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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 17, 2010

Turners Takes Western Mass Trophy for Eighth Year in a Row

Tops Ware, 5-3 in the 10th



"This team does not quit" proclaims Emily Mailloux

BY DAVID DETMOLD
AMHERST - After a one hour rain delay on Saturday turned into a two day wait for the ump to say, "Play Ball!" the game resumed at the top of the fourth inning Monday afternoon between the Turners Falls and Ware girls softball teams, battling for the right to call themselves the Western Massachusetts Division III champions.

What started as a sleeper, 0 - 0 going into the fifth inning, turned into a nailbiter as Turners went ahead by one run when Hannah Bellows' single scored Katelyn Dodge, running for Emily Mailloux, who doubled to left

center field with two away to get things going for Turners.

But the home team quickly watched their lead evaporate in the sixth, when Ware scored four runs to put the game almost, almost out of reach.

Kaylie Robidoux led off for Ware with a single to shallow center field. After a sacrifice bunt and two more singles loaded the bases, Crystal Best scored the lead runner with a shallow fly ball that just cleared second basewoman Kelsey Waldron's glove. Coach Gary Mullins had been signaling Waldron to play deeper

see **TROPHY** pg 9

Turners Goes Down Swinging in Division III Semi-Finals

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WORCESTER - The oil well in the Gulf was not the only blowout on the minds of Turners Falls softball fans, as they watched their Division III Western Mass Champs go down to defeat 5-0 at the hands of the well oiled batting machine of Central Mass champs Murdock High and their impressive hurler, Brittany Howe in Tuesday's state semifinals in Worcester.

Howe's high powered fast ball mowed down the Turners

see **SEMI-FINALS** pg 9



caption

Gill Town Meeting Will Consider Increasing Personnel Costs

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Gill voters will face a 35 article warrant at annual town meeting on Monday, June 21st, beginning at 7 p.m. Among the articles up for discussion is a proposal to make the positions of tax collector, treasurer and town clerk appointed, rather than elected. Another article would raise the salaries for those positions by 10% (\$1720) for the tax collector, 15% (\$2077) for the treasurer, and 25% (\$2,787) for the town clerk.

At present, the posts of tax collector and treasurer are held by the same individual, Ronnie LaChance.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said the reason for the proposed salary increases and the move to appointed rather than elected posts is to place these positions

in a pay scale with other town employees, and to more fairly compensate the current office holders. Purington said their work load and a comparison of salaries of their counterparts in neighboring communities indicate that Gill's town clerk, and tax collector/treasurer are presently underpaid.

Voters will also be asked to approve a 3% cost of living increase for town employees. Town employees received no cost of living increase last year.

Article 16 seeks \$14,356 to supplement the police department's regular personnel line item for part time police officers. Purington said the department's \$155,328 budget is up about \$1600 from last year's figure, to allow the town to provide an allowance for uniforms, similar to the highway

see **COSTS** pg 10

Ramsey Appointed Town Planner

BY LINDSAY MACE
MONTAGUE - On Monday, Walter Ramsey became Montague's permanent town planner after a successful six month temporary appointment, but not without a hitch.

At Monday night's selectboard meeting, town manager Frank Abbondanzio commended Ramsey for the work he has already done for the town, saying "I am very impressed by his work ethic."

In his capacity as temporary town planner, Ramsey assisted in developing a comprehensive signage plan to be provided at no charge to the town by the Mass Department of Transportation to help direct traffic in and out of town during the upcoming four year Gill-Montague Bridge renovation. As an advisor to the town of Montague's energy committee, Ramsey helped shepherd Montague's successful Green Communities Act application, netting a promised \$155,000 grant from the state Department of Energy Resources for energy upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant.

On Monday, just prior to the selectboard's vote on his appointment, Ramsey said, "I'm glad to be on board. It's a big relief to be working for the team."



Walter Ramsey

Ramsey first moved to the Valley five years ago to complete his BA in geography at UMass Amherst. He grew up in Upton, a Massachusetts town Ramsey said had a "similar small town environment," to Montague.

Ramsey has just finished his Masters at UMass in regional planning, while working part time as interim town planner.

During his interview with the selectboard appointed hiring committee, Ramsey submitted a five year plan for Montague. Ramsey said the plan included a "list of projects I'd like to get to," within the next three to five years.

According to Ramsey, those priorities include, "redeveloping and selling the Strathmore

see **PLANNER** pg 10

Proposed Ambulance Service Outlined

BY ANA KNIAZEVA
TURNERS FALLS - On Tuesday, June 16th at 3:30 p.m., Mark Allen, chair of the Turners Falls Fire District prudential committee, held an information session for a small group of attendees at the senior center in Turners Falls, regarding the district's proposal to provide townwide ambulance service for Montague

Allen hopes the plan would generate revenue to support the fire district. However, the Turners Falls Fire District (TFFD) alone would not have sufficient transports to support the ambulance service. In order for the numbers to work, Allen said, the TFFD would have to get approval to provide ambulance service for the whole town.

Allen also hopes to improve both fire service and ambulance service through the new plan. The revenue generated from ambulance transport would hopefully fund three

firemen on each shift, instead of the two that are on now. (The national standard is four.) Furthermore, Allen stated, "Ambulance service would be six to seven minutes faster if you lived in Lake Pleasant, Millers Falls or Montague Center," than what is currently provided to those villages by the current provider, Baystate Health Ambulance (BHA) service.

To project a gross billing figure for the proposed ambulance service, the prudential committee analyzed the historical growth of the number of transports since the year 2002 to 2008 and estimated a future growth rate of 4.6% a year.

To estimate the net revenue they "used the payer mix experience of the Orange Fire Department, which has a community demographic not unlike Montague," which turned out to be 59.1% of the gross billing. However, Allen

also said, "how much [we] get reimbursed is extremely variable based on the payer."

When asked by an attendee exactly how similar Montague's demographics were to those of Orange, Allen was unable to provide a definite answer.

The current budget for the Turners Falls Fire District, which was approved at the district's annual meeting a month ago, is \$780,480.60. When an extra firefighter and the lease of the ambulance are included, the proposed budget would have to increase to \$869,164.70. However, according to income estimates for FY '11, assuming ambulance service approval by July 1st, 2010 (no longer possible), the expected receipts of \$205,000 would cover the additional cost to the budget and leave some extra to support the fire district.

see **AMBULANCE** pg 13

PET OF THE WEEK

Sweet and Quiet



Josie

Hello! I'm Josie! I'm a one-year and nine-month-old domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a very sweet, quiet girl. I lived in a home with other cats and loved it. I also lived with a dog but I didn't like him very much. I should do well with gentle, older children, but I wouldn't like to be in a house with high energy, bouncing children. I am an independent girl and won't be clingy. I love to catch bugs and play with toys but am also a bit of a couch potato according to my previous family, who had to move and couldn't take me. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**Appalachian Trail Presentation**

Monday, July 5th at 7:00 p.m. meet Roger Tetreault and learn about his Appalachian Trail hiking adventure through a multimedia presentation. Trail snacks served!

Wednesday, July 14th at 4:00 p.m. bring your favourite doll to an afternoon American Girl tea party. Games and refreshments will be served.

Remember, sign up any day between now and August 13th

for the Summer Reading Program. Receive a reading log and become eligible to win prizes and participate in programs.

Sundays in July and August are Swap Day from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bring something to swap - each day has a theme. July 12th is Books & DVDs to swap. July 19th is Tools and Computer stuff to swap. Leftover items will be recycled.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS**Summer Reading Program Starts June 17th**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE - The Montague Public Libraries' Go Green at Your Library Summer Reading Program starts on the originally scheduled last day of school, Thursday, June 17th. Children of any age and teens are invited to participate. Sign-ups take place at the Carnegie, Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries. Children read at home and receive weekly reading incentive prizes at the libraries. Many exciting programs and activities will be held at the libraries throughout the summer. The kick-off event is The Lean Green Cleanup Machine Concert followed by a Veggie Oil Van Demonstration with Jay Mankita on Tuesday, June 22nd, at 10 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. On Tuesday, June 29th, a fun hands-on science program, The Wonders of Wind and Water, with Dawn Marvin Ward, will be held at the Carnegie Library at 10 a.m. Other special events will include Pizza and Games for Teens and Tweens on Wednesday, July 7th at 2 p.m. The annual No Strings Marionette Company puppet show is *Field of Faeries* on Friday, July 9th, at 10 a.m. Amy Donovan from the Franklin County Solid Waste District will present two green programs at the Carnegie Library. On Tuesday, July 13th at 10 a.m., she will discuss Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for children of all ages and their families. On Wednesday, July 14th at 10:30 a.m. she will discuss Worm Composting for children, which will include live worms. Lou of

Lou's Upcycles will also present two programs on creative recycling at the Carnegie Library, both on Tuesday, July 20th. At 10 a.m. is Creating Upcycled Yarn: Making and Using Yarn from Plastic Bags for ages pre-k through 2nd grade. At 2 p.m., is the Upcycling Workshop: Creating Fabric From Un-Recyclable Plastic Bags for ages 3rd grade - adult. The Millers Falls Library Club, featuring arts and crafts and green themes, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. The weekly Story Hour with Ruth O'Mara is held at the Carnegie Library on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is will be offered at the Carnegie on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during July and August, pending Family Network funding. The Razzle Dazzle Reading Camp will be visiting the Carnegie Library weekly for special programs during July. For more information and for registration for the summer reading program visit the Carnegie, Millers Falls, or Montague Center Libraries. The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, in Turners Falls is open on Monday - Wednesday from 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays for the summer. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Monday and Wednesday from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 21st to 25th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

Monday, June 21st

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, June 22nd
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
1:00 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, June 23rd

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, June 24th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, June 25th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping,

FACES & PLACES

DETMOLO PHOTO

Geese crossing the bike path down at Migratory Way in Turners Falls

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**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
LYN CLARK**

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS**Fossil Workshop, Book-making Workshop**

GILL - Saturday, July 3rd at 11:00 a.m., Fossil workshop led by John Clarke and John Roberts. This popular program was a success when held several years ago. Join us for an amazing up-close look at the world of fossils. Learn what a fossil is and how and why it forms. This workshop will include hands-on activities and a chance to see some awesome fossils. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, July 10th at 11:00 a.m., Jeannie Hunt, a Northampton based book artist will lead a book-making workshop entitled "Hand Crafted Nature Journals". Children will create their own miniature journal

and use them for exploring and learning about the natural world. Together participants will gather materials (seeds, branches, leaves, etc) from our local environment and draw and write in their hand made books. This workshop is funded by the Gill Cultural Council, a branch of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Pre-registration is required.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS**Nunua Project Slide Show**

Tuesday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m., Anthropologist Brooke Thomas will show slides of Nunua, Peru, a community in the Andes dependent upon alpacas. He seeks to help it become self-sufficient through the Nunua Project.

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Rd., (413) 548-9220, www.leverettlibrary.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**Grade 6**

Ceridwyn Carlton

Grade 7

Rachel Savinski

Grade 8

Marcel Ortiz

Danielle Bassett

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Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The 2010 Turners Falls **Block Party** will be held on Saturday, August 14th. This event is organized jointly by the Montague Business Association and Turners Falls River Culture. Artists and crafters who would like to set up tables to sell their products should contact Pam at 413-522-7727. Fees are \$25.00 per vendor.

The weekly **"Common People Concert Series"** held each Tuesday in the summer on the Gill town common kicks off June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. with Andy Davis performing traditional songs and telling stories. Bring your lawn chair, blankets and enjoy the refreshments. The concert series is sponsored by the Gill Cultural Council. For the complete concert schedule, contact Steve at davons_of_gill@yahoo.com

The Great Falls Discovery Center will offer a **Children's Story** and Fish Crafting hour on Friday, June 25th, from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Meet Ellie and Ollie Eel and learn about their fantastic voyage! After the story, make your own eel craft to take home. This is perfect for young children four to nine years old and their parents or guardians. Groups wishing to participate can contact the Discovery Center at 413-863-3221.

On Saturday, June 19th from noon to 6:00 p.m. it's Spring Fling time at the **Leverett Village Coop**. Food! Music! Friends! Cooperative principles! What more could you need for great time? The event will be held on the grounds of the Leverett Village Coop, at the intersection of Rattlesnake Gutter and North Leverett Road in sylvan Moores Corners. John Sheldon and Friends are among the musicians performing.

The Celtic Heels **School of Irish Dance** has been in kicking up their heels since 1983.

Starting in New York, instructor Cara Leach branched out and began offering lessons in Western Massachusetts five years ago. Leach is now opening a brand new Irish dance center and studio at 267 Main Street in Greenfield, with an open house Sunday, June 27th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., offering Irish dance lessons for children and adults, along with Celtic music lessons, a summer camp for children in July, and an exciting Irish band on the first Friday of each month. All are welcome to attend the opening where they will be invited to enjoy dancer demonstrations, light fare, and qualify for discounts and coupons. Contact Cara Leach at celticheels@gmail.com for more info.

Remember your dad on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20th.

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

"When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."
 ~ ~ Daniel Webster

Bingo for Books

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - The Sheffield Campus of the newly named Montague Elementary School hosted the final family evening event of the year with "Bingo for Books" on Wednesday, June 2nd. Three classrooms were jam packed with children and their accompanying adults hoping to win a round of "word recognition bingo." It is no small feat to pack the house on a balmy June night while competing with baseball on an adjoining field.

Title 1 family event coordinator Laurel Rollins and principal Elizabeth Musgrave work closely with other faculty to make evenings like this a success. They aim to create a welcoming environment at the school where learning and a sense of community are intertwined.

There was a sense of both exhilaration and frustration when participant numbers exceeded the capacity of the room slated for 3rd through 5th grade students. Historically, families in the K - 2nd grades arrive in large numbers while participation tapers off in the upper grades. Based on the 2009 numbers, the coordinators set up two rooms for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-5. All three classrooms were filled to capacity with close to 200 in attendance.

Fifth grader Amy Jarvis and her friend Eliza Rodriguez could not find seats or floor space in the upper level class-

room, where librarian Carol Star held up word cards. Jarvis opted for the spectator role while Rodriguez helped in one of the younger classrooms by writing the words on a white board as they were called out.

Throughout the evening there was an air of excitement and avid concentration as children vied for the chance to win a book - there were enough books for each child and those lucky enough to win a second or third round chose from a selection of special pencils. There were also a number of spontaneous renditions of the song "Bingo" about the well-known farmer and dog duo.

It was terrific to see so many families enjoying another evening at the school and heartening to see attendance rising for this fun and educational event.

Arts and Nature Summer Youth Program at Montague Grange

The program called "Spirit-Art-Ecology" connects children with the love, joy, and creative tools to nurture and be nurtured by the whole Earth. Journey around the world while being immersed in the arts and Nature. Each week explores a different culture and its spiritual perspective. Participate in the arts of each culture, its theatre, visual art, music, dance, and creative writing. Magical lore is explored through the lens of artistic expression within the world of nature.

Week-long day programs from June 28th to September 3rd are available for ages 6 to 12 in Montague Center. For more information contact Eve Christoph at (413) 625-8275.

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Farmers Market & Strawberry Festival

GILL - The Gill agricultural commission will host a Farmers Market on the town common Saturday, June 19th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., during the Friends of Gill annual Strawberry Festival picnic.

The Gill town common will feature something for everybody on Saturday, so bring the family and celebrate the season. Vendors will include Songline Emu Farm, Bingo Granola, Wells Tavern Farm, Bascom Hollow Farm and others, featuring spring vegetables, baked goods, eggs, and more. Save

energy; buy local food and support Gill farmers while visiting with friends from around town.

The Friends of Gill is also hosting a plant sale; and NOFA/Mass will be on hand with information about the upcoming NOFA Summer Conference (at UMass Amherst August 13th - 15th), organic lawn maintenance, organic planting tips and more.

For more info about the Farmers Market, call Steve Damon at 863-2850. For more info about NOFA/Mass call Kathy Litchfield at 773-3830.

The Montague Congregational Church
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Greenfield Voters Reject Biomass

BY JANET SINCLAIR & TOM NEILSON - Matthew Wolfe, developer of the proposed 47 megawatt biomass power plant in the I-91 Industrial Park, had asked the town of Greenfield to sell its sewer effluent to cool the power plant.

Four hundred and fifty people attended a Zoning Board Hearing last June to raise concerns about air quality, truck traffic and forest impacts from burning 500,000 tons of wood every year at the proposed plant.

The Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, formed to oppose the plant, submitted detailed testimony about potential public health impacts that might occur when 700,000 gallons of partially treated sewer effluent evaporated into the air each day. Nevertheless, in December the town council voted in favor of allowing Wolfe to use treated wastewater for coolant, and approved a contract for 20 years to that effect.

The Greenfield town charter allows town council votes to be rescinded by the voters if enough signatures are collected to bring the decision to a townwide referendum. The CCFC collected those signatures during two weeks in January. The town council then had the option to reverse its decision, but did not do so.

On May 17th, the developer announced his plan to withdraw the proposal for wet cooling, and to use "dry cooling" instead for the proposed plant. Wolfe and Greenfield Mayor William Martin then said they deemed the ballot questions "moot," and

vowed to continue on with plans to build the plant regardless of the vote's outcome.

"I think the more relevant question is whether that vote on June 8th means anything and, in our opinion, it doesn't," said Wolfe in the neighboring daily on May 18th.

The Concerned Citizens continued working to get out the vote during the subsequent weeks to mobilize citizens to vote on the issues.

Biomass Referenda Results

On June 8th, about 35% of Greenfield voters weighed in on three referenda questions related to Pioneer Renewable Energy's 47 megawatt biomass plant proposed for Greenfield's industrial park.

QUESTION #1 asked voters whether Greenfield's general ordinances should allow the mayor to sell treated wastewater as a coolant for the proposed biomass plant.

3,223 voted No; 658 voted Yes.

QUESTION #2 asked whether voters approved the 20 year contract signed by the town council for the sale of wastewater to Pioneer Renewable Energy.

3301 voted No; 598 voted Yes.

QUESTION #3 asked whether Greenfield should lease space at the wastewater treatment plant to Pioneer Renewable Energy.

3294 voted No; 604 voted Yes.

how people in Greenfield feel about the biomass plant proposed for their community.

The biomass plant is an issue for all of Franklin County, and residents of surrounding towns have expressed their gratitude for the Greenfield vote.

State and federal agencies are providing huge subsidies to underwrite biomass projects, asserting they are a form of green energy that will help to reduce global warming. The laws are written to encourage and promote biomass burning for power production. Taxpayer money would be better spent on truly green projects, especially conservation and public transportation.

BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



DENIS BORDEAUX CARTOON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Does the Gulf Disaster Portend for Vermont Yankee?

The catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico seems a world away from the struggle to shut down Vermont Yankee in 2012, but the parallels are striking.

The potential for a terrible failure of technology due to the negligence and greed of the corporate owners, and the weak oversight of federal watchdog agencies reminds us that both deep water offshore drilling and aging nuclear power plants are too risky for our communities.

We have lived through some huge environmental disasters that are now household names; the Exxon Valdez, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, as well as countless horrible coal-related accidents. The public has demanded and gotten some nominal regulation over the past four decades, but the

The Greenfield vote is an indication of how people feel about this issue when they have the opportunity to have facts presented to them, are able to weigh the evidence and come to their own conclusions. Greenfield voters clearly do not want a biomass power plant in town.

agencies regulating the energy industry have been riddled with problems.

The recent mining tragedy at Massey Energy's Big Branch mine, the explosion in the Gulf, and our own tritium leak at Vermont Yankee all occurred because regulators were not doing their jobs. These federal agencies come fully loaded with people who are career employees of the industries they are supposed to be regulating. Many intend to return to lucrative jobs in the same field. They are reluctant to strictly interpret regulations or to find fault with personnel, policies, or procedures.

As information is revealed about the permitting process and oversight of the mile-deep oil drilling operation in the Gulf of Mexico, it is clear that the Minerals Management Service was not paying attention, and BP, Transocean, and Haliburton were left to drill and extract oil using whatever methods they thought would get the job done, including some disastrous shortcuts.

When the explosion occurred, BP was supposed to be prepared, as part of their permit to drill, to clean up any oil spills. We can all see how that worked out for them, for the residents of the Southeast coastal areas, and for the Gulf of Mexico. All the preventative technology and inspec-

tions were left up to the corporations. The regulatory agency was too busy collecting funds and perks from energy companies to do something as mundane as their jobs.

In the present time, the easily extracted fossil fuels have been taken out of the ground. Oil drilling enterprises have moved into places less and less suited to safe and controlled operation. The nuclear power plants that were built in the United States during the initial excitement and hype about the peaceful atom (experts claimed that this power would be "too cheap to meter") are all aging badly and being pushed to produce power way beyond their intended retirement dates. We are getting into dangerous and uncharted territory.

Vermont Yankee is a case in point. Soon after Entergy purchased the plant, they pushed for an "uprate", meaning Vermont Yankee has been operating at 120% of its intended capacity to produce power. In this time, we have seen the cooling tower collapse, the leak of radioactive water from a crumbling underground piping system, a condenser that needs a very expensive replacement, and countless other problems. This plant has the potential for a catastrophic event. In the worst case, our region would be uninhabitable for the far-distant future. The damage from a radiation plume would impact not just the immediate area around the plant, but communities 50 miles distant.

The huge volume of highly toxic radioactive waste on the shores of the Connecticut River is another source of a massive environmental disaster. Many areas

see **DISASTER** pg 5

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MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy in Greenfield

The way in which the proposed biomass plant has been handled by the town of Greenfield, and especially the way in which the permits were hustled through as secretly as possible, giving the voters no chance to comment, let alone vote, seems more suited to Louisiana in the days of Huey Long, or Boss Tweed's New York, than to Massachusetts in the 21st century. Someone soon needs to answer the question, "Why were these tactics used by the planning board? What can the reason have been?"

This, of course, is almost ancient history by now. What is not ancient history is last Tuesday's vote. As the hours and days go by since that vote, the silence emanating from the mayor's office is becoming deafening.

What part of the word "democracy" do the mayor and his people not understand? Mayor Martin may choose to join with Matthew Wolfe in claiming that Tuesday's vote was only about the supply of wastewater to the plant, but he and everyone else in

town knows that in fact, having been cynically bypassed and cheated out of any opportunity to vote on the plant itself, the voters of Greenfield have taken the only chance so far given them to overwhelmingly express their opposition to the whole project.

Last week's publication of the latest study revealing the true environmental costs of biomass plants only serves to confirm the wisdom of the voters.

The mayor, the planning board, and Massachusetts governor Patrick appear to think that simply by putting the three characters "bio" in a name they will bamboozle people into thinking this is some kind of green energy initiative. But people around here, it seems, are not so gullible.

There are only two honorable courses for Mayor Martin to pursue at this point. He can either announce immediately that he will do everything in his power to stop this project, or he can resign.

I repeat, what part of the word "democracy" do you not understand, Mr. Mayor?

- **Martin Church**
Greenfield

Summer Break for Facilitated

This will be the last week this season for facilitated playgroup at the Wendell Free Library. We will begin again in the fall, if people are interested in having a facilitator. The library will be open for parents and children to enjoy on Wednesday morning throughout the summer.

We are still looking for parents to serve on the Community Network for

Children advisory board. Please consider joining to support ongoing child care and programming for young children in the Union 28 community.

I have had a wonderful time meeting the parents and young children in our community, and am looking forward to more fun in the fall.

- **Sylvia Wetherby**
Wendell

Concern is Qualification Enough

Thank you to all who voted for me in the last month's election. Thank you for knowing that although I had not researched all the town issues and did not discover how to resolve all the serious town concerns, I do know what the position of selectperson demonstrates for the townspeople, and that the townspeople need a voice.

The day I picked up the nomination papers, although hesitant, I was the first to do so, and it was only three weeks to the election. I was told that just being a concerned mem-

ber of this town was qualification enough.

Who cares about the politics of this town? Who sits at home and chats via websites judging and then doesn't have the time to get to the polls and show some support.

My two favorite excuse statements for not voting: 'Ah, it's fixed anyway,' and 'It's not like my vote will matter.'

Sadly, that's what has happened. Only seventeen percent of registered voters voted!

- **Margaret Pyfrom**
Turners Falls

DISASTER from pg 4

have seen 100 or even 500 year flood events as climate changes occur, and water levels rise. Do we have any assurance that the "temporary" storage for the tons of the most toxic substance on earth will never get into the river water in the case of submersion?

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is supposed to have the exclusive right to monitor safety issues at nuclear plants. We are not comforted by the fact that they seem to only regulate after something bad happens, and then the regulation consists of hollow words. The operating license of Vermont Yankee describes how the plant will not release unmonitored discharges of radioactive water. Yet when Vermont Yankee and other plants do just that, there are no negative consequences except when they are caught and exposed by concerned citizens and the media. In the words of the Union of Concerned Scientists' David Lochbaum, "If you have ever paid a quarter for an overdue library book, you have paid more than any nuclear plant has ever paid in fines to the government."

The NRC has yet again shown itself to be the revolving door agency we know it to be. The now on-site safety officer at Vermont Yankee, David Spindler, is a former Entergy employee, having worked for the company as recently as October, 2006. The agency fundamentally undermines the integrity of any rules when the regulator is a buddy of those he is supposed to regulating.

Let us learn from the nightmare currently unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico. We do not need to endanger the future of our children and our planet to power our lifestyles. Our society can make a decision to use power that does not threaten whole species, the oceans, the very air we breathe, the soil in which we grow our food, and the rivers that sustain life. Even if the entire United States is slow to grasp this, the people of New England can and must repower our state and lead the way. We can use solar, wind, hydropower, and conservation and successfully shut down Vermont Yankee before we live through another disaster that defines the folly of nuclear power.

- **Nancy Braus**
Brattleboro

Investigation Proceeds at Czestochowa

BY DAVID DETMOLD AND JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS - The parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa was shocked to learn during weekend services on June 12th and 13th that long time parish priest Father Charles DiMascola has been placed on leave last week while the Diocese of Springfield conducts an investigation into a single complaint alleging that DiMascola violated diocesan policies and the code of conduct, a three page document governing the conduct of clergy, church staff and volunteers with children and youth.

In a prepared statement, diocesan spokesman Mark Dupont said, "It should be noted that the complaint does not allege sexual actions."

Dupont said the diocese has never before received a complaint about DiMascola, who has

served the parish for 25 years.

"We received a complaint here at the diocese," said Dupont on Wednesday. "We have a review board, which includes members of the parish community. They were convened. They considered the matter and determined it warranted at least an investigation."

Dupont added, "Every time I say that, I feel I have to say this is not a determination of the merits of the complaint, but simply to say it warranted further review. It could not be dismissed. It was serious enough that it had to be looked at."

Dupont continued, "We're obviously in a very delicate situation. We felt the need to let the parish community know an investigation is taking place. We're very mindful of the fact that Father DiMascola deserves the presumption of innocence,



Father Charles DiMascola, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa

and in fact, Father DiMascola has asserted the allegation is untrue."

The diocese has placed the investigation in the hands of a former Massachusetts State Police detective, Kevin Murphy. Dupont said the investigation

was underway, and would proceed quickly, "but not in such a hasty manner that it can be challenged down the road. The investigator will look to see what kind of evidence can be found to

see **INVESTIGATION** pg 12

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NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell May Change Tactics on Mahar Assessment Struggle

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On June 9th, the selectboard's agenda was dominated by discussion of the annual town meeting warrant with the finance committee. The annual town meeting, preceded by a brief special town meeting to deal with routine bookkeeping warrants, began on Wednesday, June 16th.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he attended the meeting of the Mahar school committee subcommittee for reviewing the method of assessing costs to member towns in the Mahar district on May 27th.

He said a solution to the problem that finds Wendell consistently paying higher per pupils costs to send students to Mahar than the wealthier towns in the district - New Salem and Petersham - does not appear to be anywhere in sight. Only one Petersham selectboard member attended the meeting, no one representing New Salem was there, and there was no mention of a second subcommittee meeting.

The Mahar Regional High budget is clearly stretched thin, and if Wendell votes a lower assessment, based on a proposed alternative assessment method, Orange can lower its contribution, and set the school's budget below what superintendent Michael Baldassarre has requested.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said Wendell has voted a lower assessment amount than

the Mahar school committee has requested for three years running, and, she said, those lower numbers have not made an impression on the town of Orange, or the Mahar school committee. It may be time, Heard said, to vote the full amount requested, and again not make an impression on Orange, but at least not hurt the school any more.

Selectboard member Dan Keller agreed, and added there may be some room for compromise.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said maybe the town could vote the full requested amount, and accompany the payment with a strong letter to the Mahar school committee criticizing their lack of responsiveness. Idoine said the Mahar school committee has been dismissive of Wendell's plea for fairness on the per pupil assessment costs, and since Orange is so much bigger than the other three district towns, Orange controls the school committee.

He added some of the administrative pay increases in the requested FY '11 budget for Mahar seem excessive, without clear explanation.

Finance committee member Doug Tanner said he did not have the same concern other finance committee members have expressed over the years with the present Mahar assessment method, and said that even if he moved to a hypothetical district town with no stu-

dents he should not be exempt from paying school taxes.

In other news, Keller said he had checked the senior center's basement dehumidifier and found it had stopped working. However, the town paid for a five year extended warrantee, so the repair was free. The warrantee includes annual maintenance.

Pooser said broadband committee member Robbie Leppzer wanted the selectboard to endorse an article on the town meeting warrant regarding the Wired West proposal, to begin a process that may bring high speed internet connection to all homes in Wendell. Part of the proposal would ask National Grid for their pole information so Wired West may use infrastructure already in place for fiber optics, and National Grid wants a non disclosure agreement before releasing the data.

Police chief Ed Chase is reviewing a proposed North Quabbin Regional Mutual Aid agreement that would parallel the mutual aid agreement the North Quabbin fire departments already use.

Aldrich gave selectboard members copies of the proposal given by National Grid for improvements in energy efficiency for Swift River School. To implement the proposal, National Grid would provide \$15,000 toward the cost of energy upgrades, and Swift River School would pay \$5,000.

Experience Counts on Mountain Road



PARZYCH PHOTO

Douglas Thompson

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH ERVING CENTER

Douglas Thompson can repair almost anything mechanical: boat engines, cars, snowmobiles, and lawn tractors, but cars and boats are his mainstay. Thompson worked for Spencer Brothers Ford in Northfield for over 12 years until Spencer sold out to Ford Motor Company and a deal with a new operator didn't work out. He later worked for Country Ford in Athol for over 20 years, indicating he's a good mechanic.

Thompson's well equipped shop is about a mile off of Route 2 in Erving on Mountain Road. Though he has over 30 years of experience with Ford and Mercury cars, he is confident he can fix most any make. An oversized garden tractor sat beside a John Deere farm tractor, ahead of a fiberglass boat in his shop.

"More and more people are finding us each month," Thompson said. "Right now I'm replacing a blown head gasket on a Volvo boat engine. It's really a four cylinder GMC Chevy engine with a Volvo tag on the block."

Not everyone is familiar with boat engines. They are a little different. With no radiator, coolant water is drawn from the lake or river the boat is on, and is passed through a jacket on the exhaust manifold to bring water up to the engine's operating temperature. Though the Volvo was an inboard engine, Thompson repairs outboard motors, as well.

Thompson's shop has two lifts of 9,000 pound capacity, each. He also has a lathe for turning brake drums and rotor disks, so he doesn't have to send them out to a machine shop, saving customers time and money on brake jobs. He can repair brakes on most any model automobile.

This likeable mechanic has an impressive collection of tool boxes filled with all manner of tools he's accumulated over the years, enabling him to take care of whatever job comes into the shop. Next time your car needs fixing, take a ride up Mountain Road to Thompson's big white garage. You'll be glad you did.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Bicycle Safety Presentation at School

Thursday, 6/10

4:31 p.m. Subject at station to report a lost travel document.

4:51 p.m. Erratic vehicle complaint on Gill-Montague Bridge.

5:50 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Lyons Hill Road.

Friday, 6/11

12:21 p.m. Report of suspicious activ-

ity at a Pisgah Mountain Road address.

1:00 p.m. Officer to elementary school for presentation on bicycle safety / helmets. Donated to students.

2:55 p.m. Animal complaint on Walnut Street. Dog running loose in neighborhood and barking at night.

4:15 p.m. Report of past suspicious activity at the elementary school.

Saturday, 6/12

3:36 p.m. Court process served on Boyle Road.

5:39 p.m. Report of a past disturbance on South Cross Road

Monday, 6/14

11:45 p.m. Report of a loud noise complaint at the state boat ramp on French King Hwy

Tuesday, 6/15

1:15 a.m. Alarm on Mount Hermon Campus.

12:10 p.m. Complaint of past loud noise on Oak Street taken at station.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Officials Tour Usher Mill Complex

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, June 7th, town administrator Tom Sharp convened a small troop of officials to visit the former Usher Mill on Arch Street, which was partially destroyed in an arson fire on July 30th, 2007. They did not have a hard time getting in.

The mill is owned by Patriots Environmental, a demolition and salvage company out of Worcester.

Since the arson fire, the town and Franklin County cooperative building inspector Jim Hawkins have repeatedly pleaded with and threatened Patriots Environmental to secure the site with a perimeter fence, and to clean up the property, which constitutes a public health hazard.

Despairing of that approach, at town meeting in May 5th, voters approved spending \$500,000 to enable the town to demolish the mill with the owner's cooperation or without it, and to place a lien on the property for the amount expended.

On June 7th, Sharp took selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo, town attorney Donna MacNicol, Tighe and Bond engineer Todd Brown, highway superintendent Paul Prest, concerned citizen Jeff Dubay and

Hawkins on a tour of the complex, which includes some buildings that are partially demolished or in the process of falling down, others that are still standing, and a great deal of loose bricks scattered everywhere.

Sharp said the party had no trouble crossing through a gap in the temporary fence to inspect the property. "I was surprised to see how many things of value had been taken away. It appears that was the major mission of Patriots Environmental," during the time they were active on site, immediately following the fire. Sharp said wooden beams and metal objects had been removed by the salvage company from buildings that were still standing.

Now, Sharp said, the town will rely on Tighe and Bond to work up a plan outlining next steps for the property, examine the structural integrity of surviving structures, and to answer the question of whether it would be cheaper for the town to demolish all the remaining buildings, or leave the ones in better shape standing. Sharp said Tighe and Bond would also research the constraints on redevelopment of the site posed by the Riverfront Act, and whether it would be advantageous to leave building

foundations or whole buildings in order to make redevelopment on the banks of the Millers River possible.

He said the town may contract with a design consultant to see what the options are for reuse of the property. Tighe and Bond will also complete an asbestos inventory. Two engineers were due on site on Tuesday to begin that survey, Sharp said.

"We plan to go out to bid by mid August and award a contract by early October. We hope to get it done this year," Sharp said.

On Thursday, June 17th, Sharp updated the rest of the selectboard on the conditions at the mill. The board also reviewed the warrant for a special town meeting that will take place on Thursday, June 24th at 7 p.m.

The meeting has been called to deal with allocating \$60,000 the assessors have identified as new growth from the installation of new equipment at the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility, available for spending in the current fiscal year.

The selectboard and finance committee agreed to recommend spending \$7,000 to purchase four defibrillators for each of the town's police cruisers; \$22,000 to purchase a four-wheel, tracked vehicle with trailer and accessories known as a Gator, to be stored at the Erving Center fire station and available for all terrain search and rescue type operations or firefighting for both the

police and fire departments.

The warrant will also include articles asking to add \$10,000 to the finance committee's \$30,000 reserve fund, to deal with unanticipated contingencies. The proposal to add money to this fund was made following a busy month for the fire department, which fought three forest fires in May.

The remaining \$21,000 would go to stabilization, Sharp said.

Erving Paper's CEO Morris Housen, his chief financial officer Denis Emmett, and Erving Paper's general manager Tom Newton met with the board to discuss a possible renegotiation of the current five year contract governing payments to Erving for the town's share of revenue from third party waste haulers using the town owned, paper mill run waste water treatment plant in Erving Center.

For the last five years, Erving has taken in \$150,000 per year from this contract.

Erving Paper Mill is currently operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and has in recent months laid off some workers.

Sentiment has been expressed at town meeting this year for the selectboard to renegotiate the third party waste hauling contract at more favorable terms for the paper mill, in order to help save jobs at the company.

"The board listened, and seemed sympathetic," to the paper company officials, said Sharp.

Sharp said, "In spite of the difficulties that arise from working under the constraints of Chapter 11, they have avoided Chapter 7

receivership. They have renegotiated contracts with their unions and major creditors. Mr. Housen seemed optimistic. Plant manager Tom Newton said it's a tough time in a tough market, where profit margins have declined since four and a half years ago. But the company is optimistic they will pull through."

The board will discuss the matter with their lawyer on June 17th.

The board also signed a purchase order for \$4420 to purchase security cameras for town hall.

Defund the Wars, not Social Security

Brown bag lunch vigils at 100 Congressional representatives' local offices on Wednesday, June 16th, carried the message: "Hands off Medicare and Social Security." Organizer and national director of Progressive Democrats of America Tim Carpenter said, "Cuts to Medicare and Social Security will not balance the budget, but ending the wars assuredly will."

The vigils came as the House of Representatives is considering passage of an additional \$33.5 billion to escalate the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. economy is faltering, and a presidential commission is working on what most observers expect will be a proposal to slash Social Security and Medicare. "This is not a debate over the size of our government," said Carpenter, "but over what we will use our government for -

killing or saving lives."

Brown bag vigils have been ongoing since January, on the third Wednesday of the month.

Brownbaggers are asking members of the House to publicly commit to voting No on any bills that fund wars, to publicly urge their colleagues and the House leadership to make the same commitment, and to protect Medicare and Social Security. This position necessarily includes opposition to the proposed \$33.5 billion supplemental expected in the coming days to fund an escalation of the war in Afghanistan.

Congress members' commitments are tracked at <http://defundwar.org>

Complete information on Brown Bag Vigils is available online: <http://tinyurl.com/brown-bagvigil>.

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JOE GRAVELINE

Gill-Montague Bridge Progress Report



PARZYCH PHOTO
SPS TF-G Concrete Poured

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH Repairing Deteriorated Concrete

SPS New England's crew is tackling the job of renovating the Gill-Montague Bridge from all directions. Crews are jack hammering deteriorated concrete on abutments where the bike path passes under the bridge, and following up with concrete forms and pouring concrete on the south side of the bike path.

Installing Guardrail

Up on top, SPS workers removed the Jersey barriers,

cleaned up years of winter sand surrounding them and have drilled holes in the curb, below the sidewalk, for anchor bolts to hold down two foot tall I-beams for a future guardrail. SPS will remove the Jersey barriers on the sidewalk side once the guard rail is in place, allowing more room in the northbound lane for one way traffic, while eliminating a great deal of weight.

Moving Jersey Barriers

Once the bridge becomes one-way into Turners Falls via the northbound lane, SPS will move the Jersey barriers on the

west side of the bridge into the center of the bridge to wall off traffic during demolition and replacement of that half of the bridge deck.

Work Platform and Shrouding Started

Meanwhile, work progresses on the Gill end beneath the deck. Mimosa has a section of work platform in place and canvas tarps hung to accommodate "minus air pressure" (partial vacuum) that will suck out lead and dust as All Set's crew "sand-blasts" the superstructure with steel shot.

TROPHY from pg 1

when the inning started.

Some Turners fans were heard to say, "That's the ballgame," when Ware catcher Amanda Pierce smacked a triple with the bases loaded into deep right field, scoring three. But pitcher Emily Mailloux got Turners out of that miserable inning with a strike out and a pop up to left, and Turners came back fighting in the bottom of the inning.

Ware was giddy with elation. Turners grim with determination. Dakota Smith-Porter popped out to the shortstop. Then first basewoman Katie Rinaldi stepped to the plate and socked a triple to deep right field. Turners fans began to breathe again.

Stacey French popped out to third, and hope began to fade, until Brittany York, a pinch hitter who knows how to get a solid hit in a pinch strode to the plate and doubled to left field, bringing in the runner. Stephanie French followed in her twin sister's footsteps, and popped out to retire the side, with Ware leading 4-2 going into the seventh and per-

haps final inning of the season for Turners.

Mailloux mowed down the lead batter, swinging. A ground out to second was followed directly by a line drive over third, and Smith-Porter made a sweet catch, running full tilt to haul in the third crucial out.

Turners at bat in the bottom of the seventh. Down by two. Prayers were rising to the heavens from the Turners stands. Coach Mullins stared at the ground.

A pitcher's duel between Meaghan Swarts, on the mound for Ware, and Mailloux, at the plate for Turners. Swarts lost that battle, giving up four balls in a row to let Mailloux take her base.

Emma Butynski chipped a single over second. Hannah Bellows went down swinging, one, two, three. Two on, one out, the title on the line, and catcher Elysia Ollari strolled to the plate.

Ollari fouled three away, then failed to connect on her next swing. One out away from misery and defeat.

see TROPHY pg 9



Highlighted in red is the Trail section of the Bill Rivers Conservation Area and Trails, which extends further to the east.

Dedication of Bill Rivers Conservation Area and Trails

Saturday, June 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. there will be a dedication, including a ribbon cutting, of the Bill Rivers Conservation Area and Trails held at Leverett Library, at the new kiosk, and in the community room if it is raining. Following, there will be refreshments in the Community Room and self-guided tours of the wildflower meadows and trails. People will be available

to answer questions and provide informal discussion on these projects. Maps of the trails will also be available.

Bill Rivers was the chair of the Leverett Conservation Commission for many years. After he became ill with cancer, he drew up plans for all of the plantings around the library; most conspicuous at the moment are the wildflower meadows. When the

Town purchased the hillside behind the Leverett Elementary School, it was decided that it would be dedicated to Bill Rivers. Maps will be distributed and hikers encouraged to try the trails. This project was financed through a Community Preservation grant that Bill Rivers wrote.

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Diamond Dusters Repeat Softball Champs!



Montague Diamond Dusters 2010 Small Towns Softball League Champions:

Players (l to r) Front: Amanda Savinski, Maddie Currier Middle: Anna Kochan, Maddie Johnson, Chloe Ellis, Samantha Bocon, Claudia Danford, Tess Hunter, Hailey Morgan, Aliyah Sanders, Reagan Fiske, Jordyn Fiske. Back: Michelle Leb, Asst. Coach Bob Adams, Coach Lisa Adams. Not pictured: Hannah Adams

TROPHY from page 8

Dakota Smith-Porter admitted later, "I haven't been hitting very well lately." But everyone promptly forgave her when she powered the ball deep into left center to score the runners and tie the ball game. Mark Sullivan, who is not known for excessive caution coaching third, made the right call waving Butynski around to home. She barely slid in beneath the throw, and Smith-Porter took third to deafening cheers. Rinaldi followed up with a drive to shallow left, snatched from mid-air by Ware's hard charging shortstop Molly Pulchtopek, to save the day for the opposing team.

The two teams battled back and forth through the eighth and ninth innings, with neither able to gain the upper hand.

Ware got a runner on, Kelsey Hobson, in the top of the eighth, after Waldron bobbled a sharp grounder and threw to first too late. She took second on a sacrifice, but Ollari made a great play, pegging a perfect throw on a 2 and 0 pitch to Butynski to

catch the runner trying to steal third.

Turners, then Ware, then Turners again went down in order in the bottom of the eighth, and then the ninth, as the pressure gauge was rising in the bleachers and the dugouts.

Saturday's rain delay and scoreless innings were long since forgotten as Ware led off the seventh full inning of play on Monday, with the Ware fans screaming for victory. Swarts popped up to her rival, Mailloux, on the mound. One away.

Robidoux was aiming for right field with a sharp grounder, but Rinaldi dashed to the left to deny her, making the play at first unassisted.

Then Toni Stewart found a hole in Waldron's glove, taking first on an error, and then (barely) stealing second. And suddenly, with two down, Ware had a base runner in scoring position. But Mailloux bore down, forcing the next batter into a feeble grounder back to the mound on an 0-2 pitch to retire the side. The worm had turned.

In the bottom of the tenth, Ollari went down swinging. But Swarts did not find Smith-Porter so easy to dispatch. She singled to center, and followed that up by stealing second. Rinaldi hit a long fly ball to left, and the heart of every Turners fan leaped. So did Ware left fielder Sydney Simons. Two away.

Stacey French made it look

BY STEVE ELLIS

TURNERS FALLS - The big news this week is the Turners Falls varsity girls softball team repeat win as Division III high school champions, but this article is focused on the next generation of diamond stars.

Like the varsity girls from Turners Falls High, the Montague Diamond Dusters have made a regular habit of capturing their own (grades 3-6) Small Towns League championship, a trend they continued this past Sunday at Unity Park.

Led by coach Lisa Adams and riding the arm of 11-year old Jordyn Fiske, the Dusters downed the formidable and previously undefeated Erving Wildcats 4-3 in an intense and well played semi-final match-up.

Both Fiske and Erving starter Jessica Lloynd fanned 14 batters. Chloe Ellis got two and Amanda Savinski got one more of the Dusters' three very timely hits. For the Wildcats, Rachel Waldron ripped a first inning triple and followed up with a single later in the game; while Lloynd and Sydney Upham each added a hit.

The Diamond Dusters then faced the Northfield Cobras, 24-14 winners over Hinsdale in the other semi-final match up.

The Cobras drew first blood, scratching out a first inning run, which was countered by a two-run second inning by the Dusters. By the middle of the third, it was a tense and well played 2-1 game, but then the home team Dusters got their potent bats going, pushing five runs across the plate against the Cobras' fine starter, Bonnie Couper-Kiablick. The Dusters extended the lead to the final score of 11-1 in the fifth.

Fiske completed a combined one-hitter with Amanda Savinski by notching her 12th strikeout.

Offensively, a balanced attack was led by Fiske (2 hits, 4 RBIs), Aliyah Sanders (3 hits) and Claudia Danford (2 hits). Grace Hoisington accounted for Northfield's one hit.

The Diamond Dusters team would like to thank their coaching staff, their fans, and the Montague Parks and Recreation Department for a wonderful season.

easy, in the end, with a shallow pop fly to center field. Ware had been playing her deep. The secondbasewoman, Callie Horgan, ran back. The center fielder, Jessica Daley, ran forward. But French dropped the ball smack in between them, scoring Smith-Porter, and the Turners team claimed the Western Mass trophy to resounding whoops of

joy. "I was so nervous," said Mailloux after it was all over. That was the longest game I've ever played in my life. Those are the games I love to play. There's so much pressure! I was so nervous. But I knew our girls would come back, and they did. We are not a team that quits."



SEMI-FINALS from pg 1

batters in order in the second, fourth, and fifth innings. She struck out all three batters in the second, and needed just ten pitches to accomplish that feat.

Coming off their big tenth inning win against Ware to clinch the Western Mass trophy on Monday, less than 24 hours before Tuesday's game, Turners faced Murdock's strong, rested Central Division championship team under the unrelenting sun, and seemed to wilt.

Turners gave up two runs on two errors in the bottom of the first, and never recovered.

Still, it could have been worse. Turners pitcher Emily Mailloux personified her statement of the previous day: "This is a team that does not quit!" striking out six and getting 50% of Turners hits with a solid single up the middle in the third inning.

Hannah Bellows got the other hit for Turners in the seventh inning when the Murdock second basewoman seemed to be unable to find her well hit grounder after she snagged it in her glove, allowing her a lead-off single. But by that time Turners had slipped to a 5 - 0 deficit, allowing one run in the fourth and two in the fifth, as

Murdock hit the ball well to every corner of the field.

In the seventh inning, Howe struck out two of the last three batters, and pressured Dakota Smith Porter into a shallow pop fly, stranding the Turners runner on first and extinguishing hopes for a come from behind miracle for Turners.

There were no miracles in Worcester. Just tough luck, nerves, and an excellent fast ball the Turners squad just could not hit.



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COSTS from pg 1
 department's. But with the loss of community policing grant money, the department can no longer rely on outside funding to supplement the budget for part time officers' salaries, and the need for part timers is greater than in past years, when the department had three full time officers. There are no only two.

The fire department is seeking \$20,076 to retrofit airpicks to allow "buddy breathing" during rapid intervention scenarios, where firefighters are called on to rescue other firefighters inside a burning build-

ing. Other articles ask voters to approve a voluntary amendment to the state building code, called the stretch energy code, which mandates stricter performance standards for energy efficiency in new construction.

Voters will be asked to establish a capital improvements committee for the town of Gill.

The Gill-Montague school assessment request - \$1,410,359 - is up only about \$13,000 from last year.

However the omnibus budget for all town department's - \$1,327,359 - is up by \$59,134

from FY '10, or about 4.7%, driven largely by an increase of three students in Gill's enrollment at the Franklin County Tech School, accounting for a \$32,00 spike in the Tech School assessment for Gill. Added to that is a \$10,092 increase in trash and recycling hauling.

Still, Purington said, "If all the articles pass as recommended we still will have a balanced budget, without an override."

PLANNER from pg 1
 Mill in a way that is beneficial to the town," and helping the proposed Native American Park, "find its home" in town. However, Ramsey's appointment did not come with the unanimous approval of the selectboard, nor was it without controversy.

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother abstained from the vote, declaring, "I believe the selectboard is being deficient in our duties. My year of keeping my mouth shut ends. This is wrong."

Fairbrother was objecting to the hiring procedure, whereby the hiring committee, appointed by the selectboard, interviewed the top four candidates from a pool of applicants, and then recommended their top pick - Ramsey - to the board, without the board actually participating in the interviews of the top candidates. Fairbrother recalled a previous selection process for town planner Robin Sherman, during which the top candidates were interviewed by the selectboard prior to her final appointment.

Fairbrother said, "I am supposed to vote and I have no idea who the other candidates are, or what their qualifications are. This is wrong."

Chris Boutwell and Pat Allen voted in favor of Ramsey's appointment, at the pay scale of \$45,566 per year, a reduction from the rate of pay for the previous town planner, Dan Laroche, who received \$57,238 per year after coming to the town of Montague from years working in land conservation and town planning.

Fairbrother made it clear he was objected to the hiring process, not to Ramsey himself, with whom he said he has enjoyed a positive working relationship on the conservation commission.

Chair Allen said Fairbrother's objection to the lack of direct interviews by the board would be taken into account in future department head level hirings.

In other news, the selectboard signed a new contract with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for sludge hauling from the wastewater treatment plant, increas-

ing tipping fees from \$293 per ton last year to \$297 per ton for FY '11.

The selectboard approved a lease renewal for the Colle Opera House with the Northeast Foundation for Children for three years, at \$6,895 a month for the next two years, increasing to \$7,035 in year three. Abbondanzi said, "I am pleased to report the amount of revenue generated covers the cost of operating the building and allows us to build up a capital reserve fund for the building."

"And they're excellent tenants," added Allen.

The board approved blocking off East Main Street in Millers Falls on Saturday, June 26th, from 2- 4 p.m. to allow Miller's Pub to host Christina's Run, a motorcycle fundraiser for cancer research.

With the contingency that back taxes owed on the building at the corner of 4th and L by landlord Travis Ladoyt totaling \$8,714 were paid prior to the event, the board grant La Bodega owner Mark Canon permission to hold a first anniversary celebration for the bodega on Sunday, July 11th, with an outdoor DJ and free food, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fairbrother voted against the permit.

After a lengthy discussion about the noise level and direction of music from an outdoor speaker Canon said he keeps on to provide atmosphere for patio dining during regular business hours at the bodega, even noting a neighbor's complaint about the noise level of a small bell placed on the screen door of the bodega to alert workers to patrons entering the store, Canon agreed to be more considerate to noise concerns in the residential neighborhood in future.

In a separate agenda item, Allen praised organizers for a successful Water Under the Bridge music festival which took place last weekend, including musical acts across town at eleven locations, some of which played outdoors late into the evening.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is administering deferred payment loans on behalf of the Town of Leverett.

Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$35,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property.

The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance. Examples of eligible work include: Roof replacement, foundation repairs, electrical and plumbing, windows, wells, septic replacement and much more!

Homeowners must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$43,800.00
2	\$50,050.00
3	\$56,300.00
4	\$62,550.00
5	\$67,600.00
6	\$72,600.00
7	\$77,600.00
8	\$82,600.00

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Notes from Leverett Special Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Wednesday, about 50 voters gathered in the community room of the Leverett Elementary School to consider just a special town meeting warrant with just four articles, three of which related to the town's energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies. Even so, the meeting went on for an hour and a half, with voters closely questioning every angle of the deal with Siemens, before finally approving all three articles with only a smattering of dissenting votes.

The town will take \$300,000 out of

stabilization to fund energy improvements at four town buildings - primarily the town hall and elementary school, with minor weather stripping at the library and safety complex. Leverett will contract with Siemens to perform the upgrades, which include replacing two old boilers at town hall, installing new insulated ductwork, insulating the attic and walls and sills of that building, and replacing motors, drives, lighting and controls at the elementary school. Siemens will guarantee energy savings at the buildings, and the town will repay stabilization from annual reductions in heating and lighting

costs over the course of 20 years, or less, according to project manager Roland Butzke.

Additionally, the town has received \$150,000 grant from the state Department of Energy Resources to pay down the work at town hall, specifically the furnace replacement. Leverett also expects to receive about \$15,000 in rebates to pay down the cost of lighting upgrades.

The final article, also approved, allows the town to take \$26,777 out of stabilization to pay an increase in the cost of health insurance for two school employees.

Free Workshop on

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10 a.m. to 12 noon, Community Room at 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls


Please come and join Yellow Hawk's Dream Catcher work shop. Seating is limited to 15 and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Yellow Hawk will share his background information on the art of Dream Catchers and provide the materials for each participant to create their own masterpieces. Light refreshments provided. Call (413) 863-4316 to reserve seating.

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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. 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 or to answer any questions. 413-863-4542

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline

- 5 Ways to Be Water Wise**
1. Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow drip can waste up to 20 gallons a day.
 2. Avoid unnecessary flushing. Check toilets for leaks—put a bit of food coloring in the tank, wait a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. If so, most likely the flapper needs replacing. This is a silent leak and it is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day.
 3. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you brush your teeth and also while shaving.
 4. A five minute shower or about five inches of water in the tub is plenty.
 5. Most importantly, water your lawn and garden with good sense. Do it early or late, not in midday heat.

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 @ 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 towns hazardous waste collection sites.

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Annual Meeting
of the
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Water Quality Report
Reporting Year—2009
July 2010



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Massachusetts Department
of Environmental Protection
1-413-784-1100

INVESTIGATION from pg 5 either support or refute the allegation and report back to the review board, where a determination will be made."

"We take this very seriously," said Dupont. "We've obviously left Father DiMascola in an unusual position, to say the least."

Attempts to reach Murphy and DiMascola before press time were unsuccessful. DiMascola has reportedly moved out of the rectory into a family home while the investigation proceeds.

Dupont's statement concluded by saying Bishop Timothy

MacDonald "reminds anyone with knowledge of any improprieties to call the diocesan hotline (800-842-9055)."

Dupont said DiMascola "enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the congregation."

That may be putting it mildly. When asked about DiMascola being put on leave, parishoner Irene Klepado said, "When I heard about it in church I was devastated. I was in tears. I just don't understand. It is despicable that someone could do something like this to someone who is so caring and giving. People don't know how giving he is. Why are

they dragging it out? They said it's not sexual but boundaries. The diocese doesn't cross boundaries. What are these boundaries? I'm going to cry just talking about it."

Former state representative Walter Kostanski who lives in Turners Falls said, "I don't belong to that church [Czestochowa], but when I was in the hospital, Father DiMascola came to visit me just the same. He's a great guy. I just don't understand what it's all about."

Wanda Kozloski said, "The church has been packed at every Mass ever since Father went away. Everyone's praying for

him. We're all devastated. Men and women were crying. There's not a person in church he hasn't helped in some way. He visited

people in the hospital whether they were from our church or not. The Franklin Medical Hospital always calls him



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Report of Road Rage on French King Highway

Thursday, 6/3
 2:33 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering on Pisgah Mountain Road.
 4:15 p.m. Assisted citizen with keys locked in motor vehicle on Main Road.
Saturday, 6/5
 1:55 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a field off of Main Road. juvenile matter. Checked area, unable to locate.
 6:20 p.m. Report of subjects arguing in a vehicle on French King Highway, near Gill lights. Unable to locate involved subjects.
Sunday, 6/8
 7:25 a.m. Report of a suspicious person in a

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Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.) 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 from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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 operation and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants** such as salts and metals which can be naturally-occurring or results from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities. **In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, the MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Turners Falls Water 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 the IOC and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP Standards.

2009 Water Quality Testing Results

Lead & Copper Testing

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. Turners Falls Water Department is 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. On July 18, 2007 the TFWD sampled 30 homes for Lead and Copper. Again our results are below the Lead & Copper rule action levels. Our next round of Lead & Copper samples will be due the 3rd quarter of 2010.

Substance	Date Collected	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of sites above action level	Likely Source
Lead	7/18/07	15 ppb	0	1.7 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	7/18/07	1.3 ppm	1.3	.0446 ppm	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

Definitions
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):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.
Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
90th Percentile-Out of every 10 homes sampled-9 were at or below this level.
ppm-parts per million **ppb-**parts per billion

What is a Cross Connection and What Can I do About it?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, say you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (perhaps because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem. The Turners Falls Water Department recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. There is a limited supply available at the Water Department office. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact Superintendent Mike Brown @ the Turners Falls Water Department 863-4542.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. I am petrified of spiders. Is my fear justified? Are they dangerous or just creepy?

Spiders are not aggressive. They bite you only in self defense.

Most bites by spiders are harmless. However, there are dangerous spiders. Spider bites are responsible for fewer than three deaths a year in the United States.

Spider bites have caused people to have limbs amputated. These victims refused to get medical remedies early and suffered from large wounds that became infected.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Arachnophobia Debunked

Spiders do not attack in packs. They don't get into bed with you and bite you in your sleep. Spiders like to be left alone in crannies where they snare insects without intrusion.

There are at least 50,000 spider species. Spiders are defined as having eight jointed legs, no wings, no antennae and only two body sections. Spiders spend their entire lives capturing and eating insects.

All spiders deliver venom to their victims through fangs. The fangs of most spiders are either too short or too fragile to penetrate human skin.

The most dangerous spiders to humans are the black widow and brown recluse.

The black widow spider is from one-half inch to one inch long. It is shiny and deep black

with an hourglass-shaped mark on its belly. The mark is red or orange.

Black widow spiders live in dark places such as closets and woodpiles. Only the female spider is dangerous to humans.

These spiders are found throughout North America, but are most common in the southern and western areas of the United States.

Seniors, young children and people with high blood pressure are at highest risk of developing symptoms from a black widow spider bite, which looks like a red ring.

Symptoms include severe cramps, weakness, headache, anxiety, itching, nausea, vomiting and difficult breathing.

If muscle cramps develop, take the patient to the nearest hospital. Medications are used to treat the cramps, spasms and pain of a bite. Antivenom is given for severe poisoning.

The brown recluse spider, also known as the violin or fiddleback spider, is common in the midwestern and southern states. It is brown with a dark violin-shaped marking on its head. This spider is about a half-inch long and is light brown.

Brown recluse spiders are usually found underneath logs, rock piles and leaves. If these spiders wander indoors, they hide in dark closets, shoes, or attics.

A fluid-filled blister forms at the site of the bite and then drops off to leave an expanding ulcer. This injury requires professional medical attention. Other possible symptoms include mild fever, rash, nausea

and fatigue.

There is no special treatment or medication used for a bite from a brown recluse spider. If infection develops, antibiotics are used.

There are other spiders that can produce bite wounds like the bite of the brown recluse. Some of these are the hobo spider, running spider, jumping spider, wolf spider, tarantula, sac spider and orb weaver spider.

What looks like a spider bite may have been caused by kissing bugs, fleas, bed bugs, flies, mites, wasps, ants and blister beetles. In addition, a so-called spider bite might be caused by herpes, bedsores, diabetic ulcers, poison oak or Lyme disease.

General first-aid treatment for spider bites includes cleaning the wound, icing the bite to reduce pain, and elevating the wound site if possible.

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

AMBULANCE from pg 1

If, hypothetically, FY'11 were the second year of operation, the estimated income would be \$259,000, Allen said.

During the beginning of the

operation, the ambulance service will still be working with BHA. While firefighters have been serving as EMTs since the 1990s and operate at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level, they are not trained as paramedics,

who can legally administer drugs, work the EKG monitor and perform advanced airway techniques.

The expenses for paramedic care from Baystate Health Ambulance Service are

unknown.

Within 12-15 months Allen said he hoped the TFFD will have generated enough revenue through the ambulance service to hire three to four paramedics and receive an Advanced Life Support (ALS) license from the state. This would lead to independence from Baystate Health Ambulance, and consequently billing to TFFD from ambulance calls would be reimbursed at a higher rate.

Allen also stated no hires would be made until he was certain the revenue stream would afford it. He said conservative numbers were used for the estimates.

A question was directed at Allen regarding the feasibility of hiring paramedics on a firefighter's salary. He responded by pointing out that much overtime was also earned by firefighters and would be earned by the newly hired paramedics. Furthermore, trained paramedics would be receiving a pay increase of 6% over an ordinary firefighter's increase of 2%.

Concerns were also raised

by attendees about the impact of communities dropping the BHA service on Franklin County as a whole. Baystate is "committed to Franklin County," but as it is expensive to run a paramedic service, communities dropping their service may lead to increased rates for intercepts and a cut down on the number of ambulances in service.

The next step for the prudential committee's proposal would be to negotiate with the union and see if they are willing to continue supporting this project even if it does not reach the increased staff size of four extra paramedics they would like in the 12-15 month period. Following this, the committee will seek approval from the fire district and then take it to the selectboard.

It will then be up to the selectmen to make a decision. According to Allen, the selectboard will probably take the proposal to town meeting, and there may be a town-wide vote

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Brush Fires, Threats, Vandalism

Tuesday, 6/8

10:30 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 6/9

9:27 a.m. Report of an assault at a Third Street address.

11:18 a.m. Report of larceny at a Park Street address.

1:51 p.m. Report of a brush fire, possibly in the Montague Plains area. Referred to other agency.

5:12 p.m. Report of an animal bite at a Federal Street address. Referred to other agency.

6:13 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Salvation Army bin by Scotty's Convenience Store on Unity Street. Services rendered.

9:23 p.m. Report of a

domestic disturbance at an L Street address. Services rendered.

Thursday, 6/10

3:35 p.m. Report of vandalism at Franklin County Technical School. Referred to an officer.

5:31 p.m. Report of a brush fire between Rait's Towing Service and The Montague Bookmill. Services rendered.

7:01 p.m. Officer initiated arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.

7:35 p.m. Report of larceny at a Fourth Street address.

9:47 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Investigated.

Friday, 6/11

10:15 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle disturbance in

the area of Randall Road and Greenfield Road. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, revoked registration and without insurance.

7:16 p.m. Report of larceny at a Seventh Street address. Services rendered.

7:57 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an East Main Street address. Services rendered.

7:59 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Millers Falls Road address.

9:04 p.m. Report of threatening/harassment at an East Main Street address. Advised of options.

Saturday, 6/12

1:09 a.m. Report of motor vehicle theft at a Norman Circle address. Unable to locate.

1:30 a.m. Report of vandal-

ism at Millers Pub on East Main Street. Investigated.

10:28 a.m. Report of vandalism at Smiaroski Farm cornfield on Meadow Road. Services rendered.

5:34 p.m. Report of larceny at a G Street address.

Sunday, 6/13

5:49 p.m. Report of threatening/harassment at a Fifth Street address. Services rendered.

9:03 p.m. Report of threatening/harassment at an East Main Street address. Advised of options.


Monday, 6/14

12:03 a.m. Report of a fraudulent phone call at Franklin Street address.

1:12 p.m. Report of larceny at a Third Street address. Investigated.

10:53 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Randall Road address. Investigated.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 16: Sneaky Shingles

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER

Staring out at their swimming pool, contemplating the implications of the electricity challenge, the Bartletts looked glum. Gerry Bartlett had their full attention as he shared what he'd discovered when he'd plugged each appliance into a watt-hour meter to see how many kilowatt hours it used.

"Our situation is grim. We use electricity for our backup heat. We have four TVs, including the new plasma. We have three computers, we have a hot tub, a large chest freezer, and our hot water is electric. And we're in the middle of a heat wave so our central air conditioning alone is using up a tremendous amount of kilowatt

hours. All told, our electric bill shows we're using over 2,500 kilowatt hours a month. I admit, I hadn't expected it to be that high."

"This sucks." Jayden muttered. "Why can't we just get rid of some of this stuff?"

"Jayden," her mother snapped, "What do you suggest—give our TVs to Goodwill? Speaking for myself, I can't see anything that we can do that will make enough of a difference to win when we're up against the Radical Robbins-Levines. Emily Woo told me they're actually unplugging their appliances!"

"We could stop air conditioning some of our rooms, at least?" suggested Jayden. This idea was greeted by a cold silence.

"Couldn't we, like, get a gas generator or something?" asked

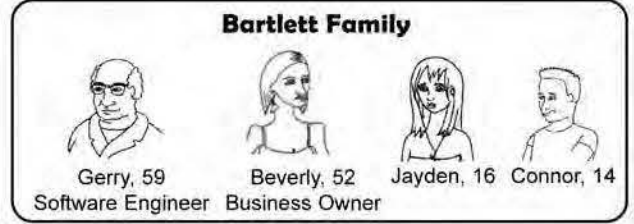
Connor.

"Absolutely not. Too noisy and smelly" answered his mother.

After a long pause, Gerry spoke. "Connor, you've got me thinking now about another source of electricity—solar. I've got a friend at Venture Solar who knows a lot about photovoltaics—I think I'll give him a call to pick his brain." Gerry whipped out his iPhone and walked into his study.

An hour later, Gerry called his wife and children back into the kitchen. He looked decidedly upbeat.

"Here's what I learned:



Bartlett Family
Gerry, 59 Software Engineer Beverly, 52 Business Owner Jayden, 16 Connor, 14

Venture Solar can install a new roof with solar photovoltaic roof shingles that will look almost identical to asphalt roof. As luck would have it, our house and garage roofs both have perfect south-facing exposures! The electricity generated by the panels will supply most of what we need, and knock our electric bill way down. I think I could even do the wiring myself. It won't be cheap, though—they're estimat-

ing around \$45,000 for the system."

"But dad, isn't the whole idea to conserve electricity—not just replace one system with another? And is it legal for you to hook it up yourself?" Jayden asked.

"Who has to know?" Gerry replied. "The judges will only be looking at our electricity bill."

Continued next issue...

Third Annual Peskeomskut Park Music & Arts Festival

TURNERS FALLS - The Peskeomskut Park Music & Arts Festival is a community building, fundraising event to benefit The Shea Theater, a non-profit 501(c3). The festival takes place Saturday, July 10th beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will feature a full schedule of live bands, the Peske Park Craft Fair (with 30+ artisans from all over New England), the "Re-Cycle" bike sale, a book and plant sale, performances by The New England Center for Circus Arts, performances by the Shea Theater Resident Companies & Valley Idol Winners, interactive art installations as part of the Shea Theater's "Art In The Park", a beverage garden from

Berkshire Brewing Company, food from area restaurants as well as Texas BBQ and vegetarian offerings.

Admission to the festival is free and donations are accepted. For more information and schedule go to: www.peskeparkfest.com.

The money raised from this festival helps support the "Performances for Young People Series". The PYPS are live theater, music and dance that are performed for public school children across Western Massachusetts. Tickets for the shows are offered for free or at reduced rates.

Shall We Forever Triumph over Nature?

BY ANA KNIAZEVA

MONTAGUE CENTER

Summer is here - rains pour, plants sprout up uncontrollably. These natural processes, in combination with the economic downturn, have led to complaints about the state of local cemeteries - specifically in Gill.

There is somewhat of a controversy concerning cemeteries and their upkeep. One school of thought suggests it is better to allow grass and other plants to grow rampantly over the grave-stones and resting places of our buried friends and relatives. Others maintain graves should be kept neat, tidy and uniform.

Proponents of both positions have a valid viewpoint.

Allowing plants to grow unregulated symbolizes humanity's final unity with nature. You may recall this quote from The Lion King: "When we die our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass. So we are all connected in the Great Circle of Life." For even as our deaths give birth to new life, we continue to live.

Yet in conceding nature her freedom, the living could face accusations of neglect and forgetfulness. Tending to the grave-stones and surroundings of the final resting places of our loved

ones has the ritualistic and symbolic aspect of standing up straight and proclaiming: "We remember. We will always remember and we will always care."

Ultimately the bigger question comes down to this: Do we wish to, in death, live on through the beauty around us and affirm that we are indeed a part of nature? Or do we want to, after we die, have our friends and relatives continue humanity's technological triumph over nature, in order to ensure that they remember us, not only in mind, but in deed as well?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Rash of Thefts Around Town

Friday, 5/28

11:05 p.m. Report of a loud party on Wren Gould Road. All quiet on arrival.

Sunday, 6/6

3:15 p.m. Wendell Depot Road resident reported items stolen from her car the previous night. Items taken: prescription sunglasses, change, tape connector, flip-up sunglasses. Saturday, 6/12 7:15 a.m.

Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station broken into between 6/9 and 6/12. Tools taken.

Monday, 6/14

9:25 p.m. Report of fireworks coming from the vicinity of the town garage. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 6/15

1:23 p.m. Caretaker at Maple Valley School property reported a large commercial grill taken from the building sometime in the last two weeks.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Party Broken Up, Assist Other Police

Tuesday, 6/8

1:30 p.m. Welfare check on a Moore Street resident.

Wednesday, 6/9

1:44 a.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant, found to be after-hours party. All subjects removed.

9:45 a.m. Medical emergency at a Lillian's Way address. Assisted same.

10:07 a.m. Report of a tree hanging over the wires near Prospect Street. Assisted Mass Highway department

with removal.

12:40 p.m. Medical emergency at a Lillian's Way address. Assisted same, Baystate Health ambulance transported subject.

Friday, 6/11

11:20 a.m. Assisted Montague police with an arrest on Millers Falls Road.

6:11 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with an intoxicated male subject at Crumpin-Fox Club. Subject removed by a sober individual.

Saturday, 6/12

4:34 a.m. One-car motor vehicle crash without injury on Route 2A near Orange town line.

Sunday, 6/13

2:15 p.m. Assisted Montague police with an out-of-control male subject on Wendell Road. Same transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

9:14 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Prospect Street. Stood by with vehicle until tow truck arrived.

TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT
will be flushing hydrants the week of June 21st to 25th

MONTAGUE DPW
Starting Monday, June 21st, drainage construction will begin on First Street and in front of Town Hall. This work will last approximately one month. Traffic delays can be expected during this time. If the normal parking at Town Hall is not accessible, parking is available behind Town Hall with handicap spaces available and elevator usage inside the back entrance.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, will be reading at the Rendezvous at 4 p.m. He'll be reading from his new books *Leave Me Hidden* (Marick Press 2010), as well as from some new prose and other recent books.



Franz Wright, winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry reading as part of the Slope Editions series at the Rendezvous on Sunday, June 20th at 4 p.m.

classic Irish Seisiun music and potluck. at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. \$5 - \$10 donation. BYO food and beverage of choice to share. A Friends of the Montague Grange sponsored event, part of a multi-year fundraising effort to repair and rejuvenate the 175-year old hall.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love, '60s & '70's covers, 9 to 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *An Irish Session*, Amanda Bernhard & Jonathan Hohl Kennedy host this evening of celtic favorites, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 21st
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO, 8 p.m. free

TUESDAY, JUNE 22nd
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Free author event: Debra Greene, Ph.D. author of *Endless Energy: The Essential Guide to Energy Health*. Where does healing energy come from? Where does it go? How can you have more of it? 6 p.m. www.communityaction.info.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23th
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Old Time Musketry* & special guests. Drawing on the exuberant spirit of early jazz, the poignant melodies and soulful grooves of rock and folk music, the energy and spontaneity of free improvisation, and a willfully experimental attitude towards combining these elements into a unique vision of American music. \$5, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Ragged Glory*, Neil Young tribute band, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Children's Story Hour and Fish Craft, 11 to noon. Meet Ellie and Ollie Eel and learn of their Tale of a Fantastic Voyage. Learn about eels and make a craft. This is perfect for young children 4-8 years old and their parents.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, country & city blues guitar w/ vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, *Lenny's Lounge*, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25th
Irish Seisiun, live music, 7 to 10 p.m. A

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

SATURDAY, JUNE 26th
Book Singing at Himalayan Views, South Deerfield host Maureen Kennedy, local author of *The Path of Remembering: Who We Are and Why We're Here*, talk and book signing, 2 p.m. Her new book explores the evolving consciousness of our species, as we turn from limitation and struggle to creativity and joy, reminding us that our purpose is to become who we are so clearly that we shine in the world. Complimentary Tibetan momos served. (413) 665-5550/ www.tibetan-plaza.com.

ONGOING
In the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Leslie Cerie*, photography on display thru June.

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

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

Writers Wanted

The Montague Reporter is seeking to hire committed reporters to cover local school committee and selectboard meetings. If you aren't committed yet, we can get you committed. For details call (413) 863-8666.

Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

June 18th & 19th THEN SHE FOUND ME
Helen Hunt stars & directs this smart, quirky, honest character study of a middle-aged teacher whose husband leaves and adoptive mother dies in quick succession. She reunites with her "real" mother and falls in love w/the father of a student. Bette Midler, Matthew Broderick, Colin Firth. 2007. R. 100 min.

Music 1/2 hour before the movie
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- TOY STORY 3**
G in DTS sound
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- SHREK FOREVER AFTER**
in 3D PG
DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:20
- MARMADUKE** PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
- THE A-TEAM** PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
- THE KARATE KID**
PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
- GET HIM TO THE GREEK**
R in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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Friday, 6/18 9 to 11 p.m.
Nexus, Harmonic Eclectic Rock

Saturday, 6/19 9 to 11 p.m.
Kristen Ford Band, Indie Rock

Sunday, 6/20 8 to 10 p.m.
An Irish Session

Thursday, 6/21 8 to 10 p.m.
Larry Kopp, Country & City Blues Guitar

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SAT. 6/19 9:30 \$3
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MON. 6/21 8pm BINGO

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16th
Great Falls Farmers Market. On the lawn near the Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 2 to 6 p.m. Rain or shine every Wednesday.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17th
Shag at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls. Easy listening favorites from the 60s - 80s featuring all the songs you forgot you knew and are possibly too embarrassed to admit you liked. 7 - 9 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 18th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Brendan Hogan*, singer, songwriter, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, harmonic eclectic rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Watcher* CD release party with special guests *Spouse* and *Spanish for Hitchhiking*, 9:30 \$7 cover

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 18th & 19th

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Then She Found Me*, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m. Northampton resident Elinor Lipman, who wrote the



Andy Davis presents a concert of traditional folk songs and stories for all ages at the annual Friends of Gill Picnic on the Town Common, 10am - 1pm.

novel upon which the film is based will be at Saturday's show to discuss the book and film.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19th
The Montague Farm Cafe, a free family-friendly meal with activities (puppetry make'n'take, hiking, games, and live music) wellness offerings (physician, acupuncture, stress reduction), noon to 3 p.m. at the Montague Farm Zen House, 177 Ripley Rd, Montague. Transportation available. 367-5275/ Karen@zenpeacemakers.com.

Leverett Coop FLING! at the Village Coop, Leverett, 10 to 5 p.m. Live music featuring John Sheldon at noon, vendors welcome: \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door; kids set up for free. (Please bring your own table & shade). Info: Roxanna (413) 367-2084/ roxannakeen@earthlink.net.

Friends of Gill Picnic: All welcome! Town Common, 10am - 1pm. The Friends will be serving strawberry shortcakes, and the Gill Fire Department will be at the grill. Activities, Farmers Market and musician: Andy Davis present a concert of traditional folk songs and stories for all ages.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*, 2-steps, roots, 7 p.m.

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* (THE dance party) \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th
As part of the Slope Editions reading series, *Franz Wright*, winner of the 2004

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First Memorial Day Poetry Reading

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH WENDELL - The Deja Brew was jumping Sunday when upwards of a hundred people descended on the little town of Wendell and its general store, restaurant and bar for the First Annual Memorial Day Poetry Reading.

They came in sedans, SUVs, pickups and motorcycles. Some came on foot.

Poet and writer Paul Richmond was the prime mover and shaker of the event. In his welcoming speech he mentioned that there was but one bathroom. "So do your duty and be quick about it," he said. "Depending on the number, you are welcome to take a stroll in the woods, behind me, to find a tree in need of watering."

It proved to be a congenial gathering of poets; some dressed in tie dyed clothes, others, with tattoos, carried motorcycle helmets and wore engineers' boots, while some wore sandals or no shoes at all.

The poems were as varied as the poets' dress. Some poems

were short. Others disdained brevity.

Those who wanted to read put their names in a hat. M.C. Dina Stander drew five names at a time, announced them, and kept them in check with an egg timer. Stander gave readers a gentle gong to notify them they had just one minute to wrap it up, and a more vigorous gong to bring their reading to a halt.

Some poems were touching. Prize winning poet Laura Rodley, the first reader out of the chute, read a poem about a tree that had blown over, revealing several children's toys and a time capsule of assorted items enclosed in Saran wrap. A small pen knife was in the capsule along with a note that informed the finder that the knife had been used to carve a heart on the trunk of the tree, with the boy and his girlfriend's initials, inside the heart. Sure enough, the initials and heart were there. The boy, since grown, had not returned from serving in Vietnam, and unlike these mementos, his body was never found.

Paul Richmond read hilarious poems filled with sex, suggestion and innuendo that brought smiles, chuckles and applause from the appreciative audience.

A singer with a beautiful voice sang a cappella. Others read a series of short and shorter than short poems that also brought smiles and chuckles. A poet and her partner teamed up. While the poet read, her partner accompanied her on a saw played with a fiddle bow, to created wailing notes matching the mood of the spoken words.

With people sitting on blankets on the lawn and gathered in the shade, the reading took on the appearance of a biblical scene. The crowd ate and drank, as the kitchen crew performed miracles of bread and wine to feed the gathering, rendering the multitude more and more appreciative as the day wore on.



Laura Rodley

PARZYCH PHOTO

There was one prose reading, and no shaggy dog stories. However, there was a dog the color and size of a small bear. This dog clearly had an aversion to bathing judging from the strong wet dog odor even on a warm dry day. He was an equal opportunity creature, lumbering about from place to place shar-

ing the aroma, clamping shut the sinuses of all in close proximity, or even downwind of him. He clearly was a poetry aficionado with little interest in pursuing squirrels or even an attractive female canine. Lumbering about, listening to poetry and exuding odors from his shaggy body was more his style.

Montague Officer Honored by MADD

DEVENS - Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Massachusetts (MADD) recently honored over 30 Massachusetts state troopers, over 45 local police officers, five assistant district attorneys and ten local police departments for their commitment to enforcing drunk driving laws and keeping our roads safe at their sixth annual Drive for Life law enforcement recognition breakfast last month in Devens, MA.

Among the honorees was patrolman Christopher Lapointe of Montague. Officer Lapointe made 16 operating under the influence arrests in 2009.

This year's honorees combined to make over 3,000 drunk driving arrests - over eight per day - in 2009. The officers from Montague made over 46 drunk driving arrests in 2009.



Montague police officer Christopher LaPointe receives Drive for Life award

Drunk driving is the most frequently committed violent crime in the United States, affecting three out of every ten

Americans. In Massachusetts 124 people were killed in drunk driving crashes in 2008, representing 34% of all traffic fatalities in the Commonwealth.

"Keeping our roads safe is dangerous and thankless work," said David Delulii, MADD interim state executive director. "We consider the men and women of law enforcement everyday heroes. We are proud to honor officer Christopher Lapointe of the Montague police with Drive for Life award as a way of saying thank you for his commitment to enforcing our impaired driving laws."

Founded in 1980, MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. For more information about MADD call 800-633-6233.

Eleventh Annual World Peace and Prayer Day Monday, June 21st Summer Solstice at The Medicine Wheel, Montague

Come celebrate the summer solstice with prayers and ceremony for peace. Come anytime to offer prayers to the sacred fire - Dawn until Sundown. Noon Ceremony will be led by Mohawk Elder Peter Searching Owl.

- Sunrise Fire Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 a.m.
- 11 o'clock: Water Immersion Ritual at the waterfall
- Noon, Unity Peace Ceremony, Peter Searching Owl
- 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Talking Circle
- Sunset Closing Ceremony and Sing for Peace* at 7:00 p.m.

*Organized worldwide by www.SolsticeSingforPeace.com.

For Directions, Google the Montague Bookmill or call

Elliot at (917) 549-8329. This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Saturday June 19th 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gill Picnic on the Common

Food

- Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cold drinks and "famous fries" cooked by Gill Firemen's Association
- Strawberry Shortcake prepared by the Friends of Gill
- Cotton Candy served by the Gill PTO

Fun

- Music by Sam and Friends
- Farmers Market sponsored by the Gill Agricultural Commission
- Plant Sale
- Children's activities sponsored by the Gill Library

Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fun for the whole family. Rain or shine! In case of rain, events will be held in the church.

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