



HARD-HAT AREA

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Page 11

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 – NO. 37

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 16, 2011

Turners Falls

Fire Chief Selected

The Turners Falls Prudential Committee announced yesterday that it has selected Robert Escott Jr. of Greenfield as the Turners Falls Fire District's next fire chief. Chief Escott will take on the position beginning July 1st, replacing Chief Raymond Godin who has served as chief for eleven years and retires on July 30th.

Escott is a 26-year veteran with the Turners Falls Fire District and has served as a captain for the past 22 years.

Prior to his career in firefighting, he served the TFFD as a call firefighter, and was a member of the US Marine Corp. Escott is also the assistant coordinator of recruit training at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, operated by the Mass Department of Fire Services. He is also the Emergency Management Director for the town of Montague. He will continue in this position while serving as fire chief.

Escott will be sworn in at 11 a.m. on July 1st in a ceremony to be held at the Turners Falls Fire Department.

His badge will be pinned by his father, Robert "Skip" Escott Sr., who is also a veteran of the Turners Falls Fire District's call force.

Get Ready for the Renaissance Faire



Louis Rhead Illustration – Robin Hood and Little John

MONTAGUE - The time is nigh to feast on Mutton and Mead at Montague's first annual Medieval Festival, on Saturday, June 18th, at the Millers Falls Longbow and Quarterstaff Club, 210 Turners Falls Road. The festival will go on from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., with an admission price of \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids and seniors at the gate.

Traditionally known as a Renaissance Faire, this is the first of its kind for Montague and will bring

together fun, food, and entertainment with a medieval flair. You don't have to dress up in period costume, but you will certainly be most welcome to do so.

The theme for the inaugural year is Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest – Thieves of Honor. Many characters from the legend, including Robin and his band of Merry Men, will be making appearances in the woods around the fair, along with a varied assortment of entertainers, craftspeople, and other vendors from across New England.

There will be jousting. There will be eagles and falcons. There will be knife throwing, archery contests, rafts of food and flagons of ale. S'wounds, there will be artisan crafts and medieval merchandise, if you believe you can make your way home through the woods withal.

Travel back with us. We're heading to the early 13th Century. The Mutton and Mead Tavern is holding their annual summer festival, and collecting food for the poor. The shire folk are worried the Sheriff of Nottingham will use the occasion to come by in force to collect some taxes.

Let him try.

Mutton and Mead is a fundraiser for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Donations of non-perishable food at the gate will get you up to a silver dollar off the ticket price for each two items, up to three dollars total.

Alms for the Poor, and Good Times for the Whole Family, by the Rood, at the Mutton and Mead, this Saturday, starting at 10 o'clock. Turn off by Roberto's, on the high road from Montague to Turners Falls.

Maple Valley will become a Private High School with Focus on Chinese Fluency



Mark and Jenny Kemsley

BY KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL - "I'm now the owner of a campus," said Mark Kemsley, a self-described internet marketer living in Lindon, UT. Kemsley bought the former Maple Valley School property at 6 Farley Road from Twoey Brason on June 14th.

Kemsley said he intends to establish Kemsley Academy at the property.

According to Kemsley, eventually, Kemsley Academy will be a private for-profit residential school, offering high school curriculum taught in English and also offering students the opportunity

see **PRIVATE** page 5

Theater Review

The Scottish Play at the Shea



BRENDAN KENNY VIDEO STILL

(Left to right) Caitlin Baker, Jenny Silver, and Sarah Coflan say sooth to Josh Platt in Macbeth

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - *Macbeth* goes down like a bracing draught of vinegar and mandrake root, an hallucinatory purgative against ambition and bad conjugal advice.

It is a play rumored for centuries to be cursed by the real spells of weird women woven in its script by Shakespeare, or whatever adept

assumed his name.

It is an undeniably difficult play to produce effectively – as it loses so much steam after the good king Duncan is ventilated in his sleep at Inverness.

The key to its success lies in the interplay of its chief protagonists – the rudderless Macbeth and his overweening Lady.

The New Renaissance production, continuing this weekend at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, succeeds mainly on the strength of its staging, the brilliant effects and the masterful deployment of the three witches front and center, and, in no small measure, by the brooding anguish of Josh Platt in the title role.

Yet his counterpoint, Jillian Morgan, as Lady Macbeth, for all her spiky intensity and coiled cobra delivery, would do well to disregard her own advice, for Lady to be not "more than what you were, you would be so much more."

She comes dangerously close to overacting.

Let's get back to those witches.

They will haunt your sleep "in restless ecstasy," as they have audiences for the

last four hundred years. Punk rock hags Jenny Silver, Caitlin Baker, and Sarah Coflan, seated around a glowing ash can like disheveled street people on the Bowery, are the first thing you will feast your eyes upon when the stage lights up, and they will be one of the many brilliant and indeli-

see **SHEA** pg 18

Turners Tied 3-3 in Top of Ninth for State Semi-Finals



DETMOLD PHOTO

Stacy French heads for home on a fielder's choice, putting Turners out in front of Quaboag 2-1 in the 6th inning.

Rain Delays Game til Today –

FOUR ERRORS AND THREE UNEARNED RUNS

BY DAVID DETMOLD
AMHERST - They had it in the bag!

And then they dropped it.

Ahead 3 to 1 in the bottom of the 6th inning, with one out, Turners third baseman Stephanie French dropped a sharp one hopper, and the Quaboag Cougars had a runner on.

French's twin sister Stacy, the Turners shortstop, dropped the next ball hit to her. But with plenty of time to spare, she picked it up and bobbled it and

somehow failed to make the toss to Kelsey Waldron waiting an arm's length away at second. She could have stepped on the bag herself, but with this combination of errors (and two earlier fielding errors at third), the Cougars suddenly had the tying run on first.

Their catcher, Andrea Koslowski, got up next and knocked the ball far out over center fielder Jenna Costa's head, doubling in a run and leaving runners on third and second, with just

see **TIED** page 5


PET OF THE WEEK

Plays Like a Pro



Banjo

My name is Banjo and I'm an eleven-year-old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. Velvet-soft, big, beautiful, sweet-faced older lady seeks quiet home for loving cuddles. I, Banjo, am the cat you're looking for if you're an adult looking for the perfect companion. I may be a grown-up but I still can play like a pro. I love fishing-pole feather toys and crinkly things like paper bags. I do prefer a quiet home - hyper little kids scare me, so living with adults only will be perfect. I can get along with other cats with a slow introduction, but do not like dogs at all. I will lower your blood pressure with my purrs and make your world happy every time you see my face. Please do consider me. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413)-548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Sign Up, Goats and Watermelon Day

Saturday, June 18th is the start of the Summer Reading Sign Up and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the Goats and Watermelon Day.

This year Summer Reading will help fund a new playground in Wendell Center. The playground, next to the library, will soon be undergoing major renovations. An anonymous citizen will donate one dollar to the Playground Renovation Fund for

every book Summer Reading participants read. Longer books will be worth even more and kids can still earn prizes for themselves. You can register any library day. On Saturday, June 18th, Maia Award will be on hand from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with her trained baby goats for kids to meet and play with, and there will be lots of watermelon hand for everyone to enjoy as well.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

The Stupendous Mr. Magichead

Summer Story Hours begin on June 30th. This Year's Theme is *One World, Many Stories*. Erving Public Library Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event is *The Stupendous Mr. Magichead* on June 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Story hours will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays this summer. During each story hour, children will have the opportunity to hear music composed in different parts of the world; count in different languages; hear an international story; create a global craft; sample a snack and enjoy the world outdoors (weather per-

mitting). The date and theme for the first story hour of the series is June 30th - Spain.

To kick off the summer program, the library will host a magician on June 26th at 4:00 p.m. Exercise your funny bone, and join the fun as magician John Sullivan, a master among children's entertainers, stirs up a whirlwind of energy, silliness, and trickery. Hootin' and hollerin' are encouraged. This kick-off for the summer reading program is appropriate for pre-school children, but will be an enjoyable hour for audiences of any age.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Concert

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- The annual summer reading program kick-off performance will be *Under One Sky: A Multicultural Celebration* with Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell on Tuesday, June 28th at 10 a.m. It will be held on the lawn of the library, or inside, depending upon the weather. The performance will involve the audience, through song and story, in a variety of cultural traditions. Hear how the bear missed the train, how coyote got his howl, and how foam got to be in the ocean. Be prepared to sing, move and dance, especially to the closing song, Woody Guthrie's *This Land is Your Land*. The songs and

stories are accompanied by the Aztec rainstick, Inca flute, Russian balalaika, African drum, as well as guitar, mandolin, and the North American banjo. There will even be a short lesson in how to play the spoons, and a visit from a dancing wooden dog. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.



"Snazzy Shoes", above, was the theme for the Wednesday, June 14th, Story Hour at the Carnegie Library. Hayley Anderson of Turners Falls is painting her son Orrin's feet in different colors. Also pictured is Leo Reiber of Montague, who left his footprints several times. Story Hour is every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. with artist Ruth O'Mara.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 20th - 24th

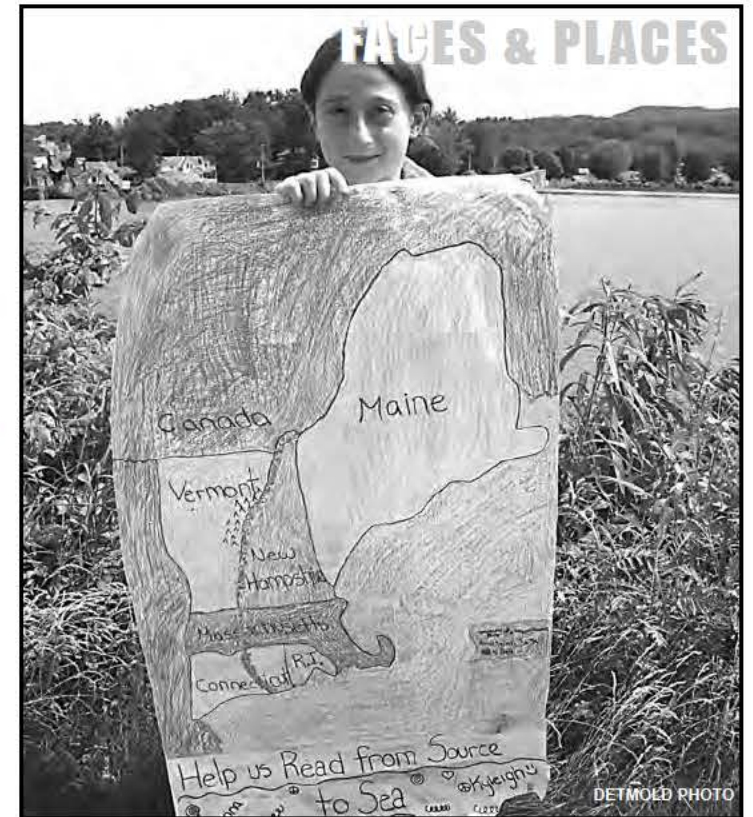
GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. • **Reservations are now being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical Hairspray.** For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, June 20th
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
 12:00 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo
 No Knitting Circle
Tuesday, June 21st
 9:00 a.m. Walking Group
Wednesday, June 22nd
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
 11:00 p.m. Third Wednesday Book Review
 12:45 Bingo
Thursday, June 23rd
 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
 10:30 a.m. Money Talks Presentation
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, June 24th
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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 information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, June 20th
 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



Fifth grader Adrianna DiMaio holds a picture she drew with another Montague Elementary 5th grader - Kyleigh Williams - of the Connecticut River's course.

Historic Bridge Facts


PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge.

The construction of the Gill-Montague bridge was not without fatal views. The 1937-38 archives have this to say, from an unknown bridge worker: "If I have to die, I die. That's all there is to it." Generally, the workmen are too busy thinking about their work to worry about falling. They say it's just as safe 'up there' as on the ground, if you're careful. And they're right, if you're careful. Most of the workers are unmarried, and comparatively young. "It takes a young man to do the job, and a man can't have a family to worry about him." Theirs is a hard and nomadic life, where the home fires rarely burn. The men come into a town as total strangers, work there until they begin to know the community fairly well, then, when the job is completed, they're off again in search of more work, probably hundreds of miles away.

More bridge facts next week!

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
Grade 7
 Alexis Young
Grade 8
 Matteson Heath
 Stephanie Robertson

Front pg Hard Hat photos (l-r) Jolly Holiday ñ Laura Herbert; Bottoms Up ñ Tony Palumbo; Felt Landscape ñ Fafnir Adamites; Safari ñ Louise Minks; Hey, Cupcake ñ Melinda Baughman Photos ñ Lisa Davol

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - **Benefits of Mindfulness** is an introductory talk exploring the fundamentals of mindfulness and self-compassion. Those interested may enroll in an eight-week practice group beginning in September. The talk will be given by Laurie Rhoades, LICSW, on Monday, June 20th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Montague Center. The talk is free and open to the public.

The **Montague Business Association** will be holding a networking event for members and non-members on Tuesday, June 21st, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club, 30 Country Club Lane, Turners Falls.

This is a chance to meet association leaders, talk to other business people, and learn more about the association's work to support, promote and develop Montague's businesses. Snacks and a cash bar will be available. Free for MBA members; a \$5.00 fee for non-members.

The Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival is holding an anachronistic **photo contest**. People who upload photos of the Renaissance Faire this Saturday to our Facebook page, or email them to us (a secret email address will be revealed in the free program book at the festival), will automatically be entered in our contest. If you are attending the festival bring your camera and check for registration details.

A **June Plant Swap** will take place on Saturday, June 18th, at

Common Good Festival

The first ever Common Good Festival is a celebration of community and economic democracy, on the Amherst town common, Sunday, July 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (free admission, rain or shine). Great music, food, crafts, magic, family fun, games, prizes and more will be brought to you by Common Good Finance, a revolution with a bank.

Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls from 10:00 til 11:00 a.m. Bring your extra perennials and leave with some new treasures. The monthly rain or shine swaps are held the third Saturday of each month through September. (A volunteer leader will be needed for the July swap.)

On Thursday, June 23rd at 10:30 a.m. Linda Ackerman and John Cormican from Greenfield Savings Bank will give a talk and answer questions on **scams, frauds, and protecting your personal information** at the Gill-Montague senior center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls. Bring friends and any questions you have. Refreshments served; no advance sign-up required.

The Gill-Montague Senior Center is offering a new group called **"Transitions for Seniors: Caring and Caregiving"** beginning Friday, June 17th at 1:00 p.m. Led by Winnie Ganshaw from Hospice of Franklin County, the group will address changes and challenges for seniors and their families when caregiving becomes a necessity. Life planning topics include changes in health, mobility, family roles, finances, housing, and support systems. All are welcome. The program is an exploratory session to determine interest in a support group series for seniors on first and third Fridays, 1:00-2:00 p.m. through September 2nd.

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

The event will raise awareness of Common Good Finance, a nonprofit organization working to bring economic democracy to communities in Western Massachusetts and throughout the country. Local sustainability and social justice activist groups and businesses will also showcase their work at the festival. You can help. Call (413) 628-3336 or email: info@CommonGoodBank.com.

Erving Police Introduce New K-9 in Training

The Erving police department is proud to announce its newest member, Badge. Badge is a 16-week-old purebred bloodhound. Badge and his handler, officer Robert Holst, will be training with chief Ray Jackson of the Templeton Development Center and the Worcester County Sheriff's Department. Officer Holst and Badge will be training to the standards of the National Police Bloodhound Association in tracking and trailing.

Once trained and certified, Badge will be able to assist the police with search and rescue of missing and lost children and adults. Badge will also assist in the apprehension of criminal suspects.

Officer Holst and the Erving police department would like to recognize and thank Bob Stevens of Douglas, MA, for his donation of Badge. We would also like to thank Sheila Morrissey, DVM an associate of North County Veterinary Clinic, Inc. in

Greenfield, for the generous donation of veterinary care. The police department has also received support from Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, which is

care and equipment. Donations to the Badge Fund would be greatly appreciated. The donations can be made out to the Badge Fund care of the Erving



Officer Robert Holst with K-9 partner Badge

looking into purchasing Badge a bullet proof vest.

The Erving police department is going to be setting up an account for Badge, to help with any uncovered medical

police department. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding K-9 Badge, please contact officer Holst at (413) 423-3310.

Turners Falls Fire Department Officers Graduate from Management Training Program for Fire Chiefs

On Thursday, June 9th, 29 fire service personnel from 28 communities graduated from the 19th offering of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's chief fire officer management training program.

The thirteen-week program was developed in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standards for chief fire officers, and is delivered jointly by the University of Massachusetts Collins Institute Center for Public Management and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

This is a comprehensive course providing training in the non-fire suppression aspects of managing fire department organizations.

Captain John Zellmann and Captain Leon Ambo of Turners Falls Fire Department were among those completing the course.

Zellmann has been with the department since 1984, and was promoted to captain in 2000. He serves as the department training officer. Ambo has been a firefighter since 1987, and was promoted to captain in 2009. He serves as

the department fire alarm and communications officer.

In addition to their administrative duties, each of the captains is responsible for supervising a firefighting shift, directing the department's responses to emergency calls.

The Montague Center Congregational Church

Strawberry Supper

Saturday, June 25th 5:30 p.m.

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Local Food Takes Root

We welcome news that Montague has followed in the row hoed by Gill in choosing to revive the town's moribund agricultural commission. This time, Montague's effort is focused not just on qualifying for state grants, but on really working to support farmers, and help them to market their products. There is even talk of the new agricultural commission hosting a social event for farmers – whose constant work on the land can keep them isolated from their community in several seasons of the year – at the Montague Grange. That would be a return to the grass roots for that excellent organization, which maintained the Grange for many decades as a center for the town's agricultural community, and has more recently featured contra dances, public forums, and talent shows in that 175-year-old building.

Montague's attempt to provide formal support for local farmers and growers is part of a regional and national push to focus consumer's attention – and shopping dollars – on the value of locally grown food.

We are encouraged by similar efforts in Leverett, where community volunteers are working with the elementary school teachers and lunch room coordinator to put up a greenhouse, and involve the school children in learning about and growing some of the food served in the cafeteria.

The Franklin County school committee caucus recently held a well-attended Farm to School forum to discuss ways and means to remove barriers from serving local food in local schools. The US Department of Agriculture recently announced new initiatives to support the Farm to School program, building on Michelle Obama's commitment to highlight the need for better nutrition for the nation's youth.

In Wendell, the work of a part time paid local food coordinator – in her first trial year – was initiated by the town's energy committee. This may seem odd at first glance, until you stop to consider how food travels on average to reach American dinner tables – well over 1,000

miles by most estimates. Consider not only the loss of nutritional value over time, but also the huge cost in carbon fuels to refrigerate and ship food from distant farms in California and Mexico to your local store and table.

Wendell is restarting their weekly farmers market, extending their community garden to include plans for a 'permaculture food forest' next to the town office building, cooperatively purchasing straw mulch, and holding workshops on everything from backyard poultry raising to saving heritage seeds.

Here in Montague, restaurants proudly feature lists of locally grown ingredients on their menus, and the manager of the major supermarket is reaching out to the new agricultural commission for help in contacting local growers who might like to join the local strawberry farmer now selling in their produce department. The CEO of Food City, Zach Sklar, recently said, "We are 100% committed to local foods."

Residents of Turners Falls are not waiting for local growers to take him up on it. The two downtown community gardens are filled to overflowing with intensively gardened plots, where everything from corn to sweet peas are cultivated. The town has recently approved a third community garden – at least on a temporary basis – next to Unity Park.

The Great Falls Farmers Market finally caught a break in the weather this Wednesday, and nine vendors sold everything from handmade soap to vegetable starts, grass fed local beef, beet greens and lots and lots of strawberries.

All this growth means the local food movement has moved beyond the bumper sticker phase and is surely taking root in our towns and villages. New England was at one time self reliant in food production, canning and preserving surplus for the winter months. For many reasons, from energy conservation to nutrition to education for the young – who will grow up in a world of scarcer resources – this is a very positive trend.



KHALIL BENDIB CARTOON / OTHERWORDS.ORG

Organic Backyard Poultry Workshop in Wendell

WENDELL – On Saturday, June 25th, the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter (NOFA/Mass) will sponsor a workshop in Wendell on raising backyard poultry using organic methods. Sharon Gensler and Pru Smith will teach the workshop at their homestead, on 87 Bullard Pasture Road, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration for the workshop is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. There is a \$5 discount for NOFA members. For information on how to register, visit www.nofamass.org/programs/extensionevents/organicpoultry.php, or contact Ben Grosscup at (413) 658-5374 or by email at ben.grosscup@nofamass.org. Those interested in walk-in registration should call first.

The workshop is designed to leave participants feeling empowered to begin their own small chicken operation.

Topics covered include: breed selection, cardboard box brooding of day old chicks, care and feeding of chicks, poulters and adult birds, winter and summer (mobile) housing, pasturing



ADRIENNE SHELTON PHOTO

Sharon Gensler and Pru Smith with two of their laying flock at their homestead in Wendell

poultry, electric fencing, permaculture moats, and slaughter options. Participants will do some hands-on feeding, watering, and handling of the birds.

"Whenever there's a lot of new people coming into a new husbandry practice like this, there can be a bit of a learning curve to climb," said Ben Grosscup, education events

coordinator for NOFA/Mass.

"The workshops we sponsor emphasize raising poultry in a way that is healthy for the birds and for the people eating their eggs and meat. These workshops are for people who are new at raising backyard birds and looking for some pointers from experts for having a successful year."

Erving to Hold Special Town Meeting, June 20th

Erving will hold a special town meeting at town hall, 12 East Main Street, on Monday, June 20th to vote on seven warrant articles.

The first article would authorize the selectboard to accept a grant of \$50,000 and

borrow funds not to exceed \$150,000 from the EPA Rural Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for the environmental clean-up of the Usher Plant site on Arch Street in Erving Center, once the town has title to the property.

The second article would rescind the unissued debt of \$251,853 that was part of the authorization to borrow for the improvement project at the Erving treatment plant.

Other articles would appropriate \$5,500 to purchase and

install an air conditioning system for the computer hub room at the Erving Elementary School, with the understanding that any additional costs will be borne by the school's budget (the finance committee does not recommend this article); transfer \$250 from the sewer enterprise fund to pay a prior year sewer main easement fee to Pan Am Southern; transfer \$354 from the current fiscal year line item for selectboard expenses to pay a prior year ambulance service charge to the town of Orange; and \$4,648 to supplement wages for the coming fiscal year for the library aide (\$1,074), library director (\$1,604), municipal clerk (\$820) and administrative coordinator (\$1,150 for insurance).

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The Montague Reporter

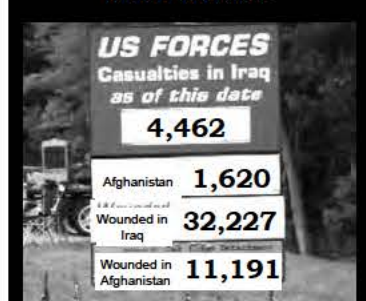
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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/15/11



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TIED from page 1
one away.

The next Quaboag batter tried to duplicate their catcher's success with a high fly ball to center. This time Costa made a beautiful catch. But there was too much distance for Costa to cover to throw home; another Quaboag runner tagged up and scored, tying the game 3-3.

That's right where the score stayed until lightning delayed the game with two out for Turners in the top of the ninth. Then steady rain pushed the outcome of the Division III state semi-finals off until today, Thursday at 2:00 p.m. at the UMass field.

Dakota Smith Porter doubled in the first and tripled in the third; Emily Mailloux doubled in the second; Stacy French brought her home with another double in the same inning. Costa singled in the fifth.



Keeping Options Open on High Speed Internet Access

BY TANYA CUSHMAN

LEVERETT - Tuesday night, the Leverett selectboard held a conversation with Rob Brooks of the Leverett broadband committee about the future of high speed internet access in Leverett.

They discussed the option of working with the newly formed municipal cooperative Wired West, as well as other possible ways of bringing 'last mile' high speed fiber optic connectivity to Leverett residents.

Wired West is working to bring high speed internet to underserved towns in western and central Massachusetts. Their slogan is: "connecting Western Mass. to the world."

Brooks said the organization is working to "build a financially sustainable, state-of-the-art,

municipal fiber optic network to serve everyone."

Leverett has already taken and passed the required two votes to allow it to join Wired West, using a nearly century old state law allowing towns to establish municipal lighting plants. That law has recently been expanded to allow towns to set up, or cooperatively establish, fiber optic networks.

Forty-six towns in western Mass. have passed similar votes in recent months.

Wanting to keep the town's options open, the Leverett selectboard has also applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Mass. Broadband Institute (MBI) to fund an analysis and feasibility study, to see if the town itself could create the necessary broadband infrastructure. The

town expects to hear whether that grant has been approved later this month.

The town attorney believes the two town meeting votes Leverett held are sufficient for the town to join the Wired West cooperative. But if Leverett decides to proceed to establish a municipal fiber optic network on its own, attorney Donna MacNicol said the town should take another vote.

If Leverett goes it alone, the town would need to be bonded for the money involved. Brooks heard some comments from people in town who said they are "afraid it would be jeopardizing to the town's bond rating," to go this route.

By one very rough estimate, it could cost Leverett three million dollars to bring high speed

access to all town residents who want it.

Yet residents are weary of waiting for high speed access, and are looking for the swiftest, surest path toward that end.

Brooks told the board the steering committee of Wired West, using a consultant hired with MBI grant money, has already consolidated huge amounts of data. However, it is unclear how much of that information the coop would be willing to share with Leverett if the town decides to go solo. With all the investment Wired West has made in researching the feasibility of creating a network, a legitimate fear exists that a big corporation like Verizon could easily take the information gathered and use it to supplant Wired

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PRIVATE from page 1

to become fluent in Chinese. Once the school is fully operational, Kemsley estimates that it will employ approximately 20 people.

Initially, for a two to three year startup period, Kemsley said the academy will offer one-month training programs in English for Chinese high school students.

Wendell selectboard chair Christine Heard commented, "I think it's a good thing. It's good to have those buildings put to use." Town librarian Rosie Heidkamp, a member of Wendell Works, a group that was looking into potential re-uses of the property, "This appears to be a positive step for the town and community and I look forward to working with Kemsley Academy on activities and programs."

On his LinkedIn profile, Kemsley identifies himself as the owner of The Marketing Company and notes that he lived in China for 20 years, where he set up English language training schools in China for Sylvan Learning Systems, and other companies.

"I'm not an expert in education," Kemsley said, adding that an experienced educator, John Marquis, has been selected as the Kemsley Academy principal.

According to Hemsley, Marquis was formerly dean of students at Dublin School in New Hampshire, and has been executive director at the Academy at Swift River (ASR) in Cummington for the past year.

On its website, Dublin School says it is a 130-student private college preparatory school. According to its website (www.swiftriver.com), ASR is a residential therapeutic boarding school for teens and is approved as a private school by the Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee.

Kemsley said he has visited Wendell four times while considering purchasing the property and added, "It seemed like there was a good fit," because Wendell has "a lot of positive energy."

He said once Kemsley Academy is up and running, he "would love for students and townspeople to interact." He said the Chinese students would very likely want to be part of an American community.

"My feeling is townspeople want to interact as well," he added.

Kemsley also said he expected the academy to offer free adult education classes in Chinese to Wendell residents.

Kemsley said he would be moving his family to the campus while the academy is being



KATIE NOLAN PHOTO

The former Maple Valley School, on Farley Road, will become a private high school with a focus on Chinese fluency.

organized. "I'm really committed to making this work," he said. He observed that he "had never lived in an environment like Wendell," his last long-term home being in Shanghai.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Kemsley graduated from Brigham Young University, and immediately before starting the Marketing Company, worked for approximately a year for Starise, setting up business operations in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

According to a 2011 entry on the AdlandPro community page, Kemsley met his wife, Jenny, a

native of Taiwan, while attending BYU. After living in China with his family for 20 years, he returned to the US in 2006 and worked in multi-level marketing (MLM) for 2½ years. According to Wikipedia, MLM is a marketing strategy in which the sales force is compensated not only for sales they personally generate, but also for the sales of others they recruit, creating a downline of distributors and a hierarchy of multiple levels of compensation.

Kemsley's internet presence includes video instructions on Chinese etiquette, sales of

woodworking plans, and sales videos for InternetProTV, which promotes training materials for internet marketing and promises payments to affiliates (people who buy the training materials) who send internet traffic to InternetProTV ("Learn How We're Going to Pay You to Build Your List!")

Kemsley's Twitter account says he started his own online MLM company called CoachedByMillionaires.com. This company offers recordings by millionaires for \$7 per month and pays buyers to recruit others.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Boiler Replacement at Gill Elementary School

BY DAVID DETMOLD
On June 6th, the selectboard voted to proceed with energy efficiency improvements at the Gill Elementary School, under the Siemens Building Technology performance contract.

Under the terms of the contract, the town will pre-finance the improvements, and pay back the loans through guaranteed energy savings.

In addition to building envelope improvements and efficient lighting, the project includes removal and replacement of the school's old boiler. This part of the project is helped with a state grant of federal stimulus funds for \$150,000.

This week, town administrative assistant Ray Purington said the town released the contract to Siemens, relying on \$127,500 in Qualified Energy Performance Bonds awarded to the town by the Department of Energy Resources to pay for much of the difference for the \$275,000 project. The Greenfield Cooperative Bank will purchase the bonds, Purington said.

The town hopes to have the project at the elementary school largely completed by the end of summer vacation.

In other news, the selectboard voted to purchase a new computer for \$620 for the highway

superintendent, replacing his 2004 model.

The town will apply again this year for a \$500 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to purchase items like recycling bins and recycled copier paper and business envelopes.

The board renewed the police and fire department accident insurance policies through MIAA for \$9,373, an increase of \$251 (2.75%) from last year.

A fixed price diesel bid was awarded by a coin toss to tie bidder Sandri Oil, for \$3.84 per gallon (99 cents a gallon higher than last year's total). The town will use about 6,500 gallons this year for highway and fire trucks.

The board will discuss issuing a public gathering permit for the Schutzen Verein society on June 20th. (By coincidence, the Schutz is holding their 100th anniversary celebration this weekend!)

The town will open bids for the sewer pump station renovation on July 12th.

On Thursday, June 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at town hall, the planning board holds a public information session on plans to enact a solar overlay district for the town, as a step in the direction of qualifying Gill as Green Community and making the town eligible for state energy conservation funds.

The board also approved paying Joe Williams \$150 to mow and hay the Mariamante parcel. No objections were raised by regional Native American

tribes to having the archaeologically sensitive town owned field mowed.

In preparation for the continuation of annual town meeting on Saturday, June 25th, at 9 a.m., the selectboard has held eight budget making sessions with the finance committee in the last two months.

Purington said, "In general, things look really good. There is no override planned at this point."

He added, "There are a couple of capital items in the special articles where the warrant language would allow for a debt exclusion vote. A debt exclusion remains a possibility," for items including the \$28,000 purchase of a new police cruiser, or \$20,000 to purchase and install new interior doors at the elementary school. Deferred well head maintenance at the elementary school may wind up costing the town \$7,000, Purington added.

The proposed 1.3% (\$6,500 total) cost of living increase for town employees will take the form of a special article, Purington said.

The town meeting will feature coffee and refreshments, and as an added pick me up for early birds, an 8:55 a.m. special town meeting with a few housekeeping budget items, and request from the finance committee to reduce the total number of seats on the committee from nine to eight.

Purington said the finance committee last year had a full complement of nine members, but now has only eight, with varied levels of participation.

NOTES FROM THE GILL MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Maureen Donelan to Head Montague Elementary School

ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE - In her first report to the school committee, newly hired interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom announced on June 7th she had hired Maureen Donelan as the new principal of the Montague Elementary School.

Donelan was the principal of the Hubbardston Center School in central Massachusetts, for the last two years.

Ekstrom introduced Donelan to the school committee. She spoke briefly, saying she was a long time resident of Franklin County, and was happy to be joining the Gill-Montague regional school district. Donelan will take her place as principal starting July 1st.

Meanwhile, Ekstrom herself has signed a contract which begins on July 1st and automatically terminates on June 30th, 2012, at a salary of \$125,000 for the year.

Under the contract's terms, Ekstrom will also be entitled to 15 sick days and 25 vacation days.

In addition to standard details describing Ekstrom's duties and responsibilities, the contract notes that until July 1st, while she is filling in for the departed Carl Ladd for the month of June, she will be paid on a per diem basis, her salary divided by 260 work days.

The details of the contract, negotiated by school committee chair Michael Langknecht, following a discussion in executive session, were not discussed in open meeting, but made available to the press and public in written form.

Prior to leaving the district, former superintendent Carl Ladd had expected to announce his selection for Gill Elementary principal

at the May 24th school committee meeting. But at that meeting, Ladd decided to wait and let Nadine Ekstrom make the final decision on hiring both elementary school principals, and told the committee that although he had a candidate he had been ready to recommend, the Gill search committee had asked him to list the position again and re-open the search.

Ekstrom announced at the June 7th meeting that a new posting had been placed onto SchoolSpring. She will review applications and send her recommendations to the search committee for their consideration. Ekstrom said she would ask the committee to submit two candidates to her for a final interview for the Gill Elementary post.

Debbie Loomer, physical education teacher at Turners Falls High School, presented a concern to the school committee regarding the importance of physical education for the health of students.

Loomer said she had recently become aware the administration was reducing the graduation requirement for physical education from four years to three. The policy change would allow students to take a health class one year instead of physical education.

Loomer presented statistics, medical recommendations, and state regulation supporting the importance of consistent physical activity for all students. She quoted the General Law of Massachusetts, Title XII for public education, which states, "Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students in the public schools for the purpose of promoting the physical well-being of such students." Loomer asked for

the decision to be reversed.

Principal Donna Fitzpatrick addressed the issue. She said students were seeking more opportunities to take other subjects, and for flexibility in the schedule. Many students participate in sports after school but can't get credit for that in Massachusetts. Some of these students would like more options in their class schedule, and she was trying to accommodate those requests.

At the request of the school committee, Richard Labrie, principal of Public Management Associates and his associate, Robert Tensel, provided an in-person explanation of their report, Operational Review of the School District Business Office, which was requested by superintendent Carl Ladd and completed May 15th, 2011.

In the process of completing their review, they examined the current personnel in terms of what they do each day, their responsibilities, and their job descriptions and made recommendations for changes in the distribution of work within the administrative staff to improve efficiency and utilize the skills of each employee appropriately.

In terms of personnel, they suggest a reduction of staff from five positions to four, but two of these would include a full time bookkeeper and a full time accountant. While this would be less personnel, it would cost more because of the necessary salary requirements of the professional positions. They recommend moving the payroll responsibility to the executive assistant to the superintendent, which would require training in technology (Budget Sense)

see **SCHOOL** pg 7

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Dolven Appointed to School Committee

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett school committee has a full complement and a new member, after a special joint meeting of the committee and the selectboard on Tuesday night. Attorney Sarah Dolven has been unanimously appointed by these two boards to fill a vacancy left when Aaron Samoza declined to run again; Dolven will serve until the next annual town meeting.

Dolven, who has children in kindergarten and fourth grade at the elementary school, had to first consult the state ethics commission for advice on how she could conduct herself during budget deliberations, since her husband is a fourth grade teacher at the elementary school. She was advised to recuse herself from all discussion and votes relating to teacher salaries, but may participate on other matters relating to the school budget.

Last week, Dolven spoke up at a school committee meeting to advocate for more opportunities for U-28 teachers "or whatever

configuration we may have in the future" to get together with teachers from other elementary schools, for problem solving, professional development, and to discuss best practices. She also advocated for students to have time for movement as well as sedentary classroom learning, both to combat childhood obesity and to "respond to the need some children have not to stay sedentary for long periods of time as they learn."

Diversified Construction of Amherst was low bidder for the Green Repair project for replacing windows at the elementary school. The slate roof repair project at the school will go out to bid again, to seek a qualified bidder.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis warned the school committee there may be a delay in shipping the new windows, because so many similar projects going on across the region at the same time have caused backlogs in ordering. The June 1st tornado in Springfield did not help mat-

ters.

School committee chair Farshid Hajir said, "We knew the window ordering delay could be an issue," and said if the work gets pushed up against the heating season, a possible solution may be to put off the window replacement until next summer.

Horace Mann

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico, responding to recent concerns from Leverett Elementary principal Anne Ross regarding increasing federal and state guidelines limiting flexibility in curriculum and teaching, said he had been researching the possibility of establishing a Horace Mann in district charter school to replace the traditional model at Leverett Elementary.

Even though Horace Mann schools are normally one component of a larger school district, rather than the sole component of a school district, d'Errico insisted his research and a technical bulletin from the state department of education indicate, "It is not ruled

out."

He urged the Leverett education study committee, chaired by Pam Stone, to explore the possibility as a way to return to "put the teachers at the center" of education again in Leverett.

Stone said, "I think it's a great idea," and cautioned Pelham may be moving away from a three school approach to regionalizing elementary education with Shutesbury and Leverett, either outside or within the Union-28 configuration. "If Pelham falls out of the discussion, it changes the equation tremendously," Stone said.

She said, "Horace Mann is an interesting option, particularly regarding U-28."

Hajir said a Horace Mann in district charter can "trim administrative costs, but sometimes there are problems without enough administration."

In other news, Leverett voters approved a debt exclusion vote on Saturday, authorizing the necessary borrowing to purchase a new \$375,000 fire truck by a vote of 138 to 12.

Conservation restrictions were approved and signed on three

parcels of land, the 3.87 acre David and Mary Field parcel and the 5 acre Philip and Catherine Woodard parcel to the south of Leverett Pond, as well as the 13 acre Stetson Adams memorial woodland, north of Rat Hollow Road. The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will hold the CRs on all three parcels.

Mary Alice Wilson of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust said she expects CRs to soon be completed for the Rattlesnake Hill parcel and a second Field property recently purchased by the town bordering Leverett Pond. She said the town presently has from 10% - 12% of its total land area protected from development - a figure that may double if the conservation restriction being negotiated on Brushy Mountain with the Cows Co. comes to fruition.

To tour the conservation area on the Friendship Trail on Leverett Pond, join the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust for a tour of the conservation parcels south of Leverett Pond this Sunday, June 19th, leaving town hall at 1:00 p.m.

SCHOOL from page 6

to avoid redundancy, streamline and improve the payroll process.

Labrie's recommendation that the district needed to improve financial forecasting to be able to spend more money earlier in the year on educational improvements such as materials and technology had the school committee asking questions.

He said the habit of "penny pinching" early in the year, followed by the use of excess and deficiency money at year's end to reduce town assessments is a pattern that keeps the district from spending the money it needs to

improve education.

A few members expressed concern regarding the compact they have with the towns to use excess and deficiency to reduce town assessments for the next several years, although the amount would gradually be reduced.

Labrie said the habit of holding onto funds instead of spending them during the year, and having between \$400,000 and \$600,000 left over at the end of the year made the district look bad to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, because it gives the impression the district has a lot of

extra money to spend but doesn't use it wisely. The inability of the business director to forecast where the district will be financially at the end of the year limits the superintendent's ability to plan ahead.

"It would be nice for the superintendent to know early enough in the year to use funds for educational improvement," he said, "instead of rolling over surplus into reducing assessments."

Labrie said emphatically that the district will never get out of Level 4 status with this kind of approach.

He also emphasized the value of a "clean audit" and recommended hiring someone to help the district prepare ahead of time for an audit.

In response to questioning about the DESE's criticism of high per pupil costs at Gill-Montague, Labrie pointed out the district has yet to implement their turn-around or technology plan. He said he got the impression the business office was holding onto money to protect the district against a shortfall due to the unpredictability of finances, while the school principals were doing without what they need.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Individual Arrested in Depot Post Office Break

Tuesday, 5/10

5:30 p.m. Davis Turn Road resident reported garage door handle broken, nothing missing inside.

Sunday, 5/15

8:10 a.m. Report of wires down on New Salem Road. Found to be telephone line. Removed same.

Wednesday, 5/18

7:35 a.m. Depot post office broken into. [redacted] arrested later in the day by Orange police department.

Monday, 5/23

3:25 p.m. Welfare check at Farley Road residence. All OK.

Tuesday, 5/24

8:15 a.m. Report of small cast iron table taken from outbuilding on Morse Village Road.

Wednesday, 5/25

2:30 p.m. Report of dog bite on Farley Road. Referred to dog officer after determining owner.

Ekstrom said the town-school-state budget compact is a great improvement and said she wants to stay within its guidelines.

Thanking Labrie and Tensel for their report and recommendations, she said, "This is a great foundation for me to start to look at what we need to do."



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ELEVEN WAYS TO WALK *Seventh in a Series of Walks around West Gill*

Hoe Shop Road in the Pouring Rain

P.H. CROSBY - Some outdoor apparel company has the slogan, "No bad weather, only bad clothes." It's just an ad, yet so true.

I resisted for years buying a pair of rain pants. Too expensive, too silly, too noisy, too fat. Now I relish putting them on over leggings or a pair of shorts; adding an equally well-made, costly-but-worth-it raincoat with good head and neck coverage; yanking on a pair of rubber boots; and just charging out into the weather, staying as warm and dry inside that gear as a cat by the fire.

My son and I spent three autumn days on Monhegan Island in Maine one year in the pouring rain, and we still walked most of its 33 miles of walking trails through the woods and across ocean bluffs. And because we had been lucky enough to have the right clothes with us, we enjoyed it, gosh darn it. (Well, I did at least.)

So this morning it is pouring. Terrible weather for strawberry-picking, but not at all a bad day for a walk. From Center Road, I head west on Hoe Shop.

The heifers have been let into the marsh. (A perfect iambic pentameter line for starting a sonnet.) Spring has more than sprung.

We are headed fast into summer, and the marshy wooded areas to the north of Hoe Shop are moist and green and apparently teeming with good bits

that cows like to eat, because each year at this time the farmer lets his cows down into them, where they clomp about in the sunny groves, their hooves making scary sucking sounds until you finally realize what's roving around in there in the half-woods.

While baby goats may be the cutest of all farm animals, and yearling horses the handsomest, surely young female cows, with their wide dark eyes, dewy noses, and glossy, glossy coats are the sweetest. Gentle, frolicsome, and curious, they stop chewing and make their way to the fence to taunt the terrier, dancing away when he growls, and coming back again like flirts when he turns his back.

Most everything is dark green now, instead of the yellow-greens of spring, and glistening with rain. All the fern varieties are fully out, scoring the sides of the road with every imaginable pattern and texture - ruffles, ribs, lace, mosaic, accent, plume.

There is one place on the left where the terrier is allowed to do what he was born to do - hunt. The golf course people probably wouldn't mind if they knew, and we don't want to kill his instincts entirely by always forbidding him. (His skills are still needed, after all, to keep the barns free of rats and mice.)

He tears off and up through a ferny bank, bounding into the

air, ears perked, trying to flush something. When he does and it's small, he goes to work.

Once in a while he flushes something large, like a deer, and then he is as startled as I. He whuffs once or twice as it runs off and then slinks back to me, wondering what on earth he was supposed to do with that. Good dog.

There is plenty of trash on this road, a discouraging amount. Wooded and less settled, the road seems to be where everyone decides it's safe to empty their trucks and cars. Beer cans, ripped-up lottery tickets, fast food bags and half-eaten fast food, straws, plastic cups, soda bottles, water bottles. Why anyone picky enough to buy bottled water would then go on to throw the empty bottle out the car window baffles me.

Why do people insist on buying bottled water anyway? Drink it from the tap. If there's something wrong with it, insist on your God-given, taxpaying, American - no, global - right to clean water from your government. And don't get me started on lottery tickets.

Or maybe do, because I've been rethinking lottery tickets recently. Most of the proceeds for these go straight to the arts, right? And the rest goes to help with the overall state budget? So they are in effect a tax, but a tax that lots of people don't mind paying? If that's what it takes for people not to begrudge the taxes needed to keep roads, towns, schools - and yes, clean water - intact, then maybe lottery tickets aren't all bad.

But I still wish people

wouldn't throw them in the road.

On a brighter note, on the south side of the road is a very nice bog, increasingly full of the warm, cheerful, reassuring sounds of frogs. Earlier in the season it was the wood frogs, making a rough chattering chorus like quacking ducks. Then some peepers maybe, but not a lot here because they seem to like open swamp areas best, not low, dark wooded bogs like these. So now it's the occasional plink, plunk of banjo frogs, interspersed occasionally with the deep, resonant, intermittent, throbbing hum of the bullfrog. You've heard it:

Uhhmmmmmmphf.
Uhhmmmmmmphf.
Uhhmmmmmmphf.

Later there will be the sound that bears the very essence of

summer, the all-night, hymn-like, steady-repeated trill of tree frogs.

The fifteen-minute end to the walk is at "the three sisters," my name for a stand of young oaks on the south side of the road with trunks side by side and root systems wholly intertwined. The dirt road is wide (too wide, but that's another story). There is one new house, back in the woods, and three more to come. The projected sale of those is what makes the surrounding town forest possible. It is calm, cool and wooded here, and beautiful.

I hear the whinny of a woodpecker, and that bird they say goes, Dames, dames, dames, put on your teakettle-ettle-ettle.

But don't get me started on the rum and vodka nip bottles.



P.H. CROSBY PHOTO

Town Forest bog


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BY DAVID DETMOLD

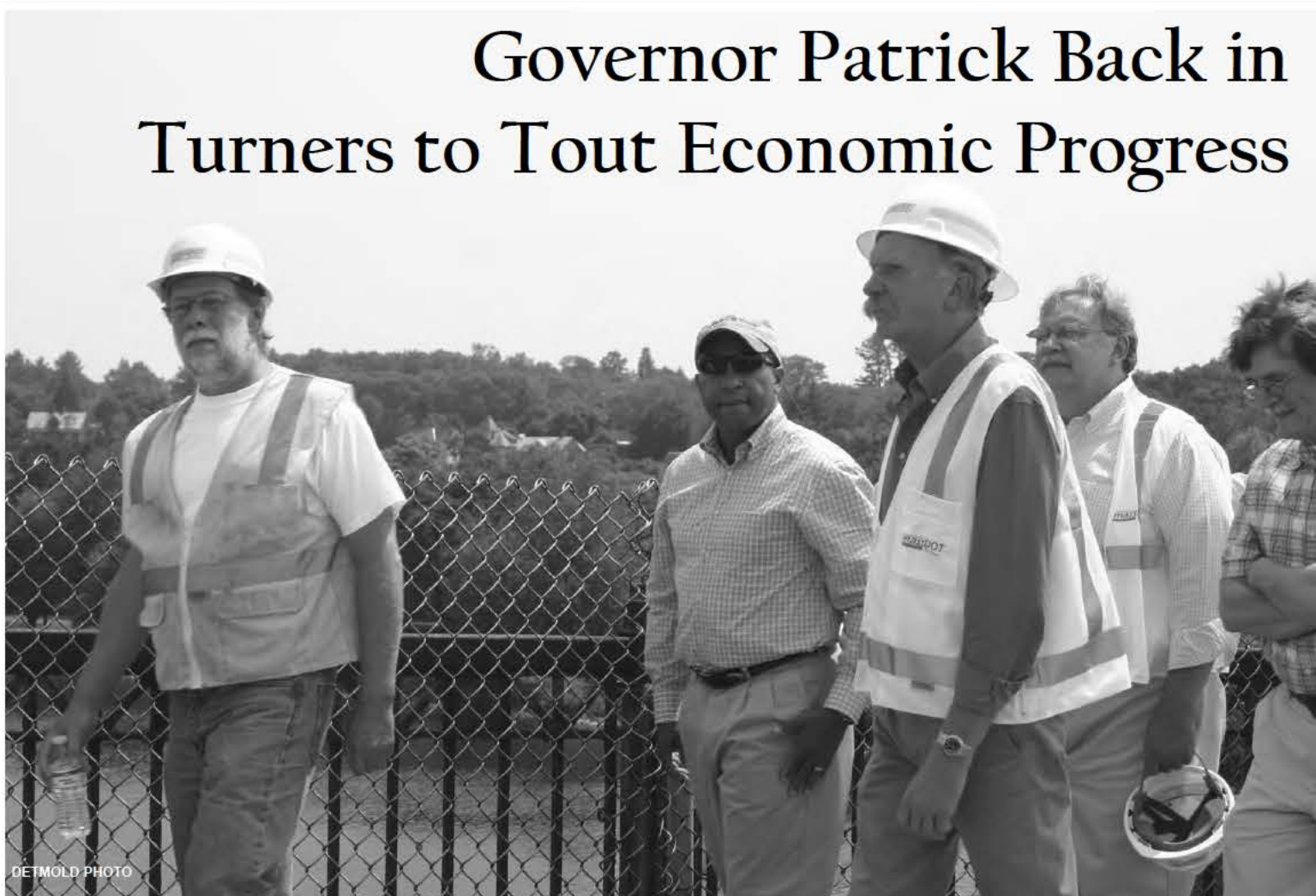
GREAT FALLS - Governor Deval Patrick, who appears to have visited Turners Falls more times than all previous Massachusetts governors combined, was back again last Thursday, having a snack at his favorite 2nd Street Bakery before venturing out to inspect progress on the \$40 million renovation of the Gill-Montague bridge.

"We're ahead of schedule," Mass Department of Transportation resident engineer Bob Demers told the governor, as they walked across the nearly quarter mile span in the steaming heat. The governor's next stop, in Greenfield at the combined Registry of Motor Vehicles and I-91 visitor's center later in the day, would be overshadowed by tidings that a possible tornado was blowing into the area, and heavy winds and thunderstorms certainly did blow through, scattering the audience at the outdoor tent.

In Turners, Patrick talked about his administration's response to the killer tornado that ripped a path through West Springfield, Springfield and Munson a week earlier.

"So much is left to do," said Patrick. "But I want to commend all who have been involved in the clean up. It's been phenomenal - 17 state agencies working together seamlessly. The debris is cleared from all the roads; all power is restored; cable is coming soon. We've got teams on the ground and have for most of this week."

With all the work to be done in Springfield, why was the gover-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Governor Patrick Back in Turners to Tout Economic Progress

(L-R) Mass DOT resident engineer, Bob Demers, Governor Deval Patrick, Mass DOT District 2 Director, Al Stegemann, state representative Steve Kulik, and Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio toured the Gill-Montague bridge renovation last week.

nor stopping by the one lane bridge to Turners Falls?

He wanted to highlight (with an emphasis on the second half of that word - read on) the boost public works projects like the Gill-Montague bridge renovation were providing for the state's economy.

"I'm out looking at one of 450

projects going on in the Commonwealth," said Patrick. "We're spending a billion dollars building infrastructure, and we will keep on going forward. This is an historic bridge, and a key connector between the towns of Montague and Gill. It was well past time for repair, and the work is going exceptionally well."

Patrick said, "We've got a strategy to get out of the recession and create jobs. We're growing faster than 42 other states, and twice as fast as the national economy."

Earlier in the tour of the bridge, Patrick asked Montague's state representative Steve Kulik what he had been hearing from

the locals about the bridge project, and Kulik told him, "I hear positive things. People are glad it's underway and ahead of schedule." However, Kulik added, "The businesses in Turners Falls - the restaurants and bars - are suffering. But there's light at the end of the tunnel" **BRIDGE** page 12

Gill-Montague Bridge Update



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

New lights march down the west side of the Gill-Montague Bridge.

On Schedule for Fall Lane Shift

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GREAT FALLS - On a dreary Tuesday, ten Construction Service concrete mixer trucks lined up to pour a total of 500

cubic yards of concrete to fortify substructure on the supporting piers of the Gill-Montague bridge. Construction Service dispatched the concrete trucks

from their plants in Wilbraham and Northampton. Why so far away?

"It's a matter of price," a driver said. "There are other

concrete suppliers closer, but things are a little slow."

But things aren't slow on this project.

"Work on the bridge is on schedule," Bob Demers, resident engineer for the Mass Department of Transportation said. General contractor SPS New England is beefing up tie beams; fortifying concrete substructure and rebuilding the deck above the piers on the downstream side of the bridge. "They have one more deck to pour," before switching to the other lane.

Demers expects the western (downstream) lane to be open to one way traffic heading in to Turners in September.

"There's some pack rust," Demers said. "Anywhere that two metal pieces come together the rust has to be sandblasted and treated. After a look in, it may have to be removed and replaced. Sometime in September, the lane will be open and we'll change over to demolishing the other side and deal with that."

There are some changes on the approach on the Gill end of

the bridge.

"The grade has been raised on the bridge a couple of inches," Demers said. "The approach will need to be raised to meet the new elevation."

Meanwhile, a new line of bridge streetlights has begun marching down the western side of the span. These lights are much like the original lights put up when the bridge was built. The original lights were a target for vandals, who threw stones or shot out the lights. The new light poles are on the opposite side from the sidewalk, and higher, making them a more difficult target.

"We hope that vandals don't try to destroy the new lights," Demers said. "It's always disheartening to see work vandalized after new work is done. Maybe cameras will be left up to catch them."

In summation, Demers said he was very pleased with the work by SPS.

"The job is on schedule. I've worked on other SPS jobs and it's always a pleasure to work with them. These guys know what they're doing."

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DETMOLD PHOTO

Montague Elementary second grader Wyatt Clark led the parade, and fifth graders (left to right) Adrianna Dimaio, Chloe Ellis, Jayda Yarborough held a banner by the banks of the Connecticut River on Friday.

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREAT FALLS - Four hundred and fifty Montague Elementary School students flowed downhill to Unity Park on Friday morning to pay homage to the 407-mile-long Connecticut River, which for about a dozen of those miles forms the northern and western border of our town.

Second grader Wyatt Clark told the crowd by the riverbank how he came up with the idea to hold a parade to the river. "I had the idea. So, we just decided to do it." Principal Elizabeth Musgrave chimed in, "A lot of things can happen just because people decide to do them!"

One thing the students at Montague Elementary are serious about right now is helping to clean up the river. The Connecticut River Watershed Council brought in pictures of trash that has been pulled out of the river by volunteers during the CRWC's annual Source to Sea Clean-up, and those pictures

got the youngsters at Montague Elementary inspired to do something. One thing they did was read a lot of books, and for each book they read in March and April, a penny was donated from a special fund called Kids Reach Out. The students read 11,730 books. They donated \$117.30 to the

Connecticut River Watershed Council to help clean up the river. They didn't stop there. They studied about the river's role in the industrial past of Montague, and they studied the factories that once lined its banks. They made replicas of cutlery out of aluminum foil, to resemble the John Russel Cutlery's output. With the help of their art teacher, Nancy Meagher, the students made drawings of all the different kinds of trash volunteers have pulled from the river - auto parts, sofas, tires, vacuum cleaners, and shopping carts, and they also made a papier mache sculpture of a fish with a polka dotted dress. Meagher worked with fifth graders Dominique Gamache and Aliyah Sander, friends from Millers Falls, to write a Dr. Seuss-like story about a fish who finds a lot of trash in the river, including a Polka Dotted dress, and they read it out loud for the whole student body as they stood beside the bank of the river. Talk about place based learning!

Here's how the story goes: *A young salmon finds a Polka Dot dress floating in the Connecticut River. She puts it on and becomes excited about all the trash in the river. She finds a sofa floating and hops onto it and dreams about becoming human....*

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The Fish in the Polka Dot Dress
 Look at the fish in the Polka Dot dress
 She's floating, she's smiling - she's looking her best.
 "I am a salmon," she said with a sigh,
 "But - I want to be human, and I'll tell you why."
 "Humans are lovely when they look their best.
 "What do you think of my Polka Dot dress?"
 "I'd love a red sports car that matches my dress -
 A cart for food shopping -
 And you know the rest.
 "I'd love sofas and toasters, big fridges and freezers
 A soft comfy bed, a computer with speakers.
 "I'd love soda pop, bicycles, carpets and tires.
 Bar-b-ques ...

Lots of shoes - my heart's desires."
 Her sofa kept floating and she was a star.
 But under the spotlights her dream went too far.
 She got caught in some fish wire
 And that made her frown.
 "I'm the catch of the day! - I'm the talk of the town!"
 Her sofa stopped floating. Oh - this fish was caught!
 More trash floated towards her. She had a brief thought.
 "I'm stuck in a pile-up from bottom to top!"
 A phone floated near her - a phone book as well -
 She flipped through the pages -
 She started to yell:
 "Give me Source to Sea Cleaners!
 They'll clean up this mess!"
 Chorus: "Three cheers for the fish

in the Polka Dot Dress!"
 She floated and waited.
 "I don't need your trash!"
 I don't need your Styrofoam, old cans of hash!"
 "And... I don't need this dress -
 I have spots of my own!
 [Source to Sea Cleaners arrive on the scene]
 They came by the thousands from Source and from Sea
 They came by the thousands for you and for me
 So - don't trash the River -
 It's really not fair -
 For fish and small creatures
 Make their living there.
 "Bravo!" cheered Musgrave. "What a wonderful story."

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Chelsea Gwyther, president of the CRWC, thanked the students for their great work, and for learning about the Connecticut River watershed. She presented the school with two plaques, to hang on the wall in each school building, Sheffield and Hillcrest. "We have just been blown away by their enthusiasm," Gwyther confided. First grader Karmen Howard said she was marching in the parade "to keep the River clean and make it nice." Musgrave invited the students to come back and bring their families to help with the Source to Sea Cleanup in October.

TURNERS FALLS - The Turners Falls arts and community development organization, Turners Falls RiverCulture, will present a fashion show fundraiser - "Under Construction" - to be held Saturday, June 25th at 6 p.m. at the Shea Theater.

A playful riff on the ongoing construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge, "Under Construction" features a live fashion show and auction of one-of-a-kind hard hats designed by area artists including: Fafnir Adamites, Daniel Brown, Nina Rossi, Gayle Kabaker, Donna Estabrooks, Laurie Goddard, Karen Gaudette, Frank Gregory, Tony Palumbo, Ramiro Davaro-Comas, Andrew Knox, Rebecca Clark, Sharon Lamonakis, Ami Podlenski, Barbara Milot, Ann Harding, Al Dray, Jack Nelson, Laura Herbert, Rachel Teumim, Louise Minks, Dick Little, Melinda Baughman, and more.

"We are one year into a four year Gill-Montague Bridge renovation project, which has left the village with detour signs at every turn and a significant challenge in navigating to and from our downtown businesses and cultural venues," said RiverCulture director Lisa Davol. "I am continually impressed by the creativity of this community to turn challenges into opportunities."

The event, emceed by

UNDER Hard Hat Auction AND Fashion Show & Benefit CONSTRUCTION Turners Falls RiverCulture



Standing out front of his favorite local bakery, Governor Deval Patrick admires a hard hat - 'Hey, Cupcake' - designed by Melinda Baughman for the upcoming June 25th RiverCulture benefit auction at the Shea.

Montague chief of police Ray Zukowski, includes live music by Michael Nix; a fashion show of all the hats choreographed by Wilson Department Store's window designer Tami Beauregard; a live auction of the hats with auctioneer and owner of Holy Smokes BBQ Delicatessen, Lou Ekus; a silent auction of hats and other handmade items and services; and a post auction dance mix curated by Rob Fletcher and Laura Herbert, not to mention satisfying hors d'oeuvres and a bar with beer and wine. Creative black tie / blue collar dress encouraged.

Hard hats can be previewed in the windows of the Crocker Building on Avenue A in Turners Falls up until the event on June 25th. They can also be viewed in the "Under Construction" photo gallery on the Turners Falls RiverCulture facebook page.

Purchase event tickets at: www.turnersfallsriverculture.org or at World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main Street, Greenfield or at the door the day of the event. Turners Falls RiverCulture is the recipient of the 2011 Commonwealth Award, honoring extraordinary contributions to education, economic vitality, and quality of life in communities across the state. For more information, visit www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.



Bridge Tribute - Andrew Knox



Mink 'n' Sync - Jack Nelson



Brick Falls - Barbara Milot



Matrise Fantasy - GCC Art Dept. Alum

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Turners Falls to Lee in Tennis Tourney



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Uriah Forest-Bulley

BY MARK HUDYMA - The Turners Fall High School boys tennis team represented the school more strongly than at any time in recent memory. The boys went 12-2 in the normal season, and 1-1 in the championship.

Their participation in the championship tourney ended on June 8th with a 3-2 loss to Lee.

The match was a heated one. Most of the points occurred in the first hour of the match, with Daniel Scarzynski sweeping his singles match, and Uriah Forest-Bulley losing his.

Daniel Colton and Brandon Ambo, a doubles team, soon followed.

The remaining matches, Zack Boisvert and Summer Forest-Bulley as a doubles team, and Christian Connelly playing singles, were spectacularly fought, with the doubles team fighting to keep the score even, and Connelly struggling to outlast his opponent in what became a test of endurance. While Connelly won his match, the doubles team came up short, and Turners went down to defeat.

The overall record of an

excellent season remains. The tennis team, which has about 15 players, gave a good showing in a very competitive setting.

There was a change in focus during practice, said Jesse Langknecht, a junior on the team. "We worked at skills and drilling more."

Langknecht added, "We have so many good players, and a lot of seniors. We had ambition, motivation, we had to work hard, and it paid off."

Mark Hudyma is a junior at TFHS.

INTERNET from page 5 West in favored communities.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said the town should not rule out any possibilities, including talking to Verizon.

Brooks said Wired West has not ruled out talking with Verizon either.

Wired West is holding a meeting on July 16th where the town can formally join the

organization. The selectboard would like Brooks to attend.

Brooks believes, "There is probably a benefit to being a charter member," of the coop.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said it is very likely that having over 40 member towns would make Wired West "much higher on the pecking order for grant money."

Margie McGinnis, town

administrator, mentioned that MBI is interested in holding a meeting in Leverett sometime in July to let people know the status of the state's efforts to bring 'middle mile' fiber optic cable to the area. McGinnis believes this meeting will be regional in scope, but MBI has chosen Leverett as a possible place to hold it.



BRIDGE from page 9

nel," when the four year project wraps up in 2013.

Gill selectboard member

(and Greenfield Solar Store co-owner) John Ward buttonholed Patrick on the lengthy walk back from the Gill side of the bridge to ask him how the increase of streetlights on the bridge from the previous nine lamps to a projected total of 52 squared with the state's ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and fossil fuel energy use.

Patrick told him it would provide an opportunity to test new lightbulb technology in the future.

Mass DOT District 2 director Al Stegemann said it was

too late to reconfigure the 52 streetlights, or wire them so only some of the lights would be lit at night. But he pantomimed another solution which caused general laughter when he indicated some of the bulbs could simply be unscrewed.

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told Stegemann there was some concern that if all 52 streetlights were lit on the bridge at night, pilots heading for the Turners airport might confuse the bridge for the landing strip.



PICKING UP THE PIECES AFTER A TORNADO WRECKS A NEIGHBORHOOD



LISA HOAG PHOTO

Lisa Hoag, of Wendell, (far right) with a work party in the devastated Six Corners neighborhood of Springfield last week. Work parties to assist residents left homeless or with damaged property from the June 1st tornado will be held every Saturday on an ongoing basis in Six Corners. Volunteers who would like to join a work party should email: Deacon Lloyd Creswell - lloydreswell19@comcast.net. Donations should be mailed to: United Temple Church of God in Christ, 191 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Checks should be made payable to United Temple Church.

Turning Point Salon Donates Dozens of Wigs to Baystate Oncology



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Cheryl Kuzontkowsky, owner of A Turning Point salon holds one of the wigs she donated to Franklin Medical's oncology department last week.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS - In a variation of 'Locks of Love', Cheryl Kuzontkowsky, owner of A Turning Point salon on 5th Street in Turners Falls, donated 87 women's wigs and 15 turbans with clip-on bangs to the Bay State Medical Center oncology department, on Friday, June 10th. Social worker Vicki Sutton was on hand to receive the donation.

"We are very grateful for this generous donation," Sutton said. "This is the most [wigs] we've ever received from a salon. I am overwhelmed."

There were no men's wigs in the donated inventory, but Kuzontkowsky said she can special order them as well. Moustaches or goatees are also available.

"Sudden loss of a patient's hair can be demoralizing," Sutton said. "Medicare does not cover wigs or a program to fit them. It's a blessing to be able to offer them to patients. A wig can

cost well over \$100."

The American Cancer Society offers a Look Good, Feel Better program at the Baystate Oncology Department.

"It's a two hour class to deal with hair loss, since it isn't just hair, but eyebrows and eyelashes, too," Sutton said. "The class involves makeup and wig care. A cosmetologist shows women how to use a stencil and eyebrow pencil for eyebrows. Women are also using false eyelashes."

She added, "For women, it's all about emotional well-being."

The American Cancer Society has a Look Good, Feel Better pamphlet for men.

Kuzontkowsky had been a partner in A Turning Point salon with Terri Sicard for 20 years. Upon retirement, Sicard sold his share in the partnership to Kuzontkowsky. Sicard still fills in at the salon three days a week.

The salon has seven other hairdressers to help people look their best.

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The Industrial History of Leverett

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Leverett Historical Commission has published a marvelous history of Industrial Leverett, covering the period from 1800 – 1880. The booklet is available for \$5.00 at town hall, or at the public library.

The epilogue is taken from the Fourth Report of the Agriculture of Massachusetts Counties of Franklin and Middlesex, published 1841:

“Leverett, in its aspect among the most unpromising of any of the towns in the county, rough and mountainous in its surface and rocky and hard in its soil, has, under its rude exterior a respectable population, industrious and frugal in their habits, enjoying a full measure of the means of subsistence and abounding in the common comforts of life. Leverett produces most of its own bread and meat, its own sugar, and likewise, a great portion of its own clothing and buys but little. It presents many examples of humble but substantial independence. One farmer stated to me that he sometimes gathers from his orchard one thousand bushels of winter apples for which he finds a market in some of the neighboring villages. These are among the many littles which, according to the Scotch proverb ‘make a meikle.’”

Packed with old maps, charts of production, and detailed articles on the various industries in town, including sawmills, turning mill, charcoal kilns, textile mills and tanneries, maple sugar production, grist mills and distilleries, blacksmithing and cottage industries (palm leaf hats were a staple of Leverett home production, as were shoes and boots and straw brooms), the booklet offers a fascinating picture of New England self-sufficiency in a steeply wooded hill town in Western Massachusetts before and after the Civil War.

Contributors include Betsy Douglas, Edie Field, Georgana and John Foster, Susan Mareneck and Alice Scheffey, with cover design by Ruth West using vintage photos

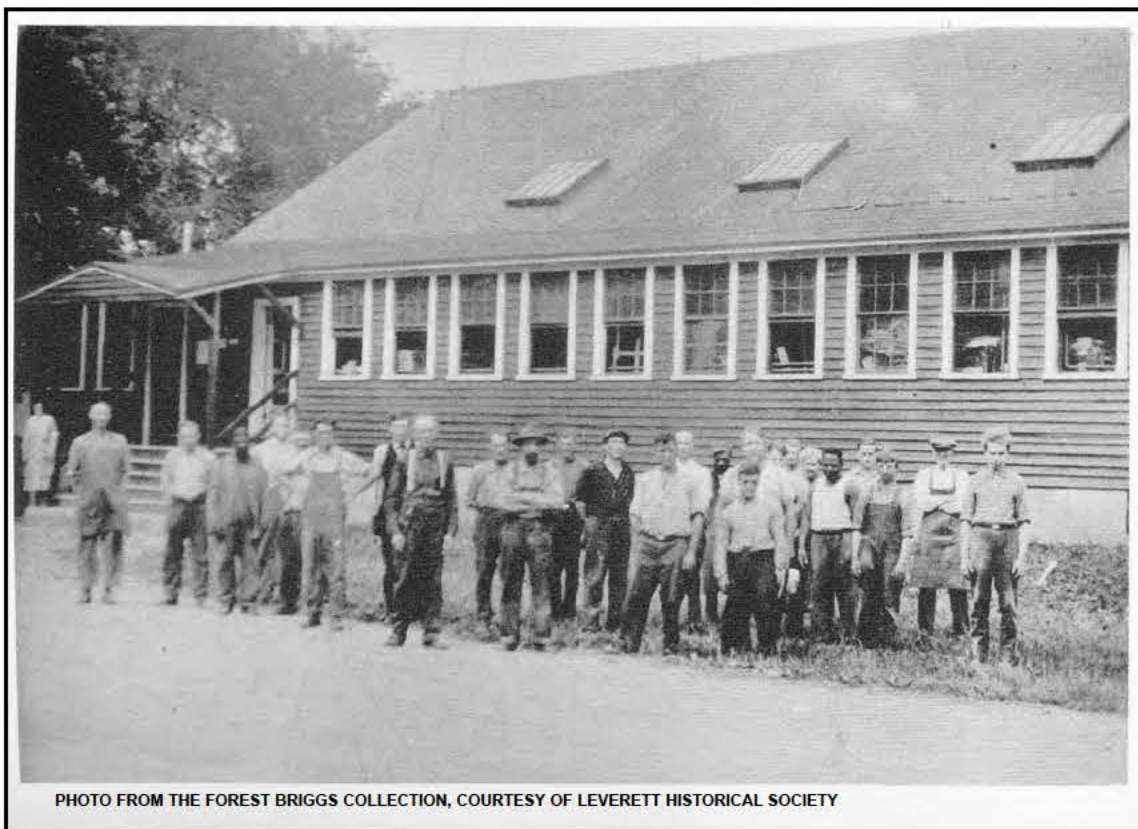


PHOTO FROM THE FOREST BRIGGS COLLECTION, COURTESY OF LEVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Beaman & Marvel Box Factory and Workers, 1926, now Leverett Crafts and Arts.

from the Leverett historical society and maps provided by Dave Allen.

For anyone nostalgic for the days when New Englanders knew how to produce the common necessities of life, from shoes and shirts to brooms and hoes, this 54 page booklet provides a record of how a town managed quite successfully to build a thriving industrial base with little more than the raw materials at hand. That’s a lesson worth relearning, and here’s a handy guide.

Wood Industries: Lumber (excerpted from Industrial Leverett, reprinted by permission)

By John H. Foster – “In 1838, the sawmills of Leverett produced 618,000 board feet of lumber plus 125,000 wood shingles and 8,603 railroad sleepers or ties. Clapboards are not mentioned in the record, but they must have been a common production item. Most of the mills on the Sawmill River were sawmills, and two additional sawmills were located on Roaring Brook in East Leverett. Most of the sawmills had value-added pro-

duction activities such as making handles or window sashes to supplement the lumber production.

“One of the sawmills in East Leverett was converted to a woolen mill in 1859; the other continued to operate until about 1910. On the Sawmill River at North Leverett, the sawmill continued to operate into the 1980s. The other mills on this river gradually ceased operation in the period from 1870 to 1900. The causes of

the decline include a shortage of nearby logs and competition from steam and other power sources.

“Lumber for buildings when most houses, barns, and mills were of post-and-beam construction included boards for siding, floors, and roofs; beams; clapboards; floor joists; and rafters, after builders changed from round wood to sawn rafters. Compared with boards of more recent times, most of the boards were wide.

The widest board in my 200-year-old house measures 26 inches by seven and a half feet long. The tree it came from must have been impressive. Furthermore, the sawmill managed to get the board dried without splitting...

“Before the Civil War, sawmills used an up-and-down saw. This type of saw operated at a very slow rate and was inefficient in its use of available power because it had to stop and change direction with every stroke. To hold the log and make straight cuts, the saw was stopped about six inches from the end of the log, and the sawn boards remained attached to each other. Later, wedges were used to split each board from the rest. Maneuvering the log onto the carriage at the sawmill continued to be a human muscle job, using a peavey hook, and must have been difficult when working with large logs. The logs were usually rolled up on a ramp onto the log carriage, a job that took two men.

“The logs sawn by Leverett sawmills came from local woodland. The hills in town were covered by virgin forest that was gradually cut until most had been clear-cut by about 1870. There were numerous species of trees in these woodlands, which provided the opportunity for selecting logs for specific uses. For instance, chestnut was especially desired for beams.”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Operating Under the Influence, Fireworks

Saturday, 6/4

3:21 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for speeding, marked lanes violations, failure to wear a seatbelt, and operating under the influence of alcohol on Route 2.

Sunday, 6/5

2:20 a.m. Report of verbal dispute on Central and Pleasant Streets. Spoke with subjects involved. Peace restored.

10:30 a.m. Dog complaint on Mountain Road. Loose dog. Spoke with owners. Will keep leashed.

Wednesday, 6/8

9:21 p.m. Report of fireworks in the area of North Street. Checked area and advised residents of issue.

11:30 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle on Maple Avenue. Vehicle gone upon arrival.

Thursday, 6/9

4:30 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for littering from a motor vehicle, driving with a revoked license and an expired registration.

4:00 p.m. Assisted Gill police with

trees down on Route 2.
4:55 p.m. Report of disabled tractor trailer unit just west of the center of Erving. Trailer was towed.

Friday, 6/10

3:47 p.m. Accident in Northfield on Main Street. No injury. Covered same for the Northfield police.

8:30 p.m. Report of fireworks in the area of North Street. Spoke with homeowners and advised to stop.

Monday, 6/13

4:17 p.m. Report of kids throwing rocks at cars on Mountain Road. Spoke with parents, advised same of complaint.

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On Books

Thinking about the Declaration of Independence - Part 1

BY JEFF SINGLETON
MONTAGUE CENTER – Sources (often available at the Book Mill): Michael Barone, *Our First Revolution: the Remarkable Upheaval that Inspired America's Founding Fathers* (2007); Pauline Maier,

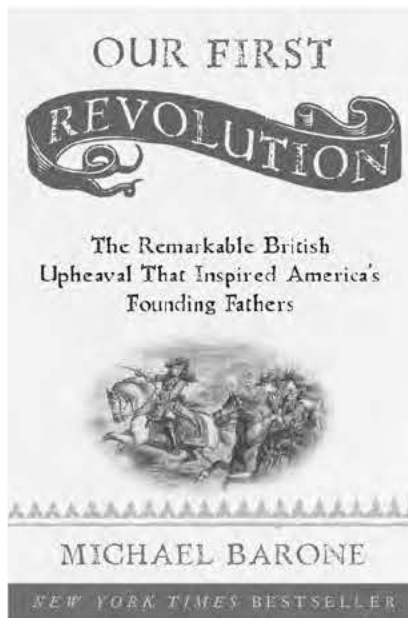
American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence (1998); Joseph Ellis, *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Republic* (2008).

When the Second Continental Congress took up Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence on July 3rd, 1776, the American insurgency was already more than a year old.

In April of 1775, members of local Massachusetts militias confronted a group of British Army regulars at what has become known as the "Battle of Lexington and Concord." After a brief but bloody exchange in Concord, the British returned to Boston, where they were soon surrounded by the colonial insurgency perched on hilltops with cannon seized from the British Fort Ticonderoga.

The British retreated to Nova Scotia in March of 1776. They were soon fortified by a much larger, well trained army that included a substantial number of German mercenaries. This formidable invasion force then began to occupy the colony of New York. The British firmly believed they could then divide and end the American rebellion.

The understandably jittery American leadership, which had been meeting in Philadelphia off and on for nearly two years, was divided over the goals of the rebellion. Many still believed some sort of reconciliation with the British Empire was possible. If the British would only consent to give locally-elected colonial assemblies more control, including the power to tax, the rebellion would end. "Radicals" such as Sam Adams and Thomas Jefferson believed this was a fine



idea whose time had long since passed.

King George the Third solved the problem for them by refusing to compromise, rudely insulting the local American leadership, and then sending a massive professional army to crush the insurgency (and presumably hang said leadership).

Thus in mid-May, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution urging the various individual colonies to create new governments and suppress all political authority linked to the crown. One could make the argument – and its author John Adams subsequently did – that this was the true declaration of independence.

Individual colonies responded by establishing their own governments, many of which had already been exercising a good deal of power for nearly two years. Indeed, formal British political control of the colonies had virtually collapsed by the beginning of 1776. In colony after colony, ad hoc local organizations, often supported by town meeting resolutions, not only protested British policies but had seized political power. These efforts were coordinated by so-called "committees of correspondence," a network of colonial leaders that evolved into the revolutionary colonial governments and the Continental Congresses.

The new colonial governments established in 1776 passed constitutions and bills of rights justifying their existence. Again,

one could argue that these were in effect the true declarations of independence.

The colonial resolutions (and the Declaration of Independence itself) were in fact part of an older tradition institutionalized by one of the defining moments of British political history – the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688. The Glorious Revolution (so-called because in theory there was no blood shed) was essentially an elite coup d'état against the last of the Stuart kings, James II. James, who ascended to the throne in 1685, was a Catholic but generally tolerable to the mostly Protestant British political class, in a don't ask, don't tell sort of way.

But then he unexpectedly fathered a male heir, which was intolerable, because it might lead to a Catholic dynasty allied with arch-enemy France.

So Parliament invited an invasion from Holland under the leadership of the staunchly Protestant William of Orange (William was married to James' sister Mary). James fled to France.

It is virtually impossible to understand either the American Revolution or the Declaration of Independence without understanding what to us is an obscure piece of British history. The Glorious Revolution essentially established "dual power" in England, whereby the King ruled with the consent of Parliament. (This tradition was eventually enshrined in the American constitution in the form of the "separation of powers" between the President and the Congress.)

In the colonies, the ouster of James encouraged mini glorious revolutions in each colony, under the leadership of local colonial assemblies. These assemblies, the origins of our state legislatures, came to exercise considerable power in the eighteenth century. They ruled alongside a British imperial power structure, primarily centered on governors appointed by the king.

But were these colonial assemblies in effect "little Parliaments" with, for example, the exclusive power to tax?

The colonial leadership said

yes, and the British leadership said no. This was the essence of the debate over taxation and representation.

To justify the revolution of 1688, Parliament passed a "Bill of Rights" which attempted to list the fundamental rights of Englishmen, and James' violation of them. This document was a key influence on both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Finally, the sixteenth century conflicts over the power of Stuart Kings like James, although essentially religious, forced British leaders to reconsider the very basis of political power. One year after James' overthrow a doctor and philosopher named John Locke, employed by a leader of the opposition to James, published a "Second Treatise on Government." In it, Locke argued that men in a state of nature had certain fundamental rights which governments could not take from them.

Locke listed these core rights as life, liberty and property, not mentioning happiness. The preamble to the Virginia constitution of 1776 rephrased Locke by calling the basic rights "the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."

The Declaration of Independence, which clearly drew on the Virginia preamble, omitted the property right (for reasons that may have involved the issue of slavery), defining the "inalienable rights" as "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Today, Jefferson's poetic rendering of Locke and Mason is perhaps the best remembered part of the Declaration. Ironically, as a number of recent historians have shown, these words did not become enshrined in our political culture until the 1820s, when the country was becoming more consciously "democratic." In 1776, the list of grievances against George III, which really dominated the Declaration, was more important. Today we tend to glaze over when this long, obscure and not terribly relevant series of complaints is read.

But does history have to be relevant to be interesting? Not at all. So perhaps the complaints against poor old King George will be a good place to start next week, in part II.



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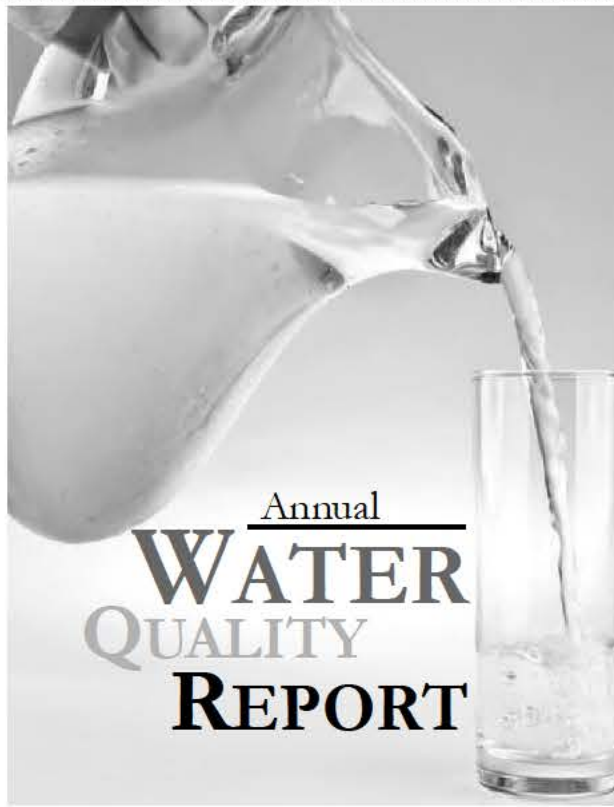
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Quality First

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2010. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with quality drinking water. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you, by phone (+13-863-4542), fax (+13-863-3175), e-mail (turnerswater@yahoo.com), or on the Web at www.turnersfallswater.com.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Brown, Water Department Superintendent, or Nancy Holmes, Clerk/Collector, at (413) 863-4542.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Our Annual Meeting of the Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.

Our Department Board of Water Commissioners are Kenneth Morin, Stephen Call, Kevin McCarthy. Our Pump Station operators are John Collins, Jeffrey Hildreth, Stephen Fitzpatrick.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center. These gravel-packed wells, #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G, pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. At the plant, the water is sand filtered for the removal of iron and manganese; the treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million

gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.

Call Mike or Nancy for additional information; they are available to answer any questions (+13-863-4542).

Source Water Assessment Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the ground water supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high-ranking threat land uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office, and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information, call the TFWD at 863-4542.

Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water Supply
Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly; do not use the river beds to dispose of any waste; take used motor oil and other such fluids to the town's hazardous waste collection sites.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the

Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-Connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips: Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year. Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year. Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

¹ Results are from Well #1 and Well #2, sampled in 2009. Next sample date is 2011.

² Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Why do I get this report each year?



Community water system operators are required by Federal law to provide them. How much water is used during a typical shower? The Federal Energy Policy Act set a nationwide regulation that limits showerheads to a maximum flow of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). Showerheads made before 1980 are rated at 5 GPM. Since the average shower is estimated to last 8.2 minutes, the old showerheads use 41 gallons of water while the newer, low-flow showerheads use only about 21 gallons.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken numerous water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state has granted our department a waiver on testing of Inorganic and Synthetic Organic compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were taken on 1/21/03 for SOC and 8/28/03 for IOC, and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP standards.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.037	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	0.0016	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED WELL #1 / WELL #2	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride ¹ (mg/L)	2009	NA	250	NA	37.0 / 24	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH ¹ (mg/L)	2009	NA	6.5-8.5	NA	7.61 / 7.70	No	Naturally occurring

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED WELL #1 / WELL #2	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Calcium ¹ (mg/L)	2009	35 / 27	None
Hardness ¹ (mg/L)	2009	110.0 / 89.0	180
Magnesium ¹ (mg/L)	2009	7.2 / 5.4	None
Potassium ¹ (mg/L)	2009	2.40 / 2.4	None
Sodium (mg/L)	2010	9.9	NA
Sulfate ¹ (mg/L)	2009	23.0 / 20.0	250
Total Dissolved Solids ¹ (mg/L)	2009	190 / 150	None
Alkalinity-Total (mg/L)	2009	78.0 / 62.0	None
Aluminum (mg/L)	2009	ND	0.2
Manganese (mg/L)	2009	ND	0.05
Silver (mg/L)	2009	ND	0.10
Turbidity mg/L	2009	ND	None
Zinc (mg/L)	2009	ND	5
Odor	2009	ND	None
Color	2009	ND	None
Iron (mg/L)	2009	ND	0.3

Definitions

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Secondary MCLs (SMCL) are set for the control of taste and odor.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Today's column is about research that shows seniors have higher emotional intelligence than younger people.

Emotional intelligence is a relatively new concept. It was popularized by Daniel Goleman, a psychologist who was also a science journalist for The New York Times. His 1995 book, *Emotional Intelligence*, was a bestseller.

According to psychologists, EI improves social relations because the emotionally intelligent person perceives emotions, uses them in thought, understands their meanings, and manages them better than others can.

A team of researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, support the theory that emotional intelligence can improve as we enter our 60s.

Psychologist Robert Levenson and his team are tracking how our emotional strategies and responses change as we age.

"Increasingly, it appears that the meaning of late life centers on social relationships and caring for and being cared for by others,"

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Seniors have More Emotional Intelligence than Teenagers

Levenson said. "Evolution seems to have tuned our nervous systems in ways that are optimal for these kinds of interpersonal and compassionate activities as we age."

In one study, researchers looked at how 144 healthy adults in their 20s, 40s and 60s reacted to neutral, sad and disgusting film clips. In particular, they examined how participants used techniques known as "detached appraisal," "positive reappraisal" and "behavior suppression."

For detached appraisal, participants were asked to adopt an objective, unemotional attitude. For positive reappraisal, they were told to focus on the positive aspects of what they were seeing. And for behavior suppression, they were instructed not to show any emotion.

Older people were the best at reinterpreting negative scenes in positive ways using positive reappraisal, a coping mechanism that draws heavily on life experience and lessons learned.

By contrast, the study's younger and middle-aged participants were better at using "detached appraisal" to tune out and divert attention away from the unpleasant films. This approach draws heavily on the prefrontal brain's "executive function," a mechanism responsible for memory, planning and impulse control that diminishes

as we age. Meanwhile, all three age groups were equally skilled at using behavior suppression to clamp down on their emotional responses.

"Earlier research has shown that behavior suppression is not a very healthy way to control emotions," Levenson said.

The study concludes that, "older adults may be better served by staying socially engaged and using positive reappraisal to deal with stressful challenging situations rather than disconnecting from situations that offer opportunities to enhance quality of life."

In another study, researchers tested how our sensitivity to sadness changes as we age.

In that experiment, 222 healthy adults in their 20s, 40s and 60s were tested. The older adults showed more sadness in reaction to emotionally charged scenes, compared to their younger counterparts.

"In late life, individuals often adopt different perspectives and goals that focus more on close interpersonal relationships," said UC Berkeley psychologist Benjamin Seider, lead author of the study. "By doing so, they become increasingly sensitized to sadness because the shared experience of sadness leads to greater intimacy in interpersonal relationships."

Contrary to popular belief, heightened sensitivity to sadness does not indicate a higher risk for depression in the context of Seider's study, but is actually a healthy sign, Levenson pointed out.

"Sadness can be a particularly meaningful and helpful emotion

in late life, as we are inevitably confronted with and need to deal with the losses we experience in our own life and with the need to give comfort to others," Levenson said.

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

TFHS Scores at Special Olympics



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Turners Falls Life Skills student Brittany Rawson was among the medalists

BY MARK HUDYMA

GILL-MONTAGUE - The Turners Falls High School life skills class enjoyed resounding victories at the Special Olympics, earning medals and having fun doing it.

The event, known as the 'day games', was held in the Quabbin School District. It was made up of a variety of track events, including wheel chair races and various ball toss events. Ten students from TFHS participated, and earned a total of 22 medals.

The life skills class was aided by Rise Up, a community service class taught by Heather Batchelor. Rise Up provided the bus for the trip, and cheered the athletes on as they competed. Deb Loomer's physical education class helped the students train in

the month leading up to the competition, and also cheered them on.

Emily Robertson, a life skills student, was enthusiastic about the event, and appreciated the sportsmanship displayed. "We ended up cheering for not only our class, but everybody." Danny Cruz won two gold medals, one in each length of the wheelchair race, and was also thrilled with the games, saying, "It was great, fun, and really competitive."

The kids had a great time. They're still reeling, said Angela Conti, a life skills teacher.

The Special Olympics was an "exciting and rewarding" event for all involved.

Mark Hudyma is a junior at Turners Falls High School.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unwanted Person, Break In, Assault, Threat

Wednesday, 6/8

1:36 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Randall Wood Drive. Referred to an officer.
3:04 p.m. Hit and run accident at Family Dollar on Avenue A. Services rendered.
5:17 p.m. Safety hazard in the canal at Migratory Way. Services rendered.

Thursday, 6/9

1:01 a.m. Unwanted person at The Rendezvous on Third Street. Services rendered.
3:51 p.m. - 6:08 p.m. Ten environmental incidents reported from thunderstorm damage.
6:52 p.m. Officer wanted at Equi's on Avenue A. Services rendered.
9:20 p.m. Unwanted person at The Rendezvous on Third

Street. Services rendered.

Friday, 6/10

2:53 a.m. Brush fire at Judd Wire, on Turnpike Road. Referred to other agency.
9:53 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

7:31 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.

9:29 p.m. Outside fire, party on Goddard Avenue. Verbal warning.

Saturday, 6/11

4:30 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on L Street. Advised of options.

5:53 p.m. Harassment on Avenue A. Peace restored.

Sunday, 6/12

12:52 a.m. Restraining order

violations at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

5:25 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted].

7:14 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fifth Street. Advised of options.

7:18 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Advised of options.

7:46 p.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted].

8:50 p.m. Intoxicated individual at Third Street Laundry. Verbal warning.

11:56 p.m. Suspicious person by the old mill on Masonic Avenue. Investigated.

Monday, 6/13

3:37 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic

assault and battery. 10:00 a.m. Threatening, harassment at Cumberland Farms, on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

10:53 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Avenue A. Report taken.

2:15 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on L Street. Investigated.

7:20 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Davis Street. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 6/14

12:32 and 12:40 a.m. General disturbances at the Rail Yard in Millers Falls at South Prospect Street. Reports taken.

7:51 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for failure to register as a sex offender and carrying a dangerous weapon.

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DETMOLD PHOTO

Nina Rossi helps a customer in her sleek new storefront on Avenue A



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Musical Mice – on sale at Nina's Nook

TURNERS FALLS – Greetings from Nina's Nook, a very small kind of crazy little shop tucked between two buildings, Equi's Candy Store

and Tognarelli Heating on Avenue A. The actual address is 125-A Avenue A, but just look for the sign above the door.

Opening day is Friday, June 17th from 2 – 5 p.m., with a second opening for those who missed it on Saturday, June 18th from 1-5 p.m.

Nina will have paintings, jewelry, painted canvas placemats, sculpture, cards, and pincushions in store, along with Pocketwheels (pocket books made from repurposed tires once used on dog wheelchairs). A marble run on the gallery wall will remind everyone not to take things seriously. Thyme is growing out of the floor in this frivolous, unique space.

The 110-square-foot shop is rather like an art installation in itself.

Nina's Nook may be the only

shop in America advertising slugs on the front door.

Nina's Nook is also home to the Omnium Gatherums story collecting project. If you can babble, rant, muse, or reflect for about five minutes on any subject – Omnium Gatherums is there for you.

Nina's Nook will be open Friday and Saturday afternoons, and by appointment by calling 413-834-8800.

What a welcome addition to the Avenue.

SHEA from page 1

ble images you will take away with you when you leave this innovative production, with set design by Bart Doty, moodily lit by Kara 'TB' (or not 'TB') McColgan.

The witches speak hackneyed lines like, "Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble," but these three speak them with venom and conviction. They maintain a false front of ambivalence, yet they make believers out of you. Avoid these women at all cost if you pass them on the Ave. They are perfect in their parts, but they do not have your well-being in mind.

If only someone had passed the word to Macbeth.

Platt roams the boards like a man carrying an insupportable weight on his shoulders. He rarely looks up, rarely makes eye contact. You can see the wheels grinding in the gearbox of his brain. It is not a pretty sight, but he knows how to hold the spotlight, and he makes it work.

Morgan is balanced more precariously on her stiletto heels. She towers over her husband when they first hatch their plot to make him king. But by the time she digs her pointed claws into Lady M's infamous sleepwalking scene – one of the

most wide awake readings of same in stage history – you begin to yearn for a slightly more internal reading.

But what the Hell, it's a bold reading too, and so is the whole production, under the smartly paced direction of Tony Manica. In a play rife with sartorial metaphors, Manica goes the Bard one better by clothing his Scottish thanes in Wall Street power suits. Doty reimagines the battlements of Inverness and Dunsinane as massive bland skyscrapers, allowing McColgan bold white

surfaces to ply with sinister shadows, as she does to excellent effect in the "Is this a dagger which I see before me?" soliloquy in *Act II, Scene i*.

The principals are ably abetted by the entire cast of the Shea Theater's own resident troop, with Ian Stone's noble Banquo and Emily Eaton's luminous Ross particular standouts. Give the New Renaissance Players an A for Ambition. We owe them thanks for staging such a damnably difficult play so well, rather than chewing over some well worn Broadway

chestnut.

Are you looking for a chance to beguile a weekend hour or two with the murderous doings of a power mad couple and their otherworldly advisors, as they bring down ruination on the nation? *Macbeth* is just the ticket. Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once.

The New Renaissance Players presentation of *Macbeth* continues Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m., June 17th and 18th, at the Shea Theater, with a Sunday matinee on June 19th at 2 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Identity Theft, Roadway Hazard, Break In

Monday, 6/6

7:00 p.m. Domestic incident on Boyle Road.

Tuesday, 6/7

6:30 a.m. Resident reports a case of identity theft. Under investigation.

9:00 p.m. Three suspicious parties identified and moved along from state boat ramp.

Thursday, 6/9

6:50 a.m. Gill resident struck fire hydrant in Greenfield. Investigated same, forward information to Greenfield.

9:30 a.m. Hazard in roadway - animal at Route 2 and state boat ramp.

Moved out of area.

4:15 p.m. Hazard in roadway- tree at Route 2 at Riverside Radiator.

4:30 p.m. Overdue boater on the river. Same was located. All is well.

4:40 p.m. Hazard in roadway. Tree in area of Route 2 and Barton Cove Road. Assisted traffic in getting past.

Friday, 6/10

12:20 a.m. Resident on Ben Hale Road reports two male parties are under the porch of her home. No one found.

6:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with intoxicated subject.

10:15 p.m. Disoriented male at the

Mobil Station. Family coming from Dracut to bring party back home.

Saturday, 6/11

9:30 p.m. Reported speeding motor vehicles on Ben Hale Road. Two motor vehicle drivers spoken with.

11:30 p.m. Reported gunshots in the area of Main Road and Mt Hermon Campus. No one found.

Sunday, 6/12

1:10 p.m. Reported possible breaking and entering into a boat on Ben Hale Road. Owner will contact police at later date with list of property.

4:25 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint on Barton Cove Road. Operator spoken with.

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Wendell

Notice is hereby given that the Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 29th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Town Office Building located on 9 Morse Village Road in Wendell on the following application.

The application for a secondary dwelling submitted by Lynne Armitstead on the property located at 172 West Street, identified by the applicant as Lot 24 on Plan Map 409 on the Assessor's Map.

All interested parties should attend the hearing. A copy of the application is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell, MA. Town Clerk hours are Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, story, activity and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market* located at Avenue A and Second Street, 2 - 6 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: Franklin County Drawing Posse, 4 p.m. Free. Come draw for fun!

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultz* from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

JUNE 10th THROUGH JULY 17th
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Exhibit featuring the graduating class of 2011*.

NOW THROUGH JUNE
Wendell Free Library: exhibition of recent paintings by *Heather K. Lenz*, ten oil paintings.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17th and SATURDAY JUNE 18th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Macbeth*, 7 p.m. Also, 2 p.m. show on June 19th.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *How to be a Field Artist*, with Gordon Morrison, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Siegel and Friends*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues-based roots music, 9 - 10 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: Coop Summer Concert Series, *Green River String*



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Montague Bookmill: *Redwing Blackbird, The Trials and Tribulations, and Melaena Cadiz*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, eclectic harmonic rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Superkart, and Daniel Hales and the frost heaves*. 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Berbere Superstar, BWoo, with Kieran Lally, Horsebladder and Plan D*. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes in Trouble*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Black Mountain Symphony*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18th
Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club: *First Annual Mutton & Mead Festival*, traditionally known as a Renaissance Faire, is the first of its kind for Montague and will bring together fun, food, and entertainment with a medieval flair. This will be a day for everyone, kids, teens, and adults alike, and dressing up in period costumes will heighten the experience for everyone. See montaguema.net. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Sixth Annual Family Fish Day*, including a Visit from the Watershed on Wheels Express, Free raffle for everything from fishing gear to fishing trips! No need to bring any equipment, we have it all. Learn how to tie flies, cast fly fishing rods, and go fishing in Barton Cove. There will also be face painting and fish printing! Call 413-863-3221 to register, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center: *Busy Bluebirds with Rachel Thomas*, Ages 6 and over. 10:00-11:30 a.m. Preregister 1-800-859-2960.

Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance and Music, Greenfield: *Irish Dance Free Lesson Day*, 2 p.m. for ages 4 - 6. 3 p.m. for ages 7+.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: presents *Boston Blackthorne*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer with DJ Bex*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Burrie & Friends*, acoustic rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Prymaul*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canal-side Nature Walk*, Start the day off right with an early morning nature walk! We will leisurely explore level paved bike trails and village sidewalks. 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canoe Barton Cove*, Join the Northfield Mountain Recreation and

Environmental Center for an intro to canoe safety, paddling on the Connecticut River and the magic of Barton Cove. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. 413-863-3221. Two trips 1- 2:30 p.m. and 3- 4:30 p.m.

Rattlesnake Gutter, Leverett: Celebration of the Friendship Trail and Rattlesnake Gutter Annual Meeting. At 1 p.m. - Walk on Friendship Trail from Town Hall to Long Hill. At 2:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Raptor Presentation and Reception at 34 Long Hill Road. Rain cancels walk, but not meeting at 2:30. 548-9078 or www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Pangeans*, a seven-piece World Music Ensemble based in New England performing Latin Jazz, Samba, Reggae, Calypso, Soca, Funk, Afro Beat and other forms of African music. The group performs original compositions based on traditional rhythms as well as compositions by Abdullah Ibrahim, Herbie Hancock, Fela Kuti and others, 4 p.m.



The Pangeans play at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem on Sunday June 19th at 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Pat and Tex LaMountain, Americana*, free, Joining Pat & Tex's acoustic guitars and vocal harmonies will be John White on bass; Craig Manning, lead guitar, and Billy Klock, on drums, 7:30 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive Show*, 4 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Feature film *The Big Lebowski* (R) with local short feature *Donna and Alia Go Bowling*, Free, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 20th
North Hadley Congregational Church, A Summer Solstice Performance, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, Free, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21st
Gill Commons: Gill Summer Concert Series, Zydeco Connection, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22nd
Leverett Library: Josh Weil, Leverett native son and author of "The New Valley: Novellas," will read and discuss his new book. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23rd
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, 8 - 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*, Singing all your favorite covers from the 60's & 70's, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24th and SATURDAY, JUNE 25th
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents, "The Blues Brothers" (1980) with John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd, preceded by live music by local heroes The Sushi Brothers. "The Blues Brothers", one of the most successful off springs from the original Saturday Night Live cast, is the tale of

Jake and Elwood, two ex-cons "on a mission from God" to get their old band back together and save the Chicago church that raised them. Filled with over-the-top chase scenes, hilarious set pieces, and some of the best music from some of the best rhythm and blues performers of all time (Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Ray Charles and many more), "The Blues Brothers" rocks from beginning to end. Directed by John Landis, color, runs 130 minutes, rated R. The movie starts at 7:30 both nights but The Sushi Brothers will perform live on stage starting at 7pm both nights, playing the same kind of electrified Chicago blues featured in the film.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood, & Beer Band*, Singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more, 9 - 11 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fourth Friday Young Children's Story Hour Explores Fireflies!* 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, Free, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Working Life, Golden Elk, rock, folk, indie*, Free, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Salvation Alley String Band*, 8 p.m. Free. Country folk rock.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat, Jazz Trio*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Greenfield Fairgrounds: *4H Fair*, 10 - 3 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Endangered Species Live Animal Program with Rockhopper*, 1 - 2 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Turners Falls RiverCulture Hard Hat Auction, Auction and fashion show of artist enhanced hard hats to benefit RiverCulture and have some fun with the bridge construction. Come to the Shea Theater and maybe you'll see your favorite DPW hunk on the runway. Pass the hat for art and culture in our community, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Live Jazz, Live Jazz consists of a trio of young, local musicians who strive to continue and expand the jazz idiom. The group pays respect to and reinterprets jazz standards while broadening the scope of their repertoire to include contemporary influences. Come by and see their representation of where this music is today, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26th
Greenfield Energy Park: The COOP Concerts series, Laura Siersema Trio, Jennie McAvoy and Michael Nix, The Pat & Tex LaMountain Band, 6 p.m.

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Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Folk Ragout*, 1:30 p.m. Free.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History - The Grand Trunk Hotel* in Turners Falls, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 27th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dada Dino*, 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28th
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Music Exchange*, 7 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th
Deja Brew, Wendell: North Quabbin Film Series presents *Mama Mia*, at 7 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Monthly Book Group discussion of On The Road*, 7 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Mammals with naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward*, Beavers, muskrats and river otters are all native to our wetlands and waterways. However; these fascinating creatures have lots of differences in their behaviors and lifestyles. Join along in this hands-on educational nature program that begins inside then venture outside to explore the banks of the Connecticut River for a close up look at the habitat of these curious creatures. Dress appropriately for weather conditions and footwear suitable for a rocky shoreline. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals* 8-10 p.m.

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Nexus, harmonic rock
Saturday, 6/18 9 - 11 p.m.
Burrie & Friends
Thursday, 6/23 8:30 p.m.
Eric Love, 60's & 70's
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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

A Gardener's Relay for Life

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Friday night's opening of the Relay for Life at the Franklin County Fair-grounds marked the end of the lives of many, the strength and hope of the people celebrating lost loved ones.

We arrived at the fair-grounds in the semi-light shortly after a late supper. At close to 9:30, the darkness was falling. The luminaries shone brightly outlining the track and many other pathways. The air was full of the smoke, of the fires in front of the encampments and neon-lit by the color of hats, bracelets and the frames of glasses. Whole families walked and ran.

People talked and cheered, urging relay teams along, while others moved in solitude, flashlights illuminating the names on the candlelit bags.

Names, often pictures and messages, some familiar, some written bold. These caught the eye as we circled, marking each round. Rock music blared and food was sold and eaten. We thought of lost friends and family with hopes for known survivors.

It was as safe a dark environment as I've ever known. The soft air was blessed and close; the sense of community palpable as hundreds passed what must have been a thousand points of light in the night.

At home in the garden, the same cycle passes. The Beauty Bush and peonies are almost gone, replaced by the fresh new roses. The honeysuckle and multiflora rose drape over the laundry pole. The hummingbirds visit frequently. The Carolina Wren's nest is hidden in the depths of sheltering vines.

The peas are up and have been fenced against the woodchuck. The tomatoes and peppers look thrifty, and we have harvested fresh, crisp lettuce three times. The pumpkin seeds have sprouted, soon to be followed by pole beans and squash.

The changes of this short spring season beg daily notice as we move quickly towards summer. The lawn grows quickly now, and needs weekly mowing. The gardener's list grows long, but it is so pleasurable out there in the early morning and again in the cool of the late afternoon. In this time of passing and remembrance, of graduations and leave taking, it lifts the soul to plunge fingers into dirt, removing weeds and planting the seeds of new life.

As the garden grows, the varmints appear. First, the delicate deer munching and ultimately eating a whole bed of young kale. Next an ill-advised someone, perhaps the rabbit, tested two asparagus ferns before determining them to be non-edible. Lastly, the obese woodchuck who lives under the garden shed and who was until now too gun-shy to advance into the open garden. I knew it was only a matter of time.

A recent re-read of Farley Mowatt's *Never Cry Wolf* pro-

vided a perhaps indelicate but useful solution. This journal chronicles the adventures of a scientist hired by the Canadian government to live with the wolves and study the reason for the decline of the caribou. (The book is worth reading as yet another moral lesson about misguided government management).

As someone not familiar with the habits and behaviors of wolves, Mowatt was surprised and wary of their curiosity about him, and sought a way to discourage them from trekking randomly through his space. Observation taught him that the wolves marked the edge of their territories like cats, so he began to put his human urine around the periphery of the space he called his own. I also have found that a good dose of urine down the entry and exit door to the chubby one's burrow has sent him out of the yard.

Naturally, I believe it will be important to produce a new treatment after we have experienced significant rainfall. Hopefully, the woodchuck has moved across the field to a neighbor's barn near to their large family garden where he will be shot on sight.

I am a great lover of animals of all kinds and don't mind sharing, but as any gardener knows, a woodchuck can take out a row of new peas or beans and consider that nothing but an appetizer. They are rarely deterred by fences. I've seen one scale a four foot chicken wire fence and let gravity drop him into the green meal of the garden.

For the eating bugs, I recommend some of the following:

marigolds, which seem to deter many, nasturtiums, which collect aphids but seem to coexist with them successfully, and lots of ladybugs to eat all and sundry. Watch for tomato hornworms, which a quick check of tomato stems will reveal. They are very large and easily plucked.

Planting beans early enough will allow you to enjoy your crop before the emergence of the bean beetle. If you find insecticidal soap effective, by all means use it, but remember to re-apply after a heavy rain.

The strawberry bed has passed from bloom to fruit. The first red berries have darkened and are ready for picking. What

a wonderful, sweet, juicy fruit right off the vine for immediate eating!

The fruit hangs below the lush green foliage, just out of the view of the birds. I am finding only a few have been sampled, perhaps more likely by the resident chipmunk.

The strawberry harvest will yield the shortcakes and the suppers named after them. Be sure to use plenty of strawberries, so you can taste the fruit under all of that biscuit and whipped cream. Or try a French glaze pie in order to enjoy pure fruit flavor.

Enjoy all the produce of this glorious season and happy gardening!

Strawberry Glace Pie

- 6 cups or so of fresh strawberries
- 1 piecrust
- $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of sugar
- 3 Tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 jar of currant jelly

Pre-bake and cool the piecrust.

Melt a few tablespoons of jelly in the microwave.

Brush the cooled crust with melted currant jelly to keep the crust crisp.

Wash and hull the strawberries.

Use a potato masher to juice enough fruit to provide a cup.

Cook the strawberry juice and pulp with the sugar, lemon juice and cornstarch over low heat and then simmer gently until thick.

Fill the pie shell with the rest of the raw fruit.

Cover with the cornstarch mixture and chill until set.

Garnish each slice with a dollop of sour cream lightly sweetened with sugar.

Enjoy!

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