

EVERY SEASON
COMES TO AN END

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THE CARNEGIE
COLLECTIONS

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FESTIVAL HITS
FIFTH YEAR

Page B1



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 35

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 18, 2015

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Center School Sale Set for July 31

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague has finally signed a purchase and sale agreement for the former Montague Center School building. The agreement with the Greenfield-based developer Mark Zaccheo includes a provision that the legal “closing” of the sale will take place on July 31. The sale price, which has fluctuated over the several years of negotiations between the town and Zaccheo, is now set at \$1,000.

The final closing will end a process which has become something of an extended ordeal for town officials. Zaccheo was chosen to develop the property in early 2012 as



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

The elementary school was closed in 2008, and the town has been maintaining the property ever since.

the result of a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP). Strong opposition to the project was voiced by some

Montague Center residents, who felt that the proposed 22-unit apartment building see MSB page A4

Tech School Runs Districtwide Borrowing Election on Tuesday

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Next Tuesday, voters in all 19 of the towns that send students to the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls will be asked to head to the polls, to vote on three articles that would authorize borrowing for upgrades and renovations at the school.

Erving, Gill, Montague and Wendell are among the towns holding elections from noon to 8 p.m. on June 23. School officials are looking to the towns to borrow \$2.47 million dollars toward new doors and windows, repairs to the roof, and a repaved parking lot with LED lights.

“This is the first time in the 40-year history

of the Franklin County Tech we’re coming to the towns” to borrow, Richard Kuklewicz, Montague’s representative to the tech school committee, told his town at its May 2 town meeting.

According to the regional agreement, all 19 towns must vote simultaneously. If a simple majority of all votes cast Tuesday are positive, the district will put both the project and the bonds out to bid, with costs hitting the member towns’ assessments in FY’17 through FY’31.

Montague is also taking the opportunity on Tuesday to conduct a debt exclusion vote for a project to replace windows at Sheffield Elementary School.

see FCTS page A4

Lake Pleasant Plans a Reunion

By DAVID DETMOLD

More than half the chairs appeared to be empty in the circle of attendees who gathered last Wednesday on the first floor of the Thompson Temple, as the Lake Pleasant Village Association laid plans for a 40th anniversary party to be held this September.

Then again, since the Temple is home base for the National Spiritualist Alliance, the oldest Spiritualist association in the country,

one can never be quite sure what incorporeal entities might be present in the hall, taking note of the activities.

On Saturday, September 19, the Village Association hopes to attract a lively crowd to enjoy the wholesome atmosphere of Montague’s smallest village, tucked away in the pines surrounding the jewel-like lake that gives the 141-year-old community its name.

On the roster for the big day are live music featuring a

number of bands with ties to Lake Pleasant, a showing of the 2012 independent feature film *Bridge of Names*, which is set in Lake Pleasant, and, of course, a pie auction.

The movie, which stars Hollywood actor Rip Torn alongside a number of local luminaries, is a “bizarre” love story, according to David James, who is perhaps the last living member of the National Spiritualist Alliance to actually make his home in Lake Pleasant.

But, he added, “people will recognize the scenery,” including the famous walking bridge that unites the two halves of the village, the Highlands and the Bluffs.

Kim York, who lived on the Highlands side and served as auctioneer for the home-made pies sold at Village Association events over much of the last four decades, passed on to the other side in May. He will be sorely missed at this fall’s get together, and the Association will be pressed to find someone to fill his role. But life goes on.

see LAKE page A7



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

The Lake Pleasant Village Association meets in the Spiritualist Alliance temple.

Softball: Best in the West!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Softball Indians once again won the Western Mass. Division 3 Championship, and once again are heading into the state tournament. They will play Central Mass champs Hopedale at 4 p.m. on Thursday, at UMass’ Sortino Field.

The Tribe got there by defeating top rated Monson Mustangs, 13 – 0, on Saturday, June 13. It was Powertown’s fourth post-season victory.

The Western Mass. Championship seemed like a home game even though the Turners Falls Softball Indians were the designated visiting team. Alum Stash Kosciński threw out the ceremonial first pitch, and Melissa Hersey stepped up to the microphone and gave a flawless rendition of the National Anthem.

The Blue Indians, who were seeded second despite beating Monson 6-0 earlier in the year, were determined to prove that they were the better team and earn that coveted

Blue Jacket.

Scoring first and drawing first blood is important as a momentum-setter, but the Tribe were unable to do so in the first inning. Jenna Putala hit a 1-out grounder into center field and, with 2 outs, Gabby Arzuaga was hit by a pitch.

Gabby was replaced on base by Abby Loynd, but both runners were stranded after the third strikeout of the inning.

In the Mustangs’ first, Gabby bravely see CHAMPS page A7



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Safe! Baserunner Abby Loynd makes it across the plate during Saturday’s Western Mass Division 3 championship win.

Gunman at Large After Downtown Shooting

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – On Tuesday night, Montague police were called to the area of 15 Fifth Street after reports of gunfire. 39-year-old Bradley E. Trombley of Greenfield, who was shot multiple times in the legs, had made it as far as the Freedom Credit Union parking lot on Avenue A when they found him. Witnesses said the shooter fled by car.

Trombley was transported to Baystate Franklin and later to Springfield for injuries police say were not life-threatening, according to the *Recorder* newspaper. As of press time twenty-four hours later, the shooter had apparently not been apprehended.

15 Fifth Street, a brick building comprised of several single-bedroom apartments, is familiar to local police. On December 21,

2013, two armed, masked men reportedly forced their way into an apartment, struck a woman, stole a 200-pound safe and drove off with it in an SUV. That incident did not lead to any arrests.

In June 2014, a raid on the building netted small amounts of heroin, crack and other drugs, and resulted in two arrests.

And last month, warrants were served on two of the building’s apartments, leading to five more arrests, and the seizure of 109 bags of heroin.

Though the shooting may have taken place in full view of the *Montague Reporter* office in downtown Turners Falls, and though the injured victim must have walked past that office, Montague police were unavailable to speak with the *Reporter* all day on

see SHOOTING page A3

Every Hero Has a Story: At the Leverett Library This Summer

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – A hero, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is someone who is admired for great acts of bravery or fine qualities. A fireman who saves a life, a police officer who stops a criminal, an ordinary citizen who goes to extraordinary lengths to save a stranger are all heroes. A child’s hero can be a parent, a fictional character in a book or movie, or a friend in the community with whom the child has a special relationship.

Ashley Blais, Director of the Leverett Library, will be spearheading the Leverett chapter of the Massachusetts



CUNNINGHAM PHOTO

Leverett Library director Ashley Blais is gearing up for a busy summer of programming.

summer reading program, and this year the program will focus on heroes. Blais said she just ordered new books for the program and is planning ten weeks of prizes, games, and fun for the kids.

“Kids who read for pleasure perform significantly better in school and on

achievement tests, have better concentration skills, have better general knowledge and better vocabularies than their peers,” said Blais.

Story hour this summer will feature various speakers who are examples of heroes in the community, like police see LEVERETT page A6

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Remembering Walter Kostanski

In a November 13 interview with *Montague Reporter* writer Joe Kwiecinski, Walter T. Kostanski had this to say about the secret to his success: "I like people. I cared for them; I wanted the best for everyone I came into contact with."

Kostanski, who died on Monday at the age of 91 at his Turners Falls home, was a true leader according to all who knew and worked with him. The life of service and recreation he lived followed closely the contours of his great generation.

His own father, Władysław Kostański, left Greenfield to enlist in the army of his childhood home, Poland, during the Great War. He was one of 24,000 Polish-Americans to volunteer in Haller's Blue Army on the Western Front.

He apparently stuck around for the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Soviet wars before returning to Franklin County to work at the Millers Falls Paper Company, settling in Millers, marrying and having two sons.

Walter T. and Henry both joined the Navy during WWII as teenagers. Walter, a four-sport athlete at Turners Falls High School who pitched at Fenway when the baseball team won the state championship in 1942, ended up a gunner's mate in the Navy Armed Guard.

For three years he escorted fuel shipments around the globe, protecting them from U-boats and kamikaze pilots. He traveled to Scotland, through the Panama Canal to New Guinea, up the Persian Gulf to load fuel for New Zealand, back through the Canal to the Caribbean, and then through once more before his tanker was sent to the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.

Like his father, Walter returned to Franklin County, married and got a job – initially at Montague Rod and Reel. He followed his younger brother into the funeral industry, helping him open the Turners Falls location of the Kostanski Funeral Home in 1952. (Henry's son and granddaughter continue on as owners of the family business.)

But the popular Walter was soon tapped for public service, representing the district from 1956 to 1970 at the State House.

During that time, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion; the Turners Falls Athletic Club and Fish & Game Association; and the Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Eagles, and Elks.

Fifty years later, it is hard for us to imagine this kind of densely packed civic life. While as a politician Kostanski was probably more of a joiner than the average citizen, the obituaries of his contemporaries are often packed with such clubs, leagues and honorary posts.

For a generation that endured the deprivation of the Depression and the collective traumas of a global war, these little societies were the savored fruits of peace and plenty. They anchored and guided individuals and their families, helped allocate jobs and emergency aid, provided alternative social spaces to church life, and kept working-class Americans fluent in the skills and procedures of governance.

"When I was a kid in Turners, I remember Walt, a tall man in a blue pin-stripe suit, meeting our high school basketball team down at the Boston Garden," says the *Reporter's* David Brule. "He always got our teams tickets once a year, at the end of our season, to go down to Boston and watch the Celtics.... He did great things for our town. He was always affable, with a small-town friendliness, and he never forgot he came from a village like Turners."

Kostanski never lost an election. He brought home the bacon for the district, helping lay the groundwork for GCC, the Franklin County Tech School and the Conte lab among other things, then spent the second half of his career tending to the nuts and bolts of this good life as the county's Registrar of Deeds, which he is credited with modernizing.

Even after his retirement, he continued on with committees and campaigns, helping to revitalize the Shea Theater, establish the Newt Guilbault Little League, and win support for Montague's new Public Safety Complex.

Most Americans were born after 1977. With the passing of Kostanski's generation, our connection to core events that shaped the society we live in – a nearly universal mobilization for war, and the shared experience of a return to order afterward – will be limited to books, documentaries and news clippings.

Though the postwar order was far from perfect, we risk taking for granted the hard work and care that went into building many of the institutions that still provide for us.

Walter Kostanski's passing is a loss for the town, but his dedication to others will continue to serve as an example for years to come.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letter to the Editors

Open Letter from the Montague Energy Committee to Department of Public Utilities Counsel Laurie Weisman

Dear Ms. Weisman,

The Montague Energy Committee (MEC) requests that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) oppose the proposed Precedent Agreement between Berkshire Gas Company and Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline (NED).

We are very concerned that the current DPU process, as it is unfolding, ignores or minimizes core state energy policy issues.

We are alarmed that this process will fail to take into account how this Precedent Agreement fits with the state's overall energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals mandated by the Global Warming Solutions Act, along with Montague's clean energy efforts as a Green Community.

Berkshire Gas clearly believes this Precedent Agreement will be good for their business plan, but it is far from certain that their business plan aligns with state energy goals.

Furthermore, by considering proposed Precedent Agreements from various gas utilities separately rather than in combination, the DPU will fail to evaluate how the NED project will affect future energy use and supply dependencies in the state or how the resulting dependencies will affect the state's clean energy and GHG reduction goals.

Evaluation of separate pieces of the NED project could result in an overall approval of the NED project without ever having evaluated the project in its entirety.

Looking specifically at Berkshire Gas's petition for a Precedent Agreement, the MEC is concerned that the petition is based on portfolio objects from an old resource and supply plan.

A new resource and supply plan is currently before the DPU for re-

view, and, until that review occurs, it is unknown whether Berkshire Gas's portfolio objectives support the state's clean energy and GHG goals.

In other words, evaluation of even this small piece of the NED project would be based on an uncertain alignment with the state's clean energy and GHG reduction goals.

More broadly, Berkshire Gas claims to have compared a Precedent Agreement for the NED project with a full range of alternatives, and yet the only alternatives they have compared it to are ones that increase gas supply.

This fails to take into account the wide range of alternatives that are steadily and diligently being developed and implemented throughout Massachusetts by the state and by local communities – including Montague – since passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition, the DPU will fail to take into account this wider range of options if it evaluates this, or any, proposed Precedent Agreement before the DPU completes its review of the avoided cost of carbon and the Massachusetts utilities' 2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Investment Plans.

Furthermore, state legislators are considering steps that would spur on private investment (not tax or rate-payer based) which could increase investment in energy efficiency far more than even the award winning level of support for clean energy and energy efficiency already established in Massachusetts.

This can be seen in a variety of bills before state legislators, ranging from imposing a fee on carbon to providing improved access to financing (a "Green Bank") for investments into energy efficiency.

With all of the above described uncertainty, short-term flexible adjustments in our energy supply

system should take precedent over a long-term commitment to one so-called solution – a vast over-supply of natural gas.

On April 17, 2015 FERC took this approach when it approved ISO New England's continued use of out-of-market actions (such as short term purchases of LNG and oil) to help ensure reliability during upcoming winter energy demand spikes; FERC determined that this approach would likely produce higher levels of reliability than ISO New England's standing policy of manipulating energy pricing in order to incentivize long-term investments in new gas supplies (e.g., the NED pipeline).

The Montague Energy Committee appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding Berkshire Gas's Precedent Agreement petition.

As the DPU examines the potential for efficiency and renewables to meet current and future energy demands, the MEC urges DPU to support short-term, out-of-market actions for any additional energy demands that cannot currently be met with existing natural gas pipelines, rather than to commit to the addition of NED's increased supply of natural gas that will likely increase fossil fuel use for decades to come.

The NED pipeline capacity is well beyond the energy demands of our town, the communities through which it would run, and the state. While perhaps good for Berkshire Gas's business objectives, introducing an oversupply of natural gas is counter to the state's mandated goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Chris Mason, Chair
Montague Energy Committee

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.

No paper last week of December.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Mark Fitzpatrick and Tim Njedlick from the Montague and Greenfield Veterans Agency will be at the Turners Falls Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Friday, June 19, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. to answer any general questions relating to Veteran Benefits, discuss Mass Chapter 115, and to explain the merger of the two districts into a new regional district.

This is a community service event for local veterans and the bank will provide free light morning refreshments.

Also at Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, June 20, from 10:30 a.m. to noon is the **Salasin Project**. The Project operates under the umbrella of the Western MA Training Consortium, offering individual and family support services as well as running the Greenfield Women's Resource Center and the Family F.U.N. Center.

Come and meet with representatives from the Project, including a local contact, Stacey Langknecht, to become familiar with the agency and all that it can do for you. Lots of informational hand-outs available.

Cloa's Ark Animal Sanctuary is having a tag sale to benefit the animals of the sanctuary on Saturday, June 20, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 24 Factory Hollow in Greenfield. There will also be a vegetarian potluck and get together from 2 to 5 p.m.

Red Fire Farm, at 184 Meadow Road in Montague Center, will host its annual **Strawberry Soiree** on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be pick your own strawberries, guided tours, varietal taste-testing, musical performances, snacks and children's activities during the day.

Afterwards the farm will host a dinner to raise funds for Mount Grace Land Trust. Tickets are required. For more information on the day's events or to purchase dinner tickets, visit redfirefarm.com/news/strawberrysoiree.html.

Enjoy a Saturday morning of "**Nature Journaling**" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Explore the natural world through careful observation and language play to wake up all of your senses. See the world in new ways through writing, drawing prompts, and short walks along the Canalside Rail Trail. No prior writing or drawing experience necessary.

For adults and any youth interested in writing and drawing, accompanied by an adult. Meet at the entrance of the center. The GFDC has amazing indoor wildlife exhibits to inspire you if it rains.

The **whale sprinkler at Unity Park** in Turners Falls starts to spout water on Monday, June 22. The sprinkler will be spouting seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. all summer long.

Enjoy an "**Animal World Experience**" on Monday, June 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. outdoors at the Erving Public Library.

A live animal 'meet and greet' is an awesome way to get up close and personal with some great animals. In this unique format, an Animal World Experience presenter will "roam" with animals for people to meet, pet, and maybe even hold.

This is the first event of the Erving Public Library Summer Reading Program, and a great time to pick up a log and start your summer reading early.

The Creature Teachers will present "**The Nature of My Backyard**" at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, June 23, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Come meet the common animals that we encounter near our homes! Native animals that may make an appearance include: fisher, gray fox, skunk, wood-chuck, and porcupine.

This program is the kick-off for the children's Summer Reading Program with the Montague Public Libraries.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, located at 84 K Street in Turners Falls, will hold a **Giant Tag Sale**, rain or shine, on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The sale will include furniture, housewares, appliances, toys, records & tapes, and much more. From noon to 1, fill a bag for only \$1.00.

Calling all poets to the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, June 27, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join in and take a look at the natural world around you.

Watershed Poets explores the plants and animals of the Connecticut River watershed as seen through the eyes of local poets. Participants will investigate birds, wildflowers, trees, the poetry of field guides, and

the wonders of the watershed. Enjoy a lively discussion of poems by Emily Dickinson, Frederick Goddard Tuckerman, Wallace Stevens, and more.

Bring your own poem inspired by the Connecticut River to share. Presentation by DCR Park Interpreter Janel Nockleby, MFA in Poetry, UMass.

Montague Congregational Church has a **Strawberry Supper** on Saturday, June 27 at 5:30 p.m.

The menu will include baked stuffed chicken breast, rice, gravy, tossed salad, green beans, homemade breads and strawberry shortcake on a homemade biscuit.

Adults \$10, children \$5. Reservations at 367-2652. Walk ins as space allows. A limited number of take outs will be available.

Western Massachusetts blues legends rock Wendell for a good cause on Saturday, June 27, from 5 p.m. to midnight at the Deja Brew Pavilion, 57 Lockes Village Road in Wendell.

Wildcat O'Halloran presents the second annual **Wendell Wildcat Bluesfest**, to benefit the Friends of Wendell.

The fest features a Who's Who of Western MA: blues legends including Janet Ryan, Wally "Sweet Daddy" Greaney, Dave Boatwright and Charlie Scott with Buddy McEarns, Sarah "Wildkitten" O'Halloran, Ray Chaput, Eva Capelli, Ottomatic Slim, Phyllis Lataille, and Wendell's own Dangerboy, all backed by the stellar Wildcat O'Halloran Band.

The Friends of Wendell provides short-term financial support to neighbors in need. Suggested donation of \$10. Rain or shine.

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SHOOTING from page A1
Wednesday.

An automated telephone message from Chief Charles "Chip" Dodge Wednesday morning stated that the public was not believed to be at risk, as the shooter and victim were said to be known to each other "at least through acquaintances," and to expect a press release.

A first afternoon call to dispatch resulted in a promise that this newspaper would be notified when the press release was issued, and a second in the suggestion that Det. John Dempsey would be given a request to contact us.

After a third call in the evening, Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams called back to say he was not authorized to speak to the press about the incident, and that Sgt. Lee Laster, who was handling the case, would be returning to duty at 11 p.m.

At the town's public safety complex during 11 p.m. roll call, a dispatcher informed us that Sgt. Laster had been granted at least some

extra hours off to sleep, as he had been interviewing witnesses well into the day.

No sergeants would be on duty until some hours after our weekly press deadline, she said, but we could try the Massachusetts State Police barracks at Northampton, who she said helped respond to the incident, or Shelburne Falls, whose patrol area covers Montague.

"I would try Shelburne. There's no one here authorized to talk about that anyway," said the Massachusetts State Police dispatcher at the Northampton barracks.

"I'm definitely not," said the trooper who answered the phone at the Shelburne barracks, when asked if anyone present was qualified to speak to press on the incident. "It was definitely their scene - we just backed them up."

According to the *Recorder*, anyone with any information on the incident is asked to call the Montague Police at (413) 863-8911.



WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

June 24: Presentation on Upcoming Supreme Court Marriage Equality Ruling

Civil Rights Attorney Shannan Leelyn of Leelyn Law LLC will speak about the history of marriage rights leading up to this moment with the issue now about to be decided by the United States Supreme Court.

Program will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24 at the Wendell Free Library.

The decision by the Supreme Court is expected to be delivered by the end of that week.

The United States Supreme Court held Oral Arguments to finally decide the broad issue of whether the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Whether you have been waiting

on or working toward this decision for decades, or if it's an issue you just want to know more about, please join us.

Leelyn will begin with a brief primer on the specific cases the Court is deciding, the tests the Supremes will apply, and the impact of the possible outcomes.

She will also stream select portions of the Oral Argument audio and witness the Court in action. We'll close with a short debrief and Q&A.

If you have children, tweens, or teens in your life, feel free to bring them along as well for this eye-opening view of our Highest Court in action.

This is a free program.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 6/5/15:

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Emily Sisson

Grade 8
Grayson Funk
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MSB from page A1

would change the character of the neighborhood and violated the original RFP criteria. This led to three packed and contentious meetings of the town Zoning Board of Appeals in August and September of 2012.

In order to ensure that the size of proposed apartments conformed to local minimum space requirements, the selectboard sought, and received, town meeting approval to alter the zoning bylaws.

Then negotiations between the town and Zaccheo dragged on for over a year. Negotiations initially took place in non-public executive sessions, leading to complaints that they violated the open meeting law. Last night, selectboard chair Mike Nelson decided to hold the discussion of the purchase and sale, which was slated for an executive session on the agenda, in public.

The purchase and sale requires the town to remove an underground oil storage tank. The town also has the right to remove the building's heating system after the upcoming winter.

The property transfer will still require a Land Development Agreement (LDA), an updated financing plan, and construction schedules. So there are still some hurdles to jump before the deal is finalized.

Town planner Walter Ramsey, who presented the purchase and sale agreement to the board, stated that the developer hoped to finish construction in a year.

Park, History, Bridge

In other news, the board awarded a contract to the firm Grindline Concrete Skatepark Design to construct the planned skatepark adjacent to Unity Park. The award to-

taled \$366,000, much of which will be reimbursed by a state grant.

Parks and Recreation director John Dobosz said construction would probably begin in the late summer or early fall.

Ramsey went before the board to once again request that it implement memoranda of agreement with three Native American tribes for research associated with the Battle of Great Falls study project.

The awards total \$8,500 each to the historic preservation offices of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, Nipmuck Nation, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). The awards fund documentation of tribal histories linked to the 1676 battle or massacre as it is variously called. They are part of the National Park Service grant which finances the project.

The selectboard had previously delayed voting on the memoranda until they had been reviewed by town counsel.

Mike Nelson sought and received approval of a letter to the state Department of Transportation protesting the current condition of the General Pierce Bridge. Nelson noted that the bridge, which was temporarily closed last week due to a large hole in its concrete base, is not a viable structure yet is not scheduled to be fixed until 2021. He forcefully recommended that the DOT move reconstruction of the bridge up on its schedule.

Copies of the letter will be sent to state representative Steve Kulik and state senator Stan Rosenberg.

Pipeline Politics

Next on the agenda were local residents Diane McAvoy and Ariel Elan, to update the board on

Montague's request to intervene in the current process before the state Department of Public Utilities. The process concerns Berkshire Gas' request to contract for gas through the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

The pipeline would run through Montague and is opposed by a number of town boards, including the selectboard, as well as by Montague town meeting. The Berkshire Gas company contract, which is a part of the state and federal approval process for the pipeline, is also opposed by the Montague selectboard. The town has sought to intervene before the DPU as part of a broader coalition of towns and legislative officials called PLAN-NE.

McAvoy and Ariel noted that the DPU had rejected the request of PLAN-NE to intervene in the Berkshire contract process, but that the rejection was being appealed. Ms. Elan requested that the board send a protest letter to the DPU and a letter requesting a meeting with the state Attorney General. The DPU rejection is partly based on the theory that the Attorney General already represents "ratepayers" like the town of Montague.

The board was favorable, and asked Ramsey to draft formal letters to be considered at the next board meeting.

Ms. McAvoy stated she felt Montague should be more "proactive" in opposing the pipeline. She introduced a woman named Terra Friedrichs who is a former Selectman from the town of Acton. Friedrichs advocated that the town more aggressively apply the principle of "home rule" to the pipeline issue. The board felt that it needed to study the concepts raised by Friedrichs in more detail.

FCTS from page A1

That project, as well as the window and door replacement at the Tech, are subject to reimbursement under the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Authority (MSBA).

Membrane Treatment

The full projected cost of the FCTS project is \$4 million, but about 74% of the \$2.1 million window and door cost will be reimbursed by the state program, leaving about \$566,000 to be shouldered by member towns.

The school was hoping to tap into MSBA funds for a roof project, but that did not pan out, since it was last replaced in 1996. "Because our roof was only 19 years old, they said no," FCTS superintendent Jim Laverty told Montague town meeting on May 2. "They said they drew a line in the sand at 20 years," he later told the Reporter.

Administrators have opted for a strategy of repairing the existing membrane, which had a 15-year warranty, at an expected cost of \$975,000.

Montague building inspector David Jensen raised concerns about the idea at that May 2 meeting. "Why are you going forward with a roof repair," he asked of Laverty, "with a 20-year old roof that's leaking anyways, and we've got energy issues on top of that?"

"In order for us to re-apply to MSBA, there's no guarantee we'd be accepted for a roof project," Laverty responded. Such a match could be several years out, and "MSBA would require us to do a total teardown...."

"The engineer who looked at our roof said it's still in pretty good shape," he added, save for some leaks, including one that interfered with the school's fire alarm system.

"We're not going to replace our insulation... it will give us a 10- to 15-year warranty going forward, so we can incorporate a possible new roof at that point in time."

"There's some serious energy loss issues here," Jensen objected. "It seems like you're essentially saying, 'we're going to band-aid the roof'.... I'm not entirely clear that you've crunched the numbers well enough... Four million may pay us back a lot better than one million."

But, Laverty said, in order to collect the MSBA contribution for the necessary window and door replacement, the district will be spending \$50,000 to \$60,000 to run Tuesday's election, and the school committee and administration have decided not to miss the opportunity to ask district voters to authorize the membrane repair, for now.

He pointed out that the cost to the district of a whole new roof, even after MSBA reimbursement, would still likely exceed the cost of a repair this year.

Taking the Opportunity

The third item, repaving the driveway, parking areas and track, is estimated to cost \$925,000. Almost 40 years old, these surfaces are in bad shape, and administrators say they fear liability issues as they are cracking faster than they can be patched at this point.

Laverty said he has presented the proposal to all 19 member towns, beginning April 25 in Sunderland

and finishing on Monday in Orange.

"I didn't receive any real push-back," he said. "In fact most of the comments were, 'It's about time that the tech school has come out and asked for money for their building.'"

Laverty said he hoped for a good turnout on Tuesday. "We're encouraging folks who have an interest in the school - including alumni and parents - to take the opportunity to get out there and cast a positive ballot."

With a conservative assumption of 5% interest rates, borrowing for all three items would leave Montague on the hook \$29,936 a year, Erving \$15,202, Gill \$5,468, and Wendell \$3,293 for each of the next 15 years.

If either that rate or the construction bids come in lower, Laverty added, those figures could come down. "We're still in a market where there's not a lot of big things happening, construction-wise, in the public sector," he pointed out - cause, in some respects, for optimism.

Montague: Exclusion

"I don't expect a large turnout, because I don't think people are aware of it," said Montague's town clerk Deb Bourbeau.

"At town meeting, we had a vote contingent on a debt exclusion," she said, so they hopped on the Tech election. As for the costs, she said, "we're splitting it in half," between the town and district.

"We could have had one later, but we would have had to pay poll workers and janitors - why do it

Other Business

The board signed the election warrant for the upcoming June 23 debt exclusion vote. The exclusion would fund borrowing for the Sheffield school auditorium and gymnasium windows.

The vote is being held in conjunction with another debt exclusion ballot to finance repairs to the Franklin County Technical School.

The board also signed a memorandum of understanding for recycling hauling services with the Franklin County Solid Waste District, and a five-year contract with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, which receives recycled materials.

It approved a license for outside tables and chairs for Twisters café on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

A downtown resident complained about the noise level from recent permitted events at Hubie's Tavern. The board agreed to address it at their next meeting.



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twice? We're saving money," she explained.

The project looks similar in many ways to the FCTS scenario: a \$1.1 million window and door project at Sheffield is expected to gain a 76% reimbursement from the MSBA, with the remaining cost to the town estimated at \$32,096 a year (again on a 15-year bond, this time assuming a 4% interest rate).

The vote would exempt this expense from Proposition 2-1/2 - an exclusion is essentially the equivalent of an override, though because it is taken on as debt it is not added to the town's levy limit.

On Tuesday, the Montague Energy Committee endorsed the measure, according to member Sally Pick.

"This project will significantly reduce ongoing energy use and costs going forward," that committee stated.

Pick also said that the Gill-Montague district has been "very proactive" in working with the Energy Committee, and that they are looking into helping advise the FCTS as well, though she is unsure what the relationship between one town's energy committee and a 19-town school district might look like.



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Part 2

The Future of Solar: Net Metering at the Crossroads?

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – There has been a stunning increase in solar electric generation in Massachusetts over the last five years. In 2010 when the first Solar Renewable Certificate (SREC) Program was created, the state set a goal of 400 Megawatts (MW) of electric capacity by 2020. That goal was reached within four years.

Under SREC II, as it is known, a goal of 1600 MW of capacity was set. A recent task force on state solar policy found that “under the... scenarios analyzed in this study, the SREC-II goal of 1600 MW by 2020 could be reached as early as 2018, while a hypothetical SREC-III goal of 2500 by 2025 could be met as early as 2020 or 2022...”

The policies that account for the expansion of solar are net metering, solar renewable energy credits and tax credits (state and federal). Net metering allows solar producers to reduce their generated electric use provided by the company and receive a credit for any excess returned to the grid. SRECs are credits for total solar production that is traded on a short- and long-term market.

However, over the past year, a sharp and potentially divisive debate has erupted over these apparently successful policies. The debate involves two inter-related issues – the cap on net metering, and the impact of solar incentives on non-solar electric ratepayers.

First, the amount of potential solar capacity subject to net metering is capped at a percentage of an electric company’s peak generation – 4% for private solar arrays, and 5% for public ones. That cap, in effect, limits the growth of the state’s solar industry.

National Grid, which serves the Boston area, is currently at its cap, and there are numerous projects waiting in the wings. Several other companies could reach their limit within the coming year, significantly reducing medium large-scale solar production. (Smaller systems are not limited by the cap.) Advocates argue that the state should eliminate, or at least, raise the caps to allow for more solar capacity.

Electric companies have tended to oppose lifting the cap unless changes are made in the system of solar subsidies (net metering and SRECs). They argue that solar producers are using the delivery system without paying for it. They also argue that the cost of subsidies must be transferred to the majority of non-solar producers, unfairly raising their rates.

Business interests, including manufacturing interests, have joined the fray. Many of them believe that solar subsidies have helped raise energy costs in the state to the point where Massachusetts is no longer competitive.

Defenders of current solar policy argue that the broader benefits of solar far outweigh the relatively small negative impacts on non-solar ratepayers. They point to a number of state “value of solar” studies which have quantified the advantages of solar to all rate-payers.

Picking Sides

The debate over solar is part of a broader national debate over net metering and solar studies. The success of programs in places like Massachusetts has created pressure for even more generous subsidies and an emerging industry that benefits from these subsidies.

On the other side, the power industry, particularly the electric utilities, but also coal and natural gas interests, have funded efforts to roll back policies like net metering and SRECs.

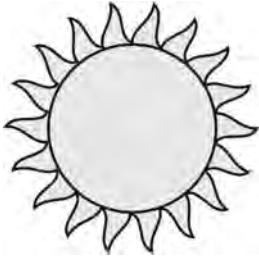
Predictably, the issue has moved its way into the current political and ideological divide between conservatives and progressives. According to a recent *New York Times* editorial:

“The Arizona Public Service Company, the state’s largest utility, funneled large sums through a [conservative Republican] Koch operative to a nonprofit group that ran an ad claiming net metering would hurt older people on fixed incomes by raising electric rates. The ad tried to link the requirement to President Obama. Another Koch ad likens the renewable-energy requirement to health care reform, the ultimate insult in that world. ‘Like Obamacare, it’s another government mandate we can’t afford,’ the narrator says.”

In Massachusetts, the debate over the future of solar policy came to a head in the spring of 2014. Large solar companies, the electric utilities and the State Department of Energy Resources supported a bill in the legislature known as H4182. The legislation, which was considered a “compromise” measure by its proponents, lifted the cap on net metering but would have limited the value of credits for “virtual net metering” (those participants in the program who do not own their own solar systems) and required all solar producers to pay a minimum bill.

In the end the legislation died in committee – Steve Kulik’s House Ways and Means Committee, to be exact. Instead, the state created a Net Metering and Solar Task Force to investigate the costs and benefits of current solar policy.

The final report showed significant disagreements within the task force over both policy and costs/benefits. There seemed to be a consensus, however, that the goal of 1,600 megawatts solar by 2020 was not only realistic but perhaps could be achieved early under a number of scenarios.



Net Benefits?

Consultants to the task force who evaluated the costs and benefits of solar found that under a modified (and less costly) version of the current program (SREC 3)...

“... SREC programs are expected to come in at a net cost to non-participating ratepayers of \$2.7 to \$2.9 billion over 25 years, these programs are also expected to provide \$7.0-\$8.8 billion in net benefits to the citizens of Massachusetts over the same

period, depending on the scenario analyzed. Customer-generators and non-owner participants are likely to enjoy a net benefit ranging from \$2.2-\$3.8 billion and \$734-\$809 million, respectively.”

In their introduction to the task force report, however, the officials in the Baker Administration focused on the cost to non-solar rate payers rather than the “net benefits”: “Based on analysis provided by the [electricity] distribution company Task Force Members and by the Task Force consultant team,” they write, “cost projections for non-participating ratepayers are in the range of \$2.5 to \$4 billion for the period 2014-2020.”

This analysis, which appears to reject the cost-benefit method in the report itself, is the reason the current administration opposes the raising the net metering cap:

“In light of these projections, the Administration does not support raising the net metering caps in the short term absent a long term sustainable solution. Rather, we believe it is extremely important that any adjustments to the caps be accompanied by meaningful changes to the mix of incentives and proper consideration of the role of the ratepayers.”

The final task force report recommended “a comprehensive and transparent solar benefit/cost study to determine the value and impact of solar in Massachusetts.” The recommendation states that such a study should be “spearheaded by the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Energy Resources,” and “should be undertaken on a schedule such that it would not delay implementation of a new policy framework.”

Administration officials on the task force, however, abstained from this recommendation. In the introduction to the task force final report, they state that “the Baker-Polito Administration looks forward to leading a dialogue to develop a program that strikes the right balance” between “promoting clean energy and lowering costs to ratepayers.”

Concentrate and Ask Again

As of this writing it is not clear the form this “dialogue” will take, or what the administration considers “the right balance” between clean energy and its costs. Over 100 energy bills were filed at the beginning of the current legislative session, many of them dealing with solar.

Representative Paul Mark of Greenfield is one of the sponsors of a bill that would raise the cap to 1,600 MW, and exempt projects under 1 MW. This legislation would create greater incentives for community shared solar projects, set a 20% solar energy goal by 2025, and direct the Department of Public Utilities to initiate an energy storage program.

For more information on current legislation and the debate over solar policy see the websites of the Mass Solar Owners Association (masoa.org) and MassSolar (solarisworking.org). Both of these organizations advocate for more aggressive policies to promote solar.

The final report of the net metering and solar task force includes not only technical reports but position papers from a wide range of so-

NOTES OF THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concerns from Avery; Sullivan Talks Retention

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – Retired former principal Robert (Bob) Avery took advantage of the public participation time at the start of the June 9 school committee meeting to express concerns he said he has heard from various unnamed individuals associated with the district in varying capacities. These concerns centered around the theme of communication and open participation in the course of doing the responsible work of educating.

One or two were concerned with perceived inequalities in salaries, percentages of increases, and other, unspecified, personnel concerns. He also made a suggestion that the committee consider creating a program to show on the local access station, MCTV. His suggested title was “Gill-Montague Speaks”.

His final concern was that the interior of the high school and grounds were showing a need for attention. He acknowledged that he had more he could add, but chose instead to thank the school committee for listening.

Next up was the newly combined high school/middle school guidance department, consisting of former middle school counselor Emily Krems and former high school counselors Beth Fortin, Maria Poletti and Karen Hidalgo. Each presented on a piece of their department’s work, all aimed at helping students in decision-making and problem-solving.

The guidance department does much more than help with college applications. For example, as early as the end of seventh grade, students will be thinking about and deciding whether to choose a tech school education at the Franklin County Technical School or a traditional academic one at Turners Falls High.

Another significant part of the department’s work is assessing the difficulties individual students face, especially understanding how trauma may impact their success in school. This process is known as needs assessment.

Each speaker emphasized the value of such data to their understanding of the students in the district’s middle and high school programs. Of course, college admission is still a big goal for many students; this year’s graduating class boasts about 42 students going on to four-year or two-year colleges, while others students have chosen to take employment or military service paths.

The superintendent’s report came next. Michael Sullivan explained the phone outage lasting from May 29 to June 1 was discovered to be an in-house problem, now fixed.

Another piece of good news is that Edline, used by 70% of parents to communicate with school staff, is going to be replaced with an easier-

to-use system expected to save the district around \$10,000 in costs. Sullivan stressed his pride and pleasure at the successful awards night and graduation.

He told the committee the school hoped to hear by June 11 from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts about a grant to fund the elementary summer school program. As it turned out, the Montague elementary school did receive the grant, for \$19,500, from the Community Foundation. It will allow 48 elementary students to participate in a 4-week morning program, beginning June 29.

Sullivan noted that the strategic plan identified five objectives aimed at attracting and holding students in the district. One of those was a questionnaire for parents pulling their child out and choosing another school. The return rate of questionnaires from this group was high, and one of the frequently cited reasons was the lack of programs. As a response to that concern, Sullivan announced that for the 2015-16 school year, the district is adding an eighth-grade Spanish class and a seventh-grade theater class.

The final item in his report is that a year ago he mentioned the plan to survey parents. He will be presenting those narratives by the next school committee meeting on June 23.

Marje Levenson suggested that the Retirees Farewell should be jointly funded by the school committee. Sullivan agreed that was possible for next year.

With that, the school committee returned to the business of setting its goals for the coming year.

Jane Oakes suggested a goal must be to develop and support a responsible budget that “educates the whole student.”

The question of whether there should be a budget subcommittee was discussed. Timmie Smith pointed out that preparing a budget is the single biggest responsibility of the school committee. Several members thought it better for the entire group to work together on the budget, so everyone has the same information and understanding of the budget as it develops. As discussion went on, some members seemed to change their mind in favor of the subcommittee idea, but in the end the whole group agreed to be involved in the budget-making process.

Joyce Phillips next advocated for a policy subcommittee because many policies have not been revisited in a long time and may be passed or otherwise changed. It was generally agreed that this area was a perfect fit for a subcommittee.

The GMRSD school committee’s next meeting is Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

called “stakeholders.” The report is on the website of the Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

If you are interested in the argument against solar, the most influential organization is probably Edison Electrical Institute, which the *New*

York Times calls “the lobbying arm of the power industry.”

See in particular their report “Disruptive Challenges, Financial Implications, and Strategic Responses to A Changing Retail Electric Business” at www.eea.org.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Pipeline Question Goes To Townspeople June 29

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard approved an 18-article warrant for a special town meeting June 29. The STM will consider \$1.9 million in expenditures, including putting \$852,712 into the stabilization fund, \$775,000 to develop the proposed Erving Riverside Park, \$165,000 to purchase the property at 34 Northfield Road, located between Erving Elementary School and the Senior/Community Center, and \$90,000 to re-side town hall.

The meeting will also consider an article opposing the Kinder-Morgan Northeast Direct natural gas pipeline.

The stabilization fund addition and the Northfield Road purchase were approved at the annual town meeting on May 6. After the town meeting, town clerk Richard Newton questioned whether the moderator could declare that the required two-thirds majority for these articles was reached by voice vote rather than by actual vote count.

According to administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, the selectboard consulted town counsel Donna MacNicol, who recommended re-voting the two articles at the June STM.

Article 1 on the warrant is a proposed bylaw clarifying the moderator's ability to declare a vote, without a hand count, on matters requiring a two-thirds, four-fifths or nine-tenths vote, unless the moderator's declared vote is immediately questioned.

The \$775,000 for Erving

Riverside Park will be used only if the town obtains a Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the state Division of Conservation Services. The grant, if received, will reimburse the town up to \$400,000 of the total cost of the park development.

Article 18, placed on the warrant by citizen's petition, asks the town to vote to express opposition to the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Direct pipeline, to oppose any pipeline in Erving carrying natural gas obtained through fracturing and to instruct the selectboard that all future decisions concerning a proposed gas pipeline or compressor station must be voted on by the citizens of Erving.

George Moonlight Davis and Morningstar Chenven of Strachan Street both worked to put the petitioned article on the warrant. Davis told the *Montague Reporter* that "Erving is the only town that yielded to Kinder-Morgan coming in and surveying" on town-owned land for the pipeline. He said he was shocked when he read that the selectboard had made that decision.

He said, "I want the people to have a part in the decision. The article puts responsibility back on the people, not on the selectboard." Chenven said the couple went door to door in Erving talking about the pipeline, and the selectboard's action in allowing surveying "didn't really reflect what the people of Erving felt."

Davis added, "We love our town. We love Erving, and we don't want to see it messed up."

The STM will be held Monday, June 29 at 7 p.m. at Erving Elementary School.

Executive Session

The selectboard held an executive session attended by MacNicol. The listed executive session agenda items were "POTW#2 railroad crossing" and "Executive Session with Administrator."

In May, Pan Am Railways informed the board that safety defects found by the Federal Railroad Administration at the Pan Am crossing on the road leading to POTW#2 could result in repairs costing Erving \$310,000.

At the June 1 meeting, after the selectboard refused to turn off or relocate a recently-installed security camera that records activity at his desk, Erving's administrative coordinator Tom Sharp asked the board to schedule an executive session to discuss an "exit strategy" from his job.

In open meeting after the executive session ended, the board tabled a discussion of the administrator's contract agenda item until June 22. The administrator's contract is renewed annually; this year's contract expires June 30.

The board revised and approved the job description for a part-time maintenance position at the Senior/Community Center.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Changes at Gill Elementary Discussed; Forum Proposed

By TIA FATTARUSO

Gill Elementary School Principal Kathleen Bailer started off Monday night's selectboard meeting by presenting ideas towards a discussion about improving the school's special education capabilities.

Bailer said that while there is no Department of Education mandate to change anything, and the school is working with what they have now, it is not ideal for students or educators.

"Back in 1985, special education was very different," Bailer said, adding that now the school needs an occupational therapy, counseling and speech and language therapy in addition to more traditional special education.

After an initial administrative walk through the elementary school with the district, an initial proposal, which Bailer emphasized was just part of a larger conversation, was for adding a small room to the all-purpose room.

"There is a present and ongoing need for smaller spaces with the ability to be quiet, that's separate but connected," Bailer said.

An unusually large audience of about 15 attended the meeting to join in the conversation about the school, and most seemed opposed to changing the already well-used room.

A long debate ensued, and while many ideas were bounced around, such as subdividing spaces, returning the library to special education use, or using more creative scheduling options, it became clear that this was just the beginning of a much longer discussion.

Gill-Montague Superintendent Michael Sullivan was on the docket after Bailer. He said he was attending in response to the general reaction about the elementary school at last Wednesday's town meeting during voting on the Gill portion of the school district's budget.

"People were unhappy with different facets of the school. I would be happy to host a forum for concerns," Sullivan said, adding he'd rather do that sooner than later.

Attendees felt that it would be most effective and inclusive to wait until a month or so into the school year, both to see how things are going and so folks would not be left out due to being on vacation.

One attendee, a relatively new Gill resident and parent with a child at Gill Elementary, summed up some of the concerns as the town experiencing a sense of loss that the school is not what it used to be.

"As a parent that doesn't have that historical experience, there's some phenomenal things happening here," she said.

"It sounds like a good homework assignment for both the superintendent and the school community at large," said selectman John Ward, about having a forum at the beginning of the next school year.

HEARTsafe Certification

Kyle Kendall represented the Gill Fireman's Association, which bought two new Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) for about \$4,000 from the approximately \$6,000 raised during their Memorial Day Weekend Boot Drive.

Kendall asked the selectboard for the town to buy the AEDs for \$1 each, as the association does not have a prescription for them.

The Phillips Heartstart FRX AEDs are more compact, easier to use, and have cheaper pads, according to Kendall, and will go on the rescue vehicle and engine 2, which are most frequently used.

The purchase is a step toward Gill's hope to become a HEARTsafe community. Gill is on the "at risk list" with an aging population, Kendall said. Becoming HEARTsafe certified will also open the door for grant opportunities.

Entering Gill Sign Down

Fire Chief Gene Beaubien, who accompanied Kendall, pointed out that the "Entering Gill" sign at Factory Hollow Bridge is still down.

"It's probably not doing much good laying there on the ground," he said before they left.

LED Streetlights

The new supplier and brand for LED streetlights are slated to consume 6,785 KWH, versus the 10,050 of the previous brand and 23,000 KWH of the current lights.

Town administrator Ray Purington will do a payback calculation, and also find out whether the lowered KWH's will result in an increased rebate.

School Well Project

Purington also received feedback from the engineers on the school well project on town counsel Donna MacNicol's comments and objections to that contract.

"A lot of the changes would remove all liability from the town. Most of those attempts in this contract are a dead end," Purington said.

Chair Randy Crochier noted that the well project is nonetheless a priority in his opinion.

Mariamante Solar Project

Selectman Greg Sneideker spoke to the need to make headway in some direction on the Mariamante solar project, which has been a longstanding item on the agenda.

Net metering caps and limits to investment tax credits were pointed to as reasons to move forward.

Vehicle Maintenance

The selectman continued a conversation on town vehicle maintenance that began a month ago.

According to Purington, a 1994 town meeting vote established a maintenance committee to be appointed by the monitor, though there are no records showing that such a committee was ever appointed, disbanded, or voted out.

The hope is to streamline maintenance records, establish a system for understanding and deciding who is responsible for maintenance work, remain aware of the condition of current town machinery and make recommendations for its replacement, all under the guidelines of capital improvement.

Other Business

The board signed a three year renewal with the Cooperative Public Health Services Health District and a three year renewal with FRCOG town accountant services.

The commitment for the next set of quarterly sewer bills, coming in at \$19,265, which is comparable to years past, was signed.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of Beverly Demars as the town's representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District Advisory Board, which position she has held since before 2002.

Demars found a replacement in Michael Hastings of Cove View Lane.

Isaac Bingham was approved as an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The board re-affirmed a 2011 decision authorizing a \$25 per meeting stipend for the camera operator. The money comes out of the PEG Access Fund.

Purington was authorized to spend up to \$830 for a new computer for the assessor's office and up to \$550 for a new computer for the library.

The board received and read a legal notice from All Points Technology Company, which is working with Verizon Wireless and proposing to put antennas on existing utility poles along Route 2. The letter invites comment on the proposal's potential effects on historic properties.

LEVERETT from page A1

officers, firemen, and animal rescuers. There will be a showing of the movie Big Hero Sox, and the Boston Museum of Science will come August 18 for a display of the night sky set up in the elementary school.

The grand finale will be a version of Minute to Win It. Prizes will include ice cream certificates, bookmarks, stickers, and books.

Even if a child doesn't enjoy reading, Blais is hoping the social atmosphere and the possibility of running into friends will draw children to the program.

"The program gets a good community of readers going. Even if kids don't think they want to read, they may want ice cream," Blais joked.

Blais believes the strong community surrounding the program is one of the reasons why it is so effective in encouraging reading in young children.

"The community aspect builds lifelong reading. Kids run into their friends here," Blais explained.

Blais also explained it doesn't take much to encourage a child to learn through reading. "Generally you are learning something while you are reading. It doesn't have to be non-fiction," said Blais.

This year the children will have the opportunity to choose new books to be purchased and added to the children's section in the library. Each year the summer reading program

donates money to a local non-profit or school. Last year the program raised money for Dakin Animal Shelter, and the year before money was sent to the Leverett Elementary School.

"Fundraising makes kids feel good. They are doing something positive," said Blais.

This year Blais has come up with a creative way to keep the children engaged and to have them be a part of fundraising.

"This year there will be a bingo game, and when they get bingo they get a vote on a book," Blais explained. Blais will have a list of books and the books that have the most votes at the end of the ten-week program will be purchased by the Friends of the Leverett Library.

Libraries across the state will be participating in the program, which totes slogans like "every hero has a story," and "escape the ordinary." Blais said she gets children from other towns at the summer library program in Leverett, and encourages families to explore the summer reading programs in their area.

The Summer Reading Kickoff Party took place Wednesday afternoon after school, but Blais said any families still wishing to sign up can still do so. This year's kickoff featured music by Bob Harper.

"Usually the elementary band plays at the kickoff party but they can't this year," explained Blais.

To sign up for the summer reading program, visit the Leverett Library.



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CHAMPS from pg A1

caught a high pop at the edge of the dugout, and Mackenzie Phillips fanned the next batter. She walked the next Mustang, but Nicole John caught a high fly to left field to retire the side.

In the Indian second, Nicole J clapped a deep fly into centerfield for a leadoff double, but was stranded there after 3 quick outs. Monson had their chance to go ahead in their half of the second when their leadoff man also cracked a double. Mackenzie struck out the next batter, but a fielder's choice sent the runner to third. The next Mustang hit the ball straight at first and Mackenzie Salls stepped on the bag to end the threat.

In the third, Mackenzie S. gapped a base hit into center and settled for a single. Jenna hit a grounder and reached base, but Salls was forced out at second. Amber Caouette banded a hit to left field, and Gabby drew a walk to load the bases. Again, Abby came in for Gabby.

"Help yourself," Blue Nation called to pitcher Mackenzie P. as she stepped up to the batter's box.

And she did – hitting an off-the-glove high pop that sent 3 runs home. She was replaced at third base by courtesy runner Maddy Johnson. Nicole J. sent Maddy home on a sac

fly, and Powertown took a 4-0 lead.

Jordyn Fiske kept the hit parade going by smashing a double, but was thrown out at home on a Haley Whipple hit.

Monson tried to keep pace in the bottom of the inning, but a pretty centerfield triple went for naught.

In the fourth, Mackenzie S. hit a bouncer into center. Jenna came to the plate and smashed the first pitch over the wall, expanding the Powertown lead to 6-0.

Monson went 1-2-3 in their fourth, as Mackenzie P. whiffed the first batter and Jordan Meattey threw out the next two.

In the fifth, Blue put up 2 more runs. Mackenzie P. worked a 0-2 count to full, and finally reached on a walk. Maddy came in as the runner, and Nicole J. cracked a double, but another throw to home caught Maddy out. Jordyn F. hit the ball and went to second on the throw as Nicole took third. Then Haley hit a grounder to center, and sent both ladies home.

Mackenzie P. struck out the next side of Mustangs, and after 5 innings, Powertown led 8-0.

Jordan M. led off the sixth with a base hit grounder. Amber followed with a 2-strike hit of her own. Gabby hit a line drive into center, sending

Jordan home and Amber to third.

Abby Loynd took the bag for Gabby and Jessica Loynd came in as pinch hitter. Jessica hit a fly to right field and sent Amber home and the deficit climbed to double digits, 10-0 after 6. Mackenzie fanned the first two batters in the bottom of the sixth, and a Meattey-to-Salls throw-out ended the inning.

Three more Blue runs crossed the plate in the seventh, and two more Phillips Ks and a popup to Jenna Putala ended the game.



Jenna Putala and Jordan Meattey start the celebration after Putala catches the fly ball to center field for the final out during Saturday's 13-0 championship win over the Monson Mustangs.

And just like that, the Turners Falls Lady Indians earned a ticket to the states, a championship trophy and a Blue Jacket with the words, "2015 Western Mass Champions" emblazoned on it.

Putala scored 2 runs, banded in 2 RBIs, had 3 hits and parked a homer. John powered 2 doubles and got a RBI. Fiske pasted a double, scored a run and had 2 hits. Salls had 3 hits and scored 3 runs.

Arzuaga had 2 hits, 2 RBIs, 1 walk and scored a run. Whipple had 2 hits and 2 RBIs. Caouette had 2 hits and scored 3 runs. Jessica Loynd went 1 for 1 and earned a RBI. Meattey also had a hit and scored a run.

Phillips walked once and crossed the plate twice. In the circle, she threw a 2-hit shutout, allowed 1 base-on-balls and fired 11 strikeouts.

Johnson, Abby Loynd, Nicole Thibeault and Sienna Dillensneider helped out on the bases as courtesy runners, and Melissa Hersey assisted at the plate as a pinch hitter.

Winning Western Mass and playing in the state tournament is nothing new for the Turners Falls Softball Indians. For Powertown, this has become the rule rather than the exception. This is the second

straight year that the Lady Indians have won Western Mass, and amazingly enough, in the last 12 years, they won it 11 times.

Hopedale has not been that fortunate, however. Their last Central Mass championship was 20 years ago. But even though Turners may have the edge in experience, Hopedale is the current Central Mass Champions.

"At this stage of the game, all teams have won championships," Coach Mullins explained, "and all believe they can win the next game."

But does Turners' experience and the fact they are playing in nearby Amherst help?

"Does a familiar setting help players?" Coach Mullins mused. "I think so, and yes, we have some kids that have had some big-game experience. But most teams are led by 'travel ball players' who have all played in big games."

As always, Mullins is not overconfident. "A break here or there and you advance," he said. "If it goes against you, you go home."

Congratulations to the Turners Falls Softball Team and Western Mass Champions!



LAKE from pg A1

But in Lake Pleasant, the pace of life seems slower somehow. Perhaps that is to the good, as it allows more time to savor the "scenery": the gingerbread scrollwork on the close-packed summer cottages, transformed now to year-round dwellings; the renovated 40-year-old footbridge with its ornately carved timber kiosks at either end, sheltering benches that invite the passerby to gaze out on the deep blue lake, set like lapis lazuli among the dark green pines. No loitering after 9 p.m.

No Swimming

When the Turners Falls Water Department closed the lake to swimming, boating and fishing over a century ago, it also closed off the lifeline for what had been a thriving resort community. Lake Pleasant once saw thousands of summer residents journey from as far away as Boston and New York by train and trolley car to while away the summer camped in tents, or lodged in the hotels that once graced its shores.

Ice houses stored ice beneath one of the earlier incarnations of the footbridge, and supplied the ice cream parlors and small stores and tea rooms that sprang up around the lake. A number of religious congregations summered in Lake Pleasant in its early days, in the aftermath of the Civil War.

But gradually the Spiritualists, who believed in reincarnation, psychic mediums, and the possibility of communication between the living and the dead, won out.

In 1874, the New England Spirit-

ualist Campmeeting Association was formed, and Lake Pleasant grew to become the center of a thriving network of Spiritualist societies, with three different newspapers published in the village to unite the movement, and over 200 independent churches around the country holding charters from Lake Pleasant.

Although the summer residents were used to listening to orators advance the precepts of Spiritualism from a speaker's podium in a pine grove near the railroad station on the east side of the village, the Campmeeting Association soon built a permanent temple near the common on the Bluffs.

That structure, along with 102 cottages and every other building then standing on the east side of the village, burned to the ground in a devastating fire in 1907. Only the bell was saved from the original temple.

That bell was incorporated into the design of a new temple, built on the Highlands, near the corner of Adams Road and Denton Street. On April Fool's Day, 1955, that building too, was destroyed by fire, rumored to have been set by the fire chief's son, who was promptly "spirited away" from the Lake, never to be seen in the village again, according to former village historian Louise Shattuck.

Once again, the bell was salvaged from the flames, and for many years it was housed in a reconstructed bell tower on the west side of the footbridge. But that bell tower, besieged now by Japanese knotweed, developed leaks in the wooden shake roof which caused

the bell to crack.

Taken down for reforging, the restored bell has yet to be re-installed.

Limited Hours

Since the heyday of camp meetings, Lake Pleasant has gotten used to a quieter existence. The stores and hotels are long gone, the library closed, the fire station boarded up. At least the Thompson Temple remains standing, home not only to the National Spiritual Alliance, with its monthly psychic fairs, but also as a meeting space for other organizations, like the Village Association.

For many years, first under the leadership of Alfreda Casey, then Joyce Cote, the small post office just across Montague Street from the Temple has been the real communal center of the village. With no door to door postal delivery, residents of Lake Pleasant were used to coming in to pick up their mail from one of the 110 numbered brass post boxes, with their wheeled combination locks. They could sit for a spell and exchange the news of the day.

But two years ago, in a money-saving move, the USPS erected a bland metal wall of exterior post boxes available to residents 24 hours a day, just outside the building. Then the post office reduced the operating hours for counter sales to just two hours a day (2:15 to 4:15 p.m.) on weekdays, and 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays, in the process putting yet another tourniquet on the flow of village life. The table and chairs, the coffee pot, that once helped make the post office a gathering spot, are gone.

"Today was a typically slow day," said David James last Wednesday. James oversees what he now calls "The Lake Pleasant Ghost Office," in the absence of a regular postmaster. "Gross sales were 98 cents – two stamps."

Lahri Bond, president of the Village Association, acknowledged the loss to the village with the downsizing of what was already a most diminutive post office.

"This was the place that everybody came to," said Bond. "Now you have people just driving up to pick up their mail at the box. They don't come in. Gossip hasn't really been the same. It was a focal point of the community."

Bond delivered this opinion on Saturday at 11:25 a.m. He was the third person to come into the post office that day.

An Unhurried Pace

It is not just the post office that has been downsized. The entire population of Lake Pleasant has shrunk – from about 300 in 2003, when Cote was still postmaster (she preferred the term, hated to be called postmistress) to less than 200 now.

"Families are smaller," said James, philosophically.

Still, there are enough children to justify improvements to the village playgrounds. The one on Lake Pleasant Road has already been pleasantly renovated with new swings and play structures (so watch that 30 mile per hour speed limit, please!), and the families on the Bluffs are eagerly awaiting upgrades to the playground on their common.

The Lake Pleasant Women's Club is still active – putting on Easter Egg hunts, Thanksgiving basket raffles, holiday doings at year's end, and, of course, a Hallowe'en party.

But it is, perhaps, the Village Association that will take the lead role now in keeping the two halves of Montague's smallest community knit closely together. Last week the nine members who gathered at the Thompson Temple talked up plans to have new street lights installed on First Avenue, and to persuade Pan Am Railroad to clean up the piles and piles of tinder dry, creosote-soaked railroad ties from the side of the tracks, not far from where the train station used to be, and the dance pavilion. Lake Pleasant has known fires before, and it wants no more of them.

Last Wednesday, the Village Association made plans to have the old bell tower repaired and reroofed in time for the reunion. By Saturday, Bill Emond was out in the heat of the day, swinging a two-handed scythe and mowing down the knotweed, which towered over his head, nearly hiding the old structure.


"It learns," said Emond, attributing a kind of psychic awareness to the plant. "If you keep mowing it, it learns."

The Lake Pleasant Village Association, proud of the heritage they are preserving, plans to have the bell from the Campmeeting Temple mounted once more in the cupola before the big reunion on September 19.

That date is months away, but time proceeds at an unhurried pace in Lake Pleasant. Better mark your calendars now.



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MICHAEL REARDON PHOTO

Commencement speaker Dr. Sheila Harrity, superintendent of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, speaks at the Franklin County Technical School graduation on June 3. On the left is FCTS superintendent James Laverty; on the right is principal Richard Martin. Thanks to Tech spokesman Michael Reardon for sharing the photo!

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B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 18, 2015

Medieval Times Return This Weekend!

By MATT ERICKSON

MONTAGUE – Now entering its fifth year as a community-oriented event of merriment and medieval entertainment, the Mutton & Mead Festival returns this weekend to Montague. As it marks its half-decade of growing success, the festival's organizers are hoping to continue expanding its popularity, as well as planting even deeper roots within the immediate region.

"What we're trying to do is build [the festival] locally and have it be sustainable in our community," says David Agro, Mutton & Mead's artistic and programming director.

Not only does this local focus entail raising funds for both the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and the Montague Common Hall (formerly the Montague Grange), but it also means directly involving local actors, performers and merchants in the weekend's various happenings.

Agro says that there are somewhere between 200 and 300 people involved in the production, many of whom are local volunteers, from the "shire cast" troupe that populates the forested paths to the food vendors, craftspeople and educators setting up shop on the grounds of the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club.

All of these elements create what Agro calls an "immersive theatrical experience" which viewers can both watch as spectators and interact with in equal measure.

While the combination of jousting, traditional balladry and smoked turkey legs within a Robin Hood-themed environment may be the initial draw for this upcoming weekend, the event's organizers are also hoping that visitors will also be inspired to generously support local causes through a new donation model.

To commemorate Mutton & Mead's fifth year, the festival is see **MEAD** page B3



Caravan dancers entertain the crowd at last year's Mutton and Mead.

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS TOUR: THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY (PART 1)



Ashley Bissonnette and David Naumec of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum study artifacts in the Carnegie's collection.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Little town libraries are full of odd collections, and as they inevitably expand and renovate, items are relocated, sold, or stored out of sight. The inspiration for this series of articles came from encountering dozens of stuffed birds in the anteroom of a tiny library in Ackworth, NH. The birds were all collected and prepared by a chronically ill young man of that town about 100 years ago.

I hadn't visited the officially named Artifacts Loft at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls for many years. I had been saving my visit for last in this series, unless I decide to continue on farther afield than Franklin County.

My first visits upstairs at the Carnegie were in the late 1980s soon after moving to Turners. I pored over microfiche editions of the *Turners Falls Reporter* and *Herald* in the loft

in search of answers about what happened here long ago, and in particular whether there was any mention of Thomas and Catherine Reen, the first owners of the house I had bought.

The research kick wore out in a week or so, and I might have visited the upstairs a few times with my kids in the intervening years, but that same microfiche reader is still there over 25 years later. Fortunately, the old town newspapers have been digitized and are available online for the curious to peruse at their leisure (montague.advantage-preservation.com.)

The Turners Falls library building was built for \$12,500 in 1905, thanks to a Carnegie grant. Andrew Carnegie helped build 2,500 libraries across the country. He was a "self-made man," a wealthy industrialist who never forgot the advantage he gained through access to books at the public library as a young and poor immigrant.

Carnegie ended up giving away

90% of his wealth before he died, because he considered inherited wealth a great waste of resources that should be invested in the betterment of society.

I think the Artifacts Loft is a truly marvelous collection! But before I go further, I must admit, for me, there is charm in a bit of neglect. If something is dusty and scratched and missing some detail or feature – an eye, a leg, a knob – I am attracted to it. I am drawn to imperfection, and finding something unimproved stimulates the feeling of discovery.

Finding an original and unimproved collection housed in wood and glass cases lining the sides of the room, with closets containing a stuffed sheep's head or two, really speaks to me! (Not that I would stand in the way of any archival improvements...)

The large, open room is filled with artifact cases, and has a stage in the middle of the rear wall. It is used for children's programs, but otherwise the museum is not open for visitors without an attending member of the staff. The stairs go up from the vestibule and there is no elevator, limiting accessibility to those who can manage the climb.

Library director Linda Hickman enjoys showing people the collection, but she and the staff don't always have the time to give a tour.

"School children coming to the library are fascinated by the natural history items, including the mounted animals," she says. "Many adults have enjoyed the military items and old photographs and maps.

"My deceased mother's rock collection is what is the most special for me, personally. The local Native see **CARNEGIE** page B8

Staying In Good Company

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – For Sita Lang, her elder companion service, In Good Company, is built on a foundation of four interlocking skills that she has honed over the years.

The essence of her work is based upon (1) paying relaxed but careful attention, (2) a style of being non-judgmental, (3) the ability to be present and compassionate, and (4) active listening. "Whatever I do with my clients," said Lang, "is under the umbrella of these essential skills."

Lang began In Good Company back in 2011 as an answer to the simple question, "Are you, or someone you know, in need of companionship?" Thanks to her four-step foundation, Lang enables the client to always be seen and heard with respect and acceptance.

"I feel that all my life experiences have led up to the skilled and intentional companionship I offer to elders and others in the final years of life," said Lang. "In my late teens, I drove a van for a senior facility, taking people to day care centers and appointments. I've always been drawn to working with seniors."

One of the advantages of her work, according to Lang, is her ability to be a caring presence that is outside of the client's family. "I spend a lot of time working with my people. In this way, we're able to build up a trust. I communicate with their children via e-mail or telephone. I give them information that has to do with safety."

Lang provides a wide-ranging menu of activities both in the home and outside. In the dwelling, she prepares meals, plays cards and board games with clients, creates memory books, chats and reminisces, looks at photos, listens to music, and reads aloud.

Away from the home, Lang has been known to accompany clients on trips to Fenway Park and other events. In addition, the 57-year-old Lang brings them to libraries, museums, and

movies. Shopping and eating out are also fun excursions along with day trips, walks, and transportation to medical appointments.

Another quality Lang stresses is her exceptional interpersonal skills. Randy Suhl, a 98-year-old client and retired machinist, agreed. "Sita is so natural," said Suhl. "We hit it off immediately. My son lives out-of-state, and my daughter is more than an hour away. They felt it was very important for me to not be at home alone after my wife died. Sita came at the perfect time. She really helped me cope through that difficult period, and she's been a wonderful companion over the past four years. It's been so helpful to have someone outside the family to talk to."

Lang attended the University of Minnesota and the Florida School of Massage in Gainesville. She was a massage therapist for nine years in Massachusetts. "I think both experiences were beneficial," said Lang, "but the work in massage helped me learn how to meet people where they are in life. I was able to hone my active listening techniques. I can listen to what people are saying and what they

see **COMPANY** page B4

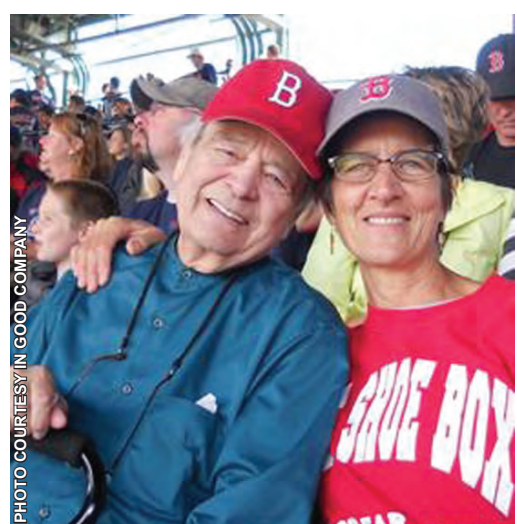


PHOTO COURTESY IN GOOD COMPANY

Lang and a client enjoy a game at Fenway.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

FRENCH KING ROCK

The great river is now still and quiet in the early morning mist and rain this day in mid-June. But one hundred years ago, and for forty years before that, all the way back to 1875, this stretch of the Connecticut River would have been jammed with tens of thousands of spruce logs.

The shouts, songs, and curses of the log drivers would have resounded from bank to bank, and occasional explosions of dynamite would have echoed through the valley, where now you can only hear the lonely rattle of the kingfisher or the sound of an outboard motor.

The French King Rock, which dominated the rapids in the gorge below the Northfield line, caused plenty of trouble for the log drivers, as the trees piled up against the mammoth obstacle that towered sixteen feet above the whitewater.

Some say that massive rock, likely dropped by the receding glacier of 12,000 years ago, was named by French explorers who may have come down the river in the mid-1600s. Whatever the origins

WEST ALONG THE RIVER Dynamite, Log Drives, and River Hogs: Part II



FLORENCE CHAFFIN PHOTO

French King Rock, 1914

of that designation, the landmark has always been known in our region by that name.

Florence Chaffin of Millers Falls, whose scrapbook was found recently in the Erving Historical Commission archives, photographed the rock from a rowboat in 1914. Her snapshot clearly shows the rock is actually composed of three separate pieces.

As dams at Turners Falls were heightened, the Rock appeared smaller and smaller, as it was submerged beneath the rising waters. By the time the river was drawn down in October 1969, exposing the Rock, it was showing considerable wear and tear. Since 1970, when the dam was

again raised by five feet, it has remained almost entirely covered by water.

But back in the drives of the early 1900s, the Rock played mayhem with loggers, who had a challenging time as it was, without this added hazard.

The drives originated far up near the Québec border, where the Connecticut begins its journey. Typically, summer in the North woods of the upper Connecticut was quiet. The logging season began with teams of wood surveyors criss-crossing the forests, marking stands of trees to be cut.

Ben Bachman describes see **LOGS** page B4

Pet of the Week



"NOONA"

Hello, I'm Noona, a sweet little lady who can be a bit shy at first.

Don't let that fool you though, I really do love people. I do well with other cats and would love to have a companion in my new home to show me the ropes.

I am looking for a family with slightly older kids who will go slow with me.

Once I warm up to you I will keep you company on the laziest of days. Won't you give a sweet girl like me a chance?

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

Senior Center Activities

June 22 to 26

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Monday 6/22

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/23

9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (fee)
10:30 a.m. Center Closes

Wednesday 6/24

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Mnthly Health Scrnng
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/25

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

Friday 6/26

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 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. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays

at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 6/22

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Tuesday 6/23

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Cardio Toning
11:30 a.m. Sandwich Tuesday
12:30 p.m. COPD Presentation
12:30 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 6/24

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

Thursday 6/25

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 6/26

9 a.m. Quilting, Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Bowling

WENDELL

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

Summer Book Sale: We Have Just the Book for You

By VICKI VALLEY

It is summer and many of us spend time walking, hiking, biking, swimming, and mowing the grass, weeding the garden, trimming the hedges...

When we have finished (or before we begin) more energetic pursuits, or it is just too hot to move, it is great to sit on the porch – or beach – and read something by our favorite author. Maybe you have devoured all the books your most familiar writers have written and you are looking for someone new to read.

What better way to stock up on summer reading than to come to the Carnegie Library "Friends of the Library" book sale on Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We have fiction and non-fiction books for adults, young adults and children at an incredible price of \$3 per bag. (That is grocery store, plastic bag size.) The books are all sorted. It is easy to find your favorite category: mystery, romance, health, sports, biography, environment, and so much more. You just will not believe how many books you have not read yet!

If you wish to donate books for the book sale please keep a few things in mind:

- We can really use more young adult fiction
- No moldy or mildewed books (those little brown spots forming on the edges of the book)
- No textbooks
- Travel books no more than a couple of years old

If you have any questions you can email: vickidonate@yahoo.com.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

The latest episodes of Fat Detective and The Madison Show are now online!

Get ready for intrigue and drama with a tinge of humor in Eric Fins' Fat Detective, and follow local Rodney Madison as he traverses Turners Falls capturing the flavor of the village from his unique perspective.

Eshu Bumpus was a big hit at Sheffield Elementary earlier this month and now you can watch the program on MCTV! As noted previously, Bumpus is a renowned storyteller, accomplished jazz vocalist and a master of physical characterization.

He has performed across America with the mission of encourag-

ing literacy and building community through the communication of story. The program was funded in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council.

For our local sports enthusiasts who couldn't make the Western Mass Division III softball championship this past weekend between Turners Falls and top-ranked Monson, all the action was captured by videographer Bret Leighton and will be up for viewing shortly.

Turners Falls moves on to the State Semi Finals this Wednesday to take on the Central Mass. Champions, with hopes of moving on to the Championship game Saturday.

The first episode of Valley Views with Valerie Magoon, featuring the 10th Annual Family Fish Day, will be available for viewing later this week. Not wasting any time, the second episode, featuring paddle boarding, was shot this past week at Barton's Cove.

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

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

But We Decide Which is Right...

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Do people who are color blind see everything in black and white?

"Color blindness" is the common term used to describe color vision deficiency. The term is misleading, because total color blindness that turns the world into shades of gray is rare.

The most common type of color blindness makes it difficult for people to discriminate between red and green. The next most common form of the deficiency affects the perception of blues and yellows. Those with blue-yellow blindness almost always have red-green blindness, too.

Many people with color blindness don't know they have it. For example,

they are taught at an early age that grass is green. They look at lawns and see yellow grass. Subsequently, if you ask them what color the grass is, they will tell you it's green.

(Please don't ask me how they handle shopping for bananas.)

Color blindness affects about ten percent of men, but only one percent of women. Most people with color blindness inherited it. There is no treatment to correct inherited color blindness. However, there are specially tinted eyeglasses that can help people with deficiencies to discriminate between colors.

Another cause of color blindness is simple aging, which gradually diminishes our ability to see colors.

Diseases can affect your color vision, too. Usually, diseases affect the perception of blue and yellow. Some conditions that can cause color blindness are diabetes, glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, leukemia and sickle cell anemia.

Some drugs can alter color perception, too. These include drugs for heart problems, high blood pressure, rheumatoid arthritis, nervous disorders and psychological problems.

Exposure to certain chemicals can cause color blindness. These include carbon disulfide, fertilizers, styrene and mercury.

The eye is like a camera. There's a lens in the front that focuses images on the retina in the back. The retina contains nerve cells that react to light and transmit information to your brain. If the cells responsible for color don't work properly, you suffer from color blindness.

If you think you are having a color-vision problem, see an eye doctor. You'll be asked to look at a book containing several multicolored dot patterns. If you have a color vision deficiency, you won't be able to pick out numbers and shapes from within the dot patterns.

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

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MEAD from page B1

producing metal coins that will function as \$1 tokens that can be spent at any of the vendors or can be donated back to any of the participating charities. For every two non-perishable food items that a festival-goer brings to the event, they will receive a \$1 discount (up to \$3 total) off of the ticket in the form of these tokens. The food donations will be collected by volunteers and given to area shelters in need on each of the days.

"We planted the seeds that first year, and now we want to develop the festival and make it even better," Agro remarked on how Mutton & Mead has grown over its first five years. In its initial year, the attendance for the one-day festival numbered around 2,000 visitors. At last year's **Mutton & Mead**, the attendance for the two-day event expanded to over 6,000.

In order ensure its future longevity, the festival organizers are hoping to not only continue attracting new visitors and supplementing the schedule with additional outside programming, but also to recruit even more local participants.

What started as a roundtable discussion between the eleven founding members several years ago – only four of whom had even been involved in a Renaissance or Medieval fair before – has now evolved into an event that includes hundreds of community members that entertain, educate and assist in the operations.

Agro imagines it expanding even further, with longer-term goals like creating a local jousting troupe, and more immediate ones like training more volunteer performers for next year's cast.

"Everybody is a natural storyteller," he adds.



The Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club (210 Turners Falls Rd., Montague, MA 01351).

Adults: \$15; Youth/Seniors: \$12; Military: \$10; Children under 5 are free. Bring non-perishable food items for a discount on tickets. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Visit www.muttonandmead.org for more information.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 16, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Montague Backs Away from Strathmore Purchase

The selectboard met on Monday, June 13, and voted unanimously not to exercise the town's option to purchase the Strathmore Mill from its current owner, Western Properties, LLC. Although the town will not own the building, it will continue to have an active interest in its structural integrity and development potential.

Selectboard chair Allen Ross made it clear he was not in favor of purchasing the property, but admitted its future was part of the town's interests.

"We'd love to work with a developer as long as the developer is proposing something that makes sense for the building and for Turners Falls," said Robin Sherman, town planner.

Although the extensive feasibility study was encouraging in regard to the potential for development, the current market for such structures does not appear to support the costs.

Consultants hired by the town to conduct the feasibility study for the 250,000-square foot mill complex estimated it would take up to \$14 million to redevelop the Strathmore, perhaps as a mixed use facility for arts and small industries, and suggested the rental income from the facility could only support \$2 million in debt financing.

Used CD Store in Montague Center

Recently, Karen Chapman, owner of Room with a Loom for eight years, has added used CDs to her selection of merchandise, and renamed her store "Mill Music."

Her store is located in a building adjacent to the Montague Bookmill, a location known for beautiful scenery, unique shops and a friendly, casual atmosphere.

Chapman has sold crafts made by local artisans for years in this location. She still plans to sell crafts, but extending her merchandise to include used CDs fits neatly with the neighboring used books at the Bookmill, and has already brought in new customers.

"I've always felt that [used CDs] would be a great companion to used books. A lot of people coming here looking for books are also looking for music," Chapman said.

Zantouliadis Sentenced To Probation

John Zantouliadis, 30, of Easthampton, appeared in Greenfield District Court on Tuesday, June 14, to answer charges of vandalizing property, assault, threat to commit a crime and disorderly conduct.

These charges stemmed from an incident that took place in February in Turners Falls, when, according to the police report, Zantouliadis entered the business owned by Denise Edwards, Ed's Barbershop, on Avenue A, asked to use the phone, then picked it up and smashed it against the wall.

He then grabbed both sides of the chair Edwards was sitting in and threatened her in loud, abusive language if she did not take down a sign supporting waitresses recently fired at his brother George Zantouliadis' restaurant, the Shady Glen.

In the process of negotiating a plea, Zantouliadis told the judge it was Edwards who had "inflamed the situation" by putting up a "poster-sized sign in her front window."

Judge Jacques LeRoi lectured Zantouliadis about the meaning of the First Amendment, guaranteeing freedom of speech, and told him not to transgress against a private business owner's rights in this way again.

He gave Zantouliadis a 10-day suspended sentence, one year's probation, and ordered him to pay restitution for the damaged telephone.

"I'm just glad it's over," said barbershop owner Edwards. "I want him to stay away from me."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

"Dropping Barbells on the Floor"

Monday, 6/8

7:37 a.m. Caller requested assistance with disposal of a large amount of loose .22 shells found in her garage. Officer secured them and left for sergeant.

7:44 a.m. Assistance requested for caller's 15 year old daughter who is refusing to get out of bed and go to school. Officer advised the issue has been resolved.

8:40 a.m. Complaint of barking dog on High Street. Party contacted and revealed they "have been coming home at lunch to try to take care of the dog with medication, as it suffers from anxiety".

8:55 a.m. Reporting party called with a past noise complaint, where a neighbor has been fixing wood and "dropping barbells on the floor". Advised to call while disturbance is ongoing.

10:01 a.m. Reports of "gunshots or fireworks" near Hillcrest Elementary. Determined to be air nail gun on Montague Street.

6:21 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle parked daily at the Montague Wildlife Management Area gate. Officer advised.

Tuesday, 6/9

4:25 a.m. Call reporting a car alarm going off in the parking lot across from Southworth. Dispatch contacted the shift supervisor who sent the registered owner out to meet the officer. Owner advised nothing was damaged or stolen.

7:20 a.m. Call from Meadow Road complaining that caller's wife goes running in the mornings, and on several occasions has almost been struck by employees of Red Fire Farm on their way to work. They were unable to provide a vehicle description.

Sgt. Suchanek responded to Red Fire Farm and spoke with the employees there, and advised them to slow down. Sgt. Suchanek attempted to speak to their boss, but he was not there.

1:24 p.m. Report of syringe between 110 and 116 Third Street. Officer retrieved.

7:42 p.m. Report that an individual left a Fourth Street parking lot in his car five minutes prior. Caller suspects the individual was intoxicated and did not have a license. Confirmed party has active drivers license. Officer will be on the lookout.

Wednesday, 6/10

12:58 a.m. Complaint of individual sleeping on a Fourth Street fire escape who appears to be intoxicated. Left in care of wife.

9:12 a.m. Fire drills at Turners Falls High School, Franklin County Technical School, Hillcrest and Sheffield Elementary.

10:49 a.m. Caller complains of her downstairs neighbor's dog who is barking, stating it has

been a problem since the dog's owner moved in the previous week. Owner has been providing medication for the dog but it has not helped yet. Animal control officer advised and will contact the dog's owner.

11:09 a.m. Report of a loose pit bull on Unity Street. Animal control officer en route.

11:13 a.m. Two simultaneous calls reported a three-foot hole straight through the General Pierce Bridge. Greenfield Police Department advised. MPD requested to shut down their side of the bridge and Greenfield will do the same. MassDOT crew en route. Advised bridge will be closed for a minimum of 24 hours. Message sent out to residents.

1:19 p.m. Caller reports a white Buick passed him in a no-passing zone on Millers Falls Road. Officer advised.

1:36 p.m. Party reports a broken window on a truck cap stored on his property. There was a golf ball inside that he believes was responsible. Reporting party has been finding golf balls in his yard recently but is not sure how they are ending up there, whether malicious or accidental.

2:08 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Avenue A and Third Street. Later moved by the caller's husband. Caller stated the small electric car was far enough off the road that it will not be hazard. Officer unable to locate.

5:34 p.m. Two calls complaining of traffic backed up around the Southworth Paper Mill. Callers were advised it is likely due to the General Pierce Bridge being closed. Officer responded to find traffic flowing normally.

10:36 p.m. Caller reported seeing three teenage girls walking towards a house carrying something. Officer found neighbors were playing a practical joke, officer clear.

Thursday, 6/11

9:14 a.m. Report of a suspicious male individual in a dark green Grand Prix who followed the caller between Third and Fourth Streets. The subject asked the caller how they were doing; caller told the subject they were not interested. Officer later observed a dark green Grand Prix parked behind the Cutlery Block.

9:51 a.m. Animal complaint on high street. Caller reports that neighbor left for work and their dog started barking again. Animal Control Officer spoke with the owner again. Officer advises she is making a concerted effort to try to rectify the problem.

11:43 a.m. Report of trespassing on Bridge Street. Caller reports that her surveillance footage showed a property marker missing, but does not have video of a person taking it. Caller

suspects it is a neighbor they have been having problems with lately.

1 p.m. Caller complains that a neighbor tore the name off their mailbox after a prior call to the police regarding a noise complaint. Officer advised.

1:07 p.m. Party turned in six syringes found at Avenue A and Fourth Street.

1:36 p.m. A male party smashed a car window on Broadway. Caller states they heard breaking glass and looked outside to see a known male party standing next to their car.

5:05 p.m. Report of children playing on a cement platform abutting the water. There are adults nearby but "not close enough to get to them in time". Officer advised.

5:19 p.m. Hit-and-run accident reported by a male party near Third and Canal Streets. Caller provided details of car to police. Sunderland PD advised. Vehicle not present at residence, will check again.

7:10 p.m. A caller reports witnessing a drug deal in front of Family Dollar. Caller states a plastic bag was handed from a white Denali to a gold Mercury. Officer advised.

7:32 p.m. Report of two subjects that are arguing and appear to have broken down on Avenue A. Officer advised, picked up a jump pack at the police department. Vehicle jumped, peace restored.

Friday, 6/12

12:23 a.m. Caller advises his wife left in a vehicle heading north on Route 47. She had been drinking and distraught, caller was unable to stop her from leaving and is concerned about her well being. Officer located vehicle on Route 47. Caller was advised officers are with his wife. Medicare called on scene, patient transported.

7:43 a.m. Smoke seen in the area of the power lines in the Montague Plains along Plains Road. No flames are present, and the smoke appears to be coming from the site of a previous controlled burn. Control spoke to a state representative who also believed it was a result of the previous day's burn.

11:06 a.m. A caller reports that she was behind a truck approximately an hour ago carrying dirt without a cover. Caller "did not see any dirt coming out of this particular truck," but they were concerned debris could get loose. Advised of options.

11:13 a.m. A party walked in to the station to meet with an officer to turn in a firearm, states that it is in his pocket. Party turned over firearm to officer, same left for detective.

5:50 p.m. Request by a caller to pick up drug paraphernalia that somebody left on her porch.

6:34 p.m. Report of a male subject who has set up a tent by the dog walking trail on Unity Street. Told to move along.

8:50 p.m. Two calls regarding several sheep in the road on Route 63. Vehicles are swerving to avoid them. Officer advised he was able to get the sheep back in their pen.

10:33 p.m. Report of a cracked and leaning utility pole, caller says it appears as though it could fall at any time.

Saturday, 6/13

2:35 a.m. Two suspicious individuals seen outside Food City. Subjects sent on their way.

5:23 a.m. Party observed low-hanging wires on West Mineral Road. Verizon called and will send someone in the morning.

10:45 Report of two children playing with a BB gun in a yard on Fifth Street. Caller complained the children had been riding around the neighborhood on their bikes holding the gun which from a distance looked real. Officer spoke to the parents and confirmed it was an airsoft gun.

1:14 p.m. Caller reports that her step daughter was bitten by a loose dog. Found to have rabies vaccines. Animal control officer notified.

8:11 p.m. Noise complaint at Hubies Bar on Avenue A. Caller is aware of permits but wanted it on record. Officer did not hear any music while nearby.

9:53 p.m. Caller saw cat she believes belongs to the nail salon. All patrol units advised of cat.

11:01 p.m. Caller complaining that Hubies Bar is really loud, and stated they were supposed to be quiet by 11. Officer responded, area clear.

11:40 p.m. Report of fireworks being set off on Oakman Street. Advised none are being set off, area clear for now.

Sunday, 6/14

12:53 a.m. Assisted at motor vehicle accident near Mormon Hollow Road. Subject collided head on with a tree. Medicare responded to the scene.

2:31 a.m. Received a call stating there is a break-in happening on Turners Falls Road, then hung up. Officers made contact with reporting party. A male party was arrested and transported to the House of Corrections.

4:08 p.m. An unwanted female party entered a caller's house and assaulted their sister, pulling her hair and punching her. Party gone on arrival. Victim advised of options.

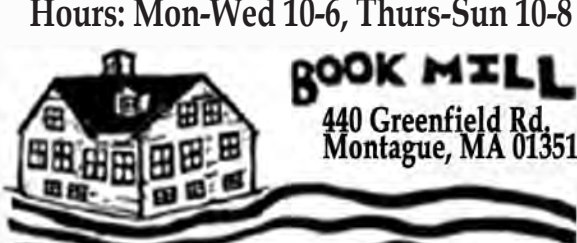
6:32 p.m. Officer apprehended a beaver that was attempting to cross the road in front of Shanahan Construction on Avenue A. Officers were able to get it to move along.

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COMPANY from page B1
are not saying.”

In 2008, Sita Lang attended classes at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre. “This was another wonderful learning experience,” said the elder companion. “My meditation practice helps with practicing kindness and not judging people’s behavior, two qualities which are so life-affirming.”

And there have been lessons in Lang’s personal life.

Her partner’s father had Alzheimer’s disease, and she assisted in taking care of him for five years. Meanwhile, Lang’s mother, Tinei, was also a source of growth for Sita, as a person with borderline personality disorder. She also developed dementia in the final years of her life, dying in 2012.

“My mom taught me patience through my interactions with her. Our relationship was transformed through my practice of focusing on her goodness, generosity, and big-

heartedness instead of concentrating on things I had found so challenging about her in the past.”

Another experience that led Lang to what she is doing came when she volunteered for a year, receiving training at Hospice of Franklin County. “My full awareness that we all come to death enables me today to be a presence in my work even as my clients pass on.”

Sita Lang is known in the area for her business called Plow Frau and Bow-Wow. She and her business partner, her dog Brava, worked for 13 years removing junk from people’s yards, rescuing flooded basements, and cleaning out estates.


“My experience doing this was very valuable ground work for what I do today. We’d arrive, do our work, and I would donate reusable goods.”

Lang credits Peggy Hoime, a life coach and the founder of the organization Practical Happiness, with support in getting In Good Company

started. “I don’t know if I could have fit all the pieces together without Peggy’s help. I send her thank-you notes all the time.”

In addition to her other skills, she notes that a good sense of humor is essential in her line of work. “I think,” Lang said, “a healthy sense of humor is a quality I possess. I enjoy helping my clients, when appropriate, to see the lighter side of life.

“I’m truly blessed. How wonderful it is to do work that you love. I’m grateful that my personal and professional experiences with aging, dementia, disabilities, and mental illness along with end-of-life care have given me the chance to offer kindness and caring to those in need of company. I’m really grateful to be able to do this challenging but rewarding vocation.”

In Good Company offers free initial consultation. For more info, please call Sita Lang at (413) 834-7569. 

LOGS from page B1

the preparations in his 1985 book *Upstream*. He notes that with the coming of fall, logging camps and roads were set up, feed and hay for the horses were brought in, stumps and snags from the adjacent parts of the river were cleared out.

Once winter set in and the snows came, trees were cut, hauled, and piled next to the frozen streams. By springtime, the thaw caused the rivers to begin flowing in a great rush, and the loggers had to take advantage of the surging, brief high water to get the drive flowing. Into the torrent went logs and men at the start of the more than three-hundred-mile drive downriver to the Turners Falls Lumber Company, or on to Holyoke. The loggers worked and slept wet from April to June.

Millers Falls historian John A. Taggart spent many hours interviewing retired log drivers such as Solomon Caswell, Caleb White, and rivermen such as Stephen Morse and Uncle Bill Russell, who settled in our villages once their river driving days were done.

Solomon Caswell, who liked to call himself a “river hog,” could often be seen on the streets of Millers Falls walking along with the use of two canes, when due to all the years spent wet on the river, rheumatism had afflicted him.

When the historian noted, or teased, that Caswell was still spry for his age, the old gent always fired back the well-remembered retort: “If it weren’t for this darned rheumatism I could jump in the air and crack my heels together four times ‘fore ever I touched the ground! Used to do it easy when I was a river hog!”

Taggart wrote of Caswell: “Many an hour did this writer listen to his quaint humorous descriptions of his former activities on the river, and through them all shone forth a character devoid of all pretense, a spirit which knew only contempt for danger and a bull dog tenacity of purpose which had enabled him to hold his own among a race of hard-working, hard-fighting men of a few vices, but an abundance of homely virtues.”

Caldwell grew nostalgic when speaking of the end of the log-driving era. He lamented that protests against running the logs down the Connecticut were heard in the legislature, and that many clamored to end the drives. For all intents and purposes, the river was lost to recreation and other commerce during the log drives. There was a particularly troublesome log jam in 1897 between the Narrows and Munn’s Ferry that took from July 20 to October 1 to clear, requiring all of the skills of the rivermen, and lots of dynamite!

Farmers also complained about the drives, and often took lumber companies to court. Sometimes the companies took the farmers to court. The farmer would sue the



Logs pile up at the French King Rock, circa 1915.

company for damage done to the meadows by the logs, and the lumber company would sue the farmer for stopping the logs.

Probably the unfortunate accident at Turners Falls in 1908 also contributed to the decline of the drives. The accident involved the “Lumber King” George Van Dyke, the “quintessential, cigar-smoking timber baron who dominated the Connecticut Valley Lumber Company. King was born poor in rural Québec, never married, and remained devoted to his mother throughout his life,” says Bachman in *Upstream*.

Florence Chaffin saved a clipping in her scrapbook, an article written by Ralph Loomis of Greenfield, recounting the day Van Dyke and his chauffeur were killed. The story has been present in the memories and tales still told in Turners Falls, ever since that day in 1908.

The two men were sitting in the car over a rocky bluff above the river in Riverside, watching the sorting of the logs above the Turners Falls dam. The chauffeur apparently put the car into low gear instead of reverse, and the car lurched over the edge and crashed on the rocks below.


The two men were taken to the Farren Memorial Hospital where they both died. Loomis reports that the car, a Knox or a Winston, was repaired, and operated as a taxi between Greenfield and Turners Falls by one Louis Sicard.

Without the hard-driving boss of the Lumber Company, and with the construction of the new dam in 1915, which lacked a sluice gate for the logs, drives of any size were over.

Ms. Chaffin nevertheless included several snapshots in her scrapbook that she took in 1926, apparently of a smaller drive. But these drives had come under increasing public and political pressure, as more dams and bridges were being built and commerce shifted from river traffic to railroads.

Fittingly however, along with her snapshots and clippings, Ms. Chaffin included Taggart’s remarks that could well serve as the epitaph of the river hogs:

“No more does the red-shirted, spike-shod river hog balance gracefully with peavey in hand upon the treacherous floating log, or gather at the wanigan in the evening to do justice to those baked-in-the-ground beans with brown bread, hot coffee and donuts. Instead of the log driver’s song is now only heard the sound of the motor boat.

“Adieu log driver. You had your day and played your part well.” 

Compiled from the writings of Millers Falls historian John A. Taggart, and the scrapbooks of Mrs. Florence Chaffin of Millers Falls. Scrapbooks on loan from the Erving Historical Commission.

The Big Goat Question: Dam Raising or Bottle Feeding?



JAMES DRESSER III ILLUSTRATION

By KATHLEEN BUREK

MONTAGUE – Among goat farmers, the Great Debate these days is: bottle-fed kids or dam-raised kids? (A dam is a mother goat.)

Prime reasons for bottle raising include: to save wear and tear on the dam’s udder; to provide equal and measured nourishment for all kids; to avoid the difficulties of weaning later on; to be able to weigh and record milk yields; and to raise kids to be people-friendly.

If you plan on rearing kids away from their dams, they must be immediately separated from their mom, which may not be the healthiest. Most goat owners, myself included, have a few goats for milk, cheese, and fertilizer. Having an adequate goat house is quite sufficient – not to say several separate ones for kids, bucks, etc.

I personally feel the advantages of dam-rearing totally outweigh the bottle-fed method. This is an opinion of this author, and may not suit all! Years ago – say 25 or so – I will admit I did bottle-feed the kids. Lots of work! Today I feel mom’s milk is best. A dam will regulate when, and how much, her kids nurse. And watching the mom with her babes is a fascinating experience.

This year one of my does – a first freshener – kidded with triple

doelings. She is taking very good care of them, and all are healthy and growing nicely. I do milk her twice a day, the most milk being in the morning.

I always feed their grain on the milk stand starting at about a year or two. After they are bred, and about 6 weeks before kidding, while they eat their grain I massage the udder and then pretend to milk very softly. This way, the doe gets used to your being there and easily accepts the kids much better.

My reason for raising them this way is that it is easier. There are no bottles, and no nipples, to wash. There’s no worry if kids are receiving the right amount of milk. Eventually, as they switch to hay and grain, they nurse less frequently.

When the kids are about one month old, you can separate them at night, milk the dam in the morning, and put the kids back in with her afterwards. Each day, you can separate the kids a little earlier, until they are totally away for the day and night.

You will still, of course, need a separate shelter or stall and good fencing for the kids, as you know little kids are great escape artists! After a while, all can be united.

This method has worked for me; it may not work for others. We all need to explore what is best for us.



LINDY WHITON PHOTO

The author’s newest goats, born in early May, with their dam.

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2014 Water Quality Report

Turners Falls Water Department

226 Millers Falls Road

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376-1605

PWS ID# I 192000

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2014. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Brown, Water Department Superintendent, or Sarah Tuttle, Clerk/Collector, at (413) 863-4542.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Our Annual Meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.

Our Department Board of Water Commissioners: Kenneth Morin, Stephen Call, Kevin McCarthy. Pump Station Operators: Jeffrey Hildreth, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Brandon Breault.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center. These gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. At the plant, the water is sand filtered for the removal of iron and manganese; the treated, filtered water is then discharged into the

gravity-fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.

Call Mike or Sarah for additional information or to answer any questions: (413) 863-4542 or by fax (413) 863-3175, e-mail turnerswater@yahoo.com, or on the Web at www.turnersfallswater.com.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of

fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water.

Here are a few tips: Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Write down the meter reading before going to bed at night or leaving for a day. Include all numbers, write down the new reading in the morning and subtract the prior reading. If there has been a change it is probably due to a leak.

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (back-

pressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals.

Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the groundwater supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high-ranking threat land-uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office, and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swap/preps.htm>. For more information, call the TFWD at 863-4542.

Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water Supply

Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the town's hazardous waste collection sites, Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and do not use the river beds to dispose of any waste.

Turners Falls Water Quality Data

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community. Our next round of lead and copper sampling will be in 2016.

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	# of sites above action level	Violation	Typical Source
copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	1.3	.040	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
lead (ppb)	2013	15	0	1.6	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservation

Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible source(s) of contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	7/19/2011	0.19	N/A	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible source
Inorganic Contaminants						
Sodium (ppm)	7/19/2011	12	11.5	—	20	Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process

Definitions:

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for

control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

A Storytelling Evening at Sheffield

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS—Eshu Bumpus came to Sheffield Elementary School library Wednesday evening, June 3, to share stories and songs with students and parents who gathered there.

A very tall, warm-hearted man with a broad smile, Bumpus read original stories written by Sheffield students in preparation for his storytelling event, intertwining their stories with his own. Students also helped with songs and chants they had learned.

The children were able to keep a steady chant, while Bumpus sang in a soft, high voice a sweet melody against their rhythmic song.

This was an unusual experience, as most people who teach songs to children work on helping the students remember the words and melody by playing an instrument and singing along with them to reinforce what they've been taught.

Here, he taught each song or chant to the children when he started a new story, but once he felt they had it, he left them alone to keep the chant going so he could sing his own song

against them. This produced a beautiful sound, and I think also great pleasure to those taking the chance to participate in the music.

This was a storytelling event, so I should talk about the stories. They didn't seem to be in books. If they were, he didn't read out of them.

He told the stories with words and song, and engaged people from the audience to play some of the parts of the story.

At one point he engaged the services of assistant principal Kevin

Cousineau and Sheffield librarian Jessica Rigollaud. They were good sports, even dancing together for a moment to the students' great delight.

The stories seemed meant to be fun, with only an occasional lesson hidden in the tale. The children were engaged and interested, participated in helping Bumpus present each story, and with the library reading room full, there was little restlessness for the length of the event.

Parents and children alike seemed to enjoy the experience.



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

A Montague Cultural Council grant brought storyteller Eshu Bumpus to Sheffield Elementary last week.

Turners Baseball Succumbs In Battle of the Pitchers



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Tyler Charboneau pitched the full game Saturday against Smith Academy.

By MATT ROBINSON

Smith 1 – TFHS 0.

The worst thing about high school baseball is that you lose your last game. No matter how well you do throughout the year, you lose your last game, unless you go on to win the entire state championship. And even if you have a very successful year, soar into the playoffs, and have the best game all year, unless you win the state championship, you go home with a loss. And going out on a loss still stings.

Case in point is the 2015 Turners Falls Baseball Indians, who lost the breakfast game in the Western Mass. Championship Saturday 1-0, to top-seeded Smith Academy. And even though Tyler Charboneau didn't allow a single earned run – even though Emmett Turn made a diving circus catch, Tionne Brown and Kyle Berg-

man cracked doubles, and the Blue 9 worked together to keep every man except one from crossing the plate – it still stings.

All the good things were forgotten as the Boys in Blue sadly packed up their equipment for the very last time.

"They did take the loss very hard." Coach Jason Liimatainen said after the game. "For the seniors, especially, they will never put on a Turners uniform again." He mused. "I think when they realize that, it can become very emotional."

But Powertown has nothing to be sad about. The entire Blue Tribe is proud of their baseball team, and losing a pitcher's duel in the championship game is a wonderful accomplishment.

"It was a very good game, just like we thought it would be," Coach Jay said. "This team was full of great kids who stayed positive when we were going through a tough stretch in the first half of the season."

"Because of their hard work every day, we were able to play very well in the second half of the season, and once again get to the title game."

In the top of the first inning, Trent Bourbeau drew a 1-out walk. Nick York followed with a line drive to right field, and Jalen Sanders powered a deep fly to center. But a perfect stop and a perfect throw to home tagged Trent out and the Tribe came up empty.

In the Smith first, Nick York fielded a routine grounder and threw it to Zach Wright for the first out. Trevor Mankowsky caught flies for the next two outs, retiring Smith 1-2-3.

Turners went out on three K's in the second. Two of the strikeouts were called on low, inside pitches, and when the leadoff man for Smith banged a base hit, it seemed the momentum might be shifting. But Tyler picked the runner off and the momentum shifted right back. Tionne caught a high pop for out number

two, and Tyler fielded a grounder to retire the side. After 2, it was a scoreless tie.

In the third inning, Trent reached on a two-out walk and quickly stole second base. Then Nick took a base on balls and Turners had two men on. But another called strikeout stranded the two runners.

Turners notched two quick outs in the bottom of the third, but the next batter got a base hit to shallow center. Then came the error. So instead of ending the inning, Turners was facing 2 men on.

And as the nerves frayed, a passed-by pitch sent the runners to second and third, putting both men in scoring position. And that led to a simple base hit which scored the only run of the game.

Turners came out swinging in the top of the fourth, desperately trying to even the score. Tyler crushed a high fly to left field but the fielder was under it. Kyle then cracked a centerfield double. Nick Croteau replaced him on second base, but another called strikeout and a swinging K stranded him there.

In the bottom of the inning, Smith got two men on quickly and the third batter clocked a deep fly into the gap in leftfield. Emmett sprinted toward it, stuck out his glove, dove, rolled and came up with the ball to make the first out and check the runners. Emmett also caught the next fly, and Kyle stopped a grounder for the final out.

Tionne led off the Blue fifth with a centerfield double, and Turners had a man in scoring position with no outs. But three called strikeouts ended the threat.

In the Smith fifth, Nick York threw out the first and third batters, and Tyler fielded a grounder for the middle out.

In the sixth, Jalen reached first but was

caught off base and run down in a pickle. Two more called strikeouts ended the side. In the bottom of the inning, Tionne threw out the first batter. A hopper to center put a Smith runner on, but Tyler shut the door with 2 quick K's.

And so, in the seventh inning, the Cinderella Indians only needed to score one run. Just one, and the game would continue, and the season would go on just a little longer.

But it was not to be. Two strikeouts and a pop out to first dashed their hopes, and the Indians sadly walked to their dugout for Coach Jay's last tutorial.

"The seniors on this team will be missed greatly," he said later. "Looking back on the season, I can honestly say we had a lot of fun, and won some games in the process."

And that's the thick of it. Winning games is good, but developing skills, problem solving, teamwork, and above all fun is the stuff that memories are made of.

On the mound, Charboneau allowed 4 hits, 2 walks, 2 strikeouts and no earned runs. Bergman, Brown, Sanders and York had hits.

Brown and Bergman both hit doubles, and York drew a walk. Bourbeau was walked twice. Zach Demars, Cullen Wazniak and Tanner Jones also saw action for the Tribe.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Left fielder Emmett Turn makes an amazing catch in the bottom of the fourth.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

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

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

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

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: *Aliena Animal*. Strange Beasts, Sci-Fi Figments, Monsters and Bio-Hybrids. Artists Rob Kimmel, Bruce Kahn, Sophie Artgetsinger, Gary Smith, Darrin Martin, & Torsten Zenas Burns. Reception 6/18 evening. Runs through July 20.

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

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

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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Hot Stuff*. Members summer

show. Through 8/31.

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

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

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

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague

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

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

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

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Escape Route..* Highly dance-able classic rock.. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY,

JUNE 20

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hillary Chase & Friends*. Blues, rock, soul and folk. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rocket Queer with DJ Just Joan*. 9:30 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Montague Center Common, Montague: *Montague Jazz Festival*. Broken

Cello Orchestra and the Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra. Donations to benefit the First Congregational Church of Montague. 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Father, Misty, & the Big Rock*. Blues, reggae, rock. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jim Matus*. World fusion/jazz. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 22

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *The Classics*. Montague Community Band Summer Concert. 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

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

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *KaiL Baxley*. Blues, indie rock. 8 p.m. \$



The Avenue A Storefront Galleries present Aliena Animal, a collection of strange beasts, sci-fi figments, monsters and bizarre bio-hybrids. Bruce Kahn, the photographer's work shown above, claims to have been born in 1835 and to have invented the digital camera amongst other accomplishments. He and others can be seen at the opening reception on the evening of June 18 during the downtown Turners Falls Creature Feature. The show goes through 7/20.

Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendellmass.us

Loot, Turners Falls: *Save a Painting and Help a Dog*. Call for artists to pick up paintings at Loot on 6/18 (as part of downtown Turners Falls "creature" event) and add a "creature" to the painting. Submissions due by 8/15, and paintings will be auctioned off on 9/19 at Loot. All proceeds will go to the Franklin County Dog Shelter in Montague.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Third Thursday, Turners Falls: *Creature Feature*. Themed event sponsored by RiverCulture. At several venues in town. Starts at 5 p.m.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield: *Austin & Elliott, Sue Kranz and Ben Tousley, Gabriel and Orlen*. 6 p.m

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*. Jazz/Blues. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mike Hixon Trio*. Blues. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*. Indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blue-Groove (organ) Trio*. 9:30 p.m.

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CARNEGIE from page B1

American artifacts are probably the most important, as they are a window into a bygone way of life, for which there are nowhere near enough records.”

I timed my visit to coincide with a visit by an historian and a researcher from the Pequot Museum in Connecticut.

They are investigating any and all relevant collections from the Great Falls region in connection with the National Parks Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program project, which focuses on the 1676 massacre of a Native American encampment by Captain Turner and his men at the Falls during King Phillip’s War.

David Naumec and Ashley Bissonnette were very enthusiastic as they examined and photographed the many **Native American tools and projectiles** found in one of the cabinets lining the upstairs loft, dating from before and during the Contact Period of 1500 to 1763. Librarian Hickman was obviously very pleased to have interested and appreciative researchers visiting the collection.

These **small tools, projectiles, pottery fragments and musket balls** all have numbers painted on them, but there isn’t a corresponding inventory for this collection that provides details – at least, none that has been seen in recent memory.

Hickman recalled that they were all “dug up in Riverside, and I understand the guy who found them is buried over in Gill, and his gravestone is carved like an arrowhead.”

Naumec held up a **carved stone** broken open to reveal a hollow core. “This is a weight for a spear or throwing device, made about 6,000 years ago for hunting big things like



Some Native American projectile points.



A lovable cannonball perches atop its pyramidal pedestal.

mammoths. You can turn a spear into a missile with this – it would give some weight to it.”

He examined a ball of metal. “These musket balls are the perfect size... We can assume the stuff that came from Riverside was part of the battle scene. I can tell this here was a single shot from a musket. You can tell by the ring around it. It’s neat, you can learn a lot from just these two objects.”

Signage on the items is very minimal, consisting of typed, gummed labels that say things like “Rifle” or “helmet”. Letters and numbers on these labels seem to refer to a list elsewhere, and after poking around the Loft with Hickman, we located some pamphlets produced in 1980 that provided the sort of expanded detail on these articles that I had come to expect on my library museum visits.

With pamphlet in hand, visitors could learn that the “**Cedar Stick**” on one of the shelves was cut from “a bullet-riddled fence in Gettysburg, PA July 4, 1913 and given by J.M. Chapman.”

The same man donated the **buttons from his Civil War uniform**, a **mallet** with a bullet embedded in it that was made from a tree at Reynolds Grove, Gettysburg, and his **mess kit** that he used during service in the infantry.

A **Confederate canteen** used by “Captain Issac M. Faulkner who was captured at Bermuda Hundred, VA” is courtesy of this veteran as well. Curiously, Chapman also donated a **box of stones** “taken from the Pacific beach in the State of Washington, 1911.”

In a case above the Native American artifacts cabinet is a **very warped gun** with a curved barrel. It was retrieved from the Rappa-haumock River in 1885 at Fredericksburg, VA. **Items from World War I and II** are found in another cabinet, including some helmets and a

canteen used by Japanese soldiers, and mess gear and an arm band from Nazi soldiers donated by Paul Garrard.

In this cabinet I also found, for the first time, **items from the Vietnam War**, given by a living donor, Peter MacDonald of Greenfield. A label on these explains that they were donated after the pamphlet was produced. (This was our first clue that such a pamphlet existed and prompted our search.)

Also donated by MacDonald was a **large snakeskin** mounted on a plank that stands in one corner of the room, “Caught in Hinesville, GA in 1980, 6’4” diamond back rattlesnake weighing 28 pounds.”

MacDonald elaborated on this story for me, writing that the snake was actually “over 7 feet long. My partner would not let me keep the head because they can bite when dead. It was taken with a 9 mm automatic.”

He mentioned that many of the items he donated from Vietnam had been stolen. This has been an ongoing issue with the items in the Loft, unfortunately. Hickman said a **top hat** and other pieces have gone missing over the years, including what was believed to be a Native American **skull and leg bone** found at Riverside.

Former director Sue SanSoucie, however, remembers that the skull and leg bone were repatriated to someone who would put them in a more suitable place.

The visitors from the Pequot Museum were

very interested in the story of the skull and bones. After they left, Hickman and I found pictures of just the leg bone in a 2008 digital inventory done by Mary Melonis and Anna Greene and funded by the Montague Historical Commission.

On a **pad of old carbon forms** used for producing receipts for gifts to the museum, dating back from 1911, there was a receipt for an “Indian skull and bones” given in February of 1921.

These receipts were very interesting, since some items have disappeared over time or expired, such as the rubber plant given in 1914.

After a page dated 1924 for a **sword** taken at the Battle of Manila donated by Michael O’Keefe, of 24 K Street, there are suddenly several receipts from the 1980s!

They weren’t for the MacDonald items, but for some sort of “commemorative cup,” a **painting of an owl** (found in an upstairs closet), two **Edison records**, a **hunk of cactus** from New Mexico (still on display), and a **large floor loom** donated by Catherine Fugure McNally.

This loom is disassembled and stored in a closet, along with many other weaving-type things. And then, there are still many blank pages on the pad.



Next week, I will finish my tour of this collection.



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