



2100 RETURN TO 1200

at Mutton & Mead Page 18

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YEAR 9 - NO. 8

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 23, 2011

A Knowing Group of Sixth Graders



DETMOLD PHOTO

Among the 6th graders saying farewell to Leverett Elementary on Tuesday were (l-r) Dean LaClaire, Lucia Mason, Xamantha Valentine, Camila Hwang-Carlos, and Scully Wilhelm

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - What most impressed a casual visitor at the Leverett sixth grade's farewell ceremony on Tuesday was how 'in the know' the 17 young people who make up the graduating class at Leverett Elementary are.

They did not demonstrate a secret handshake or recite a mystic mantra, but they were clearly members of a society of scholars and friends who had grown up together, some of them since pre-kindergarten

class. The teachers who nurtured them, the parents who helped them with homework and attended their plays and afterschool activities were all there in the auditorium, but as proud bystanders to an event happening not for them, but for the young people at the front of the hall, who had written the script themselves, and delivered it with half smiles, well rehearsed songs, and the mature confidence of the top students in a close-knit school.

see **SIXTH** page 15

Champs Again Turners Wins!

1-0 Over Case Cardinals in Division III Final



DETMOLD PHOTO

On June 16th, (l-r, front row) Stacy French (SS), Emily Mailloux (pitcher), Stephanie French (3B), Brittany York (LF), Kelsey Waldron (2B) and Elysia Ollari (catcher) lead their team onto the field after clinching the semifinal 4-3 over Quabog.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

WORCESTER - Turners Falls emerged victorious over the Case Cardinals in the state softball championship in Worcester on Saturday, when Samantha Caouette drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 7th inning.

Caught in a pitchers' duel between Turners' Emily Mailloux and the Cardinals' Shannon Orton, the undefeated

TFHS softball team could make no headway for the first six innings, aside from a single by Brittany York in the bottom of the fourth.

The Cards left runners on 2nd and 3rd in the second inning, and again in the 5th, but Turners did not get another hit until Dakota Smith-Porter connected with a lead-off drive over 2nd base in the bottom of the 6th.

Mailloux sacrificed, putting Smith-Porter in scoring position with one away.

Coach Gary Mullins sent Jenna Putala in to run for Smith-Porter, and she promptly stole third on a passed ball.

But then Brittany York hit a dribbler to the pitcher, who made a good decision and threw home, catching Putala half-way to the plate. In the

see **CHAMPS** page 14



Peter Kretzenger a Market Stalwart

FURBISH PHOTO

Peter Kretzenger at the Great Falls Farmers Market

BY JOHN FURBISH

GREAT FALLS - What Peter Kretzenger can't grow himself in the way of vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowering plants, and shrubs, his networking with other area growers enables him to bring to the Great Falls Farmers Market each Wednesday afternoon on Avenue A.

He has a prime site on the 2nd Street side of the market, among the array of local vendors that sets up each Wednesday around 2 p.m., across from the Shady Glen. Kretzenger does not just sell his produce, but he is ready and willing to offer advice and encouragement (particularly for the

plants and shrubs buyers will tend at home). Customers will find him to be a soft-spoken, helpful person.

In early childhood, Kretzenger was living in southern Connecticut where his father worked for a large scale plant nursery. Then, Interstate-91 went through the middle of the nursery and Kretzenger's father had to change his life.

Melvin Kretzenger bought the old Malik dairy farm on Route 63, and the family moved to Montague Center in the mid 1960s when his son was in 6th grade.

see **MARKET** page 17

Heather Batchelor One of the Best

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE

Heather Batchelor, a history teacher at Turners Falls High School, was honored at the statehouse in Boston last week, along with eight other semi-finalists and the winner of the statewide competition for Teacher of the Year.

Principal Donna Fitzpatrick said this means the Turners Falls history teacher is one of the ten best teachers in the state.

Batchelor received a plaque and met with Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Stephen Kulik during the ceremony on Wednesday. She said the governor had intended to be there as well, but was called to attend a funeral for a fallen soldier.

In addition to history, Batchelor teaches the Rise Up program, a program based on community service learning that emphasizes goal setting and communication skills. Students



PETER HOFFMAN PHOTO

TFHS history teacher Heather Batchelor posed with Senator Stan Rosenberg at the Statehouse awards for Teachers of the Year.

in the Rise Up program work at the Gill-Montague senior center, helping with their Brown Bag distribution program and taking part in their Coffee and Conversation program. Under Batchelor's direction, Rise Up students have worked with Griffin's Friends, helping families of children with juvenile cancer to provide a "moment of joy" for the kids. The students bake cupcakes each week to send down to the Baystate

see **BEST** page 16

Orange Vetoes Mahar Deal

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Orange annual town meeting voted on June 20th to cut the Mahar Regional School budget request by \$100,000, torpedoing the alternative assessment method approved by the regional school committee and by the New Salem, Petersham, and Wendell annual town meetings.

Both the Orange finance committee and town administrator Richard Kwiatkowski specifically cited rejection of the alternative assessment method as a reason to vote down the regional school committee's requested budget.

The Wendell finance committee has been working for several years to convince the region to use an alternative assessment method for determining each member town's contribution to the regional school budget, rather than the statutory method developed by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Under the statutory method, for the current fiscal year, see **ORANGE** page 16

PET OF THE WEEK

Extra Sweet



Morgan

My name is Morgan and I'm a three-year-old female hound mix in need of a good home. If you are looking for an extra sweet girl, look no further. I can be fearful in new environments but if you are patient, I will be happy in no time at all. I am a young, active dog who would benefit from training classes. I am a Dixie dog. Dixie dogs are transported to northern adoption centers from southern shelters that are overrun with healthy dogs. I'm looking for a home that can provide me with plenty of exercise, play, and affection. I will do well with kids 10 and up, dogs, and cats are OK with me. If I seem like the match for you, ask a staff member for the chance to meet me. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program 2011

GILL - Come to Slate Library this summer and play the summer reading game. Pick up a game board and color your way around the board, as you read books throughout the summer months. When you reach a goal on your board, visit the library for a stamp, and a prize from the prize basket.

For extra fun this year we ask you to submit book reviews and drawings based on a favorite summer read.

For each review or piece of artwork that you submit, you get a raffle ticket to be entered for prizes at the end of the program.

• Saturday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m. Robbin-Zust Marionettes present the Russian folktale *The Firebird*. Come be transported across the globe to the forests of

Russia and hear the tale of Tsar Saltan and his three sons, a horse, a wolf and a beautiful bird!

• Saturday, July 2nd, 11:00 a.m. Jeannie Hunt, Book Artist offers a workshop: Create a Star Book with petal pages that lock together. Jeannie will lead a workshop combining poetry and art to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art.

• Saturday, July 9th, 11:00 a.m. Tom Ricardi presents *Birds of Prey*. Get set for an exciting morning on the lawn of Slate library. Learn about birds of prey and see them in action.

• Saturday, July 16th, 11:00 a.m. Fabric Collage presentation. Listen to stories from *The Fabrics of Fairytale* and create a fabric collage made from a variety of beautiful materials.

ATHOL LIBRARY NEWS

Author presentation *Gene Defense* with Joy Ashe

Join us for an interesting and thought-provoking discussion about DNA, genes, and family history and origins. On Wednesday, June 29th, at 5:30 p.m., The Athol Public Library welcomes Joy Ashe, author of *Gene Defense: A Fictional Genetic Thriller*, not only to discuss her book, but also to open discussion of our own genes, DNA, and family histories into the realm of the theoretical.

Fans of mystery, suspense,

and thriller novels as well as genealogy enthusiasts and real-life science-fiction-scenario lovers alike will enjoy this fun and interesting look at the common characteristic we all share: DNA.

This library program is free and open to the public. Call the library to sign up at (978) 249-9515. Funding for this program is generously provided by the Friends of the Athol Public Library.

GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER NEWS

Drawing Along the River

Drawing is a wonderful way to learn more about the world we live in, and spend time to really see our surroundings.

We will enjoy time along the Connecticut River in Turners Falls drawing birds, plants, rocks, landscapes, and more!

No experience is necessary, but please bring pencils or pens,

a pad or notebook of plain drawing

paper, comfortable clothing for being outside, including hats and walking shoes.

We will meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, June 25th at 9 a.m. in the courtyard. If it is rainy, we will draw inside. This workshop is free, but space is limited. Call 413-498-2710 to register.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 27th - July 1st

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter.

• **Reservations are still being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical *Hairspray*.**

• **Tickets for the COA summer picnic on July 26th are available now at the Senior Center for \$6.00.**

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, June 27th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, June 28th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
Wednesday, June 29th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 Bingo
Thursday, June 30th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Money Talks presentation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, July 1st
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.



STEVE DAMON PHOTO

Gill 1st grader Zeb Dodge shows his first handful of Uppinngil strawberries. Gill Elementary School kindergartners and 1st graders made the trek by foot to Cliff Hatch's patch on Wednesday, June 15th for the end-of-the-year field trip. The Gill agricultural commission was (of course) nearby with a camera.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

- The bridge workers came in from all sections of the country, representing a curiously mixed lot.
- There was Charlie, a former Wisconsin State crack football player with a pilot's license and a plane at Holyoke; Paul, an amateur photographer who had sold many of his shots to big magazines, and George, a Native American. He attended Carlisle School, where he was an outstanding ball player and later got a tryout with the big leagues. He was friends with Jim Thorpe of football fame.
- Many of the men were supporting invalid parents, or helping to send a younger brother or sister through school. They all seemed to enjoy the danger and excitement attached to their work. To them, white collar men were a pitiful lot.
- But those "tough bombers" are human enough at heart. A typical example was seen, when a group of five painters saw a little girl drop a bottle of milk while taking it home to supper. The fellows came up to the crying girl, and each chipped in a coin to get another bottle of milk, and some candy for the child.

More bridge facts next week!

No-Nukes Party

WENDELL - On Saturday, June 25th, from 1-8 p.m. the Wendell Conservation Commission will sponsor a No-Nukes party and potluck at the Wendell town hall, and, weather permitting, on the common. Organizing plans for non-violent direct action will be discussed from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by numerous groups including the Clamshell Alliance.

MONTAGUE BARREL STICKERS

The new barrel stickers for trash pick-up are now available in the collector-treasurers' office. The cost for the six-month sticker is \$78.00. Stickers are good July 1st through December 31st, 2011. The collector-treasurer's office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Friday.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Montague Public Libraries is seeking six Montague residents to serve on a strategic planning committee to help plan for the future of library service in town. Interested residents are encouraged to call library director Sue SanSoucie at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Enjoy a concert with **Clinical Notes** - "from Bach to Beatles and lots in Between," featuring Baystate Franklin Medical Center's women's a cappella chorus. Held in the Ethel Lemay Healing Garden on Friday, June 24th. The BFMC Food Services will be holding a barbecue in the garden from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the concert will take place in the main lobby (no BBQ). The concert is from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. BFMC is located at 164 High Street in Greenfield.

Friendly's Restaurants has announced a **tornado relief** fundraising effort in all of its Massachusetts and Connecticut locations. The company will match all customer donations collected at the cash register at all 140 Friendly's restaurants for the benefit of the Pioneer Valley Red Cross. Locally, there is a Friendly's at 368 Federal Street and at 200 Mohawk Trail in

Correction

In last week's write-up on the rain delayed semi-final state softball championship match-up at UMass on June 15th between Turners Falls and Quaboag, we incorrectly reported that Emily Mailloux doubled in the 2nd inning. It was actually Elysia Ollari who hit the line drive smash down the third base line in that inning. Ollari came in to score the first run for Turners on Stacy French's double. Turners went on to win 4-3 in the tenth under sunny skies the next day.

Greenfield.

Montague Community Band summer concerts will be held in Peskeomskut Park, Avenue A, in Turners Falls starting at 7:00 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and perhaps a picnic dinner. Admission is free. The concerts will be held on Monday evenings June 27th, July 25th and August 8th.

The annual **Strawberry Supper** at the Montague Center Congregational Church will be held on Saturday, June 25th, starting at 5:30 p.m. The menu will offer baked stuff chicken breast, rice, hot veggies, salad and of course Strawberry Shortcake! For reservations please call 413-774-7256. Walk-ins are welcome and take-out is available.

The Gill-Montague schools **Summer Meals** program begins on June 27th and continues until August 12th. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. until noon at the Montague Elementary School and Turners Falls High School cafeterias, and also at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

The **Village Co-op** in Leverett will hold a members appreciation weekend starting Friday, June 24th, with a beer sampling from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, June 25th, the Co-op will follow up with a tag sale and an Arts and Crafts sale. Roving musicians will be performing all day. On Sunday, the co-op, located at 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, will feature a special brunch from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with a wine tasting shortly after noon.

Just in time for the summer, free film showings will be on offer in the North Quabbin. The founding sponsors, Mission Covenant Church of Orange, the office of Second Franklin state representative Denise Andrews, the Millers River Café of Orange,

and Art for Life of Orange, have been working together for several months to design and launch North Quabbin Films.

North Quabbin Films believes access to the arts will enhance our vibrant communities. The Deja Brew in Wendell will host two North Quabbin films, with *The Lion King* being shown on June 29th and *Casablanca* on July 27th. All films are on Wednesday evenings, with shows starting at 7:00 p.m.

The New Salem and Wendell recreation committees are sponsoring **free swimming lessons** to New Salem and Wendell children from pre-K to fifth grade at Lake Mattawa this summer, taught by the staff of the Athol Area YMCA's aquatics program. Lessons will be offered the week of July 18th - 22nd and the week of July 25th - 29th. One session will run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; the other 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Residents may register for one or two weeks. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday (with Friday set for a rain make-up only). Parents must stay for the duration of their child's swimming lesson.

Pre-register in person at the Y or by calling 978-249-3305.

The Men's Resource Center offers a **men's weekly drop-in support group** with a safe, supportive environment for exploring personal concerns in the company of other men; open to all men every Wednesday evening, from 7-9 p.m., at Network Chiropractic, 21 Mohawk Trail, in Greenfield, MA; The groups is facilitated by trained volunteers; a donation is requested. For more info, call: 413-253-9887 or email mrc.info@mrcforchange.org.

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

Montague Seeks Relief on Dieseling Trains

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The selectboard and the board of health wrote jointly to the Boston regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, seeking relief for the citizens of Montague from the health impacts of diesel exhaust from idling trains.

The letter, dated June 20th, states, "It is the contention of both our boards that where idling is occurring it is clearly contributing to a condition of air pollution in violation of both Massachusetts Air Quality Law and the Clean Air Act."

The problem, which drew 50 residents to a public hearing last month, and 150 signatures on a petition seeking relief, is

particularly acute in the villages of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant, where diesel locomotives belonging to the Pan Am Railways have been observed idling for hours or days at a time.

The boards claim topography and temperature inversions in these densely populated areas exacerbate the health impacts of the pollution to village residents. They point out that Montague school children suffer asthma at twice the state average.

The town cites case law to bolster their argument that the railroad is not exempt from the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

Museum of Our Industrial Heritage Launches Summer Sundays

GREENFIELD - On Sunday, June 26th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage at 2 Mead Street in Greenfield will host a free open house to celebrate its new family-friendly exhibit, "Industry and Innovation - Franklin County's Unique Story." The museum will be open Sunday afternoons through Labor Day weekend.

How did sewing machines make airplanes possible?

Visitors to the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage's new exhibit will find out as they 'meet' the innovators, entrepreneurs, and workers of the past - and imagine what the future will look like. They'll also find a new museum store, stocked with a great selection of adult and youth books, and educational toys relating to innovation, immigration, tools, simple machines, inventions, and more.

"This project fulfills a 15-year goal to interpret this collection and its story to the general public by establishing modest open hours in a visitor-friendly space," said Jim Terapane, president of the museum's board. "This is a major milestone for the museum, making it one more vital cultural attraction for the region."

From early mills dotting the

rural landscape in the 18th century to the tap and die industry of the 20th century, Franklin County has played an important role in regional, national and world history.

"We want to dispel any notions that the museum is just a collection of tools. There's really quite an amazing story here, which our new exhibit begins to tell," commented Sheila Damkoehler, who volunteered this year to help the board fundraise and create the exhibit. "It's about people, families, and communities, with innovation at its heart," said Damkoehler.

The open house, which will feature hands-on activities and (weather permitting) a guided walk along the Green River Industrial Heritage area, is a celebration of months of activity readying the space and creating a museum store, made possible by a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, 16 local cultural councils of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the support of individuals and local businesses, especially those in the museum's neighborhood along the Green River.

For more info visit www.industrialhistory.org. The main exhibit area is handicap accessible.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

A Novel Approach

BY JOHN FEFFER

WASHINGTON DC - I'd like to propose a new electoral law that would require all Senate candidates to be novelists. If we had 100 novelists in the Senate, the body might finally be able, like Sen. Jim Webb, to distinguish fact from fiction.

Webb, a Virginia Democrat who has published six novels, announced in February that he wouldn't run for a second term. Never a reticent fellow, he has spent the last few months being even more outspoken than usual. On Afghanistan, East Asian security policy, and Libya, Webb has challenged the Obama administration's fictions. It's refreshing to hear a critical voice in a body characterized these days by compliant Democrats and posturing Republicans.

Webb recently teamed up with Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) to introduce a resolution calling on President Barack Obama to justify U.S. military actions in Libya. His administration, according to the War Powers Act, should have reported to Congress 60 days after initiating the military conflict in Libya, but shrugged off that deadline.

Obama has argued that he has abided by the War Powers Act by consulting with Congress. In a stinging speech, Webb firmly disagreed: "The president followed no clear historical standard when he unilaterally decided to use force in Libya... And while he has discussed this matter with some members of Congress, he clearly has not formally conferred with the legislative branch."

Webb's position on the U.S. force structure in Asia is equally contrarian. In mid-May, he teamed up with Carl Levin (D-MI) and John McCain (R-AZ) to issue a statement offering an alternative to the current plan to build another U.S. military base in Okinawa and expand our facilities on Guam, an initiative the Obama administration has been hell-bent on pursuing over Okinawa's fervent objections.

Wait a minute. Aren't we living through a period of budget austerity that's putting food stamps, Medicaid, and even Medicare on the chopping block? The price tag for reorganizing the U.S. force structure in the Pacific is enormous — more than \$27 billion. And, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, this is probably a lowball estimate. But the Obama administration has closed its ears to the Okinawans, the Webb-Levin-McCain initiative, and the GAO.

A Vietnam veteran who served in the Reagan administration, Webb is no pacifist. But he centered his Senate bid on opposition to the Iraq War and famously butted heads with George W. Bush over the deployment of Webb's son in that conflict. Webb's relatively cautious statements about the Afghan War drew ire from his anti-war supporters as recently as this year.

Webb is still cautious on Afghanistan, tentatively backing the administration's approach. But at a recent hearing, Webb wondered aloud whether the "clear and secure" U.S. strategy in Afghanistan has any real effect on an adversary that can pick up and move quickly to another part of the country, or into Pakistan. And he received more press for pointing out that, "If there is any nation in the world that needs nation-building right now, it is the United States."

Congressional opposition to the Afghan War is increasing alongside public opposition. Webb, who will be a free agent after this year, can and should take the lead in the Senate in pushing for a faster withdrawal from the country.

Contrast Webb's positions with those of Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The Pentagon chief, who will leave his post on June 30th, took some bold positions opposing certain expensive weapons systems. But he's spending his final days in office fighting a rearguard battle. He has dismissed the idea of a substantial



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

As a small town weekly, the *Montague Reporter* follows the news of local boards, many of which switch to summer schedules this time of year.

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on July 7th, 21st, August 4th or 18th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

withdrawal from Afghanistan. He has chided European allies for cutting their military budgets. And he has fear-mongered about the dangers of the United States slashing Pentagon spending.

While Gates is spreading his soothing fictions, Webb is raising some uncomfortable facts. The Senate will be the poorer for his absence. If Obama wins a second term, perhaps Webb could return to the Pentagon as the Secretary of Defense to preside over the end of the Iraq and Afghan wars. Maybe he could also jumpstart the long-overdue dismantling of the military-industrial complex. That's the kind of novel approach we need right now.

John Feffer is co-director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies. This editorial first appeared in Other Words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Organize Against Climate Change

Recent news headlines of weather records shattered, and the U.S. battered by spring tornadoes, flooding, and drought; the biggest wildfire in Arizona state history, and oceans in poor health make me worried about global warming and climate change.

It's scary enough now, but what will it be like for my grown children and grandchildren in the next few decades?

What to do? Start by checking out Bill McKibben's May 27th article in the Washington Post called "Keep Calm and Carry On;" it's also a great YouTube video. Or chief NASA climatologist James Hansen's recent book "Storms of My Grandchildren." Also journalist Mark Hertsgaard's "Hot: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth." His six-year-old daughter motivated him to write the book.

Nearly two years ago, the national group 350.org organized a huge Climate Crisis day

of action — 5200 events in nearly every country in the world, including here in the Pioneer Valley.

Since then, governments around the world — especially our own — haven't done much. Many politicians deny the overwhelming international scientific consensus that climate change is a serious problem. President Obama pledged last fall to take the small but important step of putting solar panels on the White House roof by June 21st, but it hasn't happened.

So now 350.org is mobilizing again this September 24th for an even bigger, historic day of international action. Contact me (johnpberk@gmail.com) or by phone (413-625-6374) if you too feel deeply concerned about the impact of climate change, and would like to work together organizing one or more local events.

- John Berkowitz
Shelburne

Volunteer Editor Recognized

Thank you for the long article about the *Industrial Leverett* booklet in the June 10th issue. I am pleased that you featured the Wood Industries section written by John Foster, who was the initiator of the project and the man who talked others of us into writing some of the articles.

In citing credits for the booklet you did not mention Kathleen Lafferty, who spent countless volunteer hours editing our amateur endeavors and who actually got the finished work to the printer so that it was available at the Leverett town meeting in April. She needs to be recognized.

The booklet is also available at the two Historical Society buildings, the Moores Corner Schoolhouse and the Family Museum in Leverett Center.

- Betsy Douglas, Chair
Leverett Historical
Commission

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/22/11



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An Authentic Experience



SEAN WERLE PHOTO

Roundtable Productions provided exciting jousting tournaments during the day, as vendors in the Medieval Market sold ye olde French Fries and Bart's Ice Cream.

BY SAM LETCHER

MONTAGUE - I don't usually enjoy role playing, and I had only ever been to one Renaissance fair (King Richard's near Boston) when I was very young. That said, I was a little apprehensive about even going to the Mutton and Mead festival.

But walking down the dirt road towards the Mutton and Mead Festival on Saturday, I began to feel as if I was actually being transported back in time. The sounds of traffic on the road were slowly drowned out by the wall of trees and replaced by the calls of birds and discreet sounds of the forest. Sounds from nearly a thousand years ago began to grow: the clip-clop of shod horses carrying knights, hardened leather boots striking the packed dirt road, and off in the distance around a bend, joyous music played.

Clothing began to change, too. Men wore layered suits and

were often clad in leather, many sported a sword or flask belted to their hip. The women all wore period dresses, long, flowing and brightly colored. I began to feel quite out of place wearing a bright red cotton t-shirt, cargo shorts and Adidas flip-flops.

Speech changed from the hard twangs of American English to the softer, more rounded dialect of the old British midlands as people began embracing their characters. From some of the trees lining the road hung canvas signs marking various landmark dates from history: 1620, the Mayflower lands; 1431, Joan of Arc burned alive, and so on until, coming around a bend, the forest road opened up onto a scene straight from the early 13th century.

The fair took place in a large field surrounded by trees and filled with the sights, sounds and smells of the Middle Ages. The perimeter of the field was

ringed with mercantile shops, where vendors hawked their various goods and entertained customers with their acts. A woman on horseback loudly pronounced the names and titles of four knights from the middle of a large roped off jousting list. After being introduced, each knight rode their horse around the clearing, pumping up the crowd and making snide remarks about their opponents. While the fourth and final combatant was introducing herself, one of her opponents rode by saying, "She's a psycho, that one."

Immediately a ripple went through the crowd. "What's a psycho?" "What is he on about?" "Maybe one hailing from the land of Psych?"

The actors all seemed to have an excellent grasp of colloquialisms from the time, greatly reinforcing the image of the Middle Ages and adding incredible effect to the whole experi-

ence. Most of the Mutton and Mead festival seemed alive to historical accuracy. It was clear the actors had studied their roles thoroughly, reacting to the crowd as a commoner or a guard would in the Middle Ages. The aforementioned costumes were fantastic and were worn by

nearly everyone attending the fair. In fact, it was very hard to tell the difference between someone actually working at the festival and someone who was just an enthusiastic bystander.

I was quite surprised when I looked in the program to find there were only about 35 cast members, when I felt I had been surrounded by costumed and accented characters.

Unfortunately, there were also many chinks in the guise of the otherwise stellar festival. The first I noticed was found under the canopy of the registration tent, itself likely made of some form of polymer rather than the traditional cow hide. There on the table a bright red and yellow Igloo water cooler sat as a glaring reminder that nothing could be perfect when reenacting a scene from nearly a thousand years ago. There were other laughably obvious discrepancies, such as a "merchant" wearing a bright green smiley-face t-shirt and texting while serving up food to his patrons, or the presence of some oddly out of place vendors in the festival setting.

Nonetheless, and despite my initial misgivings, it was overall a very enjoyable experience. The mood of the whole fair was authentic, and the combination of the actors' superior abilities and the community's creativity and devotion made the Mutton and Mead festival an experience truly worthwhile.

Sam Letcher will be a senior next year at Turners Falls High School; he is interning with the Montague Reporter this summer.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Cedric the Tinker tells catapult customer Logan Pitchko of Greenfield, "We can Build them to any Scale."

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Montague Signs Energy Performance Contract**

BY DAVID DETMOLD Programmable thermostats will be installed at the Carnegie Library and town hall, along with energy efficient lighting at those two buildings and the public safety complex; air leaks in the buildings will be sealed at the library and town hall; the energy management system will be improved at the public safety complex, new panel radiators will be installed at the town hall garage, and new energy efficient gas fired boilers will replace the old units at town hall as part of the first phase of efficiency upgrades of town buildings under the energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies.

The selectboard signed off on the \$339,976 contract with Siemens on Monday night. The town will finance \$45,413 of that work – possibly foregoing long term borrowing approved by town meeting in favor of using stabilization funds, since the final dollar amount the town will have to pay is so low. Much of the contracted work will be paid for by grants from the state's Green Communities program and from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

The town should see payback for its portion of the work within three years of project completion through savings on utility bills, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said.

Greenfield Road

The long awaited reconstruction of the north end of Greenfield Road – the two mile long section from Hatchery Road to Montague City

Road – is finally about to move off the drawing board and into the paving trucks.

Abbondanzio said the town would pay \$94,700 from state Chapter 90 highway funds to the engineering firm Greenman Pedersen (GPI) to complete the 100% design work on Greenfield Road within the next 90 days. The town manager said the two year construction project is slated to go out to bid next year, for a start date in 2013.

Mass Department of Transportation (DOT) engineers worked with GPI to reduce the scope of work, to try to bring the overall cost of the project down below \$6 million. (That's about \$3 million a mile, for those of you who might be wondering.)

"Originally, the project was expected to cost \$7 or \$8 million," said Abbondanzio. "Now it's back to something more affordable."

At the current estimated price tag of \$5.7 million, Abbondanzio said, "We'd be using the full allocation of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' transportation plan for two years, in effect."

Abbondanzio said the Mass DOT would be handling the reconstruction of the Hatchery Road detour as a separate project, once right of way issues are resolved.

The DOT has settled on a permanent detour around the former Greenfield Road overpass of the former Guilford Railroad tracks via Hatchery Road to Turners Falls Road, rather than risk the liability of rebuilding the overpass. A hydrogeologic

survey of the land on which the overpass had been built revealed significant barriers to a successful long-term reconstruction of the bridge, which was undermined when Guilford lowered the tracks to allow transport of taller box cars in 1998.

The road surface on the bridge buckled on April Fool's Day, 1999. Acknowledging that Greenfield Road carried 1900 vehicles per day between Montague Center and Montague City and Greenfield, Mass Highway spokesperson Jon Carlisle said on that occasion, "We certainly don't want it to be closed for a year."

He should have added, "April Fools."

The bridge surface sank another 12 inches overnight, and demolition began a week later. Lawsuits between the railroad and the town to determine culpability for the debacle dragged on for years.

Mass DOT subsequently abandoned the idea of rebuilding the overpass, opting for a pedestrian-bicycle bridge instead. That bridge would be designed to be strong enough to carry emergency vehicles as well, Mass DOT said.

But on Monday, Abbondanzio could not give an estimate for when even this light weight bridge joining the two truncated ends of Greenfield Road would be completed. Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother offered to take board member Pat Allen out to dinner if the pedestrian bridge were ever built.

see MONTAGUE pg 7

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Erving Prepares for Usher Mill Demo and Reuse**

BY DAVID DETMOLD Erving held a special town meeting on June 20th and passed six of the seven articles on the warrant.

The one article that was passed over would have provided \$55,000 to air condition the interior room in the Erving Elementary School where the school's computer server is housed. The room routinely heats up to the 90s, but it is the one room in the school without access to central air conditioning.

Voters felt the school should be able to pay for air conditioning the server hub with funds remaining in various end of the year line items, without any new appropriation.

Voters authorized the selectboard to accept a \$50,000 grant and to borrow up to \$150,000 from the USDA rural Brownfields program to assist the town with the eventual demolition or renovation of portions of the Usher Mill complex on Arch Street.

On Monday, July 11th, the Usher Mill reuse committee will report to the board on the results of their consideration of options for the possible reuse of the property, including the possible renovation of the former boiler building. The entire property should fall into town ownership through tax title at the end of July.

The Usher Mill has been fenced off to the public since an arson fire destroyed the main mill buildings on July 30th, 2007. The current owner, Patriots Environmental, a Worcester salvage firm, has been unresponsive to demands to clean up and secure the 5.7 acre prop-

erty, and has failed to make tax payments, since the company hauled off reusable and saleable materials in 2008.

In other news, the Erving selectboard issued a business license on June 20th to Melinda Sullivan, a resident of the Springfield area who plans to reopen Christina's on Route 2 in the coming weeks, with her business partner and chef Tony DiMaio, formerly of DiMaio's in Whately and South Deerfield.

Sullivan said the reopened Christina's will again feature "fresh and homemade Italian favorites, along with fresh seafood and New England fare in a family dining environment. We're very excited about coming to Erving and looking forward to a great relationship."

The board paid current bills on the new senior center construction. General contractor MCM USA of Burlington has set an ambitious occupancy deadline of October, town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said.

Leo Parent was reappointed to the board of health, to serve until the next town election in May of 2012.

Tax collector Dick Newton resigned as tax collector, citing time constraints, effective June 30th.

The board will interview applicants for the post on June 27th. Whoever is appointed will also serve only until the annual town election.

Robert Turner of Lillian's Way and Margaret Sullivan of Old State Road were appointed to the Council on Aging.

Laura Conway was appointed as the town's deputy emergency management director, taking the place of chief of police Chris Blair. Sharp said the town has come to realize that in an emergency, the police chief has other responsibilities than serving as deputy emergency management director.

On June 6th, the selectboard signed a three year revenue sharing agreement with the Erving Paper Mill. The agreement reduced the anticipated \$150,000 annual payment to the town for third party sludge handling at the town owned, company operated wastewater treatment plant from \$150,000 annually to a lump sum payment of \$50,000.

Town administrator Tom Sharp said Erving Paper CEO Morris Housen was, "Happy enough to sign," what Sharp called, "a very generous offer on the part of the town, done in the spirit of keeping this struggling company viable and to keep jobs at the plant."

Erving Paper has been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy for several years, but Sharp said the company is confident it can soon emerge from bankruptcy.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Firefighters Respond to Tornado Stricken Towns

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Deputy fire chief Stuart Elliott and captain Jason Edson of the Gill fire department were among the many emergency responders from around the state who converged on locales like Munson, Wilbraham, Springfield and West Springfield in the aftermath of the tornados that touched down in the late afternoon of June 1st, wreaking widespread devastation and killing three. Elliott said he and fire chief Gene Beaubien got the call and arrived in Agawam just as one of the tornados touched down.

The Gill firefighters helped staff the emergency operations center in Agawam, gathering information on the mayhem that had broken loose in the various cities and towns that day, and to help organize search and rescue teams and ambulance details.

But how did the fire departments responding from four corners of the region know which towns needed them most, and where to deploy?

"The Massachusetts Emerg-

ency Management Agency activated the Northwestern Massachusetts Incident Management Team," said Elliott. "It essentially was a joint effort. All the information came in through MEMA in Agawam," with local fire and ambulance crews responding where most needed.

Elliott said if the stricken towns and cities had put out calls for mutual aid directly, as they would have in past years, "It would have been chaos."

But, Elliott said, "If there was a silver lining to 9-11 it's that we're better organized now to respond to large scale disasters."

Elliott and Edson discussed the tornado response with the Gill selectboard on Monday, June 20th. Elliott told them, "The response was really quite fast. It was pretty amazing."

Edson said he went down to Wilbraham with an engine crew from Bernardston, Gill and Turners Falls on Friday morning, "to cover all calls throughout the day, allowing the Wilbraham firefighters to get some sleep."

Their crew handled six ambulance calls and five fire calls throughout the day," and when they had time, "went house to house knocking on doors and assessing damage."

Edson commended his crew for their efforts. Elliott said the same incident management approach could be used in the event of a natural or manmade emergency in Gill to prioritize resources, make sense of chaos, and make sure personnel and equipment gets to the right places in the right order. He added, "The focal point recently for firefighters has been on large casualty incidents."

He added, "With climate change and more moisture in the atmosphere, we're seeing more storm related activity."

Elliott said, "The town should be proud of the fact Gill firefighters were involved in this effort."

Board chair Randy Crochier replied, "I think it's great we were able to send people. I want to personally thank both of you and the rest of your crew."

In other news, ice cream will be served following Saturday's sequel to annual town meeting: 'Part II - the Money Articles.'

The omnibus figure for the town operating budget, including the Tech School assessment, is \$1,374,330.71, up about 2.5% from last year's total of \$1,341,675.92.

Gill will be asked to contribute \$1,390,476 to fund the operation of the Gill-Montague schools for FY'12, including debt. This figure is up about 1.3% from last year's total of \$1,372,238.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said no debt exclusion votes or overrides are anticipated. But coffee and scones are planned for those who get to town hall in time for the special town meeting articles at 8:55 a.m., and (bring your own bowl) Snow's Ice Cream will be available for any who stay til the end of the day.

The planning board is moving forward with a recommendation for a "by right" overlay zone for ground mounted solar arrays up

to 250 kilowatts in the Village Commercial district. Outside the zone, ground mounted solar arrays between 10 and 250 kilowatts will be allowed by special permit. Roof mounted arrays, or ground mounted arrays smaller than 10 kilowatts will be allowed as an accessory use to residential dwellings. The overlay zone would be a step toward securing Green Community status and funding from the state.

Starting next month, building, plumbing, gas and electrical permits can be filled out on line through the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

The selectboard began their meeting on Monday with a 20 minute executive session to discuss the Mariamante property - a 10 acre parcel of town owned land considered archaeologically significant as the site of possible Native American burials by federally recognized Indian tribes including the Wampanoags and the Narragansetts.

Tribal representatives were not present for the discussion.

MONTAGUE from pg 6

Since Allen lives in Montague City and Fairbrother in Montague Center, they could meet somewhere in the middle, and have a picnic, if that day ever comes.

In Other News

The selectboard approved Lisa's Handmade Soap's owner Lisa Adams' request to install two 30-minute parking signs in front of her storefront on 100 3rd Street.

Adams told the board the 15-minute parking sign in front of the neighboring bicycle store obviously works, "because they all park in front of my shop."

Allen told her, "If we wind up with 30 shops opening," in this part of downtown, "we'll have to rethink the whole thing."

The board allowed a one day alcohol permit for the upcoming RiverCulture Hard Hat auction at the Shea Theater on Saturday, June 25th. Holy Smokes' Lou Ekus is the auctioneer; police chief Ray Zukowski will emcee the

"black tie, blue collar" event, meant to make hard lemonade out of the ongoing bridge reconstruction project that has been limiting traffic flow in and out of downtown for the last two years.

RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol promised, "It will be a fun event!"

Mark Fairbrother was not buying what Davol was selling on the next agenda item, however, when Davol asked the board's support to designate Turners Falls as a state-sponsored cultural district.

"We're a natural for this," new state program, which would bring no automatic state funding with it, but might put Montague higher up the totem pole for future grant funds, Davol said. "We have the RiverCulture project to do impact studies - we're doing another one this year. We'd be first in line for any money that comes down the line."

Although Allen and board member Chris Boutwell carried the motion by majority, Fairbrother voted against the

designation because, he said, "I'm concerned it might get used in ways a lot of people in this town wouldn't like it getting used."

Allen termed Fairbrother's rationale for rejecting a possible state designation of a Turners Falls cultural district, "Cryptic."

The board wrestled with a dog complaint brought against the Di Stefanos of 53 Center Street in Montague Center by Jeffrey Morse, of 490 Federal Street, who said he was attacked by the Di Stefano's three dogs, in particular a shepherd mix named Sebastian, while he was out jogging on May 17th.

Chris LaPointe, speaking for the Montague police, said his department had noted the dogs in the street on other occasions, and worried about their interfering with vehicular traffic.

The board instructed the Di Stefanos to keep the dogs secured behind a temporary fence until a five foot high permanent fence could be con-

structed in their yard, and to only walk the dogs on a leash.

The board granted a 60-day extension for Del Ray Construction to complete the installation of the Fournier Press and related improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. Treatment plant operator Bob Trombley warned the board he would be back with more change order requests to coat the floor of the building that houses the press with epoxy, install new lighting, doors and windows, and replace a set of deteriorating concrete stairs with a set of aluminum steps.

Ellen Spring and Kara McLaughlin, speaking for the Gill-Montague School Community Partnership, asked for and received board approval to hold a downtown block party on Avenue A, between 1st and 4th Streets, on the second Saturday in August. Only Second Street will be blocked off to traffic.

Building inspector David Jensen promised the board he would provide updates on

progress of demolition and security at the Railroad Salvage building at the next two meetings of the board.





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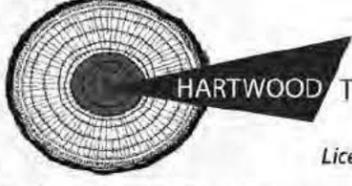
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Village Sketchbook

Schuetzen Verein Celebrates First Hundred Years



Ray Zukowski, Sr. at the Schuetzen Verein

BY DAVID BRULE

RIVERSIDE - Those old Germans sure picked a beautiful spot for their Shooting and Athletic Club!

This past Saturday afternoon, Ray "Gump" Zukowski, Sr. sat in the shade of the club's pavilion, eyes looking off into the distance towards the west. We were there, 50 members and invited guests, to celebrate the first 100 years of one of the most unique clubs in these parts. Gump, as the oldest member of the club, and the patriarch of sorts, evoked stories of the early days, stories that have become part of the legend, lore and history of the Schuetzen Verein.

He noted that the founders of the club were the heads of prominent German families in Montague. Their names are still familiar to many of us from these parts: Klaiber, Jacobus, Haigis, Luippold, Houk, Koonz, De Graff, Bitzer, Zimmermann,

Schemp, Reum. Many of these gents posed in a pre-1900s photo, complete with hunting caps and handle-bar moustaches. A number of them held old-fashioned shooting irons, close descendents of the blunderbuss.

Gump reminded us that the Schuetzen part of the name signifies "shooting" in German, and apparently that's what these men liked to do, so they founded a skeet and trap shooting club on the banks of the Connecticut River along the section that used to be known as the Horse Race, just across from the Deep Hole.

"Those old guys used to come up to the club in boats when they wanted to get away from family and the town. They came up with their barrels of beer to spend some time shooting and drinking. I've been told that some of those barrels wound up in the river. They're probably still down there somewhere," chuckled Gump.

Around us the Happy Hour was picking up speed, the shrimp, meatballs, and other appetizers were flying off the table. The partygoers of course were dressed down: shorts, tank tops, flip-flops and t-shirts. A far cry from the old formal German gents in waistcoats, neckties, and gold watch chains in the 1880s picture.

"Don't think there are actually any Germans left in the club," added Gump. "Way back they started letting in other ethnic groups too." I could tell by the members' list that there were now plenty of French-Canadian, Polish, Italian, Irish, and English surnames that have replaced the Germans.

"This is a working man's club," stated Gump. "In the old days, a lot of those Germans were in management, in charge of the mills in town. Nowadays, most of our members are craftsmen, electricians, plumbers, builders, construction workers,

skilled factory workers."

I knew what he meant. Membership was made up of the people who keep our community running: the mechanics, firemen, policemen, gas and electric company men, a few teachers, postmen, you name it.

Gump took me into the members only clubhouse for a quick tour and a look at some of the memorabilia. There were old black and white photographs, and a plaque on the wall listing all the members who have passed on. Names that are so familiar: Stosh Choleva, Murph Togneri, Joe Dacyczyn, Cantor Cadran, Stanley Jamrog, Norman San Soucie, Art Brule and Joe Brule, Russ Dion, Jerry Richotte, George Sazama, Doc Giknis, Red Kowecki, Red

Thomas, Baldy Pervere... all the way back to the founders.

Earlier, I had checked in with Marion Ryan, a long time family friend, and a pillar among the lady supporters of the club. "We all had a ball at the club," she said. "A number of my generation like Luvy Cadran, Louise San Soucie, Teresa Jamrog, Rose Zukowski, we all worked at washing clams and helping put on the feed. We loved the dancing, the polkas, doing the 'Alley Cat'. All I can say is we had a hell of a good time there!"

It was time for me to give Gump a break from my questions, and when I spotted John Zywna striding into the picnic pavilion, I let Gump off the hook. Once Zywna had settled in, I drifted over to get the low-down on how the club actually ran itself. He gave me a quick thumbnail sketch.

There are only 50 members allowed at any given time, and a lengthy waiting list to get in. Over the years it has become

customary for some of the elders, after 30 years of membership, to become Honorary Members, thus freeing up a place for a younger person to join the 50. The club puts on its legendary clambakes twice a year, and tickets are really at a premium.

"Those clambakes are huge undertakings," said Zywna. "The night before, everybody pitches in, the whole family, to wash clams. We have to wash and rinse scores of bushels of clams to get each one ready, nice and clean, no sand. It's intense."

The club itself is a non-profit, according to treasurer Mark Matusz. But the club grounds and pavilion are often rented out to private parties for class reunions, weddings, and company picnics. The earnings are typically later paid out to organizations in the form of donations to worthy causes, and to kids organizations like Little League, the school bands, softball teams doing fundraisers, etc. The club also provides for bereavement donations to the families of members who have passed away.

But back to the celebration. This was Saturday night at the club and members were celebrating the beginning of the next 100 years. The buffet table groaned under the weight of the sides of beef, the roasts, the salads and desserts. "Ruby's Complaint," the popular oldies band hired to provide entertainment and dance music, was tuning up.

John Zywna gave me a wink and a sly look: "Check out the by-laws." He read the club's statement of purpose to me. "The purpose and objective of the association shall be to encourage athletic exercise, and for the establishment and maintenance of a place for meeting and social gathering."

He added, "I'd say we're right in the middle of a social gathering. Enough business; it's time to party!" It was very clear that the members and guests agreed.

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The Perfect Setting for a Horseless Carriage Show

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
DEERFIELD - On Tuesday, Main Street in Old Deerfield was lined with horseless carriages dating from before 1914.

Many of the automobiles, gleaming with polished brass, were manufactured in 1907-1911. Familiar name plates were represented by Fords, Buicks, Packards and a Stanley Steamer. But the majority were unfamiliar: such as Locomobile and EFM (Everett, Mitzer and Flanders). Flanders later went it alone with a model 20 Flanders, also seen at Old Deerfield.

The Flanders sported an ignition switch as the only item on

Out of gasoline? The car will stop. Out of oil? The motor will knock. Why have a tachometer when the roar of the engine will tell you how fast it is revving?

John F. Jones and wife Carol are the proud owners of a 1912 Velie manufactured by the grandson of John Deere in Moline, IL, where John Deere began manufacturing farm equipment and later tractors. Velie automobiles were manufactured from 1909 to 1920. A Velie cost \$2,500 in 1912, when wages were as low as five cents an hour. A Pierce Arrow was in the \$5-6,000 range.

When Model T Fords were gradually reduced in price to as

an assembly line, automobiles were a rich man's toy. There were scores of small automobile manufacturers. They often built only a few cars, largely by hand assembling components supplied by other firms.

Anyone could buy engines and other components to assemble an automobile. Blacksmith and machine shops could turn out ancillary parts.

Continental engines were used in a variety of cars. Star, Willys and Willys military Jeeps, Studebaker, Kaisers, Fraisers and the Henry J, all sported Continental engines. Dodge Brothers manufactured engines for Model T Fords as well as for Dodge automobiles, and no doubt sold them to anyone else who wanted to buy an engine.

Chauncey Wing of Greenfield was an inventor who built a car for himself. He invented and built all manner of devices: typewriters, electric grinders, address labeling devices, the first two-way police radios, radar during



PARZYCH PHOTOS

John and Diane Seaman posing in period dress at the Historic Deerfield antique auto show on Tuesday.



The name on the grill refers to the manufacturer, not the sound of the motor.

the dash board. What else do you need?

If the car overheats, the steaming radiator will tell you.

little as \$260, many auto manufacturers closed up shop.

Until Henry Ford began cranking out Model T Fords on

WWII, an automobile and 30 race cars equipped with airplane engines.

Hollywood movie makers used Wing's race cars in a movie or two. There's still a Wing race car on display in the lobby of the Wing Mailer Company office on Pierce Street in Greenfield, where the Wing family still sell mailers and supplies.

At about the same time that Wing built his automobile, Lunt Silver Company dabbled in automaking with little success. Wing never went beyond building more than the one automobile and the 30 race cars, but he did make steering wheels for other manufacturers.

During the First World War

and especially during WWII, a great many wonderful old automobiles went to scrap yards to be melted down for armaments. An automobile owner was considered very unpatriotic if he refused to scrap an old automobile. That any old automobiles escaped the patriotic fever that engulfed the country during those times is a minor miracle. Usually, it was the wealthy that were able to hide their cars.

It is truly wonderful that these enthusiasts gathered in Old Deerfield with their restored pieces of living history for everyone to see, at no charge. Main Street, with not a single light pole or overhead wire to mar the scene, was the perfect setting.

The Burgers are Custom Made at the Brick Wall

BY PATTY SMYTHE
GREENFIELD - There's a new burger joint in town, but it's not your average burger joint.

Not by a long shot. It's called Brick Wall Burger. The chef and owner is Seth Crawford, a member of the Holy Smokes BBQ family. He has been in the restaurant world for 17 years, and I am happy to report he knows what he is doing.

The location is 286 Main Street, in Greenfield, where Bart's Café used to be. The décor has been upscaled and the atmosphere is warm and comfortable. We were greeted immediately upon entering and found the staff to be friendly and helpful.

As the name implies, this restaurant is all about burgers. Big burgers. Eight ounce burgers.

The burgers taste like burgers used to taste when I was a

kid. Maybe it's because the meats for the burgers are fresh, not frozen, antibiotic and hormone-free and ground daily. (The only exception is the Wagu beef, which comes in frozen.)

The menu offers beef, pork, lamb and turkey burgers, with different accompaniments. Brick Wall also offers 'custom' burgers - with flavors put together by the chef.

Prices range from a lunchtime five ounce beef burger for \$5.99 to a very special Kobe-style Wagu beef Samurai burger for \$17.95. (Those are the cows that get massages every day.)

The dinnertime build-your-own burgers (starting at \$7.99) come with a choice of regular or spicy coleslaw and the custom burgers come with fries as well, regular or sweet potato. All the fries are hand cut, and the slaw is homemade. Actually everything but the

mustard is homemade. Even the ketchup.

My friend and I ordered two custom burgers: the Burger Piemonte, a beef burger with portabella mushrooms, truffle oil, parmesan cheese and caramelized onions (yum!) and the Burger Ba-Ba, a lamb burger with aioli, onions and arugula (double yum!). The servings were quite generous and I had to ask for a doggy bag which I am glad to say came in the form of a recyclable paper box. We ordered both our burgers medium-rare and they actually arrived that way, which I was very happy about. The spicy slaw is really spicy, almost like Kimchee. When they say spicy, they mean it.

For the vegans or vegetarians the Brick Wall also offer a vegan black bean burger. And for gluten-intolerant folks the 7 South Bakery in Bernardston provides buns that come with the burgers can be substituted



BRICK WALL FACEBOOK PHOTO

A Demolition Burger about to be demolished.

for a side salad.

For dessert there is Bart's ice cream, a local favorite, and organic Pierce Bros coffee as well.

Real Pickles provides the pickles and Foxbard Farm of Shelburne provides some of the beef. Brick Wall does not presently offer beer or wine, but they are working on getting a license.

Overall, I was very happy

with my dining experience at the Brick Wall and am thrilled there is another great new restaurant in Greenfield. I really look forward to trying all of their custom burgers.

The Brick Wall is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., Monday - Thursday, and open to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The phone number is 413-475-3880.

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DETMOLD PHOTOS
Jenna Costa tripled in the top of the 10th, tagged up and headed for home on a pop fly by Emily Mailloux to clinch the semifinal for Turners 4-3 against Quabog on June 16th.

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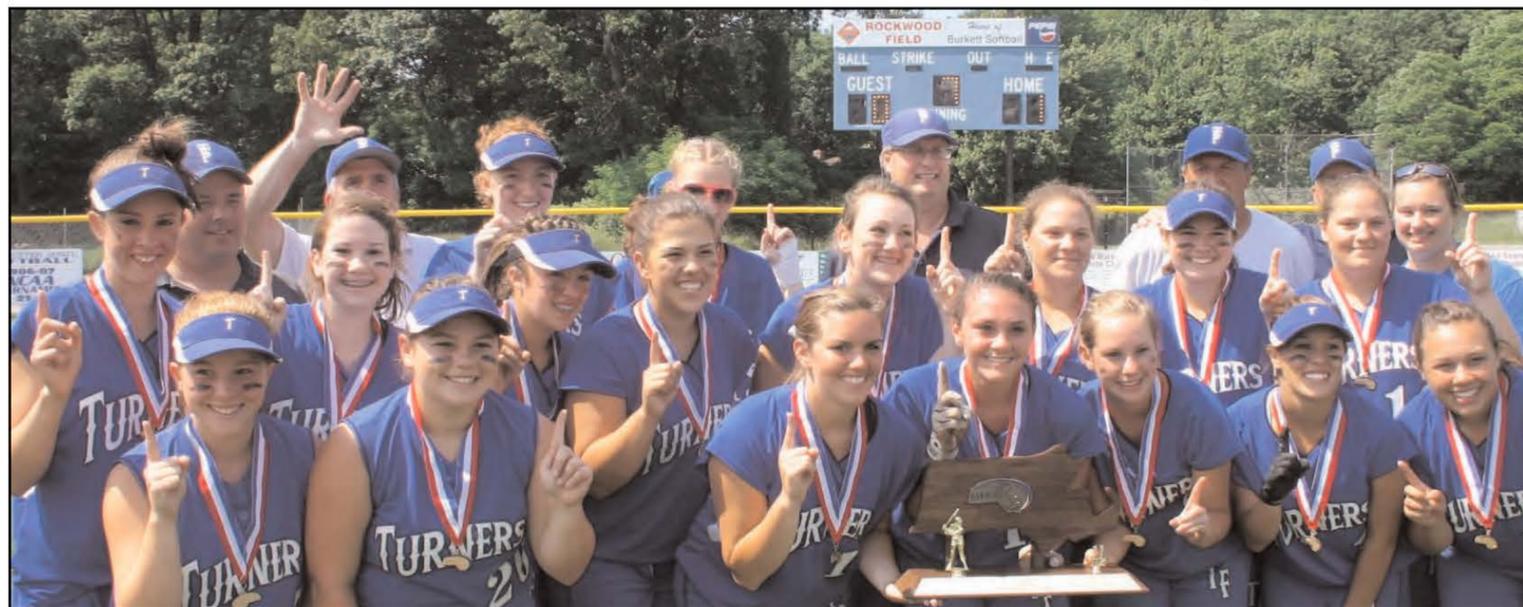
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Sam Caouette gets a hug from 3rd base coach Mark Sullivan after driving in the winning run in Saturday's final vs. Case.

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Night Owls at Work



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTOS

An SPS New England crew works through the night over the Fall River

gle lane open. A portable illuminated sign warned of diverted one-way traffic.

One policeman from Gill and a state trooper from the Shelburne barracks directed the alternating streams of cars and trucks along a lane marked with rows of orange traffic cones. Flood lights powered by a portable generator illuminated the scene. The crew went about the demolition and repaving like the Navy Seals that pulled off the Bin Ladin raid.

Workmen lined up on the bridge deck, side by side, with pavement breakers demolishing the deteriorated concrete, in a cloud of flying broken concrete and a pall of dust.

Handheld breakers enable the laborers to break concrete from around reinforcement bars. Goggles and dust masks are mandatory, according to Tim McLaughlin, vice president in charge of operations. "Our company is very safety conscious," McLaughlin said. "We require hardhats, eye and ear protection, as well as dust masks," as was evident on the job.

The bridge is old and due for replacement in the next couple of years. SPS's job is to patch it to last until replace-

ment time. A call to Mass DOT resulted in a promise to provide a bridge condition rating and a replacement date, but none came by press time.

Because the loader is constantly running over reinforcement bars, solid rubber tires avoid the problem of tire punctures. On these jobs every minute counts. A tire puncture on a loader in the dead of the night could spell disaster. With the time constraints of the job, the crew needs to do the work and get the bridge open for traffic by morning.

Foreman Soucy doesn't need to give any commands once he outlines the job. The noise of the pavement breakers would drown out his voice, anyway. When work get underway, he leads by hand gestures and by example, manning a breaker along with his crew.

Once the skid-steer loads out the broken concrete onto the SPS dump truck, the crew mixes bagged Rapid Set concrete mix in a Stow mortar mixer to pour over the exposed re-bars. Rapid Set concrete mix lives up to its name. In 45 minutes, poured concrete is set strong enough to handle the pounding of the heaviest trucks traveling over it. The extremely short working time

of Rapid Set demands that the concrete must be placed and leveled promptly.

Bridge repair projects are bid jobs, making efficiency extremely important. For a company founded in 1980, SPS's growth is impressive.

"SPS is primarily a bridge construction company," bridge operations manager Tim McLaughlin said. "We presently have 36 bridge projects in progress. Three repair crews go out on projects every night."

On winter repair jobs, SPS heats the water to mix the Ready Set. Cold weather slows the setting of the mix. In extremely cold weather, the cement manufacturer alters the mix to set up faster.

But on this job, the weather's fine. The job goes well, and by early Friday morning the broken rubble is gone, fresh concrete is poured, leveled and set, with both lanes open to traffic. The generator sets powering the work flood lights are gone, along with most of the other equipment, and the weary crew members have headed home to get some rest before another night of working under lights, repairing a decrepit bridge, to keep the motoring public safe.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The SPS New England night owls are at it again. A crew of seven laborers and an operator gathered at the bridge over the Fall River on Route 2, where Gill meets Greenfield, at sundown on Thursday, June 16th. When most folks are done for the day, relaxing at home, these hardworking men begin a night of grueling toil, far from home. And that includes the foreman, Jay Soucy, who went to work with his crew in the midst of concrete dust and the staccato chattering of handheld pavement breakers.

and replace it with Rapid Set concrete," Soucy said. "We should be all done by 3 a.m."

SPS New England, Inc is located in Salisbury, MA. The crew carried "everything conceivable for the job" in a trailer. A dump truck carried a Cat skid steer loader on a tag-along trailer. The loader served to scoop up the concrete and load it on the dump truck for disposal.

The crew trucked the demolition rubble back to the SPS yard in Salisbury where it will be crushed and recycled for use as gravel on other jobs.

The crew ordinarily works from 7:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m., Sunday night through Thursday night. Working at night avoids the heaviest traffic, but there's still enough traffic to require a coordinated effort by two policemen to keep traffic flowing on the sin-



SPS workers demolish deteriorated concrete under the floodlights.

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Farm Neighbors A Life of Luxury

BY STEVE DAMON GILL - When Ed Golembeski met Debra Watson at Mt. Toby Stables, it was a match made in... well ... a stable. Now, a quarter century later, they have married, formed a family, moved to Gill, and enjoy a "luxurious" life.

Golembeski grew up in Turners Falls. In his backyard lived many horses, rabbits, and "whatever animal we could fit."

After his schooling, he sojourned as a horse and cattle breeder in Oklahoma, with people that have a whole different view of agriculture. He regularly attended livestock shows throughout Oklahoma and Texas, where the events were held in ballrooms of fancy hotels.

After he told me of cattle riding the freight elevators to the wood chip-covered dance floor which was surrounded by champagne-sipping farmers, I asked if I had heard him correctly. He confirmed, adding that some of the animals would be sold for \$250,000. And I face trouble when I take baby chickens into TFHS! It's a different world.

Golembeski came back home and met Debra who had grown up in Holyoke. She was a speech pathologist in the Holyoke Public Schools - a position she has held for more than 30 years. The couple married in 1988, and soon after came their daughter, Amanda. They moved to Gill in 1993.

For the last ten years, he has "cared for lab ani-

mals" at UMass-Amherst. Amanda just completed her third year at UMass Amherst, studying animal science.

Golembeski doesn't consider himself a farmer. Looking over his 11 acres of mostly tillable land, farm animals, and large garden, I beg to differ.

He does, however, recount his first horse sale. He had raised the animal and sold it for \$10,000. "The IRS does not ignore a deposit like that! I think I became a farmer when the IRS called." This farmer now has five horses (and boards one for a friend), three beef cattle, chickens, sheep, and Sabrina the dog (who reminds me of Eddie on Frazier).

This past November the voters of Gill decided



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

to exempt farmers from having to pay animal excise tax on their farm animals. The vote didn't affect the Golembeski's horses, as horses are not considered farm animals, but, instead, "luxury." This, I believe, is why Golembeski still does not consider himself a farmer. But he sure is an

expert horseman! The Golembeskis ran the "Hills of Gill" 4-H Club for many years. Although he claims to have done "nothing for the group," Golembeski did admit to advising, teaching, mentoring, and judging for 4-H. Last Saturday he was judging a horse show in Connecticut. Amanda also keeps busy with showing and judging horses.

I've known Ed Golembeski for years. My interview with him consisted of a few, random questions at the Friends of Gill picnic. The essence of a family is not found in a few, random questions posed while eating a cheeseburger. I needed to see the family in action.

I asked Golembeski if they would be home after the picnic, and he said he would. We got to see the garden, stand on the mountain of compost, and (after my six-year-old son Isaac finally tired out Sabrina with a tennis ball) see the horses. Ed, Debbie, and Amanda all had stories about these animals; excess pride

permeated from each anecdote.

While Debbie and Amanda told more tales, Ed took the first animal out of its pen. After snapping many pictures of the Golembeskis with their horses, I realized Isaac was solo on a horse! On his face was a look of concerned excitement. Ed Golembeski looked on.

When we got home and Isaac started showing the pictures to every relative he could sequester, I noticed the look on Golembeski's facial expression when he instructed my son how to properly maneuver the horse. Pure love.

Steve Damon is the chairperson of the Gill Agricultural Commission. His monthly column for *The Montague Reporter* (*Farm Neighbors*) features Gill's agricultural personalities; the late Bill Burnham in January, Gary Stevens in February, the Dargis Family in March, Dave Balise in April, the Minors and Gill Greenery in May. Who will we feature in July?



STEVE DAMON PHOTO

Ed coaches Isaac how to maneuver Ceile.

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On Books: The Declaration of Independence – Part 2 The Charges Against the King

BY JEFF SINGLETON
MONTAGUE CENTER - The Declaration of Independence, whose 235th birthday we celebrate in less than two weeks, contains a preamble and a list of 19 charges against King George III of England.

Today we remember the preamble, with the famous phrases "all men are created equal" and "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The historian Pauline Maier argues, however, in *American Scripture, Making the Declaration of Independence*, that in 1776 the complaints against King George attracted

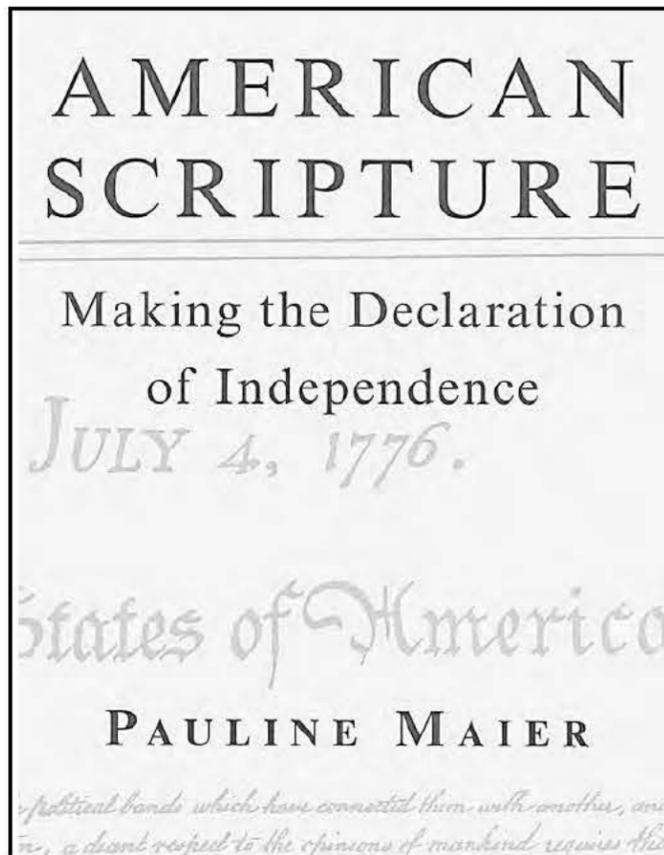
much more attention. They were considered the rationale for the revolution.

According to the text, revolution is only justified "when a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them to absolute despotism..." The Declaration is, above all, the list of "abuses and usurpations."

The list was part of a tradition. The English Bill of Rights, produced soon after the "Glorious Revolution" (1688) deposed James II, included a list of grievances against the king. So had most of the declarations produced by the new colonial governments in the spring and summer of 1776.

Jefferson's initial draft of the charges drew on the preamble to the Virginia Constitution, which he had written. The preamble had included 16 complaints against King George. Jefferson expanded that to 21. His editors – the Continental Congress as a whole – whittled the number down to 19.

Still, the result was a "long train of abuses," especially considering that one of them included nine sub-categories.



Taken as a whole the charges certainly create the impression that the king was in fact determined to reduce the colonials to "absolute despotism." Perhaps that is partly why modern Americans do not bother wading through all the

particulars.

Another reason, no doubt, is that some of these alleged abuses are so vague or obscure that they have even perplexed historians of the era. For example, what exactly is meant by the very first complaint against

George – that he "has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good"? Maier asks this question several times in her study but seems uncertain which "wholesome laws" George rejected.

On the obscure side of the coin is the charge that George "has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures." Maier believes that complaint refers to the fact that British officials moved the Massachusetts General Court from Boston to Cambridge in 1768 in response to rioting against British taxes. The interpretation, although perhaps valid, is still speculative. Maier notes that Cambridge, across the Charles River from Boston, was hardly "distant" nor, with many rooms used by Harvard students, "uncomfortable." (Perhaps Cambridge was, as it is today, "unusual.")

Still, many of the charges against George, although perhaps obscure to us, are well understood by historians. They tell us much about the political culture of the Revolutionary era. For example, there is the complaint that the king "has made judges dependent on his see DECLARATION pg 15



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CHAMPS from page 1
ensuing pickle, York made it to second, but the catcher put the tag on Putala.

Stephanie French lined out to second to end the inning.

Top of the seventh, with no score in the state championship match-up. Orton with her lazy fast ball had struck out seven and walked three. Mailloux, working hard, had struck out five, walked one, given up two hits, and hit two batters.

Now she faced the Cards' first basewoman, Danielle Robillard. Robillard fouled two back, then connected with a solid grounder between short and second that could have spelled trouble with a capital T for Turners. But Stacy French dove to her left and snagged

the ball and made the play to first on time.

Mailloux forced the next batter to pop out to Kelsey Waldron at second, and then drew a bead on her next adversary, shortstop Allison Santerre. Santerre tagged a 2 and 2 pitch just past Waldron's outstretched glove, for a solid single over second.

The Cards had a runner on, and two away.

Case centerfielder Shawna Marchand got up and laid a neat bunt down the first base line. Smith-Porter fielded it, and threw to Waldron covering the bag. Not in time.

Now the Cards had runners on first and second, and the Turners' stands grew awful quiet.

Danielle Medeiros at the plate. Mailloux hurls a fast ball. A swing and a miss.

Next pitch is high. So's the next. Mailloux bears down. Medeiros fouls one back. 2 and 2.

Then Medeiros gets beneath Mailloux's next pitch, and lofts it into shallow left.

Brittany York reacts slowly, and then charges the ball at top speed. She makes the catch, and the fans go wild.

Now, it's the bottom of the

7th. Elysia Ollari at the plate. She looks at one. Then she smacks a hard ground ball to third, and the Cards' third basewoman can't hang onto it. Ollari beats the throw. One on.

Sam Caouette, batting seventh in the line up, struck out in the second, popped out in the fifth. She also made a key play in the top of the second, running hard to pluck a shallow pop fly out of mid-air to stop two runs from scoring, at least.

Now she strides to the plate, looking cool as a cucumber in her pink sunglasses. She takes a ball. She bunts the next pitch foul and out of play.

Coach Mullins calls time, and walks over to talk to Caouette. He tells her to get out of the batter's box for a second. "Don't freeze up!"

Sure, Orton knows how to throw strikes, but they're not that fast. "You're making her tougher than she is!" Mullins told his team in the dugout the inning before. "She's not that tough. Make contact. Drive it out of the infield!"

It took till the bottom of the 7th for that message to click.

But then it clicked.

Caouette, in her pink sunglasses, took one look at the

next pitch, and drove it into deep centerfield.

The Cardinals' fielder had forgotten what a line drive looked like, she hadn't seen one in so long. She could not get her glove on the ball until it had caromed off the center field fence.

Ollari rounded third and headed for home, and that, friends and sports fans, was the perfect end of a perfect season for Turners Falls!

Over seven innings of play, Case left nine runners on base, with seven in scoring position.

In post season play, Turners' Emily Mailloux pitched 36 innings and gave up no earned runs, allowing 17 hits, 5 walks, and striking out 28.

Saturday marked the third time in Massachusetts' Hall of Fame Coach Gary Mullins' 32-year-career that the Turners Falls girls softball team went undefeated for the season, and the ninth consecutive Western Mass title for Turners. It was the fifth time in the last eight years the girls have won either the Division II (2004 – '05) or Division III (2006, 2008, and 2011) state softball championship.

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SIXTH from page 1

The younger students, seated on the floor at the front of the auditorium, looked up to the sixth graders with something close to awe (in the old school sense of the word).

The ceremony began with a slide presentation called "Who Am I?" of baby photos of the graduates combined with a taped reading by each student, who emerged as in a game show from behind the curtain on stage, each in turn, to spontaneous applause.

In this part of the program, we learned that Cole Elson has ambition to grow up to be an actor, Dean LaClaire to be a professional fisherman, and Lucia Mason to be a circus performer. Either that or an astronaut.

Xamantha Valentine also has acting in her blood, and

with a name like that, who can blame her? Scully Wilhelm has his sights set on owning a farm, "with ten goats, ten sheep," and various chickens and roosters. And peas, pumpkins and corn. Among many other crops and livestock.

"My kindergarten arch-enemy is now my best friend," confided Sage Young. (She wants to be an actress too.)

Megan Rice modestly intends to discover a new species of animal, if not become one. But in the meanwhile, her favorite animal is the horse!

Dustin Williams likes basketball and going fishing. He wants to be a mechanic when he grows up.

Annie Pollak has her aspirations evenly divided between dancing, acting, and singing. With Elson, she emceed a later

part of the program demonstrating a remarkable poise bespeaking an illustrious career on the stage.

Chad Williams wants to be a crime scene investigator... and so it went until all 17 had spoken and revealed themselves, in the same way a growing plant reveals the final flowering of its internal genetic make-up as its primary leaves give way to spring growth.

Camila Hwang-Carlos can't yet decide. Chef or photographer? But Nya Saunders already knows - she wants to be an alien.

Revelations like these drew laughter from family members. So did the baby pictures, with gasps of astonished wonder. How far they had come, from the crib, the bassinette, to the podium.

Dean LaClaire talked about

how the sixth graders had worked with the nearby Dakin Animal Shelter, "making animals feel better." He averred, "The animals of the world need our care."

Before graduation certificates were presented, Cole Elson and Annie Pollak reviewed class memories, calling on their classmates to sing songs, rap about Goldilocks, or recite Robert Frost's "The Road not Taken" on cue.

The duo recalled creative play in Pre-K class; reading with older students in kindergarten; teddy bear picnics and Medieval feasts as first graders. The trip to the Mystic Aquarium and building ginger bread houses the year after. Then, "Oh, the MCAS we faced in third grade!" The Promethean board at the front of the fourth grade classroom

drew mention, as did the voices of ancestors gathered in the unit on immigration. Elson and Pollak recalled taking hikes outdoors in autumn (in the midst of an encephalitis scare). And reading, in their turn, to kindergartners, as the fifth graders became "real Leverett leaders" in their own right.

They even warned Wall Street to look out, after their sixth grade class won the *Springfield Republican's* Stock Market challenge this year.

But above all, as principal Anne Ross told them in her address, these sixth graders have learned "the lesson of friendship."

She added, "Taking time to know someone will always be worthwhile."

The sixth graders exchanged knowing smiles. 

DECLARATION from pg 14 will alone, for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment [*sic*] of their salaries." This refers to conflicts over the relative independence of the judiciary that had been raging for nearly two decades prior to the revolution.

The charges against George III reflect strong opposition in the colonies to a professional standing army. The Declaration complains that the king "has kept among us, in time of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures..." Similarly, "he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to compleat [*sic*] the works of death, desolation and tyranny."

Some of the complaints might not strike us as, shall we say, politically correct. Chief among these is the charge that the king has "excited domestic insurrections amongst us and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of the frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions." The complaint about inciting "domestic insurrections" no doubt referred, in part, to the declaration of the Virginia governor, Lord Dunmore, promising that slaves who left rebel masters to join the British would be given their freedom.

In fact, this vague charge may be the only reference in the final draft of the Declaration to the explosive issue of slavery. This might not strike the modern reader as strange, as it has become commonplace to stress the contradiction between the Declaration's glowing words ("all men are created equal") and the reality that many of the signers were slaveholders, who reserved the right to vote for white, male landowning class. However, Jefferson's original draft did explicitly mention slavery and virtually blamed King George for it.

In one of the longest of the charges, Jefferson's draft attacked the king for forcing the slave trade (and presumably slavery?) on the colonies and then inciting those very slaves against their masters. This rather idiosyncratic version of history was dropped in the final Declaration, according to Jefferson's later account, so as not to offend slaveholders and northern merchants involved in the slave trade.

Finally the charges against the king do not provide much fodder for those who would like to see the American Revolution as a giant eighteenth century tax revolt. The tax issue is mentioned, to be sure - once. It is bundled together with a list of nine specifics justifying charge

number 13.

Interestingly, this list is evidence that the king "combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions and unacknowledged [*sic*] by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation."

The "others" George combined with were the members of the British Parliament. Charge number 13 in fact reflects one of the central causes of the revolution, perhaps the primary one.

The revolution followed over a decade of conflict over the power of Parliament to legislate for the colonies. The policies at issue were mostly acts of Parliament, not edicts of King George. The colonies claimed their own legislatures were sovereign (had ultimate power) in key areas, particularly taxation. The British insisted that Parliament was sovereign "in all cases whatsoever."

But the logic of the revolutionary movement produced opposition to the king and all forms of hereditary political power. A debate over Parliamentary authority was abruptly transformed into opposition to a monarch whose goal was to reduce the colonies to "absolute despotism."

Perhaps the clearest evidence of this shift was the stunning popular reception to Tom Paine's *Common Sense*. This

pamphlet, a full blown attack on hereditary monarchy, became a best seller in the American Colonies in 1776.

Thus, in retrospect, the most important consequence of the Declaration's often ignored

Hastings Attends Junior Leaders Conference

GILL - Brad Hastings of North Cross Road in Gill, son of Alyn and David Hastings, recently attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JNYLC) in Washington D.C., during the week of April 9th - 15th.

The JNYLC introduces Junior National Scholars to concepts of leadership involving character, communication, goal setting, respect, problem solving and teamwork. The JNYLC examines specific leadership traits exhibited by prominent figures in United States history.

Hastings saw famous sites such as the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, where, in Hastings'

charges against the king is that Americans do not now have one.

Next week: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. 

words, "Martin Luther King Jr. gave one of his famous speeches called 'I Have a Dream.' This visit impacted me the most."

The JNYLC also visited the Korean and Vietnam War memorial, the White House, the Capitol building, along with the American History museum and the Newseum.

Hastings has received an invitation to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC) based on the leadership skills he demonstrated at the JNYLC.

Hastings is thankful for the help he received from the Jill Hanzalik Foundation and the Montague Elks to attend the conference in Washington DC.

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Nature Notes:

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center Annual Meeting, followed by a Rockhopper Outdoor Education Center presentation - Saturday, June 25th, join the Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center for a brief (7 minute) annual meeting starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Following the meeting, stay to learn about New England wildlife and the challenges they meet everyday with Michael Clough of the Vermont Museum of Natural History. Incorporated into the presentation will be live animals, including an owl, a turtle and native amphibians.

The program will run until about 2:15 pm at the Great Falls Discovery Center, is free, and everyone is invited to attend.

Hitchcock Center for the Environment Summer Nature Camp - There is still room in Session Two of our Summer

Nature Camp, but it's filling up fast! Call (413) 256-6006 to register. Session Two: Soil, Seeds and Sun (July 11th through 22nd) A wonderful world of living things grows from the Earth. Join us as we learn about these fascinating trees, flowers, and fungi and how they connect with other creatures, including us. We will ask what plants are essential to our lives, how they have adapted and evolved, and how do they get from flower to seed and back again? Through stories, games, free nature play, experiments and art we will explore soil, seeds and sun while visiting different habitats and tending our gardens. For more information contact Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002; (413) 256-6006, email info@hitchcockcenter.org or visit www.hitchcockcenter.org.

ORANGE from page 1 Wendell paid approximately \$10,000 per pupil at Mahar, while Orange paid approximately \$5,000 per pupil, and New Salem and Petersham each paid about \$8,500 per pupil.

For fiscal year 2012, superintendent Michael Baldassarre and the assessment subcommittee of the Mahar school committee developed the "alternative averaging method" that would bring per pupil costs for Wendell closer to those of New Salem and Petersham, but would not affect the assessment for Orange. This alternative method was approved by the full school committee in April.

At the Wendell annual town meeting on June 6th, the "alternative averaging method" was characterized by Wendell finance committee members as a first step toward achieving fairness in assessing regional school costs. However there was a lengthy debate, stretching over two days, about whether Wendell should join New Salem and Petersham in voting the entire Mahar assessment, in effect forcing Orange to also pay the full amount.

Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre advocated for this approach, and Wendell voters agreed, with hopes that Orange would subsequently affirm the alternative assessment method and allow Wendell a 'refund'.

Now, the \$39,507 refund vouchered for by Baldassarre under the alternative assessment agreement appears unlikely to materialize.

Despite voting \$3,442,182 for

Mahar rather than the requested \$3,542,182, Orange is still responsible for paying the full requested amount, because the full request was approved in the other three towns in the region.

When the DESE statutory assessment method is used, the budget is approved if three regional towns accept it.

However, alternative assessment methods must be approved by all four member towns.

Orange finance committee chair Jane Pierce read an introduction to Article 11, the town's annual budget for all departments, which read, in part:

"We are proposing to pay Mahar \$100,000 less than the requested amount. Mahar is asking for around \$800,000 more than the town's required contribution. We think that is excessive... Perhaps even more

important, by not voting the Mahar assessment number tonight, the town will reject the alternative assessment formula that was used to develop their request. We believe that the alternative formula is unfair, because it subsidizes another town at Orange's expense."

The floor discussion on the amended Article 11 package did not reference the alternative assessment method, and the only reference to the Mahar budget was a request for information from Baldassarre about potential income from the state to support transition costs for regionalization of the Orange and Petersham elementary schools with Mahar, and regional transportation costs.

The regional school committee will meet June 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Break In, Traffic Complaint, Assist Other Police

Sunday, 6/12 1:05 p.m. Resident from Ben Hale Road reported past breaking and entering. 4:25 p.m. Ranger from Barton Cove Road requested additional patrol due to traffic complaints. Monday, 6/13 9:25 a.m. Department of Child Service requests investigation of abuse on Boyle Road of minor child. 10:30 a.m. Resident from South Cross Road requested additional patrol due to traffic complaints. Tuesday, 6/14 9:10 a.m. Follow up investigation for breaking and entering on the State Boat Ramp area. 5:10 p.m. Resident from Chappell Drive reports annoying, harassing phone calls. Saturday, 6/18 10:10 a.m. Follow up investigation for breaking and entering on South Cross Road. 12:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with fingerprinting at Barnes Towing. Sunday, 6/19 1:50 p.m. Assisted Erving police with drug investigation at traffic stop. 2:20 p.m. Oak Street resident called in complaint of motor vehicle travelling in reverse the length of the roadway.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Impaired Operation, Domestic Disturbance

Wednesday, 6/15 8:45 a.m. Report of frequent loud parties at a Laurel Lane residence. Advised contact again if repeats. 10:15 a.m. Report of loud music at N and Rastallis Streets. Referred to an officer. 11:50 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Bridge Street, from failure to put trash sticker on trash bags. Investigated. 10:44 p.m. Several loud noise disturbances reported from fireworks in downtown Turners. Thursday, 6/16 3:08 a.m. Soda machine found knocked over in front of building at Food City on Avenue A. Investigated. 9:52 and 10:45 a.m. Domestic issue on Avenue A. Services rendered. 3:31 p.m. Report of theft of medication on Randall Wood Drive. Investigated. 6:55 p.m. Suspicious activity at Poplar Street and Kingsley Avenue. Referred to an officer. Friday, 6/17 5:59 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, operating to endanger, impeded operation and marked lanes violations. Saturday, 6/18 5:17 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct. 2:44 p.m. Downed tree across Greenfield Road. Services rendered. 3:38 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license. 11:07 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for second offense of operating a vehicle while under the influence of liquor, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and a lights violation. Sunday, 6/19 2:22 p.m. Restraining order violation on L St. 5:14 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for possession of a Class B drug. 7:32 p.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street. Report taken. 7:33 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Investigated. 7:44 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Avenue A residence. Report taken. 8:50 p.m. Threatening, harassment reported at a Montague Street address. Investigated. 10:44 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Investigated. Monday, 6/20 2:50 a.m. Threatening, harassment at a Fourth Street address. Investigated. 9:24 a.m. Assault and battery reported at an Eleventh Street address. Peace restored. 7:51 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering reported at an Eleventh Street address. Services rendered. 8:56 p.m. Suspicious auto at a Greenfield Road address. Fishing without permission of property owners. Services rendered. Tuesday, 6/21 4:36 p.m. Disorderly conduct (public urination) at a Seventh Street address. Referred to an officer. 7:07 p.m. Assault reported onboard a boat on the Connecticut River. Investigated. 10:47 p.m. Train idling in Millers Falls near East Main Street, for an hour and a half.

BEST from page 1

chemotherapy unit, and helped out with a Halloween bowling party for the organization. The Rise Up students made quilts for every single one of the children in the Family Inn homeless shelters, and also helped to plant bulbs and clean up the yard at the Family Inn.

"The students put in a combined 500 hours of community service activities this year," said Batchelor.

In describing her program in an interview this week, she used as an example a challenge

she gives the class, a group building activity that helps demonstrate ways to use better communication to get things done. The challenge is generally a task that is almost impossible to accomplish, with the purpose being to examine the group process and how students and staff face conflicts.

How they talk to each other, resolve conflicts, solve problems that arise and how they get past the obstacles they face in solving the challenge is part of the lesson.

Batchelor said she was

nominated for recognition as Teacher of the Year by former TFHS principal Jeff Kenney. Once nominated, the process included writing a series of essays and even presenting a video of herself teaching.

As one of the final four semi-finalists, Batchelor received an award of \$1000, which she said she will use to help fund projects for the Rise Up program.

Of her ten years as a teacher at Turners Falls High School, Batchelor said, "The students I work with are just amazing."

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. My 90-year-old mother is extremely independent and doesn't want me coming with her to see her doctors. It's frustrating, because when she gets home, I can't get any decent information from her. She doesn't ask the doctors questions. What can I do about this?

This behavior is very familiar to me. People in my parents' World War II generation are self-reliant, but with a stronger respect for authority than subsequent generations. These folks tend not to challenge their doctors even with simple ques-

tions.

I'll give you some information you can use to convince your mother that it is in her best interest to have you with her when she goes to the doctor.

A study done at the University of Colorado demonstrated that both patients and doctors benefit from having a companion along at a visit.

"Companions patients choose to bring to their medical visits are generally very helpful and improve the communication and understanding that occurs between the patient and the physician," explained Dr. Lisa M. Schilling, lead author of the study team.

The researchers analyzed almost 1,300 patient visits to determine the frequency, role and influence of companions during outpatient visits. Patients were accompanied by a companion in almost three out of every ten visits. In 93 percent of the assisted visits,

the companion was a family member.

The study showed that companions improved doctor-patient communication. The patients recalled the physician's advice better, and were more able to express their concerns to the physician. According to the patients, their companions improved three out of four of their medical visits.

About 60 percent of the physicians said the patients' companions helped them understand their patients better. Almost half of the physicians said the companions helped increase the patient's understanding.

In another study at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Debra Roter and her colleagues reported findings similar to those at the University of Colorado. The study at Johns Hopkins included 12,000 Medicare recipients.

The researchers found that

elderly patients who were accompanied to a doctor's examining room reported greater satisfaction than those who showed up in waiting rooms alone.

"Having a companion made those who were more ill or less educated on a par with people who were better off on those variables," said Dr. Roter.

She said a companion at a doctor's appointment can help in the following ways: by taking notes; by reminding the patient to ask questions or express concerns; by providing information the patient has forgotten, or clarifying informa-

tion for the doctor; by acting as a 'translator' who explains what the doctor and patient are saying to each other.

Another recommendation that came out of the study is for a rehearsal. The patient and companion should go over every subject in advance to prepare for the visit.

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How to be a Healthy Geezer" at www.healthygeezer.com

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

FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME CARE NEWS

Beat the Heat

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY - Heat related problems like dehydration, heat stroke and exhaustion affect thousands of people each year. Seniors are particularly vulnerable as their bodies' heat sensing and cooling mechanisms often don't act quickly. Also seniors may have chronic ailments like heart disease and respiratory diseases that are exacerbated by the heat.

How can you beat the heat? Use the following suggestions:

Air-conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death. Used at a lower level in combination with drinking plenty of water it will keep you cool and not drain your limited income. Use a box fan when the air is cool and dry.

Be aware of how your medications may complicate heat stress. Diuretics for heart disease, high blood pressure and swelling of the legs can dehydrate you. Talk with your health

care provider to come up with a strategy that will make you less vulnerable to heat stress.

Drink water early and often throughout the day.

Stay indoors in cool places during the heat of the day and on days when air quality is poor. If your home does not have air conditioning and you can travel, go to the shopping mall or public library — even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler.

Wear clothing that deflects some of the sun's harmful rays. Take a cool shower or bath.

Use the stove and oven less to maintain a cooler temperature in the home.

If you find yourself in need of a box fan or funds to keep your electricity on, Franklin County Home Care may be able to help. Contact our Resource Consultants at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 or info@fchcc.org. Read more at www.fchcc.org

from **SUSTAINABLE** pg 1

The family started growing vegetables, at first for their own table. But then they began to offer their crops at the Saturday morning Farmers Market on the common in Greenfield, where Melvin was one of the founders. Young Peter got used to choosing the selections for the week, and setting them up in the pickup truck for transport. Also, he would help arrange the family's display. Sometimes he would man the booth.

Kretzenger went to school in Montague and graduated Turners Falls High School in 1973. For a few years, he worked and attended GCC. From 1978-85 he was a fire control technician in the US Navy, stationed in the Great Lakes and San Diego. After that, because of his generalized electronics experience from the navy, Kretzenger was the East coast service representative for a semiconductor company (1985-92). He worked as a consultant when that job ended.

He moved to Turners Falls in the mid-1990s. His consulting jobs did not pay the bills so in 1999 he became a machine

operator on the assembly line for Yankee Candle in South Deerfield (where he works the night shift). Kretzenger likes working the "dog shift" because it keeps his days open, and in good weather he likes to grow things.

He lives in a house with a quarter acre lot on the Hill in Turners. You might find it hard to believe the amount and variety of things he grows there. Shrubs and fruit trees dot his yard, and potting planters line his driveways. He has an eight by eight foot cold frame for basic vegetables.

Besides the Great Falls Market, Kretzenger also sets up weekly in the Saturday morning market on the common in Greenfield, like his father before him. He networks with local farmers and hobby horticulturalists, so that his offerings are complete.

His most unusual offerings are perennial plants and shrubs, particularly fragrant, showy flowering ones like: wisteria, Dutchman's pike, various roses, mock orange, purple leaf plum, hummingbird vines, and butterfly bush.

For vegetables, he often

offers edible wild plants: fiddle heads, ramps (wild leeks), and mushrooms. Also: asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, okra, yellow, Spanish, and red onions, potatoes, spinach, Swiss chard, summer and winter squash, turnips, watermelon, and zucchini.

For fruit, he often brings: wild grapes, peaches, plums, currants, apples, raspberries, and blueberries. He rarely has cherries because birds get to them before they ripen.

Fresh herbs (basil, cilantro, dill, rosemary, and thyme) are available now; dried varieties by end of season. Jams and jellies are always available.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Mutual Aid, Bear Sighting

Tuesday, 6/14
12:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for a warrant.

Wednesday, 6/15
12:00 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with a medical emergency on Millers Falls Road.

Thursday, 6/16
1:30 a.m. Noise complaint on North Street. Spoke with resident, will keep music down.

1:28 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill, assisted state police with a domestic situation on Walnut Street.

Saturday, 6/18
12:00 a.m. Report of a female sleeping under the bleachers at the Box Car restaurant, Erving Center. Person advised that she missed the bus.

12:35 a.m. Report of an underage drinking party at

Laurel Lake campground. Checked same, no alcohol.
10:40 a.m. Report of a bear in the back yard of a Flag Hill resident. Bear left area.
10:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

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Sir Donick Bastarde of Arlington, VT took his leisure at the Mutton and Mead Tavern on Saturday.

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - The improvised parking lot in Chris Dodge's "Field of Dreams" on Turners Falls Road was full to overflowing, an apt reminder of the philosophy "If you build it,

they will come." That was the guiding philosophy that made last weekend's Medieval Festival such a resounding success.

The festival got its start with a random discussion around a campfire last September that left

Michael Muller brooding over the phrase "Mutton and Mead." He liked it so much he did what any tech savvy guy in the 21st century would do. He bought the domain name. He probably had the web site started a week later.

Within a month Muller had met with Mike Burek, Denise Milke, Buffy and Harold Donovan, Jim Brule, and Leslie Ekus to brainstorm the idea of hosting Montague's first medieval fair. Burek had recently attended the King Arthur's Renaissance Faire in Carver, MA and the Donivans had worked with the Vermont and Greenfield fairs in the past.

Muller learned there hadn't been a fair of this type in the area for six or seven years. The group was enthusiastic about the prospect of bringing one to Montague. It didn't take them long to consider the Millers Falls

Rod and Gun Club (MFRGC) as the best site for such an event.

The group met with the club to discuss logistics and expectations, and to go over the fledgling Mutton and Mead's cash flow issues. Club member Sean Werle offered to loan them seed money, and the MFRGC anted up the remaining needed funds. The organizers hired David Agro as the artistic director and general advisor of the event, and worked with four area radio stations to promote it and sell advance tickets.

Muller estimates about 2,100 paying customers attended the event - well above their goal of 1,200. In addition attendees donated over 1000 pounds of food to the local Turners Falls Food Pantry for discounted tickets at the gate.

Visitors came from all over New England - I wandered the

parking lot to find plates from NY, CT, MA, NH and VT and even a few from PA. The only complaints I heard were from out-of-towners who were confused about the location - residents may not find it confusing that Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club is on Turners Falls Road and that the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club is on Millers Falls Road, but a few of the guests were sorely vexed. Until they imbibed their first glass of mead.

More than 40 vendors set up in the Medieval Market. Most were from Franklin County, selling food, games, crafts, clothing, period reproductions, plants, herbal potions and more.

Throughout the day the audience was entertained by dancers, comedians, weaponry experts, naturalists and other

see FAIRES page 20

The Perfect English Muffin

BY NORMA JOHNSON
MONTAGUE CENTER - I love a bunch of things, including, but not exclusively: democracy, lavender, Seattle, my family, Ernest Shackleton, and English Muffins. Since this is going to be an article about food, let's take the last thing first: English Muffins.

A little background - I have been baking breads for a number of years, and consider myself pretty competent, but not terribly adventurous. That is to say, I'm a real fan of professional bakers and writers who have done the math, so all I have to do is read their recipes and follow their instructions step by step. So far it has worked for me with few notable exceptions. However, the path to the Perfect English Muffin has been a long and arduous journey (ah...that phrase reminds me of my hero, Ernest Shackleton) which has involved a lot of reading and a lot of experimenting with many different recipes.

To backtrack further, for years I was satisfied with Thomas' English Muffins and their promised "nooks and crannies." They were my choice for breakfast, my choice for home-made egg McMuffins, and perfect for burgers of all persuasions.

I would never have thought of trying to make my own, except

that about a year ago I found the quality of Thomas' muffins had plunged. At best, they are dry, flat and tasteless; at worst, they are dry, flat and tasteless. Add to that, I am curious and restless and always looking for a new craft to try, so I was impelled to go in quest of the Perfect English Muffin.

I put my best efforts into this expedition, using recipes I found in books on my own shelves, and others that I found on blogs and bread-related websites. Alas, all these muffins were some combination of doughy, un-holey, dry, flat and tasteless (sound familiar?). Clearly, help was needed.

I sent a plaintive email to my fellow members of the Bread Bakers Guild of America. This group includes professional bakers as well as people like me who are referred to as "Serious Home Bakers." We comprise an earnest bunch of folks who are helpful and generous to anyone who writes in with a question or a problem related to bread, bread, bread. The subjects range from How to Open an Artisan Bakery to Where to get the Best Baguette in Paris to Does Anyone Out There Have a Fabulous English Muffin Recipe. (Yep, that was my post).

I received a batch of responses, mostly recipes similar to the ones I had already tried and dis-

carded as Definitely Not Fabulous. Two posts, however, spoke very directly to my goal: one from an acquaintance/Serious Home Baker in Seattle; and one from a stranger/Serious Home Baker in Powell River, B.C.

The major differences between the Not Fabulous recipes and these two recipes involved (1) throwing my Kitchen Aid mixer out the window (metaphorically speaking); and (2) a spiritual conversion to Stretching and Folding (the dough, that is, not to a new Yoga practice). The final product is just what I was looking for: muffins that are light, holey, well-shaped, tasty, lovely to look at, delightful to eat. Oh Happy Day!

Now pretty much every Monday, I am at work creating my week's supply of English Muffins. My recipe is printed below for anyone who would like to give it a try, but be forewarned: it is a long and arduous (oh did I already say that?) process. To me, however, it is all very much worth the effort. (Assistance available; I'm in the book.)

An unexpected and pleasurable by-product of my cry for help has been the development of a cyber-relationship, or whatever the platonic variant of that is called. My Canadian Serious

Home Baker-cum-friend and I now have an ongoing, lively email exchange about much more than English Muffins. We "talk" about films, politics, Western sunsets, elderly parents; we exchange puns and poems, and at times even get mildly salacious (lust in space?). So, even though I didn't reach the South Pole (I know, I know, I wasn't

really going there), I did discover more than just the Perfect English Muffin recipe. I found that by holding patience through failures, asking for and receiving a lot of help from my friends, and exercising much perseverance, one can sometimes not only accomplish what one sets out to do, but also gain a new friend in the process.

PERFECT ENGLISH MUFFINS	
INGREDIENTS	All Purpose and/or Bread Flour 549g WW flour 75g Sugar 2 tsp Active Dry Yeast (Lasaffre preferred) 1 1/2 t Buttermilk 290g Water 290g Oil 2 T Salt 2 tsp - SET ASIDE
Yield: 17	
MIXING	Combine flour, sugar and yeast in large mixer bowl. Heat buttermilk and water to 110° (about 1 1/4 mins in microwave). Add oil to liquid and pour into dry ingredients. Mix well using dough whisk, then clean sides of bowl with small scraper. To autolyse: cover bowl and let rest for 15 mins. Sprinkle salt evenly over dough. Using small scraper, mix/fold well about 100 counts. Place in oiled, square plastic container, cover and let rest 10 mins.
FOLDING AND FERMENTING	Stretch/Fold dough 8 turns. Dip fingers in water for ease of handling. Repeat S/F every 10 minutes 5 more times. Gluten development will be dramatic but dough will remain damp. Now let dough ferment until doubled, probably a total of 2 hours from 1 st folding.
SCALING, SHAPING AND RISING	Sprinkle couche (a piece of baker's linen) well with semolina. Flour worktop well. Scaling: Empty dough onto floured worktop. Flour top of dough lightly and scale into 2 1/2 oz. pieces, placing them nearby on floured surface. Shaping muffin: Prepare a small mound/area of flour. Dredge dough very lightly in flour (one or both sides as needed) then place on clean area of worktop. Pat out a bit and shape ala boule into individual roll. Take care not to fold dry flour into dough. Place roll on couche. When all dough is shaped, sprinkle with a bit of semolina then press down lightly to flatten muffin a bit. Rings: Cover with tea towel and let rise about 45 minutes.
GRIDDLING AND BAKING	Preheat griddle to 300°. Butter inside of 8 muffin rings. Place large sheet pan on stone in oven and preheat to 325°. Place rings on preheated griddle. Carefully lift muffins from couche by scooting fingers of both hands underneath the delicate dough and place inside rings. Press gently down to edges of rings. (1) Cover with overturned aluminum baking pan and cook 5 mins. Remove pan and remove rings with wooden tongs. (2) Carefully turn muffins over with spatula (they are puffy and delicate at this point and you don't want the sides to collapse) and cook 10 minutes. (3) Turn again and cook an additional 10 mins. (4) Immediately transfer to preheated pan in oven and bake for 8 mins. Repeat with remaining rolls. Place on wire rack to cool.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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

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

EVERY SUNDAY
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, 4 p.m. Free. Draw for fun! No previous drawing experience necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greenfield Energy Park: Coop Concerts Summer Concert Series, with *Hilary Graves and Friends*,

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Small Change, Haiku Handshake, 6-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24th And SATURDAY, JUNE 25th
Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents, *The Blues Brothers* (1980) with John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd, preceded by live music by local heroes *The Sushi Brothers*. *The Blues Brothers*, one of the most successful offsprings from the original Saturday Night Live cast, is the tale of Jake and Elwood, two ex-cons "on a mission from God." Directed by John Landis, color, runs 130 minutes, rated R. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. both nights but The Sushi Brothers will perform live on stage starting at 7 p.m. both nights, playing the same kind of electrified Chicago blues featured in the film.

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

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

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

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

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

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Mountain Interval*, 9 p.m.

Village Co-op, Leverett: *Beer Tasting at Member Appreciation Days*. All are welcome to come and sample the select beers from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Beer will be from Greenfield's own Lefty's Brewing Co. 413 367-9794.

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

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

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

Village Co-op, Leverett: *Member Appreciation Days* continues with a Tag Sale and Arts and Crafts sale - Open to all. Come to buy or to sell. No charge to set up, but a small donation would be appreciated. Saturday only, a 10% discount for members on most grocery department purchases. New members are welcome, come and sign up and receive your discount! Roving musicians all day long. 413-367-9794.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls RiverCulture Fall Hat Auction*, An auction and fashion show of artist enhanced hard hats to benefit RiverCulture and have some fun with the bridge construction. Come to the Shea Theater and maybe you'll see your favorite DPW hunk on the runway. Pass the hat for art and culture in our community. Tickets at World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main Street,

century until now. Do you remember the hotel? Come tell us your stories! Meet at the Great Hall at the Discovery Center. Call Janel at (413) 863-3221 for more information. 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: *The COOP Concerts series*, *Laura Siersema Trio, Jennie McAvoyn and Michael Nix, The Pat & Tex LaMountain Band*, 6 p.m.

Montague Grange: Irish music! *Pat O' Connor & Eoghan O'Sulleabhain* are over from Ireland to play some absolutely brilliant traditional music on flute, fiddle, and box, 5 - 10 p.m.

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

Village Co-op, Leverett: *Member Appreciation Days* continues with a special Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come and enjoy the delicious made from scratch items from the Village Coop cooks and the live music. Wine Tasting begins shortly



Watershed History - The Great Falls Discovery Center presents an interpretive program on the Grand Trunk Hotel, aka the Farren House, that once stood at Avenue and 2nd Streets, on Sunday, June 26th, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Greenfield or at the door. 7 p.m. after noon.

Montague Bookmill: *Live Jazz*, which consists of a trio of young, local musicians who strive to continue and expand the jazz idiom. The group pays respect to and reinterprets jazz standards while broadening the scope of their repertoire to include contemporary influences. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Outdoor Tropical Party*, Live music outside 12 - 9 p.m. with *Danny Hescocock* at 1 p.m. and *Curly Fingers Dupree* at 4:30 p.m. then *DJ Brownie* in the club at 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26th
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Folk Ragoût*, 1:30 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History: The Grand Trunk Hotel in Turners Falls*. What was so grand about the Grand Trunk Hotel? Also known as the Farren House, the Grand Trunk Hotel used to be on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street. Come learn about how the rise and fall of this four-story hotel in Turners Falls reflects the history of industrialization in New England and the history of Turners Falls in particular, from the late nineteenth

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MONDAY, JUNE 27th
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band* summer concert will be held in at 7 pm. Admission is free. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Additional concerts on July 11, July 25, and August 8.

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

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

Gill Commons: Summer Concert series, featuring *Earth VibeZ*. Reggae on the Common! 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th
Deja Brew, Wendell: North Quabbin Summer film Series presents, *Mama Mia*, Free Outdoor Movie in the backyard of Deja Brew. Bring blankets and/or lawn chairs. Deja Brew will be open for beverage & food purchases, 7 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: Monthly Book Group discussion of

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On The Road, 7 p.m. Free.

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 1st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ton of Blues*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Heather Maloney*, indie folk rock/pop, with special guest *Brad Yoder*, singer/songwriter, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 2nd
Montague Bookmill: *Duo Orfeo*, featuring *Joseph Ricker and Jamie Balmer*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne, Falls: *Matt Koziol*, blues pop rock , 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3rd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites Backyard Bash*, Reggae Fantastico! 9 - 11 p.m.

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from FAIRE page 18 performers. At the same time, Robin Hood and his Merry Men roamed the fairgrounds doing their best to protect the people of the shire from the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham and his henchmen. Periodic skirmishes erupted, and festival goers were treated to fisticuffs, assaults with giant mutton haunches, and sword fights – most of which seemed to involve some sort of testicular trauma – and not always to the bad guy (though, not-so-surprisingly, Robin Hood generally did prevail). The crowds cheered raucously

throughout. Roundtable Productions were on hand to provide the war horses and jousters – they added an irresistible element of excitement to the day's attractions. There were five bedecked warhorses thundering into an arena with armored knights astride, fair maidens urging them toward greater feats of chivalry, splintering lances and knights being tossed from their horses – how could one resist? The troupe is one of leading outfits in their niche market and travel the country performing at fairs. According to MFRGC



Mutton & Mead Performers

member Sean Werle, "Early on they tried to talk Mik Muller into a two horse show, but he wouldn't hear of it." His vision called for at least four horses.

Weeks later Werle was talking to the Queen of the Jousts at the after-party, and she told him "This was the best first time show she had ever done." She called the attendance 'mind-boggling.' Werle agreed, and said the MFRGC was already in discussion with Muller about a two day event in 2012.

Bryce Mainville was in agreement, saying, "This doesn't feel like a first-time event. It has the qualities of an established event." Mainville works for Greenfield Games, who stocked up on various Acorn Games for the Medieval Market – selling titles like "Pillage and Plunder," "Gem Quest," "Knights of Valor" and Brandubh (Black Raven). Like many vendors, Mainville was surprised by the

attendance levels and said the company plans to return next year.

Lou Ekus of Holy Smokes was accompanied by a wife and a wench (a fine distinction there) when he hauled their giant smoker to the event. It was filled with mutton and giant turkey legs, and they brought along a few vats of pulled pork to round out the menu. By 2 p.m., the mutton and pork were sold out, but the turkey legs lasted until almost 5:00. The Ekuses also plan to return in 2012.

Festival goers Arianna and Frank Grimmrod arrived early in

take care of family obligations. They had had so much fun they returned in the afternoon to continue with the day's events, which they considered a "right and proper romp."

All in all, Muller and all the dedicated volunteers behind Mutton and Mead deserve a hearty round of applause for pulling this one off. They are already looking for volunteers for next year's new and expanded event.

And Muller reminds people the 2nd Annual Soapbox Derby is already accepting applications.



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