



BLOCK PARTY!

Turners Falls; August 14th
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EVERETT HATCH

Feeds the Neighborhood
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 22, 2010

Water Gate Plugged at Northfield Mountain



PARZYCH PHOTO

C. D. Davenport's 100-ton crane sits on a permanent work platform on the Connecticut River, as work continues around the clock to remove silt clogging Northfield Mountain's intake tunnel.

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Northfield Mountain's quarter mile long intake tunnel is plugged with silt, according to at least three employees at the pumped hydro storage facility who wish to remain anonymous to protect their jobs.

FirstLight Power Enterprises, a fully owned subsidiary of Suez Energy North America, has owned the 1,080 megawatt hydro-electric pumped storage facility located on the Connecticut River in the towns of Erving and Northfield since 1996, and has been working around

ongoing effort to clear the silt clogged tunnel and restart the massive generators.

The extended outage, approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, was initially planned to clear silt that had been sucked up the intake tunnel from the Connecticut River to the upper reservoir at Northfield Mountain. But "not much is going on at the top" any longer, according to one employee who first identified himself, but subsequently asked not to have his name

Davenport's equipment included a Caterpillar D-6 bulldozer and a front end loader. The two pieces of equipment graded silt removed in making an access road to the upper end of the intake tunnel, through silt 35 feet deep in the 320 acre pond, working around the clock to allow a 200 ton Manitowoc crane to have access to the tunnel. That 200 ton Manitowoc crane is a model 41000 series I, rented from Cianbro Equipment Co. in Pittsburgh, ME.

Approximately 185,000 cubic yards of silt remain in the storage pond. But that is no longer the main problem confronting FirstLight Power, employees say.

Work at the upper storage pond has ground to a halt. Silt removed in making an access road to the intake tunnel has already filled a depression near the pond. Where to put the rest of the silt is an open question.

The 35-foot diameter, 700-foot long intake tunnel has a silt curtain shielding it at the top. The mammoth Manitowoc crane came equipped with a clam bucket, but it was thwarted in an attempt to clear silt from the upper tunnel, possibly due to the tunnel's 50 degree angle.

One FirstLight employee familiar with the operation said the crane operator came up with an empty bucket with each try. The
see SILT pg 13



PARZYCH PHOTO

Silt surfacing last week at French King Rock, downstream of Northfield Mountain

the clock to clear the intake tunnel since a scheduled three and a half week outage that began May 1st went awry.

The hydro plant has been shut down since, along with the recreational trails on Northfield Mountain, and the stoppage has been extended indefinitely while workers come in from around the country to assist with the

published.

On Monday, May 17th, Russel West, 41, of Shelburne, an employee of the C.D. Davenport Trucking in Greenfield, was killed while operating a water pump at the upper reservoir, an accident that is under investigation by OSHA.

Working on the silt-filled storage lake atop Northfield Mountain, C.D.

Recreational Tax Breaks & Commercial Gravel Cause an Uproar in Leverett



DETMOLD PHOTO

Roberta Bryant leased the rights to excavate gravel from four - or perhaps five - acres of land she has protected from commercial activity under the town's Chapter 61-B open space program. In the foreground is property owned by Richie Roberts, though the selectboard says it is unsure of the boundary between the two properties. Bryant's horse farm is in the background.

BY DAVID DETMOLD A brouhaha erupted at the Leverett selectboard meeting on Tuesday, July 13th, as 18 or more people piled into the room to discuss the lease of commercial gravel rights to Richie Roberts and Ed Stone on five acres of land owned by Roberta Bryant on 470 Long Plain Road (Route 63).

All agreed that at least four acres of the land in question - if not all five - have been held under Chapter 61-B protection for more than a decade. Chapter 61-B grants a property tax break to the owner, in this case Bryant,

in return for agreeing to forego commercial activity while keeping the land reserved for recreational use or open space.

Bryant has operated the Mount Toby Stables and Craig Memorial Equestrian Center on her Long Plain Road property since 1961.

Leverett assessors' administrative assistant Steve Schmidt said Bryant has had most of her land - about 39 acres - in Chapter 61-B since 1997.

In a follow-up interview, Schmidt said in 2010, Bryant received a \$1191 tax deduction on a total bill of \$7508 for the

parcel in question (which includes the farmhouse and outbuildings) and that in general the excluded acreage has been taxed at 25% of its value for the entire time it has been held in Chapter 61-B.

Schmidt said five acres around the two house lots on Bryant's land were excluded from Chapter 61-B protection, as required by statute, but the land so excluded is not in the vicinity of the gravel pit, which borders Roberts' commercial landscaping business on the northwest corner of Bryant's lot.

Bryant insisted she had
see GRAVEL pg 12

School Community Council Proposed for Gill Elementary School



DETMOLD PHOTO

Dorothy Storrow, right, confers Monday with the Gill Selectboard about the progress of her committee, looking into recommending changes to the Gill-Montague school district agreement (L-r) Randy Crochier, Ann Banash and Ray Purington (not pictured: John Ward)

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - Dorothy Storrow, representing the committee formed by town meeting on May 4th, 2009 to review the school district's regional agreement between the towns of Gill and Montague, reported back to the selectboard 14 months later, on July 19th.

Storrow said the committee has been focusing on two main areas of con-

cern. One is the method by which capital costs for improvements to the Gill Elementary School are assigned entirely to the town of Gill, although nearly half of the students at the school now come from Montague or other area towns.

Storrow said her committee has proposed a formula for sharing those capital costs on a percentage

basis with Montague, and other sending towns.

The other concern is how the Gill school community can retain local control over the elementary school in an era of increased pressure to cut costs, collaborate, or regionalize with other districts.

"Some schools are still town schools," said
see GILL pg 3

PET OF THE WEEK

Sweet Angel

**Starlight**

Hello, my name is Starlight, and I'm a six-year-old female domestic long hair cat in need of a good home. I think I have this pretty name for a few reasons. I look like an angel and I am very sweet. I had a rough start in life and have to tell you that I have lived in a basement the whole time. The wonderful staff here has helped me come out of my shell and I am more confident now. I want very much to share my love with a really special person who will love me, pet me, feed me really yummy food and maybe buy me a cat perch so I can sit near the window and gaze out to the stars - you know, Starlight, Starbright... Are you that special person I am wishing for tonight? For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or via email: info@dphvs.org.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS**Summer Reading Program Parties**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE - The Montague Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program parties will be held the first week in August. On Monday, August 2nd, the annual Montague Center Library Costume Party will be held from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. The Millers Falls Library Summer Reading Program Party is Tuesday, August 3rd from 3:30 - 5 p.m. This party features many door prizes and bountiful refreshments. The Carnegie Library Rainforest Live Animal Show with Creature Teachers is Friday,

August 8th, at 10 a.m. The parties are for summer reading program participants and their families. It is not too late to sign up for the Go Green at Your Library summer reading program at any of the three Montague Public Libraries. The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Monday - Wednesday 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursdays 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS**Leverett Family Museum Presents Librarian**

• The Leverett Family Museum's "Voices from the Past" series features Ethel (Beaman) Woodard on Monday, July 26th, at 7:00 p.m.. Ethel Woodard was the town librarian for many years and was very involved in town and church activities. Her family legacy includes a number of present-day Leverett residents, some of whom will be telling stories about her. There will also be readings from scrapbooks made of newspaper clippings about Leverett (and some national events) that she meticulously kept during the early 1950's. If you have any questions, please call 548-9452.

• **Movie & Craft Night**, part of the Leverett Library's "Read to Feed" Summer Reading Program. For elementary school-

aged kids. Tuesday, August 3rd, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free. We will show a short film called *The Promise*, which profiles two children: eight-year-old Parmatma of India, and nine-year-old Beatrice of Uganda. The two children have never met, but they have much in common - mainly a familiarity with poverty and hunger. The film shows how Heifer International is working to help children like these all over the world by giving livestock, training, and technical assistance to their families. Kids will also have a chance to try a traditional craft. Kids who have read three or more books this summer will be eligible to vote for the animal that they would like the library to sponsor. Refreshments will be served.



TURNERS FALLS- Everyone seemed to have a good time at the Carnegie Library's annual Story Hour Summer Picnic on Wednesday, July 21st. Ruth O'Mara held everyone's attention with the fingerplay rhyme "Two Little Dickie Birds." There were stories, watermelon, and Snow's ice cream followed by outdoor games. Story Hour is held every Wednesday morning at 10:15 a.m. For more info: call 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - July 26th to August 6th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Poet's Seat Health Care Center's Registered Pulmonary Therapist, Rani Silver, will be presenting a "Breathe Easy" Program on Thursday, July 29th that will include a free respiratory screening, tips on breathing easier, and information about pulmonary health. Call the Senior Center to sign up for the program and free respiratory screening. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

Mondays, July 26th, August 2nd
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Group
Tuesdays, July 27th, August 3rd
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag (8/3)
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesdays, July 28th, Aug. 4th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursdays, July 29th, Aug. 5th
10:00 a.m. Breath Easy Presentation (7/29)
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Fridays, July 30th, August 6th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m.,

FACES & PLACES

Rich Bradley, (left) ET&L's super on the Prospect Street Bridge replacement in Turners Falls, stands on the completed span with expert laborer Joe Alves. The bridge will reopen Friday, after being closed for more than ten years.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**Sign Up for Summer Reading, Crafts & Play**

• You can still sign up up for Wendell Library Summer Reading on Saturday, June 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Kids, we'll snap your photo so you can get yourself located on this year's interactive Summer Reading mural. Short activity involved. Pick your first books and get started reading!

• **Go Green Crafts and Play** every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for ages six and up*, snack provided. Upcoming schedule for the group: July 28th - Make Garden Stepping Stones, August 4th - Surprise Program, August 11th - Magic Tricks & Games, August 18th - Basketball Court Art Gallery, August 25th - Summer Reading Party and Prizes. No pre-registration required but spots may be limited. Call ahead if you can.

• Program for children ages three through six: Creepy Crawlies with Johanna Fitzgerald on Monday, July 26th, 10:00 playground hangout and 10:30 to 11:30 outside program. Get down and dirty with Johanna exploring what lurks under rocks and

leaves around the library. Please call the library to sign up.

• **Family Evening Program:** How to Compost with Worms, on Tuesday August 3rd, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. presented by Amy Donovan from the MRF. Evening fun PowerPoint on worms and composting followed by a demonstration on setting up a worm composter. Watermelon served. The worms need the rinds!

• **Family Evening Program:** Science Magic presented by the Boston Museum of Science on Wednesday, August 11th, 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., short activity and refreshments to follow. Call the library at (978) 544-3559 or visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org for more information. This is not a school sponsored program.

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WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

GILL from page 1

Storrow. "Gill Elementary basically isn't."

Since May of 2007, when town meeting approved intra-district choice for the elementary school, the ratio of students attending Gill Elementary from out of town has risen steadily, until now it is about 50 - 50, Storrow said.

"It's not Gill's elementary school anymore. It's a regional elementary school. We need to get our heads around the fact that our little school didn't have enough children to survive."

In a follow up interview, Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd confirmed, "Right now, the Gill school population is only about 50% Gill students. If they didn't accept inter- and intra-district choice students, they'd only have about 60 students, K-6. They'd have to go to combined grades or face what Montague Center faced a few years ago, and have to close."

Storrow continued, "Now, it sounds like the state is rattling its horns again about forcing collaboration or district regionalization. That would make local control very important."

To that end, Storrow said, her committee is interested in exploring how to set up a strong school community council at Gill.

She emphasized, "When we're talking about Gill Elementary School, it's not Gill's local control we're talking about, it's the Gill Elementary School community's local control."

She said "study after study" affirm the importance of small cohesive schools to educational outcomes.

However, Storrow said her committee has been hampered by having only three members, all busy with various responsibilities, and none of whom are parents of Gill Elementary School students. This has made it difficult to set up meetings, and though Storrow said, "We're interested in pushing the envelope," she also said the committee did not want to make proposals without "buy-in" from the school community.

The selectboard offered to get in touch with Gill Elementary principal Rita Detweiler to see if she had recommendations of parents of school children who might want to get on the regional agreement study committee.

Storrow also noted that the G-M school committee has recently taken steps to set up a parallel subcommittee to study the regional agreement, that may work in tandem with the Gill committee.

Ladd said at the school committee meeting on July 27th, members will make recommendations about areas of concern within the district agreement for

the subcommittee to consider.

Ladd was not hopeful about the prospects of Montague sharing capital costs at Gill Elementary, even with the proportion of intra-district students approaching 50% at that school.

"It's a double edged sword. If Gill wants to maintain their school the way they would like it, that's the price of it. To turn around and ask Montague to pay capital costs based on the number of students they send there, I can certainly see Montague's reaction, probably not positive."

Ladd was more sanguine on the topic of creating a strong school community council at Gill Elementary, and at all the district schools.

"I've always been in support of school community councils that were more involved and more engaged. That is one of the goals the school committee had for this year, and it's certainly a goal of mine, to have school community councils that are more empowered to set the direction as far as school improvement plans, and the overall tenor and climate you want to put forward as a school, the values that are important to the school community. That helps to get away from the overbearing emphasis on MCAS scores. Parents want their students to be thinkers and caring individuals and responsible citizens. You don't necessarily get to that with MCAS."

Ladd said a school community council could "explore the new innovation model that is part of ed reform. There would be some value to look at Gill Elementary as an innovation school, but having more autonomy. That's something we could work together on, rather than pitting towns against each other."

Ladd continued, "The innovation school model provides for more autonomy for a school council to be more involved in the hiring process of the building principal, setting the budget, and being responsible for the curriculum, if they want to do a theme-based or environmental place-based curriculum. That could be developed within an innovation model. It's a way of getting schools within a district to think more creatively, in response to the charter school movement."

In other news, the selectboard authorized administrative assistant Ray Purington to be in contact with the Northfield Mount Hermon School on the subject of NMH's annual \$10,000 payment in lieu of taxes to support emergency services in the town of Gill.

Selectboard member Ann Banash said the town has been receiving \$10,000 annually from NMH for "as long as I've been around."

see GILL pg 5

A Message from the Board of Directors of the Montague Reporter

Dear Readers,

As you may know, this community newspaper is published by a 501(c)4 not-for-profit corporation, also called *The Montague Reporter*. The Board of Directors just held its annual meeting, and we wanted to tell you a bit about how the newspaper as it embarks on its 9th year of publication.

Some highlights:

More papers sold. Subscriptions increased to an all-time high of nearly 900, and we continue to sell hundreds more copies each week at local businesses.

Expanded coverage. In October of 2009, we started covering the town of Leverett along with Montague, Gill, Erving, and Wendell.

New technology. We bought our first new (much needed!) computer. We also established new ways for you to connect with us online: a Facebook page, a Paypal account, and the "Five Towns Extra!" blog at montaguereporter.blogspot.com.

46 issues. The incredible, hard-working staff, plus lots of volunteers, got every issue out, even when the storm of May 26th left our office dark.

Still, despite these successes, we face some significant challenges:

We continue to need your financial support. We are committed to keeping the cover price of the newspaper and its advertising rates reasonable. However, the cost of producing the paper has gone up. We're looking for ways to increase income and cut expenses without compromising our mission to serve the community. Many of you have made donations and purchased subscriptions this year. We appreciate your generosity and continue to rely on your help.

We need more help producing and distributing the paper. The more we grow, the more people it takes to produce each issue. Right now we're looking for proofreaders, advertising and sales reps, paper deliverers, general office help, and reporters. Let us know what you'd like to do!

We also need board and committee members. The newspaper will be on stronger footing if more people take responsibility for keeping it going. Serving on the board or a committee requires no special expertise—just the willingness to work collaboratively with neighbors who believe that Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett deserve to have their own local newspaper.

Want to know more? Contact any of us, or email montaguereporter@gmail.com.

David Brule 413 423 3826 • Jen Audley 413 676 9368 • Lyn Clark carolyn.clark29@verizon.net
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*Silliman Hall burns in 1965, as Northfield Mount Hermon plays on against Deerfield Academy
Photo by Robert S. Van Fleet / Courtesy of the Northfield Mount Hermon School archives.*

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I'm Not Sorry at All

BY CARL LADD

GILL- MONTAGUE - I recently realized that I had passed the first year mark of my tenure as superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District. It has been a challenging year, but also a very successful and fulfilling one.

Last fall the school committee adopted academic and fiscal goals that became our focus over the course of the year. The academic goals included increasing the graduation rate, improving standardized test scores, resolving the elementary configuration, and exploring expansion of our educational programs. The fiscal goals included developing a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability, engaging the state and communities in developing such a plan, and developing a local consensus on town "affordability" and educational goals.

This was an extremely ambitious one year agenda and we tackled it aggressively.

On the academic front, we have doubled our efforts to dramatically raise our graduation rate with new AP Courses, Freshman Academy and programs to more fully engage high school students in leadership and community service learning elective courses for credit. Our standardized testing scores for 2010 reached new highs in all schools. Preliminary 2010 MCAS scores are extremely promising - we will have more certainty when the final calculations are released later this summer. We are very proud of the hard work of our students and teachers.

The GMRSD school committee adopted a long-term strategic vision in March of this year which has allowed the district to move forward positively on many fronts. With the formation of the Montague Elementary School - a two-building/one-campus model that spans grades

Pre-K through 5 - we have moved a long way toward resolving the elementary configuration issue that has plagued the district for several years.

We have embraced the concept of early childhood education as the foundation for long-term fiscal stability and stabilizing district enrollment. We are serving as a model in the Pioneer Valley in early childhood education through the extraordinary implementation by our staff of Tools of the Mind, a nationally recognized curriculum and instructional approach based on a strong social curriculum and an emphasis on developmentally appropriate academic practices. This program is now also being adopted by Orange, Petersham, Amherst and Gardner, with us, in a regional collaboration spearheaded by the DESE Pioneer Valley District and School Assistance Center.

We have entered into an agreement with the Mass Math & Science Initiative to provide additional Advanced Placement courses at the high school in math, science, and English composition. This effort will expand the already high number of AP courses that Turners Falls High School offers, making a strong program even stronger and more enriching.

While we have worked to provide additional academic challenge for our students, we are also working to help those who, for a variety of reasons, are at risk of falling behind or dropping out. There are outstanding efforts made by many administrators and staff to reach out to those students through credit recovery options, dual enrollment, service learning, and MCAS support to ensure that each student receives the type of help necessary to be successful.

On the fiscal front, the district has worked diligently to address the ongoing concerns of the communities regarding sustainability and affordability. The school committee and administration worked collaboratively to develop a formal budget process that emphasizes the need to address the structural budget gap, to develop a consensus around the concept of affordability, and to create a budget that is

predicated on fiscal and educational sustainability. There has been an unprecedented collaboration between the leadership of the towns of Gill and Montague and the school committee to work together in addressing the ongoing fiscal concerns. To that end, the school district has proposed a budget that is actually less than the previous fiscal year while maintaining educational integrity. Perhaps most importantly for the long term, we have made significant progress in collaboration with member towns and the state in developing a framework for long-term sustainability. In the coming weeks we will work to reach agreement on key elements of this plan, including funding commitments and a per pupil spending analysis, but this has already been an extraordinary effort to work together rather than continue the previous budget battles.

We have made significant progress on many fronts that should be acknowledged and celebrated. When I attend meetings around the state and I inform people where I'm from the response is usually some variation of "Oh, I'm sorry."

I quickly reply to them, "I'm not sorry at all", and then I begin to tell them about the things we are accomplishing and the tremendous staff, students, and communities that I am privileged to serve and supportive school committee that I am honored to represent. There remains a great deal of work ahead of us, but I am more pleased than ever that I made the decision to come to Gill-Montague, and I look forward to next year with a renewed commitment and a reinvigorated faith that we are making a difference. We will continue to do so as long as we remain focused on what truly matters - our children.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Seek Alternate Route

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Family Nurturing Program Thanks

Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) would like to thank the Montague Elks for their generosity in loaning the wonderful big meeting space at their lodge to the Gill-Montague community for the "Nurturing Families Program Training" on June 28th - 30th.

Sponsored by MCSM and the Brick House, the training was attended by people representing eleven local agencies including the Gill Montague Regional School District. The workshop, presented by trainers Sue Parker of the Family Nurturing Center, of Dorchester, MA and Heather McCauley of Valuing Our Children, from Athol introduced the wide range of nurturing programs available (Nurturing Programs for Parents and Children, Prenatal, Teen Parent, Nurturing Fathers, Parents in Recovery, Babies, Birth and Foster Families).

A planning committee has formed to look into the possibility of offering a nurturing program for parents and children in Gill-Montague. In our rapidly changing culture, the social fabric that weaves us together often wears thin and parents can feel alone, isolated and vulnerable. Nurturing programs are validated, internationally recognized curricula that strengthen family relationships, improve parenting skills and build a sense of community that makes it easier for families to withstand the stress of raising children.

We are grateful to the Montague Elks for their community spirit, and look forward to working together to build connections and resilience for parents and children in Montague.

- Susan Mareneck, Director
Montague Catholic Social Ministries
Turners Falls

Deerfield Academy Track Meet Leaves a Lasting Impression

This is a story that must be told.

I grew up in Turners Falls and graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1964, the old high school that burnt down. The year was 1962 and it was spring. At the time Turners Falls High School was in dire straits financially. The new track and field coach was John (Jack) Bassett. Coach Bassett called a meeting of the prospective track team's members and explained the situation and asked for all of the team members' help and cooperation in all matters regarding the team. He told us we were not to complain, fuss or whine that we did not have a track. He told us to do the best we could with what we had and he would not ask for anything more. Our track meets would have to be held at schools that had track and field facilities.

Our football field served as a training facility for running, discus and shot put. In a sand lot next to the old high school we dug our high jump, broad jump and our pole vault pits and we filled them with sawdust, which was donated by a sawmill on the Sawmill River. In the early 60s, all the male students were required to take a year of manual training (shop) and the young ladies were required to take a year of home economics (cooking and sewing). The manual training course was put to use

constructing our standards (uprights). Our track equipment consisted of a tape measure, a discus, a javelin, a shot put and a wooden or bamboo pole for the pole vault. Our uniforms (and I use that term loosely) were three or four differently styled printed t-shirts, different shorts and a few pairs of track shoes that were shared by all.

Our track meet with Deerfield Academy was held early in the season. I don't remember the score.

I do remember that at the end of the meet, we had acquired a lot more equipment which we didn't have when we arrived. Coach Bassett was totally unaware of what had transpired, but the Deerfield coach told our bus driver, "This bus is not leaving because we are missing too much equipment."

Deerfield Academy's headmaster, Dr. Frank Boyden, was standing nearby and heard this. Dr. Boyden told the Deerfield coach to take his boys to the locker room, he would handle the situation.

Our bus was loaded and Dr. Boyden boarded our bus. We were scared! But our fears soon vanished as Dr. Boyden thanked us for coming to Deerfield to compete. He told us we were gentlemen and that we would always be welcomed back to Deerfield.

He wished us a good day and we departed. Our bus left with a lot of new equipment, which we put to good use. Dr. Boyden knew what had taken place but he let it slide, because he knew how little we had.

I just finished reading The Headmaster, a profile of Dr. Boyden by John McPhee, for the fourth or fifth time. Every time I read it this story comes to mind. I do not believe it was ever told until now.

We grew up in a time when Turners Falls folks were just making ends meet. As a kid I can remember selling newspapers to the junk man. Most of us attended college or worked in the trades and now we are retired. At the time we were an enterprising group of young men who grew up to be responsible citizens. Dr. Boyden saw the good in us and we loved him dearly for it! He will never be forgotten by any member of that track team.

- Martin Yarmack
Gill

Note to Readers

The Montague Reporter is on its summer schedule, printing every other week. There will be no paper on July 29th, August 12th or 26th. We return to weekly publication on September 2nd.

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MORE LETTERS

A Pleasant Dining Experience

My family appeared at the restaurant door one hour prior to their opening, 9 a.m. instead of 10, to find a custodian busily wrapping up repairs from the din of the night before. When we returned at the proper hour, the place had been transformed, as if it were the Wizard of Oz palace, so shiny it blinded us. A nice way to begin a pleasant breakfast.

The dining experience became scrumptious, with quiet music blending into our taste sensations of perfectly mastered Belgian waffles and breakfast burritos. The coffee kept com-

ing. The waitress enlightened us with fun banter. A family with small children enjoyed their relative's company easily in the restaurant's calming environment.

I would heavily recommend this establishment, giving it thumbs up. Please know that the advertising of the Sunday brunch in the *Montague Reporter* led me to the decision from my armchair in Pennsylvania to head to the Rendezvous.

— Joann Olsen
Dover, PA

Updated Bottle Bill Moves to Senate

BOSTON – For the first time in the 16 years it has been pending in the legislature, the Updated Bottle Bill got a favorable report on July 14th from the Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy (TUE) Committee. Senate chair Mike Morrissey, along with House chair Barry Finegold, put the bill out with a favorable report within the first few minutes of the committee meeting. The updated bill would include bottled water and sports drinks in the category of five cent deposit beverages sold in the state.

“The committee’s favorable report puts huge wind behind the sails of this important bill, which is guaranteed to increase recy-

cling, reduce litter, and save cities and towns disposal costs. We look forward to getting it all the way through the process and enacted into law this session,” said Janet Domentz, director of MASSPIRG.

One tipping point for the previously stalled bill may have been a press event held last week in the State House; drawing 160 supporters on a 90°, humid weekday morning. The League of Women Voters, the Mass Municipal Association, the Environmental League of MA, and Mass

Recycle were among the 25 organizations who showed up to urge quick passage of the bill.

“It’s been clear all along that the majority of the public supports this bill because it is good for the environment, it’s good for conserving natural resources, and it makes plain common sense to update the containers covered by the original Bottle Bill,” said James McCaffrey, director of the Massachusetts Sierra Club.

Proponents of the bill are optimistic it can go through the rest of the process by session’s end.

Slippery Information on Migratory Fish Restoration

BY KEN SPRANKLE

GILL - Recent opinion pieces in local papers on the Connecticut River migratory fish restoration programs presented a one-sided story which I will begin to address here. As the Connecticut River Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), I have been disappointed at the use of incomplete information and repeated factual errors.

First, Atlantic salmon restoration has been repeatedly cited as costing anywhere between \$10 million and tens of millions of dollars annually, which is not correct. The USFWS expends an estimated \$1.5 million annually on Connecticut River salmon restoration, most of which is on necessary hatchery costs because the species was extirpated from the river by dam construction. Three of the four federal hatcheries comprising the bulk of that cost also support other species and restoration efforts as well. The many, many details associated with the management and status of this program cannot be adequately addressed in this space.

Another mistaken theory is that the state and federal agency biologists are in a conspiracy with river hydropower operators. I want to assure readers all of the agency biologists that I have the privilege of working with always place the resource first. It is the reason we chose to make this our life’s work. This is not a profession one simply falls into.

It is important to recognize, however, that agencies must work within the existing legal framework that restricts and guides the actions we are able to take. Other users of the river also have interests that are protected by law and it’s within this context that we do our work.

Critics of the agencies would best serve the resource addressing

concerns through this system as an ally to the agencies and groups like the Connecticut River Watershed Council, rather than the counter-productive jabs and dissemination of misinformation that is now occurring regularly.

Some writers have selectively used portions of data and incomplete information, with no context on which to base balanced, informed judgments. One example includes the comments claiming mismanagement of Connecticut River shad by the agencies and recent lower count numbers at Holyoke. However, shad stocks along the entire East Coast are at all-time low levels of abundance, and this spring the Hudson River shad fishery was closed for the first time. Like the shad, blueback herring stocks along the East Coast are equally depressed. The scale and consistency of this points to marine issues (as with salmon) as a primary factor in declines.

My office initiated two successful projects this spring to obtain critically needed herring population data, and initiate active restoration with the use of volunteers, netting by hand and transferring 8,000 herring from the lower river into accessible, but unutilized, tributaries.

Shad passage at Turners Falls has been another target for misleading information. The ongoing shad study by the Conte Laboratory researchers will examine the effects of flow and pond elevation in the Turners Dam pool to determine the conditions that may be attributed to increases in shad passed there this year and to the extent possible, relate that to the Northfield Mountain Pump Storage (NMPSF) outage. The suspension of NMPSF this spring did not return the river to a natural cycle, as has been suggested. Nevertheless, it has provided researchers with an opportunity to

examine effects of river fluctuation on passage at Turners Falls.

This question has been part of these studies from the beginning and continues today. However, the simplistic view presented by critics on cause and effect does not acknowledge that there have been ongoing structural and operational changes to Turners Falls, including fishway improvements and operational changes, resulting in changes in fish behavior. Perhaps most importantly, yearly variations in temperatures and the timing and magnitude of river discharge make teasing out cause and effect very challenging.

In addition, FirstLight Power must react to discharge from TransCanada dams upriver, their competitors, and flows are not coordinated.

The bottom line is the Conte Laboratory researchers are doing innovative work providing critical information as the agencies move forward in discussions to resolve fish passage issues at Turners Falls.

To learn more, please contact me at ken_sprankle@fws.gov or visit the website at www.fws.gov/r5crc.

GILL from 3

In July of 2009, as noted on their website, Northfield Mount Hermon maintained an endowment of \$102 million.

Tracy Rogers, administrative assistant for the town of Northfield, said NMH provided payments in lieu of taxes on an ad hoc basis to Northfield over the years, when the fire or police department or emergency management needed to purchase equipment. Rogers said those payments ceased in 2005, when the school consolidating its campus in Gill.

Banash said Gill would request \$10,000 again this year from NMH, but also would ask to have a meeting with the private school to talk about the PILOT payments.

In the fall of 2007, the town of Gill formally asked NMH to purchase a \$450,000 pumper tanker for the town, to replace a 1978 engine considered to be at the end of its useful service. The town continues to rely on that truck.

Banash said NMH offered to buy the new pumper at a meeting at the school a year or so later, but only in exchange for suspending the annual PILOT payments to the town until the new fire engine was paid off.

Banash said the town rejected that offer, because the PILOT payments had been essential for the police and fire departments to provide local matches to leverage grant funding over the years.

Banash said the school does pay some property taxes to the town on property outside the core campus, and also allows the recreation department to use certain of its facilities. NMH has helped to put a new roof on the town’s safety complex, and also paid half the cost of Gill’s last fire engine purchase, a \$225,000 tanker bought in 1995.

But as call firefighter Stuart Elliot pointed out back in November of 2007, “The NMH campus has been the scene of Franklin County’s

worst fire disasters. They happen pretty much every ten years. It’s unfortunate, but true.” He recalled the conflagration that destroyed two barns in 2000, the power plant fire in 1987, the loss of Recitation Hall in 1975, and the destruction of Silliman Hall, which burned in 1965 while the football team carried on in the field out front of the blazing building, ultimately losing to Deerfield, 20 - 14.

The agricultural commission received permission from the selectboard to hold a farmers market on the grounds of the Riverside Municipal Building on Sunday, August 22nd, from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Of the 132 family income surveys distributed to Riverside residents, to allow the town to qualify for Community Development Block Grant funding to replace pumps and other equipment at the Riverside Water District pump house, Purrington said the town has received 88 responses, the average results of which are well within the low to moderate income guidelines. However, the town needs to have a 90% response rate from Riverside in order to qualify; 32 more responses are needed. Selectboard members Ann Banash and John Ward volunteered to do a little door knocking in the neighborhood to see if they could encourage a few more residents to fill out those surveys.



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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Misses Unity Park Improvement Grant

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Montague's community development block grant proposal to fund improvement to Unity Park was turned down by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard on Monday, July 19th.

"We were off by 1 point," said Abbondanzio.

As DHCD scores grant proposals, Abbondanzio said the lowest scoring project in Massachusetts to get funded this year scored 101. Montague's Unity Park improvement grant scored 100.

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Bruce Hunter, who wrote the grant for the town, said at a meeting between the Great Falls Skate Park committee and the Parks and Recreation oversight committee on July 15th, that this was the first time in 14 years a CDBG infrastructure grant he had written had been turned down. He said it was unusual for DHCD to have previously funded the town of Montague for \$60,000 to design

the Unity Park improvements, and then not to follow through with funding the construction phase.

The town had asked for \$640,000 for the first phase of the \$1.2 million Unity Park improvement plan. The town intended to ask for an additional \$400,000 to build a state of the art 7,200 square foot concrete skate park at Unity Park. Town meeting recently voted to add the land beneath discontinued Williams Way to the west end of Unity Park, to make space for the skate park.

The first phase of construction of the Unity Park improvements would have expanded parking, replaced aging play structures, improved access routes and provided numerous other improvements to the downtown's main recreation area.

Hunter said it might be possible for the town to appeal the decision not to fund the grant proposal over the next month and a half.

"As soon as we received the review notes, we'll discuss with the town how to respond," he said. Hunter said it was possible

the social service aspect of the grant, where the town applied for approximately \$50,000 for the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, may have contributed to the lower score, but the town will not know for certain what brought down the total score until DHCD releases the review notes on the grant proposal.

Skate park committee member Brian Dolan, reacting to the setback, said, "I'm devastated. I've got hundreds of hours personally invested," in the design phase of the new skate park.

"Skaters don't give up," he added.

In other news, the selectboard issued an all alcohol license for the Montague Performing Arts Center, a planned restaurant and music hall at the former Ste. Anne's church and rectory on

6th and J Street, under the management of Jordan Quinn.

The town petitioned the state legislature to issue a special license for the project, which the legislature granted last year.

"I find myself wondering, how many years does this go on?" asked selectboard chair Pat Allen rhetorically.

Board member Chris Boutwell noted the license depends on the installation of an elevator at the church to provide wheelchair access, among other improvements needed to the building. "There is no elevator there, to my knowledge," said Boutwell.

The board granted a request by Turners Falls Airport manager Michael Longo for a stipend to pay for about 100 minutes a month on his cell phone for airport business.

The board continued an ongoing discussion with La Bodega

owner Mark Cannon over noise complaints, including numerous complaints that came in on the date of the Hispanic grocery's first year anniversary, Sunday, July 11th.

Cannon had a permit from the selectboard to hold an outdoor celebration with a live DJ on that date, and for the hours during which the noise complaints were noted on the police log. Town health agent Gina McNeely responded to the scene on the 11th with a decibel meter, and found the noise from the speakers to be within reasonable limits.

The board reissued an annual permit for Alice and Ted Armen to continue to garden on town owned land in Montague Center, to the rear of their Main Street home, for a \$10 fee. The Armenes said "a number of families" enjoy gardening there, in what may be the closest thing the village of Montague Center has to a community garden.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Usher Cleanup on the Agenda

BY BILL FRANKLIN - The main item on the Erving selectboard's agenda for their July 15th meeting was the proposed clean up of asbestos contaminated debris at the Usher property on Arch Street in Erving.

Todd Brown, engineer for Tighe and Bond, presented a report detailing the nature and scope of the asbestos contamination at the site of the 2007 arson fire and made recommendations for its clean up. Brown said the asbestos is thoroughly mixed with other materials on the site of the former mill and cannot be easily separated for removal.

The report recommends that the entire site be cleared of debris.

This past May, Erving voters approved spending up to \$500,000, drawing from the town's stabilization fund, to secure and clean up the Usher Mill.

"This is serious," said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. "It has to be made safe."

Although the present owner of the property, Patriots Environmental, has done some work to knock down fire damaged structures and to fence the site, it remains "too dangerous and easily accessible to children," said Sharp, who described the former mill as an "attractive nuisance."

The selectboard asked Tighe and Bond to prepare a cost estimate that would address different scenarios for the clean up. One option would clean up only the fire debris, while leaving the remaining buildings stand-

ing. The other choice would involve the demolition of all buildings on the property. Those estimates will be presented to the selectboard at its July 29th meeting.

Former selectboard member Jeff Dubay spoke to the board, arguing the town should consider preserving the mill's former boiler room. "It's really a great building," said Dubay. He emphasized that older, authentic structures such as this have an aesthetic and historical quality that can not be recreated. He noted that older buildings attract tourists. "The eye can tell the difference," said Dubay. "Saving the one good building is essential."

The Usher buildings were built in 1917 by the Wakefield Furniture Co., a chair manufacturer. In 1935 the mill was taken over by Fred Mears, who made heels for women's shoes until 1957. Used as a warehouse by Erving Paper for a time, the site has sat vacant since 1990.

Tom Sharp noted that preserving the boiler room building will probably cost the town more than tearing it down. There has to be a clean up of asbestos in the building, and it needs a new roof, he said.

The cost of the clean up will be imposed as a lien on the property and may well ensure the Usher property eventually ends up in town hands.

In other matters, the selectboard appointed Mark Burnett to the position of recreation commissioner. "I think he's wonderful; he'll be a huge

addition," said Sharp. Burnett fills the seat vacated by Katie Dobias. Burnett will have to run for election next May.

The board is also looking to fill the position of Emergency Management Director. This position will be responsible for emergency planning, coordinating police and fire activities and preparedness for the town. A job description will be posted by the town.

Finally, the board addressed the problem of a leak at the High Street fire tank - a man made cavity replenished by a stream that supplies water for fire emergencies. The hole is "leaking as fast as it's [the water] is coming in," said Fire Chief Bud Meattay. He estimated that it will cost approximately \$20,000 to line the hole with concrete and to make it secure.



We Will Be on
Summer Break
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August 17th

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG Accident With Personal Injury

Wednesday, 6/30

4:28 a.m. Car vandalized while at a party on Blueberry Lane.

Saturday, 7/3

12:12 a.m. Fireworks reported on Mormon Hollow Road. Gone on arrival.

Monday, 7/5

8:05 p.m. One car accident on Lockes Village Road. Driver transported to Athol Memorial Hospital.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Anticlimatic Pole Hearing

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On July 7th, the Wendell selectboard meeting considered a pole hearing for three utility poles to be placed on the south side of Mormon Hollow Road, near the intersection with Farley Road.

Harry Williston, chair of the highway commission, came for the hearing, but no one else, no abutters, not even a representative from National Grid, the utility requesting the new poles.

When the hearing opened at 8:00 p.m., selectboard members Dan Keller and Jeoff Pooser asked Williston about his concern, and Williston answered that

he wants the poles set back a minimum of ten feet from the road, preferably fifteen. With no one to talk about the reason for the poles, the selectboard continued the hearing to 8:00 p.m. at the next selectboard meeting, on July 21st.

As the board members signed warrants for various bills, Pooser remarked one item was purchase new tools for the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS), which had been stolen again. Keller said the town plans to install a motion detecting surveillance camera there. The cost of tools stolen is under the

deductible amount in the town's insurance policy, so each time tools are stolen the town pays to replace them.

Keller said the senior center basement dehumidifier had been repaired and was working properly. Its drain line had been plugged, and the repair company cleared it.

Keller said the town presently has no representative to the FRCOG, and that he would go to meetings until someone else came forward.

The selectboard received an advisory from the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Council

regarding a new law that would allow a restaurant, hotel or club, with approval from local authorities and advice from town counsel, to open Sundays at 10:00, instead of at 11:00. Wendell's only restaurant, the Deja Brew Pub, has not yet taken advantage of the 11:00 opening time, so the selectboard merely noted that advisory.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said not all the winter heating oil bids had come in, but that New Salem had approved a price of \$2.39 a gallon after they had budgeted for \$3.00 a gallon, a welcome change from recent trends.

Whittier Plumbing will install two double walled stainless steel heating oil tanks in the town hall. The new tanks will ensure that oil

does not contaminate water the town hall sump pump sends into an abutter's field. Redirecting that flow is an issue still to be addressed.

Board members read a fax from the town of Mount Washington regarding pending expedited wind energy siting legislation. The board felt towns should have some input into the process of siting wind turbines within their borders, and a letter will be sent to the state legislature advancing that opinion.

Keller asked town administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich to include a note in the next town newsletter asking residents not to abuse the tax collector: neither the rate, nor the timing, nor the rules are hers to change.

Board of Health Considers Non-Electric Apartment Application

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
WENDELL - For the first 20 years they lived in town, Jonathan and Susan von Ranson lived on an isolated homestead about two miles from the plowed road, without the conveniences of electricity or running water. They built a cabin in a hurry, and while living there built a stone house where they used a masonry stove for heat and cooking, a composting toilet for solid waste, and pumped water by hand.

Four healthy children came out of that home. The von Ransons sold that house to a couple who still live without the conveniences of electricity and hot and cold running water, and moved to an old wooden farmhouse in the center of Wendell.

They tightened that house, insulated the walls, and built a mud room on the west side which also serves as an air lock against the prevailing wind. In the living room, Jonathan built a masonry stove that on the coldest days of winter heats the house for the whole day with two loads of wood. Once the fire is established, you cannot see smoke coming out of the chimney. The stove burns clean and hot, and the mass of brick around the firebox radiates heat into the room long after the fire has died. The technology of masonry stoves is time honored and efficient.

However, the von Ransons were not content with living in that house, and when it became necessary to restore their barn at a time when global climate change and the limits and hazards of fossil fuels have been in the news daily, they decided to use a section of that barn as a living space, and return to their simple life off the grid.

Other people in Franklin County live off the grid, but usually they try to avoid public attention. The von Ransons wanted to make the point that it should be

legal for someone who wants to use less energy and fewer resources to do so.

The von Ransons have asked the Wendell board of health to allow them to build their apartment in a third of their barn without electric service or wiring, to use a hand pump for water, a composting toilet for solid waste and a masonry stove for heat, hot water and cooking.

The zoning board of appeals and the planning board have already granted them permission to do so, pending board of health approval. The selectboard has written a letter in support, and hundreds of Wendell residents have signed a petition in favor of the von Ransons' simple living effort.

But the board of health has to enforce state health codes as well as town bylaws, and so far the health board has denied the von Ransons' request.

On July 13th, the Wendell board of health again considered the von Ranson's request to build a non electric apartment in the center of town. Thirty citizens were in attendance; those who spoke supported the request.

Jonathan von Ranson began with short talk about the reasons the board should allow their request. Climate change brought on by burning of fossil fuels is a crisis he feels we are only seeing the beginnings of, the effects of which are likely to be disastrous around the world.

Von Ranson said Wendell has a history of facing problems squarely and dealing with them as a town and as individuals. He cited the town's early opposition to wars declared by the executive branch, and the community effort to block the relocation of Route 2 to Bear Mountain, on the south side of the Millers River.

He also cited the precedent of the town of Leyden, where after four years the board of health

reversed course and decided to allow Steven Lang to live in a summer camp without running water. He talked of the Amish in Elkhart County, IL, where applicants are told they must meet the health and safety intent if not always the letter of the regulations, and he cited the 2008 Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act.

He compared the energy and water use of an average New England house with what he expects their proposed apartment will use: much less of everything except wood fuel, and a much smaller total.

Health agent Elizabeth Swedberg asked what kind of monitoring the von Ranson's proposed, and Peter Gallant, who lives in the Bear Mountain house that uses the same systems, said the systems are still working well and she could inspect any time.

Swedberg asked about the residue from the composting toilet, and von Ranson said after three to five years, there is a little bit that can be spread around fruit trees.

Swedberg asked what kind of monitoring might be done at the proposed apartment, and von Ranson suggested groundwater testing near the composting toilet and sinks. Susan von Ranson added, "Our health."

Swedberg asked if a problem did arise how would the board of health pull the plug on the experiment, if it were to be allowed?

Von Ranson said Wendell is such a small town he would never want to hurt anyone. They would move if necessary. If the board of health grants permission to Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, the special conditions of the permit would pertain only to them; any future occupants of the apartment would need to reapply.

Resident Parker Cleveland said, "We (human beings) have lived most of our existence with-

out electricity or running water." To which health board chair Lonny Ricketts said, "How old are you anyway?"

New health board member Jenny Fyler said any decision of the board is not simply about one applicant. She wondered what the boundaries would be, if the board moves to allow one non-electric apartment in town.

Ricketts said, "We will consult with the state, and will do what we can." He said a local board of health can add restrictions, but has to enforce state health codes.

Resident Robert Shulman said there are people whose homes are connected to electricity and running water, but who choose not to use them. There are people who use electricity and running water but whose houses are public health disasters. He said that in desperate times the law can be bent.

Ricketts said, "Bend is a word we do not use."

Shulman rejoined it may not be a matter of bending, but of interpreting.

Resident Jeff Bauman, a lawyer, said, "The law is not like a rock, but it is like a river." The

law is changing all the time, said Bauman, not just through appellate courts, but through the actions of individuals.

Ricketts said again, "You have done your homework, and now we have to do our homework."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IRVING POLICE LOG

Injured Vulture Referred to Bird Rescue

Wednesday, 7/7 9
10:00 p.m. Animal complaint at Laurel Lake. Took custody of large male black lab.

Saturday, 7/10
8:25 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license.

Sunday 7/11
1:25 a.m. Assisted Montague police with loud gathering at end of East Mineral Road. Subjects dispersed.
10:11 a.m. Loose dogs on North Street. Spoke with owner and advised of leash laws.
5:00 p.m. Report of injured vulture near ledges on Route 2. Reported to Bird Rescue of Conway.

Monday, 7/12
5:30 p.m. Report of large amount of glass on Route 63. Advised Mass Highway.

Thursday, 7/15
11:50 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic situation.

Saturday, 7/17
7:10 p.m. 911 Hang-up call at Laurel Lake. Small child found playing with pay phone. Spoke with child and parent and advised of proper use of 911.

Sunday, 7/18
12:10 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

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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

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno,
and Janel Nockleby

design by Boysen Hodgson

Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376;
or email us your poetry at
reporter-poems@montaguema.net

The editors would like to thank the following
for their generous financial underwriting
of The Poetry Page: -

**Klondike Sound,
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Don Clegg and Michael Muller**



Sonnet

For Nature daily through her grand design
Breathes contradiction where she seems most clear,
For I have held of her the gift to hear
And felt indeed endowed of sense divine
When I have found by guarded insight fine,
Cold April flowers in the green end of June,
And thought myself possessed of Nature's ear
When by the lonely mill-brook into mine,
Seated on slab or trunk asunder sawn,
The night-hawk blew his horn at summer noon;
And in the rainy midnight I have heard
The ground sparrow's long twitter from the pine,
And the catbird's silver song, the wakeful bird
That to the lighted window sings for dawn.

--Frederick Goddard Tuckerman
Greenfield, MA

From The Cricket

I
The humming bee purrs softly o'er his flower,
From lawn and thicket
The dogday locust singeth in the sun,
From hour to hour;
Each has his bard, and thou, ere day be done
Shalt have no wrong;
So bright that murmur mid the insect crowd
Muffled and lost in bottom grass, or loud
By pale and picket:
Shall I not take to help me in my song
A little cooing cricket?

II
The afternoon is sleepy!, let us lie
Beneath these branches, whilst the burdened brook
Muttering and moaning to himself goes by,
And mark our minstrel's carol, whilst we look
Toward the faint horizon, swooning-blue.
Or in a garden bower
Trellised and trameled with deep drapery
Of hanging green;
Light glimmering through:---
There let the dull hop be
Let bloom, with poppy's dark refreshing flower;
Let the dead fragrance round our temples beat,
Stunning the sense to slumber; whilst between
The falling water and fluttering wind
Mingle and meet
Murmur and mix,
No few faint pipings from the glades behind,
Or alder-thicks;
But louder as the day declines,
From tingling tassel blade and sheath,
Rising from nets of river-vines
Winrows and ricks,
Above, beneath,
At every breath:---
At hand, around, illimitably
Rising and falling like the sea,
Acres of cricks!

--Frederick Goddard Tuckerman
Greenfield

25 Things About Myself (A FaceBook Poem)

- 1) Music
- 2) I dream....
- 3) I adore Chinese.
- 4) My heart has hurt.
- 5) The lake is my refuge.
- 6) Wordsmiths: Calvino, Shakespeare, Austen, Nabokov, Frost.
- 7) Yet another morning was spent caressing strings.
- 8) Numero Ocho Via San Francesco d'Assisi, Grottaferrata, Italia.
- 9) I gave Albert my copy of the Bhagavad Gita.
- 10) Sometimes I imagine I am the lutenist in the corner.
- 11) Come spring, wet snow clumps on the bottom of my skis.
- 12) In Belgium there was a miniature city. I stooped to inspect ships.
- 13) Confession: Sometimes I love my kitchen things more than I love some people.
- 14) At the south Naples beach brown Pelicans feed in the rush of high tide.
- 15) I have held you up, watched your skin flush, and accompanied your resonant, rhythmic song.
- 16) Oh God! My ribs are cramped with mirth, my tears streaming, and I am snorting, snorting.....
- 17) Remember when the AK47 wielding guard interrupted our quest for a "Green Flash" sunset over Manilla Bay?
- 18) I stood before the sculpted gold doors and wept at their beauty. Later, I stood in the temple.
- 19) I love my cat's feet, her squeaky, sighing purrrrrrrr, and the way she melts when I massage her armpits.
- 20) The first beer I made was from bread and potatoes. After the party we collected the drunks in my wheelbarrow.
- 21) In Newfane, I strapped on the banjo. My brother arrived and put a Jack Daniels "Taste Tester" hat on my head.
- 22) Once, I water skied on a canoe paddle -- a door-- a snow saucer. I always wished I could ski at Cypress Gardens.
- 23) Laughing and giggling we pretended to be secret spies taking the ferry to the island. I hugged the rail and took your picture.
- 24) In music school, while performing my choral piece "Mumbles", Larry Hruska ran from the room screaming "This is not music, there are no notes!".
- 25) As I set the sheets and the wind fills the sails just past the luffing point, my soul soars. This is what we live for!

--Michael Nix
Greenfield, MA

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Zack Dion graduated from Lowell High School in June. He'll be a student at U.N.H. in the fall.

Michael Nix is a contemporary classical composer, guitarist, teacher and performer. Nix lives and teaches in the tranquil Pioneer Valley of Franklin County in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Nix and NixWorks has performed in venues around the world and is highly renowned. Nix teaches guitar, tenor banjo, 5 string banjo, mandolin for all levels, as well as music theory and composition in both college classes and private lessons.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.

A teacher of As You Write It writing group at Montague Senior Center, animal lover Laura Rodley is constantly amazed at her dog, Tyndall's, antics.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) lived her entire life in Amherst. She is regarded as one of America's greatest poets. The Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting a program featuring the work of both Emily

Dickinson and Frederick Goddard Tuckerman in "Watershed Birds and Watershed Poets: Exploring Obsessions along the Connecticut River," Sunday July 25 from 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Frederick Goddard Tuckerman (1821 - 1873) wrote many of his poems celebrating the natural world from a perch (now named, in his honor, "Poet's Seat") overlooking the Connecticut River Valley.

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Fifty Foot Oak

We got married under that tree,
the oak that careened over
in Thursday's thunderstorm,
went over like a bowling pin
the bowling bowl the feet
of the storm stamping down trees through Gill, Greenfield
down through Holyoke.
We got married under that tree;
Lucille wore a cream voile dress.
I wore a top hat and tails.
We hired a white horse and carriage
to drive us to the reception hall
and back to our apartment door
where we took our honeymoon in style.
After we bought the house
I built a swing for our son, Tommy
on its lower branch. Lucy rocked
him on that swing to get him to sleep
when he was 2, 3, 4, and when
he went to school, five, but not
later, he was too big to be rocked
he said and when the news that he'd died
in Vietnam came, delivered by soldier
and chaplain, I cut that swing down
and buried it with his diploma
and graduation cap; we never did
get his body; is he really dead,
sometimes I wonder, wanting
to string the swing back up, and after
a year went by Lucy asked me, please
Edward, I'd like to sit

and rock again on the swing
not saying how she'd remember holding Tommy
in her arms never leaving the ground
rocking back and forth, and I threw
the ropes up for another swing
just as good, even better. Lucy
sat there holding the two thick
cotton ropes, instead of her hands full
of our Tommy and she just rocked back and forth
never leaving the ground. I planted
pansies all around the roots of the tree.
Though they prefer more sun, they blossomed.
And now some kid tells me he wants \$2,000
just to chop the tree up, who does he
think he is, maybe I'll do it myself.
I'm standing by the blown over dirt and tree roots,
spread out almost as tall as me with my saw,
moving some of the dirt, when, what's this;
two match box cars and a tank.
Tommy must have buried them here.
And what's this, all wrapped in plastic.
I pull it out, unwrap the Saran Wrap, brittle,
falling to silvery pieces as I unwrap
a dishcloth, one of Lucy's red and white
plaid ones, there's a harmonica,
a package of Jujubees, Tootsie rolls,
two Greenfield Garden Cinema ticket stubs,
a red Swiss Army penknife and a letter; Dear Someone
in the Future. If you find this, you'll want
this penknife to carve your initials in this
tree just like my girlfriend Emma and I did,

it has a pair of scissors and a screwdriver if any
of your screws need tightening, especially if you're
an alien spaceship from another galaxy;
my Dad gave it to me when I turned 14,
it was the most important thing I could think of
to show you America 1964, and some candy
if you're hungry. I like the movies-so does
my Mom. Say hi to your leader for me,
Thomas Brady. It must a time capsule
he made for a school project. Holding
the letter against me I peer under and around
the leaning trunk, held up three and half
feet off the ground by its branches. Sure
enough, E.R, and T.B., inside a heart,
won't Lucy be surprised when she
sees this, I say out loud,
but I said good-bye to her two
years ago April, didn't I. I lay her
dishtowel on the ground and wipe
away more dirt but I don't find
anything. This is more than enough.
I take the matchbox cars, the letter
the penknife and candy into the house
and lay them on the formica topped table
to wait for the tree guy to come later
this afternoon. He said around 2p.m., he's got
so many trees to cut he's running behind.
I pull out the little scissors from the penknife
and they still open without a squeak;
what d'ya think of that.
--Laura Rodley
Sheburne Falls

Tyndall's Tale

Stolen cucumbers, persimmons, kumquats,
are even better than chewing rawhide cigars,
the pinprick of baby teeth edging their way off
her palette, newspaper clippings shredded
bags of stuffing opened and strewn
like cotton bolls across my office floor.

Oh doggy, edge of sweater pulled off the table.
Gloves, oh glory, tugged while worn,
the thicker the better. Now
another rawhide bone bites the dust,
crumpled like chewing gum
from her incessantly grinding; first baby tooth
fell out Saturday of her piranha mouth,
hiding razor sharp teeth behind her sweet face
which is small and tiny, resembles a deer.

-- Laura Rodley
Shelburne Falls



On My Mother's Passing

Fire pools fade below the sun's fingertips.
A flash of blue sorrow
begs the cliffs for love,
and i die below earth flesh
that begs the cliffs' forgiveness of the day.
Chess-piece mercenaries
have carved my name in rock
to keep me alive another stone age.
The flowers bend like death and me
to kiss the stone's illusion
and laugh.

--Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

No more ashes for broken tears

I am my father's son
Purged deep within,
Unforgivable sin
Pain, a simple pleasure
Walking away
I'll never stay
Empty tears hide
All the sorrowful fears
I am my father's son.
My morals have become undone
Vices come first
Justifying my curse
Becoming the archetype,
Staring into a broken mirror
Seeing every sin
Every flaw
Every broken law
I am my father's son.

Zack Dion
--Lawrence

Poem 348

I dreaded that first Robin, so,
But He is mastered, now,
I'm some accustomed to Him grown,
He hurts a little, though

I thought if I could only live
Till that first Shout got by
Not all Pianos in the Woods
Had power to mangle me

I dared not meet the Daffodils
For fear their Yellow Gown
Would pierce me with a fashion
So foreign to my own

I wished the Grass would hurry
So when 'twas time to see
He'd be too tall, the tallest one
Could stretch to look at me

I could not bear the Bees should come,
I wished they'd stay away
In those dim countries where they go,
What word had they, for me?


They're here, though; not a creature failed
No Blossom stayed away
In gentle deference to me
The Queen of Calvary

Each one salutes me, as he goes,
And I, my childish Plumes,
Lift, in bereaved acknowledgement
Of their unthinking Drums

Emily Dickinson
--Amherst



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Village Sketchbook

Kim Gregory's Time Machine

BY DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE - It's not every day you get to take the road down to Boston with the Father of the Country in the car, along with John Field, 18th century tavern keeper, plus Kim Gregory, Town Crier.

The old Jeep could have been getting crowded that day with all of us in the front seat!

Luckily for me, the Tavern Wench had stayed home nursing a sore back. But we did miss her salty tongue and fine skill at cursing....

As it was, the Tavern-keeper was keeping us entertained, and fortunately the Jeep had no sun-roof, otherwise George would have stood up all the way through Athol, Fitchburg and Concord, much as he had done in that boat on the Delaware. He did keep us amused with stories of his youth, and by the way, confirmed that the business with the cherry tree and wooden false teeth was just a lot of hogwash. Never happened.

When things quieted down a

bit, the trip became a little more manageable as GW's current incarnation, Kim Gregory of the multiple historical personalities, filled me in on his current mission.

As we motored down Route 2 towards Logan Airport, Gregory shed the various other identities he assumed as an historical actor to be just Kim Gregory, the 18th century Town Crier. And today, his tri-cornered hat was safely stowed away in the luggage and replaced by a jaunty driving cap.

So there we were on the road to Boston in early June. Gregory was on a mission for sure. He had been chosen, one of four, to represent the US at the International Town Crier Competition in Chester, England.

This would be a sentimental journey of sorts for Gregory, since he had spent a good part of his younger days in Europe as a Marine in the Army Intelligence Corps, and later as a news correspondent. But more about that in a bit.

This current chapter started

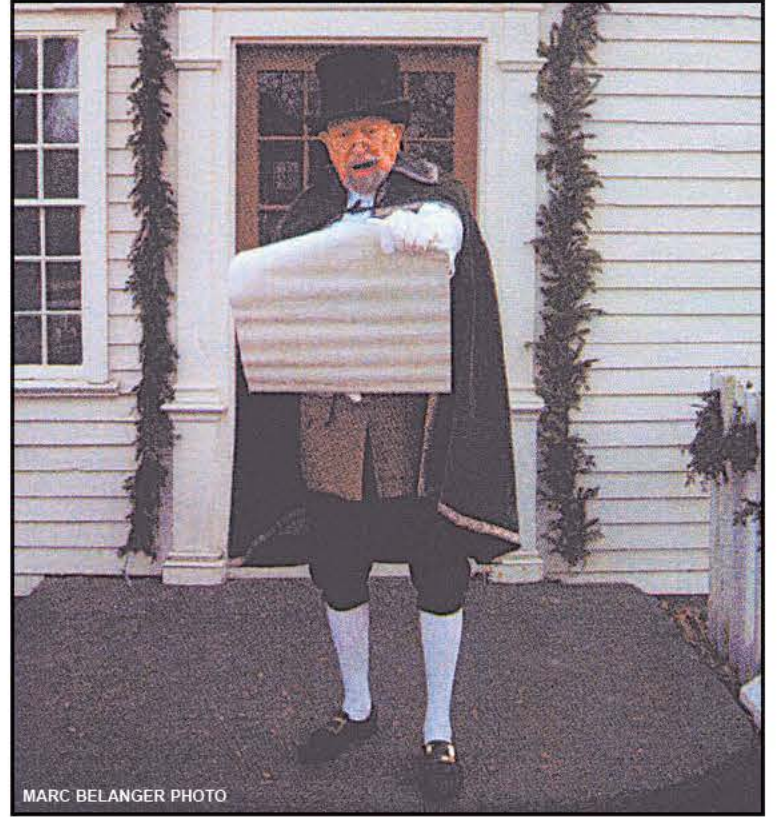
out when Gregory, as official greeter for Historic Deerfield, Inc, knee britches, colonial tricorner and all, entered a town crier competition, as a member of the Town Criers' Guild. An original essay (a piece of cake for a former news reporter), and a few recommendations, and there he was, a finalist.

Chester, England was hosting the event, which included criers from Canada, Australia, France and Germany, 30 in all, including a woman crier from New Zealand. The event was funded by the participating businesses in Chester.

The competing criers were to compose four cries: one mentioning numerous times Gregory's sponsor, Philip Zay, president of Historic Deerfield, another (in Gregory's case) an upper echelon chain store featuring high-end women's apparel, and two of personal choosing.

Gregory wrote an original cry touting Old Deerfield and his *piece de resistance* was to be a cry reminding Boston residents (of the 1700s) not to have a Merry Christmas, because in puritan New England, Christmas was banned.

His eyes twinkled as he told of



Kim Gregory in the role of Town Crier at Historic Deerfield

the mischievous way he would turn his phrases, and how he had talked the Santa Clause at Yankee Candle out of a bag of snow (artificial that is) to be used as his *coup de theatre*. He would doff his tri-cornered hat at the end of

his warning about Christmas and taking a bow he planned on waving his hat with its brimful of Yankee snow! This, said Gregory, was going to be fun.

My job in all this was to make see **VILLAGE** pg16



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Being away from the garden for a week's vacation gives the gardener a new perspective. Instead of watching for daily progress, you can return to considerable change in just a week's time.

It was great to escape the July heat and humidity and bask in the cooling sea breezes. But those same temperatures brought rapid growth to the bean, squash and

cucumber plants. Tomato plants slid from bloom to small, green fruit and there were more sweet-tart Sungold cherries to pick. On the down side, my blueberries ripened and were thoroughly enjoyed by the birds.

The cardboard covering the unplanted parts of the garden bed has continued to soften in the damp and the rains. Underneath, the insect growth is increasing, and there are very few weeds!

Normally, the return from vacation would signal the need for major weeding. I feel almost as if I'm not gardening with this task so minimized.

Not that there isn't any weeding to do. My raised beds were

harvested of salad greens before I left. The plants were finally bolting in the heat and I pulled them, planning to replant in the late summer for one more crop.

In the meantime, of course, the weeds crept in and grew heartily, but it was a small matter of grabbing tall plants, pulling them out entirely and shaking off the dirt before the bed was ready again. I'll replant in mid-August and see how the second growing season goes.

The daylilies are lush and the English roses are into their second blooming. The colors and scents are lovely, and the only weeding required is the daily deadheading and the removal of the voracious, multiplying Japanese and rose beetles. These I am heartlessly harvesting into a can of soap topped water for a watery grave. Two of these pests

can destroy a blossom in less than a day, or chew on a bud and render it unable to bloom, so I don't feel too bad sending them off to whatever their next life may look like, if any.

Meanwhile, the other flower beds have been invaded by Bittersweet, sumac and multiflora roses, so there is plenty of culling and cleaning up to do in place of the usual garden weeding. This gardening is really a potentially fulltime business if done right. I, for one, settle for perennial beds interspersed with grasses, roses dampened by small weeds at their base, flowering plants growing in the company of large ferns.

The butterfly bushes are bent low with bloom, attracting bees and butterflies. I understand the general population of honey bees is down this year, so I am glad to

attract whatever pollinators I can to fertilize the beans, cucumber and squash flowers when they come in.

Some of the tomato plants, particularly the indeterminates that grow until frost, are just starting to bloom, so I hope they too will be fertilized so there will be plenty of fruit. There's no difficulty giving away too much fruit, but it's sad to have a large tomato bed that produces little after occupying the space for a whole season.

The new strawberry plants look healthy. I have mulched them one last time with the rest of the straw to keep down the weeds, so now the rest is up to them. Hopefully, next season there will be a real crop to pick.

One early morning soon after I returned from Maine, I looked up towards the apple trees in time to see a young deer nibbling on the fruit the trees had shed in their own form of pruning. She was very sweet and gentle, happy to be nibbling an unexpected treat,

see **GARDENER** page15

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★ Mark Your Calendars for the Downtown Turners Falls Block Party and Fashion Show! August 14th, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Avenue A

BY LISA DAVOL - Get ready for Turners Falls' downtown summer bash, with food, music, a parade and fashion show and a not to be missed Primate Fiasco!

Rachel Teumim will unveil her second annual Fabrication Fashion Show, an amazing summer spectacle. Outfits are to be made entirely from materials that would otherwise be tossed, with the exception of whatever you may need to attach the materials together, as well as shoes and underthings, of course. If you would like to be in the show, contact Rachel for details on participating: massfabrication@gmail.com

This year, the Brick House's Powertown Music crew has created a rockin' lineup of talent to perform throughout the day, and the Country Players has a special STOMP performance planned. Musicians include headliners Primate Fiasco, Naia Kete, Shokazoba, Ghost Quartet, Owiehops, the Junkyard Dog, Heather Maloney and Dakota Roberts.

We are excited about special fashion designer pop up shops in two empty storefronts on the Avenue, coordinated by Ami Podlenski. If you are a designer

and would like to have your work in the shop, please contact Ami at turners.art.and.fashion@gmail.com

This party is free for the public, but there are still expenses to be covered and we need your help! RiverCulture is proud to let you know the Block Party postcard image was created by Turners artist Nina Rossi, who designed and sewed this piece of art specially for the Block Party and will be raffling it off at the Block Party to benefit RiverCulture programming.

Artist and Round Here Cafe owner, Nayana Glazer, has designed stencils of iconic Turners Falls images for make your own t-shirts to be sold at the Block Party, but we need donations of light colored t-shirts to put the stencils on. Thanks to Lynn Pelland for helping to coordinate this. Please call Lisa at 413-230-9910 if you have donations. The Montague Business Association has organized a raffle to help cover Block Party expenses. Thanks to all!

Don't miss this once a year chance to see all your TFMA friends and neighbors out in the street together. Stop by over 50

tables, including street vendors, community organizations, and artists. Montague Parks and Recreation and Greenfield Savings Bank are putting together their ever popular kids games.

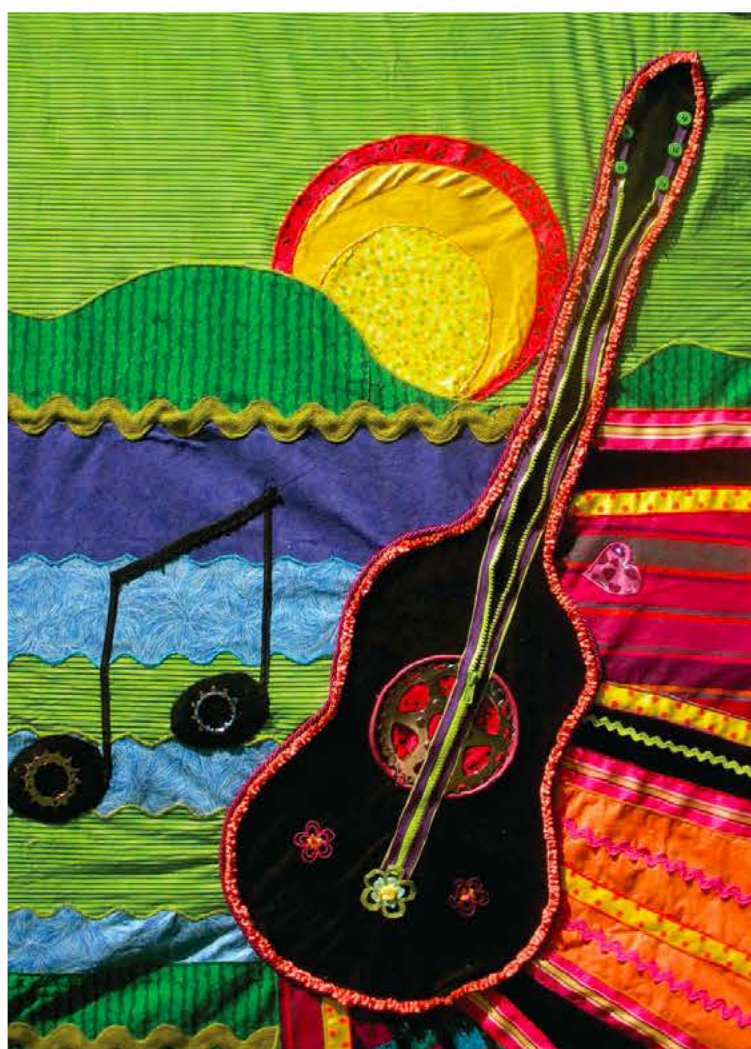
The parade starts at 2 p.m. at the corner of Ave A and 2nd Street. Show up there at 1:30 p.m. if you would like to be in the parade.

To volunteer for the Block Party, please email Lisa at riverculture@montague-ma.gov or call: 413-230-9910. If you are an artist or business owner and would like to have a vending table, please email Pam Kostanski of the Montague Business Association at jkliqor@verizon.net.

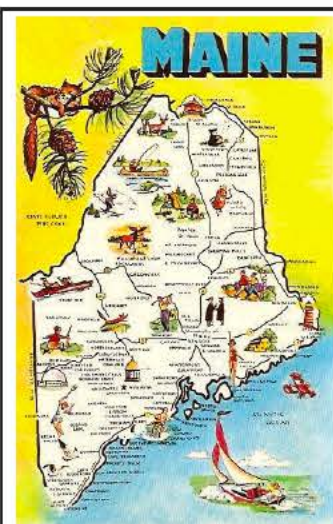
More information can be found at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Block Party donations can be made to Turners Falls RiverCulture, one Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Turners Falls RiverCulture is comprised of area business and cultural leaders working to make a vibrant and connected Turners Falls community through innovative partnerships and cultural programming.



This fabulous piece by Nina Rossi will be raffled at the Block Party



licity on local entertainment and events, and enjoy some of your favorites. If you also enjoy studying the local news and politics for a perspective on your neighbors, pick up the local papers.

The concerns in my borrowed mid-coast world of Maine are little different from those reflected in our local papers here in western Mass.

Traveling Down East the Friday of the Fourth of July weekend, I heard on the radio about record crowds on the Maine Turnpike, but on my more leisurely trek via New Hampshire and mid-state Maine, I found traffic to be mostly moderate, except to observe that by the afternoon I was witnessing serious exodus from the urban areas. In fact, I came through Freeport at the afternoon rush

hour and again mid-day on a Saturday on my return and never stopped once for shoppers in crosswalks. That's unheard of. In past summers, this town of famous outlets was to be avoided.

Even when we were reporting more staycations nationally, Freeport has always been jammed with foreigners, taking full advantage of the poor dollar to shop for coveted items from L.L. Bean to bring home. Not so this year.

Gasoline was expensive. I filled up at Cumberland Farms in Turners Falls and paid \$2.68 for regular. In midcoast Maine, the cost rose to \$2.85, though traveling through New Hampshire I saw gas was available as low as \$2.55. Also, I had no trouble booking a room at my favorite stopover on Bailey Island.

Maine has one of the highest

rates of persons accessing social assistance programs in the nation. The unemployment rate has jumped to 8.4% from 5% in 2005. This April marked the closure of the last sardine processing plant in the United States, in Prospect Harbor. Bumble Bee, the plant owner since 2005, cited fishing restrictions that have reduced the allowed herring catch 50%. The plant closure resulted in the loss of 130 jobs. The workers, primarily older women and teenagers, were offered jobs in Bumble Bee plants in California, New Jersey, Canada and Puerto Rico, but these folks are part of long term Maine families, not itinerants readily able to pull up stakes. The next sardines you eat will come from Canada, Norway or Chile.

However, if you are willing to relocate to Maine, there are

growing jobs in health care, social and mental health work, substance abuse and of all things, computer software engineering and analysis. The rise in the needs for health and mental health services should come as no surprise.

Consolidation in rural education has also come to the vast state of Maine. Legislation passed in 2008 mandated the creation of fewer and larger school districts or units. Locally, small towns have experienced the same worries about loss of local schools, local control and increased administrative costs that we have here in western Mass. Many voters have rejected local school consolidation plans despite the resultant decrease in state support.

In Brewer, the populace accepted the loss of \$244,000 in

see MAINE pg 16

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - One of the pleasures of vacation is immersing oneself in the locale by reading all of the media you can get your hands on. If you want to feel less like a tourist and more like a native, find the pub-

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 19: Unwelcome News

ing a cold, but it was the surest way to get Betty to sleep. With a sigh of resignation, she tossed Betty in the stroller and grabbed Bingo's leash.

It wasn't until Nell was half a mile away, pushing the stroller up a hill and shouting at Bingo to stop trying to chase a cat, that she found herself wheezing and short of breath. Panic rose in waves of nausea. At first she tried to call out, but she was fighting to breathe, and feeling dizzy with each passing second. There wasn't a soul in sight. Struggling for air, she collapsed on the lawn beside the stroller, and prayed for someone to pass by. Bingo began barking frantically and pacing around her feet. A door opened at a nearby house, and thankfully, a

neighbor dialed 911.

Four hours later, Nell looked up from her room at Cooley Dickinson Hospital to see Jane walk in with a bouquet of flowers.

"Is Bingo ok?" she asked, "I had to leave him with the woman who called the EMT."

"Bingo is fine, Nell. But it sounds like you've just lived through a serious asthma attack."

"Yeah. I guess it was more than a cold I had this morning," Nell explained. "But the doctor said the thing that pushed me over the edge today was the terrible air pollution in the Pioneer Valley. He said today the air quality index is 105—that's the red level that the EPA thinks is

'unhealthy.' And, Jane—I know you're not going to want to hear this—he said we should turn on our air conditioner. It reduces humidity and filters out some of the pollution that is triggering my asthma."

Jane willed herself not to think about the kilowatt hours that air conditioning was going to cost them in the electricity challenge. Instead, she changed the subject.

Waving an envelope, she teased, "Guess who sent you a letter, Nell—would you believe this is from Beverly Bartlett? Do you have any clue why she's writing to you? Here—" Jane said, handing her the sealed envelope. Nell tore it open and read:

*Dear Ms. Robbins-Levine,
As you know, your dog viciously assaulted me on the afternoon of June 3, 2010 Strawberry Festival. I am*

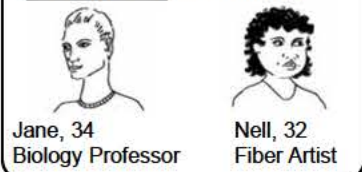
currently in recovery from the savage bite I received in my left calf above the ankle. I write to you to seek redress for this injury. I have enclosed copies of medical and psychiatry bills for reimbursement. I expect to receive payment within 30 days, or I shall be forced to take legal action.

*Sincerely,
Beverly Bartlett*

Nell figured she'd better explain to Jane. "I don't know what got into Bingo that day! He started growling the minute she started talking to me! But I swear he never broke her skin! And now look at this—she's asking us to fork over—oh my god—over \$15,000 for counseling services and medical treatment. She's right—she really does need to have her head examined!"

Continued next issue

Robbins-Levine Family



BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER — When Nell heard the familiar tone of Baby Betty's sobbing, she knew it meant that Betty badly needed a nap but wasn't about to settle down. "Time for a walk," Nell thought ruefully. It was hard to feel motivated in this sticky heat, and she'd been fight-

GRAVEL from pg 1

held an additional acre of her land out of Chapter 61-B protection when she originally entered the program, and she claimed this acre was the site of recent gravel excavation by Roberts on her property.

Assessors' chair Donald Robinson and Schmidt both said they were unaware of an additional excluded acre, and select-board chair Rich Brazeau said the selectboard had no map or survey of Bryant's property indicating where that excluded acre might be located.

Brazeau stated the town has at least 120 days to exercise the right of first refusal to purchase property held under 61-B anytime there is a change of use, and should the town decide not to exercise that right, then the owner, Bryant, would have to pay a penalty in back taxes before executing a change of use, or initiating commercial activity on the previously excluded property.

Schmidt said the penalty would be the difference between what Bryant would have paid on the acreage held under 61-B and what she actually paid over the last five years, plus five percent interest on the difference.

Brazeau pointed out that Bryant had come before the board on two previous occasions to take part of her land out of 61-B, when she sold nearly six acres land on the north side of her prop-

erty to Roberts. "What's the difference now? Why didn't she come before the board?" he demanded.

Bryant said she intended to do just that when it came time for her to renew her annual statement that her land in Chapter 61-B was still being held for recreational use or open space. She said her contract with Roberts and Stone allowed commercial activity to begin only on the acre of land she said had never been placed in 61-B.

"My plan was to take it out in the fall," she said.

Brazeau insisted Bryant had gone around the law by completing a lease for gravel rights on five acres of her property without first notifying the town, to allow the town the right of first refusal.

Bryant said, "I've been taking gravel off that land since 2002. Nobody ever said you can't take it out of there." She also said she had allowed Roberts to excavate gravel from land she had previously held in Chapter 61-B, while she still owned it and before she notified the town of her intent to sell it to Roberts, for a period of time in the 1990s. When Roberts had sufficient funds to purchase the acreage where his side of the gravel pit is presently located, the northwest corner of her property, she then went to the town and took the land out of 61-B, after the town declined to exercise its right of first refusal, and paid the

back taxes due, Bryant said.

"For ten years, she was getting a tax break while she was getting commercial gravel out of her property," summed up select-board member Peter d'Errico. He added, "If there are going to be bylaws, we ought to work with them. We're all going to be better off as a town if we do."

The selectboard had said much the same thing when discussing the pros and cons of tightening enforcement of the town's leash law when Bryant last appeared before the board, in November of 2009, to talk about numerous loose dog complaints on Hemenway Road. Bryant is the town's dog officer.

Last Tuesday, referring to the failure to notify the town prior to transacting the lease of commercial gravel rights on Bryant's property, Roberts said, "There is a mistake here."

But he said lawyers for both parties had missed it. And he wanted to know why the county building inspector had placed a stop work order on the driveway on his property, when the gravel mining in question was on Bryant's land.

Brazeau said there was only one access road to the gravel pit, and Roberts is now contracting for a half interest in the acreage of gravel on Bryant's land, and the board had no way of ascertaining whether the gravel being removed was coming from one

side of the property line or the other.

The stop work order pertained only to the gravel excavation aspect of Roberts' landscaping business, Brazeau noted, and by the end of the evening the board had signed a letter agreeing to allow Roberts to resume gravel operations on his side of the property, and agreed to contact county building inspector Jim

Hawkins to move the stop work order to a stake or post on Bryant's property.

Andrew Young asked why the town sought a stop work order on the gravel pit before calling all parties together to discuss the problem amicably.

Brazeau told Bryant to confer with the assessors about removing the acreage in question from see GRAVEL pg 13

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Brush and Structure Fires, Fights

Tuesday, 7/6

2:47 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.

10:54 p.m. Assault and battery on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

Wednesday 7/7

1:59 p.m. Brush fire on Federal Street.

Thursday, 7/8

2:21 p.m. Fight on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

9:34 p.m. Structure fire on Vladish Avenue.

Friday, 7/9

Fire behind Powers Block in Millers Falls. Investigated.

Saturday, 7/10

8:41 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for disorderly conduct, violation of a restraining order, and domestic assault and battery on Avenue A.

Monday, 7/12

2:44 p.m. Structure fire on Wendell Road.

5:25 p.m. Fight on G Street. Services rendered.

6:23 p.m. Brush fire at Railroad

Salvage Building parking lot.

8:56 p.m. Fight at Alley between Third and Fourth Streets.

Tuesday, 7/13

11:48 a.m. Structure fire on Fifteenth Street.

4:50 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for a subsequent offense of possession of a class B drug.

Wednesday, 7/14

5:43 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

11:59 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and domestic assault and battery.

Sunday, 7/18

10:04 a.m. Fight at Fourth and J Streets. Services rendered.

5:31 p.m. Domestic disturbance on N Street. Services rendered.

6:46 p.m. Missing person on Hillside Avenue. Returned home.

Monday, 7/19

10:48 p.m. Fight at Avenue A and Third Street intersection. Investigated.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — Q. My grandmother told me she has BPPV and that it makes her head spin. What exactly is this BPPV?

BPPV stands for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. It usually strikes when you change the position of your head.

We have to define terms first.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Vertigo

Vertigo is the feeling that either you or your surroundings are spinning. It is more than being just lightheaded or dizzy, because you are subjected to the illusion of movement. If you feel your body is moving, you have subjective vertigo. When you sense that your surroundings are moving, you have objective vertigo.

BPPV occurs most often in people 60 and older. It is rarely a serious condition unless it makes you fall. The odds of falling each year after age 65 in the United States are about one in three. And falls are the leading cause of injury and injury-related death

among older adults.

Other symptoms besides spinning include: dizziness, loss of balance, blurred vision, nausea and vomiting. The symptoms of BPPV can be irregular. They usually last less than a minute. Episodes can disappear and then come back later.

BPPV is caused by a problem in the inner ear, which contains crystals that make you sensitive to movement. If these crystals are dislodged, you can feel dizzy and experience vertigo.

Besides aging, a head injury or any other disorder of the balance organs of your ear may make you

more susceptible to BPPV.

Among the diagnostic tools for BPPV are electronystagmography (ENG), videonystagmography (VNG) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

The ENG, which uses electrodes, or the VNG which is done with small cameras, can help determine if dizziness is caused by inner-ear problems by measuring involuntary eye movements while your head is placed in different positions.

The MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create cross-sectional images of your head. MRI may be performed to rule out lesions that may cause vertigo.

A common treatment for BPPV is known as the canalith

repositioning procedure. This is done in a doctor's office. The procedure consists of maneuvers for positioning your head. The aim of the treatment is to move troublesome crystals that have been dislodged.

The canalith repositioning procedure is usually effective after one or two treatments. However, in rare situations when the procedure doesn't work, doctors may recommend corrective surgery.

Medicine can help with severe vertigo that makes you sick to your stomach. But using this kind of medicine can lengthen the time it takes to stop the BPPV.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezers.com

GRAVEL from pg 12

Chapter 61-B protection, and to come before the board as required by law to allow the town its right of refusal.

Lawyers for Bryant, Roberts, Stone and the town of Leverett are now aware of the problem, and all parties said they foresee future legal wrangling before the lease of commercial gravel rights on the Bryant property is brought into compliance with state law governing Chapter 61-B protection.

Several people at the meeting raised the question of gravel being excavated on land owned by the Cows Company at the end of Number Nine Road. That land is held under Chapter 61 forestry protection.

Schmidt said the gravel pit on that land, like the gravel pit on the Bryant property, is grandfathered in according to the town's zoning bylaws. But the question of increased activity at the gravel pit on the Cows property may conflict with the most recent ten year forestry management plan, drafted in 2006, for the Cows property, and so the state forester may be contacted to see whether gravel operations there are in conflict with that land's protected status.

Robinson said land in Chapter 61 is monitored by the state, while land in Chapter 61-B is monitored locally.

"It's prohibited to use property under 61-B for commercial use. We had a signed statement every year from Roberta stating her property is not used for commercial use. A person was given a tax break based on that," he said.

Brazeau said 40% of the town of Leverett is protected from development under sections of Chapter 61, to preserve agriculture, open space, forestry and recreation. "That's a substantial tax break," Brazeau noted. "For that, the town gets the right of first refusal."

In Other News

The board met with nine members of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and the conservation commission regarding the possibility of applying for a Department of Conservation and Recreation trails grant this fall. The town previously received a trails grant from DCR to expand the parking area at the library, at the trailhead to the Bill Rivers Conservation Area, and to install a kiosk, maps, and bridges over wetlands there.

The town can apply for another grant this October for between \$2,000 and \$50,000, Brazeau said.

Steve Weiss said the town would do well to inventory the trails that already exist in town, on town owned land and land owned by the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, and to seek ways to improve access to those trails, and to complete them or link them, as need be.

The trail around Leverett Pond does not make a complete circuit, for example, and trails are needed on newly acquired conservation land off Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

Brazeau thought it would be good to apply for funds to digitize data about existing trails and make that data available to personal Global Positioning Systems.

Getting a legal opinion about what rights hikers have to use discontinued woods roads, where customary use has allowed the community to continue to walk, though private landowners may now own the land, was also mentioned as a possible use of grant funding.

The groups will meet again this summer to move the grant application process forward.

The board heard from John Lillis of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust about rates and options for the town's employee and retiree insurance. Lillis said all the towns in Hampshire and Franklin County

are insured by their group, except for the large towns of Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield and Orange. His company is set up for small towns, as well as fire districts, water districts, and school districts, and specializes in providing them with a wellness program and advice nurse to keep claims low and clients healthy. "This has helped us keep our rates down."

Leverett has 43 current and former employees covered by HCGI, Lillis said, though that number will grow as of next April 1st, when adult children up to the age of 26 not otherwise covered will be eligible to join their parents' policy under terms of the new federal health law.

"The new federal law will change health care. You won't know health care by 2014," Lillis said.

HCGI has averaged rate increases of between 7.2% and 8% since 2005, according to statistics Lillis provided. The board indicated its satisfaction with remaining with HCGI.

Lillis said the state health plan, the Group Insurance Commission, has experienced a loss of benefits and rise in premiums since admitting groups like the Gill-Montague Regional School District a few years ago. He said the GMRSD had been part of a self-insured group of school districts including Mohawk (which also went with GIC) and Frontier, Franklin County Tech, and Pioneer, all three of which joined HCGI.

"That's why the GIC is in trouble," said Lillis. "They got all the losers."



A FirstLight employee who identified himself only as David said the silt had come out of the river, the company was just putting it back in.

Connecticut River through temporary pipelines. Slurry continues to be pumped from the tailrace tunnel via two pipelines into the Connecticut River.

Anthony Davenport ordinarily operates Davenport's 100-ton model 10,000 Manitowoc crane, but other operators relieve him in this around-the-clock operation.

The technique for clearing the tunnel from below is to direct a stream of water at the face of the silt plugging the tunnel, liquefying the silt enough for mud pumps to pump it into

SILT from pg 1

crane is slated to remain at Northfield Mountain until at least the end of the July, said a spokesperson at Cianbro Equip.

Meanwhile, down on the riverbank, Davenport's 100-ton Manitowoc model 10,000 crane visible from Pine Meadow Road in Northfield is still working around the clock, seven days a week, at the 35-foot square tailrace, as workers attempt to clear silt from the intake tunnel from beneath.

The employee who initially identified himself, but in a follow up call asked that his name not be published, said, "They're still plugging away at liquefying and pumping out the silt plugging the lower end; just going day by day."

At the tailrace, a coffer dam of concrete tongue and groove "stop logs," designed to be lowered into slots with a lifting beam, keeps the river from entering the intake tunnel during maintenance periods, as now. To clear silt from the coffer dam area, Davenport's crane operator clammed silt into a sluice box where a stream of water converted the silt to a slurry, which was pumped into the

the river.

One employee familiar with the operation said the ever present danger in clearing the tailrace tunnel from below is that silt plugging the tunnel could contain a section in a semi-liquid slurry state, which could quickly collapse and bury the crew clearing the tunnel below.

In recent days, the silt pumped into the Connecticut began forming an island. That is no longer visible, since FirstLight raised the river level, now nearly covering King Philip's Rock downstream.

Several pumps at the site and workmen with lighted miner helmets indicate workmen are continuing to direct water at the face of the silt-clogged intake, and pumping slurry out into the river via the temporary pipelines, visible from the Pine Meadow Road.

David (last name withheld), a FirstLight employee encountered on Pine Meadow Road (a public way) acknowledged that Anthony Davenport was operating the crane, and asked that no photos be taken of the operation.

This employee, who said he was a resident of Hadley, MA, explained the silt FirstLight was

see SILT pg 17

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MONTAGUE SOAP BOX Races



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KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Everett Hatch, farmer, former Franklin County Commissioner, Greenfield resident, can be found most Wednesdays behind the intake desk at the Franklin Area Survival Center on 4th Street in Turners Falls, helping people in need to get monthly allotments of free food.

Not content with that, Hatch, 79, has taken the task of feeding the hungry one step further and planted half an acre of farmland on his Plain Road property with tomatoes, peppers, summer squash and cucumbers, broccoli and winter squash, all to be donated to the Center for Self Reliance in Greenfield, the Community Meals program, the Survival Center in Turners.

But mostly tomatoes, because, "You can get more nutrition per acre from tomatoes than anything else."

"I figure, we're growing fresh

NEIGHBORS

Hatch's Patch will Help the Hungry this Harvest Season

produce for people that need it," said Hatch.

"In the last three or four years, in the downturn of the economy, people are all of a sudden on their own and dealing with job losses. They have to turn for help. It's painful for them," said Hatch, who grew up in Arlington, where his father was steadily employed during the Great Depression, when so many others went hungry, begging for work.

Demand has doubled at the Survival Center's food pantry over the last 18 months, said volunteer Don Clegg, with up to 150 a week now relying on the pantry to supplement their larder. To find out about volunteer opportunities at the Survival Center, call 413-863-7717.

Hatch worked for many years at the Cooperative Extension Service at UMass, and ran Hatch's Patch strawberries, before taking to volunteerism later in life.

"As I got toward retirement, I thought, 'It's better to do something that helps people than to sit around on your butt. We both of us,' meaning he and his wife Janice, who also volunteers, 'look forward to Wednesdays, coming over here. We've devel-



Everett Hatch

oped a real appreciation for Turners Falls. I have friends among the clients; friends among the staff."

Those friendships are likely to grow even stronger once harvest time comes around at Hatch's Patch this year, and fresh produce is added to the dried goods, canned goods, cereals and such that commonly stock the food pantry shelves.

The world economy may be chancy, the national employment market in the dumps, but former Commissioner Hatch says Franklin County is in better shape than ever.

"I've been here 55 years. There's a real sense of community here. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

With neighbors like Everett and Janice Hatch, who would?

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Repairs to 5th Street Canal Bridge Outlined

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - A consultant's report on repairs needed to bring the 5th Street Bridge in Turners Falls up to full strength has finally been received, and according to Massachusetts Department of Transportation district director Al Stegeman the work required is not too difficult.

"It wouldn't take us very long to do this," Stegeman said.

The 5th Street Bridge, a short steel truss extending from Canal Street to the island on the other side of the power canal, where Southworth Paper and the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority is located, will become a key link in the traffic management plan for the duration of the reconstruction of the Gill-Montague Bridge. Traffic leaving Turners Falls will

exit to Route 2 via the White Bridge to Greenfield, and the 5th Street Bridge across the canal is the first step on that detour.

The actual date for the Gill-Montague Bridge going to one way traffic into Turners for the duration of the multi-year construction project has been a subject of speculation, but those in the know say that is likely to happen by the middle of next week.

This winter, Mass DoT downgraded the weight limit of the 5th Street Bridge due to concerns about the condition of gusset plates, and other structural issues. So for the time being, tractor trailer trucks cannot use the bridge, and must find lengthy alternate routes out of town.

Meanwhile, trucks entering and leaving Southworth, one of the town's major employers, are

still allowed to come across the White Bridge from Greenfield to access the paper mill, but that makes for a very difficult and time consuming turn into the mill loading docks that ties up traffic and blocks the parking lot of the Housing Authority for five or ten minutes, depending on the skill of the driver. The turn is less difficult if approached from the Turners side of the canal.

Traffic on the White Bridge and car traffic on the 5th Street Bridge are about to get substantially heavier when the detour from the Gill-Montague Bridge goes into effect.

At a March meeting with local residents, business owners, and town officials, Stegeman had predicted the consultant's report on repairs needed to bring the 5th Street Bridge back to its former

weight limit (basically allowing any vehicle that travels over the roads to cross) should have been complete by the end of April.

But the report finally came back from the consulting firm TranSystems just last week, Stegeman said.

The report called for strengthening the three floor beams with steel plates bolted to the existing metal. Also, the consultants called for drilling out existing rivets and replacing them with high strength bolts throughout the structure, and marrying the existing gussets with new steel, again using high strength bolts instead of the existing rivets.

Stegeman said the only difficulty in the work described would result from having to work beneath the bridge, which only has a two foot clearance above the canal. He said it was possible

see BRIDGE pg 15

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Prospect Street Bridge Complete Community Input for Montague Catholic Social Ministries

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Rich Bradley, ET&L's super on the Prospect Street Bridge, wiped his brow and examined the freshly paved span carrying the roadway over Spring Street.

Come Friday, the two halves of Prospect Street that have been sundered since the bridge was closed over concerns about its structural integrity in November of 1999 will finally be made whole again.

For more than a decade, neighbors on the east side of Prospect have had to endure a hair raising approach to their homes, traveling against oncoming traffic coming up and around the Unity Street hill. The sight lines are atrocious, and the travelling lane hugging the sidewalk from the intersection of Central Street narrow, and soon hemmed in by a tight curve of Jersey barricades.

Bradley said the worst part of the reconstruction job was trying to give directions to delivery vehicles.

"They'd call me and say, 'I'm never going to find you.' I'd tell 'em, 'Look behind the barriers. We're here.'"

Marie Castine, owner of Castine's Hair Creations at 74 Prospect, was in a celebratory

mood when told the bridge would soon be open.

"It's going to be wonderful! Hopefully people will find their way here again. Our regular customers are going to love it. The Jersey barricades scare the heck out of them." She confided, "I always have the fear my car's going to stall in that narrow passage there."

In fact, Castine said, it was a frequent occurrence in winter for cars to get stuck in the narrow lane approaching the east side of Prospect Street. "It's always the last place they plow. My daughter and I would go out and shovel them out."

Those days are over now, and the graceful barrel vault bridge that once spanned Spring Street is just a memory. The new concrete span rests on five, horizontal 82-foot-long concrete beams that were trucked up from Pennsylvania. Those delivery trucks managed to find their way to the correct location.

A hint of the former arch is indicated in raised relief on the concrete on the sides of the new bridge. Decorative fencing recalls the former handiwork of the original structure. But graceful or utilitarian, the neighborhood will just be happy to have it open again.

GARDENER from pg 10

so I let her munch for a bit and then made a sudden movement to scare her off. Soon the bike path would be full of riders and walkers with their dogs, and I didn't want her trapped that way. Truthfully, I also preferred that she not step down into the vegetable garden because it is full of young plants, and although I have a fence, it would be no challenge to the leaping capacity of a young, long legged deer.

In Maine my landlord prefers to feed the deer, wild turkeys and ducks to trying to maintain a garden. They have become quite tame up there in the top of his yard near the woods. He puts out corn twice a day, so they can often be seen feeding early in the morning and at dusk, although they are also skittish and disappear at the slightest sound or movement from humans. He does grow a parade of tomato plants against the south side of the cottage. He gives them a side dressing of seaweed that seems to make them thrive in the same way my waterings of seaweed emulsion encourage my young seedlings in the winter.

The beach roses at the shore are so much healthier than the ones I have tended faithfully in my yard. Mine have chewed leaves and lack the green gloss of the oceanside variety. Perhaps they need what I'll never have: salt breezes and perpetual mois-

ture. In any case, their first blooming every year is a joy of sight and scent. It's only now in the midseason heat they look weatherworn.

Enjoy the coming harvests of real tomatoes, cucumber and summer squash, not to mention wonderful local corn and berries. If you can't get to the seacoast for the real thing, try these crab cakes for your own taste of Maine.

Enjoy and happy gardening!



Maine Crab Cakes

- 1 pound Maine crabmeat
- 3 tablespoons of chopped sweet pepper
- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- a pinch or two of ground hot red pepper flakes
- mayonnaise

Lightly sauté the pepper and garlic in a little olive oil and add the spices.

Stir into the crabmeat and bread crumbs.

Add enough mayonnaise so that you can form cakes that will hold together.

Dredge in more bread crumbs and brown on both sides in olive oil using the same pan you sautéed in.

Serve with lime juice or other sauce of your choice.

BY ANA KNIAZEVA

TURNERS FALLS - On Friday, July 9th, Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) opened the doors of the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center to the public to gather suggestions for the organization's future. Symbolizing growth in community was the Tree of Wishes, to which a new leaf was added with each suggestion.

Susan Mareneck, director of MCSM, hoped these new ideas would represent "real dreams and real hopes for the future" and would be wide ranging. One person wished for a wading pool in Turners Falls.

It is clear that MCSM has already brought growth and fulfillment to many of the attendees. There was a congenial atmosphere in the room, as if the 20 or so people in attendance were among family or in a place where they had made lasting friendships and connections.

A contributing factor to this homey atmosphere was some of the community building and assistance programs already held by MCSM, for instance, Vecina a Vecina, a "group of English-speaking women and a group of Spanish-speaking women, who shared language and culture." This program will start again on July 26th for ten weeks, and, according to Christine Diani, the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center program coordinator, will

"continue on a drop in basis once the ten weeks are done."

Other programs include the Male Caregivers Group, which Mareneck said was introduced in order for men "to support each other while caring for children." Also, Rachel Lively, the Family Support program coordinator, mentioned the new Family Life Support program, probably starting in early September, in order to "provide support to families who are not connected to the DCF (Department of Children and Families)." This will be open to all families with children, not just those with children between 0 and 5 years.

MCSM is also currently pursuing the possibility of an Auto Mechanics Class for women, in order to empower them and give them independence. This will be a welcome addition to the other popular courses MCSM already offers, such as computer courses and creative writing courses. The possibility of a cooking or nutrition class was also mentioned.

MCSM was eager, however, to take suggestions in order to continue building up the community and encourage its growth. Paula Lambert, Parent 2 Parent Support Group coordinator, made the popular suggestion of "drop-in daycare," which would encourage women to come to the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center and participate in the activities, or allow parents and

guardians to have some personal time.

Lively also brought up the issue of legal assistance, as many "low income families do not have representation in court." The MCSM staff and attendees were eager to address this problem and discussed having a volunteer lawyer on staff to resolve it.

Another suggestion, brought up by Vickie Barber-Flynn, the Turners Falls Playgroup coordinator, was to help families who have no transportation get to MCSM events and programs.

This led to a discussion about the transportation of students to school in Turners Falls. The students who live within half a mile of the schools in the Gill-Montague Regional School District are not picked up by school buses and sometimes accumulate too many absences as a result of lack of alternative transportation. MCSM intends to do a survey of these families to see if the organization can help solve the problem.

Volunteers are always needed for such efforts and certainly MCSM will appreciate any efforts on the part of the community as they try to improve the lives and livelihood of people within it. For more information, contact MCSM at 863-4804.



DETOLD PHOTO
The 5th St. Bridge across the power canal, with Southworth in background

BRIDGE from pg 14

the work could be scheduled to coincide with FirstLight Power's annual maintenance drain down of the canal, but the company has not scheduled a draw down this year. He also said some repairs could be made more quickly, possibly resulting in an upgrading of the bridge's weight limit in advance of the repairs to the floor beams.

"We can't close the bridge for repairs," said Stegeman. "There's no other way to route traffic."

Southworth vice president John Yahres said, "Before they posted the canal bridge, we had deliveries coming in from both directions, and we would like to get back to that."

Yahres said drivers' GPS systems often send them down through the Turners side of the canal, only to find the weight limit preventing them from crossing that bridge. Coming from the Greenfield side, Yahres said drivers encounter signage saying the canal bridge is posted, and often do not know the posting does not apply to the White Bridge over the river to

Southworth, causing more confusion. When the detour comes into force for the Gill-Montague Bridge, Yahres said the drivers would have even more difficulty making the turn into Southworth's loading docks, fighting heavier traffic.

Ray Godin, Turners Falls fire chief, said he would also like to see the 5th Street canal bridge repaired "sooner rather than later," since the weight limits do not allow either Greenfield's tower truck or Turners Falls' ladder truck to cross.



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KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Massachusetts Towns May Give Green Energy Loans

BY SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE, MA—The Massachusetts legislature has passed Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation to enable towns to set up a fund that would allow homeowners and businesses to finance energy efficiency measures and clean energy technologies at low interest rates, rather than paying for them up front. Since upfront costs are one of the most significant barriers to implementing deeper energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy measures, the PACE legislation has the potential to jumpstart widespread energy efficiency investments.

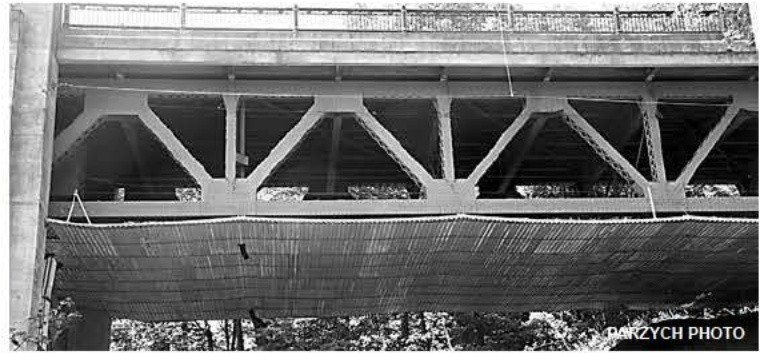
Massachusetts joins approximately 25 other states in passing the legislation to enable towns to set up a fund, using bonds or other funding sources, to provide low interest loans secured through a lien on a private home or business, much like a water or sewer connection lien. The energy savings would likely be equal to or higher than the cost of the annual loan payments, paid as property taxes, since

payment would be stretched out over a long period. If a home or building is sold before the loan is paid back, the loan is passed on to the future owner.

Several hurdles must, however, be overcome, before such loans are made available. A town must approve a bond or establish another funding source for the loans, and it must develop a system to administer the loans. Lastly, the federal government is working to iron out a conflict with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the country's largest lenders, who are fighting PACE loans because a PACE loan is paid back before mortgages in the case of a foreclosure or sale.

The state of California filed a lawsuit against Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac last week for blocking PACE programs. "Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac received enormous federal bailouts," said California attorney general Jerry Brown, whose office filed the lawsuit. "But now they're throwing up impermeable barriers to bank lending that creates jobs, stimulates the economy and boosts clean energy."

Undercoating Underway on G-M Bridge



Painting is complete on the section of the G-M Bridge closest to Riverside

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GREAT FALLS

Superintendent John Tiliakos of Mimosa Construction is proud to announce that the first section of the Gill-Montague Bridge has been completely shot blasted and primed with epoxy primer.

Shot blasting has helped to reveal the extent of deterioration of steel in the superstructure in need of remediation, which will require the use of hydraulic jacks to support the bridge as individual

beams are removed and replaced. And repainted.

The next section is now draped, reminiscent of an installation by the great Christo. The sealing of the next enclosed section of bridge to be shot blasted is underway.

The amazing work of building work platforms beneath bridges, strung on wire ropes and enclosed with canvas tarps is a specialty Mimosa Construction performs worldwide.

VILLAGE from pg 10

sure George Washington, the tavern keeper, and Kim Gregory all got to the airport on time. As I mentioned, unfortunately the Tavern Wench was home nursing a sore back, so Carol Gregory herself was not making the trip.

As the Jeep ate up the miles, Gregory regaled us all with tales about his WWII adventures and later capers as correspondent for CBS after the war. Good talk shortens the road, and good talkers are never lacking in stories.

Gregory took us back 66 years when, just after D-Day, he landed in France, working in military intelligence (a wise-cracking friend would call that an oxymoron). He was with the 97th Infantry, 3rd Army and was headed through the Ruhr towards Czechoslovakia.

Gregory's job was to move

along with General Patton's army, just behind the front lines, so close they could hear the bullets ripping through the air, liberate and clear sensitive sites such as government offices or officers' headquarters used by the Germans. Documents needed to be secured before they were damaged or removed by soldiers clearing the town and looking for souvenirs. Gregory's unit had to hold documents before valuable evidence was lost. Some of this evidence eventually would help convict and hang German war criminals at Nuremberg.

Other adventures were on the humorous side; one that he could tell, and we could print, involved the priest of the unit who ran out of wine for the Mass one time in Normandy. Gregory and a few others volunteered to go out looking for some *vin rouge*. The mayor of Fécamp in Normandy opened his wine cellar to them, gave them what they needed, and then some!

Gregory chuckled in telling how his group of buddies turned over most of the wine to the priest but kept a few bottles for personal use. They also managed to liberate a few bottles of Benedictine brandy. "We had excellent breakfast for days," commented Gregory. "That brandy sure went well with our powdered egg rations!"

Shortly after the war, Gregory was taken on by CBS to work in various European news desks. London, Paris, Rome, Bonn were part of his beat. He remembered having accumulated ten weeks of paid vacation, and you can believe he cashed in on that debt. He spent every last day of it visiting Europe and CBS news desks, and included a visit to his

parents' homeland in Greece.

Before we knew it, we were standing on the curb at Terminal E at Logan, with half our stories finished. Out came the luggage from the back of the Jeep, Gregory adjusted his sporty cap, and stepped into the terminal, off to challenge the world for the Town Criers' Cup.

A few weeks later, Gregory provided the postscript to his visit to Mother England. The competition was strong, he said. Some of the costumes and wardrobes were even extravagant. Gregory had opted for a conservative set of clothes, feeling that was more in keeping with his identity as a New England Puritan. He had worn his homemade cloak with pride, elegant and simple as it was, and stitched by his wench, er, wife! Carol. But clearly many of the competitors had invested hundreds and hundreds of dollars in their outfits.

Gregory counted on the inspired originality of his cries, touting the businesses supporting him, Historic Deerfield, and reminded all of the ban on having any sort of fun at Christmas. In the end, the first and second places were taken by the English Criers (are you surprised?) but the 3rd place went to a member of the Abenaki tribe from Quebec, whom Gregory allowed was outstanding. Many spectators felt Gregory deserved a place in the top three, but that was not to be.

Back in his home in Erving, Gregory was satisfied with his trip and effort. Besides, he said, with a sly look in his eye, there was a tavern in Chester in his hotel, and there they make a most excellent ale

MAINE from pg 10

state funding because consolidation presented a potential cost of \$2.74 million over three years in salaries, in order to bring lower paid teachers there up to parity.

Since the loss of much of the paper industry, tourism and the fishing industry remain the main source of income for many

Mainers. That fishing industry is of great concern. The lead article in the July issue of the *Fishermen's Voice*, published in Gouldsboro, is the account of Susan Shaw's recent trip to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Dr. Shaw, who is the founder and director of the Marine Environmental Research Institute in Blue Hill and a marine toxicologist, literally dove into those waters to get a first hand look at the marine impact. Following her trip, she wrote an op ed piece for *The New York Times*, quoted in part in the *Fisherman's Voice*:

"In some places, the oil has mixed with an orange-brown pudding-like material, some of the 700,000 gallons of a chemical dispersant called Corexit 9500 that BP has sprayed on the spreading oil... Only a few meters down, the nutrient-rich water became murky, but it was possible to make out tiny wisps of photoplankton, zooplankton and shrimp enveloped in dark oily droplets. These are essential food sources for fish like herring."

In Shaw's opinion, the use of Corexit combined with oil is even more toxic than the oil itself, and this toxicity will have a lethal effect on the base of the marine food web and then the "middle fish" and eventually the larger feeders like dolphins and turtles... "I predict we will lose

more than one generation of spawning fish and some will not recover," Shaw wrote.

In a nice piece of ironic journalism, the *Voice* has reprinted a 1927 report from the US Commissioner of Fisheries entitled "Danger to Fisheries from Oil and Tar Pollution of Waters."

Last summer, the "lobster wars" off the coast were ratcheted up by the shooting (not fatal) of one Matinicus lobsterman by another and the local burning of three lobster boats. Incidents of cutting of trap lines continue as the price of lobster has dropped and the sense of ownership of one's own staked fishing territory has intensified. Lobstering is a generational way of life for many coastal families. But it may get better. There is a growing market for lobster in China. Recently, Hancock County was the site of a visit from some mandarins in the Chinese food industry. The development of a Chinese market would certainly improve the local price.

The United States government has also been promoting domestic aquaculture development in experimental finfish. But as the *Voice* editorial comments:

"Lobster fishing and aquaculture are very different industries. Lobster is an owner operated, family business by design. Aquaculture is given to consolidation and corporate ownership."

Lobster is the backbone of the Maine coastal economy for good, proven reasons. Water quality and resource protection guarantees need to be in place for aquaculture before investment begins. Sloppy government oversight has been the final nail in the coffin for fisheries of another gulf recently."

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DESE to Evaluate Gill-Montague Schools in September

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will conduct an evaluation of the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) in September, superintendent Carl Ladd announced Tuesday at a special school committee meeting.

Ladd said he asked the state to step up the timing of the evaluation to September, although the district would normally have waited several more months, because Ladd said he wanted the DESE to address the district's status sooner rather than later. The GMRSD is now considered a Level 4, or underperforming, school district.

School committee members want to know why the GMRSD is considered an underperforming district, and what are the criteria on which DESE based their determination. Test scores and annual student improvement rates at Gill-Montague have shown steady improvement in recent years.

The DESE evaluation will address five questions. The first and second question echo the school committee's concerns: "How has the district addressed the issues that placed it in Level 4?" and "Is student achievement on the rise?"

The evaluation will also ask and answer: "Do the district schools have strong systems and practices in place?" and "Has the district built the capacity to maintain continuous improvement on

its own, without continued DESE targeted assistance support and intervention?"

School committee member Jeff Singleton of Montague interjected he would like to ask DESE about the success of their participation in the district, in terms of how much they have done to help the district improve. But Ladd said it probably wasn't appropriate for the school committee to evaluate the evaluators, although he assured members they could ask any questions they wanted during the review process.

The last question the evaluators will seek to answer, and one that Ladd insisted be included in the review is: "Does the district have the resources needed to effectively implement a Turnaround Plan that can improve student achievement?"

Ladd seems confident the district has shown great improvement and the findings will serve to demonstrate that. He said, "They need to come in and tell us if we're being successful."

Ladd said the DESE will bring more emphasis to bear than is usual on the district's fiscal capacity. He said he told the DESE they must include as part of their review at least one focus group meeting with member towns' finance committee and select-board members.

They evaluation will take place during the week of September 27th.

A recurring issue for the GMRSD has been per pupil

spending, which is higher than the state average. A breakdown of the average per pupil spending by the district in comparison with other school districts in the area, in the state, and in some districts the DESE considers similar to Gill-Montague was offered in a report prepared by Singleton, based on FY'09 statistics.

The breakdown shows per pupil spending for the Gill-Montague district at \$14,433 in '09 as compared to the state average of \$13,017, a difference of \$1,416.

Several school districts in the area closest to Gill-Montague also have higher per pupil spending than the state average, with Mohawk at \$14,851, Greenfield at \$13,932 and Pioneer at \$13,201. Highest on the list for per pupil spending is Amherst/Pelham at \$16,908.

For Gill-Montague, the largest portion of per pupil spending, as charted in several different categories, was the cost of insurance and retirement benefits for employees, at \$2,966. These figures were compiled after the district joined the GIC, a move that provided significant savings for the district.

Tuesday's special school committee meeting was requested by two members, Singleton and Michael Langknecht, so they could discuss some matters they felt have been languishing as more pressing issues filled meeting time.

Langknecht introduced a

motion to form a regional study committee, "So the district may entertain, and enter into discussions with other school districts and municipalities regarding the regionalization of schools."

Singleton said he supported this effort, that other school districts such as Mahar and Greenfield had offered to meet with the GMRSD but nothing came of it because there was no mechanism to hold such meetings.

The school committee decided to table this motion until the next regular meeting which will be held July 27th, in order to allow members more time to study the matter.

Next, Langknecht asked the school committee to consider creating a revenue stream to fund the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the Turners Falls High School/Great Falls Middle School Theater.

The concept is to provide an opportunity for students to learn through hands-on training how to use the technical systems and work with the design processes involved in theatrical, musical and other productions. The school district would seek to collaborate with a professional theatrical production organization that could offer their expertise and also utilize the theater, thereby providing a revenue stream for the upkeep of the theater.

Committee member Joyce Phillips of Montague said she would like to see numbers before voting on the proposal. Sorrel Hatch of Gill said the facilities

committee, which is working on a review of the fee schedule for school facilities, would meet later in the week, and could report back to the next school committee meeting.

Singleton said he saw no reason why they couldn't form a committee and then look at the costs. Langknecht said part of his idea was to have a professional partner that would know better than the school committee about theater maintenance costs.

A revised motion was offered, which said, "The school committee will undertake to form a sub-committee to research the possibility of collaborating with an outside group to utilize the TFHS/GFMS theater." The motion passed with a simple majority, 5-4 with Phillips, Kristen Boyle, Jane Oakes and Jennifer Waldron voting against. No action was taken to appoint members for the new committee.

An agenda item to discuss forming a meeting schedule that would have the school committee meeting on the "first four Tuesdays of every month" was tabled for the next meeting. The committee also agreed to wait to discuss the ramifications of the new open meeting law until July 27th, when the district's lawyer, Russell Dupere, would be in attendance.

The school committee then went into executive session to discuss building security at the TFHS/GFMS complex and negotiations with Unit A, C and custodial/maintenance groups.

SILT from pg 13

pumping into the river had come out of the river, and they were just putting it back in.

Asked why all the secrecy, David explained the company was just doing "routine maintenance." Asked what maintenance, specifically, the company was doing, he answered, "We're looking for cracks in the tunnel."

FirstLight Power spokesperson Charles Burnham, in Hartford, CT, did not return phone calls seeking official comment on the reason for the company's extended shut down of the Northfield Mountain facility.

According to an outside construction worker familiar with past and present maintenance operations at Northfield Mountain, who also requested anonymity to protect his employment with the company, the intake tunnel has been plugged with silt before during upper level reservoir draining.

This worker said West, Davenport's employee, was killed on May 17th when an unsupported discharge pipe whipped around and struck him fatally when the sludge pump kicked in.

Despite dangers like these, work continues around the clock. When the tunnel is finally unplugged, once pumping

resumes, past and present workers at the mountain say, the pumps most likely will suck the discharged silt right back up to the storage pond, as in past years.

The tremendous volume and force of the reversible turbines, capable of moving 27,000 gallons of river water per second, actually makes the river run backwards from the Turners Falls Dam during pumping operations.

Booms with full length silt curtains, doubled in places, are keeping the silt close to shore, out of the river current, in close proximity to the intake.

Alan and Shirley Flagg, who farm upstream from the intake tunnel in Gill, say they have lost as much as forty feet of land to continuing river back erosion.

Shirley Flagg said, "Where we used to walk down a slope to go swimming in the river, there's a big drop-off. Seeing the land keep falling into the river just makes me so sick I don't even want to go look at it."

Theirs is not an isolated case. Although FirstLight has tried rubber tires, traprock rip-rap, fiber mats, tree trunks and stumps on twenty percent of the Connecticut River banks in the "Turners Falls Pool" with some success, river bank erosion continues on the unprotected banks, according to

landowners on both sides of the river who make up the Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee.

Fred Skalski of Pine Meadow Road also lost land to the river until it was protected with fiber mats. "The banks have not fallen into the river since they protected them," Skalski said. "I don't know about further down."

Connecticut River Coordinator for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ken Sprankle, a Gill resident, said he planned to take a look at the silt discharge area near the intake tunnel first hand, by boat, this week.

Sprankle said it is hard to tell whether the reduced current during the extended shutdown of Northfield Mountain is connected to this season's greatly increased shad count at the Turners Falls Fishway (14,000, up from over 1,000 to 3,000 in recent years). He said this year's salmon smolt run was the highest on record.

Catherine Skiba of the Massachusetts DEP Wetlands Protection, said, "FirstLight is doing everything under the direction of New England Environmental, who are in charge of overseeing their discharge of silt back into the river."

Mickey Marcus of New England Environmental declined comment.

Sprankle said FirstLight is exempt from permitting requirements under the existing Wetlands Protection Act during the ongoing maintenance work.

Even though it takes more electricity to pump water up the mountain than is generated on its way back down, the reason pumped storage makes sense is that alternating current electricity cannot be stored. Pumping river water up the mountain at hours of low demand, using electricity that would otherwise be wasted, and releasing water to generate at electricity at periods of peak usage "stores" the hydropower

until needed, and makes pumped storage profitable.

The pumping and dumping of Connecticut River water alternately makes the river run backwards and forward, contributing to the erosion of silt from unprotected river banks. Silt sucked up to the upper reservoir now has plugged the intake tunnel on its way back down, bringing profits to a halt. Workers at the tailrace, alternately coming and going, 24-7, are working with might and main to unplug the tunnel so FirstLight can get the current in the Connecticut alternating again.



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Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - *Ramona Quimby* is coming to the big screen, and the red carpet is coming to Greenfield. On Saturday, July 24th at 6:00 p.m., the Community Coalition for Teens (CCT) will host a special screening of the new movie "Ramona and Beezus" at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas. The G-rated movie is based on the popular books by Beverly Cleary, and is directed by Elizabeth Allen, the sister of CCT co-coordinator Kat Allen (and the niece of Montague selectboard member Pat Allen and retired Valley Medical Group's Dr. Mark Allen).

Moviegoers are encouraged to dress for the red carpet, or as their favorite character from the Ramona books. The evening will also feature a silent auction and a special pre-screening video specific to Franklin County.

Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children and seniors with a \$30.00 max per family. Tickets are available in advance by calling 774-3167 x 101, and available at the door. One hundred percent of the ticket sales will go directly to the Community Coalition for Teens.

Free coupons to be used at local farmers markets will be available to senior citizens at the following sites on Tuesday, August 3rd (supplies are limited): the Montague-Gill Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Erving Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The

Greenfield Senior Center at 54 High St. will have coupons available on Wednesday, August 4th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Kidleidoscope, a child-friendly, hands-on environmental experience for children aged 3 - 6, will be presented in a fun, age-appropriate manner on Thursday mornings in August from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Each topic includes a story and interactive games and activities to help you and your child understand the world around us. Call ahead, 413-863-3221, for the 'Topic of the Week,' or stop in the GFDC to pick up a seasonal Kidleidoscope schedule.

Turners Falls RiverCulture's annual Block Party will take place on the Avenue on August 14th, with Primate Fiasco headlining a day of great music, a one of a kind recycled fashion show, booths, food vendors and kids games. One of the best parts of the event for the past three years has been the off-beat and quirky Turners-style Parade. This year, if you want to take part, meet on the once green, now brown, lawn at the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street (in front of Gallery 38) at 1:30 p.m. Bring your pots and pans, bikes, lawn chairs, sculptures on forklifts, your best zombie outfit, disco roller gear and any other personal forms of expression, and get ready to start strutting at 2:00 p.m.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net

Chevy and GMC Truck Meet Returns to Wendell State Forest



BRYANT STEWART PHOTO

1958 Chevy Panel Truck & 1961 Airstream Trailer

BY BRYANT STEWART - The weekend of July 31st - August 1st will bring the 29th annual Northeast Chevy and GMC Truck Meet to the Wendell State Forest. Owners and enthusiasts will once again gather to admire 200 classic GM trucks and dozens of classic camping trailers at this premier event, the longest running GMC truck show in America. The four-day event will feature some of the rarest Chevy and GMC trucks you will see.

The weekend is filled with activities for the whole family including a pizza reception on Friday, July 30th; a poker run, valve cover races, hubcap painting and other kids activities, a piston toss, a showing of American Graffiti and a community camp fire on Saturday, July 31st; a Show and Shine, frog jumping contest, Smokey Bear birthday celebration, trophies, and dash plaques on Sunday, August 1st.

All this and more in the all

natural surroundings of the Wendell State Forest, and of course all the beautiful classic Chevy and GMC trucks on display.

A special feature at the 29th Annual Meet will be an authentic 1939 GM Future Liner. GM built 12 of these unique display vehicles for General Motor's Parade of Progress caravan that toured the U.S. from 1940 to the mid-50s to promote their new products. This unique display vehicle was restored by Peter Pan Bus Corp., coach division of Springfield, MA. Please visit the show field at Wendell State Forest throughout the weekend to view this rare vehicle and all the splendid antique Chevy and GMC trucks. The public is welcome.

For further information call: (413)-422-2781.

Sandri to Purchase Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling

GREENFIELD—Montague residents Paul and Jean Voiland, owners of Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling, have reached an agreement with Sandri Inc. to sell their business and merge with the Greenfield energy company. The Voilands founded DVHC in 1998, and have made high efficiency gas furnaces and geothermal heating systems a cornerstone of their business.

Sandri, a family-owned company founded in 1931, services thousands of residential and commercial heating oil customers throughout Western Massachusetts, Southern Vermont, and New Hampshire.

"Paul's extensive experience with geothermal installations and gas fired equipment will make him an immediate asset to Sandri," commented Sandri owner Tim Van Epps.

"We've been considering a move like this for some time now," explained Paul Voiland. "We love our business, and feel a great deal of responsibility toward our employees and our customers. I wanted to make the situation a 'win-win', and that's what we've found with the merger with Sandri." Sandri's decision to diversify from oil heat to solar photovoltaics, solar hot water, and wood pellet heating systems, made joining the Sandri family of

companies a logical fit for DVHC, Voiland said.

"We will continue to sell fuel oil and have no plans to exit that business; however, we also recognize that the future of heating and cooling in New England is going to mean reliance on less fossil fuel," said Van Epps. "We've begun to offer alternative sources of energy and have expanded into a full range of energy related products and services. This allows us to serve the changing needs and expectations of today's building and home owners."

Brick House Summer Update

There are exciting events coming in July and August.

Thursday, July 22nd: Brick House Benefit Concert featuring excellent food, music and libations in support of The Brick House at The Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls. Artists to perform include Heather Maloney, The Junkyard Dogs, Diane Sanabria (The Banjo Queen) with Jared Libby, and more.

Thursday July 29th: Time Bank Orientation and information session about a community based barter system. Come learn more at The Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners, 6:30 intro with orientation 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Orientation is free, there is a small fee to sign up. For more information visit commonwealthcenter.org/time-bank.htm.

SILENT AUCTION to Benefit Grange Restoration

BY JILL BROMBERG MONTAGUE CENTER - Come join Montague's first silent auction to benefit the Friends of the Montague Grange and Old Home Days, on Saturday, August 21st from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Grange. Proceeds will go to the revitalization of the Montague Grange building and to benefit Old Home Days.

The Grange building was originally a Unitarian meeting house. The Grange purchased the building in 1935. The Grange is one of the oldest national agricultural organizations in America, but in Montague it has also become a hub for our community by hosting concerts, dances, art classes, garden clubs, yoga, and more.

The Friends of the Grange has been formed to help preserve and renovate this town treasure. We

have already made enough money to help restore the roof, but so much more needs to be done.

We are very excited about this event. We have received an art quilt made by Ann Feitelson, a Josh Simpson Planet, glass art by Sally Prasch, paintings, gift certificates from local businesses and restaurants, and much more. If you have something you can contribute to the auction, visit MontagueMA.net and you can download a donation form. Click on Montague Grange, and go to their document section. Or you can call Jill Bromberg 413-367-9959, or Sally Prasch 413-250-3405. Be sure to come for cocktail hour from 3 to 4 p.m. on August 21st for live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to place your final bids! We look forward to seeing everyone at this fun and exciting community event.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

The Town of Erving is seeking candidates interested in serving as the Town's Emergency Management Director. Erving residents who want to be considered for this position should call Town Hall (422-2800 x100). Deadline is July 27th, 2010.

Erving Board of Selectmen
Andrew Goodwin, Chairman

RE-THERMALIZATION CENTER ASSISTANT MANAGER

25 hrs. per week (M - F only) for Senior Meals Re-thermalization Center located in Greenfield. Fill in for Manager in his/her absence; assist with general overall operation of the Center. Requirements include: excellent communication, organizational and time management skills; ability to work cooperatively with others; basic knowledge of nutrition and food service techniques; prior cooking experience in institutional setting; computer literacy; accurate mathematical and recordkeeping skills. Must be: flexible to do changing tasks in scope of kitchen work and be able to regularly lift and carry 35 pounds and occasionally lift and carry 50 pounds. Must have driver's license and insured vehicle to deliver meals as needed. Submit cover letter & resume to: Elizabeth Foster, DHR, 330 Montague City Rd., Ste. 1, Turners Falls, MA 01376. (or email to efoster@fchcc.org). Review of resumes will begin July 30, 2010 and continue until position is filled. EOE/AA.

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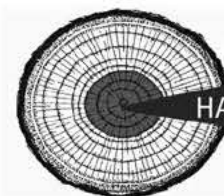
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, JULY 22nd
Deja Brew, Wendell: Larry Kopp, 8 to 10 p.m. Country & city blues guitar with vocals

FRIDAY, JULY 23rd
Deja Brew, Wendell: James Keyes, 9 to 11 p.m. Country roots.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Tom Woodbury, Michael Orlen, Singer, Songwriter, 7 p.m.



Rock-quintet Daxlingside performs at the Montague Bookmill on Friday, July 30th, 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Elsa Cross performs roots/rockabilly music, 9 p.m. \$5 cover. www.elsacross.com

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Steve Nelson, 8 p.m. \$5 cover. Two-time winner of the SESAC Americana Music Award. www.stevenelson.org

SATURDAY, JULY 24th
Bike Path History Tour starting at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 11 a.m. Join us for a leisurely bike tour along the Turners Falls Bike Path that highlights the history of the bridges in Turners Falls and Montague City. Bring your bike, water, bug repellent, helmet, and sun block.



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North Orange Day Celebration. Part of Orange's Bicentennial Celebration, a day-long schedule of activities beginning with a parade (11 a.m.) and finishing with Orange Community Band, 7 p.m. in Goddard Park to commemorate the events that led up to and made possible the formation of the present Town of Orange two hundred years ago. Refreshments in Goddard Park throughout the day. Children's games and pony rides in the afternoon.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Kristen Ford Band, 9 to 11 p.m. Indie Rock.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Mobjack, Rock, Americana, Country, 7 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Lenny's Lounge, 7:30 p.m. no cover.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Paleo with special guests, 8 p.m. \$5. Perhaps best known for writing, recording, and releasing a new song (for free, online) every day for 365, Paleo is a model of musical passion and dedication. You never know what kind of song treasures will appear on a given night!

SUNDAY, JULY 25th
At 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Cellist Mary Carfagna and pianist Eleny Ghenatos-German perform a program of classical and not-so-classical selections. Held on the town common.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Steve Crow, Peter

Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick, 8 to 10 p.m. Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28th
Montague Phantom Brain Exchange #27 at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls, 9 p.m. Five Bucks! Lo-Res Peppers, Ambergris, lecture by Maria Danielson, DJ Big Banks.

THURSDAY, JULY 29th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Peter Siegal & friends and Francie Jones, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: T. Fredric Jones, Folk, Country, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Hillary Chase Trio, Singer-song writer, original acoustic, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 30th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: The Feel, Alternative, Pop, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Mother Turtle, Soul Rock - featuring the amazing soulful voice of Marsia Harris, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Vic Chestnut Tribute! Benefit night. \$5 and up donation at the door.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Darlingside, 8 p.m. \$10 at the door. String-rock quintet. www.darlingside.com

SATURDAY, JULY 31st
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Domsday Ladies, Rock, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Charles Burst, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m. \$5. www.charlesburst.com

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Kathy Chapman and Boxcar Lillies, \$5 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Patrick Coman, Roots Americana, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st
Deja Brew, Wendell: No Recontek! - 20 yr. Reunion: The Millers River Band - Musical Hosts 8 to 10 p.m. Calling all "Front-Lines" alum, sympathizers & friends! The band will reprise original themes like "Your Site Ain't Sound," and open the mic to tunes and tales by others.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Ray Mason, 7 p.m.

ONGOING

Four young local artists and photographers exhibit their original pieces from their mentoring work with local artist, Daniel A. Brown. They are Burl Derdenen, age 8; Liam McRae, age 14; Sierra Waite, age 15, and Stefan Walker, age 12. At Green Fields Market, Greenfield through July 31st. Public reception on Tuesday, July 27th, 5 to 7p.m. Info: (413) 774-2814.

Appalachian Families and Faces, 1971-1975, a photographic exhibit at The Gallery at Hallmark by Vern McClish. Documentary photographs on display through September 5th. McClish is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where this project began. He currently lives in Turners Falls. He is the Director of Marketing and Career Development for Hallmark Institute of Photography.



T. Fredric Jones performs folk/country tunes at Burrito Rojo in Turners Falls on Thursday, July 29th, 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Great Falls Farmers Market. On the lawn near the Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 2 to 6 p.m. Rain or shine every Wednesday.

FRIDAYS
Early Morning Nature Walk beginning at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Start your day off right, observing nature! Leisurely explore level paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Meet outside the main entrance of the Discovery Center, 8 a.m. Continues Fridays through July.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
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2. DESPICABLE ME (3D) PG in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:20
3. THE LAST AIRBENDER (3D) PG DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:20
4. THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE PG DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. SALT PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. INCEPTION PG13 DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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SAT. 7/24 7-9pm no cover LENNY'S LOUNGE
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Scratchboard, Mixed Media by Kim Bolton on Display

BY RICHARD BALDWIN
WENDELL - The Wendell Free Library is fortunate to have the realist work of Kim Bolton on display for its July and August exhibition. Bolton is a self-taught artist from Orange who works in oil, acrylic, and pencil and has gained a local reputation as an expert in using scratchboard, a demanding graphic medium.



*Scratchboard Squirrel by Kim Bolton
Photo by Baldwin*

Bolton was initially inspired by her art classes at Athol High School, but since then has been entirely self-taught. In 2007 she discovered scratchboard and since then has been devoting considerably more time to her art.

The paintings on exhibit are for the most part landscapes, and these are done in a fairly painterly manner focusing more on relatively loose brushwork and soft, muted colors. Her compositions are slightly asymmetrical with a focal point path just off-center leading the viewer into the works. These elements combine to make for a quiet, gently contemplative sensation quite appropriate to the subject matter.

The works done in scratchboard are dramatically different. Scratchboard involves a process whereby a surface, ideally a hard one, is coated first with white clay, then with a thin layer of India ink. The artist uses any sharp instrument to scratch through the black ink layer revealing the white coating underneath.

This medium is powerfully graphic. Images are built up out of concise lines using a sharp instrument rather than brushed areas of paint. Scratchboard, developed in the nineteenth century, was widely used as a substi-

tute for engraving and was a popular medium for illustrations of all kinds. Since it is a very accessible medium requiring relatively simple materials, it is beginning to be used more often by artists who prefer graphic image making. However, while the materials are readily available, the process is very demanding, requiring precision draftsmanship and great patience.

Bolton adds color to her scratchboard pieces making them appear to glow from within as if lit by some mysterious energy. The softness of the glowing color sensation combined with the precision of the lines results in a unique kind of dynamic energy. The pieces are still, yet very lively. They demonstrate the artist's considerable observation and drawing skills.

Please stop by for this unique opportunity to see scratchboard work.

The Wendell Free Library is open Tuesdays from 3 - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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