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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 12, 2014

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Board Weighs The Need For A Facilities Manager

By DAVID DETMOLD

A round-table discussion Tuesday on the future of building maintenance – specifically, the future of building maintenance at the Leverett Elementary School – trended in favor of the creation of a facilities manager to oversee all town buildings, along with the shared public water supply and septic systems that knit together the public safety complex, the library and the elementary school.

Former Leverett Elementary School head custodian John Kuczek already fits the bill for facilities manager, is employed by the town in that position, and already works two hours a week overseeing the shared systems at the elementary school.

But the selectboard, joined by members of the finance committee, with support from UMass facilities manager Rich Nathhorst and school committee chair Kip Fonsh, pushed to give the person in that position more authority to oversee all aspects of school building maintenance, rather than leave that responsibility in the hands of new school principal Margot Lacey, soon to take the place of retiring principal Ann Ross.

Two years ago, town meeting turned back a bid to separate the building maintenance as-

see LEVERETT page A5

Turners Softball Makes It To State Finals... Again!

After a 5-1 win over Assabet Valley Regional on Wednesday in the state semifinal in Worcester, the team will face Greater New Bedford Vocational in the Division III Championship game on Saturday.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Above: No. 6, Amber Caouette, crosses the plate after her solo home run, immediately following another by Jenna Putala, during the 5th inning of Wednesday's Div III Central-West Semi-Final.

Left: Jumping with joy, Maddy Johnson (L) and Putala (R) celebrate after Johnson catches an outfield fly ball, clinching a 7-0 win over Pathfinder in last Saturday's Western Mass. Div III championship game at UMass. Pitcher Mackenzie Phillips pitched a perfect game.

Upper Valley Music Festival Forced To Greenfield

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – The fourth annual Upper Valley Music Festival will not be held in downtown Turners Falls this year, as it has for the last two years. Instead, Greenfield, where the festival first began, will again be hosting on June 26 this popular summer event.

Tommy Byrnes, an organizer of the festival, said that they had not originally planned to hold the festival in Greenfield. “Our plan, until a few weeks ago, was to stay in Turners,” said Byrnes. “We had everything ready to go, and the excitement was growing.

“But then we learned – and what a shock it was – that the Shea [The-

ater], which we had booked in January, wasn't going to be available.”

Byrnes said the organizers tried to sort out the problem for a week and a half, but were unsuccessful. “Without the Shea, we just couldn't make it work,” he said.

The reason the Shea will not be available is that Ja'Duke, Montague's local dance and theater school, had also booked the theater that same night for their production of *42nd Street*.

When it became clear that nothing could be arranged with the theater, Byrnes and his fellow organizers scrambled.

“We didn't want to leave Turners, but our goal is to put on the best festival possible, to raise the most

see FESTIVAL page A6



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Double booked: Ja'Duke's performances are the only events listed on the Shea's website, and marquee, for this July.

A Classroom in Nature

By DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – Dawn Ward wrapped up the season at the Leverett Elementary School's greenhouse with a \$224 plant sale on Saturday. Parents of school children helped out by buying most of the plants, which students had helped transplant into donated clay pots, which had been charmingly hand decorated.

The money raised will go to purchase more hand tools, and maybe a wheelbarrow, to help with the steadily expanding garden beds and the many tasks that go along with maintaining a healthy greenhouse.

During the months of late winter and early spring, and again in fall, the 18- by 32-foot Gothic-arch-style greenhouse is a popular place. Each grade has regular classes there on Mondays and Tuesdays, and student helpers stop by during recess and after school to see what tasks Ward can dream up for them to help with.

“We sit and brainstorm,” said Ward, describing her method of working with very young children to nurture their interest in growing plants. “Everyone wants to plant snapdragons,” she added, pointing out the gaily-colored red and yellow annuals, which double as finger



DAWN WARD PHOTO

Third grader Grace Gabagan waters the hanging baskets.

puppets in imaginary play.

But monocropping is by no means encouraged in this densely-cultivated greenhouse. Ward talks to the students about the various end uses of plants: for food, shelter, clothing, recreation and decoration.

Not to mention the medicinal balm a lush growing environment can provide for young minds in the middle of a dry March school day, when a walk across the snowy field from the schoolhouse to the greenhouse can transport students suddenly to a hothouse garden of delight.

The raised beds, watered by a drip irrigation system from a nearby artesian well, are divided by a central path, with the beds on the left dedicated to greens and garlic and herbs for the school cafeteria,

and the beds on the right divided among the individual grades.

“It's got to be fun,” advised Ward, pointing to the toys and painted rubber snakes scattered among the plants in the first graders' bed. “The first graders wanted to eat the flowers, so you see a lot of nasturtiums.” Also calendar, and even bachelor buttons. “Just because it's edible doesn't mean it's palatable,” noted Ward.

The second graders favored “magic beans,” scarlet runners, purple and green. “And everybody planted garlic,” said Ward. “This school is garlic-crazy.”

“The third grade picked things the Colonists would grow,” such as lavender and chamomile, and also learned see GROWING page A5

Wendell's Saturday Town Meeting: All Articles Pass; Gentle Breeze At Picnic

By JOSH HEINEMANN

For the first time in recent memory Wendell held its annual town meeting on a Saturday. On June 7 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a 45-minute lunch break that stretched to an hour, approximately 75 citizens approved the warrant almost exactly as written.

The meeting began with applause for Kathy Becker, who stepped down from the position of moderator which she has held for 29 years.

Her deputy moderator, Katie Nolan, ran for the office and won the responsibility, and Becker accepted an appointment as deputy moderator.

Attendance shrank after lunch, but not by much, and there was a vote then to see if citizens preferred a Saturday meeting to weekday evenings. Saturday won by a small (or louder) majority. From the back of the room, someone said, “People who prefer an evening meeting are not here.”

Volunteers prepared lunch ahead of time at the Diemand Farm, and the beautiful June sunshine and light breeze made the lunch break a pleasure. People mingled and talked, and children played and ran around like they do on Old Home Day.

Article 4, which set town salaries and operating expenses, including schools and all the town departments, passed with a minimum of comments, and one dissenting vote, authorizing \$2,058,733.

The meeting approved \$120,000 from stabilization funds for a road grader, after highway commissioner Mike Gifford said that maintenance and repair of the old grader no longer is economical, and that the town should get 20 years of good service from a new (used) one, as we did from the grader that will be retired. The fact that Wendell's dirt roads have not been graded yet may have influenced that vote.

Articles 14 to 20 were moved forward so that fire chief Joe Cuneo, who could stay only until noon, could justify each one. The fire department capital expenses all came from the town's stabilization fund.

Voters approved \$75,000 for a new brush truck after fire captain Asa de Roode described a brake failure with the old brush truck during a response to a fire in Wendell Depot. They approved \$50,000 as a grant match that should give the town \$300,000 to replace the tank truck.

They also approved \$1,650 for warning lights on the chief's vehicle, \$5,000 for

see WENDELL page A4



HEINEMANN PHOTO

Wendell's citizenry assemble from time to time to refresh the trees of liberty with the blood of ham and cheese sandwiches and tabouleh.

The Montague Reporter

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Student Loan Relief Still Necessary

This week Republicans in the Senate voted to block a bill introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren that would have dramatically decreased the interest rates on past student loans. We were not terribly surprised but we are quite chagrined. Student loan relief is vital.

Warren's bill would have allowed students and their families to refinance their existing, high-rate loans in exchange for new loans that carry substantially lower interest rates.

The new interest rates would have ranged from 3.86 percent, for loans taken out by borrowers when they were undergraduates, to 6.41 percent, for those who borrowed for graduate school.

Parents who assumed debt to help finance their children's college tuition would also have paid 6.41 percent.

When the bill came up for a vote yesterday, Warren said to her fellow members of the senate, "With this vote, we show the American people who we work for in the United States Senate: billionaires or students."

The Republicans did not have to ponder for long whose side they were on: To a member they voted against the bill.

Passage of the bill would have helped millions of borrowers with student debt see their monthly payments decrease. It would also have resulted in many being able to pay off their loans sooner.

Currently 40 million Americans have student loans. Outstanding student loan debt is 1.2 trillion dollars. This is a staggering amount of money, which translates into a staggering burden on many.

And with good jobs still scarce, it makes it often impossible for some to handle that much debt. Even when they can find relatively good jobs, student loan debt can strangle young people trying to build a career, raise a family or follow a dream.

Millions were hoping for the exact sort of relief Warren's bill proposes. Student groups, educators, young people, parents and working families all rallied behind the proposal. And the president, who previously had appeared ambivalent, threw in strong support for the bill earlier this week.

Lined up against the bill were Wall Street banks and their Republican allies. The bankers opposed the bill because it would have allowed borrowers to refinance pri-

vate-sector loans into new loans made by the Department of Education. In other words, the bankers would have gotten cut out of a substantial amount of money.

But anyone who paid attention to the recent Senate banking hearings would be hard pressed to feel much compassion for the banks. Revealed during last week's hearing held by the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protections was that more than 2,300 complaints have been filed against loan providers and servicers.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), many of the grievances were substantial. Among more common complaints was the withholding of crucial information, abrupt changes in loan terms without consent and without apparent reason, and lying about terms and services.

Clearly the banks had something to lose.

The Republicans had been lining up for weeks with their friends on Wall Street. It might be simply coincidental, but some of these same Republicans receive PAC money from many of these banks and bankers – money, incidentally, that does not require repayment.

While we understand quite well why the bankers were not too keen on the Warren bill, we are a little surprised by the Republican opposition. A key notion of the Republicans is that if Americans have more money in their pockets, they'll spend more, thus lifting the economy. It used to be called trickle-down economics. We think this program could result in an economic lift, much like the trickle-down concept. Why, then, the opposition?

We feel passage of this bill was and still is crucial. We've seen too many young people struggle to keep up with the burden of high interest rate student loans. We've seen others make career choices based on monetary rewards rather than on their preferred, heartfelt livelihood.

We've seen others just give up and default since there is no way their McJob can give them the cash they need to pay their monthly notes.

Warren, when she introduced the bill, summed it up quite well: "Exploding student loan debt is crushing young people and dragging down our economy."

Warren was right then and she is still right today.

GMRSD Seeks Parents' Input on Strategic Plan...

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – On June 17 at 6:30 in the Turners Falls High School Theater, parents of all students in the Gill-Montague Regional School District will have the opportunity to help shape the strategic plan that will guide the district over the next 3 to 5 years.

They will hear the thinking of the school administration, teachers, and school committee thus far, and add their own ideas, views and comments as they and educators progress in the development of the plan.

On June 3, as reported in this paper, both the school committee and school administrators put their heads together for two hours to come up with strong "vision" and "mission" statements, and identify core values, all of which will serve as guideposts for the work going on

in the schools.

The final strategic plan will not be completed until July. Seeking parental input is the important next step.

Superintendent Sullivan expressed the challenge faced by Gill-Montague, as by many other districts, as being the necessity to deliver meaningful learning to all students in the district with increasingly limited financial resources.

Therefore our new strategies must enable us to meet our educational goals and live within the budget we have. This is our chance to develop a serious plan for the immediate and longer term future.

The strategic plan is composed of three to five objectives that together can result in significant improvement in student learning and teaching.



Letter to the Editors

So Let's Not Cut Them Down

It was with great interest that I read "No Trees For Oil: Local Experts Discuss Climate Change" (*Montague Reporter* 5/29/14) given that I was involved in a bit of a climate dust-up on the Wendell Townsfolk listserv also, but on another thread.

Someone had forwarded a YouTube video I wrote & directed concerning the upcoming destructive logging of the Quabbin woodlands.

The main point of the video mirrors the point Sarah Kohler was making at the Wendell Climate Change Group featured in the news report:

"...Our local forests sequester well over 5,000 lbs. of CO₂ per acre per year and support what is arguably the highest level of biodiversity in some 200 years. Yet we have invited corporate energy interests [and others] to clear-cut our just-

maturing forests in the false name of Green Energy [and alleged forest health]."

Some on the listserv initially defended the logging of the Quabbin, but recent science taking the climate crisis into account tells us that we desperately need to preserve our forests and forest soils (which actually sequester more CO₂ than the trees!), not destroy them.

Tree and forest preservation is one of the few things the average person can do regarding the other end of the carbon equation.

Costly technologies like injecting CO₂ deep into the ground are out of reach for us, but stopping a thoughtless logging operation or protecting trees in town is something we can do. So, let's do it!

Don Ogden
Leverett

... Cable Advisory Committee Seeks Public Input for MCTV Review

MONTAGUE – The Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) seeks public input on the performance of Montague Community Television (MCTV) and its services to the Montague community. A review meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

At that meeting, the CAC will take public comments from 5 to 6 p.m. The public is invited to express its thoughts and ideas about MCTV. In the event there are many who wish to speak, a time limit may be imposed on the speakers.

Written comments are also encouraged and may be mailed to the Town Clerk, Attn. CAC, dropped off at the clerk's office, or submitted directly to the CAC at the June 25 review meeting.

The contract to provide community access television services is currently between the town and Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI), MCTV's governing board. That contract, begun in January 2006, was recently extended through the end of 2014.

As part of its oversight responsibility, the Montague CAC is charged with performing an annual review of MCTV (Channel 17).

Once the review is complete, the CAC, in its advisory capacity, will submit its report to the selectboard. The review will include a performance assessment, recommendations for improvement as well as whether or not the contract with MCCI should be renewed.

For those unaware, a certain percentage of COMCAST's "television revenue" is set aside for MCCI/MCTV to use in order to deliver public access television programming and services.

That "operational money" is used to compensate personnel such as a station manager, technical support person and an outreach coordinator. It's also used for rent, utilities, office supplies, etc.

In addition, COMCAST's contract with the town (separate and distinct from the contract between MCCI and the town) provides for "capital funding" that enables MCTV to purchase equipment such as cameras, computer servers, etc. over the course of that particular contract.

All cable television contracts (i.e. franchise agreements) with any city or town, whether it be with Comcast, Charter, Time-Warner or other cable provider, require that company to set aside funds that go to support local public access television.

While it is hoped the review can be accomplished in those two scheduled meetings, additional meetings will be scheduled if necessary. No preregistration is required to speak at the June 25 meeting.

Just come to the meeting, sign in on the list to speak and when it's time for public input, we will call on people in order.

All review meetings are open to the public. MCTV is an important entity in Montague and residents are encouraged to speak publicly and/or submit written comments regarding their ideas and opinions about MCTV.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The United States Postal Service marketing service sent a survey to **Wendell Center post office customers**, asking whether they would prefer reducing weekday hours from 7.5 to 6, closing the post office and providing only roadside delivery, or closing the post office and contracting out postal business to a private "postal retail unit."

The Wendell townsfolk listserve quickly lit up with comments under the heading "Save Our Wendell Post Office," supporting the current hours at the post office and prais-

ing award-winning postmaster and honorary Wendell citizen Charlie O'Dowd.

A blank copy of the survey form is available at tinyurl.com/ksq5n6g for those who did not receive it. The USPS plans to hold a meeting at Wendell Town Hall on July 8 at 1 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about the review plan. Several commenters noted that the midday meeting time will likely discourage attendance.

Professional film maker Tim Lindop brings fascinating videos, narratives and personal tales from several Third World countries which he has documented in vivid color. This is a breath-taking presentation, held Saturday, June 14, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls, with live commentary from the man who was there. You will not be disappointed with the quality and variety of images captured on the screen.

Lindop currently works for local community TV provider, MCTV. Light refreshments provided courtesy of GSB.

Hampshire-Franklin Children's Day Care Center is celebrating its 40th year of providing quality child care and early education in the Pioneer Valley, and to mark the occasion a **Fun-raiser party** will be held on Saturday, June 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Montague Common Hall, 43 Main St., Montague Center.

Please come and celebrate. The night will feature some of the area's finest musicians: Rebirth; Soul Works (with Manou Africa from ReBelle); and Ras Daniel (of The Head Band).

The **Turners Falls Fish Ladder** closes for the season on Sunday, June 15. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Leverett Elementary School's sixth grade **robotics program** is hosting a Lego Challenge from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in the school gym on Tuesday, June 17. All are welcome to watch the robots in action!

The **Newt Guilbault 10 and Under Baseball Tournament Team** will be hosting a Tag Sale to raise money for their upcoming tournament season. The Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Campbell Field in Turners Falls beside Sheffield Elementary School, with a rain date of June 22.

All proceeds from the Tag Sale will go to offset the costs associated with tournament baseball: entry fees, umpire fees, uniforms, travel expenses, and hotel costs.

The community can help in a variety of ways. First, people can donate items that are in good condition to be sold at the Tag Sale by calling (413) 834-2698 or (413) 824-0901. If you are unable to drop off the items that you donate, they will arrange to pick them up.

Another way you can help is by showing up the day of the Tag Sale and buying some items. There will also be an opportunity to make cash donations at the Tag Sale.

If you are unable to make it to the Tag Sale but would still like to donate, cash donations will be accepted by calling the phone numbers above. Every little bit helps!

Join mushroom experts Tony Thomas and Lisa Winter for a

mushroom walk, where you will search for and identify in season mushrooms at the Fiske Pond Conservation Area in Wendell on Sunday June 22, 2 to 5 p.m. Wear appropriate footwear and apparel. Bring water, snacks, camera, notebook and don't forget bug repellent.

Space is limited to 25, contact mrsylvia@gmail.com or call (413) 824-2679. Please be aware, June 29 is the back up date in the event mushrooms are not in bloom on the June 22.

The **Leverett Library Trustees** will meet on Wednesday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the library.

2014 **CISA Senior Farm Shares** are now available at the Power Town Apartments, 152 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Contact Patt at (413) 863-2650. Shares are \$10 for the 10-week program.

Pick-up of the shares is on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Power Town. The first week is July 29 and applications are due by July 17. This is an income based program and there are just 50 slots available. Early sign up is encouraged.

Mark your calendars: The first-ever **Northern Routes** new music festival will be held on July 31, at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls, and on August 1 and 2, at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem.

Performers will include Peter Stampfel, of the Fugs and Holy Modal Rounders, other national acts including Glenn Jones, Marris Nadler and Juan Waters, and a great number of local fellow-travelers including Greenfield's Holy Vex and Turners Falls-based Bunwinkies.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

State Awards Design Grant For New Erving Library

By KATIE NOLAN

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded Erving Public Library a \$50,000 Planning and Design grant. This amount will be added to the \$25,000 voted at the annual town meeting as the town's grant match.

At its June 9 meeting, library di-

rector Barbara Friedman provided the selectboard with an action plan, with a first step of searching for an owner's project manager for the library facility project.

Town clerk Richard Newton asked the board if they had considered a "holistic approach" of looking at overall town building requirements and assets, rather than looking

at each facility, such as the library, individually. He said that each time a building need is identified, only one option is presented, resulting in "so many buildings instead of one nice multi-use facility."

Board member William Bembury answered that a request to fund a holistic feasibility study was removed from the draft warrant for the June 30 special town meeting, because it didn't make sense to have the library working on a feasibility study and the town working on a second study at the same time.

John and Faith Griffiths, who plan to buy three lots on Wheelock and Lee streets and build a house there, asked the selectboard to consider restoring town maintenance to the 200 feet of road along the frontage of one lot on Lee Street. The Griffiths propose to start the driveway at the Lee Street frontage.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden reported that the portion of road in question is a town road but has not been maintained for years. Citing a 2003 court decision for Leverett, she said that if the buyers brought the road up to driveable standard, then the town could maintain it, but the town is not responsi-

ble for bringing the non-maintained road up to standard.

The board asked town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to consult with town attorney Donna MacNicol about the matter. Boyden cautioned the selectboard to consider their decision carefully, because it might set a precedent for other non-maintained town roads.

Sharp reported that pipeline company Kinder-Morgan has not responded to a request to send a representative to the June 30 special town meeting.

Noting that the proposed pipeline through Erving and other Franklin County towns is an emotional issue, selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said, "We need the facts on both sides of the issue."

The board approved remote participation at open public meetings of Erving boards and committees, with the exception of executive sessions.

At the request of the conservation commission, the board appointed alternate member Carol Gregory as a permanent member of the commission, and appointed permanent member Harry Sharbaugh as an alternate member.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Erving Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40, will hold a public meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, to discuss a Request for Determination of Applicability. The Request was filed by Bruce Pollard for work at 47 Poplar Mt. Road, Erving, MA.

Chairman, David Brule

CONTINUATION OF MEETING

The Erving Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40, will continue a meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 7:15 PM regarding the Request for Determination of Applicability for future work at the Usher Plant in Erving, MA.

Chairman, David Brule

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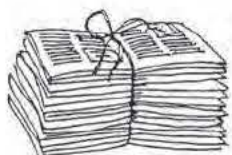
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WENDELL from page A1

new turnout gear, \$6,356 as a 10% grant match for new SCBA's (self contained breathing apparatus), and \$4,000 for new SCBA masks.

Voters approved paying the town's annual debts for the recent building projects, the library, the office building, well and septic system, for the Fiske Pond purchase, for the office building property, and for Mahar construction. They approved putting \$25,000 back into the stabilization fund, \$3,000 into the insurance reserve fund, \$15,000 into both the unemployment compensation fund and the pension reserve fund, \$6,000 for independent audit expenses, \$10,000 for tax title expenses, \$59,080 for group health insurance, and \$5,075 for Wendell's

share of Swift River School capital projects.

Two more articles passed, one to purchase a stove, a hood, and a fire suppression system for the town hall kitchen, and the other to pay for construction of the kitchen by Franklin County Technical School students, at a cost of \$10,900 from taxation.

An article taking \$15,000 from stabilization to replace the senior center slate roof passed.

One to pay retired fire chief Everett Ricketts as a consultant to the new fire chief was dropped, because the town accountant said it was illegal, and could not be made legal.

Two articles authorizing both the police chief and the fire chief to operate as "strong chiefs" passed.

Both chiefs have been functioning as such, but a search into town meeting records found no authorization for them, so the selectboard submitted the articles.

An article to ban hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in town, which would allow standard industry practices for fracking water wells, passed in its original form after long discussion over its wording.

An article instructing the selectboard to oppose Kinder Morgan's proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline, and to instruct the legislature and governor to ban such efforts, passed.

Near the beginning of the meeting finance committee member Ray DiDonato stood up and explained where the town's money comes from

and how the tax rate is set. 68% of the town's expenses are paid for directly through taxation, and most of the rest comes from state grants for education and roads.

The tax rate is set after the state approves the valuation of properties in town, and that valuation is matched with the amount of money the town needs. The latest tax rate jumped almost two dollars per thousand, and the FinCom worked hard to keep it from jumping again next fiscal year.

After the spending authorized at Saturday's meeting, the stabilization fund will have \$473,347, which DiDonato said is in the range that the Massachusetts DOR recommends for a town of Wendell's financial size.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Post Office to Cut Hours?

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On Wednesday evening, June 4, the Wendell Finance committee was still working to make the money work out for the annual town meeting, but meeting at the same time, the selectboard had a short agenda and their meeting lasted less than an hour. It ended while the late spring sky was still light and color was just starting to show in the west.

The town meeting warrant was already posted, and while the amount of money asked for in any article may be lowered, it may not be raised.

After an increase of almost \$2 in the tax rate this year, the FinCom is working to find money for several large capital expenses without raising the tax rate, or depleting the town's stabilization fund too far.

Selectboard discussion of the warrant was limited to two articles: Articles 26 and 30.

Article 26 would give Wendell's longtime fire chief, Everett Ricketts, who served virtually without financial compensation, a \$7,500 salary for consulting with the transition to the new fire chief. Article 30 would approve using \$14,000 of highway money to conduct a survey for running a walkway between the highway garage and the Wendell Country Store.

Selectboard member Dan Keller thought that article might be changed to a resolution, making it into something that can be considered, but not necessarily acted on. He said the highway department may not want to use their money for that.

Trench in Town Hall

Keller began the meeting by saying that when he and Ted Lewis looked at the cellar area of the town hall it looked like a narrow trench could be made to direct water to lower ground away from the cellar door, and the only obstacle would be the gas line that feeds the building's back-up generator. The tank valve can be turned off, the line can be located and taken out and then the

highway crew can dig the trench, and things can be put back.

HughesNet Cancelled

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the office building is using the new fiber optic connection to the internet, and she called HughesNet to have them cancel their service. She was asked whether there was any reason for dissatisfaction, and at this meeting she just smiled.

Police chief Ed Chase and officer Chris Maselli are still making sure their contacts have the new email address and will be happy to be done with their secure HughesNet internet, which has been costing \$230.81 a month.

Post Office To Cut Hours?

The United States Postal Service intends to cut the hours at the Wendell center post office from 8 hours a day to 6 hours a day. The USPS will hold a hearing about that proposal on Tuesday, July 8 at 1 p.m. at the town hall.

Civil Rights

Aldrich said that Wendell has not yet gotten the USDA survey for civil rights compliance, but Wendell appears to do well in the categories the USDA lists. There have been no complaints in three years.

Town buildings have wheelchair access, and women, elderly people and people of minority race and ethnicities are in town government in numbers corresponding to the town's general population.

Hazardous Waste

The fire department responded to a hazardous waste call, and chief Joe Cuneo called in the DEP for a rusted and leaking discarded barrel. Contents were discovered to be a mix of kerosene and water, and since the barrel was not on town property, the town is free of liability.

Still No Check for Solar

Seaboard Solar has not sent Wendell a check yet for the solar installation that the town is hosting.

Neither have they sent a check for the legal consulting that was done for their contract.

Aldrich said that an email she sent to Dave Thomas of Seaboard has not been answered yet. The Town of Holland is fourth in line after Wendell for compensation for hosting a large solar installation, and is in the same boat as Wendell. Keller said there is nothing to gain now by backing out of the contract.

Gold Cane Issues

Aldrich said that Wendell's gold cane, awarded to the town's oldest resident, is in a case in the office building because, as happens in many towns, it has not been returned by people who have died and should pass it on to the next oldest town resident.

She suggested doing as New Salem does, and giving each person a town-designed pin and putting each name on a plaque that stays with the town.

Other News

Mike Kociela, business manager of Union 28, is leaving, and acting superintendent Bob Mahler said the school committees has begun a search for a new business manager.

National Grid is having trees trimmed, and Wendell resident Paul Wanta sent a letter to the selectboard, acknowledging that he uses electricity, but asking, with respect for other demands on the electric company, that they time their tree work to avoid bird nesting season.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that the work she has seen has been limited to trimming branches, but she appreciated Wanta's thought and board members asked Aldrich to draft a letter that they can send. Aldrich asked to whom it should be sent, and Keller answered, "Harry (Williston, Highway commission chair) knows."

Board members began a discussion of the town's citizen of the year, but the recipient of that award will not be revealed until Old Home Day.

July 27: Biking for Buddies

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County (BBBS-FC) will be holding its 3rd annual Biking for Buddies bicycle ride on Sunday, July 27. Featuring 10, 25, and 50 mile cycling routes, this recreational ride will begin and end on the campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill, with the longest route's riders departing at 8 a.m. Routes and logistical support will be provided by Bicycles & Skis Unlimited of Greenfield.

Please join BBBS-FC for a fun-filled day of biking through some of the most scenic hills of Franklin County. Lunch will be provided after the ride, outside of NMH's Beveridge Hall, featuring food from Hillside Pizza of Bernardston, Red Fire Farm of Granby, and C&S Wholesale, based in Whately. Children and non-cyclists are welcome to join for lunch at noon for a small donation. The first 75 riders to register will get a T-shirt and a goodie bag.

Proceeds from Biking for Buddies fund BBBS-FC programs, which serve local children facing adversity in Franklin County and the North Quabbin towns of Athol, Royalston, Petersham and Phillipston. For over 46 years, BBBS-FC has been helping local children reach their highest potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with volunteers. Currently serving about 125 children, BBBS-FC is continually seeking to serve more children who could benefit from mentors.

The cost is just \$40 per adult rider. Youth (ages 13-17, with parent/guardian permission) are \$25. Riders should visit www.bikereg.com/biking-for-buddies for more information and to register.

Sponsorship is still available for this event, as are in-kind donations. For more information please contact BBBS-FC at (413) 772-0915.

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LEVERETT from page A1

pects of the elementary school budget and consolidate those functions under the selectboard’s authority, in a facilities manager position.

But turnover of custodial staff at the school since Kuczek’s departure from his former post may have aggravated the situation by leaving insufficiently trained personnel in charge of running the school’s heating and ventilation system.

According to a recent report by Lon Isaacson, of Universal Electric in Springfield, a consultant paid by Western Mass Electric Company to examine the school systems’ performance during the past heating season, the heating controls at the elementary school were overridden this winter, and the heat was left on at 76 degrees, around the clock, including on weekends.

Humidity levels in the building dropped from a normal 30 percent to 5 percent, and, according to selectboard chair Rich Brazeau, windows were left open in some classrooms in the winter to regulate the heat.

As the heating season progressed, frequent oil deliveries were made to fill the 5,000-gallon oil tank, without either the school administration or the selectboard noticing the prob-

lem until cost overruns estimated at \$23,000 had accumulated for heating oil at the school.

Principal Ann Ross told the selectboard Tuesday that since she no longer saw the monthly heating bills, which are now being directed to town hall, she never called attention to the overruns.

“The situation with the school heat this winter was unfortunate,” she said. “If we had known, we could have had that conversation. I feel very responsible about it myself. It’s a shame. Close communication between all the parties is essential so this doesn’t happen again.”

But later in the meeting, selectboard chair Brazeau took issue with Ross’s call for more communication as the cure for the building maintenance dilemma. “I have to disagree with you,” he said. “The heat was on 76 degrees all winter. The windows were open because it was too hot. It’s a management problem. It’s people not paying attention.”

Fonsh, Brazeau, Kuczek, superintendent Bob Mahler, and others will meet soon to come up with a short term protocol for overseeing the heating, ventilation, and shared utility systems at the school, and to further the discussion of a townwide

facilities manager.

Energy committee member Brooke Thomas, joining others in cautioning against the idea of contracting with an outside consultant to remotely monitor energy use at town buildings, said, “It is our obligation to look at energy use in town buildings... I think Leverett citizens would like to know what their buildings are using.

“Couldn’t the sixth grade maybe monitor this: oil and electricity use? That way they would take ownership of oil and energy use.”

Other Business

Meanwhile, the selectboard met with the fire department study committee earlier in the evening, and promised to bring a warrant article to next year’s annual town meeting to hire a full time firefighter/EMT, or, if part time chief John Moruzzi retires before next spring, possibly to hire a full-time chief.

Brazeau asked the members of that ad hoc committee, now disbanding, to join the selectboard in educating the public about the department’s need for a full time person to respond to calls during the day, and to take up other duties currently in the hands of senior depart-

ment personnel, a number of whom are at or near retirement age.

Brazeau said even if funding the position required an override of Proposition 2½, the board and the committee members should advocate for it. “This would be the first general override for the budget in what, nine years?” asked Brazeau, rhetorically.

Roy Kimmel, who is calling for Leverett citizens to respond to him directly on a transit survey he has prepared for the current issue of the Leverett newsletter, wrote the selectboard: “Thirty-three percent of Leverett citizens are over 60 years old, and that percentage is increasing. Sooner or later, there will be a demand for fixed route public transportation in our town.”

Kimmel has proposed a bus route, with a reasonable fare, to run past park and ride stations at Moores Corners, North Leverett, and town hall on a north-south route from Greenfield to Amherst.

The selectboard has had a difficult time bringing the FRTA to the town hall meeting room to discuss the future of the one fixed-route bus line now operating through town – the FRTA’s #23 bus line from Greenfield to UMass, which runs,

with no stops, down Route 63 twice a day, at \$3 per one-way fare.

FRTA administrator Tina Cote has said Leverett, a member of the PVRTA for demand response service for the elderly and disabled to points in Hampshire County, cannot be a member of two regional transit authorities at the same time, and an email recently received at Leverett town hall from Eileen Fenton, senior counsel for the Mass Department of Transportation, backed up Cote’s assertion on the letter of that law (Mass General Law Chapter 161B, Section 3).

Kimmel is surveying Leverett residents to see how many would commute to UMass Amherst via a fixed route bus line, reasonably priced, with stops in Leverett. He can be reached at: PO Box 159, 01054.



GROWING from page A1

the difference between plants which are edible, like Swiss chard, and plants which are beautiful, like dwarf sweet peas. (Well, some would say Swiss chard is beautiful too.)

The fourth graders focused on interplanting onions and marigolds with other crops, to discourage critters like mice and tomato hornworms, which are no strangers to the greenhouse. “We had slugs in the beans,” said Ward. “And ant lions,” which are harmless to plants, but voracious when it comes to ants.

In the greenhouse, the children are not separated from the natural world, but immersed in it. In addition to the rubber snakes that slither among the plants like totems, real garter snakes can also sometimes be spotted, along with painted turtles, and docile tiger swallowtails.

One of these posed briefly on the purple flower of a chive plant, growing from a pot in a little red wagon. As if on cue, a bee stopped by, and took its place in front of a poster of helpful pollinators.

The fifth graders were learning about Central American native gardening practices, rotating crops like Aztec corn and squash and beans.

In addition to nurturing their indoor plants, the sixth graders worked this spring to build new beds along the outside of the greenhouse, planted with daffodils and garlic and sweet peas now; tomatoes will follow in due time.



Ward brandishes a greenhouse radish.

The students learn the best ways to build up garden soil – they have built compost bins nearby – along with the ideal temperatures to keep the greenhouse growing at optimal capacity. The plastic sides can be rolled up to allow cooler air intake – otherwise, it can quickly get to be 120 degrees inside on a sunny day, even in early spring.

Sometimes the mice get the corn, sometimes the slugs get the beans: the children learn these things too. Man-made calamities are occasionally on the curriculum too. A crash course in global warming occurred not long ago when the lawn mower accidentally cut the hose from the well to the drip irrigation system, and all the beds dried out over a long hot weekend.

But on Monday, the students were propping up the wilted bachelor buttons, and watering from the large barrel of water Ward keeps filled in one corner of the greenhouse.

Most of all, “We have a lot of fun!” said Ward.

Her infectious enthusiasm for teaching all aspects of the natural world to her young charges is an essential ingredient, along with soil, water and temperature, to keep young minds growing in appreciation of the magic contained in garden seeds and garden beds in Leverett Elementary’s greenhouse.



Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 6/6/14:

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Grade 7
Ivy Watroba
Cassidhe Wozniak

Grade 8
Nick Taylor

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Come Walk With Me!



Sandra Facto of Turners Falls invites the public — whether on foot or handicapped — to walk over the ridge into Greenfield on Turners Falls Road, to demonstrate the need for a sidewalk and lights.

They will set out from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority parking lot at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19.

Afterwards, they hope to meet up for refreshments. Bring your own signs, and please use the word "Please!" on them.

HELP TURNERS FALLS THRIVE! JOIN THE SHEA THEATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please introduce yourself at our annual election meeting, Monday, June 16th, 6:30 pm, at the Shea, 71 Avenue A.

Please call Mike Fleck with questions: 773-3682.

FESTIVAL from page A1

money we can for the American Cancer Society. Fortunately, in a matter of days, we were able to get UVMF all set up in multiple venues on the other side of the river."

While delighted he was able to salvage the festival so quickly, Burns also said that he deeply regretted the impact the withdrawal from downtown Turners would have on the businesses that have supported them over the last two years.

"I know everybody was counting on us, just as we were counting on them. They [the businesses] have been great to us and I know they're upset."

Suzanne LoManto, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture commented: "Obviously losing the Upper Valley Music Festival is a financial and creative disappointment for Turners Falls. The situation highlights the need for partnership and better communication between organizations that promote the arts."

Jamie Berger, a co-owner and event booker at the Rendezvous restaurant, said that he did not blame

Byrnes for what had happened. "Tommy made my job so much easier. He organized everything, and introduced me to new bands, and new bands to the Voo."

Berger said that the loss of the festival would have an effect on not just his restaurant but all of downtown. "It's really sad this didn't work out."

Berger also commented that he knew how double bookings happened: "I've done it myself on a few occasions." Nonetheless, he felt that the Shea needed to apologize to both the festival organizers and the Turners Falls businesses affected.

Nina Rossi, owner of Nina's Nook, said the news that the festival would not be held in Turners totally took her by surprise. "We certainly don't blame them, but we were looking forward to it being here. It was great fun the last couple of years. It brought folks downtown for a great event for a great cause."

Byrnes said he fully sympathizes with the local business owners and hopes that next year the festival can return — at least in part — to Turn-



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ers.

"The town is definitely in our larger plans," he said. "Next year we'd like to have events in both Turners and Greenfield. The festival is growing, and we're working on growing it as a regional music scene. It makes sense to have it in both towns, and later, we hope in the whole upper Valley."

Byrnes said that this year's festival is nearly twice as large as was last year's event, and will be held in several locations in Greenfield, including the Arts Block, the Pushkin Gallery, and if all goes well, at several outdoor venues. "We're very

pleased that the festival has become so popular," he said.

Unlike most festivals, the UVMF is a fundraiser, with the beneficiary being the American Cancer Society. As an all-volunteer event, no one gets paid. As a result, "we can donate every penny of profit to fund cancer research and find a cure," said Byrnes.

The festival showcases a mix of independent artists and music, bringing together nationally-known performers and local and emerging artists.

Performers this year include Bill Shute, Blackstone Cuil, Car-

rie Ferguson, the Celtic Heels Irish Dancers, Chris Scanlon, the Equalites, Gaslight Tinkers, Girl-Cat Adams, Groove Shoes, Greg Howe, Haley Rose, Holly May, June and the Bee, Outer Style, Pamela Means, Russell Kabek, Sandy Bailey, Span of Sunshine Una Jensen, Wildcat O'Halloran, the Women's Songwriters Collective and many, many more. Acts will play 45-minute sets at the various venues.

Admission for the entire festival is \$15. More information is available at www.uppervalley-musicfest.com.



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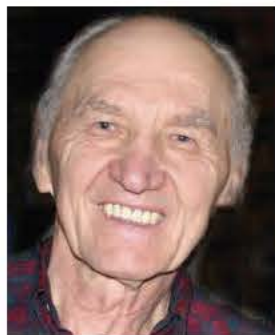
YEAR 12 – NO. 34

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JUNE 12, 2014



How I SURVIVED... A TRIP TO BAYSTATE MEDICAL

By JOE PARZYCH

I was all set to cover for the *Reporter* CNN filming a documentary of Turners Falls on April 15. I was also supposed to narrate the CNN tour of the Strathmore Mill, where I'd once worked one summer at age 15, as well as a village tour, pointing out the former glory of the great old mill town of Turners Falls.

But it didn't happen, which is why you never read about it in these pages, and why my voice won't be heard on Anthony Bourdain's show. But I wasn't deliberately shirking my duty.

When I met with the CNN filming crew at the Shady Glen, on the morning of April 15, I could barely croak. They took me on a short tour, shooting some stills, and checked out my audio output, which was insufficient and fading fast.

They decided to use Ed Gregory who was their back-up, and hoped that my throat was better by Saturday for a rescheduled tour of the Strathmore.

By Saturday, I was in Springfield flat on my back hooked up to IV's and oxygen. That ended my chances of 15 minutes of fame.

On that same morning, April 15, I went to Baystate-Franklin ER, where they took a half dozen X-rays, a CT scan and a couple of MRI's. Doctors were unable to determine what ailed me except that I had a "swollen mass" in my neck that had collapsed my esophagus.

Things were getting worse, fast.

They transported me to Baystate Springfield by ambulance. When I asked about there being no telephone in my room, the nurse said rather sternly, "No telephone for you." Which I assumed was to guard against me calling 911, again.

Later that day, I heard something ringing in the closet. A nurse opened the door and handed me the telephone.

Doctors took turns poking and prodding me, taking a number of additional X-rays and unsuccessfully attempted to jam a camera down my collapsed esophagus – once while I was awake and again while anesthetized, succeeding only in causing more irritation.

They talked of shoving a balloon down my collapsed esophagus and inflating the balloon, but couldn't get the balloon to go down, either.

When an ENT doctor came to examine me, I asked him to check my right ear because fluid was gurgling and I had an ear ache. "I don't do that. Fluid can be removed by your primary care physician." Apparently an Ear, Nose, and Throat doctor doesn't do ears unless it's serious. The pain, though, felt serious to me.

Since I couldn't swallow, in their wisdom, doctors ordered a "Barium Swallow".

When I told X-ray technicians I was in the hospital because I couldn't swallow and would choke on the barium, they offered to dilute it, which would only make it worse, since other doctors had already tried

see **TRIP** page B4

Turners Falls in 1948: Boom Time for Businesses



An aerial photograph of the village, circa 1945.
Courtesy of the Ed Gregory Archive.

By LILLIAN FISKE

MONTAGUE – When we first married, we lived with my parents while my husband worked on our house. When we moved into our home in 1948, I did my shopping in Turners Falls.

The only chain store in town was the First National Store on Third Street. All of the others were privately owned, and most of their families lived in Turners Falls.

There were eight grocery stores: John Girard's Gem Market, Schuhle's on L Street, Gothlieb Koch & Sons on Avenue A, Louis Koch on L Street, Kuklewicz's Market, C.E. Stenard Dependable Groceries, and Godin's Store.

There were two shoe stores,

Phersick Brothers and Neipp Brothers, who sold shoes, rubbers and hosiery.

For men's clothing, you had a choice of McCarthy's or Dahleimers, which carried men's and women's wear. Eva Girard sold dry goods and infant wear, and the Mary Ellen Store and the Rean Shop had ladies' wear.

There were three drugstores to fill your prescriptions: Hood's Pharmacy, Skinner and Flag, and Fournier Brothers, who ran the Rexall store. After a movie one could walk down Avenue A and get a huge cherry vanilla ice cream sundae for a quarter – what a treat!

We bought our furnace from Starbuck & Sons. E. M. Gulow &

see **1948** page B6

THE KNIGHTS INVADE!

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – On Thursday, June 19, Turners Falls RiverCulture has teamed up with the Mutton and Mead Festival for a particularly entertaining Third Thursday (T3F) downtown walking event.

The theme of this month's event is "Knights, Camera, Action!," and will combine **costumed performers** from next week's medieval festival – wandering minstrels, damsels and pop-up blacksmiths (left) and the like – with more contemporary art, music, and in particular photography.

Last year's Mutton-themed T3F event (left) was the highlight of the season. This year it has expanded to include a working **trebuchet**, or catapult, which members of the public can use to fling paint bombs at a canvas 100 feet away, like you've always wanted to do.



LYNN PELLAND PHOTO

There will be a **photo talk** by William Dean about the Barton Cove Eagles (6:45 p.m. at the Discovery Center), a group photo show by 25 local photographers in the Avenue A **Storefront Galleries**, and an **opening reception** at Nina's Nook for Candace Silver's photography show.

The Montague Reporter will host our own reporter, Lee Wicks, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for a **reading from her novel**, *Some Measure of Happiness* (see below).

Montague Center resident and Montague Reporter writer Lee Wicks will read from her novel *Some Measure of Happiness* at the Montague Reporter, 177 Avenue A from 6 to 7:30 p.m. All are invited to stop

by to hear Lee talk about her work, read some excerpts and discuss novel writing. Her novel centers on the village of Cooper Hill, a seemingly tranquil hamlet in the Vermont hills. But under the surface lurks a host of less than tranquil happenings.



LEE WICKS



COURTESY HOME BODY

After that, Montague City-based **electropop duo Home Body** (above) will play a free set at Spinner Park, on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street, at 7:30 p.m. In the event of rain this will be moved to the Shea Theater. They are embarking on a twelve-state tour the next day so catch them while you can!

The T3F event culminates in a screening of the 1975 cult-classic comedy **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** at the Shea Theater at 8:30 p.m.

All of that is just a teaser for the real thing, of course: the **fourth annual Mutton and Mead Festival**, held Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22, at 210 Turners Falls Road.

For those who don't know, Mutton and Mead is a medieval (not-quite-renaissance) faire, run as a benefit for the Food Bank of Western Mass and the Montague Common Hall.



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

That event costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and seniors, and is free for children under 6; parking costs \$5 a vehicle, so carpool. The festival's blend of stage shows, jousts, demonstrations, vendors, refreshments and history-mixing madness have made it one of the key family events of the summer.

The *Reporter* discourages our readers from missing either event.



HEY MAYBE SLOW DOWN

SAWYER-LAUQUANNO PHOTO

At about 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 8, this empty towed trailer overturned on the Third Street curve in Turners Falls as the driver roared down the hill. The Montague police believe that speed was a factor in the trailer tipping. Speeding is an ongoing problem on both Third and Unity Streets.



“SIR LIMPY”

I am a delightful, friendly boy who loves to be petted, especially on my back and head. I also give excellent advice.

I was found as a stray so little is known about my background, but I

Pet of the Week

may tell you my story in time.

I do get along great with other kitties, however it is unknown how I do with dogs, but with a slow introduction I should do just fine.

Think I might be the kitty for you? Ask a staff member for more information.

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



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Anyone watching male-oriented TV programs would get the impression that erectile dysfunction is rampant. How common is it?

Erectile dysfunction (ED) is very common. Depending upon how you define ED, there are 15 million to 30 million men who have it. ED ranges from complete impotence to unsatisfactory performance.

But it doesn't have to be a part of getting older. As you age, you may need more stimulation and more time, but older men should still be able to get an erection and enjoy sex.

The incidence of ED increases with age. Between 15 and 25 per-

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Erectile Dysfunction: What Can Be Done

cent of 65-year-old men experience this problem. In older men, ED usually has a physical cause, such as a drug side effect, disease or injury. Anything that damages the nerves or impairs blood flow in the penis can cause ED.

The following are some leading causes of erectile dysfunction: diabetes, high blood pressure, atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), prostate surgery, hormone imbalance, alcohol and drug abuse.

And, of course, there are your emotions. It should be no surprise that, if you're having a relationship problem with your sex partner, you can suffer from ED. Here are some other psychological influences: anxiety over a previous failure, everyday stress, depression, and feeling unattractive to your partner. If you're suffering from ED, you should see your doctor for a discussion and physical exam.

Monitoring erections that occur during sleep can help the diagnosis. Healthy men have involuntary erections during sleep. If nocturnal erections do not occur, then ED is likely to have a physical rather than psychological cause. Tests of noc-

turnal erections are not completely reliable, however.

The cause of the ED will determine the treatment. Some ED medicines are injected into the penis. Other medicines are taken orally. In addition to medicines, there are vacuum- pump devices and surgery.

Millions of men have benefited from three drugs that treat ED. These three, which are advertised endlessly, are Viagra, Levitra and Cialis. All of them increase blood flow to the penis, which produces an erection. Viagra, Levitra and Cialis improve the response to sexual stimulation, but they do not trigger an automatic erection as injections do.

Oral testosterone can reduce ED in some men with low levels of natural testosterone, but it is often ineffective and may cause liver damage. Nitroglycerin, a muscle relaxant, can sometimes enhance erection when rubbed on the penis.

Research on drugs for treating ED is expanding rapidly. If you have ED, you should ask your doctor about the latest advances.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org

Senior Center Activities June 16 through 20

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is closed.

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 6/16

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle
Tuesday 6/17
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 6/18
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/19
9 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns
Friday 6/20
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program

The annual Summer Reading Program begins Friday, June 20.

This year's theme is “**Fizz, Boom, Read,**” and is open to children of all ages.

The kick-off event is a Magic Show Flea Circus with **magician** Ed Popielarczyk on Tuesday, June 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program begin on Friday, June 20.

For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214 or go to www.montaguepubliclibraries.org.

GILL LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Fun at Slate Library

Slate Memorial Library in the center of Gill is gearing up for its **summer reading program**, “Fizz, Boom, Read!” Stop by the library and pick up a game board to play the summer reading game.

For every week of reading accomplished, kids can pick out a fabulous prize from the prize basket. Come in every week to get your game board stamped or whenever you are in town.

Slate Library also hosts events for kids on Saturdays during the summer months.

On Saturday, June 21 at 10:30 a.m., the library will host a program

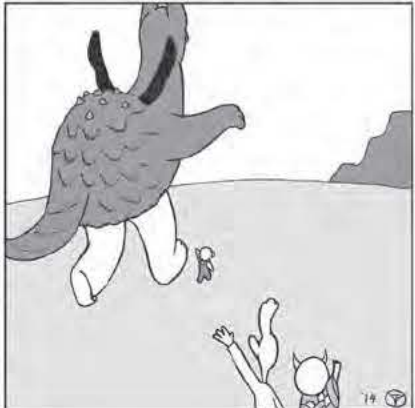
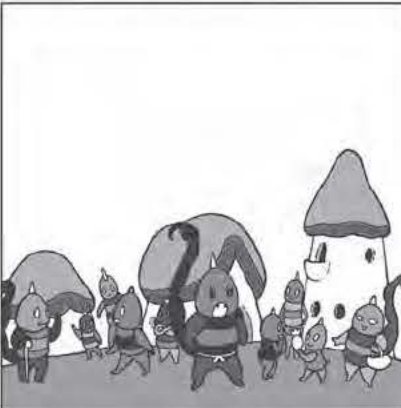
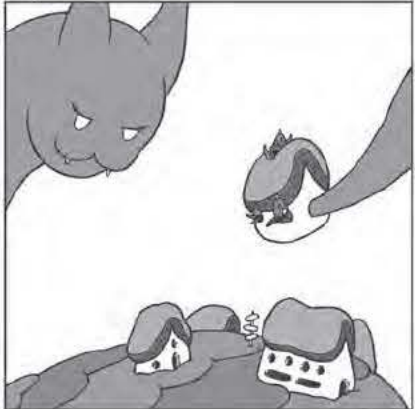
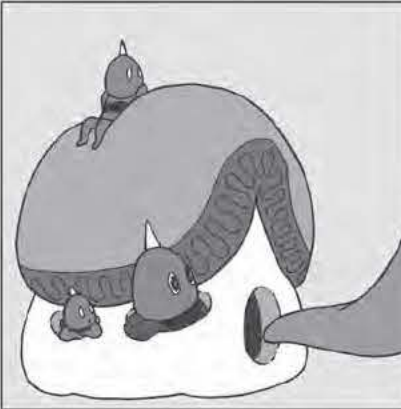
called “**The Science of Shrinky Dinks!**” Kids can experiment with polystyrene plastic and colored pencils to create jewelry for themselves or friends. Pendants, earrings or bracelets can be made at this fun workshop aimed at kids and teens.

On Saturday June 28 at 10:30 a.m., there will be a **children's dance party** on the library lawn, hosted by Anna Hendricks of Great Falls Movement. Put on your boogie shoes or barefeet and get ready to move!

Please visit the library to pick up a flyer of all our summer events including a **ukulele jam** for all ages, a visit by Rainforest **Reptiles**, and “The Art & Science of **Henna**,” taught by local artist Kelly Flaherty.

Slate Library is open Tuesdays 2 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 3 to 7 p.m., Thursdays 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

THE END!

PVS Sings!

On Tuesdays in June and July, the Pioneer Valley Symphony will host *Summer Sings* at Most Holy Redeemer Parish Hall, 122 Russell St., Hadley.

All interested singers are invited to attend, for a fee of \$10. All sings start at 7 p.m. Scores will be provided, but singers are welcome to bring their own.

Dates and repertoire for the upcoming Sings are as follows: June 24: Verdi *Requiem*; July 8: *Gloria*, Antonio Vivaldi And *Zadok The Priest*, by G.F. Handel; July 22: *Schicksalslied* and *Nänie*, by Johannes Brahms.

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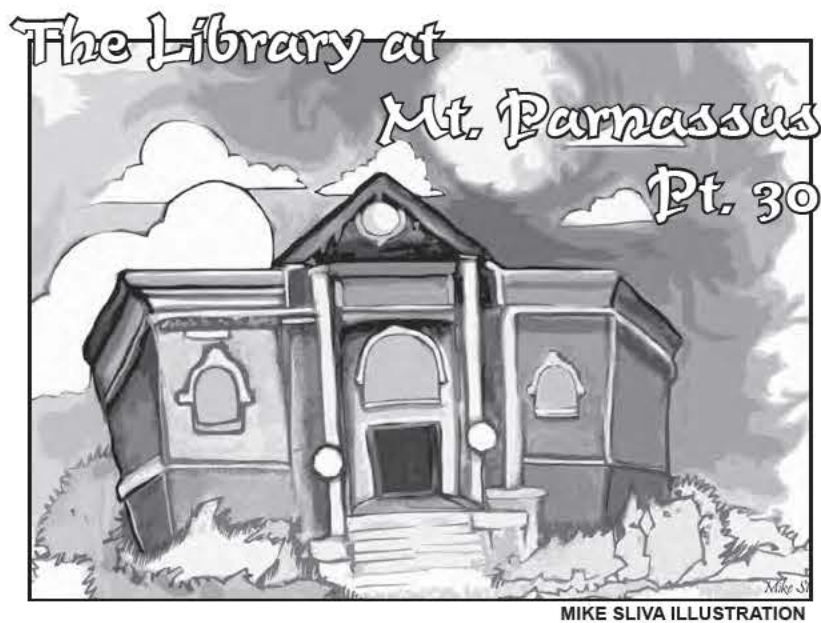
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Laughing Ali.



By DAVID DETMOLD

“It’s dark as Hades in here, even with the light on,” I said. I put a dollar in the jar and pulled a beer out of the ice chest and popped its top off on the odd little opener mounted on the wall behind the green baize poker table.

The bottle opener was made of brass and shaped like the head of monkey, with gaping maw and agate eyes. By some unseen agency, Creon had it rigged so the monkey would howl a deep mottled roar each time a customer made use of it.

The sound seemed to emanate from the monkey’s brass throat even as the bottle cap was engorged within its echoing chamber. But in fact, as Creon once explained to me, the sound issued from a sort of bellows set behind the wall, forced through a sheepskin diaphragm that was stretched across a hollow gourd. The mechanism was activated by pressure on the monkey’s mandible.

When an unsuspecting customer popped open a bottle of sarsaparilla, a draft of air issued through the bass chord membrane hidden just behind the mandrill’s imaginary voice box, and as the deep howl receded, the action of the bellows, reversed by counterweights, gave over to a wheezing intake of breath in a high-pitched effervescent cackle that sounded for all the world like the beast was laughing as you spilled your soda or, worse, your beer.

The device rarely failed to startle.

Creon called this damnable contraption Laughing Ali, and the name had grown in popular usage to stand for the store itself and particularly the narrow cobbled walkway leading up to it from the Avenue.

Creon charged a dollar for beer, half that for pop; it was worth it every time.

I sat down at one corner of the poker table. Each of the tables’ eight sides ended in a narrow wooden tray, sunk below the baize surface of the tabletop; these built in trays were used for gathering drinks and chips.

Over the years these wooden pockets had become battle scarred with cigarette burns and the long slow whittling of endless afternoons and hacksaw blades.

As soon as I sat down, Jack walked in, carrying his sketch pad

and a bottle of Maker’s Mark.

“Let’s play cards,” he said.

“Don’t you have some work to do?” growled Creon.

“Beating you at five card stud is work,” said Jack diplomatically. He pulled up a chair and winked at me and tore the red plastic wax off the bottle top and tossed it in the general direction of the cash register, where Creon sat glowering.

“Come on,” Jack called to him. “Get over here. Take that jewelers loupe out of your one good eye and bring your change purse with you. We’ll empty this bottle while we clean you out.”

As if on cue, the twins tumbled in, Christo and Paul X, bringing a gust of wind and flurrying of snow rushing in the front door with them.

From the drifts in their boots and the ice in their hair, it looked as if they had somehow managed to ride their bikes over the snow rutted streets, had ridden them right up the alley, single file, and just barely dismounted as they ran through the door.

These two were always in motion, all spit and thunder and big hearted bluster, and Creon had set up special chairs for them at the poker table with foot pedals and cranks attached to a tandem chain link drive train that activated blowers by the old oil drum woodstove, chocked up on massive granite blocks in the front corner by the bay window.

Outside the window, which looked out on the little courtyard and the frozen chestnut tree, icicles hung suspended from the eaves, and on clear days they refracted the low sun that briefly glanced into the courtyard each afternoon before retreating behind the mountain.

Even on days like these, all too common, with the wind blowing snow around the stone courtyard and the starlings huddled with their shoulders hunched in the lower branches of the chestnut tree, a phantom light still played on the interior of the room, spinning in drifting prisms along the walls and scattering around the players’ foreheads as the cards were shuffled and cut, defying all attempts to trace its source.

Jack dealt the cards and poured the first of many rounds of bourbon.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Attempted Backhoe Backout: Backup Called

Monday, 6/2

12:04 a.m. Items reported stolen from Third Street apartment, allegedly by caller’s ex-boyfriend. Advised of options.

12:44 a.m. Gunshots reported in vicinity of Chestnut Hill Loop. Unable to locate.

1:27 a.m. Report from State Police that crossing arms were damaged and copper stolen from a nearby railroad crossing; requesting that MPD check local crossings. All town crossings checked; negative findings.

6:50 a.m. Complaint regarding barking dog on Montague City Road; early morning barking has been an ongoing problem for a couple of weeks. Referred to an officer.

9:26 a.m. Cash reported stolen from a lockbox on Fifth Street. Report taken.

12:40 p.m. Party in to station to speak with officer about a suspicious party who had been riding his bike past reporting party’s house frequently; caller reports that party is a Level 3 sex offender. Advised of options.

12:02 p.m. Advised that a subject had jumped from the French King Bridge in Erving. TFFD and Northfield Dive Team on scene. Officers traveled to scene to assist.

5:19 p.m. Caller reporting that an employee at his medical practice (formerly in Turners Falls, now in Greenfield) had forged 13 prescriptions for narcotics, all of which were filled at the Turners Falls Rite Aid. Report taken.

5:31 p.m. Caller reports a suspicious male going door to door on Turners Falls Road; when asked what he was doing, the male replied, “Looking for Jesus.” Party located, spoken to, and sent on way.

Tuesday, 6/3

6:50 a.m. Report of dog barking since 5:45 a.m. on Montague City Road. Report taken.

10:08 a.m. Report of male party in the driver’s seat of a vehicle parked on Central Street who appears to be sniffing something inside the vehicle. Infant in car seat in back of vehicle. Responding officers located unoccupied vehicle on Fourth Street near the canal.

12:12 p.m. Sick-looking fox at Prospect Street and Montague Street. Animal control officer checked area; unable to locate.

12:13 p.m. Threatening/harassment on Avenue A.

Advised of options.

1:32 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on land next to caller’s property. Vehicle has been parked there and running for 24 hours. Vehicle owner located and contacted.

2:57 p.m. Brush fire behind Shady Glen caused by improperly extinguished smoking materials. TFFD on scene. Fire extinguished.

6:50 p.m. Complaint that property owner on L Street dumped a toilet at the roadside, blocking a fire hydrant. Caller had picture of said toilet. Referred to DPW.

7:32 p.m. Sick fox in yard on Millers Falls Road. Area search negative.

9:46 p.m. Tenant on Third Street reports that she came home to find her landlord in her apartment without permission, and that when confronted, the landlord shoved her. Parties spoken to and advised of options.

10:19 p.m. Party from previous call calling back to report that landlord is now throwing furniture down the stairs. Parties spoken to and warned.

Wednesday, 6/4

12:06 a.m. Caller reporting three people in the parking lot across from residence changing by a black Suzuki. One party was asleep under a tree on the caller’s property earlier in the evening. Parties spoken to; were just hanging out.

7:20 a.m. Caller concerned that his child’s mother has been driving with a suspended license and may be drinking and driving with their child in the vehicle. Advised of options; officers will be on lookout.

8:04 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and charged with shoplifting by asportation, second offense.

9:34 a.m. Fox reported outside Sheffield Elementary School. Area search negative. Off-duty firefighter called reporting that fox was on Montague Street. Party into station advising that fox was last seen heading towards Turnpike

Road. Detail officer reported seeing fox, who did not appear to be sick but was just chasing some birds.

12:47 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A drug and possession of a Class B drug.

12:54 p.m. Partially-full gas can found in reporting party’s strawberry garden on Burnett Street this morning; concern that someone may be siphoning gas from nearby vehicles. Advised of options.

1:43 p.m. Caller reporting that kids on dirt bikes are trespassing in the Aaron Clark cemetery and using a loam pile in the cemetery as a bike jump. Report taken.

1:52 p.m. Report of two males going door to door on Montague City Road soliciting for a homework program, asking residents if they have kids or know anyone in the area who has kids. Area search negative; officers will be on lookout.

4:04 p.m. Report of altercation at Scalpers Lodge in Lake Pleasant. Investigated.

Thursday, 6/5

10:45 p.m. Motorist reported seeing large black bear on Fairway Avenue. Patrol units advised.

Friday, 6/6

3:06 p.m. Request for assistance with an injured squirrel on K Street. Officer advises squirrel is now deceased and bagged for disposal; squirrel may have been sick.

3:08 p.m. Caller complaining that her landlord is driving a vehicle with a broken driver’s side window that is covered with plastic. Caller felt that “an authority figure should address the problem.” Vehicle owner spoken to.

5:46 p.m. Request for officer to dispose of box of drug paraphernalia found on J Street.

9:37 p.m. Request for officer to retrieve several hypodermic needles that caller found on the bike path and placed in the trash can by the closed bridge.

11:02 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, 6/7

8:53 a.m. Report of dog locked inside vehicle on Migratory Way. After waiting for owner to return, officer retrieved dog from vehicle. Owner in to station, spoken to and advised; dog released back to owner.

12:22 p.m. Dispute over contract for “as is” purchase of a backhoe. Buyer is attempting to back out; claims backhoe was not in condition he thought it was. Officer on scene reported that situation was escalating. Backup on scene. Officers clear; buyer left with the backhoe.

12:50 p.m. Caller advising that overnight a bear came into her yard on South High Street, damaged her fence, and ate from a trash can filled with birdseed. Caller is relocating birdseed but wanted it on record that a bear was in the area. Report logged.

5:19 p.m. Caller witnessed neighbor on Central Street strike his dog with a shovel. Involved party spoken to; report taken.

6 p.m. Turtle rescued from roadway at Avenue A and Eleventh Street.

Sunday, 6/8

12:39 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

9:06 a.m. Dump truck trailer full of gravel tipped over on Unity Street. No injuries. Unity Street shut down; DPW contacted; street sweeper and loader on scene.

12:46 p.m. Third Street tenant reporting that landlord, whose electricity has been shut off, is running an extension cord upstairs into tenant’s apartment. Advised of options.

4:58 p.m. Caller inquiring about his options regarding a skunk who has been eating the eggs out of his chicken coop in Montague Center. Caller’s wife has seen skunk out around dusk; no signs of illness observed. Advised of options.


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TRIP from B1

to get me to swallow liquids, which they said had been thickened to make it easier to swallow and would guard against choking and aspirating material into my lungs.

The X-ray techies said, “Swallow it. You’ll be fine.”

Famous last words. I tried to swallow the diluted barium, choked, and aspirated barium into my lungs.

I now needed oxygen, because I had difficulty in breathing. The barium in my lungs resulted in pneumonia. They tried to suction some of the barium out of my trachea.

Since they still couldn’t determine what ailed me, other than “multiple infections” (viral, fungal and bacterial), in my sinuses, lymph glands, kidneys, and places I do not care to divulge, they wisely put me in isolation with folks who had the flu, and soon – surprise, surprise – “flu” was added to my list.

The order for Tama-flu got lost, never showed up until after the flu had run its course, and they sent it back. Meanwhile they employed a suction device, similar to what dentists use to drain patient’s mouths of saliva to keep me from choking on the barium I was coughing up.

Every two hours, around the clock, a nurse plunged a hypodermic needle into my abdomen to ward against blood clots. My abdomen was soon black & blue from the painful shots and sleep was difficult. Just when I got to sleep, it was time for another painful jab.

Antibiotics, administered intravenously, caused a “secondary infection,” the nature of which they did not specify, adding to the growing list of ailments. Everyone who entered my room, to attend to what was beginning to seem like my final needs, was required to suit up with gloves, gown, face mask and clear plastic face-shield to guard against whatever form of plague I was afflicted with.

The one person who didn’t suit up in protective clothing was the nurse who went room to room inserting IV needles.

A kindly nurse solemnly asked what denomination of clergy person I’d like her to summon. I thanked her, saying I was suffering enough already without that, and would prefer to continue to deal direct. She was very solicitous, and put socks on my feet for me. She even offered to powder my private areas with anti-fungal powder, which I declined, saying I’d prefer to do that

myself.

Since I wasn’t able to eat, doctors talked of inserting a feeding tube into my stomach. Instead, they loaded me up with large amounts of IV solutions of sugar and salt, which brought on kidney failure, plus heart failure resulting in heart damage.

I began to feel weaker and wondered if I was too hasty in refusing to have a clergyman visit me.

There was no telephone in my room. When I asked, the nurse replied, “No telephone!” in a stern voice. I suspected they’d heard about me calling 911 on a previous hospital stay when nurses were too busy “socializing” to respond to my needs. That call had resulted in marvelous care after the call.

Since the door to my room was directly opposite the door to the nurses’ station, I figured I could holler from my bed to summon a nurse if they didn’t respond to the call light. Which I did. But I would have liked to telephone my daughter in Pennsylvania.

A nurse happened to be in the room when a bell began ringing in the closet. She opened the closet door, took out a telephone, and handed it to me. My friend Laura was calling to see how I was, having been briefed by the hospital of my multiple afflictions. She then called my daughter, Joann, who flew up from Pennsylvania without telling me.

When Joann entered my room swathed in blue plastic gown, gloves, face mask and clear plastic face shield, I didn’t recognize her. She could have been a Muslim woman in an all-encompassing baby blue plastic spring *hijab*, from what I could see of her.

Thinking it was a social worker seeing if I needed assistance in preparation for my departure to the next world, I expressed little enthusiasm, until I recognized Joann’s voice. Her visit perked me up, and I began to get better from then on.

Despite Bay State’s best efforts, I survived. I’m now recuperating at home, and am slated for monitored cardiac rehab to attempt to undo the heart damage of my hospital stay.

Joe has long been one of our most valuable utility players – reporter, photographer, memoirist – here at the Reporter. Well wishes can be sent via editor@montaguereporter.org.



little tick

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Child Escapes From School; Boat On Fire At Boat Club

Tuesday, 5/27
12:30 p.m. Service of restraining order for Munns Ferry Road resident.
2:20 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Main Road. Operator was lost.
8:35 p.m. Medical assistance on Meadow Street. Resident transported to Franklin Medical Center.
Wednesday, 5/28
5:15 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on Main Road. Deer ran off into woods.
3:10 p.m. Traffic issue on Boyle Road due to students walking.
4:10 p.m. Firearms issue on North Cross Road. Assisted resident.
4:50 pm. Assisted Hoe Shop Road resident regarding property from restraining order.
Thursday, 5/29
12:30 p.m. 10-year-old reported to have run away from elementary school. Student returned.
8:50 p.m. Dog complaint on Main Road near South Cross Road.
10:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with attempted suicide.
Friday, 5/30
1:22 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with stolen motor vehicle on Gill Center Road.
3:10 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported at home for sale on French King Highway. Located owners.
3:33 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Center Road at Ben Hale Road. Workers taking a break.
10:50 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disabled tractor-trailer unit in center of their town.
Sunday, 6/1
4:10 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with arrest of subject for indecent exposure.
Monday, 6/2
6:15 a.m. Trees reported on wires on Ben Hale Road. Road closed down.
8:10 a.m. Traffic lights at the intersection malfunctioning. Monitored same.
12 noon Reported suicide from French King Bridge. Under investigation.
3:50 p.m. Medical request at kayak operation. Fish hook in subject’s lip.
3:55 p.m. Reported boat on fire at Franklin County Boat Club.
Tuesday, 6/3
7:40 p.m. Located two motor vehicles on Pisgah Mountain Road. Subjects looking for areas to camp.
Wednesday, 6/4
9:13 p.m. Welfare check on Main Road youths. Checked OK.
Thursday, 6/5
10:15 a.m. Assisted resident with background check for international travel issue.
9:15 p.m. Officer investigated domestic dispute on Chappel Drive.

Friday, 6/6
11:20 a.m. Door-to-door salesperson reported on West Gill Road.
12 noon Internet scam reported by Mountain Road resident. Under investigation.
Saturday, 6/7
1:30 p.m. Larceny of gas and property reported on River Road.
2:15 p.m. Complaint of construction company leaving equipment on private property on Factory Hollow Road.
Sunday, 6/8
10:15 a.m. Court service for North Cross Road resident.
12:50 p.m. Court service for Munns Ferry Road, Grout Road, and River Road residents.
8:50 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Franklin Road. Subject under arrest.

LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 10th, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Gill Acts on Mariamante Land

At the Gill Annual Town Meeting on June 7, residents voted 100-2 to purchase the 12 acres of land at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Gill Road and Main Road.
Earlier in the spring, the Mariamante Academy decided against constructing a new school building on the acreage and opted instead to sell the land and move their operations to Virginia.
The selectboard believed the town should buy the land to ensure it was not developed for residential condominiums.
Residents authorized the town to spend \$245,000 for the land, with the plan that it be used for commercial development.

Skate Park Benefit Concert

Organizers held a benefit concert to raise funds to reopen the Skate Park in Turners Falls on June 5, 2004 at the Shea Theater. Kit Henry, Nicole Pielock, and Jeremy Latch called the event a “smashing success, with an awesome lineup of talent.”
Five punk and ska bands played, including Swert, the Me & Them, Wrong Side of the Tracks, and The Skatamatics. Fundraising efforts continue.

AT&T Gains Permit for Locks Hill Road Tower

The zoning board of appeals unanimously approved a request by AT&T Wireless to install cell phone antennas on a disused Locks Hill Road communications tower, after determining they could not find grounds to support a denial in the town’s zoning by-law.
The decision followed a series of hearings beginning in October 2003, at which dozens of Wendell residents voiced opposition to the proposal.

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

Water Pollution Control Facility

WPCF Administrative Assistant

Position performs billing, both weekly and corrective emergency work orders, and secretarial functions for the Water Pollution Control Facility. Responsibilities include issuing bills, processing departmental accounts payable and payroll, assisting with residential and industrial sewer billing, providing customer service, preparing correspondence, performing data entry, and managing the daily operation of the office. Supports operations staff when short-handed, i.e. second person on pump station rounds; required to occasionally enter into confined spaces. Employee occasionally lifts up to 30 lbs and must be able to pass a pre-employment physical exam. A full job description is available upon request.

A completed application & resume must be delivered to the WPCF no later than 2:00 PM, 20 June 2014.
Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351-9522
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ONGOING:

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

Turners Falls Fishway Open! 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day until Sunday, June 15, First Street, off Avenue A.

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 TUESDAY

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

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: Thursday Night Jazz, Ted Wirt and John Harrison, 5 to 7 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Candace Silver's photography*. On display through July 16 with opening reception on June 19th from 5 to 8 p.m.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Neptune's Car: Holly Hanson and Steve Hayes*, \$, doors open at 6:30 p.m. coffee & homemade baked goods, and the museum is open during intermission.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Bear Grass & Rosary Beard*, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Gokh-Bi System with opener Maurice "Soulfighter" Taylor*. World rhythms dance party, \$, 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Friends with Benefits*, indie-jam-rock, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Greenfield Savings Bank Community Room, Turners Falls: *Professional film maker Tim Lindop* brings fascinating videos, narratives and personal tales

from several Third World countries which Tim has documented. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Turners Falls Airport: *Turners Falls Aviation Weekend*. Airplanes, vintage cars, on display. Free airplane rides for kids, parachuters, flight simulators, vendors, food, and raffles. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Canal Days Along the Bike Path: Presented by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. Explore the scenic west end of Canalside



Neptune's Car is Holly Hanson and Steve Hayes, an acoustic duo from Massachusetts and New Hampshire who play original, contemporary folk music. At the Great Falls Coffeehouse, Great Falls Discovery Center, 7 p.m.

Trail with historian Ed Gregory, geologist and industrial history buff, Steve Winters, and Northfield Mountain's Kim Noyes. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Meet at the parking lot on the east side of Montague City Road across from the Farren Care Center, Turners Falls. For ages 16 and older.

Turners Falls Fishway, Turners falls: *Free Fish Printing*. Stop in between noon and 2 p.m. with a T-shirt or other material to use for fish printing to make your own print.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: Multi-Award Winning Documentary screening of *Full Signal: The Hidden Cost of Cell Phones*, 5 p.m. Followed by info session and special guest Patricia Burke, a leader of the fight against "smart" meters in Massachusetts.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Heather Maloney*, singer/song-writer, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show*-The Ha Ha's and special guest from NYC, Keaton. Spontaneously created comic theater with

a vast variety of special guests. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, outlaw country, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Metal Night*, \$, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth & Friends*, rock-noise-magic, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Turners Falls Airport: *Turners Falls Aviation Weekend*. See Saturday listing. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Danse Café, French & Breton Dance*, dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. \$, 3 to 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Elizabeth Chang*, Bach program featuring solo violin sonatas and partitas, \$, 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon - Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO! 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts with *Jennie McAvoy* – traditional ballads, *Joe Graveline* – singer, guitar stylist and *Small Change* – swing, jazz, country, folk and a cappella, 6 p.m.

Third Thursday in Turners Falls: *Knights! Camera! Action!* 6 to 10 p.m. Wandering minstrels, Medieval demonstrations, photography exhibit, performance by electropop duo Home Body, 7:30 p.m. Monty Python and the Holy Grail at the Shea, 8:30 p.m. Complete listing: www.turners-fallsriverculture.org

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

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Brother Sun*, musical diversity and harmony with Greg Greenway, Pat Victor and Joe Jencks, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, & Doug Plavin, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dave Houghton & Fancy*

Trash with Steve Subrizi, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dimma Dim*, Dan Putnam's new band playing rock, reggae & funk, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter and Friends*, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Russell Kaback* and others: "Words & Chords: A Solistic Songwriting Circle", \$, 8 p.m.



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1948 from page B1

Company sold hardware, GE appliances, Maytag washers, and Philco radios. My brother had a couple of teeth break off a mowing machine. He took them to Mr. Gulow, who went right to a shelf and found replacements.

L. A. Kohler sold appliances and radios.

Need a new car? You could buy a new Ford at Baumier Motor Sales, or a Pontiac at W. Cassidy's.

Have a sweet tooth? John Equi could provide you with fruit, ice cream, soda, confectionary, cigars, or tobacco. The Cone Shop was very popular for ice cream cones, sundaes, and light lunches. LaPiere's Candy Shop on Third Street featured homemade potato chips. Talk about heart attacks – the brown bag would be covered with grease! My father loved them.

C.E. Stenard Dependable Groceries sat across the alley from the Shea Theater. We often bought a pint of ice cream there for twenty cents. The proprietor would cut it in half and stick a wooden spoon in each half, and my brother and I would have a treat to eat at the movies.

The town had three cleaners: Royal Cleaners, New Wonder Cleaners, and John M. Kuklewicz, who did tailoring as well as dry cleaning. The Turners Falls Laundry did wet work and flat work.

Getting ready for the junior prom, you would have to go out of town for your gown, but you could have your hair done at either the Deluxe Beauty Shop or the Venetian Beauty Shop. A corsage could be ordered at Cade's Flower Shop, and you could take your films to be processed at Ed Strange's Valley

Studio, at the corner of Third Street and Avenue A.

Olchowski and Noga made mother's bread in the Patch. Many years later I would take care of Mr. Olchowski at the Farren Hospital. Every morning he woke up very early and started punching his pillow with his fists. I was very concerned, until one of his sons assured me he was going through the motions of preparing his bread for the day, and not to worry.

Trouble with your car? You had a choice of going to Haigis Service Station, Couture Brothers' Esso Service Station, Julius Blassberg for new and used auto parts, Williams Garage, or Beaubien's Cities Service Station.

The Corner Book Store was across the Avenue from Franklin's Five and Dime. Two stores supplied your need for fuel: the Turners Falls Coal Company, and McCarthy's, which sold coal, oil, and grain.

There wasn't much for entertainment. The Shea Theater was very popular, as was the River-view Rollerway, but most of the churches had their own bands and sports teams, and the Turners Falls Athletic Club offered many sports programs.

Turners also had a barber, a town taxi, a jewelry store, a newspaper – the Franklin County Press – and W.L. Solomon, who sold real estate. What more could you ask of a town?

I would like to thank the TFHS Class of 1948 Yearbook staff for the excellent job they did securing ads. As I am in my nineties, I would never have remembered all these stores and businesses otherwise!

MB

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www.turnersfallsriverculture.org for details

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