



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 36

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 25, 2015

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD Citizens Object To Glyphosate Spraying Along Power Lines

By ANN TWEEDY

The Leverett selectboard meeting opened Tuesday with a larger group of residents in attendance to share their concerns about Eversource Energy's herbicide spraying on power lines to manage growth.

Tony Johnson, a manager at Eversource, and Jeff Burrell, who identified himself as an arborist with the company, were in attendance. Burrell had responded to a member of the Board of Health that even though the town has a by-law banning the use of pesticides, the State has jurisdiction over the rights of way.

Johnson stated the use of this particular herbicide was approved by the state for being the least damaging to the environment and the most cost effective way of maintaining the land.

Kurt Adams, of Old Mountain Road, shared his concerns about the herbicide used by the power company, which contains glyphosate, and claiming his concerns are broadly shared by Leverett residents.

He pointed out that the World see LEVERETT page A7

## STATE CHAMPIONS!



KELLY LOYND PHOTO

The Turners Falls High School softball team celebrates their championship win.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS—On Thursday, June 18, the Turners Falls Softball Indians defeated the Central Mass Champions, the Hopedale Blue Raiders, 3-1. Two days later, on Saturday the 20th, they beat the Eastern Mass Champs, the Millis Mohawks, 5-3 to capture the D3 State Title.

For the Dynasty that is Turners Falls, the 2015 State Championship is one more plaque in the trophy case, one more medal on the metaphorical chest, and one more chance to prove that the little

school on the banks of the Connecticut River has earned a storied place in Massachusetts sports history. Turners Falls has played for the state title an unbelievable 13 times and has won 7 times: 7 State Titles since 2004, an amazing feat.

There have been many dynasties in sports over the years. The Boston Celtics won 11 championships in 13 years. The New York Yankees won 27 World Series in 110 years and the New England Patriots won 3 Super Bowls in 4 years.

But all these professional dynasties compete against a relatively small number of opponents. And

they have the luxury of drafting and trading players and holding onto their best players.

High school is different. All the kids are local. And every year, you lose kids to graduation. Many times, the best players leave, leaving holes in the lineup and forcing coaches to rebuild year after year.

Coach Gary Mullins will not take full credit, however. "What an amazing group of players and coaches I am so fortunate to have to work with through the softball program at Turners," he told me after the Millis game.

see SOFTBALL page A4

## School Reps Unable To Speak Freely

By MARK HUDYMA  
and MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – At its Tuesday night meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee discussed excess revenues, an ongoing search for a treasurer, and professional development workshops for committee members.

Tensions rose during its last half hour, when member Marjorie Levenson brought up an anonymous email sent to school committee members and the press last week alleging the administration inadequately responded to revelations a school psychologist had a criminal record.

David Pino, who the committee did not mention by name, pled no contest in 2012 to a misdemeanor "unlawful restraint" charge in Connecticut – a plea deal after initial charges of second-degree sexual assault and voyeurism, according to the *Hartford Courant*.

After his conviction, which carried a sentence of suspended jail time, community service and a year of probation, he resigned from his position as a school psychologist in Vernon, CT and later was hired to a similar position at Turners Falls High School.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan has declined comment on whether

see GMRS page A6

## Freedom In The Air

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS—This past Saturday morning the sky was mostly clear and the wind was gentle. As the day unfolded, the usually tranquil dome of sky over Montague began to ring with the vibrating drone of small piston-engine aircraft descending on the airport from all over the region. It was a good day to fly for the first day of Turners Falls Aviation Weekend.

According to Gary Collins, vice chair of Montague's airport commission, the airfield that became Turners Falls Airport was constructed in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Its



The stunt plane that can frequently be seen flying daredevil maneuvers over Sunderland – the only airspace nearby where pilots are allowed to indulge in this type of flying.

heyday, like that of many of the economic and social institutions of our time, lasted for a few decades in the middle of the last century.

During World War II, Greenfield Tap & Die used it to airlift bearings that were used in airplanes and tanks.

As the sole producer of this materiel, GTD and the airport were very important to the war effort.

Collins also explained that for a period of time in the postwar years, commercial passenger flights flew out of Turners Falls. On a building that now appears to be a paint-peeled, abandoned shed once stood a manned control tower.

Today the airport is uncontrolled, and pilots take off and land at will.

While the airport is now mostly used by individuals with their own small aircraft, the state police and Life-Flight use the airport as a base, and the Franklin County Radio Control Club meets here twice a week. Bill Cosby frequently flies out in his Pilatus turboprop, the largest

see FLYING page A5

## Different Name, Same Great Place

By EDITE CUNHÁ

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center has recently changed its name to the Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) Women's Center, but behind its unassuming brick façade on Third Street, it continues to be the same great place it has always been.

The MCSM Women's Center now offers drop-in open hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

On Fridays there are a variety of scheduled classes, which in the past have included computer literacy, mosaic, collage, writing, and Reiki training. An upcoming class, designed and facilitated by Women's Center program coordinator Christine Diani, will have participants designing and building their own simple websites.

Women may also enroll in the Skills Opportunity Action and Recognition Program (SOAR), a training program which helps them build confidence through development of new skills, and through the recognition of skills and abilities they already have.

Those ready to take the next step, be it returning to school, re-entering the workforce, or starting a small business, can join the Montague



A smiling Christine Diani sits next to Andrea Sears, family support worker at MCSM, at a recent potluck at the Women's Center.

Institute for New Directions (MIND) group, which meets for twelve weeks. Even women who don't know what their next step should be may join MIND in order to find their direction.

The center also maintains a free clothes closet and book lending library, as well as a "nook" where visitors can find household goods they might need. And there are potlucks, the next one to be held on July 21 during regular open hours, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The MCSM Women's Center drop-in hours and other offerings have developed organically over the years in response to the expressed needs of community women, according to Diani, who began by providing the arts and crafts opportunities that women asked for. Since

its inception in 2001, the program has kept true to its mission, developing a successful history of providing information, support, networking and empowerment opportunities to its participants.

Along with the recent name change, drop-in hours have also been reduced from three to two days in order to accommodate a new program for younger mothers of small children. These women have not been attracted by the Women's Center, according to Susan Mareneck, executive director of MCSM.

This new Thursday program, to be facilitated by Taryn Valdez, MCSM's basic needs coordinator, will provide drop-in respite for mothers with young children. Children will be provided with early literacy education

see CENTER page A3



WACKERNAGEL PHOTOS

A Cozy IV kit airplane, designed by Nat Puffer. The Cozy was derived from the Rutan Long-EZ. Note the 1970s space-age aesthetic.



# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Freedom From Historical Fact?

*The Confederate flag stood for black slavery in 1860; it stands today for slavery of black and white and it is ready to support slavery of black, white, brown and yellow, whenever and wherever the Lords of private profit call, in Europe, Africa or Asia.*

W.E.B. DuBois, 1952

*The first website I came to was the Council of Conservative Citizens.... Well someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me.*

Dylann Roof, 2015

The murders of nine black churchgoers this week in Charleston, South Carolina by a young white nationalist brought the country to a halt and have, for a time, refocused the strained "conversation" about race and racism in an unexpected direction.

On Monday, South Carolina governor Nikki Haley announced that in the wake of the attack, her position on the meaning of the battle flag of the Confederacy, which still flies above her state's capitol, had changed, and she added hers to the clamor of voices calling for its removal. Retailers including Amazon, eBay and WalMart are discontinuing sales of the flag.

It seemed that the killer, Dylann Roof, had posted a hateful manifesto online, along with pictures of his dead-eyed self with the Stars and Bars.

The suit-and-tie white supremacist organization Roof credited in his text publicly distanced itself from him, and several Republican candidates for the presidency announced that, in turn, they would be returning campaign contributions from said organization.

Amid the prayers, the protests and expressions of anguish and frustration we hear the widespread sound of hand-washing.

It's easier to take down a piece of fabric than to restore the lives of the murdered – Myra Thompson; Tywanza Sanders; Cynthia Hurd; Ethel Lee Lance; Susie Jackson; Daniel Simmons; Sharonda Singleton; DePayne Middleton-Doctor; and Clementa Pinckney.

And it won't stop the next attack. Roof, it should be noted, also honored the flags of two other white-minority political movements, Rhodesia and apartheid-era South Africa, long after they

were flown over any government buildings.

But it's an important gesture of good faith to acknowledge that to many – opponents and enthusiasts alike – this flag represents a racial order, and that it belongs in a museum.

We aren't saying that everyone who adopts the symbol is racist for doing so. Rappers Ludacris, A\$AP Rocky and Kanye West have all appropriated it for their own reasons in recent years, for example. Many white people who feel they are opposed to racism may nevertheless say they display it to express regional affinity with the South, or a preference for states' political rights over those accorded to the federal government.

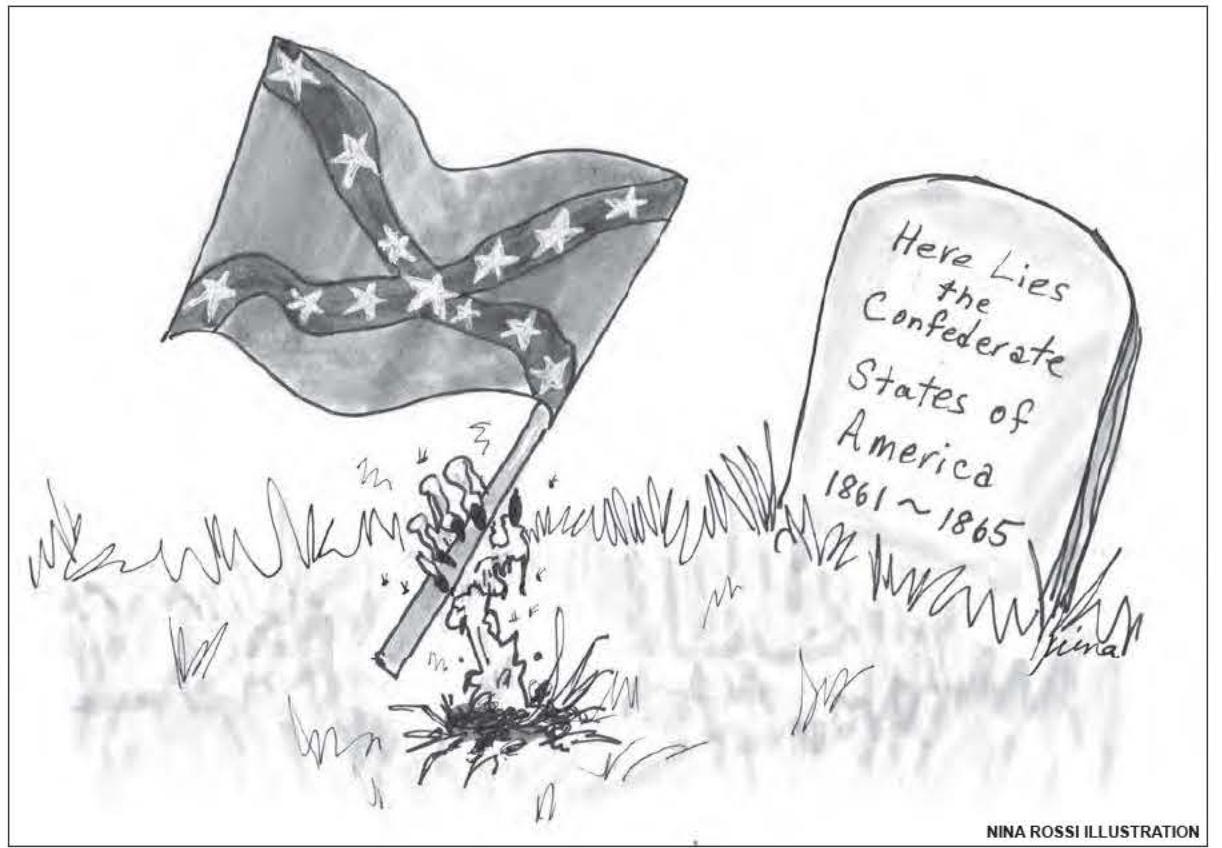
But it's not a magnolia blossom, a mockingbird or a riverboat, and if they're not racist, they're at least foolish to choose it for those ends. It was the banner carried by those who waged a four-year war of secession avowedly to preserve chattel slavery and economic white supremacy, a movement whose constitution even enshrined human slavery.

It was chosen deliberately and flown proudly by the Klan, by the segregationist Dixiecrats of our grandparents' generation, and by groups like the Council of Conservative Citizens today. If one outcome of our horrified self-reflection in the wake of last week's massacre is that we are finally embarrassed enough to put the thing away, good.

But while we're on the subject... Why do we see it around Franklin County, Massachusetts in 2015? Why does the black pickup in a Turners Falls Road driveway carry the flag?

Why does that minivan parked last month outside Second Street Bakery bear the logo on its front license plate? Why was it on the T-shirt of a high school student volunteering to build a playground at Unity Park? Why does a certain resident of Gill fly the Confederate battle flag on his Main Street lawn? What do his neighbors think, and what conversations have they had with him about it?

Why did the Colle Opera House display a large Stars and Bars in its windows in 1973 when it was the Renaissance Community headquarters? For that matter, why did community leader Michael Metelica adopt the symbol and even run



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors

### Former Rep. Denise Andrews' Testimony at the DPU Hearing on the Gas Pipeline

Thank you to the DPU for being in Western Mass to gather knowledge and input from citizens on the Kinder Morgan Pipeline and Berkshire Gas Companies request for additional capacity.

Massachusetts leads in democracy and government only when government leaders serve the people and not special interest and companies.

Our government is to be of, for and by the people and there is a growing consensus and will that we in Massachusetts do not need or want expansion of pipelines for fracked natural gas for export or domestic use and that we do want to continue to lead in reduced consumption, conservation, green technologies and sound and respectful energy, environmental, and property rights policies and practices.

I and others are asking the DPU to deny approval of Berkshire Gas Company's request simply because:

1. There is not a proven validated domestic need for increasing capacity. Energy consumption is projected to be flat through 2024 (ISO-New England: "when projected EE savings are factored in, energy consumption over the next decade remains essentially flat and growth in peak demand is dampened").
2. We desire to address our domestic energy needs in a more responsible and sustainable way through reduced consumption, green energy and conservation and desire other states and countries also choose these solutions. These choices and solutions will better serve current and future generations.
3. We also desire to:
  - minimize our environmental impact

- honor our leading work and established commitments in conservation and open space stewardship
- and to respect individuals' property rights.

We know after extensive engagement and research that the proposed pipeline is not the best choice and does not meet our desires.

Additionally, two points, first, prior to any additional infrastructure approval, existing infrastructure inefficiencies (i.e. leaks) must be addressed as part of an overall responsible energy solution. Harvard University's latest study completed this past January on leaks just in the Boston region estimated gas leaks in the amount equal to 15 Bcf annually.

Second, there appears to be very inaccurate data and potentially manipulated data and practice occurring in setting energy supply models, sourcing and recent electrical prices/rates. We look to you, DPU, to continue to hold all companies to the standards that are in the best interest and in the desire and of the will of us, the citizens.

In closing, we thank you DPU again for being here and soliciting broad citizen input.

I and we are asking you to hear and serve us, the people of Massachusetts, and to deny approval for Berkshire Gas Company's request and any requests that allow the unneeded and unwanted of the Kinder Morgan/TGP/NED project.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Andrews  
Orange

### Kostanski's Legacy at GCC

Much has been said and written about former State Representative Walter Kostanski since his death last week at age 91.

And rightly so. Few people contribute as much to improving the quality of life in their community as Walter. Fewer still leave a legacy that spans generations.

Among his innumerable achievements in the Legislature, arguably his most significant was the leadership role he played in the founding of Greenfield Community College in 1962.

At that time, community colleges were being established in the more populated areas of our Commonwealth. It was Walter's vision, his passion and persistence, that

helped open the door to higher education for the residents of our most rural county.

Now GCC is widely recognized as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in our state, and has been, and will continue to be, the pathway to opportunity for scores of individuals and their families.

Walter Kostanski was an exemplary public servant, and for that he should always be remembered.

Walter was also the father of Greenfield Community College, and for that he should never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Stan Rosenberg  
State Senator (D-Amherst)

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come check out the newly organized **used book room** at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thousands of presorted books will be available for \$3 a bag. DVDs, CDs, and audio books will be \$1 each. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

Also at the Carnegie on Saturday, enjoy **"Ladybug Lore & Dragonfly Tales"** with naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward at 10:30 a.m.

Join in for a hands-on nature program about some favorite in-

sects. Find out why they are considered good luck. Designed for young children up to age 8 and their caregivers.

Learn some local history with an audio-visual presentation of the **Meridian Street landslide**, which occurred in Greenfield in 2011, at the Turner Falls Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, June 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Witness firsthand the power of Mother Nature and the challenges she brings during and after such an event.

Presenter **Ed Gregory** is well known for his professionalism and documentation of historical events. The presentation will not disappoint

anyone in the audience.

This is an interactive participation event, as perhaps some folks directly involved will come to share their stories and experiences.

The Gill/Montague Regional Schools **free summer meals program** starts June 29. Sites include Sheffield Elementary School, the Turners Falls High School/Great Falls Middle School cafeteria, and Unity Park.

Breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m., and lunches from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday. The meals will continue through August 14.

Bringing back those classic cars at **"Cruz Night"** on Wednesday, July 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Norman Circle, Turners Falls, just across from Rubin's Auto on Millers Falls Road.

Check out Hot Rods, Classics, and Antique Cars. Food and beverages available.

There will be a reading of **"Wen-**

**dell, Massachusetts, Its Settlers and Citizenry, 1752-1900,"** written by Wendell resident Pam Richardson, at the Wendell Free Library on July 1 at 7 p.m. All are invited, and books will be available for sale.

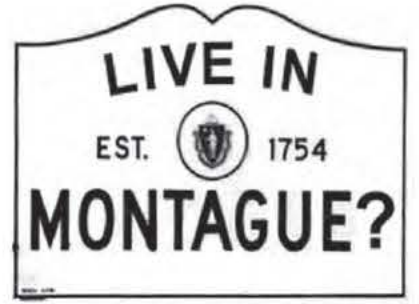
Wendell is one of the few towns in Massachusetts that has not – until now – had a written history of its own.

Richardson used notes made by a 19th-century resident of the town as a primary source for her book and she has supplemented that information with much of her own research. The result provides the modern reader with a palpable sense of this New England hilltown's past.

**Montague Against the Pipeline** will meet Thursday, July 2, at 7 p.m. at public safety building, 180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

Montague is not only affected by the Berkshire Gas moratorium, but it is also in the path of the pipeline right through our Plains area.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).



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## A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR:

Summer is upon us.

Since the *Reporter's* first summer in 2003 we have taken our readers' permission to settle into a biweekly publication schedule during July and August.

This year, there will be no publication on any of the following Thursdays: July 16; July 30; August 13; or August 27.

Next week's edition, July 2, may be a special one, so in terms of our regular performance as a newspaper, we are effectively lapsing into biweekly mode as of the issue you clutch at present. Cherish it.

This spring's capital campaign grossed the *Reporter* just over

\$9,000, much of which we will use for web development at [montaguereporter.org](http://montaguereporter.org). Thank you! The web development is likely to take some time, so we ask your patience.

We expect it to come in two major steps. The first will aim to increase the usefulness of the existing site. In the longer run we hope to make our digital archives available to our readers, and tricky decisions about how we will do that affect choices we make at the outset.

We plan to use some of our free time this summer to get those projects rolling. But we also plan to catch up on sleep and maybe go swimming a little.

## CENTER from page A1

and care in MCSM's **Family Center** (78 Avenue A) during those hours each week, while their mothers have a moment for friendship and support in the **Women's Center** around the corner on Third Street.

The two centers are internally connected, so that moms and children are in close proximity during their stay.

In addressing the need for the name change, Mareneck says, "People have been confused about MCSM as an organization. The agency grew out of concerns in the mid-1990s when the community had the highest rate of domestic violence per capita in the state. Two local priests invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to come in and start a playgroup at the then St. Ann's Church on Sixth Street.

"Everything MCSM offers has grown from that, including the Women's Center."

The sisters began asking the families who came to play group what they needed in the community. Programs were created: The Gill-Montague Family Center; the Turners Falls Women's Center. They had different names, but all were under MCSM's umbrella. The Women's Center name change was necessary in order to simplify and clarify the agencies' reach overall, according to Mareneck.

"There are many doors to walk through here," said Mareneck. "Women who need help, but don't feel comfortable walking into the Women's Center, [may] go to the

Family Center for playgroup and ask for help with violence, then go into the next doorway, for the Emergency Basic Needs Program."

MCSM's mission statement reads: "Montague Catholic Social Ministries nurtures connections, resilience and self-sufficiency in Franklin County families through preventative strength-based support, education, leadership development and empowerment."

If the agency is to be judged by the accomplishments of the Women's Center alone, it is certainly successful on all counts. The MCSM Women's Center provides information and networking to community women in need of services by nurturing connections to and working closely with its sister programs, as well as with New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT), Community Crisis Response Team and other local agencies.

As an example, last year, the center partnered with NELCWIT, Greenfield Community College, and Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange on a three-year grant proposal to the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts to garner funds for a program designed to help women achieve food security and self-sufficiency.

In the first phase of the program, participants worked with Deb Habib from Seeds of Solidarity to create a raised organic garden in Greenfield, at the NELCWIT site on Main Street.

A future phase will have partici-

pants learning, through hands-on experience, about food preservation and storage here in Turners Falls. They will also work with professors from GCC to learn about food and farm cooperatives, and the design and installation of permaculture gardens. Participants will install gardens in the community garden spaces at Unity Park.

"It's a wonderful program which also fulfills our goal of bringing classes out into the community," said Diani.

The Garden Project partnership has just received an additional grant from the Women's Fund, which will enable them to make this offering more accessible to a wider range of people by providing transportation, translation and childcare to Garden Project participants.

As for the remainder of the mission, perhaps the most shining example is the Women's Center Skills Opportunity Action and Recognition (SOAR) program mentioned at the beginning of the article.

"One of the major tools used in SOAR is brainstorming," says program coordinator Diani. "The ideas come from the participants themselves and through that process, they can see their own skills and strengths manifesting. This really helps women to recognize abilities they already have, and they get new confidence from this recognition. It's very empowering."

Women who complete the eight-week SOAR program are then invited to develop and lead their own classes at the center, under the ini-

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## SOFTBALL from page A1

"It is extremely humbling to me that I can be part of this phenomenal group of people."

### TFHS 3 - Hopedale 1

The Indians defeated the Central Mass Champions, the Hopedale Blue Raiders, 3-1 last Thursday. The victory propelled Blue into the State finals against the Millis Mohawks.

The Powerhouse that is Hopedale came into the game after sweeping aside all Central Massachusetts competition and they weren't about to let this opportunity slip through their fingers.

The Raiders came into the game determined to upend the mighty Indians and came out swinging and scoring in the very first inning. But they were facing a team rife with experience, skill and just a little bit of luck.

Three pitches into the game, Mackenzie Phillips chalked her first strikeout: 3 pitches, 3 strikes and 1 down. Mack proceeded to blaze 2 strikes on the second batter but a well-placed pop into shallow center put a Raider on base.

The runner advanced to third on a right field slice and Hopedale had men on the corners with 1 out. The next batter popped the ball straight up and Mack called everybody off and made the out herself. 2 outs, 2 on.

Then a hard ground ball went through the infield into left field and Hopedale was on the board. It wasn't an earned run, because an error was called, but the Tribe found themselves down by 1 with two men still on base.

Hopedale got another hit but the runners were checked and no one scored. No one scored but the bases were now loaded. Then Mackenzie blazed up her "nunchuck fire" and the last Raider went down swinging.

In the Tribe's half of the first, Mackenzie Salls came out swinging. With an 0-2 count, Salls cracked a boomer over the centerfielder's head for a standup double. Jenna Putala placed a fly to the centerfielder and Salls tagged-up and went to third.

Amber Caouette came to the plate with the intention of getting Salls home, but she didn't have to do anything. She simply took a ball and then got out of the way of a wild pitch. When Coach Sully and Mackenzie saw that the ball was lost, Mackenzie charged down the line and scored the first Indian run. And after one, the score was tied at 1.

Mack P. began the second inning where she left off in the first by striking out the first batter. But the second Raider kept fouling off pitches until she took a full-count walk. A fielder's choice got the runner to second and a missed throw got her to third.

Suddenly, Hopedale was poised to take the lead right back. But with 2 outs, Mack only had to get the batter. And she did. Another swinging K and the side was retired.

Phillips led off for Powertown in the Tribe's second and she reached base on an error. Courtesy Runner, Maddy Johnson came in for Mack. Maddy was forced out on a fielder's choice but Melissa Hersey beat the throw to first to prevent the double play. Haley Whipple reached on a base-on-balls, but Turners was unable to take advantage and after 2 full, the game was still knotted at 1.

Hopedale went 1-2-3 in the top of the third. Jenna made a scoop catch, inches off the ground for the



Mackenzie Phillips strikes out the leadoff batter in the fifth inning of Turners' June 18 semifinal matchup against Hopedale.

first out, Mackenzie S took a high infield popup for the second and Mackenzie P fielded a grounder for the last out.

In the Indian third, Powertown's top of the order came to the plate. Sallsy led off with a hard shot to center and settled for a single.

And 200+ feet later, J. P. broke the tie. Putala parked a homer over the centerfield wall and she and Mackenzie trotted home to the high-fives of their teammates and to the cheers of the Blue Nation.

Caouette kept the hitting rally going by dropping a fly into center. Mackenzie P chopped a grounder and reached first but Amber was called out at second. Maddy J. once again took the base for Mack. She stole second, but was stranded there, and after 3 full, the Tribe was up 3-1.

Mack needed only 10 pitches to retire the side in the fourth. 1 ball and 9 strikes for 3 strikeouts and that's all she wrote. In the bottom of the fourth, Nicole John came to the plate as a pinch hitter and drew a walk.

Whipple reached first on a fielder's choice but Nicole was called out at second. Whip stole second and Turners had another runner in scoring position. A fly to shallow right kept her on second and a warning track shot by Salls ended the inning.

Hopedale again went 1-2-3 in the fifth. A swinging K, a bunt attempt thrown to Jenna, who was covering first base and a grounder to Jordan Meatey. In the bottom of the inning, Turners also went 1-2-3 and after five full, the score remained 3-1 and Hopedale was down to 2 at-bats.

Turners shut down the first 2 batters in the sixth but the third batter reached on an off-the-glove hit. The next batter fouled off Mack's first pitch for a strike.

That's when the Tribe called a timeout. The fielders gathered at the circle and after some discussion, play resumed. The gravity of the situation was evident for the fans as well as the players.

The tying run was at the plate in a very low-scoring game, but there were 2 outs and 1 strike. Then 2 strikes. The batter chopped the next pitch off, but Mack burned the next pitch past the swinging bat and Turners was out of the inning, holding a precarious 2-run lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, Mackenzie P reached base on an error and was again relieved by courtesy runner Maddy J. Jordyn Fiske clapped a warning track fly but Maddy was not tagged-up and had to retreat back to first. Maddy then flew to second on a steal attempt.

The pickoff throw went into the outfield and Maddy didn't slow down until she reached third. The catcher caught the second out and a grounder retired the side and Turners Falls was 3 outs away from the State finals.

Mack fired two swinging strikeouts and the third batter shanked a high foul which sailed toward the first base dugout. Sallsy raced for it put out her mitt and caught it for the final out and the Turners Falls Softball Indians bought themselves 2 more days.

In the Circle, Phillips clocked 11 strikeouts, gave 1 base-on-balls and allowed 4 hits. At the plate, Putala batted-in 2 runs on her Home Run. Salls had 2 hits, scored 2 runs and banded a double. Caouette accounted for the other hit, and John and Whipple both drew walks.

### TFHS 5 - Millis 3

Two days later, Turners played the Millis Mohawks for the Massachusetts D3 Crown.

The game began like some of the other championship games had. Stash Kosciński once again threw out the first pitch, and Melissa Hersey once again sang the National Anthem.

But something was a little different. There was nervousness in the stands, and a sense of finality. The True Blue fans were sitting on the edge of their seats clenching their programs and quietly reacting to every single pitch.

Turners was the designated home team and took the field first. The first Mohawk batter tried to bunt but it popped high, right into the glove of third baseman Amber Caouette. Ace Mackenzie Phillips struckout the next Mohawk, blazing her "nunchuck fire" past the swinging bat.

But the third batter cracked a huge triple into right center. Blue was now facing a man at third but they had faced this situation before. Two outs, man threatening at third.

Mack fired 2 strikes and suddenly she was ahead 0-2. A free pitch. The batter swung for it and missed, and the Blue Tribe had kept the Maroon

Mohawks off the scoreboard.

In the bottom of the first, Turners was kept hitless. Jenna Putala was the only Blue baserunner, but she reached on a ground ball error.

Millis went 1-2-3 in the top of the second: a fly to Nicole John, and 2 swinging Ks.

In the Blue second, Turners was finally hitting the ball out of the infield. Mackenzie P hit the ball to the leftfielder for the first out.

Nicole J. hit a hard fly to center, but it was too high, and the fielder had time to chase it down for the second out. Jordyn Fiske became the second Turners' baserunner when she was walked but she was called out at second on a Haley Whipple grounder. And it was a scoreless tie after 2.

Turners got 2 quick outs in the top of the third: a bunt fielded by Mackenzie Salls and thrown to Jenna who was covering first, and a grounder to the mound.

The next Maroon batter, however, reached on a hit-batsman call. And with that baserunner, Millis executed a 2-out rally. A booming double sent the runner home and another base hit put the second run across.

Coach Mullins called a conference. He's been in this situation before, and he knows his players. When play resumed, Mack got out of the inning with a 4-pitch strikeout.

But the damage had been done and Millis was leading 2-0 after 2 and a half.

Turners did their best to try to even the score in the bottom of the third but they couldn't buy a hit. After a 1-out grounder, Sallsy came to the plate. She cracked a right field shot, but the ball was hit too high. Putala smashed a hard and fast shot to left field. The fielder didn't have time to move, but she didn't need to. The ball was shot directly at her for the third out.

Mackenzie S executed the first two outs in the Mohawk fourth. She stopped a grounder and tagged the batter in the baseline for 1 out. The second hit was shot directly to her. Sallsy simply had to step on the base.

Mack P walked the next Mohawk and blazed another swinging strikeout to retire the side.

In the Blue fourth, Amber Caouette reached first on an error, just

see **SOFTBALL** next page

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**SOFTBALL** from prev. page  
beating the throw. She reached second on a Mackenzie Phillips fielder's choice and stole third.

But the no-hit dry spell continued, and Amber had to jog back to the dugout for her glove before taking her place in the field. The game was more than half over, and Blue was down 2-0 with no answer for the Mohawk pitcher.

Mack struck out the first batter in the top of the fifth. The second attempted to bunt. Both she and Sallys ran toward the ball while Jenna covered first.

Mackenzie P got to the ball first and threw it to Jenna for the second out. The count went full on the third batter and when she swung at the next pitch, she missed and Powertown came to the plate down by 2.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, the drought ended. Fiske led off with a base hit into rightfield and just like that, the Blue Tribe recorded their first hit of the game. Better late than never.

Haley Whipple followed with a stand-up double, and the base coaches waved Jordyn home.

Suddenly, all those Blue fans, who had cautiously waited in their seats, were now on their feet, arms raised and mouths cheering. It was more than Millis could take. They were getting rattled, and their coach called a timeout to try to settle his team.

Jordan Meattey came to the plate next. She clapped a base hit, sending Whip to third.

"Top of the Order," Blue fans called to the fielders as Mackenzie Salls came to the plate. And as the pitcher was concentrating on Sallys, Jordan stole second.

Ed Marvell and Mark Sullivan are phenomenal base coaches. Throughout the season, they've been able to read defenses, communicate with each other and prod hesitant baserunners to take chances or hold up or fake a steal.

Then Whip stole home to tie the

game. As Sallys was taking strikes and the fielders were watching the baserunners, a pitch went past the catcher and Sully sent Haley home.

And just like that, it was a new game. Jenna Putala came to the plate next and put Powertown up for good. J. P. placed a hard hit into the outfield and Jordan came around to score. The throw was to home, so Jenna went to second.

Then she stole third. Then she stole home, and the Tribe was up, 4-2.

Mohawk recorded their second out when the center fielder caught a nice hit by Amber Caouette. But Powertown wasn't done. Gabby Arzuaga found the wall but her hit was low so she settled for a stand-up triple. Abby Loynd came in for her as the courtesy runner.

Mackenzie P cracked a grounder into center, sending Abby home, and Blue took a 5-2 lead.

Maddy Johnson replaced Mack on base. Nicole John banged a base hit sending Maddy to second. The inning finally ended with Jordyn Fiske cracking a high fly into the gap in right field. The fielder sprinted toward the ball and made a running catch.

But the damage was done and Powertown now led by 3 runs with Millis down to their last 2 at-bats.

Millis is a great team – the best in Eastern Massachusetts – and they wouldn't go down without a fight. The leadoff man in the sixth inning crushed a boomer toward the warning track, but Whip made the catch for the out. Mack P forced a popup to the circle for out number 2.

Then Mack did something I haven't seen before. With two strikes on the batter, she shook off the call. Catcher Arzuaga looked at the dugout and then back at Mack.

"Stay in it," the coaches called to their pitcher and she did. Mack fired a pitch down the barrel and the batter swung at air. Mack was confident enough to pitch a strike on a 0-2 count, and it paid off.

Millis was now down to their last 3 outs. Blue went 1-2-3 in the bottom of the sixth, leaving the game, and the State Title, in the hands of their defense.

The first out was easy enough: a Meattey-to-Sallys ground ball out. The next, however, was not so easy. That's when it could have all gone awry. An error gave Maroon a base runner, and a hit gave them two.

And with the tying run at the plate, the fielders called a conference, and Mullins called an official timeout. He slowly walked to the circle and met with his Tribe.

Millis would have none of that however. They rallied for another base hit, sending a run home, putting a man at third and another on first. So the go-ahead run came to the plate with only 1 out.

Again Mack was shaking off calls from Gabby. She had one ball and 2 strikes on the batter. She kept throwing strikes and the batter kept fouling them off until she didn't swing and was called out.

2 outs, 2 on, 7th inning, championship game and the player who did all that damage was on deck. But there was a batter before her, and Turners only needed 1 more out. The count was 2 strikes and 1 ball and the batter fouled off another. Then she slammed a fly into right field.

Jordyn Fiske eyed the ball, timed its descent, and used both hands to reel it in. And the Turners Falls Softball Indians won the D3 MIAA State Title.

The mood on the diamond was mixed. Exultation and relief mingled with laughter and tears and nostalgic last hugs. And as the girls were laughing and crying and getting their pictures taken, Coach Mullins stood in the dugout by himself.

Mullins had given his interviews, accepted the congratulations and smiled for the cameras, but as the field crew was grooming the diamond for the next game he was just silently watching his girls

# What a Season!

By MATT ROBINSON

Turners Falls' road to the crown was interesting.

Powertown went 19-1 in the regular season. Their only loss was to Hampshire, 1-0. Turners reversed the loss by beating them by the same score later in the season.

Hampshire, by the way, won the D2 State Crown.

It took seven games before the Tribe allowed its first run. In that seventh game, Athol managed to put up 3 runs to Powertown's 13, and after the subsequent loss to Hampshire and a 16-1 victory against Pioneer, the run-tally was 108-5.

Turners shut out their next 6 opponents and finished the season against 6 top-twenty teams. By the time the playoffs rolled around, Turners had outscored their opponents 207-11.

In the playoffs, against the



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Senior Nicole John at bat during the semifinal against Hopedale.

best of the best, Turners Falls outscored their opponents 52-5.

With three key players graduating, it's another rebuilding year for Gary Mullins and his Tribe.

No draft picks, no trades – just a bunch of hometown girls, trying to live up to the legacy that is the Turners Falls Softball Indians.

as they celebrated.

"At the current time, the thoughts and emotions that are circulating in my little brain are hard to sort out," he told me on Sunday. "Whenever we have a chance to grab the top trophy I instantly think back to all the kids and coaches over the years that have made this possible."

All of Powertown's runs in the Championship came in the fifth inning. Fiske, Whipple, Meattey, Putala and Abby Loynd all scored in that inning. Phillips, Putala and Whipple batted them in. Seven different Lady Indians, Arzuaga, Fiske, John, Meattey, Phillips, Putala, and Whipple clocked hits.

Arzuaga bashed a triple and Whipple crushed a double. Fiske drew the only walk. In the circle, Phillips blazed 10 strikeouts, gave 1 base-on-balls and surrendered 5 hits.



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**FLYING** from pg A1

plane to regularly use the airport.

There are two main makes of private aircraft in America, and they both had strong presences at the fly-in. The first, Cessna, builds their planes in Wichita, Kansas. In attendance was a sharp-looking 1978 Cessna 152, white with swooping orange trim, that looked like it could fit inside my bedroom.

It was 24 feet long, with a 33-foot wingspan, and its 110-hp engine maxes out at 127 mph. A pilot standing nearby related that one could purchase this aircraft for \$25,000.

The other major manufacturer is Piper Aircraft, whose factory is in Vero Beach, Florida.

It seemed like the largest group of participants in the fly-in were members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). These obsessed people build their own airplanes from kits, often in their own garages.

Burt Rutan made the first DIY airplane kit in the late 1960s, and has continued to make the most popular designs to this day. Rutan is also famous for engineering and building *Voyager*, the first plane to fly around the world non-stop.

Since the turn of the millennium, Rutan famously won the Ansari X Prize for building SpaceShipOne, the first privately designed, built,

and financed flying machine to reach space.

Rutan's kit planes first became available in the 1970s, basically just sets of plans that came with a four-piece plastic fuselage. According to one maker-pilot I spoke with, back then builders would have to purchase the plastic for the wings and other pieces and cut them out themselves. One would drill all the holes and do all the rivets, as well as building and installing the engine and all the cockpit electronics.

According to Tim Fannin of our local EAA chapter, most people take 5 to 10 years to build their plane. A different pilot I spoke with took 17 years before his first flight.

It was a kit plane, a Rutan Long EZ, that John Denver was piloting when he crashed and died in 1997. The National Transportation and Safety Board did not fault the aerodynamics of the craft, but instead a number of pilot errors and a defective fuel valve.

It is thought that Denver inadvertently hit his right rudder pedal while twisting to the left in his seat while he struggled to operate the fuel selector valve, sending the plane out of control over Monterey Bay.

(This is the same Pacific bay where my best friend's grandfather, a fisherman told by his social worker that he was too old and infirm to fish, was rammed by a whale while

willfully contradicting their prescription.)

Rutan's kit planes are easily identified by their distinctive "canard" design, which places a small wing in front of the main wing. While this is not a new idea – the Wright Brothers' *Flyer* was a canard biplane – Rutan's canard designs brought the idea back into popularity in private aviation. Canards help provide lift and offer greater control and stability to their craft.

Rutan's kit planes have an undeniable futurist look. All the ones in attendance were bright, space-shuttle white, with 270-degree bubble cockpits. They are propelled by rear-mounted "pusher" propellers, which allow the nose of the plane to be smoothly pointy, like that of a jet fighter.

The EAA was at the fly-in offering free flights to children through their Young Eagles program. Young Eagles is a nationwide program, at one time directed by Harrison Ford, that seeks to teach and inspire youth through aviation. It encourages careers in aviation.

Bill Uley, who teaches an aviation class through GCC, spoke with emotion about the value of the program: "It's the ride of their lives! It's so smooth and calm. It's the ride of their lives."

Indeed, there were too many sometimes excited, sometimes stu-

pefied children waiting by the runway for this correspondent to hitch a ride. In fact three attempts were made unsuccessfully to convince a pilot to bring me up in the name of journalism. It became the elephant in the room in many conversations I had with pilots.

But what is so compelling about flight? Are the sensual feelings one experiences addictively unbeatable? Tim Fannin, a volunteer with Young Eagles, spoke on the subject: "It's the best thing I've ever done. Freedom in the air. You're the pilot in command."

I asked if there was anything he could compare it to. "Not that you could put in the paper," a witty bystander cut in with.

While I was unable to reach the higher planes (pun intended) during this event, a helpful EAA member informed me that there's another program, called Eagle Flights, that offers free flights to anyone who has interest.

This was what I was looking for. I'd come to Aviation Weekend expecting to find nothing of benefit to the non-winged majority, but had my assumptions proven wrong. I will return to the Turner Falls Airport soon to receive a free introduction to small plane aviation.

More information on the Eagle Flights and Young Eagles programs can be found at [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org).



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GMRSD from page A1

Pino was terminated or resigned.

The school committee could not legally discuss the case, either in open meeting or executive session, without the employee being present.

And as no non-anonymous complaint had yet been brought to the committee concerning the administration, there was no safe legal way to discuss the issue as of Tuesday night, according to district counsel Adam Dupere.

That didn't stop one member from trying.

"I think I'm allowed to ask this question," Marjorie Levenson started. "I'd like to know when the superintendent intends to address the public emails that many of us received."

Chair Sandra Brown deferred to Dupere as to when "the lawyers are comfortable with what we can tell the public."

"Or any complaints that are made," Dupere added.

"If that's insufficient," Sullivan continued, "then I would encourage you to do what you would need to do

to have that be in executive session."

Levenson said she felt the committee needs to address concerns of residents who have a "right to know."

"Legally, you may not be able to do what you want to do," cautioned Dupere.

"Could a citizen come forward and say, 'I'm a parent, I feel threatened?'" Levenson asked.

"Once they start to identify any individual, I think we have a problem," he responded.

"People might complain to us about the superintendent," said Brown, "and then we would have an executive session," following mandated open meeting law procedures.

Member Jane Oakes reminded the committee that under the Massachusetts Educational Reform Act of 1993, the school committee has hiring responsibility over top administration, who in turn have responsibility over hiring the rest of staff, as well as responsibility over policy.

Brown suggested revisiting the district's hiring guidelines. "We are supposed to be oversight," she said.

Member Joyce Phillips pointed out that by the district's established process, school committee members sit on search committees which vet candidates for some positions.

Levenson complained that these search committees don't take notes or report back, and advocated for

"certain guidelines," such as online searches or license checks, applicable "across the board" in such searches.

"You know what you know, and I think you all have to decide whether you feel like, essentially if there's complaints against me," said Sullivan. "If it's about what I've done, then you need to talk about whether you want to have an executive session about that."

"Whether or not anyone else does, yes, I think I would," said Levenson, as other committee members groaned and shook their heads.

"Seriously?" asked Leslie Cogswell.

Before the proposal went to a vote, several members recommended Levenson discuss the issue with Dupere.

"You need to do a little research on your own to learn about what the law allows," said Langknecht. "Ignorance of the law is not necessarily an excuse."

"I'm not trying to cause a civil war within the committee," said Levenson. "Something happened, it has to be addressed," calling the committee the "moral standard-bearer for the schools."

"You need to go through the appropriate process," argued Langknecht. "Our job is to explain to the community what steps they need to take to get where they want to go."



## Montague Center Apartments Won't Be Affordable Ones, Developer Assures Public

By TIA FATTARUSO

**MONTAGUE** – The town and developer Mark Zaccheo signed a purchase and sale agreement for the Montague Center School, 15 School Street, as of the June 15 selectboard meeting, for the amount of \$1,000. Zaccheo said he hopes for a closing before the end of July, which delay is due to coordinating other property sales into financing.

According to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Zaccheo's original bid of \$50,000 was negotiated down over the last few months based on projected expenses and income for the property.

The parties intend to sign a land development agreement at the closing date.

Zaccheo dismissed rumors that the project might change its focus toward affordable housing.

"It's going to be just as we had planned it," Zaccheo said, referring to the relatively upscale apartments at his Olive Street, Greenfield, development. "I'm not getting any low-income housing grants or subsidies."

Assuming a smooth closing, Zaccheo said construction should begin in the fall and, while the project must be completed within two years, it will more likely be completed within one to one and a half years.

Zaccheo, who submitted the only proposal to the town's 2011 request for proposals (RFP) for reuse of the facility, plans to turn the former school,

with a footprint of 13,420 square feet and twice as much floor area on 2.86 acres, into 22 apartment units with 33 bedrooms and 39 parking spaces.

The town took possession of the building back in September 2008. "It was the same issue a lot of communities face with neighborhood schools," Abbondanzio said. "The numbers didn't support continuation."

With declining school populations in western Massachusetts many towns are seeing more consolidation, he said. He praised the education reforms of the 1990s, but said that more recently state funding for schools through Chapter 70 is "basically frozen" in the western part of the state as it favors the growing towns in the east.

This began happening in conjunction with the advent of school choice and charter schools, which also draw revenue away, he said.

"It was a very emotional issue for a lot of people to have that school close. It was a wonderful school," said Abbondanzio.

By June 2009, the town had authorized the selectboard to sell or lease the property, begun a re-use study, and re-zoned the building to neighborhood business.

According to Abbondanzio, a housing alternative was the most economically feasible option. "It came down to dollars and cents," he said.

A first RFP in May 2010 received no proposals, despite an extensive, targeted mailing by a realtor to poten-

tial developers, Abbondanzio said.

In November 2012, the Zoning Board of Appeals endorsed Zaccheo's proposal. The ZBA approved two special permits, one allowing multi-family use and a reduction in minimum lot area, as well as a variance allowing up to ten apartments under the 700 square foot minimum floor area.

Although eight abutters filed an appeal against that decision, saying that Zaccheo's plans would create a hardship and that his applications were insufficient to the requirements of the zoning laws, the ZBA upheld its decision and vote, stating that public infrastructure would not be unduly burdened by the apartment building.

"There is a need to provide for a reuse for this building. The status quo is a public safety concern, and a burden on town departments and the public, and a detriment to the neighborhood," said the ZBA in the document giving its decision.

The town has been tending to the property in the interim.

Matt Cadran, an administrator at the town's Department of Public Works, said that has included window repair from break-ins; mild heating over the winters, at a cost of \$7,374 last year; fixing a broken water pipe; and extending a water line for increased flow from the street to the building for fire suppression.

Abbondanzio said he believed maintenance costs to the town started off around \$25,000 annually but have shrunk to about \$15,000.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Next Steps Begin for Town Fiber-Optic Network

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On June 17, the Wendell selectboard held their first meeting after the annual town meeting. The largest financial agenda item was a follow-up on the town meeting vote to authorize borrowing up to \$1.92 million to establish a fiber optic system that would give every household in town a fast broadband internet connection. The article that passed did not specify the structure of that system, or of its operation and governance.

The simpler part of that task was to establish a study committee, which they did, made up of selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser, citizens Trevor Kearns and Alistair MacMartin, finance committee members Robin Kimball, Ray DiDonato, and Doug Tanner, and members of the broadband committee.

Three members of the fin com make up a quorum, and those meetings will have to be posted as finance committee meetings.

The more complex task is the application for the planning and construction grant for the system. The grant application form is 39 pages long, and is due July 7.

Wendell could apply on its own, but WiredWest can fill out that application on the town's behalf. The board authorized WiredWest, which has the expertise, to do that. That decision does not commit Wendell to become part of the WiredWest cooperative, and the first draft of a cooperative agreement is not available yet.

WiredWest is poised to oversee construction of and operation of a regional broadband network, but selectboard member Dan Keller pointed out that the WiredWest model is not the only option available, and that private companies have shown some interest, and that even a hybrid system may be the best choice for Wendell.

Broadband committee member Robbie Heller said that Wendell's neighbor Shutesbury has committed to WiredWest. The fiber optic cables would follow electric lines that serve Wendell, and so would come to parts of Wendell from several directions, including from the south and Shutesbury.

The debt exclusion vote that would keep the cost of paying back the loan outside of the proposition 2 1/2 limit is scheduled for July 27, and absentee ballots will be available.

The town of Hawley sent a letter to their state representative, Paul Mark, asking for more help for towns that already have a high tax rate such as the hill towns in

Franklin and Berkshire counties, with the expense of establishing an internet network.

### Record-Keeping

Town clerk Gretchen Smith and facilities engineer Jim Slavas continued discussion of town record storage from the prior selectboard meeting. Slavas said he turned down the temperature in the town vault where conditions were already good for maintaining documents. The closet in the clerk's office that holds records is too hot and humid.

The state holds originals, but the town holds copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates dating to 1958 which Smith said were in piles held together with rubber bands before she took office. They now are in plastic sheaths, but still in the closet safe. A dehumidifier in the closet would dry the space but heat it up as well.

There also are record books dating back to the town's beginning, which are not only valuable historical documents, but also public information. Slavas suggested that those record books be put in the town vault, and could be made available once a week or by appointment.

### Other Business

FRCOG sent the town a map with an inventory of bridges and culverts, which highway commission chair Harry Williston updated.

At the request of town accountant Brian Morton, the board went through a list of accounts that still contain money from fiscal 2015, and decided which ones to maintain, and which to return to free cash.

Among the accounts being carried forward are the audit service, the website training account, the tax title account, the town hall kitchen equipment account, the fire department grant matching account, the pre-K through 6th grade option study account, and a cemetery grave opening account.

Keller said that at least one truss is missing in the highway department roof support, and that he would let Slavas take a look at the inside. Williston says the whole roof should be replaced and patched no more. MIAA (Massachusetts Inter-Local Insurance Association) has recommended the metal roof have something to prevent ice from sliding off in large chunks.

The town could look at the roof this year and propose funding a replacement at its next annual town meeting.

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

Health Organization announced in March that glyphosates are probably carcinogenic, and that six or seven countries ban it outright.

"We could debate the science all night, but all things being equal, couldn't you just do the management with clippers and chainsaws?"

Tony Johnson responded, "This is not an uncommon request in some towns," but defended the use of the herbicide as "most effective control with the least impact. If we revert to mowing, we take out a lot of desirable native plants."

He also explained that manually trimming some invasive plants actually increases their proliferation, and earlier practices of mowing every seven years has to be reduced to three years due to regrowth.

"Some lines are critical," he added, "and if they're down, it costs millions of dollars a day."

Resident Phil Crafts stood to share his concerns about other components in the spray, specifically surfactants, which he said are toxic to aquatic species, including amphibians. Crafts wasn't swayed by Johnson's assertion that surfactants are in most soaps and shampoos, or statistics on the rapid dissipation of all the ingredients.

"Monsanto claimed that glyphosate was biodegradable when in fact it is not," said Crafts, who went on to cite France's Supreme Court decision that found Monsanto guilty of false claims over glyphosate being entirely biodegradable and that it "left the soil clean."

Crafts also questioned the official government determination of the herbicide's safety, stating that, "the EPA has become a lap dog of agro chemical corporations and they twice caught scientists deliberately falsifying tests. These tests were done at labs hired by Monsanto."

Crafts also wondered how careful any one would be with a backpack and a sprayer keeping the herbicide away from the soil and water, and away from crucial species for pollinators like milkweed: "So, what is cost effectiveness in this context?"

Johnson responded that the wrong amounts of glyphosate, or any ingredient, would be dangerous if not used properly, but shared the EPA increasing the amount of glyphosates that food can have. He also wondered why no U.S. courts had made this determination on the safety, to which Crafts responded, "Have you heard of Citizens United?"

Another Leverett resident said that the land under the power lines could be used productively. Johnson clarified that the power company doesn't own the easement, and that the state law allows property owners to use the land for agriculture and cultivate it.

"We get a lot of people canceling that use," he said, "because the property owners can't manage."

Selectboard member Julie Shively responded that she was one of the people that cleared the easement land, and encouraged shrubs and ground-

cover that kept the trees at bay. She praised the company for the work it did in replacing the old powerline poles on her land, using a machine she described as "Godzilla," but said she noticed that a lot of native laurel trees were taken down.

**Spray Demo Planned**

Kurt Adams of Old Mountain Road said, "You're a very articulate spokesperson for this herbicide and company," but said there was an overwhelming request from residents not to use the herbicide, and queried, "Is there anything we can do to make your company listen to the town, and humor us and do the mechanical cutting?"

Leverett resident Joan Snowden voiced her concerns about the herbicide applications in light of the town's dedication to preserving the natural places. She remarked on herbicides applied yearly to Leverett Pond and wondered if people knew about it.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said he was glad that was brought up because people that lived on the pond welcome the application as it keeps down vegetation and that the application is conducted with a tremendous amount of notice when it takes place.

He said he wondered if the same advance warning could be given by Eversource.

Town administrator Margie McGinnis asked whether the spraying was done on foot. Johnson said it was, and offered to schedule a field demonstration.

Kurt Adams asked if the people doing the spraying are trained, and was answered that they were and all are licensed and certified by the state to do the work: "Massachusetts is very strict."

However, later in the dialogue, Johnson conceded that some not very well-trained people have made errors when Kurt Adams asked, "Is there a way people could call him directly with reports of workers doing a lousy job?" Johnson agreed to provide direct contact information.

D'Errico said he felt the issue couldn't really be resolved at the selectboard meeting due to the state's say on easements and rights of ways superseding town bylaw against pesticides and herbicides and that the best decision was to set a date to watch a field demonstration of herbicide application.

It was also decided that Eversource provide a good schedule for the spraying, which Johnson agreed to do and said that they already put the notice in the newspapers.

In response to a resident's question, he said the company does not post signs near the areas.

D'Errico and McGinnis determined the date for the demonstration would be shared in a town-wide phone broadcast.

Johnson also promised to provide lists of the species that were to be removed and saved, in answer to a request by a citizen who could let someone walking the right of way

daily observe how consistent the crews were in following guidelines.

**Recycling Containers**

The next item on the agenda was a visit by Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. She said the town's six owned, not rented, containers (for: paper; bottles and cans; split for two items; bulky waste; scrap metal, and the compactor) were doing well, with not a lot of rust or rot.

There are two Split Roll Off recycling containers in town, one at the transfer station and one at the Safety Complex.

Ameen said that her calculated prices for transport and emptying are lower than the numbers presented on Capital Planning. She also discussed the lower prices involved in renting rather than owning.

McGinnis asked, "We have six containers at our transfer station - is that a lot?"

"It depends," Ameen replied. "Shelburne and Charlemont share a site," and shared that the standard for small towns is two.

Ameen answered questions about the availability of Greenfield's transfer station to Leverett residents, explaining that Greenfield is open six days a week to all residents of other Franklin County towns for a \$5 fee.

Ameen suggested that the town buy a paper compactor to reduce paper waste, which she said accounted for 25 hauls in the past two years. This could reduce the number of hauls to 12 or 15, she said.

Ameen said she applied for a grant on behalf of Leverett because the deadline was close.

"If we get the grant," McGinnis asked, "how long is it before we have to come up with the \$10K?"

Ameen said an extension could be filed so funds would come due after the annual Town Meeting and a pending approval by vote.

D'Errico wondered if this would generate a staffing problem, specifically with laws regarding volunteers under 18 operating the machine, and transfer station coordinator Ananda Larsen said she would look into it.

The grant money would be returned if the new compactor isn't approved at town meeting.

**Intersection Safety**

Concerns about adequately addressing the safety of the intersection of Cushman and Shutesbury roads were brought to discussion by residents near the area, following a crash of two motorcycle riders and an automobile on May 17. One of the riders died.

George Lockwood said, "This is not the first fatal accident, and frankly, I'm tired of it."

Police chief Gary Billings said the road has picked up a reputation with thrill seekers for its "S-curves," and that reconstruction experts studying the crash said there was no road defect or mechanical defect of operator fault - the speed simply exceeded the motorcycle's capabilities and the



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riders' skill. "The poor guy driving the car was just coming home from work," said Billings.

The intersection has no discernible stop signs, so it is often unclear who has right of way. The town had previously discussed solutions, and a former worker at the Department of Transportation made suggestions, but every solution seemed to be a "a big money thing," according to D'Errico.

Simpler suggestions like signage present other obstacles. A stop sign placed at the end of the bottom of the hill would need to go across the street and might add to more confusion. It was determined that the big chevron signs with arrows indicating the direction of the curve might be the best warning to drivers.

**Graves**

McGinnis shared that a few residents inquired about the maintenance of the cemeteries and how to arrange for funds to take care of the grounds, with mowing. She explained to these residents that the town doesn't maintain the cemeteries, and that they are managed by individual cemetery associations.

McGinnis shared that on advice of the town counsel, the town should not be spending money on something the town doesn't own, and the \$500 earmarked in the budget for cemetery maintenance needs to be taken off.

She also said the financial status of these cemetery associations is unknown.

It was decided that any inquiries as to cemetery maintenance should be directed to those associations, and if no one is in charge, the matter of the town owning the cemeteries should be officially brought before the selectboard and put to town vote.

**Well Monitoring**

The town received test results for two of the private home wells on Teawaddle Hill Road that it pays for and maintains. There were no exceeded volumes of VOCs, but the manganese was slightly elevated.

McGinnis said this was "par for

the course," and that she shared with the MassDEP representative the fact that manganese is slightly elevated in many homes, per an independent study of water.

The representative asked what the town wanted to do about the slightly cloudy water in the Nagy home, and McGinnis expressed to him that, "As far as I can see, there is no way you can trace the cloudy water event to the landfill."

The DEP rep replied that they weren't quite sure about that, and McGinnis was left with the impression that the MassDEP wanted the town to volunteer that they would put in a new filtration system.

Selectman Tom Hankinson asked, "Is it a more complicated filtration system than the ones we've installed?"

McGinnis said that it would be similar to the other systems installed at other homes that have successfully eliminated VOC counts. She said the new quote received on the filtration system was \$3,100.

Another home being tested complained to ECS, the sample collectors, about the loss of water pressure and stains caused by the water. Tom Hankinson said, "I don't understand, they're losing water pressure?"

"Yes," McGinnis replied, "but we're not sure if the system is clogged or corroded, or it's the pipes themselves."

She was asked if the town has the money to replace a filter at the house, and she affirmed that there is money in the budget.

"If we have the money," asked Hankinson, "why not do it?" The board affirmed this decision.

**Other Business**

The selectboard approved new appointments and affirmed standing members of committees.

Steve Nagy was approved for the capital planning board, even though he is a member of the finance committee, because the capital planning board doesn't work with a budget.

The financial advisory committee was, however, dissolved for lack of discernible effort and effect.



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# MONTAGUE REPORTER... ON THE ROAD



Joe St. Peter (left) and Pamela Lester (right) read the Montague Reporter aboard a cruise ship to Bermuda this month. The occasion was the onboard wedding of Joe's daughter Chelseigh to Justin Bernard. "About 45 family members and friends attended the cruise," writes Pamela. "It was a lovely ceremony, and a great trip." Congratulations to the newweds, and thanks to Pamela and Joe for representing their hometown newspaper along the way!

LYNDA PAYNE COHEN PHOTO



Our reporter and board member Ellen Blanchette checks over her work on the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

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# MoRe

YEAR 13 – NO. 36

B1

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 25, 2015

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS TOUR: THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY (PART 2)

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Two statues grace the stairway going up to the Artifacts Loft at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. They are small copies of classic sculptures depicting the Roman goddesses Diana and Minerva. This “artistic statuary” (as it was called in a 1906 *Turners Falls Reporter* article) was given to the library by two turn-of-the-century women’s clubs, the Fortnightly Club and the Monday Afternoon Club.

The Fortnightly Club was one of the many national women’s clubs that flourished during the latter part of the 19th century and into the earliest decades of the 20th. During a time when women were excluded from academia and public office, these clubs provided women higher learning opportunities and civic engagement.

The Fortnightly Club met every two weeks. Each member was required to present research on a

particular topic once a year during a 20 minute lecture, as well as keep up with research on predetermined themes for each meeting. The Monday Afternoon Clubs had more of a literary focus. Both groups commonly met at the newly constructed free public libraries.

The same 1906 *Turners Falls Reporter* article noted that thirty dollars from the Young People’s Social Club of the 1880s that was set aside in a savings bank back then had now grown with interest to \$72.42. The remaining elderly members of the club decided to use forty of those dollars to purchase five busts for the new library: Washington, Longfellow, Washington Irving, Dickens, and Shakespeare.

The faces of Longfellow, Irving and Dickens are not so familiar to contemporary visitors, though most will recognize the other two.

Only three of these gentlemen are left in a pale little clique on the floor, looking very seriously at the shins of passersby, accompanied

by a small Venus reproduction. The broken bust of Dickens is marking time with a sheep or goat head in one of the storage closets.

A cabinet full of corals and shells was donated by Elise Messer in 1922, as well as seven boxes of geological specimens. The bleached white corals and shells have a ghostly presence in the second cabinet to the left of the Native American artifacts. Stuffed birds – not all native, there’s a pelican – stand on top of shelves around the room, and a collection of bird’s eggs lies on a bed of cotton inside a labeled box.

Seeing such treasures must have once been a magical experience, bringing to life things from the pages of books – or maybe, glimpsed through a stereopticon viewer such as the one given to the library in 1914. There is a broken viewer in storage, and several boxes of “views” are in the basement. The box I opened was full of pictures of sugar plantations in Cuba. These cards with twin photos on them would blend into a three dimensional scene when looked at through the viewer.

“Views” like these were commonly circulated from library to library around the Commonwealth, along with collections of pictures from different countries. These were bundled with sets of books about that country, and were very popular items at the libraries.

There were even “travel contests:” patrons were given a set of pins that they would put on a map to show the countries they “traveled” to. For accountability, they were even required to give an oral report to the librarian before pinning

see **CARNEGIE** page B8



The Venus de Milo lurks in the background as Shakespeare, George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow congregate with a mountain goat.

## An Arrow Marks the Spot: New Art by Robert Hepner



Hepner’s “magic truck,” parked and ready to entertain. Hepner’s truck is a moving carnival of sorts, with costumes, a disco ball, and music and dancing. He recently brought the truck to the Leverett Library Summer Reading Kickoff. The wings of the truck shrink when the truck is in motion, then expand when the truck is parked to create an interactive environment.

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

**LEVERETT** – Art teacher Robert Hepner is spending his summer working on his new artistic concept. Hepner got the idea when he was living in New Mexico, and was exposed to retro style road signs that direct motorists to hotels, food, and attractions. Those large, old signs don’t exist in Massachusetts. Inspired, Hepner set out on an artistic endeavor with practical elements. Hepner can’t recreate the signage, but he started to make arrows that businesses and local residents can use to point people towards the correct location.

“It’s a function of art to make you think about symbols,” said Hepner.

The arrows are made of wood and styrofoam, and are large enough

to be seen by motorists. Each arrow is painted with bright colors so it stands out from the surrounding landscape. People have used the arrows for a variety of purposes. One woman purchased an arrow to be placed in a garden. Another purchased an arrow to mark her blind driveway and help friends find the location of her house. The Leverett Co-op even had an arrow for a few months, but Hepner said he found out the hard way that some arrows, especially those placed in trees, don’t last as long.

“They get beat up by wind and snowplows in the winter,” he explained.

Hepner is working to extend the life of his art, and has managed to extend the shelf life to four or five years.

see **HEPNER** page B4



## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION In the Neighborhood

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – The sun sets in a rosy blush. The new crescent moon rises into the growing dark led by the fire of Venus. The solstice is here and it is full summertime.

Strange to think that after this, the longest day, the days will begin shortening again. Not a good area for contemplation when the days seem so long into the usual dark and the birds start the mornings at four a.m.

The school year has ended. Gauging from the increased traffic around Routes Two and Ninety-One, regardless of the day of the week, and the sudden jump in gasoline prices, summer vacation travel has begun: best to stay in one’s own yard and tend to the gardening.

The sweet strawberries are ripening, necessitating spreading some netting over the plot to interrupt the happy feeding of the catbird. The small green tomatoes are coming on and the peas are setting blossoms. The green beans stretch to the poles and the asparagus is going to fern.

In the flower gardens, the roses, wild and cultivated are awash with bloom: several shades of pink, apricot, and white. The honeysuckle’s fragrance draws the hummingbird. One bright, pink stand of beach rose was grown from the seed of a beach rose in Scituate. The hip traveled many miles, ripe and ready.

When we got home, I cut it open and saved some of the seed to dry. In the fall, we turned a bit of soil, spread the seed, and covered them with a stray piece of roofing shingle. Cracked

by the winter cold, the seeds sprouted.

When we gently lifted the shingle, there they were: pale, wan seedlings looking for the sun. I suppose the current shoots are great grandchildren of the originals, but there they remain just the same, a fragrant memory from our honeymoon cottage.

Many gardeners can recite the origin of their plants whether shared by a friend, given as a gift or grown from seed. Heirloom plants are just that, seeds saved from sturdy, popular varieties and passed down through the generations. They come from many countries besides our own just as we all did some generations ago.

Our neighborhood, Montague City was settled originally by German immigrants in 1792. Tucked into a curve of the Connecticut River and spreading outward to the main road near the golf course and backward again along the bike path, this hamlet was once called Montague Canal, but these German immigrants and many others envisioned a much grander city.

In May of 1792 The Proprietors of Locks and Canals were granted permission by the state legislature to clear and construct waterways from the Connecticut River into the town of Montague. This project was publicized in Europe as there was need for major financial investment for this vast project. Holland was the banking capital of the world at the time, and it was the Dutch who invested in the project.

Word of this project and tales of the possibility of a European-style community with huge castles, homes, schools and museums on the promontories overlooking the waterway spread far, bringing enthusiastic German

see **GARDENER** page B4

## SCENE REPORT Mutton... and Roots

By MATT ERICKSON

**MONTAGUE** – My partner and I have been having an ongoing dispute about Renaissance festivals for the better part of a decade now. We’re both native West Coasters with loose childhood ties to the diverse “Ren Faire” scenes on that side of the country.

She grew up going to the Renaissance Pleasure Faire in rural Marin County north of San Francisco, where as a teenager she dressed in an elaborate double-skirted bodice costume and sold flowers alongside her full-kilted blacksmithing brother.

I grew up spending a week of every summer working at the Oregon Country Fair – formerly known as the Oregon Renaissance Faire – where my dad helped run a popular organic hamburger booth and I sold glowsticks to wandering hippies.

Both of those festivals have roots in late-’60s counterculture – the first Pleasure Faire was a fundraiser for a local Pacifica Radio station; the early Country Fairs hosted charity performances by the Grateful Dead – and both are set in forested areas populated by vendors selling handmade ceramics, herbal tinctures and local food. Juggling, too, seems to be a constant in both festivals.

Because of these overlaps, she has insisted that the festivals of our youth are essentially identical. I have always countered that if hers emphasized historical re-enactments and period costumes, mine was more about psychedelic folk music and permaculture demonstrations. We agree to disagree.

We decided to see a local variation of what we grew up with by attending the annual Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival in Montague this past weekend.

Set in the wooded grounds of the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, visitors to the two-day event are welcomed on the long entrance path by dozens of signs marking historical events in decreasing chronology – the invention of the telephone, the death of Shakespeare, Magna Carta – until we arrive in the “present” of 1210, the era when Mutton and Mead is set.

(Though it is a Medieval festival, modeled after the time of Robin Hood, and not a Renaissance festival per se, there are usually overlaps between the two styles. The event’s website clears up this apparently common question.)

The entrance led us right up to the central meadow of “the shire,” where we were able to catch the latter half of a horseback jousting match already in progress. There was a lot of excitement around the spectacle, with the young kids around me cheering and waving their football-sized turkey legs every time a lance made contact with an oncoming

see **MEAD** page B4



The pigge and liffing gerdilmen fbe of freboze blode 7 shall you tel of a gode pema his name was Robt hode Robt was a pubeous lott as he was one of the water non faine be



# Pet of the Week



## “HARLOW”

Hi there! I'm Harlow, and I'm uber-beautiful, with my markings

and my glowing golden eyes. I am originally from the MSPCA, but decided to give Dakin a try.

I'm slightly shy, but I'm sure to warm up to you with time and conversation!

I am a nice gal though, your company will be appreciated!

I could probably make a good companion for another quiet adult cat as well.

I'm definitely a quite girl who is not going to be under your feet. So if you are looking for a lovely cat who doesn't demand all your time and doesn't try to trip you at night I'm the girl for you!

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

## The Little Free Library needs book donations.

*Having folks take the books out is easy, but there have been fewer donations recently, and it is looking a little empty. Any book you think someone else might like, and you are willing to give, is appreciated. Located on Avenue A in Turners Falls in front of Nina's Nook.*



### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## Wildflowers, and Much More

This week at MCTV several productions have entered the editing phase and will be ready for viewing soon.

Raising money for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and the Montague Common Hall, the 5th Annual Mutton and Mead Festival kicked into high gear this weekend at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. *Val's Views* was there capturing the magic on camera! Stay tuned for when the editing process is complete and the video is ready for viewing.

Also available for view shortly is Saturday's Championship soft-

ball game between Turners Falls and Millis. Turners Falls fell just short of a championship win in 2014 to come back as a powerhouse this year. Catch all the action on MCTV.

In final production this week is *Wildflowers of the Northeast* which was presented by Massachusetts naturalist John Root at the Discovery Center on June 18th. Filmed by Janet Masucci, this 90-minute presentation visually brought to life the rich and diverse flora in our landscape.

There is so much more available online and on MCTV throughout

the day. Check the schedule online and stay tuned for more of what's new at MCTV!

Something interesting going on you think others would enjoying seeing as well? Get in touch with us! Learning to use a camera is free and available for you to use! Learn to edit, or we can do the editing for you.

Contact MCTV at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

## Senior Center Activities June 29 to July 3

### 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 6/29

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

#### Tuesday 6/30

9:30 a.m. Mat Yoga (subscription)  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

#### Wednesday 7/1

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

#### Thursday 7/2

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

#### Friday 7/3

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

### LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### ERVING

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

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

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

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

#### Monday 6/29

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

#### Tuesday 6/30

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

#### Wednesday 7/1

*(July schedule unavailable - based on last week's schedule)*

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

#### Thursday 7/2

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

#### Friday 7/3

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

### WENDELL

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

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I see lots of seniors in casinos. They come in by the busload. I was wondering whether older people have more problems with gambling than younger people?*

About 1 percent of all adults in the United States have a serious gambling addiction. The statistics on senior gambling indicate that compulsive gambling is a greater problem among older adults than adults in general.

One study found that 10 percent of seniors were "at risk" gamblers. The study said a gambler was at risk when wagering more than \$100 in a single bet, or betting beyond what was affordable.

A federal study found that the percentage of over-65 Americans who recently gambled jumped from 20 percent in 1974 to 50 percent in 1998, a surge unmatched by any other age group.

New Jersey's Council on Compulsive Gambling has created a program to educate seniors about gambling addiction. According to the council, about 5 percent of the seniors who gamble appear to have a problem. The Council should know about this subject; Atlantic City is in

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Gambling Addiction

New Jersey.

A study by the state of Florida found that retirees make up 34 percent of casino regulars—gamblers who brought their money four or more times a year. The casinos help out by sending buses to senior centers to pick up potential bettors.

The American Psychiatric Association classifies compulsive gambling as an impulse-control disorder. Imbalances in the brain chemicals serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine may be factors in compulsive gambling. Many people are able to control their compulsive gambling with medications and psychotherapy, and with the aid of self-help groups.

Gamblers Anonymous provides a 12-step program patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous. GA has more than 1,200 U.S. locations and 20 international chapters. You can find GA on the internet at: [www.gamblers-anonymous.org](http://www.gamblers-anonymous.org). The phone number for GA is (626) 960-3500.

GA offers the following 20 questions to help people decide if they have a compulsion to gamble and want to stop. Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions.

1. Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
2. Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
3. Did gambling affect your reputation?
4. Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
5. Did you ever gamble to get money with which to pay debts or oth-

- erwise solve financial difficulties?
6. Did gambling cause a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
7. After losing did you feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
8. After a win did you have a strong urge to return and win more?
9. Did you often gamble until your last dollar was gone?
10. Did you ever borrow to finance your gambling?
11. Have you ever sold anything to finance gambling?
12. Were you reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?
13. Did gambling make you careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?
14. Did you ever gamble longer than you had planned?
15. Have you ever gambled to escape worry or trouble?
16. Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
17. Did gambling cause you to have difficulty in sleeping?
18. Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
19. Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
20. Have you ever considered self-destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

*If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeez.com](mailto:fred@healthygeez.com).*

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Sharon Cottrell  
Property Manager



## LOOKING BACK

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 23, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### Owner Promises Quick Fix for Collapsed Egress

After years of concern about its structural integrity, the two-story brick wall in the rear of 62 Avenue A came crashing down Sunday night, June 19, leaving tenants to scramble for shelter in the middle of the night.

No one was injured, but the attached fire escape collapsed with a thunderous roar, leaving the residents with no secondary means of egress. On Wednesday, while first-floor tenants were allowed to return, residents of the second and third floors awaited promised repairs that could take some time to complete.

The wall itself, which was part of an addition to the main building added on shortly after its original construction, served to provide storage space, and was not essential to the structure's integrity.

#### Gill Store will Reopen to a Green Future

Town residents Alden Booth and Lissa Greenough have purchased the 202-year-old Gill Store and plan to maintain its historical integrity while continuing to build commu-

nity the way Susie Maddern did for the last 28 years.

Booth and Greenough, who own The People's Pint in Greenfield and run a market garden from their Main Road home, bought the Gill Store building from Maddern on Friday, June 17.

Vicki Van Zee of Main Road in Gill is the main owner and manager of the Gill Store business venture. The three are working as a team to complete the interior renovations and necessary maintenance on the building, which includes updating the electrical wiring, replacing a walk-in cooler, increasing the retail store space and putting a fresh coat of paint on the walls, said Greenough.

They hope to reopen the store by late summer.

#### Erving Welcome Sign Complete

Artist Bryant Stewart stopped by to inform the board the new Welcome to Erving "mural" has been installed on the east side of the French King Bridge. Several board members complimented him for his work, and board member Andy Tessier added "Pete is happy," referring to Pete Cavanaugh, an advocate for replacing the old, worn mural painted by Stewart.

"You gotta' look at it close," Stewart said.

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Break-Ins on Fourth, Unity, Central, Prospect; Medieval Revelers Throw Soup At Car; Caller Advised To Scare Raccoon Back Into Woods

#### Monday, 6/15

6:43 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering at Shanahan's Construction Supply on Avenue A. Investigated.

7:30 a.m. Report of milk crate in the roadway on Turners Falls Road. Gone on arrival.

9:15 a.m. Party into station to speak with officer about ongoing harassment of farm vehicle drivers by passing motorists. Officer will attempt to speak with offender(s).

4:20 p.m. Pool liner reported stolen from garage on Millers Falls Road. Investigated.

4:39 p.m. Caller stated that the money she had in her purse when shopping (\$16) has been "lifted"; that she confronted a male party who confessed to taking it; and that this could be "put in the paper or whatever it is [we] do." Caller then hung up.

5:41 p.m. Motorcycle accident on Third Street hill near Unity Park. Driver transported to hospital.

10:10 p.m. Request for K9 unit to assist with armed robbery investigation at the Hadley Dunkin' Donuts. Services rendered.

#### Tuesday, 6/16

8:08 a.m. Inquiry about options to make intersection at Chestnut and Unity Streets safer; bushes and trees on private property limit visibility. Caller referred to DPW; officer advised.

12:32 p.m. Caller requests to speak with an officer regarding a heated verbal altercation that took place between two parents today at Sheffield Elementary School. Officer will attempt to follow up with involved parties; uniformed officer will be posted at school tomorrow at pickup time in case there is another issue.

12:33 p.m. Two calls regarding a suspicious 19 year old male interacting with underage females on Facebook. Advised of options.

4:43 p.m. Report of suspicious male "rummaging" through some bushes at Turnpike Road and Walnut Street. Referred to an officer.

9:23 p.m. Caller advising of party on "personal scooter" traveling southbound on the wrong side of Unity Street; concerned about party's safety. Referred to an officer.

#### Wednesday, 6/17

3:31 p.m. Request from Westfield PD to check a Fourth Street address for a vehicle involved in an assault and battery with a deadly weapon and armed robbery in that town. Officers spoke with registered owner of vehicle, who advised that the vehicle was towed to a repair shop in Springfield on May 28 and had been there since; they denied knowing how or why the vehicle would be in Westfield. Westfield PD advised.

6 p.m. Caller requests to have on record that earlier a plane was flying very low over her house and occasionally making a stalling sound. Neighbor suggested that it might be a flying instructor giving a lesson. Advised of options.

7:07 p.m. Caller from Great Falls Middle School reports a possible party with 30-50 kids on Vladish Avenue after a school dance; concerned that no parents would be present based on overheard conversations. Officers checked and confirmed that there were several parents on scene.

8:27 p.m. Off-duty officer reports a possible fight under the railroad tracks in Millers Falls. Erving PD was on scene speaking to three people; they reported hearing some noises in the area and observed two vehicles take off toward Erving. Gone on arrival.

10:02 p.m. Several calls reporting a disturbance near Element Brewing. As officers were responding, involved party left in an unknown vehicle with Vermont plates. Erving PD located the vehicle on Route 63. Officer advises that this was a simple assault; parties remaining on scene not very cooperative; no desire to press charges. Info conveyed to Mass State Police.

11:42 p.m. Report of vehicle idling in front of Greenfield Co-op Bank on Avenue A. Caller observed 2 suspicious females in the same general area; one was heard screaming something to the effect that the cops were looking for her and that if anyone asked, they hadn't seen her. Female then took off running into the woods behind 15 Fifth Street. Another female was seen running across Avenue A yelling that she could not find her sister. Officer spoke with vehicle operator, who advised that he was waiting for his girlfriend who is on Fifth Street to come back but stated

he did not know exactly where she was or what she was doing. Operator was advised of the recent activity in the area and moved along. Units will remain on lookout.

#### Thursday, 6/18

1:13 a.m. Officer off with a suspicious vehicle at G Street and Migratory Way; second unit requested. Occupants were looking to spend some time alone. No further action necessary.

1:30 p.m. Greenfield PD took a call from a motorist from the Gill side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge advising that they observed two males and a female climbing over the side of the bridge. Patrol units advised and checking area. Call placed to Northfield Mountain to check their cameras. Gill PD checking on the Gill side. Area search negative.

6:20 p.m. Caller reports that the front door to the Carnegie Library is open, no lights on inside and no one around. Officer checked building with a keyholder, who will secure the doors.

6:31 p.m. Report of two younger males setting off fireworks and flares near the post office on Avenue A. Area search negative.

11:49 p.m. Officer out at Town Hall, where the front door is unsecured. No lights on; no vehicles in area. Building search complete; door re-secured.

#### Friday, 6/19

12:32 a.m. Report of loud argument on G Street. Caller reports hearing some type of explosion. Responding officers advise that female half of argument was brought to her parents' house and will be there for the night. Her screaming was the cause of the calls. Officer further advises that the "explosion" heard was one of the involved parties hitting a street sign.

2:28 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street advises that someone just tried to break into his home by breaking the screen and attempting the window near the front door. Caller saw figure running away up Fourth Street. Responding officer reports that screen was clearly manipulated; hole was broken into it to reach window. Incident number requested.

3:13 a.m. Caller from Unity Street reports that there was a male in her kitchen who left out the back door off the porch. Responding officers report that kitchen door may have accidentally

been left unsecured and the male may have walked into the house mistakenly. Investigated.

7:22 a.m. Caller from Central Street reports a breaking and entering into their residence overnight. Entry was made through a side window on the first floor. Report taken.

10:11 a.m. Caller from Prospect Street reports a breaking and entering into their home overnight. Taken was an Xbox 1 that was purchased yesterday by her son. Entry believed to have been through an unsecured door. Report taken.

#### Saturday, 6/20

10:43 a.m. Caller advises that a Greenfield Road resident is giving the paving crew a hard time. Officer advises that there may be some damage to the pavement they just put down from an involved party. Investigated.

12:14 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street advises that her neighbor threatened to assault her children after the children were fighting with sticks; just wants it logged for now.

12:50 p.m. Caller reports that he was gone from his apartment on Avenue A for 15-20 minutes and when he returned his laptop was missing. No sign of forced entry. Responding officer advises that caller isn't sure if it was stolen or if his friend took it.

5:52 p.m. Officer requested by party at the Mutton and Mead Festival who is irate because someone threw something at his vehicle resulting in damage. Responding officer assisted caller with cleaning what was thrown into his vehicle; appears to be some type of soup on his car seats.

#### Sunday, 6/21

3:10 p.m. Message left in general mailbox advising of a snapping turtle by the side of Montague City Road near the car wash. Caller just advising.

7:20 p.m. Message left in general mailbox advising of a brown/white pit bull loose on Central Street. Caller states that the dog "lunged" at her when she was outside. Officer advised; copy of call left for ACO.

8:09 p.m. Caller reporting a "rabid raccoon" on the corner of her sun deck. When asked why she thought it was rabid, caller stated that she knows it shouldn't be out during the daylight. Caller advised to try to scare raccoon back into woods. Referred to an officer.

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### "Proof" of Afterlife?

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

There is a new supernatural drama called *Proof* on TV. It premiered last week on TNT.

In the show, a heart surgeon played by Jennifer Beals is asked by a multi-billionaire who is going to die of cancer to find out what happens after we die. This woman, who was probably not good with people to begin with, is currently dealing with the loss of a teenage son, and has had a near-death experience of her own. Recent events have made her people skills worse.

She is not a believer of afterlife. The multi-billionaire just wants her to find out answers about the afterlife: Is there one, or not?

I like supernatural-type things like the afterlife, ghosts and reincarnation. I also consider myself to be a spiritual person. So this show is pretty much my kind of favorite TV show.

A TV segment about *Proof* mentions that when it comes to the belief in the afterlife, the show doesn't go into saying whether it is real or not, letting the people watching decide for themselves. When I saw the first episode I found that to be the true about the show.

The heart surgeon's first look into the question for the multi-billionaire is through a case about a little girl. The case offers her tidbits that could be proof of there being afterlife or not. The little girl

mysteriously mentions that she will not talk about her near-death experience any more with the surgeon - implying that someone has told her not to.

There is also a brief glimpse of someone from the doctor's own near-death experience appearing at the end of the episode. This show seems to imply her character has her own personal mystery going on.

There are basically two points of interest that should make people want to watch *Proof*. One is the lead character's personal mystery:

Did this woman indeed have her own near-death experience? She seems close to seeing her son again, and this seems to be coming up as a connection to what she is investigating.

The other is whether an afterlife is real. I believe that question will draw a huge viewership to the show - who wouldn't want an answer to that? The possibility of that being real could be of a great comfort to some people.

Here we have a show that does an investigation of that topic for us to see, with viewers getting to form their own opinions on the subject.



A full page of the printed dispatch log was not provided to the press. There was a shooting on Fifth Street late Tuesday night, during the gap.

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**MEAD from page B1**

shield. There was a story line to follow – one of the knights, the apparent villain, got a loud round of boos from the crowd – but we couldn't quite follow the thread because we came late.

The jousting transitioned to an intricate swordfight on the backs of a couple of amazingly well-trained horses, who behaved like they see that kind of action every day.

We then wandered around to the shire lanes to check out the merchants and craftspeople. There was a broad range of medieval-related goods to be had at the various booths, including tarot decks, fairie masks, wooden swords, exotic teas and every possible form of leather clothing.

Among the different artisans demonstrating their craft to the public were blacksmiths, potters, weavers and woodworkers.

There was an archery range that was lined up with eager teenage boys waiting to hit the wild boar target and an area where youngsters could get fitted for armor, chainmail and helmets – a perfect photo op for next year's family Christmas card.

Strolling around the shire was a wide cast of characters, interacting with the visitors and setting the period mood for the festival.

Sometimes, because many attendees were decked out in time-appropriate garb, it was difficult to tell who was actually performing in character, and who was just caped and cosplayed for fun.

While we were watching belly dancing for a short while, a young guy entirely covered in soot asked me "How doth thou fare today?" and shook my hand, covering it in chalky black residue for much of the day. I later found out that he ran the knife-throwing booth, which made some sense, but I couldn't quite figure out where all that coal dust would've come from.

We ended our visit to the medieval era with pad thai from Hat-tapon's booth while watching the travelling Cirque de Sewer, which is something like a circus act for rats, one cat and a charismatic ringleader who rounded out her act with vaudeville comedy and acrobatic tightrope walking.

The rats seemed to be a bit drowsy from the heat, and the cat kept wanting to opt out of the performance by running offstage – not even the bribe of a smoked turkey leg seemed to convince him – but the ringleader handled it all with a lot of charm. Once she did manage to rouse the rats from their laziness and perform some tricks, I was fully impressed.

I have a hard time getting my dog to not chase squirrels and bark at every passing bicycle, so the idea of training a rodent to run a complex multi-leveled obstacle course and then press a tiny latch that unfurls a small "APPLAUSE" banner at the end was a bit mind-boggling to me.

We never settled our long-standing dispute about what makes a Ren Faire, but we agreed that Mutton and Mead had a nice community feeling to it, with local performers wandering among the crowds and many area businesses selling their wares.

It was either like a more homespun version of the festival that my partner is more familiar with, or a less intensely groovy version of the festival that I grew up with.

Was it set in a forested environment? Check. Were there vendors selling tinctures and ceramics? Check. Juggling? Check. Fund-raising for a range of local causes, including the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and the Dakin Humane Society? Check.

One thing that was brand new to both of us, though, was seeing a person costumed as a giant blue orc getting a group photo taken with a selfie stick. The times have changed.

**HEPNER from page B1**

"I'm getting them to last four to five years, but it depends on how they are placed," said Hepner.

Hepner said most of his art has been public art that can be seen on a drive to Smith College or a bike ride through Leverett. For Hepner, the arrows are a symbol of how people live their lives on a day to day basis.

"I was looking at arrows in the world and online, and arrows were an important symbol for businesses and roads. Even in the digital age the arrow is a useful and important symbol," said Hepner.

Hepner tries to keep the cost of the art reasonable, charging only for the cost of materials and his time as a carpenter. That equals about \$200 to \$300 a piece, which Hepner said is reasonable for art work.

"I'm hoping that is reasonable for most people," said Hepner.

Hepner likes that his art is visible and not in a gallery. While he used to show his art in galleries early in his career, the public nature of his art adds a sense of pride to Hepner's work.

"It's not like people have to drive to Smith Art Museum or Mass Moca; the art is right there in your daily life," said Hepner.

Hepner is also a bit of an entertainer, and is known for his colorful and exciting truck that he brings to local events. The old Chevrolet truck serves as a portable carnival of sorts, with handmade costumes, a disco ball, and music and dancing for kids. One of the more unusual offerings is a large rat costume Hepner made, which can fit up to two people. Hepner also took some old stuffed animals from his own home to make a fort for kids to play in. The fort is covered by the stuffed animals, which is unusual but, Hepner said, the kids love it.

"Kids really like to play with the games and costumes, but adults really like to tink around too," said Hepner.

Hepner has had a few grown up children play with his rat costume and his fort made out of stuffed animals. He remembers a few teenagers who got a hold of the fort, who were found relaxing with the fort while

they were enjoying some live music.

"I thought it was pretty cool," said Hepner.

For more information about Hepner's art, visit: [www.valleyartshare.com/profile/BobHepner](http://www.valleyartshare.com/profile/BobHepner).



Hepner recently started making arrows, which are a practical, public artistic statement people use to mark hard to find driveways, gardens, and businesses. He makes the arrows out of styrofoam and wood, and said he is working to extend the life of the art to four to five years. This particular arrow is no longer standing at the bottom of Hepner's driveway, because he learned the hard way the damage a snow plow can do to the artwork. The placement of the arrows is important for their survival, he said.

**GARDENER from page B1**

immigrants to Montague Canal and giving this envisioned community its current name of the City.

While these visions faded over time and the village remained a hamlet, it was much more than the residential neighborhood it is today. Like other villages in the town, Montague City had its own school, church, hospital (the Farren), and Burnham's general store, which also housed the post office at the corners of Depot Street and the main road.

In November of 1802, a wooden covered bridge was opened where the General Pierce Bridge now stands, spanning the Connecticut and connecting the towns of Montague and Greenfield. The opposite corner of Depot Street held the office and depot of the town's trolley company.

Manufacturing abounded. The Montague Rod Company was established in 1885 by Leander Barrett, Bernard Farren and Charles Hazelton. In its heyday, the rod company employed in excess of 200 workers making the now famous bamboo fishing rods.

Chatting with fellow villager, octogenarian Gordon Fairbrother, I learn that both he and his father worked for the Rod Company whose business warranted a local post office.

Gordon worked at the Rod shop for eight years until it closed in 1955, remaining a smaller operation in downtown Turners Falls before it moved out of town as Thomas and Thomas.

The village also boasted two brickyards and the Goss family woodworking mill (1855) reputed to have sawed and planed a million feet of lumber, made 500 piano cases, and handled over a thousand cord of wood annually. There were at least three working farms, one behind the current medical offices and two on High Street.

The Proprietors of Locks and Canals built a system which facilitated navigation of the Connecticut from Hartford to Brattleboro by 1800. However, by 1830, steamboats and steam engines were giving this older method of transportation major com-

petition. Declining profits and competition from the railroad forced the Proprietors to sell their holdings to Alvah Crocker's newly established Turners Falls Company, thus effectively moving the industrial hub downtown.

Gone was the vision of a neo-European city, and today the village remains primarily residential although via the old timers it retains a strong sense of pride and of self.

It survived the 1936 flood although neither the wooden bridge across the river nor Gordon's family homestead did.

Gordon's son Lawrence has a photograph which shows the level of the river coming up into our yard which is many, many feet above. The canal beds can still be seen off the bike path.

Memories are another kind of heirloom. Gather some of your own, and those of neighbors, then pass them along to the next generation. Save some heirloom seed from your garden to share with someone else. Above all, enjoy this beautiful summer season!

## Montague Common Hall Launches Sustaining Membership Drive

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – The Common Hall is an amazing building with a rich history as a gathering place.

For it to survive and thrive as a community center, it needs a serious and on-going influx of cash.

Because Common Hall volunteers are committed to keeping the rent affordable, annual rental income is not anywhere close to what is needed to maintain the building, let alone pay for repairs and renovation.

Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member of the Montague Common Hall.

Benefits of becoming a sustaining member include: receiving regular news and upcoming



events; a 20% discount every time you rent the hall; a feeling of tangible investment in your larger community.

And to help us launch our Sustaining Membership drive, for the months of June and July 2015, the Alvah Stone Restaurant has kindly offered to sweeten the pot with 6 monthly matching amount gift cer-

tificates for sustaining memberships between \$10-\$30.

What that means is that if you sign up via PayPal in June or July to be a Sustaining Member for say, \$20 per month, every month for the first 6 months, you will receive a Gift Certificate to the Alvah Stone for \$20, good Monday-Thursday, for that month only.

For a \$10/month membership, you get 6 monthly \$10 gift certificates, for \$30/month you get 6 monthly \$30 gift certificates. You get the picture.

Holy Cow, right?! Do it!! Support the Common Hall, and eat awesome food!

Visit [montaguecommonhall.org](http://montaguecommonhall.org) for more information.

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KELLY LOYND PHOTO

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Awesome job as usual!

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6 K Street, Turners Falls  
863-0187 • Yea, Champs!

### SENIORS



Nicole John slides into home as the Turners Falls Indians defeat the Athol Red Raiders 13-3 in Athol.



Mackenzie Salls had three hits against Pioneer Regional, including this double, as the Indians defeated the Pioneer Panthers 14-2 on Senior Night.



Amber Caouette watches a 2-run homer fly over the outfield fence during her 5-for-5 showing against the Mabarr Senators in Orange.

### COACH



Head Coach Gary Mullins smiles upon learning he just won his 600th game, setting a new state record.

DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

**About-Face Computer Solutions, Inc.**  
151 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
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## Montague Recognized as 2015 Playful City USA Community

241 communities exhibiting Playability to be recognized as part of 2015 Playful City USA Program



Montague is being honored with a 2015 Playful City USA designation for the second time. In partnership with the Humana Foundation, KaBOOM! is honoring cities, towns and counties across the country for making their communities more playable.

This past spring the Montague Parks & Recreation Department (MPRD) installed the Sway Fun Glider down at Unity Park with the help from numerous volunteers and community members. MPRD will also be spearheading the construction of a concrete skate park at Unity this summer, with hopes of opening the facility in the fall of 2015. The Parks & Recreation Department has also applied for funding in hopes of developing a Master Plan for Norma's Parks & Rutter's Park in Lake Pleasant.

Hopscotch sidewalks, structured recess programs, mandated neighborhood play spaces, city-wide play days and mobile recreation vehicles are all ways in which these communities are appealing to residents, and attracting and retaining residents.

"Playability is crucial to the success of our future communities, and we are proud of the work these cities and leaders are doing to provide a better quality of life for all residents, and especially families," says KaBOOM! President, James Siegal. "Play provides a competitive advantage for cities looking to attract and retain residents. With these esteemed leaders, and our friends and partners across the country, we continue to prioritize play for all kids."

To learn more about these cities, see the full list of the 241 communities named 2015 Playful City USA honorees, or to gather more information on the Playful City USA program, visit [www.playfulcityusa.org](http://www.playfulcityusa.org). We also encourage you to take part in the conversation on #playability with these thought leaders on Twitter and Facebook.

## Gill: Community Children's Book Sale

**GILL** – Together we can have a community booksale! Here is how it works:

We have a small number of children's books that we have weeded from our collection. Please clean out your own shelves at home and bring a blanket and any unwanted

children's books and set up on our library lawn.

Saturday, June 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the Slate Memorial Library, Gill.

Also – sign up for our Summer Reading Game and pick-up a flyer of family events hosted by Slate Library this summer!

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Fireworks Stopped Prior to Arrival

**Monday, 6/8**

5:30 p.m. Report of suspicious male subject at Swamp Road residence. Gone on arrival.

**Friday, 6/12**

10:15 a.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Lillians Way

2:50 p.m. Issued a criminal application to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with no insurance

9:18 p.m. Assisted Erving FD with fire on River Road.

**Saturday, 6/13**

9 p.m. Report of fireworks in area of Central Street. Stopped prior to arrival.

**Monday, 6/15**

11:50 a.m. Investigation of breaking and entering on Ridge Road, report taken.

**Tuesday, 6/16**

10 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with shoot-

ing at Fifth Street.

**Thursday, 6/18**

6:20 p.m. Suspicious activity at Forest Street residence. Found to be a resident retrieving items from their home.

**Sunday, 6/21**

8:40 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on High Street

9:05 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on State Road.

## OYSTERGIRL'S GUIDE TO REAL LIVING

By VANESSA QUERY

Hello, my friends. I'd like to resume telling you about my approach to hygiene. If you've tried out any of my suggestions so far, maybe you've stopped using soap and/or showering all the time, and maybe you've even tried a sponge bath!

For this post, I'd like to focus on hair care.

Our hair is a combination of nature and nurture: certain qualities of our hair are innate and out of our control, but others – increasingly, with modern technology and stylists – are highly customizable.

Hair can be a tough topic to broach, because our hair is such a part of our visible identity. Being a redhead and having a redheaded son, I am keenly aware of this. My hair has alternately been a blessing and a bane, especially as I transitioned to a more natural lifestyle and approach to personal care.

People notice and comment on our hair all the time. I got lucky, because during most of my transition to natural hygiene, I was surrounded by likeminded people; this is, in fact, what inspired and allowed this transition. So, comments about my hair were not based on some societal expectation of what a young woman's head of hair ought to look like.

Anyway. Here's what I did. Stop using shampoo.

Many years ago, I worked in a coffeeshop where the owner had the greatest hair. It was thick and kind of all over the place. A co-worker asked him what product he used. He laughed. "I don't even use shampoo."

We decided that his hair had so much character *BECAUSE* he didn't use shampoo: He let his natural oils give texture to his hair, rather than stripping his hair by using shampoo, which can cause it to lie slack and dull.

Inspired, I stopped using shampoo, just to see what would happen. I still showered and massaged my scalp with water, going through the same motions as when I used shampoo.

The transition period was rough: My hair got oily and sticky.

I washed it with shampoo after a couple of weeks. It felt weird – o smooth and slippery. I couldn't keep my hands off it.

Then I didn't wash it again, and it was fine. It lost that smooth and slippery feel, and found a nice balance between my hair feeling strangely artificial and being oily and gross.

My hair was very short at the time, a grown-out buzz cut. I am thankful for that; I may not have

made it otherwise.

My hair was just fine without shampoo. In fact, my hair was *BETTER* without shampoo. I never again had to deal with staticky hair, a constant wintertime problem. My hair developed character, like my boss's: I could kind of style it, because of its natural oils (which were no longer gross and sticky), rather than it just lying flat. I didn't miss the "smooth and slippery" feeling; in fact, I'd gotten kind of weirded out by it.

Now, my hair care method is: when I shower, I massage my scalp with water and towel-dry. I generally forget about it until the next time I shower (which, as you may recall, is not daily).

After my pregnancy, however, my hair got darker, thicker, and more oily, a not-uncommon change that can result from pregnancy, apparently. Between that and my occasional bouts of growing out my hair, sometimes I find I need a little something extra, not just water.

I discovered J.R. Liggett's Bar Shampoo from a blog post about "Victorian Shampoo Alternatives" (<http://ourheritageofhealth.com/victorian-shampoo-alternatives/>). It's made primarily from olive oil, coconut oil, and castor oil.

When my hair is longer, I may use it every few weeks; when it's short, every few months. I don't keep track; I just use it when I need to and when I think of it. A small amount does the trick – and my hair is once again right as rain.

Something else that helps is brushing with a natural fiber brush. I learned about the boar-bristle brush from the same blog-

ger I discovered the shampoo bar from (Lori, on ourheritageofhealth.com). According to her:

*"Using an old-fashioned boar-bristle brush rather than a synthetic bristle hair brush helps to distribute the scalp's natural oils more evenly throughout the strand. When you brush your hair with a boar-bristle brush, you're allowing your scalp's moisturizing oils to coat the whole strand rather than just staying concentrated at the top of your scalp."*

*"This is great news for anyone who is... transitioning from regular shampoo to a more natural method of hair washing. Since brushing distributes the oil more evenly throughout the hair, it brings some of the oil from your scalp (where you already have enough oil, especially if your hair is in a greasy transition stage between detergent shampoo and natural hair washes) and brings the oil to the ends of your hair (which are usually drier and can actually use the oil.)"*

The idea of hair length kind of leads me to my next practice/suggestion.

Buzz your hair.

I started buzzing my hair in college. Turns out it was a good look for me. The best part? The easiest hair maintenance *EVER*.

As I mentioned, when I stopped using shampoo, my hair was grown out from a buzz cut. My hair tends to be oily, and the transition was difficult enough. It would have been a lot worse had my hair been longer.

Thanks to short-short hair, the

difficulty of transitioning from using shampoo frequently to not using it at all only lasted a couple of weeks.

When you have long hair, or short hair that requires styling, time and/or money is spent:

- on haircuts
- on shampoo and conditioner and other products
- on shampooing and conditioning
- on brushing and styling
- on maintenance throughout the day

When you buzz your hair, all that is required is:

- a decent set of clippers, or a barber (think stripey pole) you can pay like \$10 to buzz your hair for you
- maybe a half an hour every few months (YMMV – Your Method May Vary) for a buzz cut

Possibly the most important obstacle to this is learning that you can be socially acceptable without a fancy haircut (this is a tad more salient for women). I'm lucky in that I have a nicely shaped head – or so I've been told. Having super-short hair suits me.

Next up, I'll address pheromones and body hair. Or maybe I'll share some more recipes. Drop me a line if you've got a preference!

*Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the paleo/ancestral movement.*

*She writes about food and philosophy and more at [theycallmeoystergirl.com](http://theycallmeoystergirl.com). She welcomes responses and questions at [oystergirl@montaguereporter.org](mailto:oystergirl@montaguereporter.org).*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**ONGOING:**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

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

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

**EVERY MONDAY**

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**

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

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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

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

**EVERY THURSDAY**

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

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

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

**EVERY FRIDAY**

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

**EXHIBITS:**

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

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *On My Mind, Teen Art Exhibit*. Organized by teens for teens. Through 7/9.

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

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: *Aliena Animal*. Strange Beasts, Sci-Fi Figments, Monsters and Bio-Hybrids. Artists Rob Kimmel, Bruce Kahn, Sophie Artgetsinger, Gary Smith, Darrin Martin, & Torsten Zenas Burns. Reception 6/18 evening. Runs through 7/20.

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Cool Cats*. Highlighting the work of Montague painter Christine Mero, the show also includes paintings by Donna Estabrook and N. S. Koenings, with sculpture, toys, and other items by Nina Rossi, Peggy Hart, Edite Cunha, Belinda Lyons Zucker and others. All cats, all the time. Through 7/18.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Hot Stuff*. Members summer show. Through 8/31.

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

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

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

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

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Sawmill River Arts, Montague

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Golden Age of Shelburne Falls Movie Theaters*. A live multi-media presentation of the heyday of the Memorial Theater, the Buckland Theater, and the Memorial Drive-In. Film historian Jonathan Boshen guides the "tour". 7:30 p.m. Music by Jim Egan at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Poetry Reading*. Bring your own poem to share - topic is the Connecticut River watershed's flora and fauna. 10:30 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Second Annual Wendell Wildcat Bluesfest*. Donations to benefit Friends of Wendell. Begins at 5 p.m. in pavillion.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Golden Age of Shelburne Falls Movie Theaters*. (see Friday's listing.) 7:30 p.m. Music by Whistlestop 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Samirah Evans and The Valley Jazz Divas*. An on-going series, this week featuring Jill Connolly, Carol Abbe Smith, and Barbara Weene. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Brendan Gallagher*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*. Guitar. 8 p.m.

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 29**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic Cabaret*. 8pm

**TUESDAY, JUNE 30**

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week's topic is eagles! See On-going events this page for details. 10:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 2**

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield: *Jenny McAvoy, Kathy Sylvester, Boyz of the Landfill with Mike Pattavina*. At the Greenfield Energy Park. 6 p.m.



*Wildcat O'Halloran presents the second annual Wendell Wildcat Bluesfest at the Deja Brew Pub Pavilion June 27, 5pm-midnight to benefit the Friends of Wendell. Rain or shine. Featuring a Who's Who of Western Mass Blues Legends including Wendell's own Dangerboy, all backed by the stellar Wildcat O'Halloran Band. Friends of Wendell provides short-term financial support to neighbors in need.*

Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see [www.sawmillriverarts.com](http://www.sawmillriverarts.com).

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

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

**EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25**

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

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*. Classic Rock Dance Music. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 3**

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

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**CARNEGIE** from page B1

the map (this information found in Free Public Library Commission reports of 1909 to 1928 and notices in the town newspaper).

A display case devoted to "Hither and Yon" holds miscellaneous items, such as a **top hat**, a **Mexican "love belt,"** **wooden ice skates**, a **cow bell from Nova Scotia**, etc. A mounted **bear's head** lies behind this case.

There are many cases full of **minerals and geological specimens**; memorabilia pertaining to Turners Falls such as **leather souvenir postcards**, **old phone directory**, **photos and maps**, and a box of items explaining the **silk industry** (there was a short-lived McLane Silk Company here from 1914-18).

**Weights and Measures**

Library director Linda Hickman swung open the double doors on a huge wooden cabinet while I was there, the day that visitors from the Pequot Museum were examining the Native American artifacts in the loft. It was a moment halfway between an "ooh-aah" and a "what the..." as we realized what the contents were: the cabinet contained an official balance scale with a set of standard weights and measures. A plaque on the base of the scale read "Made for the Town of Montague by Howard & Davis, Boston Mass."

The Howard & Davis company was in business from 1848 to 1857. It won the contract to create 330 official weights and measures standards sets to be distributed to every town and city in Massachusetts. In 1848 state law mandated a set of standard weights and measures to be supplied to every town.

The sets were made to comply with standards issued to each state and each custom house after the 1836 Federal Standards Act. Every scale and measuring device used commercially in each town were to be inspected and adjusted periodically against these new federal weights and measures by a town-appointed Weigher and Sealer.

There are one- and two-dram and ounce



Birds' eggs on cotton.



Montague's collection of standard weights and measures, dating to the 1850s.

weights, all the way up to 25- and 50-pounders stored beside the scale. I was tempted to pick up one of the gleaming silver weights, to heft it and admire the thick nickel plating, which imparts such a warm, yellow gleam compared to the cold blue of chrome.

A lever in front of the case locks and unlocks the equal arm balance beam of the scale. The arms of the scale support two large circular plates. In the back of the cabinet is a brass matrix used to verify the length of yard sticks. In the lower cabinet are cast iron dry measures, one quart to 1/2 bushel, and cast iron liquid measures from 1 gill (one quarter pint) to 1 gallon.

The nursery rhyme about Jack and Jill actually refers to the English measures of "jack" and "jill," used to dole out booze. The rhyme was created after King Charles I reduced the size of these measures in order to collect more taxes. "Jill" later become "gill," and "jack" must have died of his injuries.

A few other towns in Massachusetts (Borborough, Sturbridge, Longmeadow, Upton and Harvard) still have their Howard & Davis weights and measures cabinets with almost complete contents, according to Howard Cheifitz, who manages a website ([measureman.com](http://measureman.com)) devoted to antique weights and measures.

I sent Cheifitz pictures to see if he thought the Montague set was complete with all original components, which would be very rare. But, judging by the handle style and marking differences on the weights, and the fact that several of them don't fit in their holders, he determined that some are replacement pieces.

A few tankards and a wooden bushel measure in the bottom compartment are add-ons

from the early 1900s.

Tags in the cabinet showed various dates of state inspections with the last one in 1944. Records at the Montague Town Hall verify that an official Weigher and Sealer was appointed by the selectboard each year until 2002.

I was unable to find anyone who remembered the old cabinet being moved from town hall to the library, but there is a big five-gallon measure in the Town Clerk's office that resembles the tankards in the cabinet.

I spoke with Weights and Measures director Charles Carroll, who has been at the Boston bureau for 56 years. He is the official you may (eventually) reach by calling the number on the gas pump inspection sticker. He thought that the old cabinet was probably put out of use in the 1970s, when electronic scales became the new standard of measurement.

The Consumer and Merchant Protection Act of 1998 gave towns the authority to contract with the state for inspection services, rather than appointing their own inspector.

Today, Carroll said, there are twelve state inspectors, servicing 67 contracted towns. After the town collects the fees paid by the merchants who have been inspected, they usually more than recoup the contract fee paid to the state.

The Montague Annual Town Reports show payments every year since 2003 of \$2,750 to Weights and Measures. Revenue from Weights and Measures varies from year to year, but appears to more than cover the contract fee. One year it was as high as \$5,700

I spoke with Montague's last appointed Weigher and Sealer, Frank J. Dudek, who served in that capacity from 2000 to 2002. He

remembers using some weights and measuring devices that were stored in one of the old police department garages downtown. He has never seen the old standards cabinet in the library.

Dudek recalls having to test the gas pumps every 6 months by filling an official five-gallon container with gas (maybe that 5-gallon tankard in the clerk's office?) He said it was common to get complaints from elderly car owners, concerned that their gas tank wasn't big enough to hold the amount of gas they had just pumped into it and they were getting cheated.

The library would like to share their Artifacts Loft with the public more often, but without additional help that would be hard to do.

Director Hickman would like to engage some interns or volunteers who could make better signage for the displays and possibly staff the loft for regular periods of time so more people could visit up there. For now, it might be good idea to call before heading over to visit the loft, in case they are too busy to show it, or have programs scheduled in the space.

Enjoy these charmingly informal and curious artifact displays in the Gill, Northfield, Erving and Montague libraries before they disappear. In the event of an expansion or renovation to Massachusetts library buildings, the state will not fund the construction of rooms to house these collections.

In that event, some relics could hopefully find new homes in the specialized collections at other local museums and institutions. Surely some could also be displayed in creative ways on the walls of a new or renovated building.



A pelican.

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