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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 35

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 19, 2014

Is The Montague Center School Project Dead?



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER—Plans for the purchase and subsequent conversion of the Montague Center School building into a twenty-two-unit apartment building appear to be once again in limbo.

Late Monday afternoon, June 16, Mark Zaccheo of Olive Street Development LLC sent an email to Montague town planner Walter Ramsey saying he was concerned about the numbers not working, and requested additional contingencies.

"It's not a black and white issue," said Ramsey. He said he sent on the email to the selectboard for discussion at its next meeting on June 30.

In November 2011, Zaccheo's Olive Street Development Group responded to a request for proposals (RFP) from the town of Montague and offered \$50,000 for the 14,182 square foot building, which sits on 3.3 acres of land on School Street, contingent on the town's financing new water mains.

The town agreed to put in the

water main, and awarded the building to Zaccheo, who pledged to invest between one and two million dollars in the project.

Originally, Zaccheo had proposed 15 "green" apartments within the school, but then changed his proposal to create 22 units.

In order to fit eight of those apartments into the existing structure, Zaccheo asked the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a variance from the town's zoning ordinance that required a minimum residential dwelling size of at least 700 square feet.

One of the one-bedroom apartments would have been 430 square feet in total area, and seven others would have ranged in size from 500 to 700 square feet, under the proposal approved by the ZBA.

Zaccheo said at the time that it would greatly impact his bottom line if he reduced the scale by even one or two units. He stressed that he was trying to fit his project within the walls and footprint of an already existing building, one he called "beautiful."

At two contentious meetings in October 2012, the ZBA approved two special permits and a variance to allow the project to go forward. Residents appealed, but the project

see **SCHOOL** page A8

Southworth's New Enterprise: Paperlogic

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – For David C. Southworth, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Southworth Company, the challenge of being at the helm of a legacy business in a turbulent era is something he still finds fulfilling.

Paperlogic, a Southworth enterprise, occupies the final paper mill in Turners Falls. Situated on the famed power canal at 36 Canal Road, Paperlogic was launched last October as the new name of the specialty and technical paper division of its parent company.

The focus of the division is the expansion of the specialty paper needs of industrial and commercial customers in medical, food service, home décor, agricultural, and automotive industries, among others.

"I guess you could call our work a love story of manu-

facturing," said Southworth, who spoke by phone with *The Montague Reporter* from Seattle. "In many ways it's a heroic undertaking to be in manufacturing in New England today. I love working at a small to mid-sized company. The demands are so varied and diverse with different customers, vendors, and production processes."

"It's a tough business – very much like a puzzle. All the parts of our company have to work well together for us to be successful."

Southworth grew up in Springfield and Longmeadow. Now 60 years old, he joined the company in 1978.

The Southworth Company dates back to 1839 – 22 years before Abraham Lincoln was elected the nation's 16th President. It's also interesting to note that Lincoln's

see **PAPER** page A4



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

GILL SELECTBOARD Sewer Deficit Prompts Special Town Meeting

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard will call a special town meeting on July 8 to settle an outstanding deficit in the Riverside sewer system's FY'14 balance.

Poring over a spreadsheet of projected cash flow and sewer flows for the diminutive 114-member sewer system that serves Riverside and the western end of Main Road, administrative assistant Ray Purington advised the board on Monday the town is anticipating a deficit of around \$5,500 by the time the books close for the fiscal year on June 30, assuming it doesn't rain too much between now and the first of July.

The selectboard, in their role as sewer commissioners, have shouldered an increasing amount of pressure in recent years to solve the mystery of why the Riverside water district apparently pumps, and pays Montague to treat, more than twice as many gallons of sewage on a daily basis than the number of gallons of water it imports each day from Greenfield.

Earlier this month, Purington estimated Riverside users tap about 13,400 gallons of fresh water a day from Greenfield. According to an August, 2013 inflow and infiltration study of the system by consultants from Tighe and Bond, Riverside

see **GILL** page A5

Rolling Right Along: Boston-Based Foundation Grants \$4,000 To Unity Skatepark Campaign

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – When the votes came in last month on the b.good Family Foundation's online grant competition, supporters of the Unity Skatepark were a little disappointed, but not too surprised, to hear a Boston-based cause, Nourish Boston, had garnered the most votes.

The population of a single neighborhood in that city, after all, exceeds that of Franklin County, and projects in our area will be

hard-pressed to win in hand-counting competitions.

But last week, disappointment gave way to delight when the same foundation emailed the skatepark campaign to say they were so taken by its pitch, which included a video produced by Hallmark School of Photography instructor Adam Quirós, that they decided to kick down another \$4,000, the grand-prize equivalent, anyway.

b.good is a Back Bay-based burger restaurant that integrates a fast-food model with ingredients sourced from small and local producers. The company has enjoyed fast success – now in its twelfth year, it's opening its fourteenth location – and has expanded into charitable giving, initially driven by its supporters, who dressed in burger suits to run the Boston Marathon for pledges.

A location became available for the company's annual summer barbecue, a high-profile public bash held in Boston's South End, for this coming Sunday, June 22, sooner than expected, and the foundation turned to runners-up from its April grant contest to receive money at the event.

"We're giving the grant, live at 2 p.m.," said b.good Family Foundation director Allie Kroner. "We're hoping to set up a spot with ramps, where the kids can show people what they can do."

The campaign, which seeks to build a large-scale concrete athletic facility on a plot at the edge of Unity Park, won the official support of the Town of Montague at May's town meeting, arriving with nearly \$35,000 in hand from local fundraising.

The town pledged to foot the bill, with the understanding that fundraising will continue into the fall, and provided 68% of the project cost is covered by a state Parkland

see **SKATEPARK** page A7



TODD VERLANDER PHOTO

Ethan rides his scooter down a ramp in a Third Street alleyway during the April 6 pop-up skate session hosted by the Turners Falls Skatepark Committee, with help from Skate Greenfield.

The event provided footage for the video the group sent to the b.good Family Foundation. Image used courtesy of the skatepark campaign.

Shea Theater Faces Multiple Challenges

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – "I face a great many challenges," said Michael Glazier, president of the Shea Theater board of directors. Glazier was speaking after the end of the monthly meeting of the board in which a major reshuffling of officers took place.

Glazier's pronouncement might have been something of an understatement. Among the challenges currently facing the board are increasing the annual revenue, attracting new companies and artists, and having fewer days when the theater in downtown Turners is dark.

And then there is the renegotiation of their contract with the town, which expired in January.

Over the past several years the Shea has endured a revolving board of directors, an economic downturn which cut into revenues, and a struggle to maintain resident theater companies.

But perhaps the biggest immediate obstacle is that, for the last six months, the theater has been operating with an expired contract.

When asked about this matter, Glazier and other directors said they were unaware of the situation.

"We're an all-volunteer

board, and sometimes things slip," said Glazier. "The town never notified us that the contract had expired."

Jillian Morgan, vice-president of the board, also expressed her surprise. "We talk with [town administra-

tion] about whether to renew the contract, and what the process might entail, given that at present the board is operating the theater with an expired contract."

With MCCI having also failed to notify the town of



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Montague has owned the building since acquiring it in 1986 from the Renaissance Church, with the help of the Franklin County CDC.

tor] Frank [Abbondanzio and [town planner] Walter [Ramsey] all the time. They never mentioned it."

Outgoing treasurer Pat Friedman also said she did not know that the ten-year contract had run out: "We're still paying the insurance and the electric bill."

But, according to Abbondanzio, the lapsed contract is a matter of concern for the town.

Ramsey said that in July he and the town administrator would be tackling the is-

their desire to renew their contract to provide local cable access for Montague, the issue of contracts, according to Abbondanzio, has suddenly become an issue.

"We have to look into what we have to do since they were supposed to submit their renewal a year in advance and didn't," he said.

Abbondanzio said that while the town owns the physical property and pays for capital improvements, it is the responsibility of the

see **SHEA** page A4

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Issue New RFP For Montague Center School

The town of Montague, after waltzing with Mark Zaccheo for the last three years, needs to pull his dance card and exit the ballroom.

We understand why the town continued to back Zaccheo's proposal even when it was becoming clearer and clearer that he was extremely hesitant to commit. Quite simply, his was the only game they had allowed in town, and a lot was riding on his proposed development of the former Montague Center School into 22 apartments.

But Zaccheo's email of this Monday, in which he apparently admitted the numbers didn't work, should be seen by the town not just as another signal of distress but as a white flag. The selectboard must now decide whether to give him more time to complete his pre-purchase analyses with new concessions and contingencies, or stop dancing altogether.

When the town first accepted Zaccheo's proposal in late 2011 the economy was in pretty bad shape. It seemed like a winning concept from a developer with a proven track record.

We don't fault the town for thinking, at that time, that this proposal was an easy solution which would ultimately return the old school to the tax rolls.

Indeed, we saw at the outset no real reason to doubt Zaccheo's ability to pull off a very "green" sustainable project. He had proven himself as a green developer and had a reasonable plan for rehabilitating the old school.

Even his desire to create units smaller than 700 square feet did not seem outlandish. Many one-bedroom apartments in Montague, not to mention urban areas, are far smaller than this square footage.

We also understood why the project had bitter opponents. Real change to the quiet village was a distinct possibility with a 22-unit apartment building. And we even saw the appeal by the abutters to overturn the Montague ZBA's variance as a way of at least stalling the development.

How much the protest factored into Zaccheo's caution is unclear but we can't help but feel that this certainly was a deterrent to a quick purchase of the building.

In the end, however, we do not believe that those opposed to the conversion are to be blamed for the process dragging on and on and on. It's Zaccheo and the town in tandem.

We frankly don't feel the developer has ever been much of a dance partner. For the last three years he has pushed one demand after another on the town, and the town has willingly complied. But enough, frankly, is enough.

Time is money when it comes to empty buildings. Since the decision was made to close the school in 2008, the taxpayers of Montague have invested \$125,450 in maintaining and repairing the school, as well as heating it and keeping the lights on.

Prior to these expenditures, the town put out \$98,000 for a new roof. With every month the school sits vacant, that's one more month of expense, and potential deterioration.

Fortunately, all of these improvements are so far outstripping the decline of the building. Indeed, the care taken with maintaining the former school will only be advantageous when it comes to remarketing the property.

There's no point at this juncture to relash the school's closure, which we thought at the time was a terrible mistake. But we do note that the feasibility study performed on the building prior to the original RFP issuance stated that the best use for the building was a school.

Perhaps that still is the best use. Or perhaps apartment conversion is viable. There are likely many other creative ways to reuse the building.

But without a new RFP, we have no idea who might come forward with a proposal that could work for everyone. What we do conclude is that Zaccheo, despite his accomplishments in Greenfield with adaptive reuse of a mill building and a school, is not really able economically or sufficiently interested to do the same here in Montague.

The town needs to quickly issue a new RFP. There is no reason to wait any longer to move forward with marketing the building, which despite six years of vacancy is still in relatively good shape.

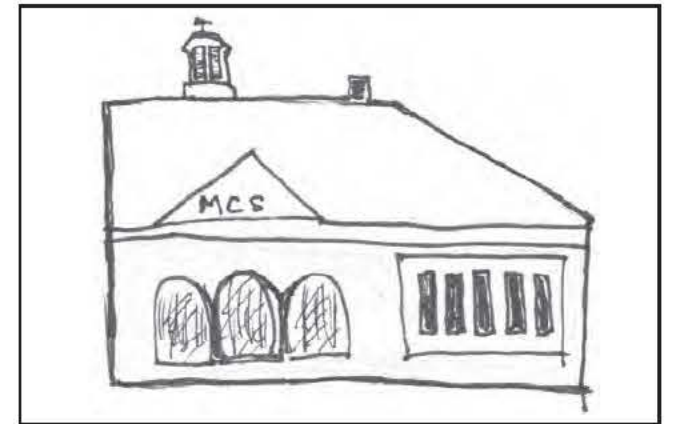
Indeed, of all the town-owned properties, the school is among the most desirable. We do feel positive that a new RFP will result in new developers with new schemes coming forward.

The economy is better now than it was a few years ago. Adaptive reuse of school buildings is common.

Montague needs to look for a winner in the development game.



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Now you don't.

Letters to the Editors

Care and Attention

The letter "So Let's Not Cut Them Down" in the June 12 issue of the *Montague Reporter* needs a response, simply because Mr. Ogden gave some misinformation on the current condition of our forest and the foresters entrusted in its care.

Mr. Ogden commented on the importance of forest sequestration of carbon, which I agree with, but then inferred our forest was sequestering at a greater rate than in the past due to the "highest level of biodiversity in some 200 years".

How can this be, when we lost the American chestnut, American elm, will soon lose all species of ash, and are fast losing our hemlocks and beech? The latter two long-lived, shade-tolerant trees are the kings of carbon sequestration.

Furthermore, climate warming has caused both native and invasive insects and diseases to cause mortality to our oaks and pines.

Mr. Ogden then attacks the Quabbin foresters as being thoughtless in their management of the forest.

Two current foresters, at Quabbin, Steve Ward and Randy Stone, did not participate in the cookie-cutter clearcuts which caused the watershed management program to be suspended in 2010 while the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the program.

This committee concluded that watershed management should resume, using the silvicultural techniques employed by foresters Ward and Stone. Their management is anything but thoughtless, but instead works to promote forest diversity, forest vigor, wildlife habitats and aesthetics.

Our forest is in peril. Let's not abandon it, but instead give it the care and stewardship it needs to survive.

Bruce Spencer
Retired forester, DWSP
New Salem

Prevention

Praise to [Gill selectboard member] Randy Crochier (June 5th edition of the *Reporter*) for making the decision to contact state officials regarding suicide prevention fencing for the French King Bridge. If the right fencing is installed, it's almost impossible to climb up and over.

The real solution is for people with mental health problems to seek

the help they need. In a previous article in the *Reporter*, it was stated that only a small percentage of people seek help.

Installing this fence would go a long way in reducing death by suicide at The French King Bridge.

David Yez
Monmouth, Illinois

Prevention, Revisited

On Monday, June 16, Lisa Enzer was scheduled to appear before the Montague Board of Selectmen at 7:10, to present the case for moving forward with the Chestnut Hill area's plan for a betterment district that would fund the broadband connection with Leverett. Fifteen residents of the Chestnut Hill area attended in support.

At 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, they encountered a sign at the stairway leading to the meeting room which stated:

"EXECUTIVE SESSION: PLEASE WAIT IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM DOWN THE HALL ON THE RIGHT. SOMEONE WILL BE DONE [sic] TO GET

YOU WHEN IT IS TIME. THANK YOU."

All present waited until 7:40, when Walter Ramsey, the town planner, looked in and said we should come upstairs.

At this point Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr., chairman of the BoS, declared that the group had missed the assigned window, that the meeting was closed, and the meeting couldn't be reopened, due to open meeting laws.

It was pointed out that the BoS was already in violation, having denied access to the open meeting.

Robert J. Steinberg
Montague

GUEST EDITORIAL Recall Fairbrother

By JOHN FURBISH

On May 19, 1676 (during King Philip's War), Captain William Turners and about 150 Colonial men made a dawn attack on a sleeping Native American village at the Great Falls. On May 19, 2004, the Town of Montague and relevant tribes conducted a "Reconciliation Ceremony" to resolve any differences and disagreements that might linger from that battle, or massacre of 300 men and women of all ages, and, in the words of then-selectboard member Pat Allen, to "put the tragic echoes of the past to rest."

On the 10th anniversary of the formalized reconciliation of May 19, 2004, Montague Select Board's

Chairman Mark Fairbrother abused those citizens, mainly from the Nolumbeka Project, who sought town approval for submitting a "battlefield grant" to the National Park Service. There had been a previous, unsuccessful grant proposal the year before (and this new one was greatly improved). Chairman Fairbrother had put approval of the application on the agenda for 7:40 on Jan. 6, 2014.

As a Turners Falls resident and occasional volunteer for Nolumbeka, I showed up on that day at that time in order to show citizen support for the proposal. The meeting room was filled, so I uncomfortably sat way up in the front.

see GUEST next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Calling all master lego builders for "Lego Lunacy" at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, June 21, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Lego Lunacy requires participants ages 9-13 to register in advance for this creative event. Each participant will have random Lego pieces to create their unique designs and a fun time will be had by all.

Builders can take their designs home and small prizes will be awarded by category. Seating is limited to 10 "engineers" so call now, (413) 863-4316, to save your spot.

Also Saturday, River Station and Playground Skateshop will be hosting a community yard sale, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and pop-up skatepark, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (For details see the story on page A7). River Station is located at 151 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Watershed History at the Great Falls Discovery Center will investigate the history of "The Great Hall" on Sunday, June 22, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Originally built as a machine shop during the early days of industrialization in Turners Falls, the Great Hall building of the GFDC has a great story. You will investigate tales of machines, fly fishing rods, historic preservation, and more. Do you have a story to tell? Come tell it.

The Montague Parks and Rec will be turning the water whale on at Unity Park on Monday, June 23. Hours for this summer have been extended to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and open 7 days a week. Bring a picnic supper, blankets and lawn chairs, then sit back and enjoy the summer tradition of the Montague Community Band in Downtown Turners Falls, Peskeompskut Park, on Monday, June 23, starting at 7 p.m.

North Quabbin Pipeline Action will meet on Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at the Athol Town Hall. NQ Pipeline Action is a group of concerned citizens working together to build awareness, organize opposition, and engage in collective action with other groups against the proposed natural gas pipeline.

People attending a meeting for the first time are invited to come at 6:45 to get background information and talk with members of the steering committee. The meeting will focus on actions that people can take now by continuing to do letter writing to elected officials and government agencies such as the Department of Public

Utilities. NQ Pipeline Action recently signed on to a letter along with Mt. Grace Land Trust, Environment-Northeast, and other organizations asking Governor Patrick for an in-depth study of the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) report of the costs and benefits of a low-demand scenario. For more information go to www.northquabbinenergy.org/wordpress.

Tom Sullivan of Pollinators Welcome will speak at the New Salem Library on Tuesday, June 24 on "Native Plants for Bees and Butterflies." Learn about bee behaviors and native flowers that serve diverse pollinator species, promote healthy ecosystems and draw pollinators to heirloom crops.

Greenfield Community College (GCC) is offering an open information session about its Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Program (RE/EE) on Wednesday, June 25 from 5 to 6 p.m. in Room C208 on the main campus.

The information session is an opportunity for applicants to decide if the program is a good fit and for accepted students to meet the staff supporting the RE/EE program.

For more information about the RE/EE program, contact Christine Copeland at copelandc@gcc.mass.edu or (413) 775-1472 or visit the website at: web.gcc.mass.edu/renewable-energy.

On Saturday June 28, from 2 to 4 p.m., Green River Yoga and World Eye Bookshop will be hosting a chair yoga class and book signing with area yoga and meditation teacher Jean Erlbaum to celebrate the publication of her new book "Sit with Less Pain".

This event will be held at Green River Yoga, which is located at 158 Main Street, 2nd Floor (above World Eye Bookshop) in Greenfield. All are welcome. Reservations suggested by calling 772-2050.

Also on June 28, the Wendell Free Library will host a free screening of **The Alpha Incident**, a low-budget '70s science fiction film in which a microorganism from Mars, brought to Earth by a space probe, terrorizes passengers in a railroad office.

This is another film in the monthly series of SF, fantasy, horror and monster movies at the library. A short film, episode 6 of *The Phantom Empire*, will start at 7 p.m., and the feature will start at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, see www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

Folk legend Bill Staines will be appearing at Second Congregational Church in Greenfield, with opening act Fire Pond, on Sunday, June 29 at 3 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Literacy Project of Greenfield, which provides adult basic education programs and opportunities.

Tickets to the show are available at World Eye Bookshop located at 156 Main Street, Greenfield, MA. The ticket price is \$15 for adults, \$12 for students & seniors, and free for children 10 and under.

The FRTA is conducting a survey that offers bus riders an opportunity to make requests and share suggestions about FRTA service in the valley.

It's a very quick survey and really important that you take the time to offer these suggestions while they're asking! Surveys are also being given to riders on FRTA bus routes.

The online survey is a chance for folks who would like to use FRTA services but aren't able to because of barriers with the routes or schedules to share their ideas and opinions. To take the survey on line go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/FRTA-survey.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

THE TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT WILL BE FLUSHING HYDRANTS THE WEEK OF JUNE 23 - 27.

GUEST from previous page

The meeting went on and on about other things. Then, suddenly, the audience was asked to clear the room in order for the board to go into executive session.

Project liaison David Brule protested to Fairbrother, who said he had removed the battlefield grant from the day's agenda. The other two selectmen heard this news, and helped get the grant put on the 1/13/14 agenda.

At the beginning of the January 13 meeting, David Brule was recognized and gave a short overview of the grant. Select Board members Mike Nelson and Chris Boutwell asked questions, mainly wondering what it would cost the town if the grant were approved. (Reporting the progress of the grant to the National Park Service should take 80 hours of the Town Planner's time.) Discussion of Fairbrother's questioning of "who" actually wrote the grant took almost 5 minutes.

Then as the chairman conducting the meeting, Fairbrother leafed through the application to pick nits. Most of the first ten minutes was

his assertion that the massacre site was actually in Gill not Turners Falls; he then snidely suggested that the grant proposal should have been taken to the town of Gill.

He argued that it was a "spin" to make the massacre at Gill into a battle and to give Turners Falls a greater importance than it deserved.

He wondered why tax dollars should assist the three to four tribal leaders (not the whole Native culture) who have "seriously financially damaged" the town for the past ten years from their actions at the Turners Falls Airport.

Nelson, after a half-hour of discussion, suggested positively that the wording for the grant proposal be changed to the "Battle of the Great Falls." And he made a motion to stop discussion and approve the grant proposal, which was seconded and passed 2-1, with Fairbrother opposed.

In 2007, plans for a \$5,000,000 airport expansion (mostly using federal funds) were made and a forested area clear cut. The clearing revealed four stone piles atop a hill, and a row of 5-50 pound stacked

stones that extended to the southwest.

Airport committee member Fairbrother and others supporting the expansion said the stones were obviously left by a farmer in the 1700s.

Native Americans saw it as a spiritual site, the ritualized landscape of a ceremonial hill, related to other spiritual sites on nearby hills, possibly on an equinox-line with them.

In 2009, The US National Register of Historic Places council ruled the group of stones was a "sacred ceremonial hill" eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The airport expansion was stopped and new plans had to be made.

My immediate reaction from both days was that it was distressing to see how Fairbrother, as chairman of the Montague selectboard treated Native Americans and their supporters. For this treatment alone he could/should be recalled.

How he treats people at the selectboard demonstrates a "reason of lack of fitness" (#1 of the seven

specified reasons) to recall an elected official.

I know Fairbrother is the "odd man out" on a lot of issues, so I'm hoping there are people more energetic than me who want to help in getting 20 registered voters from the town to write and file an affidavit (which contains a statement giving the reason for the recall) with the Town Clerk, and then within 20 days to collect signatures from 20% of Montague's voters (about 1200 of the 5800 now), to get the recall process started.

If interested to recall Fairbrother, for any and all reasons, and to work on this, please write me at furbishvsfairbrother@gmail.com.

I grew up in Maine with racism against Passamaquoddy which limited my neighbors and schoolmates, so I reacted against Fairbrother's attitude in 2009 (when as a new Turners Falls resident I started reading the Reporter), and his attitude and actions now in 2014. I would like to make sure Reconciliation in Montague goes ahead without and in spite of Mark Fairbrother. If interested please write me.

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**Great Falls
Middle School
Students of
the Week**

week ending 6/13/14:

Grade 6
Journey Smalls
Lyuba Sankova

Grade 8
Madison Chmyzinski

PAPER from page A1

office chose the West Springfield product as its official office paper.

Southworth became one of the legendary paper mills in Western Massachusetts, offering a high-quality, cotton fiber product. In the 1880s and 1890s, the marketplace changed, requiring the company to provide typing paper for the then-new manual typewriters.

In 1910, Southworth decided to market its brand of typing paper, sending it to office supply dealers instead of wholesale dealers.

"We were fortunate," said David Southworth, "that the office products' market remained stable for some three-quarters of a century, until 1985. That's when 'big box stores' like Staples entered the scene. We also survived the shift from manual to electric typewriters to a sheet-fed printer attached to a personal computer.

"But during the last 20 years, there has been a decline in printing and writing paper usage. In 2006, we acquired the assets of Esleek Manufacturing Co., including the paper mill on Canal Road, and closed our paper machine in West Springfield.

"In January 2013, we sold the Southworth brand business paper product line to Neenah Paper Co., which is headquartered near At-

lanta, GA."

Then Southworth rebranded its specialty and technical paper enterprise as Paperlogic. Today, according to David, the business is attempting to continue the Paperlogic book of business.

Sixty people are employed at the Turners Falls paper mill.

"The plan," said Southworth, "is to keep our paper machine going, and retain our employees."

Currently, the company also owns a facility in Agawam, where envelopes are produced, and the Madison Park Group in Seattle, which creates gift boxes and greeting cards.

"We face two main challenges," said Southworth. "First, we need to continue to find new, sustainable types of products we can make.

"Second, the public needs to know our business is at risk due to the high energy costs that New England faces. Our business is at risk if additional natural gas pipelines are not sited.

"The paper industry is still an exciting field if you're innovative, work hard, and get the breaks. We remain dedicated to advancing the science of paper, while attempting to expand into other product categories where the volume of output will continue."



NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee Discusses Strategic Plan, Resource Officer, And Open Meeting Issue

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

At the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on June 10, Superintendent Michael Sullivan continued the process begun at last week's GMRSD meeting of presenting a draft of a strategic plan for the district.

In attendance were principals from several schools in the district, who offered praise for Sullivan's plan which had taken into consideration suggestions discussed at their previous meeting, plus comments in surveys and results of the school choice exit interviews.

He sifted all that down to five main strategic objectives for the school district, presented with specific initiatives for each category.

This builds on the concept begun in the development of the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) which principals and teachers worked on over three years and helped bring the district out of Level 4 status.

The problem the professional staff had with the AIP was that it was too much, too fast, required constant training and change, demanded too much time of the teachers that pulled them away from the classroom.

The principals praised the new strategic plan for bringing simplicity and clarity to the effort, and presenting something that would provide focus and continuity without overwhelming the teaching staff.

The five district strategic objectives are:

Readiness to Learn, providing social and emotional supports required to ensure all students can fully engage in their learning;

Literacy, building a Pre-K to 12 system for literacy development that focuses on comprehension, effective written communication, and content-based literacy at cognitively high levels of understanding;

Curriculum Development, developing curricula that reflect state standards and that specify and align learning outcomes, assessments and instructional practices;

Learning Organization, to create a culture of adult learning driven by goal setting, feedback, collaboration and accountability; and

Community Engagement, building relationships with the community so that parents and stakeholders are involved and invested in the district and so that the district is responsive to the community's educational wants and needs.

Within each area, there are another four or five strategic initiatives that would support the goals set out.

Educators in the meeting applauded Sullivan's work and school committee members expressed their approval as well. Kathleen Adams, principal at Gill Elementary said, "As a principal, this is a breath of fresh air."

Thomas Osborn, principal of Turners Falls High School said, "Providing social and emotional support is really important."

School committee member Michael Langknecht said of pivotal importance was the readiness to learn.

Jane Oakes said she liked how it covers the bases, and covers them well, and comprehensively.

Member Marjorie Levenson said it was really important to reach out to the community, that parental involvement is very important.

Sandra Brown said a volunteer coordinator was very important, working with parents, mentors. She asked about the progress of curriculum maps.

Marty Espinola, Director of Teacher and Learning, said they have all been done except those in areas where changes are coming down from the federal education department.

SHEA from page A1

board to meet the monthly expenses of operating the theater.

This news comes at a time when the new board is attempting to revitalize the theater. Their plans for the coming year include a number of major events including a summer kickoff party this Saturday by rising stars Una Jensen and Holly May.

The month of July, normally a slow month, is filled with three different shows by Ja'Duke: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *42nd Street* and *Pirate and Princess Parade*.

In August, Ghostlight Theater will be presenting *Bug*. The board is also thrilled that they have attracted the Youth Shakespeare Company to the theater who will present *Julius Caesar* this fall.

"We have 48 weekends booked," said Glazier. This number is up from 42 last year and just 26 the year before. Friedman said that while the theater "is barely in the black, it's in the black."

The aim is to increase revenue from around \$50,000 to \$70,000, a goal the board believes is within their reach, and a level of revenue it did collect in both its 2009 and 2011 fiscal years. If this happens, the plan is to hire a part-time executive director sometime in 2015.

Other changes include a new HVAC system paid for by the town from a Green Communities Grant. A new website is also forthcoming, and cash flow permitting, a new marquee will greet visitors to the theater.

At present, though, challenges

School Resource Officer

Montague Chief of Police Charles Dodge came to the school committee meeting to discuss the option of providing a school resource officer for the district. He told them he has children in the district schools. He had already prepared information for the Franklin County Tech School (at their request) on the subject and so brought it to Gill-Montague as well.

He informed the school committee that there is a federal grant available that would pay 75% of the cost for three years but requires a fourth year funded through another source. Dodge said he liked having an officer in the schools, that it helps create a bridge with the police department. He said, "If there is trouble, the resource officer would know about it."

Levenson said she wished this could have been discussed during the regular budget process. Espinola said that the last time the school district got this grant the federal government had a lot more money. He said now the grant is very competitive and the instructions are 56 pages long. Langknecht suggested they put it on the agenda to be discussed. Dodge left his materials and reports with the committee for review.

The school committee voted unanimously to approve a change in background checks for all school employees. In addition to the CORI check employees will now be required to obtain a fingerprint-based CHRI check. This will cost \$55 for employees required to be licensed by the department of education and \$35 for other employees and volunteers who have "direct, unsupervised contact with students."

Meeting Schedule & Open Meeting Law

Joyce Phillips, chair, stated at the last meeting that there would be no meetings held in July but Brown, af-

remain, including coping with the loss of two of their resident theater companies. The Country Players have ceased production and Arena Civic Theatre has moved to Greenfield.

More immediate, though, is negative publicity resulting from a booking error that resulted in the Upper Valley Music Festival being forced to move to Greenfield.

Glazier said he felt very bad about this. "It was a very unfortunate event," he commented. In explaining what happened, Glazier used the analogy of booking a hotel room. "Do you book a room from a maid or at the front desk? The onus is on the renter to make sure he has a room."

He went on to translate the analogy: "Tommy [Byrnes, organizer of the Upper Valley Music Festival] spoke to a board member about reserving the theater for the festival but he didn't follow up with me.

"I personally manage the calendar, and heard nothing about it. When Ja'Duke contacted me in March about renting the theater for the whole month, I, of course, said yes. They followed the right protocol. Had Tommy gone through proper channels, Ja'Duke would have worked around them."

Jillian Morgan noted that the board did offer to pay for lights and sound at an outdoor venue, but that wasn't acceptable to Byrnes.

There may be no business like show business, but at present, business is the show.



ter the meeting, decided she was not happy about it, and so sent an email to Phillips asking that the school committee be given a chance to discuss it. Brown said she felt it was not a good idea to go the entire month without a meeting. Brown also copied the rest of the school committee members, making sure to tell them not to reply, out of concern of violating open meeting law. Phillips then sent a response to Brown by email.

This seems like a simple issue, one member asking the chair of the committee about a meeting schedule and informing the other members of her action. But in the age of email, such communication is fraught with legal issues.

After responding to Brown, Phillips decided to check with Russell Dupere, school committee attorney. She read his written answer to the school committee at this week's meeting.

Dupere's opinion was both Brown and Phillips were in violation of open meeting law when they engaged in this communication outside of the full meeting. There was a little back and forth between Brown and Phillips, some offense taken on both sides regarding tone.

Levenson objected to the way Phillips handled the matter. Phillips took issue with Brown's language in the email. After some airing of differences, the subject was tabled. At the end of the meeting, members discussed the meeting schedule, and agreed to hold one meeting in July.

Taking into account vacation plans of Sullivan and district administrative assistant Robin Hamlett, it was tentatively agreed the school committee would meet on July 29 and August 19. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the school committee will be held on June 24, 2014 at Turners Falls High School in the TV Studio at 6:30 p.m.

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GILL from page A1

users are pumping 27,100 gallons a day of sewage under the river to Montague.

That adds up to an average inflow and infiltration rate of 102% of groundwater or rainwater entering the sewer system, leading to quarterly sewer bills that are leaving many Riverside residents seeing red.

Yet even after the selectboard approved rate hikes totaling 70% over the prices Riverside users were paying before November, 2012, the sewer system as a whole is still operating in the red.

Purinton said the cost of recent repairs to the system added to this year's operating deficit, but in general, rates being charged to users are still not sufficient to cover the annual cost of running the sewer system.

Town meeting will be asked to dip into the sewer fund reserves to

pay the expected \$5,500. And if the area experiences heavy rain before July 1st, that cost may rise, Purinton suggested.

"Maybe I shouldn't be correlating precipitation and sewer flow," said Purinton, "but there sure seems to be a correlation."

Having tried smoke tests, visual inspection of manholes, and camera inspections of the sewers to detect major leaks, the selectboard is now attempting to double-check whether the pump station metering system the town relies on to calculate their payments to Montague could be the source of some of the apparent spikes in sewer flows since 2010, when readings jumped from an average below 25,000 gallons a day to readings as high as 36,000 gallons in 2013.

The board asked Purinton to see whether an independent expert could be brought in to re-examine the new meters and equipment at the

recently renovated pumping station. They also asked him to investigate installing a meter on the Montague side of the forced main, to double-check the daily flow readings.

Selectboard member John Ward did a quick back of the envelope calculation and said, "We're basically spending \$80 to \$90,000 annually," to treat sewage from Riverside.

"If more than half of that is inflow, we're spending \$40,000 or more annually on pumping and treating inflow. That's a fair amount of money per water user," in a system with only 114 users.

The board will also ask town meeting to decide whether to spend \$8,277 to replace interior door locks at the Gill Elementary School, to increase school security. That money would come from one of the town's stabilization funds.

The special town meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 8, at

6:30 p.m.

In other news, the highway department's 2012 Komatsu front-end loader had run past its warranty by only three weeks this spring when it began developing symptoms of overheating. Numerous attempts to diagnose and fix the problem have come up short.

The department has devoted staff time to delivering the vehicle to the dealer in Whately, and to troubleshooting the machine.

In light of this, the board asked Purinton to pursue Komatsu to cover the ongoing repairs under warranty.

Police chief David Hastings received approval from the board to buy back 50 hours of vacation time.

Hastings reported there have not been enough part time officers to cover shifts to allow him to take all his vacation time.

Board chair Randy Crochier

said, "It's admirable that he wants to keep the town covered. But he needs to take his vacations."

The board was notified the town will pay "several thousand dollars" to repair the police department's new Ford Interceptor after Hastings reported a deer collided with his cruiser on Main Road early on May 28.

The board signed a new one year agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to participate in the regional dog kennel. The town's assessment will drop from \$700 to \$350 for the coming year.

"That's a remarkably well-run program," commented Crochier. "They do a great job of fundraising to support the program, and they put a lot of dogs through the program."

Purinton estimated about 100 stray dogs a year are being placed from the county's kennel in Montague.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sign Blunder Nixes Broadband Discussion

By JEFF SINGLETON

Sometimes the most newsworthy events at a local board meeting are the non-events, a bit like the proverbial sound of one hand clapping.

Such was the case at Monday's Montague Selectboard meeting as a large crowd which showed up to discuss broadband on Chestnut Hill waited patiently on the first floor, while the board, and several others, sat on the second floor wondering where they were.

By the time the problem was resolved the regular selectboard meeting had ended, the press and assorted on-lookers had gone home, and there was not much that could be done except reschedule.

The 7:10 agenda item in question was worded as follows: "Lisa Enzer, Chestnut Hill Initiative Notes may be taken, Updated information on research for bringing high speed internet service to Chestnut Hill area."

Lisa Enzer was scheduled to present a plan to create a "Betterment District," which would allow broadband to be installed on Chestnut Hill, and connected with the Levertt system.

But 7:10 quickly came and went. No Lisa Enzer. The puzzled Montague Board brought up the agenda item several times with Liza Enzer. Several members of the audience stated that they had just seen Lisa Enzer, who was preparing to attend the meeting.

At about 7:40 the Selectboard meeting

ended, and the board went into the first of four executive sessions (meetings allowed to be closed to the public under the State Open Meeting Law) to discuss real estate issues. Town Planner Walter Ramsey went downstairs to see if anyone was present for the executive sessions, but found instead Enzer, waiting in the first floor conference room with fifteen other people for the scheduled public broadband discussion.

The problem, according to Ramsey, was "the misinterpretation of a poorly worded sign." When Enzer and other residents entered the front door and began to ascend the stairs they were confronted with a sign which read:

"Executive session. Please wait in the conference room down the hall on the right. Someone will be [down] to get you when it is time. Thank you."

The sign was designed to address those attending the executive session but visitors had assumed that it meant that the board itself was in executive session and they would be alerted when the public portion of the meeting commenced. Thus they waited until the public portion was in fact over.

According to Ramsey, "the board felt terrible but there was nothing they could do. Everyone else [including the press] had gone home." They could not restart the public meeting at that point.

So there will apparently be a special Selectboard meeting this coming Monday to

discuss the Chestnut Hill broadband betterment district.

In other business, Bruce Hunter requested that the board certify the final completion of the Unity Park phase 2.2 im-

provement project and disburse the last funds for the project. Phase 2.2 involves the sand volleyball court and an additional climbing structure for the playground.

Suzanne Lomanto, director of Turners Falls Riverculture, returned with a plan to solve the knotty problem of where to place an "art trebuchet" in downtown Turners.

The trebuchet, a medieval stone-throwing catapult which in this case will be throwing harmless painted objects, is part of the June 19 Riverculture-sponsored *Knights, Camera, Action* event, a prelude to the Mutton and Mead festival this weekend.

Lomanto requested that the trebuchet be placed in an alley between the Shea Theater and the building housing Subway on Avenue A. She also told the board she was considering using water-soaked "industrial sponges" wrapped in burlap, as opposed to paint. The board approved the request by a vote of 2-1, with Nelson and Boutwell voting for and

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

The Town of Montague is accepting bids until 10 a.m. on Friday, June 27 for the purchase of a **2004 Global Electric Motor Car.**

The GEM Mobile can be viewed at the Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA, (413) 773-8865, between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Bids must be in a sealed envelope. The Town of Montague reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Fairbrother voting against.

The board approved a toll-booth fundraiser for the Newt Guilbault little league on June 21, also by a vote of 2-1, Nelson and Boutwell for, Fairbrother against. The fundraiser will help defray the expenses of the league's travel team.

The board also authorized a grant agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the project to stabilize a bank along the side of Millers Falls Road. The project has already been approved by town meeting.

The board also approved a lengthy list of appointments to all town positions and boards, including several new appointments to the Cable Advisory Committee. The CAC appointees were John Reynolds and John McNamara.

The board then adjourned for four executive sessions at approximately 7:40.

Creative Ground: A New Database for Artists

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – Dee Schneidman, research manager for New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) has a message for artists: Register on Creative Ground, the new Arts database created by NEFA, and be counted among the many artists and arts-related businesses listed there.

Launched in January, Creative Ground provides free access to artists and arts related organizations throughout New England. This project is supported by the six New England states' arts departments: the CT Department of Economic and Community Development, the ME Arts Commission, the MA Cultural Council, the NH State Council on the Arts, the RI State Council on the Arts, and the VT Arts Council.

Creative Ground is a free, online directory building a database of artists living and working in New England. This database creates space for profiles of artists of all disciplines such as performing arts, visual arts, and crafts.

The directory also includes profiles of cultural nonprofits like libraries and theaters, creative businesses like recording studios and design agencies.

Schneidman said Creative Ground will provide artists an opportunity to make a profile of their own available to the public in a searchable database. Artists can include photographs, artwork and audio, provide links to their own website or blog, or other sites that promote their work. Registration is free and there are no fees involved.

Schneidman said she is hoping everyone will register. She said there is no current count of artists residing and working in New England and so this will act as a means of providing real numbers that can demonstrate the value and importance of arts funding.

Schneidman spoke to artists gathered at the *Buzz* event held at the Arts Block in Greenfield on Monday, May 28, and gave them a demonstration of how to navigate the site.

With a screen projection of the

site above her, she walked through the simple process of registering and then searching the site for resources and artists in a large number of categories.

In her persuasive and friendly manner she encouraged everyone to register and tell their friends about the database.

She took questions from the group gathered there and patiently explained any points of confusion. Anything she couldn't answer, she promised to take back to the web developers, and said she was available by phone or email to answer questions.

Buzz events are sponsored by Fostering Art and Culture Project (FACP), a partnership of artistic, business, and civic stakeholders committed to growing the creative economy in Franklin County.

They evolved out of the Creative Economy Summit, where feedback showed that artists sought more chances for networking. *Buzz* events are designed to give artists an opportunity to network and share information with each other

and the community. They are held once a month, generally on the last Wednesday of the month. Artists are invited to come and share their activities with the group or connect with each other individually.

Some of these events have presentations like this one in May, while some are less formal and provide time for artists to network and discuss their work.

Fostering the Arts has presented several creative economy summits in the past, and continues to find new ways to support artists in their efforts, believing that the arts are a vital part of the economic health of the community.

For those interested in listing on the new database, you can find it online at www.creativeground.org. For more information about *Buzz* events and all the other activities of Fostering Art and Culture, their website is at www.fosteringartandculture.org. Registering on this website will keep you informed of activities in Franklin County. New England Foundation for the Arts' website is www.nefa.org.

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Franklin County Tech Graduates Urged to Meet Challenges "Head On"

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – During her address to the 2014 graduating senior class, Franklin County Technical School Valedictorian Julia Lingwall urged her fellow students to embrace challenges throughout their lives.

"No matter where we go or what we do, there are challenges ahead of us," she said. "What I'm asking each of you, and from myself, is to meet those challenges straight on, with our heads held high and our hearts wide open.

"It's not enough to simply try to get by in life. That doesn't move the world forward and make it a better place. We must try to excel in everything we do; strive for excellence in every task, large or small."

Lingwall, a plumbing and heating program student from Sunderland, was one of 115 members of the class to receive their diplomas during the outdoor ceremony at the school in front of hundreds of well-wishers on a warm and sunny evening last Friday.

The mood was festive and celebratory, punctuated with moments of respect for those who fought on D-Day and graduates who would be going on to serve in the military, including Lingwall who has enlisted in the Marine Corps and will go to boot camp in February.

FCTS Principal Richard J. Martin started the ceremony off with the lighthearted acknowledgment that the students had endured 14,118

hours or 847,080 minutes of school in their 12-year career.

"Well, if you subtract those that have skipped school, pretend sicknesses, suspensions, tardies and dismissals, some of you have completed about a week," he joked.

"Just think: you could be one of us and experience more than 1,300 hours of teaching every year, which translates to more than 40,000 hours of teaching in a career."

Martin's message to the seniors paralleled that of Lingwall as he urged the graduates to rise to the challenges they will inevitably confront.

"For many the greatest barriers to success are the fear of the unknown, a fear of change, or a fear of failure," he said.

"But these are also the greatest motivators for success. I challenge the graduates to use fear to motivate you and to challenge you to move beyond your comfort zone. So if opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

Martin said that close to half of this year's graduates will attend a college, university or technical institution and 103 of them have already earned three to 12 college credits at Greenfield Community College.

FCTS Superintendent James M. Laverty said that "life is about collecting pieces of paper; these papers are tickets that can bring you places, open doors of opportunity closed to others who may apply."

Laverty went on to implore the

graduates to continue serving the community, their fellow citizens and wider world in the way they feel would be most appropriate and effective.

"You have already had a positive impact by participating in many community service activities at Franklin County Technical School that have made a difference in many lives," he said.

"Service takes on many forms – service to one's community, service to one's country, service to ones less fortunate than you. Man's humanity to man cannot be measured; it is something which resides within each of us.

"It is that feel-good warmth that comes when through our actions we make our home, our community, our country, our world a better place to be. The future is not someplace we are going to; it is a place we are creating."

Laverty handed out a number of awards to the students. The Superintendent's Award went to Maxwell Pellerin of Montague. Rayanne Mercure, also of Montague, won the MAVA Outstanding Student of the Year Award.

Joseph Menko of Whately was the MVA Presidential Certificate of Merit Award recipient. The MVA Vocational Technical Student Achievement Award was presented to Clarisse Hutchinson of Leverett.

And Nicole Miller of Greenfield took home the MSSAA Student Achievement Award.

Lisa Marie Godfrey, a 2006



MICHAEL REARDON PHOTO

Franklin County Tech graduates express their delight at earning their diplomas.

FCTS graduate and the event's commencement speaker, said the school helped her to grow as a person as she pursued her training in cosmetology. She said her degree from Franklin County Tech put her on the road to fulfilling her dreams by enabling her to land a job at Hair by Harlow, a salon in Amherst.

"It may not feel like it now but you all have amazing futures ahead of you," Godfrey said.

Following the ceremony, Gabriel Stafford, a welding and metal fabrication program student from Greenfield, said the graduation was "the best day I've had in a very long time."

He is working at Duseau Trucking in Hatfield as welder, and credits Franklin County Tech with providing him with the tools to succeed.

Alissa Ames, of Montague, a health technology student, said she would always remember Franklin County Technical School. She'll be

attending Greenfield Community College in the fall and hopes to one day become a neurologist.

"I used the health technology program as a tool for my future," she said. "I really appreciate how open, helpful and supportive all the teachers were."

Mosha-Aaron Eisenberg, a programming and web design student from Deerfield, will also be attending Greenfield Community College in the fall, and then possibly the University of Massachusetts Amherst after two years. He is hoping to have a career as an engineer or mechanical engineer.

"I want to do something to give back to the community that has given so much to me," Eisenberg said.

Michael Reardon is the Franklin County Technical School's public relations representative.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Eliminates Highway, Water And Wastewater Director Position

By DAVID BRULE

The Erving Board of Selectmen moved quickly through their Monday meeting on June 16, but not without dropping a bombshell by meeting's end.

Pipeline

First up was a discussion concerning the Kinder-Morgan proposed pipeline that would be built through a section of Erving.

Following a meeting of townspeople with Selectmen a month ago, it was decided that the Board would seek an informational meeting with representatives from Kinder-Morgan.

Administrative Coordinator Tom Sharp has been in communication with the company, and there is a strong indication that a company representative will appear at a meeting in July. It is also likely that a non-binding vote on the proposed pipeline will be scheduled in the coming months.

Special Town Meeting

The Selectmen then voted approval of the warrant for a Special Town Meeting on June 30. With the end of the fiscal year, the board is seeking to spend the unexpended fund balance (free cash) for the fiscal year now ending.

Noteworthy articles seeking approval are for work at the Town Hall, generators for the wastewater facilities on Arch Street and River Street, and work on the Pearl B. Care Historic Museum.

The warrant also includes funding for a feasibility study for a public water system in Erving Center. Eventually, once the study is completed by Tighe and Bond, a proposal to bring Erving Center onto the public water system will need to be approved by Town Meeting.

Appointments

The Council On Aging is losing one of its members, Avis Suddy, who is resigning. The COG is now seeking an Erving resident to step forward to fill the vacancy.

The Selectboard appointed David Brule (conservation commission chair) and Cyd Scott (historic commission chair) as Erving's representatives to the Federal Energy Re-licensing Commission (FERC).

This federal agency is in charge of re-licensing hydroelectric dams and related projects on the Connecticut River: Wilder, Bellows Falls, Vernon, Turners Falls, and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. The new licenses would be valid for 50 years.

Brule and Scott proposed that Erving needs to be privy to the information and negotiations between FERC, First Light Company, Trans-Canada Northeast, and other interested municipal and Native American entities.

FERC will also be controlling licensing of any eventual Kinder-Morgan pipeline.

The Selectboard then appointed a list of Town officials including Administrative, Police, Fire Department and all other commissions

serving the Town. The complete listing of these appointments is available on the town website.

HWW Director Axed

One noteworthy exception to the appointments list was the position of Highway, Wastewater and Water Director held for two years by Paul Prest whose position was terminated effective immediately.

The very popular Prest was put on administrative leave with pay until June 29.

It was noted that Prest has served the Town loyally for 28 years, and that this was a difficult decision to make. After evaluation of the organizational structure for this small department, the board reached the decision that the HWW Director position didn't fit the needs of Erving.

Various members of Town Commissions, such as the Conservation and Historic commissions were stunned by the news.

Many commented that Prest had been exceptionally diligent and respectful of regulations, that he communicated regularly, consistently sought ways to save the town money, and was instrumental in the restoration of the Pearl Care Building among many other projects over the years.

Effective immediately, highway, building, grounds, and cemetery assistance will be handled by Glenn McCrory at 423-3500, and water and wastewater assistance will be handled by Pete Sanders at 423-3354.

The Nolumbeka Project is seeking volunteers for the ongoing work at Wissatinnewag, and to help at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on August 2.



The progress at the Wissatinnewag site has been remarkable, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the wonderful volunteers. So much has already been accomplished, fences taken down, new fences put up, etc.

The Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, presented by the Nolumbeka Project and Turners Falls RiverCulture, a celebration of Native American art, music, and culture, will be held in conjunction with the annual Block Party on Saturday, August 2, from noon to 8 p.m. in Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Outstanding Native American craftspeople will be selling pottery, drums, jewelry, beadwork, quill work, silver, bark baskets, gourd art, wampum, sacred herbs, textiles, and more. Live music will be presented throughout the day by Hawk Henries, Native American flute maker, Medicine Mammal Singers, Urban Thunder Singers, and the Visioning B.E.A.R. Singers. There will also be crafts activities for children, story telling, and traditional dancing with the public.

If you can become involved e-mail Lisa at nolumbeka@hemlockhouse.net.

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Kevin M. Wasielewski Earns Two Master's Degrees

CHICAGO – Kevin M. Wasielewski of Montague recently completed two simultaneous Master's degrees at the University of Illinois-Chicago.



than 4,000 low-income, first-generation high school students gain access to post-secondary education in Illinois.

Kevin is a 2004 graduate of Turners Falls High School. He earned his B.A. in EnviroSocial Medicine at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, where he also studied music.

On May 8 he received a Master of Public Health degree focusing on community health sciences; on May 10 he earned an M.B.A. with a specialty in Management.

While at the university he was co-founder of the Community Health Sciences Advisory Board and continued work for the National College Advising Corps through the university. In this work he helped more

Kevin is the son of Ted and Lynn Wasielewski of Montague and the grandson of Bernice Bourbeau of Turners Falls, Donald and Paula Girard of Turners Falls, and Lois and Robert Howson of Buckland.

Margot Lacey Hired As New Principal At Leverett Elementary School

By **CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO**

Leverett Elementary School.

School Committee Notes

At the Leverett school committee on Monday, June 2 Superintendent Robert Mahler announced that after a lengthy process he has offered Margot Lacey the position of principal of Leverett Elementary School and she has graciously accepted.

Although pleased with the hiring of Ms. Lacey, this final meeting of the school year was bittersweet as it was also the last meeting that Anne Ross, the principal of Leverett Elementary School for the past fourteen years, would be attending. The committee bade her a fond farewell.

Lacey is currently the assistant principal at the 550-student Pine Grove School in Rowley, Massachusetts. Her LES duties will officially commence on July 1.

Kip Fonsh, school committee chair, noted in his minutes of the meeting that during her time as head of LES, Ross has been much more than a principal.

Lacey said she was "very excited" about her new position. Last Saturday she attended a yoga brunch at the school.

"She has been an educational leader, supervisor, mentor and evaluator of the staff, the face of the school, and most importantly, she has served as the guardian of our children.

"It was immediately evident to me," she said, "how special the school is to students, parents and the community. It's not just a place where parents send their kids to spend six hours each day. It's the hub of the community."

"She has led with grace, patience, tolerance and a steady hand. She leaves with an abundance of memories of children developing from pre-K through the sixth grade, a priceless experience.

She'll be back to attend sixth grade commencement this Friday, then back a week later to begin administrative consultations. She said everybody has been extremely welcoming – parents, staff, the school committee members and teachers – and she felt that the school "was the right fit" for her.

"We all wish Anne the very best as she begins the next chapter in her life, one we hope will be filled with good health, good fortune and more experiences to treasure."

Although Lacey has been a long-term resident of the North Shore, she is no stranger to the Connecticut River valley. She grew up in Keene, New Hampshire and earned her undergraduate degree in music performance and arts management at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. She also directed the New England Bach Festival in Brattleboro.

The committee also welcomed newly-elected member, Alan Mully, who joined for his first meeting.

Lacey taught for a time in Milwaukee and at an international school in Switzerland. She earned her master's degree in education at Wheelock College in Boston. She also holds a certificate of advanced graduate studies in educational administration from Cambridge College.

Other Business

Lacey said her plan is to be permanently in Western Mass. by the end of the month. She said she is currently selling her home in Essex and has found a place to live for the next while in Leverett.

The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion as to whether they should approve going forward with the new PARCC test rather than the MCAS. The committee encouraged members of the LES community to learn as much as they could over the next several months about this new test and its origins.

At the June 2 school committee meeting, the members offered their welcome to Lacey and pledged any assistance she may need as she begins the process of integrating with the children, staff, and parents of

Fonsh noted in his minutes of the meeting that he wished "to take this opportunity to congratulate the sixth grade class on their graduation from LES and their impending entrance into Amherst Regional Middle School.

"Also, we want to extend best wishes for a relaxing and restful summer to children, teachers, and staff of LES."

The school committee report was adopted from Kip Fonsh's write-up of the meeting.

If anyone is interested in joining the Reporter to provide regular Leverett school committee coverage, please write to editor@montagureporter.org.



In on the ground floor: Playground Skateshop will be in business this Saturday, June 21. The shop will host a pop-up session with temporary ramps, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., behind River Station. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day there will also be a community yard sale in the front of the building.

SKATEPARK from page A1

Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant.

On Tuesday, Montague Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz hit the road to hand-deliver the application for that grant, which was due Wednesday.

"We didn't want to take any chances with the mail on this one," said town planner Walter Ramsey. "I think it's a really strong application."

If the town's application for the PARC grant was anything like the materials skatepark committee Bryan Dolan submitted to b.good, it should be a shoo-in.

"Bryan wrote a very good application," said Kroner. "You could feel his passion for the project. We loved that it was very home-grown."

Kroner added that the foundation was impressed at the "entrepreneurial spirit" of the campaign, and by the goal to build a "state-of-the-art, regional magnet" where the youth of Turners Falls can "show what they're capable of – spreading ripples of positivity and hope, as well as providing a positive outlet for kids."

Quirós' video, submitted with the application, can be viewed on vimeo.com. Shot during an April pop-up skate clinic in the alley between the Brick House and Dolan's shop on Third Street, it features local youth and young adults, riding rough plywood ramps and talking about their hopes for a permanent park in the town.

Go Skateboarding

Rich Becker and Barry Scott are among the many supporters keeping their fingers crossed for the PARC grant, which could mean breaking ground as early as next spring.

Becker is developing an abutting property, the former Chick's Garage at 151 Third Street, into an incubator space for small businesses and artists.

The building, now known as River Station, hosted an April silent auction event that raised over \$5,000 for the skatepark project. Early tenants include a local painter and Nifty Bits, a business that makes ornamental flowers out of upcycled materials.

"We're trying to figure out what works," Becker said. "Shared studio space is what a lot of people are excited about."

If the skatepark is built, a cafe or business that sells snacks might find a home in one of its bays, though "until then, it probably doesn't make economic sense" for a food-service business on the site, he says.

Barry Scott isn't waiting. Scott has rented a bay at River Station to run a store, Playground Skateshop, selling skateboards and supplies.

A social worker by day, Scott, who lives in Montague City, has high hopes for the sport thriving in Turners. Though many locals skate, since the closing of Greenfield's skatepark and the temporary Turners Falls park on Eleventh Street, they don't often congregate.

"It's hard to find skateboarders when there's no skatepark, and no

skate shop," he said. "So, I figured I'd do it myself."

For Scott, who is also involved in talks to run skate classes and workshops, skateboarding is an opportunity to develop creativity, "and mentorship, in the long run." Once the park is built, the campaigners hope to become stewards, and "help keep that core skateboarding culture of respect" going in Turners.

"Part of it," he explains, "is just about being focused."

Though his shop is hardly more than a table and chair at this point, Scott is officially opening this Saturday, June 21, with an event timed to celebrate Go Skateboarding Day.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. he and others will set up temporary ramps in the lot behind River Station – a site many will remember as the "old," wooden skatepark, dismantled in 2009 – and will pass the hat for the skatepark campaign.

When Becker heard about Playground's event, he decided to hold an event on the same day on the site, in order to "create a sense of community around the space." From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., River Station will also host a community yard sale.

Becker said he looks forward to the August 2 block party – recast this year into a Heritage Festival to be held along the river – and to the opening of the fields at the significantly revamped Unity Park, which have been fenced off this season while the new turf gets established.

And after that, he said, "the skatepark will be a great draw."

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SCHOOL from page A1
continued forward.

Aside from the apartment size issue, many people in town have also continued to express concern over increased traffic flow, noise and congestion accompanying an apartment building of this size in the village of Montague Center.

Most recently, many have been dismayed to see grass growing up around the foundation of a building that was once an educational asset to the community.

Despite getting the go-ahead, construction has not started. Last winter, Zaccheo told town planner Walter Ramsey that he would not be able to begin work until June.

Now, however, it appears that no plans are in place to begin converting the building this month, if ever.

The selectboard is requesting public input at their meeting on June 30. If the board decides not to continue to negotiate with Zaccheo, it is likely they will reissue a new RFP for the former school.

As of press time, Zaccheo had not returned calls for a comment.

The Montague Center School closed its doors in the summer of 2008, after serving the town's school children for decades. The closure was a contentious, hard-fought issue, but a majority rallied around the potential reuse, since it would have returned the building to the tax rolls and eliminated continued costs to maintain the school.

The town has invested considerably in the building. In 2008 Montague taxpayers spent \$98,000 for a new roof. Since then, the outlay has been an additional \$125,450.34.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno provided additional reporting for this article.



MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

One year ago, biking couple, Al MacIntyre & Faith Diemand, take pause on the Bright Angel Trail, caught up on events back home while climbing out from the bottom of the Grand Canyon. The two were on a multi-day biking excursion with eight other Montague-area friends during the Memorial Day weekend in 2013. Going anywhere this summer? Bring us along, and send the evidence to editor@montaguereporter.org!

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YEAR 12 – NO. 35

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 19, 2014



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Summer Nears

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – As often in these parts, the hesitant spring has gone summer-like. The cool, damp days were followed by the heat of days near eighty degrees. The spring bulbs have died back, the peeper frogs silenced, the lilacs and lily of the valley gone to green.

The rhododendron has given way to the opening laurel blossoms; the mock orange has replaced the flowering beauty bush especially resplendent this season. There are buds on the roses, and soon the honeysuckle will open its fragrance for the hummingbird and the bees.

The strawberries and asparagus have been mulched with straw and the tomatoes are in. The tomatoes settled in readily, enjoying the heat. The cherry tomatoes and one Celebrity have blossoms.

They are sulking a bit now with the current cool and rainy days, but the gardener does not regret the gentle watering. Next week looks to be warm and drier so happier times are coming and we will be easier as we leave for a week's camping knowing that the plants are well watered for the duration.

On this sunny and warm Father's Day, we set in yellow squash and Butternut for the winter, the sweet peppers and the last of the marigolds. The wooden gate is in place so no worries about the woodchuck

there. Still, I'll give the known holes another dose of castor oil before we leave.

Just because I haven't seen him doesn't mean he isn't there. It's also probably helpful that we've cleared the high grasses back closer to the trees eliminating a bit more cover.

The two female deer came through the edge of the yard again this morning after a nice graze of the open meadow and my neighbor's garden handily placed out there.

They stop and gaze in our direction as we sit in the sunroom with our morning coffee. They are un-hurried despite the proximity of the bike path with its many dog walkers. When they are ready they lope through the backyard, over the fence, and down into the woody ravine by the river.

We had feared the loss of several roses after the freeze, thaw and severe chill of last winter, but they have shown up again with fresh new growth. I've spent some time clearing them of weeds and grass and opening up a basin of soil around the roots. This is also a great time for a first feeding. You can use a commercial rose fertilizer.

We are using an organic mix of one cup of bone meal to ¼ cup of Epsom salts watered in with manure tea. To make the tea simply put a couple of scoops of composted manure in a container with a gallon of water and stir. First sprinkle a half a cup or so of food and scratch it into the soil. Then

see GARDEN page B8

Turners Falls to an Aggressive New Bedford in State Softball Finals

By JEFF SINGLETON

WORCESTER – New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical School coach Mark Collins credited scouting for the team's dominant win over Turners Falls High School in the Massachusetts Division 3 softball championship.

"We knew what they liked to do," he said, "and we were ready for it."



No. 17, Maddy Johnson, slides back to first base after an outfield catch.



A conference at the mound, at a challenging time for Turners Falls.



ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID HOITT

No. 12, Emma Johnson, reaches for an outfield hit.

One thing Turners Falls sophomore pitching ace Mackenzie Phillips likes to do is throw strikes.

So New Bedford came out swinging. No big swings: just putting the bat on the ball, putting the ball in play, and putting pressure on the Turners Falls defense.

It worked. The Bears, as they are called, accumulated an amazing 16 hits against a pitcher who had pitched a perfect game (no hits, no walks, no errors) on the road to the finals.

In the first inning alone, four of the five initial New Bedford batters notched singles, leading to three New Bedford duns.

It was mostly singles, and often infield hits. For example, in the fifth, New Bedford added two more runs on four singles, two of which stayed in the infield.

Finally, in the sixth inning, New Bedford began to connect, with three more runs coming on two long doubles over a drawn-in outfield.

see **SOFTBALL** page B4

BOOK REVIEW

The Constant Heart

By LEE WICKS

If you know what an Edwardian mini dress looks like, and you can remember when everyone rushed out to buy a wok and kitchens filled suddenly with the intoxicating smell of sesame oil, then you will feel right at home with *The Constant Heart*, by Mara Bright, published by Levellers Press in Amherst.

This is not a 1960s coming of age story, although the social tumult of the '60s and '70s influence the narrative. This is a story of courage and self-discovery. It's about letting go of that which is comfortable in order to be open to an uncertain future.

Ms. Bright put me in mind of a sky diver stepping from the plane, arms wide with the earth hurling towards her, knowing she will pull the cord and release the parachute, but still intoxicated by the free fall.

Her desire to be loved for who she is without judgment or reservation is a common human condition. Discovering just who that self is and what she values most is a quest, one that requires some courage to undertake when it is much easier to sink into a life based on other's expectations.

Starting with her childhood in the 1950s, when her par-

ents provided her with every material comfort but failed to nourish her spirit, and moving on through a sequence of boyfriends, Ms. Bright captures that time, familiar to any woman in her sixties, when male attention and male approval validated a woman's existence.

Never long without a boyfriend, Ms. Bright twinkles in their light and illuminates new facets of her personality. She is passionate, especially when outdoors, and she provides vivid descriptions of physical and emotional vigor with her various boyfriends and their adventures in the wild.

It was a relief when she finally surrendered her virginity and more relief came from this reader when she married Dave in a farmhouse in Petersham. By then, I was tired of all the boyfriends, and, although Dave rather easily leaves his wife for Ms. Bright, she still makes him seem like a nice guy, a terrific guy, in fact.

Over twenty years they restore the farmhouse, raise two children, clear pastures, acquire animals and piece together an income – Dave from teaching, and Mara from



teaching and working as a librarian.

They forge community; they seemed happy to me, but always in the background Ms. Bright feels the pull of something else, something more. At the same time she and Dave grow apart. His habits begin to annoy her. He becomes critical. I'll just leave it at that.

The details emerge in lovely prose so that an old story – the dissolution of a marriage – becomes new again.

In the third part, Ms. Bright travels to exotic places to learn Thai Massage, to study bodywork, to master astrology. She challenges herself in the Allagash wilderness.

Different men come along who, for a while, make her feel complete, until at last she discovers completeness within herself. She is fearless

see **HEART** page B8

WEST ALONG THE RIVER:

THE NIANITICS:

TO EXTINCTION, AND BACK

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS AND EAST LYME, CT – Imagine my surprise, when just a while back, I was able to confirm that, in fact, I was not extinct!

Just like the fabled and elusive ivory-billed woodpecker that was found a few years ago in a Louisiana swamp, an anthropologist had discovered me alive and well and living in the woods near the river in Millers Falls!

Allow me to explain. This story involves a meandering genealogical trail from East Lyme to here, a phone call to the above-mentioned anthropologist, and a trip to Connecticut.

At one point, back a few

years ago, family historians Barbara and Allen had followed the mysterious genealogical pathways of my Millers Falls family and traced us back to East Lyme, to the Niantic Tribal Reservation on Black Point.

The story could have ended there, and we could have settled for proudly proclaiming to be carrying about the DNA from this powerful Southern New England tribe, once led by the famous Niantic sachem, Ninigret.

But the story was not to end there, with just simple bragging rights.

It occurred to me that I might just learn something about my tribal ancestors by consulting Google. So I checked out the East Lyme

Historical Society website and lo and behold, they had posted the announcement of a lecture by one Dr. John Pfeiffer, entitled "What Became of the Niantics?"

I had just missed the event by a few weeks, but my part of the story was only beginning.

It seems that we were declared extinct back in the 1870s!

Now, this being 2014, I knew I was not extinct, that I had a direct bloodline to the Niantics, that I was still here, as were many in my extended family. I did pinch myself however, just to be sure.

So I phoned Pfeiffer, and told him I was a direct descendant of the Jeffrey family

see **WEST** page B4



The author with the memorial stone declaring the extinction of the Niantic Tribe in 1870.



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTOS

Pet of the Week



“DAKOTA & HARLEY”

(TWO FOR ONE!)

Hi, my name is Dakota and my brother, Harley and I would love to relocate to your abode. Do you have room to share with two exceptional love bugs such as ourselves? I

personally adore it when you pet me and if you could provide a few toys then that would be even more thrilling.

My brother may be more of a clown but I bring the elegance to the duo. We would love a home with no dogs where we can spend the best years of our lives. If you would like to visit us please just ask at the front desk for Dakota and Harley.

We will be waiting to meet you with our most welcoming meows.

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

Senior Center Activities June 23 through 27

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 6/23

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

Tuesday 6/24

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch

Wednesday 6/25

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/26

9 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 6/27

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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.

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 congregating meals.

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

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

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

Monday 6/23

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

Tuesday 6/24

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. GSB Craft Project

Wednesday 6/25

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 6/26

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

Friday 6/27

9 a.m. Bowling

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

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

Summer Programs at the Montague Libraries

By ANGELA ROVATTI-LEONARD

The Montague Public Libraries' *Fizz, Boom, Read Summer Reading Program* sign-ups start on the last day of school, Friday, June 20. Children of any age and teens are invited to participate.

Sign-ups take place at the Carnegie, Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries. Children read at home and receive weekly reading incentive prizes at the libraries. Many exciting programs and activities will be held at the libraries throughout the summer.

The kick-off event, a Magic Show & Flea Circus, with Ed Popielarczyk, is on Tuesday, June 24, at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. The annual *Story Time Picnic* will be held on Wednesday, July 9 at 10:15 a.m. with Ruth O'Mara.

The annual No Strings Marionette Company puppet show is *Bully for the Three Big Pigs* on Friday, July 11, at 10:30 a.m. in Peskeompskut Park, or if it rains, at the Carnegie Library.

There will be an exciting program on *Live Birds of Prey*, with Tom Ricciardi, at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, August 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in July, there will be

a Jewelry-Making series, for ages 10 and up, from 2 to 4 p.m., with artist Ami Podlenski. Her schedule is: July 16, Basic Jewelry-Making; July 23, Summer Bracelets & Anklets; and July 30, Found Object Jewelry-Making.

Jean Daley, The Lego Lady, will visit each of the branches in August. She will bring a wide variety of Legos for hands-on fun. Designed for children ages 7 to 12 and their parents or caregivers.



Regular weekly programs will continue. On Monday evenings there is *Evening Storytime* at the Montague Center Library from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Children and their families can enjoy stories, songs and activities, with Angela.

The *Millers Falls Library Club*, featuring arts and crafts, stories and snacks for children of all ages, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. The weekly *Story Time* with Ruth O'Mara is held at the Carnegie Library on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.

Music and Movement for young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is held at the Montague Center Library through June on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and will be offered at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during July and August.

The Razzle Dazzle Reading Camp will be visiting the Carnegie Library weekly during July.

Supporters of the Summer Reading Program and its events include the Massachusetts Regional Library System, the Boston Bruins and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

For more information and for registration for the summer reading program, visit the Carnegie, Millers Falls, or Montague Center Libraries.

The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, in Turners Falls is open on Mondays through Wednesdays from 1 to 8 p.m., Thursdays 1 to 5 p.m., and Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays for the summer.

The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m.

The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

On “Sundowning”

and professor of neuroscience and psychology at Ohio State.

“But our findings suggest there is a real phenomenon going on here that has a biological basis.”

The study found that, when compared to middle-aged mice, aged mice showed significantly more anxiety in the hours before they went to sleep. In these aged mice, the researchers found changes in parts of their brain associated with attention, emotions, and arousal, all of which could be associated with the behavior seen in sundowning.

About one in five people with dementia experience sundowning. Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an overall term that describes a wide range of symptoms associated with a decline in memory or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases.

Sundowning usually is at its worst in the middle stages of Alzheimer's. It gets better as the disease progresses.

Here are some tips to reduce the severity of sundowning:

- Maintain a schedule. Breaks in routine create stress, which exacerbates sundowning.
- Make the evening a calm time. Soft music is helpful. Stay with simple activities that aren't challenging.
- Keeping your home brightly lit in the afternoon and evening may help reduce the symptoms of sundown-

ing. According to studies published in *Clinical Geriatrics*, people who were exposed to more light late in the day showed less agitation.

• Sundowning syndrome creates sleep problems, so keeping those with dementia busy during the day can help them get to sleep at night. Discourage afternoon napping. Encourage hobbies and exercise, such as walking.

• Large meals – especially those that contain caffeine and alcohol – can increase agitation and may keep you up at night. Enjoy these foods during lunch instead of dinner. Limit evening intake to a light snack that fills you up but won't interfere with your rest.

• Seniors who experience sundowning in a hospital or assisted living facility need comforting through the familiar objects of their everyday life. Surround them with important items from home such as framed photos.

• Each person has different triggers for sundowning. Keep a journal of activities, environment, and behavior to identify triggers. Once the triggers are known, it's easier to avoid situations that promote agitation and confusion.

• Keep a night light on to reduce agitation that occurs when surroundings are dark or unfamiliar.

• The person's sleeping area should be kept at a comfortable temperature.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q.What is sundown syndrome and who does it affect?

Sundown syndrome, which is also called *sundowning*, is a symptom that affects people with dementia. Those with the syndrome become confused and anxious as the sun sets. People with sundowning often have trouble sleeping.

The cause of the syndrome isn't known yet. Some research suggests that sundowning may be related to changes to the brain's circadian pacemaker. That's a cluster of nerve cells that keeps the body on a 24-hour clock.

A recent animal study done at Ohio State University indicated that sundowning in humans may have a biological cause.

“Some people have argued that sundowning could be explained just by a buildup of frustration of older people who couldn't communicate their needs over the course of the day, or by other factors,” said Randy Nelson, co-author of the study

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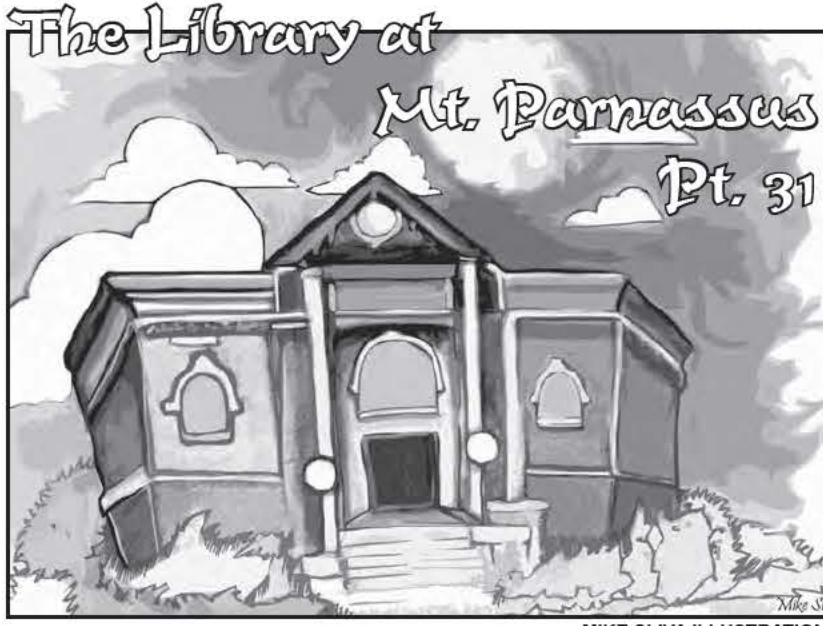
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The Pot Thickens.



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

Jack dealt each of us a card, and then another face up.

Christo and Paul X both showed deuces, Christo's the diamond and Paul X the heart.

"Fold, you fool," cried Paul X, without looking at his other card. He puffed up with glee.

Despite their athleticism and competitiveness, the twins were big men, soft in the belly, with fat cheeks and blotched complexions. They had been prodigies in their youth.

Christo once dove for pearls in the Gulf of Mannar for the Pandyas. He claimed he was capable of diving 100 feet, or more, and staying under for incredible lengths of time.

Paul X was a virtuoso musician, specializing in kettle drums, the Aeolian harp, ancient brass horns.

These days he favored Pan pipes, handmade from river reeds he cut and bound with goat hide. He could play entire symphonies on the syrinx, without ever stopping for breath.

He held audiences in the local coffeeshops rapt for hours with these odd, unsettling, lilting tunes, and would often accompany himself in counterpoint on pedal clavier. His variations on the theme of *Aguirre: the Wrath of God* was a particular crowd pleaser.

"Last night, I dreamed the whole world was blowing in a wild wind, a cyclone from the tropics whirling faster than the globe could spin, driving dolphins and narwhals and sea horses foaming in the waves, faster, with a sound of a hundred hollow trees knocking together in a landslide, tearing down the mountains to the sea — a boil of churning soil and spume and spray.

"The waves grew so huge... so huge..." said Paul X, stretching out his arms and spinning on his stool. "People were running... moving their stuff around..."

He puffed up his cheeks and turned bright pink and whirled in place, and the snow came blowing through the open door and the flames in the oil stove blew up higher and brighter until Jack cut him off, saying, "Hold on, Paulie. First deuce bets."

Creon showed the Ace of Spades, I the Queen of Clubs, (I held the heart queen in the hold).

Jack drew the Jack of Diamonds. He always drew that card.

Backpedaling, Christo examined his hold card carefully and chortled, "Me? Fold? Don't hold your breath!" He glared at his brother. "You've got less than zero, if you cared to look."

"And how would you know? Did you sneak a peak?" Paul X could barely keep his seat, spinning and pedaling wildly as flames shot from the wood stove, leaping toward the ceiling.

Christo took another look at his cards and inhaled sharply. "Huumh! Oooh. Gad Zeus!"

The twins lacked subtlety, and could be difficult at cards.

"First deuce bets," Jack prompted again, patiently.

"Ante first," Creon ordered. Jack tossed the bottle cap from the bourbon to the middle of the table. Creon glared at me. I tore a button from the sleeve of my shirt and threw it in the pot. Creon rolled a ball bearing dead center of the octagon; the twins pulled out pea shooters and spit at one another.

"The pot is right," our host decreed.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Extortion, Narcotics, Attempted Murder, Theft, Fire, Vandalism, Death Threats, and Loud Music

Monday, 6/9

1:53 p.m. Cable equipment spotted in a dumpster on Fourth Street; caller wonders if it's Comcast's. Property manager contacted and will check with maintenance personnel.

4 p.m. Animal control officer advises that someone has placed rat poison in a garden on J Street that he believes is on town property. Nearby residents informed; ACO will follow up.

4:21 p.m. Montague resident reported receiving specific threats from a patient where she works. Advised of options.

9:20 p.m. Caller received a text from a friend asking if she had any Percocets to sell. Caller concerned that she would be in trouble as a result of being asked this. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 6/10

4:04 a.m. Complaint regarding small car with a loud muffler that comes to Dry Hill Road every night, hangs out at the turnaround, and leaves.

7:40 a.m. Two reports of two loose dogs running in traffic at Turnpike Road and Montague City Road. One dog jumped up on the caller's vehicle and damaged it. Animal control officer on scene to keep an eye out as children wait for school bus. Area search negative.

11:54 a.m. Party in to station with cell phone on speakerphone requesting that officer listen in on an extortion attempt in progress. Caller claiming that party's son had damaged his vehicle and caller would not release son until party gave him \$1,000. Party does not have a son. Investigated.

2 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street sitting on her porch reported that a woman across the street was yelling "Fuck off!" out the window at her. Other party identified and notified of complaint. Other party contacted MPD to explain that she had

been yelling at her cat for scratching some trim in her apartment. Party requested to be mindful of the volume and content of her language. Party responded that she did not feel she had done anything wrong.

2:55 p.m. Request for officer to dispose of a crack pipe found in the parking lot behind Ce Ce's Restaurant on Avenue A. Services rendered.

3:19 p.m. Request for officer to respond to Fifth Street and dispose of a hypodermic needle left behind by caller's granddaughter's visiting boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. Services rendered.

5:48 p.m. Caller reported that daughter's bicycle was stolen from their front lawn on L Street during the day. Purple/pink bike with stars on the spokes. Report taken.

6 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reported that her grill was engulfed in flames; propane tank attached to grill approximately 10-15 feet from residence. Residents advised to evacuate as far from flames as possible. MCFD on scene. No damage to structure.

9:01 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Wednesday, 6/11

9:24 a.m. Report of loose pit bull following caller in area of L Street and Seventh Street. Area search negative.

10:27 a.m. Caller from Green Pond Road found her tires slashed; possible suspect in mind. Report taken.

10:46 a.m. Several complaints that a camper parked on L Street for some time now has become "an eyesore." Registered owner stated that camper was parked there because she could not park it in front of their house on Seventh Street. Officer advised owner that camper was legally parked, but asked whether she could park it elsewhere due to complaints. Owner advised that they will be moving in a month to a month and a half.

Thursday, 6/12

2:43 a.m. Burglar alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Window found to be broken; K9 request-

ed. Building secured. Two bottles of liquor reported stolen — Absolut Citron and Absolut Mandarin.

Caller from Davis Street reported seeing two males take off running from fenced field towards downtown; males wore shorts and hoodies and carried backpacks. Employee at Cumberland Farms saw two males matching description in store approximately one hour earlier. Investigated.

5:27 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle reported that three of his vehicles parked in the driveway were broken into overnight, and that it appeared that a neighbor's vehicle was broken into as well. Six vehicles at four residences found to have been broken into. Investigated.

3:58 p.m. Caller from Sunderland Road reported that a farm truck had just passed by his house; the back of the truck was open, and it was spilling its contents into the roadway. Sunderland PD notified. Nothing found in roadway.

8:58 p.m. Complaint regarding loud music coming from an L Street apartment. Found to be a live band; band advised of complaint and asked to keep it down.

Friday, 6/13

7:11 a.m. Caller reporting that each morning, a group of kids waiting for the school bus on East Main Street ride their skateboards, yell and scream, and spit all over the sidewalk. They have also written swear words on the walls of the building. Caller is concerned because when the little kids go to the bus stop, they have to see the profanity and try to avoid the spit everywhere. Referred to an officer.

11:20 a.m. Hit and run accident overnight on Third Street; someone backed into caller's vehicle and smashed in back window. Report taken.

1:36 p.m. Caller heard a female screaming for help near Food City and went outside to find that a male party had stolen the female's dog. Male party

and dog located. Investigated.

5:23 p.m. Report of erratic operator near Scotty's. Officer checked on vehicle and operator, who was fine but admitted that she had been lighting a cigarette.

5:33 p.m. Officer spoke to party on Fourth Street regarding possible drug activity. Party claimed that he had no idea what the officer was speaking about.

6:35 p.m. Tenant concerned about behavior of neighbor on J Street; neighbor is reportedly acting agitated and answers the door in full military dress carrying a gun. Officer spoke with involved parties and property manager.

Saturday, 6/14

11:23 a.m. Caller advised she can hear a fight starting in a house on Unity Street. Responding officer reported that aggressor was removed from the scene by his mother.

5:05 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery; malicious destruction of property worth over \$250, and attempted murder.

8:26 p.m. Report of loud music and drums coming from Montague Grange Hall. Grange staff will close door and turn down music. Event will be ending at 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 6/15

3:30 p.m. Report of fight in progress near Unity Park. Officers spoke to several involved parties, all of whom denied involvement. Investigated.

6:01 p.m. Caller reports that he was assaulted in Unity Park by a male party known to him. Caller was with girlfriend and child at time. Attacker allegedly threatened to "come back with a 9mm and take you all out." Parties and witnesses spoken to; statements and report taken.

7:15 p.m. Two horses loose in roadway on Wendell Road. EMS requested for a female whose foot was stepped on by a horse. Horses secured in nearby pasture. Owner contacted MPD to report that his horses had escaped and see whether they had been found; was informed of his horses' activities and advised of their last known location.

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SOFTBALL from B1

Meanwhile Turners Falls, which collected nine hits in all, frequently challenged but failed to score until the game was out of hand. It always seemed that by the time the Indians mounted a serious attack there were two outs.

In the fifth inning Jennifer Putala singled and Amber Caouette blooped a single to right center. Putala drew a throw to third, enabling Caouette to take second.

With runners on second and third, Gabby Arzuaga lined a shot that seemed to be into the alley in right field. At least that is what the Turners crowd thought, but it was not to be.

The line drive sliced to the right and right into the glove of New Bedford right fielder Marissa Pires for the third out of the inning.

That is the way things seemed to go for Turners all day. "If a couple of those balls go through we're back in the ball game and we're feeling good about ourselves - Gabby hit one right on the button to right field but they were right there."

Finally in the last inning Turners Falls gave themselves something to feel good about after a single by Jordan Meatty. Senior catcher Megan Ozdarsky smashed a shot that appeared to reach, and perhaps clear, the left field fence. It landed at the

base of the wall for a two out, run scoring double.

Then Putala blasted the ball to almost the same place, scoring courtesy runner Jordyn Fiske. Putala made it to third on a ground ball out by Caouette and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Arzuaga.

But that was it as New Bedford pitcher Neely Eddleston got the last Turners batter, pitcher McKenzie Phillips, to ground out. A great run by Turners had ended in a game that was not really all that close.

But there were no hanging heads on the Turners side. Sometimes the other team plays better, what more can you say. And the team has a very bright future with an ace sophomore pitcher and only two seniors graduating.

Mark Collins was answering questions from the press with a tense expression that made it seem he was not sure the game was actually over. "Are you feeling good," I asked him and he broke into a huge grin.

"It is the first time we ever won a state championship," he said.

"The first softball championship?"

"No the first championship in anything, in any sport," he responded. Then Collins added, "And that Turners team is a great team. Make sure you put that in a footnote!"

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG****Medical Emergencies; Vehicle Rollover****Tuesday, 6/3**

7:30 a.m. Report of rabid raccoon at Old State Road residence.

9:30 a.m. Welfare check at Moore Street residence. Subject located and was fine.

4:45 p.m. Report of tractor trailer unit with a flat tire Route 2. Found to be in Gill. Driver to park in rest area until able to fix issue. Not a hazard.

5:45 p.m. FRTA bus driver reports dispute with passenger. Spoke with both; situation resolved.

Wednesday, 6/4

1 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Weatherheads convenience store.

Thursday, 6/5

8:27 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, Dorsey Road. Checked same, was fine.

Friday, 6/6

9:35 a.m. Assisted on scene

of medical emergency on Main Street.

10:12 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

Saturday, 6/7

7:30 a.m. Alarm at Swamp Road residence. Same cancelled.

9:35 a.m. Report of disturbance/fight at Dunkin' Donuts.

12:20 p.m. Arrested 39-year-old Turners Falls woman for domestic assault and battery.

9:04 p.m. Report of a stray dog in the area of Veterans Field. Same returned to owner.

Sunday, 6/8

11:15 a.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

for operating a motor vehicle after suspension, and no inspection sticker.

1:15 p.m. Report of gunshots in Forest Street area.

Found to be a resident target practicing.

Monday, 6/9

5:30 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout on Old State Road.

Tuesday, 6/10

9:30 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with disturbance at Main Road residence.

11:15 p.m. Report of tree down on North Street. Found to be in Northfield. Assisted on scene.

Wednesday, 6/11

3:30 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street.

2:30 p.m. Took report of damage to vehicles on Ridge Road.

Thursday, 6/12

7:05 a.m. Took report of breaking & entering into motor vehicle on Holmes Street.

12 noon Took report of larceny under \$250. Currently under investigation.

2 p.m. Call to station reporting breaking & entering of motor vehicle on Grant Way.

Friday, 6/13

7:30 p.m. Dispatched to Route 2, Farley area; report of a motor vehicle rollover. Assisted state police on scene.

Saturday, 6/14

11 a.m. Took report of malicious damage to a motor vehicle.

9:45 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency in the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot.

Sunday, 6/15

8:45 a.m. Report of a loose dog on Moore Street. Returned to owner.

11 a.m. Report of a loose dog on River Street, and a possible dog bite. Under investigation.

10:40 p.m. Welfare check on resident. Found to be OK.

WEST from B1

of Nehantics (Niantics) and last time I checked, I wasn't extinct.

I could literally feel the palpable surprise coming from this anthropologist on the other end of the line. He had made it his life's work to keep alive the memory of the original tribal people native to his hometown.

I suppose it felt as if some dinosaur or living fossil had just called him up. The image of some unknown or long-lost tribe discovered in the depths of the Amazon forest comes to mind.

Dr. Pfeiffer filled me in on the demise of my tribe: we were declared extinct in 1870; there was even a stone monument erected in a Yankee cemetery attesting to the fact; and a book entitled "The Last of the Niantics" was published in 1916 in which was profiled one Mercy Ann Nonesuch, the supposed last Niantic.

Of course this extinction concept was definitely erroneous, because I personally know a number of family members who are very much alive, not extinct, and ready to correct the history books.

Succeeding research revealed some astonishing and woeful events however.

As members of the Nehantic Tribe, our family had lived and farmed on the Black Point lands and reservation in East Lyme throughout the 1700s and 1800s.

With the ebb and flow of the economy of the young Republic, tribal members, including my ancestors, had to seek employment further and further from the reservation, with the Black Point population thus dropping from hundreds to less than ten by the 1870s.

My own family had left the reservation and moved progressively, over the next three generations, up the Connecticut River, to eventually settle in Deerfield and Millers Falls

after the Civil War.

However, back in East Lyme, pressure was on the remaining Nehantic families to sell off the tribal lands. The railroad wanted to go through this coastal property, and land speculators and developers wanted the ocean-front reservation lands to build hotels and country mansions.

The remaining elders just couldn't make a go of it. Most Native families, like mine, had moved off the tribal lands looking for work, and the census-takers no longer listed them as residents of the reservation, or even as Indians.

That pressure for more and more land led to a fraudulent declaration by the State of Connecticut that the Nehantics were officially extinct, which then set up the ultimate land grab: if the tribe is extinct, then of course they can't claim their land anymore.

The other New England states were illegally doing the same thing. In fact however, only the federal government has the power to make such determinations about tribes.

Regardless, those remaining Niantic families moved off to Mohegan and Pequot lands, while the rest of us settled into white communities where there was work.

However, those remaining families, coerced into releasing the last tribal lands, negotiated a written deed that stipulated that their tribal cemetery would be cared for and maintained *in perpetuity*.

Knowing therefore that our ancestors had a cemetery on Black Point, we decided to make a pilgrimage there to visit the graves of our grandfathers, grandmothers, their children, our kin.

Our family had owned land adjacent to the cemetery - Dr. Pfeiffer had found a deed for us - so we resolved to find their graves, to remember them, and maybe leave

some flowers from our garden in Millers Falls.

So recently, we went back to the site of the old reservation, looking for the cemetery. Evidently, "*in perpetuity*" didn't really last that long after all. "Perpetual" in our case actually meant, say, 10 years.

On the spot containing hundreds of years of Niantic remains sat a row of summer homes and cottages, a paved street, a parking lot leading to the shoreline beach the Niantics once called their own.

That meant that our ancestors' graves were somewhere under the cluttered backyards full of bird-baths, pink plastic lawn flamingoes and poles flying the American flag.

Apparently, at one point after declaring the Indian tribe extinct, a developer didn't want the view spoiled by some old Indian cemetery, so by the 1880s, five or six headstones were moved to the Yankee cemetery a few miles away, and the rest of the stones were dumped elsewhere to prepare the plot for sale.

So much for perpetuity, so much for the respect for the dead, so much for the first peoples of this continent.

On the way home that day, we drove back up the Connecticut River valley, retracing the path our ancestors had taken, moving away from the doomed reservation.

In silence, we were wondering what we could do about all that we had just discovered. How to channel the anger, how could anything positive come from the discoveries we had made, how to keep the ancestral story from being twisted and forgotten?

We did resolve to inform the extended family as a first step. And now, having been brought back from the brink of extinction, along with not actually being extinct come responsibilities, and we have work to do!

**LOOKING BACK****10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK****No Herbicides This Summer**

Northeast Generation announced on June 15 that it would suspend plans to apply herbicides along the power canal near residential areas of the Patch, for one year.

The company cited neighborhood concerns about the spraying of two compounds - glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl - near their homes, and the uncertainty surrounding the death last year, a week after herbicides were sprayed, of an apparently healthy two-and-a-half-year-old girl, Samantha Haskins, who lived with her grandparents on G Street.

John Howard, manager of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls stations, said his company would turn to mechanical controls to keep down vegetation along the populated stretch of the canal for the next year.

Airport Grant Accepted

On Monday June 7, the Selectboard accepted a grant for \$181,450 from the Federal Aviation Administration for environmental data collection at the Turners Falls Airport.

According to airport manager Michael Sweeney, the data collected - which will study rare species, including birds that nest on the property - will be used to

prepare for the reconstruction of the runway, which has exceeded its expected lifespan and needs to be moved 15 feet to the northeast, to comply with FAA safety regulations.

Sweeney said there would also be an archeological component of the study, to determine the extent of a paleo-Indian archeological site near the runway. That component of the study is necessary, Sweeney said, "to make sure the site gets preserved."

The Future of the Usher Mill

On June 14, the Erving Selectboard had an extensive discussion about prospects for the Usher Mill, located on Arch Street in Erving Center.

The former shoe factory was used by the Erving Paper Mill for a time, for offices and warehousing. The complex of factory buildings has been unused for over a decade and in a state of major disrepair. The amount of back taxes owed on the property was estimated to be over \$100,000.

Safety at the sprawling unsecured site is a concern. Some of the buildings have historic preservation value. Options for various use scenarios were discussed, and discussion ended by noting that the property cannot be transferred without the taxes being paid.

The issue was placed in the hands of the selectboard.

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Emma Johnson sprints to first on a hit during Turners' 22-0 win against Smith Vocational on May 29.



Mackenzie Phillips pitched a perfect game at the Western championships at UMass, earning Turners the title in a 7-0 victory over Pathfinder.



Catcher Morgan Ozdarski dives for a short foul pop, and makes a crucial out, in the Central-West state semifinal at Worcester State University.



Jenna Putala hits a solo home run over the outfield fence during the fifth inning of the Central-West semi-final.

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2013 Water Quality Report

Turners Falls Water Department

226 Millers Falls Road

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376-1605

PWS ID# I192000

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013. 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.turners-fallswater.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 (backsiphonage).

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/swapreps.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.

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 TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Leverett Library: Marked Oddities on paper paintings by Jake Blais, for the month of June.

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

Falls Road, Turners Falls, \$, 10 to 6 p.m.

Red Fire Farm, Montague: *Strawberry Soiree*, a celebration of the strawberry during the peak of picking season. Tastings of the many strawberry varieties, live music, Walking Tour, Fairy House Building workshop, and pick your own organic berries. Strawberry shortcake for sale, 2 to 5 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Summer Kick Off with Holly May & Una Jensen*, \$, 6 to 11 p.m.

PotholePictures, Shelburne Falls, Memorial Hall: *Jean de Florette*, French film from 1986. Captivating and heartbreaking drama of a poor hunchbacked tax collector (Gerard Depardieu) who inherits farmland where he dreams of raising vegetables and rabbits. His dreams are shattered by a greedy neighbor (Yves Montand) who plots to drive him away by blocking the spring which feeds

rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

4th Annual Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival, held at 210 Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls, \$, 10 to 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canal-side nature walks*. Meet outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center, then leisurely explore on level, paved bike trails and village sidewalks to learn about plants, animals, and mill town history, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Fiske Pond Conservation Area, Wendell: *Mushroom Identification Workshop*. Join mushroom experts Tony Thomas and Lisa Winter for a mushroom walk, where we will search for and identify in season mushrooms at the Fiske Pond Conservation Area in Wendell, 2 p.m. Space is limited to 25, contact *mrsylvia@gmail.com* or call (413) 824-2679.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Tumbling Bones*, Traditional American Music, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Lawson Pomeroy* (of Orange Crush), Fear No 80's, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pete Donnelly* (of The Figgs & NRBQ) with special guest Mary Leigh Roohan, \$, 8 p.m.



Fancy Trash will play an album release show for their newest album, "As Is," at the Montague Bookmill on Friday, June 20 at 8 p.m.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Third Thursday in Turners Falls: *Knights! Camera! Action!* 6 to 10 p.m. *www.turnersfallsriverculture.org*

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

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Leverett Library, Leverett: Film showing of *Captain Phillips*, starring Tom Hanks, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dave Houghton & Fancy Trash with Steve Subrizi*. Album release of "As Is", highlights Fancy Trash's ability to play at a hush or a roar, with a nod to both American roots music and to indie rock, \$, 8 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

4th Annual Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival, held at 210 Turners

the land.PG, \$, 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Winterpills*, indie rock, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Russel Kaback's Solstice Songwriters Circle*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Petty Thieves*, Mandolin and Guitar duo with their roots in Bluegrass and traditional American music, 9 p.m.



The Winterpills, an indie rock band from Northampton fronted by Philip Price and Flora Reed. Their sound is characterized by acoustic folk-pop, male-female harmonies and melancholic songwriting. Saturday, June 21 at the 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Fantods, the country you like and some, 8 p.m. then Solstice Queer w/guest DJ Cool Breeze, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, classic

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History: The Great Hall*. Originally built as a machine shop during the early days of industrialization in Turners Falls. Tales of machines, fly fishing rods, historic preservation, and more! Have a story to tell? Bring it! 2 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Quabbin Valley Pro Musica Chorus performs Palestrina and Schubert*, \$ 4 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band Summer Concert Series*. Bring a picnic supper, blankets and lawn chairs, then sit back and enjoy the summer tradition of the Montague Community Band, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Eric French Band*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts with *Austin & Elliott* - striking harmonies, thought provoking lyrics, *Boys of the Landfill* - Celtic, old-time, folk rock performed with lots of energy, and *Pat & Tex LaMountain Band* - original Americana, folk-pop, country, jazz, 6 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *James Scott*, local author will speak about his critically acclaimed debut novel: *The Kept*, a bleak western-style tale of tragedy and revenge, 7 p.m.

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8pm The Fantods (country)
9:30 Solstice Rockit!
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HEART from B1

in the wilderness. She can climb mountains and paddle through class III rapids.

She lives in simplicity and learns to heal people with kind hands and her open "Constant Heart." But it takes a while, as it would for anyone asking the right questions, for her to welcome solitude, freedom and the single life.

Along with the philosophy, there's a nice amount of local focus. Ms. Bright meets a friend for dinner at Hope and Olive. She becomes a member of the local dance community and falls in love - or lust - with more than one dancer.

I kept looking at her picture on

the book jacket to see if I recognized her. I didn't, but if we met I think we'd feel like we'd known each other a long time, and I suspect that other readers would feel this way, too.

It is not easy to bare your soul as she has done in this book. To admit vulnerability, to admit defeat and reveal yourself running, climbing and stumbling towards an urgent but unclear goal takes a lot of courage.

Ms. Bright gives those who read this book inspiration to embark on a vision quest of their own, with full knowledge of what it might cost, and what they might gain.



GARDEN from page B1

water it in. Repeat monthly during the blooming season, when the plant is greatly taxed.

We don't grow hybrid tea roses because they need specialized care and can be prone to disease. Instead we have planted hardier bush roses as well as two "beach" roses.

I especially love the fragrant, repeating bloomers. The worst pests for these are the Japanese beetle.

We've tried beetle traps and have a lawnful of voles to eat their grubs, but still have beetles. It seems just as useful, if a bit gross to collect the beetles in soapy water once a day. That is one critter even the hungry birds pass up.

We've picked heartily this asparagus season. The thick spears are fewer and we are letting the thin

spears go to fern to feed up the roots for another season. There are a few red asparagus beetles showing up but they can easily be sighted and picked off before they lay.

Gardening is a contemplative pastime. On this day honoring fathers, I am thinking of my dad as I work. The strongest memories are connected with the music he loved.

When my sister and I were little, he commuted by train into the city for work, but when he got home, he pulled out the American Songbook and sang traditional songs to us.

Later, as an adolescent, I remember walking a good foot or two behind him in town. He had the habit of singing aloud in full voice, and being noticed was not my goal.

I always felt I was the son he never had. He made a baseball fan

out of me and we listened faithfully to the play by play of Ned and Jim. They could put you right in a seat at Fenway!

Later, when I became a teacher, he loved talking the trade with me. He held me to a high standard always. The few times he made a critical remark have stayed with me to this day.

Then there was the love. When my sister and I went to see him in the hospital where he received the news of his terminal diagnosis, we were all teary. He apologized for weeping.

"Dad, if you don't cry, how can we?" I said.

"Was there ever a man with such daughters?" he replied.

Good memories and happy gardening to all.



To thank you for all you've done for us over the years...

You are invited!

1994 2014

Tuesday, June 24, 2014 from 4-7 pm
MCSM's 20th Birthday Party
Avenue A in Turners Falls

There will be fun for all, including a free raffle for services and discounts provided by our neighbors in honor of the Ministries.

The Block (between 2nd and 3rd Streets) will be celebrating with free ice cream cones, discounts on dinners at Jakes, free balloons and birthday cake.

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