Hill Road as an alternative route. Further research will be done regarding the costs of the improvements.

The next meeting of the Leverett selectboard will be held June 23 at 7 p.m.

RAMBLERS from pg A1

and the DFW agreed to a lease extension through December 2016. Ramblers' treasurer John Burek, Jr. says the club pitched an idea of a land swap with the Town of Montague that could save the club from eviction.

About three-fifths of a mile to the south, the town owns eight oblong acres of land, with frontage on Northfield Road. The parcel is already surrounded by the Wildlife Management Area and the town's options for its use are restricted.

"Why wouldn't you want to give that to them," Burek reasoned, "and here we're on the edge, taking up what, a couple acres in the corner of a 1,500-acre wildlife management area?"

Burek said the proposal was well received by both town and state officials at the 2014 meeting, including DFW district manager Ralph Taylor and deputy director Jack Buckley, who has since become the division's director.

The DFW, he said, told him they would consider the proposal after the club signed an agreement that they would vacate their premises at the end of 2016.

According to Rep. Kulik, there was "agreement that after this extension was executed, the DFW would engage in good faith conversation with the Ramblers about a possible 'swap' of properties."

"We pretty much signed that under duress," said Burek, "because we were told that if we don't sign it, they're going to evict us... We felt that our backs were to the wall."

But over the past ten months, he said, no one has initiated any such process, and he feels the Ramblers may be getting a run-around from the other parties.

Reallocation of any protected state land must be approved by two-thirds majorities of both houses of the state legislature under Article 97 of Massachusetts' constitution. And on the town's end, such a deal may need to go before town meeting for approval.

According to Rep. Kulik and town planner Walter Ramsey, a follow-up

meeting between the town and DFW has now been scheduled for June 25. According to Ramsey, "there is an alternative option emerging where the town could lease the 8-acre parcel (or a portion) to the Ramblers directly. That would avoid Article 97 and Fish and Wildlife."

But the Ramblers are hoping the swap will move forward. "It's never been our plan to leave," said Burek.

Community Minded

The Mohawk Ramblers' roots go back to 1958, and their tenure on the plains to about the mid-1960s.

A framed photograph from that era hangs on the wall inside the clubhouse, showing sharp-looking young men in jeans, boots, and matching collared shirts. On the far wall hangs one of these shirts, a little worse for the wear.

A contingent from the run's beneficiary, the recently formed Western Massachusetts chapter of the international nonprofit Bikers Against Child Abuse, was present on Saturday, with matching patches on their jackets and vests proclaiming "No Child Deserves to Live in Fear."

The chapter's secretary, who identified himself by the road name Radar, explained that the organization screens interested bikers and works with children's advocacy groups and guardians to help lend support and confidence to children who have survived trauma. He said the chapter is operating under a temporary charter, and looking for members.

The Mohawk Ramblers got in touch with them when they were looking for a beneficiary for their spring charity run, Radar said. All funds raised from the run and cookout were going toward a project they were working on with the District Attorney's office: building a play structure at the Children's Advocacy Center, a new safe house in Greenfield.

Many of the Ramblers I spoke with at Saturday's event said they couldn't understand why anyone would want them gone, citing their record of stewardship on the Plains and of quiet community involvement.

"We're the goon squad," joked one grizzled member who declined to be named, when we discussed the club's recent assistance to the Parks and Recreation Department in dismantling and storing the playground at the former Center School earlier this spring.

The club's land also serves as a base for the annual Source to Sea cleanup. The transformation of the surrounding land this past March, when the DFW-contracted Anderson Timber Harvesting Company drastically thinned the forest as a step toward restoring more traditional habitat, was a topic of frustration and speculation.

"Who does that in the springtime," Burek said, "when birds are nesting, and things are having their young? They talk about whippoorwills, and we've always had whippoorwills here...."

"Well, right after they did this, I never heard so many whippoorwills in my life. They were all mourning, because they're ground-nesting birds, and now their nests have been all chopped up."

According to Burek, friends of his who live up toward Wendell are hearing whippoorwills for the first time after the near-clearcut. "I don't know, I'm not a biologist - will they come back here eventually? Who knows? But I just can't imagine doing something like that in the springtime."

With the trees thinned, there is a clear sightline from the clubhouse's picnic tables to the high-tension power lines where Kinder Morgan intends to bury a major natural gas transmission pipeline in the coming years.

This is not lost on Burek: "How can these people dictate that we have to leave because we need to restore the environment, and on the other hand say, 'we're giving our corporate friends permission to run a gas pipeline through everybody's land?'"

But all those misgivings may be water under the bridge - or under the sand plain - if a roadmap to a "win/win/win" solution emerges at the June 25 meeting.



COURTESY MOHAWK RAMBLERS

This undated photograph of the Mohawk Ramblers, circa the early 1960s, hangs in the group's Montague Plains clubhouse, across from a vintage club shirt from the same era.

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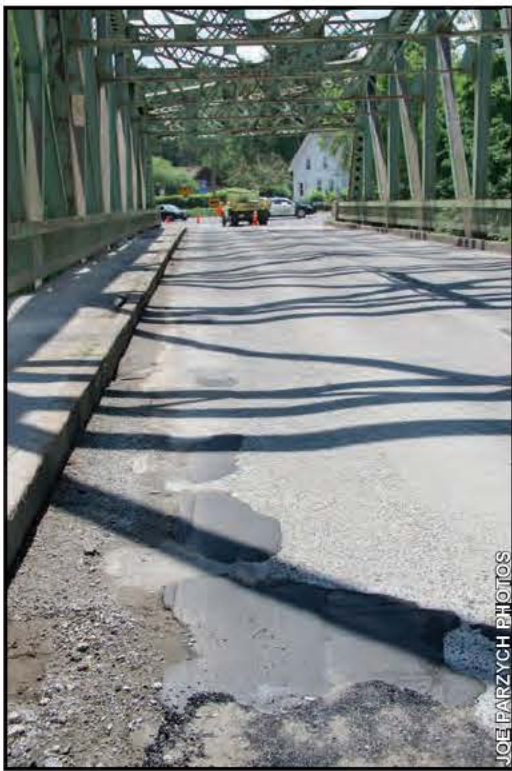


You Can't Get There From Here: Emergency Closure of the General Pierce Bridge

Photos and captions by JOE PARZYCH



The General Pierce Bridge, connecting Montague City with Cheapside, was closed to traffic on Wednesday, indefinitely, for emergency repair. This 4' x 6' plate covers a major section of concrete that had collapsed into the Connecticut River below, leaving nothing but rebar visible. As of Wednesday afternoon, SPS New England was on the way to patch the hole, toward the end of the Greenfield-bound lane, with more fast-setting – and fast-deteriorating – concrete.



As anyone can see, rubber tires have worn down the bridge's concrete. Here is a series of temporary, cold asphalt patches in the Montague-bound lane – some added as recently as Wednesday. Traffic was snarled, making U-turns at police barricades on both sides of the river.

FACES



At left: The inside of the temple was decorated with flowers as well.

At right: A monk says a prayer prior to the ceremony at the New England Peace Pagoda on Sunday, May 31. The Spring Flower Festival celebrated the birthday of Buddha and called awareness to local and global issues.



JULIE CUNNINGHAM PHOTOS

& PLACES

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MoRe

YEAR 13 – NO. 34

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 11, 2015

This Month's Third Thursday: Monsters, Aliens, and Insects, Oh My!

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – “Creature Feature” is the theme of the next Third Thursday Turners Falls (T³F) event on June 18.

Pulling inspiration from the general theme of animals, this River-Culture-sponsored event has evolved into a promising patchwork of the monstrous, the cute, the futuristic and the artistic, complete with a B-movie mash-up, theremin playing, alternative music Space Jam, and a green screen photo booth.

There will be activities that kids will enjoy and plenty for older folks to do and enjoy combining nostalgic and futuristic sensibilities in our downtown.

River Culture director Suzanne LoManto enjoys the potential of new technology to fuel fun activities, and she’s whipping together a few interactive activities utilizing her arsenal of devices.

At 109 Avenue A (next to Pipione’s and attached to the Great Harvest Restaurant to the rear), LoManto will set up a “green screen” photo shoot, where people young and old can get in front of her iPad camera and interact with B movie creatures of their choice – the combined image will be emailed to them for digital posterity.

There will be the opportunity to look through a USB-powered mi-



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

The art of Rob Kimmel will be on display as part of Thursday’s ALIENA ANIMALI exhibit in the Avenue A Storefront Galleries at 106-112 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

croscope at close-ups of some of nature’s creepy crawlies (creepy crawly donations welcome).

Want to make those scare-y thriller movie sounds, like the noise that a UFO makes as it hovers over Your Town, USA? Try your hand at playing a theremin, an electronic instrument that creates a tone generated by two high frequency oscillators, also at same location between 5 and 7 p.m.

You might want to visit the LOOT shop at 62 Avenue A early in the evening for the launch of their “Rescued Art for Rescued Dogs” fundraiser.

Owners Erin MacLean and John McNamara have purchased

see T3F page B4

An “All-Consuming Job”: Passing the Torch at Erving’s Senior Center

By JOE KWIECINSKI

ERVING – What’s life like now for Polly Kiely, the hard-working lady who served as director of the Erving Senior/Community Center for two decades? “I certainly have more time,” said Kiely, “to do my painting and to travel. I do landscapes in oil and watercolors. It’s all about learning to see, and then training your hand to put down what your eyes see. People have their own styles – individual ways of seeing and expressing what they’ve seen.”

Kiely, who’s taught a painting class at ESCC for 20 years, continues to do so on Tuesday afternoons. She also instructs a quilting group on Friday mornings.

At 67, Kiely is glad she has concluded her full-time position at the senior center. “It’s an all-consuming job,” she said. “The summer before I retired (2014), I took my first real vacation in 20 years.”

Kiely is delighted that Paula Betters, who assumed the mantle of the center’s leadership on an interim basis February 17, is her replacement. “Paula is enthusiastic and energetic. And it’s nice to see her bring new ideas with her.”

In addition, Kiely points out that today’s demographics at ESCC are different than when she became director in 1994. “The center still serves 80- and 90-year-olds,” said Kiely, “but just-retired 60-year-olds are in the mix now.”

The new center is a beautiful structure that can accommodate different activities at the same time. “The old senior center was two rooms in the elementary school. The kitchen was the coatroom. In those



Betters (left) and Kiely (right), at the town’s senior center.

days, you had to move tables to conduct exercise classes and then bring the tables back for lunch. You were reconfiguring the same room for every activity.” Kiely added with a smile, “I remember my office was a little corner of the room.”

What was the most difficult aspect of the position? “I think the hardest part of this job is establishing relationships with seniors – getting close to them, and then losing them. It gives me great satisfaction to know I’ve helped people make their final years good ones.

“People confuse senior centers with nursing homes. I invite people to come down to the center and watch healthy, active people doing aerobics and whatever they can do. There are no nursing personnel here.

“Today’s senior center is for healthy people, with an emphasis on remaining healthy.”

Polly Kiely is proud of being instrumental in the push to build a new

senior center. “I’m grateful to the citizens of Erving for voting to support our seniors. They say you can judge a community by how it treats its elderly and its children. Erving has budgeted well for both.”

Kiely is now at the center as a senior, teaching her two classes. She graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts.

She’ll combine her love of painting with her yen to travel, going north to Alaska for a one-month vacation in mid-September. “I’ll bring my watercolors,” Kiely said, “and hopefully return with some nice landscapes.”

When Paula Betters took over as senior center director during the winter, she faced a baptism of fire – or perhaps ice.

“There was so much water on the roof from ice,” said Betters, “it

see CENTER page B8

Hot Kitchen, Cold Soup

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

One of the surest signs that a New England spring has broken is cold soup. In this highly fluctuating climate, where a week of 90 degree weather yields to frost warnings, and mud season turns to drought, few things are more consistently seasonal than chilled soups.

When you step out of your air-conditioned car or office and head into the air-conditioned dining room of your local restaurant, remember that the temperature in the kitchen is about 30 degrees hotter. So, if it’s 90 outside, it’s about 120 in the kitchen.

Any opportunity to shut off burners and ovens is always welcome, and the simplicity of most chilled soup recipes makes any sweating, swamp-assed cook a little less miserable. It’s likely to be the easiest bit of prep the cook has to do. The best part, of course, is that they can be delicious. Like guilt-free smoothies.

The flavor should be pure – it won’t be cooked, so whatever flavors go in the blender or bucket won’t change much. It’s perfect for over-ripe veggies, not quite rotten, which have intense flavor but aren’t appealing to the eye. Keep that in mind, when you concoct your own recipes after seeing just how easy it is to make.

Take the leftovers from the fruit salad you brought to your friend’s cookout, the fruit salad that has started to turn translucent (a sure sign that the fruit is on its last legs), add the last few drops of the bottle of wine, squeeze a lemon or lime in and hit the pulse button on your blender. Mix in some yogurt and you have Fruit Salad Soup. Leftovers are meant for soup, and soup is meant for leftovers.

When restaurants commit themselves to serving the same soups, over and over, when you know they are using ingredients exclusively for that purpose, it goes against the primary

function of soup. It is often necessary, though, for the sake of consistency of service, but there is almost always a “du jour.” That’s the soup you should order, and now that the weather has taken a turn to tropical, treat yourself to the chilled soup.

Dishwashers love chilled soup, too. They won’t worry about the cook sneaking over a pot with two inches of burned onions on the bottom, which they would have to spend hours soaking and scrubbing. In fact, most chilled

see SOUP page B4



Chilled Blueberry Beet Soup. (See recipe, page B4.)



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – When the railroad abandoned the trunk line from the yard in East Deerfield to the paper mill downtown, they collected the metal rails and spikes but left behind the wooden ties. We salvaged a number of these treated four by fours. They became the stickers for our cordwood for many years.

Then sometime last summer Ken became obsessed with the idea of building a pergola in the side yard. Four of these railroad ties have now become the corner posts for our latest creation.

The pergola (Latin: pergula, a projecting eave; now from the Italian) is an arbor of pillars or vertical supports with crossbeams which create an open lattice to support grapes or other blooming vines. In Roman architecture, the pergola was attached to a building. Later they became free standing wooden structures which provided shaded walkways or seating areas. Ours will be one such.

In May when the ground had dried out, we sank the posts in deep holes with a foundation of cement topped with dirt. While I am certainly not a carpenter, there is always need of an assistant or go-fer. This person needs no particular skills except willing muscle and a humble nature, accepting of orders and the occasional impatience of the builder.

We have weathered the hauling of eighty-pound bags of cement (why are some eighty-pound objects more weighty than others?); trips to the lumber yard for huge lengths of

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pine in two widths and transport of the same on top of the trusty pickup.

This last required multiple stops to retie the load as it slipped either forward or back, imperiling us or the drivers following behind. It was a long, slow ride over an hour for a few measly miles fraught with potholes, turns and evening rush hour traffic.

The older I get, the less I enjoy heights. Standing on the ladder holding crossbeams above my head until the master carpenter approves all to be level and they are bolted in place tries not only my shoulders but my sense of impending peril.

Still, we have installed the east-west crossbeams and yesterday applied the trim boards of pine which have increased the railroad four by fours to five by fives and covered up the creosote brown. Left to accomplish are the setting of the braces between the support beams and the cross bars and the setting of the north-south cross bars.

Finally we will paint the entire structure (more ladder work). This fall we will plant a climbing vine at the base of each corner post so that next spring two kinds of perennial flowering vines and two foliage vines will begin to create the desired shady seating pergola.

Early this summer a local wholesale club was offering a pre-cut pergola kit, but we persisted stubbornly in our choice to build our own. Despite errors in measurement or cutting and the return for more supplies to the lumber yard, we are pleased with our results to date and derive a good deal of pride from being able to say we are doing this with our own sweat

see GARDENER’S page B6

Pet of the Week



“CATHERINE”

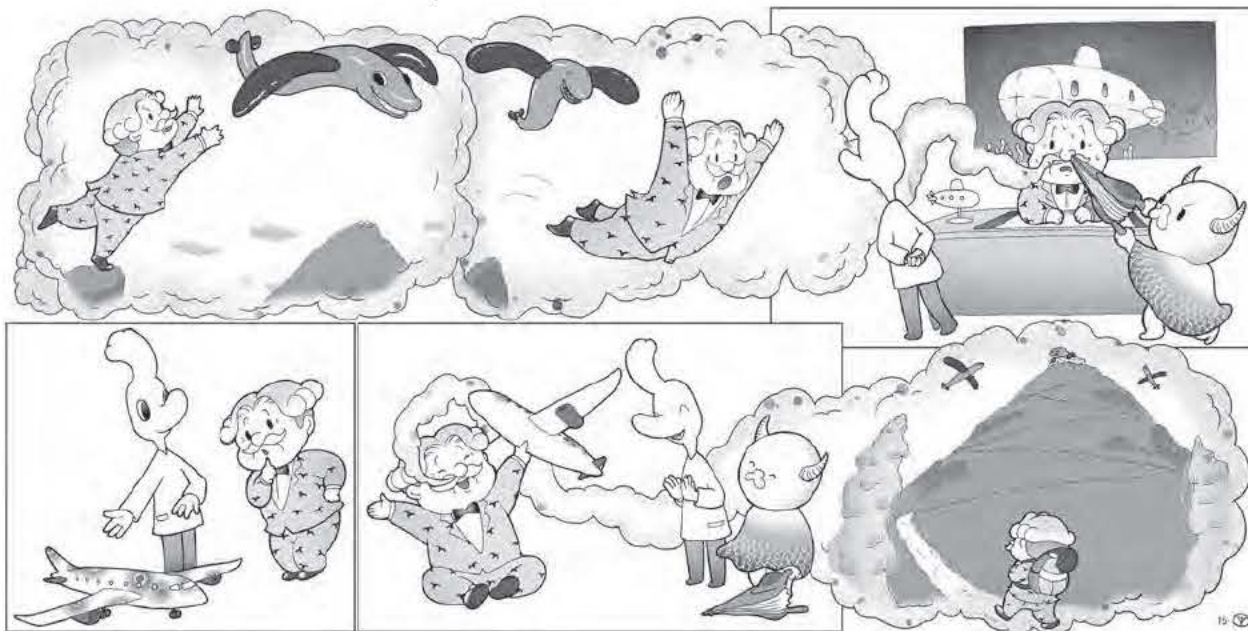
Cattle dogs like Catherine are working dogs who like to run around all day keeping livestock in line. While Catherine is an active girl who will even toss a ball for herself if there's no one around to toss it for her, she's also a master cuddler.

Cattle dogs aren't usually considered “lap dogs,” but no one told Catherine that.

An alternative tactic, equally endearing, is to lean in and rest her head in said lap. Catherine traveled all the way from New Mexico, to find a family who appreciates both her high spirits and big heart. Please come visit this gentle girl soon!

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

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

Starting this week at MCTV is a unique opportunity to observe the political process in Montague, specifically Precinct 5, in Turners Falls. On June 3 a Mini Debate and Run Off Election took place as a result of a tie in the town meeting election between candidates Jack Nelson and Matt Cohen.

Hosted by local radio personality Monte Belmonte, the debate was aired live on MCTV, with candidates fielding questions on a wide range of topics. The event was coordinated by writer and former *Montague Reporter* editor David

Detmold, who encourages local folks to watch and be involved “because town meeting truly does affect everyone in town, from setting the level of funding for our schools to our highway department, and voting on policies like whether to criminalize graffiti or whether the town should vote to oppose the Kinder Morgan pipeline.”

The video is now available for download at www.montaguevtv.org, and will air throughout the week. Watch it for the outcome of this unique run-off election.

There is so much more up for

viewing including programming on area history, ecology, public meetings and the arts. Stay tuned for footage from the 10th Annual Family Fish Day! Check out TV Schedule and the Latest MCTV Video links on our website montaguevtv.org.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn about getting a camera and capturing the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguevtv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Senior Center Activities

June 15 to 19

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.

Monday 6/15

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 6/16

9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (fee)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Tutor appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 6/17

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/18

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 6/19

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 6/15

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Tuesday 6/16

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Cardio Toning
11:30 a.m. Sandwich Tuesday
12:30 p.m. Friends Bus. Mtg
12:30 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 6/17

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 6/18

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 6/19

9 a.m. Quilting, Bowling
Noon Lunch at The Arbors

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at

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.

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

Q. What exactly is a “charley horse” and why do I get them in my legs at night?

According to the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms, the term “charley horse” was first used in the 1880s by baseball players to describe a muscle cramp.

No one knows the true origin, but the dictionary says: “Among the more likely theories proposed is that it alludes to the name of either a horse or an afflicted ball player who limped like one of the elderly draft horses formerly employed to drag the infield.”

Geezers are more likely to get charley horses because of muscle loss that starts in our 40s. And your remaining muscles don't work as efficiently as they used to. Studies show that about 70 percent of adults older than 50 experience nocturnal leg cramps.

A cramp is an involuntary con-

tracted muscle that does not relax. The common locations for muscle cramps are the calves, thighs, feet, hands, arms, and the rib cage. Cramps can be very painful. Muscles can cramp for just seconds, but they can continue for many minutes.

Almost all of us have had muscle cramps, but no one knows for sure why they happen. However, many healthcare professionals attribute cramping to tired muscles and poor stretching. Other suspected causes are dehydration, exerting yourself when it's hot, flat feet, standing on concrete, prolonged sitting, some leg positions while sedentary.

Muscle cramps are usually harmless. However, they can also be symptoms of problems with circulation, nerves, metabolism, hormones. Less common causes of muscle cramps include diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hypoglycemia, anemia, thyroid and endocrine disorders. If you experience frequent and severe muscle cramps, see your doctor.

The use of some medications can cause muscle cramps. For example, some diuretic medications prescribed for high blood pressure can deplete potassium. Too little potassium, calcium or magnesium in your diet can contribute to cramps.

Here are some pointers for treat-

ing a cramp yourself: stop whatever you were doing when you got the cramp, massage the muscle and stretch it slowly, apply a cold pack to relax tense muscles.

To prevent cramps, do stretching exercises especially for those muscles that tend to cramp, and drink water regularly. If you are exerting yourself in heat or sweating for more than an hour, you should drink fruit juice or a sports beverage.

For recurrent cramps that disturb your sleep, your doctor may prescribe a medication to relax your muscles.

If you have nocturnal leg cramping, ride a stationary bicycle for a few minutes before bedtime. The following stretching exercise is good, too. You should do it in the morning, before dinner and before going to bed every night:

Stand about 30 inches from a wall. Keep your heels on the floor, lean forward and put your hands on the wall.

Then, move your hands slowly up the wall as far as you can reach comfortably. Hold the stretched position for 30 seconds.

Release. Repeat twice.

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

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June 13-20 is Dairy Goat Awareness Week!

By KATHLEEN BUREK

MONTAGUE – For any of you folks reading this paper, this must certainly be news to you! Goats are producers of clean milk, meat, and a “back to the land” life style. Goats can be used to eliminate weeds and invasive plants. They don’t “mow” the grass, but they will eat up the brush.

Worldwide, more people consume goat milk than cow milk. Some estimate that 65% of the world drinks goat’s milk. This is because in many countries, it is quite common for families to own a goat which can yield a gallon of milk a day, enough for a family’s daily needs.

In the US, goat’s milk and products made from it, most notably cheese (chevre) continue to experience steady growth as consumers learn the benefits of goat milk products: not only is it nutritious, but it is easy to digest. Farmers have become more aggressive with educating consumers on these benefits. There are about 30,000 dairy goat farms in this country now, some of them with herds of 300 or more.

Goat’s milk has been shown to be less allergenic than cow milk because of its low concentration of the highly allergenic protein known as alpha S-1 casein. Beta-caseins are the major proteins in human and goat milk; the near absence of alpha s-1 casein in goat’s milk provides a softer curd that is easier to digest.

With smaller fat globules and less lactose, it is better tolerated by those

with lactose intolerance.

Goat’s milk is uniquely different in the concentration and the form of the nutrients it provides. Compared to the same amount of cow’s milk, goat’s milk contains 13% more calcium, 47% more vitamin A, 34 % more potassium, 250% more niacin, and 27 to 28% more of the essential trace mineral selenium. It is also higher in vitamin C, chloride, copper and manganese.

Goat’s milk differs from cow’s milk in terms of fatty acids, providing a higher amount of certain essential ones. These essential fatty acids have been used in the treatment of a variety of conditions including coronary bypass, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, and gallstones, because of their unique ability to provide energy while lowering serum cholesterol.

As consumer awareness of goat’s milk and goat’s milk products continues to grow, expect to see more products available to the public such as soft and hard cheeses, and powdered, flavored, and fresh goat’s milk.

There is nothing like pure natural goat’s milk to provide good health.



Life in Franklin County

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Relay for Life of Franklin County is held to honor people lost to cancer, survivors of cancer, and caregivers of cancer patients. It will take place on June 12 to June 13 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield.

“This would be their 20th year,” said Marian Noga, office manager at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

The Relay for Life in general has been going on for thirty years – since May 1985 – and is held in many different countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Canada, France and Denmark.

Its origins involve a Dr. Gordon Klatt, who decided to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Due to liking marathons, he walked around a track at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington for 24 hours, and asked friends to pay \$25 to join him for 30 minutes.

The Relay for Life of Franklin County will begin with an opening ceremony, which brings everyone together for a kick off to the event. Next is the survivors’ lap, which has upbeat music playing as all cancer survivors take a lap by the watching crowd and celebrate their victory over cancer.

Caregivers take a lap as well, to honor the support they gave. If the people they gave support to are at the event, some of them do a lap with their caregivers.

There is a Luminaria Ceremony, in which people light candles and place them in bags decorated with

the names of cancer patients, the ones currently fighting and ones lost to it. A closing ceremony happens too.

Cancer can affect anyone, and many would like to help the fight. The people connected to the one of Franklin County are no different.

“I participated in Relay for Life for many years as a survivor,” said Mary Poellnitz. “I was diagnosed in 1986.

“Just recently at the end of 2014, my husband was diagnosed with a rare cancer. And he is a survivor as of today. My daughter, Krizia, head coach for the GHS cheer team Crush Squad, is seeking a team for Relay for Life this June.”

Another woman name Arlinda Letourneau said, “I know of a group who will participate this year. They are called Dick’s Angels. Dick’s Angels work very hard at raising money for the Relay of Life by selling food at the Bernardston Vets Club on Friday night. They are very special people.”

In the past, \$74,417.41 has been raised at the local Relay for Life event. The official website mentions 66 teams have done it in the past as well.

With this previous turnout, it’s a good chance that a large amount of participants and teams will show again at this year’s relay. Who would not return to come and help out at the Relay for Life each year? The fight against cancer is not losing steam. The Relay for Life of Franklin County going on as of now for 20 years is proof of that.

For more info on GHS Crush Squad Relay team, go to GHSCrushSquad.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Crows; Horse; Bear; Deer; Rooster; Kitten; Dog; Baby Birds; Humans; Humans; Humans; Humans

Monday, 6/1

3:20 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports male party claiming to be with Eversource looking for personal information about caller’s account. Officer advised.

5:21 p.m. Report of fight at Fourth Street and Avenue A. Officer spoke with one party and advises that this is a dispute over a vehicle that the second party tried to sell to him. Unable to make contact with second party. First party does not wish to press charges.

7:15 p.m. Report that party caught on camera shoplifting at Food City on Saturday is currently in the store. Party trespassed from store; summons issued.

8:02 p.m. Officer reports that vehicle struck grocery cart while leaving Food City. No damage to cart.

Tuesday, 6/2

1:01 a.m. Report of unwanted person found intoxicated and sleeping in basement on Fifth Street. Party left prior to officer arrival. Unable to locate.

10:12 a.m. Request from Hillcrest Elementary School for officers to assist with an out of control student. Student transported by MedCare. Report taken.

12:42 p.m. Caller reports that a suspicious person followed her into her building on Fifth Street, then fled. Caller states that they have seen this male in the area before. Unable to locate.

1:53 p.m. Animal control officer left notice at a Park Street residence regarding unlicensed dogs.

3:22 p.m. Unwanted person on J Street. Party taken into protective custody.

3:40 p.m. First caller advises of a silver colored VW traveling at a high rate of speed near a school bus stop near Broadway and Lake Pleasant Road. Second caller, advising of same, provided plate number. Third caller advises that she saw this vehicle traveling northbound on Route 63, where it attempted to pass in a no passing area and almost caused a head-on collision. Registered owner found to be living in Sunderland; call placed to Sunderland PD requesting that they check residence and speak to party.

5:36 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports that two young boys were in the area shooting a BB gun at crows, that one crow has already died and

there is another that is dying. Party into lobby to report same; she did not see the boys or the gun, but was told by someone of the situation and was concerned. Responding officer reports that nobody actually saw anything and that there were no signs of the birds being shot. Birds removed.

Wednesday, 6/3

8:22 a.m. Caller reports that while waiting at the bus stop near the town common with her granddaughter yesterday, a suspicious male approached her and began giving her a hard time about how loud her vehicle was. Referred to an officer.

10:17 a.m. A Turners Falls man was arrested on a Section 35 warrant of apprehension.

12:19 p.m. Request for help with an out of control student at Great Falls Middle School. Child calmed down by staff prior to officer arrival. Father notified by school.

5:57 p.m. Report of attempted larceny on H Street. Services rendered.

7:27 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that a large bear just went through her backyard. Referred to an officer.

8:10 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that for the third night in a row, solicitors (male party with Environmental Mass Research and Policy Center) are at her door. There is a started solicitation application in dispatch awaiting IDs on any involved parties before approval. Officer made contact with male party and advised him of what MPD was waiting for. He will call his manager.

Thursday, 6/4

12:47 a.m. Officer advises that his cruiser was struck by a deer at Turnpike Road and Demers Lane. Unable to locate deer; very minor dent to front passenger door.

7:42 a.m. Motor vehicle accident at Avenue A and Third Street. TFFD advises that they have one patient. One operator cit-

ed for failure to use care in turning.

8:15 a.m. Report of rooster on the sidewalk on Maple Street. Animal control officer advised. Caller followed up stating that her daughter was able to corral the rooster and is willing to hold it until the ACO arrives. Rooster retrieved.

9:25 a.m. Report of illegal dumping of mattresses on Greenfield Road. Subject located and given until Saturday to get a receipt from the landfill showing that he disposed of the mattresses legally.

12:23 p.m. Officer flagged down by a party reporting a suspicious person by the band shell in Pesky Park. Subject moved along.

1:08 p.m. Report of a black and white kitten with a broken leg halfway down I Street. Caller advises that the kitten is trying to walk on the broken leg. Animal control officer advises that the cat is fine, not as reported.

1:33 p.m. Report of subjects target shooting in the Montague Plains near the sandpits. Caller expresses concern for the safety of his workers in the area. Environmental police officer is in Montague and will be responding.

1:49 p.m. Report of tree branches in the road at Seventh and Canal Streets. Small branch had rolled into the roadway. Services rendered.

5:40 p.m. Caller reports that she sees a younger/teenage male riding his skateboard down the hill in the area of L Street almost daily. He is always wearing a helmet, yet he is not cautious of traffic; today, male attempted to do a “trick” in the road in front of the caller. Officers will be on lookout.

6:11 p.m. Officer off with skateboarder who was writing on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge abutments with chalk. He will go home to get something to wash it off with.

Friday, 6/5

8:53 a.m. Report of suspicious activity across from a Fairway Ave. residence; subjects observed taking rear plate off of a blue sedan. Caller also reports other suspicious activity that has been occurring at night. Area search negative.

5:36 p.m. Employee at Aubuchon Hardware alerted by a customer that a shoplifting had occurred; party took flowers and walked off toward Peskeomskut Park.

Officer identified male from camera footage and spoke to him. Manager agreed to give subject 24 hours to pay for the items taken. Subject verbally trespassed from store.

6:41 p.m. Second-hand report of a dog being kicked near F.L. Roberts. Officer located parties; dog looks to be in good health; owner did state that the dog acts out at times and he corrects it; no signs of abuse.

8:32 p.m. Courtesy transport to Lake Pleasant provided to intoxicated hitchhiker. Relative took responsibility for party.

Saturday, 6/6

12:27 a.m. Report of explosion-type sounds near Elm Street. Area search negative.

1:55 a.m. Two recent high school graduates found hanging out by old bridge abutment on Unity Street. Parties moved along.

11:05 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that a neighbor has been trespassing and killed two unborn baby birds that had not yet hatched on her property. Report taken.

5:39 p.m. Vehicle vs. deer accident at Turners Falls Road and Hatchery Road. Registered owner of vehicle took the deer.

6:59 p.m. First of several reports of explosion-type noises and fireworks in Turners Falls.

9:33 p.m. Complaint regarding loud music coming from Hubie’s Bar. Caller advised that owner has proper permits to have live music. Officer found that music seems to be at a normal level.

Sunday, 6/7

12:16 a.m. Report of 2 males verbally fighting on Avenue A; males appear to be close to physically fighting. Unable to locate.

1:18 p.m. Illegal dumping behind Family Dollar. Subject identified by pieces of mail; Greenfield PD requested to check his residence and advise him to return and clean up. Party returned, cleaned up trash, and was spoken to about his actions.

6:38 p.m. Party into station to report that he has rented a dumpster to clean out a residence, and a neighbor has reported to him that someone has thrown things into his dumpster. Party most concerned about what kind of “things” were thrown in. Referred to an officer.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Waiting for a Ride

Monday, 6/1

11 a.m. Welfare check at Mountain Road residence. Found to be okay.

2:15 p.m. Report of heavy water conditions on the Farley section of Route 2. Water draining properly.

5:15 p.m. Pratt Street resident reported breaking and entering.

7:30 p.m. Motor vehicle

crashed into guardrail caused by driver avoiding deer in the road.

Tuesday, 6/2

1:56 p.m. Motor vehicle collision on East Main Street, report taken.

7:50 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at French King Bowling.

8:09 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on

River Road.

Wednesday, 6/3

7:55 a.m. Assisted Massachusetts State Police with traffic stop on Route 2.

Friday, 6/5

5:53 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Saturday, 6/6

2:20 a.m. Suspicious indi-

viduals at Weatherheads Parking lot. Found to be juveniles, picked up by parents.

6:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, 6/7

1 p.m. Report of hit and run accident on Route 2. Report taken.

SOUP from page B1

soups are prepared in a five-gallon bucket, like the ones you see at a home improvement store, except they previously stored pickles. Does the soup have a hint of vinegar to it? An immersion blender is used to puree the soup, only needing a quick rinse to clean.

The process is so simple, you won't be afraid to try some new and unusual combinations. For instance, the recipe you are about to read started with my desire to try pickled blueberries, which I saw recently in a magazine advertisement.

Due to my lack of patience, and whimsical taste buds, I decided instead to make a chilled blueberry and pickled beet soup. The beet flavor wasn't overpowering, and it wasn't dessert-like sweet. Anyone who likes beets will love this soup. For normal people who despise beets, it's still pretty darn good. Substitute the red wine with grape juice if you plan on serving it to kids.

Chilled Blueberry Beet Soup

- 16 oz canned pickled beets
- 1 qt blueberries (reserve a few for garnish)
 - 1/3 cup fruity red wine
- 2 Tbsp blueberry preserves or jam
 - 1 dash ground ginger
 - 1 dash ground cloves
 - 1 dash table-grind pepper
 - 1/8 cup sour cream
 - 1 tsp lime juice

Combine all of the ingredients except the sour cream and lime juice into a blender. Blend until smooth, adding more wine to achieve desired consistency. Combine lime juice and sour cream. Serve chilled, below forty degrees, with a dollop of the sour cream mixture and some whole blueberries on top.

Try avocado and blue cheese, cucumber and dill, honeydew and cilantro, peach and ginger – try any combination of good ingredients, and you're not likely to go wrong. If you use heavy cream in your chilled soup, be sure to add it after you puree the soup. Adding it in at the same time as everything else is a fairly common mistake, and the result is an unappetizing look, as though the soup has broken.

There is an easy fix for this mistake, though. What has actually happened is that you have made whipped cream, and it won't entirely blend into the soup, causing the ugly broken appearance. Heat the soup slightly, stirring all the while, until the lumps go away. You can quickly cool it back down with an ice paddle (yeah right, like you have one of those!), or by immersing it in an ice bath.

You may also want to know more about what kind of wine is recommend. Mick Corduff, executive chef and co-owner of The Log Cabin and Delaney House, always says, "If it isn't good enough to drink, it isn't good enough to cook with." I say, however, that expensive wine means expensive food. So go easy!

Eric Damkoehler is the Sous Chef of the Delaney House in Holyoke. He lives in Turners Falls with his wife and three sons. He has been working in commercial kitchens since 1999 and attended the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT. Check out his blog at: www.thesobersouschef.com.



LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 9, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

A Storm in the Shade

A 30-year-old Easthampton man will appear in Greenfield District Court on June 14th to face charges stemming from an incident inside Ed's Barber Shop that allegedly occurred on Feb 1st. John Zantoulidis was charged with vandalizing property, assault, threat to commit a crime and disorderly conduct.

The fracas underscores a power struggle that began last November in the village of Turners Falls after the popular Shady Glen Restaurant was sold to John's brother Dimitrios "Jimmy" Zantoulidis.

The altercation occurred over the posting of a sign at the barber shop claiming that four employees at the Shady Glen had been fired by the new ownership over a labor dispute involving the cancellation of previously accrued vacation time.

According to the police report, John Zantoulidis came in and asked to use the phone, then picked it up and threw it against the wall. he then grabbed both sides of the chair barber shop owner Denise Edwards was sitting in and told her he'd "break every bone in her body" if she didn't remove the sign.

Blanker Warns Sewer Fees May Close Esleeck

William Blanker, chairman of the Esleeck Manufacturing Company, warned the Montague select-board on June 6th that his paper mill may have to shut down if too

great a percentage of the cost of planned sewer upgrades are placed on his company.

With the town still reeling from the news that \$14 million would be needed to redevelop the idle Strathmore paper mill, next door to Esleeck, Blanker told the board, "You're concerned about one empty building down there. You may have two of them."

Gill Votes Down Clerical Help for Boards

It appears volunteer boards will have to go another year without clerical support. Gill town meeting members voted down a \$5,632 request for a part-time clerical support person in the town offices on Monday night by a vote of 22 - 29.

Speaking in favor of the new clerical hire, Suzanne Smiley, chair of the planning board said her board was overwhelmed with paperwork. "I have concerns regarding the possibility of not being able to meet a legal deadline," she argued.

However, others felt differently. "We got along without one for many years," said Ernie Hastings. "The departments should make a budget and hire from it," he added.

Allen Adie felt the boards and committees' clerical work should be done by administrative assistant Debra Roussel, "like Bev Demars used to."

Although the article was supported by the Finance Committee in a 7-0 vote, and by a letter from the board of health stating the town was losing revenue due to dormant paperwork it could not process, the measure was defeated by 7 votes.

T3F from page B1

50 landscape paintings, and are inviting artists to take one away and paint a creature or creatures into the picture. Completed paintings will be auctioned off in September to benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter located in Montague.

There are several art exhibits to check out. View the combined works of Rob Kimmel, Bruce Kahn, and Sophie Argetsinger in the windows of 106-112 Avenue A, as well as a video by Darrin Martina and Torsten Zena Burns. Their exhibit is called *ALIENA ANIMALI*.

Third Street Studios, across from the Five Eyed Fox, will open their doors for a group show.

Charon Arts Visionary Tattoo studio, above 109 Avenue A, has work on display by resident artists Leah Caldieri, Noel'le Longhaul and Simone Audette. There will be a musical performance by Loone at 8 p.m., and they will be having a costumed party and selling off special flash art pieces by Caldieri and Longhaul throughout.

Working south on that side of the Avenue, Nina's Nook hosts an artist's reception for *Cool Cats*, a group show highlighting the work of Montague painter Christine Mero, with art by Donna Estabrook, N.S. Koenig, Edite Cunha, Holly Givens, Nina Rossi and others. Come pick up a catnip-filled sardine for your kitty, or buy a little ceramic cat paperweight that doesn't make you sneeze. Enjoy exciting artwork and refreshments in a strangely narrow space. Next to the Black Cow Burger Bar at 125A Avenue A, 5 to 8 p.m.

Across the avenue at Spinner Park, enjoy fever pop duo *Home Body* at 7 p.m. as they spread a "vivid blend of new wave, industrial and electronic music" throughout the pocket park at the corner of Fourth and A.

LoManto is creating a B Movie mash-up to be screened during DJ Shannon's set at the Five Eyed Fox around 8 p.m. Have some Blob and Godzilla or Creature from the Black Lagoon with your brew.

And speaking of brew, a Lefty's Tap Take-Over is going on at Hubie's Tavern that evening (next to LOOT on the Avenue), 6 to 9 p.m.

Head back to 109 Avenue A at 9 p.m. to scramble your brains in an interactive Space Jam, created by John Landino and Chris Menegoni. Who knows what kind of futuristic instruments they will invent for this Sci-Fi sound installation.

Will you even want to return to Earth afterwards?



Words and Pictures

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – The work of Lake Pleasant author and illustrator Jan Atamian will be at the Great Falls Harvest this month, with an opening reception during Third Thursday, June 18 beginning at 7 p.m.

Featuring a collection of six self-published books, some of the original artwork for their illustrations, along with a few of Atamian's oil paintings featured in the film "Bridge of Names" by Elyria Pictures, the show has something for everyone. The art pieces can stand alone as a show, but seeing the collection of written and visual work together allows us insight into the artist's process.

Atamian taught art in the public school system until she was laid off in 2008. She took a memoir-writing workshop at the South Deerfield Library led by visual artist, writer and teacher Jan Sadler. Atamian found the class excellent and a way back into the world of creative writing she discovered back in her college days. She finds that writing taps into her subconscious differently than creating her art work does.

Travels with Cheryl: A Memoir of Cross-Country Bicycle Riding tells the tale of a young Atamian and her sister bicycling from Longmeadow, MA to Seattle, WA in 1980. It features excerpts from the journals of Atamian and her sister Cheryl, adult musings about the trip, news clippings, sketches and photos.

There will be a collage of the original pieces and articles on exhibit at Great Falls Harvest. Reading the memoir left me yearning to take my bike on a long adventure.

My Grandmother's Lace introduces the story of Atamian's grandmother's emigration from her native Armenia to the United States. The story was featured in a play at Wellesley College in the fall of 2014 to raise money for the Armenian Women's Resource Center.

Songs of Lake Pleasant is a natural history collection



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

From Atamian's book "My Grandmother's Lace."
Courtesy of the artist.

of animal and bird drawings of Lake Pleasant. Like much of the other artwork, these drawings are finely detailed colored ink renderings.

Three fictional pieces, *The Journey of Tucker O'Leary*, *Bird Woman*, and *Skiing with Gramps* will also be available for sale.

The illustrations on display will be a variety of styles, including fabric collage, tiny colorful scratch board works and ink drawings.

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TFHS BASEBALL ADVANCES TO FINALS... ... AS DOES TFHS SOFTBALL!

June 8: Turners Blanks Pathfinder 3 – 0

By MATT ROBINSON

The skies were threatening all day Monday, and tornado warnings came in from the west. As the game drew near, the clouds thickened and the sky took on a menacing gray hue. But it wasn't quite raining at game time, so the Pathfinder Pioneers and the Turners Falls Indians took to the diamond.

"Have fun," Coach Jay Liimatainen advised as his boys took the field. As the fans kept their umbrellas and rain gear at the ready, the Pioneers came up to bat.

Pathfinder earned the right to play Turners because they won their first playoff game. "I was not surprised by Pathfinder's win as I actually picked them to win the game," Coach Jay said before Monday's game. "They have a really good starting pitcher who can shut teams down."

Tyler Charboneau took the mound for the Tribe. He fielded the first hit and threw it to Kyle Bergman at first. Kyle made the second out unassisted, beating the runner to first. The third batter boomed a 0-2 pitch deep into right field but Quinn Doyle was under it for the third out.

Emmett Turn led off in the bottom of the first with a hard infield grounder and beat the throw by half a heartbeat. Heads-up base running got him to second on a steal. Then Trent Bourbeau hit a hard fly to centerfield, putting two men on with no outs.

However, the next two batters struck out, and Charboneau came to the plate with 2 on and 2 outs. Tyler got the clutch hit and ended on second base as two runs crossed the plate and the Tribe took a 2-run lead.

Tyler whiffed the leadoff man in the top of the second. The next batter shot a rocket at third base but Zach Demars had just enough time to raise his glove to snag the out. Then a left-field line drive followed by a base hit put two Pioneer runners on base.

Tyler struck out the next batter which should have been the final out but the pitch passed by catcher Tanner Jones. The batter sprinted to first and both base runners took off. Tanner kept his wits about him, grabbed the ball and whipped it to Zack at third. Zack took the throw and got the man out at second, and the Pioneers were retired.



Trent Bourbeau hits a single during the third inning of the WMass Div IV baseball quarterfinal at Bourbeau Field, June 8.

In the bottom of the second, Tionne Brown reached first with 2 outs. He stole second and after a bad throw, he went to third. Emmett got wood on the ball, but the throw just beat him to first base and the score remained 2-0.

In the third, the leadoff man placed a popup over Tionne's outstretched glove and reached first. The next batter hit a boomer into right field but Quinn nabbed it to get the out. The next batter sliced a grounder to Tionne, who tagged second and threw to first for double play.

Trent led off in the Blue third with a base hit. Nick York followed with a leftfield line-drive double. Jalen Sanders kept the hit parade going when he reached on a dropped ball.

Tyler came to the plate next and batted in Trent, but Nick was tagged out at home. Powertown took a 3 nothing lead going into the fourth.

The first batter reached on a line drive, the next was whiffed, and the third hit a high infield pop. Tionne cheated toward first base, called everybody off, and made the second out. The Pioneer runner apparently thought he was distracted and tried to run, but was called out as he tried to take second.

Powertown was out of the inning and the shutout was preserved. Turners went 1-2-3 in their fourth.

Tyler fanned the side in the top of the fifth, each strikeout a swinging K. In the bottom of fifth, Trent hit a hard shot into center field and landed at second. But the opportunity was squandered when he was picked off at home on a Jalen Sanders hit.

In the sixth, Nick York fielded the first two hits and threw out both batters. Tyler made the third out when

he stopped a stinging grounder to the mound. When Turners came to bat, Quinn Doyle beat the throw and took first.

Nick Croteau, who took his place as a pinch runner, was able to steal second and then third, but three strikeouts ended the sixth for the Tribe and put the fate of the game into the Indian defense.

And then the rains came. Not the expected downpour but a light steady rain, just enough to dampen the field and anything that touched it.

In the chess game that is baseball, there are moves and countermoves. With a shutout looming and the rain coming down, Coach Liimatainen put Zack Wright on first base and moved Kyle to third.

The first Pioneer batter took a full count base-on-balls but Tyler struck out the next batter. The third hit a leftfield shot, but Emmett fielded it nicely and he was held to a single.

With 1 out and men at first and second, Tyler engineered a full count strikeout for the second out, then loaded the bases with a walk.

But losing the battle doesn't mean you lose the war. With 2 outs, the bases loaded, the go-ahead run at the plate, and a full count on the batter, Tyler struck him out and won the war. As the players celebrated, a torrential downpour sent the spectators sprinting to their cars.

Charboneau allowed no runs, scattered 4 hits, gave 3 walks and burned 9 strikeouts, and earned all 3 Blue RBIs.

Bourbeau also had a good night, hitting a perfect 3 for 3 and crossing the plate twice. York clocked a double, Sanders also had a hit, and Turn scored a run.

June 7: Turners Climbs Over Mount Greylock 5 – 1



Not a chance! Mackenzie Salls makes the throw to Jenna Putala at 1st for the out. The Indians defeated the Mount Greylock Mounties 5-1 Sunday at Bourbeau Fields.

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Softball Indians defeated the Mount Greylock Mounties 5-1 at home on Sunday June 7, in the D3 2015 Quarter Finals.

"They're better than they were – but we're better than we were," one of the Lady Indians called before they took the field. Her teammates cheered in agreement. They raised their gloves, took a deep breath and jogged onto the diamond to play their second game of the postseason.

The coaches did their best to keep it light, joking with the Indians and as always supporting them with cheers and advice throughout the game.

But the reality was clear: The games were getting tougher and the stakes were higher. And even though they beat Greylock once, this was a new season and they needed to beat them again. Win or go home.

Ace Mackenzie Phillips took the pitcher's circle. In the top of the first, she struck out the first batter and fielded the next two hits, throwing out both batters.

Turners' leadoff batter Mackenzie Salls reached on a base-on-balls. She stole second, but three consecutive popups ended the Blue threat.

Phillips struck out the side in the Greylock second inning. In the Blue second, Jordyn Fiske hit a 2-out infield grounder, reaching second on a wild throw, but was stranded after a swinging K, leaving the score 0-0 after 2 full.

Phillips used her "nunchuck fire" to fan the third Mountie side.

In the Blue third, Haley Whipple reached on a walk and stole second on a fake bunt by Salls. Then, with 1 down, Jenna Putala came to the plate. After hitting a couple of hard fouls, she batted Haley home. And with 2 outs, Gabby Arzuaga cracked a double and sent Putala to third. Gabby was replaced by courtesy runner, Abby Loynd but an infield pop stranded both ladies on base.

Two more Blue runners stranded, but the stalemate was broken, and Powertown led 1-0 after 3.

Mackenzie's perfect game ended in the top of the fourth. The leadoff batter cracked a centerfield ground ball single and a subsequent pick-off attempt sent her to third. Phillips struck out the next batsman, but the third socked a double over the outfielders' heads, and the Mounties tied the score at 1.

Turners took the lead right back in their half of the fourth. Mackenzie P. reached on a base hit and went to second on an errant throw. She was replaced on second by courtesy runner Maddy Johnson. With 1 down, 1 on, Nicole Thibeault came in as a pinch hitter, and kept chopping off fouls until she was finally walked.

Whipple advanced the ladies to second and third on a fielder's choice, bringing Salls came to the plate with 2 outs and 2 in scoring position. She came through with a 2-RBI single that put the Tribe up 3-1.

The Mounties went 1-2-3 in the top of the fifth – another strikeout followed by 2 ground outs.

The Blue Fifth started promising enough for the Tribe but they were unable to add to their lead. Leadoff Amber Caouette cracked a grounder into leftfield, followed by a double by Gabby, who was replaced by Abby Loynd at second.

Then the game stopped. The officials conferred, the coaches gave their input and finally, the ump made a fist and yelled, "Out". Much to the coaches' dismay, the officials ruled that Amber was tagged out at third.

After a strikeout gave the Tribe 2 outs, Mackenzie P got a base hit and reached second as Abby advanced to third. Maddy took Mackenzie's place at second but a high pop chased down by the catcher ended the inning.

The first hit of the Mounties' sixth went directly to Salls, who tagged first for the out. Mackenzie P fired a K for the second out and Melissa H chased down a hard and deep fly ball to retire the side.

In the bottom of the sixth, see **SOFTBALL** next page

June 10: Turners Wins Hopkins Rubber Match 14–7, Heads to Finals

By MATT ROBINSON

Because the Boys in Blue were the designated visiting team, they led off against the Hopkins Golden Hawks in the semifinals.

Leadoff hitter, Emmett Turn drew a walk as did Trent Bourbeau. With 1 out, Jalen Sanders cracked a base hit RBI, sending Emmett home and advancing Trent to third. Tyler Charboneau then hit a gapper to center field and Trent crossed the plate putting the Tribe up 2-0.

Hopkins retaliated in their half of the first. Tionne Brown stopped a bouncer to second base and made the throw for the first out. The next batter shot a double into center and advanced to third on an attempted pick-off miscue. He scored on a fielder's choice sacrifice and the Hawks were on the scoreboard.

The Tribe put up 2 more runs in the top of the second. Trevor Mankowsky led off with a rightfield line drive and proceeded to steal second base. With 2 outs and Trevor on second, Trent drew another base-on-balls. And up came Nick York, who patted a double and sent the two baserunners home. The Hawks went 1-2-3 in the bottom of the second, and after 2 full, Powertown was up 4-1.

Then came the Blue Rally, putting the game virtually out of reach for the Hawks. Charboneau reached on a base hit. A missed throw sent Kyle Bergman to first and Tyler to second, and a Zach Wright walk loaded the bases. Mankowsky slapped a hit into the infield. Hopkins tried to get the leadoff man, but Tyler beat the throw to home, and everybody was safe.

Tionne kept the rally going, reaching first and sending Kyle home. A

strikeout accounted for the first out of the inning but the bases were still loaded with Trent coming up to bat. Again he was walked. But at least this time, he sent in a run.

Nick came to bat next and slugged a double, sending in 2 more runs. And after another strikeout for the second out, Tyler banged a single, sending Trent home.

Hopkins scored 1 run in their half of the third and after a full three, the score was 11-2 Blue.

Neither team scored in the fourth inning and Hopkins chipped away 1 more run in the fifth, putting the score at 11-3. Both teams scored 3 in the sixth, and Hopkins added another in the seventh.

York helped his own effort by chalking up 5 RBIs on 3 hits. He scorched 2 doubles and scored a run of his own.

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GARDENER'S from page B1

and muscle and the help of some online plans. It is a special treasure to use some of our railroad history in the creation of this new piece in our yard.

Meanwhile, the garden, weeds and all and the lawn continue to require attention which perhaps explains why it will likely take us at least until the end of next month to complete the structure itself. We may well wait until the dry warmth of September to apply the paint.

But we need to say that the yard is awash in bodacious bloom. The peonies are fading but the roses are coming on strong. The beach rose I grew from seed so many years ago is covered with pink and the newer white one is coming into its own.

The shrub roses are blooming or at least in bud, the Crocus rose a soft yellow, Sweet Juliet, a peach and Heritage a light pink. Both the strawberry and blueberries have slid from bloom to green fruit.

In the vegetable garden the tomatoes are in flower and looking hardy as are the pea vines and the pepper plants. The pole beans continue to emerge and I'll be planting the cucumber and winter squash this week.

All this activity notwithstanding, we will head to the Connecticut shore for a few days of camping at the end of the month, taking a break and soaking up ocean therapy, musing on the happy connections of old English roses, heritage plantings and our pergola whose cornerstone pillars came from the railroad track which once ran where the bike path now edges the yard.

Gone is the rumble of the train which rattled the dishes and disassembled one stack of stove wood but a piece remains in our yard, supporting the structure which is ages old in its history.

Enjoy your own favorite summertime therapy and as always, happy gardening!



Montague Community Band's 124th Season

2015 Summer Concerts

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7 p.m.

TIMOTHY CLOUGH PHOTO

<p>Season Schedule:</p> <p>June 15: "At the Movies" <i>Sponsored by Montague Elks #2521</i></p> <p>June 22: "The Classics"</p> <p>June 29: "Swingin' in the Park" <i>Sponsored by Hillside Plastics</i></p>	<p>July 13: "Americana" <i>Sponsored by Greenfield Savings Bank</i></p> <p>July 20: "On Broadway" <i>Sponsored by Hillside Plastics</i></p> <p>August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Walpole, NH "Concert on the Green" <i>Sponsored by Savings Bank of Walpole</i></p>
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SOFTBALL from previous page

Mackenzie S. slugged a huge double over the head of the leftfielder, and Putala parked a homer over the fence to give Powertown a 5-1 lead.

In the top of the seventh, Phillips struck out the first batter. The next girl reached on a grounder. But she was called out when the third batter

hit a grounder between first and second base – the ball hit the baserunner in midstride for the second out. The game ended 4 pitches later on a swinging strikeout.

For Turners, Putala earned 3 RBIs on 2 hits and clocked a Homer. Salls had the other 2 RBIs and banded 2 hits, including a double. Arzuaga

also blasted a double and had 2 hits. Phillips had 2 hits and scored a run.

Caouette and Fiske got a hit apiece and Thibeault and Whipple both drew walks and both scored runs. In the circle, Phillips allowed 1 run on 4 hits, 0 walks and bunt 13 strikeouts.



June 10: Turners Scales Mt. Everett, Heads to Finals

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Softball Indians shutout the Mount Everett Eagles 4-0 in the D3 semifinals at UMass on Wednesday June 10. By virtue of Wednesday's win, Powertown has earned a ticket to the finals against the Monson Mustangs, who had advanced by beating No. 5, Hoosac Valley, 2-1 earlier in the day.

The Eagles threatened to draw first blood in their very first at-bats. Scoring first can be an ego booster and for the Tribe, trailing early could be discouraging and might affect the momentum of the entire game.

Mackenzie Phillips fired a strikeout to retire the leadoff man but the second batter gapped a hit into center field. The next Eagle slugged a double, putting two in scoring position with only 1 out.

But the next batter hit a high infield pop, which was caught by shortstop Jordan Meatey. Two outs and the True Blue Nation drew a collective sigh of relief – there would be no chance of a sac fly; Blue only needed to get the batter. And they did: a hard grounder to first baseman Mackenzie Salls, and the side was retired.

Powertown wouldn't let the same thing happen to them. Salls smashed a deep hit which rolled to the fence for a standup double. A Jenna Putala fielder's choice put her on third. Amber Caouette dropped a hit into right field which sent Mackenzie home putting Blue on the scoreboard. Gabby Arzuaga reached first but Amber was called out at second

for the second out. Courtesy runner Abby Loynd took Gabby's place on base, and quickly stole second. Phillips got on base and was replaced by Maddy Johnson. A misthrow error sent Abby home, and after 1 inning, Turners led 2-0.

Phillips blazed 2 swinging Ks to open the Everett second. The third out came when Meatey caught an infield popup. Turners went 1-2-3 in their half of the second inning, and the score remained 2-0 after 2.

The Eagles clawed their way back onto the base paths in the third inning. Jordyn Fiske chased down a hard rightfield fly to get the first out, but the second batter placed a blooper behind first base for a single, stole second, and then advanced to third on an error.

Mackenzie and the Tribe were facing a man at third with only 1 out. She efficiently struck out the next batter, and Jordan M efficiently fielded the next hit and threw the ball to Salls for the final out.

But Turners went 1-2-3 again in their half, and with very little rest the went back into the field.

Mount Everett came up empty in the top of the fourth but Powertown added an insurance run in their half. Gabby led off with a base hit and Abby replaced her on the base path. And after an infield pop for the first out, the Turners Ladies chanted, "Heeere's Johnny." And Nicole John came to the plate. Nicole found the centerfield gap, Fiske followed with a base hit, and after four, Powertown led 3-0.

Turners scored another run in the sixth, and Everett came to the plate with one more desperate chance to extend their season.

The first Eagle hit a grounder and was thrown out at first. But the next batter hit a shot to center field which was followed up by a sharp line drive. One more critical situation: two men on with only 1 out.

That's when Coach Gary Mullins called a conference. I'm not privy to what was said, but when the very next batter got a base hit, Phillips took the cutoff throw. With cool acumen, she looked around the bases and checked everybody. They bases were loaded but no one scored.

So: one out, bases loaded, critical game, seventh inning, and tying run at the plate and then... the batter popped it up into the infield, and the Tribe got the second out.

Same situation, but 2 outs. Mackenzie pitched a strike, then a ball. Then a pitch was fouled off for the second strike.

The cheering stopped as the ball left Mackenzie's fingers. Everybody seemed to be holding their breaths. The batter swung for the fences, but she was not able to connect, and Mackenzie blazed her sixth and final strikeout of the game.

Arzuaga and Fiske each clocked 2 hits. 1 of Gabby's was a double. Salls also slugged a double and scored a run. Caouette and John both had hits and 1 RBI. Loynd scored 3 runs. On the mound, Phillips gave 6 hits, 1 walk, struck out 6 and allowed no runs.

Congratulations, Turners Falls High School Class of 2015 Graduates!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Haliegh Renee Bassett | Emily Kells |
| Jomary Enid Bones Caraballo | Bryan R. LaBelle |
| Leylee Rose Botkin | Andrew LaPenta |
| Trenton James Bourbeau | Jade Ann Linscott |
| Sara J. Bradley | Ian A. MacPhail |
| Jazmyn Simone Brewington | Brittany M. Miller |
| Joanna Elizabeth Browning | Roxanna E. Moreno |
| Emma Rose Burnett | Alexander P. Morin |
| Johnathan E. Cagle | Justin O. Morrill |
| Brandon John Camara | Julia S. Paulin |
| Amber Nicole Caouette | Cody J. Porlier-Sweeney |
| Marianicy Cardona Cruz | Princess Ramirez |
| Alex Carlisle | Kelly Jeannette Rehorka |
| Tyler Charboneau | Austin Lee Reynolds |
| Danielle Marie Conant | Stephanie Faith Robertson |
| Felicia Marie Craver | Mackenzie Elizabeth Salls |
| Samantha L. Currier | Rachel Savinski |
| Teagan Aryn Deery | Solomon E. Scott |
| Zachary E. Demars | Serena Ivy Smith |
| James F. Dolan | Rodney G. Terounzo |
| Liam Ellis | Liam Theis |
| Alexander R. Fitzpatrick | Savannah Marie Thornton |
| Monica Lynn Francis | Alex David Tirrell |
| Jessica M. Gaines | Natalie Nicole Torres Velardo |
| Anamarie Gonzalez | Emmett D. Turn |
| Joshua P. Gonzalez | Eulalio E. Veras |
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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. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 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.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls:

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

11 South Gallery, Bernardston: *Ambles Among Trees*. Woodland themed exhibit. Runs through 6/27.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Teen Art Exhibit*. Organized by teens for teens. Reception 6/13, 6-8 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Pivot: Focus on the Human Form*. Artists participating in the exhibit reside in Colrain, Greenfield, Montague Northfield, Shelburne, South Deerfield, Turners Falls. Highlighting this year's members' exhibit is artwork by Nina Rossi of Turners Falls. Exhibit runs through 7/3.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *LandEscapes*. Group show. Runs though 6/21.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artists of the Deerfield Valley Arts Association*. Runs through 6/30.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Cool Cats*. Highlighting the work of Montague painter Christine Mero, the show also includes paintings by Donna Estabrook and N. S. Koenings, with sculpture, toys, and other items by Nina Rossi, Peggy Hart, Edite Cunha, Belinda Lyons Zucker and others. All cats, all the time. Opens June 11.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague:

Hot Stuff. Members summer show. Through 8/31.

Salmon Falls Artisan Showroom, Shelburne Falls: *Kiln Partners: two wood-fired kilns, two teams of pottery*. Runs through 6/28.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Glued In*. Group show of 50 member artists. Through 6/29.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: *Ann McNeal, Elements of Nature: Photographs, Paintings and Poems*. Runs through 6/29.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Tom Wyatt: Reflections*. Digital photography exhibit. Runs through 6/30.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Center. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Wildwood*. Folk/pop rock. Mocha Maya's 10th anniversary party. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Goodnight Blue Moon*. New England Americana. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Laika's Orbit, Fleabite, Kindling, California X*. All ages/substance free space, 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*. Blues. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Big Moon*. Alternative rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

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

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week features turtles. 10:30 a.m. (see ONGOING in this section for details.)

The Artsblock, Greenfield: *Bloomsday Celebration*. Benefit for the Literacy Project. Music by *Rosie Caine and the Wilde Irish Women*, and screening of *In Bed with Ulysses*. 7 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

UMass Bezanson Hall, Amherst: *Miro Sprague Solo Concert*. This concert is a fund-raiser for Miro's trip to the Montreux Jazz Festival Piano Competition. 7:30 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Third Thursday, Turners Falls: *Creature Feature*. Themed event sponsored by RiverCulture. At several venues in town. Starts at 5 p.m. (see article elsewhere in paper for details.)

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield: *Small Change, Daniel Hales, Pat and Tex LaMountain Band*. 6 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Acoustic rock. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Caroline Cotter*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Film screening of *Amazing Space*. 7:30 p.m. \$

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Comedy Night*. Nick Canon, Kathleen Kanz, Kate Procyshyn. 8 p.m. \$



Mocha Maya presents blues guitarist Mark Nomad on Saturday, June 13 at 8 p.m. The Boston Phoenix portrayed him as having: "Near effortless technique [to] go hand-in-hand with an instinctive feel or the blues in putting over originals and songs from Blind Willie Johnson and Elmore James."

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com. Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendell-mass.us

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple & Friends*. Jim Henry, Doug Plavin and friends. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lexi Weege, Buddy McEarns*. Blues. 9:30 p.m.

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Chris Devine and Michael Nix*. Donations benefit free nature presentations by the Friends of the Discovery

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Crow's Rebellion

Thursday, 6/18 - 8 p.m.
Tommy Filiault Trio

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CENTER from page B1

was coming through the ceiling in five different locations in the new building. The sewer froze.

"We thought that it would take six to eight weeks to remedy. The highway department had many meetings about what to do to solve the problem at the frozen water main.

"The biggest problem was that they couldn't determine where the water main was frozen, because the frost was so deep. It was a very unusual winter.

"A lot of research was done by the Department of Public Works. Glenn McCrory and his team were there for us all the time, and we got much support from the Council on Aging and the selectboard. A wide variety of people decided the best alternative would be to let the water main thaw out."

The recreation department had just moved into the old senior center at 18 Pleasant Street. Better asked if the new center could move into the identical spaces it had formerly occupied, until the situation was resolved at the new center at 1 Care Drive. The selectboard, town administrator, DPW, and Council on Aging all approved.

"Whatever we had to do to serve the senior population," said Better, "we were going to do it." The new director utilized a group of folks from the DPW and volunteers from the senior center. They moved everything from the new center to the old one. After a lot of manual labor, they were open for business in less

than a week, including all regular programs and meals.

The move back to the new center took place around mid-April. Since then, the new center has been the site for a plethora of physical activities including line dancing, cardio toning, chair and other aerobics, Tai Chi, osteo-exercise, chair yoga, and an exercise for healthy bones.

"What's really nice about all our exercises," said Better, "is that you can feel comfortable going as fast or as slow as you wish. We have people who are 55 to 90 years old, doing exercises. Our goal is to keep all our members here moving."

Other activities include the quilting and painting classes, bingo, foot clinic, brown bag pick-up, league bowling, along with a pizza and movie afternoon.

Better is a 1976 graduate of Turners Falls High School and the Sheffield School of Design, with an associate degree in interior design. She and her husband Gary owned Countree Living and Dining Restaurant in Erving for 25 years. Attached to the eatery was her gift shop and Creative Interiors, an interior design business. Better also worked for 16 years as a senior retail buyer and in product design development at Yankee Candle Company.

Her plans for the new senior center include a community garden and a cookbook, along with the possibility of establishing a full commercial kitchen. For more info, please call Paula Better at (413) 423-3649.



UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE BRICK HOUSE, 24 THIRD STREET, TURNERS FALLS

SATURDAY, 6/13: LAIKA'S ORBIT, FLEABITE, KINDLING, CALIFORNIA X

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MUSIC BY NOEL'LE LONGHAUL 8PM 107 AVENUE A

ART BY CHRISTINE MERO (AND OTHERS) THAT HONORS ALL THINGS FELINE!
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