



TURNERS MUSIC FEST See P. 16

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 10, 2010

Turners Heads to Western Mass Finals



DETOLD PHOTO
Although the scoreboard doesn't show it, moments before this photo was taken the Turners Falls Girls Softball Team beat Granby 5-3 on Wednesday to earn a spot in Saturday's W. Mass Division III Finals

BY DAVID DETMOLD

CHICOPEE - Turners Falls (18-4) heads to the Western Mass Division III softball finals at UMass this Saturday (time to be announced) following a rain soaked 5-3 victory over the Granby Rams (16-6) at Elms College in Chicopee on Wednesday.

"We played very well defensively," said Coach Gary Mullins. "We got a couple of key pick-off plays. Kelsey Waldron made some nice plays at second. But offensively, we could stand to improve."

Turners pitcher Emily Mailloux helped her team with six strike outs, gave up only one

walk, and allowed six hits.

Granby came out swinging in the top of the second, with Taylor Johnson tagging a triple deep into right center field. Briannah Mercier singled to bring her home, stole second, and scored on a wild pitch to put Turners in a 2-0 deficit coming to the plate in the bottom of the inning.

Turners bounced back, with Katie Rinaldi taking first after getting hit by a pitch from Granby's Tessa Cote, and Elysia Ollari advancing her to second with a solid single. But Granby showed their ability when first basewoman Katie Callahan threw to third on a one hopper from Dakota Smith-Porter to put

Rinaldi out of action.

Emma Butynski drove the ball up the middle to load the bases, and Ollari came home on a wild pitch.

Cote walked Stacy French to load up the bases again. She struck out Jenna Costa, but on the last pitch, the ball got away from the catcher and Smith-Porter stole home, tying the score before Kelsey Waldron grounded out to retire the side.

Exuding confidence on the mound and grinning like a Cheshire Cat even as the rain poured down, Mailloux pressured the Granby batters into two pop ups and a ground out to short to see **FINALS** pg 10

Montague Votes Down G-M Budget Request COMPROMISE SOUGHT

BY DAVID DETMOLD - In an even tempered, five and a half hour town meeting on Saturday, June 5th, Montague's elected precinct representatives wrestled with the competing needs of the town and school district budgets in a year marked by decreased state aid and the threat of further cutbacks to come.

Montague was asked to contribute \$7,616,878 for its FY'11 assessment for the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD).

Although Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd made a strong plea for town meeting to approve the district's level funded, \$16,408,162 FY '11 operating budget, saying the GMRSD had already cut \$817,491 and 18 staff positions to come in with level funding, town meeting ultimately turned the budget down on a majority voice vote.

Although the school committee and superintendent were praised for the fiscal restraint evident in their proposed budget, finance committee member Mike Naughton pointed out that funding the town's share of the budget would require spending about \$400,000 more than would be available from taxation.

"Starting with the amount of money the town has available to

fund various departments, \$7,230,327 is the amount of money we believe we as a town can afford. Unfortunately, that's not enough to give the school what it is asking for," Naughton said.

Precinct 4's Rich Kuklewicz advanced a compromise amendment to cut an additional \$200,000 from the GMRSD budget, leaving the town of Montague to come up with a roughly similar amount of money (\$186,551) from reserves. He proposed wiping out the \$129,000 balance in the special reserve fund the town maintains for the GMRSD in order to meet that target, taking the remaining \$57,551 from the town's stabilization fund.

His amendment failed on a vote of 41 to 31.

The finance committee's recommended \$7,230,327 assessment figure was then approved, 47 to 28.

By this vote, town meeting rejected the school committee's budget. But a number of speakers made it clear strong sentiment exists for the compromise figure advanced by Kuklewicz, should the school committee choose to return to Montague town meeting with an assessment see **VOTES** pg 11

Singin' the Blues



DAWN WARD PHOTO

Alan Kurtz (washboard), Jon Lawless (harmonica) and Dennis Shapson (guitar) make up Same Old Blues

BY DAWN WARD

MOORES CORNERS - What to do when the power goes out after a terrific storm?

Grab your flashlight and venture out to listen to the blues!

That's just what nearly 40 folks did on Thursday evening, May 27th, at the

old one room schoolhouse in Moores Corner, even though Leverett was going into the second night of a widespread power outage.

As program coordinator of the Leverett Historical Society, I had been very excited about our upcoming Musical History Night program,

starring three local performers from the neighboring town of Shutesbury. However, with the power still out, a number of roads still blocked with trees and lines down, and many surrounding communities under a declared state of emergency, I was concerned I would have to cancel the program.

I wondered if the musicians would play without a sound system in place.

But they were willing! "No problem," said Dennis Shapson, leader of the band Same Old Blues. "I'll bring my steel guitar, it's louder."

So, after several calls, including one to a local radio station to get the word out that "the show will go on; bring a flashlight see **BLUES** pg 6

MONTAGUE'S FINEST:

Ralph Rau at Your Service

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Stewart's Landscaping relies on their trucks to run their business, trucks that have a quarter of a million miles on the odometer. Who keeps them up and running?

"There's no one better than Ralph Rau," Stewart employees Tim Perault and Pete Magnetti say.

Stewart's owner Bob Reid puts it this way: "A good vehicle is expensive, but a good mechanic is priceless."

Rau's Towing Service is a family business, begun 46 years ago by the late Ralph Rau, Sr. The younger Ralph Rau took over years ago, though he has been a familiar fixture around the station since he was a youngster.

The staff consists of Ralph, his wife, Deborah, his mother Shirley, techni-



PARZYCH PHOTO

Ralph Rau, on duty at the Montague Sunoco Station

cians Liz Sweet, Bob Dods, and Romeo the dog.

Deborah also holds down a fulltime job at Judd Wire, but comes in to work at the station afternoons until closing time at seven p.m. Ralph's mom puts in about eight hours a day answering the phone,

pumping gas and handling some of the billing.

Romeo spends most of his time lying in his cozy bed dreaming about past events that led to how he got his name.

"This is the oldest Sandri Sunoco gas station," see **RAU** pg 4

PET OF THE WEEK

High Jumping



Bop

Weeeeeeee! My name is Bop and I am an adorable male baby bunny! I am used to being handled and love exploring new places. I love to race around like mad and do daring bunny jumps high into the air. My parents were found as strays and a nice couple took them in unknowing that I was soon on the way! I'm looking for a wonderful forever home where I can get plenty of love and exercise and lots of veggies. Aren't I just gorgeous?? My parents were about 10 lbs full grown so be prepared to give me a nice big house and I will reward you with bunny kisses and hours of entertainment. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Introductory Genealogy Program

The Erving Public Library will host an "Introduction to the Genealogical records at the State Archives" with Janis Duffy, Reference Supervisor at the Massachusetts State Archives, on Monday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. Beginners are encouraged to join the discussion and learn how to start your family research. Duffy will be showing Birth, Marriage and Death records, Census records,

Military records, Maps and a whole lot more. She hopes to share some examples of local records of Erving. This is a multi-media presentation. Family History brochures will be available.

Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street, (413) 423-3348, ervinglibrary@netscape.net. View our latest newsletter online at ervingpubliclibrary.wordpress.com.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Go Green Saturday Morning Workshops

GILL - The Slate Library will be featuring Saturday morning workshops during the summer, beginning June 26th at 11:00 a.m. Gerwick puppets presents *The Twig Family in the Oak Tree*. This original story by puppeteer Deborah Costine is about a family of imaginary twig people who live in a tree in harmony with nature. They share the tree with robins, a gray squirrel and a tree frog. Natural science, storytelling and fantasy combine to make this an enchanting show

for all ages. The upcoming July 3rd workshop is on fossils, and the July 10th workshop will feature book making.

Join us at one or all of our summer events. Pre-registration is required for many workshops so sign up during our open hours. Slate Library is open Monday, 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 to 2 p.m. (413) 863-2591. This program is funded by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Read to Feed with Heifer International

Read to Feed Program with Heifer International kick-off celebration with farm animals from Winterberry Farm begins on Saturday, June 12th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the library. Kids finishing grades K through 6 are invited to help the library buy a goat or sheep this summer, just by reading books!

The kids do their part by reading. They don't collect any money. Thanks to support from

the Friends of the Leverett Library, the library will donate the funding, up to \$180, toward the purchase of one or more farm animals for a family living in poverty. Learn more about the program at www.readtofeed.org.

Sign up at the celebration or any time at the library. Kids will record on their book list every book that they read during the summer. Each non-chapter book read earns 15 cents, each chapter book read earns 50 cents, toward the purchase of a goat, sheep, rabbits, ducks/geese or bees for a family in need.

June Senior Film

WENDELL - June's senior film at the Wendell Library, *Invictus*, starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon, will be shown Sunday, June 13th, at 7 p.m. in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library. All ages welcome. Perfect timing for World Cup Soccer fans, who don't mind watching a little rugby.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Free Concert for Children

On Saturday June 12th at 11:00 a.m., The Friends of the New Salem Public Library in collaboration with Union #28 Community Network is sponsoring a free Children's Music Concert in the Swift River School (201 Wendell Rd) Cafeteria with singer story teller Steve Blunt. For details please contact the library at (978) 544-6334.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 14th to 18th

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. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

Monday, June 14th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, June 15th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
1:00 p.m. Canasta

3:30 p.m. Fire District Info Session
Wednesday, June 16th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, June 17th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, June 18th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (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., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping,

FACES & PLACES



(Left to right) Zach Boisvert, Kat Palso, Katie Kuklewicz, Jolina Blier and Mark Hudyma, this year's Montague Reporter correspondents at the Turners Falls High School

Soapboxes in Position, Please

BY MICHAEL MULLER

MONTAGUE - Plans are proceeding on schedule for Montague to host the first Soapbox Race in Franklin County in living memory on September 18th, 2010.

The gravity powered race will take place at Unity Park in Turners Falls, on 1st Street hill.

Racers must be at least eight years old and reside in Franklin County. All carts must be made from scratch, not from kits, and must include no propulsion of any kind.

The entry fee is \$25 per racer. Only 150 applications will be accepted. The entry window is June 15th through the August 15th deadline. There will be three age brackets: kids, teens and adults. Racers may obtain sponsorship to help defray the cost of building their vehicle.

Racers in each age bracket will win trophy cups based on distance and attitude. The event will be free to watch, and it is hoped families will come out to picnic with the many local food vendors.

Unity Park is a perfect location for a downhill race. The hill is very steep and the bend at the bottom requires some skill. The wide lawns in the park are perfect for spectators to gather and cheer. There is plenty of room for vendors to sell their food and wares, with the Connecticut River providing a scenic backdrop.

The Montague Soapbox Race will be a fundraiser for Montague Community Television's fledg-

ling low power FM radio station. Once constructed, the eight watt radio station would cover 90% of Montague and touch into all neighboring towns.

Vendors interested in a booth should call Nancy Paglia at (413) 548-9015. Those wishing to advertise, sponsor or underwrite the race call Doug Fontaine at (413) 522-8382.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Montague Zen Farm Café, which has offered a free monthly community meal, is expanding to a weekly meal starting on Saturday, June 19th, from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Each previous café has included a healthy meal and plenty of family entertainment. Now the Zen Farm House is adding free health and wellness resources, including physician services, pastoral counseling, and mindfulness-based stress reduction sessions.

The Montague Zen Farm House is located at 177 Ripley Road in Montague Center. For further information, or to arrange for free transportation, please call 413-367-5276.

The **Montague Community Band** returns to Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls on Monday, June 21st, starting at 7:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair, blanket and picnic supper, then sit back and enjoy traditional big band music. The new band shell and additional picnic tables at the park make the concert an enjoyable event. Children can

frequently been seen playing on swings as musicians from an older generation play songs from long ago we all know and love.

Greenfield Grille will hold a fundraiser for the Franklin County **Community Meals Program** on Monday, June 14th. The restaurant will donate 10% of all receipts for the day to the Community Meals Program. The Greenfield Grille is located at 40 Federal Street in Greenfield, 413-376-4777; food is served from 11:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The weekend of June 19th and 20th will be your last chance for viewing migrating fish at the Turners Fall Fishway, at Unity Park. The fishway is open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. If you miss out that weekend, you will have to wait until May 2011 to get a glimpse of shad, sea lamprey, and the occasional salmon fighting the current to satisfy their ancient genetic impulse to swim upstream, lay their eggs and die.

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

Industrial Archeology of Grave's Ironworks

NORTH LEVERETT - On Thursday, June 17th, at 7:30 p.m., Leverett resident Al Shane will lead a walking tour down behind Kirley's Sawmill to the site of the Grave's Ironworks in North Leverett.

Meet at the Historic Society Museum at the Moores Corner Schoolhouse, diagonally across from the Village Co-op on

North Leverett Road at 7:30 p.m. to carpool to the sawmill for the walking tour.

There will be a business meeting at the schoolhouse at 7p.m. prior to the program.

All are welcome to this free program, presented by the Leverett Historical Society.

For further information, call Dawn Ward 413-367-9562.

Anything Goes Leaves a Few Unwanted Items on Erving Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Paul Neville, an Old State Road resident, woke up one day during the recent "almost anything goes" bulky item pick up in Erving to find someone had dumped a mattress and some half empty paint cans at the end of his driveway.

Each year, the town schedules a bulky trash pick up to help residents get rid of their otherwise hard to dispose of items. But con-

struction and demolition debris is prohibited, along with hazardous waste. And mattresses.

During the annual anything goes week, piles of unwanted goods adorn the roadways of Erving, including the busy commuter corridor of Route 2 for days leading up to their eventual removal by Duseau Trucking, with the help of the town highway crew.

But it seems that residents of other towns may be helping themselves to the opportunity to dispose of some of their bulky items at the town's expense.

Town administrator Tom Sharp said "almost anything goes week" costs the town about \$20,000 annually.

Jan Ameen, director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), said Erving began the program some decades ago because the town does not have a transfer station where residents can bring their bulky items. But she said judging by the tonnage

collected, which never seems to decrease, residents of neighboring towns are helping themselves to the once a year opportunity of getting rid of their own bulky items by dropping them off at the side of the road in Erving, for free.

In 2009, the town collected 101 tons of bulky waste, 13 tons of metal (separated out from the trash by the highway crew and recycled), and 120 propane tanks, to cite the most recent statistics available.

On May 25th, Neville came before the selectboard to complain about unwanted mattress and paint cans someone left at the end of the common driveway he shares with four other households on Old State Road. He called the nighttime dropoff of hazardous waste and a mattress, "an act of vandalism against the town."

He said it did not seem fair or reasonable to expect the homeowner to have to pay a \$30 fee to bring the mattress and paint cans to a FCSWMD "clean sweep" bulky item day at Northfield, or to otherwise pay for removing someone else's illegal dumping. "I don't feel we should be respon-

see UNWANTED pg 12

Coffeeshop Seeks New Quarters

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREAT FALLS - The popular Main Road coffee shop, Great Falls Coffee Company, closed suddenly on Friday 28th in the midst of a widespread power blackout. But it was a rent dispute, not a lack of electricity, that prompted owner Donna MacCartney to close the doors.

"Our landlord was very generous to us in the past and I wish him the best with his new tenant," said MacCartney, who had recently expanded the coffeeshop's hours of operation to 4 p.m., seven days a week, and established a steady catering sideline at the Hallmark School of Photography. "It's unfortunate we were unable to negotiate a favorable lease for the space in Gill. I'm sad. I love being part of the community."

But MacCartney has this message for fans and customers: "Don't throw away those gift certificates or 'Save 30' store coupons. We expect you'll be able to use them soon."

Under a new moniker - Great Falls Café - MacCartney said she is working on securing a new space for the coffeeshop on the Turners side of the bridge.

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Best New England Bike Path

In the May issue, *Yankee* magazine decided the Canalside Bike Trail in Turners Falls is the best urban bike path in New England.

We already knew that.

You don't need to ride a bike to appreciate the bike path's charms. Walk along the path at any hour. The muscular music of flowing water in the canal will lull and soothe you, until the slap of a fish's tail breaking the surface startles you from reverie.

In one sense, the Connecticut River built the settlement of Great Falls, or Turners Falls, by lending its power to the humans that colonized its banks. Their works in metal, concrete and stone, their picturesque clapboard homes, their brick castles of industry, proud even in decay, line both shores of the canal and provide a panoramic vista of the time and tide of our manufacturing prowess.

The crumbling walls where once cutlery, cotton, pulp and other staples were produced are covered now in vines and brambles. The rusted pylons that still carry the electricity that has long hummed from the hydro turbines below the falls provide ideal roosts from which swallows swoop and dive, performing aerial tricks for their dinner.

The Strathmore, with its new \$300,000 roof courtesy of the citizens of Montague and its heaped up rubble from an arson blaze, its boarded doors and bricked up windows, and the hydro generation plant in its basement, paid to lie idle, is a daily reminder of the failure of our nation's leaders to shape anything like a coherent plan for

putting Americans back to work making durable goods for domestic consumption.

A skeleton crew at Montague Machine continues to turn out precision metal works. Against all odds, the Southworth Paper mill quietly turns out quality papers, in a town that made its name that way a hundred years and more ago.

The lilacs in the back yards of the Patch have faded now, and summer's bursting growth vies to cover the blown down trees of last month's windstorm with new greenery. Two families of Canada geese walk stiffly across the macadam to chew the long grass, spangling the path with their droppings to the consternation of skate boarders and baby strollers. Across the way, the scientists at the fish lab plot the improbable course of hybrid salmon's eventual return, and study the inbred gene pool of the captive sturgeon unable to make their natural journey past the Holyoke dam to the sea.

There is beauty and rust, geologic time and splendid graffiti, the pleasantries of passing strangers and bold case studies in human ingenuity and failure all waiting by the side of the bike lane for you. This Saturday, June 12th, at 11:00 a.m. U.S. Fish and Wildlife interpreter Janel Nockleby will be leading a bike tour along the canal, to take a look at the bridges, past and present, fallen down or under repair, that cross the canal and the river.

Get on your bike and join her at the bird bath at the Great Falls Discovery Center, (formerly the machine shop of the Montague Paper Company). Rumor has it Joe Parzych might even pump up his bike tires and take the tour, to reminisce about some of those bridges. Local history buffs are invited to do the same.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/9/10



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Obama's Message for the Graduates



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Eco-Terrorists at Large

Recently, Leverett police chief Gary Billings found a "Wanted" poster tacked to the bulletin board of the Leverett Village Cooperative store. The poster is now in the hands of the state police.

The poster targets Herm Eck, chief forester of the Quabbin and Ware River watersheds. I was forwarded a copy of the poster and find it frighteningly similar to the scare tactics used by extreme pro-life activists prior to their acts of violence.

At the top, the poster proclaims, "Wanted! For ecological crimes against the Quabbin watershed and environment." Mr. Eck is referred to as a "Tree Nazi aka the Butcher of the Quabbin."

Using forest management practices established for maximizing volume while maintaining quality, the Quabbin Reservoir and watershed has been superbly managed for over 50 years. In fact, the water quality is so pure the Commonwealth

was given a waiver on installing a filtration plant originally mandated by the federal government – saving the Commonwealth billions of tax dollars.

Yet, these Eco-Terrorists believe their view of what is best for the Quabbin is somehow superior. They need to get a life and stop their bullying and vicious assault on those who should be rewarded for their work, not condemned.

— Genevieve Fraser Orange

RAU from pg 1

Rau said. "We're the only station in town, but most of our work is general maintenance, brake work, tires and getting vehicles ready for emissions inspection."

With the computerization of modern vehicles, Rau invested in an \$8,000 computer that reads trouble codes.

"It's not like the old days when everything was mechanical," Rau explained. "We couldn't operate without the computer. There are no more carburetors; it's all computerized fuel injection."

"My newest wrecker has a gas pedal that isn't hooked up to anything," added Rau. "It's just a rheostat that feeds electricity to the computerized injection system through a wire."

The wrecker runs on diesel

but starts up immediately on the coldest day and runs as quietly as a gasoline engine.

Though maintenance accounts for much of the business, that doesn't mean Rau turns away other work. The crew installs remanufactured engines and transmissions with a three-year 100,000 mile warranty. Presently, a Farmal tractor is in the shop getting the valves ground.

Locals make up the bulk of the clientele.

"People move away, but still come back. We have people who have had running accounts with us for years.

"We're a little cramped for space with only two bays, but there's really no room to add on," Rau said.

In the old days, there were a lot of calls to start engines, especially in winter.

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With computerized ignition and long life spark plugs, a call to start a car is rare, even in winter.

Calls for wrecker service for accidents is another story.

"In winter, we sometimes get as many calls in one day as Dad got in a week."

Wrecker calls are the most interesting part of Rau's business.

For instance, the time he came across a broken down van in the middle of the Gill-Montague Bridge, and it turned out to be full of caskets. The driver asked Rau to haul the van to a Brattleboro funeral home, where they were awaiting its arrival.

"When we went inside this big room," Rau said, "there were caskets stacked up all around. It was night; it was dark, and eerie."

Another towing call was to retrieve a car that had gone off the road, slid across West Pond, and got hung up on a big rock.

"Just as soon as I moved the car, it went through the ice, down to the bottom. I hauled it across the bottom of the pond and out onto the road."

In an ironic situation, "A driving-school teacher went off the road into the Sawmill River," Rau added. "That was kinda' funny."

It's the type of incident that makes life at Rau's Sunoco interesting.



GUEST EDITORIALS

The following excerpts are taken from an address given by Gary Bourbeau of Gill at the Turners Falls Memorial Day Observance:

Participate in the Cause of Freedom

BY GARY BOURBEAU
TURNERS FALLS - I often wonder, when I am called upon to speak at events like these Memorial Day gatherings, what there is to say to you about the importance of your participation. I wonder what more fitting words could be spoken, if it were possible, than those that might arise from a geranium and flag adorned grave. A grave whose occupant possessed greater courage and character than those who disparage their country while accepting all she has to offer.

What might that voice tell us about himself? Listen with me to the voice of one whose sacrifice is the reason we are all here today.

This then is what someone who has made the ultimate sacrifice might say if he were addressing us today:

"I died young. I didn't want to die, but I answered America's call and came to her defense. I won't say that I wore the uniform with the express intent of losing my life, but I certainly considered the risks, and found them acceptable, weighed against the cause I would be fighting for. Would you not do the same for the object of your love? Will you not then be an extension of the love I have by, for example, singing the great patriotic hymns in participatory, heartfelt gusto and enthusiasm? No need to be bashful or ashamed. My voice would never have landed me a position in the Boston Symphony Chorus either. But will you not, when singing, let your voice reach out to the heavens, singing of the divinely blessed glories of this great land? When you sing, 'O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country

loved, and mercy more than life,' imagine you are singing it expressly for me and all the others. Also, if you would, come to your feet smartly with hand over heart and hat off, at the beginning refrain of The Star Spangled Banner, your national anthem. Stand attentively in honor of the colors as they are carried past. I know it's not too much to ask. After all, it's not as if I am asking for an arm or a leg. Someone else wearing a uniform has given theirs in your place - and more.

When called upon to do so, vote. I know you have busy lives, but they really are shorter than you would like to admit, and you have an eternity ahead where you don't want to be consumed by thoughts of things you wish you had done. I've come to realize that very often it's the little things in life that are the most meaning-

see **FREEDOM** pg 10

Are You Having Trouble Receiving Service?

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - Whatever happened to the real person at the other end of your phone?

Like many others, I lost power during the recent severe storms. I also lost the cable connection for internet and television, and my phone line, while still attached, hung by a few threads.

I called Verizon to let them know their line needed to be tacked back up to the side of my house. They promised to fix the problem within 24 hours.

I didn't need to call WMECo because all of my neighbors had already done so. That left Comcast.

A huge maple tree had been ripped up by the roots, dirt and all, and rested on the power lines. The neighborhood waited for liberation and meanwhile shared information, food, batteries and any other necessities.

My cable was literally torn in half, dangling on the lawn.

Late Thursday afternoon, May 27th, Asplundh tree services came down the road, followed by the Montague DPW. The tree service made short work of dismembering the tree, removing

the pressure on the lines. The DPW cleared up the debris. Shortly thereafter, the power was restored.

My neighborhood was lucky. Next morning, before I returned to work, I thought it best to notify Comcast of the severed cable, since most of my neighbors were back online and reconnected to their televisions.

The phone book contains several regional toll-free numbers to reach those folks, so I called. I heard a computerized message that asked me to follow several numerical options depending on the nature of my question: billing, change of account, service, and repair; in what language, confirming what I had previously entered, etc., etc. At last, I got to a computerized message telling me the company was experiencing difficulties in the area, but they were working on it.

At numerous silent moments in this attempted call, I repeatedly pressed 0 to speak with an operator, trying to talk with a real person just to make them aware of my particular issue. I didn't expect immediate service; I just wanted to report the problem.

Well, that didn't work. The

neutral computer voice kept repeating her mantras.

Once at work, I logged on (not recommended or approved use of work time) and went to the Comcast site. After a fair amount of searching, I found myself at a repair chat room. Did I have my account number with me? Of course not. After reluctantly entering the last four digits of my social security number, I was allowed entry and then waited in the queue, number 19 in line.

Eventually, it was my turn. I typed in my demographic information and the nature of the problem. Forty minutes later, having been wished a "Comcastic" day, I had an appointment for someone to reconnect my cable line 12 days later.

I won't go into the extreme frustration of that 40 minute chat except to say that at one point the person with whom I was "chatting" asked me if I was unable to receive service. I snapped back, "Yes, the line to my house is broken and is lying on the lawn!"

Many businesses, service organizations and educational systems have gone to automated

see **SERVICE** pg 12

Greenfield Voters Nix Wastewater Cooling for Proposed Biomass Plant

- 5 - 1 Margin of Defeat -

BY JOSHUA WATSON - In Tuesday's townwide balloting, Greenfield voters overwhelmingly rejected the possibility that the city sell wastewater for use as a cooling agent for the 47 megawatt biomass plant planned for the I-91 Industrial Park.

While the Greenfield town council last year voted to approve the proposal to sell treated wastewater to the plant, the results on Questions 1, 2 and 3 on Tuesday's ballot decisively overruled that decision.

Approximately 35% of Greenfield's registered voters weighed in on the issue, voting down the referenda by a margin of about 5 to 1.

Matthew Wolfe, principle of Pioneer Renewable Energy, the developer of the plant, had announced several weeks ago that PRE had withdrawn its permit request from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for use of the wastewater. Wolfe said he is now planning to use "dry cooling" technology, utilizing fans to cool the plant, rather than water.

Opponents of the plant were

concerned that as wastewater was vaporized and released from the plant, it would carry harmful chemicals and other toxins into the atmosphere.

"This is clearly about biomass in general, and people don't want it."
-Wendy LaPointe
Concerned Citizens of Franklin County

Wendy LaPointe, an abutter to the industrial park and plant opponent said she was, "happy that Greenfield voters had spoken for all of Franklin County, loud and clear."

"This is clearly about biomass in general," she said, "and people don't want it."

Sunday Market

The Great Falls Farmers Market is having it's 1st Sunday Market on June 13th from noon to 4:00 p.m.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

GMRSD Waits for Gill Town Meeting to Revisit FY'11 Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Gill-Montague regional school committee will wait until after Gill holds annual town meeting on June 21st to take another look at their proposed \$16.53 million FY '11 operating budget for the district schools.

Montague town meeting voted down the G-M school budget on Saturday, by a majority voice vote. Both member towns must agree on the district's budget for it to go into effect.

For the past two years, the Gill-Montague school district has failed to find agreement from the member towns or from joint district meetings open to all Gill and Montague voters on the school committee's budget proposals. So for the last two years, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has assumed fiscal responsibility for the school district, according to statute, and imposed budgets for the district schools and mandated the towns to fund those budgets.

Superintendent Carl Ladd told the committee on Tuesday night,

"From my perspective, the discussion from Montague town meeting was very respectful. Most of the people appreciated the work the school committee and administration had done in preparing a level funded budget."

Ladd said the takeaway from Montague's town meeting for the G-M school district was, "We're not attacking you. We just don't have \$400,000."

By this, Ladd referred to the approximate difference between the school district assessment the Montague finance committee and selectboard believe is affordable to the town for the coming fiscal year (\$7,230,327) and the assessment that would be required to fund the school committee's budget (\$7,602,878).

Ladd continued, "There was discussion about meeting us half way."

He also noted that some town meeting members (and some school committee members) advocated for town meeting to turn down a budget compromise in order to "keep the state at the table" during negotiations seek-

ing a long term solution to the district's budget woes.

"Gill will weigh in on the 21st," added Ladd. "We have to have discussion on the 22nd, and go from there."

The committee left it at that, with the recognition that, according to statute, the school committee has 30 days from June 5th to either reconsider, amend, or adopt a revised budget to submit to town meetings in the member towns.

The town of Gill is facing an easier task to afford this year's assessment for the regional schools than Montague, due to a slight drop in the enrollment of Gill students compared to Montague. This dip helps to account for the fact that Gill is facing an assessment figure (\$1,410,359) only about \$13,000 higher than last year's for the Gill-Montague schools.

Newly elected Montague representative Marje Levenson called on the committee to seek legal advice about some possible anomalies in the procedures by which members are elected to the committee. Specifically,

Levenson believes the instructions explaining how many signatures are needed for school committee candidates to qualify for the election ballot are unclear, and poorly written, and need to be revised.

Levenson maintains one candidate for last year's school committee election, Linda Kuklewicz, was disqualified for not having enough valid signatures, even though she had gathered what she thought was the required minimum based on the written instructions. Levenson called this a "tragic mistake."

Additionally, Levenson believes the fact that election warrants refer to electing a "Gill representative" or "Montague representative" to the school committee indicates those candidates are elected to represent their respective communities on the school committee. If that is the case, Levenson argued, then the process by which voters in the town of Montague, for example, get to vote for the candidate to represent Gill needs to be examined to see if it meets legal requirements.

In the most recent election, 57% of voters in the town of Gill supported Sandy Brown over Jane Oakes to be the Gill's representative to the school committee for another three years. But 58% of voters in the town of Montague chose Oakes over Brown, and since Montague has many more voters, that margin proved decisive in electing Oakes as the new Gill representative to the committee.

Other school committee members, Joyce Phillips and Jen Waldron among them, disputed Levenson's interpretation, saying members are elected to represent both towns in the governance of their schools. Waldron said, "I'm a member of the Gill-Montague school committee, not just for Gill. I believe we're going to bring up tension," and raise other questions, such as why isn't the town of Gill represented equally on the committee, instead of holding three out of nine seats, Waldron said.

The committee voted 7-2 in favor of seeking a legal opinion on these questions.

see GMRSD pg 7

BLUES from pg 1

light!" as well as calls to learn which roads were blocked or open for travel, 40 folks arrived, some from as far away as Greenfield and Turners Falls.

The music started at 7:30 p.m. We had one hour of fading daylight, and then the flashlights came out to light up the ceiling and spotlight the performers. On with the show!

Same Old Blues is a local band with an eponymous CD. Shapson plays guitar and handles the vocals. Jon Lawless plays a multitude of harmonicas, toted neatly in a metal tool box.

Occasional third member Alan Kurtz plays a variety of intriguing instruments, all of which needed some explanation, including a percussion instrument he sat on called a cajon, a washboard, "Jews" harp, and bones!

These folks play authentic ragtime country blues from the 1920s and 30s. They feature the

music of Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, Mississippi John Hurt, Mance Lipscomb, and Reverend Gary Davis, among others. This style of music is also known as Piedmont Blues or East Coast Blues.

The term Piedmont Blues refers primarily to a guitar style, the Piedmont finger style, characterized by a finger picking approach that results in a sound comparable to piano ragtime.

The program called for a musical history night, therefore, prior to each tune, Shapson would explain its origin and provide fascinating history and tell stories of the blues artists that created or originally performed the songs.

As the shadows lengthened in the one room schoolhouse, we learned that Shapson actually met the famed ragtime blues musician Reverend Gary Davis, who was originally from the Carolinas but later moved to New York. He wound up living only half a mile from Shapson, a devotee of his

music, though he didn't know it at the time!

In addition to singing all the vocals, Shapson played a shiny silver metal guitar called a National Steel guitar. The metal guitar was originally built in 1927-1941. The body of the guitar is actually nickel plated brass. Inside is a very thin bowl shaped resonator that carries sound much louder than a wooden acoustic guitar. It was built to be very loud, however when the electric guitar came along, it fell out of fashion. The electric guitar was so much easier to play and put out so much more volume for a band. The steel guitar eventually became popular in Hawaiian music.

Shapson switched back and forth on another special guitar, a 1931 wooden acoustic Martin. He adds, "Although it doesn't look it, is quite rare and worth quite a bit now."

Lawless kept swapping from a dozen harmonicas, as he accompanied Shapson and Kurtz. Since

a harmonica can only play in one key, Lawless used a different harmonica practically for every song. Lawless plays in the "cross harp" style, traditional for playing in the "blues way."

Kurtz offered ongoing commentary on his eclectic instruments. First, he told the crowd about the unique, boxy, percussion instrument he sat on while drumming, called the 'Cajon,' a Spanish word meaning box. The Cajon is actually from Peru, therefore it's not traditional to blues musicians. But it definitely added flair to the band's sound. "It's like a whole drum kit in a box," Kurtz offered.

Next, Kurtz attempted to give an explanation of the derivation of the term "Jews harp," the most logical being a variation on the word "jaws," since it is held in the mouth and strummed.

The washboard was the most interesting of his instruments to watch being played, and its sound was quite amazing, as Kurtz strummed and drummed on the

washboard with his metal finger picks.

Finally, Kurtz had to explain the history and methods of playing the "bones." Originally the "bones" were typically goat or cattle bones rattled together for rhythmic effect (similar to rattling spoons together), and were worldwide in their use and appeal. However, Kurtz uses modern bones made of wood.

He explained you can only play them in "triplets." Both the washboard and the bones were traditional components of Piedmont style blues. Times were poor and folks used whatever was at hand to make music, to get through hard times.

Like the days and nights with no electric power that struck our towns two weeks ago. These local musicians played for an appreciative crowd on that dark night for the pure love of playing music. And we all surely did enjoy our night out "singing" the blues" with their company.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Tall Grass at Cemetery Leads to Complaints

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - "We tried to make a buck stretch this year," Gill cemetery commissioner Ann Marie Klein told the selectboard on Monday, in response to accusations the grass at the Gill Center cemetery had grown too long in the days leading up to Memorial Day. "We apologize."

North Cross Road resident Dorothy Day and four other local citizens came before the selectboard on Monday afternoon to complain about the state of upkeep at the cemetery next to the Slate Library, across from the town common.

One lady said she had found the grass "up to her knees," on Thursday, May 27th, and Day compared the state of affairs after William Cardaropoli mowed the cemetery later that evening, but left the raking for later, to "a hayfield."

Commission chair Connie Stevens said the commission had instructed Cardaropoli to space the mowing to once every three weeks this year, rather than every two weeks, in order to conserve finances. "Who knew the grass would grow eighteen inches in that time? It's been raining a lot," Stevens admitted. "We're going back to every two weeks."

Day said Harriet Tidd, who is buried in Center Cemetery, "would have rolled over in her grave if she could have seen," the condition of the cemetery just before Memorial Day, when the

living tend the graves of their relatives more than on other day of the year.

Tidd left the cemetery commission a tidy bequest of \$52,844 in unrestricted funds in 2008.

Day and a number of other volunteers showed up on Saturday, May, 29th, to rake up the cut grass and to trim the tall grass around the stones at the Center Cemetery. Cardaropoli came by later that day, and found the clean-up completed, Stevens said.

She pointed out that Cardaropoli has a full time job, and mows the three Gill cemeteries on his off hours. Cardaropoli intended to complete the maintenance of the cemetery before Memorial Day, and would have done so had the volunteers not beaten him to the task.

"In future, if people have concerns, call me first," said Stevens. "Otherwise, we'll have everyone and his brother up in the cemetery taking care of it, instead of the contractor we pay to do it."

John Ward, presiding over one of his first meetings as selectboard chair, seemed relieved when long time selectboard member Ann Banash pointed out that the selectboard's role in the dispute was merely advisory, since the cemetery commission is an elected, not an appointed board.

"Keep an eye on conditions,"

Ward urged the commissioners.

"We'll be watching," added one of the resident cemetery volunteers.

A tall sheaf of photographs documenting the condition of the cemetery prior to Memorial Day was handed over to the selectboard.

Main Road resident Joanne Rabideau talked to the selectboard about the need to use reflective barriers in situations where roads are closed overnight, as happened around Gill following the severe wind and thunderstorm on May 26th.

Rabideau pointed out that Main Road was closed with non reflective barriers near Uppingil Farm, where a fallen tree was hung up on utility wires for 24 hours or so. A driver in the night hit one of the barriers, Rabideau said.

Banash said, "People are trying to figure out how to deal with it when that many roads are out and we don't have enough equipment."

"But this is the Main Road," Rabideau protested.

At least eight roads in Gill were barricaded off and closed following the storm last month, and clean-up continued for days.

It may be continuing still.

West Gill Road resident Timmie Smith asked the selectboard how many generators town departments have on hand to handle future power outages, and how they would be

deployed. Apparently, neither the Gill Elementary School nor the town hall have back-up generators, and food was lost at the elementary school following the storm as a result.

Rabideau also asked the selectboard how closely they were supervising the major town departments, "to see where efficiencies can be found."

Ward said the selectboard does not "micromanage," the departments, but relies instead on department heads to get the job done within the constraints of the budget.

Rabideau contrasted the term "micromanage" with "attention to detail," which has a more positive connotation. "Attention to detail can get a whole lot done in a positive way," she said, and Ward agreed.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said he speaks with department heads several times a week, or in the case of highway superintendent Mick LaClaire, daily, and said, "Operational efficiencies will grow out of these conservations."

Rabideau also questioned whether the stress level on Gill's two remaining fulltime police officers is being affected by the requirement to provide work details for road construction projects, specifically on the Gill-Montague Bridge.

Banash said the officers generally appreciate the opportunity to make the good wages paid by the contractor for those work details, which she said have not been as frequent on the Gill-

Montague Bridge project as they were during the course of reconstructing Main Road a few years ago. She said once one lane of the bridge is closed to traffic, police details on that project will cease.

Board member Randy Crochier said the closing of one lane of traffic on the Gill-Montague bridge is now expected to take place following the July 4th holiday.

Banash said the town is presently paying police chief David Hastings 25% of his salary

see GILL pg 13

GMRSD from page 6

The committee also favored selecting representatives from within their members to meet with the Gill advisory committee that is studying the Gill-Montague regional agreement, and encouraging the town of Montague to find members willing to serve on a parallel committee.

At the start of the meeting, an emotional goodbye was bid to three long time teachers: Faye Jean Smith, with 38 years of service, Michelle Hazlett, with 35, and Gail LeBlanc, also with 35 years of teaching at the Gill-Montague schools.

Hazlett prepared a speech for the occasion, in which she said, "This is a melancholy time for me.

Teaching was my entire career. I never worked as a waitress; I never worked tobacco. I met my husband Bill on the front steps of the high school in 1983. My parents, Lil and Sam Couture, were the two best mentors possible. I want to thank former superintendent Dan Morrison, who allowed me to interview for the position. If he hadn't, I never would have had the opportunity. Five generations of Coutures have lived here and set up shop here. I'm proud to give back to Turners Falls and the town of Montague."

LeBlanc said she had found her family and her second home in the Gill-Montague schools.

"It's always hard to leave any home," she said. "Here I go!"



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Paving, Now & Then



PARZYCH PHOTO

Lane Construction's crew at work in Riverside

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH RIVERSIDE; SUMERIA Charlie Shebell, who lives on recently repaved Meadow Street, remembers when the town of Gill first paved the streets of Riverside with tar and sand in the 1930s.

"They shoveled sand out of trucks into little piles every little ways," Shebell said. "A tank truck sprayed hot tar on the dirt road and men threw shovelfuls of sand over the tar from the piles on the side of the road."

All the original paving of the streets and roads in Gill were of tar and sand

composition, the tar most likely being coal tar. The town had steel drums that were slipped over the deflated rear dual tires of a dump truck. Re-inflating the tires held the drums in place. The truck was then used as a roller.

Automobiles following after the makeshift paving truck picked up tar and sand, coating the underside of the automobiles, much to the annoyance of drivers. The tar coated the outer edges of fenders and lower sides of the automobile as well. Though it made a cheap undercoating, motorists did not appreciate

REPAVING GOES SMOOTHLY IN RIVERSIDE

BY MITCHELL WALDRON GILL - On Thursday, May 27th, at 7:30 a.m. the Lane Construction Company of Northfield showed up in Riverside to reclaim Walnut Street, and a few of the side streets leading up to Route 2. Reclaiming is what they call it when the reclaimer machine grinds up the blacktop on a road.

Reclaiming does two things. It makes sure that when the road is repaved, it winds up level with the driveways. At the same time, it checks for reflection cracks before repaving.

I spoke with Fred Cheney from Lane Construction. He told me that all the ground up blacktop from Walnut Street and the side streets in



NOCKLEBY PHOTO

Mitchell Waldron

Riverside would equal about 600 tons when they finished grinding.

All of Walnut Street was reclaimed, along with part of Myrtle, Meadow and Riverview Drive.

One week later, on June 3rd, at about 6:30 in the morning, Lane returned with a paving machine and repaved

those streets. They were all done with the job by the time I got home from school at about 3:15 p.m.

One local resident complained that the machines were very loud, and they started the work too early in the morning, making a terrible racket. But everyone else I spoke with in the neighborhood seemed very satisfied with the repaving job. Except for a few people who live on streets that did not get repaved this time around.

I asked Gill's highway superintendent, Mick LaClaire, "Why aren't all the roads in Riverside being repaired?" He told me the town did not have enough money to do that.

Mitchell Waldron is a fifth grader at the Gill Elementary

ate having to clean tar off of the automobile's paint.

On hot summer days, tar roads softened, and tar rose to the surface. It stuck to people's shoes and got tracked into homes. Sometimes kids dug out small chunks of the more solid tar to chew like bub-

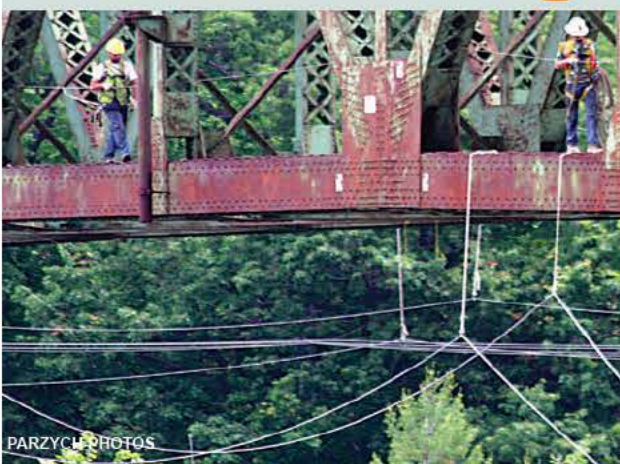
blegum, not realizing coal tar is carcinogenic.

Oh, the good old days! Commonly, in early times, towns used coal tar when paving because it was available and cheap. The brown or black substance was a byproduct of coking coal to produce coal

gas. The tar looked a lot like the brownish black BP crude oil coating pelicans in the Gulf.

Later, liquid asphalt came into use locally to make asphalt and chip pavement. The chips were angular 3/8" trap rock, produce at Mass Broken Stone

Under the Bridge



PARZYCH PHOTOS

Two brave souls from Mimosa Construction string wire rope for panels of a work platform on the Gill-Montague Bridge.

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GREAT FALLS - Crumbling bridge decking has reached a critical point at the beginning of the Gill-Montague Bridge, on the Turners Falls end.

Seven SPS New England laborers working with pneumatic pavement breakers hammered up crumbling concrete to expose rusty reinforcing bars last Thursday. An SPS equipment operator loaded concrete rubble into a dump truck with a skid steer loader.

Louise Mason, of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, said the bridge needed to be patched to withstand traffic until the actual bridge reconstruction and replacement of the deck gets underway. In the meanwhile, the

SPS crew patched the deck with an epoxy type concrete that sets up quickly and is able to withstand traffic in little more than minutes.

At the same time, on the other end on the Gill side, another snooper was at work with men videotaping the underside of the bridge to document the bridge's condition. (Poor.)

Workers for Mimosa Construction, equipped with tethered harnesses, have begun the tricky job of stringing wire rope cables across the underside of

the bridge girders, 90 feet above the river, in order to construct a work platform for All Set's "sand-blasting" crew. They have already strung hoses from the steel shot recycling and compressor unit, and have cleared

trees. All Set has enclosing a work area near the Gill abutments with canvas to contain lead paint dust in a negative air situation and has begun stripping paint and rust with steel shot.



An SPS carpenter works on forming exposed reinforcing rods on the bridge abutment on the Turners side of the bridge.

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Postcard from France

A Quick Trip to the Guillotine

BY DAVID BRULE

PARIS - Something in the newspaper caught my eye. A new exhibit at the Impressionist museum — le Musée d'Orsay — entitled Crime and Punishment, has just opened, with an authentic guillotine as its centerpiece. This I needed to see!

This was the chance of a lifetime, after having taught the French Revolution for years, to actually have a guillotine experience, up close but, eh, not too personal.

The article stated that several obstacles had almost stopped the undertaking. Many considered the exhibit too repulsive and apparently, it hadn't been easy to actually find a working guillotine. Since the death penalty was abolished by the French in 1981, and given the powerful loathing inspired by this machine, they were all dismantled and sent to the dustbin of history.

If you didn't know, prior to the 1980s, there was no trip to the chair nor lethal injection nor gas chamber for those on Death Row. In France, it was off with your head!

The article that triggered this excursion appeared in the International Herald Tribune, by Doreen Carvajal, and it covered the challenges of preparing the exhibit. Trustees of the museum resisted the whole concept, because they felt that including the guillotine was just too grotesque and macabre for the museum, which has on permanent display the light airy works of Monet, Renoir, Degas, and their contemporaries.

However, Robert Badinter, the former Minister of Justice who succeeded in abolishing the guillotine back in the 80s pushed hard for the exhibit and finally got his way. He was quoted as saying: "What does the world watch on television today? Crime, the police, the police commissioner, the judges, the lawyers. Crime is an enduring fascination for humans."

He was right. The museum has averaged 4000 visitors a day, and high schools have booked group tours through the month of July.

The main problem in getting the exhibit up and running how-

ever, turned out to be that no one could find a real guillotine. Once abolished, the French wasted no time in trashing the national supply of this infernal machine. Finally one was found, the last of its species in existence.

Trailing la Veuve, the Widow, from museum to museum, they finally located the last one in a military fort outside Paris in a corner of a cluttered cellar. They were told they could borrow the guillotine, provided they never return it! This 1872 model, with its spring-action, push button efficiency was dusted off, refurbished and set up in the exhibit room under a trailing black veil at the far end of the second gallery.

The article cites a certain repugnance among curators to actually include the guillotine in the show, but as the concept evolved, there was clearly no way to mount an exhibit on Crime and Punishment without giving the "Nation's Razor" its place. Unfortunately the last executioner, the headsman, could not be present, having died (of old age) in 2008.

He had guillotined the last criminal to be executed in France, Roger Bontems, in 1972. The man who did the honors, a Monsieur Chevalier, had performed his task without knowing it would be for the last time, having brought his son to work with him to see how the job was done, in the expectation he would take over when him when he retired. The executioner's position is typically a hereditary one, passed down through the generations from father to son. However, the younger Monsieur Chevalier was soon to be unemployed.

The condemned man, Bontems, didn't actually kill anyone, but he did participate in a prison uprising that left two hostages dead, as Carvajal reports. Monsieur Bontems, by the way, knocked back a cognac or two, was placed in the headlock, down came the blade, and it was over. Mr. Badinter, a young lawyer at the time, turned away at the last moment.

So there we were, on a beauti-

ful morning in May in Paris, traveling by subway to the museum. We passed under the Place de la Concorde where the original guillotine had been set up during the French Revolution in 1789. Dr. Guillotin was its inventor, and had developed his machine as a more efficient and humane means of eliminating enemies of the new Republic.

French social and political philosophers had had a great influence on pre-revolutionary thought in America, and the American Revolution of 1776 helped set the stage for the French Revolution of 1789. But whereas our revolution stopped at the point where relatively wealthy men, many of them slaveholders, consolidated power



King Louis XVI at the guillotine on January 21st, 1793 in this vintage painting from Larousse Encyclopedia

and framed the Constitution, the French Revolution spun out of control and led to the Reign of Terror. By the time Robespierre reached the climax of his power, thousands and thousands had fallen victim to the guillotine. The clergy, priests, bishops, aristocrats, political moderates all made the quick trip to the Nation's Razor on the Place de la Concorde for public execution before cheering crowds. The severed heads of the more famous victims were held up for view.

Heads really rolled during those bloody days, including King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette, followed a few years later by the very same ones who had sent so many others to the blade, and were responsible for the regicide, including Danton and Robespierre himself.

Capital punishment up until this invention by Dr. G. was quite medieval, featuring an ingenious variety of cruel tortures and beheadings by axe. So the guillotine was seen as actually humane. One wag of the period exclaimed that all you feel is "une sensation agréable de fraîcheur" (an agreeable sensation of coolness) as your head rolls.

Off the subway at the stop called Soferino, after a quick visit to an irresistible pastry shop, around a corner and there we are. A deep breath, and into the familiar Orsay we go. We enter a series of galleries to the side of the main exhibition hall. In the darkened first gallery, the 14 foot tall guillotine stands wreathed in a black veil, watched over by a portrait of Lucifer, with glowing red eyes. A quote from Victor Hugo faces Lucifer: "One can have a certain indifference about the death penalty, not quite knowing whether to say yes or no, until one sees with their own

eyes a guillotine."

But this is an art exhibit after all, and this is France, so there are more than 400 works assembled around this theme of Crime and Punishment. The first paintings evoke themes from the Bible, and the 6th Commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill." One painting depicts the first criminal, Cain, who carries within himself his own punishment — culpability and crushing guilt.

We are reminded of the extended family of homicide: parricide, infanticide, regicide, genocide *et al.* From this point forward in the exhibit, the visitor views depictions of all of the above by some of the great masters: Goya, Blake, Prud'hon, David, Géricault, Daumier, Degas, down to Andy Warhol.

But it is the towering machine

that lures you closer at the outset. It is remarkably simple: a plank where the victim is held in place face down, the wooden collar through which the head is placed, a copper basin to catch head and blood, a wicker basket in which the cadaver is placed. Efficient, as mentioned earlier: one second you're there, one second later, you're not there anymore.

In the gallery, various emotions flood over the visitor in quick succession: fascination, horror, revulsion, gallows humor. The Nation's Razor indeed. I'm reminded of the New Yorker cartoon: the condemned is placed with head under the guillotine blade, when the gracious executioner leans over, smiling, and asks, "Paper or plastic?"

It's difficult to linger for long in front of the coldly efficient machine. Other rooms in the exhibit, 18 in all, covering different variations on the theme draw you further into this exhibit of macabre and artful mayhem. Severed heads, various body parts, death masks lead you from room to room as your sensitivities get dulled and revulsion grows. No wonder high schoolers love this show.

There seems to be a particular fascination with maidens, damsels and bloody daggers. Women assassins like Charlotte Corday who killed revolutionary hero Marat in his bathtub are beautifully portrayed. Charlotte is in good company along with paintings of bloody crimes perpetrated by Salomé, Judith, Messaline, Lady MacBeth.

I quickened my pace, having seen enough. I lingered long enough to stand in front of a wooden Death Row door retrieved from a prison for this exhibit. I jotted down the graffiti of the condemned: "Adieu, Frisette, adieu, adieu. 1889", "Pas de chance, 1912." By then, I really needed to get back to my familiar museum rooms with old friends like Monet, Sisley, Pissarro, and get back to celebrating life.

After a reassuring stroll through the bright, crowded rooms, I headed for the nearest bistro on the corner. I needed to put things back in order. I tossed back a cognac with an espresso for chaser, in memory of poor Roger Bontems who holds the dubious distinction of being the last man to make the trip to the guillotine.

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FINALS from pg 1

put them down one, two, three in the top of the third.

With two away in the bottom of the inning, it took Katie Rinaldi's single over first to get things going. Ollari followed with a drive into shallow left field, and Katelyn Dodge went in to run for Ollari.

Dakota Smith-Porter hit it to the right of second basewoman Hannah Casey, who fielded it in haste and made the only error of the game with a wild throw past first, allowing Rinaldi to score and Turners to take the lead.

Granby's centerfielder Hillary Ladeau prevented further damage with a beautiful running catch on a long fly ball from Butynski,

retiring the side.

French made a strong throw from shortstop to first, beating Granby's lead batter by a mil-lisecond in the top of the fourth, and the clouds let loose again. Johnson dribbled to short, and Callahan flied out to left.

Turners came to bat determined to improve the score in the bottom of the fourth, in steadily pouring rain. French led off with a tremendous smash that stuck to the fair side of the third base line like a magnet, plowing a furrow deep into left for a standup double. Costa bunted safely, advancing her to third, then stealing second. Waldron struck out.

Mailloux sacrificed to score French.

Bellows singled to shallow left, driving in Costa, putting Turners up 5 - 2, and Rinaldi went down swinging.

After an uneventful fifth inning of play, Granby came back gritting their teeth and hoping to get back on the scoreboard in the sixth.

Mailloux cleaned the sand out of her cleats, unperturbed.

Brooke Labrie smacked the ball solidly between shortstop and third. One on.

Brielle Engelbrecht singled past the outstretched glove of Waldron at second. Two runners on; no outs.

Raining harder. A ball. A strike. One and two. Granby's Noelle Menard goes down

swinging, and Labrie steals third to put Granby in scoring position with one away.

Then, with Labrie taking too long a lead towards home, catcher Ollari fired to third to cut off her retreat. With nowhere else to run, Labrie dashed toward the plate, but Butynski made a perfect throw from third, and Ollari put the tag on her.


Mailloux struck out the last batter, pitching her way out of the inning with no damage done.

Brittany York, in briefly for Waldron, singled in the bottom of the sixth with two away, but Mailloux's long drive to center fell neatly in Callahan's mitt to retire the side.

Last gasp for Granby, with one

away, and Granby's Cote drove the ball hard for a hole to the left of Waldron. But Turners second basewoman made a great running snag, denying an easy single. The next batter drove the ball into center field; one on, two out.

Pinch hitter Grace Jamison, appearing for the first time in the game, smashed the ball to deep right center, doubling in a run, and making Turners fans feel relieved that Waldron's quick glove had just denied Cote the chance for Jamison to notch a second RBI.

A pop foul to Ollari's glove put the game out of reach for Granby, and put Turners on the bus for the finals on Saturday at UMass. 

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6	\$72,600.00
7	\$77,600.00
8	\$82,600.00

If you are interested in receiving an information and application packet please contact Charity @ (413) 863-9781 ext. 132 or cday@fchra.org

FREEDOM from pg 5


ful - family, community events, church, public service, civic responsibility. When you are serving and sacrificing for others, you are in essence serving yourself. Strive to discover and address those things that are bigger than yourselves. Ingratitude is so ugly in its lack of appreciation for those things given by the hand of God. Appreciate them for your own sake, and preserve them for those who are to follow. It's hard to imagine living without the liberties you are accustomed to, but believe me when I tell you, they are worth the small sacrifices you can make each and every day to help assure their perpetuation.

Now I want to remind you that your country's charter, the United States Constitution, recognizes certain inalienable, God-given rights. These are not granted by the benevolence of the government, but by your creator, and therefore cannot be taken away save by your consent. Please don't devalue or debase through apathy that which I and others have so dearly paid to preserve. Likewise, remember that as a citizen of the United States of America, your privilege of immense liberty only dreamed of by many beyond her borders comes with tremendous responsibility. Look at the person to your left and to your right, behind you and before. Go ahead, look. I fought and died not only to protect your rights and liberties, but theirs as well. Don't trample on them. They're not just yours. Indeed, strive to honor their rights as if you are protecting your own - because you are. A republic founded on the principle of self-

government 234 years ago, can no longer be considered an experiment. You need to pray that a future generation doesn't call it just a memory, or a failure.

My freedom is now complete, made perfect by a just and merciful God. Yours, on the other hand, is fragile, and can be easily broken by tyranny, shod with an iron clad boot, eager to trample its delicate shards underfoot. Sometimes, I picture the cause of liberty as a delicate, dew bejeweled web, held together only by the sinews of wisdom tempered by mercy, and power qualified by justice. Such a treasure as that which God has granted you in this nation, to recover once lost, is extremely rare and difficult.

Remember these names: Bunker Hill; Valley Forge; Gettysburg; the Ardennes; Normandy; Iwo Jima; Chosin Reservoir; Khe Sahn; Grenada; Fallujah. Oh, there are many others, but these are illustrative of the blood-soaked earth at home and abroad, pleading for justification of the sacrifices from whom that blood was spilt.

But don't shed a tear for me today. It's okay, really it is. From the safety peace and comfort of my Savior's arms, I enjoyed the parade today. The local high school marching band, the scouts, the firefighters and policemen, the old vets and young recruits, you with your camera and flag at the roadside. I'm not addressing you to solicit sympathy. I only wanted to thank you for remembering, and challenge you to be a responsible member of your great republic, and to nurture a love for the land so dearly bought and protected 

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VOTES from pg 1



Montague officials focused on budgets for town departments and schools at Saturday's meeting

in the range of \$7,416,878. Ladd acknowledged the difficulty both sides of the budget balancing effort were facing when he said, "This is the leanest budget in memory. I don't believe we can cut our way or tax our way to fiscal responsibility."

Ladd said the budget he proposed would allow no room for cost of living increases for staff or administrators for the second year in a row.

Ladd also said the district, already enrolling more 'choice in' students than any other district in Franklin County except Frontier, is poised to attract more students back, both from within the district and from outside the district as well, due to a cohesive elementary curriculum and a strong menu of advanced placement courses in the upper school.

Sheffield Elementary's MCAS scores are improving, Ladd said, in English language arts and mathematics, above state adequate yearly progress targets, one of the few elementary schools in the region able to make that claim.

"Regardless of socio-econom-

ic disadvantage our students sometimes face, we are making gains."

Ladd said he had been defending programs like art and music in the schools, to avoid further loss of students (and the state aid that follows them) to school choice.

"We have a 'choice out' problem in the district," said Ladd. "But if we get families early, they stay."

School choice and charter school tuition losses presently cost the GMRSD more than a million dollars a year in state aid.

Selectboard chair Pat Allen thanked Ladd for his efforts, and said she wished similar progress on balancing the budget had been made years ago, before the town had dug itself into "such a huge hole."

The GMRSD budget was predicated on saving half of the district's \$702,000 cash reserves to help balance the budget in the next fiscal year, which is projected to be worse in terms of state aid losses than this year.

The town of Montague has about \$800,000 in reserves.

Finance committee chair John Hanold said meeting the school department's budget request would require the town to spend so heavily from those reserves that, "Moving ahead to another year when it is unlikely we'll see level funding, the likely reality is we will use up all town reserves by FY '12."

And there's the rub.

In other business, town meeting rejected a move by Precinct 2's Jeanne Golrick to level fund town departments at last year's level, and approved a \$7,164,447 operating budget for general government. Due largely to the onset of debt exclusion payments (in FY '11 \$220,000) for the new police station, that figure rose by 5.12% from FY'10.

"I don't understand why, in economic times like these, we don't level fund," said Golrick.

But Hanold condemned her amendment as a "broad brush approach... that in effect looks at the town in total, rather than department by department," and "does not recognize the need of providing town services."

Chief of police Ray Zukowski noted that the police department budget had actually declined by .02% (\$263) from last year, due to a retirement and the hiring of a new officer at a lower step of salary.

Town meeting granted a request by Zukowski to appropriate \$35,000 for a new police cruiser this year, even though he told the meeting Ford will be coming out with a more fuel efficient model next year. The town's police cruisers presently get ten miles to the gallon, Zukowski said.

The fuel efficient model due out next year will get 20 miles to the gallon.

Zukowski warned against granting a request from Carroll's Market in Millers Falls to petition the state legislature for a new all alcohol license for the town of Montague, to allow the market to sell hard liquor along with beer and wine. The police chief said such a move, if granted, would increase shoplifting among minors, and aggravate the tendency of underage patrons to solicit adults to purchase alcohol for them.

"I don't think they'll have the staff to monitor that. You don't need more hard liquor in the town of Montague. It's pretty user friendly in that regard."

But finance committee Andrew Killeen expressed the sentiment of the majority of town meeting when he said, "I believe in freedom," and since liquor is a legal commodity for sale in the town of Montague, Killeen said, the town should give the store owner (Govind Bhai Patel; Jai Ambe Inc.) the benefit of the doubt "and our blessing," and petition the state for an extra liquor license for Carroll's Market.

Montague Rejects Call to Cut War Bucks

The last article on Saturday's town meeting warrant sparked lively debate. The article "relating to ending the expenditure of resources on U.S. warfare and military occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan" would have required the town to ask its congressional representatives to vote against continued funding for the wars, or any increase in troop levels in Afghanistan.

Here are excerpts from the debate:

Moderator Ray Godin: Ladies and gentlemen, I'll throw this out to you, whether or not you want to discuss this at any length. My feeling on this is that this town meeting doesn't have any authority whatsoever. There's nothing binding here on the selectmen; there's nothing binding on the town, and any vote you take is certainly not binding on the United States Congress. So how far you want to go with this is entirely up to you.

Montague resident Elliot Tarry, who brought the petitioned article forward: We just sat through the entire meeting hearing the ingenuity of the finance committee and all the members here squeezing every penny out of a budget to try to maintain level services. I believe that the resources we could be using for the education budget and for other budgets that used to come from federal revenue sharing have been dropping precipitously.

This actually would tell our representatives, as other towns have done, that we want those funds to come back here for our community, and we want the wars to end. It's simply a way of letting the legislature and the public officials know that 58% of discretionary funds go to military spending. [Congressman] Barney Frank has put forth an amendment that would cut 25% of the military budget.

This is a way of telling Congressman Olver and the senators through our elected officials here that this is the direction the towns who have struggled and scrimped and saved for years want them to go.

I would hope you would vote in favor of simply advising our legislators. A little note: this is the process that took place in town meetings to

end slavery. It is advisement from town and city councils that legislators actually do want to hear.

David Detmold (Precinct 5): I just take the slightest bit of exception to what the moderator said. I do believe that town meetings in New England have historically made their opinions known and taken stands on many such issues. We can't know ahead of time what influence our votes would have on our elected representatives, but democracy lives here in this community and this forum as well, so I thank you for taking a few minutes to think about this.

When we can't afford to provide access up to a cemetery (Dry Hill) where some of our veterans are buried in this town, I think it's obvious we need more resources in our local community. Rather than bury more veterans because of a war started on the premise of Weapons of Mass Destruction that aren't there. Or a war that continues an effort to prop up a government like in Afghanistan, which practices democracy by stuffing ballot boxes. Corruption and narcotics - that's what we are propping up in Afghanistan.

We've lost 4400 men and women in Iraq and 1000 in Afghanistan. We've lost \$1trillion to those efforts and our communities here at home are suffering. We need that money here at home, and we need our people back here on our own shores. So I think we should weigh in.

Leslie Cromack (Precinct 1): This is a noble cause, but as a town meeting member, and as a representative of the town of Montague, I'm very, very uncomfortable with this. I will vote against this. That does not mean I am opposed to this. It simply means I am uncomfortable representing other people in the town of Montague [on a question of this nature]. Ms. Allen alluded to the fact that a couple of people have approached her, and they have approached me on this as well. Once again, my feeling is that I am very uncomfortable making a decision on this for the people of the first precinct.

Art Gilmore (Precinct 2): I too have had a number of telephone inquiries from veterans. I'm a veteran

see WAR page 12

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This free 1-1/2 hour workshop is presented to inform people about developing a business plan in addition to what lenders are looking for now, and how to best prepare for obtaining financing. Questions and discussion to follow. All local residents are invited. Light refreshments served. Call (413) 863-4316 to reserve seating.

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WAR from page 11

an of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic crisis. So that gives me a good right to say what I want to say about this article, this petition.

However, whatever my opinions are makes no difference. But it makes a difference to my con-

stituents who voted for me in my precinct. I do not think any of us here have a right to just our opinion, but we should be expressing, finding out, the opinions of the people within our precincts, and we don't know that. The only way we can find out about that is by placing this petition on a public ballot.

I see no reason, for we have many problems in this community financially, to be coming up with a petition like this to face this group that has been here all day facing money problems.

I'm asking you, very faithfully, I would hope you would vote this petition down for those men and women who are over there in Afghanistan and Iraq fighting terrorism, rather than fighting terrorism as we saw in New York City just recently - blowing up schools and churches here, rather than having our young men and women stopping terrorism over there.

Jeff Singleton (Precinct 1): I agree there's a tradition of town meeting debating resolutions like this, as long as we don't take up too much time. I'm going to vote

against the resolution because it lumps together Iraq and Afghanistan, which are fundamentally different conflicts.

The Afghanistan conflict: we were directly attacked from there, so we went in to shore up a failed state. Whether it will be successful or not, I think the motivations are fundamentally different.

Also, there was a strong consensus across the political spectrum about the situation in Afghanistan, and we went to war based on that consensus. I think the National Priorities Project [which Tarry cited, showing Montague residents have spent or have become indebted to spend \$26.4 million in federal taxes for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to date] does interesting work in show-

ing the local effects of military spending. Still, when you have a national consensus to go to war, this means you are going to spend some money that you don't want to spend. It means you have to sacrifice a little bit.

One of my objections to the Bush administration was that they led us into a war but did not suggest to the American people that there had to be any sacrifice. This article suggests we should oppose this war because it takes money away from Montague. I think in the case of Afghanistan, that's not valid."

The resolution was defeated on a voice vote.

Transcribed from the MCTV videotape by Ana Kniazeva.

MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2010

56 First Street, Unity Park Fieldhouse, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Phone: (413) 863-3216 / Fax: (413) 863-3229
Office Hours: Mondays - Fridays, 8:30am - 4:30pm www.montague.net

YOUTH PROGRAMS

SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Design Squad & Boston Children's Museum, has returned!

Playground Program Dates & Times: 7 Week Program: Monday, June 28 - Friday, Aug 13
Mondays thru Fridays: 9:00am - 3:00pm (Discovery and Sports & Adventures)
9:00am - 12:15pm (Pre-School Playgroup)

Registration Deadlines - Registrations due the previous Wednesday for the week in which you are interested.

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP - (Ages 3 - 5).
Where: Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm.
Fees: Montague Residents - \$25.00/child/week Non residents - \$35.00/child/week

DISCOVERY PROGRAM - (Ages 5 - 12).
Where: Various sites
Fees: Montague Residents: \$55.00/child/week Non-Residents: \$70.00/child/week

SPORTS & ADVENTURES - (Ages 9 - 13).
Fees: Montague Residents: \$65.00/child/week Non-Residents: \$80.00/child/week

Summer Playground Curricula

Design Squad & Boston Children's Museum - are educational initiatives that focuses on math, science, and engineering. Kids will be engaged in hands-on engineering activities that will help them hone their problem-solving and team-building skills

Literacy Program. Through extensive research, the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative has developed fun and interactive ways to incorporate literacy activities into summer programs.

The Design Squad, Boston Children's Museum, and literacy programs are administered by The Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative which promotes learning and literacy in afterschool and summer programs in Western Massachusetts.

Special funding for these programs was provided by the Jessie B. Cox Trust.

SUMMER BLUEFISH SWIM TEAM

Who: **NEW SWIMMER PRE-REQUISITE** - All new swimmers must attend a session where they will be required to successfully perform an in-water skills test to be eligible for team participation.

When: **June 1** through Early/mid August

MEETS - Most meets will be held Tuesday evenings starting June 22.

PRACTICES - Held Monday & Thursday evenings

FEES: Montague Residents - Guppies (Novice) / Minnows (Intermediates) = \$95.00, JV Dolphins = \$100.00 / Dolphins (Advanced) = \$105.00
Non Residents - Guppies (Novice) / Minnows (Intermediates) = \$110.00, JV Dolphins = \$115.00 / Dolphins (Advanced) = \$120.00

CONTACT US FOR A PROGRAM/REGISTRATION BROCHURE!

Enrollment Min.: 24 Max.: 35 (Enrollment limits supersede registration deadline)

SWIMMING LESSONS - Multiple Levels Served!

When: Saturday mornings; June 26 - August 7
Where: Turners Falls High School Pool
Fees: Montague Residents = \$40.00 Non Residents = \$45.00
Registration Deadline: Friday, June 12

YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM - Ages 5 - 12

Session I: Week of June 21 - Week of July 16
Session II: Week of July 19 - Week of August 13
Registration Deadline: Friday, June 11 Registration Deadline: Friday, July 9

Fees: Montague Residents = \$40/session, Non-residents = \$45/session
Enrollment Minimum/class: 5 Enrollment Max./class: 8

BEGINNERS THROUGH ADVANCED SERVED!

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT TENNIS PROGRAM - Ages 18 & Up

Session I: Week of June 21 - Week of July 16
Session II: Week of July 19 - Week of August 13
Registration Deadline: Friday, June 11 Registration Deadline: Friday, July 9

Fees: Montague Residents = \$35/session, Non-residents = \$40/session
Enrollment Minimum/class: 4 Enrollment Max./class: 8
Consult with your Tennis Instructor on where you need to be placed for Session II

BEGINNERS THROUGH ADVANCED SERVED!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY TENNIS PROGRAM

Session I: Week of June 21 - Week of July 16 *Reg. Deadline: Friday, June 11*
Session II: Week of July 19 - Week of August 13 *Reg. Deadline: Friday, July 9*

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays; 7:00pm - 7:50pm
Fees: Montague Residents = \$15/Family Member, Non-residents = \$18/Family Member
Enrollment Minimum/class: 4 Enrollment Max./class: 10

CONTACT US AT 863-3216, or
www.montague.net for more information!

SERVICE from page 5

menus and the opportunity to enter your party's extension if you are lucky enough to know it. These personnel and cost saving measures are an enormous public relations mistake, and I predict will cost these providers of goods and services much in the way of business and good will.

My line of work requires considerable contact with the public, especially parents, and the phone rings quite a bit. When I pick up an outside line and answer it, the caller often says they had expected a machine and they seem very grateful to hear a

human voice. When I personally respond to voice mail I am often thanked to an extravagant degree by people who have had the unusual experience of talking with an actual person who has taken the time to respond to their call, and who actually gives a hoot about their concerns.

Have we reached the point where real communication is no longer important? If so, we are in real trouble in too many ways to mention.

I wonder what it was like when you cranked or dialed your home phone and talked directly with a local operator who then

connected you personally to the party you wished to speak to. Or told you their line was busy or that they were not at home (and probably knew where they were at that moment).

I wonder if those folks felt their privacy had been invaded or that the operator knew too much.

Or maybe they felt they were part of a warm and caring community.

Did I mention that my phone line was reattached to the house hours after I called and spoke to the repair service?

UNWANTED from pg 3

sible for it."

Neville pointed out there is another pile of mattresses that has been moldering beside

another spot on Old State Road for a number of years.

Board chair Andrew Goodwin responded, "If you say the town should pay for it, it could foster behavior that becomes very bad."

Jaime Hackett said, "It is interesting to see how things travel. There is a tremendous revolution of materials in advance of 'anything goes' days."

Sharp promised to call the Mass Department of Transportation, since Old State

Road is a state road, and research what options might exist for removing the unwanted debris.

"The town administrator promised to get back to us," said Hannah Neville, reached by phone on June 8th, "but we've heard nothing from him since. My husband just walked back down to the road, and the mattress is still there, getting grodier. The paint cans have tipped over in the rain, and they are now leaking into the ground-water," she added.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Report of Road Rage on French King Highway

Thursday, 6/3
2:33 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering on Pisgah Mountain Road.
4:15 p.m. Assisted citizen with keys locked in motor vehicle on Main Road.
Saturday, 6/5
1:55 p.m. Assisted

Montague police with a juvenile matter.
6:20 p.m. Report of subjects arguing in a vehicle on French King Highway, near Gill lights. Unable to locate involved subjects.
Sunday, 6/8
7:25 a.m. Report of a suspicious person in a field off of Main Road. Checked area, unable to locate.
7:02 p.m. Report of a road rage incident on French King Highway.
Monday, 6/9
1:15 p.m. Report of a missing/stolen ID card on French King Highway.

Turners Falls Municipal Airport, Turners Falls Airport Commission Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Fiscal Year 2011 Goal Statement

A five percent (5%) disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) overall utilization goal for federally funded airport improvement projects at Turners Falls Municipal Airport (OB5) has been established for the 2011 federal fiscal year per the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The methodology used to derive this goal will be available for review at the Airport Manager's Office, Turners Falls Municipal Airport, 10 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376 for thirty (30) days upon publication of notice. Comments concerning the overall goal will be accepted during the thirty (30) day review period as well as for an additional fifteen (15) days in compliance with federal regulations. Comments should be submitted to Peter Golrick, Airport Chairman, at the address provided above.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Pain in the Tail

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — Q. *I was racing down the cellar stairs a few days ago when I slipped and fell on my tailbone. I've had pain ever since. What should I do about it?*

The coccyx — or tailbone — is made up of three to five vertebrae at the lower end of the spine. Most people have a coc-

cyx of four of these spinal bones. The coccyx functions as an attachment site for muscles, tendons and ligaments.

Coccyx comes from the Greek word for cuckoo. The coccyx's shape is like the beak of a cuckoo. The human coccyx is considered a vestige of what was once a tail.

Most coccyx injuries are bruises and ligament strains. The coccyx rarely breaks. The most common tailbone injuries occur from falling on a hard surface. Women suffer most coccyx injuries because the female pelvis is broader and the coccyx

more exposed than it is in males.

Pain in the coccyx is called coccydynia. Coccydynia can occur in children and adults. Degenerative changes of the coccyx seem to increase with age.

Usually, the cause for coccydynia is not known. Among the common known causes are falls, prolonged sitting, medical procedures such as colonoscopy, and childbirth. Substantial pressure may be placed on the coccyx as the baby descends through the mother's pelvis.

The pain is felt in a variety of circumstances. The most com-

mon distress comes from sitting on a hard surface. There can be intense pain when getting up from a seat. Bowel movements and sex can also produce pain.

Coccyx pain is treated in a variety of ways:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to reduce pain and inflammation. These include ibuprofen, naproxen and aspirin.

- A customized seating cushion that shifts pressure away from the tailbone.

- Physical therapy that might include exercise to stretch ligaments and strengthen muscles in the tailbone area.

- Heat, massage and ultrasound.

- Injections of local anesthet-

ics into the coccyx are sometimes given for continuing pain.

- Manipulation to move the coccyx back into position.

- Surgery to remove the coccyx is recommended only in very severe cases. There is a high risk that surgery won't alleviate pain.

Coccyx pain can be especially taxing because substantial relief may not come for months.

However, most cases of traumatic coccyx injury get better within several weeks.

With a long siege of pain, you may develop depression and anxiety. This emotional distress should be treated as soon as it is recognized.

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

GILL from pg 7

during his off hours, to remain on call when no other officer is on duty. But she said the town's ability to pay for on call time will cease as of the start of the next fiscal year, July 1st, when the community policing funding that has provided those payments will run out.

"We'll be relying more on state police," after that, Banash said.

Steve Hussey, director of the Four Winds School, which has leased classroom space in the Riverside Building in Gill for the last eight years, may be closing up shop after July if a hoped for grant does not come through. The independent middle school enrolled just eight students last year, down from enrollment of 12 - 14 students the school needs at minimum to meet expenses.

Hussey, who said he has

devoted ten years of his life to the vision of providing an alternative model for educating middle schoolers, took a substantial pay cut last year to keep the school going. He told the board they have high hopes for success with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation grant, and should hear by the beginning of July whether it will be approved.

He assured the board rent would be paid through the end of July.

The selectboard approved the energy commission's action plan for making Gill a Green Community, eligible for state funding under the Green Communities Act legislation. The plan involved zoning changes, which will have to be approved by the planning board and zoning board and town meeting, to allow by right siting of alternative energy research and development,

manufacturing, or production facilities at designated locations in town. The energy commission said only solar energy production would be encouraged under this aspect of the action plan, although R&D or manufacturing could be allowed at designated sites.

Other components of the plan include the hoped for passage of the stretch energy building code at the June 21st annual town meeting.

Among the other agenda items on that town meeting will be a warrant to appropriate \$1,410,359 to fund Gill's portion of the Gill-Montague Regional School District's operating costs for FY '11. Due to a proportional decline in Gill students enrolled in the district, Gill's assessment will increase only \$13,000 from last year's amount.

The board approved the gift of

a used army surplus pick-up truck for the fire department, which will be used for a brush truck. About \$13,000 will be needed to outfit the truck with a 250 gallon tank and pump. Letters with annual family income surveys have gone out to 141 residents of

Riverside. The town will need to get 90% of those surveys filled out and returned in order to be eli-

gible for community development block grant funds needed to replace sewer pumps at the Riverside Water District's pump station. If those pumps were to be replaced at town expense, it would cost Gill \$10,000 or more.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Bridge Watched, Bonfire Leads To Arrest

Tuesday, 6/1

4:15 p.m. Report of a man standing on French King Bridge holding onto the railing with wine bottle. Appeared to be intoxicated. Searched both sides of bridge and water. No one or vehicle in the area.

Wednesday, 6/2

5:10 p.m. Report of a teenage boy jumping in front of vehicles on Route 63. Found juvenile. Spoke with same.

5:20 p.m. Received another report of a juvenile jumping in front of vehicles on Route 63 at Veteran's park. Spoke to same juvenile. Parents removed same.

Thursday, 6/3

3:40 p.m. Report of tall grass near the intersection of Route 2 and West Old State Road making it hard to see to turn onto Route 2. Mass Highway contacted and advised of complaint.

9:19 p.m. Suspicious female

parked near the French King Bridge. Same walked onto the bridge. Checked area. Negative contact.

Friday, 6/4

9:10 p.m. Fire department requested assistance at a North Street residence with a large outside fire. Resident refusing to let fire department put out the fire.

Arrested [redacted] for disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct.

Saturday, 6/5

11:45 p.m. Suspicious

motor vehicle at an Old State Road residence. When confronted by resident, vehicle fled. Checked area. Unable to locate. No description given.

Sunday, 6/6

12:00 a.m. Several vehicles and intoxicated subjects at the intersection of Route 63 and Poplar Mountain Road. Searched area. Vehicles and people were gone upon arrival.

Monday, 6/7

10:40 a.m. Report of a loose black lab on Gunn Street. Gone upon arrival.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Assaults and Break Ins in Turners

Tuesday, 6/1

4:23 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

7:31 p.m. Officer wanted at Montague Town Hall. Peace restored.

9:19 p.m. Fight on Fourth Street. Peace restored.

Thursday, 6/3

11:07 p.m. Assault and battery on Hillside Road. Investigated.

Friday, 6/4

11:51 p.m. Assault on Fourth Street. Services

rendered.

Saturday, 6/5

1:15 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

1:43 p.m. Runaway at Unity Park. Services rendered.

Sunday, 6/6

8:05 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Hillside Road. Services rendered.

6:00 p.m. Assault and battery on Avenue A. Advised of options.

Monday, 6/7

12:01 a.m. Suspicious person at Between the

Uprights at Second Street. Gone on arrival.

12:33 a.m. Runaway at Chapman Street. Referred to other police.

11:42 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

7:23 p.m. Burglary / breaking and entering on G Street. Services rendered.

7:45 p.m. Restraining order violation on G Street. Referred to an officer.

8:12 p.m. Burglary / breaking and entering on Third Street. Services rendered.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 15: Phantom Loads and Vampires

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Nell Robbins-Levine dashed out to yank her clothes down off the clothesline before the threatened downpour really let loose. The shirt she was wearing was already damp with sweat from weeding on a hot and muggy afternoon. As she hauled in a basket full of diapers and t-shirts, Nell found herself rehearsing an “enough is enough” speech for her partner Jane. Just this morning, for instance, there’d been the lecture on turning lights off.

“Why is the basement light left on every time I walk past the

hallway, Nell?” Jane had complained.

“Because I’m still doing laundry, that’s why,” Nell had grumbled.

“Would it kill you to remember to turn it off each time? You know we’re losing precious electricity for each minute that light gets left on.”

And then there was the dishwasher episode. She’d just loaded the machine when she discovered Jane hovering over her shoulder.

Jane: “You’re not thinking of running that dishwasher, are you?”

Nell: “Yes I am. Otherwise we won’t have any clean bowls for dinner”

Jane: “But it isn’t full, and you know that’s not efficient.”

And who could forget the “problem” with the TV she had last night? She’d been convinced the TV was broken.

“Jane—I think our TV just bit the dust. It won’t turn on.”

“Try turning on the power switch on the floor.”

Nell hunted around to find a power switch behind the bookcase. Sure enough, once she flicked the switch and held up the zapper, the TV came to life. “So what’s the deal — I have to turn on this switch plus all the other switches every time I want to use the TV, DVD or CD player?”

“They’re vampires, Nell. All these appliances suck up electric-

ity even when they’re turned off, as long as they’re plugged in. That power strip will help us reduce our phantom load. So stop complaining!” Jane had declared.

Stepping into the shower to rinse off, Nell couldn’t stop thinking about Jane’s constant nagging. There had to be other ways to save electricity besides obsessing over whether or not every damn thing was plugged in or unplugged... Ouch! This water was too hot—Nell quickly turned down the temperature. With this heat wave, it was so hot outside that the water sitting in the garden hose had been nearly as hot as the spray coming out of the showerhead. The only difference was that the shower needed an electric hot water heater, while the garden hose water heated up for free in the sun, kind of like a solar collector. A solar collector! Why not use their GGF

allowance to put in a solar hot water system?

Amazingly, when Nell proposed the idea that evening, Jane agreed. Jane estimated that they might save half the cost of their hot water—as much as \$600 off their year’s worth of electric bill. With a 10-year loan, and state and federal tax credits, installing a solar hot water system would end up costing less than \$230 a year. Jane immediately phoned the Solar Store to see when they could install a system.

“Guess what, Nell—when I mentioned they’d be getting free Go Green Family publicity, the Solar Store agreed to bump us up to the top of their list. We’ll be using solar-heated water before the week is over!”

In the excitement of it all, Nell decided her “enough is enough” talk could wait.

Continued next issue...

PAVING from page 8

than one reason for milling: the old pavement was cracked, and new pavement will soon crack, “reflecting” the cracks in the old pavement, if not removed. Street surfaces were uneven from being dug up and patched during installation of water mains, sewer mains, and house connections. Milling the pavement allows for a better meeting of street pavement

and driveways.

“The Wirtgen W200 cold planer is a German machine assembled in the U.S.,” Lane spokesman Zack Turner said. “One hundred percent of the milled material is recycled, either for the town of Gill to use for patching, or for Lane to recycle in new blacktop.”

On Thursday, June 3rd, Don Stebbins, driving a Lane asphalt tank truck, sprayed a tack coat, an emulsion of asphalt and water, on Walnut Street and the side streets leading up to Route 2.

Asphalt, derived from petroleum, will not mix with water. An emulsifier, with less than 2% of a soap-like citrus additive, marries these two strange bedfellows, according to Turner. The asphalt emulsion tack coat insures that new asphalt pavement will adhere to the old pavement.

Though the milled surface was swept, some dust remained. Water-asphalt emulsion wets down the dust which could prevent adhesion. Emulsion will also mix with rainfall, which can also deter adhesion.

Though asphalt was relatively new when paving roads in Gill in the 1930s, the first recorded use of asphalt was by the Sumerians around 3,000 B.C. They also used it as a binder for inlaying shells, stones and pearls in jewelry and decorations. Others used it for mummifying bodies, and as an adhesive.

The earliest use of asphalt, or asphaltum, in the New World was

by Native Americans as early as the 1200s. While Indians used spruce gum or pine pitch in constructing canoes, they used asphaltum to seal planks for ocean going canoes, as sealant for baskets to carry water, to attach spear points to shafts and as an adhesive for whatever else needed sticking together.

The Incas of Peru mixed asphalt and stone to pave roads much like modern roads. Where was Gill back then? Only Indian foot paths existed.

“Large naturally occurring asphalt lakes, like Pitch Lake, exist in Trinidad,” engineer William Allen of Greenfield said. “When I was in Trinidad, I saw them cut asphalt out of the lake like blocks of ice.”

Today, most asphalt is manufactured from crude oil. Some say the first oil well was hand dug in Poland for light crude oil to use as lamp oil. That well is still in limited production as a tourist attraction. In other countries, asphalt is called bitumen, or mixed with stone and sand it is called bituminous concrete.

Natural occurring asphalt results from crude oil seeping up through cracks in bedrock to form asphalt lakes or “tar sands.” Seeps on the ocean floor form into “tar” balls that wash up on shore. The La Brea Tar Pits in the heart of Los Angeles is the site of an ancient asphalt deposit formed by a crude oil seep that trapped and preserved prehistoric creatures and plants of all kinds.

BP’s gusher in the Gulf will also result in a sizable crop of tar balls.

Macadam pavements are an outgrowth of John McAdam’s highway design in the 1800s. Roads in England were first paved using rounded gravel. McAdam figured that well-compacted angular stone (volcanic trap rock) would make a better pavement. It did. He also built raised highways with good drainage.

In Riverside, on June 3rd, after Stebbins applied the tack coat, Lane’s crew laid down a two inch layer of double dense 350 degree asphalt mix, meeting MassDOT specifications. A constant stream of tri-axle dump trucks, carrying 22 - 24 tons of blacktop each, kept the paving hopper filled.

The Big Daddy of asphalt haulers is Lane’s 30 ton capacity Trail King, equipped with a “live bottom,” a conveyor on the trailer floor that unloads the asphalt mix into the paving hopper.

The paving machine, operated by Harold Cook, was a Voegle, yet another German machine. It has a heated screed that acts as a wide flat iron to produce a smooth layer of asphalt.

Traditionally, heated screeds used bottled gas for heating. The Voegle paver is electrically heated with electricity generated by the paver’s diesel engine.

First, an eight ton Ingersoll Rand vibratory roller passed over the newly laid pavement. Once the pavement temperature falls to

180 to 225 degrees, Lane’s water filled Hypac ten ton roller can safely begin rolling, without creasing the pavement. Roller operator Mike Curtis rolled the pavement to a final 1-1/2” thickness. Works better than re-inflated tires with steel drums.

Work flowed smoothly under the direction of paving supervisor Fred Aldrich and paving foreman Terry Dixon, laying down 600 tons of asphalt on the 6,800 square feet of paving.

Gill highway superintendent Mick LaClaire had considered paving the streets with his Gill crew, using the town of Northfield’s paving machine, but Lane Construction was able to perform the job for less money than it would have cost Gill using town employees.

Lane Construction has a “Green” asphalt mix, using paraffin, which has a working temperature of 230 degrees. While regular asphalt mix often smokes and gives off vapors at 320 to 350 degree temperature, the “Green” mix does not.

The use of asphalt and wax is nothing new. Egyptians used asphalt and wax to mummify bodies. Wax was also added to asphalt to make a varnish. In today’s “Green” asphalt paving material, wax serves to lower the melting point so that the material will stay workable at a lower temperature, thus avoiding the release of polluting volatile hydrocarbons into the air.

Manager for Senior Meals Program (Search Re-opened)

Nine hours per week (Tues, Wed, Thurs, 10:00 - 1:00 ONLY) for Senior Dining Center in Montague.

Heat and serve noontime meal; recruit, train and work with FCHCC-approved volunteers to help serve meals; provide accurate reports to central office. Requires good math and recordkeeping ability; excellent communication skills, and sensitivity to needs of elders.

Please direct resume and cover letter to: efoster@fchcc.org (preferred), mail to DHR, Franklin County Home Care Corp., 330 Montague City Rd., Ste 1, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or call (413) 773-5555 for application. Review of resumes will begin as received and continue until position is filled. AA/EOE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 10th

Miles Orgasmic celebrates the release of their CD, *Clouds*, at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls. Percussive polyrhythms, pulsating pulse of electric bass, a panoramic spectrum of melodies are summoned by flute and electronically enhanced guitar.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to classic rock and dance Music, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11th

Boxcar Lillies at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. An evening of Americana music with a folk and rock influence. Katie Clarke, Stephanie Marshall, and Jenny Goodspeed combine heavenly three-part harmony and exceptional songwriting, bringing to life folk, country and bluegrass with sparkling vocals and engaging performances. Doors open at 6:30. Museum and store open at intermission. Donations accepted to benefit the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser & Tina Horn, 9 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Oweihops*, 8 p.m. Then *Rusty Belle and Bella's Bartok*, 9:30 p.m.



DETMOULD PHOTO
Dakota Roberts performs at Round Here Cafe, 111 Avenue A, Saturday, June 12th, 5 p.m. as part of the Water Under the Bridge music festival in Turners Falls

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 11th & 12th

Water Under the Bridge Music Festival at various sites in Turners Falls. Twelve different venues! Over 40 artists from the Pioneer Valley and beyond. Venues include: The Rendezvous, The Shea Theater, Burrito Rojo, Ristorante DiPaolo, Round Here Cafe, 2nd Street Bakery, Jakes Tavern, Peskeomskut Park, The Brickhouse. Performers include: *Naia Kete, Stone Coyotes, Rusty Belle, MarKamusik, Boxcar Lillies, The Banjo Queen with Jared Libby, Oweihops, The Warblers, Phantom Fairlane, Eric D'Ambra, Micheal Orlean, 23 Enigma Horrible, Tom Woodbury, Steve Nelson, The Mitchell's, Opel*. Complete listing: www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls, Riverfest Weekend: *Rivers of a Lost Coast* on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Award winning director and producer Joe DeFelice from Newfane, VT will be discussing the film. *The Deerfield-A Working River* on Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Northampton resident Elinor Lipman, who wrote the novel upon which the film is based will be guest speaking. Music before movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12th

The Nature of the Pike, naturalists Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long will lead an exploration of a working forest near Orange Center, Hosmer Woods, 11 a.m. Hosmer Woods is located on Rte. 2A west of Orange center, near 230 W. Main St. Participants will meet at the top of the hill. If the weather is iffy, call: (978) 249-0246. Free and open to the public, sponsored by the Athol Bird & Nature Club and the New England Forestry Foundation., www.millersriver.net.

Artist's Reception: *Leslie Cerie*, photographer on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Water Under the Bridge: *Historical Bike Tour of Turners Falls and Montague City*. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the birdbath at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Info: Janel (413) 863-3221/ www.greatfallsma.org.

The Sirius Community Coffee House: Open Mic and featured performer *Liz Rogers*, singer songwriter. Accompanying herself on guitar, her voice has been compared to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell; her songs speak of love, courage, beauty and the search for home. www.elizabethrogers.com. 8 p.m. \$5 - \$10, (413) 259-1808.

Bev Grant Concert and Dissident Daughters present radical social commentary in 3-part soprano and alto harmony at the Echo Lake Concert Series in the Town Hall, Leverett, 7:30 p.m. \$10 - \$12. (413) 548-9394.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Opel, The Mitchells, and Space Captain* 9:30 p.m. \$6 cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Abigail Houghton*, acoustic, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT Karaoke, 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15th

The Amanda Chorus is *Open House* rehearsal, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Temple Israel, Greenfield. We seek singers who: read music, or learn very quickly by ear, sing well on pitch and in harmony with other parts, wish to perform in a wide variety of settings. For more info: Eveline MacDougall: (413) 773-8655/ www.amandlachorus.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16th

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.

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley Folk Traditions Concert Series fea-



Bev Grant and the Dissident Daughters at the Echo Lake Concert Series in the Town Hall, Leverett, on Saturday, June 12th, 7:30 pm.

turing: *Viva Quetzal*. This multi-cultural sextet draws on the musical traditions of Central and South America, the Andes, and American jazz and rock music to create a blend of folkloric rhythms from around the world. 6:30 p.m. \$10/ \$2 for youth 16 and under. (413) 584-4699/ www.pphmuseum.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17th

Shag at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls. Easy listening favorites from the 60s - 80s featuring all the songs you forgot you knew and are possibly too embarrassed to admit you liked. 7 - 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault & Co.* Blues based roots, 8 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19th

The Montague Farm Cafe, a free family-friendly meal with activities (puppetry make'n'take, hiking, games, and live music) wellness offerings (physician, acupuncture, stress reduction), noon to 3 p.m. at the Montague Farm Zen House, 177 Ripley Rd, Montague. Transportation available. 367-5275/ Karen@zenpeace-makers.com

ONGOING

On display at The Wendell Free Library: exhibition of work by *Morgan Mead* of Wendell. On display **thru June 30th**.

Turners Falls Fishway open thru June 20th. At Turners Falls Dam, behind Town Hall, 9 to 5 p.m. (413) 659-3714, free.

Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

June 11th & 12th RIVERFEST WEEKEND! RIVERS OF A LOST COAST Fly-fishing documentary-Friday THE DEERFIELD A WORKING RIVER Meet the local director-Saturday

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2. THE KARATE KID in DTS sound DAILY 6:40 9:00 PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
3. SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. SEX AND THE CITY R DAILY 9:10 FRI, SAT, SUN 3:15
4. MARMADUKE PG DAILY 7 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. PRINCE OF PERSIA PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. KILLERS PG13 DAILY 6:50 9:20 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. GET HIM TO THE GREEK DAILY 6:50 9:20 R in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30



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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The recent soaking rains have been just what we needed. Hot sultry weather combined with wind have brought on early growth to many flowering perennials, and ended their season just as abruptly. The garden soil was getting too dry for seed germination, and the newly planted seedlings needed daily watering.

As the warm and often hot weather has continued, this gardener has had to admit to over caution regarding the planting of summer crops. It's more than time to plant tomatoes and beans and other even more sensitive summer crops like squash, peppers and melons.

A good rule of thumb for tomatoes is to

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

A Lovely Season

plant them to the depth of the first true leaves. This will guard against snapping of leggy plants in wind and rain. The buried stems will also put out additional roots, making the plant even stronger.

Dig a good hole for the spread of roots and leave enough room to drop in a scoop of manure and or compost and a pinch of bone meal if you have it. Place cages or support stakes in now to avoid stabbing roots later. Water thoroughly.

Tomatoes love the sun, so plant them where there are maximum hours without shade. Remember, tomatoes will grow just as happily in a properly sized container if you have only a sunny porch or patio space.

Beans are fun for big and small kids to grow. Bush beans grow quite quickly and you can stagger row plantings by a couple of weeks to spread out your crop. Some of the great heirloom varieties are pole beans, which take up less space and will not be as susceptible to bean beetles and powdery mildew as plants grown on the ground. Scarlet runner beans produce bright flowers as well, adding to the colors of your garden.

Plant squash and melon seeds in a raised hill to allow plants to dry better after

rain, and thus stave off mildew and leaf rot. Likewise cucumbers grow well in hills or can be trained to climb on a wire fence or trellis. Using upward growing methods adds visual interest and saves room when you are short of space. Also, planting crops as closely as they will tolerate will shade out weeds and help the soil stay moist.

I have laid black plastic in my tomato and pepper bed to prevent weeds and to keep the soil warm. It is not completely flat, and has developed some low spots with the heavy rains. These small pools have become natural bird baths.

I was sitting outside on a recent late afternoon watching two mourning doves splash and bathe when I heard a bird commotion in the nearby maple tree, and was startled by the flight of a male bluebird who landed on a butterfly bush at the garden edge. He flashed his colors there for several minutes, waiting in line for a turn at the water, and then flew off.

Bluebirds are such secretive characters that I had no idea a pair had remained in my yard after that brief sighting in April.

The peonies have come and gone, and the roses are already in spectacular bloom. The mountain laurel is lush. I will have a few strawberries soon. There should be a good crop of apricots and the blueberry

bushes have set quite a bit of fruit. It is a lovely season, and one I wish would move more slowly and last a bit longer. The chatter of birds makes a sweet alarm clock and the tree frogs lull me to sleep at night.

Enjoy the fine crop of local asparagus whether steamed lightly or parboiled and finished on the grill. Or add its characteristic flavor to brighten the eggs and cheese in the following recipe.

Enjoy this beautiful season and happy gardening!

Cheese Pie

Bake this "pie" in a crust or simply spray a pie dish with olive oil. Steam and cool a cup of asparagus broken or cut in one inch pieces. Spread the asparagus on the crust or in the bottom of the pie plate.

Mix one cup cottage cheese and one cup grated cheddar or soy cheese, with 3 eggs and 3 tablespoons of flour. Add salt and pepper as desired. Pour this mixture over the asparagus. Top the pie with a ring of cherry tomatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until browned and set.

Delicious hot or cold for any meal.

Turners Tennis in Post Season Play



The Turners Falls High Girls Tennis Team

Turners Falls girls tennis, coached by Vic Gonzalez, won their first post-season match against Frontier last Wednesday, propelling them on to the Western Massachusetts Girls Tennis quarterfinals against Pioneer Valley Christian School, where they were defeated 2-3 on Monday.

The team will be losing four seniors (including all their singles players and one doubles player.)

Congratulations to the girls and the graduates. Hopefully they'll return to cheer on next year's young team!

For the third time in four years, boys tennis also saw post-season tournament play. Although the boys played well, they lost 2-3 to South Hadley this past Friday, winding up 10 - 5 for the season.

Coached by David Bulley and Will Mathews the team is one of the largest in recent years, with 17 active players. With not a single senior, most players are expected to return next year.

Congratulations to both Turners tennis teams on post season play.

Naia Kete, The Warblers and MarkKamusic are among many performers featured at the festival this weekend. For the full schedule of performances and locations visit turnersfallsriverculture.org.

- 1 RENDEZVOUS
2 BURRITO ROJO
3 SHEA THEATER
4 RISTORANTE DIPAOLO
5 GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER
6 ROUNDDHERE CAFE
7 PESKEOMSKUT PARK
8 SECOND STREET BAKING COMPANY
9 THE BRICK HOUSE
10 HALLMARK GALLERY



Naia Kete plays at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, June 12th at 3:00 p.m.

Map of Turners Falls area with festival locations and performance schedules. Includes 'WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL' and 'FRIDAY, JUNE 11TH AND SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH'. Lists venues like Burrito Rojo, Peskeomskut Park, and Hallmark Gallery.

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Ristorante DiPaolo advertisement. Promotes Wednesday Wine Specials and upcoming MarkaMusic event. Contact: 413-863-4441.

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Songline Emu Farm advertisement. Promotes farm store open Thu-Fri-Sat 12-5pm. Contact: www.songlineemufarm.com.

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