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JUNE 19, 2008

A Deluge of Nays Sinks Override

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - As thunder crashed and rain came pouring down, the Montague selectboard waited for news of the override results on Monday night. It wasn't long before results came dribbling in.

Assistant town clerk Mandy Hampp came upstairs to the second floor meeting room at about 7:45 p.m. with the tallies from Precinct 5 - downtown Turners - where the \$150,000 Proposition 2½ override to help fund the town's '09 operating budget passed by a narrow margin: 53 to 49. But she also brought results from Precinct 6 - Montague City and the Patch - where the margin was far more decisive, and predictive of the landslide of No votes that would soon bury any hope town officials may have harbored of raising new revenues by the oft tried, oft failed method of asking voters to voluntarily and permanently raise the levy limit on their property taxes.

Precinct 6 defeated the override 43 to 139.

The selectboard continued wrestling with their agenda for the evening, which included approving design bids with Weston and Sampson for \$64,000 for design of new sidewalks in various parts of town; \$39,000 of that amount will come from last year's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The sidewalks to be reconstructed are on Unity Street, 7th Street, Spring Street and Seventh Street in Turners Falls; Center Street and Union Avenue in Montague Center; and Grand Avenue in Millers Falls.

The board also agreed to continue employing the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to prepare and administer the town's CDBG application for next year, even as they await word on this year's grant request for \$700,000 to defray some of the cost of construction see **VERRIDE** pg12



TURNERS FALLS GIRLS STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPS AGAIN

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WORCESTER - The Turners Falls High School girls softball team has done it again, bringing home their fourth state championship title in five years, with a 2 - 1 victory over the West Bridgewater Wild Cats in

ten innings at Worcester State College on Saturday. For most of the game, it was a pitchers' duel between Turners hurler Dani Sullivan and her formidable rival Alyssa Williams, on the mound for West Bridgewater in the Division

III finals. After striking out not a single batter in Tuesday's play-off game against West Boylston. On Saturday she fanned nine, walked four, and gave up six hits. Williams, with her see **CHAMPS** pg 10

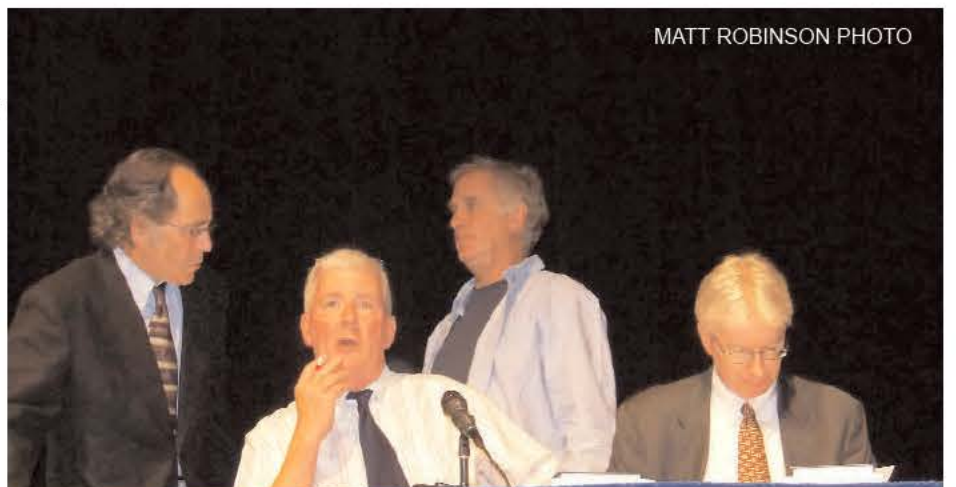
Beautifying the Ave



Gardeners from the Franklin County Home Care Corporation took over the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street on Wednesday, and didn't leave until every inch of the planter in front of Arnie's was tidied up, neatly mulched, and planted with a variety of perennials. (l-r) Deb Taylor, Anne Jemas, Margo Townley, and Karen Latka. If you would like a planter of your own to beautify, call Linda at 863-3214.

TOWN MEETING CUTS TOWN NURSE, POLICE CRUISER

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - A certain level of confusion reigned on stage at Montague's special town meeting on Tuesday, in the aftermath of the defeated override vote. Four or five competing proposals eventually came forward for dealing with the \$150,000 hole left in the budget after annual town meeting wrapped up its work on May 22nd. Town officials had hoped voters would approve an increase in the tax levy in the same amount, but on Monday those hopes were dashed by a 63.5% No vote on the override. This left members of the selectboard and finance committee vying for town meet-



MATT ROBINSON PHOTO

Town Meeting Time Out

Conflicting proposals led to procedural delays at Tuesday's town meeting. Still, moderator Ray Godin (center) got folks home by the 2nd quarter of the Celtics game. (Allen Ross, left, faces Jeff Singleton, right, while town counsel studies multiple amendments, far right.)

ing's support on a range of options, including across the board 2% cuts to most town departments. But in the end, town meeting agreed to adopt a middle path advocated by selectboard member Patricia Pruitt,

who spoke in favor of using an unanticipated \$70,000 windfall from a new pole tax (not the kind favored by Southern segregationists) from a new assessment recently see **MEETING** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Three's a Charm



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WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS
EFT Pain Relief Workshop

WENDELL - An "EFT Workshop for Pain and Relief" will be held with Holly Kines on Wednesday, June 25th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Library. The workshop is free.

EFT is an easily learned technique which can be applied to any emotional or physical ailment. The technique is based on the meridians and uses acupressure, a light tapping, to release blocked energy. It takes only a

few minutes to do and can be performed by a partner but is just as effective if you perform it on yourself. Many people find it effective in diminishing the effects of migraines. It can be used for everything from nervousness due to public speaking to insomnia to headaches. Kines will teach the basic technique and the library will have materials (DVD and pamphlet) if you wish further study.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
Wild Reads Story Hours

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Wild Reads Story Hours will be held at the Carnegie Library on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from June 17th - August 19th. Children's librarian Linda Hickman will run the wildly exciting story hours, which are designed for children in grades K-4. On June 17th, the theme will be Cats. On June 24th, Dawn Ward will present a program on Animal Builders at 10:30 a.m. On July 17th, the theme will be Dogs. On July 8th, the theme is the Wild West. On July 15th, it will be Knights and Princesses. Other themes will include pirates, sharks, dragons and big cats. There will be no session on August 5th. These

programs are part of the Wild Reads at Your Library Summer Reading Program. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

Animal Builders

Animal Builders, a hands-on science program, will be held at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, June 24th, at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to join environmental educator Dawn Ward for a fun look at beavers and other animals that build their own homes or habitats. Participants will build animal homes and habitats with natural objects. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.



1908 TEA PARTY
On June 17th actress Rita Parisi (left) led Montague seniors in a 1908 Tea Party at the Montague Senior Center. Ronnie LaChance was one of many who donned beautiful hats and enjoyed tea and sweets while Ms. Parisi recounted life in the early 1900s.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- June 23rd - 27th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

Monday, 23rd
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 24th
9:00 A.M. Walking Club.
1:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social at

the Quabbin Valley Healthcare Facility. \$2.00 per person Bus leaves senior center at 12:30 Program on Maintaining Memory.

Wednesday, 25th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 26th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 27th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m.

FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

Friday the 13th proved unlucky for a number of motorists who had stopped to gas up at Cumberland Farms, when the ansul system activated for no apparent reason in the middle of the afternoon, covering their cars with white powder. Across the street, the owners of Bob's Auto Body watched with amusement. "That's the third time it's happened!"

Gill Elementary Arts and Eats

BY JOE PARZYCH - The Gill Elementary School showcased their budding artists' work on Thursday night, June 5th, for the second annual Arts and Eats event. Paintings adorned school hallways and ceramic artwork labeled with students' names lay on cafeteria tables. Brightly decorated t-shirts hung on a line.

Outside, friends and family enjoyed a picnic with outgoing school principal William McDonald, decked out in a colorful new tie.

McDonald has an extensive collection, and wears a different tie each day. As a farewell gift, every class made McDonald a paper tie, signed by all the students in each class in appreciation of his tenure at the school.

Nancy Meagher, the teacher responsible for this outpouring of art, teaches art at Gill Elementary School on Thursdays. She serves as art teacher for all four Gill-Montague elementary schools. The tremendous display of art reflects the inspiration she instills

in her students. Also on hand to meet teachers and parents, was incoming principal Rita Detweiler, presently the school psychologist for the S.



PARZYCH PHOTO

Art teacher Nancy Meagher at the Gill Elementary Arts and Eats

Deerfield Elementary School. Two benches under a willow tree were dedicated with the words "In Memory of Sandy Kosterman and Lynn Clydesdale" on a brass plaque. Contrary to the inference of the word "memory," Kosterman assured guests they are both still much alive, just retiring after many years of teaching.

The benches were put to use recently as part of an outdoor classroom, during last week's 100+ degree weather.

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EARTH, *Wind* & SUN Fair a First for Montague

BY ALI URBAN

GREAT FALLS - Scores of people gathered on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center June 14th to learn about renewable energy at the Montague Earth Wind and Sun Fair, a kick-off event for the Montague Clean Energy Campaign.

"It was a 100 percent volunteer effort of neighbors getting together for a chance to make individuals aware of what they can do to lower our carbon emissions and reduce our dependence on foreign oil," explained Chris Mason, a member of the Montague Grange, the program's sponsor.

The solar fair aimed to encourage attendees to consider alternative energy sources, to make their homes greener and to inform about clean energy projects coming to Montague.

Here's how the Clean Energy Campaign works. A Montague household or business donates \$5 per month for one year, or makes a one-time \$100 contribution to the New England Wind Fund, an organization that promotes area wind power development.

In return, the Massachusetts

Technology Collaborative (MTC), a renewable energy trust, matches that donation twice. Organizations serving low-income Massachusetts residents receive \$100 toward renewable energy installations and energy efficient measures. What's more, for each new participant, \$100 is provided to Montague for clean energy projects in town, such as insulating buildings, buying energy-efficient light bulbs and installing solar panels on town buildings.

Mason added that this not only is a means to save taxpayers money, but it is also a solid investment in the future of the community, region and the world. And contributors seem to agree.

In the first day of the campaign, nearly 20 percent of the Montague Clean Energy Campaign's initial goal was reached. By April of next year, the goal is to have at least three percent of Montague households and businesses - about 109 participants - making qualifying contributions to the fund. That in turn will increase MTC's donation to the town of Montague from \$100 to \$150 for each \$100 donation, at least

a \$5,500 bonus.

According to 11-year-old volunteer Miette Muller, who was helping out at the fair on Saturday, three percent of Montague households can help make real progress.

"Even if a small number of people do something to help the environment, it will make a difference," she maintained.

At the fair, activities and workshops were available for children and adults to demonstrate alternative energy sources

and encourage individuals to lower their carbon footprints. White tents dotted the Discovery Center lawn contain-



Franca Wisniewski makes s'mores while she tests out a solar oven at the Montague Earth Wind and Sun Fair on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center June 14. The fair aimed to raise awareness about the Montague Clean Energy Campaign.

a bicycle to generate the power. She thought the demonstration "was a good idea," and noted the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling to help the environment.

Turners Falls resident Tim deChristopher was getting out for the biking season and came to the event for the free bike tune-up. He was impressed by the event. "Obviously, we're headed for disaster if we don't change our ways," he said. "It's a good start that localizes it right here on our sidewalks."

Other workshops included "Building a Green Home, a Personal and Practical Story," an information session about Montague's developing Energy Committee and a geo-tour to see

the past effects of climate change in Turners Falls, which, from the dinosaurs' point of view, was an unprecedented disaster. Let's hope we learn from history.

Mason believes this Clean Energy Campaign will not only provide residents with easily accessible alternatives to fossil fuel but will also further Montague's standing as a revitalized and progressive community.

"We have the unique opportunity (with the development of the Montague Clean Energy Campaign) to provide example and leadership to other communities," he said.

ing information from local business that promote solar energy and provide efficiently insulated windows.

For example, attendees were asked if they knew that 80 percent of the energy that goes into incandescent light bulbs does nothing more than generate heat, or that they could reduce heat loss through their windows by 75 percent by properly insulating them.

Solar ovens that reach about 150 degrees cooked s'mores, and visitors could make their own recyclable ovens to take home. Bella Lattanzi, 8, discovered how much energy it took to produce 600 watts of light for one minute using only

Father's Day Raffle



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO

Brava, a loyal friend of the Discovery Center, wishes she had won the kayak. Or at least the stuffed lion!

GREAT FALLS - The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center held the drawing for their annual kayak raffle on Father's Day at Barton Cove. The winner of the kayak, vest, paddle and stuffed lion is Mike Szeliga of Turners Falls

The Friends of the Discovery Center thank everyone who participated in the raffle. The proceeds will go towards supporting the programs and mission of the Discovery Center, which is now operating on a summer schedule of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. For more information on the center, visit www.greatfallsma.org or call 863-3221.

CORRECTIONS:

Last week (MR VI #36) in the article on the Gill Montague Regional School committee deciding to accept a five-year \$250,000 grant from the Mass Department of Public Health, with an escalating local match, to fund an administrative School Nurse Leader position, a reporting error led to an inaccurate count of the vote. The vote favoring accepting the grant was unanimous, not 8 - 1 as reported.

Also, due to a reporting error in the same issue, inaccurate arrest totals for the Gill police department were provided for the last three years. The correct arrest totals are as follows: for 2005: 52, for 2006: 69, for 2007: 49.

As of May 31st of this year, the Gill police have arrested 38. As of May 31st over the last three years, the Gill police had made 17 arrests in 2005, 27 in 2006, and 23 in 2008.

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Gain a Nurse, Lose a Nurse

On May 3rd, the Montague selectboard and finance committee came to town meeting advising us to apply \$600,000 from reserve funds to help balance the operating budget for Fiscal '09. At the time, the financial oversight boards insisted the town also needed to raise \$250,000 in additional revenue from the property tax levy, through a "basket of services" override of Proposition 2½. Otherwise, we were told, popular town services like the branch libraries, the parks and recreation department, and the senior center, would have to be eliminated.

Instead, showing a degree of gumption some thought our "rubber stamp" town meeting would never muster, precinct representatives worked their way carefully through the budget, line by line, cutting more than \$227,000 in spending, and adding back all the services in the override basket except for the animal control officer's position.

Given the fact that town accountant Carolyn Olsen told town meeting on May 3rd that she could confidently anticipate an additional \$40,000 in local receipts, not calculated in the original budget, it would have seemed that town meeting had done its job, produced a balanced budget, and preserved essential

services without relying on a risky override vote.

But partway through the second day of town meeting, on May 7th, finance committee member Jeff Singleton proposed a new override for \$150,000 - asking the taxpayers to "share the pain" of the cuts being asked of town employees in deferred salary increases and reduced health benefits. To offset the new override, \$150,000 of the reserve spending the finance committee had originally recommended to balance the budget was taken off the table and put back in reserves.

For the next five weeks, town officials kept up a steady drumbeat in support of the new, improved override, calling on taxpayers to agree to their part of the shared sacrifice and chip in an additional \$40 a year, more or less, to fund the budget. But the taxpayers, who had already agreed to hefty property tax hikes for the new, improved sewer system and the new, improved police station, weren't buying it. On Monday they turned down the override by a vote of nearly two to one.

So, on Tuesday, town meeting reconvened to hear a fractured finance committee and selectboard recommend a variety of further cuts. Somehow, the \$600,000 the town had been told on May 3rd was a necessary and prudent level of reserve spending had by June 17th become a dangerous and "totally irresponsible" level of reserve spending. And, oh, by the way, we're going to need those extra reserves to fund the schools.

Town meeting worked to restore services, and still kept the townside of the budget to a 3.7% increase. But the Gill-Montague schools are standing pat with a \$17 million budget - give or take a pick-up truck - amounting to an increase in Montague's share of the school budget of 10.6% from last year.

At Tuesday's town meeting,



the town cut its side of the budget further. The police department lost \$35,000 in funding for a new police cruiser - an annual budget item - and the town's public health nurse - a position the town of Montague has maintained since 1915, when town meeting first set aside \$500 to fund the program and hire Alice Brown to provide free health services to town residents - was eliminated.

Like the animal control officer, the town nurse is not a public servant most residents think of as essential, until the time comes when you need her. Working part time, she provided free blood pressure clinics in various locations around town, followed up on communicable disease outbreaks, and stopped in at the homes of housebound seniors to make sure they were taking their medications. In short, she was helping to keep our most vulnerable citizens healthy and, for the most frail, helping to keep them alive.

When economic circumstances tighten, the most vulnerable among us are more likely to

face the consequences of choosing between heating their homes, or eating a proper diet, or finding the money for co-pays on prescription drugs. The decision to terminate the \$19,000 in funding - set aside in last year's budget and never spent - for the town nurse signals a hardening of the heart of our community, and a sclerotic budget making process that skews our priorities towards what is mandated by the federal and state government, rather than what is called for by the better impulses of our community and our consciences.

It is particularly galling to see the town of Montague lose our public health nurse a week after the school committee blithely decided to add a "grant funded" administrative nursing position to the GMRSD school budget for the coming year. The salary for the new administrative school nurse - \$22,500 plus benefits - will not be entirely paid for by grant funds. Twenty percent of her salary will come from a local match this year, and for each succeeding year of the five year

grant 20% more of her salary will be paid from the school budget, until we pay her entire salary in year five. She will be in charge of administering the nursing program in the schools and overseeing data entry on student health: worthwhile tasks, no doubt. But it is jarring to hear the school committee say, as more than one of their members did last week, that "if we run into a fiscal crisis" the grant funded program can be terminated in some future year.

Tell that to the senior citizens in Montague who are already paying more than 50 cents of their property tax dollars to support the schools, and who now will no longer have a town nurse to look after them, take their blood pressure, advise them on their health, and look in on the most vulnerable to make sure they are taking their medications.

This is a sad day for Montague.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/18/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Thanks for our Field Trip!

The kindergarten, first and second grade classes of Gill Elementary School would like to thank Hillside Plastics for making it possible for our students to go on a field trip to the Turners Falls Fishway and the Great Falls Discovery Center on May 28th. We appreciate their funding the bus for the trip so that we could learn more about the Connecticut River watershed, our



(l-r) Sandy Kosterman, Janet Haas, owner, Hillside Plastics, Gill students Kyle & Mason Kucenski, Susan Pelis

local habitats, and how to take care of our environment. It was a fun trip, and we

learned a lot about the anadromous fish that live in the river, as well as many other animals. We ate our lunch at Unity Park, and were able to visit the Montague town hall and the police station.

Thanks to Hillside Plastics for being a producer of great products, and a great friend to our school!

- Amy Salinetti, Susan Pelis, and Sandy Kosterman
Gill Elementary School

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Hillcrest Kids Are Growing Up Great!

BY DIANE ELLIS TURNERS FALLS - On Tuesday, May 20th, Hillcrest School held its annual spring concert. This year's program was entitled, "Growing up Great," originally by Jill Galina and rehearsed and performed under the direction of Nan Sadoski, *music teacher extraordinaire*.

It is quite a moving scene to see a large group of young children - preschool, kindergarten, first and second graders - take the stage and perform before a packed audience of parents, grandparents, and friends. The children did a wonderful job singing, moving to the music, and motioning in sequence to the lyrics. The songs were so fitting to the monumental occasion, songs of the future, of potential, of growing up to be doctors, teachers, firefighters, and scientists. One could not help but think of the future, the hopes and dreams of this group

of children, and of them all growing up to be great.

The concert was particularly moving to me. It was my last annual spring concert at Hillcrest Elementary school. My daughter will be moving to Sheffield next year and my son will move on to Great Falls Middle School. In essence, it was the last annual spring concert at Hillcrest School.

While I look forward to the opportunities of a unified, and ultimately a K-5 elementary program at Sheffield, I will miss the connections I have had to Hillcrest School. I would like to offer many thanks to the dedicated teachers and staff who have given so freely and have enriched the lives of so many children over the years. Special thanks are due to Nan Sadoski, a gifted educator, on her last annual spring concert and on her pending retirement from the district after 28 years of service. Thank you.

At the end of the program three children from Mrs. Whiteman's second grade class came up to the microphone to make a special announcement. It seems many of the children in this class were aware of the terrible earthquake in China last month and wanted to do something about it. With the permission and guidance from their teacher and principal, the children decided to raise money to give to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The children had decorated two shoe boxes and were pleased to announce they had already collected over \$30. Three second grade children, Amanda Cooke, Chase Blair, and my daughter Chloe Ellis (unannounced to me) stood up before the large group and shared their interest in raising money to support the disaster relief efforts in China. Wow! No doubt, these children - our community's children - are growing up great.

Sheffield Graduation

BY BRIDGET SWEET TURNERS FALLS - Thursday, June 12th, was graduation day for Sheffield 5th graders - the Class of 2015! It was also Volunteer Appreciation day and Chip Wood's last official day as principal of the Sheffield School. The auditorium was packed with students, families and staff.

penny from their teachers. "They will be missed," said Wood of the departing fifth graders, after the clapping subsided.

Assistant principal Kevin White gave a penny to principal Wood, "for leaving Sheffield after five years as principal and moving to director of elementary education. We'll have a new principal in the fall. Mr.



Students, teachers and Sheffield School principal Chip Wood (center) wave goodbye to the school bus following dismissal on the last day of school.

Students Michael Babcock and Veronica Sankova assisted Wood in the opening ceremony. They handed out certificates for all the school volunteers, in recognition of their hard work throughout the year. Volunteers recognized for PTO were Faith Adams, Laura Cooper, Connie Forcier, Kim Hersey, Monica Lane, Michelle Rubin and Julie Sheperd; for the Flouride program, parents Tracy Miller and Nicole Trott; China Expert, parent Dennis Horan; Dave Allen of Mackin, Sharon Edwards of University of Massachusetts in Amherst; Amy Lang, Rachel Lively, Pat Ryan for the play production, 'Once on this Island,' Professor Steve Smith of California for donating his time in the classroom for math work; Heather Shattuck, Bill Brown, Jon Wood, Heather Heaton and donors, Ken Schoen and Jane Trigere.

Wood played guitar and sang Malvina Reynold's classic "Magic Penny," for the students leaving the Sheffield community. The students received a

Wood will still be in the classrooms. We wish him the best." Parents and staff were seen wiping tears from their eyes during his speech.

Music teacher, Nan Sadoski, retired this year, after 28 years of service to the district. Her last performance was at the piano for "This Land is your Land," by Woody Guthrie. Wood paraphrased a verse, and the students sang along, loudly, "This school is my school; this school is your school... this school was made for you and me." Sadoski received a standing ovation afterwards, and called out happily, "I will see you again!"

Next, Wood had words of praise for parents and grandparents. "Without your parents, this day would not be possible. Parents are the most important. Teachers are required by law to teach you; parents are required by love to teach you." The auditorium grew quiet during his speech. Tears flowed from many eyes.

see SHEFFIELD pg 6

GUEST EDITORIAL: Let's Get Together Sometime... Memories of Mike Lavin

BY MARVIN SHEDD - GILL - Mike Lavin died last week, in a motorcycle accident, near the entrance to the boat ramp in Gill.

He left behind a wife, two sons, two grandchildren and a lot of life still to be lived.

I met Mike when he played on the Bernardston Condors softball team.

He was the first person outside of Bernardston to play on the team. Once we saw how good he was, we didn't care where he came from. He could hit the ball better than almost anybody I ever saw. Before he stepped into the batter's box, he'd already noticed that the right fielder was playing a little shallow or that the third baseman was playing a little too far off the line. Mike knew before the pitch got to him where he was going to put it.

As much as I admired his hit-

ting ability, it was his fielding that I remember best. He was a magician at first base, scooping errant throws out of the dirt and chasing down pop ups in foul territory. He always made it look so easy.

People still talk about the great plays our third baseman, Greg Ainsworth, made when we won the Northern League championship in 1982. Nobody remembers it was Mike Lavin who caught the bad throws he made to first. I don't think there was anybody on the team more excited than Mike when we won that last game.

Looking back, I think we really became a team when Mike joined us. He was a little older than most of us, he'd played a few more games. He brought a veteran's savvy to the team that we hadn't had before his arrival.

After the 1983 season, Mike

decided to cut back on his playing. He'd fill in once in awhile, if we were in a pinch, but basically didn't play again until 1989 when we had a Condors reunion season. Mike was 40 by then, but as I recall, could still get the bat on the ball pretty well and still didn't let much by him at first.

I didn't see Mike much after we stopped playing. He brought me a bottle of wine when I moved into my log home; and I'd occasionally run into him having breakfast at Countree Living. He'd come into the store once in awhile and we'd catch up with each other. We didn't talk about the old days; we talked about our kids and what they were doing. We always ended with a pledge to get together sometime. We never followed up on our pledge and now it's too late.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Mahar Budget to be Decided at Special Town Meeting

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Finance committee chair Michael Idoine told the Wendell selectboard at their Wednesday, June 11th meeting that New Salem annual town meeting voted a budget for the Mahar Regional High School two percent less than the budget the school committee had requested. The town of Petersham voted \$10,000 less than the original Mahar request, whereas by choosing the alternative method of assessment, which would allow each of the four district towns to pay an equal per pupil share, Wendell voted to cut the Mahar budget request by 36%.

The Orange town meeting is expected to vote a 4% cut.

The Mahar School Committee will then have to submit a new budget, and when that happens Wendell will have 45 days to vote on the new budget at a special town meeting. Board members discussed possible dates to set a town meeting in early July.

Keller said a few other items will need to be added onto the warrant of that meeting, including an appropriation for improving the town website as planning board chair Deirdre Cabral suggested at a previous selectboard meeting. Idoine said the Pittsburg, VT website might be a good model, and selectboard member Christine Heard suggested showing that website to Cabral, to see what she thinks of it, and perhaps contacting the designer.

Nancy Aldrich, town coordinator, had sent out three requests for bids to replace the floor at the new senior center, the former library building, but received only one response. Tom Chaisson, of Tri-County Construction, bid \$1,700 for materials and an estimated three

days of labor. That figure fits within the project's budget; the selectboard accepted the bid.

Linda Hickman, a member of the agricultural commission recommended the appointment of Laurel Facey to the commission. But since the commission needs an odd number of members to avoid tie votes, and Sharon Gensler plans to resign at the end of her term, June 30th, the selectboard agreed to appoint Facey for a three-year term starting July 1st.

In the town office building mechanical room, three T-handled wrenches have been installed to shut off water to the buildings supplied by the new water system. Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested each building should have its own wrench to operate its own shut off valve. He and selectboard chair Ted Lewis have looked for the valve for the town office building, and although the plans showed where to look, they did not find it. They talked about borrowing a metal detector, or perhaps a flow detector to help in the search.

Replacing the roof on the

town hall is costing an extra \$6,000, because the plywood decking was rotten and needed to be replaced. A town meeting vote authorized spending \$2,500 more than the accepted bid, but a \$3,500 shortfall remains.

State law allows money to be transferred from one town account to another in May or June of a fiscal year if the amount is \$5,000, or less than 3% of the annual budget. Board members discussed three accounts the money could come from legitimately: the town hall expense account, the town hall repair account, and the money remaining in this year's town custodian's payroll, because town meeting funded that position for more hours than the custodian actually needs to do his work.

Lewis said it would be good to empty the repair fund, so it is not carried over another year.

Aldrich relayed town clerk Annie Hartjens' suggestion that letters be sent with appointments to new town officials and committee members reminding them of the need to be sworn in, in order to conduct official business.

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Following the applause, the Class of 2015 received their well-earned medallions from White and Ms. Lively. Nine students, Alex Carlisle, Felicia Craver, Liam Ellis, Aimee Funk, Matteson Heath, Emily Kells, Ian MacPhail, Kelly Rehorka, and Mackenzie Salls read essays about their experiences at Sheffield. They gave tribute to their teachers, their past field trips, the full day program and one said, "Montague Center School and Hillcrest, have a blast, good

luck!" Teachers "oohed and aahed," during the readings. Then, alternating students said the "ABC's of Goodbye." The farewell song ended the ceremony with the newly graduated students leading the procession out. Parents were invited back to the students' classrooms for a brief goodbye.

At dismissal, the school tradition of the entire school waving goodbye to the buses ended the day.

Wood commented on "how lovely the day was." He will be in school all summer, conducting interviews. His

office will be on the third floor, above the superintendent's office. Sheffield school has not lost their principal. They await a new principal to be guided by Wood's wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Fifth grade graduate Gabbi Santucci turned eleven that day. She said, "It feels very special, to work all this time to graduate." She said she was sad graduation was over "because I love school." She held her flowers and the balloon her mother, Amy Lang, gave her, with a smile.



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No Need to Drink Anything but Turners Water

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

The floor of the domed water storage tank at the top of Will's Hill is getting a good vacuuming. The Turners Falls Water Department contracted Underwater Solutions of Mattapoisett to clean the tank while filled with water. Site super Chris Cole has a diver working at the bottom of 21 feet of drinking water, inside the tank, running a suction hose over the floor, removing 1/16th of an inch of fine particles of sediment.

"We cleaned 1/16th of an inch of sediment five years ago, and there's 1/16th on the floor now. That water is good clean water," Cole said.

If ingested, the sediment would not kill you, and in fact the minerals just might do you some good. It has been calculated that everyone eats about a peck of dirt during their lifetime. Most people accept that. They just don't want to eat it all at once. The water department employees feel the same way.

Before the department contracted for a covered tank, the Turners Falls Water Department employees went up to the open reservoir each morning to retrieve squirrels, rabbits and whatever else they found floating on the surface. Understandably, water department employees who performed this morning ritual were known to be shy about drinking water, especially after fishing out the weekend's accumulation of non-swimmers on Monday morning. It was a good excuse to tip back a few pints after work, anyway.



PARZYCH PHOTO

Eric Bertrand gasses up the cleaning pump.



Underwater Solutions Chris Cole and Montague Water Department Superintendent Mike Brown

The contractors who built the four million gallon tank poured steel reinforced concrete panels, four or five feet wide and 20 feet long, on the ground. They then stood them up in a circle on a concrete pad, the floor of the tank. Welders joined the reinforcing rods sticking out of the sides of the panels. Workers filled the spaces with concrete, then wrapped the circumference of the stacked panels with six miles of wire to hold it fast. Concrete crews shot *Gumite*, a slurry of concrete, against the wire wound panels and the walls were done. The domed roof was assembled with more concrete panels poured on the ground. When the concrete was set, the

contractors laid the completed panels on false-work (temporary supports) while the roof panels were tied together and covered with a layer of *Gumite*.

"Pumps from the wells in Montague feed directly into the water mains," water department superintendent Mike Brown

said. "The tank fills up with the surplus. I can pretty much tell when to shut down the pumps, but I can always check the records. There are sensors and a high water alarm."

The concrete tank was sited on the hill to insure water pressure to all the villages it serves, including Millers Falls,

whether the pumps are running or not.

There is little or no chlorine added to the water. Chlorine would cause more dissolved minerals to precipitate out and would result in a thicker layer of sediment, according to Cole.

"Its good water," Brown said. "When we're flushing mains, I sometimes drink right from the hydrant."

Thanks, Mike. There goes a perfectly good excuse to stop at the Rendezvous after work.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Library Trustees Seek Additional Funds For Hiring Director

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Erving selectboard met with library trustees Marcia Barnard, Elizabeth Bazler, and Marion Overgaard on Monday. The trustees are hoping to turn over the responsibility of running the library to a part time library director in the near future. By combining all the stipends the trustees have been

receiving to keep the library open 24 hours a week, stocked with materials and provided with educational programs, and by adding a little bit extra, the town was able to put together \$11,951 to hire a part time director. But the trustees have found this salary is inadequate to hire a qualified candidate. They are hoping the town will increase that salary line by approximately \$5,000.

The board said to do that would require approval of a special town meeting, and they promised to schedule one as soon as possible.

However, it is too late to put a warrant article requesting more funds for the library director's salary on the special town meeting coming up on

June 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. at town hall. That meeting will consider two items: one to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to fund engineering work for DEP mandated safety improvements at the water department's well pump house in Erving. The other article will seek to correct problems with a deeded land transfer at the wastewater treatment plant in Erving. The meeting will be held at the wastewater treatment plant in Erving, dated from several decades ago, by means of an eminent domain taking.

With Andy Tessier away on emergency call at his day job at the Athol water treatment plant, dealing with the effects of Monday's summer storm, Linda Downs-Bembury ran the meeting as acting chair. The board worked on a draft policy

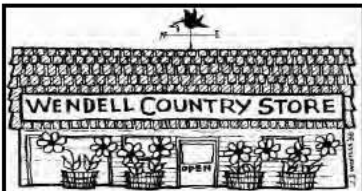
for the use of town facilities by outside parties. The lack of a formal policy became apparent when Erving resident Cyd Scott asked permission to hold a benefit concert in Veterans Field on June 21st, to raise funds to build a wheelchair ramp for a local girl, Kaleigh de Mello, who was injured in a sledding accident in Greenfield last winter. That concert, featuring the Equalites, Lady Elvis (Laura Herbert), Rob Fletcher, Chris Dixon and the heavy metal Boston band Pistol Fist! will take place this Saturday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The renovation of the Erving wastewater treatment plant moved a step closer to reality, as the board

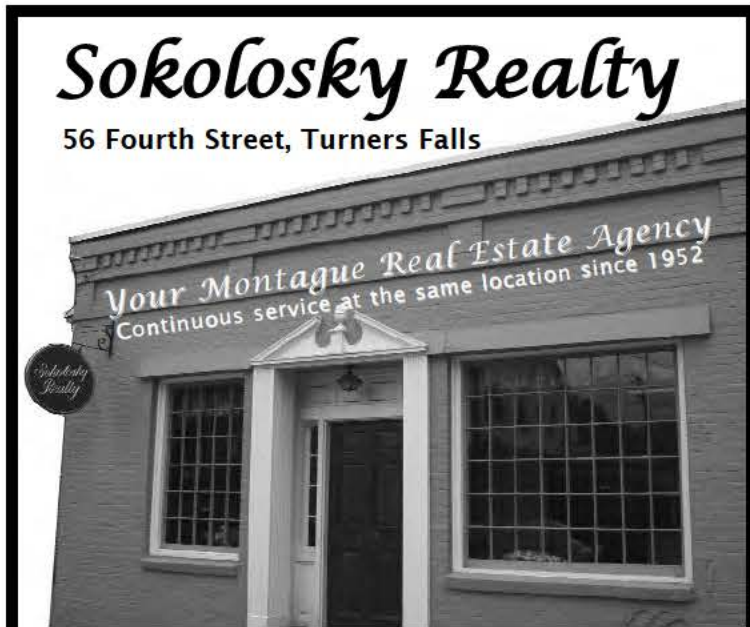
received final approval from the DPW to go ahead with the \$6.4 million project. The town will now advertise the job, and is on schedule to award the bid in mid-August.

The board issued a new business license to LaLa Land, a home craftwork business under the sole proprietorship of Laura Herbert, on Old State Road. When she's not busy in LaLa Land, Herbert doubles as Lady Elvis. Catch her act this Saturday at Veterans Park!

Janice Vega-Liros, a Church Street resident, complained of traffic flying by her house at high rates of speed. The matter was referred to the police department, in hopes a mobile radar sign can be put up near that location.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Unlicensed Operations

Tuesday, 6/10

7:55 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for allowing operation of motor vehicle with revoked registration.

8:37 a.m. Medical emergency on Pratt Street. Assisted BHA Ambulance.

12:40 p.m. Report of disorderly subjects at Erving Elementary School. Located same on Route 63.

1:05 p.m. Report of sick racoon on River Road. Unable to locate.

3:28 p.m. Report of drivers disregarding stop sign at Forest Street and Route 63 (Moore Street.)

3:42 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

7:34 p.m. Report of out of control subject on Old State Road. Arrested [redacted]

assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic.

8:17 p.m. Report of body underneath French King Bridge on Dorsey Road. Investigated. Massachusetts State Police on scene.

Thursday, 6/12

4:32 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after license revocation

6:00 p.m. Report of gray pickup truck traveling at a high rate of speed, squealing tires on Pratt Street. Checked area, unable to locate.

10:34 p.m. Medical emergency on Cross Street. Assisted Orange Ambulance.

Friday, 6/13

12:14 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with

suspended license.

4:57 p.m. Assisted Gill police with motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at boat ramp.

8:50 p.m. Assisted Gill police with four-wheeler accident on West Gill Road.

Saturday, 6/14

1:26 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and speeding.

8:00 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating after suspension of license, subsequent offense, speeding, no license in possession.

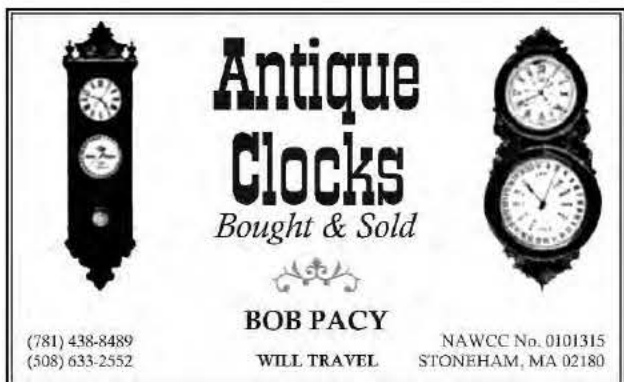
Sunday, 6/15

9:39 p.m. Report of shots fired in area of North Street and Swamp Road.

11:35 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] or operating a motor vehicle after suspension, failure to inspect and speeding.

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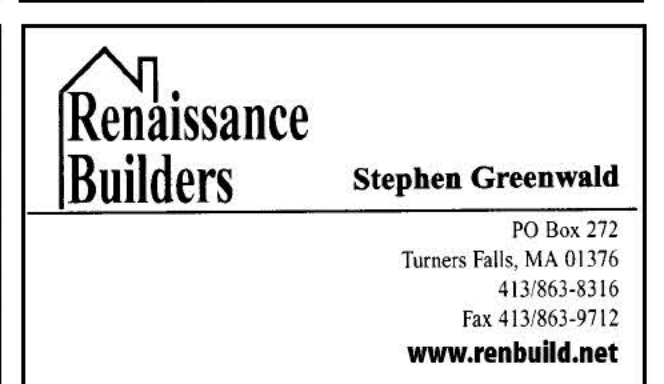
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CHAMPS from pg 1
whirlwind windup and dead-on delivery, struck out eight, allowed six hits, and walked only one.

After Kim Arsenault went down swinging to retire the side in the top of the second inning, Turners went three up, three down - swinging at nearly every pitch - until the top of the eighth when Arsenault finally bunted past Williams towards second to get another runner on for Turners. It was a tense, nail-biting stand-off in the blazing sun, and there were times when things looked very black for the girls in blue.

In the first inning, Arsenault led off for Turners, and went down swinging on a two and two pitch. Sullivan smacked a line drive up the middle for a solid single, and Jenna Costa took her place on first as a courtesy runner. Chelseigh St. Peter popped up to the pitcher for the second out.

That was the situation when Kayla Breor strode up to the batter's box and teed off on one of Williams' fastballs, sending it

deep to right center field, where it hit the fence just shy of a home run. Costa scored, and Breor was in for a stand-up triple. Angela Marguet popped out to second to retire the side.

As Turners took the field, it took Sullivan a while to find the groove, throwing four balls in a row before she finally put one down the pike. Catcher Kellie Lastowski took that pitch and fired it to Marguet at first, picking the West Boylston runner off. But Sullivan walked the second batter, too, before she settled down. She made short work of the next two batters, striking out Katelyn Taylor, looking, and forcing Danielle Correia to pop to shallow left for the third out.

After Lastowski tagged a sharp one-hopper through the third basewoman's glove for a single in the second, followed by a solid drive to left by Samantha Torres, Turners went hitless for the next eighteen batters.

West Bridgewater tied the game in the bottom of the third. After their lead off batter went

down swinging, left fielder Alyssa Gray looked like she would follow suit. She swung at the first pitch, high over the strike zone, swung late on the second pitch, and then fouled one away. But she knocked the next pitch into shallow center field, and wound up with a stand up triple, with one away. Katelyn Taylor dropped a single into right center field to bring her home. Sullivan took the next batter down swinging, and Correia flied out to Ashley Costa in center field to retire the side.

Then both pitchers dug in for a couple of three up - three down innings, as the tension ratcheted up a notch in Rockwood Field.

Turners' Steph Ollari stole a single from Gray with a great running catch in shallow right center field to put West Bridgewater out of commission in the bottom of the fifth.

In the top of the sixth, Turners coach Gary Mullins was pacing in front of the dugout. Sure, Williams was throwing nothing but strikes, but did Turners have

continued next page

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Alarms are Sounding

Sunday, 6/8
6:58 p.m. Officer wanted at a Turners Falls Road address. Peace restored.
7:04 p.m. Officer wanted at a Davis Street address, Turners. Peace restored.

Monday, 6/9
11:03 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at a Turners Falls Road address, Montague. Investigated.
11:17 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at Mass Environmental police on Turners Falls Road, Montague. Investigated.
3:54 p.m. Report of vandalism at Booska's apartment building, Avenue A, Turners Falls.
7:42 p.m. Officer wanted at a Wrightson Avenue address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 6/10
8:15 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at Basically Bicycles on Third Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
1:56 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at Montague Community Television on Second Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
6:50 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at Basically Bicycles, Third Street, Turners Falls. Accidental/defective alarm.

6:56 p.m. Officer observed disorderly conduct in Fourth Street alley, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
9:00 p.m. Officer observed vandalism on Bike Path, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 6/11
12:50 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at Exxon Mobil, 3rd Street. Investigated
2:07 a.m. 911 call from Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Investigated.
11:04 a.m. Officer wanted at a Wrightson Avenue address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
4:25 p.m. Report of suspicious circumstance at Pioneer Aviation, Industrial Boulevard. Investigated.

Thursday, 6/12
1:24 a.m. Officer observed brush fire in area of Turners Falls High School, Hillside Avenue, Turners Falls.
9:49 a.m. Report of hit and run accident in lot behind an 171 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Investigated.
2:39 p.m. Report of fight at Unity Park near fieldhouse, Turners Falls. Juveniles arrested for disorderly conduct and assault with a dangerous weapon.

5:40 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club, Deep Hole Drive, Turners Falls. Accidental/defective alarm.

9:10 p.m. Assist other police department at Gill/Montague Bridge, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

9:17 p.m. Report of unwanted person in alley between Third and Fourth Streets. Arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant and possession of marijuana.

Friday, 6/13
6:02 a.m. Report of sex offense at Franklin County Technical School.
8:01 a.m. Officer wanted at Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls. Subject returned to home/family.
1:41 p.m. Report of fire alarm at Cumberland Farms, Montague City Road, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
3:58 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Grout Circle address, Millers Falls. 6:55 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance at a Prospect Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.
10:37 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at Bridge Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and battery domestic.
10:42 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at Connecticut River Internists, Burnham Street, Turners Falls. No police necessary.



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*** SUMMER PROGRAMS 2008 ***

YOUTH PROGRAMS

SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Playground Program Dates & Times: 7 Week Program; Monday, June 30 - Friday, August 15
Mondays thru Fridays: 9:00am - 3:00pm (Discovery and Sports & Adventures)
9:00am - 12:15pm (Pre-School Playgroup)

Dates:
Week 1 - June 30 - July 3 (No Playground July 4) Week 5 - July 28 - August 1
Week 2 - July 7 - 11 Week 6 - August 4 - 8
Week 3 - July 14 - 18 Week 7 - August 11 - 15
Week 4 - July 21 - 25

Scholarships - If a need exists for financial assistance, please contact MPRD at 863-3216 for a scholarship application (Only Montague residents are eligible.)

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP - (Ages 3 - 5).

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 am - 12:15 p.m
Fees: Montague Residents - \$25 00/child/week, Non residents - \$35 00/child/week

DISCOVERY PROGRAM - (Ages 5 - 12).

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fees: Montague Residents: \$55 00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$70 00/child/week

SPORTS & ADVENTURES - (Ages 9 - 13).

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fees: Montague Residents: \$65 00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$80 00/child/week

YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM

LESSONS - AGES 5 - 12. This year, we are introducing USTA's new *QuickStart* Tennis format. We can accommodate skills from beginner through advanced.

Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 13)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg. deadline: Friday, July 11)

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

JUNIOR TENNIS TEAM - League Play

Who: Youth ages 14 - 18 yrs
Fees: Montague residents = \$30; Non-residents = \$35 (fees include team t-shirt)
Minimum Enrollment: 6 • Maximum Enrollment: 12

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CAMP

Who: Senior Camp - Ages 10-12 (Fees:Montague Residents = \$15, Non-residents = \$20)
Junior Camp - Ages 7-9 (Fees:Montague Residents = \$13, Non-residents = \$18)
When: Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 11 • 9:30am - 11:30am
(Fees include Frisbees and water bottles) • Registration deadline: Friday, June 27

SOCCER MANIAC CAMP

Who: Youths ages 8 - 12
When: Monday, August 18 - Friday, August 22 • 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Enrollment Minimum:8 • Enrollment Maximum: 16
Fees: Montague Resident = \$30; Non-resident = \$35
(Fees include a camp t-shirt.) • Registration Deadline: Friday, August 8

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT TENNIS PROGRAM

Ages 18 & Up. We can accommodate skills from beginner through advanced. First lesson free
Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 13)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg. deadline: Friday, July 11)
FEES: Montague Residents = \$35/session, Non-residents = \$40/session

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY TENNIS PROGRAM

Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 15)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg. deadline: Friday, July 11)
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00pm - 7:50pm
Fees: Montague Residents = \$12/Family Member • Non-residents = \$15/Family Member

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Samantha Torres says a prayer in the dugout as West Bridgewater comes to bat in the eighth. Jodi Torres looks on.

CHAMPS from pg 9

to swing at every pitch? She only had to toss six to get the top of Turners lineup out - Sullivan, St. Peter, and Breor - one, two, three.

Bottom of the sixth, and it's sudden death for Turners, here on out. Taylor tags a 2 and 1 pitch to shallow right for a single. Meg Dow follows with a bunt down the first base line for a fielders' choice to advance the runner. One away, runner on second. Mullins calls time to discuss the situation with his infielders.

Up next, Correia knocks a grounder to the shortstop, Arsenault, who tosses it to St. Peter, at third, who puts the tag on the runner for the second out. A key play. But West Bridgewater is pulling out the stops. Taylor Miller tags a two and two pitch over second base for a double. Correia holds at third.

Sullivan never stops smiling. Facing her nemesis, Williams, the West Bridgewater hurler, Sullivan throws a strike, then forces her to ground out to second to retire the side.

You got to hand it to Dani, she's cool under pressure.

overrun the base. But she had not turned toward second, so they umpire called her safe. Mullins disputed the call.

Sullivan fanned the next batter. With Gray at bat, Baker tried to push her luck and steal second, and the ump called her safe again, although there were plenty in the Turners stands to dispute that call. It looked like Lastowski nailed her.

But then Baker's luck ran out. Mullins pulled her outfield in. Gray flied out to Costa in center field to retire the side.

Finally, in the top of the eighth, Turners gets something going. After Courtney Wells flied down the first base line to right, where Lauren Peterson was waiting for it, St. Peter hit a slow grounder to second and almost beat the throw to first. Then, with two down, Arsenault bunts past the pitcher to second to finally get a runner on for Turners. Sullivan follows her to the plate. She smacks a ground ball to the shortstop, Taylor, who was close enough to second to make the play, but she tossed it to the second basewoman instead. That was enough for Arsenault to slide between them. Safe!

It's two on, two out. But then Williams brings the stuff, and takes St. Peter down, looking.

Things looked black for Turners in the bottom of the eighth. Taylor teed off on Sullivan's first pitch, smacking a single through Arsenault's glove at short. Dow hit a grounder up the middle, and Arsenault fields it on the far side of second base. She's down in the dirt with the ball in her glove, and she puts her right hand out to grab second just as Taylor comes sliding in. When the dust clears, the umpire hesitates.

"You're out!" The Turners fans roar. A wild pitch from Dani to Correia. The runner advances. Sullivan smiles serenely. Ball two. Ball three. She walks her.

Lastowski almost picks off the runner at second. Two on, one out. Sudden death.

Miller at the plate. Strike one. Strike two. Next pitch, Miller hits a ground ball to Hallett, at second, who tosses it to Arsenault, covering the bag, but the runner is safe. Bases loaded, one away.

What do you do in this situation? If you're Dani Sullivan, you bear down and strike the next batter out, and that's what she did to Williams, who went down swinging.

Next up, the first basewoman, Adria

Kotsiopolous, digs in and fouls back three before grounding out to Hallett to retire the side.

In the top of the ninth, the Turners batters have finally decided to watch a few pitches go by, and with two down Williams rewards them with her first walk, to Ollari. But Lastowski can't advance her, with a sharp one hopper to short and over to first to retire the side.

How long can this go on? After Baker grounds out to third, Sullivan takes Erin Linskey down swinging, and the Turners crowd roars approval. Now, Gray is at the plate. Gray who hit a triple in the third inning, and scored West Bridgewater's only run.

Sullivan's first pitch is in the dirt. Her next pitch is high and wild. Two balls. Dani spits. Winds up. Strike one. Next pitch, Gray swings about two seconds after the ball is in Lastowski's mitt. Next pitch. She struck her out, looking.

Top of the 10th inning. The girls on both teams are feeling the heat.

Leading off for Turners, Hallett goes down swinging.

Williams is relentless. The designated hitter, Torres, flies out to second.

Arsenault strides to the plate.

Williams brushes her back with the first pitch. Rattled, Arsenault swings at a high one, 1 and 1. She bunts foul. Then she gets under a changeup and lofts it into shallow left field. She's on for a single.

Sullivan to the plate. She takes matters into her own hands. She fakes a bunt, and Arsenault steals second. The Turners fans pump up the volume. Dani takes a half step forward and powers a double into deep right center. Arsenault scores.

Pandemonium breaks lose in the Turners dugout, and it takes awhile to settle down. St. Peter goes down swinging.

A one run lead is all they need going into the bottom of the tenth. In the dugout, assistant coach Mark Sullivan sits with his head in his hands, conversing with the god of the pitcher's mound as his daughter walks Taylor, the lead off batter. Next up, Dow bunts down the line to Marguet, who puts the tag on her.

The tying run on second, one away.

Correia at the plate. A grounder to third. St. Peter picks it up and glares at Taylor until she holds at second, then St. Peter fires it to first just in time. Did Marguet have her foot on the bag? The ump says, "Yes!" Two down.

Miller at the plate. On a 2 and 1 pitch, she checks her swing and the runner advances to third. Then she connects with a drive over second to shallow center field. Arsenault can't get there. Who can?

Running at top speed, Costa is converging on the ball, but will she get there on time? With outstretched glove, she makes the play, and Turners hauls in another statewide championship trophy. The team mobs Sullivan on the mound, and the coaches come out to congratulate her, too, with tears streaming down her father's cheeks.

Girls, you make us proud!

CONGRATULATIONS!

TFHS Girls Softball Team

2008 Division III MIAA State Champions!



Clockwise from top left: The team's battery; Kellie Lastowski and Dani Sullivan. Jenna Costa in to run for Dani in the top of the eighth. Chelseigh St. Peter sets her stance. Dani in the windup.

Undeterred, Williams took the mound, fanned the first two Turners batters, and pressured Lastowski to ground out to short. Three up, three down.

Bottom of the seventh, and the pressure is still on. With one down, Lauren Baker tagged one up the middle; Arsenault missed it, second basewoman Jodi Hallett bobbled it and then over-threw first. But Lastowski was there, backing up Marguet. She fielded the throw and put the tag on Baker, who had



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VERRIDE from 1

of the new \$5.6 million police station on Turnpike Road.

On Wednesday at noon, the town held an auction of town property, including the Rod Shop in Montague City, and parcels on J Street, Dry Hill Road, Letourneau Way, Meadow Road, and numerous other locations that have come under town control due to tax takings. The auction was structured to invite offers to purchase, which will be subject to approval by the selectboard.

The board spent some time discussing the town's continued involvement with the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority's G-Link route, which runs from Greenfield to Athol, and connects from Athol to points east. The FRTA runs seven buses a day through Turners Falls on the way to Orange and Athol, from 5:24 in the a.m. to 5:19 in the p.m.

Earlier this year, the board had discussed the possibility of discontinuing Montague's participation in the G-Link route, due to a sudden steep rise in the town's FRTA assessment, when grant support for the route ran out.

On Monday, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio advised the board that increase - which had initially been pegged at around \$20,000 for Fiscal '09 - had dropped to a more modest \$7,000, from \$49,000 to \$56,000.

The board decided to hold a public hearing about the town's

continued participation in the G-Link route sometime this fall.

"Nationally, there seems to be an increase in the use of public transportation," said board chair Allen Ross, though he noted the uptick in mass transit usage was tied to the rise in gasoline prices.

To cut the bus service to Orange and Athol "would fly in the face of what we all think we need to do," said Pat Allen.

The board re-appointed Allen to serve as the town of Montague's representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, with Patricia Pruitt as alternate. Allen remarked it was her "43rd term" as the town's liaison with FRCOG.

As for reappointing other members to town boards and commissions, normally a routine measure taken at the time of the annual town election, Ross had indicated an unwillingness to make a blanket re-appointment of all board and commission members at the last selectboard meeting. On Monday, he asked the other selectboard members to stop into the selectboard secretary's office during the next weeks to sign off on appointments they approved, out of the 50 or 100 appointments up

for renewal. Ross also said he hoped the board would be ready to discuss



MATT ROBINSON PHOTO

Pat Allen was reappointed as the town's liaison to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

criteria and make new appointments to the airport commission at the next meeting of the selectboard, on June 30th.

The board approved a one day liquor license for the Shea Community Theater, for their upcoming "Tines and Tunes" benefit fundraiser in Peskeomskut Park, on July 12th, from noon to 8 p.m. The Montague Elks will be manning the beer tent, where People's Pint brew will be on tap. Vendors will be selling Bar-B-Que, and there will be a great lineup of live music through the afternoon and evening, including: the Alchemystics, the Jen Tobey Band, the Fabulous Maurice, Lin Preston's Musical Time Machine (featuring Travis LeDoyt), Honky Thumbelina and the Skinny Man, and, at the other

end of the scales, Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights.

To give the bandshell a taste of the Shea Theater stage, the cast of the Country Player's *Oklahoma* and Ja'Duke Productions will also be performing. The event is free to the public; a percentage of concession sales will benefit the Shea.

The board heard from Dave Dobias of the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club, about the club's commitment to the

community in the form of numerous motorcycle run fundraisers over the years, including recent benefits for the Franklin County Nursing Association and a scholarship fund for the Franklin Tech School. The board agreed to name July 26th, "Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club Day" in Montague, in honor of the club's 50th anniversary.

The hail had stopped pounding on the roof, but the thunder continued to boom in the distance as the town clerk forwarded more returns to the second floor meeting room. As the board entered executive session to discuss collective bargaining, Hampp came in with the next precinct totals: Precinct 2, Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant, outdid Precinct 6,

defeating the override 36 to 125. Precinct 1, Montague Center, which has a history of supporting overrides even when they fail in other parts of town, nevertheless turned this one down, 129 to 135.

With dispirited supporters waiting in the hallway till almost 9 p.m. to hear from the final two precincts, ("What can take them so long to count? It's either Yes or No!"), it wasn't until later that the final tallies came in from the Hill. The override came close to approval in Precinct 4: 121 to 130. But voters in Precinct 3 trounced the measure, 58 to 188.

Overall, with 21.53% of the registered voters turning out at the polls, the override went down to defeat, 33.5% to 63.5%, by a vote of 440 to 766.



Gill Gets a New Dumptruck

On Tuesday, the town of Gill narrowly approved a debt exclusion override for \$135,000 to cover the cost of a new dump truck for the highway department. The truck that will be replaced is 19 years old, and had seen better days, repairwise. Twelve percent - or 129 - of the town's 1060 registered voters showed up at the polls on Tuesday to vote on the single ballot question. They approved the new dump truck by a nine vote margin, 69 to 60.



MEETING from 1

allowed on electrical poles in Massachusetts, in combination with the elimination of \$35,000 in spending from a special article for a new police cruiser, and \$19,000 from free cash to fund the town nurse's position, plus \$26,000 in expected local revenue from local receipts.

Earlier, the meeting turned down a revised budget proposal for \$17,018,078 for the Gill-Montague schools, and passed an amended budget figure for the schools of \$7,002,683 instead. This represents the second time in six weeks town meeting has rejected the GMRSD budget. The next step for the schools will come sometime in July, according to interim superintendent Ken Rocke, when a joint town meeting will be held for all registered voters of Gill and Montague to have a chance to vote on the school budget. Until then, Rocke said he

will seek approval from the state Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement a month by month budget at approximately 1/12th of last year's figure - \$16,180,901 - perhaps adjusted upward for inflation, or however the commissioner sees fit.

Rocke said the district towns have until December 1st to come to agreement with the school committee on a suitable budget to operate the schools in the fiscal year beginning July 1st, at which point "statute says the Commissioner of Education sets a budget," Rocke said.

Barry Levine, of Precinct 3, asked Rocke whether the school committee's budget proposal reflected savings from the closure of Montague Center School. Rocke said the budget "reflects reallocation of resources throughout the district from the closure of Montague Center School. It does not include reductions in the overall

budget from the closing of Montague Center School.

On April 1st, the day the G-M school committee voted 6 - 3 to close Montague Center School, Rocke told the committee for the first time that "new data" showed approximately \$228,000 in savings could be realized by closing Montague Center School next year. Prior to that, Rocke had told a fiscal collaboration meeting with town officials that savings from the closure of Montague Center would be negligible.

Town meeting also voted to rescind \$62,525 in borrowing to repair the Montague Center School roof - the amount left over after that job was completed - from the \$158,000 approved by town meeting for the new roof on June 2nd of 2007.

Despite dealing with multiple amendments on the town budget coming from all sides of the stage, and some from the floor, moderator Ray Godin almost

made good on his pledge to get town meeting members home in time for the tip off in the final game of the Celtics - Lakers grudge match. They may have

missed the tip off, but they were home in time for the second quarter, and for the Lakers that's all she wrote.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suicide on French King Bridge

Tuesday, 6/10
 5:25 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with domestic arrest
 10:17 p.m. Suicide on French King Bridge
Thursday, 6/12
 10:10 a.m. Stuck delivery truck on Main Road, assisted with tow and traffic control
 10:40 a.m. 911 misdial on Main Road, all checked o.k.
 8:03 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police with recovery of a firearm in Gill
 8:35 p.m. Report of suspicious subjects at French King Highway business. Located and checked same
 11:30 p.m. Assisted disabled motorist on Main Road at Munn's Ferry Road
Friday, 6/13
 4:57 p.m. Fatal motorcycle accident on French King Highway at state boat ramp
 8:35 p.m. Traffic complaint on Oak Street. Reporting party advised it was a civil matter
 9:10 p.m. ATV accident with injury on

West Gill Road
Saturday, 6/14
 1:31 a.m. Assisted Erving police department with arrest
 6:03 p.m. Report of disturbance on Oak Street. Subject located, moved from area
Sunday, 6/15
 6:09 p.m. Assisted with three car accident on French King Highway in Erving
 7:25 p.m. Report of erratic operator at Gill lights. Located same, no problem observed
Monday 6/16
 7:38 a.m. Assisted disabled motorist on French King Bridge
Tuesday 6/17
 12:35 p.m. Residential burglary alarm on Hoe Shop Road. All secure
 1:33 p.m. Complaint of intoxicated subjects at state boat ramp
 2:20 p.m. Assisted Chicopee police department with warrant service in town.

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Taken by Storm: the Drama of a Summer Cloudburst

BY STEVE WINTERS

TURNERS FALLS - When I was growing up in the Midwest, my family and I would spurn the Ed Sullivan show in the summer and sit on our porches or roofs for hours, watching and listening to the thunder and lightning show. We found the special effects to be better than those at most movies - and 100% natural!

The intense natural drama of a thunderstorm derives from its compelling sequence of events: A slow build-up of clouds, a darkening sky, a blast of cool air, the deep boom of thunder, and finally the flash of lightning bolts.

It's great theater that happens for sound scientific reasons. Thunderstorms are Earth's way of releasing excess heat from the atmosphere.

Here's how the drama unfolds.

A strong leading character

Thunderstorms result from the very curious properties of a very common substance on our planet: water, or H₂O.

Water molecules tend to stick together - a process called hydrogen bonding (hydrogen is the 'H' in H₂O). Breaking those bonds allows water to turn into vapor, and it requires lots of heat energy - more than we'd expect, given the size and mass of water molecules.

And the process works both ways. Because it takes a lot of heat to raise the temperature of water, water therefore gives off a lot of heat as it cools - especially when water vapor condenses to form drops of liquid water. Meteorologists call the heat given off by condensing water vapor latent heat: this latent heat is the energy that powers thunderstorms. (In fact, latent heat powers all of our weather.)

Setting the scene

It's 10:00 a.m. on a summer day, and it's already 80° F. If the temperature is this high this early, you know it's going to be a hot one! As the sun rises higher in the sky, it aims its hot gaze more directly below. The ground temperature begins to climb. Moisture in the soil and grass and standing water in puddles and lakes begins to evaporate - that is, invisible masses of water vapor form and rise into the atmosphere. Up there, the thinner, cooler air

causes the temperature of the vapor mass to drop below its dew point. That's the temperature at which water vapor condenses, or changes from vapor back into water droplets. We call the resulting cottony balls of condensed water vapor cumulus clouds.

Cumulus clouds that form early in the thunderstorm cycle dissipate quickly as the water droplets evaporate into the drier air surrounding the cloud. But once those droplets evaporate, the air mass becomes larger, warmer, and more humid than before.

Despite its size, the warm air mass is still lighter than the surrounding cool atmosphere, and so it continues to rise to higher and cooler levels, where its water vapor again condenses, forming ever more massive cumulus clouds.

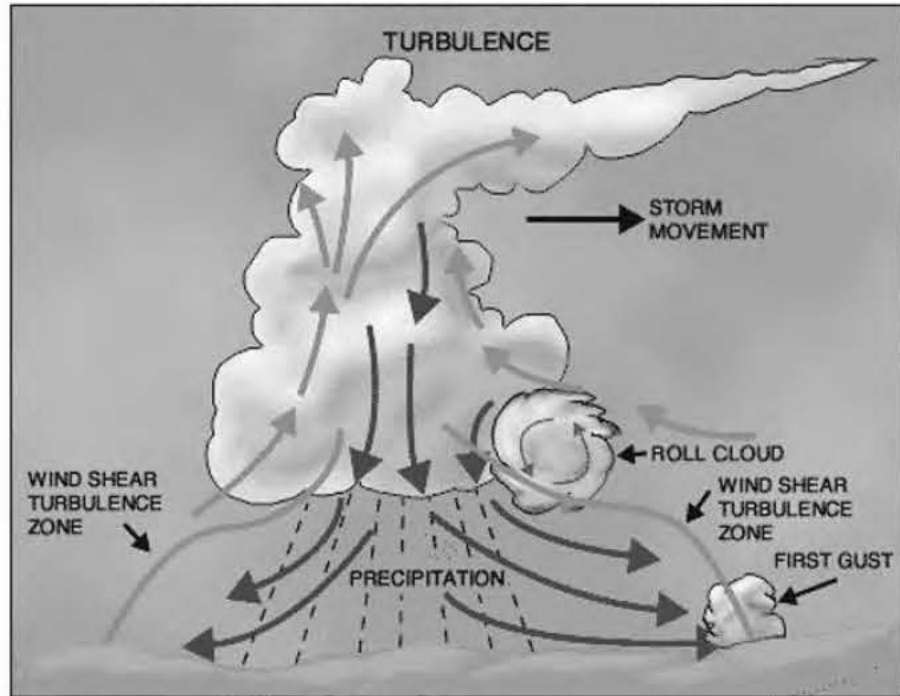
Often taking the shape of a tower or dome, these huge clouds (which weigh hundreds of tons) are called cumulonimbus clouds, or thunderheads. They release significant amounts of latent

in the air. In time, so many droplets form and they get so big that the updrafts can no longer suspend them. That's when the droplets begin to fall as rain. As these beginning

illusion, but a very convincing one!

Because of strong upper-level winds, the top of the thunderhead flattens, and the huge cloud takes on its classic anvil shape. Up- and downdrafts concentrate in the middle of the anvil, where their tussling with one another creates severe churning, or turbulence. Friction between water droplets and upward and downward moving currents produces static electricity that's released in flashes of lightning and crashes of thunder. Now heavy rain (and sometimes hail) falls from the thunderhead.

Cross Section of a Thunderstorm



Finally, a happy ending

After just 15 to 30 minutes, the thunderhead has dumped most of its rain, and the terrific show put on by our summer storm draws to a close. During this dissipation phase, downdrafts dominate over updrafts. The storm is now starved for warm, humid air to drive its fury. Lower-level cloud particles evaporate quickly in the dry, cool air. Only light rain remains, and soon it dies away as well. Sunlight and clear sky return. The storm is now over, and we leave the theater of earth and sky impressed with summer's grand performance.

Steve Winters is a hydrogeologist and environmental science educator. In the summer, Steve is a Park Interpreter for the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Through Boston University's Prisoner Education Project, he teaches environmental geology at Framingham women's prison and astronomy at Norfolk men's prison. Steve lives in Turners Falls. Reach him at science_matters@yahoo.com.

heat to the upper atmosphere - so much heat, in fact, that they become much warmer than the surrounding air and, despite their huge weight, much lighter, too. This relative lightness enables the thunderheads to rise, and as they do so, cooler columns of air called updrafts whoosh upward to fill the space they leave behind. Updrafting continues as long as there's an abundant source of moisture coming from below.

The plot thickens

In summer thunderstorms, thunderheads grow very quickly - almost explosively - but it takes a while for the rain to come. Why? First, because rain droplets need time to form (around dust particles) and second, because once the droplets do form, strong updrafts keep them suspended

droplets tumble through the thunderhead and pass drier updraft air, many droplets evaporate, taking with them latent heat and leaving the air chilled and heavy. This heavy cool air - called a downdraft - now sinks, pulling rain with it. We're heading into the most dramatic moments of our thunderstorm.

A violent scene

At this point in the drama, the thunderhead has grown very large - over seven miles high, its top literally in the stratosphere - and it appears to have grown very dark. Actually, like all clouds, the thunderhead remains white, but because its tremendous mass prevents light from passing through it, it throws a tremendous shadow, and that's the darkness we're seeing from the ground. It's an

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST

Plastics Contaminate Our Bodies and Our World

BY EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE CENTER - It was a simple enough design. Pink and white tampon applicators separated by blue milk bottle caps and strung into a necklace. Those treasures washed by the sea onto our beach, and collected by my father over the course of a few hours one Sunday morning, provided the perfect accessory to the orange fishnet cape adorned with fading coke bottles, pieces of old lobster trap and other assorted beach waste items. Twenty years later, the image of my father, in his faded blue oxford, dungarees and size 12 Jack Purcells sterilizing a pot of tampon applicators in my mother's kitchen and in my mother's soup pot, reminds me of a rare moment of father-daughter complicity.

That year as I attended the annual Society of Toxicology and Chemistry Halloween Dance dressed as "Beach waste," I was naïve about the dangers of plastics. At the time those tampon applicators and milk bottle caps simply signaled failures of waste handling and sewage treatment - an issue George Bush the first used disingenuously to his advantage while campaigning against Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis.

What I didn't know back then was that the plastic army of tampon applicators, bottle tops, fishing nets, coffee cups and Barbie dolls (an occasional head, arm or leg had been known to wash ashore) wasn't just gathering on the shores of my beloved Nantasket beach. These insidious soldiers of the chemical revolution were infiltrating oceans worldwide. Worse, over the years bits of plastic have literally become a part of life. In their relatively short time on Earth, plastics now contaminate marine mammals,

seabirds and most of the rest of us, kids and pets included.

I'm sure John Wesley Hyatt hadn't intended to promote such an insidious legacy when in an effort to replace the ivory used for billiard balls he invented one of the first known plastics back in 1863. It's doubtful that his intention was to save the thousands of elephants slaughtered for their tusks, but rather to collect a \$10,000 award offered for suitable ivory replacements. Nor should he have been concerned, since his process used natural substances including cellulose, a compound more prone to biological degradation than its synthetic followers, (and 140 years later, a compound that is back in style).

Probably Leo Baekeland hadn't envisioned the reach of his invention either, when in 1909 he developed Bakelite, the world's first synthetic plastic and wonder material. As a thermoset plastic, a magical resin that could assume any shape as a liquid resin, and then, once hardened, remain resistant to heat and solvents, Bakelite quickly found its way into the American dream, from telephones to electrical devices, automobiles and jewelry.

But it's not Bakelite that scientists are finding in North Pacific albatrosses, or in our own bodies. It's the next generation of polymer plastics that have invaded our lives, for better or worse.

In 2007, the American Chemistry Council reported upwards of 13 billions pounds of plastic resin produced by U.S. industries a year. This is 13 billion pounds of substances resistant to degradation, substances which we are now just beginning to understand can impact the development and functioning of reproductive systems in subtle yet potentially important ways.



By now, unless you live radio free and newsprint free you've likely heard about bisphenol-A which leaches from those colorful polycarbonate Nalgene bottles we all bought to avoid buying bottled water, and hard plastic baby bottles and some food can linings. If not you must have heard of phthalates - the plastic additive used to soften polyvinyl chloride (or PVC) - which leaches from items like IV bags, those cute yellow rubber duckies my kids used to mouth during bath time, teething and soft plastic books. (Phthalates are also ubiquitous in personal care products including shampoos and lotions, another route of exposure for infants.)

Bisphenol-A, and some forms of phthalates act like the potent sex hormone estrogen. For decades scientists have known that exposure to unnatural levels of sex hormones (either too much or too little), particularly during key periods of sexual development can result in tragic outcomes for both sexes. Collectively these substances are called endocrine disruptors.

The impacts of synthetic estrogen exposure are best illustrated by diethylstilbesterol or DES. For those who don't recall, DES was a synthetic estrogen prescribed to women from the 1950s through the 1970s to stem complications during pregnancy. Although

eventually found ineffective, it continued to be prescribed until the consequence of extraneous estrogen exposure reared its ugly head in the form of clear cell adenocarcinoma in daughters exposed in utero. Later, structural differences in the reproductive tract and infertility were identified in both DES sons and daughters.

That bisphenol A acts as an estrogen is no surprise. Back in the 1930s the chemical was almost developed as a synthetic estrogen, until DES stole the show. So, 70 years later, how does this stuff - a known estrogen - end up in plastic drinking bottles and plastic can liners?

Plastics are polymers - that is, they're made up of many repeating units, strung together like a paper chain. The broad range of plastics we're familiar with today results from the diversity of repeating units and chain formations discovered and developed at a feverish pace over the past century: vinyl, polyurethane, polystyrene, Teflon, Nylon, neoprene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and in 1953, researchers resurrected bisphenol-A in the form of polycarbonate. Only back then, no one figured their grandchildren would be sucking down mom's milk, lovingly pumped so that she could continue to work, from

polycarbonate plastic bottles, or that food cans would be lined with the stuff. Or maybe no one figured that individual units of plastic could actually break loose.

But the fact is they do. And the more scientists look, the more they seem to find - whether it's bisphenol-A leaching from polycarbonate bottles, or phthalates leaching from IV bags. And as with many toxicants like mercury and lead, it's our precious next generation that bears the brunt of our collective ignorance.

"So what would you do?" asked my neighbor, mother of two young boys. "Do you still drink out of plastic?"

Her mother had just given her the, "You're intelligent, how can you feed your children that stuff," lecture - but she hadn't yet tossed the sippy cups, rubber duckies and baby bottles.

I nodded sheepishly. I do love those colorful polycarbonate drinking glasses I purchased at Stop & Shop several years ago. And yes, last hiking trip we all sipped from the bright red Chaco Canyon polycarbonate liter bottle.

"I figure the water's not sitting there all day," I said, explaining that the greatest leaching of bisphenol A was reported after liquids were heated, or in very "well-used" or

continued next page

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continued from previous page

distressed polycarbonate. We didn't even get into the phthalate issue, which extends beyond the use and leaching of phthalates from plastics, to personal care products

"But," I conceded, "I did just buy some new water bottles, made from polyethylene, for the kids." Unlike polycarbonate, polyethylene doesn't leach anything toxic, so far as we know.

As I said this, I am sure that the little enviro-region of my brain, the one that lights up every time I do something hypocritical, began flashing away. Did I say I replaced one plastic with another? And did I say that while wearing my favorite purple polyester fleece and polyvinylchloride-bottomed Danskos? Did I say that after dumping a box of broken plastic toys - nonrecyclables - into our 40 gallon plastic barrel?

Of even more concern than the plastic and related compounds in our food and beverage containers - substances which can be avoided by the careful consumer - are the reports that millions of tons of plastic, from fishing nets to bits of what might once have been tampon applicators and polyester clothing, are now circulating in the regions of the Central North Pacific Ocean (gyres). By some estimates, these trash or plastic gyres cover an area equivalent to the size of Texas. And although plastics may not

degrade, they can break into bits - some as small as 20 microns - creating a plastic soup served up to unsuspecting wildlife.

Writes Charles Moore, founder of Algalita, a marine research foundation focused on the protection of marine environments, "I now believe plastic debris to be the most common surface feature of the world's oceans. Because 40 percent of the oceans are classified as subtropical gyres, a fourth of the planet's surface area has become an accumulator of floating plastic debris."

Further, scientists suspect that some of that plastic may be circulating around for hundreds of years to come.

For better or worse, plastics are part of our lives. But they don't have to be part of our bodies, and they don't have to be part of all creatures on Earth. Improved production practices, and products that are easily recycled back into the same products, rather than dead ends like lawn furniture and plastic lumber, and improved public awareness might not rid the North Pacific of its trash right now. But it might, generations from now.

In the '70's movie *The Graduate*, when Mr. McClure, a family friend of young Benjamin Braddock advised, "Plastics... There's a great future in plastics," he had no idea.



THE ROGUE EDITOR

Blown All Out of Proportion

BY NEIL SERVEN

GREENFIELD - A famous episode of the sitcom *Seinfeld* featured the "Soup Nazi," a lunch counter operator with extremely strict rules for managing his line of customers. He speaks tersely in a bitter tone, and those who try to do anything beyond placing their soup orders and moving out of the way are subject to an angry rebuke ("No soup for you!") and booted out of the shop. When George receives his soup without any bread, he raises a fuss, and hilarity ensues.

The use of the word Nazi here is, of course, an exaggeration of metaphor. The lunch counter operator has very little in common with members of the National Socialist party of pre-World War II Germany. His brand of fascism affects very few. But he does do something for which Nazis are historically known - the implementation of very strict rules and the severe punishment of transgressors - and that is why the writers of *Seinfeld* are able to get away with the comparison. The use of an epithet from a very somber period in world history, applied to a much more innocuous context (lunch counter etiquette) is the source of the humor.

Exaggeration, also called hyperbole, is a tool of rhetoric, and we see a lot of it in language. We get bored with the words we already have at our disposal, or we lose faith in their ability to convey ideas adequately. We want what we say to stand out and get noticed, so we exaggerate, and Nazi takes the idea of regimentation to the fullest extreme. To call the character a "Soup Tyrant" or a "Soup Despot" doesn't carry the same punch.

While this is not the first occurrence of the word Nazi being used to refer to someone who implements strict rules, it is probably the most famous. (It's also not the only contribution that *Seinfeld* has made to our vernacular.

Kramer's usage of the phrase "do me a solid" to ask for a favor turned up in the recent movie *Juno*, and "yadda yadda" saw an explosion in usage after *Seinfeld* centered a whole episode around it.) Since the "Soup Nazi" episode first aired, our language has seen further usage of the word in reference to someone who enforces rules with an iron fist. Perhaps most common is "grammar Nazi." A Google search finds over 300,000 hits for this phrase. Again, it's taking a very serious concept and applying it to a trivial subject. Grammar rules might be important to some, but they aren't on the same scale as human rights.

Another example of an exaggerated metaphor we see lately is the usage of whore. When this word first appeared in English, it referred to a female prostitute and was labeled offensive; now it is so outmoded that a few dictionaries label it old-fashioned. Whore expanded in usage first to mean a promiscuous person, then any unscrupulous person, with nothing to do with sex. Now it's found in phrases such as "camera whore" and "attention whore" - both referring to someone who

has no qualms about doing anything to get noticed. In this age of YouTube and social networking sites, it's a term more and more people have proudly adopted for themselves.

Slut has followed a similar pattern - for a long time it was strictly a term of opprobrium, but now it appears in wholly innocent places, such as Bookslut, the name of a popular blog aimed at book lovers.

Junkie used to apply only to drug addicts; now you can be a junkie for any kind of guilty pleasure, from pizza to reality shows. In fact, to say that we're "addicted" to things we simply enjoy very much is an exaggerated metaphor in its own right. Unlike an addiction to a drug, the body undergoes no physical change when something we enjoy is denied to us.

Words are like putty - they can be stretched to cover meanings far from their original intent when they were introduced into the language. These are just a few extreme cases in which words with very particular meanings have been co-opted and given new life in completely different contexts.

Local Color at Cold Brook Farm

BY ESTELLE CADE MONTAGUE CENTER

The "Local Color" writing group spent a warm June morning as guests of Fran Hemond at her home, Cold Brook Farm in Montague Center. We called it a "Field Trip to the Field Farm." As well as writing and listening to each other's stories, the group learned the history of the Field family farm, including the fact that at one time it had generated its own electricity. How helpful that would be today! Lemonade



ESTELLE CADE PHOTO
(l - r) Eileen Marguet, Fran Hemond, Elisabeth Donai, Joe Parzych (back to camera).

and muffins and a tour of the huge family home rounded out a most enjoyable morning in this tranquil place. "Local Color", the group's 10th edition of stories by seniors, will be out soon.

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Mackin Construction a Family Enterprise

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GREENFIELD - Ever since the passing of Peter Mackin on April 4th, 2002, rumors have been rife about the future of Mackin's construction, trucking, oil business and quarry operation, and the building of a discount department store on the site. Peter may be gone, but his companies are alive and well, now headed by his nephew, Michael Mackin.

I first met Peter Mackin when he called me in to see him when I began an excavating business in the late 1950s. I figured he would scorn me as an upstart competitor, but I found that he liked to help people starting out in business. He put me to work on a project.

He was one of the first to hire me. Later, I cleared land and excavated foundations for him at Westover Air Force Base when he held a site development contract for new barracks under construction. This was about 20 years after he'd first contracted to haul steel to Westover Air Base.

I worked long hours to keep ahead of the carpenters building concrete forms. Sometimes when equipment broke down, I'd work all night to get going by the time the construction crew showed up in the morning.

Peter found it hard to believe I was working so many hours, and one evening he drove down from Greenfield to check on me. It was summer and nearly ten p.m. by the time he arrived. The only light I had was cast by a yard light. I was operating a backhoe mounted on an ancient Mack truck, the backhoe engine at full throttle with no muffler on the exhaust. The engine roared and the exhaust pipe glowed cherry red in the twilight. When Peter approached, I idled down the engine to see what he wanted.

"I just thought I'd come down to see how you were doing," Peter said.

"You'll have to excuse me," I said. "But I've got to keep going



PARZYCH PHOTO

View of the Mackin yard with partially dismantled garage at left and office at right. White pipes in foreground are wells to detect plume of trace amounts of spilled fuel during transfer from fuel oil storage tanks.

to keep ahead of the carpenters and there's not much light left."

With that I opened up the throttle and resumed working. He went back to Greenfield and the next day told others how I'd dismissed him. He thought it was hilarious. Later, I put lights on the backhoe so I could see when working late.

Before I had a garage to repair equipment in the winter, they always made room for me at Mackin's garage. But if they needed to get something repaired in a hurry, I'd pitch in and help. Sometimes when they were caught short handed, the dispatcher, Joe Hurley, would ask me to drive a ten-wheeler or operate their Gradall. Peter would always tell me that whenever I finished a contract working for another contractor to come to see him. If Peter had hired equipment on a job, he'd knock them off and put me on. When I worked as hired equipment, he authorized me to unlock the office to turn on the gas pumps in the morning. Often his employees complained that I was allowed to unlock the office when they were not, and I wasn't even an employee.

Later, we got to be good friends, and Peter told me how

he got started in construction. As WWII began heating up in 1939, the government began building and expanding air bases. Peter won the contract to haul steel for new hangars at Westover Air Base in Chicopee, MA. He had the contract, trucks, but no trailers. It was wartime and no trailers were available.

Peter cut the back off old trucks and built homemade trailers. The trailers didn't have any brakes. Some steel beams were up to 75 feet long, and heavy. There were no regulations then. No one cared; they just wanted the steel delivered. He loaded the trucks until the tires blew out.

According to former foreman, John Witaliz, welder Hermon Hanson worked for Peter building the trailers. Witaliz drove tractors hooked to the jerry-built trailers and confirmed that they were operating without brakes. Witaliz was literately on the "ground floor" with the company when he came to work.

"I started off in 1945 peddling coal and ice in Millers Falls, then went to driving dump truck," Witaliz said. "Peter's brother Jim made a deal to lease Dunklee's sand pit in Greenfield. They said that Peter then swapped Dunklee a piano for the sand pit. Peter

bought a block machine and I started making blocks and laying them up to build the garage. The office used to be the library for the Franklin County Hospital. We cut it in half and I helped move it to the sand bank where it is now. I laid the blocks for it to set on."

The office building had originally been moved from Westover Air Base to Franklin County Hospital, most likely by Mackin's crew, before being cut in two again, and moved to the sand pit. The sand bank came out to the edge of Gill Road and the top of the sand was even with the French King Highway, with barely enough room in the sand pit in which to place the office.

During the steel transporting project, Peter narrowly escaped getting killed one day, as he supervised the loading. "A cable holding a bundle of steel broke as a crane hoisted the load into the air," Peter said. "The beams nearly hit me when they fell."

Peter said he hadn't intended to get into construction. His father wanted him to become a priest, but Peter majored in business administration at Villanova. There he worked in the college dining hall. Always the entrepreneur, Peter became a distributor

for the Balfor Company, and found the dining hall an ideal place to display and sell class rings, pins and related jewelry. He also sold flowers and corsages to students taking dates to dances. As manager of the college newspaper, he solicited ads. One of the companies he solicited, Penn Life Insurance, hired him to sell insurance, part time. At graduation, the insurance company made him a generous offer to join them full time. But Peter's family needed him at home.

His aging father, John Mackin, was in poor health, WWII was heating up, and Peter's two brothers, James and John, were going into the armed service. With James and John away, his father needed someone to run the family's coal business.

When Peter got the steel hauling contract, he supervised two shifts working at Westover in addition to managing the coal business and sand bank at home.

Peter would get up at five o'clock and head for Westover. He hired Lester Burnham as accountant and office manager to keep track of things.

Polio had crippled Burnham. Peter sent a couple of employees to Burnham's house each morning to carry him to the car, then, carry him into the office. Later Peter equipped a car with hand controls, and provided a wheelchair so Burnham could come and go on his own with a greater degree of dignity.

Sometimes, Peter wouldn't get home until midnight, but Lester would still be there in the office waiting for him. He did a hell of a job.

When steel hauling ended, Peter obtained excavating contracts for construction of the hangars and other buildings. Airplanes need fuel to fly, he reasoned, so Peter bought tank trailers. His crew parked the homemade trailers and hooked tankers to the tractors. For more than 30 years, his trucks hauled fuel

see MACKIN pg 17

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I babysit quite a bit for my infant grandson, and this interferes with my naps. I'm tired all the time when he's around. Does giving up a nap affect your health?*

My mother has a valuable tip for you. Nap when your grandson naps. That's what she did with her children and grandchildren. In fact, she napped almost every day of her life. Her other habits were not the healthiest, but she knew how to rest. And she lived to be 89.

In a study published in *The Archives of Internal Medicine*, researchers found that people

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Napping for Success and Long Life

who napped regularly had a 37 percent lower coronary death rate than those who never napped. The study was done on more than 23,000 Greek men and women ages 20 to 86.

The curiosity of the study's authors was piqued by low rates of heart disease in European and Latin American countries where siestas are an integral part of their lifestyles.

Another study published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine* provided evidence that nurses and doctors on night shifts perform better when they take a nap at work.

"There is a belief that people who nap are lazy, and that attitude needs to change," said Dr. Rebecca Smith-Coggins of Stanford University, the lead author of the study. "Naps are a powerful and inexpensive way to improve work."

There have been many prominent nappers. These include Sir Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Napoleon Bonaparte, Albert Einstein, and John F. Kennedy.

Here's a comment from Churchill:

"You must sleep sometime between lunch and dinner, and no halfway measures," he said. "Take off your clothes and get into bed. That's what I always do. Don't think you will be doing less work because you sleep during the day. That's a foolish notion held by people who have no imaginations. You will be able to accomplish more. You get two days in one - well, at least one and a half."

Churchill had abominable health habits. He was a heavy drinker and he smoked about 10 cigars a day his entire adult life. He lived to be 90.

A NASA sleep study to help astronauts function better demonstrated that 24-minute naps significantly improved alertness and performance.

Dr. David Dinges, a sleep researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, advocates 'power naps' to counter sleep deprivation. He says that insufficient sleep causes 'microsleeps,' involuntary dozing that causes accidents.

Sleep experts divide naps into brief snoozes that revive the brain and long ones to compensate for major sleep loss. A pick-me-up nap should be no longer than a half-hour. If you sleep beyond a half-hour, your body will drop into a deep sleep. When you get up from deep sleep, you can feel groggy for a while.

Here are some nap tips:
• When you feel like you need a coffee break, take a nap.

• Don't nap in the late afternoon because you can shift your biological clock; this will make it harder to fall asleep at night and rise the next morning.

• Try to take your nap about the same time each day - about eight hours before you go to bed for the night.

• If you don't want to nap a long time, set an alarm.

• In the hour or two before your naptime, eat foods high in calcium and protein, which promote sleep.

• Try to nap in the dark. Darkness stimulates melatonin, the sleep-inducing hormone.

• Remember your body temperature drops when you fall asleep. So, pull a blanket over you even if you don't feel cold when you begin your nap.

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

MACKIN from pg 16

from New Haven, CT to the air base. Peter upgraded to larger and larger tankers as they became available.

Just as Peter had purchased a fleet of new tractors, a pipeline ended fuel hauling to Westover. His company teetered on the brink of disaster. An auction company came in and inventoried trucks and equipment for an auction sale, but Peter was undeterred. He seemed to thrive on adversity. He went out to secure other fuel contracts for places like Erving Paper Company. The auction was called off, and the company survived. (Mackin's tankers still haul fuel to Erving Paper Company after more than 50 consecutive years.)

Surviving the crisis, Mackin's construction business grew. In 1960, Peter bought the Adams sisters' farm on Adams Road. It was a stroke of genius. The farm had huge sand and gravel deposits with underlying rock which his company mines to this day. The industrial park now sits on much of the land. There are still large quantities of gravel and stone remaining. A crushing and screening operation produces processed gravel and washed stone at the site as well as recycled concrete, brick and asphalt.

Now, the concrete from the demolition of Mackin's equipment garage, Peter's pride and

joy, is being trucked to the crushing facility to turn into hardpack. Part of the garage remains, storing tools and equipment. The office building will remain to serve as an office during the construction of the new department store.

For over sixty years after Peter started his company with homemade trailers, he and his employees keep up with newer equipment, trucks, tankers and modern technology, such as computers and laser surveying equipment. Mackin Construction made history when the company became the first to use crawler dump trucks, with tank-like treads, to meet tough specifications in moving material on landfill capping jobs.

The Adams Farm also included land with a large deposit of beach sand on the east side of the intersection of Route 2 and Adams Road. Mackin Construction mined a substantial amount of sand, leveling much of the site. During the process a skeleton was found buried in the sand. An investigation determined the remains were Native American.

Decades later, that skeleton came back to haunt Peter. Walmart tendered an offer for the site in the vicinity of \$6 million. Anti-Walmart activists killed the project and the Wampanoag tribe claimed the land was sacred burial grounds. Peter, who developed an amica-

ble relationship with the tribal members, sold them the land for \$127,000. In a letter to *the Recorder*, a tribal spokesperson expressed gratitude for Peter's selling them the land at the greatly reduced price.

Peter was always one to give people a chance.

Former dispatcher Joe Hurley grew up when conversations on a telephone required a strong voice to be heard. Joe was not a soft talker. When he called, he spoke loud enough to nearly be heard without a phone. Hurley appreciated my pinch hitting for him when he need a driver or operator. He always said that I was 'family.'

Present dispatcher Richard Hankinson is also accommodating. A few years ago, I needed a ride to Mass General Hospital for an operation and asked 'Hank' if there was any chance of getting a ride to Boston on an oil tanker. "Sure, no problem," was his answer.

When Peter found out about the arrangement, rather than forbid it, he instructed tanker driver Peter Laplante to delay his departure two hours so that I wouldn't get to Boston too early. When we got to Boston, Laplante made a detour from his regular route to bring me to a subway station one stop from Massachusetts General Hospital. He refused to accept any money, and said Peter had instructed him to take good care

of me.

Peter died at age 84, energetic and enthusiastic to the end, a familiar figure in his office. Though he delegated authority, he always liked to come around to see how things were going

and was never too busy to talk to an old friend. I once asked him if he'd do anything differently if he could live his life over.

"I wouldn't change a thing," he replied with a smile.



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JEP'S PLACE Part LXXXIII

Cow Pie Hurricane

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Winter weather was not the only problem in our lives. We did not subscribe to a newspaper nor were there any weather forecasts we could rely on, except for what Pa saw in signs in dew, wind direction, and cloud formations. No one had any inkling that a hurricane of major proportions would hit our area in September of 1938.

First, heavy rain fell. Winds began to blow, harder and harder. Trees bent before the wind. The brook flooded and I got to see my first seagulls, blown here by the high winds. Two of our hen coops were lifted into the air, moved about 20 feet and dropped. The coops disintegrated into a tangle of boards and timbers. We watched as a the roof of a neighbor's barn, a quarter mile away, lifted up into the air, intact, hovering for a moment before

disintegrating in a flutter of slate, boards and timber, before crashing to the ground. The hurricane uprooted many trees, including huge pine trees in the woods behind our house.

One day a group of us hiked up Mason's Hill to get a view of the valley and a wider look at the hurricane's destruction. A boy in our gathering was the son of a family who sported a real bathtub with hot and cold running water. He had come uninvited to accompany us on our walk through the pasture up to the top of the hill.

Our family did not have a bathroom. Few folks in the country did. Most people had an outhouse. Bathing in a brook or

river in summer was common; 'cat baths,' sponge baths out of a basin, the rest of the year, sufficed.

Bathing too often was considered unhealthy, especially in winter when a body could take a chill and catch a death of cold. The smell of cigars, whiskey, and sweat, either horse or human, was considered a manly smell. Manly smelling men were common, maybe even prevalent.

Our neighbors, the Lamberts, had their bathtub in the kitchen, as was often the case - the kitchen being the warmest room of the house. The tub had a wooden cover and served as a low table or counter when not in use. The bather closed off the kitchen, usually late in the evening, and bathed in privacy. We had a midwinter bath in a washtub when we were little. As we got older, we took cat baths with a basin in the pantry.

Our self-invited hiker had running water at his house, and the luxury of hot water piped right to a real bathtub from a hot water tank heated by their kitchen wood stove. We joked and horsed around as we walked, occasionally scaling dried cow pies like frisbees, just enjoying each other's company. Then, our privileged neighbor threw a cow pie, hitting someone.

He was quite proud of his family having a real bathtub with hot and cold running water, rarely passing up an opportunity to remind us of his elevated station in life. He'd already mentioned, several times that day, about his present status of being freshly bathed with clean clothes - including the luxury of underwear - clean underwear, he stressed.

He laughed when the target of

his cow pie complained, saying his aim was off and it was all an accident. We gave him the benefit of doubt. He then "accidentally" hit someone with another one. The targeted kid picked up a pie to retaliate.

"Wait. Don't throw it. I just had a bath and I got all clean clothes on," the son of privilege said, pronouncing bath - "bawth."

We came to an area rich with cow pies. He scaled another pie, hitting another kid. This time, there was no mistaking that it was a deliberate hit. The boy picked up a pie.

"Wait. Wait. Don't throw it. I just had a bawth."

Everyone paused and we looked at one other. Almost as one, we let fly with dried cow pies. All his slights, and taunts that I was a Polak and sounded like a crow when I spoke Polish, that we had no electricity, too many kids, and his bragging of his family's wealth, fine clothes and "bawth" tub with hot and cold running water, boiled up in me. I hurled pie after pie at him with a soul satisfying vengeance.

When the supply of dried cow pies ran out, I hurled a soft centered one. The soft centered pie hit with a satisfying splat. The other kids followed my lead. He was soon covered with cow manure from his once freshly shampooed regal head to his now manure-splattered shoes. The sight of him standing stupefied, plastered with stinking manure, satiated my anger and resentment. "There - now go home and take another ba-awth."

The others chimed in, "Yah - go home and take yourself another bawth - you stink."

- Continued Next Week

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MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: June 20th-26th		
Eagle Cam: DAILY 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. If We have a Signal You will have a Picture	8:00 am Special Town Meeting (6/17/08) 6:00 pm Special Town Meeting (6/17/08) 11:00 pm Chronicles: Fathers Day Mass	10:30 pm Encore Body Art 11:30 pm Enjoy the Ride
Friday, June 20	Monday, June 23	Wednesday, June 25
8:00 am Special Town Meeting (6/17/08) 12:00 pm On The Ridge: John Dawicki 12:30 pm Green by 2015 6:00 pm On The Ridge: John Dawicki 7:00 pm GMRSD (6/10/08) 10:30 pm Valley Idol Finals	8:00 am Fabulous Maurice 9:30 am On the Ridge: John Dawicki 10:30 am Poetry Music Jam at the Vou 11:30 am Preachin the Blues 6:00 pm Falls Table: Margaret Fitzpatrick 7:00 pm Select Board (6/16/08) 8:30 pm Skin N Bonz 10:00 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant	8:00 am GMRSD (6/10/08) 11:30 am Independent Voices 34 12:00 pm Montague Update: Martha & Clarkson Edwards 6:00 pm Fabulous Maurice 7:30 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 8:00 pm Valley Idol Finals 11:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee
Saturday, June 21	Tuesday, June 24	Thursday, June 26
8:00 am Valley Idol Finals 11:00 am Falls Table: Margaret Fitzpatrick 11:30 am Franklin County Matters: Domestic Violence 12:30 pm Lake Pleasant Slide Show 6:00 pm Valley Idol Finals 9:00 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 10:00 pm Fabulous Maurice	8:00 am Wisdom Way Solar Village 9:00 am Women Girls & HIV 10:00 am Underground Railway Concert 11:30 am Thomas Jefferson Speaks 12:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Community Based Banks 6:00 pm Elder Law 7:00 pm GMRSD (6/10/08)	8:00 am Valley Idol Finals 11:00 am Mohawk High School Performs at Disney 6:00 pm Songs for Wee People 7:00 pm Select Board (6/16/08) 8:30 pm Tapping Maple Ridge 9:30 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant 11:30 pm The Western MA Democrat: Thomas Merrigan
Sunday, June 22		

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 20th

Get Carried Away Solstice Reading. Local Writers Edite Cunhã, Jay Goldspinner and Lindy Whiton read from recent works at Carried Away Consignment, 10 Miles Street, Greenfield at 7 p.m. Free. Refreshments. For info contact Edite Cunhã, 625-6987

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Alchemystics*, dance, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Josh Levangie** - Josh pays tribute to the late Johnny Cash with his amazing Cash like voice. 9 to 11 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Amity Front and The Primate Fiasco*, 9:30 p.m., \$5 cover.

At The Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *David Wax Museum with the Mill Pond*, an Americana quartet that innovatively infuses traditional Mexican into its literary, countrified folk songs. *The Mill Pond Nine* is an old time trio, harmonies with banjo, guitar, & fiddle.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 20th & 21st

Regional Sustainable Energy Summit. UMass, Amherst. Speakers, workshops, networking! www.cooppower.org or (877) 266-7543.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Blade Runner*. Brand new version - the "final cut." Visually spectacular, powerfully prophetic, inventive, thought-provoking Sci-Fi Neo-Noir. Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Rutger Hauer. 7:30 p.m.

The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts is proud to present its fourth annual JCPA Showcase at the Turners Falls High School. Show times are Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. The JCPA Showcase is guaranteed entertain-

ment for all ages!

SATURDAY, JUNE 21st

Public reception for Volunteer Students from Hallmark Institute of Photography: *Annual Spring Exhibit & Benefit Print Sale* to support humanitarian work of Doctors Without Borders. On display June 19th - June 29th.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: **Industrial** Development along the Connecticut River. Interpreter Charlie Lotspeich gives a dynamic presentation and discussion on this interesting topic. 1 to 2 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *TBA*, rock & roll covers, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Karaoke Night** - TNT Productions will keep us all singing and dancing all night. Come try out your vocal skills and have a great time as well. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* - dance party, 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd

Picnic on the Common, 12 to 3 p.m. Join friends and neighbors for an afternoon of family fun on the Gill Common, "Picnic on the Common". Fall Town String Band at 12:30 p.m. Horse-Drawn Hayrides 12 to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of Gill.

At The Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: **Joe Finkel**, performs with an acoustic guitar, a tambourine strapped to his foot, and Kenny McGrath on violin, 8 p.m. www.montaguebookmill.com

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Don McAulay** - Warped Americana, 7 to 10 p.m.

Last day to view group exhibition at Artspace, Greenfield: *Features, Studies of the Human Form*. Artwork crafted from a variety of materials, local artists. Artspace, Greenfield. Hours Mon. - Fri. 1 - 6 p.m.

Summer African Dance class. Abdou Sarr, of Dakar, Senegal, will be teaching an African dance class for children on the Wendell Town Common, Tuesday evenings, June 24, July 1, 8, & 15th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All ages (adults too!) are welcome to participate and learn to move in the beautiful motions of Senegalese dance, to the rhythms of local African drummers, including Karen Copeland of Wendell. Call



Students from Hallmark Institute of Photography - Annual Spring Exhibit & Benefit Print Sale to support humanitarian work of Doctors Without Borders. June 19th - 29th. Hallmark Gallery, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Clara or Abdou at (978) 544-9849 Sliding scale \$8/class \$14/two children.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th
Great Falls Farmers Market, rain or shine, 2nd St. and Ave A, Turners Falls. Annuals, perennials, fresh farm products in season. 3 to 6 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Montague Phantom Brain Exchange*, 9 p.m., \$5 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Kevin Skrapa & Mario Cote** - Celtic music night, 8 to 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th
COOP Concerts 2008 Summer Series! Featuring Roland LaPierre, Michael Orlen, and The Ambiguities. Bring your blankets, chairs, picnic and spend an enjoyable evening of music at Greenfield Energy Park. 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Led Heflin*, solo gypsy jazz guitar with guest vocalist.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Larry Kopp** - Country and city blues guitar with vocals., 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th
Rainforest Reptile Show at the Erving Public Library, 6:30 p.m. Live alligators, turtles and snakes from the rainforests of the world. Info: ervinglibrary@netscape.net or (413) 423-3348.

Potluck at 8 Main St., Montague Center, in the barn. 6 to 8 p.m. with puppet show and musicians at 7 p.m. Info: Karen Werner 367 2858.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Blame it on Tina** - Enjoy the great local talent of Tina Horn, Bob Rosser, Jen Spingla, and John "Klondike" Koehler. Country and City Blues guitar with vocals., 8 to 10 p.m.

BEGINNING JUNE 27th
Quinnetuket II Riverboat cruise along the Connecticut River Daily trips narrated by experienced natu-

ralists, Friday - Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3 p.m. Call (800) 859-2960.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th

Great Falls Geowalk. Turner Falls lies amidst some of the most interesting geology of Western Massachusetts. Join DCR park interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era - about 200 million years ago. 1 p.m. Discovery Center lobby. (413) 863-3221 or visit www.greatfallsma.org, free.

Summer, Latin Style! Turners Falls RiverCulture presents MarKamusic, a high-energy danceable Latin music band deeply rooted within the folkloric, popular and traditional genres of Latin America, the Caribbean and South American Andean regions. Outdoor Concert in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 6 - 8 p.m, FREE! www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

A family-friendly festival to benefit the Shea Theater. Emcee Jaime Berger gets things rolling at noon with live music and entertainment throughout the afternoon from *The Alchemystics*, Lin Preston's *Musical Time Machine* (featuring Travis LeDoyt), *Honky Thumbelina and The Skinny Man*, *Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights*, *The Jen Tobey Band*, the cast of *The Country Players'* production of *Oklahoma*, Ja'Duke Productions and *The Fabulous Maurice*. Food offerings include pulled pork and garlic chicken wings from Holy Smokes, cajun barramundi fillets from Australis, ribs, burgers, hot dogs, fresh corn on the cob, sweet potato and French fries (from Wagon Wheel), soft drinks, and beer from The People's Pint. 12 - 8 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls. Free!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 TH & 21ST

Mark your calendars for a scentational tenth anniversary celebration of *The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival*. Find out what brings over 10,000 people to this phenomenal event for the whole family, Forster's Farm, Orange. Delight in over 80 amazing art and agriculture booths. www.garlicandarts.org

ONGOING

Vermont Center for Photography: *Journeys*, photographs by Ron Rosenstock. This is the first exhibit of Ron Rosenstock's color work from his new book, *Journeys*. On display until Sunday, July 27th. Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro, VT, (802) 251-6051.

The Leverett Family Museum, 1 Shutesbury Rd., Leverett: open to the public Saturdays 10 - 12 or by appointment. Artifacts, photos and

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exhibits of early days of Leverett and the surrounding area. Located in the former Bradford Field Memorial Library. (413) 548-9207.

Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday June 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. BLADE RUNNER
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- 2. THE LOVE GURU** PG13 DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
- 3. THE INCREDIBLE HULK** PG13 DAILY 12 2:15 4:30 6:45 9
- 4. YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN** PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:20
- 5. INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL** PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:20
- 6. GET SMART** PG13 in dts sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
- 7. THE HAPPENING** R in dts sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30

The Rendezvous

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Farewell, Montague Center School



DETMOLO PHOTO

The last classes at the Montague Center School gather on the front lawn with their teachers and staff on May 16th, 2008.

BY MARY GARDNER

On May 31st, a rainy Saturday afternoon in Montague Center, over 100

and Karen Wartel had the honors of cutting the cake. Many stories were exchanged about our hometown school.

MARY GARDNER PHOTO



Retiring music teacher Nan Sadoski led students through the annual spring musical, as she had for 28 years.

people attended a farewell party for the beloved elementary school, which closed its doors this month. In attendance were current staff, families, grandparents, students, former principal Bob Mahler, retired teachers, alumni, and community members. Bob Paulin provided musical entertainment. Teachers Wendy Mieczkowski

I remember having Mr. Libby as principal, Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Charlotte Choleva, Mrs. Kocis, Mrs. Benarzs, Miss Pilkington, and Mr. Robert Ross as custodian. Many principals, teachers, staff, PTO members, and students went through those double doors.

Edju Mieczkowski remembers birthday students walking across the stage of the auditorium every month in honor of their birthdays.

Mark Girard remembers when my sister Anna (Garbiel), Roxanne Sawin and he went into the old library to take more advanced classes.

"Cowboy on the Moon" was one of many spring plays performed on our stage. The most recent spring concert was "How Does Your Garden Grow?" It was dedicated to Anna, and the students created a beautiful backdrop of sunflowers, cows, a John Deere

tractor, a garden, and the red barn painted with the words Garbiel Farm. Anna would have felt right at home watching it.

In the play, the students took roles as a gardener, a scarecrow, flowers, asparagus, a carrot, a crabby cabbage, and cool nasty weeds who took over the garden. Jacob Wright played a groundhog and Kieran Masson played a bunny. They were all so talented, and Nan Sadoski, retiring after many years as the choral director, created another excellent production. Anna's family will always cherish the memory of this production in our hearts.

Many students were guided through this school. My sister, Anna, was only one of them. She grew up working on a

dairy farm before she went off to college, and she knew what hard work was all about. She wanted to give back to the community, and she did.

So many memories. Memories of the large slide, monkey bars, swings, merry-go-round, kickball, duck-duck-goose, playing marbles, brownies and cub scout meetings, Hallowe'en parties, musicals, making murals, doing the display case in the lobby, the annual fishing derby and the traditional pie auction.

This year, the proceeds from the pie auction went to establish an Anna Garbiel Memorial Scholarship fund, which will be awarded each year to a student graduating from the high school and going on to college. On a hot humid Monday, June 9th, with Patrick Pezzati auc-

tioning, \$1200 was raised from the sale of pies, including nearly \$100 for some deluxe pumpkin whoopee pies.

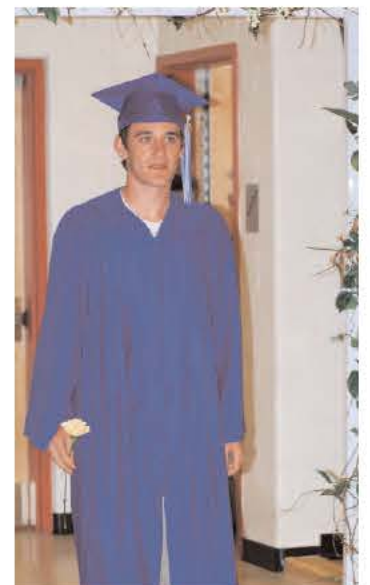
If anyone would like to donate to the Anna Garbiel Memorial Scholarship fund, you may do so by contacting the Greenfield Savings Bank.

Alix Ackerman is the recipient of the first scholarship. Alix, we know you will go far in life, with your leadership.

Anna would be quite grateful to all who contributed to establishing the scholarship. Again, with deep appreciation from Anna's family, we thank you all.

The red brick building of the Montague Center School will be deeply missed, and not forgotten, and each of her students will have fond memories of their own to share.

Turners Falls High School Graduates 81

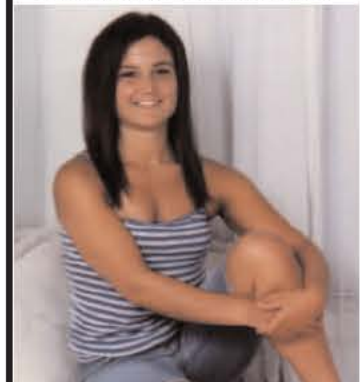


Among this year's graduating seniors were Sean Crowell, left, Stephanie Joby, center, and Wally Fitzpatrick.

CORI URBAN PHOTOS

Of the 81 seniors who graduated from Turners High on May 31st, over 60 are going on to college, three are joining the armed forces and the rest will be entering immediately into the workforce. Congratulations to one and all!

Alix Ackerman TFHS Graduate 2008



Now is your time to soar!
Congratulations & Love,
Your Mom