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e Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 - NO. 32

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

MAY 28, 2015

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

Seattle Builders **Submit Unity** Skatepark Bid

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS - On Wednesday afternoon, the town of Montague opened the sole bid that it had received for the Unity Skatepark project. Town officials and skatepark advocates braced for disappointment - and were astonished to learn the bid was from a top-tier national skatepark construction company, and came in well within budget.

"We just have to go through the process of checking references, and do further due diligence on the company," said parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz. "If everything checks out, we will most likely award the project to Grindline Skateparks of Seattle."

Highly regarded, Grindline was rated the nation's #1 skatepark builder in 2012 by Broken Magazine, tied with the Oregon-based Dreamland.

"I had not dared to hope that someone that good would even bid on it," said longtime skatepark committee member Bryan Dolan. "I've ridden their parks in the Pacific Northwest, and they're amazing.

"In my estimation, they're in the top three in the country - easily. It's all about the little details, and they

see SKATEPARK page A3

New England Peace Pagoda Seeks To Inspire Change

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT

Clare Carter, a beautiful and humble nun who lives as part of Nipponzan-Myōhōji Buddhist Order at the New England Peace Pagoda, speaks about the founder of the order and the pagoda, Nichidatsu Fujii, with more than a hint of admiration.

Ordained as a monk at just 19 years of age, Fujii

once walked with Mahatma Ghandi and dedicated his life to inspiring peace and ending war. The pagoda stands today as a product of his passion for peace and to inspire others to lead more spiritual lives.

Fujii was born in 1885 and lived through both world wars, exposing him to great suffering and loss.

"He felt, after WWII, to build peace pagodas anywhere in the world would be a gift to world civilizations and would inspire the people," explained Carter.

Internationally, there many pagodas dispersed among



Clare Carter plays a drum in the temple that sits next to the New England Peace Pagoda.

countries with larger Buddhist populations, like India and Japan, but the peace pagoda that now stands in Leverett was the first of its kind built in the United States.

Like other pagodas, the New England Pagoda contains a relic of the Buddha, a sacred piece of bone or ash left after the Buddha was cremated.

Recently, two more pagodas have been built in the United States as part of the same order. A similar pagoda has just been completed ∃ in Albany, New York and another

see PAGODA page A5

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Caught Off Guard By RR Crossing Price Tag

By KATIE NOLAN

Safety defects found by the Federal Railroad Administration at the Pan Am Railways crossing on the road leading to one of Erving's two wastewater treatment plants could result in repairs costing the town \$311,000.

In April, the Federal Railroad Administration cited Pan Am for two safety defects at the rail crossing on the road leading to Erving's Publicly Owned Treatment of Wastewater (POTW) #2 plant. The town owns

this private road, identified as 45 East Main Street. According to a 1974 contract with the Boston and Maine Railroad, Pan

Am's predecessor, Erving is responsible for the cost of maintaining the crossing. Recently, Erving has been paying \$2,300 annually for maintenance of the crossing.

The FRA-cited defects for the two tracks crossing the road are "excessive grade crossing warning time." The current warning signals, installed in 1974, turn on and stay on longer than allowed under federal regulations.

According to Pan Am chief engineer Timothy Kunzler, the FRA considers this a safety hazard because impatient drivers could try to cross

see ERVING page A3



Pan Am says the town must pay to remake the crossing.

Protesters Bring "Black Lives Matter" Message to Greenfield

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD - Patrons at last week's Greenfield Farmers' Market chatted with vendors as they purchased produce, perennials, craft goods and freshly baked bread. The Saturday morning air was cool, and two stands selling coffee and breakfast sandwiches seemed to be doing the briskest business.

Rodney Madison of Turners Falls, sporting a kufi hat and black plastic poncho, worked his way from booth to booth, introducing himself to vendors and notifying them that a Black Lives Matter march would soon be coming through.

"We're not protesting the Farmers' Market," he emphasized. "We know that a lot of you are in solidarity with what we're doing

A little after 10 a.m., about thirty blackclad activists proceeded up Bank Row to the town common. As a bluegrass band played songs on the common to pep up marketgoers, the solemn marchers spread out to the corners of Federal and Main streets, trading corners each time the lights permitted.

They carried banners painted with messages ranging from "Black Lives Matter" and "I Stand With Baltimore" to "White Silence = Violence" and "The Whole Damn System is Guilty as Hell."

The majority of the marchers, not being black, by agreement referred journalists to

see PROTEST page A5



The marchers did not block traffic, but they did bring a four-minute pause to the Greenfield Farmers' Market last Saturday morning.

Turners Softball Beats The Best

By MATT ROBINSON

On May 19, the Springfield media reported with glee that the Turners Falls Softball Indians faced "four straight games against Top-20 competition" - Southwick, Athol, Monson and Mount Everett - which will "bring up the toughest part of the Indians schedule before the Division III tournament."

You see, as the seat of western Mass., Springfield is invested in our region's teams going as far as they can in the state tournaments. When the best plays the best, skills improve, and so do the chances of post-season success.

And by the way, the Tribe from Turners Falls Powered-over all four teams.

Turners Falls 13 – Southwick 3

Conventional wisdom tagged this game as pitchers' duel of monumental proportion: the 15-and-1 Southwick Rams going up against the 14-and-1 Indians. But Powertown scored 4 runs in the top of the first inning, and doubled their score in the second with 4 more.

The Rams were in an uphill battle, but Turners pitcher Mackenzie Phillips gave no quarter. She kept Southwick off the scoreboard until the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Tribe hit double-digits in the fourth inning, when two more runs crossed the plate. The Rams' runs in the seventh came off a single, a triple and a homerun.

Mackenzie P. pitched a complete 7-inning game, giving up 3 runs, allowing 6 hits and letting up one base on balls. But her pitching proved fatal to the Rams as she burned 15 strikeouts, and she helped her own cause at the plate by cracking a 2-run homer.

Jenna Putala also had a homerun, along with a double and 2 RBIs. Amber Caouette cranked a double and batted a runner home. Mackenzie Salls got 3 hits, including a double, and scored 2 runs. Jordan Meattey also powered a 2-bagger and scored a run. Gabby Arzuaga earned

3 RBIs on 2 hits. Nicole John and Nicole Thibeault also got hits for the Tribe. Jordyn Fiske took a base-on-balls and scored a run.

Turners Falls 13 - Athol 1

Turners defeated the Athol Red Raiders 13 to 1 under the lights on Thursday, May 21. The win gave Powertown a record of 16-1, and a Franklin League record of 13 and 0.

The game started slow by Turners' standards, with Blue scoring only 2 runs in the first 3 innings. The first came in the bottom of the first inning. Mackenzie S. crossed the plate while the Raider fielders were focused on tagging Nicole John out.

The Tribe's second run was scored in the second inning. Gabby Arzuaga reached first on a base hit, and was replaced by courtesy runner, Maddy Johnson. Maddy took second base, then third, and was batted in by a hard

see SOFTBALL page A7



Not a walk in the park: Mackenzie Phillips didn't walk a single batter as Turners Falls defeated Athol 13-1 last Thursday.

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Future Memorial

There is a sense of unreality when we read the week's headlines.

About 100 US, European jets join Arctic exercise near Russia. Almost 50 million gallons of water lost after vandals hit California dam. Antarctic glaciers once thought stable now fading fast. Biden reassures Iraq of U.S. support.

Cardinal calls Irish vote on same-sex marriage a "defeat for humanity." China, updating military strategy, puts focus on projecting naval power. Cholera biggest threat as Burundi refugees crowd into Tanzania camps.

Crews close to excavating ruptured section of oil pipeline. Data thieves gain access to 100,000 U.S. taxpayers' information. Death of a rabbit inflames Denmark.

Federal judge rules again that gay couples have right to wed in Alabama. French police break up riot in migrant camp in Calais.

We are nestled inland, uphill, and upstream from an urban coastline that has served for over three hundred years as one of the world's seats of power - financial, political, and cultural power.

They came for land – slowly, at first – and then they came for timber. The farmland was never really as lucrative as the trees they ripped down to clear it. They dug canals, and dug up clay to make bricks, and made mills for wood, pulp and paper. They lay down rails.

Mixing and matching, the owners put successive waves of immigrants to work processing materials into usable commodities: cotton from the slave South for export; durable goods and tools for westward settlers.

The stands of straight white pine that grew up in already-abandoned farmland were themselves torn down and milled, to make boxes for other goods. The busiest factories were soon making tools for other factories.

The water was harnessed for electricity. The roads were paved for automobiles. The immigrants were becoming Americanized. And America, now fully formed, marched onto the world stage for a century of war.

G7 finance ministers to address faltering global growth. Gunmen die in Taliban Kabul attack. Heavy rains put Houston underwater. Illinois couple celebrates birth of 100th grandchild. India heatwave toll passes 1,000. Japan braces for severe butter shortage. Jungle camp in Malaysia yields graves and signs of migrant abuse. Libyan prime minister survives assassination attempt amid protests. Mind-controlled prosthetic limbs allow precise, smooth movement. Muslims "dehumanized," says Qatar royal. Nancy Pelosi talks ISIS and trade bill.

Droopy-eyed Governor Leverett Saltonstall peered over the podium at the businessmen gathered for lunch at Springfield's Hotel Kimball. In this half-forgotten land out past the state's abundant new freshwater reservoir, the Depression had not heard the news it was over.

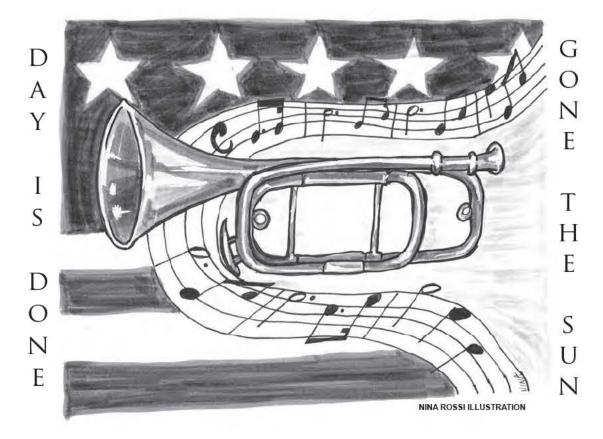
"We believe we have the best workmen in the country," he began. "We have magnificent natural resources, as your valley so vividly demonstrates. Yet in these days of fierce competition, richness of human or natural resources alone will not bring business and prosperity."

"There is little doubt as to the value of visitors to Massachusetts. Vacationing ranks as 'big business'. Even more important is the consideration that thousands of vacationists who come here for fun like it so much that they stay, to develop great industries, or to establish permanent homes.

"What is not so well realized is the need for expert planning, aggressive action, and persistent effort to attract either tourists or settlers."

The men nodded, and smoked, and thought instead about the headlines. Two weeks later Hitler and Mussolini would sign their "Pact of Steel." The vacationists would have to wait.

Nepal seeks expert advice on tourism. Nine dead in Brazil prison riot. Nuclear talks bogging down as Iran balks at key decisions. Obama loses immigration appeal. Peru sends in army as new mining strike starts. Poachers killed half of Mozambique's elephants in five years. Police in Florida grapple with a cheap and dangerous new drug. Professor claims humans will become "god-like cyborgs."



A WORD FROM OUR AD MANAGER.

By ALEX PETERKIN

TURNERS FALLS - When we wake early in the morning and see the sun rising over the Wendell hills, there's a joy to working in this living town. We are reminded of it daily by the eagles flying over the Connecticut River, and the steady thump-thump of cars driving over the Gill-Montague bridge.

Every morning in the newsroom feels somehow like a new morning.

There might be the same broken pencil leads and missing stamps, but there's a freshness to the work, as the residents and businesses of the town grow and change to reflect the growth and change of our world.

We hope our coverage of the community brings you as much pride and reflection as the opportunity to do this meaningful work brings us joy. Over the years we've been a community newspaper, we've seen big changes in the world of media.

When the men returned from the second world war, they knew what they had to do. They set about giving everything the same, new, name.

Pioneer Valley Construction Company. Pioneer Valley Aircraft Incorporated. Pioneer Valley Antiques & Gifts. Pioneer Valley Motorcycle Club. Pioneer Valley Refrigerated Warehouse Company.

For the first time ever, really, things came to feel normal here. Clusters of single-family houses bloomed. Pioneer Valley Plastics Co. Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society. Pioneer Valley Poodle Club. Pioneer Valley Regional High School.

It was working. Pioneer Valley Yacht Club, Pioneer Valley Sheep Breeders Association, Lower Pioneer Valley Air Pollution Control District. Pioneer Valley Montessori Society, Humane Society, Transit Authority, Childbirth Education Association, Pistol Team, Ballet Guild. Drug Abuse Foundation of Pioneer Valley. Pioneer Valley Air Conditioning.

None of this meant anything, but it was working. They had found a way to build a bridge from the past to the future that avoided the present entirely. The new settlers came in Cadillacs, and then in sensible family cars, and pretty soon in wonderfully painted schoolbuses.

Quake hits Tokyo days after Japan OK's third reactor restart. Rebel shelling kills at least two in Ukraine, coke plant shuts down. San Diego Union-Tribune lays off 178, mostly in printing, delivery. Saudi-led air campaign in Yemen drags on with little progress. Scientists are using herpes to treat skin cancer. Seattle to close marijuana dispensaries operating without permits. Strict rules set on the use of force by police in Cleveland. Thai police to prosecute abandoned migrants. Uber promotes subprime auto loans to boost driver pool. U.S. suffers egg shortage in wake of avian flu outbreak.

Not everyone here lives insulated inside this "Pioneer Valley." Some travel the world – enlist in the service, or visit family in other countries, or seek out root causes of violence. If they come back, they come back changed – to a place that does all it can to remain the same.

White House ISIS strategy under fire.

But for those who stay here, all of the outside world's battles, upheavals, storms and shortages come to blur into each other. So few of these headlines affect us directly. We each follow the stories that interest us the most, and when they do come near (climate change, crime, fracking, addiction, politics) we latch onto them and nurse on their meaning.

Massachusetts has fewer veterans than almost any state (6% of our population are vets) and older ones than almost any state (53% are over the age of 65). We have the highest rate of WWII veterans, and the lowest rate of Gulf War ones. Our Memorial Day parades are getting smaller.

As the US military becomes increasingly professionalized, cloistered and automated, it's unclear what Memorial Day will look like in the future. It's possible that refugees of conflict may one day outnumber veterans here. When that point is reached, how do we honor the fallen? With what ceremonies can we pay proper respects to those whose lives are being sacrificed so that Valleys like this one remain comfortable and free?

When we launched the Montague Reporter 12 years ago we never expected the enormous response we received. The internet and smart phones have changed the way we receive and read our news, but we've consistently been a valuable source for local news. News that you can't find anywhere else: about the clockwork dramas of local government, and the rebirth of this region as a place of commerce and creativity. We are lucky to be supported by you in doing this work.

There's a satisfaction in crafting a story and knowing that it will be arriving at the kitchen table or arm chair of almost two thousand people in our towns. We get to meet many of these people, and the ones we don't meet are kind enough to send handwritten notes, cards, and children's drawings with their subscription renewals.

These connections are meaningful to us as not too long ago, our news only came from papers owned by newspaper conglomerates with headquarters many hours away. Today, I can pick up a paper and name all the hands who wrote, edited, printed, and delivered that paper for you. The Montague Reporter has allowed us to make these connections. To change the news from a simple reporting of the facts to a painting of how businesses, government, citizens, and our natural resources interact and support each other.

When you sign up for an ad in the Reporter, it doesn't just win you name recognition, and get your number into people's hands.

You are also helping us to wake up every day and meet the rising sun to help create this vibrant and thriving community. You are keeping the presses printing and the pencils pushing. Just as when you opened your doors to customers you first needed the community's support, we need your support to do the same.

So don't wait or hesitate. Place an advertisement in the newspaper today, and help us continue doing the work that grows our communities for the better.

Alex can be reached at ads@ montaguereporter.org or (413) 863-8666. We offer display ads by the inch, but our bread and butter is in the business cards at the bottom of each page.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Meet Chief Chip Dodge from the Montague Police Dept. on Saturday, May 30 from 11 am. to noon at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank.

Chief Dodge will share and listen to ideas, comments, requests, compliments and requests for services within the Chief's jurisdiction and control.

This is an opportunity for families to come with their youngsters to greet the Chief and feel comfortable in approaching a uniformed officer should help be needed for them or a family member. Share coffee, juice, and yes, of course, donuts.

Friends of Wolf Tree Programs. located at Brooks Bend Farm in Montague, have planned a festival to raise money for the Wolf Tree Scholarship Fund. It will take place on Sunday, May 31 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Sunderland Town Park, 50 Park Road, Sunderland. There is ample parking, a pavilion with bathrooms, and a nearby trail to Mt. Toby.

Wolf Tree's mission is to foster healthy relationships to self and community through nature immersion and wilderness living skills. A parent whose son has participated for many years said, "We want to always have funds available to ensure that the kids who want to attend Wolf Tree Programs are able to do

There is no entrance fee, but a variety of activities will help raise funds. Organizers have planned workshops on fire building, flintnapping, wild plants, self-sustainable food production, bicycle repair, primitive cooking and more. There will be music, food and a raffle that will include blueberries from the Benson Place, art by Ethan Nadeau, cheesecake, a full season CSA membership at Mountain View Farm in Easthampton (worth \$600)

For updates, check out the Wolf Tree Programs website. No registration is necessary. Just show up ready to have a good time and learn more about wilderness education.

Starting on June 2, Jean Erlbaum will hold a Gentle Mat Yoga Class for seniors on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Classes will take place at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls,

and runs through July 7.

People over 55 of all abilities, including beginners, are welcome to attend. You do not have to live in Gill or Montague to attend; seniors from all towns are welcome. For more information and to register, please call Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500.

On Friday, June 5, Shelburne Falls native and Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Seth Glier will perform a benefit concert for Stone Soup Café at the All Souls Church, on the corner of Main and Hope streets in Greenfield. Glier, who went to the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts charter high school, is garnering national recognition and you should check out his music if you're curious. Local Russell Kaback will open.

The Stone Soup Café is a local non-profit with a unique pay-whatyou-can policy that helps low-income families eat healthier food, and feel they are valued members of our community. All the food is locally grown and lovingly prepared.

A special benefit dinner will be served beforehand at 6 p.m., and doors will open at 7:30 for an 8 o'clock concert. The concert is \$15 at the door, with no reserve seating first come, first served. Call (413) 325-1345 for more information.

Participate in a "Medicinal Plant Identification Walk" on Saturday, June 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fiske Pond Conservation Area in Wendell by joining Chris Marano

in searching for, identifying and discussing medicinal plants inhabiting the landscape.

Admission is free but space is limited, please contact Ray DiDonato to register (rdidonat@hotmail. com). Sponsored by the Wendell Open Space Committee with generous support from the Wendell Cultural Council.

Adults and children of all ages can enjoy the 10th Annual Family Fish Day at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Fish Ladder and Barton Cove on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p m.

Join refuge staff, MA Fish & Wildlife & DCR staff, educators from Northfield Mountain, and volunteers in a day of fishing fun.

Activities include: fly fishing demonstrations, fly-tying lessons, fishing, fish printing, aquatic insect investigations, raffles, and more. Equipment is provided and no fishing licenses needed. For more details call the GFDC, 863-3221.

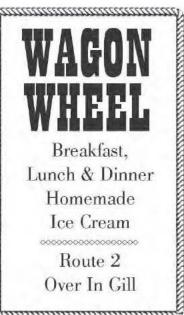
The Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club hosts its 2015 Annual Spring Run rain or shine on Saturday, June 6, with sign up at Cherry Rum Plaza starting at 9:30 a.m. with the run leaving at 10:30 a.m. sharp. \$15/biker, \$10/passenger. Includes burgers and dogs, bike games and raffle with proceeds to benefit "Bikers Against Child Abuse."

> Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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Monte to Moderate Mini-**Town Meeting** Election

TURNERS FALLS - Hold the Presses! After all the votes were counted in last week's annual town elections - after the blockbuster races for selectboard and library trustees had all been settled - one race for one 2-year seat on Montague's annual town meeting wound up in a Dead Heat!

Jack Nelson, of Canal Street, and Matthew Cohen, of 2nd Street, TIED with seven write-in votes each.

Who gets to break the tie?

We're glad you asked. Among the many strange features of Montague's town government is a little-known provision that leaves the tie-breaking up to the 20 other duly elected town meeting members from the same precinct. In this case: Precinct 5.

But this time, there will be no smoky backroom deal making for this important

On Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p m. – Live from Montague Town Hall - MCTV will broadcast a mini-debate and run-off election between the two contenders.

Questions from the call-in audience will be welcomed. Monte Belmonte, morning DJ at WRSI, will moderate the debate, and the run-off election will be held Live on Camera at 8 p m.!

What are the real problems facing the town of Montague - and downtown Turners Falls – in the coming year? What solutions do the candidates propose? Is graffiti art? Is art graffiti? How many tchotkes does it take to fill up a planter?

Town government works best if everyone participates. Tune in to Channel 17 on Wednesday, June 3rd, and call in with your questions.

May the best issues win!

SKATEPARK from page A1

really do those perfectly. It's the last thing that had to fall into place for us to have a world class skatepark, and now I'm confident that we will."

Barry Scott, who has been working with young skaters and running a very small business called Playground Skateshop in the nearby former Chick's Garage building, described the bid as "fantastic news. If there were anybody that we'd want to see put a bid in," he said, it was Grindline - "they're one of the best around."

Scott has been raising funds to build an indoor miniramp in his building, in order to host classes. "I want to be able to teach the littler kids to skate with the older kids, once the park opens up," he said, "so everyone skates with each other

Playground plans to rent out safety equipment and provide a space "for everyone to hang out, whether or not it's raining, or in the winter."

"I don't know much about [Grindline]," said Dobosz, "but from the reaction that I got from Barry and Bryan, they were pretty excited. And nity... if they're excited, then I'm excited."

The bid was for \$366,000, with a possible ad-

dition of \$12,500 to build a fence if it is ultimately deemed necessary.

Dobosz said construction must start after July 1, in order to be eligible for a 68% matching reimbursement under the state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program.

"I'm pretty relieved," said Dobosz. In May 2014, Montague town meeting authorized the town to borrow up to \$400,000 for the project, provided that the PARC reimbursement was on the table. And in late October, the town got the good news that it had won the grant.

Dobosz also said the project must be finished before June 2016, "which shouldn't be an issue." He said a ribbon-cutting this fall would be

"I'm pretty relieved," he said. "I want to get this thing started now.

"But, patience being a virtue, we're just looking forward to moving on the project, and finally delivering this critical facility to the commu-

"Something that's been a long time



ERVING from page A1

the tracks while the warning signal is on and a train is approaching.

Kunzler said that, "given the age of the crossing," rebuilding it and installing current technology warning equipment "is the only responsible option." This would entail replacing a section of the tracks, and could take 5 to 10 days.

He called the \$311,000 cost estimate preliminary, and "worst case."

Kunzler told the board on May 21 that Pan Am is liable for civil penalties if no action is taken. He said the FRA notice gave the company 30 days to correct the defects, and "the clock is ticking."

However, he said that FRA officials are aware that Pan Am and the town need to work together to decide how to accomplish this and will likely "take a common sense approach" and grant extra time for the repair.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson asked if it would be possible for the town to convince the FRA to give Pan Am a waiver because the road is dead end with little traffic. The road leads only to POTW#2. No other businesses or facilities are located on the road.

"Having the grade crossing protected is important from a safety standpoint," Kunzler replied. He added that an unprotected crossing would be a liability for both the town and the railroad.

Kunzler said he would "sharpen my pencil" and develop a more accurate cost estimate, then meet with the selectboard in the next few weeks. He said he would try to get a copy of the FRA defect letter to the selectboard.

The board scheduled an executive session with town counsel Donna MacNicol on June 15 in order to discuss strategy in negotiations with Pan Am and FRA.

The town-owned POTW#2 treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, Erving Center residents, and fee-paying "third party" septage haulers. The town pays Eresco, a subsidiary of Erving Paper parent company Erving Industries, \$1 per year to operate the plant, and receives a share of thirdparty fees.

Erving Paper Mills general manager Tom Newton was in attendance at last week's meeting, as were highway foreman Glenn McCrory and Pete Sanders, chief operator of POTW#1.



ZEN CENTER

GREEN

RIVER

www.greenriverzen.org (413) 695-8786

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 5/22/15:

Grade 6 Isabella Allen

Grade 7 Julius Brewington Alyah Sutton

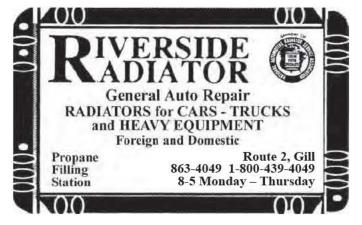
Grade 8 Katherine Garcia

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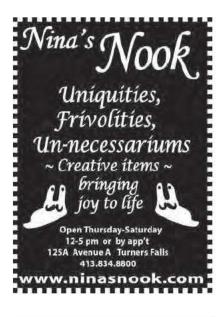
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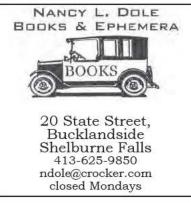
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Broadband Article Will Leave Town's Plan Open-Ended

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard held an extra meeting on May 13, to gather information about possible ways that widespread broadband coverage can be brought to town. Representatives from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the Wendell broadband committee, Axia Networks, and Crocker Communications attended. Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the meeting provided a good "cross pollination" of ideas.

The article on the June 8 annual town meeting warrant would authorize borrowing to establish a broadband connection to every house in town, but it does not specify which path the town would take to that end.

If the article passes, the selectboard would establish a committee of one member each from the selectboard, the fin com, and the broadband committee, and two members from the general public to study the options more thoroughly and make a recommendation.

MBI was created in 2008 as part of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and was responsible for creating the "middle mile" internet connection to key buildings in the towns of western Massachusetts. MBI has \$40 million that would pay around 35% of the cost of the "last mile" connection to every house in the western Massachusetts hill towns.

MBI representative Donna Baron said that the money would be available regardless of how a town chose to make the connection.

In 2010 Wendell joined Wired West, which seeks to pool resources of member towns to create a regional internet network including telephone and television. At the time, Wired West seemed to be the only choice for getting the "last mile" connected. After expenses are met Wired West would return profits to member towns, which would help defray the cost of borrowing and when the loan is paid off, the money would be town income.

Axia Network USA is a for-profit branch of the Canadian firm Axia Network, operator of the "middle mile" network that was completed in February 2014. They would tie into that network and would offer only broadband internet service, but with unrestrictive bandwidth that would allow telephone and television provided by another entity.

Crocker Communications is the internet service provider in Leverett, and while it would not install the network, it could provide telephone and television to an internet connection that Axia created.

At its May 20 meeting, town moderator Katie Nolan met to discuss the warrant for the June 8 town meeting. Borrowing for construction of a "last mile" internet network is likely to generate the most interest, and the position of that article is important.

If it is early in the meeting there is the possibility that at the end of the meeting someone can call for reconsideration, and with fewer people still there, the earlier decision can be reversed. Broadband committee member Robbie Heller

said that he is unaware of any time that has happened in Wendell, but it has happened in Cummington twice in the last 20 years.

Nolan said that reconsideration can happen with moderator discretion, needs a 2/3 vote, must be initiated by someone who supported the side that won the original vote, and must be justified by new information that was not available when the original vote was taken.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that the article should come early in the meeting, but after article 4, the town's general operating budget including schools. Representatives from schools that receive Wendell students should not be forced to listen to a possibly long discussion of Wendell's broadband issues before they stand before the town to explain their budget requests

Heller said that in other towns there has been a small but vocal opposition to borrowing to expand internet connection, but in most of those towns the article has passed unanimously or by a large majority.

He recommended that the article authorize borrowing the entire amount that construction will need, \$1.92 million, an amount that includes contingency money. The town would not have to borrow all that, only what is needed.

Nolan suggested that the town meeting should allow a presentation by the broadband committee and Wired West, and then a short period in which citizens may ask questions and get answers directly from committee members.

Keller said that the presentation and the article should be clear that it is not about Wired West, but about borrowing to construct an internet connection to every household.

Other Warrant Articles

The warrant includes an article to buy a new police cruiser, a request that was postponed a year to save money at the 2014 annual town meeting. The old cruiser is one year older, more worn, and although there is grant money available for its replacement, the town will have to buy the replacement first and get reimbursed later.

There are articles that would buy equipment for the fire department, and at the end of the warrant are articles submitted by citizen Michael Idoine that would change the positions of clerk, treasurer, tax collector and the board of assessors from elected to appointed.

The final amounts needed to meet every expense was not on the draft warrant, but the warrant must be posted by June 1, and those figures will be on the warrant then.

Solar News

Rory Walker from Seaboard Solar met the Wendell selectboard with (possibly) good news. After numerous delays Seaboard is on track to install a 2.5 Megawatt rooftop solar electric generating system on a rooftop in Clinton, Massachusetts. Board members had two documents to sign, updates of documents signed when Seaboard established its relationship with Wendell.

The project is scheduled to produce electricity by the end of 2015,

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and when it does Wendell will receive ½ cent per kilowatt of the electricity produced, and just under 1/3 of the \$60,000 a year rent that Seaboard will pay when all 8 megawatts that Wendell is hosting are on line.

New Flags?

Ted Lewis came in and said the town's flags that he used to hang for Memorial Day are pathetic, and many should be replaced. On one the bottom red stripe has separated from the rest of the flag, and hangs down like a dangling pennant.

He said that 25 are hung along the main street including 5 in Wendell Depot. The good stitched flags cost \$40, printed ones are cheaper, and in the past he got donations – but he does not want to go asking for money.

The selectboard account could pay for some, but not all that need replacement, and Heard suggested asking police chief Ed Chase if there is community policing money that could be used for some. Aldrich suggested that the Memorial Day fund might be used for some new flags.

Keller asked if Lewis would be willing to represent Wendell at the Veteran's Affairs office in Greenfield, and Lewis agreed. "If the salary stays at \$10,000," Lewis said with a sly smile.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a 1.3% COLA raise for town employees. Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich will get a 1.6% raise to match the raise that New Salem is giving.

Library trustees want a pay increase for librarian Rosie Heidkamp, but the fin com was against that. The fin com also did not like the idea of an apprentice for facilities engineer Jim Slavas, and they recommended \$6,600 a year with 10%

Lamps Lite!

of that for the apprentice, instead of the \$10,000 that the selectboard asked for.

Whittier Plumbing recommended replacing the circulator pump in the town office building heating system, but Slavas said he would rebuild the pump.

Board members signed an appointment slip for Robin Kearns as board of health clerk.

Pat Smith from the FRCOG asked the town for its hazard remediation plan so she can read it on line. The board agreed to forward that request to town emergency management director, Lonny Ricketts.

Highway commission chair Harry Williston came in to renew the program started last year in which citizens who picked up roadside trash and brought it to the WRATS are entered in a drawing to win a package of ten Wendell trash bags. The board drew one of the five names who had brought in roadside trash, and Christine Heard won.

Town custodian Larry Ramsdell says that people using the town hall bathrooms turn the valves off too tight, and the sealing washers are damaged. He recommended that they be replaced by push valves that turn off automatically, a job he does not want to take on himself. Aldrich said that this year's budget for maintenance of town buildings does not have enough left for that job.

A report states that the overhauled town hall vault is functioning well, and keeps temperature and humidity within the appropriate range. But the safe in the town clerk's closet is too warm and too humid and the report says \$5,000 is needed to fix it.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said he could donate a dehumidifier, but Keller said that would have to be drained to the outside, or emptied regularly. Water might be routed to the floor drain in the bathroom next to the office.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Town Passes on HCOG **Solar Opportunity**

By ANN TWEEDY

The Selectboard meeting of May 26 began with an approved request from three members of the Finance Committee to nominate town resident Philip Carter to a vacant seat on the committee. Carter, a mathematics professor at Holyoke Community College, approached the committee after the April Town Meeting and offered his services.

An offer to the town by the Hampshire Council of Governments [HCOG] to bid to become one of two anchor municipalities for a solar initiative through Nexamp and receive greater net metering credits was declined by the board as the deadline has passed the spring Town Meet-

The anchor offer involves a 20year contract. It was decided that a detailed scrutiny of a hard copy of the contract would be in the best interest of the town. They agreed to monitor which two towns accept the anchor offer at the end of this month. The town could still apply for a smaller allocation of net metering credits. if it was decided to be cost effective.

It was decided that the position of Tax Collector will be advertised in July. The position will be filled by October, which will serve as a month of overlap with outgoing collector DeeAnn Civello for instruction and familiarization.

PROTEST from page A1

derstand that we aren't all about

violence. Like for the cops who are

killing people, how they killed that

dude in Baltimore... I just feel like

it's all unnecessary, because we all

sponses," he continued. "This is

Greenfield: there are more white

people in jail, but that's because

their population is higher... There are

more black people in jail for smaller

things; white people are in jail for

"It's more about fairness Treat us

Moore said the Greenfield police

like you would treat them - nothing

had approached the marchers as they

gathered and indicated they would

be taking a hands-off approach. For

their part, the activists mostly stuck

lives matter," the march entered the

Farmers' Market. Two people car-

ried a makeshift coffin; others carried

Some in the crowd gave thumbs-

up signs, and pressed forward to

watch the action; others scowled,

young children or pushed strollers.

At 10:45 a.m., chanting "Black

bigger things, but getting less time.

"We march and hope to get re-

those who were.

want peace."

different."

to the sidewalks.

The board approved using funds to replace the water softener system at the home of one of the properties near the closed town landfill. The property owner has complained that the softener filter system has clogged causing reduced water pressure.

The town pays for water monitoring tests conducted quarterly by the state Department of Environmental Protection for the homes. It also pays for the softener filtration systems for 3 households, and bottled water for 2 houses situated on a down gradient from the old landfill, which was closed and capped in 1992.

The new Fire Chief, John Ingram, and Stuart Olson discussed their research on acquiring two used trucks from a surplus outfit to replace two old rescue vehicles, one of which is becoming unsafe to drive.

Ingram explained that the replacement vehicles would have more trade-in value down the road. Peter d'Errico suggested they contact the Capital Planning Committee to keep them in the loop.

Stuart Olson announced that the department has started an Explorers program for teens with two members so far; one of them is Ingram's son.

This program is adopted by fire departments across the country to teach fire safety, equipment checks, preplanning and drilling protocol and mentor the next generation of firefighters.

shook their heads and wandered off. "All lives matter," one woman shouted over the chanting. Over on Tieray Moore of Turners Falls the common, a band member paced said he came out "to let them un-

> Most present suspended their activity as Madison read for four minutes from a prepared statement.

> and strummed at a chord on his man-

"Today, we are performing a community act of solidarity with the uprisings in Ferguson, Baltimore, and the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement," he read. "We are processing around the center of Greenfield disrupting business as usual. We know that unless we take action, nothing will change about the state-sanctioned murder of black and brown people.

"Here in Greenfield, many black and brown people are often physically marginalized to developments on the outskirts of town - the projects. They live in constant disproportionate fear of mistreatment by the police, the courts, the social service agencies and other institutions of power....

"We hope that the predominantly white communities and institutions across Franklin County will move past the tired and inaccurate belief that there are no people of color here."

PAGODA from page A1

is under construction in eastern Tennessee, near the large nuclear weapons facility in Oak Ridge. The placement of the pagoda in Tennessee, and the movement to end the nuclear program there, fits perfectly with Fujii's life.

"His 60th birthday was the day the United States dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, so it is clear his life intertwined with modern warfare, and bringing an end to that," said

Construction on the New England Peace Pagoda began in March of 1984, and was completed in October 1985, the same year Fujii was to turn 100. Fujii died January of 1985, and did not live to see the completion of the pagoda in October.

"He believed humanity had to change the course from materialism, which ties into military and war. He would subtly inspire people to make this sort of change to a spiritual existence," said Carter.

Circumambulation, or the practice of walking in a cyclical pattern, is used in Buddhism as a meditative tool. Visitors to the pagoda can walk whichever way they choose, but in Buddhism the traditional practice is to walk clockwise around the pagoda. Four gold statues are placed at the south, west, north, and eastern side of the pagoda, representing the Buddha and different stages of his life and practice.

"These statues were made by hand in the place were they are standing by artists from Sri Lanka in 1985," said Carter.

The south-facing statue, the first to greet visitors as they emerge from the quarter-mile-long path from the parking lot, represents Buddha at birth. He is pointing up and down, to signify that all living beings suffer.

"What a wonderful realization to have right at birth," remarked Carter.

To the left, the westward-facing statue represents Buddha just attaining enlightenment and achieving great depths of purity, truth,

Moving on from the market, the activists continued down Main Street, where they walked in the back door of Green Fields Market and out the front, and turning around as retail businesses gave way to auto dealerships. They left a wake of low side conversations, but not many onlookers engaged in

conversation with them. Heading back up Main, the group stood for some time at the intersection of Mill and Deerfield streets with their banners. The cool morning was giving way to midday heat. Many drivers, passing or waiting at red lights, honked their approval; others just looked.

The event wound down without any arrests, injuries or serious confrontations.

"I didn't hear of any complaints, or any issues," said deputy chief



The New England Peace Pagoda was the first of its kind built in the United States. Completed in 1985, the pagoda is going on its 30th anniversary in October.

and compassion.

"This is a most beautiful moment," explained Carter.

To the north sits a statue that represents the end of Buddha's life. Here, the Buddha has reached nirvana and ultimate awareness, ending the cycle of birth and death. The last statue, to the east, represents a moment towards the end of Buddha's life. On the right is a Buddha from another eon, to the left the historical or original

The birth of the Buddha will be celebrated at the Pagoda in conjunction with awareness towards the Black Lives Matter movement, this coming Sunday, May 31. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

"It is a celebration of life, of Buddha's life, and everyone's life, and a celebration that makes people happy," said Carter

The order also recognized Black

Lives Matter earlier as part of the "Walk for New Spring," which takes place in early spring. Each year the Nipponzan-Myōhōji Order leaves on a 50-day, 400-mile walk meant to bring light to social justice issues facing the global community and to promote peace. The walk begins in Leverett and usually ends in Washington D.C. Each year the order chooses a cause to champion as part of the walk, along with the message of peace. This year the order chose Black Lives Matter.

The monks and nuns living at the pagoda live off of community donations, and accept monetary as well as other donations of time, services, and sustenance. There is a collection plate inside the temple for monetary donations. They are always looking for help developing their garden, where they hope to plant more flowers and

fruit trees.

Bird Walk

This Saturday, May 30, the Athol Bird and Nature Club will meet at 8 a.m. at the trailhead of the Arthur Iverson Conservation Area on Gale Road in Warwick.

Trekkers will discover birds in a variety of habitats including beaver meadows and spruce swamps, and will learn about a new habitat restoration project about to take place.

The club will have a small selection of binoculars and field guides to share. Participants should wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring insect repellent, binoculars, and bird books, and be able to walk on uneven terrain.

The event celebrates International Migratory Bird Day. See atholbirdclub.org for more info. New members welcome.

Mark Williams of the Greenfield Police Department. "It seemed to go peacefully and smoothly." "I thought the action was successful," said Madison afterward. "It felt like there was quite a bit of sup-

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that's been happening nationally." Still, Madison said, he encountered a reluctance to make a public political scene, and that troubles

port in the community, even though

there's been somewhat of a silence

surrounding this police violence

"The majority of black folks who I asked to participate felt like they were going to get in trouble, somehow," he said, "even though I told them we weren't doing anything illegal. There's still this fear of retribution, punishment for protesting."

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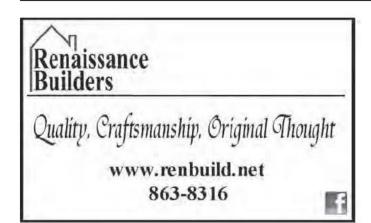
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It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376 or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

A Poem about Our River In the course

> of things Meandering like a river

> > seeking an outlet

Eventide

just a breath

to embrace

the night's light

I dance for the moon-

music's knees reach up

opens its elegant crown

of white resurrection

I'm the background of grey swans

as I leap beyond trees

and benches and tears

I cruise past night's

crouching opossum

and I have a sense

that just a breath

dark cars and blackest grief

all standing in their cubbies

but moon-glow watches holding onto its children

secret pendulous choreographed

while the night-blooming cereus

glow in all nights

and the show of some distant force a shore as desolate as that dreamed by Defoe

until that footprint appears

and solace gets ripped asunder.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

a thing of beauty deep red tropical blooms

how is it that an early fragrant rain clears our path and slick blue ice shave and form

perhaps together we come to our daily bifurcations that move and shape our lives over and over

how is it that hidden waterfalls and entice us in a way that towering rocks and buffed pebbles build our resolve

while deep winter snows our transcendence

again

Alice Thomas

The Quickening

A life moves like a river

Swiftly at first, swollen of the spring freshets

To ease, only a bit

Past variegated verdant summer pastures washed in endless hues of celadon, primrose and Auramine

And in its time on to the quiet rhythm of autumn days, the near silent ripple of the rising perch Kissing the shores that nurture the wisdom of old growth stands of oak, cedar and hemlock Finally to return to a frozen stop on the clearest longest night under a harvest of December stars, Betelgeuse, the sisters Pleiades, Saiph and Bellatrix in Orion, the dog star Sirius, Capella, Aldebaran, the fiery eye of the Bull in Taurus

This journey will bring a change of view, a cloud will die, a flower will grow, a leaf released But, never as a loss, only to renew

And so, as it should be, listening and waiting ... always The sugar sap lingering in the root of the winter maple

The crocus hidden just below the thin pearled carpet, soft of the late winter's hold A life, ready for the next thaw

To quicken at the first cry of a newborn child

Joe Graveline

Ephemeral

Trout lilies are blooming above the leaf litter, Under the deciduous and pine before leaf set. A yellow assertion flecked with red extends from a green speckled blade.

There is a small untended garden in the bow of the creek Where the water from Cranberry Pond laces the woody Forest on its descent to level.

Here the creek is bedded in Mount Toby conglomerate. Hepatica on a green thread suspends moon white blossoms.

The outer edges of sepals blushed blue in the purchase of moss.

Bonsai by place, Wood Anemone clusters Beneath giant maples. Light from the west Reflects from the ribbed skin of the creek under our limbs.

Here in the sway and sashay of the brook I know the sharing curve of our bodies. A Muskrat lives down creek under the bank.

I watch for her padded fingers The trace of her tail In the silt of daylight.

"I'll come in when I am ready." In this

Dappled light reaching for the length of day, sun

Already below the river I know the boundaries of you.

It's never that far away from hunger, this brevity. The trout lily blooming yellow, Hepatica, three-lobed leaf

Deep cleft in bloodroot where the stem attaches The place above your hip, the fleshy handle In the palm of my heart's reach.

W. Allen Miller

Poets:

as I fly

of gravity

fell to earth

Joe Graveline of Gill is one of the founders of the Nolumbeka Project, as well as a poet, singer and guitar player.

W.Allen Miller sends us poems and even prose from his kingdom in Montague Center. Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno of Turners Falls sends a poem from a new collection of poems in the making.

Alice Thomas is a regional poet, painter and maker of photographic-multimedia assemblage in western Massachusetts. This year, she was published by Levellers Press, in the Montague Reporter Poetry Page, the New England Farmers Union Facebook Page; was accepted for the 2015 Juniper Summer Writers Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and is on the 2015 'wait-list' for the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference.

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

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Busy Days For Pipeline Devotees

By JEFF SINGLETON

The past ten days have been busy ones for critics and supporters of "the pipeline." We are speaking, of course, of the proposed natural gas pipeline slated to transport up to 2.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/day) of natural gas through Franklin County. Consider the following:

- On Tuesday, May 19 the Montague Selectboard voted to join an "intervention" before the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) challenging a potential contract by Berkshire Gas, the only gas provider in the region, with the company building the pipeline, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (TGP).
- The next day, the Greenfield Town Council voted to participate in the same intervention, which is being organized by a regional coalition called Plan- NE.
- The DPU's written "public comment" period on the Berkshire contract ended on May 22. Comments questioning the rationale for the pipeline were submitted by, among others, State Representatives Steve Kulik and Paul Mark, as well as the Montague Energy Committee. A public hearing was held in Boston on May 27 and another will take place at Greenfield Community College on
- On May 26, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments held a well-attended public forum at Greenfield Community College. The meeting focused on "how towns may participate in the [federal pipeline approval] process... through intervention at FERC and consideration of host community agreements." Host community agreements are in effect contracts with TGP designed to protect towns in the path of the pipeline.

We have come a long way since TGP representatives began knocking on residents' doors, requesting permission to survey their property.

Packed local board meetings protested the failure of the company to inform towns of their plan. Town meetings have formally opposed the pipeline. The Greenfield Community College dining hall was filled for a forum on the subject. It was also filled for an "open house" hosted by TGP, a requirement of the federal "pre-filing" process.

A much anticipated state study released in January of 2015 found that Massachusetts would need 0.6 to 0.9 billion cubic feet per day of new pipeline capacity over the next fifteen years to power electric grid generators. The study was immediately attacked by pipeline opponents, waved about the region by pipeline supporters, and quickly buried in the proverbial "dustbin of history" without much discussion.

An organization called the "New England States Committee on Electricity" (NESCOE), which consists of state utility regulators (DPU officials), floated a proposal to help fund the pipeline through a tariff or tax on electricity customers. The proposal also appeared to be consigned to the historical dustbin, but, since May, has been revived by the new Governor of Massachusetts, Charles Baker.

Perhaps most importantly, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company last September initiated a "pre-filing" process with the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency that will in the end issue or reject a permit for the pipeline. Pre-filing focuses on research or "scoping" to comply with federal environmental regulations, particularly a 1970 law called the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

TGP is scheduled to apply for formal federal approval this September. The federal approval process generally takes approximately a year, although it could take a good deal longer. TGP plans to complete the pipeline project itself in 2017.

Question Marks

Numerous question marks remain as the process unfolds. One is whether the state DPU, which must approve contracts between gas companies like Berkshire and the pipeline project, will allow the PLAN-NE coalition to intervene in their pro-

So-called intervenors have much more legal clout than ordinary citizens or organizations commenting at public hearings. They can, for example, engage in a form of discovery to request documents from the parties involved. That was a key factor that convinced both Montague and Greenfield to join PLAN-NE.

However, in a related case involving National Grid, which owns Boston Gas, the DPU rejected a PLAN-NE intervention request. Intervention status was granted to the state Attorney General and the Conservation Law Founation (CLF), both of which are expected to raise broad policy concerns about the project. PLAN-NE hopes the addition of towns like Greenfield and Montague will strengthen its intervention request in the Berkshire case.

Towns may have to consider whether to focus on opposing the pipeline in interventions and state-level legislation or protecting themselves in case the pipeline is approved.

The process being suggested by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) focuses on the latter goal, encouraging "host community agreements" between towns and TGP. A number of local officials have argued for a two-track strategy – opposition to the project, while negotiating agreements in the event of federal approval.

A key question involves the FERC's criteria for approving the pipeline. Pipeline opponents have repeatedly stated that the federal agency "never saw a pipeline it didn't like." This complaint, in a somewhat less critical form, was supported by legal counsel Jeffrey Bernstein at the FRCOG forum. He argued that companies successfully completing the pre-filing process have rarely been rejected by FERC.

Part of the reason for this is that FERC's criteria for approval is relatively narrow. While a good deal of attention is paid to local environmental impacts, the judgment of the "need" for the pipeline relies heavily on whether the pipeline company can fill the capacity of its proposed project.

Traditionally, the gas companies were required to show long-term contracts that equaled their capacity requests, but in 2000 FERC modified this requirement significantly to approve applications with total contracts of less than 100%.

According to the most recent TGP documents available, the company has currently contracted for only 0.5 Bcf/day of pipeline capacity. Its application to FERC is based on a projection of "up to 2.2 Bcf/day." Whether this will be sufficient for federal approval is an open question.

This is why a proposal by the Baker Administration to allow electric companies to enter into longterm, or "firm," contracts for gas may be crucial. Such contracts could put TGP in a strong position to prove the need for a pipeline before FERC.

Another wild card is Article 97 of the state constitution. The article, approved in 1972, requires that all lands taken by the state for conservation purposes would require a 2/3 vote of the state legislature to be used for another purpose. The pipeline goes through a number of public conservation lands, including a large section of the Montague Plains which is controlled by the state Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Could the failure of the legislature to approve a taking of state land stop the proposal?

Bernstein stated at the FRCOG forum that he doubted action – or inaction – by the legislature would trump federal authority. But he also said that he did not believe the issue had been resolved in a state or federal court.

In the end the federal process may hinge on whether TGP can show that it has enough long term contracts to fill the capacity it proposes to construct. There are several other pipeline expansion proposals which, to some degree, compete with this project. Approval for the pipeline through Franklin County may require long-term contracts from electric companies and even a tariff on electric users.

So there will certainly be many more busy days for those following the pipeline question.

SOFTBALL from page A1

ground ball from Phillips.

In the third inning, Blue managed to get a runner on base, but failed to score.But in the bottom of the fourth, there was a Blue explosion. Amber Caouette led off with a double to the centerfield fence. Nicole knocked her in with a leftfield RBI grounder, putting the score at 3 to 0. Nicole took second base as Amber crossed the plate.

A wild pitch moved Nicole to third, and Arzuaga took a base on balls to put runners on the corners. Maddy replaced Arzuaga and promptly stole second. A hard shot by Mackenzie P. was snatched by the third baseman, but the runners got back on base to prevent a double play.

Melissa Hersey hit a routine groundball, but the throw to first went wild and 2 more runs crossed the plate as Melissa took second base. Jordyn Fiske then smacked a RBI and made it safely to second and the score was 6-zip.

Jordan Meattey went to first on a baseon-balls. The Tribe executed a passed-ball double steal, putting the ladies on second and third. Salls punted a sac fly, knocking in a run and sending Jordan to third.

Putala scorched a massive line drive double at the third baseman, sending Jordan home. Unfortunately the fielder was injured. She walked off the diamond under her own steam to the polite applause of spectators and players alike.

Amber Caouette then cleared the bases with an over-the-wall four-bagger, and the Tribe led 10 to 0. Turners got two more men on base and executed another double steal, but the inning ended with a Phillips' booming warning track out.

In the top of the fifth inning, with a 10to-zero lead, Coach Gary Mullins sent in his replacements. Nicole Thibeault went to second base, Jessica Loynd covered third, and Amber C stood between them at shortstop. Jessica made the first out by throwing the runner out at first. Then Maddy Johnson took the leftfield position and play resumed. Mackenzie P. fanned the next two batters and the Lady Indians came up to bat in the bottom of the fifth.

Athol scored their only run in the sixth inning. Mackenzie whiffed the first Raider on three swings. The next Red batter reached first on an infield hit. Mackenzie struck out the third batter, but the base runner beat the throw to reach second.

With 2 outs, the runner scored on a triple, and Athol was on the scoreboard. After their next hit Athol had men on the corners. The runner stole second, but Mackenzie executed her third K of the inning.

In the Blue sixth, Nicole T gapped a fullcount base hit, and Amber dropped a shallow pop. The Tribe completed one more double-steal on a wild pitch and pinch-hitter Sienna Dillensneider hit a RBI ground ball. Both Nicole and Amber crossed the plate, putting the score at 12 to 1. Sienna stole the bases and was standing at third when Mackenzie P. came to the plate.

Mackenzie batted her home - and the game was called via the mercy rule.

Amber Caouette went 3 for 4, battingin 2 runs on her homerun. Jenna Putala cracked a double. Five other Lady Indians hit base hits: Gabby Arzuaga, Jordyn Fiske, Nicole John, Jessica Loynd, and Nicole Thibeault. On the mound, Mackenzie P. allowed 1 run on 4 hits, gave a base on balls, and scorched 10 strikeouts.

Turners Falls 6 – Monson 0

On Friday, May 22, the Lady Indians blanked the Monson Mustangs 6 to 0. The Tribe needed just 2 innings to win the game: the first, when they scored 2 runs; and the sixth, when they put up 4 more.

Amber Caouette was the star of Friday's game. Not because of her output in this game but because of her career productivity. She entered the Century Club, hitting her 100^{th} – and later, her 101^{st} – career base hit. She also scored a run.

Putala slammed a homer, batting in 2 runs. Gabby Arzuaga also had 2 RBIs for the Tribe. Jordan Meattey powered a triple, knocking-in a run in the process. Salls had

a RBI and scored 2 runs. Fiske, Hersey, and Phillips also contributed with hits. On the mound, Phillips allowed no runs, scattered 5 hits and burned 5 'K's.

Turners Falls 3 – Mount Everett 0

On Monday, May 25, the Tribe from Turners Falls traveled over the mountain to play the Mount Everett Eagles and shut them out 3-0.

Powertown scored 1 run in the second inning and 2 more in the third while keeping the Eagles off the scoreboard. Mackenzie P. used her "nunchuck fire" to burn 14 strikeouts while allowing only 4 hits and 2 walks. Salls cracked 2 hits, including a double and scored a run. Caouette had a hit and batted-in 2 runs. Fiske had the other RBI. Putala and Arzuaga also had hits.

Turners Falls 14 – Pioneer 2

On May 26, the Indians played their last regular home game against the Pioneer Panthers. It was Senior Night, and before the game, seniors Amber Caouette, Mackenzie Salls and Nicole John were crowned. Each came to the diamond, accompanied by family and friends, accepted balloons and applause, and had her picture taken.

It's unusual for Turners to let up any runs in a game; 14 of the 20 games have been shutouts. It's even rarer for the Tribe to fall behind. Pioneer took an early lead, but it meant Powertown would have to score 14 runs to end the game via the mercy rule.

The first Pioneer batter kept fouling off Mackenzie P.'s pitches and finally reached on a base-on-balls. She whiffed one batter on 3 pitches but the next, opposing pitcher Kaylee Gibson, clocked a 2-run homer, putting Blue in the hole 2-0.

Mackenzie Salls answered in the bottom of the first with a standup triple into right field. It was ruled a ground-rule double, and she was sent back to second. She went right back to third on a passed-by pitch and was batted home by Amber Caouette.

Amber took second on a wild pitch, stole third and came around to score, knotting the score at 2. Arzuaga hit a line-drive to center and was replaced courtesy runner Sienna Dillensneider. Sienna stole second but was stranded on a swinging strikeout.

In the second inning, Jordan Meattey took base on a full-count walk. Salls also got on base, and Putala powered a 3-run homer putting the score at 5-2.

The Tribe put up another run in the third. Nicole John took first on a walk. Mackenzie P. reached base but Nicole was thrown out on the force at second. Courtesy Runner Maddy Johnson replaced Mackenzie on first. She stole second and was batted-in on a Jordyn Fiske RBI. A Haley Whipple bunt got Jordyn to second. Haley then stole second, and Jordyn went to third on a fake bunt by Jordan Meattey. But they were stranded there and the game went into the fourth with Powertown up 6-2.

In the fourth, Salls hit a fly ball into center field, and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Jenna Putala's fielder's choice got Mackenzie to third and Amber Caouette's sac grounder got her home. 7-2.

Turners broke the game wide open with a 7-run fifth inning. Wild pitches and key hits kept the bases loaded and the runs coming in. Blue batted through the order and beyond, and when the 14th run crossed the plate, the game was mercifully called.

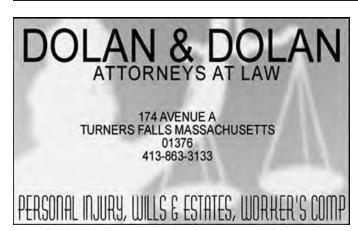
The ladies slapped the palms of the opposing players, hugged each other, and ate the cake which signified the final regular season game of 2015.

Mackenzie P. didn't let Pioneer's early lead psych her out. She allowed only 3 hits and 3 walks while throwing 8 strikeouts.

Jenna Putala had the lone homerun for the Tribe. She finished with 3 RBIs and scored 2 runs. Mackenzie S. had a 3-hit evening, including a double, batted in a run and scored 3. Arzuaga had 2 hits, 2 RBIs and scored a run. Caouette also batted in 2 and scored twice. Fiske and Phillips each had a hit and a RBI, Hersey, John, and Whipple each recorded hits, and

Johnson and Meattey both scored

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Eight staff members and six students at Great Falls Middle School took the plunge of chopping their hair on Friday, May 22. All who donated had been growing their hair all year for two causes, Pantene Beautiful Lengths and Wigs or Kids, which provide wigs to adults and children who have lost their hair due to different illnesses. Art teacher Katrina Eichorn said, "We

would like to thank Carrie Whiteman and Sarah Emery, who volunteered their time and amazing skills to cut and style the hair of all our participants."



Remembering The Fallen

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS - Memorial Day was observed Monday morning with a parade down Avenue A, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soldiers

Opening and closing prayers were provided by the Elks, and members of the Turners Falls High School Band played the national anthem and "America the Beautiful". Wreaths were laid at each memorial.

Al Cummings, chair of the Soldiers Memorial Committee, delivered the ceremony's central reading. This was a version of Cheryl Costello-Forshey's poem "Daddy's Day," first published in the 2000 book Chicken

Soup for the Parent's Soul, updated to include a verse in which the child's departed father had been a US Marine killed by a roadside bomb.

Don Girard played a sweet, mournful "Taps."

Chaplain Linda Ball of the Montague Elks delivered the closing prayer: "On this weekend when we remember and honor those who have been killed in our nation's wars, we are confronted anew with issues of peacemaking in our time.

"We see how violence and war are taking many forms, fueled by religious intolerance, historical hatreds and divisions, poverty and powerlessness, and by our self-righteousness and fear. Still, our spirits long for another way..."



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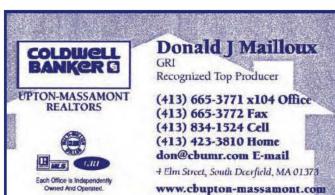
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YEAR 13 - NO. 32

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 28, 2015

B1

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG



In Memoriam.

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Perhaps it's the approach of my seventieth birthday or the arrival of Memorial Day. Whatever the cause, my heart keeps reviewing those lost to my life.

My dad, lover of words and of song, my mom, feeder and nurturer of many and all, my maternal grandmother, vast source of unconditional love.

In the sixth grade I once painted my fingernails red. My grandmother Ruthie took me aside and told me that my mother was upset. This was one of the few times she said anything critical to me, and I remember it vividly to this day.

And my beloved husband of thirty years.

After Woody's death, there was the fearful first drive to our rented Maine cottage, this time alone.

Only maybe an hour into this day-long trek, I suddenly felt the love of these four all around me where they remained for the rest of the drive. When at last, late in the afternoon, I pulled into the cottage, I was greeted by an enormous eagle seated at the top of the pine at the head of the cove.

There was even a greatgrandmother on my dad's side, see GARDENER page B3

Puppets in Prague

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls resident N. S. Koenings is traveling to Prague next week to participate in a three week long marionette building workshop at Puppets In Prague (PIP).

On sabbatical from teaching creative writing at Hampshire College, Koenings makes whimsical dolls when she's not writing her own novels and short stories or painting. She made her first trip to the Czech Republic in 2010 to make a traditional wooden marionette with an eye toward improving her doll constructions.

It was here Koenings met Jan Donaldson, an Australian silversmith whose unique jewelry featured tiny figures. As the only two participants over 40, the two women developed a friendship that has remained steadfast in spite of the miles separating them.

They will finally meet again to study the traditional Family Puppet Theatre, and following the workshop they will join the Puppet Extravaganza – a celebration of the 15th anniversary of PIP. The celebration will include a puppet festival, conference and exhibitions of PIP puppets made over the years.

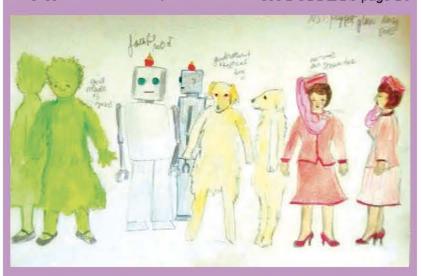


N. S. Koenings.

The Czech Republic has a long history of puppetry, puppet-making and marionettes that dates back to the 18th century when puppeteers roamed the countryside telling stories and entertaining crowds. Family puppet theaters were very popular in the early 20th century, and almost every household had its own puppet theatre.

Puppet theatre in the Czech Republic was a useful tool during some of the difficult political times, as it was overlooked by the censors. Some puppeteers became national heroes. According to K. Ruby Blume,

see PUPPETS page B3



Some sketches Koenings has made in preparation for the workshop.

Old Depot Turns 25



A young Ryan Voiland, at rear, supervises his siblings (left to right), Adam, Kara, and Luke, as they work the family pumpkin stand a quarter century ago.

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – On Saturday, Red Fire Farm celebrated the 25th birthday of the Old Depot farm stand where Ryan Voiland expressed his first agricultural ambition by selling pumpkins his father had grown.

The weather was perfect, the farm stand bursting with abundance. Long tables displayed free samples of produce and some of the other local items sold at the stand.

Some people take a long time to figure out what they want to do in life, but for Ryan Voiland, this knowledge came early.

When he was thirteen his interests included harvesting wild berries, keeping honeybees, making maple syrup, and selling things he'd made, like origami animals and grapevine wreaths. Because he was too young to get a job, he set up a card table in front of his parents' house, and he was in business. That was 1990.

He said, "My idea was to take over management of family garden from my dad and grow a better selection of produce for my stand." His labor plan called upon his two brothers as "indentured servants."

Ryan joined the Franklin County Beekeepers association and had plans to begin keeping bees and producing honey. That year he suffered major scald burns on his legs by accidentally pouring half cooked maple syrup onto his legs in March. He upgraded to evaporator with a spout after this painful incident.

In 1993 Voiland arranged to rent nearby land from a retired farmer. At first he farmed about an acre of John Bitzer's land on Hatchery Road. Eventually he farmed fifteen acres there, and also started several processed product lines, including "Poor Man's Pesto," dilled beans, pickles, jams, and of course honey and maple syrup.

Oh, in the midst of all this, he completed his freshman year of high school at Deerfield Academy, where he managed to get a waiver from the sports requirement in order to farm

Nothing in his teen years distracted Ryan from his mission to produce organic produce. After Deerfield, he went to Cornell University to get a degree in General Studies in Horticulture. He also took lots of Farm Business Management classes and decided to try and keep the farm going during his college career.

With the support of his parents, he managed this. "I spent lots of time e-mailing home instructions on how to take care of the crops and fields," he said. "They did

see RED FIRE page B6

Laura and J news during Photo is

This was the first time we've seen the Montague Reporter on the Road on the road. Walter, Eleanor and Shannon Ramsey took this picture in Ponta Delgada, on São Miguel Island in the Azores. The picture they're holding features Janet Porcelli and George Combs on the same island a couple months earlier. So if you're going to the Azores...



Laura and Jim Higgins, formerly of Turners Falls, caught up on local news during a recent transit of that other canal — the one in Panama.

Photo taken as cruise ship passed under Centennial Bridge.



Simon Eaton and Emily Bourque took us to the Isle au Haut in Maine's Penobscot Bay.



Last month Kathleen Lynch introduced us to Disney's Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT).



Pet of the Week



"ROCKY"

Rocky is a sweet boy with an easy-going demeanor.

He loves to play with squeaky toys and to cuddle up with his people at night and will even sleep under the covers with them if he is allowed to.

He is housetrained, but has never been crate trained.

If you think Rocky might be the dog for you please ask a Dakin team member for more information.

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

Senior Center Activities June I to 25

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 6/1

10:10 a m. Aerobics 10:50 a m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 6/2

9:30 a m. Mat Yoga

10 Triad Fair at Schuetzen Verein 10:30 a m. Chair Yoga Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Tech Tutor appts. 12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 6/3

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

Noon Lunch 12:45 p.m. Bingo Thursday 6/4

10:10 a m. Tech Tutor 10:30 - Noon Brown Bag Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns Friday 6/5

10:10 a m. Aerobics

10:50 a m. Chair Exercise Noon Pizza Party 1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, temporarily at 18 Pleasant Street, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p m. for activities and congregate meals.

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

For information, call Paula 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 6/1 No Info Available Tuesday 6/2

8:45 a m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Cardio Toning Health Expo 12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 6/3 8:45 a m. Line Dancing 9:30 a m. Blood Pressure 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo & Snacks Thursday 6/4 8:15 - 10 a m. Foot Clinic 8:45 a m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles Brown Bag Pick Up Friday 6/5 9 a.m. Quilting, Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Movie

WENDELL

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

Quite a few segments have been filmed, edited and are now available for instant viewing at the MCTV website as well as part of the weekly viewing schedule.

New videos include: · River's Song Project segments on the Fish Ladder, Trash to Treasure Artists. and Water Dance from the May 16, 2015 event.

- · A new episode of Lokel Yokels by host Kathy Lynch entitled "Tales from the Darkside," with guest Mike Langknecht, MCCI Board President.
- Gill and Montague

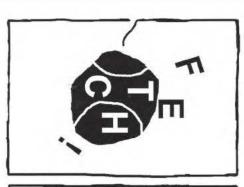
Selectboard Meetings from May 19.

- · Cable Advisory Commit-
- tee Meeting from May 18. · GMRSD School Committee Meeting from May 12.

What's in the Works...

Coming up in the first week of June we will be filming the Town Meeting Member Run-Off Debate moderated by Monte Belmonte, Turners Falls High School Graduation, and a new program kicking off at the 10th Annual Family Fish Day.

Stay tuned for more details next week!







THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Looking Through You



By FRED CICETTI

Q. What's the difference between a CAT scan and an MRI?

The CAT scan, MRI and others are known as diagnostic-imaging tests. Let's go over the common ones.

X-ray

One of the oldest forms of medical imaging, an X-ray examination uses electromagnetic radiation to make pictures.

An X-ray machine passes a beam through your body and records an image digitally or on film. Body tissues produce different results. Tissues show up in shades of gray. Bones look white. Lungs that contain air appear dark.

Sometimes you take a contrast medium such as barium and iodine to outline an area of your body. This medium may be injected, swallowed or taken as an enema.

The contrast medium appears opaque on X-ray film, providing clear images of structures such as your digestive tract or blood vessels.

CT scan

Computed tomography, known as a CT scan or CAT scan, uses X-rays and computers to produce precise images of cross-sections of the body. It is much more revealing than a conventional X-ray.

A CT scan employs a doughnutshaped machine called a gantry. The patient lies on a table inside the gantry while an X-ray tube rotates

around the patient's body sending radiation through it. Detectors measure the exiting radiation and convert it into electrical signals.

A computer gathers the electrical signals and assigns them a color based upon signal intensity. The computer then assembles the images and displays them on a computer monitor. Some CT scans require a contrast medium.

MRI

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a magnetic field and radio waves, instead of X-rays, to create pictures of cross-sections. In many cases, MRI gives more information than a CT scan or other types of diagnostic imaging. Sometimes contrast agents are used to enhance the images.

Most MRI machines are large cylinders. Inside the machine, the human body produces very faint signals in response to radio waves. These signals are detected by the MRI machine. A computer then interprets the signals and produces a three-dimensional representation of your body. Any cross-section can be extracted from this representation.

There are MRI machines that are open on all sides. These newer open MRI scanning systems are useful for the claustrophobic, obese or anyone who feels uncomfortable about lying inside a cylinder.

The MRI often helps with the diagnosis of central nervous system disorders such as multiple sclerosis, because it produces such highresolution images of the brain and spinal cord.

Nuclear imaging

Nuclear imaging detects radiation from the body after a radiopharmaceutical agent or tracer is either in-

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jected or taken orally. The images are recorded on computer and on film.

While other imaging methods assess how the organs look, nuclear imaging shows how organs work. For example, nuclear imaging can analyze blood flow to and from the heart.

Nuclear imaging provides information that other imaging techniques cannot produce.

Positron emission tomography, also called PET imaging or a PET scan, is a type of nuclear-medicine imaging.

When undergoing a nuclear-imaging exam, the patient lies on a table under a special camera that takes a series of pictures. A computer connected to the camera detects the radiation coming from the body organ being examined and makes a series of images.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound examination, also called diagnostic medical sonography, uses high-frequency sound waves beyond the range of the human ear to produce precise images of structures within your body.

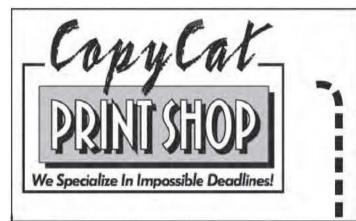
Ultrasound imaging is based on the principles of sonar used by ships to detect underwater objects and by bats to catch flying insects. During an ultrasound, a sonogra-

pher presses a hand-held transducer against your skin. The transducer generates and then receives reflected high frequency sound waves from your body. However, some ultrasounds are done inside your body.

Information about your body is sent from the transducer to a computer. The computer then composes images based on this data.

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

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Sharon Cottrell

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GARDENER from page B1

dimly remembered, and my dad's mother a shadowy figure with a soft voice, a piano player and the steady companion of my grandpa. He was a Quaker minister, and even as he slid into Alzheimer's, a gentle, warm soul. His was a happy dementia, as those things go, and even in the nursing home, he continued to visit the rooms of other residents with his kindly smile and a word or two.

A cousin, my dad's elder brother's girl, made an exhaustive blog of this German family. We had had no contact since I was small, yet she sent the link to both my sister and to me. It contains hundreds of photos, town records going back for generations. As far as we know, she is the only member of the family to take such an interest in genealogy. What a gift.

Then, just last year she sent an email to family and friends saying she had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Her physician recommended she place herself in an assistive facility as soon as possible. We wrote back but never heard again. Some of great grandmother's long-traveled German china decorates my table now.

There is family lore about my grandmother Ruthie's mother, traveling by wagon train, or perhaps her grandmother. There was a journal around somewhere but it is somehow among the missing. There is no one left to ask. But I own many beautiful things, jewelry, dishes and a painting which were wedding gifts when she was married.

I am hoping that one or more of my sister's children will be interested in these family pieces. As it is, I am the gatherer, the one absorbed by the past.

We have, in retirement, stepped into a new phase of life with different focus. I note that those of my family still working, indeed some studying, are consumed by these demands. Retirement, I think, gives us more time for reminiscence, for treasuring memory as well as for

PUPPETS from page B1

The undisputed leaders of

puppetry in Europe, the Czech

puppeteers also had a tradition

of radical puppetry. When the

Czech language was banned by

the Austrian Hungarian empire in

the 19th c., puppeteers continued

to perform in Czech as an act of

defiance. During Nazi occupation

illegal underground performances

in homes and basements with anti-

famous anti-technology play RUR

and coined the word Robot, wrote

anti-fascist prose pieces for the

Josef Skupa, a famous popu-

lar puppeteer known for his lead-

ing character Spejbl, did wartime

tours of adult puppet plays with

subtle allegorical points imper-

Czech women made puppet shows

from scraps of nothing to keep up

their morale. Eventually the Nazis

suppressed all Czech puppetry and

over 100 skilled puppeteers died

- from www.rogueruby.com/

Students in the workshop will

work an eight-hour day building

a puppet theatre, proscenium and

under torture in the camps.

radpup html

"In the concentration camps,

ceptible to the censor.

Karel Capek, who wrote the

fascist themes, called 'daisies.'

organized

Czech puppeteers

puppeteers.

continuing to look and plan ahead.

One of my sisters-in-law has gone back generations in the Brown family, finding a family member who was burned at the stake in Salem and another, ironically, a judge of these burnings. My partner Ken and I were bemused to find our family names on neighboring monuments in an Old Deerfield cemetery. According to my sister-in-law, our families were related at some point in the distant past.

The almost summer spreads before us. The lilac has all but gone by, replaced by rhododendron, iris, lily of the valley, beach rose and beauty bush. The strawberry bed is full of bloom. So too the blueberries.

The tomatoes, hardened by windy days and chilly nights, seem to have settled in. They are beginning to blossom now and have new top growth. We are eating asparagus every other day and the peas are up high enough so that it is time to set a fence for them to climb on.

A new month is upon us with warmer temperatures urging us to plant peppers, cucumber and squash. The lawn calls for a mowing every week now despite the lack of rain. We water the garden faithfully.

June will find us traveling again, this time for a four-day campout on the Connecticut shore. Our spot is in a loop of campsites appropriately named Seagull. We have chosen a spot with sun and shade, trying to accommodate for both potential weather needs, and will hope simply for mainly dry weather and an ocean breeze to waft the necessary seasonal bugs, if not the seagulls.

And so, in this memorial time, we think of our forebears, and of those lost in battles we wish never to see again, yet look steadily toward the future of our own lives, and that of this splendid planet on which we live. Gardening is such a powerful way to rejoice in all of our natural gifts: earth and sky and water.

Enjoy this season of endings and beginnings and as always, happy gardening.

scenery along with a set of small

puppets and their costumes. They

will also study the history of Czech

the studios of Prague puppeteers,

attend puppet theatre performanc-

es, and see the best of animated

Czech puppet films. They will

study the dramaturgy of the pup-

pet show and develop their own

one-person show which will be

studying under Miroslav Treitnar

who graduated with high honors

from the puppet design department

of the Prague Academy of Per-

forming Arts. His work has been

exhibited all over the world, and

he's taught hundreds of students.

Treitnar will be joined by pup-

pet director Tomas Behal, wood

carver Vaclav Krcal, costume spe-

cialist Marcela Krcalova as well as

American born historian and trans-

Koenings encourages her stu-

dents to take risks with their work

and to try new and difficult things.

While she is looking forward to the

history and construction features of

the workshop, she admits her risk

taking is focused on the perfor-

mance aspects which will definitely

take her out of her com-

fort zone.

lator Leah Gaffen.

Workshop participants will be

performed for audiences.

In the evenings they will visit

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Insomniac Shoots Out Street Light; Bear Bends Poles; Revival Preaching Is Annoying

Monday, 5/18 9:04 a.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace requests to have on record that someone rang her doorbell at 4:00 this morning. Advised to call back if this happens

12:59 p.m. Report of porch fire on Park Street. TFFD advised.

4:07 p.m. Passerby flagged down officer to report smoke in the area across from Railroad Salvage. Officer located and spoke to two parties on the riverbank with a small campfire; they will extinguish fire.

9:06 p.m. Two reports of what sounded like gunshots near Highland School Apartments. Area search negative.

9:51 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that she observed a male party outside with some type of weapon, possibly a slingshot, shoot out the street light across the street. Responding officer located a projectile underneath a street light that is out. Officer located and spoke to involved party, who states that he shot out the newly installed light because it shines into the house and keeps him awake. Report taken.

Tuesday, 5/19

8:20 a.m. Report of a theft of an iPad speaker system from a teacher's office at Sheffield Elementary School. Report taken.

10:48 a.m. Caller reports seeing a male remove a rifle from his vehicle and walk inside the building to his apartment with an unknown female. No license to carry found on file. Responding officer found that the weapon was a 100 year old BB gun. No further action needed.

12:55 p.m. Anonymous complaint regarding a vehicle that has been speeding on a regular basis on Davis Street. Officer spoke with registered owner, who agreed to slow down and go easy on the gas since the vehicle has a loud

muffler. 3:15 p.m. Report of ceiling fan on fire on Eleventh Street. Officer on scene.

4:34 p.m. Following a report of suspicious activity at Park and Seventh Streets, a summons was issued.

8:18 p.m. Report of a black pickup truck on the bike path. Responding officer found that parties are working with FirstLight on a study of the fish at night in the canal; they will be working in the area until June. Advised to check in with MPD.

9:46 p.m. TFFD responding to X Street for a fire investigation.

10:36 p.m. Off duty Greenfield officer behind a vehicle that is all over the road. MPD officer checked residence; operator claimed

that she was tired and had a hard time keeping her eyes open while driving. She is reportedly in for the night.

Wednesday, 5/20

8:21 a.m. Medication reported stolen on Fourth Street. Report taken.

11:26 a.m. Caller from K Street advises that last week she noticed two poles that she has bird feeders on were bent over. She spoke to a neighbor who said that she noticed a bear in the area. Caller advised to take in bird feeders, keep trash secured, and call back if she sees bears.

7:18 p.m. Caller reports that a train is sitting at the crossing blocking Lake Pleasant Road; she has been waiting approximately 10 minutes. Pan Am contacted; operator advises that train will move in 5 minutes.

Thursday, 5/21

9:10 a.m. Report of vandalism to stones at St. Mary's cemetery. Officer spoke with the custodian who has been working in the cemetery; damage believed to be previously reported damage in Aaron Clark cemetery.

10:30 a.m. Truck on N Street found to have plates that do not match its VIN. Owner arrived while vehicle was being towed and produced paperwork. Officer explained to owner what he needed to do to transfer the registration. 10:38 a.m. Warrant arrest

on Rod Shop Road. 11:20 a.m. Caller reports that on Tuesday another dog (unleashed) attacked her dog (leashed) while they were walking on Crescent Street. Caller's dog was treated at vet. Referred to animal control officer, who will investigate. 2:17 p.m. Caller reports that the bronze military marker is missing from his grandfather's grave at Aaron Clark Cemetery. He has contacted the Veterans Agency, and they have replaced his missing marker.

Investigated. 7:43 p.m. Caller reports that a female subject at the Greenfield Savings Bank has a flat tire but has refused assistance. Caller believes that she may be intoxicated.

8 p.m. Officer advised of argument at Greenfield Savings Bank involving male/female parties.

was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; license not in possession; and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

9:56 p.m. Deerfield PD requests that an officer meet them in the area of Montague City Road to check on a boat in the river shining a spotlight along the shore. Parties on boat determined to be with First-Light.

10:42 p.m. Party on Maple Street requests officer to assist her with gaining entry to her apartment; she accidentally locked the door behind her, and her 18 month old is in the bedroom sleeping. Services rendered.

11:40 p.m. Loud noise complaint on Second Street. Noise audible from street. Parties advised of complaint.

Friday, 5/22

1:47 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that while he was at the store, a female friend who was visiting left his house and that his small dog was missing as well. Caller believes that the female went to Greenfield to sell the dog. Officers unable to locate female. Caller advised of options.

1:41 p.m. Party into station to report sharps container full of needles found broken open outside the tenant dumpster at Hillcrest Homes. Advised of options.

7:10 p.m. Bike reported stolen from porch on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

7:18 p.m. Caller advises that he was just threatened by the operator of another vehicle, who yelled profanities at the caller before heading toward Erving. Report taken.

Montague Street reports Advised of options. that a bear just walked through her yard. Officers advised.

Saturday, 5/23

1:53 a.m. Caller reports that 4 young males are hanging out on Poplar Street in front of her house and that this is the second time they have woken her up by being loud. Officer located two vehicles in area, most likely fishing, but unable to locate males.

7:39 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that her

vehicle was egged overnight. Referred to an officer.

12:02 p.m. Brush fire on Randall Road. TFFD on scene. Fire knocked down. 4:01 p.m. Report that a teenager on G Street was seen taking a package from behind a residence, kicking it, then putting it behind another residence. Officers located party, who admitted to taking the package. Summons issued.

5:11 p.m. Report of ongoing harassment on Bridge Street. On record.

6:42 p.m. Group of kids found playing in Unity Park parking lot, lying down in parking spaces, etc. Advised to move along to park.

7:53 p.m. Caller advises that bike reported stolen yesterday has been found. 8:12 p.m. First of three calls complaining about loud music at Pesky Park. Callers advised that permit had been issued for event and that it should end between 9 and 10 p.m.

8:40 p.m. Complaint regarding loud music playing at Hubie's Bar on Avenue A. Officer checked area; stated that it was not that bad and that they probably have a permit as well.

9:14 p.m. Complaint of fireworks on Federal Street. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 5/24

6:36 a.m. Report of suspicious activity in the area of Taylor Hill/North Taylor Hill/Meadow/Greenfield Roads. Investigated.

12:05 p.m. Caller reports that his bike was stolen from outside Kali B's last night. Report taken.

2:46 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports that a neighbor's dog attacked her friend's dog. Investi-

6:06 p.m. Neighbor distur-10:32 p.m. Caller from bance on Central Street.

> 7:29 p.m. Report of verbal altercation on Davis Street. Officers spoke to involved parties about the language that they were using in front of kids.

> 8:26 p.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering on Keith Street. Report taken.

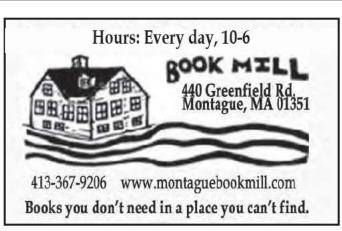
> 11:10 p.m. Callers report smoke coming from the Third Street Laundry. TFFD notified and en route. Dryer fire extinguished.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM! KIG WBDO LUMP-FUTON FIFTES UTBIS ALCOMA NIST ABMY AUI IS PZOJBY

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Suspicious Vehicles

Monday, 5/11 2:35 p.m. Report of motor vehicle crashing into a building on West Main Street, under investigation.

Tuesday, 5/12
1:30 a.m. Suspicious vehicle on Dorsey road found to looking for a place to fish.

place to fish.
2:10 a.m. Assisted with
a medical emergency
on Forest Street.

Wednesday, 5/13

6:25 a.m. Report of breaking and entering into residence on Gunn Street, report taken. 10:20 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on River Road.

Thursday, 5/14
12:45 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on French King Bridge, gone on arrival.
5:16 p.m. Assisted with flat tire on Route 2 until

Friday, 5/15 9:30 a.m. Assisted with

tow arrived.

medical emergency at Weatherhead's Convenience Store.

Saturday, 5/16 2 a.m. Subjects at Usher Mill moved along. 6:44 p.m. Fire alarm at Central Street residence found to be candle, house secure.

Sunday, 5/17 10:45 p.m.

arrested for operating with a suspended li-

Monday, 5/18
8:20 a.m. Assisted Montague Police at Franklin Street in search for subject. Same found at Weatherhead Convenience Store and taken into custody by Montague Police.

Tuesday, 5/19
9:20 a.m. Subject walked in to station to complain of six hypodermic needles in the area of State Road. Same picked up and disposed of.

4:23 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Old State Road. 5:35 p.m. Report of suspicious male on French

picious male on French King Bridge. Found to be state worker setting up equipment. Wednesday, 5/20

Wednesday, 5/20
10:35 p.m. Report of individual burning trash on Lester Street, Erving Fire Department advised.

, arrested for operating with a suspended license and no inspection.

Friday, 5/22

2:30 p.m. Report of tree across Route 2 in area of paper mill. 7:01 p.m. Trespassing reported at Usher Mill, located same and subjects moved along.

Saturday, 5/23
4:24 p.m. Report of lost hiker who went on M&M trail, found the way on their own.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was May 26, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

> Daunting Costs Imperil Strathmore Redevelopment Prospects

Written into Montague's purchase and sale agreement to purchase the 134-year-old Strathmore Mill is a clause stipulating the town may withdraw from the contract without penalty if the results of a feasibility study on the potential reuse of the 250,000 square foot complex are discouraging.

After a public hearing at the high school Wednesday night, May 25th, revealed the discouraging news that a \$12 million gap exists between what it would cost to rehabilitate the structure and the level lot financing future rents would be likely to support, no one should be surprised if the selectboard chose to invoke that clause.

Who Pays for Sewer Upgrades?

Sewage was again on the minds of the Montague selectboard as

they contemplated upgrades to the sewer treatment plant and combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatements totaling \$5.7 million.

There are three parts to the project. The first involves improving the sewage treatment plant's capacity to handle up to 96% of the water and debris flowing into the Connecticut River from the three CSOs after sudden heavy rains.

After the upgrades, storm overflow will no longer flow into the river from locations in Turners Falls, and excess runoff from the Montague City CSO will be filtered and chlorinated before being released into the river.

Secondly, there is a need at the plant for upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, due to age.

Last, plant modifications are needed to improve the handling of solid waste.

If the \$5.7 million cost was amortized over 20 years, and two thirds of the cost was assigned to taxation, one third to sewer user fees, by the year 2008 - when debt service would be at its highest - the impact to the tax levy for an aver-

age home would amount to \$76.90, while the average sewer bill would be \$569.00.

A Tale of Two Barns

Dan Flagg of Bernardston is building a barn on the foundation of a barn on Main Road, Gill, the Cole family once used for dairy cows. Flagg now owns the property. The roof collapsed under heavy snow load a couple of winters ago.

The roof had leaked and maybe had suffered weakness from decay. It is rumored that people renting the barn may have removed some load-bearing posts to make more room inside. The collapsed barn was not deemed worth saving.

Flagg and his father Allen raised the new barn in more ways that one. They cut hemlock logs raised on the Flagg farm, sawed them out on their sawmill and nailed the hemlock lumber into the framing for the walls.

"Some of the butt logs were awful dense," Allen Flagg said. "They dulled the band saw blade, fast."

Turners Baseball Rides Winning Streak

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Baseball Indians went 3 and 0 this week, extending their winning streak to 5 games.

The wins weren't easy. The first game went into extra innings; the second was against league-leading Hopkins, and the final win came against Athol, who mounted a fierce seventh-inning rally.

But the regular season is over, and Powertown is sitting pretty with a record of 13 and 7. The brackets don't come out until June 1 and the Indians, who were ranked fifth last year in D4 are hoping for a higher spot. Riding a winning streak into the playoffs and peaking in late May can only help their postseason chances.

Turners Falls 3 – Franklin Tech 2

The Turners Falls Baseball Indians defeated the Franklin Tech Blue Eagles 3 to 2 in 8 innings at home on Wednesday, May 20.

Watching the teams compete was like watching a neighborhood pickup game. Many of the Franklin kids played Turners Falls baseball in middle school, and now play for the other school off Millers Falls Road. Like any neighborhood rivalry, it was hard-fought, intense and neckand-neck until the final pitch.

Tech drew first blood, and the Indians were unable to score in the bottom of the first inning. Emmitt Turn took first base on a hit and stole second but he was stranded after a high-fly out.

Quinn Doyle retired the side in the top of the second, getting a K, forcing a high popup caught by the catcher Cullen Wozniak and a highpop infield out.

In the bottom of the second inning, Powertown knotted the score 1-1. Zach Demars got a 1-out hit which landed behind third base and scored from first on a stand up double by Wozniak.

In the third, Emmitt led off with a

renexc@gmail.com

1-1 base-hit to left field, stole second and advanced to third on a Bourbeau fielder's choice. Nick York banged a sac fly to left and the Tribe went into the fourth leading 2 to 1.

The Tribe made costly mistakes – a dropped ball and a passed-ball strikeout – in the 4th, and the score was tied at 2 going into the 5th.

For the rest of the game, every few minutes a car alarm went off, distracting the players, fans and officials. Neither team was able to score again in regulation play.

Both teams had their chance in the seventh. The Eagles got men in scoring position but a called out at home ended the Tech threat. Two walks and a passed-ball double steal put the Tribe at second and third with two outs, but a strikeout sent the game into extra innings.

In the eighth inning, Tech got their leadoff man on base but he was picked off at first. The next two Eagles popped up.

Emmitt led off the bottom of the eighth with a left-field base hit. He went to second on a Bourbeau bunt. The bases were loaded when Nick was hit by a pitch. Then came the wild pitch. Emmitt sprinted down the third base line as the catcher chased after the loose ball. And when his cleats hit the plate, Powertown took the lead and the game.

Quinn Doyle pitched the first six innings for Turners Falls. He allowed 2 runs on 7 hits and 2 walks and scorched 6 strikeouts. Josh Obuchowski pitched in relief, giving up 3 hits in 2 scoreless innings and 'K'ing 1.

Turners Falls 3 – Hopkins 1

On May 21, the Indians defeated conference-leading Hopkins Academy 3 to 1. The win solidified the Tribe's toe-hold on second place in the Hampshire West League, and improved their seed in the upcoming playoffs.

Powertown got on the scoreboard early. In the first inning, Emmitt Turn got a full-count base hit, just beating the throw to first. He stole second and was sent home by Trent Bourbeau. An infield grounder and double play sent the Tribe into the second with a 1-nothing lead.

There was no score until the bottom of the third. Hopkins' lead batter reached first on a passed ball strikeout. A miffed ground ball put two runners on with no outs. The next batter was walked and a sac fly knotted the game at 1.

Blue got the run right back in the fourth. Jalen Sanders reached first and was batted-in on a Zach Demars sacrifice. Hopkins went 1-2-3 and after 4, Powertown was up 2-1.

In the fifth inning, Emmitt, his uniform now dirty from hat to cleats, reached base. He reached home on a standup York double which soared above the left fielder's head.

In the bottom of the sixth, down 3 to 1 against the second-place Indians, Hopkins refused to go silently into the night.

"Nice knowing ya," someone called from the sideline as the first pitch sailed quickly toward the centerfield fence. But Trent was on his bicycle. He sprinted as fast as he could, and barely caught up to the ball as it was clearing the fence. He put his glove up but he was running so fast he had to jump over the fence.

Much to Nick York's relief, Trent lifted his glove to show the ball had been caught for the out.

Hopkins kept swinging, but were unable to catch up, and the Turners Falls Baseball Indians got on the bus knowing they can play with and even beat the big guys.

Turners Falls 4 – Athol 2

On May 27, Powertown outlasted the Athol Red Raiders 4-2. Neither team could score until the Tribe broke out 2 runs in the fourth and 2 more in the fifth. The Raiders weren't able to score until the seventh.

Tyler Charbonneau took the mound for the Indians and threw a complete game of around 120 pitches. He varied them, taking signals from Coach Jason Liimatainen and catcher Cullen Wozniak. Wozniak broke his mitt and was forced to catch with an unfamiliar glove.

Nick York got a solo hit for the Tribe in the first inning. In the bottom of the first, Tionne Brown caught a popup, Zach Demars snatched a quick line drive and Tyler fanned the last batter on a swinging strike. In the bottom of the second, Red got the leadoff man on base on a right field line drive, but Tyler struck out the next 2 batters and Nick York made the final out, fielding a grounder and stepping on second base to get the force.

After a scoreless third, Tyler fanned the first batter of the fourth. The second flew-out to Emmett Turn and the next batter reached on a base-on-balls. But on the steal attempt, Wazniak whipped the ball to Brown for the pickoff and Athol came up empty.

When Blue came to bat, the goose egg was broken. Jalen Sanders blasted a huge fly ball over everyone's heads. He lost a step when he slipped and had to settle for a standup triple instead of an inside-the-park homerun, but he was in scoring position with Tyler Charboneau coming up to the plate.

Tyler batted him home with a RBI to left field. Kyle Bergman kept the rally going, reaching base and advancing Tyler. Then came the scary hands-first slide into home. An official conference ruled that Tyler had beaten the tag. The coaches immediately saw to Tyler's injuries and bandaged up his left arm.

Red threatened to get the runs back in their half of the fourth. After a walk put a man on base, the next batter scorched a double and the lead runner tried to make it home. But Tionne took the cutoff throw and shot the ball home to get the runner out, and the threat was neutralized.

In the fifth, Tionne bunted on, stole second and Emmett drew a walk. Trent advanced the runners with a fielder's choice bunt. Nick pounded a hit to reach first, but the throw to the plate nabbed Tionne. There were 2 outs, men at the corners. Jalen was walked and Tyler batted in Emmett and Nick, and the Tribe extended their lead to 4-0.

In the sixth, Tionne reached first on a shallow centerfield fly, stole second and then third, but was stranded there after a centerfield popup.

In the seventh, the Tribe got runners on second and third with 2 outs but a fly to center ended their ups.

Nick fanned the first batter in the Red seventh, walked the second and let up a leftfield line-drive. He struck out the next batter for the second out but a wild throw put two runs across the plate for the Raiders. Tyler nailed the door shut when he struck out the last batter, his third K of the inning.

Tyler finished with 10 strikeouts, 5 walks and only allowed 4 hits. On the offensive side of the diamond, he had 2 hits, batted-in 3 runs, scored 1 run and drew a walk. Tionne also notched 2 hits. Jalen Sanders was walked twice, hit a triple and scored a run. Zach Demars contributed a RBI. Emmett Turn got 1 hit and drew a walk. And Kyle Bergman and Nick York both hit singles.



Emmitt Turn sprints towards first on the first of his 3 hits against Franklin Tech.

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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson. Children and



their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The 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.

Nature: Photographs, Paintings and Poems. Runs through 6/29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artists of the Deerfield Valley Arts Association. Artists' reception 6/4, 12-2

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Seeking Cool Cats for a special feline feature at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls in June 2015! Seeking feline themed arts and crafts consignors. Contact Nina Rossi,naban@verizon.net (413) 834-8800. www.ninasnook.com

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



Crazy Diamond is a six-piece Pink Floyd tribute band that won the Rock 102's Ultimate Battle of the Tribute Bands in 2014. Band members include musicians from Wendell, and they are gaining a wide following. They will be playing at the Pioneer Tavern (formerly the 63 Roadhouse) on Saturday, May 30, starting at 9 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Bruce Kahn: Dreams, Fantasies and Fetishes Wildly unpredictable Kahn is back for a second showing of his unreal photo compositions. Runs through 6/7

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

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Will Sieruta, Mixed Media Paintings. Runs through 5/31.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: LandEscapes. Group show. Reception for the Community 6/4, 6-8 p.m. Runs though 6/21.

Shelburne Arts Cooperative, Shelburne Falls: *Merry Merry May.* Group show featuring 50 members of cooperative. Runs through 6/1.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: Ann McNeal, Elements of Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendell-mass.us

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Turner's Falls Women's Resource Center, Turners Falls: *Mosaic Workshop* with Edite Cunha. Explore creating ancient decorative art. Event is on 5/29 from 10-2 p.m. Need to register before workshop. 413-863-4804.

EVENTS THURSDAY, MAY 28

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coopsters in the Round. Coop Concerts Summer Series. Eclectic music, family friendly. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Break the Silence. Student poetry reading. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blu

Scott Lawson Pomeroy's FEAR NO '80s. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne
Falls: The Judge. Filmed in
Shelburne Falls! Film at 7:30.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Pearl. Jazz/Blues. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Olivia King with Rodda J. R&B. Also Carolyn Walker. 8 p.m.

Music by Ken Swiatek, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: Kath Bloom. Connecticut folk icon. Also Erin Durant, Wes Buckley. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Side* Street Band. Harmonica driven Rhythm & Blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Gregg Smith and the Broken English. Alt. country/rock. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Judge*. Filmed in Shelburne Falls! Film at 7:30. Music by Small Change, 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Girlcat Adams. Rockabilly. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Dan Kennedy. Bloom Road CD release concert. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern (formerly the Roadhouse), Millers Falls: Crazy Diamond. Music of Pink Floyd. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Freestone*. Boogie blues and rock. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Pete and Serge Celebrate 30 Turns of the Screw: The Lentils, Secret Lovers, Funeral Cone, The Final Frontiers. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Andres Wilson and Asia Mei. 2:30 p.m

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

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

THURDAY, JUNE 4

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*. Classic rock dance music. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: The Collected Poets Series featuring Paul Richmond and Becky Sakellariou. Poetry. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Stone Soup Cafe, All Souls Church, Greenfield: Seth Glier. Benefit concert for Stone Soup Cafe by this Shelburne Falls native and Grammy nominated singer/songwriter. Benefit dinner at 6 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Mad Habits, Wishbone Zoe.* 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, Reggae. 9:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater

Friday & Saturday May 29th & 30th, 7:30 p.m. THE JUDGE

Filmed in Shelburne Falls!

Music at 7 p.m. Friday: Ken Swiatek; Saturday: Small Change

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896



Friday 5/29
The Side Street Band, 9 p.m.
Saturday 5/30
Freestone, 9 p.m.
Sunday, 5/31
John Sheldon, 8 p.m.
Thursday 6/4
The Roosters, 8 p.m.

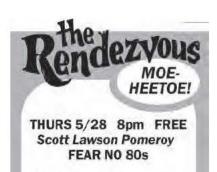
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FRI 5/29 9:30 FREE Greg Smith & the Broken English (alt-country-rock)

SAT 5/30 9:30 FREE Secret Lover The Lentils Funeral Cone The Final Frontiers

SUN 5/31 9pm FREE TNT KARAOKE



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RED FIRE from page B1

what they could."

The enterprise grew. By 1997 sales totaled \$29,127, and expenses were \$15,584. Voiland's net profit was \$13,534. His hourly wage probably amounted to less than a dollar an hour.

This did not hinder his ambition. He took out his first loan to purchase a tractor. But look at what happened to the numbers. In 1998 his sales came to \$40,451, his expenses rose to \$29,900. And his net profits decreased to \$10,092.

This scenario repeats itself year after year. Expansion increases yield, but capital improvements and salaries eat into profits. I asked if there's a perfect ratio of land and yield that will produce reliable profits. Both Voilands said if there is, they are still looking for it.

Nevertheless, the satisfaction that comes from tilling the soil and harvesting beautiful food has never yielded to their frustration, although along the way there have been discouraging times.

Before the widespread appreciation of local foods took hold, Voiland had a hard time selling his produce. When CISA launched the successful "Local Hero" campaign, consumer demand grew and other farmers responded. Now there are many local farms filling the farmers' markets. They have had to make hard choices about where to invest their energy and resources.

In 2001 the Bitzer farm sold, and Voiland needed to find more land. He found a fifty-acre parcel with house and barn in Granby,

and prepared the ground for the works. This includes: 2001 season.

"That year I worked more hours than any other time in my farming career," he said. "I was burned out and on the verge of giving up by the end of the season." He grew 15 acres of crops, sold \$15,700 in products, and lost \$5,000 for the season.

Did he give up? Did he say, Why am I out in the hot sun and frosty fall, worrying about no rain (like this year) or too much rain, birds eating pea tendrils, strawberries that must be covered at night and uncovered during the day so bees can pollinate them, aphids, late tomato blight and more?

No, Voiland continued to expand and looked for ways to market more effectively, because today just being a farmer is not enough. Those of you acquainted with Red Fire Farm know that Sarah Voiland maintains a Facebook page and sends out frequent electronic newsletters replete with photographs and recipes. The farm stages annual events as well, all to maintain public interest in the farm and its products.

With the help of the Mount Grace Land Trust, the farming couple bought property on Meadow Road that had once been Blue Meadow Farm. They also rent fields in and around Montague, and they bought the old Stewart Nursery property on Greenfield Road.

With the property in Granby, they can now use cover crops to 'rest' the soil when they rotate crops. They have hired more help and found a balance of CSA shares, retail distribution and farmers' markets that

1,600 CSA shares in 2014: ~ 43% of sales

Two farm stands: ~ 10% of

4 farmers' markets per week (5 in the winter): ~10% of sales

Wholesale to local natural food stores and co-ops: ~37 % of sales

Today, Red Fire Farm has 110 acres of planted vegetable crops and 200 acres in rotation, and 35,000 square feet of greenhouse space. A \$250,000 renovation and addition to the Montague barn during 2011 provides geothermal cooling for storage. Solar panels in Granby and Montague supply about fifty percent of their power.

Their gross sales in 2014 totaled \$2.5 million, which sounds like a lot until you underline the word gross. There are tractors everywhere, and hoses and tools and trucks, greenhouses and hundreds of feet of plastic hoop covers, barns, coolers and pieces of farm equipment I cannot name - not to mention salaries and benefits. And debt service.

The overhead is enormous. The responsibility would keep most people awake at night.

On Saturday, Voiland led farm tours. The ground is too dry, and he looks worried. He is also concerned about aphids in the greenhouse that houses the tomatoes.

Sarah Voiland carried their youngest child around all day, set up various presentations, and answered questions from home gardeners. Ryan's parents, Jean and Paul, helped out at the farm stand and they were there for the birthday celebration, serving cold drinks and dishing up platters of food.

I thought of how the Voilands have prevailed, thanks to loving parents, unwavering determination, children to always point to the future, some of the best soil in the world, and a community of people willing to reward this work by buying good food raised locally with a great deal of heart. I am grateful, and I do not think I am



The Voilands celebrate the farm's continued success last weekend.

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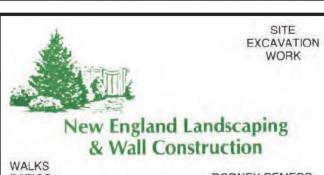
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